Annual Internal Review

Covering the 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2026 time period

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Quality of Life Advisory Commission

1. **Have the board/commission's actions throughout the year complied with City Council directives and bylaws? This should address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

   Yes

2. **If no, please explain.**

3. **How many recommendations did your board or commission approve?**

   17

4. **Please list the recommendation numbers.**

   Recommendation 20260615-005: LGBTQ+ Observances for Potential City Council Proclamations
   Recommendation 20260615-006: Continuity of Survivor Services and Community-Based Care Facilities
   Recommendation 20260420-010: Bettie Naylor Street Safety Corridor
   Recommendation 20260309-011: Housing Assistance Grants for LGBTQIA+ and Queer Artists

Recommendation 20260309-008: LGBTQ Legal Navigation and Community Safety Coordination
Recommendation 20260309-009: Expansion of MPox, STI, and Vaccination Programs
Recommendation 20260309-010: Safe and Proud Austin Entertainment Corridor Life Safety Pilot Package
Recommendation 20260309-012: Community Liaison Officer Program Pilot
Recommendation 20260309-014: Entrepreneurial Grants for LGBTQIA+ Businesses
Recommendation 20260309-015: LGBTQ Entertainment District
Recommendation 20251208-007: Urgent Funding for HIV/STI and Mpox Community Health Programs Following TRE Failure
Recommendation 20251020-005: In-Vitro Fertilization Coverage
Recommendation 20251020-006: Proclamation for Transgender Day of Remembrance
Recommendation 20251020-007: Review Austin Pride
Recommendation 20251020-008: Restroom Access Policy
Recommendation 20251020-009: Crosswalk Response
Recommendation 20250721-007: Commendation for Brandon Wollerson

5. **Which recommendations are *closely aligned* to the organization's core mission and why?**

   LGBTQIA+ Cultural Center: Continued advancing conversations, public engagement, and recommendations related to the proposed LGBTQIA+ Cultural Center, including feasibility planning, community feedback gathering, task force coordination, and discussions surrounding long-term cultural infrastructure for LGBTQIA+ Austinites.

   Community Safety & Public Accountability: Held extensive discussions related to LGBTQIA+ community safety, including interactions with law enforcement, emergency response systems, anti-hate concerns, and the impacts of state legislation affecting transgender residents and public accommodations. The Commission also received presentations and public testimony regarding public trust, accountability, and community-centered approaches to safety.

   Historic Preservation & Visibility: Supported efforts related to the LGBTQIA+ Historic Marker on 4th Street and continued conversations regarding preservation of queer cultural spaces, public visibility initiatives, and the historical legacy of LGBTQIA+ communities in Austin.

   Legislative & Policy Monitoring: Formed working groups and held ongoing discussions regarding state and federal legislative developments affecting LGBTQIA+ residents, including issues related to healthcare access, immigration, gender-affirming care, public accommodations, and civil protections.

City Department Engagement: Hosted presentations and engaged in ongoing dialogue with Austin Public Health, Austin-Travis County EMS, the Human Rights Division, the Economic Development Department, and other City entities regarding healthcare access, emergency response, cultural programming, and public safety.

Public Health Collaboration: Received updates and presentations regarding HIV prevention, MPOX response, Long COVID impacts, harm reduction efforts, and culturally responsive healthcare access for LGBTQIA+ communities.

Emergency Response & Harm Reduction: Engaged with Austin-Travis County EMS regarding Narcan distribution, Stop the Bleed trainings, emergency preparedness, and community-centered approaches to crisis response following national incidents targeting LGBTQIA+ spaces.

Human Rights & Immigration Support: Coordinated discussions with the Human Rights Division and community organizations regarding Know Your Rights initiatives, immigrant protections, anti-hate infrastructure, and multilingual outreach for LGBTQIA+ immigrants and refugee communities.

Budget Recommendations: Advanced budget recommendations related to LGBTQIA+ housing support, public health funding, cultural arts investment, deeply affordable housing, and support for organizations serving LGBTQIA+ residents experiencing housing instability.

Public Access & Transparency: Passed recommendations related to increasing public access to Commission meetings through televising and livestreaming efforts in order to improve transparency and community engagement.

Health & Wellness Advocacy: Discussed and developed recommendations related to reproductive healthcare access, HIV prevention, emergency response accessibility, and affirming care for transgender and gender-expansive Austinites.

Economic Opportunity: Supported conversations and recommendations related to economic mobility, equitable access to City resources, and funding opportunities for LGBTQIA+-owned businesses and organizations.

6. **Which recommendations are *adjacent* to the organization's core mission and why?**

   n/a

7. **Please share any further context that could support or explain your recommendations.**

   As it relates to our mission to coordinate and/or participate in educational programs to promote equal treatment, opportunity, and understanding of persons within the LGBTQ community, and facilitate gatherings such as meetings, institutes, forums, or courses of instruction designed to lead to greater understanding and crafting of solutions for issues of concern of the LGBTQ community:

   Presentations & Educational Briefings: Hosted presentations from community organizations, public health professionals, advocates, researchers, and City departments on issues impacting LGBTQIA+ Austinites, including immigration rights, healthcare access, public health disparities, HIV and Mpox prevention, Long COVID, cultural preservation, economic mobility, emergency preparedness, community safety, legislative developments, and LGBTQIA+ cultural center planning. The Commission received briefings from organizations and entities including Equality Texas, Austin Public Health, Austin-Travis County EMS, the Human Rights Division, the Economic Mobility Office, and leaders from the City of Atlanta's LGBTQ Community Center Feasibility Study, providing commissioners with research, data, and community perspectives to inform recommendations and policy discussions.

   Community Engagement & Public Forums: Facilitated public dialogue and community engagement efforts related to the LGBTQIA+ Cultural Center, public safety concerns, legislative impacts, and community resource access.

   Intersectional Community Education: Continued prioritizing educational opportunities that highlighted the experiences of transgender individuals, queer immigrants, Black and Brown LGBTQIA+ communities, disabled residents, elders, and other historically underserved populations.

   As it relates to our mission to work with other city commissions to address issues of intersectionality:

   Cross-Commission Collaboration: Continued engagement with the Joint Inclusion Committee and collaborated with other City commissions and community stakeholders on issues related to housing, immigrant protections, accessibility, healthcare, and public safety.

   Intersectional Analysis: The Commission consistently incorporated intersectional analysis into recommendations, public testimony, and working group discussions, recognizing the interconnected impacts of race, disability, immigration status,

economic instability, and gender identity on LGBTQIA+ quality of life outcomes.

As it relates to our mission to create, guide, support, and evaluate LGBTQ quality of life initiatives:

Cultural Infrastructure Development: Continued supporting planning efforts for an LGBTQIA+ Cultural Center and identifying long-term strategies to strengthen community infrastructure, visibility, and belonging.

Resource Development: Supported development of resource guides and community-centered informational materials for transgender and gender-expansive Austinites.

Commission Governance & Sustainability: Formed and expanded working groups related to strategic planning, legislative monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and Commission operations in order to strengthen continuity and long-term effectiveness.

Community Visibility & Belonging: Continued discussions regarding preservation of LGBTQIA+ cultural spaces, public visibility efforts, and community-centered initiatives designed to foster belonging and connection across Austin.

As it relates to our mission to perform additional functions as required by the city council:

Officer Elections & Administrative Actions: Conducted officer elections, working group appointments, schedule amendments, stakeholder nomination processes, and additional administrative actions in compliance with City procedures and Commission bylaws.

Accessibility & Public Participation: Continued maintaining virtual and hybrid participation options, ADA accessibility accommodations, and opportunities for public testimony and engagement throughout the year.

8. **Is there another body that overlaps with the role and work of the board or commission you serve?**

   Yes

9. **If yes, which body?**

   Joint Inclusion Committee

10. **Please explain their alignment.**

Represent broad initiatives focused on equity, inclusion, justice, etc. for various vulnerable communities. We have an active representative from our commission on this Committee.

11. Do bylaws need updating?

No

12. If yes, what would be the amendment (including section) and why?

13. On a scale of 1-10, how engaged are the board or commission members?

8

14. On a scale of 1-10, how engaged is the community?

7

15. Please provide any relevant details or examples that influenced these ratings.

We began hosting informal community office hours with community members and Commission officers. We had multiple posts about the Commission in the Austin Chronicle and regular posting of our meetings or other critical events in the community on social media and in popular media.

16. Do you see any gaps in important policies that are not currently covered by a board or commission?

Yes

17. If yes, please explain.

There should be a designated LGBTQ+ Liaison in the Human Rights Office that operates at a senior to executive level in addition to a staff-level Commission Liaison. We are doing more work as a Commission than should be considered volunteer work.

18. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

The Commission engaged in ongoing discussions throughout the reporting period regarding strategic priorities for the upcoming calendar year. Several recurring themes emerged consistently through presentations, public testimony, working group discussions, and Commission recommendations. These emerging areas of focus included:

Community Safety
Housing
Trans Rights
Health
The future of an LGBTQ+ Cultural Center for the City of Austin

Commissioners also discussed the interconnected impacts of affordability, public health access, immigration concerns, cultural preservation, disability justice, emergency preparedness, and public visibility on LGBTQIA+ quality of life outcomes in Austin.