



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

JOINT INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Recommendation Number: (20250226-09): Sustained Funding Undoing Racism Workshop Through Equity Division

WHEREAS, the Joint Inclusion Committee (“JIC”) of the City of Austin (“City”) serves as an advisory body that advocates for and inspires the City Council (“Council”) and City Manager on issues pertaining to equity, diversity, and inclusion to promote close cooperation between Council, City Management, City boards, commissions, committees, and task forces, and individuals, institutions, and agencies to increase and sustain equity, diversity, and inclusion in the city; and

WHEREAS, persons aged 65 and older represent the fastest-growing age group in Austin, expanding from 55,695 (7.0% of 2010 population) to 91,733 (9.5% of 2020 population), and growing at a rate of 64.7%; and

WHEREAS, the latest City of Austin Demographer data shows Austin residents as 1.5% Asian/Asian American, 7% Black/African American, 11% Hispanic/Latino/o/x, are 51% white; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Advancing Immigrant Corporation reports 20%% of residents are foreign born; and

WHEREAS, the latest City of Austin Demographer data shows indicated 22% of respondents identified as part of the LGBTQIA+ community; and

WHEREAS, while not an all-inclusive list, all of the demographics specified above are at risk for discrimination and being targeted, generally the older adults in those populations are the most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, in the last twelve months, the City of Austin has seen an increase in discrimination, targeting and persecution of multiple ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, the Equity Division mission is “To provide leadership, guidance, and insight on equity to improve the quality of life for Austinites and achieve the vision of making Austin the most livable city in the nation for ALL;” and

WHEREAS, the Equity Division advances its mission by hosting Undoing Racism in collaboration with The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond.

WHEREAS, The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond’s vision is to work with communities so that residents can be “girded with a clear sense of their own power, sustaining a quality of life that is far beyond survival. We envision them nurturing their cultures, preserving their history, and cultivating their economies. We envision these communities being in harmony with one another and with other

segments of the global community.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Joint Inclusion Committee encourages the Austin City Council to act to maintain and approve funding for the Equity Division’s renewed 5-year contract with The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond as part of the City’s base budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Inclusion Committee encourages the Austin City Council to include the Equity Division’s renewal of a 5-year contract with The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond in the City’s base budget which will help to elevate and improve the quality of lives of all residents with the lessons learned from the Undoing Racism workshop.

Date of Approval: February 26, 2025

Record of the vote: 10-0, on Melissa Ortega's 1st, and Sonny Sin's 2nd.

For: Elaina Fowler, Sonny Sin, Becky Bullard, Richard Bondi (Vice Chair), Melissa Ortega, Alice Navarro, Amanda Afifi (Chair), Morgan Davis, Jerry Joe Benson, Jennifer Powell

Not Present: Philip Reichert or Curtis Wyman

Attest: 

Alejandra Mireles, Staff Liaison