

Establishing an Intergenerational Resource & Activity Center (IRAC)

IRAC will provide comprehensive day health and leisure activities for low-income seniors with an on-site childcare program for our low-income working families that lack access to affordable childcare, and serve as a community hub as shown below:



Why Do We Need This Kind of Center?

Austin is aging rapidly. Holly Shores Master Plan, Imagine Austin Age-Friendly Austin Action Plan envision services that ensure equity and accountability. There is urgent need to fill the gaps in intergenerational services and supports for needy older adults and low-income working families in Central Austin: 17% of working families live in poverty. For older adults, 23.9% live below poverty and 43.7% (75+) had a disability increasing risk of social isolation (Austin Demography Office, 2023).

Initiative Implementation

City Council executed Resolution #59 (12-8-22) directing city staff to study the feasibility of locating the abandoned Nash Hernandez, Sr. Building on the North Shore of Lady Bird Lake between Comal and Chalmers Streets, to use for an IRAC. The IRAC would bring together not just seniors and preschool age children, but all community groups in the Holly and East Cesar Chavez neighborhoods and surrounding areas. The design plan for the IRAC includes community gardens, an outdoor gym, and an outdoor kitchen. The IRAC will provide healthy meals, social, recreational, cultural, and artistic programs free of charge, and offer leisure activities like watching movies, attending musical and dance performances, or extracurricular educational services like mentoring and tutoring in an intergenerational setting. Festival Beach Community Garden and Food Forest, Hatchery Park, Butler Hike & Bike Trail, and Urban Roots could all be connected through this eco-region location.

We would like your help to reach out to other groups. If you would like to schedule a presentation to your school, church, neighborhood, or business organization, please contact our IRAC Executive Committee Secretary, Lori Renteria, at LoriAustin@live.com or our IRAC Advisory Group facilitator, Dr. Jacqueline Angel at jangel@austin.utexas.edu. For a lot of our research visit: [The UT Repository](#) it includes an article "Young Hip Austin is Getting Old: A New Experiment in Confronting the Challenge" and other links.

Estimated Budget (Expenditures)

Capital Expenditures (Startup)

- \$200 per square foot (sf) renovation cost to rehabilitate the Nash Hernandez Jr. building
- 9,600 (sq ft) **\$1,920,000**
- Office and Equipment **\$680,000**
- IT Infrastructure **\$150,000**
- Outdoor Build Out- Recreational Equipment, Kitchen, Communal Shared Space **\$950,000**

Total \$3.7 million

Startup/Capital

The City of Austin Pledged **\$3,300,000**

Private Sector Investment **\$2,200,000**

Operational Costs and In-kind Aid (Annual)

- Adult Day Health Center **\$272,566***
- Child Development Center **\$1.2 million****
- IDC Program **\$50,000**
- Services Coordination, Tele-Behavioral Health **\$250,000**

Total \$1.8 million

* Includes transportation

** Includes outdoor space and start up costs

Total Budget: \$5,500,000

NOTE: These are estimates. We assume that the City of Austin's contribution includes funds already set-aside for the rehabilitation of the Nash Hernandez, Sr. Building and a no-cost, long-term lease. The IRAC Advisory Group commits to raise all the necessary funds to totally rehabilitate the building for our specialized uses, for start-up costs, and for ongoing operations and maintenance. It is impossible for us to raise funding without having secured a dedicated space via a long-term lease. In the unlikely event that the IRAC is not successful, the City will inherit a beautiful, state-of-the-art building and grounds that the Parks and Recreation Department or Austin Public Health can operate and manage forever.