

November 11, 2022



Dear Mayor Adler and Council Members:

As the City of Austin ages, the need for adult day care is increasing. Meanwhile, access to quality, affordable childcare is limited. This presents major challenges to families with low and moderate income. The City recognizes these problems in Resolution #89 (June 16, 2022). For these reasons, I am pleased to support the Intergenerational Resource and Activity Center (IRAC) initiative.

As Executive Director of The Impact Factory—Austin’s hub for social innovation, entrepreneurship and community service—I strongly support IRAC’s public-private partnership to address the increasing demand for supporting vulnerable families. Also, as a pediatrician at Dell Medical School and policy professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT Austin, I understand opportunities to engage older adults and children in one place, as well as provide respite for caregivers, are good for Austinites’ health and rare in our city.

IRAC’s goals fit squarely into the Holly Shores Master plan that envisions innovative community-based models that optimize space in public places for the community’s most vulnerable members. The model has been proven to decrease loneliness and increase overall health for seniors, as well as improve social, cognitive and learning skills for children and youth.

Importantly, the Nash Hernandez Building is located close to senior housing and the Martin Middle School. IRAC will offer childcare for toddlers and preschoolers on a sliding fee scale.

In sum, I am familiar with cutting-edge intergenerational programs because of my work, and I believe the City of Austin has a unique opportunity to establish a public-private partnership for an intergenerational care center that is financially sustainable for its neediest residents.

Thank you for considering. I hope to be able to contribute to this transformative project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Hole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "H".

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