

asian american resource center

AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/AARC
@AARCATX

August 15, 2023

Presentation to the Asian American Quality of Life Commission



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Presentation Overview

- AARC Mission, Vision & Values
- Introduction to Staff & Organizational Structure
- Brief History
- Working in Community
- FY22 Programs & Partners
- FY23 by the Numbers
- Future Plans
 - Phase II Updates
 - Upcoming Programs



AARC Mission, Vision & Values

Mission

The Asian American Resource Center's mission is to create a space of belonging and healing for Asian American communities in Austin and beyond. We do this through community collaborations and partnerships; providing rental space; organizing cultural, educational and health wellness programs; and curating art and historical exhibitions. We lead with our values and our vision, so that our diverse communities are supported and connected.

Vision

We envision a society where all people feel like they belong. Our Asian diaspora represents many cultures, languages, ethnicities, nationalities, and migration histories. We recognize that our communities are complex, similar and different. When we share our cultures, our struggles, and our histories, we offer each other a space to heal and celebrate. When we create community, all communities belong.

Values

Diversity - acknowledging our cultures and histories.

Solidarity - recognizing our interconnectedness with ourselves and other communities of color.

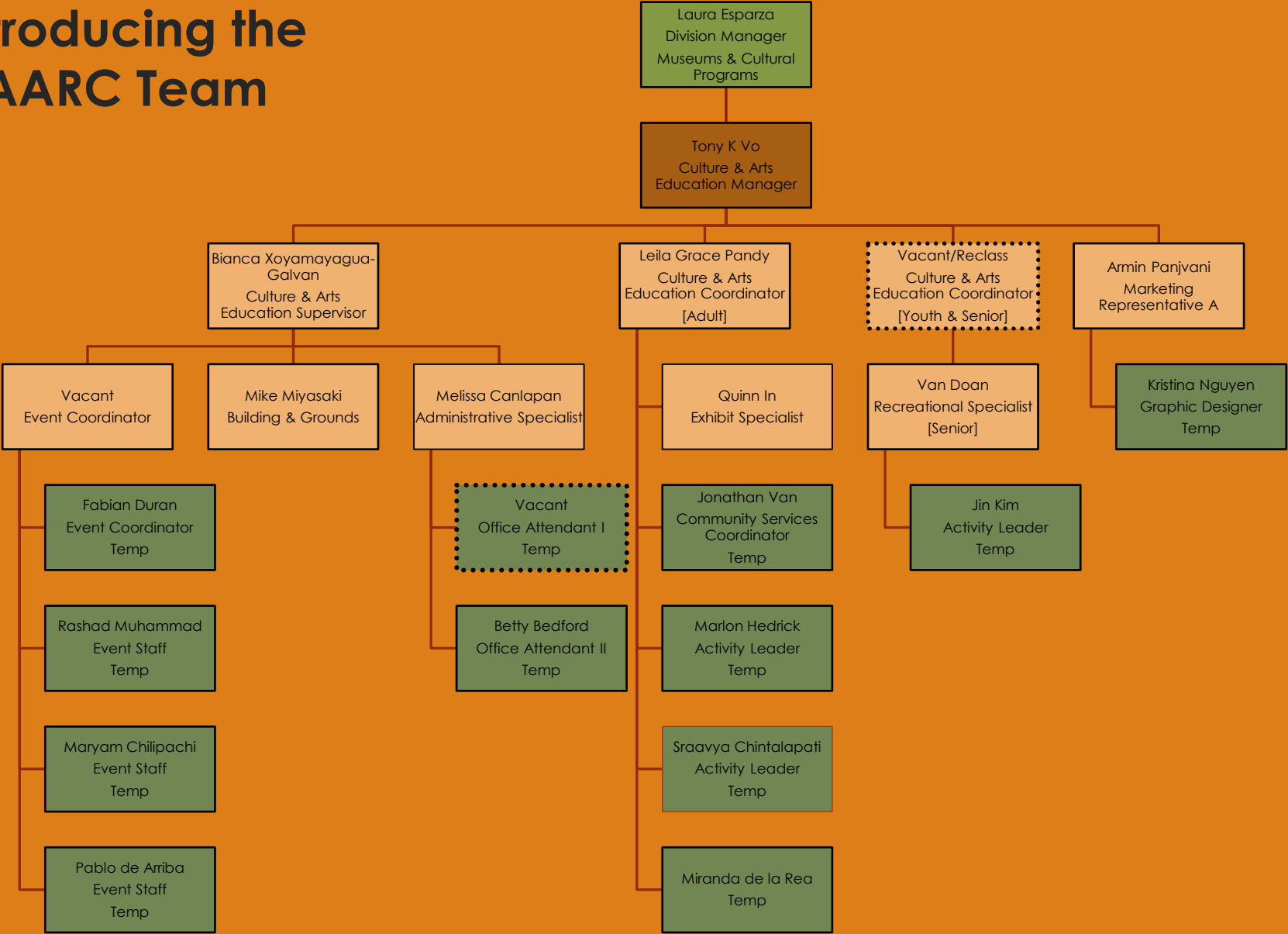
Peace - creating space for healing and unity.

Collaboration - building relationships and co-creating.

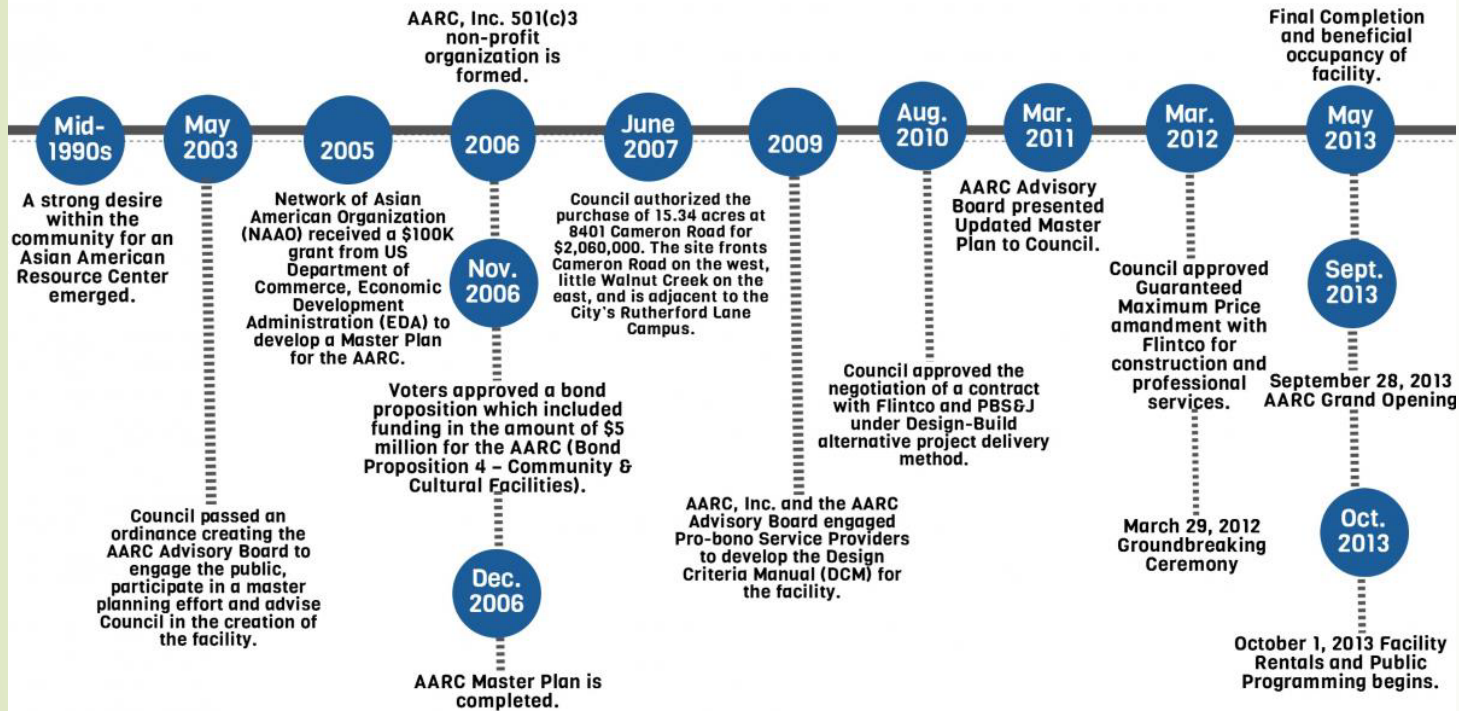
Intergenerational - connecting through stories.

Celebration - celebrating our intersectional identities and cultures.

Introducing the AARC Team



AARC Timeline



Resource for Community

AARC Programs

Rentals & Reservations

The AARC's ballroom, kitchen, classrooms and outdoor space are available for rent to community orgs and members. We also offer free community room rentals with extending evening and weekend hours to accommodate community access needs.

In-House Programs

Our youth, adult and senior programs cater to the needs of our diverse AAPI communities, encompassing educational, cultural, and celebratory events. Many of our programs are free or have minimal charge. We produce 25-35 in-house programs annually.

VISTA & Internship

The AARC hosts AmeriCorps VISTAs and provides academic internship opportunities, fostering civic engagement and servant leadership. Interns are supervised by professional staff and have opportunities to learn about city government, cultural production, and community building.

Exhibits

The Exhibits program showcases local and emerging artists throughout public spaces within the AARC. Prospective artists are chosen through annual Open Calls and are supported by the Exhibit Specialist to curate their art and cultivate their artistic practice.

Contract Instructor Program

Through our contract instructor program, community practitioners and creatives can utilize space in the AARC to offer their services, skills and practice to the public. From creative writing to yoga, the program fosters economic development and helps artists thrive.

Volunteer Program

Our robust volunteer program provides opportunity for community members and organizations to connect with our work. From staffing events to participating in senior English Corner, volunteering at the AARC fosters cultural connections and intergenerational relationships.

Artist Access Program

The Artist Access Program was created out of a directive from City Council to utilize Hotel Occupancy Tax's Cultural Arts funds to expand hours at three of the City-owned cultural centers. Applicants are ranked by an impartial panel made up of professional artists from Austin using an established criteria.

Community Informed, Community Driven

20
22

aarc annual report

OCT 1, 2021– SEPT 30, 2022



The AARC Annual Report provides the community with an overview of the AARC's operation and programming each fiscal year. The report documents signature youth, adult, senior, exhibit, and volunteer programs, as well as signature events such as Tones Fest and CelebrASIA.

AARC programs are designed with community in mind, and provide opportunities to engage with AAPI non-profits, creatives, vendors, and organizations. Through partnerships and collaborations, the AARC strives to represent and provide space for diverse communities across the Asian diaspora.



FY22 EVENTS

ARTIST TALK: SHERWIN TIBAYAN

ARTIVISM: HOW TO CREATE SOCIAL CHANGE WITH ART

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESL CLASSES

AUSTIN IMPRESSIONS: A CREATIVE WORKSHOP WITH KEVIN LUO

AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH/AUSTIN ASIAN COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

AUSTIN VIETNAMESE AMERICAN MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

CELEBRASIA

CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION

FALL EXHIBITS RECEPTION

HYPHENATED: AN ASIAN AMERICAN BOOK CLUB

KHABAR: A CONVERSATION WITH AUTHOR MAHUSHREE GHOSH

LIVING WITH NATURE

MIYAZAKI FEST WITH AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

ROMEO AND KATRINA

SENIOR HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

SENIOR PROGRAM

SOUNDS OF OUR SISTER CITIES

STORIES FROM THE SOUTH

STORIES OF OUR ELDERS

TELL YOUR STORY – FILMMAKING CLASSES

THE WOVEN SOUNDS: PIANO CHAMBER WORKS BY ASIAN CLASSICAL COMPOSERS

TONES FEST

TOTALLY COOL TOTALLY ART SUMMER CAMP

VISIONING WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE COMMISSION

ASIAN FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES OF AUSTIN

ASIAN TEXANS FOR JUSTICE

ATX BARRIO ARCHIVE

AUSTIN ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

AUSTIN ASIAN COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AUSTIN FREE-NET

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER

AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

AUSTIN SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

AUSTIN TAI CHI AND QIGONG SCHOOLS

AUSTIN VETERANS ARTS FESTIVAL

AUSTIN VIETNAMESE AMERICAN
PROFESSIONALS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES,
THE UNIVERSITY OF AUSTIN AT TEXAS

CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD BANK

COLOR ARC PRODUCTIONS

GAN BEI GALS

GREATER AUSTIN ASIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MEALS ON WHEELS OF CENTRAL TEXAS

NETWORK OF ASIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

TEXAS AFTER VIOLENCE

THE SLANTS FOUNDATION

THE WOVEN SOUNDS

TOTALLY COOL TOTALLY ART

TRAVIS COUNTY

TRAVIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

UT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COLLECTIVE

WOMEN IN FILM & TELEVISION

YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE

Community Feedback

AARC Volunteer, Filipina-American

"Unlike other spaces in Austin, you truly see the lifespan here, little kids, older adults. So there's that element of diversity in terms of seeing great-grandparent age and little kids who are typically not occupying the same public space in Austin. In other major cities, it's very segregated in a variety of ways.

AARC Exhibit Open Call Participant, Anonymous

"I started taking my painting practice more seriously in the pandemic, and I'm glad there is a space here in Austin that caters to our community!"

AARC Volunteer, Chinese American

"As a biracial person who's white presenting, who also feels really disconnected to both my Chinese side and my white side, walking into the AARC feels very comfortable to me"

AARC Exhibit Reception Participant, Anonymous

"I felt proud to see examples of my own culture and learn about other Asian cultures. I also learned about Asian American communities and cultures in Austin. There is no other space like this in Austin."

AARC Senior Participant, Thai American

"It's the social aspect. It's close to home. You develop friendships. We love it! I like the smiling people. It's a social contact. Those here are smiling and are understanding, and those are the kind of people that you want to talk to and share with."

Asian American Youth Voices Rising, Parent of Participants

"I wanted to let you know that Jude and Adele have been randomly sharing facts they are learning in your class throughout the week. I know sometimes it can be hard to gauge how much they are absorbing as they are young but they are! I'm so glad they are a part of your class. Thank you!!"

FY23 AARC by the Numbers

Daily Visitors: 2,344

Program Participants: 11,572

Free Community Rentals: 98

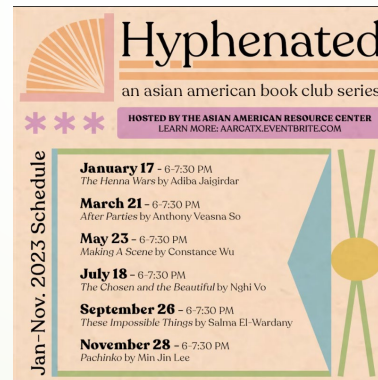
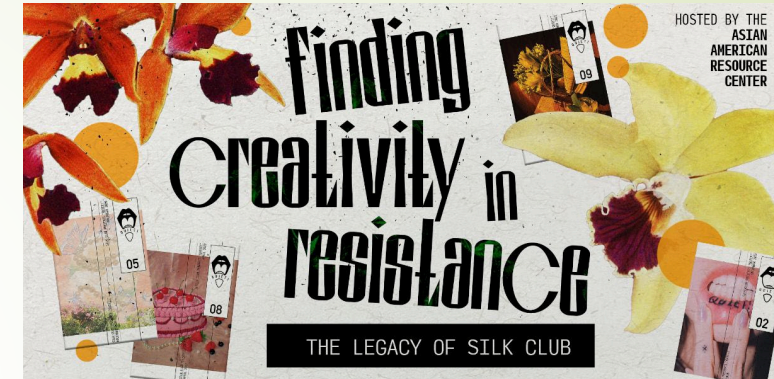
Paid Rentals: 109

In House Programs: 31

Program Surveys: 377

% of Participants Reporting Increased Knowledge & Understanding of Culture: 91.5%

Social Media Reach: 195,526



2019 AARC Master Plan

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Phase 1

- Existing Building (18,000 sf)
 - Ballroom (5,022 sf)
 - Library/ Computer Lab (422 sf)
 - Classroom 1-8 and Conference Room (2,677 sf)
 - Office space (1,095 sf)
 - Storage Space (516 sf)
 - Commercial Kitchen (approx 650 sf)

- Existing Parking (91 spaces)
- Art in Public Places: Lotus Fountain Sculpture
- Great Lawn

Phase 2

- Performing Arts Building (14,800 sf) with Classrooms
- Pavilion/ Stage (1600 sf)
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Parking (222 spaces including existing parking)
- Plaza

- Event Court/ Asia Street/ Festival Space
- Event and Activity Lawn
- Picnic area

Future

- Additional Office Spaces
- Meeting Room
- Studio Spaces
- Natural Garden
- Tea House/ Meditation Room
- Vehicular Bridge
- Nature Play Area
- Sculpture Garden

- Playfield
- Additional Pavilion
- Storm Water Quality Improvements
- Better Circulation
- Boardwalk/ Nature Trail
- Additional Picnic areas
- Community Garden
- Future Building
- Connection to Little Walnut Creek



PLAN LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------|
| ● EXISTING BUILDING
PHASE 1 | ● STAGE/ PAVILION (1,600sf) | ● WATER QUALITY/
DETENTION WET POND | ● FUTURE DEVELOPMENT |
| ● PERFORMING ARTS & GALLERY
SPACE (15,000sf) | ● MAIN ENTRY & DROP OFF | ● PLAY FIELD | ● LITTLE WALNUT CREEK OVERLOOK |
| ● CLASSROOM/STUDIO
SPACE (7,400sf) | ● EVENT COURT - (14,000sf - 1,400 people) | ● COMMUNITY GARDEN | ● BOARDWALK |
| PHASE 2 | ● FORMAL GARDEN AT GRADE CHANGE | ● PAVILION | ● PICNIC AREAS |
| ● 2 STORY BUILDING (15,000-22,500 sf) | ● EVENT & ACTIVITY LAWN (18,000sf - 1,800 people) | ● PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE | ● NATURE TRAIL |
| PHASE 3 | ● EXERCISE EQUIPMENT AREA | ● VEHICULAR BRIDGE | ● STRUCTURED VIEWPOINT |
| | ● SCULPTURE GARDEN | ● NATURAL GARDEN | ● TEA HOUSE / MEDITATION ROOM |
| | ● NATURE PLAY AREA | | |

VISION

The vision is to empower Austin's diverse communities through cultural understanding and life-enhancing opportunities.

MISSION

The mission of the Asian American Resource Center (AARC) is to provide spaces, services, resources, and programs through an Asian American Pacific Islander perspective.

PARKING

EXISTING	91
PROPOSED	341

- 2019, Phase II plan was adopted by Austin City Council.
- 2019-2022, multiple community engagements with AAPI community members, stakeholders, and staff held to inform scope of the AARC Performing Arts Center.
- Nov. 2022, schematic designs were rendered and presented to the public by Trahan Architects

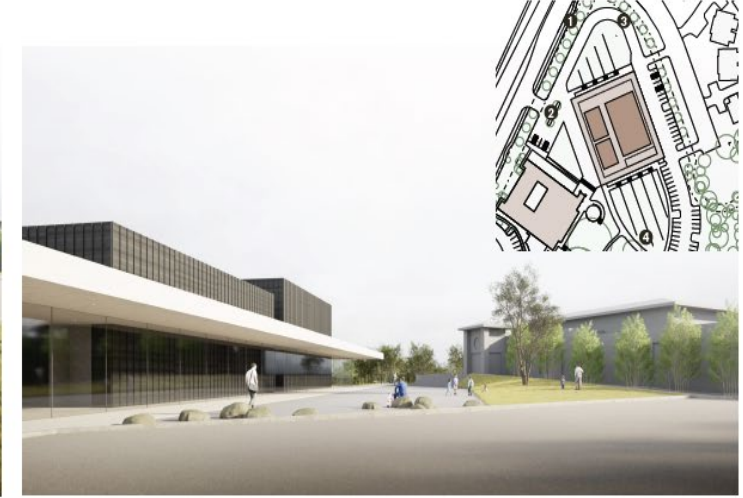


Phase II

Building Design



1 View from Cameron Road



2 View of Plaza from Drop-off Area



3 View from Northeast Corner



4 View from South Lawn



FY24 Some Upcoming Programs

World Tai Chi Day

Tones

10th Anniversary Night Bazaar

Asian American Youth Voices Rising – 2nd Cohort

Hyphenated Book Club Series

Teen Mentorship Program

Citizenship Clinic

National Day of Yoga

CelebrASIA

Lunar New Year Makers Market

Community Health Fair

Senior Program

Free Day of Dance



Thank You!

Asian American Resource Center Staff

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