

# EVALUATION OF GIVENS SWIMS SURVEYS

## Part II: Audience Responses

*“The pool has meant a lot to so many different people over the years, and although our community is changing it can still be a source of pride for the neighborhood.”*

As audience members left Givens Pool after the production, they were offered a survey to reflect on their experience.

The first set of questions asked them to reflect on **imagery, feelings, and insights** that the show evoked. The second set of questions asked audience members to **imagine the future** of Austin’s public pool system and their personal intentions going forward. The final set of questions asked for details about **who they are**.

**145** total surveys were collected from audience members over the two performance weekends.

## THE SHOW

**Q1:** What are some of the strongest **images** you recall from the performance?

**34%** of respondents described scenes from **“Miss East Austin.”**

- “the older women beauty queens being celebrated”
- “the pageant queens floating in turquoise floats, pushed by others – royalty”
- “East Austin ladies in crowns and gowns!”
- “the beauty queens on their thrones”
- “beauty queens’ smiles”
- “beauty queens in blue inner tubes and tiaras”
- “the women pulled around in the floaties”
- “beauty queens waving”
- “older ladies styling and profiling”

**24%** of respondents recalled Harrison’s scene from **“Learning to Swim.”**

- “When the man said he hasn’t swam since he failed his swimming lesson and finally swam”
- “the man who learned how to swim at Givens and his personal anecdote”
- “The guy who had not been in the pool since 1963 rocking yellow trunks”
- “the solo swimming man in yellow”

- “guy in swimming lesson - real celebration to watch someone do something they have difficulty with”
- “Mr. Harrison’s performance”

**21%** of respondents described the divers from **“Pool’s Open.”**

- “Crazy divers!”
- “Amazing flips off the diving board”
- “the kids jumping off diving boards”

**19%** of respondents recalled the maintenance team’s duties in **“Maintenance.”**

- “hardworking folks’ commitment”
- “the city workers that clean the pool”
- “maintenance men lineup”
- “synchronization of the maintenance crew”
- “maintenance dipping for water”
- “maintenance men flipping chemicals was rad”
- “The maintenance staff who take such good care of Dr. Givens’ pool”

**12%** of respondents recalled the **Smooth & EZ Dance** team’s moves.

- “ladies in yellow dancing!”
- “Smooth and EZ Dancers were great!”

**10%** of respondents described imagery of community members dancing in the pool in **“The Board.”**

- “synchronized with paddle boards”
- “circle of swimmers with boards”
- “the colorful swim caps, circular formation”
- “dancing in the pool”

**10%** of respondents described imagery of kids splashing and playing in **“Splashin’.”**

- “all the kids jumping in”
- “kids splashing dance”
- “children playfully swimming”
- “Black youth swimming/having fun in the pool”

**8%** of respondents recalled the scuba divers in **“Filling in the Cracks.”**

- “scuba guys!”
- “the scuba divers that fix the cracks”
- “the underwater checking for leaks”

**8%** of respondents described scenes of the lifeguards in **“Down Duties.”**

- “the lifeguards’ saving moves”



Of respondents who answered Yes, **29%** shared their insights about the pool's **history and story**.

- "Didn't know it was named after a Black doctor"
- "Mr. Givens' impact on the community"
- "The pool has meant a lot to so many different people over the years, and although our community is changing it can still be a source of pride for the neighborhood."
- "I had no idea it had such a long history"
- "I'm relatively new to the area and was glad (and somewhat moved) to learn of the pool's place in the neighborhood's history and culture"

Of respondents who answered Yes, **19%** shared their insights about the **importance of pools to a community**.

- "how formative it can be to be part of a pool community"
- "how important a community pool can be as a meeting/learning place"
- "how important the sense of community is/and can be around a pool"
- "How much it means to the community"
- "How important pools are for community"
- "I really didn't know this pool's place in the community."
- "It's profound ability to build community"
- "Its importance to Black Austin"

Of respondents who answered Yes, **16%** shared their insights about the **amount of maintenance required** to keep a pool running.

- "How much maintenance is required"
- "the maintenance of the facilities is challenging"
- "the effort needed to run a pool like Givens"
- "It's a lot of work to maintain!"
- "I didn't realize the amazing work of maintenance to keep it operational"

Of respondents who answered Yes, **13%** shared their insights about the **physical state of Givens Pool**.

- "I didn't know the pool was in bad shape. Guess it needs more love."
- "I didn't know that the pool needed so much repair"
- "the fragility and cracks"
- "I didn't know it was causing so much trouble and on its last legs"
- "I didn't know that it leaked!"
- "I didn't realize what a precarious life pools have"
- "The pool needs to be repaired to keep up with all the love it receives"

Of respondents who answered Yes, **5%** did not realize that the **pool existed**.

- "I had never heard of the pool before"
- "I had no idea this pool was open!"

## THE FUTURE

**Q4:** Givens Pool will soon go through a Master Plan process – in your opinion, what are the **most important elements** to have as part of the future pool?

**22%** of respondents suggested educational programming such as **classes or lessons**.

- “free beginner swim lessons for youth and adults”
- “swim lessons”
- “water dance classes”
- “classes for adults”
- “swim day camps”
- “scuba diving lessons”
- “synchronized swimming, diving classes”
- “a swim and dive team”
- “youth programs”

**19%** of respondents said that **inclusivity and accessibility** are among the most important elements.

- “welcoming, easy access”
- “need ADA access”
- “play areas for all abilities and swim levels”
- “welcoming to all people”
- “steps other than ladder”
- “making it accessible to the community”
- “available to everyone”

**19%** of respondents expressed a desire to honor Givens Pool’s **history and community** in the new designs.

- “for the community, honoring history”
- “community-based”
- “maintaining core community, honoring Givens and past”
- “always maintain this tight community”
- “participation with local community members”
- “community-centered”
- “maintain as much of historic features as possible”

**10%** of respondents expressed a desire for increased **safety and maintenance**.

- “regular good maintenance”
- “fix cracks”
- “safety, working order”
- “well-built to last forever”

**Additional themes:**

- Keeping the diving boards
- Retain the size of the pool
- Provide more shade and keep the existing trees
- Add lap lanes
- Modify the schedule to stay open later in the year

## Q5: When you look into the future, what would you like to see for the city's **entire aquatic system**?

**20%** of respondents said that **inclusivity and accessibility** are among the most important elements.

- "continued easy access"
- "accessibility for all - racially and economically equitable and open to folks with disabilities"
- "accessibility to all income/people"
- "accessibility for women who don't feel comfortable swimming in public"

**14%** of respondents expressed a desire to honor Givens Pool's **history and community** in the new designs.

- "keeping story and history alive"
- "keeping this pool's memories alive"
- "cultural/community consciousness and impact"
- "infrastructure that encourages/fosters communities"
- "a genuine space for public forum and comradery"

**14%** of respondents mentioned a need for **additional resources** towards pools.

- "more \$\$"
- "more support for lifeguards and maintenance crew (without them we don't swim)"
- "fully-funded"
- "funds for maintenance"
- "support (monetarily and emotionally) to upkeep this treasure"
- "more resources for cast-aside pools"

**10%** of respondents expressed a desire for increased **safety and maintenance**.

- "Safety 1<sup>st</sup>"
- "a commitment to take care of the old pools as well as the new ones"
- "a well-maintained aquatic system"
- "support for maintenance"

**10%** of respondents suggested **recreational and educational programming** ideas.

- "more performances"
- "themed days"
- "better training for swim lesson instructors"
- "more swimming lessons"

- “shows like this”
- “opportunities for youth to learn swimming”

**10%** of respondents expressed a desire for **longer hours** of pool time.

- “open longer hours, longer open season”
- “open in August please!”
- “open beyond summer months!”
- “open more months – it’s Texas and hot until November”

**8%** of respondents expressed a need for more **equitability**.

- “more love to under-served communities”
- “Swimmers pools – we aren’t all beginner swimmers in the black community.”
- “sufficient number of neighborhood pools and rec and community centers distributed equally throughout the city”
- “quality for all neighborhoods”
- “a program that offers pools in all communities”
- “more resources for cast-aside pools”

**Additional themes:**

- Keep pools free or affordable
- Keep the pools open
- Add more pools

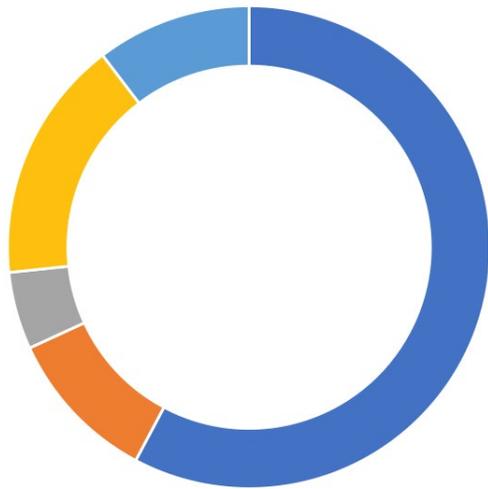
**Q6: Right now, is there anything you would do related to what you saw tonight?**

	#	%
I will talk to <b>friends or family</b> about this performance or about Austin’s public pool system	119	82%
I will <b>think</b> about what I saw and heard about Givens Pool or Austin’s public pool system	90	62%
I will <b>seek out new information</b> about Givens Pool or Austin’s public pool system	80	55%
I will <b>attend other community gatherings</b> , conversations, or performances related to Givens Pool or Austin’s public pool system	62	43%
I’m <b>not sure yet</b>	8	6%
I <b>probably won’t do anything</b> based on what I saw	3	2%

**ABOUT THEM**

**Q8: How did you hear about this event?**

The majority of audience members heard about the event through a friend.

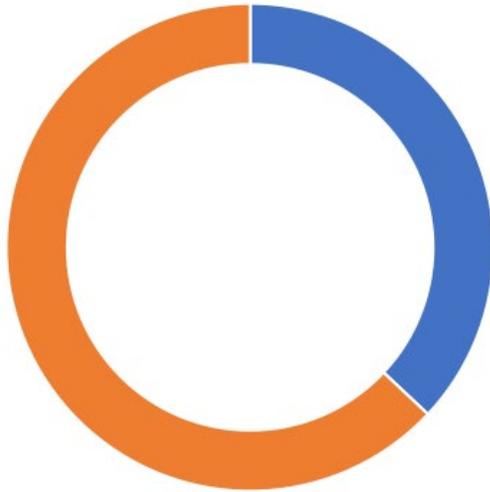


	#	%
<b>Friend</b>	78	58%
<b>Social Media or Email</b>	22	16%
<b>Word of Mouth</b>	14	10%
<b>Other</b>	14	10%
<b>Radio/TV/Newspaper</b>	7	5%

■ Friend ■ Word of Mouth ■ Radio/TV/Newspaper ■ Social media/Email ■ Other

### Q9a: Before tonight, were you aware of the City of Austin’s Master Plan and the city’s conversation about its pool system?

The majority of audience members were not aware of the City of Austin’s Master Plan before the show.

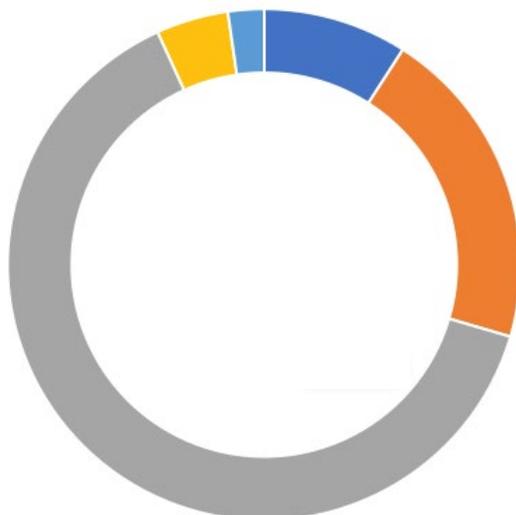


■ Yes ■ No

	#	%
<b>Yes</b>	37	37%
<b>No</b>	63	63%

### Q9b: If yes, how would you rate your involvement in the Master Plan process/conversation?

The majority of audience members who were aware of the City of Austin’s Master Plan were not at all involved in the process or conversation.

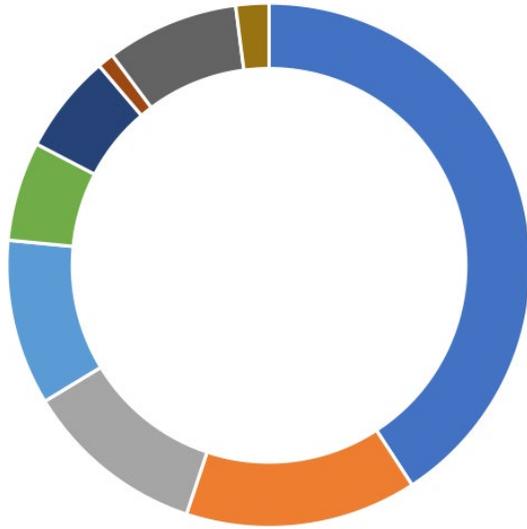


■ Very Involved ■ Somewhat Involved ■ Not at All Involved ■ N/A ■ Other

	#	%
<b>Very Involved</b>	4	9%
<b>Somewhat Involved</b>	9	20%
<b>Not at All Involved</b>	28	64%
<b>N/A or Other</b>	3	7%

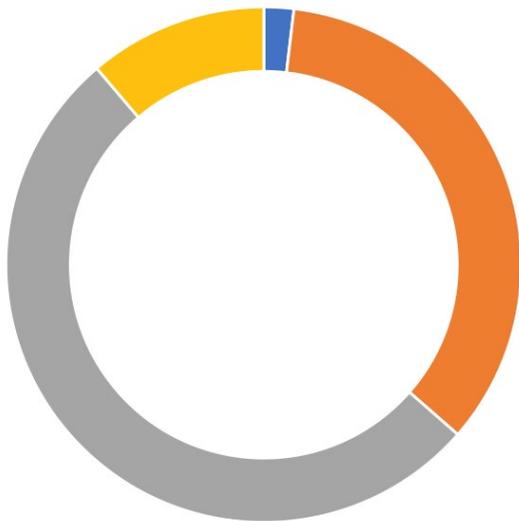
### Q10: What is your zip code?

41% of audience members were from Givens or from other East Austin neighborhoods.



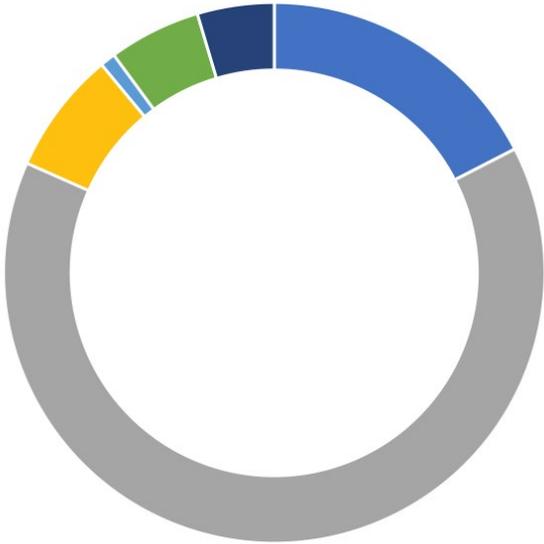
	#	%
<b>East Austin</b>	40	41%
<b>Central Austin</b>	14	14%
<b>North Central Austin</b>	11	11%
<b>South Austin</b>	10	10%
<b>Southeast Austin</b>	6	6%
<b>Southwest Austin</b>	6	6%
<b>West Austin</b>	1	1%
<b>Northwest Austin</b>	0	0%
<b>Surrounding Cities</b>	8	8%
<b>Outside Travis County</b>	2	2%

### Q11: What is your age group?



	#	%
<b>Under 18</b>	2	2%
<b>18-35</b>	37	35%
<b>36-60</b>	56	52%
<b>Over 60</b>	12	11%

**Q12: How do you define your ethnic background?**



	#	%
<b>Caucasian</b>	70	64%
<b>African American</b>	19	17%
<b>Latino/Hispanic</b>	8	7%
<b>Asian or Pacific Islander</b>	6	6%
<b>Other</b>	5	5%
<b>Middle Eastern</b>	1	1%

- African American
- American Indian
- Caucasian
- Latino/Hispanic
- Middle Eastern
- (Asian or) Pacific Islander
- Other