



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023.

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. This year included the following presentations:

- Key Findings and Recommendations from the Small and Minority Business Resources (SMBR)'s Disparity Report presented by Edward Campos & Tamela Saldaña.
- Presentation by representatives from Tesla with discussion and possible action regarding workforce equity, infrastructure needs, community partnerships, and environmental justice. The presentation was made by: Walt Gonzalez, Teresa Grant, and Logan Grant.

- Presentation by representatives from Tesla Outreach Community Alliance (TOCA) with discussion and possible action regarding community asks and concerns. The presentation was made by Sergio Castellanos, Maria Emerson, Tessa Comstock, and Elizabeth Mack.
- Economic Development Department regarding initial concepts for heritage wayfinding design. The presentation was made by Melissa Alvarado, John Bosio, and Merge Design.
- Community Briefing from El Buen Samaritano presented by Dr. Rosamaria Murillo, Chief Executive Officer.
- Community Briefing from Central Health with discussion and possible action related to the Health Equity Plan. The presentation was made by Perla Cavazos and Yeseña Ramos.
- Housing & Planning Department presentation on the Palm District Plan. The presentation was made by: Jesse Gutierrez (HPD).
- Community Briefing from JUST, a nonprofit CDFI that has made over 6,000 business loans totaling more than \$12 million to Hispanic female entrepreneurs. The presentation was made by Steve Wanta, Co-Founder & CEO.
- Community Briefing from AISD on Equity initiatives. The presentation was made by Dr. Stephanie Hawley, Equity Officer for AISD.
- Staff briefing on the Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD) Policy Plan presented by Shanisha Johnson and Lucy Hall, Housing and Planning Department.
- MACC Phase II Design Development with architect update presented by Christina Bies (COA-PARD) and Heidi Tse (COA-Public Works).
- Yellow Bike Project Presentation with Marcelina Gray, Dianne Wanyama, and Nina Nomura on hiring and recruiting employees that are representative of the communities they serve, with discussion and possible action from the commission.
- Community Presentation by American Gateways. The presentation was made by Rebecca Lightsey, Co-Executive Director, and Melissa Ortega, Board of Directors.
- Housing & Planning Department's (HPD) FY23-24 Action Plan Commission Input. The presentation was made by Chris Duran, Mandy DeMayo, James May & Chase Clements (HPD).
- Community Presentation from UpTogether, on their new strategic plan and direction, and updates on the Guaranteed Income Program after the pilot is over. The presentation was made by Meng Qi, Southwest Partnership Manager.
- Presentation on Project Connect from the Austin Transportation Partnership (ATP) soliciting commissioner and community feedback. The presentation was made by Yannis Banks, Sofia Ojeda, and Alyssa Hedge.
- Community Care Austin regarding respite beds across Austin and the health impact of the sweeps at different homeless camps. The presentation was made by Audrey Kuang.
- People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources (PODER) regarding City of Austin's partnership with Texas State Department of Public Safety. The presentation was made by Suzanna Almanza.
- Austin-Travis County Ready Families Collaborative regarding local home visiting programs and the impact and challenges of the Ready Families Collaborative. The presentation was made by Rebecca Elizondo.

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 was the JIC alternate until April 25, 2023, when Vice Chair Ivanna Neri became the new JIC alternate.

Chair Afifi, Vice-Chair Vigil, and Commissioners Peña, Silva, and Perales represented the Commission in the group Quality of Life Commission / Equity Budgeting Sessions and meetings. With the support of the Equity Office the JIC conducted three virtual town hall sessions organized around the identified priority issues to receive input from community members regarding funding needs for the 2023-24 Budget. These Quality of Life town hall sessions included invited representatives from the ten commissions that make up the JIC. Commissioners attended all three budget townhalls. Commissioners provided feedback regarding the evolving budget process. This process also allowed for us to contribute to joint recommendations made.

In March 2023, the Commission made the following FY2024 budget recommendations, related to the issue areas in the H/LQoL Initiative:

- Recommendation 20230328-006: FY23-24 Budget Recommendation on Community Health Workers. The motion to approve the FY23-24 Budget Recommendation for Community Health Workers was approved on Commissioner Daniela Silva's motion, Commissioner Ivanna Neri's second on a 7 – 0 vote. (Off the Dais/Absent: Commissioners Maria Solis, Sandy Ramirez, & Sharon Vigil).
- Recommendation 20230328-007: FY23-24 Budget Recommendation on Affordable Transportation. The motion to approve the FY23-24 Budget Recommendation for Transit & Transportation was approved on Commissioner Jesus Perales's motion, Commissioner Vanessa Maldonado's second on a 7 – 0 vote. (Off the Dais/Absent: Commissioners Maria Solis, Sandy Ramirez, & Sharon Vigil).
- Recommendation 20230328-008: FY23-24 Budget Recommendation on Enhanced Library Card Program. The motion to approve the FY23-24 Budget Recommendation for the Austin Public Library Municipal ID Card with an amendment that asks APD to accept this Municipal ID as a form of identification, and that includes additional funding for outreach in multiple languages to reach underrepresented communities about this service was approved on Commissioner Ivanna Neri's motion, Commissioner Daniela Silva's second on a 7 – 0 vote. (Off the Dais/Absent: Commissioners Maria Solis, Sandy Ramirez, & Sharon Vigil).
- Recommendation 20230328-010: FY23-24 Budget Recommendation on Guaranteed Income Program. The motion to approve the FY23-24 Budget Recommendation for the Guaranteed Income Program with an amendment that stipulates new participants in the program would be screened for eligibility by the same criteria as participants from the original pilot was approved on Commissioner Daniela Silva's motion, Commissioner Ivanna Neri's second on a 6 – 1 – 0 vote. (Abstain: Ivanna Neri. Off the Dais/Absent: Commissioners Maria Solis, Sandy Ramirez, & Sharon Vigil).
- Recommendation 20230328-012: FY23-24 Budget Recommendation on Immigrant Legal Services. The motion to approve the FY23-24 Budget Recommendation for Immigrant Legal Services was approved on Commissioner Amanda Afifi's motion, Commissioner

Daniela Silva's second on a 6 – 1 – 0 vote. (Abstain: Jesus Perales. Off the Dais/Absent: Commissioners Maria Solis, Sandy Ramirez, & Sharon Vigil).

- Recommendation 20230328-013: FY23-24 Budget Recommendation on Supporting Youth & Children in Austin. The motion to approve the FY23-24 Budget Recommendation for Supporting Children & Youth in Austin with an amendment to merge item 14 and item 13 into one budget recommendation that includes a specified allocation of \$550,000 for Academia Cuauhtli's expanded Aztech Coding program for Indigenous, Latinx/Hispanic and Black youth in East Austin was approved on Commissioner Dulce Castañeda's motion, Commissioner Daniela Silva's second on a 7 – 0 vote. (Off the Dais/Absent: Commissioners Maria Solis, Sandy Ramirez, & Sharon Vigil).

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.

1. Ensure recommendations and decisions have equitable outcomes for all members of the Hispanic/Latino community;
2. Co-create more equitable policies, developed alongside fellow Quality of Life Commissions and the Joint Inclusion Committee;
3. 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;
4. Expand awareness of Quality of Life Commission to inform the community about the Commission;
5. Closely collaborate with City staff regarding recommendations and concerns in the community;
6. commit to promote language and digital access (visual and auditory; multiple languages; easily understandable reading comprehension level);
7. 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;
8. Identify a goal(s) for each working group and implement a plan to address the goal(s); and
9. 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.