



Implementing inclusive and equitable public development services as a non-profit partner to the City of Austin

October 17, 2022 Urban Renewal Board

Urban District Precedents

- Urban Renewal Statute-Structure
- District Goals & Purposes
- District Structure Precedents
- Discussion

Any consideration of district or neighborhood work starts with a broader discussion about purpose, activities, then governance and capacity/sustainability.

The following presentation is meant to be a springboard for discussion, and is not a recommendation for future district structure.

Urban Renewal Statute

- Under Chapter 374, of the Texas Local Government Code, the City carries out Urban Renewal activities through an Urban Renewal Agency (URA).
- Created December 7, 1959 , 11 Modifications
- 6 urban renewal areas were created – 4 terminated Jan 1, 2005
- Remaining plans:
 - East 11th - 12th Streets
 - University East Project - Non-active plan.
- ***Plan expires December 31, 2028, with an evaluation in December 2024 to determine if the Plan should remain in effect.***
- ***Urban Renewal Statute and powers are a ‘tool’ in the toolbox for revitalization***

Urban Renewal Statute

The Urban Renewal Agency (URA) powers are defined in Chapter 374 of the Texas Local Government Code.

■ *A municipality may exercise urban renewal project powers through a board or through municipal officers selected by the governing body of the municipality by resolution. The municipality may exercise those powers through an urban renewal agency created under this subchapter if the governing body by resolution determines that the creation of an urban renewal agency is in the public interest. An urban renewal agency created under this subchapter may exercise all the urban renewal project powers of the municipality.*

Urban Renewal Statute

The Urban Renewal Agency (URA) powers are defined in Chapter 374 of the Texas Local Government Code.

State law authorizes the URA to:

- prepare property under its control for sale or transfer;
- conduct preliminary surveys to determine if undertaking an urban renewal project is feasible;
- conduct urban renewal projects described in an urban renewal plan; and
- develop, test, and report ***methods and techniques for the prevention of slums and urban blight*** and conduct demonstrations ***and other activities*** in connection with those methods and techniques, and apply for, accept, and use federal grants made for those purposes.

Urban Renewal Statute

As defined in Chapter 374 of the Texas Local Government Code, the URA **does not have the authority** to:

- Determine if an area is, due to being blighted or a slum, appropriate for a project;
- Approve, amend or hold public hearings related to urban renewal plans;
- Establish general plans for the locality as a whole;
- Make findings related to slum or blighted areas;
- Formulate programs, exercise zoning power, or enforce other land use regulations; or
- Cause the relocation of persons displaced as a result of redevelopment undertaken pursuant to a plan.

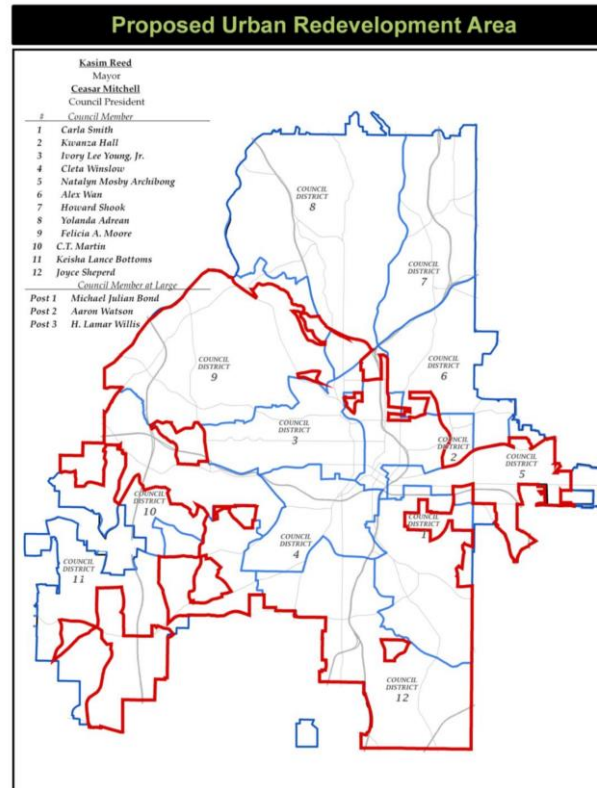
Urban Renewal Districts



San Antonio: 12 Districts,

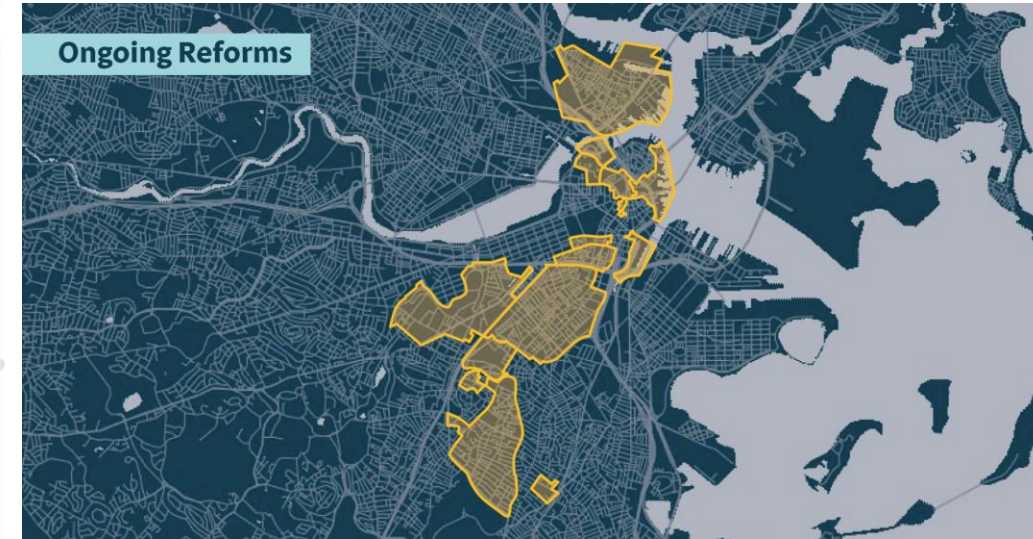
Last updated 2017

Affiliated with 'Neighborhood Improvements Bond'



Atlanta: 22 Districts, 49,000 Acres

Last updated 2011



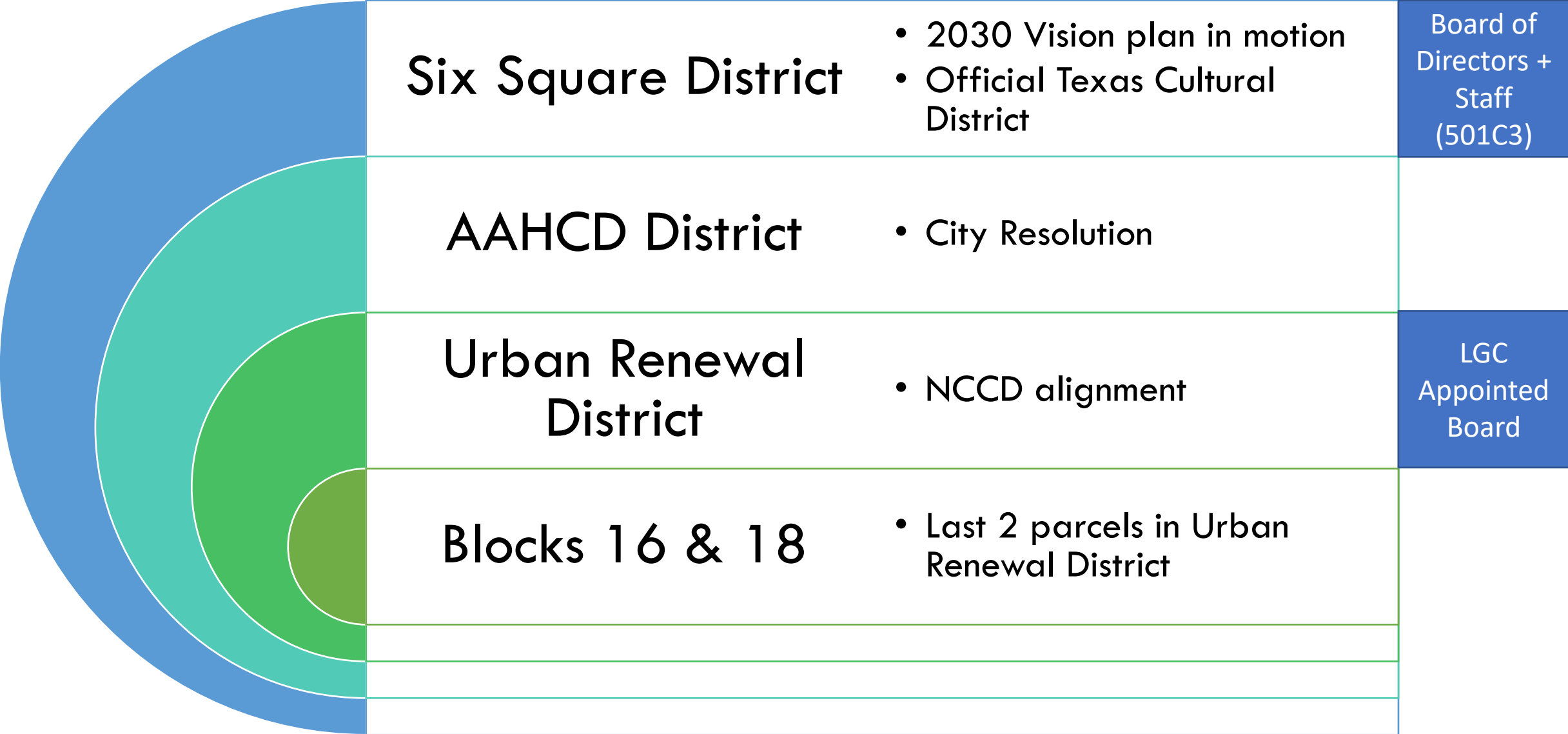
Boston: 19 Districts, 3000 Acres

Last updated 2016-2022

Sunsetting Districts this year "achieved economic development purposes"


- Urban Renewal laws are determined state by state (structure, plan process and uses)
- Urban Renewal is still a tool used by many cities to address redevelopment—often managed by one centralized planning and development agency tasked with supporting and staffing the district (often an LGC)
- Requires City Council & State Approval

Where does the Urban Renewal District Fit in?



Urban Renewal District Map



 East & 12th Street Urban Renewal Boundary

EAST 11TH AND 12TH STREETS URBAN RENEWAL PLAN

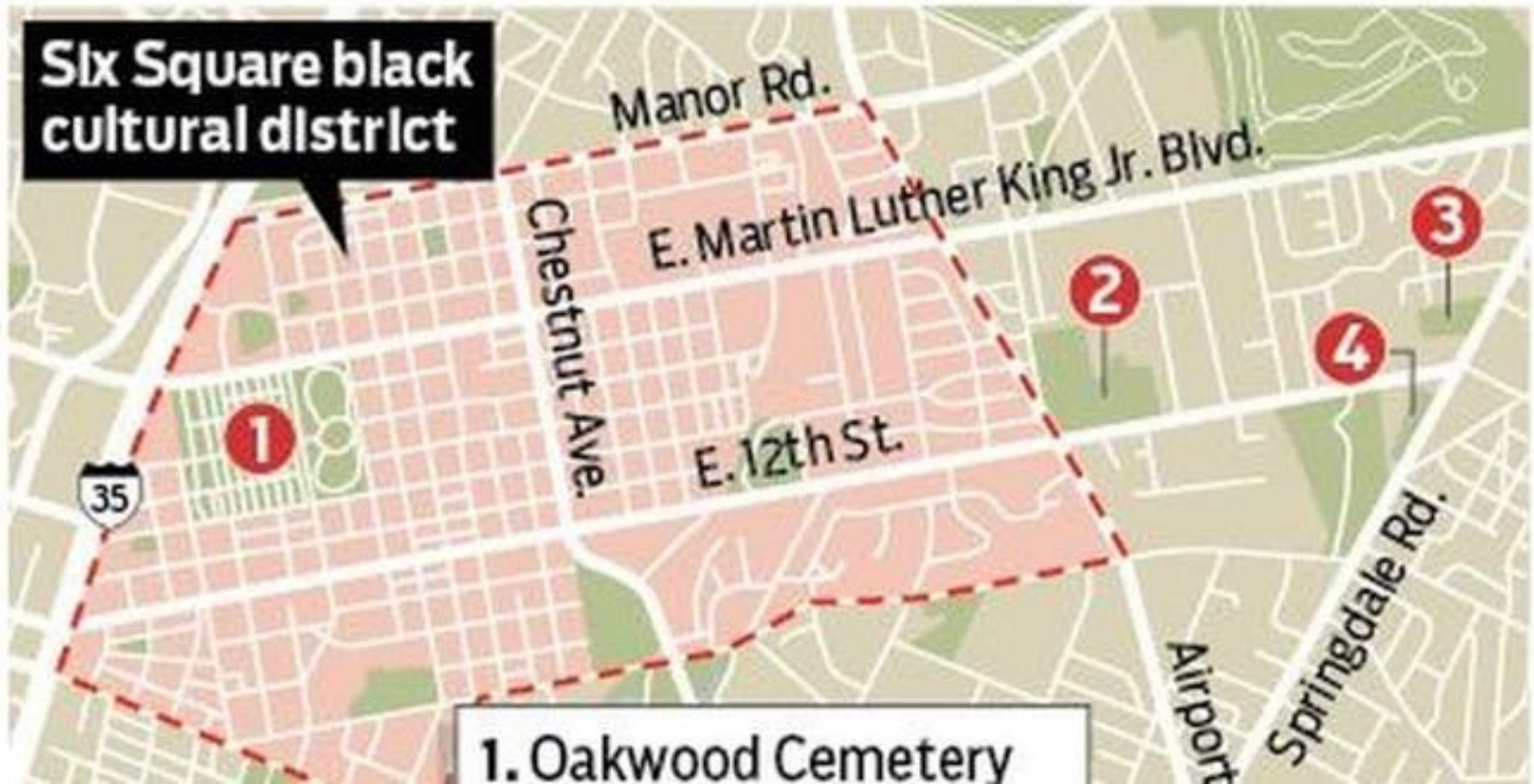
Prepared by the City of Austin Neighborhood Housing & Community Development Department March 11, 2020



11th & 12th Streets

- Subset of Six Square District
- Blocks 16 & 18 are the last two Urban Renewal owned parcels.

Six Square Map



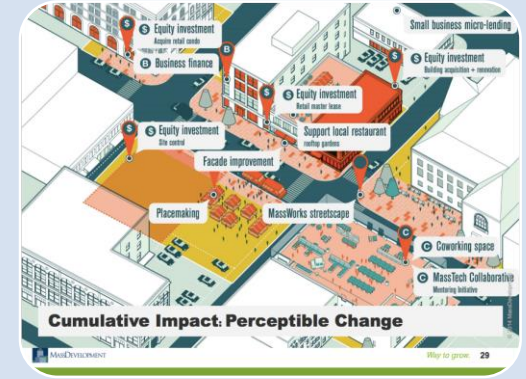
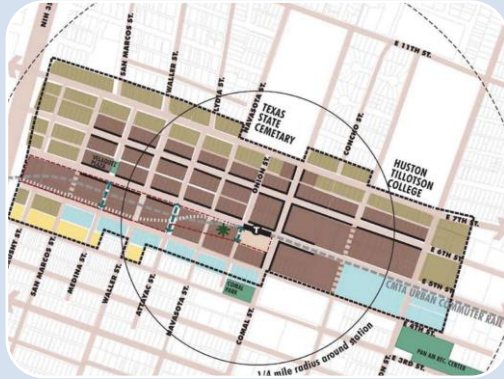
What else might the District need? Start with 'Purpose'

- Clean & safe services
- Business recruitment / incubation
- Collective marketing
- Community steward of vision/development and experience
- Redevelopment support for other parcels/support other property owners

Depending on what the community might need, you would identify/select the right revenue/governance/capacity model that fits those uses.

Any evaluation of future district needs should be a community conversation/aligned with other larger district vision plans

District Models-Summaries



Regulatory/Enforcement **SETTING AND OVERSEEING RULES**

- Goal to achieve and monitor specific development or public health plans
- Regulatory Plan/Managed by City Staff

Association/Convener/ Representation **FACILITATING AN EXPERIENCE**

- Merchants association with volunteers and/or paid staff
- 'Main Street' that would assess MEMBERS fees/support from municipality/State

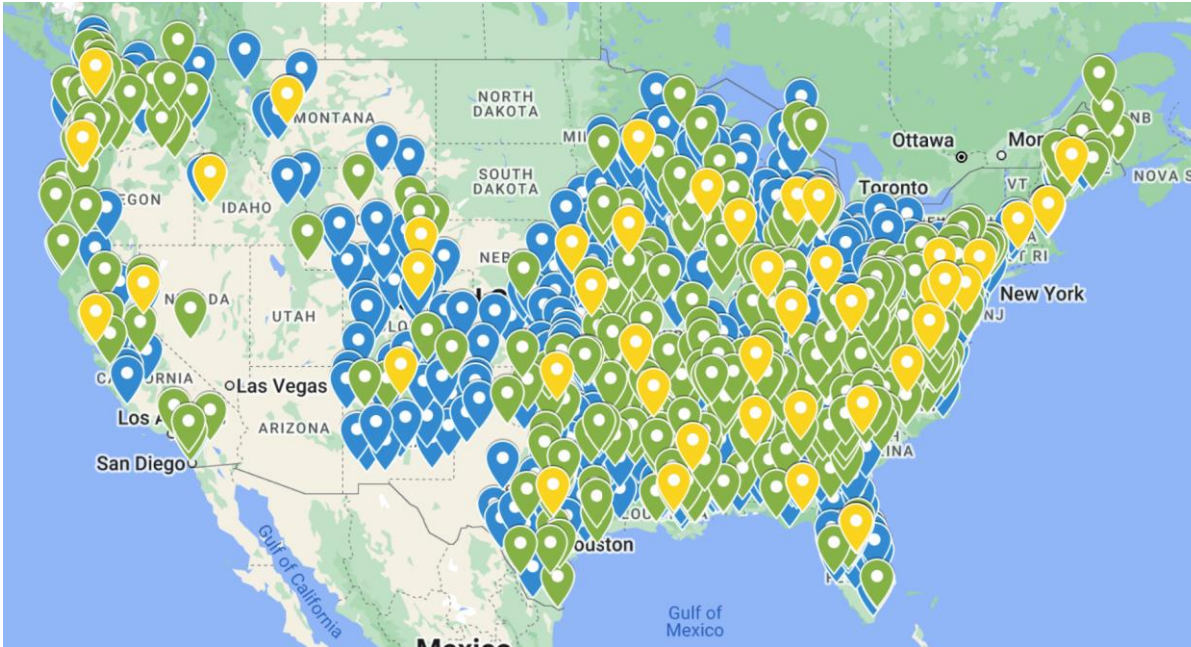
Special Purpose Districts in Statute— **PERFORMING FUNCTIONS**

- Urban Renewal
- PID for maintenance and marketing
- TIRZ for infrastructure projects

Development Strategy & Implementation **A MIX OF MULTIPLE DISTRICT MODELS**

- Urban Renewal + TIRZ + PID
- EcoDistricts

Main Street Districts/Merchants Associations



Main Street

- Boundaries/districts not required to be mapped, but usually associated with a geography
- No special assessments, all funding from typical non-profit sources
- Funds flexible
- Often State organizations, City supplemental funding
- No 'approval' necessary
- Difficult to sustain without ongoing City or philanthropic support

Main Streets in the US: (None in Austin)



Non Profit Heritage Conservancy



Conservancy

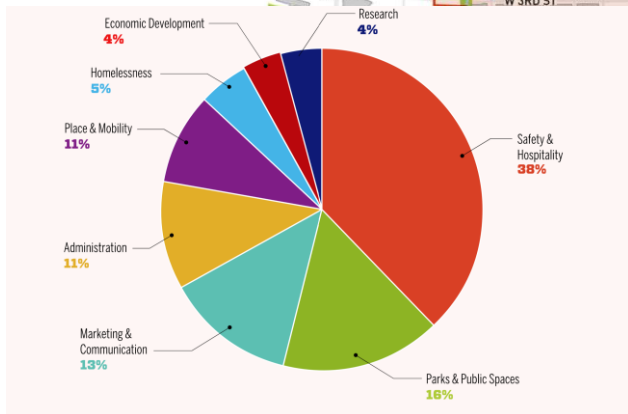
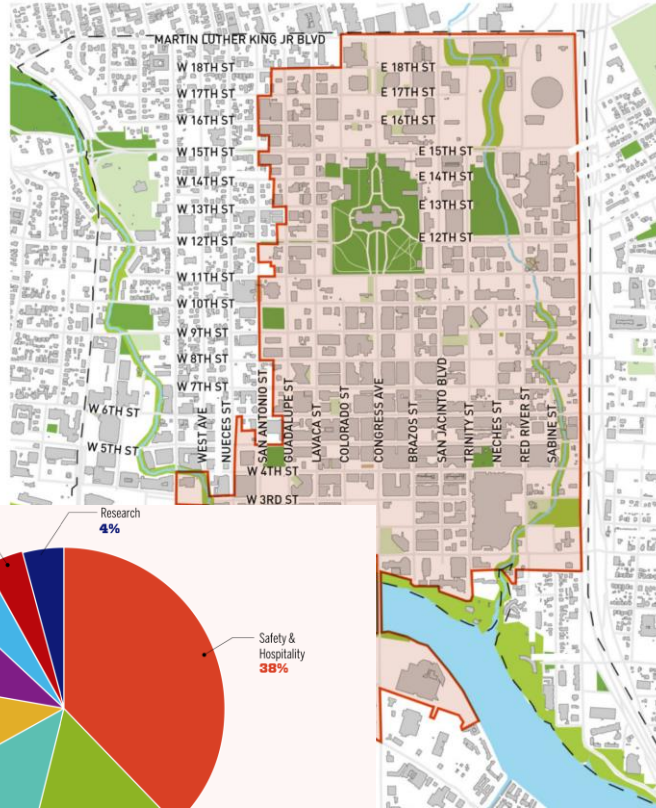
- Boundaries/districts not required to be mapped, but usually associated with a geography
- No special assessments, all funding from typical non-profit sources
- Funds can be used however the Board of Directors determines
- No 'approval' necessary
- Difficult to sustain without ongoing City or philanthropic support



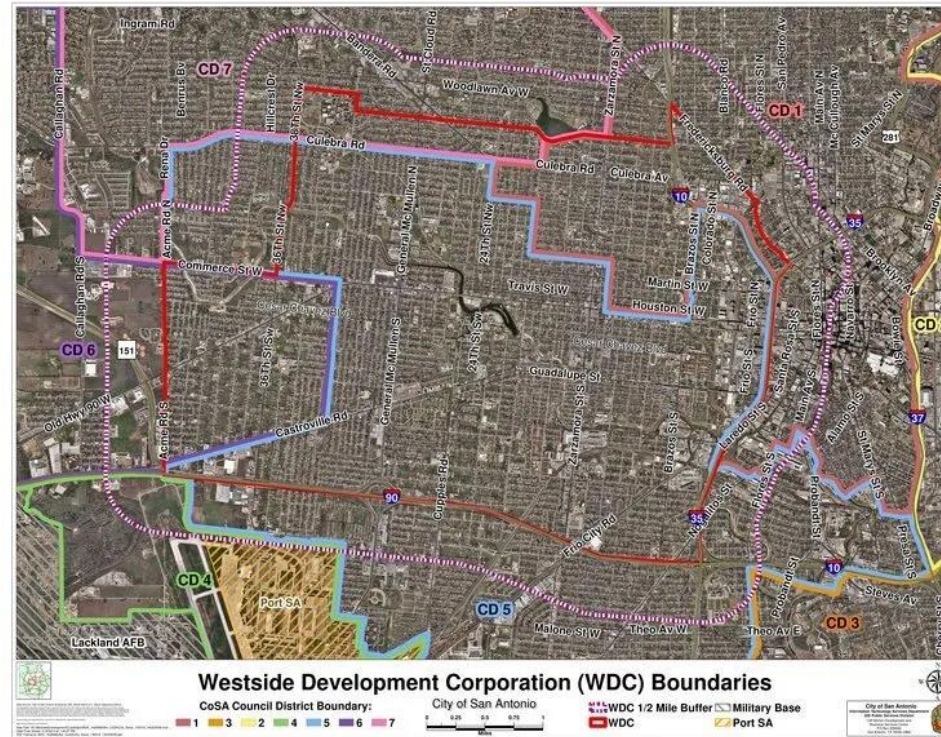
Houston: Freedman's Town Conservancy

Special Purpose Districts- Public Improvement Districts

Public Improvement District Map



Austin: Downtown Austin

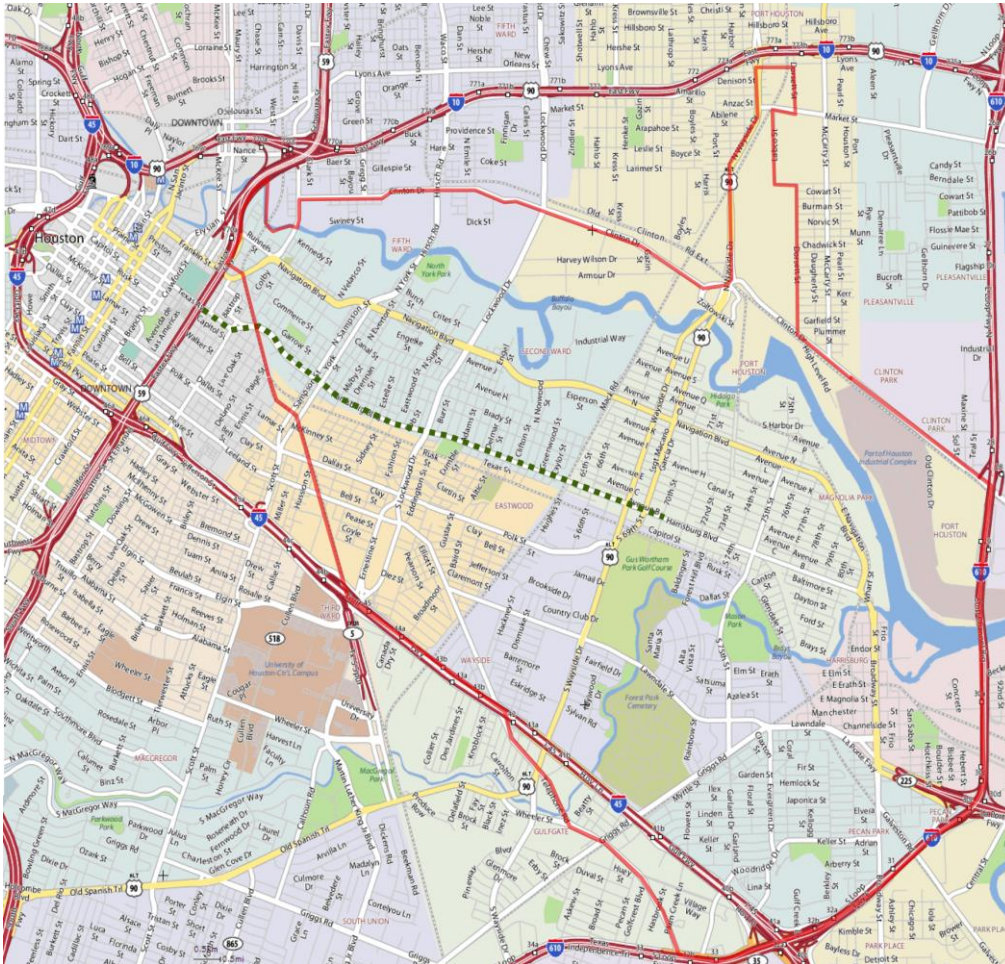


San Antonio: Westside Development Corporation Proposed (Already a PID downtown)

PID

- Defined geographies
- Assessments agreed to by owners
- Funds can be used for infrastructure, supplemental services, maintenance
- **City Council approval necessary**

Special Purpose Districts- Municipal Management Districts



Houston: Greater East End Management District

MMA

- Defined geographies
- Assessments agreed to by owners
- Funds can be used for infrastructure, supplemental services, economic development, recruitment
- Business focus
- **City Council approval necessary**

Special Purpose Districts- Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone



Austin: Mueller & Seaholm

City of Austin uses TIRZ for City owned property

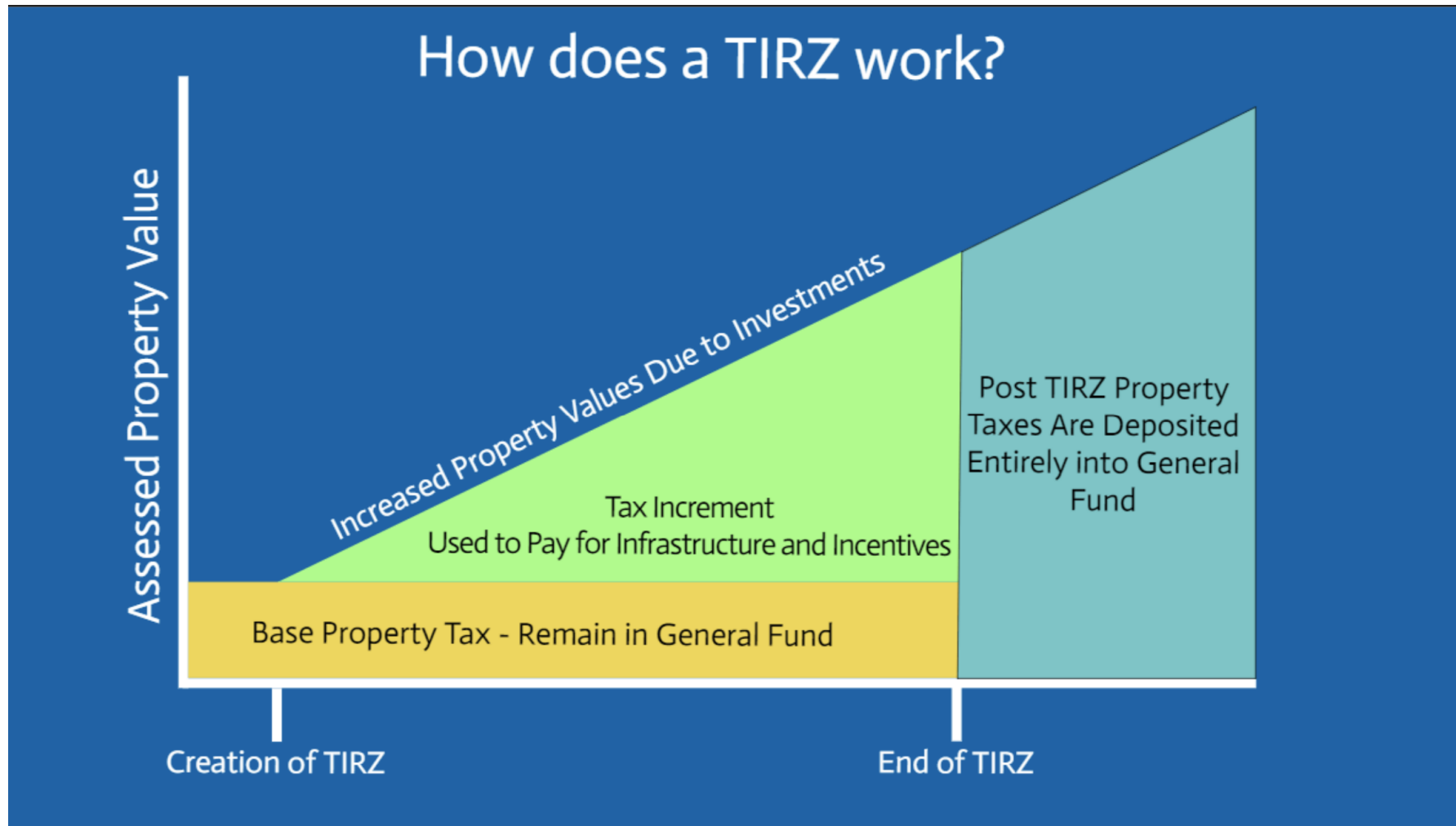


Houston: East Downtown

TIRZ

- Defined geographies
- City allocates incremental property tax towards District needs
- Funds can be used for infrastructure, affordable housing in a defined plan
- City Council approval necessary

Special Purpose Districts- TIRZ



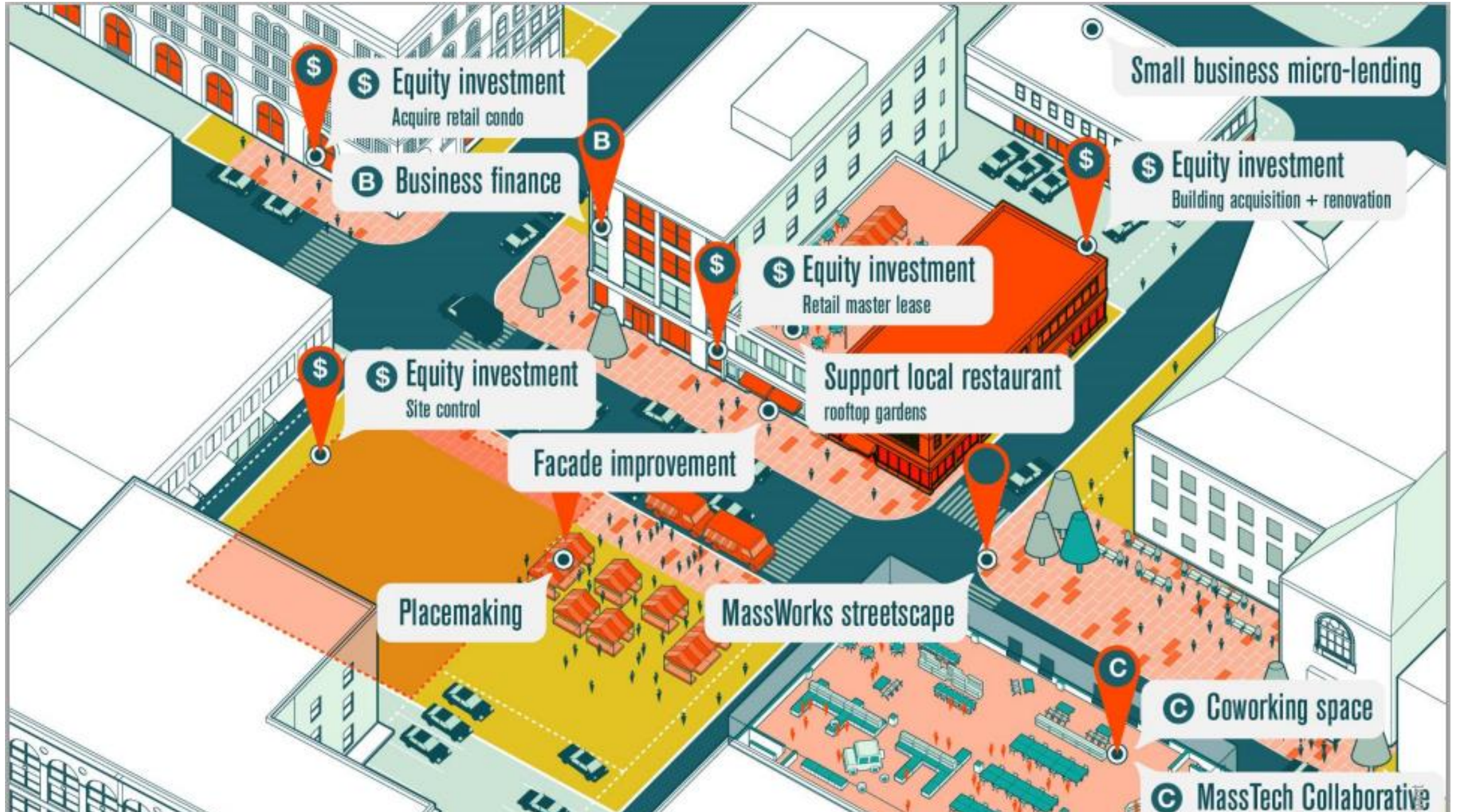
TIRZ

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Development & Implementation District Hybrids

- Often an ‘umbrella organization’
 - District focused or
 - Larger, defined to do a particular redevelopment function for a City
- Assembly of ‘tools’ and programs to support the work/purpose
- Diversified revenue stream to provide for human capacity and services, as well as redevelopment support.

TDI METHODOLOGY



TDI STORY

1. TDI Assistance

Empty lot, empty buildings 2015

Downtown
Activation Strategy

2 TDI Fellow

Paint & install art
on empty building
2016

3 TDI Places

Activate lot with
placemaking
(monthly summer)
2017-8

TDI Fellow

Create & recruit
young professionals
group to run ops

4 TDI Fellow

Recruit local biz to
do pop up, recruit
developers, focus
on diverse biz that
reflect the local
market 2018



5 TDI Local

Businesses across
street from lot
upgraded with
storefront
improvements 2019

6 MA Housing 9%

Empty lot develops
into
affordable/market
housing 2021

7 MDFA Financing

Adjacent parcels
financed for rehab,
market rate
development

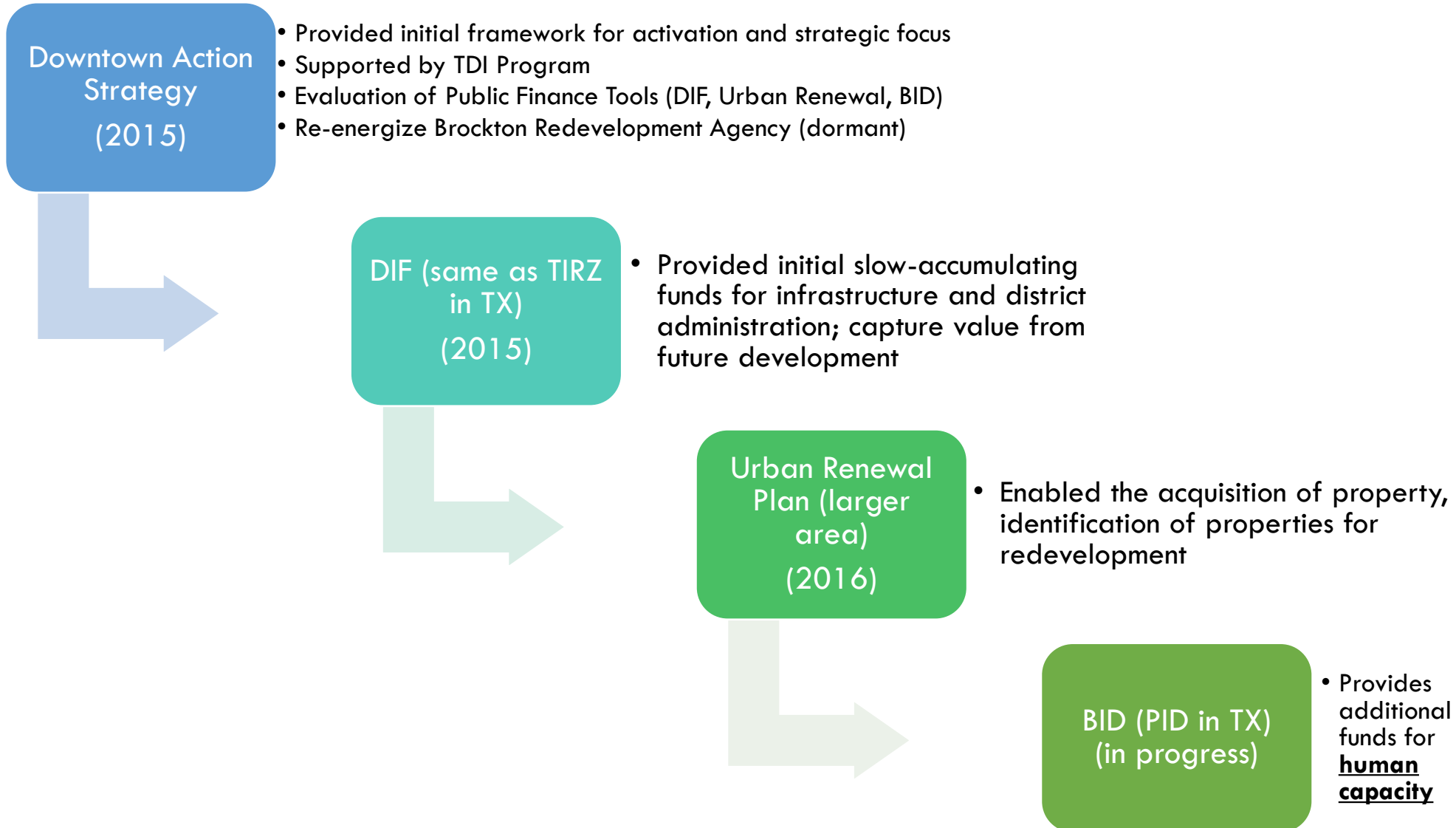
8 TDI Fellow

Developer recruits
local business from
pop ups, business
assistance

9 MDFA Financing

Financing helps
secure business with
retail and distribution

Brockton MA-Strategic Focus on Downtown



Discussion

- What is the overall goal/purpose of the Urban Renewal Board/What is needed in the District—

Regulatory

Experience

Special Purpose

Combination

- During the disposition of Blocks 16 & 18
 - After the Development of Block 16 & 18
- Things to consider:
 - Function
 - Governance
 - Revenue
 - Human Capacity

Block 16 & 18 Disposition- Proposed Community Engagement

■ Community Conversations

- September 28: 4-7pm at TBD
- September 30: 11am-2pm at TBD
- October 2: 12-2pm at TBD

■ *These are not formal presentations, but chances to meet the team and provide feedback and input on the various uses the community would like to see in the future development*

■ Video Update: Monday October 3 at 5pm

■ Please email anne@austinedc.org if you would like to be notified of all meetings directly, or have input to share.