

Subject: Proposed Fee Increases on Community Arts
Related Department: AED

FY 2027 Proposed Budget
Budget Work Session Follow-up

4/10/2026

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Mr. de Ferranti received by email on March 31, 2026, regarding the following question:

Why did the Senior Technician go up by \$8 an hour for the CAD technical and facility support at APS Joint-Use Theaters program? Was/is it unusual? Is there likely to be this increase in future years? Some predictability, particularly given this budget year and the budget year to come where we have significantly increased fees seems reasonable. Would a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining a set frequency for fee evaluations both for the theaters and the scene shop be appropriate?

In FY 2026, the County Board's adopted budget included new fees to cover the costs associated with providing technical support services for users at the Cultural Affairs Division (CAD) facilities and the Arlington Public Schools Joint Use facilities. To ease the burden of these new fees, the implementation was spread over two years. The Year 1 (FY 2026) fees reflected a discounted hourly rate for the Senior Technician, the proposed Year 2 (FY 2027) fees reflect the full cost recovery hourly rate for the Senior Technician which reflects salary increases, increased County health insurance costs, and retirement contributions based on current actuarial projections.

Future changes to the fees will likely need to be considered to ensure that cost recovery aligns with inflation-based cost increases and market pay adjustments.

An MOU should not be necessary; rather, AED will continue to communicate directly with the users on any anticipated fee changes as part of the annual budget process. Additionally, members of AED's CAD team are available to work with facility users on their respective facility-use workplans to help minimize costs and maximize access.