

## THE DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT FACT SHEET

### The DAC Today:

Currently housed in a naval reserve built in 1947, the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) serves as one of Austin's oldest and most cherished community arts centers. Founded in 1978, the DAC serves all ten of Austin's council districts and has five distinct areas of programming including: Theater Performances, Community Rentals, Gallery Events, Art School and Artist Professional Development. In 2017, the DAC welcomed 66,000 visitors, community members and tourists from every Austin zip code, hosted 596 programs and provided opportunities for nearly 5000 artists. The DAC generated over \$640,000 in 2017 and is among the Parks and Recreation Department's top revenue sites.



All the above stands as a testament to the DAC's mission: to support emerging through established artists by creating opportunities to create, showcase and experience art first hand.

### The DAC Tomorrow:



As identified in a conditions assessment completed in 2010, the DAC building is beyond repair. The building was established as a temporary structure meant to be razed in the 1970s, but was adopted as a permanent home that has outlived its viability. The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) 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 did receive 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 PARD is requesting \$25M for a construction of a new facility. If constructed on City-owned parkland, the bond funding could allow for a replacement facility which provides roughly a 33% increase to the current building's programmable area.

The DAC has been the focus of multiple studies which determined that the redevelopment at the current site, due to its location within the floodplain and atop a former landfill, is seen as prohibitive from a both a practical application and cost impact. PARD has and continues to investigate feasible opportunities for the facility's redevelopment.

Currently, there is one site on City of Austin parkland being considered – the site at Butler Shores. *(turn page)*

***The site at Butler Shores:***

This potential site consists of a tract of parkland immediately behind the existing PARD main office building and the ZACH Theater, fronting Toomey Rd. on the south. To develop on this site would necessitate the relocation of the two existing softball fields currently programmed by Austin Independent School District (AISD). Currently, PARD staff is evaluating alternative sites for relocation of the ballfields. Alternatives were presented to AISD for consideration in April 2015, but no decisions have been reached at this time. The South Austin Little League programs three smaller ballfields adjacent to Barton Creek, which could remain in operation.



Potential benefits of the Butler Shores site include:

- Site is within reasonable proximity and service area of existing DAC
- Adjacency to PARD Main Administrative Office
- Proximity to and potential partnership opportunities with the ZACH Theatre
- Opportunity to improve parkland adjoining the PARD Main office and new DAC
- Opportunity for shared structured parking facility
- Opportunity to enhance Toomey Road streetscape and pedestrian connectivity to Zilker Park
- Consistent with recommendations in Town Lake Park Comprehensive Plan and Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan
- Site is City of Austin Parkland and properly zoned for construction of a parks facility.

Free of major development constraints, the Butler Shores site remains a top priority for the new DAC facility.

***Alternatives for redevelopment:***

For a project relying on funding from a forthcoming bond election, it is important to have options. Over the last several years, PARD has been presented with several potential public, private and non-profit partnership scenarios for redevelopment. Currently, City of Austin leadership is continuing conversations with the Austin Independent School District (AISD) to see if a shared school facility could be a complementary fit for the new DAC home.

PARD is curious to hear your thoughts about this potential opportunity for shared facility space. Do you think such a partnership would open new opportunities for arts programming, or would shared space require too much compromise for each partner? If an AISD site in Austin was suitable for a renovation to accommodate the DAC needs, what location would best serve the needs of the DAC users? Alternatively, if a private or non-profit partner was willing to bring additional funding to the redevelopment site at Butler Shores, would you be in support of a potential partnership? We want to hear your thoughts, so please take our survey!