## PLACE BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# SOULY AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICTS



#### **Agenda**

- Welcome/Introduction
- City of Austin Economic Development Department
- What is Souly Austin?
- Case Studies
- 2019-2020 Application
- Questions?



# **City of Austin Economic Development Department**

#### PROSPERITY FOR ALL **PEOPLE** · PROSPERITY FOR **BUSINESS** · PROSPERITY FOR **COMMUNITIES**



DEVELOPMENT

Executes programs and initiatives that **integrate arts** into economic development, tourism, community development and commercial neighborhood revitalization strategies.

Cultural Arts Funding Program



#### Global Business & Expansion

CITY OF AUSTIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Increases jobs and investment in Austin through business attraction and by assisting local businesses with international expansion and trade.

Business Expansion & International Program



#### Music & Entertainment

CITY OF AUSTIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Develops and executes initiatives that accelerate the **growth of Austin's music and entertainment industry** infrastructure, by focusing on job creation, talent export, trade development, and industry revenue growth.

Music Venue Assistance



#### Redevelopment CITY OF AUSTIN

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Facilities innovative partnerships and projects to re-invigorate Austin's existing built environment, binding neighborhoods and business hubs into civic urban villages.

Commercial Corridor Enhancement



#### **Small Business**

CITY OF AUSTIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Provides opportunities, programs and resources to Austin's local businesses and entrepreneurs, helping them expand their opportunities at home and throughout the world.

Family Business Loan Program



The Heritage Tourism Division **promotes tourism and the convention industry** through preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic properties, buildings, structures, objects, monuments, sites or districts (historic property or historic properties

#### WHAT IS SOULY AUSTIN?





Souly Austin is a **place-based economic development program** focused on creating and retaining strong, vibrant, culturally rich and diverse neighborhood business districts throughout Austin through the development of Merchants Associations.



#### Why Place-based Economic Development?

Within a place-based approach, we think small scale in order to shape a bigger picture, intervening strategically in order to create a larger landscape of mutually reinforcing spaces and initiatives that supports a broader, more inclusive prosperity for all citizens.

- Access to jobs, creation of jobs and retention
- Access to quality day to day services such as medical care or financial institutions, and amenities such as religious organizations and creative spaces
- Transportation access and choices
- Creation of safe, walkable and bike friendly places that promote activity resulting in health, social and economic benefits
- Industry development opportunities (specifically, tourism, creative sectors, culinary, etc.)
- Parking Management Solutions
- Private investment

- Increase in sales, taxes and patrons
- Provide business development opportunities
- Lower vacancy rates
- Preserving community character
- Decreased crime
- Provide access and enhance to culture and history
- Foster and retain diversity
- Foster community leadership and involvement



#### **Districts and Place-Based Economic Development**

#### Districts are areas of concentrated economic activity that include a mix of retail, restaurants, personal services, and office or coworking space.

- Businesses operating in districts generate positive economic spillovers through:
  - Enhanced Pedestrian Infrastructure
  - Coherent and Attractive Streetscaping
  - Shared Branding and Promotional Campaigns
  - Events
- Walkable commercial districts generate increased sales, command commercial rent premiums, and generate higher commercial and residential property values.
- Districts create authentic experiences enhancing the competitive advantage for retailers.
- District business mixes should include anchor attractors along with experiential services and retail including:
  - Personal services such as nail and beauty salons.
  - Health and fitness facilities such as yoga, massage and meditation studios, as well as traditional gyms.
  - Restaurants.
  - Cinemas and theaters that present plays, concerts, comedy shows, lectures and more.
  - Art galleries and stores.
  - Community asset drivers such as historic sites, cultural centers, and institutional anchors.





















City Council Districts Served: 1, 3, 4, 7, 9

35
TOTAL LEGACY
BUSINESSES
IN THE DISTRICTS (20+
YEARS)



Sales Tax Increase: \$1.5 Million Property Tax Information: \$1.52 Million (2018)







#### **Souly Austin Core Components**







#### **COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**

- Assist businesses in the formation of a District Merchants Association
- Build consensus and capacity
- Provide formation resources
- Foster Leadership
- Identify District vision and priorities

#### **ENHANCING PLACE**

- Coordinate enhancements that support safe, walkable/bicycle friendly districts
- Promote and retain the unique cultural and historical assets Austin has to offer
- Creation of complete communities

#### **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

- Promote a socially and economically healthy Austin through programs, projects, and policy that support business development
- Collaborate with other City departments
- Foster partnerships







#### **Community Organizing**



#### **Merchants Associations**

A merchants association is a group of businesses that collaborate around enhancing and stabilizing their neighborhood business district.

#### **Benefits of Organizing**

- Unified voice as businesses to work with City and other partners
- Cohesive vision for short, medium and long term activities that benefit the district
- Development of economic strategy to ensure district stability and enhancements
- Positive economic return through partnerships and unified promotions
- **Engagement** of all business types
- Leadership development



BUSINESSES ENGAGED: 992

AVERAGE
PARTICIPATION
RATE: 80%

BUSINESS VOLUNTEER HOURS: 1,766

TECHNICAL TRAINING: 42.5 Hours





#### **Enhancing Place**





#### **Economic Growth**

Promote business diversity, resilience, job growth and partnerships to support neighborhood business district. Economic market data informed.



#### **Connectivity & Transportation**

Enhance walkability, improve access to parking for employees and patrons and create more connections to diverse transit options.



#### **Music, Culture & Arts**

Preserve and grow businesses and institutions that express the rich cultural heritage of the city through live music, creative space and public art.



#### Beautification & Aesthetics

Enhance the public realm through lean and capital enhancements that promote a safe and attractive cohesive environment.













#### **Economic Growth**



- Business development opportunities
- Increase in sales
- Increase in mixed beverage tax
- Ticket sales
- Access, creation and retention of jobs
- Industry development including local entrepreneurism, tourism and creative sector including live music
- Lower vacancy rates
- Private investment
- Local business preservation
- Decrease in crime
- Increase in walk score
- Partnership development





Media Hits: 122

New Private Investment: \$93,550

Partnerships: 45

Cultural & Historical Assets: 124





#### **Celebrating Successes**





















- Establishment of partnerships to enhance district events
- Inclusivity in outreach through translation services
- Diversity of board members















- Strength and involvement of legacy businesses
- Preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage
- Cultural sensitivity considerations
- Participation Rate









# EAST AUSTIN





- Diversity of Board Members
- Perseverance in a rapid changing District
- Successful implementation of reoccurring events
- Establishment of partnerships to preserve and highlight the cultural significance of district





- Organizational input to positively impact policy decisions (Parking)
- Development of partnerships to strengthen district identity
- Adopted communication networks to improve district interactions











- Impact of transitional leadership
- Presence of legacy businesses to anchor district
- Organizational input to spur positive impact to transportation needs (Bike lanes)
- Creativeness in Programming













- Fiscal Sponsorship to secure first Executive Director
- Exposure on National Panels and Statewide events, (American Planning Association, Urban Land Institute, SXSW, Music Cities Summit, peer cities etc.
- Vast and diverse stakeholder participation and on-going partnerships
- Policy execution; Sound extension pilot



TWO ANNUAL SIGNATURE MUSIC EVENTS: FREE WEEK + HOT SUMMER NIGHTS.



\$180K+ FUNDRAISING ANNUALLY PAYS LOCAL ARTISTS & COVERS ADMIN COSTS.



18M+ AUDIENCE IMPRESSIONS FOR HSN ALONE. \* GIANT NOISE DATA



\$500K+ ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT.



#### HOW TO GET INVOLVED?





#### **Year to Year Services**

#### Year 1

- Support Business
   Outreach and Consensus
   Building
- Merchant Association Formation Assistance
- Development of District Strategy
- Development of District Logo and Tagline
- Development and Implementation of Placemaking Project
- Upon formation, Activation Award Funding

#### Year 2

- Continued District Leadership Training
- Assistance with District-Wide issues
- Yearly Merchant
   Association Assessment
- Inclusion of District Improvements in City of Austin long-term planning

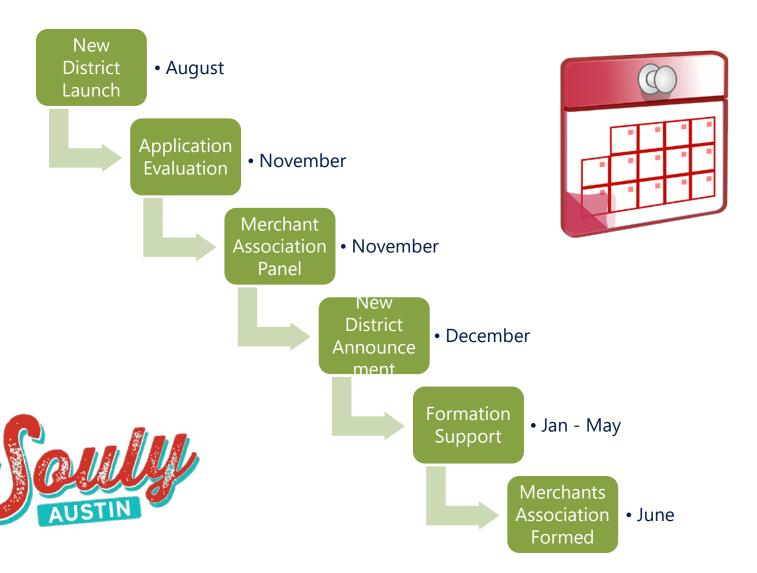
#### Year 3, 4, 5

- Support with District Initiatives
- Continued District Leadership Training
- Assistance with District-Wide issues
- Area Market Research
- Yearly Merchant
   Association Assessment
- Limited Ombudsman Services





#### **New Districts Process**









#### **Application Process**











#### **Application Considerations**

- Business Leadership
- District Boundaries
- District Assets
- Priorities
- Districts Vision
- Council District Considerations
- Letters of Support



#### **SOULY AUSTIN PROGRAM APPLICATION**

Upon completion, please submit this application to Nicole Klepadlo, Redevelopment Project Manager, at Nicole.Klepadlo@AustinTexas.gov, with supporting documentation. For additional information please visit www.austintexas.com/SoulyATX

#### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please provide name and contact information for applicant's main point of contact.

NAME: \_

**BUSINESS REPRESENTING: \_** 

POSITION:

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE

#### DISTRICT LOCATION

Provide a map with boundaries or list E/S/W/N boundaries below.

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#### **Outreach and Participation Requirements**

Business Leadership Team members are expected to reach out to at least **five (5) businesses each** before each District meeting to invite them to participate and get their feedback on District needs and goals.

#### **Business Participation Requirements:**

The following thresholds must be met to proceed in the formation process to move forward. Participation includes attending the meeting listed, or responding to online or door-to-door surveying after the meeting. Percentages are based on total brick-and-mortar businesses in the District.

DRAF

- Open House: **20%**
- District Meeting 1: **40%**
- District Meeting 2: **50%**
- District Meeting 3: **60%**
- Throughout process: **75%**
- District Name Vote: 50%+1 Minimum Required
- District Formation Vote (Board, Logo, Tagline): 50%+1 Minimum Required









#### **Formation Process**

#### FORMING THE MERCHANT ASSOCIATION **OPEN HOUSE** YOU ARE · Learning about the merchant association HERE and Souly Austin . Hearing from the Steering Committee · Ranking public space projects MEETING 1 · Headline News and Elevator Pitch · Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats MEETING 2 · Roles, Responsibilities, and Timeline . Who is Our Audience? · Mission and Vision · Ranking Priorities · Mapping Assets and Needs MEETING 3 · District Name & Tagline Survey Final Mission/Vision Bylaws Review · Logo/Tagline Presentation · Placemaking Project Presentation Board Nominations and Election









#### **Business Leadership Process**

### BUSINESS LEADERSHIP PROCESS MEETING 1

- Review Application
- · Discuss District Boundaries
- Discuss District Name Options
- · Review timeline and Responsibilites

#### MEETING 3

- Start Naming Vote
- . Bylaws Work Session
- Draft Mission/Vision

#### MEETING 2

ARE HERE

- Name Options
- Mission/Vision Discussion
- · Formation Training
- Finalize District Boundaries

#### MEETING 4

- Logo and Tagline Options
- Finalize Mission/Vision
- Keypoints of Bylaws Completed





#### **Upcoming Deadlines/Events**



- Application Release
- Souly Austin Merchants Association Panel

Oct.

Application Deadline

Dec.

New District Selections







