



# Del Valle Food Co-op Staff Updates

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Austin Economic Development | 2.9.2026

# Background



- **Purpose:** Support the development of a cooperative and/or non-profit grocery store in an underserved area of Austin.
- **City Council Direction:** “The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Framework allocated \$3.0 million ARPA funds to food assistance. Council also included direction to staff to consider using ARPA funds for planning, designing, and beginning operations of at least one new community-owned and/or community-controlled grocery store in an area lacking healthy food retail. City staff anticipate utilizing \$500,000 of the \$3.0 million ARPA funds dedicated for this planning, designing, and beginning of operations.”
- Work initiated in Winter 2022 with a consultant team led by Go Austin/Vamos Austin! (GAVA), Austin Co-op Business Association, and national experts in co-op and grocery development and business planning

# Phase 1: Organizing and Business Planning

## Major Milestones



- **Leadership Development**

- Steering Committee + Board of Directors Elected
- Over 350 hours total in leadership trainings
- Multicultural leadership developed across 4 languages (Spanish, Pashto, Arabic, and English)
- SC and Board are community members who bring variety of lived experiences and expertise

- **Community Organizing and Engagement**

- Major engagement including community meetings, one-on-ones and house meetings, surveys, and block walking
- > 450 individuals engaged + 500 houses from block walking; 360 Pledged memberships

- **Business Planning**

- Completion of business plans for both pilot store and longer-term, full service grocery by Steering Committee, reviewed by City experts from CDFI sector
- Includes capital campaign plan, market study, co-op bylaws, financial pro-forma, and community engagement plan

# Phase 2: Pilot Launch and Continued Planning



- Major Milestones for transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2 approved January 2025
- Focus on Phase 2 is launch of a pilot store
- **Current accomplishments:**
  - Identification of a store plan and model
  - Acquiring store shell through “shipping container” model
  - Hiring Staff
  - Establishing vendor relationships
  - Receiving additional competitive Healthy Food Financing Initiative grant (federal)
- Initial site encountered challenges, which have caused delays
- **Next Steps:** Working with City and County staff to identify other site and grant opportunities; Revising pilot plan if needed; Continuing Capital Campaign Plan for full-service store
- Goal to launch pilot program in 2026

# Next Steps

- Working with City and County staff to identify other site and grant opportunities; Revising pilot plan if needed; Continuing Capital Campaign Plan for full-service store
- Goal to launch pilot program in 2026

Membership Sign Up form: <https://forms.gle/GF9amorjt7jDzp8v9>

- We encourage the Food Policy Board and members of the community to join and share out with your networks!
- Membership share is \$50 and grants voting rights, ability to run for the board, and member only events and discounts
- The DVFC Board has a goal of 1200 members by October 2026, and these membership shares go towards additional funding for the pilot store
- Board is actively recruiting members with a goal to hit 1,200 members by October 2026



**Questions?**