

# African American Cultural Heritage District Coalition Workshop #3

**Date:** Wednesday, January 29th, 2025

**Time:** 10:00pm-12:00pm

**Location:** Huston-Tillotson Downs-Jones Library

**Attendees:** See Tables

## City of Austin and Consultant Team

Name	Business/Organization
<b>Matt Schmidt</b>	City of Austin, Acting Cultural Arts Division Manager
<b>Donald Jackson</b>	City of Austin, Business Process Consultant
<b>Zakcq Lockrem</b>	Mend Collaborative
<b>Kennedy Rauh</b>	Mend Collaborative

## AACHD Stakeholders

Name	Email	Business/Organization
<b>Lex Miller</b>		Rally Austin
<b>Eric Byrd</b>		District 1 - City Council
<b>Christopher Page</b>		Homewood Heights Neighborhood President
<b>Miriam Conner</b>		Creative Policy, Preservation Austin
<b>Lavon Marshall</b>		Rogers Washington Holy Cross Historic District
<b>Patricia Calhoun</b>		RWHC Historic District/CHA
<b>Marilynn Poole Webb</b>		RWHC Historic District
<b>Sean Garretson</b>		Servitas
<b>Byron Davis</b>		Urban Renewal Board, Commissioner
<b>Micah Clements</b>		Six Square
<b>Daphne McDole</b>		AALI, Six Square

<b>Greg Smith</b>		Austin Revitalization Authority
<b>Carl Settles</b>		E4 Youth, Pastor
<b>Barbara Spears-Corbett</b>		Original L.C. Anderson Alumni Association (OLCAAA, Inc.)
<b>Freddie Dixon</b>		
<b>Pam Owens</b>		Edge of Your Seat Consulting, East Austin Conservancy
<b>Ashton Cumberbatch</b>		Equidad, Black Chamber
<b>Natasha Harper-Madison</b>		Council Member, District 1
<b>John Lawler</b>		Council Policy Strategist, District 1

## 1 | Desired Outcomes

The purposes of the second meeting of this group were established to achieve the following:

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

Following the first three meetings, Mend Collaborative will be developing a full work plan and Public Engagement Plan for the process.

## 2 | Discussion Takeaways

### Developing Vision & Goals Statements

Mend presented a draft *Vision and Goals Statements*, from which the group worked to co-create a set of priorities for the District. From that discussion, Mend was tasked with finalizing edits and adding a *preamble* that established who was speaking, on which topics, and to call for accountability from the City in working as a partner to meet their responsibility to their apology.

The following **Vision & Goals Statement** was the draft shared with the group after the meeting for final edits:

*We, the Black and African-American community of Austin, speak with a **unified voice** to assert our right to **remain, return, and thrive** in the African-American Cultural Heritage District. For generations, systemic injustices—from segregation to urban renewal—have displaced our families, dismantled our businesses, and*

eroded the cultural fabric that once flourished in this district. Through the development of the AACHD strategic plan, **we commit** to ensuring **tangible actions** that **repair past harms** and build a future of **equity, prosperity, and cultural resilience**.

Our goals center on four areas: **housing, business development, culture and history, and infrastructure**.

These goals are not just aspirations—they are a mandate for accountability. We call on the City of Austin to partner with us to follow through on its formal apology to the Black and African-American community with action, recognizing that true repair requires sustained **investment, policy change, and community-led decision-making**. We stand together to ensure that this district remains a **beacon of Black excellence, resilience, and belonging** for generations to come.

Our priorities are to:

1. Safeguard the African-American community's rights to **remain, return, and thrive** in the district. This commitment includes **preserving and creating affordable housing, combating displacement**, and advancing an inclusive environment where all residents can **celebrate their cultural heritage**, and strengthen and **rebuild generational ties**.
2. Actively support **Black-owned businesses** and entrepreneurs through targeted **investments**, access to **resources**, and **policies** that promote **Black ownership in the district**. Establish a **sustainable** foundation that is a generator of economic vitality and **generational wealth** within the district.
3. Gather, preserve, and illuminate the district's **vibrant cultural identity** and rich **history of resilience** through active **storytelling, education**, and the **protection** of cultural and physical landmarks, while nurturing this legacy through **art and music**. Investing in **Black artists**, creating inclusive spaces, and **amplifying the voices and achievements** of Austin's Black communities past and present.
4. Enhance **physical and mental health** and **connectivity** by investing in **environmentally just** improvements, infrastructure, accessible transportation, and aesthetic enhancements that promote the district's identity. Create a district that is **accessible, welcoming**, and representative of its **cultural heritage**.

For the next meeting, Mend will incorporate edits suggested in the Google Form.

### 3 | Next Steps

The next AACHD Coalition Workshop will be held Tuesday, March 25th. It will be held at the Yellow Jacket Conference Center, and is scheduled from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

#### Action Items:

- **Mend Collaborative** will develop a draft Project Scope for feedback at the next meeting.
- **Mend Collaborative** will integrate the edits and suggestions to the Vision and Goals Statement from the Google form.
- All participants will:
  - **Review the [Draft Vision and Goals Statements](#)** - Please provide additional feedback/edits to the statements using the Google form.
  - **Contribute to the [Coalition Partners Contact List](#)** - Your contributions to contacting and identifying partner organizations in this coalition and community engagement building effort are critical to the success of our shared goals. Please complete entries into the form no later than Wednesday, November 27th for initial invites to Workshop #2.
  - **Review [Timeline of City Council Actions Impacting the African-American Cultural Heritage District](#)** - Please provide edits, additions
  - **Review [African American Cultural Heritage District Story Map](#)** - Provide additional recommended locations/points of interest