

## DiverseArts

multicultural • professional • multidisciplinary arts



### Draft Plan for Kenny Dorham's Backyard

#### Overview:

DiverseArts seeks to extend our lease with the Urban Renewal Board, and alter the terms of the agreement, in order to broaden our programming efforts at Kenny Dorham's Backyard.

What we seek is authority to proceed with plans to launch a package of interrelated projects that focus on the culture of urban sustainability: Art, Music, Culture, Food, and Education. Rather than having Kenny Dorham's Backyard function only for evening events, our plan calls for a series of integrated programs that will allow the space to be open for public use on a regular daily basis and become an accessible community asset for neighborhood families and visitors. In essence, what we seek is the opportunity to proceed with our plans to make the venue a functional demonstration project that will ultimately become a prime destination and major cultural asset for the East Austin Cultural Heritage District.

At this point, we are confident that our proposal is unique and unprecedented in East Austin. Our goal is to meet the programming mission of DiverseArts in such a way that the community is the ultimate beneficiary of the work. Success of this suite of projects assures that outcome.

#### Art Park: Outdoor Gallery and Sculpture Garden

- Installation and Exhibition of large-scale visual art pieces
  - Paintings
  - Sculpture
  - Interactive and kinetic pieces
- Rotating, themed exhibits
- Semi-permanent, long-term installations
- Some pieces specifically for children
- Some pieces done by children
- Some of the artwork to be done on-site as demonstration projects
- We will program some activities where there can be several artists (or a class, a group of children, or teams) working on-site at the same time to create work, offering public demonstration of the process
- Initial pieces taken from existing work at Kenny Dorham's Backyard and work completed for the *No Vacancy Project* initiated by Robertson Hill/Anderson Hill Neighbor Organization
- Priority given to East Austin artists
- Priority given to culture-based work that reflects the East Austin Cultural Heritage District and East Austin cultural identity
- Destination attraction as a cultural asset/unique venue of the Cultural Heritage District's inventory of assets
- Some pieces for sale, others for exhibition only
- Open to the public on a regular basis, day and night
- Open public access to picnic tables, benches, shade structures
- Food, drinks, refreshment available for purchase

#### DiverseArts Culture Works

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### **Community Gardens and Urban Farmer's Market Project**

- Art installations and landscaping designed to complement over-all design/layout of the space: an urban park concept with accessible public green space and gardens paired with art installations, integrated into a community gathering and public performance venue with a food court featuring vegetables grown on-site
- A series of raised beds surrounding the perimeter of the property/fence-line
- A mix of ornamentals, native plants, and food crops
- All organic methods
- Community involvement through volunteerism for planning and implementation, maintenance, harvest, classes, teaching
- Some beds dedicated to demonstration, classes, workshops, experiments with organic urban methods, permaculture, etc (for adults)
- Some beds dedicated as "outdoor classrooms" for neighborhood children
- Some beds dedicated to partnership with East End food establishments to supply herbs and vegetables in exchange for underwriting (funding for materials/supplies, equipment, labor) of project
- Possible installation of a small, temporary greenhouse (9'x12') for function, demonstration and education
- Ultimate goal is to be able to produce sufficient amounts to have a market day once per week, allowing neighborhood families to harvest fresh vegetables in exchange for underwriting contributions to the project
- Once launched, Kenny Dorham's would host weekly market days with local producers bringing their produce to the venue for sale; generally in conjunction with demonstrations, classes, entertainment, family programming
- Open public access to picnic tables, benches, shade structures
- Food, drinks, refreshment available for purchase

### **Performing Arts Park and Community Gathering Space**

- Regularly scheduled live performances of music, theater, spoken word, and dance, etc
- Priority given to forms that reflect the cultural legacy of the founding African American community and tied to the East Austin Cultural Heritage District
- Programs specifically geared to families and children
- Space available for neighborhood groups, residents, and organizations to use for picnics, meetings, social gatherings
- Open public access to picnic tables, benches, shade structures
- Food, drinks, refreshment available for purchase

### **ECO-Park and Education Center**

We also have some assets and plans to further some sustainable technologies demonstration exhibits. We wish to showcase City initiatives like zero-waste and water conservation programs as well as highlight sustainable solutions offered by the local business community. Each item will have a storyboard to explain at kid-level the science of what is going on.

- Solar hybrid kitchen trailer
- Solar dehydrating
- Solar oven
- Efficient irrigation
- Rainwater collection

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