

## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**DATE:** January 2022

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### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS:

**Community Engagement at Givens Recreation Center:** The Givens Recreation Center recently hosted a community engagement event in collaboration with Austin Police Department and the Austin Public Health Office of Violence and Prevention. The collaborative project looks to identify resources for the park and community to create a safe programming environment. Over 30 attendees were in attendance for the community meeting that focused on park improvements, facility budget, resources, upcoming facility projects, and crime analytics. The committee will look to host recurring meetings with the community to help identify and address community needs. **District 1**

**Parkland Dedication Conversations:** The Parks and Recreation Department's (Department) Parkland Dedication team will kickoff Parkland Dedication Conversations with community stakeholders to explore opportunities for fine-tuning the commercial and residential parkland dedication ordinances. The process will include conversations with different stakeholder groups and the results will be reported to City Council. This process is in response to [City Council Resolution 20220915-053](#). **Multiple Districts**

### PLANNING UPDATES:

**John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park:** The Department is applying for a Pre-Application to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant (ORLP) for John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park. This is a nationally competitive program targeting grant assistance to help economically disadvantaged urban communities with minimal access to publicly available, close-by, outdoor recreation. Funds can be used for the acquisition and/or development of, or to substantially renovate obsolete, public parks and other outdoor recreation spaces. The grant amount is for a one-time allocation of \$4 million dollars that must be matched by Department funding. The matching funding will be provided by the 2018 Bond program. The pre-application is due on February 1, 2023 and finalists for the grant will be announced in the spring or summer of 2023. **District 1**

**Brodie Oaks PUD:** The Brodie Oaks shopping center redevelopment is a proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD) located at Loop 360 and South Lamar, at the site of the former Brodie Oaks shopping center. Council approved the zoning on first reading on December 8, 2022 ([Item 96](#)) with direction. A hearing has been set for the second and possibly third reading at the regular Council Meeting on January 26, 2023. **District 5**

**Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan:** The draft plan feedback period closed on January 8, 2023. The planning team will review and consult all feedback received, and once the next draft is completed, the team will proceed with briefings and seek recommendations from the appropriate Boards and Commissions. A Frequently Asked Questions resource has been added to the project website to respond to common feedback received throughout the public comment period and at pop-up events held

throughout December. More information including the draft plan and FAQ may be found on the project website: <https://www.austintexas.gov/ZilkerVision>

### **Districts 5 and 8**

**305 S. Congress “Statesman” Planned Unit Development Amendment (PUD):** The PUD Amendment was approved by Council on third (and final) reading on December 2, 2022. One immediate action required by the ordinance is for the landowner to fund a public park amenities prioritization process, with a max cost of \$30,000 including the cost of a consultant to be selected by the landowner and the Department. The ordinance gives a completion target within 90 days (March 2, 2023) of approval but can be extended in increments of 90 days. The process should include a priority ranking of amenities including those in the South Center Waterfront Vision plan. The Department and the landowner have met and mutually agreed upon a consultant to conduct the engagement process and a draft engagement plan is under review. **District 9**

**Project Connect:** Project Connect staff asked the Department to evaluate alternatives and options related to the 6F transfer of land. There is uncertainty related to the Blue Line (proposed to cross Lady Bird Lake and take land at the Waller Creek Boathouse) and the Orange Line (proposed to cross the lake potentially above ground, thus impacting Auditorium Shores). Questions remain about whether the condemnation process would be used, whether the Department will be guaranteed to receive mitigation funds, and whether the Department will insist on a 1:1 transfer of land as part of this 6F process.

Discussion and consideration continue. <https://projectconnect.com/> **Multiple Districts**

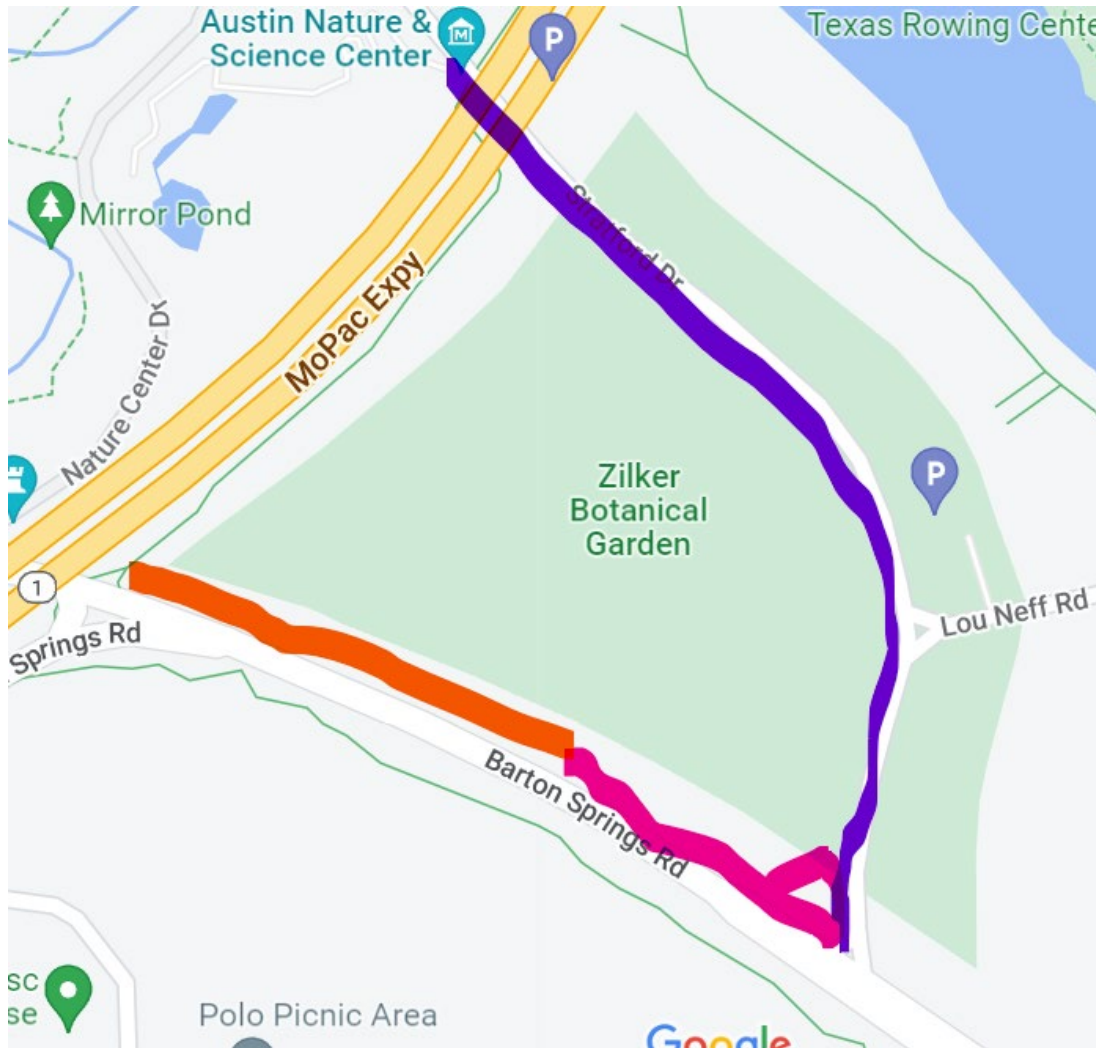
**Parkland Dedication Calculator:** A new, calculate-it-yourself tool is available for anyone interested in current parkland dedication requirements for a specific site or project in Austin. The tool is located on the parkland dedication website (<https://www.austintexas.gov/PLD>) and is a great way to find out basic requirements for a project based on the size of the tract, land use, number of residential units, and other factors. The tool provides estimates for the amount of required parkland, fees in-lieu, and park development fees. Calculated requirements are for estimation purposes only and are based on user-inputted data. They are not to be considered a bill or invoice. Applicants could also receive a binding determination of whether requirements would be satisfied through land dedication, payment of fee-in-lieu, or a combination through PARD’s [online portal](#). **Multiple Districts**

## **DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:**

**Multipurpose Court at Metz:** The site continues to work towards the groundbreaking on the new multipurpose court at Metz Neighborhood Park in January 2023. This project will activate the outdoor amenity within the park to include one of the only bicycle polo lined courts. **District 3**

**Zilker Metro Park/ Zilker Botanical Garden Shared-Use Path/:** Construction is anticipated to begin at the end of January/early February on Phase 1 of a shared use path in Zilker Metro Park. This phase will include a 12-foot path with landscaped buffers, bus stop improvements on both sides of Barton Springs Road, and a new pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) to assist in crossing Barton Springs at the entrance to the Zilker Botanical Garden. This segment of the shared use path will begin at the Zilker Botanical Garden entrance and will connect to the trailhead near Mopac (redline on the map below). The Zilker Botanical Garden will install the irrigation and plantings for the buffer concurrently or immediately after the construction of the path. The Austin Transit Department will install the PHB, and Cap Metro will

install signs, benches and trash receptacles at the bus stops. Other bus stop improvements include fresh concrete pads with connections to ADA-accessible sidewalks. Phase 2 will include the segment of the path along the southwest side of Stratford Drive (purple line on the map below) and Phase 3 will connect the segments (pink line on the map below). This project is being led by the Public Works Department. **District 8**



*Map showing Phase 1 (red line), Phase 2 (purple line) and Phase 3 (pink line) of the planned shared-use path at Zilker Metro Park.*

**Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESB-MACC) Phase 2 Improvements:** The Joint Venture Miró Rivera Architects + Tatiana Bilbao ESTUDIO (JV MRA+TBE), City of Austin project team and Roger's O'Brien Construction have attained a project design aligning with available designated funds. A Design Development presentation was provided to the ESB-MACC Advisory Board on December 7 and will be followed by a similar presentation to the Hispanic Quality of Life Advisory Commission on January 24, 2023. Site work is anticipated to begin in early 2023 and will be followed by building construction

and renovations. Project completion is anticipated in early 2025. Funding is available through the voter-approved 2018 General Obligation Bonds and Parkland Dedication Fees. **District 9**  
[www.austintexas.gov/MaccPhase2](http://www.austintexas.gov/MaccPhase2)



*Site rendering for ESB-MACC Phase 2 Improvements*

**Waterloo Greenway – Confluence:** The second phase of Waterloo Greenway, The Confluence, includes new trails and bridges, a biofiltration pond, and the full ecological restoration of Waller Creek between Lady Bird Lake and 4<sup>th</sup> Street. A Request for Action was brought to the Waller Creek Local Government Corporation (LGC) on January 18<sup>th</sup> to authorize the award and execution of the construction contract with Jay-Reese Contractors, Inc. not to exceed \$75,707,753. The project is being funded through a combination of public and private dollars, including but not limited to 2012 General Obligation Bonds, Watershed Drainage Utility Funds, US Army Corp Funds, Waller Creek TIRZ funds, and private donations. The project was bid through the City’s Capital Contracting Invitation for Bid (IFB) procurement process and advertised from mid-August through early November. **Districts 1 and 9**

**Republic Square Conditional Use Permit:** The Department, in collaboration with the Downtown Austin Alliance Foundation (DAAF), will seek action from the Platting and Zoning Commission to approve the application for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the sale of alcohol at the café at Republic Square Park on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The Parks and Recreation Board voted to recommend approving the permit at the Board Meeting on July 25, 2022 in a vote of 7-2. **District 9**



## MAINTENANCE UPDATES:

**Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park:** The Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) received \$16K in funding for maintenance of the Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park pond in the FY23 budget. PAR Operations will seek assistance from the Watershed Protection Department (WPD) to contract with a pond maintenance provider. PAR will also continue to work with WPD and seek assistance in improving the quality of the park pond. Since WPD considers the pond a Parks and Recreation Department asset that does not fit within their purview, any funding for studies or pond improvements would come from the PAR budget. It is PAR's goal to administer a future pond improvement project that will include more in-depth pond studies including water quality, depth, and water sources as part of the design process. This type of project would likely be a bond-funded project that may include other improvements for Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park. **District 7**

**Pool Repairs:** The Aquatic Division is working to repair pump rooms and bath houses damaged during the December 2022 winter freeze. The facilities that suffered the most damage include Barton Springs Pool, Bartholomew Pool, Govalle Pool, Dittmar Pool, and Dove Springs Pool. Facilities scheduled to be open year round remain open while repairs are ongoing. **Districts 2, 3, 4 and 5**

**Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center:** The garden area was renovated to remove bricks walls from older garden beds that had become loose. The area was turned into a sitting area. **District 1**



*Sitting Area at Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center*

**Outdoor Gazebo at Metz Park:** The Department is working to review the electrical system for the outdoor gazebo located at Metz Park. The project will include upgrading the lighting system and repainting the gazebo to its original colors to showcase the historic murals at Metz Neighborhood Park. **District 3**

**Hancock Upcoming Facility Work and Closure:** Hancock Recreation Center experienced AC water damage in July 2022 that is causing buckling of the floors. Asbestos/mold will need to be removed from the old entrance floors, and part of the ceiling where there is damage. During the repair the upstairs of the center will be closed. Exact dates and times have not been established but repairs are expected to happen in February of this year. After School Programs will still meet outside and downstairs. **District 9**



*Damage to the center from AC Water Damage*

**Lamar Senior Activity Center:** Room use and availability are returning to more normal operations after ten months of abatement and construction. The City Abatement team still needs to test the MPR closets, new office walls, etc., to enable CMC crew to install shelving so stored items can be returned. The water feature that was dedicated on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the center broke and is in the process of getting the water tray, pumps, etc., upgraded. The goal is to have everything ready and working within the month and before the center's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary which is planned for late summer. The security system is being repaired from damage incurred during abatement/construction. **District 9**

**Telephone System at Lions Golf Course:** Lions Golf Course telephone system has been updated with new phone lines and the facility has a new wireless internet option. The new main pro shop number is 512-978-MUNY (6869). **District 10**

**Butler Landfill Zilker Metro Park Maintenance Project:** The maintenance work has been completed. Minor outstanding items were documented on the punch list and were addressed by the final walkthrough on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Completed work includes regrading to prevent ponding, new gates to control vehicular access, a pedestrian gate near Lou Neff Road, an irrigation system to support three re-vegetated acres, and a new pump to utilize lake water for irrigation. The initial winter cover crop hydroseed mix has been applied on the 3-acre-revegetation area. It is anticipated that the seed will become established and provide 90% coverage of the area within 60 to 90 days. Upon establishment of this hydroseed mix, the erosion control silt fencing will be removed. In spring of 2023, the contractor, Clean Scapes, will apply the permanent native grass hydroseed mix to the 3-acre lot. The lot will be closed for use until the establishment of the hydroseed, which is anticipated to take another 60-90 days. Future uses for the lot will be determined according to the Zilker Vision Plan. The maintenance project is funded by C3 Presents. **District 8**



*Butler Landfill re-vegetated lot, January 2023*

## PROGRAM UPDATES:

### District 1:

**Festival of Trees at Delores Duffie Recreation Center:** On Saturday, December 17, 2022, the Delores Duffie Recreation Center hosted its second annual Festival of Trees. The event included free concessions such as hot chocolate, popcorn, food trucks and games. Over 250 participants were in attendance and walked the trails decorated with donated trees provided by the recreation center and designed by local business for their viewing pleasure along the Boggy Creek trail.







*Delores Duffie Recreation Center, Festival of Trees*

**Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center:** After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Holiday Luncheon returned to the Conley-Guerrero Senior Center on Wednesday, December 4, 2022. More than 350 seniors gathered and enjoyed a delicious free holiday feast of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, and so much more! Following lunch, they won prizes, and were provided free smoke alarms and COVID Booster shots.





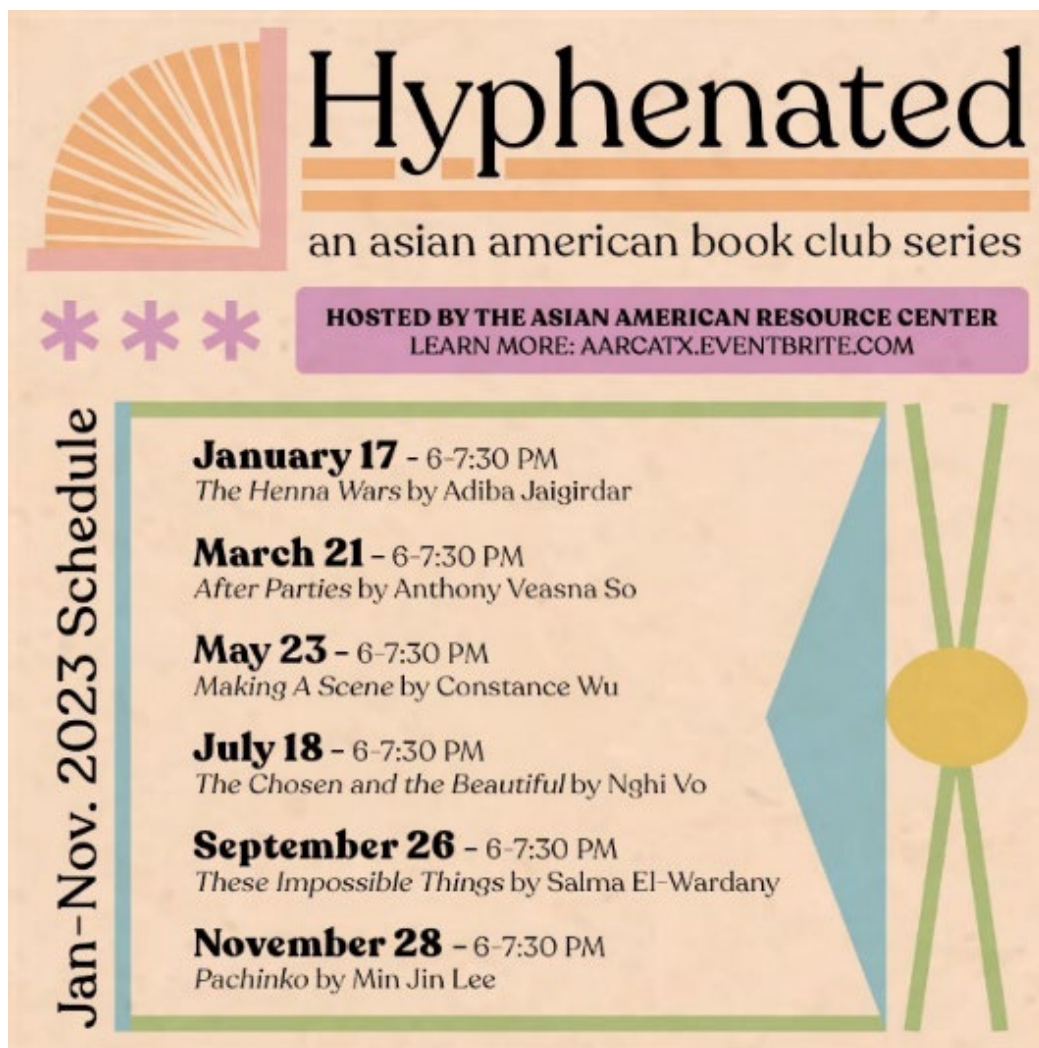


*Holiday Luncheon at Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center*

**Asian American Resource Center's Hyphenated – An Asian American Book Club:** The first meet up of the year for AARC's annual Asian American book club was held on January 17, 2023, in which attendees discussed the book *The Henna Wars* by Adiba Jaigirdar. From new releases by emerging voices to beloved community favorites, fiction to non-fiction and everything in-between, participants in Hyphenated have the opportunity to explore the diversity of American literature from an Asian American lens. All meet ups are free and open to the public to attend. All sessions are hosted in person at the AARC. The meetups for this year are as follows:

- January 17, 2023, 6:00 PM-7:30PM – *The Henna Wars* by Adiba Jaigirdar
- March 21, 2023, 6:00 PM-7:30PM – *After Parties* by Anthony Veasna So
- May 23, 2023, 6:00 PM-7:30PM – *Making A Scene* by Constance Wu
- July 18, 2023, 6:00-7:30PM – *The Chosen and the Beautiful* by Nghi Vo
- September 26, 2023, 6:00 PM-7:30PM – *These Impossible Things* by Salma El-Wardany
- November 28, 2023, 6:00 PM-7:30PM – *Pan Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

Estimated number of participants is 12.



*Hyphenated 2023 Reading List Graphic*

**Kwanzaa Ujamaa Marketplace and Celebration at the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center:** The Annual Kwanzaa celebration at the Carver Museum was a joyous festivity filled with music, dancing, and community, all day on Thursday, December 29, 2022. The day opened with an Ujamaa Marketplace featuring Black vendors from across the city, followed by a celebratory service in the evening. Scrumptious, Ethiopian bites and a traditional Kwanzaa punch were served to guests as they found their seats in the Carver's beautiful drum. After the ceremonial lighting of the candles, poetry and drumming opened the evening, followed by a school spirit performance and storytelling from the Freedom Schools Austin. The event closed out with an educational presentation packed with Swahili call-and-response songs and dances. The Carver was packed with jubilant Austinites from start to finish. 143 people attended the event.



*Elizabeth Kahura Along with Freedom Schools Austin  
Lead the Community in a Celebratory Swahili Song*

### **District 2:**

**Warming and Cold Weather Shelter – George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center:** George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center served as a warming and cold weather shelter beginning on Thursday, December 22, 2022, and demobilized on Tuesday, December 27, 2022. Dove Springs provided shelter, food and comfort to over 100 guests. Staff from Parks and Recreation, Austin Public Health, Austin Energy and the Austin Area Urban League teamed up at Dove Springs to provide valuable emergency services to the community.

### **District 3:**

**Ballet Folklorico at Montopolis Recreation and Community Center:** The site began its first ever ballet Folklorico program. Ballet Folklorico began at the end December and is for ages 5-30. 30 participants have attended so far. **District 3**



*Ballet Folklorico Dancers*

### **District 4:**

**Virginia L. Brown Winter Camp:** Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center hosted winter break camp with 14 participants a day December 22, 2022-January 9, 2023, from 7:30 am.m-6:00 p.m. Participants enjoyed holiday crafts, snacks, and activities.



**Virginia L. Brown Winter Basketball:** Virginia L. Brown is currently registering for the Winter Basketball season. Staff members are currently recruiting participants and volunteer coaches. The league is set to begin February 4<sup>th</sup>, and end March 11<sup>th</sup>. Expected enrollment is four teams of 10.

#### **District 8:**

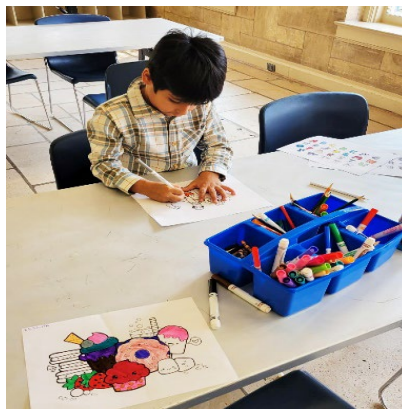
**Volunteer Awards:** Zilker Botanical Garden will host a Volunteer Awards Recognition event on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> to thank, honor, and celebrate the many volunteers who lend their hands, strength, ideas, and enthusiasm throughout the year.

**Austin Nature and Science Center:** Despite having 40% of the programs positions vacant at the Austin Nature & Science Center, 545 Title 1 students learned about nature and science through school field trips. Nature's Way Preschool wrapped up a successful fall semester in December 2022.

#### **District 9:**

**Drone Video at Hancock Golf Course:** A new drone video was created to promote the Hancock golf course. The footage can be viewed on the Golf ATX website and Facebook page, as well as PARD's YouTube page. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYkRDDAE6Y&t=2s>. **District 9**

**Hancock Recreation Center Winter Camp:** Hancock Recreation Center hosted 32 participants for Winter Camp Days during the school holidays, December 22, 2022-January 9, 2023, from 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Participants enjoyed games like Snowball dodgeball, creating a large-scale Lego village, and working on daily Art for Kids projects.



*Participants during Winter Camp*

**Dougherty Arts Center Presents: ¡Escándalo! The Improvised Telenovela:** On Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:00-9:00 p.m., ¡Escándalo! Improv wove together a brand new, never-before-seen, passion-filled telenovela based on audience suggestions. Star-crossed love, shocking secrets, nail-biting intrigue, and dastardly villains left the audience wanting more! No two shows are ever the same. ¡Escándalo! is part of the Artist Access Program, through the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department, Museums and Cultural Programs Division and the Dougherty Arts Center. Additional information can be found at the Dougherty Art Center's Program and Events page: <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/dougherty-arts-center-programs-and-events>. Estimated number of attendees is 150.



*¡Escándalo! The Improvised Telenovela Cast*

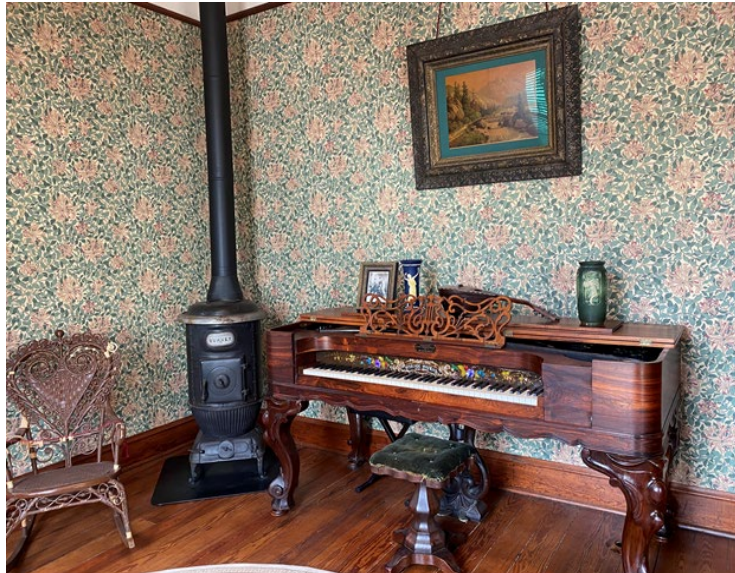
**Annie May Johnston Opening Reception for Spring Exhibition:** The Elisabet Ney Museum will host an evening reception on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., to celebrate the opening of a new exhibition, *The Mother, the Witch the Hysteric* by Annie May Johnston. In collaboration with Elisabet Ney's sculpture of Lady Macbeth and PrintAustin, Annie May Johnston will exhibit her newest body of work at the Elisabet Ney Museum. Johnston is an artist and mother situated in the field of printmaking and often works towards the margins of the medium, employing new technologies alongside traditional processes. Considering gendered traits, the supernatural and pseudo-science, Johnston's show, *The Mother, the Witch and the Hysteric* titles and labels Lady Macbeth, Elisabet Ney, and the artist. 80 people are estimated to attend the event.



*Work by Annie May Johnston*

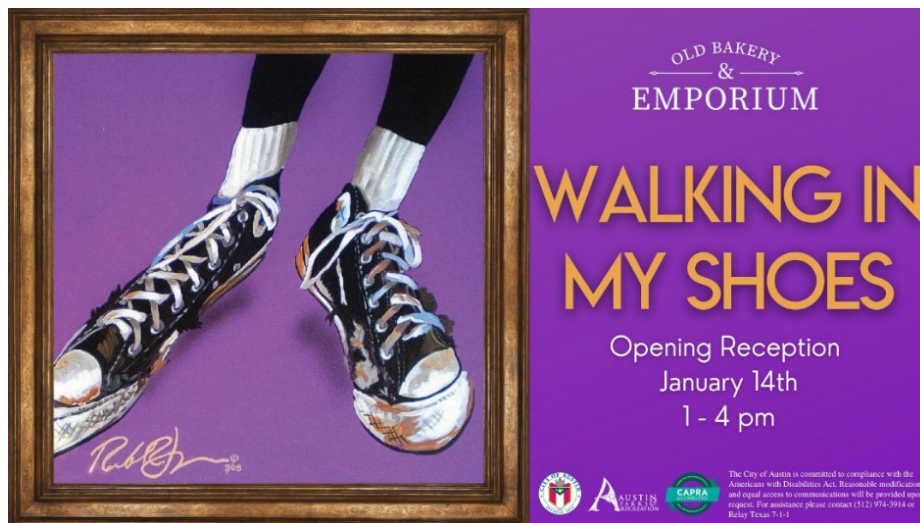
**O. Henry Museum Re-Opens after Renovation:** The O. Henry Museum reopened on January 4<sup>th</sup>, after a recent renovation. The museum has undergone a renovation to upgrade fire suppression systems and HVAC systems. Renovations also included building leveling, creating a building envelope, roof upgrades and repairs, lead remediation, and landscape improvements. Come discover or rediscover the newly reopened museum and its exhibits depicting the life of William Sydney Porter, better known by his pen name O. Henry. Explore Porter's life in a social, family, and creative context as well as the recent acquisition of his first professional commission. The commission includes 27 hand-drawn illustrations

which were originally made to accompany the memoirs of Joseph T. Dixon, a miner who spent several years prospecting in the Rocky Mountains. Estimated attendees not available.



*O. Henry's Social Life Exhibit Containing Wicker Chairs,  
Square Grand Piano, and Antique Stove*

**Opening Art Reception at Old Bakery & Emporium:** The opening reception of the exhibit *Walking My Shoes: The Art of Robert R. Jones* will be on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit explores the notion of walking in someone else's shoes. The opening will feature a panel discussion entitled "The Artist, the Author, and the Collaboration" moderated by Dr. Cindy Brandimarte, Author of two award-winning books *Inside Texas* and *Texas State Parks*. Estimated number of attendees is 80.



*The Walking in My Shoes Exhibit*



### **Multiple Districts:**

**New Year's Day Tennis Mixers:** Exercise, socialization and tennis mixer games started off the new year on January 1<sup>st</sup>. More than 150 tennis players participated in this half day event at Austin Tennis Center (District 1), Caswell Tennis Center (District 9), and South Austin Tennis Center (District 3). These mixers included games for players of all different skill levels. What a great way to begin new year resolution fitness goals! **Districts 1, 3 and 9**




*New Years Day Tennis Mixer at South Austin Tennis Center*

### **The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESB MACC) – Holistic Wellness Programs:**

The ESB MACC building will be closed in 2023 for Phase 2 construction, so they are hosting Holistic Wellness programs at other sites including: George Morales Dove Spring Recreation Center, South Austin Recreation Center, Central Library, and Carver Branch Library. All classes are bilingual- English and Spanish. A community survey will be completed in January to gather feedback and ideas on additional programs to be added beginning in the Spring 2023. The Holistic Wellness Program attends to the needs of the total person while remaining rooted in Latino/Mexican American cultural identities. True wellness is a combination of Physical, Social, Environmental, Financial, Intellectual, Emotional/Mental, Occupational, and Spiritual aspects and, like the diversity of Latino/x people, deserves to be nourished and cultivated to enrich individual lives and uplift our community. Estimated number of Participants is 15 per class (300 total). **Districts 1, 2, 5, & 9**

**Esma S. Barrientes**  
Mexican American Cultural Center

## Holistic Wellness Program 2023



**FREE!**  
\*\*todas las clases son bilingües - Inglés y español\*\*

- Budgeting**  
Wednesday, January 11th @ 6-7:30pm  
Carver Branch - Computer Room
- Adult Capoeira (15+)**  
Thursdays @ 7pm  
Begins January 12  
South Austin Recreation Center
- Bilingual Yoga for All Levels**  
Saturdays @ 10am  
Begins January 14  
George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center
- Kid's Capoeira**  
Saturdays @ 12pm  
Begins Jan 14  
George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center
- Bilingual Choir Yoga**  
Wednesday, January 18 @ 11am  
George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center
- Afro-Latin Flow**  
Sunday, January 22nd 2-3:30pm  
George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center
- Bilingual Adaptive Yoga**  
Mondays @ 6:30pm  
Begins February 6  
South Austin Recreation Center
- Indigenous Healing**  
Wednesday, February 8th @ 6-7:30pm  
Central Library - Demo Area
- Bilingual Choir Yoga**  
Wednesday, February 15th @ 11am  
George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center
- Gardening/Composting/Recycling**  
Wednesday, March 8th @ 6-7:30pm  
Carver Branch - Meeting Room
- Gardening/Composting/Recycling**  
Wednesday, April 12th @ 6-7:30pm  
Central Library - Demo Area
- Road to Financial Freedom**  
Wednesday, May 10th @ 6-7:30pm  
Carver Branch - Meeting Room
- Cooking Demo: Vegan**  
Wednesday, June 14th @ 6-7:30pm  
Central Library - Demo Area/Kitchen
- Stress Reduction/ Meditation**  
Wednesday, July 12th @ 6-7:30pm  
Carver Branch - Meeting Room
- Cooking Demo: High Protein**  
Wednesday, August 9th @ 6-7:30pm  
Central Library - Demo Area/Kitchen
- Home Ownership**  
Wednesday, September 13th @ 6-7:30pm  
Carver Branch - Computer Room
- Cooking Demo: Vegetarian**  
Wednesday, October 11th @ 6-7:30pm  
Central Library - Demo Area/Kitchen
- Healthy Eating**  
Wednesday, November 8th @ 6-7:30pm  
Carver Branch - Meeting Room
- Cooking Demo: Gluten Free**  
Wednesday, December 13th @ 6-7:30pm  
Central Library - Demo Area/Kitchen

*ESB MACC Holistic Wellness Program Calendar  
Spring 2023*

**Inclusive Choir Concert:** McBeth Recreation Center Inclusive Choir held their first Holiday choir concert on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at South Austin Senior Activity Center. The Inclusive Choir consists of 21 adults with intellectual disabilities performing holiday classics. There were 45 family members and friends in attendance at the concert celebrating the holiday season. **District 5 and 8**



*Inclusive Christmas Choir Concert*

**All Districts:**

**Homelessness Encampments:** Encampments at the Gus Garcia Park (District 4) and Asian American Resource Center (District 1) were addressed as part of HEAL, which provides shelter and wrap around services as part of the clean-up effort. From November 11<sup>th</sup> - December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, Park Rangers visited every PARD property that either had 311 requests about, or previously known encampments. For each of the parks that were on the list, Rangers went to known locations of camps, and also did a thorough

search of the entire property. Rangers were dispatched to 75 parks and of those, 41 had at least one camp within its boundaries. 321 camps and estimated population of 405 were identified through this effort. The number of camps is up approximately 29% increase from last count. Population has an estimated increase of approximately 24% (May 2022 numbers were 248 camps, population of 326). The numbers while informative are not a total count as it is based on complaints and is not exhaustive.

**PARD Signage and Wayfinding Program:** The purpose of the Department's Signage and Wayfinding Program is to improve and enhance park access, navigation, and safety through strategies that include static signage and digital wayfinding. The program emerged from a multi-year effort to assess park access through the lens of signage and wayfinding and chart a course for a comprehensive management strategy. In 2017, the Department completed an assessment of park system signage with recommendations for improvement, including the need for a programmatic approach to managing signage. In 2018, the Department harnessed internal graphic design resources to develop a concept-level update to the Signage and Wayfinding Manual with a focus on welcoming messaging and a refreshed look, but additional resources were needed for the full development of a standards manual. In 2019, the Department's Sign Standards Committee was formed to support the development of the Signage and Wayfinding Program. In March 2021, a part-time temporary employee was hired to assist in program coordination. The initial program goals are as follows:

- Expansion and full development of the Department Signage and Wayfinding Manual by a design team specializing in environmental graphic design, wayfinding, and landscape architecture. The process includes an expansion of sign types to meet the needs of the system, the selection of signage material that meets sustainability and life-cycle goals, the exploration of culturally inclusive messaging, new mapping conventions, as well as streamlined fabrication and installation methods.
- Hire a dedicated staff member to support the development and coordination of the Signage and Wayfinding Program and to bring support to all aspects of the sign development process. In the FY23 budget cycle, the Department received one full-time employee to support the program and anticipates completing the hiring process in Spring 2023.
- Enhance the capacity and capability of the sign shop and exploring additional options and fabrication methods for specialized signage.

For more information about the PARD Signage and Wayfinding Program, visit the website at <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/signage-and-wayfinding>.

## **All Districts**

**Texas Children in Nature Network Summit:** Several Department programs and parks were featured in the Texas Children in Nature Network (TCiNN) Summit, which took place in Austin on December 7-9, 2022. Cities Connecting Children to Nature highlighted the Green School Park program, Department staff Sonny Chandler and Melody Alcazar presented on integrating nature play into the Department, and Youth Leaders from Austin Civilian Conservation Corp, Youth Forest Council, and the Park Ranger Cadet Program designed and led a panel called, "[Pathways to Green Careers: Conversations with Austin's Young Eco-Professionals.](#)" Workshops and volunteer stewardship projects also took place at Waterloo Park, Pease Park, Circle Acres Nature Preserve at Roy Guerrero Park, Zilker Park, and Camacho. The Department's own Magaly Arredondo-Lopez, Office Attendant at the Nature and Science Center, was also honored with TCiNN's Emerging Leader Award. For more information on Cities Connecting Children to Nature, visit: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/cities-connecting-children-nature-initiative>



**Holiday Tree Recycling at Zilker Metropolitan Park:** The Department and Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) partnered again for the 36<sup>th</sup> year of Christmas and holiday tree recycling. All Austin residents were invited to drop trees and wreaths free of tinsel and decorations at Zilker Park on December 31<sup>st</sup>, January 7<sup>th</sup>, and January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Department and ARR staff worked with over 30 volunteers to collect an estimated 2,000 trees. The majority were mulched and offered free to the public on-site on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Whole trees were also reused by Central Texas Pig Rescue for pig food and enrichment, by The Trail Conservancy to build a fish habitat in Lady Bird Lake, and by the Nature's Way Preschool for winter decorations for the classroom. **District 8**



*Christmas trees ready for mulching at Zilker Metro Park*

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

**The Aquatic Division Hiring and Recruiting:** The Aquatic Division continues with hiring and recruiting efforts on all fronts. There have been 51 active lifeguard applicants as of January 3<sup>rd</sup>. All applicants have been contacted with next steps for hiring and are in various states. Additionally, the Swim ATX program began on January 18<sup>th</sup> and is designed to teach high school students the importance of swim safety with the end goal of providing them a path to work as City of Austin Lifeguard. **All Districts**

**Recreation Management System:** The contract with the current vendor, Vermont Systems (RecTrac), for recreation management, expires in September 2022. PARD, with the assistance of the Communications and Technology Management Department (CTM), published a Request for Information (RFI) to survey current technology solutions in the Recreation Management Industry. PARD/CTM received three responses and conducted vendor question and answer sessions and vendor system demonstrations, along with meetings with current user organizations, between September and October 2021. Based on the information gathered, PARD will work with CTM to establish a scope of work (SOW) and conduct a formal solicitation for a future Recreation Management System. As CTM is the principal information technology department that focuses on the delivery and operations of vital IT infrastructure network and telecommunications services for the City, they will facilitate the competitive solicitation process. This includes establishing a CTM project manager and creating a timeline for the solicitation process. In

October 2022, PARD began working with a CTM project manager to establish timeline and deliverables for the solicitation scope of work. PARD anticipates the solicitation process will take over a year to complete. PARD will continue to utilize RecTrac services throughout the solicitation process until a recommended vendor is established.

**Watercraft Concession at 2418 Stratford Drive:** The contract with the current vendor, Rowing Dock, expires April 22, 2023. The Scope of Work (SOW) was developed and presented at the September CCC meeting. The solicitation was published on November 9, 2022, and closed January 3, 2023, with four proposals submitted. The proposals received are currently under review and evaluation with a recommendation for award by mid-February. A new agreement is expected to be executed prior to end of current agreement in April 2024.

**Management and Operation of the Pharr Tennis Center:** This agreement is for the management and operations of the renovated Burnett “Blondie” Pharr Tennis Center (Pharr). The soon to be renovated facility is anticipated to be completed in August 2023. The CCC was briefed at the October 21, 2022 meeting on the solicitation, which is anticipated to be released in early 2023.

**Interlocal Agreement between City of Austin and Austin Community College:** This agreement is an interlocal agreement that allows the Austin Community College to utilize specified areas of the Turner Roberts Recreation Center to offer consulting and training classes to the public at no charge to participants.

**First Amended Agreement Between the City and The Trail Conservancy (TTC) Regarding Stand-Up Paddle Board Concession:** In December 2022, Council approved Ordinance No. 20221208-062, for the extension of the original agreement with TTC at the existing EpicSUP site located at 2200 South Lakeshore Boulevard. The original agreement, executed in April 2021, allowed TTC to enter into stand-up paddle board concession agreement with EpicSUP through December 2022. This amended agreement allows TTC to continue to operate the stand-up paddle board concession with EpicSUP commencing on January 1, 2023, for a period of up to five years.

**Cold Weather Shelter :** Several Recreation Centers hosted 24-hour Cold Weather Shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness December 22, 2022 through to December 27, 2022. This emergency response was conducted in cooperation with multiple city departments and the Austin Area Urban League.

**District 2 and 5**