



Date: December 5, 2017
To: Mayor and Council Members
From: African American Resource Advisory Commission
RE: Veterans Arts Festival (AVA Fest)

We, the African American Resource Advisory Commission, support the AVA Fest directly affects the African American Veteran quality of life, socially and economically, in Austin Texas. We support change through community-based leadership and action including meaningful working relations with Veterans through the city and the state of Texas. This action is modeled by effectively using our community resources, people and money to better serve the needs of all Veterans.

AVA Fest's mission is to provide support and enlighten the community on the issues surrounding veterans physically, mentally and emotionally by using art as a vehicle.

The purpose is to help Artist Veterans and their family members across the nation learn, realize and connect with art and its healing power. While celebrating our histories through visual art, photography, sculpture, theatre, poetry, dance, music & culinary arts. Art relieves stress, enhances problem-solving skills, boosts self-esteem and provides a sense of accomplishment.

The festival will be held in multiple City of Austin museums, galleries and venues in October/November of 2019. We believe that all with the African Resource Advisory Commission and Veterans Support Group can collaborate to create and implement action driven change for the success of Veteran through the community.

We wholeheartedly support the creation the Veteran Arts Festival (AVA Fest).

Sincerely,



Kenneth Thompson, Chair

12/15/2017
Date