

AARC Workgroup meeting for the AAQoL

Wednesday, November 8, 2017, 12pm-1pm

In attendance: Vince Cobalis, Peter Chao, Taja Beekley, Hailey Easley, Debasree DasGupta

Developing goals for the AARC:

**1. Increased staffing at the center:**

The Center is in dire need of additional staffing, particularly permanent ones so it can continue to work effectively. Funding for temporary positions in 2017 was not converted to regular positions in 2018. As a result, AARC cannot be kept open 4 nights a week anymore which leads to the following.

- Cutting down the number of ESL classes that were being offered.
- After school programs not being offered at all.
- Cutting back on transportation.

Adapting to the changing demographics of the city is not possible with the staff they have to work with.

Taja Beekley is preparing a list of job titles for full and part time staff for the center.

**2. Increasing some of the programs at the center with potential use of volunteers:**

- Increasing the usage of the commercial kitchen by arranging for cooking lessons
- Programs for working parents
- Support groups for any others, eg stay at home mothers

Unfortunately this would all require additional funding. The group considered raising funds through donations to the Center as an option.

**3. Revising the master plan:**

The master plan needs to be revised to include some of the existing needs of the Center.

**HR report:**

Not covered at this meeting and will be discussed when Joya and Janki are able to attend.

**F.Y. 2017 performance for the AARC**

The performance template has been updated and a tourism category has been added. The Artists in Residence program has been put on hold as funding for it is uncertain at the moment. Applicants also need insurance and funds to apply.

Taja provided reports on facility usage which has increased significantly, emphasizing the need for increased staffing.

There is a report on the ESL classes offered through the Austin Community College from 2014 to 2017. The number of individuals attending and completing these classes have been increasing consistently, however that number is expected to decrease as classes had to be eliminated because the center has to be closed in the evenings 2 out of the 4 nights.