



2018 BOND DEVELOPMENT QUESTION

Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: PARD

REQUEST NO.: 14

REQUESTED BY: Houston

DATE REQUESTED: 06/14/18

DATE POSTED: 6/18/18

REQUEST: Explain why the Cultural Centers were pulled out of the Parks and Recreation Category

RESPONSE:

The Rolling Needs Assessment of the Long-Range CIP Strategic Plan is the primary set of information used for determining which projects and programs are included in the 2018 Bond Development proposal. This annual plan, formerly under management of the Capital Planning Office, has provided the necessary framework for determining the universe of CIP needs through a thoughtful and iterative process, incorporating feedback from staff across all divisions of the Department. Using this data, PARD considered the diverse range of facilities, the vast needs for capital reinvestment across all asset types, and the intense nature of park advocacy, before taking a thorough and deliberate approach in prioritizing park projects for the Bond proposal. PARD's goal was to establish a fair and defensible request for CIP funding across a wide range of asset types. While the merits of a major cultural facility replacement/renovation is a worthy investment, the original PARD proposed Bond Package did not include any of the cultural centers. It did however, include an arts center, the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC). The proposed project at the DAC will replace the existing building at a new location and provide expanded programmable space to meet the increased user demand. The services provided at the DAC are closely aligned with the recreational programming function of PARD and less so with the functions of cultural centers.

The decision to not include any of the cultural centers was not made lightly. PARD considered previous cultural center investments in comparison with other previous investment programs and used the facilities assessment data from the Rolling Needs Assessment of the Long-Range CIP Strategic Plan.

Through community advocacy, funding for the cultural centers was included in the proposal as its own proposal; the rationale being that Cultural Centers are unique facilities with the unique purpose of furthering culture based education, history and art.

