



# Travis County & Palm School

CONCEPT PLAN & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS, TRAVIS COUNTY PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

# Presentation Overview

- ▶ Overview of Previous County Actions on Palm School
- ▶ Overview of Concept Planning Process & Community Engagement

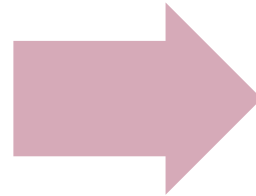
# Overview of Previous Actions

WHAT PREVIOUS ACTIONS  
HAS TRAVIS COUNTY TAKEN  
ON PALM SCHOOL  
PROPERTY?

# Previous County Actions on Palm School

2015

- Travis County HHS & Veterans' Service staff will vacate Palm School for new headquarters; Internal discussions around its future begin.



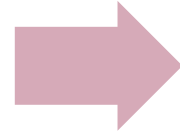
2017

- County issues RFQ for vendor to do Historic Structures Report; Selects a vendor

# Previous County Actions on Palm School

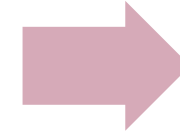
April 2018

- Historic Structures Report presented to and approved by Travis County Commissioners Court



May 2018

- 3-person Advisory Board appointed:
  - Culture Appointment
  - Historical Appointment
  - Real Estate Appointment



June-August 2018

- First round of community engagement
  - Community Meeting
  - Online Survey

# Refresher on Previous Engagement

May 2018 –  
Spring 2019

- Restrictive covenants drafted

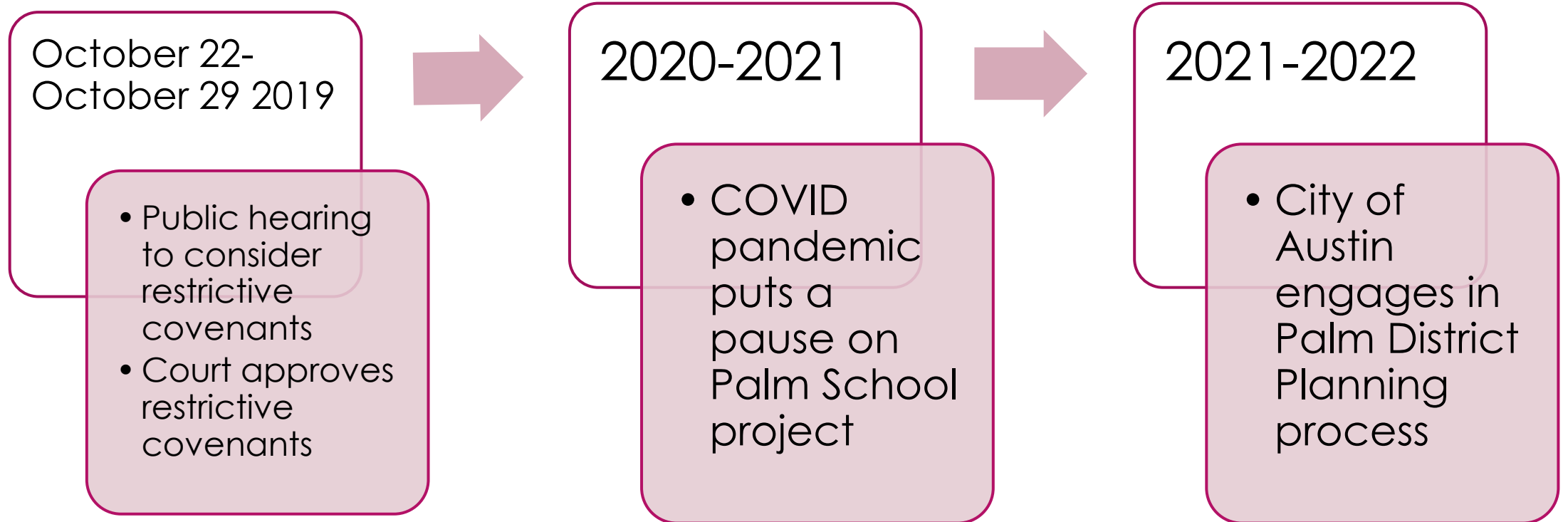
April 2019

- Community meeting
- Online survey solicited feedback on draft restrictive covenants

June –  
October 2019

- Community engagement report presented; 30-day public comment period on proposed restrictive covenants

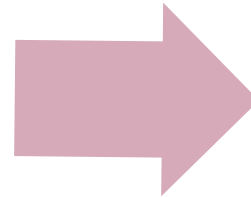
# Previous County Actions on Palm School



# Previous County Actions on Palm School

2023

- Travis County approves Palm District Concept Planning Process



2023- early 2024

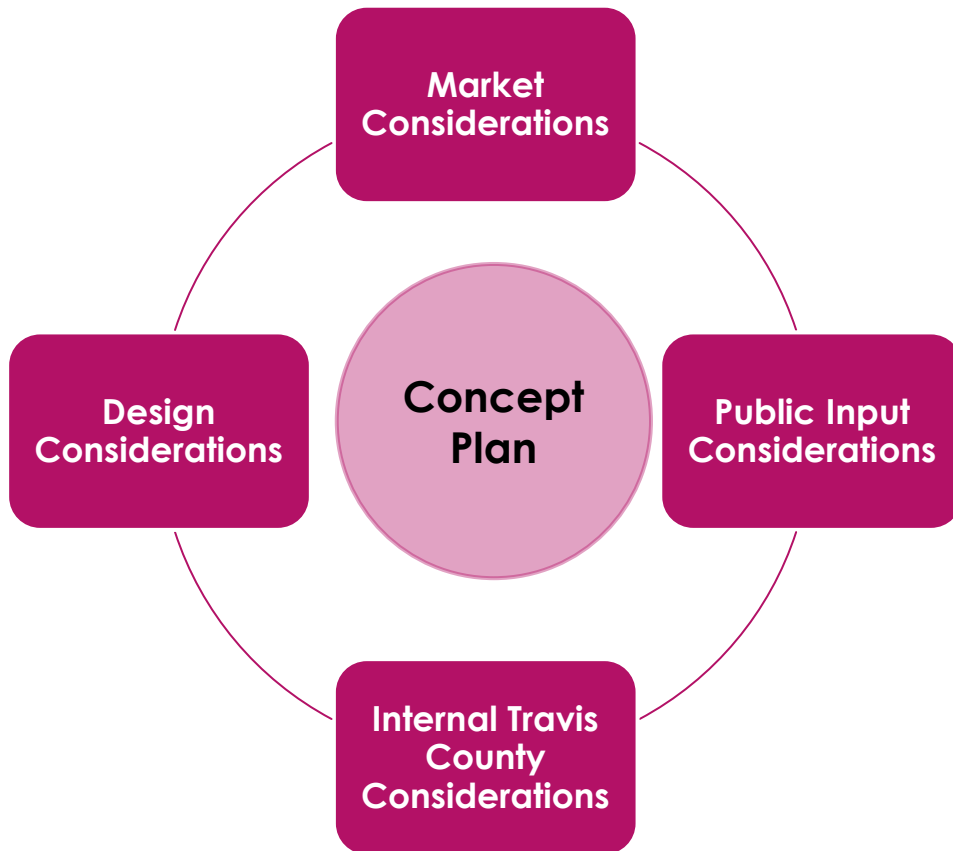
- County staff begins process to seat project steering committee



# Concept Plan Process

WHAT IS NEXT FOR THE PALM  
SCHOOL PROPERTY?

# Concept Planning Process



**Purpose:** Provide a vision for redevelopment that is vetted by the County and the public, provides a context-sensitive design concept, and is based in economic feasibility. This document sets the standards for the site's redevelopment and induces high-quality development proposals.

**Process:** Development of a concept plan to guide development and be used as a marketing tool to developer partners. Iterative process of design, space programming and allocation, and financial modeling based on technical input and community feedback.

**Product:** A document that outlines the preferred and acceptable development scenarios that have been fully vetted and approved that will be presented to developer partners to guide their proposal responses to produce high quality development proposals.

# Direction from Commissioners Court

Move forward with the Palm School concept planning process to include community engagement and a steering committee as outlined in the staff presentation, with the additional direction that the redesign efforts should be focused on preserving the Palm School property, in a manner consistent with its identity as a historic resource, that the space and reactivating the building to serve community-focused purposes, such as cultural spaces, youth programs, high-quality childcare, and community meeting spaces; be consistent with Waterloo Greenway's mission to improve and reactivate Palm Park and enable that space to become again a community gathering place with recreational activities for people of all ages and abilities; and enhances and restores a seamless, historic connection between Palm School and Palm Park, with improvements that support such connection, so that the two adjacent public lands remain together within the same historic and cultural context and provide a gateway to the Palm District.

# Community Engagement

PALM SCHOOL STEERING  
COMMITTEE

# Community Engagement Process

Presentation to Commissioners Court to relaunch planning and engagement process  
– January 2023

1 on 1 Engagement with Key Stakeholders  
– Feb. 2023-March. 2023

Launch Steering Committee Application Process  
– July/August 2023

Palm School Selection Team formed; reviews interest forms, interviews candidates, proposes slate to Commissioners Court – Nov - Jan 2023

Palm School Steering Committee works with Consultant to Create Community Engagement Plan to inform Concept Plan  
– March 2024 on

# Palm School Steering Committee

Structure, Composition,  
Selection Process

## 15 MEMBER COMMITTEE

Up to 5 designated seats for stakeholder organizations and 11 community member seats. Currently going through the Court approved selection process. Court approved stakeholder organizations include Waterloo Greenway, Urban Land Institute Austin, Travis County Historical Commission and City of Austin.

## SELECTION TEAM TO RECOMMEND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP SLATE

Includes 6 County employees representing 4 Departments and 2 Commissioners Court member offices and 2 representatives from external partners

# Palm School Steering Committee

## Charge to the Committee

- ▶ The Commissioners Court will have final approval of the Concept Plan and other recommendations from the Steering Committee.
- ▶ The Palm School Steering Committee will be active partners in the Palm School Concept Plan development process and in efforts leading up to restoration and reimagining of the Palm School property. Working in partnership with the County's consultant and staff, the Committee will:

# Palm School Steering Committee

## Charge to the Committee

1. Provide input for the design of a community engagement plan that will be used to inform a Concept Plan for the Palm School property
2. Review and offer feedback on processes, plans, and materials created by the consultant leading up to and including the Concept Plan for the Palm School property; and
3. Review and offer feedback on processes, plans, and materials created by staff and/or consultant related to any restoration and reimagining the Palm School property
4. Provide a consensus recommendation to the Commissioners Court on the community engagement process used to inform a Concept Plan and the Concept Plan for the Palm School property.



Questions

