



African- American Cultural Heritage District Strategic Plan

**Meeting #1
November 2024
mend collaborative**

Pre-Planning Meetings

Desired Outcomes

- **Establish how we'll work together over the next year**
- **Develop goals and desired outcomes for the process**
- **Develop a public engagement plan**

Today's Agenda

- **Introductions and Agenda (15 minutes)**
- **Agreements and Decision Making (15 minutes)**
- **“Where we’ve come from” (20 minutes)**
- **Visioning Activity and Brainstorm (30 minutes)**
- **Summarizing Key Themes (10 minutes)**
- **Discussion of Case Studies (20 minutes)**
- **Schedule for Next Meeting and Wrapping Up (10 minutes)**

Project Team Roles

Mend Collaborative



Zakcq Lockrem, AICP
Project Manager



Michelle Bright, SITES
Principal-in-Charge



Kennedy Rauh
Designer



Project Team Roles

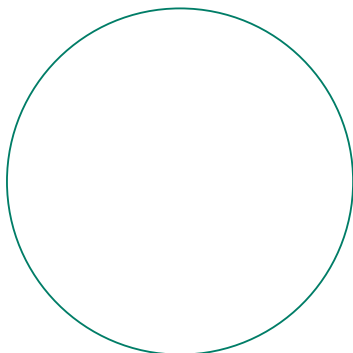
City of Austin



Matthew Schmidt
Project Manager



Juany Torres
Program Manager



Donald Jackson
Support



Proposed Meeting Agreements

- Respectful communication
- Meetings will start and end on time
- Raise hand or signal to speak
- Discussion should remain focused on agenda items
- Decisions will be made by consensus if possible and by vote if not
- Discussions and sensitive information shared should be confidential
- Constructive criticism is welcomed, but should be presented in a respectful and constructive manner
- No side conversations
- Limit cell phone usage
- A summary of the meeting and action items with due dates will be assigned the meeting the meeting

Grace

Respect

Patience

Humility

Where We've Come From



City Council Resolution

“The City Council of the City of Austin formally apologizes for its participation in the enslavement of Black people, for its active involvement in segregation and systemic discrimination, for exacerbating racial divides through both active and intentional means, and passive, inadvertent means. and for carrying out multiple ‘urban renewal’ programs that hindered, and often decimated, the progress made by Black communities.”

-March 4, 2021

Goal Setting Brainstorm



Case Studies

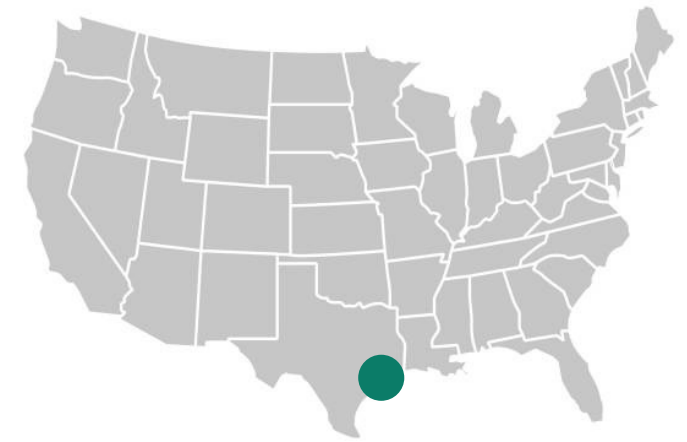


District Case Studies – Original List of 15, Recommended 6 District (light green)

District Name	Location	Similar Features
5TH WARD	HOUSTON, TX	Located in Texas, mixture of residential and commercial areas, history and art are key aspects of the district
7TH STREET	OAKLAND, CA	Currently in planning phase, mixture of residential and commercial areas, mass transit projects in the area
10TH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT	DALLAS, TX	-----
AFRICATOWN (CENTRAL DISTRICT)	SEATTLE, WA	-----
ALBINA	PORTLAND, OR	Urban renewal displacement, no longer a Black majority neighborhood, current reinvestment and planning
ANACOSTIA	WASHINGTON, DC	-----
GARDEN OF EDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT	FORT WORTH, TX	-----
GREENWOOD	TULSA, OK	-----
HAYTI	DURHAM, NC	-----
JACKSON WARD	RICHMOND, VA	Bisected by highway, displacement, proposed highway cap, homecoming strategies
JEFFERSON STREET	NASHVILLE, TN	-----
RONDO	ST. PAUL, MN	Bisected by highway, displacement, proposed highway cap, proposed African American cultural enterprise district
SWEET AUBURN	ATLANTA, GA	Bisected by highway, displacement, University in the District, mixture of residential and commercial areas
THIRD WARD	HOUSTON, TX	-----
U STREET	WASHINGTON, DC	-----

1. 5th Ward Cultural Arts District

Houston, Texas



Identifying Features:

The district is located along the Lyons Avenue corridor and is a “living cultural arts district and a center of African American history and culture while supporting its diversity as it grows.” Economic revitalization through supporting Arts and its historic Black community.

Key Programming:

Lyons Avenue Renaissance Festival
Summer Concert Series
Black Theater Week
Economic revitalization

Leadership Organization(s):

5th Ward Cultural Arts District (CAD)

Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation (CRC) (NeighborWorks American, nonprofit)

Houston Arts Alliance (non-profit)

Other Notes:

Developed a Plan in 2020 that states the district’s goals, Historic and cultural assets, future programming and projects.



2. 7th Street

Oakland, California



Identifying Features:

“Harlem of the West,” a hub for black communities on the West Coast in the early 1900s. Communities displaced during urban renewal.

The new vision includes creating a district of thriving Black businesses, arts, and culture.

Leadership Organization(s):

7th Street Thrives (Local Initiatives Support Corporation [LISC] Bay Area, East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative)

City of Oakland, Alliance for Community Development, 7th West, Viscera Studio



Source: Segregation by Design

Key Programming:

Small Business Support

Honoring Neighborhood Legacy

Activating Vacant & Underutilized Land; improving the built environment

Community Organizing

Other Notes:

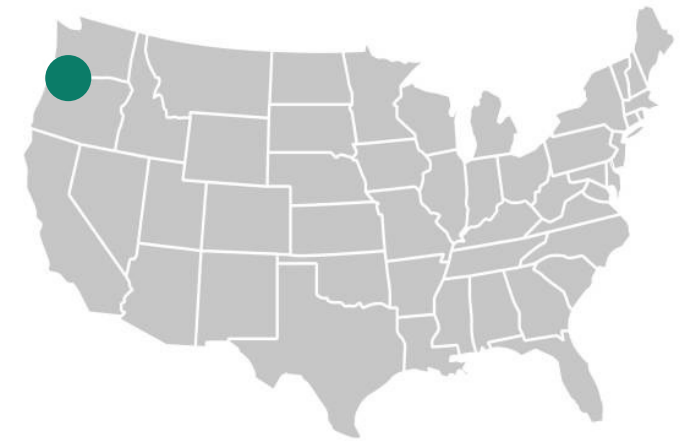
Developed a Plan in 2020 that states the district’s goals, Historic and cultural assets, future programming and projects.



Source: Hood Design Studio

3. Albina

Portland, Oregon



Identifying Features:

A thriving diverse community that was displaced by Urban renewal in the 1970s. Recent community reinvestment projects are seeking to honor the legacy of this community through various strategies.

Leadership Organization(s):

Albina Vision Trust (AVT)

Soul District Business Association

N/NE Portland Community Development Initiative

Albina Rose Alliance



Source: I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project

Key Programming:

Albina Arts Center

N/NE Preference Policy (Housing)

Restorative redevelopment through land buy-back

Wealth Building strategies

Rerooting Black legacies and futures

Other Notes:

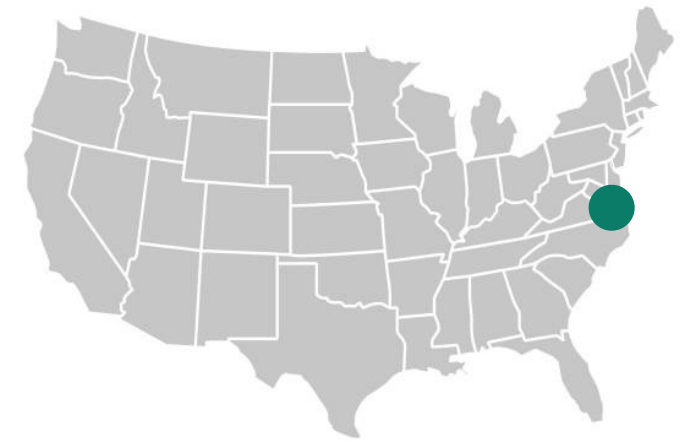
The Albina Vision Community Investment Plan (2021) focuses on wealth building in Albina through business development, home ownership, employment, community resources, entrepreneurship opportunities, and ownership interest.



Source: Albina Vision Trust

4. Jackson Ward

Richmond, VA



Identifying Features:

“Harlem of the South”, Community Slit by Highway, Urban Renewal, Second Street Festival, Significant Architecture, Community Coming Back

Leadership Organization(s):

The Historic Jackson Ward Association

The JWC Foundation, Jackson Ward Collective

The JXN Ward Project



Source: Virginia.org

Key Programming:

History

Preserving a significant Richmond neighborhood

Integrating history into the modern day experience

Small businesses assistance

Other Notes:

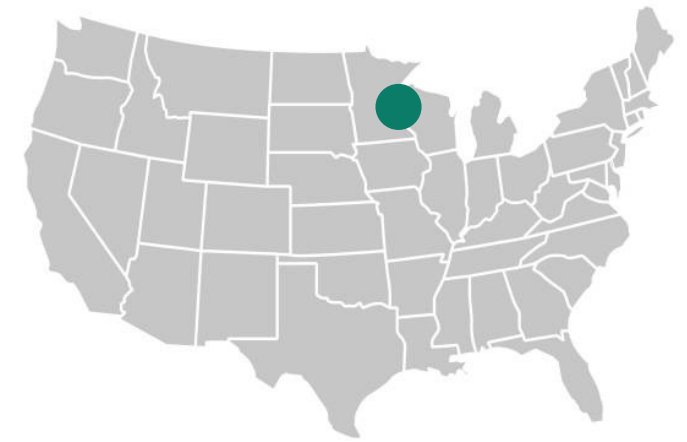
The Association consists of a diverse set of individuals; students, artists, musicians, faculty and professionals from all walks of life who, furthermore, recognize and appreciate the experiences that an urban environment can provide, as well as the unique talents that diversity brings.



Source: Wikimedia Commons

5. Rondo Neighborhood

St Paul, MN



Identifying Features:

Community Split by Highway, Urban Renewal, Minnesota's first African American Cultural Enterprise District, Consistent Community Parade/Celebration

Leadership Organization(s):

Reconnect Rondo
Rondo Center of Diverse Expression
Rondo Community Land Trust

Key Programming:

Supporting & Promoting: African American Cultural Enterprise District
Neighborhood Reconnection, Summit
Affordable Housing
Equitable Development
Public Health/Green Space

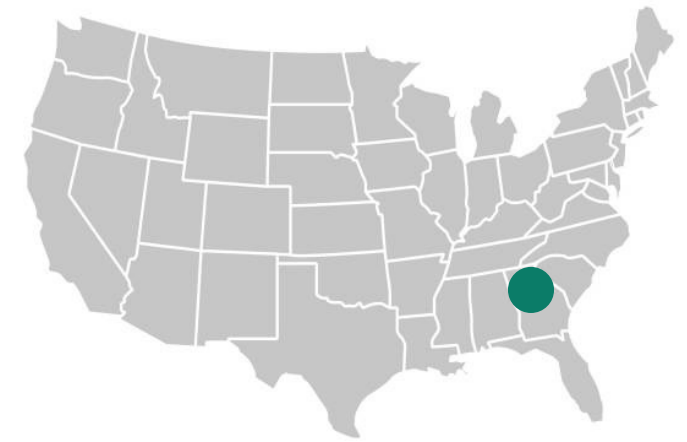
Other Notes:

Big vision to create an African American cultural enterprise district connected by a community land bridge.



6. Sweet Auburn

Atlanta, GA



Identifying Features:

Community Split by Highway, Urban Renewal, Thriving Businesses, Residents, and Institutions, National Park Service, Georgia State University

Leadership Organization(s):

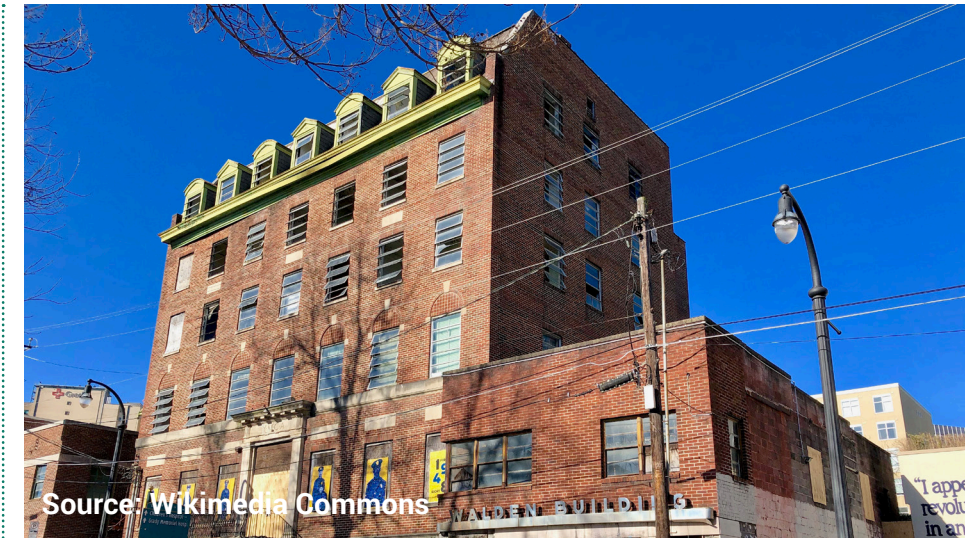
Sweet Auburn Works

Sweet Auburn District

SAGE - Sweet Auburn Greens and Equitable

Georgia Institute of Technology

National Historical Park



Key Programming:

SPARK Innovation Lab

History

Promote the District and Tourism

Revitalize

Providing District Details & Real Estate Information

Other Notes:

Sweet Auburn's connection to the University is an interesting connection to the Austin AACHD



Contact Information

Zakcq@MendCollaborative.com

Matt.Schmidt@austintexas.gov

Michelle@MendCollaborative.com

Juany.Torres@austintexas.gov

Kennedy@MendCollaborative.com

DonaldE.Jackson@austintexas.gov