

OUR FUTURE 35

an engagement series intended to kick-start the process
of co-creating a community vision for the I-35 corridor

DOWN
AUSTIN **TOWN**
ALLIANCE

For the past decade, there has been talk about reconstructing I-35 through the heart of our city.

And this year, TxDOT is advancing the planning process to make it happen.

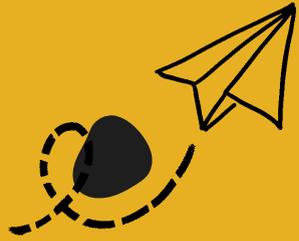




With an infrastructure project of this scale, can we co-create a new process that deconstructs the racist, unjust policies of our past and centers our community's needs and desires to determine our own future?

We're designing a community call to action with a creative response. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to shape a future that benefits all Austinites, especially Communities of Color most affected by I-35.





INTERACTIVE

An engagement series that includes live and virtual broadcast, video, and participatory conversation.



CREATIVE

Poetry, music, art and animation as a way for the community to provide input.



COLLECTIVE

Compilation of mediums to express community's collective values for our future I-35.

The intent of the series aims to:



EXPLORE CO-CREATING
a new community-centered
decision-making process

IDENTIFY
shared community values through
the co-creation process

ESTABLISH
an equity framework for the vision based
on our community's shared values

BUILD THE FOUNDATION
for the start of a new community coalition

INFORM
actions needed next; including community input to
TxDOT's NEPA (environmental review) process

Engagement Series*: Working Schedule



*This series is a work in progress and will evolve through the community's participation.

THE COMMUNITY MENTORS AND CREATIVE TEAM

Shaping the content and experience of the series, the Community Mentors and Creative Team bring critical local knowledge and lived experience into the conversations. They will be joined each episode by national experts leading the way in equity-centered initiatives around the country.



Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette

Dr. Burnette, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, joined Huston-Tillotson University as president on July 1, 2015. She is the first female president of the combined institutions of Huston and Tillotson Colleges.



Paul Saldaña

Born and raised in Austin, Texas, Paul currently serves as a President and Principal of Saldaña Public Relations, as a strategic consultant, advisor and contributor on quality of life issues including public education, voting, economics, healthcare, redevelopment, gentrification, affordable housing and grassroots multi-cultural community engagement for governmental entities, clients and the media.

Shavone Otero

She is the Community Coordinator at Community Powered Workshop, focusing on collaborative planning and community driven research. She serves on the City of Austin Community Development Commission and is the Chair of People United for Mobility Action (PUMA), a transportation organization centered on principles of mobility justice.



Yasmine Smith

Yasmine Smith is a born and raised Austinite and a founding member of Smith & Mendoza. Yasmine assists clients with Business Incorporation, Estate & Probate law, Oil & Gas contracts, and Real Estate issues. Additionally, as an active member in various non-profit organizations, Yasmine is especially excited to assist non-profits in drafting grant proposals.





Zai Sadler

Zai Sadler is a writer and all around creative from Austin Texas. She was a nationally ranked slam poet for many years and has been published in multiple online anthologies as well as self published. She has toured all over the country and internationally for over a decade. She has performed poetry/writing workshops in schools, ages ranging from elementary to college on topics from feminism and race to self-identity.



Jennine "DOC" Krueger

Jennine "DOC" Krueger is a mother, writer, artist, public speaker, and educator in Austin, Texas. She has competed in world, national, and local slam poetry competitions.

Kyle Evans

Kyle Evans (MFA, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago) is a new media artist, sound designer, educator, and performer. He is currently an active artist and instructor at the School of Design and Creative Technologies at the University of Texas in Austin, TX.



Ron Pippin

Owner, Shiny Object Studios, creating strategic visual communications tools for partners and screens of all shapes and sizes. Founder, OUTSIDE VOICE, providing media and live and online happenings that help families make and experience art together. Entrepreneur, Side Hustler, Summer Camp Director, Caregiver, Life Partner of Julie, co-pilot to Janie and Max.





Kenneth D. Thompson Sr

Kenneth served as Director of "All American Mentoring Project," a program for children from single parent homes and low social economic status. He is the former President of the Board of Trustees for the Pflugerville Independent School District where he was the first African American elected to political office in the community. Kenneth is former Vice President of Texas Caucus of Black School Board, Vice-Chair for the Austin Advisory Committee addressing Disproportionality within the Welfare System, Director of the East Austin Youth Foundation, and Chair of Austin's African American Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission.



Kimberly D. Holiday

Kimberly Holiday is known to most as LadyJoy, she is the on-air radio personality at KAZI 88.7FM. Kimberly has created global platforms via radio and podcast, workshops and motivational speaking. In addition, she is a published book author. Gifted with many talents, she is a divine vessel for her passion to build people through genuine collaboration.

Jomar Valentin

Jomar Valentin is a LGBTQIA+ artist based in Austin, TX. In 2015, Valentin was named the Slam Master of the renowned Austin Poetry Slam, becoming the first and only POC & LGBTQIA+ individual to occupy the position since the organization's formation in 1994. He is a current resident of East Austin.



Ami Plasse

Ami is an award-winning, eclectic creative professional. He creates unique drawn, painted & animated content & engaging experiences.

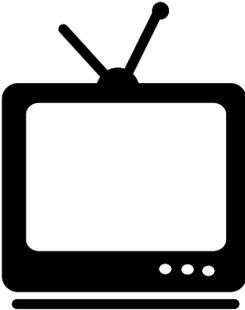
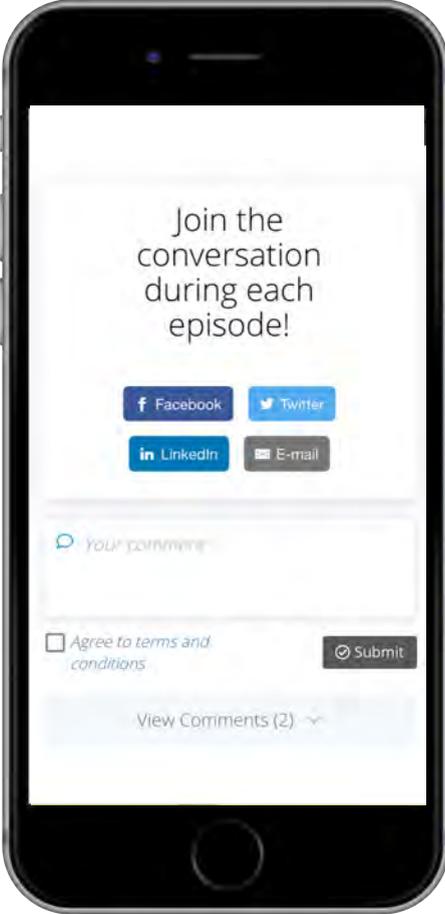


Christopher Michael

Christopher Michael has been rocking Texas mics for 20 years. Former President of Poetry Slam Inc, Texas Poet Laureate nominee, National Poetry Slam Finalist, has shared stages with Angie Stone and Eric Benet. He's the founder of 310 Brown Street publishing, author and SlamMaster for Austin NeoSoul.

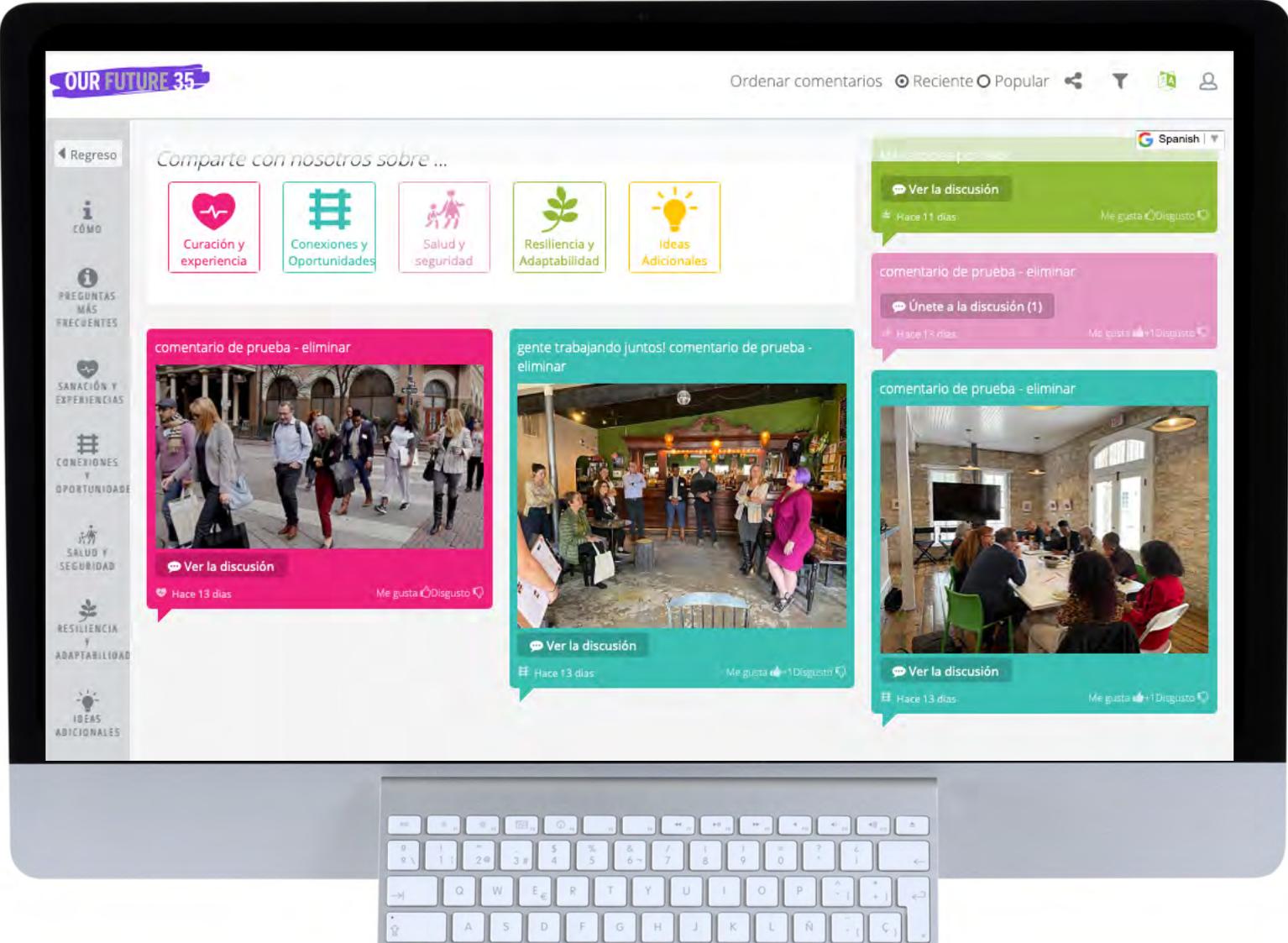


Multiple Platforms (lo-fi and hi-fi) to Participate



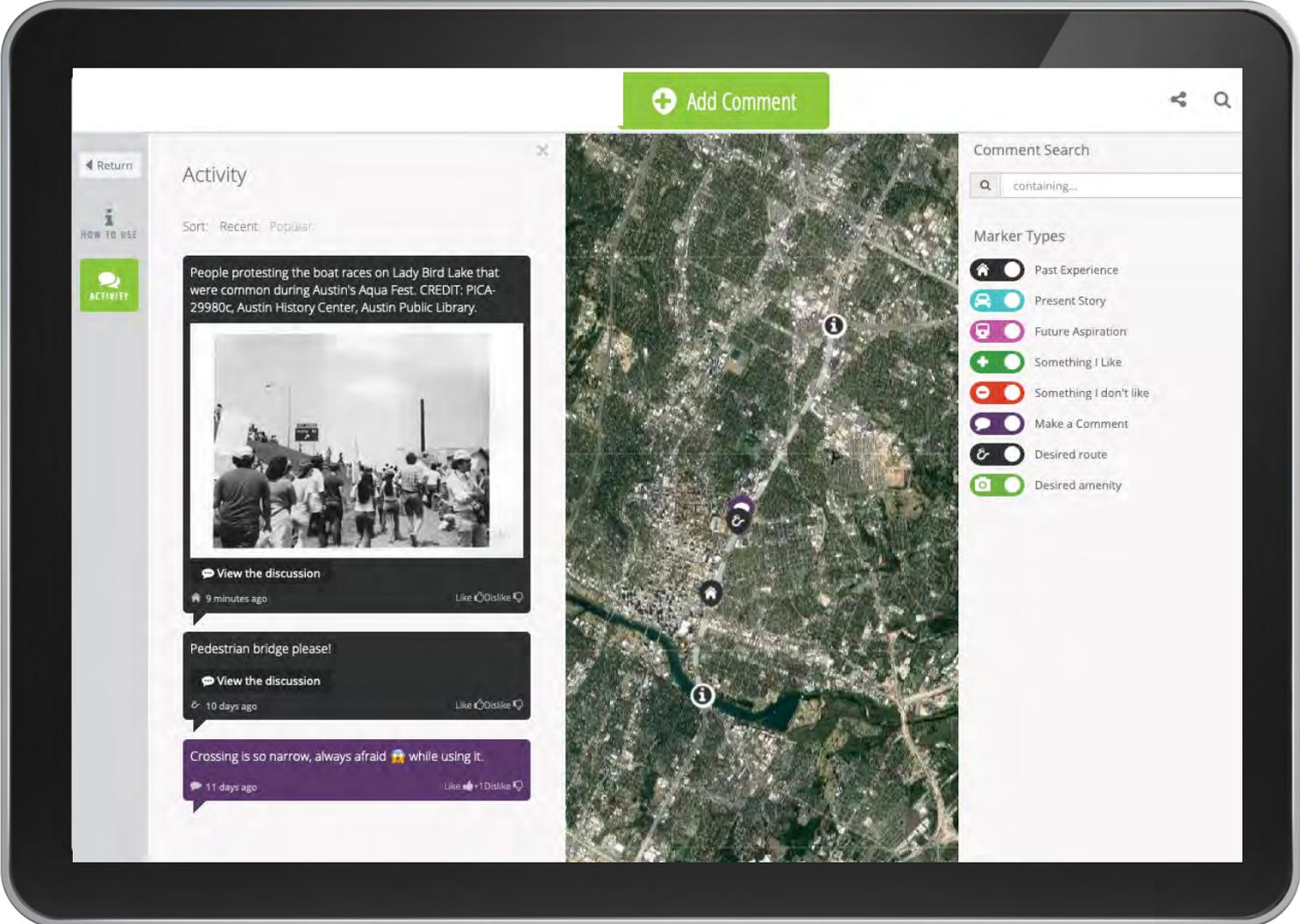
OURFUTURE35.ORG

Ongoing Participatory Engagement



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Ongoing Participatory Engagement



PLEASE JOIN THE EFFORTS!

Austin is now one of the most racially and economically segregated large cities in the country, with one of the most congested highways through the center of it. We have an opportunity, an obligation, to do better.

There are many ways to join these efforts as we all begin to understand how to co-create a better, more just future for all Austinites.

Our Future 35 begins this work toward a new way, together.

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