



RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

African American Resource Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number: 20260414-003: Support the Career, Research, Learning and Development Institute in the FY 2026-2027 Budget.

Date of Approval: April 14, 2026

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

Description of Recommendation to Council:

The African American Resource Advisory Commission 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 AARAC Mission/Vision/Values:

This funding directly supports AARAC's mission to advance racial equity in Austin by preserving essential services for immigrant communities, particularly Black immigrants. CARLDI's work directly advances AARAC'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.

Motioned By: Commissioner Dozier

Seconded By: Commissioner Davis

Vote: **9-0**

For: Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Parsons, Commissioners Davis, Dozier, Harden, Hayes, Linder, Rudd, Smith

Absent: Commissioners Eugene, Horton, Jackson, Loyde, Ross, and Weisberg

Attest: *Nekaybaw Watson*, Staff Liaison