



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
RECOMMENDATION 20160621-003b**

Date: June 21, 2016

Subject: FY2017 Budget Policy Recommendations

Motioned By: Commissioner Kirk Yoshida      Seconded By: Commissioner Vince Cobalis

**Recommendation**

*Recommendation to approve Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission budget recommendations for submission to the City Manager.*

**Description of Recommendation to Council**

The Commission approved the companion document to the detailed budget recommendations approved in the May 2016 meeting, which contains twenty budget requests in support of various departments' programs and services to meet the demands of increased services and cope with the challenges of ensuring access to the fast growing and diverse Asian American and Asian language minority communities.

**Rationale:**

Please see attached document.

**Vote: 11-0**

For: Aletta Banks, Vince Cobalis, Janki DePalma, Richard Jung, Sonia Kotecha, Charles Lu, Ann Okamura, Shubhada Saxena, Kara Takasaki, Kirk Yoshida, Richard Yuen

Against: None.

Abstain: None

Absent: Nu Chanpheng, Thuy Nguyen, Pramod Patil

Attest:



# Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission

## FY 2017 Budget Recommendations

June 21, 2016



## Background and Purpose

**October 2013:** Austin City Council creates Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission (AAQOL)



*To advise the Austin City Council on issues related to the Asian American Resource Center and provide on-going guidance and support for the City's Asian American quality of life initiatives*

## First Steps... AAQOL Assessment Project

- **August 2014:** AAQOL assessment project initiated
- **September 2014:** AAQOL assessment committee formed
- **November 2014:** AAQOL initiative launched
- **December 2015:** Surveys completed
- **March 2016:** Preliminary results
- **Spring 2016:** Community outreach and engagement
- **May 2016:** Final report
- **Summer 2016:** Estimated project completion

## Purpose of AAQOL Assessment Project

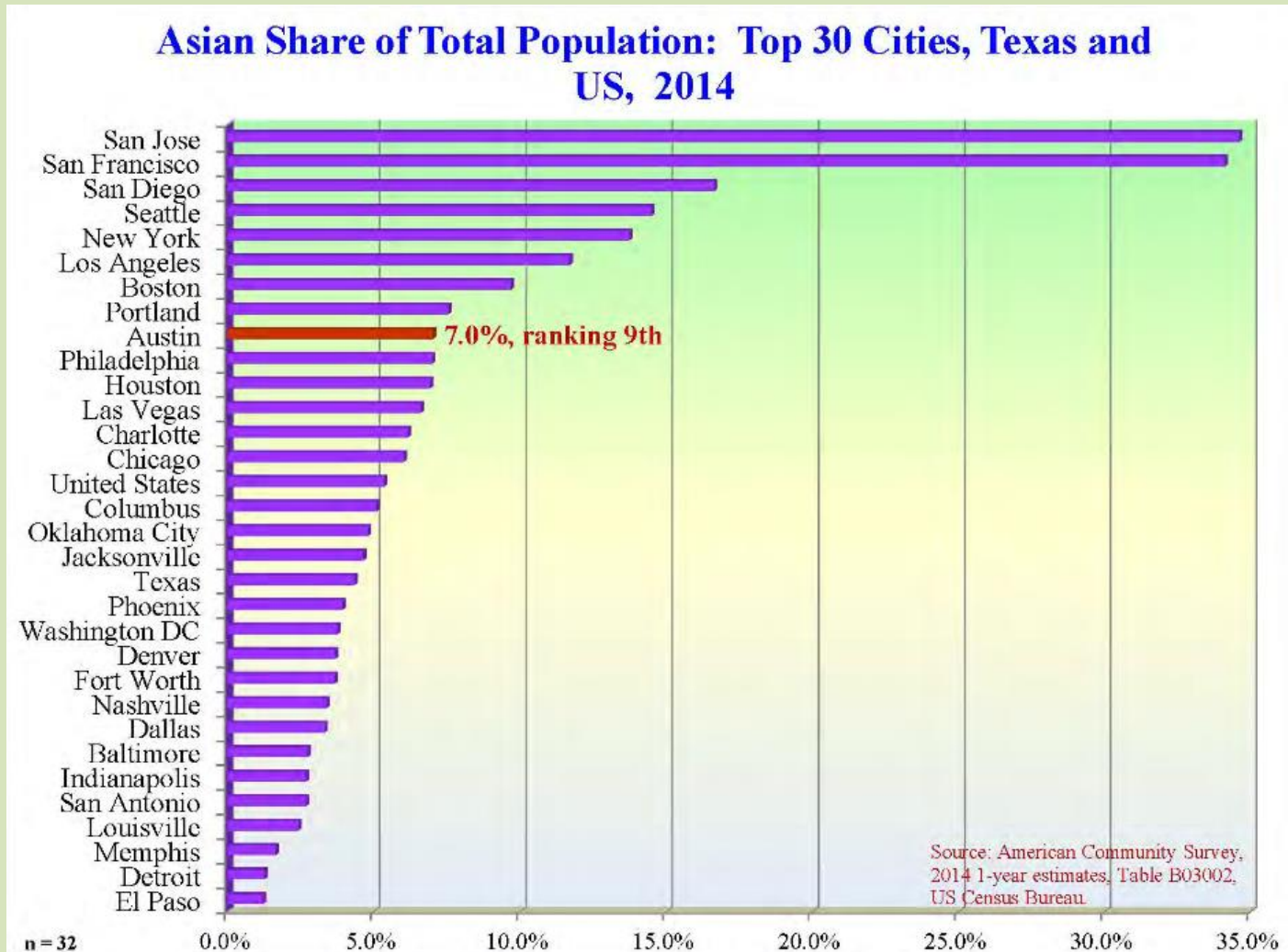
The initiative focuses on:

- **Quality of Life Data Indicators:** Assessed health quality of life issues and service needs
- **Quantitative Research:** Completed a comprehensive questionnaire in several languages in partnership with Dr. Yuri Jang from UT Austin's School of Social Work
- **Outreach and Engagement:** Facilitated large and small community discussions and other participation opportunities ("Conversations over Tea")

## Statement of Need

- Austin's Asian community is the fastest growing Asian community of any of the nation's largest 30 cities
- Asians make up over 7.0% of Austin's population putting Austin in 9th place among the nation's largest 30 cities and ahead of Houston (see chart on slide 6)

## Statement of Need (cont.)



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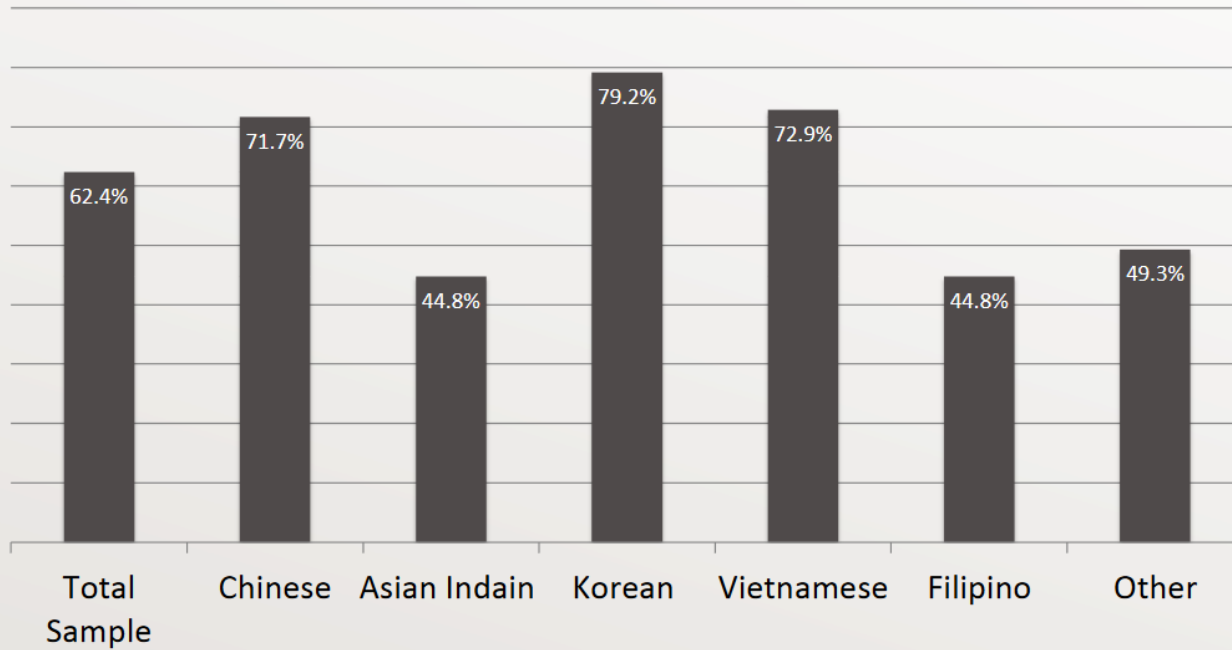
- Income stratification between Asian American communities and language barriers tend to skew many statistics
- 37% Chinese, 51% Vietnamese, and 50% Koreans speak English less than “very well”<sup>★</sup> – these are the 2nd, 3rd and 4th largest Asian communities in Travis County
  - In the UT AAQOL assessment survey, 72% Chinese, 73% Vietnamese, and 79% Koreans have Limited English Proficiency (See slide 8)
- The newness and rapid growth of this community requires the coordination, support, and leveraging of city resources – 16.9% live in poverty

<sup>★</sup>Source: 2010 US Census data



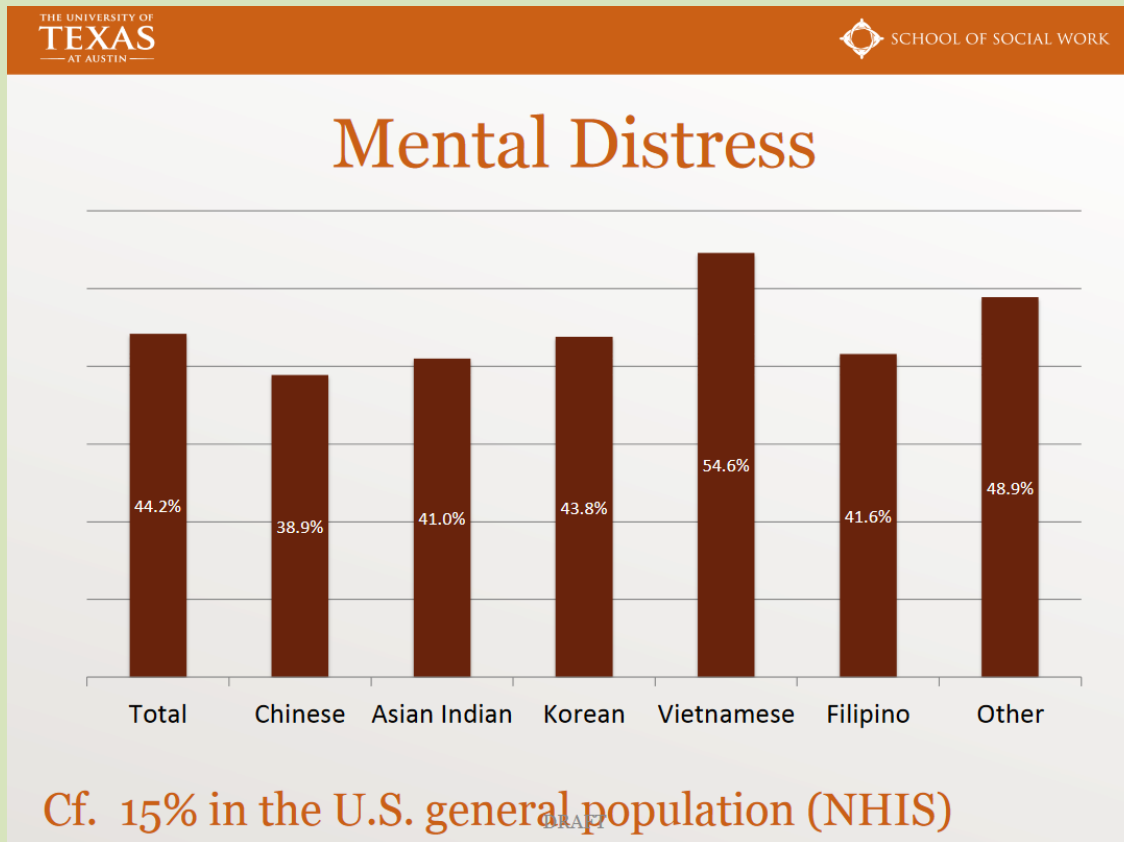
## Statement of Need (cont.)

### Individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)



## Statement of Need (cont.)

44.2% of surveyed individuals reported mental distress, compared with 15% in the general population (NHIS).



The prevalence rate was highest for Vietnamese and Korean, two communities with significant language barriers.

## Commission Budget Recommendation Process

Asian American Quality of Life (AAQOL)  
Commission:

- Heard public testimony and held meeting with stakeholder groups
- Reviewed budget recommendations with City of Austin staff for costs estimates, duplication, and feasibility. Some are reflected in departmental unmet needs.
- Approved budget recommendations in May 2016 for submission to the City Manager

## City Budget Process Timeline

The AAQOL Commission's budget recommendations were submitted to the City Manager's Office to inform the development of the proposed budget according to the following timeline:

- June – July
  - Develop Proposed Budget
  - Present City Manager's proposed budget to Council July 27th
- August
  - Department-specific budget presentations made to Council
  - Public hearing to receive testimony on proposed budget
  - Pre-budget adoption work session
- September
  - Public hearing to receive testimony on proposed budget
  - Budget adoption readings

## Budget Recommendations Summary

Initiatives	Total request	Percent of total	Slide #
AARC/Parks & Recreation	\$864,000	23.2%	13
CPIO/Community Engagement	\$100,000+	2.7%	14
Economic Development	\$60,000	1.6%	18
Health/Human Services	\$2,439,377	65.5%	15-16
Human Resources	\$260,049	7.0%	17



The following six slides present budget recommendation highlights for the above initiatives. Additional description may be found in the *AAQOL Commission - FY 2017 Budget Detail* document.

## AARC/Parks and Recreation Budget Highlights

- Support increasing demand for facility rentals and reservations with Public Event Leader FTE (\$58,000)
- Provide marketing and outreach support (\$85,000), including FTE and translation/interpretation (\$10,000)
- Update 2006 site master plan (\$200,000)
- Improve park facilities, including sidewalks, seating, playscape, and workout equipment (\$300,000)
- Construct parking and pedestrian bridge (\$130,000)
- Provide additional access to the Senior Meal Program, including driver and van (\$82,558)

## CPIO/Community Engagement Budget Highlights

- Include additional Community Engagement Consultant in CPIO (\$100,000)
- Create multi-language City of Austin website in Korean, Chinese, and Vietnamese (Cost – TBD) ☆
- Increase budget for translation and interpretation citywide (Cost – TBD) ☆ ☆



☆ CPIO should research costs incurred by other cities, such as New York City, that have undertaken similar initiatives.

☆☆ Recommend a centralized budget based on needs identified by each department.

## Health and Human Services Budget Highlights

- Continue AISD Parent Support Specialist (PSS) Program funding (\$1,300,000)
- Increase AISD Prime Time after school funding (\$430,000)



## Health and Human Services Budget Highlights(cont.)

- Perform Asian American Stakeholder Study and develop Mental Health Resource Guide (\$99,377)
- Establish two-year Pilot Community Health Navigator program (\$200,000/yr)
- Provide flu vaccines to low-income and limited English-speaking communities (\$10,000)
- Increase Health Equity contract funding to provide culturally-appropriate mental health services to Asian immigrants (\$150,000)
- Enhance funding for the outreach team within the HHSD Equity Unit for culturally- and linguistically-appropriate services to Asian American subpopulations (\$300,000)

## Human Resources Budget Highlights

- Support unmet need request for three FTEs to support expanding the diversity of our workforce and equity recruiting (\$284,049)
- Provide support services related to the three FTEs above, including recruiting, travel, programming, and outreach (\$76,000)

## Economic Development Budget Highlights

- Increase Asian American Chamber of Commerce consulting agreement and support Economic Development Department unmet need request (\$60,000)

## Policy Recommendations

*The following policy recommendations are related to areas of AAQOL interest and support but without a specific monetary ask:*

- **Purchasing/Small and Minority Business Resources (SMBR)**
  - Improve program policies and implementation based on the feedback recorded in the NERA Disparity Study and work closely with MWBE communities, including the minority Quality of Life Advisory Commissions
  - Establish a citywide contract to translate written documents into Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese – the city currently has a contract in place for Spanish translations

## Policy Recommendations (cont.)

- Human Resources
  - Continue to work on outreach and increasing Asian American hiring and promotion
  - Require cultural competency training for HR staff and liaisons in all departments
- Education
  - Support ESL programs for Asian subpopulations

## Policy Recommendations (cont.)

- Health and Human Services
  - Include Asian Americans in data and statistics reporting
  - Provide culturally- and linguistically-appropriate services
  - Continue support of city, county, and AISD collaborative family resource centers and programming
  - Work with AISD and Travis County to develop an International Welcoming Center that provides a comprehensive approach to directing refugees to services and information

## Conclusion

For Austin to be a diverse and inclusive city, it must be multi-cultural and multi-linguistic.

- National statistics catch the "low-hanging" fruit in terms of studying the Asian population. However, they do not pinpoint the needs of the most vulnerable due to lack of outreach and language appropriate materials.
- The AAQOL survey used a more comprehensive and rigorous research design approach than is common in national health surveys and found much higher rates of health care needs and mental health issues.
- The city should fund programs that provide outreach to our communities to provide culturally- and language-appropriate services.

