



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY-OF-LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION (AAQoL)  
RECOMMENDATION 20230718-004  
2024 CITY OF AUSTIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROGRAM for CULTURAL  
CENTERS in the PARD MUSEUMS & CULTURAL PROGRAMS DIVISION**

Date: July 18, 2023

Subject: 2024 City of Austin General Obligation Bond Program for Cultural Centers in the  
PARD Museums & Cultural Programs Division

Motioned by: Commissioner Sarah Chen      Seconded By: Commissioner Hanna Huang

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

*The Asian American Quality of Life Commission (AAQoL) recommends that City Council members continue to direct the Interim City Manager to proceed with completing the directive given in Resolution 20221208-068, namely to include funding needed to complete construction and fulfillment of master plans for the Asian American Resource Center, Dougherty Arts Center, Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, and the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center in the 2024 City of Austin General Obligation Bond election.*

**DESCRIPTION OF RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

**WHEREAS**, it is the value of the City of Austin to be an inclusive city for all of its citizens including those of diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and national origin backgrounds;

**WHEREAS**, the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission (AAQoL) was created Ordinance No. 20141211-204 to advise the City Council on issues related to the Asian American Resource Center and to provide on-going guidance and support for the City's Asian American quality of life initiatives;

**WHEREAS**, the City's growing population includes 8.36% Asian Americans (multiracial respondents not included) and rapidly growing, which is greater than the Nation's 6.2% comparative population;

**WHEREAS**, On December 8, 2022, Council approved Resolution No. 20221208-068 directing the City Manager to proceed with the construction of the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) and Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) without a reduction in the scope of proposed work, and to develop an estimate of the resulting funding gap for inclusion in the 2024 City of Austin General Obligation Bond election; and to develop cost estimates for the next phase of the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center and the Asian American Resource Center (AARC) as part of the development of the 2024 City of Austin General Obligation Bond Program;

**WHEREAS**, design considerations and other rising costs prevent the currently approved plan for the DAC, the MACC, and the AARC from proceeding due to a shortage of funds;

**WHEREAS**, the last City bond cycle that included funding for these cultural facilities was in 2018;

**NOW, THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION:** Strongly recommends that the City Council directs the Interim City Manager to move forward with developing a General Obligation Bond that is inclusive of the aforementioned Museums & Cultural Programs facilities in 2024 to ensure the full extent of their Master Plans is able to be fulfilled.

**RATIONALE:**

The AAQoL recommends that rather than pausing all General Obligation Bonds in 2024, it is essential our City’s cultural centers are prioritized for a bond package to enable them to continue to move forward in the next steps of their master plans. Each facility was developed to serve diverse and underrepresented arts and cultural communities within Austin and have undergone extensive public input and engagement throughout the last 10 years. Doing so would prevent delay of further funding for their next phases, which is particularly needed to ensure safe facilities for cultural programs, meet the increased demand and use by the public, reduce rising costs of construction related to inflation, and continue to serve the City’s growing diverse populations.

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**ROLL CALL VOTE: 11 – 0**

For:     Kymberlie Quong-Charles, *District 1 Appointee*  
          Azra Siddiqi, *District 2 Appointee*  
          Kuo Yang, *District 3 Appointee*  
          Nayer Sikder, *District 5 Appointee*  
          Fang Fang, *District 6 Appointee*  
          Anna Lan, *District 7 Appointee*

Mohsin Lari, *District 8 Appointee*  
Sabrina Sha, *District 9 Appointee*  
Hanna Huang, *Mayor's Appointee*  
Pierre Nguyen, *At-Large Appointee*  
Sarah Chen, *At-Large Appointee*

Against: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Lily Trieu, *District 4 Appointee*  
Zahra Shakur Jamal-Hassan, *At-Large Appointee*  
VACANT at time of vote, *District 10 Appointee*

Attest: Jeremy Garza, Staff Liaison, Equity Office:

x Jeremy Garza