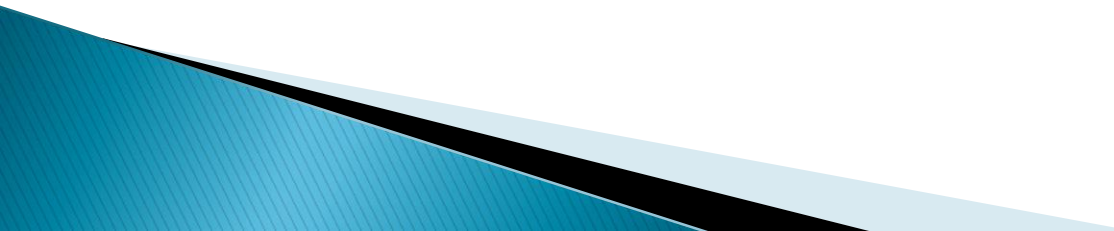




# CodeNEXT Key Policy Issue

How can important community values expressed in the existing Land Development Code be respected while simplifying and streamlining the code?

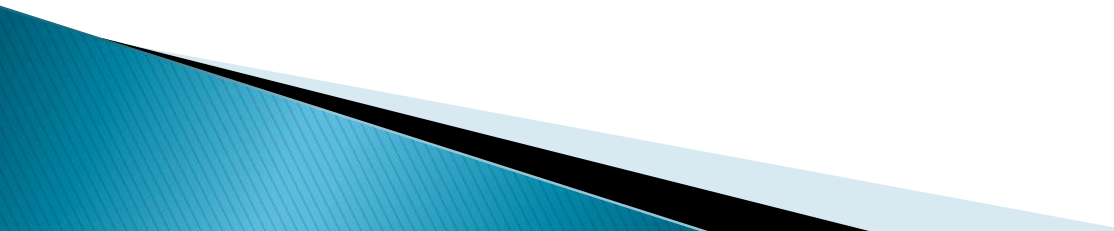
# What are some examples of important community values within the Code?

- ▶ Subdivision Regulations / Zoning Regulations
    - How are new neighborhoods designed?
  - ▶ Compatibility Requirements
    - How new developments interact with existing residents?
  - ▶ Environmental Regulations
    - How is Austin going to stay “Green”?
  - ▶ Plenty more to be considered by Opticos
- 

# What has been done to make sure we're hearing what these values are?

- ▶ Through the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the CodeNEXT, the following has occurred:
  - Informal Outreach by COA staff/Opticos – 1/2013
    - Various stakeholder meetings
  - Listening to the Community Report – 4/2014
    - Multiple city-wide meetings that occurred to gather citizen input
  - Community Character Manual – 5/2014
    - Austin neighborhood character manual put together by citizens
  - Approach Alternatives & Annotated Outlines – 9/2014
    - Report regarding the alternatives to change the LDC

# What has been done to make sure we're hearing what these values are?

- ▶ Other avenues for public outreach:
    - CodeNEXT Citizen Advisory Group Meetings – Monthly meetings
    - Other COA Board/Commission Meetings – Monthly meetings
    - “Code Talks” Meetings on important topics
    - Other Stakeholder Meetings
    - CodeNEXT website and open communication forums
- 

# How do we simplify and streamline the LDC?

- ▶ Apply the Code Diagnosis Report – 5/2014
- ▶ Have to remove the excess “clutter”
- ▶ Have to remove the misleading or incorrect cross-references between sections
- ▶ Have to have a mechanism to resolve conflicts between sections – Ombudsman?
- ▶ Have to better communicate the intent of the code (use of graphics and intent statements)
- ▶ Have to incorporate the streamlining of the process – currently a separate task
  - Permit Process – Staff review and Board/Comm. Approval

# Can Opticos and Austin do both?

- ▶ I think we can! I feel that this process has undergone new methods already to make sure that COA staff and Opticos are hearing what Austinites think of the existing LDC and want from the future LDC.
  - ▶ We have to have a code that meets the needs of today and tomorrow as we may not get this chance for a revision again any time soon (this one is 25+ years in the making)
  - ▶ Austin is not like most cities, which is what makes us great, but we may have to conform to some proven methods out there.
  - ▶ We have to rely on the professionals for their expertise and experience; that doesn't mean we can't question and bring our own thoughts to the process.
  - ▶ Finally, like any significant and difficult process, we have to be able to have the tough conversations and be able to compromise. There's simply no way to make everyone perfectly happy on every issue...it's not giving in, but rather being realistic.
- 