



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
RECOMMENDATION 20150602-004**

Date: June 29, 2015

Subject: PARD Budget Enhancement Related to AARC

Motioned By: Commissioner Vince Cobalis

Seconded By: Commissioner Sonia Kotecha

**Recommendation**

*Recommendation for City Council to enhance the PARD budget by \$148,500.00.*

**Description of Recommendation to Council**

The Commission recommends the following budget enhancements in order of priority based upon the high and increasing demand for programs and services at the AARC facility and to cope with the challenges of ensuring access to the fast growing and diverse Asian language minority communities.

1. Programs Specialist for Senior Meal program	\$57,000
2. Funding to expand Senior Meal program an additional day/week	\$18,000
3. P/T Shuttle driver one day/week	\$ 4,000
4. Public Event Leader	\$55,000
5. Translation services (marketing & outreach)	\$ 5,000
6. Contract instructors to provide more programs (Senior Classes)	\$ 9,500

**Rationale:**

Please see attached Memorandum.

**Vote : 5-0**

For: Richard Jung, Vince Cobalis, Sonia Kotecha, Thuy Nguyen, Shubhada Saxena

Against: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Richard Yuen [Note: Commissioner Miyoung Kim resigned in May].

Attest:

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council of Austin  
FROM: City of Austin Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission  
DATE: June 29, 2015  
SUBJECT: 2015 Budget Recommendation for Parks and Recreation Department

After reviewing the draft proposed budget strategies for the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC), the Asian American Quality of Life Commission ("the Commission") met on June 2, 2015 to recommend enhancements which we believe would better serve the community through the Asian American Resource Center (AARC).

The Commission recommends the following budget enhancements in order of priority based upon the high and increasing demand for programs and services at the AARC facility and to cope with the challenges of ensuring access to the fast growing and diverse Asian language minority communities.

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|---|----------|
| 1. Programs Specialist for Senior Meal program                    | \$57,000 |
| 2. Funding to expand Senior Meal program an additional day/week   | \$18,000 |
| 3. P/T Shuttle driver one day/week                                | \$ 4,000 |
| 4. Public Event Leader  | \$55,000 |
| 5. Translation services (marketing & outreach)                    | \$ 5,000 |
| 6. Contract instructors to provide more programs (Senior Classes) | \$ 9,500 |

Although the AARC has been open less than 2 years, there is a sharply increasing demand for programming by the fast growing Asian population of Austin and as the Asian communities of Austin have become aware of the facility's existence and the offerings available at the facility. It has been difficult for existing AARC staff to keep up with the increasing demand for events and programs.

The AARC hosted over 300 meetings/events in its first year of operation. The existing Event Coordinator is assisted in meeting these needs on average by a temporary event staff of 3 – 4 part-time employees. After detailed review, the Commission believes strongly that the community would be better served by a full-time Public Event Leader at an estimated annual cost of \$55,000 instead of the part-time temporary staff. We believe part-time staff can be very transitory and cannot provide the level and quality of service that a full-time permanent employee can. We also note that the increasing demand means the full-time permanent employee position will not be an underutilized position going forward.

The Senior Meal program was an immediate success, providing culturally appropriate meals for Asian seniors 3 times a week. However, the current program suffers from daily waiting lists and concerns about meal availability and transportation. Meal capacity is being addressed by renovating the AARC kitchen facilities so that meals can be prepared on-site, but many ancillary costs are not included in the draft budget. The existing part-time temporary Program Specialist position cannot address current or future program needs within available budget, and the Commission believes strongly that this position should be converted to a full-time Recreation Programs Specialist position at an estimated annual cost of \$57,000 to address both the meals and the associated activities and programs. The meal program can also be increased from 3 to 4 days per week (190 days) for \$18,000, plus \$4,000 for the part-time shuttle driver.

Thank you for considering these requests. We believe it will help the AARC become the vibrant center for understanding and appreciating Asian American cultures.

Sincerely,

Richard Jung, Chair

- cc: Marc Ott, City Manager
- Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager
- Sara Hensley, PARC Director