



Advisory Board Working Group Update

February 2026



Working Group Formation

The Advisory Board Working Group was established at the December 2025 Board meeting. The Working Group aims to educate the ARCDC on advisory board functions and best practices while developing a comprehensive, formal recommendation to the City regarding the transition to an advisory board structure.

Advisory Board Working Group Members

- Dewi Smith, ARCDC Vice Chair
- Jodi Mozeika
- Dante Clemons
- Catalina Berry



Today's Report Will Cover

1

Relevant Board Models

What is the historic and local understanding and expectation of an Advisory Board?

2

Austin Context and Precedence Research

What Advisory Boards exist today in Austin and what frameworks do they update under?

3

Working Group Recommendation

Given our research, what is our recommendation for the Board to consider?

4

Proposed Actions and Board Formal Vote

Given the recommendation, what are our next steps?



Relevant Board Models - Governing Board

Governing Board - Authority to Control

- Has delegated authority from the City of Austin to oversee, manage or legally control an entity, program or corporation that operates on behalf of or in partnership with the City of Austin
- City of Austin delegates via ordinance, resolution or contract
- Board oversees management



Relevant Board Models - Advisory Board

Advisory Board - Advise, Not Decide

- Recommend policies, strategies, or actions to City Council and City departments
- Provide technical expertise, stakeholder perspective and community interests
- They do not enact laws, create binding regulations, or execute City programs directly unless explicitly given authority by the Council



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Austin Precedence

For comparison, we examined two advisory boards in Austin that support culturally relevant communities in relation to City-owned facilities.

Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission

- Advises City Council on issues related to the Asian American Resource Center and provides ongoing guidance and support for the City's Asian American quality of life initiatives
- 15 members on the Board. 11 members appointed by City Council.
- Four (4) year terms
- No committees; Working groups permitted
- Attendance requirements are specified

Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board

- Advises City Council on the establishment and operation of the Mexican American Cultural Center
- 11 members appointed by City Council
- Three (3) year terms
- No committees; Working groups permitted
- Attendance requirements are specified



Working Group Recommendation

Transition the ARCDC Board from a governing structure to an advisory board, consistent with the City of Austin's boards and commissions model.



Recommendations In Practice

Retain	Relinquish	Proposed Advisory Role
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board members appointed by City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct Stewardship of The Millennium, Staff and Operations• Decision making authority of operations, budgets and governance, including signatory roles and fiduciary responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advisory role to the City owned Millennium<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Does not manage Staff or Operations• Provide budget recommendations• Advise City Council on the operation and programming• Provide Cultural Stewardship and policy recommendations



Thank you.



Discussion

What happens if ACME goes away? Things change at COA all of the time.

Our logic for shifting to and advisory board is to address the following:

- Capacity
 - We can ask for more. What would we ask for? Dont be too passive.
- Liability
 - What might shared authority look like
- Expertise



Appendix