

**Seaholm Intake Structure  
Community Stakeholder Interview  
September 6th, 2017  
George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center**

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(Interviewed by Lynn Osgood, GO collaborative)

Summary of the conversation:

## **HISTORY**

One of the key historical issues to remember related to the Seaholm Power Plant and its current redevelopment, is that the building was named after a prominent Austinite who was central to the city's government during the drafting of "*A City Plan for Austin, TX - 1928*" which segregated the city's African-American and minority communities from the white community.

Later notes:

- "The plant was dedicated posthumously in 1960 to Walter E. Seaholm, who served as Superintendent of Water and Light, and City Manager during his 33-year career with the City of Austin."  
<https://austintexas.gov/page/seaholm-intake-history>

## **CURRENT AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY**

African American residents are leaving the city at alarming rates. People often talk about the lack of affordability, but there's also the impression that there's not a lot of activities available for the community.

## **PROGRAMMING**

Have something at the future waterfront site that could draw in young African American professionals would be a tremendous benefit to the city at large. It will be very important to be inclusive of this particular community when planning out future programming. Actively pursuing their input would also help the future development to align more closely with the current recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Institutional Racism and Systemic Inequities

*It is also recommended that those shepherding the future site development proactively seek cultural programming and ensure that the fees associated with that programming are not prohibitive to local cultural groups.*

The conversation emphasized that it is critical that this needs to be clearly articulated happen up front in future planning processes in order to be truly effective.

## **PUBLIC ART**

It was also recommended that any future Public Art for this particular site should try and address the broader topic of Austin's history rather than being a more abstract and formal piece of contemporary art.