

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: October 4, 2018

Item Number: **013**

Parks and Recreation

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Austin Independent School District to utilize classroom facilities at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center for the implementation of the Saturday Academy to support the advancement of literacy in English and Spanish for AISD children, youth and parents for a one-year term with five successive 12-month renewal options.

District(s) Affected: District 9

Lead Department	Parks and Recreation Department
Fiscal Note	This item has no fiscal impact.
Prior Council Action	On November 20, 2014, City Council authorized the negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Austin Independent School District for the use of the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center.
For More Information	Lucas Massie, Acting Assistant Director, (512) 974-6772; Laura Esparza, Division Manager, (512) 974-4001; Vera Labriola, Business Process Specialist, (512) 974-6716
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action	brdrbAugust 28, 2018-Approved by the Parks and Recreation Board on a vote of 6-0 with Vice Chair Cofer off dais and Board Member Casias, Donovan, and Farasat absent.

Additional Backup Information:

The vision of the project is to honor the Latino community's cultural heritage, foster a social justice consciousness and reclaim Latino collective identity in pursuit of educational freedom. The purpose is to reinforce literacy in both Spanish and English within the context of culture, history and the family. The program has been successfully implemented at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESB-MACC) since 2014. Since its inception the program has met with the support and appreciation of the staff, the ESB-MACC Board and the families served.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY AISD:

1. Coordination, planning, and execution of the Academia Cuauhtli Saturday Academy, which recruits and welcomes families from Title 1 schools. The program is provided free to parents and their children through Nuestro Grupo, a non-profit that coordinates community support; AISD supports the development of innovative curriculum that is subsequently adapted by AISD teachers at their school sites.
2. Promotion of ESB-MACC as an institution, mission, and space in marketing materials, conferences, articles, and other events when Academia Cuauhtli Saturday Academy programs are presented;
3. Weekly meetings to promote community engagement in a series of local initiatives related to education, community, health, art, and more;
4. Co-construction of professional curricula that is shared with the ESB-MACC and made available districtwide in grades 3-7, and 11;
5. As a program, AISD offers a variety of workshops that enhance Austinites' awareness of local opportunities, including public and higher education, as well as local community arts institutions and available opportunities for children and youth. AISD and Nuestro Grupo also provided a variety of field trips, speakers, and presentations by local artists to the students.

Lessons and instructions organized and delivered by AISD bilingual teachers to serve the following Title 1 elementary schools through Academia Cuauhtli:

- Sanchez Elementary, District 3
- Metz Elementary, District 3
- Zavala Elementary, District 3
- Perez Elementary, District 2
- Houston Elementary, District 2

The program benefits Austin's constituents and communities by:

- Promoting bi-literacy for Austin's children, while revitalizing Spanish culture and language;
- Developing appreciation for Mexican-American and Tejano history and culture;
- Providing early, developmentally appropriate catalysts for academic achievement;
- Empowering parents to navigate the school system on their children's behalf; and
- Building a loyal constituency for ESB-MACC, the Parks Department and the City.