

Box Bazaar Quick Facts and FAQ

Quick Facts

Site location	3511 Manor Road Austin, Texas 78723 (off the intersection of Manor Road and Berkman Drive / E M Franklin Ave)
Project Duration	6 months
Anticipated Schedule	January 2019 through July 2019
Site Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• public restrooms• tents and shade structures• public seating area• flexible event space• free parking• community programming and events

Frequently Asked Questions

Where did Box Bazaar come from?

The Box Bazaar project came out of the City Manager’s Idea Accelerator Competition in 2016. Box Bazaar is intended to temporarily activate vacant city-owned land to further citywide goals of for complete communities, economic opportunity, and equity. The primary goal of the Box Bazaar: Manor Road is to advance equitable economic development by creating a business incubator space with low barriers of entry for aspiring entrepreneurs who might otherwise be excluded from traditional marketplaces. A parallel goal is to create a community space that is inviting, easily accessible, and thoughtfully programmed to help create a complete community as envisioned in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.

What is a business incubator?

The goal of this business incubator is to help nurture and grow young businesses by providing them with needed support and technical assistance. Through affordable short term leases, coaching and assistance from the Economic Development Department’s Small Business Program, and place-making programming the Box Bazaar will foster and create an environment where small local businesses can grow and thrive.

Why do we need a neighborhood center?

By temporarily activating vacant city owned properties the plan is to aid in bringing the Imagine Austin concept of complete communities to fruition. A complete community provides residents with access to employment, shopping, learning, open space, recreation, and other amenities and services within a short trip by foot, bike, transit, or car. In other words, we want all people to have access to spaces to live, work, learn, and play within a reasonable distance.

Why East Austin?

Choosing 3511 Manor Road as the first site of the Austin Box Bazaar concept aligns the project with several city goals and initiatives including the Spirit of East Austin initiative. The use of this property is made possible through a partnership with the Department of Public Works.

What do we mean by equitable economic development?

In one of the most racially and economically segregated cities in the country, working towards equitable economic development means helping to rectify and alleviate disparities by race, place, and income. By providing incentives to small, minority-owned, and local businesses and by developing creative strategies to ensure economic policies and programs benefit all members of the community this project will intentionally foster local East Side entrepreneurs.

Who are the tenants?

The tenants for the Box Bazaar: Manor Road have not yet been selected. Our goal is to choose those tenants with the aid of the local community. Examples of possible uses on the site include space for retail – handmade clothing or craft goods, food trucks, services, healthcare, art exhibition space, music, growing food, or education/training.

Box Bazaar tenants will be selected by a community selection committee and City staff. Tenant applications are open to the general public. The project is designed to encourage applicants with a connection to East Austin and who are at a place in the lifespan of their business where this temporary location makes financial sense and where there need for support is still high.

How can I get a Box Bazaar in my neighborhood?

The original idea for the Box Bazaar project was that it could be picked up and redeployed in another part of town after its first iteration. Following the closing of the Box Bazaar: Manor Road location, the project will be evaluated based on tenant feedback and community input. City staff will evaluate the possibility of replicating the project at another location at that time. The next steps for the Box Bazaar project will be greatly influenced by the success and community reception and feedback of the Manor Road location.

Who is leading this project?

The Austin Box Bazaar is a joint effort between many City departments including Planning and Zoning, Public Works, Development Services, Economic Development, and the Office of Innovation. The Imagine Austin Implementation Team heads the project and can field questions about future projects. Inquiries about Box Bazaar can be made at boxbazaar@austintexas.gov

Why is the Box Bazaar temporary?

Being the first of its kind in the City of Austin, the Box Bazaar: Manor Road project will utilize a temporary use agreement, which limits the project's timeframe to 180 days.

What happens when the Box Bazaar location closes?

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Is the Box Bazaar wheelchair accessible?

Yes, the Box Bazaar: Manor Road location will be fully ADA compliant and wheelchair accessible.

Are there public toilets and facilities at the Box Bazaar?

There will be public toilets available on site.