

**BYLAWS OF THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

ARTICLE 1. NAME.

The name of the board is African American Resource Advisory Commission.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE AND DUTIES.

The purpose and duties of the board are as follows: The commission shall advise the city council on issues relating to the quality of life for the City's African American community and shall recommend programs designed to alleviate any inequities that may confront African Americans in social, economic, and vocational pursuits, including: **public safety**, health care; housing, including affordable housing, home ownership, and homelessness; entertainment opportunities for professionals and students; employment; and cultural venues, including museums, theaters, art galleries, and music venues. The commission shall advise the council on matters related to the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility, the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, and the African American Cultural Heritage District.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP.

- (A) The board is composed of fifteen members. Eleven members are appointed by the City Council. The Council shall appoint four additional members nominated by each of the following:
- 1) The Austin Revitalization Authority;
 - 2) The Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce;
 - 3) The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and
 - 4) The Austin Area Urban League.
- (B) A member serves at the pleasure of the city council.
- (C) Board members serve for a term of four years beginning March 1st on the year of appointment.
- (D) An individual board member may not act in an official capacity or speak on behalf of the board except through the action of a majority of the board in which the board identifies who is authorized to speak and identifies the actions the individual board member is authorized to take or topics on which the individual board member is entitled to speak.
- (E) A board member who is absent for three consecutive regular meetings or one-third of all regular meetings in a "rolling" twelve month timeframe automatically vacates the member's position subject to the holdover provisions in Section 2-1-27 of the City Code. This does not apply to an absence due to illness or injury of the board member, an illness or injury of a board member's immediate family member, active military service, or the birth or adoption of the board member's child for 90 days after the event. The board member must notify the staff liaison of the reason for the absence not later than the date of the next regular meeting of the board. Failure to notify the liaison before the next regular meeting of the board will result in an unexcused absence.

1 (F) At each meeting, each board member shall sign an attendance sheet (or if participating virtually via
2 videoconference, send an email as provided by City Code Section 2-1-24(D)) which indicates that
3 the member does not have a conflict of interest with any item on that agenda, or identifies each
4 agenda item on which the member has a conflict of interest. Failure to sign the sheet results in the
5 member being counted as absent and his/her votes are not counted.
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7 (G) A member who seeks to resign from the board shall submit a written resignation to the chair of the
8 board, the staff liaison, or the city clerk's office. If possible, the resignation should allow for a
9 thirty day notice so the city council can appoint a replacement.
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11 **ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS.**

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13 (A) The officers of the board shall consist of a chair and a vice-chair.
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15 (B) Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the board at the first regular meeting after
16 April 1st. In the event a current officer becomes ineligible to serve as an officer, the board may hold
17 an emergency election as needed.
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19 (C) The term of office shall be one year, beginning May 1st and ending April 30th. An officer may
20 continue to serve until a successor is elected. A person may not serve as an officer in a designated
21 position of a board for more than four consecutive one-year terms. A person who has served as an
22 officer in a designated position of a board for four consecutive terms is not eligible for re-election
23 to that designated office until the expiration of two years after the last date of the person's service in
24 that office. The board may override the term limit provision for an officer by an affirmative vote of
25 two-thirds of the authorized board members.
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27 (D) A member may not hold more than one office at a time.
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30 **ARTICLE 5. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.**

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32 (A) The chair shall preside at board meetings, appoint all committees, represent the board at ceremonial
33 functions and approve each final meeting agenda as provided in Article 6(A).
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35 (B) In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall perform all duties of the chair.
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38 **ARTICLE 6. AGENDAS.**

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40 (A) Two or more board members may place an item on the agenda by oral or written request to the staff
41 liaison at least seven business days before the meeting. After first consulting with and receiving
42 input from the staff liaison, the chair shall approve each final meeting agenda prior to posting,
43 except that posting language may be adjusted in order to ensure compliance with Government Code
44 Chapter 551 (Open Meetings Act).
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46 (B) The board liaison shall submit the meeting agenda through the online agenda posting system for
47 each meeting not less than the 4th business day before the scheduled meeting date.
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- 1 (C) Posting of the agenda must comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open
2 Meetings Act).

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5 **ARTICLE 7. MEETINGS.**
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- 7 (A) The board meetings shall comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open
8 Meetings Act).
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10 (B) Board meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.
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12 (C) The board may not conduct a closed meeting without the approval of the city attorney.
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14 (D) The board shall meet monthly. In November of each year, the board shall adopt a schedule of the
15 meetings for the upcoming year, including makeup meeting dates for the holidays and cancelled
16 meetings.
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18 (E) The chair may call a special meeting, and the chair shall call a special meeting if requested by three
19 or more members. The call shall state the purpose of the meeting. A board may not call a meeting
20 in addition to its regular scheduled meetings as identified in its adopted meeting schedule, more
21 often than once a quarter, unless the meeting is required to comply with a statutory deadline or a
22 deadline established by Council.
23
24 (F) Eight members constitute a quorum.
25
26 (G) If a quorum for a meeting does not convene within one-half hour of the posted time for the meeting,
27 then the meeting may not be held.
28
29 (H) If only a quorum is present at a meeting, a board action is adopted by an affirmative vote of two-
30 thirds of the quorum (13 member board = 5 votes; 15 member board = 6 votes). If more than a
31 quorum is present at a meeting, a board action must be adopted by an affirmative vote of the
32 number of members necessary to provide a quorum (13 member board = 7 votes; 15 member board
33 = 8 votes).
34
35 (I) The chair has the same voting privilege as any other member.
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37 (J) The board shall allow members of the public to address the board on agenda items and during a
38 period of time set aside for public communications on non-agenda items. The chair shall allow a
39 speaker to speak for no less than two minutes per agenda item and for three minutes on a non-
40 agenda item.
41
42 (K) The staff liaison shall prepare the board minutes. The minutes of each board meeting must include
43 the vote of each member on each item before the board and indicate whether a member is absent or
44 failed to vote on an item.
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46 (L) The city clerk shall retain agendas, approved minutes, internal review reports and bylaws. The
47 Austin City Clerk's Office shall retain all other board documents. The documents are public
48 records under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 552 (Texas Public Information Act).

(M) The chair shall adjourn a meeting not later than 10 p.m., unless the board votes to continue the meeting.

(N) Each person and board member attending a board meeting should observe decorum pursuant to Section 2-1-48 of the City Code.

ARTICLE 8. COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS.

COMMITTEES

(A) Each committee must be established by an affirmative vote of the board. A committee cannot meet until its creation is approved by the Council Audit and Finance Committee. Each committee shall consist of at least three board members appointed by the chair. A staff member shall be assigned to each committee by the director of the Austin City Clerk's Office.

(B) The board chair shall appoint a board member as the committee chair, with the member's consent.

(C) A majority of the total number of appointed committee members constitutes a quorum.

(D) Each committee shall meet on a regularly scheduled basis at least quarterly.

(E) Each committee shall make an annual report to the board at the January board meeting.

(F) Committee meetings must be posted in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).

(G) At each committee meeting, a committee member shall sign in on a sheet provided (or if participating virtually via videoconference, send an email as provided by City Code Section 2-1-24(D)) and shall indicate that the member has no conflict of interest with any item on the committee meeting agenda, or identify each agenda item on which the member has a conflict of interest.

(H) The African American Resource Advisory Commission currently has no committees.

WORKING GROUPS

(A) The board can determine the size of a working group but the number of board members serving on the working group must be less than a quorum of the board.

(B) A working group may designate a chair, with the member's consent, but is not required to do so.

(C) Quorum requirements do not apply to working groups.

(D) Staff support will not be provided for working groups.

(E) Working groups are not required to post their meetings in accordance with the Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).

ARTICLE 9. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the board in all cases to which they are applicable, except when inconsistent with these bylaws or with special rules of procedure which the board or city council may adopt.

ARTICLE 10. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS.

A bylaw amendment is not effective unless approved by Council after review by the Council Audit and Finance Committee.

The bylaws were approved by the African American Resource Advisory Commission at their meeting held on February 11, 2016.

The bylaws were revised in accordance with Ordinance 20251120-008 on January 7, 2026.

Nekaybaw Watson

Staff Liaison