

Date: May 3, 2023
TO: Commission on Aging members and staff
FROM: Lori Renteria, Secretary, Intergenerational Resource & Activity Center Executive Committee
Subject: Responses to questions from Commissioners about our Intergenerational Resource and Activity Center

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Intergenerational Resource and Activity Center (IRAC), I want to thank you for allowing us to present our proposal to use the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building for the implementation of our IRAC at your April 12th meeting. We have done our best to answer the questions you have asked of us. I'd like to preface our responses with a few key elements related to why the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building is the ideal location for our IRAC.

Most importantly is that our IRAC plans to be open from 7am to 7pm Monday – Friday and none of the existing Parks and Recreation or Senior Activity Centers can dedicate our use of their facilities for 12 hours a day nor are any of these facilities able to be licensed and accredited childcare centers for 1-3 year olds.

First, because this IRAC will likely be the first in the nation to be implemented as a truly public-private venture, it's critical that the location is located within walking/rolling distance from congregate senior housing. Surmounting the challenges of providing transportation daily for the majority of the 70 seniors we plan to serve would be a major barrier. There will be a total of 500 senior housing apartments when the redevelopment of the Rebekah Baines Johnson Senior Residential Tower is completed. Currently, 250 seniors have moved from the Tower into new apartments, called the Lady Bird Apartments, wrapped around the Tower. Most of the seniors living at the Lady Bird are low-income on fixed incomes and rely on public transit. Seniors aging in place want the flexibility to come and go to places like an IRAC without being forced to stay because they can't afford to pay for transit to and from their living quarters. I personally walked each route from the Lady Bird to the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building using both access points.

From the front door of the Lady Bird Apartments to the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building it is 790 steps using public sidewalks along Festival Beach Road and 1,330 steps using the handicap accessible ramp to the Butler Hike and Bike Trail. Chariot (formerly Drive-a-Senior) is our primary transportation provider, and they will provide transportation for those seniors utilizing the IRAC who need transportation assistance to access our health-related programs like tele-mental health, basic screenings, and health-related case management.

Secondly, the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building is centrally located and easily accessible to I-35 so that working families with a demonstrated need for very affordable childcare and affordable senior day care services can drop off their loved ones on their way to and from the employment centers in the downtown Austin area and UT-Austin. We imagine that there are grandparents at the RBJ/Lady Bird and within the 78702 zip code that will cherish the opportunity to visit regularly with their own grandchildren enrolled in our Open Door on-site childcare center. This site also makes involving Jr. High School students in our intergenerational programs on a regular basis ideal because Martin Jr. High School is across the street allowing teachers to walk their students to the IRAC to perform community services with and for seniors that directly connect curricula such as gardening, environmental sciences, art, music, history, and tutoring. We imagine some seniors will choose to tutor and mentor Jr. High students and Jr. High students tutoring and mentoring the young learners in our childcare centers. These opportunities could lead to life-long relationships and would not be possible if teachers and their students had to pay for transportation to and from our IRAC.

And lastly, locating our IRAC on the Butler Hike and Bike Trail and Lady Bird Lake opens all kinds of leisure and recreational opportunities for the children and seniors using the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building. Age-appropriate activities like nature walks, biking, and kayaking on the crown jewel of Austin and using the outdoor tennis and basketball courts and ball fields at Martin Jr. High would not be possible on a regular basis. We can imagine seniors becoming big boosters and our little ones becoming honorary cheerleaders when Martin Jr. High's gym classes and athletic teams use the fields to practice sports before, during, and after school.

Here are your questions and our answers:

Question 1. Please comment on the 2021 feasibility study in relation to your current work. There is conflicting information on community support between the feasibility studies and the work being done by the IRAC Advisory Committee.

We agree that there are major conflicts in studies and reports dating back to 2018 when the City began collaborating with the UT-Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs to investigate the unmet needs of low-income seniors trying to age in place as part of developing the Age-Friendly Austin Plan which necessitates evolving research and adjustments to this important plan. It's important to understand that City Council has adopted 3 Resolutions regarding the feasibility of (Resolutions #41 and #89) and implementation of (Resolution #59) our IRAC at the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building. One study by Austin Public Health investigated the unmet needs of low-income seniors living in far South Austin where Austin Groups for the Elderly (AGE) was trying and is now building a new AGE facility to serve 90 seniors per day targeting the 78744 and 78745 zip codes. Later studies and reports by Austin Parks and Recreation Department failed to involve, consult, or even contact any of the 40+ members of the IRAC Advisory Group as they did their own research which seems to be primarily based on the APH study looking at seniors in far South Austin. And unfortunately, despite an agreement made with Assistant City Manager, Stephanie Hayden-Howard, at a meeting held on February 17, 2023 that APH would lead a collaborative process with PARD AND the IRAC Executive Committee to implement a robust community engagement process and to investigate all the legal and licensing requirements for both childcare and senior day health programs, currently PARD has taken the lead and again, has not involved and consulted our IRAC Executive Committee members to date. According to the ACM, PARD was going to support us in our community engagement efforts, but PARD staff told me in March that they did not have staff available to assist us until they filled 2 vacancies.

Our IRAC is a health and human services program NOT a recreation and leisure program although leisure, recreation, culture, arts and gardening are major activities we will be conducting at our Center. Because of the legal and licensing requirements required of our IRAC, Austin Public Health has the necessary expertise in these areas and thus should be the lead Department we collaborate with. In fact, it is our understanding that the APH staff overseeing childcare and senior health services have not been invited by PARD to attend the meetings they have been holding with other APH staff. We hope that the Commission on Aging can intervene on our behalf to ensure that the proper APH staff are leading implementation of Resolution #59 and that members of our IRAC Executive Committee are sitting at the same table as APH experts and PARD staff.

I have attached 3 documents related to this question. One is a letter from Dr. Amy Bryan who visited the Dove Springs Recreation Center (and we've contacted all PARD's reported preferred South and East sites as well) and explains in more detail why that site won't work for our program. Another is our list of completed and ongoing community engagement activities along with our bi-lingual Spanish Summary flyer which we will be distributing 2,500 copies door-to-door at the Lady Bird Apartments, and in the Holly and East Cesar Chavez neighborhoods where the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building is located.

Question 2. Is there a childcare need in this area? Please cite relevant data. Currently, we note District 3 as having one of the lowest percentages of people under 18, as well as one of the lowest percentages of households with children under 18.

Dr. Amy Bryan is our expert in childcare and her response follows: 78702 is not a child care desert in the strictest sense (number of children under age 6 with working parents is three times higher than licensed providers in the area or less than 33% of demand is being met). But, that's a really low bar. I'd argue that even if 50% of demand is met in a given area, there is still a need for child care. And, I don't know how updated various data on child care deserts is; we lost 20% of providers during the pandemic! Also, by some standards (see <https://childrenatrisk.org/childcaredesertmap/>), 78702 is considered a desert for *subsidized* child care (10 subsidized seats per 100 children with working parents) and *quality* child care (measured as Texas Rising Star; 6 seats per 100 children with working parents). We'll be offering both.

Additionally, we use a chart by the latest US Census Bureau and its American Community Survey of 2020 to answer your question #8 which can be used to help answer this question. (Please review Question #8 below)

Question 3. The Nash Hernandez, Sr. building is a two-story building and would be difficult to have the older adults and children together. Please further explain how generational interaction would occur at this site?

Dr. Amy Bryan answers this question as follows: By design, the IDC will have shared spaces (inside and out) where youth and older adults can interact with each other in meaningful ways. And the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building will have elevators to help people of all ages get to these shared spaces. Older adults will have a range of options for being involved with young children, including participating in their classrooms daily or weekly during centers and small and large group activities. Martin Middle schoolers and UT students will participate in activities with younger children and older adults weekly too. In addition to these routinely planned and implemented opportunities for intergenerational interaction, special cooking, gardening, art, music, and physical activities will be offered monthly, bringing all ages together.

And our expert on healthcare facilities planning and design response follows:

While the design will provide monogenerational spaces such as separate bathrooms, classrooms, and relaxation areas, the interior architecture of the spaces will be developed with universal design principles to allow for older adults and children comfortably use the entire building. For example, by creating a fully accessible classroom for children, we can afford the older adults the opportunity to visit young children at any time. We can also offer versatility in a common space on each floor to allow these spaces to be changed by a single care giver within minutes to utilize the space for different types of monogenerational or intergenerational activities.

Dr. Neda Norouzi M.Arch, MURP, B.Env.D, Assistant Professor, Healthcare Facilities Planning and Design Certified, School of Architecture & Planning, UTSA Downtown Campus

I will add, because I live a block away from this site and the Lady Bird Apartments, that a new, accessible sidewalk has been installed as part of the installation of PARD's new, energy-efficient restroom that connects the Butler Hike and Bike Trail to an existing graded, accessible ramp to the Lady Bird Apartments' sidewalk. It took me (I'm 69 years old and a heavy smoker) 1,330 steps from the front door of the Lady Bird Apartments down to the Butler Hike and Bike Trail to the back door of the Nash Hernandez, Sr. where there will be an elevator. It is 1,412 steps using a planned ramp from the back door of the building up to the front doors. Using the private sidewalks within the RBJ mixed use development on Art Dilly Drive and cutting through the Robert Weaver Apartments' private sidewalk over to the public sidewalks along Comal Street and Festival Beach Road to the front door of the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building it was 790 steps. All these sidewalks and the Trail provide easy and safe access to our site for anyone using the building who can walk or roll on the Trail or Festival Beach Road. There will also be a fully accessible Veterans' Memorial adjacent to the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building and the existing Nash Hernandez, Sr. Memorial Statue on the Trail both of which will have or already have fully accessible ramps from the Trail up to these important cultural assets for our communities.

Question 4. One of the studies indicated childcare violated PARD land use. How do they plan to address this?

Since we have not and are not currently involved with PARD's previous or current studies, we're not sure what violations our childcare operations present. The Camacho Youth Activity Center and its adjacent ball fields are on parkland and it offers childcare for young people 4 years and older so it seems childcare on parkland is not a violation. The only thing we can think of might be the requirement of a small fence that would be required to surround our outdoor playground equipment for small children. And there is a lot of fencing near the Camacho Youth Activity Center, so it seems that fencing is allowed where it makes sense for safety reasons.

Additionally, PARD has had in place - for nearly 10 years - a 6 foot chain link fence around the entire Nash Hernandez, Sr. building since the Austin Fire Department abandoned their headquarters there and transferred ownership of the property to PARD. PARD has currently removed their fence from the front of the property in order to move 6 huge metal storage containers in the parking lot there and I don't think storage facilities are a permitted use on parkland. As a nearby resident, I can attest that the deterioration of this once beautiful building has been a point of contention with PARD since the adoption of the Holly Shores Master Plan which called for the building to be shared with the community for public use. PARD keeps telling our community that they lack the funds necessary to rehab the building for shared

community use. We are confident we can raise the supplemental funding needed to completely rehab the indoor and outdoor spaces that we need for our operations.

Question 5. Is it allowed for the surrounding trails to be used by the IRAC since it's park property?

Access to the users of the Trail and parkland surrounding this site will not be impacted at all. In fact, Fruitful Commons and the Festival Beach Community Gardens and Food Forest are our primary partners committed to expanding the Free Food Forest from their current site on dedicated parkland (which is next to the RBJ Tower and Lady Bird Apartments on Waller Street) along the accessible sidewalk past the new restroom into the IRAC entrance from the Hike and Bike Trail. We plan to incorporate intergenerational programming for the teens at Martin Jr. High, UT students, and the seniors using the IRAC to build and maintain these outdoor community gardens and Food Forest enhancements at the building and on the Trail heading east.

Question 6. The city has noted that the \$3,300,000 was not in pledge of support of the IRAC but for improvements to the Nash Hernandez, Sr. building. Please explain the differences in proposed cost between the feasibility study (\$8.5-11 million) and the estimated budget shared during the April 2023 presentation from the IRAC Advisory Committee (\$5.5 million).

As a public-private venture, we expect the City of Austin to invest the \$3,300,000 set aside (but not nearly enough) to rehab the building for shared community use with PARD. While construction costs increase almost daily near downtown Austin, we are confident that our extensive IRAC Advisory Group members can raise all the funds necessary to remodel the building and provide the furniture and equipment we need to begin our programs. The Andersen Foundation has been a long-time supporter of an IRAC in Austin along with St. David's Foundation and other philanthropists involved with our initiative. However, it's impossible for us to begin raising funds until we have a firm commitment in writing from the City of Austin for a long-term lease to use this site. We dispute PARD's estimate that it will cost an additional \$8.5 to 11 million to renovate the building and grounds. We anticipate revising our estimated supplemental funding that we presented to the Commission in April upwards of the \$2,200,000 we estimated back in 2021. We have some of the most prolific fundraisers in Austin actively supporting us. In the unlikely event that an IRAC operation is not successful, the City of Austin will inherit a completely renovated facility that could be used by Austin Public Health or the Parks and Recreation Departments.

Question 6 a. Please provide more explanation on how funding will be secured to renovate Nash Hernandez. Would a purpose-built building be better as this building might not meet the need?

The price of land in Central Austin would double, if not triple the cost of renovating the current site, especially if demolition would need to occur. Twenty-three of our 40+ members on the IRAC Advisory Group have toured the building escorted by PARD and believe it is the perfect location for our programs. In fact, it was a senior planner at PARD who was participating as a representative of PARD on our Advisory Group that suggested we use this site. As we moved closer to securing the site and implementing our programs, we formed an Executive Committee that includes the major non-profit providers of senior services in Central Texas adopting temporary, operating Bylaws to empower the Executive Committee to make decisions on behalf of the larger Advisory Group and to form subcommittees as needed. The first subcommittee we will form is a Capital Campaign Committee to raise funds for renovation and startup equipment and furniture. In addition to the Foundations listed above that we will approach once a long-term lease is crafted, there are a lot of other funding streams available to us. In January, we secured commitments from the Austin Community Development Commission to recommend federal capital funds that they oversee to the City Council in their 2024 budget as did the Central Health and Community Care Board of Managers of which Cynthia Valadez, Sr. is a Manager. We are receiving expert consultations from people involved with incubating entrepreneurs and who have taught small business and non-profit management courses at both the UT-Austin McCombs School of Business and Austin Community College.

I'll add that I was trained by what is now known as the Grantsmanship Center as an AISD creator and administrator for unique programs using state, federal, and private-sector funds to serve AISD students involved with the criminal justice system, who were homeless, and/or at risk of dropping out of school. I personally wrote grants and implemented grant-funded programs raising close to \$3,000,000 over 4 years. I am committed to lead grant-writing efforts along side my

colleagues from UT-Austin and Austin Community College who have also committed to help us secure grants for both capital and operational costs.

Question 7. Are there plans in place to secure the \$2 million anticipated operating budget for this center each year? Many nonprofits serving older adults in Austin struggle to get donors to commit to support.

It is true that securing funds for non-profits in Austin is difficult. The fact that so many of Austin’s new entrepreneurs and high-tech firms have formed their own non-profits in order to control the donations they make and get tax benefits for has overwhelmed our long-time, community-based non-profit health and human service providers. However, Austin now has 3 billionaires living in our city, numerous millionaires, and a whole lot of individuals who will want to be part of creating the very first in the US, public-private Intergenerational Resource and Activity Center serving very low-income seniors and young children in a state-of-the-art building which will become a hub of innovation and creativity of, by, and for our most needy residents. It’s these individuals and their organizations that we will target for our startup and ongoing financial concerns.

Question 8. The previous feasibility study showed greater need for affordable childcare and adult day care in other identified Austin zip codes. What is the cost benefit analysis for providing affordable services to low-income residents at Nash Hernandez as compared to other areas of the city?

We assume you are referring to the October 13, 2022, PARD Report in response to Resolution #89 which as stated earlier we were not invited by PARD to provide our research, consultations, or advisements in developing their report to City Council. That being restated, to answer this question, I refer to Dr. Amy Bryan’s letter attached regarding a pilot at the Dove Springs Recreation Center (or any of the other sites PARD recommended). Remember that we need to operate our inclusive services from 7am to 7pm to serve very low-income working families in need of affordable adult and child day care. The PARD Report also does not mention the new AGE facility serving 90 seniors daily in the 78744 and 78745 zip codes which is planned to open this year.

Quantification of cost-benefits is not possible given available data. None of the other PARD locations have cost-benefit estimates of adult day care and childcare services provided. Benefits are largely intangible but as this Commission knows are very much needed.

We also dispute some of the PARD data used to report that the 78702 zip code has adequate affordable day care services for low-income families. We expect that the population likely to use the facility extends beyond the Holly and East Cesar Chavez neighborhoods, most likely the 78741 and 78704 zip codes in near South Austin and just across Lady Bird Lake. We believe that this larger population will be heavy-volume consumers of IRAC’s services. Here’s the data we believe demonstrates need:

In 2020, the American Community Survey analyses indicate high demand in a larger catchment area that includes low-income neighborhoods within a 20-minute drive-time or less radius of the RBJ Health Center located at Nash Hernandez Sr. Drive (78702). Six zip codes represent a wide geographic area in Austin with a total child and older adult population of 11,551 young children under age 5 and 15,578 65 and over a total of 27,129.

Table 1
2020 ACS Age by zip code for Low-income Older Adults who are 65+ years and Children under 5 years old.

Zip code	Children	Older Adults
78702	1507	2562
78704	2340	4321
78721	522	1137
78741	2551	2180
78744	3455	3093
78747	1176	2286
Total	11,551	15,578

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2020 ACS American Community Survey, 2020: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

Given the sources of vulnerability within this catchment area, we estimate a panel of about 27,129 residents who could use intergenerational child and adult day care services and resources. This estimate is based on the number of seniors in the catchment area living below 200 percent FPL.

And I think it's worth repeating Dr. Bryan's response to Question 2 about statistics on the need for affordable childcare: "78702 is not a child care desert in the strictest sense (the number of children under age 6 with working parents is three times higher than licensed providers in the area or less than 33% of demand is being met). But, that's a really low bar. I'd argue that even if 50% of demand is met in a given area, there is still a need for child care. And, I don't know how updated various data on child care deserts is; we lost 20% of providers during the pandemic! Also, by some standards (see <https://childrenatrisk.org/childcaresdesertmap/>), 78702 is considered a desert for *subsidized* child care (10 subsidized seats per 100 children with working parents) and *quality* child care (measured as Texas Rising Star; 6 seats per 100 children with working parents). We'll be offering both."

Question 9. Please provide additional information on the statement provided on slide 7: "100% of survey respondents agreed the Nash Hernandez, Sr. site provides excellent space for education, play, exercise and gardens." Who was surveyed? How many people were surveyed? How was Nash Hernandez, Sr. explained in reference to this question? What was the survey question?

This question requires several responses:

a) In 2021, the IDC Advisory Group was invited by PARD to tour the site and we designed and conducted evaluations in the spring 2021 among 23 Advisory Group members who took the tours offered by PARD. These people and organizational reps took the tours: Family Eldercare, Meals-on-Wheels Central Texas, PARD, APH, St. David's Foundation, Martin Middle School, UT-Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs, the UT-Austin Priscilla Pond Flawn Child and Family Laboratory, Open Door Preschool, Chariot (formerly Drive-a-Senior), UT-San Antonio School of Urban Planning and Architecture, AGE of Central Texas, RBJ Center for Independent Living, and Councilmember for District 3 where the site is located, Hon. Pio Renteria completed the survey after a one-hour visit. 100% of the 23 people agreed it was the perfect location.

b) The Nash Hernandez, Sr. property was brought to the attention of the IDC working group by PARD senior planner as a possible site for the IDC pilot for numerous reasons: 1) locating the IDC at the Nash Hernandez building has the potential to serve nearby low-income seniors at the RBJ Center (now includes the Lady Bird Apartments) and the Austin Public Housing Authority's redeveloped Chalmers Court Apartments, 2) it aligns with the goals of the 2014 Holly Shores Master Plan design, 3) it provides shared access for the neighborhood's residents and civic groups through accessible community spaces, and 4) it serves all of Austin and is just 2 blocks from public transit.

c) The instrument below lists 10 questions asking the 23 participants to rate the building in terms of proximity to affordable senior housing and amenities close to the Holly and East Cesar Chavez Neighborhoods, quality of indoor and outdoor space, and its fit within the goals and objectives of the City of Austin's Holly Shores Master Plan.

Nash Hernandez Sr. Field Observations were reported at the
IDC Advisory Group Meeting on July 22, 2021

Please answer the following questions by checking the box that best applies:
How would you rate.....

	<u>Question</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Proximity of the site to the Rebekah Baines Johnson Center (RBJ) Center for Independent Living?</u>					

<u>2</u>	<u>Proximity to the Festival Beach Food Forest and urban community garden?</u>					
<u>3</u>	<u>Amount of outdoor space on the site is adequate?</u>					
<u>4</u>	<u>Quality of outdoor space as align with IDC programming such as learning, cooking, playing, physical fitness and recreation, and interacting with nature?</u>					
<u>5</u>	<u>Amount of indoor space in the existing building footprint?</u>					
<u>6</u>	<u>Accessibility of the location to public transportation?</u>					
<u>7</u>	<u>Potential acceptability of current building to support children, seniors, and persons with disabilities?</u>					
<u>8</u>	<u>Proximity of the site to community facilities and schools (such as Martin Middle School)</u>					
<u>9</u>	<u>Site meets the needs of all age groups in the community?</u>					
<u>10</u>	<u>Site fits into the overall goals of the IDC Initiative and Holly Shores Master Plan Project?</u>					

Thank you, we will report the results at our July, 2021 IDC meeting!

Question 10. How will the local hike/bike trails be accessed? Has the IRAC Advisory committee discussed older adults biking? Have they discussed providing bikes to older adults?

The Butler Hike and Bike Trail can be accessed from the back of the building after we install an accessible ramp and improve the connection where our ramp will connect to the Trail. We discussed in Question 5 above how seniors living at the Lady Bird and soon-to-be renovated Rebekah Senior Residential Tower can walk or roll using the Trail to get to our IRAC.

I am keenly aware of the opportunities available in Austin for seniors who want access to bikes. Pio Renteria, our IRAC Executive Committee Chair, as a former Capitol Metro Board member is also aware of many requests by seniors in the neighborhoods near the multi-modal Saltillo Plaza Transit Station who want to be able to use bikes and tricycles to get to Saltillo Plaza. In April 2022, Lori was invited to present at and attend all the sessions at the Annual Bike Texas! Transportation and Active Transit (TTAT) Global Conference where she attended a workshop and connected with a City of Houston Senior Recreation Specialist in Precinct 1 where the City provides free bi and tricycles daily for seniors to use after a short safety orientation session. We plan to fund and implement a similar program with support of Austin's premier and expert cycling organization, Bike Texas! which is located in the 78702 zipcode and has provided Martin Jr. High students and the City's Camacho Youth Activity Center with free trainings and donated bicycles for many years.

Question 11. Are the operational partners support of the IRAC site specific?

Yes, since PARD invited us in January 2021 to consider using the Nash Hernandez, Sr. site for our Intergenerational Resource and Activity Center, our partners have focused their commitments at this site alone. We have been collecting Letters of Support and Commitment since early 2018 as part of the formation of the IDC Advisory Group to help the City implement elements of the Age-Friendly Austin Plan (we changed our name to IRAC because low-income folks are somewhat hesitant to use services where they are targeted for 'Development' (formerly we used Intergenerational Development Center) whereas using Resources and participating in Activities is more inviting and less judgmental). As anyone who has tried to raise funds for capital projects and sustaining health and human operations knows well, it's impossible to have firm commitments without a firm location with a lease in hand. We are updating our packet of these Letters and will gladly forward the bundle upon request but would prefer to send it to the Commission once we have all the organizations submit their updated letters.

Question 12. There was a brief mention that Nash Hernandez would be used by UT students for observation and research purposes. Is UT's support and interest based on site location?

Yes and Yes. The UT students and professors who will be regularly visiting the Center to observe, monitor and evaluate implementation of the initial programming and who will want to experiment with expanding our initial services need easy to access from UT by bus and bike using the new Waller Creek commuter trail to connect with the Butler Hike and Bike Trail. For those volunteers from UT who will be participating at our IRAC, most do not drive their personal cars to fight for a parking spot on the UT Campus. Most rely on public transit, ride-share apps, and good old pedal power. A great example of how proximity to the UT Campus brings tremendous volunteer resources is to look at the Blacklands Housing and Community Development Corporation (a non-profit designated by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development as the neighborhoods CHODO to advise on its investments in housing, job development and small business support programs) and to look at the UT Center for Service-Learning located in the historic ??? house.

It's my understanding that the Commission on Aging might form a working group before making a recommendation to City Council in relation to our request for a Letter of Support. If a working group is formed, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the working group and share our research and expertise.

On behalf of the entire IRAC Advisory Group, I remain . . .

Forever optimistic,

Lori Rentería

[Intergenerational Resource & Activity Center Advisory Group](#),

Executive Committee Secretary

1511 Haskell Street

Austin, Texas 78702

Home: 512-478-6770 (no texts) Cell: 512-743-2928

LoriAustin@Live.com

ATTACHMENT regarding use of Dove Springs Recreation Center for an IRAC

AMY BRYAN, PHD

Priscilla Pond Flawn Child and Family Laboratory 108 East
Dean Keeton Street
Austin, TX 78712

July 9, 2022

Tabitha Taylor
Age-friendly Program Coordinator, Austin Public Health 7201
Levander Loop Building E
Austin, TX 78702

Dear Ms. Taylor:

I am writing on behalf of the Intergenerational Day Center (IDC) Advisory Group. After careful consideration, our group has decided to decline the opportunity to implement an IDC pilot at the Dove Springs Recreation Center. Currently, for several reasons, the Dove Springs location will not allow us to actualize our IDC vision faithfully and/or collect meaningful pilot data.

First, there are no preschool children, and very few older adults, participating in programming at Dove Springs. Those are our target age groups for an IDC pilot. Second, although some school-aged children engage in afternoon activities at Dove Springs, opportunities for older adults are scheduled during morning hours—making intergenerational activities difficult to plan and implement. Intergenerational programming is an essential component of an IDC. Third, at Dove Springs, we would be unable to make physical changes to the space to accommodate best practice guidelines for IDCs, including having separate spaces designed specifically for each of our target age groups. Finally, due to the small numbers of people (of all ages) participating in programming at Dove Springs, we would not have the sample sizes needed to conduct meaningful empirical studies of any pilot programming we might provide.

Although we appreciate the opportunity, currently, the Dove Springs Recreation Center is not a good fit for an IDC pilot at this time. We envision that a Dove Springs IDC option has great potential in the future. However, establishing a high-quality program involves locating a property that best fits the IDC model. We're looking forward to collaborating with you and the City of Austin to implement a full-scale, high-quality IDC pilot at the Nash Hernandez site.

Sincerely,



Amy Bryan

ATTACHMENT Intergenerational Resource and Activity Center (IRAC)

Community Engagement meetings conducted or in process of being scheduled:

December 2022/January 2023 City's Community Development Commission (CDC has provided a Letter of Support) and the Central Health/CommUnity Care Clinics Board of Managers (Letter of Support received) presented by: Dr. Angel, Lori Renteria, and several other IRAC members

February – May: IRAC Advisory Group members have already met with the Mayor and all Councilmembers and are scheduling follow-up meetings as requested by 2 Councilmembers

April 11 Commission on Aging presentation by: Clarke Heidrick, Amy Bryan, and Aldila Lolo

April 12 Childcare Council presentation: Amy Bryan and Dr. Angel

April 14 Residents of Lady Bird Apartments (formerly RBJ Senior Tower) presentation: Dr. Angel

April 17 UT Austin LBJ School's Livability and Longevity Symposium: Changing Needs for An Aging Metropolis: presentations by experts including ACM Stephanie Hayden Howard

April 24 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Dr. Angel, Selma D-Mello, and Dr. Aaron Alarcon

May 5- 31 Bi-lingual Flyers will be distributed to all doors in the East Cesar Chavez and Holly neighborhoods and at the Cinco de Mayo and Pecan Street Festival booths

May 17 East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Contact Team/Association

TBD Hispanic Association of Business Leaders and Advocates (HABLA)

TBD Austin Trail Conservancy

TBD Austin Parks Foundation

TBD Martin Jr. High School staff and parent's meetings

TBD Metz Recreation Center/Senior Luncheon staff and advisory board

NOTE: As of mid-March 2023, we are still awaiting for PARD to hire new staff to help us schedule community engagement meetings and presentations to groups and associations that PARD regularly interacts with.