

FY 2023-2024 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Public Library, Parks and Recreation

CBQ NO.: 221

REQUESTED BY: Harper-Madison

DATE REQUESTED: 08/04/2023

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REQUEST: The Carver is the centerpiece library, museum and community center serving the historically Black neighborhoods of Greater East Austin. While there are funds going towards capital investments in the library, are there any additional funds allocated to properly staffing this cultural hub, which has also had to house additional Mexican-American cultural programming with the closure of the MACC?

RESPONSE:

Austin Public Library:

The Carver Library, Museum, and Community Center are fully staffed to serve the public.

Parks and Recreation:

In the FY24 proposed budget, there are no additional funds for The George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center other than funding associated with the city-wide salary adjustments, such as the 4% across-the-board increase. To help pay for the increased programming at the Carver for FY23, additional funding was internally reallocated within the Parks and Recreation Budget. Additionally, other Departments have offered sponsorships for Carver events, including the annual Juneteenth Festival, and the Austin Conservation Civilian Corps program adopted several of Carver's programs to train interns, providing much needed temporary staffing. These are temporary measures that will expire in FY23. The E.S.B Mexican American Arts Cultural Center outreach programs that are now temporarily being offered at the Carver and being funded by the MACC general fund base budget.