



DESIGN INSITUTE FOR HEALTH

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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June 14, 2016

To the City Council of the City of Austin,

Please accept this enthusiastic letter of support for completion of the Jain Lane Capital Improvement Project in support of realizing the thinkEAST Planned Unit Development.

The thinkEAST effort to develop a community that incorporates permanently affordable space for arts, culture, creative industries, and healthcare not only represents the best of what Austin stands for, but also aligns directly with the vision of a vital, inclusive health ecosystem that is the stated aim of the new Dell Medical School at UT-Austin.

As the Executive Director of the Design Institute for Health, a joint collaboration between the Dell Medical School and the College of Fine Arts, we've come to know the thinkEAST effort and are collaborating to develop a new model of community health as part of the thinkEAST community plan - one that moves beyond traditional notions of acute clinical care, to a model that establishes health and healthy behavior as an integral component to living in the community. We believe it to be a unique venue to develop a proof model for what a conscientious, courageous approach to community inclusion can be.

Importantly, infrastructure is a critical component to the success of the community plan and the substantial completion of the Jain Lane improvements is a necessary element of that plan. We hope you will consider the proposed resolution in support of something that Austin both desperately needs, and will be proud of.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Chang".

Stacey Chang
Executive Director, Design Institute for Health