

May 24, 2023 - JSC Presentation

2023 CLIMATE AMBASSADORS REPORT

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OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

Background Information



THE CLIMATE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM WAS CREATED AS A PAID OPPORTUNITY FOR PASSIONATE AUSTINITES TO ENGAGE THEIR COMMUNITIES AND GET INPUT FOR THE AUSTIN CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN IN 2020

Background Information

- **OVER 6 MONTHS, THE 2020 AMBASSADORS COMPLETED 50+ INTERVIEW REPORTS** FROM CONVERSATIONS THEY HAD WITH PEOPLE ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE, AND THEIR VISIONS FOR AUSTIN
- MAJOR THEMES FROM THESE CONVERSATIONS WERE DISTILLED AND **INCORPORATED INTO THE CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN AS EQUITY ICONS**

GOAL 1:

By 2030, achieve net-zero carbon* for all new buildings and reduce emissions by 25% for existing buildings while lowering all natural gas-related emissions by 30%.



Example of equity icon use throughout the plan



Equity icons

IN 2021 THE PLAN WAS FORMALLY ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL,
WHICH MEANT THE WORK OF IMPLEMENTATION COULD BEGIN...



... AND THE FOCUS OF THE CLIMATE AMBASSADOR GROUP
WOULD NEED TO CHANGE A BIT

WHICH IS WHERE I CAME IN! AND SET OUT TO GET
STAKEHOLDER INPUT AS I REIMAGINED THE PROGRAM...





**community-led
strategies from
the climate plan**

**opportunity to
reimagine
engagement
for
implementation**

2022-2023

**opportunities
to implement
climate plan**

CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

**desire to
build
community
capacity**

**desire to avoid
extractive
engagement**

2022 Climate Ambassador Program

2020 Climate Ambassador Program

- TRAINING & EDUCATION
- ONGOING PARTICIPATION WITH OOS STAFF
- INTERVIEW REPORTS

TRAINING & EDUCATION
WITH AN ADDITIONAL CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING
MORE EMPHASIS ON THE CITY +
AMBASSADOR RELATIONSHIP

**COMMUNITY ACTION
PROJECTS**
THAT ARE AMBASSADOR
DESIGNED AND LED WITH
COMMUNITY BENEFIT IN MIND

**+1 civic
workshop**

**+1 relationship
building**

**+1 community
benefit**

SINCE THIS NEW
COMMUNITY ACTION
PROJECT ELEMENT WAS
BEING ADDED, WE
WANTED TO MAKE SURE
WE SELECTED
AMBASSADORS THAT
MET THE FOLLOWING
CRITERIA...

**SHOWS A
NUANCED
UNDERSTANDING
OF INEQUITIES**

**HAS EXPERIENCE
WORKING,
VOLUNTEERING, OR
ORGANIZING WITH
MARGINALIZED
COMMUNITIES IN
AUSTIN**

**REPRESENTS A
MARGINALIZED
COMMUNITY**

**HAS A
CONNECTION TO
OR ESTABLISHED
METHOD OF
OUTREACH TO
MARGINALIZED
COMMUNITIES**

The 2022 Ambassadors

KECIA

DYLAN

NOOR

SAHABEL

ANDRES

STEPHANIE

MONI

KIOUNIS

GABY

artists
youth educators
UT Pride Health Lab
community health worker
Black Men's Health Clinic
UT Sustainability Studies student
former Project Connect ambassadors
Building And Strengthening Tenant Action (BASTA)
Sex Workers Educating and Empowering Texans (SWEET)
Black Trans Leadership of Austin (BTLA)
public transportation advocates
disability rights advocates
Spanish-speakers
Ghisallo Cycling
writers

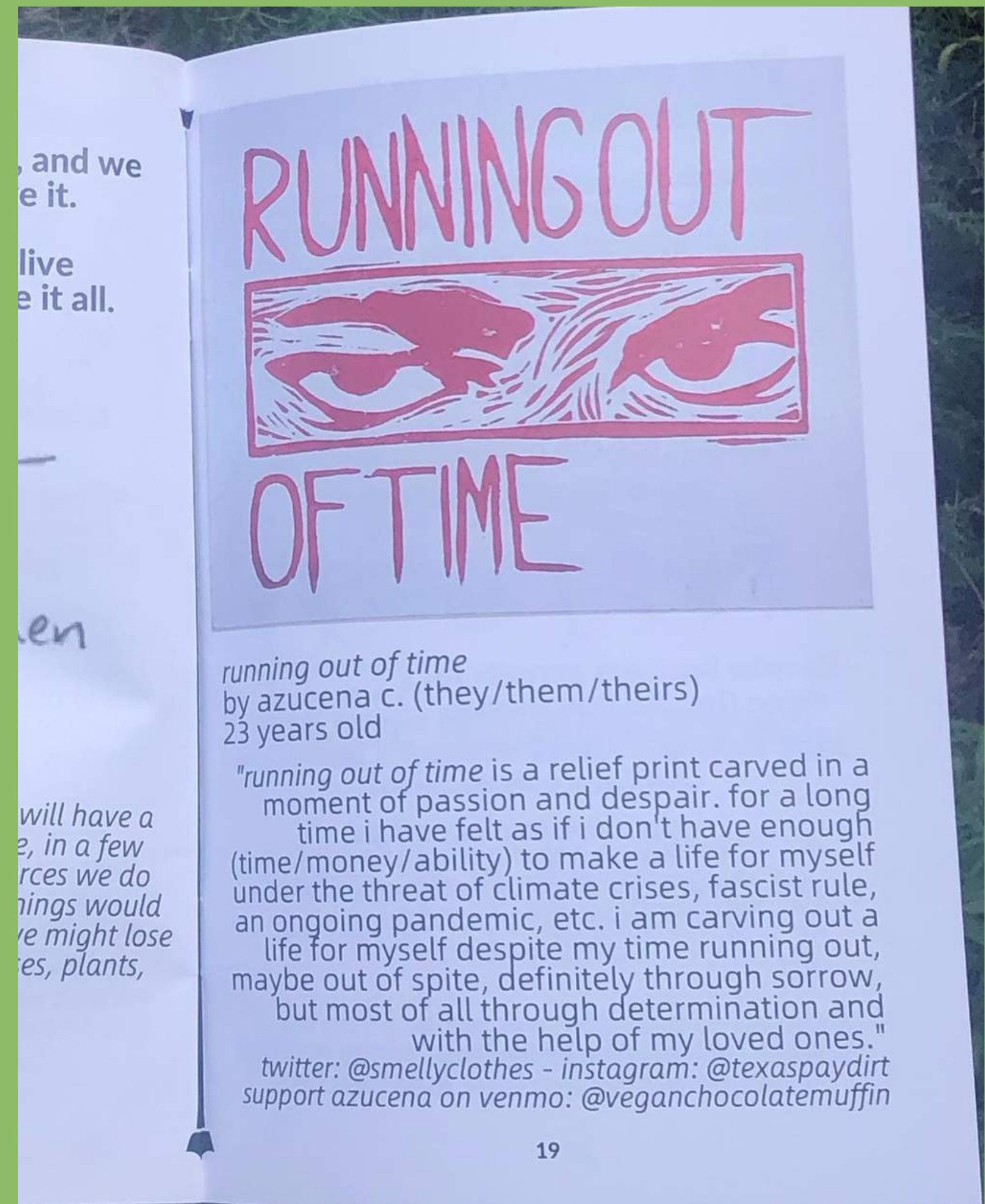
Groups & organizations the ambassadors are part of

And here's what they did...

- **SO THE 9 AMBASSADORS WENT THROUGH AN EQUITY WORKSHOP** FACILITATED BY SUSANA ALMANZA **AND A CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP** FACILITATED BY THE AUSTIN COMMON
- **THEY ALSO MET WITH CITY STAFF** FROM HOUSING, PLANNING, THE OFFICE OF RESILIENCE, HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION, CAP METRO, THE EQUITY OFFICE, AND MORE...
- **THEY THEN SELECTED STRATEGIES FROM THE ACEP TO GUIDE THEIR PROJECTS**, WITH MANY STRATEGIES BEING FROM THE TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE SECTION

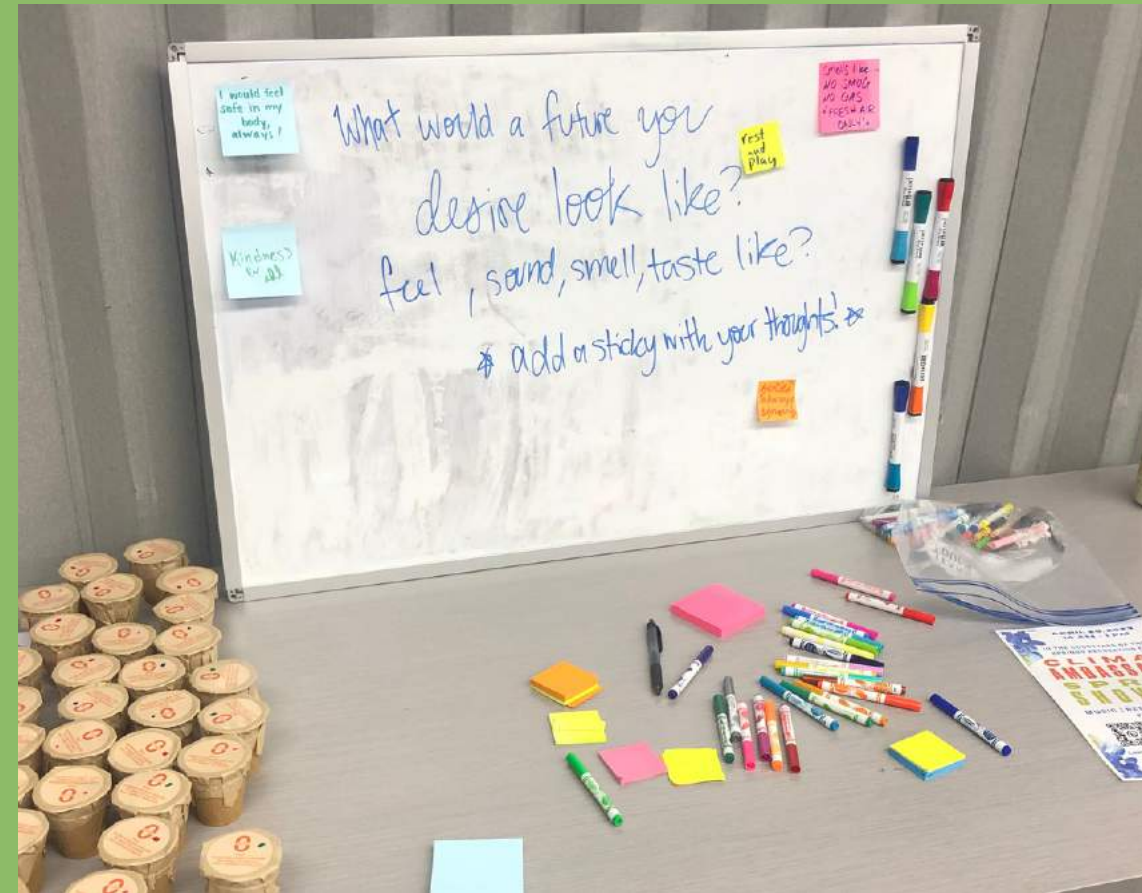
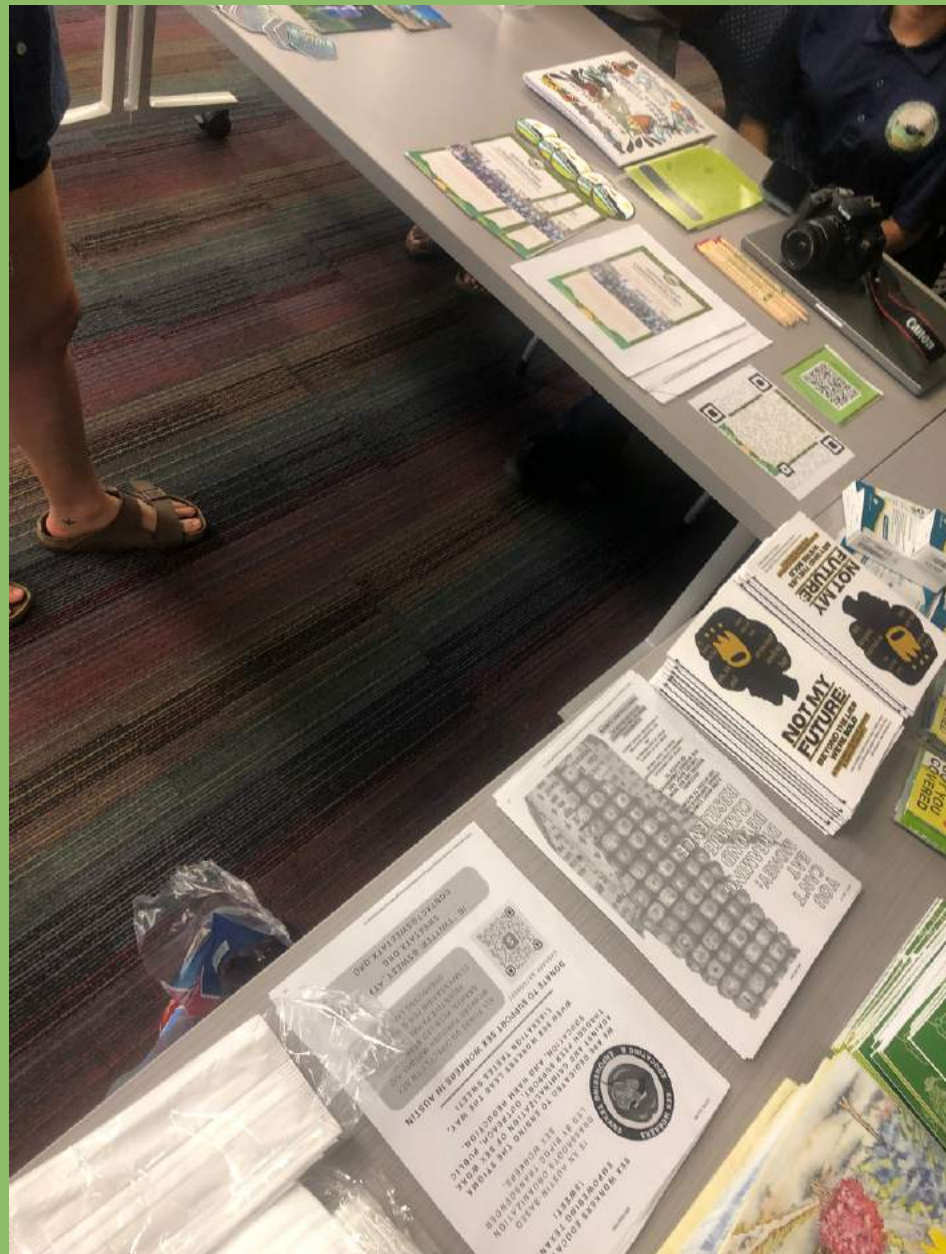
Stephanie & Moni

A ZINE ABOUT
CLIMATE JUSTICE
AND IMAGINING
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURES
FEATURING BIPOC
YOUTH
SUBMISSIONS



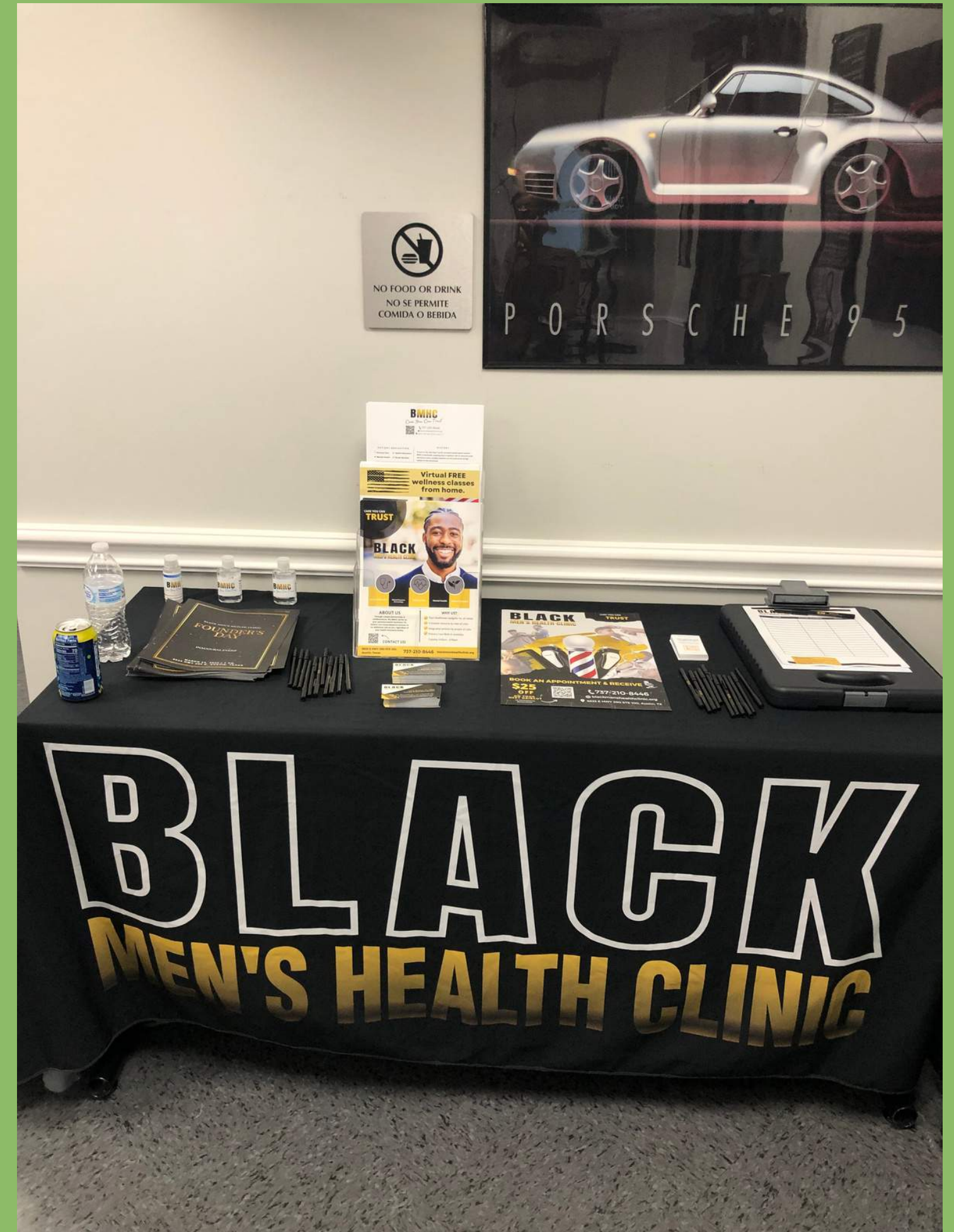
Gaby & Noor

AN ART SHOWCASE HIGHLIGHTING BIPOC YOUTH VOICES AND THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE JUSTICE



Kiounis

A COMMUNITY
EVENT THAT
HIGHLIGHTED THE
RESEARCH
FINDINGS OF THE
BLACK MEN'S
HEALTH CLINIC
AND THE
CONNECTIONS
BETWEEN
TRANSPORTATION,
HOUSING, AND
HEALTH IN THE
BLACK
COMMUNITY



Sahabel & Andres

ASSISTED WITH THE SPANISH
TRANSLATIONS FOR THE
NEIGHBORHOOD
PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

ATTENDED EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS POP UPS



GUÍA DE PREPARACIÓN PARA VECINDARIOS

Get Ready  Central Texas



SEPTIEMBRE 2022

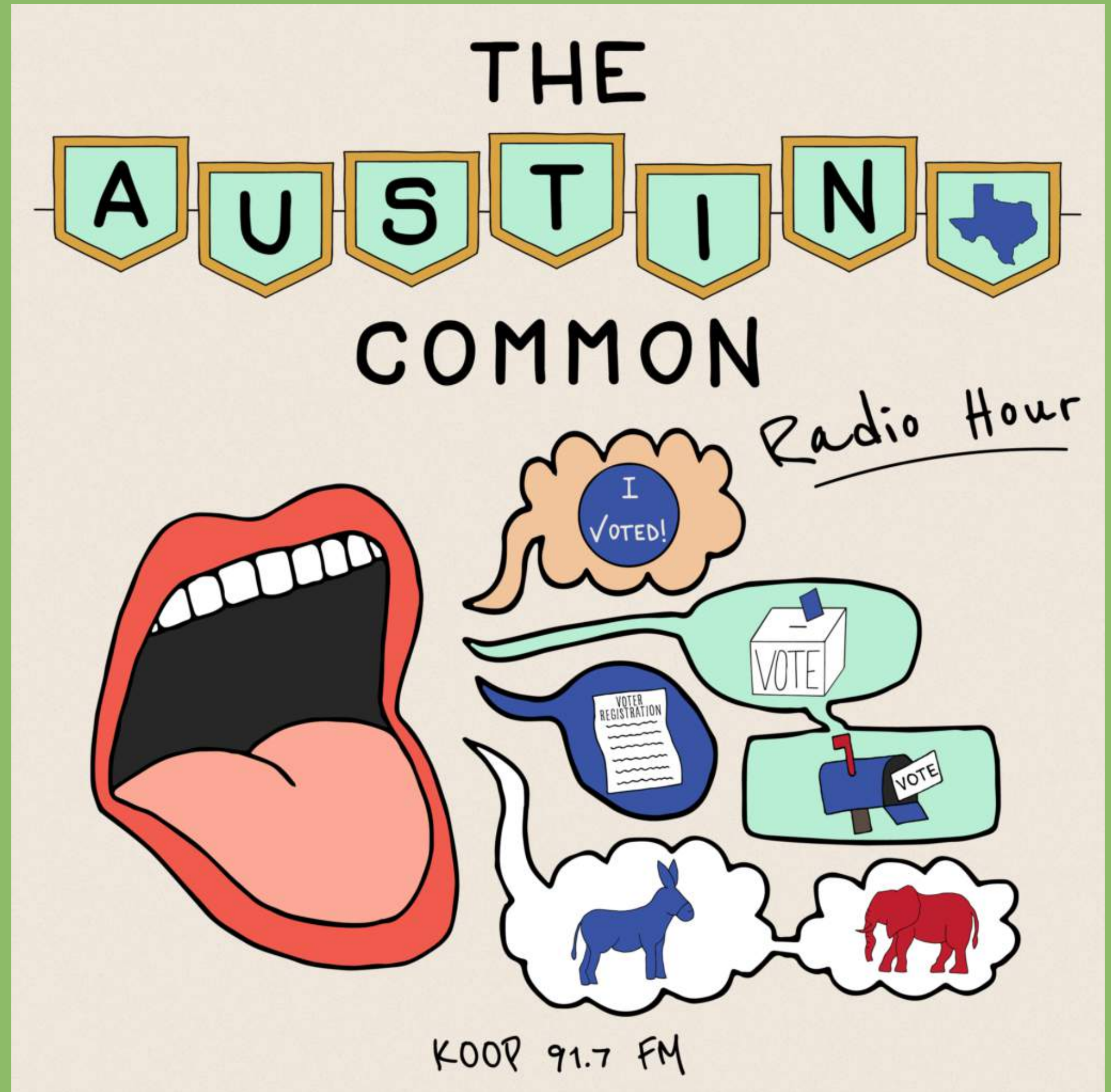


Kecia & Dylan

KECIA FILMED AN INTERVIEW FOR AN INFORMATIONAL VIDEO ABOUT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND TENANT'S RIGHTS

DYLAN CONDUCTED RESEARCH ON THE CITY'S PLANS TO FUND AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND MET WITH CITY STAFF TO DISCUSS HOW ZONING LAWS IMPACT THE VIABILITY OF COOPERATIVE LIVING IN AUSTIN

BOTH AMBASSADORS DISCUSSED THEIR FINDINGS AND THEIR PROJECTS ON THE **AUSTIN COMMON RADIO HOUR**



Spring Showcase

AT THE DOVE SPRINGS REC CENTER ON MAY 20, 2023



Lessons Learned

**PROVIDED CITY-
COMMUNITY CONNECTION
POINTS**

**AMBASSADORS GOT
PLUGGED INTO NUMEROUS
EFFORTS**

**AMBASSADORS HELPED TO
CREATE SOME WONDERFUL
COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

**THE PROJECTS WERE A LOT TO
MANAGE FOR INDIVIDUAL
AMBASSADORS**

**MANY INITIATIVES IN THE PLAN
REQUIRE DEPARTMENTAL
PARTICIPATION &
ORGANIZATION**

**ALIGNING COMMUNITY
GOALS WITH CITY TIMELINES
IS DIFFICULT**

Next Steps

- GET PROGRAM FEEDBACK FROM THE AMBASSADORS
- INCORPORATE THAT FEEDBACK INTO THE FINAL PROGRAM REPORT
- TAKE TIME TO CONSIDER THE FEEDBACK AND LESSONS LEARNED AS THE OOS ENVISIONS THE NEXT PHASE OF THE CLIMATE AMBASSADORS
- RECONSIDER IF AND HOW THE JSC IS INVOLVED IN THE CLIMATE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

A photograph of three women standing behind a table at an outdoor event. The table is covered with a white cloth and has a large blue banner that reads "OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY". On the table, there is a large wheel of prizes with various items like "ICE POP", "RAFFIE TICKET", "COOKIE", and "ICE CREAM". A green bucket is also on the table. A large green semi-transparent overlay with the text "THANK YOU!" in white capital letters is centered over the image. The women are wearing "AUSTIN" t-shirts. The background shows a brick building and some outdoor furniture.

THANK YOU!

OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY