What is Cultural Asset Mapping?

Cultural Asset Mapping is a collaborative process to identify and collect information about a community’s cultural resources. This particular kind of mapping has become an important planning tool to help cities better understand the value and impact of their cultural assets, and to integrate knowledge about the assets into the city’s planning process for economic and community development. Cultural Asset Mapping is often a tailor-made process that fits each city’s unique needs, but commonly includes a mapping exercise that asks community members and stakeholders to define, identify, and map their own cultural assets.

How to participate

CAMP, The Cultural Asset Mapping Project offers a number of ways to submit your cultural assets to our map and directory. You can:

- **District Meetings**
  Attend a Mapping Session in your district

- **Online Survey**
  Submit new points on our online CAMP map

- **Conversations**
  Join us as we discuss and review our final maps

Why should we map cultural assets?

Creativity and culture are integral to Austin’s vitality, economy, and quality of life. In order to better plan for Austin’s culture and creativity, it is important to first understand where cultural and creative resources exist throughout the city and where there are gaps. The maps created through CAMP are a first step in taking stock of Austin’s cultural assets in an effort to ensure the arts and creative sector continue to be a significant player in Austin’s ongoing development.

The information collected through CAMP will help the city better understand where important cultural and creative resources exist throughout the city, where there are gaps, and where to focus possible future efforts on cultural district planning, creative facilities development, and future cultural and economic development strategies that support Austin’s culture and creativity.
Cultural Asset Mapping in Austin

The City of Austin Economic Development Department’s Cultural Arts Division is implementing CAMP, The Cultural Asset Mapping Project in the summer and fall of 2016. CAMP will include a series of collaborative mapping exercises and community meetings, an online survey and interactive map, and a series of community conversations to create a comprehensive, community-developed listing of Austin’s cultural assets.

What is a cultural asset?

Cultural Assets are the places you visit and the resources you use to express your cultural identity, pursue your own creative practice, or just simply participate in Austin's culture. They are the places you value, cherish, and turn to in order to connect to a shared cultural identity and your personal creative expression.

Whether it’s your local art supply store, your community center, or your favorite performing arts venue, we are looking for the places that are your cultural touchstones.

Cultural Asset Mapping in other cities

Cultural Asset Mapping is a process usually custom-tailored to the community it serves. Check out some of these other Cultural Asset Mapping Projects from around the country.

Culture Blocks, Philadelphia
Culture Blocks, Philadelphia

C4 Mapping Tool, New Orleans

Project Willowbrook, Los Angeles

Creative Vitality in Detroit

Find out more about how to map culture and creativity in Austin at www.austintexas.gov/culturemapping