



MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Lauren Middleton-Pratt, Director, Planning Department

DATE: May 19, 2023

SUBJECT: **Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan Year 10 Report**

In 2022, Austin reached the ten-year anniversary of [Imagine Austin \(IA\)](#), the City's Comprehensive Plan, which is intended to guide, regulate and manage future development to assure the most appropriate and beneficial use of land, water and other natural resources, consistent with the public interest. [The Austin City Charter](#) requires periodic comprehensive plan evaluation and appraisal reports be developed at least every five years. Staff has prepared the enclosed Imagine Austin Year 10 Report for Planning Commission and City Council; this report identifies both progress made and needed next steps to implement the vision of Imagine Austin.

As you read through the report, you'll see that the City of Austin has worked tirelessly to address unprecedented events, an affordability crisis, and to center equity in the work. In addition to the strides made, and with the acknowledgment that the plan is a living document, there is more work to be done. In the past ten years, Austin has grown a great deal. While the guiding principles of Imagine Austin are still relevant, several things are also now true:

1. Other guiding documents have been put into place to implement elements of the plan, and the City is making steady progress in many key areas.
2. New key City offices have been established to address key components of IA, including the Equity Office and Resilience Office.
3. Growth has created or exacerbated stressors for underserved communities – the City's approach to addressing these needs to be re-evaluated.

It is clear to the Planning Department that to simply reflect on where things stand with IA does not do the plan or the intent of the plan justice. Therefore, in addition to an update on where things stand today, and taking the above factors into consideration, the Planning Department has identified a series of steps the City should take before the next 5-year review of IA. These steps, including assessing and updating aspects of the Comprehensive Plan, are essential to guide future growth in Austin in an equitable way. The Action Plan for Imagine Austin can be found at the end of the report.

As the City approaches its 200th anniversary, it is a time to reflect on not only where we have been but also how we effectively look forward to the community we will be. We are excited about the future of IA based on where we've come in these last 10 years.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 512-974-3064 or lauren.middleton-pratt@austintexas.gov or Erica Leak, Planning Department Development Officer, at 512-974-9375 or via email at erica.leak@austintexas.gov.

CC: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager
Veronica Briseño, Assistant City Manager

Attachments