'Arts and Culture' workgroup meeting report

Meeting date: February 17th -2018

Attendee:

 (a) Pramod Patil (Chair)
 (b) Shubhada Saxena

Project/Plans for near future:

Here is a recap from our recent meeting and overall plans of the cultural workgroup

(1) Engagement and participation with AISD diversity day

We had worked with the AISD during 2017 for planning and execution of 'AISD Diversity day'. This was a successful event and we were able to help present stories and Asian culture. We plan to engage with AISD again this year and work on any collaboration effort around diversity day.

(2) Pune -Friendship city project

Members of the cultural workgroup area working with Indian American Coalition (IACT) group on a Friendship city project with Pune, India.   We have signed up an official MOU with an organization is Pune and in the process of getting a formal letter of 'friendship city engagement' from Austin Mayor's office**.** Member of our team will be focused on cultural exchange between Austin and Pune.

(3) Asian Literary Arts Exchange/Activity

Recently we discovered there is a grant available for Asian Literary Arts Exchange/Activity. We plan to explore possible event/project in this are to help Art exchange/activity. Exact project/activities are yet to be determined.

(4) Cultural Integration event

We have observed there is a very low participation from mainstream Americans into Asian events. We are thinking of creating an event which can bring all cultures (Main stream American, Hispanic, Asian, African American) together.

This event can be a mile walk where we invite all cultural groups to join for a walk with and represent their cultures.   At end of the walk, there will be a food, games and performances. We thought of having such walk sometime in Spring or Fall 2019.

This can be done by collaborating leaders from other community groups.

- This may need some city funding.
- May have to run this idea with the mayor's office?
- This will help us share our culture by inviting proper audience and by creating a platform for all