

Draft Commission Resolution  
December 19, 2017

Whereas, phase 1 of the Asian American Resource Center (AARC) facility was completed in 2013, funded by voter-approved bonds in 2006; and

Whereas, the existing AARC facility has been so popular that the number of visitors has grown from 22,700 in the first year to 53,650 in FY 2017, well above projected capacity; and

Whereas the AARC facility provides the city with services such as language and ESL classes in collaboration with the Austin Community College and others, as well as free lunches for the senior citizens of Austin several times a week giving them an opportunity to congregate and socialize; and

Whereas, the AARC facility provides a central location to educate the entire Austin Community about the culture and art of Asian subpopulations, and the historical influence of Asians in the United States and Texas; and

Whereas, the City of Austin allocated \$200,000 in the FY 2018 budget for the development of a Master Plan for Phase 2 and 3 of the Asian American Resource Center facility in order to inform the 2018 bond election; and

Whereas, the Network of Asian American Organizations (NAAO) has recently conducted a needs assessment survey where 90% of the respondents suggested expanding the AARC to meet the growing needs; and

Whereas, the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission was formed by City Council to advise Council on AARC operations and Asian American Quality of Life Initiatives; now,

Therefore, the Commission recommends that the City Council designate \$15 million in the 2018 Bond Election proceeds toward implementing Phase 2 and 3 of the AARC Facility to improve efficiency and increase capacity to meet growing and changing needs of the community.