

'Arts and Culture' workgroup report

July 14th 2017

Workgroup members (current + past):

- (a) Pramod Patil (Chair)
- (b) Shubhada Saxena
- (c) Janki DePalma

Major highlights / Accomplishments:

➤ **Mission statement and goals**

Members of the 'Arts and Culture' workgroup brainstormed during couple of meetings to come up with the mission and high level goals for the 'Arts and Culture' workgroup. This was very important to set the direction and vision for this work group. 'Arts and Culture' workgroup's mission statement is

"To work together with folks from various ethnic backgrounds by sharing and celebrating different cultures."

Also here are high level goals that were outlined for this workgroup.

- ❖ To encourage Asian Americans in expression of their culture.
- ❖ To promote culture sharing activities within Asian –Americans and the larger Austin community
- ❖ To provide opportunities and increase awareness for the city to participate in Austin American cultural activities.

➤ **Active Participation in the AISD Diversity day on May 22nd 2017**

'Arts and Culture' work group was actively participated in the planning and execution of the AISD Diversity day celebration. The goal of 'Diversity Day' perfectly aligned with 'Art and Culture' workgroup's mission of cross cultural promotion. Commissioner Pramod Patil took a lead efforts on the cross cultural segment presentation and Commissioner Shubhada Saxena took lead on the photo identity booth.

➤ **Active Participation in the city of Austin's – Cultural Map project**

Arts and Culture workgroup actively participated in the city of Austin's cultural map project by attending meetings at different districts. This allowed us to share details about Asian American cultural assets and bring awareness to Asian cultural landmarks in Austin.

➤ **Active involvement in the Blanton Museum's exhibit on Indian Painting.**

Arts and Culture workgroup provided initial inputs for the planning of the 'Indian paintings exhibit' at the Blanton Museum. Members of this work group also connected the community artists/leaders with museum staff and provided the support for the exhibit. Epic stories of Ramayana and Mahabharatha are being depicted in the paintings at the exhibition.