• In 2012-2013 the Economic Development Department launched the City of Austin International Welcome Program:
  • Welcome to Austin Orientation Sessions;
  • An International Welcome Ambassadors Program;
  • Austin Public Library’s New Immigrant Centers;
  • Austin Police Department’s Immigrant Outreach Program.
• September 13, 2013, Austin became one of the first municipalities in the country to officially become a Welcoming City through Welcoming America.
Willkommen!

Reasons to be welcoming

• Foreign-born individuals are more likely to start businesses than US born residents.

• 24% of all start-ups in Austin are founded by foreign-born entrepreneurs.

• Austin ranked #36 in the USA for individuals employed in foreign-owned establishments.

• A total of 29,180 jobs, or 4.6% of our entire private employment workforce.
Bienvenido!

**Immigrants and the Tech Sector**

- In 2011, 859 immigrants in Austin were tech-preneurs – which ranks us at #10 among US cities.
- A ratio of 9.8 immigrant entrepreneurs per 10,000 workers. That ratio of tech-preneurs is higher than Dallas (6.8) and higher than Houston (9.6).
Why join Welcoming America?

• To ensure the effective delivery of services (to all residents);
• To enhance cultural program offerings;
• To create more economic development opportunities.
• To facilitate immigrant integration and promote diversity in our community.
Who are we welcoming?

- 191,184 people 17.5% of total pop are foreign born in Travis County. In Austin, 19%.
  - 5.2% are foreign born citizens
  - 12.3% are foreign born non citizens
    - 3.8% Documented
    - 8.4% are Undocumented
- Place of Birth of Foreign Born residents
  - 52% Mexico
  - 24% Asia
  - 12% Central and South America (Not Mexico)
  - 7% Europe
  - 3% Africa
  - 2% North America

Source: U.S. Census, 1-Year American Community Survey, *estimates of authorized and unauthorized non-citizens are CAN’s calculations
Who are we welcoming?

• In 2012, 50% of foreign-born individuals were age 25-44, vs 30% of native born in this same age group.

• Education Attainment:
  – 35% have not graduated high school;
  – Approximately 66% have some college education;
  – 15% have graduate or professional degrees
What does welcoming mean?

According to Welcoming America, a welcoming community:

• PLANS: All relevant sectors, such as government, business, non-profit, and others are engaged to work together to create a welcoming community climate that supports long-term integration.
• COMMITS: Commitments are made to institutionalize strategies that ensure the ongoing inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers.
• BUILDS COMMUNITY: Newcomers and long-time residents are engaged to find common ground and shared leadership.
• COMMUNICATES: Messages of unity and shared values permeate the community through the media, through the voice of leaders, and among residents.
• SUSTAINS: Policies and practices are considered in order to ensure that interactions between new and longer-term Americans remain positive ones and the community’s economic vitality remains strong.
The question is still...

What does welcoming mean to and for Austin and its residents?
Our Goal
To develop a shared definition of and vision for Austin as a “Welcoming City.”
Austin: Welcoming City Initiative

Our Plan

To create this shared vision, a participatory, public input process will be designed and implemented to engage various community stakeholder groups with a multi-pronged approach.
Austin: Welcoming City Initiative

Our Partners

• City of Austin Commission on Immigrant Affairs
• City of Austin Economic Development Department
• City of Austin Health & Human Services Department
• Immigrant Services Network of Austin
• Caritas of Austin
• Capital Metro
## Austin: Welcoming City Initiative

### Our Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initial Planning</strong></td>
<td>May-June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Create Public Participation Plan</strong></td>
<td>July-September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implement Public Participation Plan</strong></td>
<td>September 2014-March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online surveys, focus groups, interviews, and provider summer” with a note that each techniques will be applied appropriately to each stakeholder group.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analyze Results</strong></td>
<td>Complete in March-April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Create Document and Release Final Product</strong></td>
<td>May-June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compile results in a written format to publish, present</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Austin: Welcoming City Initiative

Next Steps

- September 2014
  - Launch of Media & Community Engagement Campaign
  - 9/17 One Human Race – Welcoming America Festival

- October 2014 – December 2014
  - Focus groups
  - Interviews with elected officials

- October 2014 – March 2015
  - Online Survey

- February 2014
  - Austin: Welcoming City Summit

- May-June 2014
  - Austin Welcoming City Report
For more information contact:

Angela-Jo Touza-Medina, M.A., LL.M.
Vice-Chair, Commission on Immigrant Affairs
Bc-Angela-Jo.Touza-Medina@austintexas.gov
512.736.1505

Ben Ramirez III
International Economic Development Manager
Global Business Recruitment and Expansion Division
City of Austin Economic Development Department
Ben.Ramirez@austintexas.gov
(512) 974-6416

www.austintexas.gov