

Meeting Overview

This meeting was held under Chatham House Rules. Please find a high level overview of the event below:

Agenda:

The agenda for the session is as follows:

- 3:00 - 3:06 PM - Opening Remarks
- 3:06 - 3:13 PM - GSA U.S. Open Government Secretariat Presentation
- 3:13 - 3:20 PM - City of Austin Presentation
- 3:20 - 4:05 PM - Small Group discussion on proposed City of Austin Open Government Action Plan commitments:
 - Reboot 2019 CoA Equity Assessment
 - Accountability tools/process for CoA public facing AI tools
 - Economic Resilience, tapping into root causes of economic insecurity.
 - Anticipatory Government and Climate
- 4:05 - 4:15 PM - Small Group Report Outs
- 4:15 - 4:45 PM - 6th U.S. Open Government National Action Plan Listening Session
- 4:45 - 5 :00 PM - Closing

Key Resources:

- U.S. Open Government Secretariat email box - opengovernmentsecretariat@gsa.gov
- U.S. Open Government Secretariat Website - <https://www.gsa.gov/usopengov>
- U.S. Open Government Secretariat LinkedIn - <https://linkedin.com/showcase/usopengovsec>
- City of Austin Open Government Partnership Website - <https://www.austintexas.gov/opengovernmentpartnership>

NOTES:

Opening Remarks

- **Sabine Romero, City of Austin, Economic Development Department**
 - Discussed the origins of the [Open Government Partnership](#) (OGP), including President Obama’s involvement in 2011 and the subsequent admission of cities like Austin in 2016.

City of Austin Open Government Event
Tuesday, September 17th, 2024 - 2024 - 3:00 AM - 5:00 PM CT - In Person Only

- Austin is recognized for its role in this initiative, having developed two previous Open Government Action Plans. The OGP Local program has grown from a few member cities to over 100.
- Today's workshop encourages collaborative efforts between government, community, and students, with an acknowledgment of diverse participation.
- **Bryan Port, Austin Community College, Center for Government and Civic Service**
 - Emphasized the Center's focus on student-centered and community-centered initiatives.
 - Outlined key efforts including new programs in public service and civic leadership.
 - Upcoming initiatives include:
 - A civic leadership program to develop students' skills.
 - A public health crisis simulation event planned for November, fostering real-world communication skills.
 - Expressed optimism about the partnership with the City of Austin.
 - The center is working to improve communication strategies and host events that bridge students with community needs.
 - Future workshops and collaborations are planned to expand engagement and participation.

GSA U.S. Open Government Secretariat Presentation

- **Daniel York, Open Government Secretariat**
 - **Role & Responsibilities:** Daniel York manages the U.S. Open Government Secretariat, housed within the U.S. General Services Administration, where they facilitate international partnerships and promote honest domestic dialogue about government improvement.
 - **Action Plans:** Discussed the U.S. cycle of creating Open Government National Action Plans every 2-3 years, integrating civil society's input and recommendations, and evaluating progress.
 - **Federal Advisory Committee:** Mentioned the establishment of an Open Government Federal Advisory Committee to engage the public in regulatory processes, ensuring diverse voices contribute to 6th U.S. Open Government National Action Plan recommendations.

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- **Public Engagement:** Highlighted upcoming public listening sessions for citizen input and the importance of collaboration across various sectors to address local and federal issues.

City of Austin Presentation

- **Daniel Culotta, City of Austin, Office of Innovation**
 - **Austin's Open Government Efforts:** Explained Austin's involvement in the Open Government Partnership, starting with a council resolution in 2016 and the creation of action plans aimed at increasing transparency and civic engagement.
 - **Evolution of Action Plans:** Austin's action plans allow for flexible commitments over time, fostering innovative projects addressing homelessness, equity, smart city initiatives, and climate resilience.
 - **Community Collaboration:** Emphasized partnerships with civil society and community organizations, showcasing successful projects like the equity budgeting tool and a contracting initiative involving people with lived experience of homelessness.
 - **Future Directions:** Expressed excitement for ongoing projects that enhance equity and accountability, especially concerning AI use and workforce readiness.
 - Highlighted the importance of collaboration, transparency, and community involvement in shaping effective governance at local and national levels.

Small Group discussion on proposed City of Austin Open Government

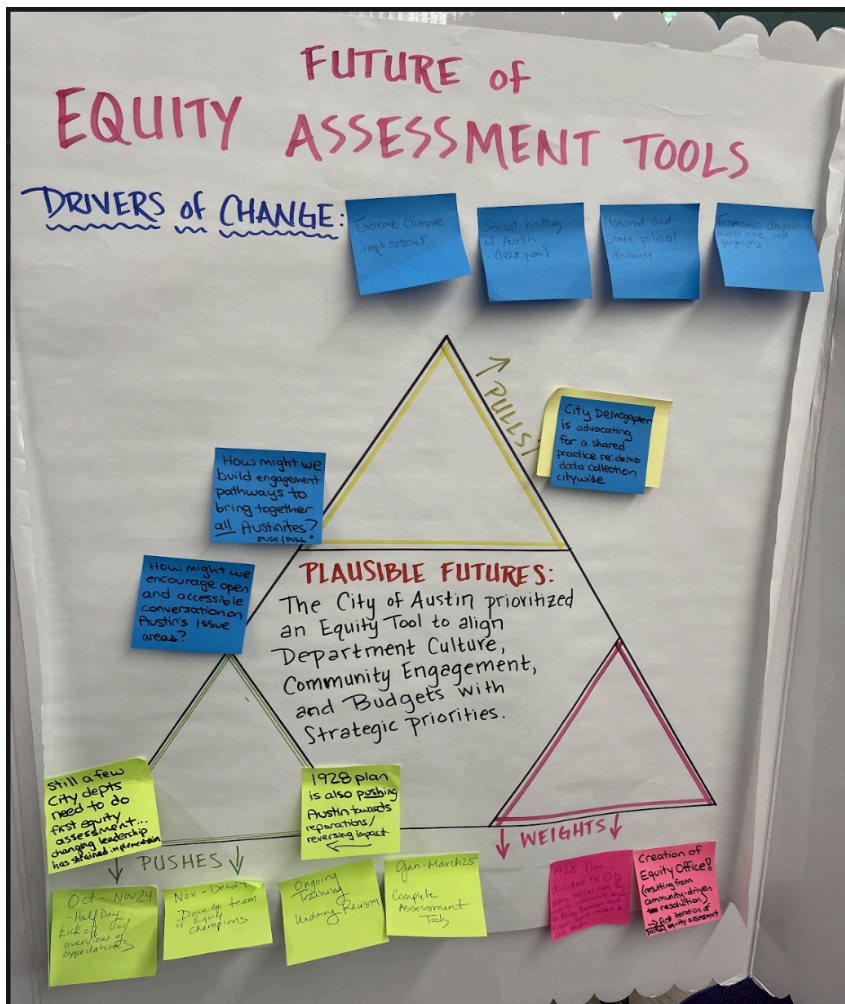
- **Ana DeFrates, City of Austin, Office of Innovation**
 - **Monitoring Committee:** A new monitoring committee will be formed, possibly including Austin Community College students to enhance accountability in the city's commitments.
 - **Future Orientation:** Introduced the concept of strategic foresight, a proactive approach to addressing city challenges by anticipating future scenarios and making informed decisions today.
- Training in strategic foresight will be provided to cohorts focused on various issue areas.

Action Plan commitments

- **Issue Selection Criteria:** The focus areas for the action plan are based on criteria ensuring equity, historical context, municipal relevance, and community-driven priorities.
- The approach emphasizes collaboration and filling gaps between community needs and city resources.

Reboot 2019 CoA Equity Assessment

- City of Austin Equity Office; City of Austin Office of Innovation
- How can we reboot and revive the City-wide equity assessment to ensure equitable delivery of services to all community members and groups?



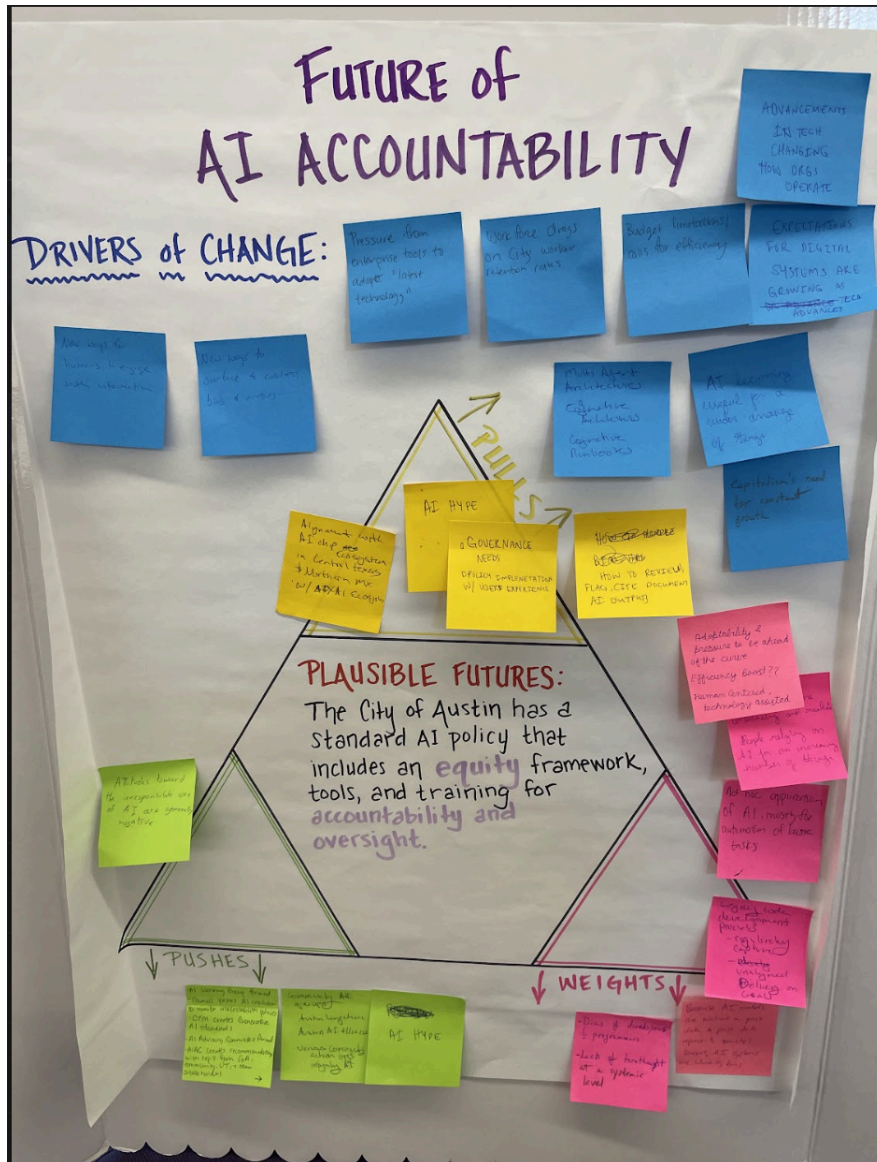
Accountability tools/process for CoA public facing AI tools

- City of Austin Equity Office; City of Austin Communications and Technology

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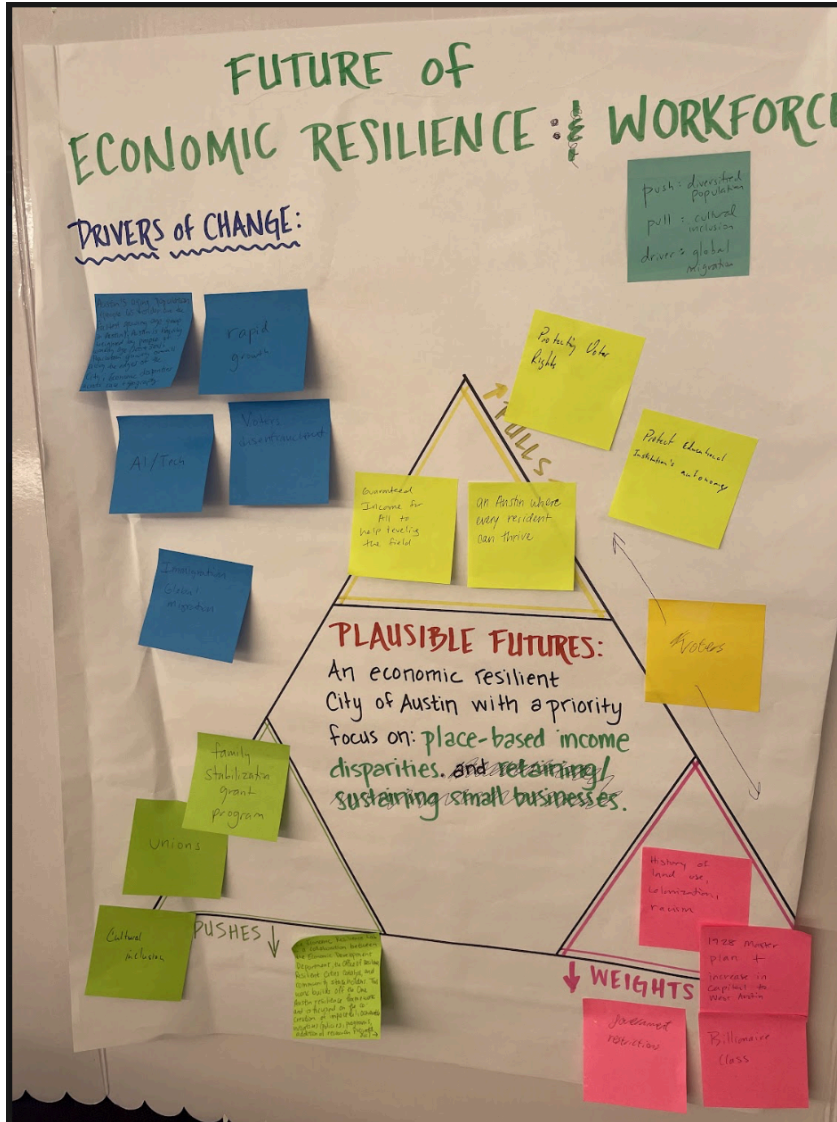
Management (CTM)

- How can the City create and implement policies, systems, and tools to ensure equity and fairness are baked into AI use, and bias is limited?



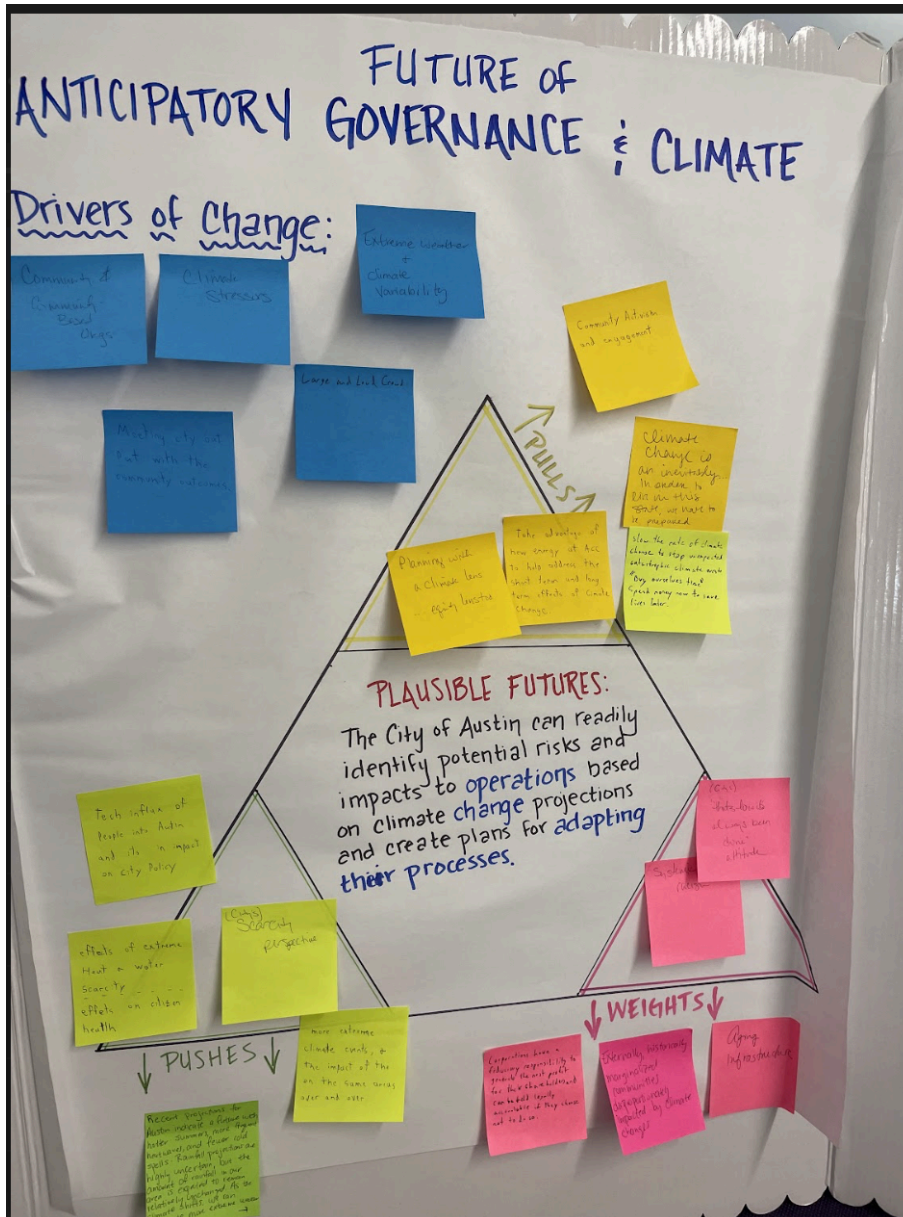
Economic Resilience, tapping into root causes of economic insecurity.

- Economic Development Department; Office of Resilience
- How can resilience hubs and resiliency plans help create a more stable workforce and work to mitigate economic insecurity?



Anticipatory Government and Climate

- City of Austin Office of Innovation; City of Austin Office of Resilience
- How can future work help prepare us for more extreme and/or unpredictable weather in the face of climate change?



Small Group Report Outs

- Economic Resilience:
 - Group primarily reported on discussion around global migration as a heavy influencer on this and how it will need to be considered in futures-oriented work. The group chose solutions that focus on place-based income disparities.
- AI Tools:
 - Group reported on the hype and pressure to use AI tools coming from all sides and having to balance an equity framework and how to integrate fairness given the pressure.

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- Climate:
 - Group reported on how low-income communities across the board are more greatly impacted by climate change where corporations are responsible for making money, creating a misalignment. Discussed resiliency hubs and community work as vital moving forward.
- Equity Assessment:
 - Group reported on how the 1928 plan was highly discussed, as all inequities and planning in Austin ultimately stems back to it.
 - Group discussed open communities as an opportunity for the City to recognize, learn and discern how the 1928 plan still impacts people’s lives. Yet, the group also acknowledged how location and language play a key role in accessibility. These open community discussions should be done in different parts of the city and in both English and Spanish to be truly accessible to the diverse Austin communities.

6th U.S. Open Government National Action Plan Listening Session

- For the sake of time, this was combined with group report outs.

Closing

- Ana thanked attendees and group photos were taken with the Futures Triangles the small groups worked on.

Full Attendee List:

In Person:

First and Last Name	Organization
Amanda Jasso	City of Austin
Ana DeFrates	City of Austin
Andrea Kaltz	City of Austin
Annabel Osburn	City of Austin
Ben Levison	Student
Bryan Port	Austin Community College
Carey Cranor	Student

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First and Last Name	Organization
Cliffton Styles	The Giving Rose Foundation ATX
Colin McNamara	Austin LangChain AIMUG
Coudert Marc	City of Austin
Daniel Culotta	City of Austin
Daniel York	U.S. General Services Administration
German Uzcategui	Student
Haygood Jake	Student
Jess Ferrari	City of Austin
Jimena Morones-Velazquez	Student
Luz Gonzales	Student
Melinda Chow	Austin Youth River Watch
Meme Styles	Measure
Monica Guzmán	Go! Austin/Vamos! Austin
Prakhar Bajpai	City of Austin
Reshad Alhussain	Student
Sabine Romero	City of Austin
Sona Shah	City of Austin
Susana Carbajal	City of Austin
Tatianna Cannon	Green Workforce Collaborative CleanTX
Thaniel van Amerongen	City of Austin
Tzur Shalit	Public
Vicky Pridgen	City of Austin
Yvette Gibson	U.S. General Services Administration