



The Austin Parks and Recreation Department's Dougherty Arts Center hosted an Open House for Community Input on the Potential for a New Facility

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) conducted a community open house at the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) on Thursday, June 21, 2018 from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm to discuss the future of the Arts Center.

The Dougherty Arts Center's mission is to support emerging through established artists by creating opportunities to create, showcase and experience art first hand.

The DAC has brought joy, education and entertainment to students and visitors for 40 years, and serves as one of Austin's oldest and most cherished community arts centers. The DAC serves five distinct areas of programming including: Theater Performances, Community Rentals, Gallery Events, Art School and Artist Professional Development.

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department, along with a consulting team led by RVi, is in the process of creating preliminary plans for redevelopment of the Dougherty Arts Center, and a key component of this process is collecting input from the building users and the general public. The open house gave the community an opportunity to learn more about the redevelopment project, speak with representatives from the project team and submit feedback.

The building was established as a temporary structure and was meant to be razed in the 1970s, but instead was adopted as a permanent home that has outlived its viability. In a 2010 conditions assessment, the DAC building was determined to be beyond repair. PAR will need to provide a new facility in order to continue to provide arts center services in a safe, healthy and sustainable environment.

While the DAC has received bond funding in previous bonds, it was not in the amount needed for a full facility replacement. The project is currently included as a high priority in the 2018 Bond, and PAR is requesting money for the construction of a new facility.

The Parks and Recreation Department is asking residents and artists in the Austin area to give them your ideas and input by filling out a short survey (English and Spanish versions available).

To take the community survey please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DACProject>.

For more information, please visit www.austintexas.gov/DACproject.

Questions regarding this project may be sent to DACProject@austintexas.gov.

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