



## RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

### Joint Inclusion Committee

Recommendation Number: [20260325-006] : Support and Funding of the Career, Research, Learning and Development Institute (CARLDI) in the FY 2026-2027 budget

#### **Date of Approval:**

**Recommendation:** Fund CARLDI full year ask of \$190,000

#### **Description of Recommendation to Council:**

The Joint Inclusion Committee strongly urges the Austin City Council to include new, dedicated funding in the FY 2026–2027 budget to fully support the annual operating expenses of Career, Research, Learning and Development Institute (CARLDI). This sustained investment is essential to advancing equity for African Immigrant seniors in Austin.

Without reliable funding, critical services that reduce social isolation, improve physical and mental health outcomes, and address longstanding economic disparities are placed at risk. CARLDI provides more than programming; it fosters belonging, dignity, and intergenerational connection. Investing in this organization ensures that seniors will unlock the skills needed to actively integrate, their lived experiences are recognized as community assets and will strengthen families and neighborhoods across Austin.

This funding represents a tangible commitment to health equity, cultural preservation, and the well-being of a newly elderly population of our city.

#### **Rationale:**

- **ESL and Citizenship Education**
  - Understand and navigate U.S. systems. Improve English language use, financial literacy and digital skills.
- **Health Education**
  - Access health care and public benefits such as CAN, CPR, etc
- **Employment Opportunities**
  - Re-enter the workforce or contribute through mentoring and community leadership.
- **Mental and Physical Wellbeing**
  - Build social connections that reduce isolation and improve well-being.

**Alignment with JIC Mission/Vision/Values:**

This funding directly supports the JIC’s mission to advance racial equity across numerous quality of life commissions in Austin by preserving essential services for immigrant communities, particularly Black immigrants. CARLDI’s work directly advances JIC’s advisory priorities of equitable aging and economic inclusion by expanding access to culturally responsive programs and services for Austin’s rapidly growing Black immigrant community.

**Date of Approval:** March 25, 2026

**Motioned By:** Commissioner Thakkar

**Seconded By:** Commissioner Parsons

**Vote:** 9-0

**For:** Vice Chair Bondi, Commissioners Alvizo, Benson, Castaneda, Chang, Laake-Stanfield, Oliva-Martínez, Parsons, Thakkar

**Against:** None

**Abstain:** Commissioner Kanawati

**Recuse:** None

**Off the dais:** None

**Absent:** Chair Afifi, Commissioners Bullard, McNary, Melendez

**Attest:** *Ryan Sperling* \_\_\_\_\_

(Ryan Sperling, Staff Liaison)