

ATCEPB Priorities from Strategic Planning

Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023

Recap from the October 10, 2022 meeting of the Austin-Travis
County Food Policy Board

**Priorities where
there is the most
energy**

1. Emergency Preparedness, Including Resilience Hubs

Leadership: Lisa Barden

Supporting Members: Errol Schweizer, Joi Chevalier

What would it take?

- Incentivize activation of food [vendors?]
- Develop vendor support pipeline
- Can city/county request assistance of the national guard or similar resources?
- Understanding of trusted community locations
- Example , live far from faith institution
- Grassroots support, flexibility
- Consider indoor/greenhouse protected fresh food production
- Can we empower neighborhood to be hubs?
- Can we hire CHW to lead hubs?
- CHW are trusted in communities
- Ambient storage
- Inventory maintenance
- City bags locally made
- Get manufacturer here

What success looks like

- food for power in Colorado Springs model hub
- Every city county emergency plan includes food
- Look for grant funding (USDA, etc)
- Fresh food is available for free during times of disaster
- Positive news stories ... " My needs were met, my city cares and made a plan"
- Have a food distribution plan + vehicles + nodes ready to go!
- Emergency food utility (ie: HTAH - Food Storage)

Other Questions

- How is info related to this being collected?
- How are different city/county departments working together?
- **Is this a Policy, Program (if \$ needed, March), Administrative Action, Budget Request (March), or Budget Reallocation (March)**

Relevant COA and TC Dept:

- COA Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- TC Office of Emergency Management
- TC Health and Human Services
- COA RISE Offices (Resilience, Innovation, Sustainability, and Equity)
- Austin Public Health

2. Improved Food Access for People in Need

7 members is a quorum; WG need 6 or fewer members

Leadership: Kacey Hanson, Andrea Abel, Lisa Barden

Supporting Members: Adrian Lipscombe, Frances Deviney, Cecilia Hogan, Joi Chevalier

What would it take?

- Grants to start food business
- Transportation to food access options
- Provide outlet, city-wide county wide that is a referral or need to direct food access.
- has info in all food access sources.
- Commit to communications in targeted communities
- Map + calendar of existing resources for food pantries
- Reevaluate food pantry permitting process
- Make (fresher local) food available in non traditional places through local farmers growers and at low cost.
- Training + materials for container gardens at peoples homes
- Hold spot on FPB for representative of high school and college food groups
- Food delivery app

What success looks like

- More retail options in select zip codes
- Decrease in food insecurity rates
- Decrease in those reporting no access to food
- Increase in food hubs
- Add a youth representative to the food policy board
- Collaboration of existing pantries to ensure operations 7 days / week in strategic locations in the city/council.
- Youth college representation pon FPB
- No more need for food pantries
- Greatly reduced barriers to accessing food pantries
- Other boards and commissions tackle the food insecurity and shortage with the food policy board.
- Destigmatize food insecurity discussions

Other Questions

- Who needs to join us to figure this out?
- **Is this a Policy, Program (if \$ needed, March), Administrative Action, Budget Request (March), or Budget Reallocation (March)**

Relevant COA and TC Dept:

- COA Austin Public Health
- TC Health and Human Services
- COA RISE Offices (Resilience, Innovation, Sustainability, and Equity)

3. Business and Labor Advocacy

Leadership: Sharon Mays

Supporting Members: Errol Schweizer, Joi Chevalier

What would it take?

- Board - understanding or knowledge of affordability/cost of living
- How it relates to profitability
- Running a food business
- - (2) commercial real estate
- Sector knowledge to develop corporate food recruitment to ATX
- Structured "second time" workforce pipeline
- Provide business incentives for emergency activation
 - Provide DR planning for corporates.

What success looks like

- Establishment of a 'fair wage' with an eye on cost of living/affordability element of cost of labor
- Raise minimum wage
- Local business as tenants in COA or Travis County owned properties, potential at reduced rent levels.
- Biz plans including emergency plan for COA/TC
- Food/Water adv task force of industry pros (what and who)
- Expand view beyond restaurants

Other Questions

- Aren't there federal? playbooks on this?
- How committed is the City/Council to preserving "Local Culture"?
- What is local culture to preserve?
- Is this our responsibility?
- Farmers are even lower paid right?
- **Is this a Policy, Program (if \$ needed, March), Administrative Action, Budget Request (March), or Budget Reallocation (March)**

Relevant COA and TC Dept:

- COA Economic Development Department
- TC Planning and Budget Office

4. Food as Public Utility/Public Food Sector

Leadership: Errol Schweizer

Supporting Members: Frances Deviney, Adrian Lipscombe, Joi Chevalier

What would it take?

- Fund+
- Create a city / County department (a la Alameda County CA)
- Get Citizen Community Engagement Input
- Determine what the elements are in Public Food system
- Wholesale/Retail
- Last mile delivery (or 1/2 mile) door to door app?
- Biz incentives to public activation
- Transportation rating to these activated hubs
- Shift in mindset about food as a basic human need/right
- YES, Food Sovereignty
- City/ County "Incubator" Using public land and facilities to support food production and distribution.

What success looks like

- Small format market - not 'super market' , especially in areas without current access
- City property
- Managed through city Agency
- Geared towards community preference
- Focus on Local Sourcing from growers, manufacturers
- Dedicated local emergency suppliers for each utility item
- Paying farmers to grow food for the community or be city/county employees in the same way that we pay firefighters and public work employees .

Other Questions

- How to have local sourcing?
- Chamber? Fit with another organization?
- **Is this a Policy, Program (if \$ needed, March), Administrative Action, Budget Request (March), or Budget Reallocation (March)**

Relevant COA and TC Dept:

- COA Office of Sustainability
- TC Planning and Budget Office

5. Expand Market Penetration of Locally and Regionally Sourced and Manufactured Foods

Leadership: Errol Schweizer, Sharon Mays

Supporting Members: Adrian Lipscombe, Joi Chevalier

What would it take?

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- Create a city / County department (a la Alameda County CA)
- Get Citizen Community Engagement Input
- Determine what the elements are in Public Food system
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Relevant COA and TC Dept:

- COA Office of Real Estate Services
- TC Planning and Budget
- TC Transportation & Natural Resources
- COA RISE Offices

**Questions for
each Board
Member to
consider**

Consider the following

Do I see myself in any of these priorities?

- If NO, why not
 - If YES,
 - Do I have energy and time to commit to all at once or do I need to stagger commitments?
 - Which one feels most pressing?
 - Does this need to be separate from Food Planning or can it fit into that process?
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Planning Worksheet

Adapted from template provided during workshop by Emily Ackland

- Key Deliverable(s)
- Information that needs to be gathered
- Speakers or presentations to the board that are needed
- Does this fall under a working group's purview? If so, which one?
- Community connections that could help
- Is this a Policy, Program, Administrative Action, Budget Request, or Budget Reallocation?
- What action is needed from the board to move this forward?
 - How to engage Travis County Commissioners Court? How to engage Austin City Council?
 - Should this be a recommendation or should it be a Council Committee Agenda Request
- When could the deliverable(s) be completed?
- If possible, construct a timeline for each step to complete this project
 - Budget requests need to be completed by March 1
 - Program requests need to be completed by February 1
 - Other – set goal of having work completed by end of FY (September 30)



If you need help, follow-up Board Chair, Sharon Mays, or Vice-Chair, Joi Chevalier, for assistance.

[Link to additional Advocacy Strategy Planning Templates for Board Members to use.](#)

Other Recommendation - Find a Board Buddy who has senior experience on the board and can help you walk the path of bringing your idea to fruition!

Parking Lot

Other ideas that had interest, but no resources/energy at this time.

1. Review of City of Austin Food Access Annual Budget line item
 2. Connecting ATCFPB recommendations to existing recommendations in the Climate Equity Plan
 3. Provide Assistance to local farmers, producers, and growers
 4. Citizen Advocacy: Finding routes for citizen engagement, feedback and awareness.
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Suggested Next Steps

Next steps

1. Board members discuss if these are the priorities they are committing to
2. Board member commit to at least one priority
3. Board member leader convenes members of each group and drafts Action Plan
4. Action Plans and timelines shared at December full board meeting