



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022.

Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

§ 2-1-146 - HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY OF LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(A) The Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission should have a balanced membership reflecting in-depth knowledge of the challenges and concerns of the Hispanic/Latino community. The City Council should appoint persons who are representative of or sensitive to the needs of the Hispanic/Latino community in the City of Austin.

(B) The commission shall advise the City Council on issues relating to the quality of life for the City's Hispanic/Latino community and shall recommend programs and policies designed to alleviate any inequities that may confront Hispanics and Latinos in social, economic, and vocational pursuits including education, youth services, housing and community development, cultural arts, economic development, health, civic engagement, and transportation.

1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

The Commission received staff and community briefings and provided feedback to various departments on issues including:

- Walk Austin Living Streets program;
- Economic Development Department Creative Space Assistance Program (CSAP) and the Live Music Fund Event Program (LMF);
- Communication and Public Information Office City of Austin Branding Initiative;
- Equitable Transit Oriented Development (ETOD) overview to plan for equitable outcomes for area residents of all income areas and backgrounds along Project Connect corridors;
- Public Works Department Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Phase II Schematic Design Update;

- Intergovernmental Relations Office Overview of 87th Legislative Session and three special sessions and legislation passed that impacts the City of Austin;
- American Gateways Overview of outcomes and successes related to legal services and partnership with the City;
- Housing and Planning Department Equity-Based Historic Preservation Plan update;
- Housing and Planning Department FY 22-23 Action Plan briefing and discussion on upcoming spending priorities for federal housing community development grants as part of Community Needs Assessment;
- Office of Police Oversight body-worn and dashboard cameras briefing on public information and engagement campaign;
- Success by 6 United Way for Greater Austin briefing on American Rescue Plan Act funds for early childhood investments and pending unmet needs;
- Housing and Planning Department Palm District Planning Update on draft vision framework for the plan;
- People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER) environmental justice and Tesla factory update on community letter;
- Sustainability Office update on proposed planning process regarding the City's first comprehensive Food Plan;
- Austin Public Health's Community Health Worker Hub;
- Economic Development Department and Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Funded Programs;
- Capital Metro's potential new fare programs - fare capping and Equifare;
- Small and Minority Business Resources' Disparity Report staff briefing regarding key findings and recommendations;
- Tesla presentation regarding workforce equity, infrastructure needs, community partnerships, and environmental justice; and
- Tesla Outreach Community Alliance (TOCA) presentation regarding community asks and concerns.

Members of the Commission provided representation in regular meetings regarding the Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC). Chair Amanda Afifi participated in the regularly scheduled JIC meetings. Vice Chair Sharon Vigil is the JIC alternate.

Chair Afifi, Vice Chair Vigil, and Commissioner Peña represented the Commission in the group Quality of Life Commission / Equity Budgeting Sessions and meetings. Due to COVID-19, a small group of Commissioners joined together to conduct virtual listening sessions. Chair Afifi represented the Commission on this group. The group hosted three listening sessions regarding affordability, resilience, access and engagement, public safety, and health. Other commission members also attended these sessions. Commissioners provided feedback regarding the evolving budget process. This process also allowed for us to contribute to joint recommendations made.

In March 2022, the Commission made the following FY2023 budget recommendations, related to the issue areas in the H/LQoL Initiative:

- Recommendation 20220322-003a i: Expand Funding for Two-Generation Bilingual Early Childhood Programs - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=379685>

Vice Chair Vigil moved to approve recommendation for 2-Gen funding. Commissioner Solis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Recommendation 20220322-003a ii: Expand Funding for Immigration Legal Services - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=379683>

Vice Chair Vigil moved to approve recommendation for immigrant legal services. Commissioner Garay seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Recommendation 20220322-003a iii: Expand Funding for AISD Parent Support Specialists - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=379682>

Commissioner Garay moved to approve recommendation for funding of AISD parent support specialists. Commissioner Perales seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Recommendation 20220322-003a iv: Expand Funding for Mental Health Support for Hispanic/Latino Community - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=379678>

Commissioner Garay moved to approve the recommendation for increased mental health services in Spanish. Commissioner Silva seconded. Vice Chair Vigil abstained. Motion passed.

- Recommendation 20220322-003a v: Funding for Art in Public Places and Cultural Arts - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=379681>

Vice Chair Vigil moved to approve recommendation for mural conservation in the Art in Public Places program. Commissioner Perales seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Recommendation 20220322-003a vi: Expand Funding for Austin History Center Archivists - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=379680>

Vice Chair Vigil moved to approve recommendation for expanded programming and outreach for the Community Archivist Program. Commissioner Solis seconded. Commissioner Garay abstained. Motion passed.

- Recommendation 20220322-003a vii: Funding for Updated Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Study - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=379679>

Vice Chair Vigil moved to approve recommendation for updated Quality of Life study. Commissioner Garay seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Recommendation 20220322-003a ix: Continue and Expand Funding for Rental Assistance and Affordability - <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=381802>

Commissioner Silva moved to make a recommendation to expand funding for rental assistance programs and subsidized affordability tools for anti-displacement. Commissioner Ramirez seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Commission made the following recommendations between 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022:

Related to quality of life for the City's Hispanic/Latino community:

- Recommendation - 20211221-4a: Letter of Support for Academia Cuauhtli/Cuauhtli Academy. *Commissioner Zuniga moved to approve offering a letter of support. Commissioner Solis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*
- Recommendation - 20220628-2d: Equity-based Transportation. *Commissioner Garay moved to review responses from CapMetro and draft an equity-based transportation proposal that recommends a Free Fare or Fair Fare system. Seconded by Commissioner Solis. No discussion. None opposed, none abstaining. Motion passed unanimously.*

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

The actions of the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission comply with its mission statement.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

- Ensure recommendations and decisions have equitable outcomes for all members of the Hispanic/Latino community
- Co-create more equitable policies, developed alongside fellow Quality of Life Commissions and the Joint Inclusion Committee
- Ensure community members have various opportunities to provide direct input to the Commission regarding budget needs, as well as host a budget centered meeting after submitting recommendations to inform the community of finalized recommendations and next steps in the process
- Expand awareness of Quality of Life Commission to inform the community about the Commission
- Closely collaborate with City staff regarding recommendations and concerns in the community
- Obtain funding for a new Quality of Life Study, and coordinate with appropriate stakeholders to develop a continuing process to update information on a more frequent basis
- Identify a goal(s) for each working group and implement a plan to address the goal(s)
- Continue to collaborate with agencies, non-profits, service providers, the City of Austin, the faith community and others to eliminate the disparities and increase the number of preventive measures in the Hispanic/Latino community