

# Metz Recreation Center Renaming Input













## Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS	SUBSCRIBERS
888	336	1,177	206	3














Do you support the renaming of the Metz Recreation Center to the Rodolfo "Rudy" Mendez Recreation Center?

























97%	Yes, I support the renaming	319 ✓
3%	No, I do not support the renaming	9 ✓
1%	No opinion or unsure	2 ✓































## Please share any comments you have:

-  Let's name the center for someone who sought to build up our community. That person is Rudy Mendez.  
3 months ago 👍 5 Agree
-  Why isn't it already "Rodolfo "Rudy" Mendez Recreation Center"? Do it!  
3 months ago 👍 5 Agree
-  We support and defend the US flag in this country, and therefore, I think it is time we stop honoring those who fought against it and look to role models that better inspire creativity that lifts the community in a more relevant and meaningful way. That would be much more like Austin.  
3 months ago 👍 4 Agree
-  I think it's a great idea to rename it in honor of Rudy Mendez, a pillar of the East Austin community.  
3 months ago 👍 4 Agree
-  Get this done! It's far past time to stop honoring the Confederacy and I can think of no one more deserving than Rudy Mendez!  
3 months ago 👍 4 Agree
-  Let's honor this great, impactful individual!  
3 months ago 👍 4 Agree
-  As a native East Austinite and Mexican American, I can personally attest to the incredible impact and legacy left by Rudy Mendez. Rudy was a pillar in our Latino Mexican American community and always places the needs of our children and Latino community first. He remains deeply respected and regarded and he should absolutely honor his legacy.  
3 months ago 👍 4 Agree
-  Rodolfo Mendez was a pillar of the arts and East Austin community and touched the lives of many, many youth and adults through his company Ballet East Dance Company and at Metz Recreation Center where he created a center for arts, learning and community. This renaming would give tribute to him in a way that he will always be remembered and honored.  
3 months ago 👍 3 Agree
-  I own a house in this neighborhood. I'd much rather honor the Mendez legacy.  
3 months ago 👍 3 Agree
-  I think it's important to memorialize the history and keep educating young people and newcomers about the history of this area. I support the renaming, and urge our institutions to make it a practice to share the history of the former names, the German American community that lived on Holly shores before racial segregation; the anti-Mexican/ pro-segregationist campaign to keep Metz whites-only and segregate Zavala Elementary just a few blocks away. And finally, to celebrate the heroes of our more recent history, like Rudy Mendez and the network of Mexican Americans and other East Austinites who made the community what it is.  
3 months ago 👍 3 Agree
-  Mr Mendez is a phenomenal role model. Thank you for honoring his life and work this way for all of Austin to remember.  
3 months ago 👍 3 Agree
-  Rudy was an Austin treasure. He deserves this honor.  
3 months ago 👍 2 Agree



-  Rudy gave so much support to dancers in the community. He believed in the potential in everyone.  
3 months ago 👍 2 Agree
-  Rudy was a great mentor to many kids and devoted his entire life to the Arts.  
3 months ago 👍 2 Agree
-  The last time I was at Metz mas for a rehearsal with a dancer from Alvin Ailey in New York, who Rudy brought in to choreograph for his company. This unique experience would never have happened if not for his generous spirit and commitment to accessible arts. Rudy always remained true to himself and his beliefs, and city of Austin benefitted from this for decades through his service. Renaming Metz Recreation Center in his name would be a wonderful acknowledgment.  
3 months ago 👍 2 Agree
-  In addition Rudy always helped the kids in the neighborhood and kept the youth learning through his dance programs. He contributed to big events with his performances. He taught kids of all ages and was at Metz for a long time. He was active in the community with an upbeat spirit, full of joy and positive vibes & outlook on life that made people love being around him.  
11 days ago 👍 1 Agree
-  Rudy was such a light in his community. He helped so many young people. No one deserves this honor more!  
2 months ago 👍 1 Agree
-  We pay homage to people we respect by name naming locations in our everyday life after them. It's entirely appropriate and imperative that we update these when the symbolism is no longer in synch with our cultural beliefs OR when a memory more important or close to home is worth recognizing. As a native Texan and very long time Austin resident, I love the idea of naming after a local doer that gives more homage to Austin's own identity.  
3 months ago 👍 1 Agree
-  Rudy all the way! There should be no doubt.  
3 months ago 👍 1 Agree
-  When I think of Metz I think of Rudy. He gave his heart and soul to his community.  
3 months ago 👍 1 Agree
-  Mendez is a better representation of Austin.  
3 months ago 👍 1 Agree
-  Rudy gave me my first job teaching dance at the Rec. Center, I will forever be grateful! He was so devoted to bringing dance and art to the center and he absolutely deserves this honor!  
3 months ago 👍 1 Agree
-  Rudy was a great patron of the arts in East Austin. His legacy should be carried on with honorable distinction for what he did and believed in.  
3 months ago 👍 1 Agree
-  Please leave as is. Metz is a great name.  
3 months ago 👍 1 Agree
-  I fully support the renaming to Rudy Mendez .Mr. Mendez has contributed so much to this community and it would be a great tribute and honor for his family.  
3 months ago 👍 1 Agree

-  Rudolfo changed my life in so many ways which has inspire my brands of Stay Active & Breakdance Austin to elevate to the next level of opportunities. Without his donations from the start I wouldn't know where I'll be today. I strongly support the name change especially when someone gives you a chance to believe in your self. Thank you Rudy for everything!!  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  Rudy did alot for the kids of this community, he deserves it.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  The legacy of Rodolfo "Rudy" Mendez is east Austin and American history. As people and places that tell Mexican American history in east Austin rapidly disappear, this renaming can serve to preserve and elevate the voices of Mexican Americans that made Austin what it is today. It is rare to find descendants of 'border crossed them' Mexican American families, families who were involuntarily naturalized into U.S. citizenship by the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Mr. Mendez is such a descendant and his story and contributions must be preserved for future generations.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  I definitely give my approval every name in the park after Rudy he was an anchor to the community always treated you with respect and always was kind he helped out the community in many ways I know personally because I lived on the next block from Metz. And like I always told him when I saw him personally when he was alive thank you for all you did and I think I've learned myself as I got older to help with the community with what I could in any way I could. Thanks Rudy Mendez Rest In Paradise say Hello to my Mom  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  I was honored to have Rudy as my mentor. With his guidance and support I was able to run the only competitive dance team in middle school for 10 years, The Martin Eaglettes. He inspired myself and the girls with his guest choreographers, his love of performance and his love of the Martin community.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  He deserves it.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  For someone who gave so much of himself for the community to thrive and grow, it's ridiculous not to rename it.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  He did so much for the community of East Austin.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  **Leave it alone. Metz had personal history in Austin for 70 years.**  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  I think it is important to honor someone who cherished Austin rather than a Confederate soldier who wasn't even born here.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  Served on the Advosry Board of this center at Rudy's recommendation. Rudy had a tireless commitment to the center and programming to serve all ages.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  Rudy Mendez made Austin a better place. Metz, not so much. Renaming the center is a wonderful idea and I hope it goes forward soon.  
3 months ago  1 Agree

-  Rudy mendez was east Austin. The impact he had for kids in the community was amazing. Kids in n the community that wanted to be a part of the arts he made sure they were.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  Great man and contributions to the community  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  Remove and rename. Metz was a confederate leader.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  Metz was a captain in the Confederate Army. Is that a joke?  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  I absolutely support this.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  What an opportunity to honor an inspirational local figure.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  I STRONGLY support removing any honor granted to people who defended the Confederacy and its ideals. Those who fought for the Confederacy believed that Black people were less deserving of respect and autonomy than White people, and it's something that we cannot continue perpetuating. Thank you for making the change!  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  I fully support this!  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  Do the right thing  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  Strongly support!  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  I am for it!  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  It's the right thing to do.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  My uncle deserves this!!  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  Very deserving as Mr. Rudy Mendez dedicated his life to helping the youth of Austin and impacting so many lives in a positive way.  
3 months ago  1 Agree
-  It would be a meaningful name change to replace a Confederate supporter's name with someone who was born in Austin and made a huge contribution to the city in this decade.  
3 months ago  1 Agree



I knew Rudy Mendez and he was a role model in the community. He enriched the cultural fabric in East Austin and brought pride and joy to the community through his dance troupe. This is a worthy name change.

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



Well deserved honor.

3 months ago 👍 1 Agree



with ever changing names, it is difficult to orient oneself in this city (i have lived here over 30 years). I understand we may have concerns about some elements of the US past, but we have to accept (not celebrate), and remember history. if we can cel it out, we repeat it. in addition, i can say Mendez is a very common name, again, the idea is to make something stand out and be recognizable, not to blur. I am already confused enough navigating this fast growing city. and i still call Townlake the body of water that now as a million different names for the pedestrian bridge, the trail, the lake, the.... whatever: it's townlake. Let's please stop changing names non stop. Metz is Metz. clear . simple. thank you.

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



Rudy was a shining example of what a leader in the community is ... It would be such an honor to name the center after him ...after decades of providing arts, culture, dance, and educational opportunities for hundreds, if not thousands of students ... His legacy, as Metz' will live on, forever ...

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



Rudy is a leader in the arts in Austin and has impacted so many people positively. I can't think of anyone else who deserves this honor.

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



As a former arts commissioner for the city of Austin I strongly suggest the change. His efforts and devotion surpassed most every expectation possible. A model citizen for sure.

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



Rudy was a great dancer. He did so much for the community. He worked with so many children and Adults.

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



Rodolfo was a pillar of the east Austin community. He devoted his life to young people, enabling them to access the arts and inspiring them to be disciplined, motivated, and successful in life. The Metz Rec Center would be honored to be named after him.

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



Mr. Mendez was an amazing dance instructor of mine. He opened my eyes to opportunities I never would thought of. I would love for the community of East austin to honor him and this way.

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



Rodolfo Mendez developed many after school educational arts programs for youth in East Austin for decades. He mentored so many youth and adults during his lifetime and the many lives he touched and impacted, have been extremely successful. So many kids have risen out of poverty and became successful leaders, artists, business owners, and today's positive influencers because of Rodolfo's commitment of excellence to the underserved community of East Austin. He heavily and endlessly advocated for artists of color in Austin, and paved the path for many artists today to create. He was a visionary and strong leader.

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



Rodolfo Mendez's legacy should live on. He gave his heart and soul to East Austin and mentored so many young dancers.

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



This is so important for his legacy to continue for future generations.

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



Mr. Mendez dedicated his life to bringing the arts to the underprivileged community in East Austin. This renaming would be a great tribute to his legacy and would preserve the memory of his unwavering dedication to the youth of East Austin.

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



He will forever be a legend to the East Austin Community.

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree



Mr. Méndez "Rudy" toda una leyenda de amor, compromiso y lealtad para los chicos y a toda la comunidad.

7 days ago



YO CONOCI AL PROFESOR RODOLFO, SU TRABAJO Y SU OBRA CON LA COMUNIDAD. EXCELENTE HONRARLO CON ESTE RENOMBRE. FELICIDADES Y GRACIAS PROFE, DEJO HUELLA.

10 days ago



I fully support naming our public spaces after true heroes who spent their lives giving to others. Mr. Mendez deserves this honor.

11 days ago



Mr. Mendez was very welcoming to everyone. It was inspirational seeing him work with his folklórico students at Martin. It would be a beautiful way to honor the amazing things he did for the community.

12 days ago



I applaud this decision whole heartedly.

12 days ago



I knew Rodolfo Mendez for many years. He was tirelessly devoted to East Austin (as well as Austin in general), so renaming the neighborhood recreation center where he did so much of his community work, to honor his memory, is most appropriate.

2 months ago



[Translated from Spanish] Thanks for putting this name, this man did a lot for our children and continues to make a great example as a person. Thanks Mr. Rudy.

2 months ago



My daughter is a low income special education student. She began dancing with Ballet East under the direction of Rudy Mendez. She went from a shy, quiet girl to a confident outgoing young woman. Prior to dancing, she never spoke a word at school. 5 years later she is in a magnet school, excelling academically, doing public speaking and continues to grow leaps and bounds. Despite her size and disability, Rudy gave her a change to shine because he saw potential and believed in her. I fully support the renaming!

2 months ago



Mr. Mendez was such an important man who positively influenced so many. If anyone deserves to be remembered, it is him.

2 months ago





Rudolph was a force of nature in the dance world, the community and culture of East Austin and beyond, and had a seeming endless energy to create, support and bring out the best in anyone who had the good fortune to cross paths with him to share or collaborate or learn about the arts and life and caring... He is missed and should be remembered... and this is a most perfect way.

2 months ago



This is an excellent idea! He did so much for the arts community in Austin.

2 months ago



Our neighborhood should not have monuments or buildings named after Confederate soldiers.

2 months ago SMS



My grandmother worked there for many years helping seniors as a senior herself until she passed away. Don't feel it's necessary to rename it.

3 months ago



I remember always hanging out at the recreation center and seeing my my friends participate in the folklore dance. I was too shy to participate but my friends loved it.

3 months ago



Great idea, very deserving.

3 months ago



Honor someone who actually encouraged youth to do better..

3 months ago



It's the right thing to do!

3 months ago



It's time to honor a cultural hero!

3 months ago



Rudolfo "Rudy" Mendez changed the lives of so many people, including myself. This would be a wonderful honor to him.

3 months ago



Renaming the center after Rudy Mendez would be a beautiful tribute to a man who did so much to build and support community in East Austin.

3 months ago



Rudy was an absolute legend. It was a pleasure shooting Ballet East with him for the last decade.

3 months ago



Both men have there place in Texas history. But that being said. Metz had a school named after him and his background is more towards education. Mr.Mendez background is more for the community and a rec center us the perfect place to honor his name.

3 months ago



Well deserved!

3 months ago



I value celebrating the names of those in the community who have reached out, made a difference, create opportunities, and inspired others to grow.

3 months ago



I say we should name it Community McCommunityCenterFace

3 months ago



Why would you even consider such a thing? Such a disgrace!

3 months ago



Hopefully this can be changed would be a great improvement.

3 months ago



Well deserved honor especially considering his connection to the Metz Rec Center.

3 months ago



Mr. Mendez has done great work for our city and deserves to be recognized!

3 months ago



Let's honor Rudy!

3 months ago



<3

3 months ago



Rodolfo is the perfect person to be honored in this manner.

3 months ago



Rodolfo opened my eyes and opportunities through work at the center with dance groups and seniors activities, and all kinds of activities.

3 months ago



I was born and raised in East Austin. Myself and my brother danced for Rudy. Ballet East and Rudy Mendez changed the trajectory of my life. Rudy dedicated his life to the children of East Austin. My siblings and I benefited from Rudy's dedication along with hundreds of other children.

3 months ago



Muchas gracias por tomarnos en cuenta. Rudy Mendez será honrada su memoria.

3 months ago



Rudy touched so many lives! He was a beautiful soul! Definitely for this change! ❤️

3 months ago



Please make this change. Rudy Mendez was an Austin gem and such a bright force in the creative community. This center was the life of so much of his work. The legacy must continue and this is an amazing way to do so.

3 months ago



He was a force for youth and culture! Rename!!!

3 months ago



"Rudy"

Native to Austin, Tejas since the day of Empresarios the Mendez family it's a pillar for minorities and less the fortunate.

Always bringing the arts to the community and our community to the world, by putting his young students through school, colleague and Dancing scholarship on the best dance schools of the nation.

Te amo Mendez.

Descansa en paz, we will always remember what you did for us.

3 months ago



3 months ago



I am pleased to say that his hard work and dedication, along with his dancers, gain my support for the renaming. Go Rudy!!

3 months ago



Rudy gave his life to Austin and the community.

3 months ago



Rudy served the community in Austin, he should be remembered in this way.

3 months ago



No question that this is a great idea !

3 months ago



A True East Austin Legend! Rudy gave his heart and soul to Metz. "Dare To Dance"

3 months ago



Rudy was a mentor, friend, and father figure to many during his time at Metz. Even lending money to me when I needed it (small denominations)

3 months ago



I served on the board of Ballet East Dance Theatre for very many years. Rudy was totally committed to making a difference for the youth of East Austin. Whether giving of his time professionally or personally, his selfless generosity made a difference to so many and was loved by even more. His legacy deserves to live in a place that will forever honor Rudy Mendez.

3 months ago



Rodolfo was the epitome of what recreation centers do and who they are. His work allowed the community to not only be exposed to the arts, but to be a part of them. Rodolfo invested in the growth of so many children and young adults. Renaming the recreation would speak to his dedication and commitment as a community leader, as well as a much loved community member.

3 months ago



I'm so proud to have worked with Rudy during the Dare to Dance program at Metz. He worked so hard for all of the students.

3 months ago



Rudy was an inspiration and shared his talent through teaching to many in Austin. I am blessed to have been a small part of his legacy.

3 months ago



Rudy Mendez was a mentor and helped me found Latinitas, an Austin based nonprofit that empowers all girls to innovate using media and tech. It can't be put into words how well he maximized Metz for community engagement and help -providing programs there for children and adults - dance instruction to drug prevention. I was emotionally moved to see the city suggest this and would be available to help with any planning or fundraising.

3 months ago




No comments







3 months ago SMS

#### How frequently do you visit this space?

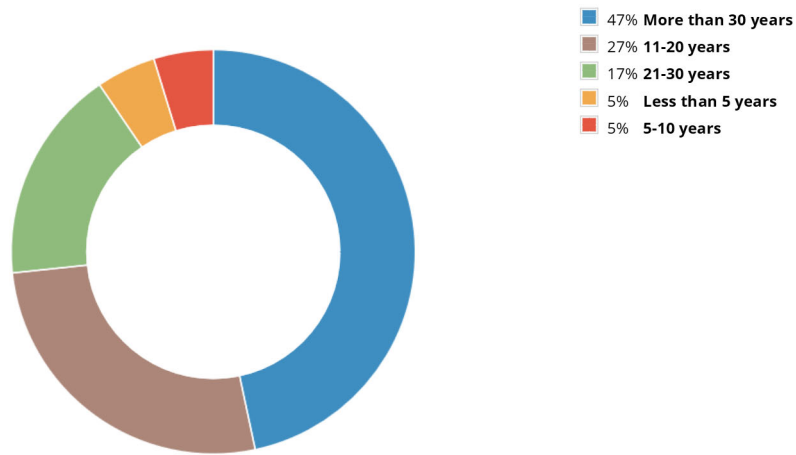
<b>44%</b>	Fewer than 5 times a year	41 ✓
<b>23%</b>	5-12 times a year	21 ✓
<b>17%</b>	I have never visited	16 ✓
<b>9%</b>	Once a week	8 ✓
<b>6%</b>	2-3 times a month	6 ✓
<b>2%</b>	2 times or more each week	2 ✓

## What park is closest to your home?

- ☐ Mabel Davis  
2 months ago
- ☐ Montopolis Center  
2 months ago
- ☐ Montopolis Recreation Center  
2 months ago
- ☐ Metz Park  
2 months ago
- ☐ Metz  
2 months ago  SMS
- ☐ Gus Garcia Recreation Center  
3 months ago
- ☐ Dove springs recreation  
3 months ago
- ☐ Dove Springs  
3 months ago
- ☐ Parque Zaragosa  
3 months ago
- ☐ Zilker  
3 months ago
- ☐ Patterson  
3 months ago
- ☐ Butler  
3 months ago
- ☐ Walter E Long and John Treviño  
3 months ago
- ☐ Armadillo Park  
3 months ago
- ☐ Boggy Creek  
3 months ago
- ☐ Gus Garcia district park  
3 months ago
- ☐ Alamo park  
3 months ago
- ☐ Springfield Neighborhood Park  
3 months ago

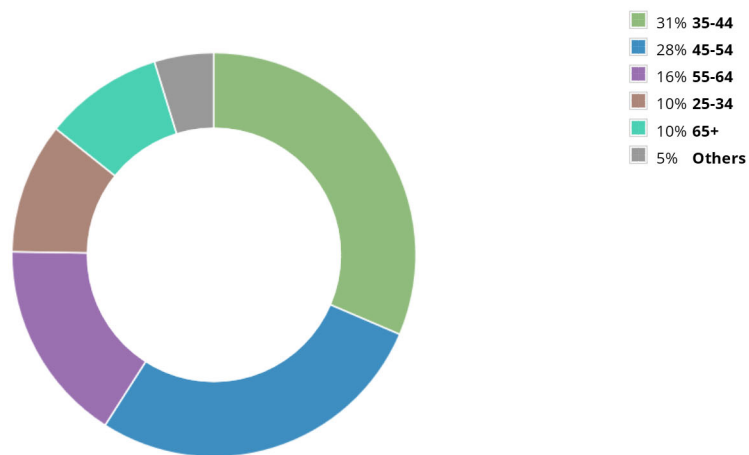
-  Metz  
3 months ago
-  Metz  
3 months ago
-  Kealing  
3 months ago
-  Zaragoza  
3 months ago
-  Walnut Creek Park  
3 months ago  SMS

How long have you lived in Austin?



105 respondents

What is your age range?



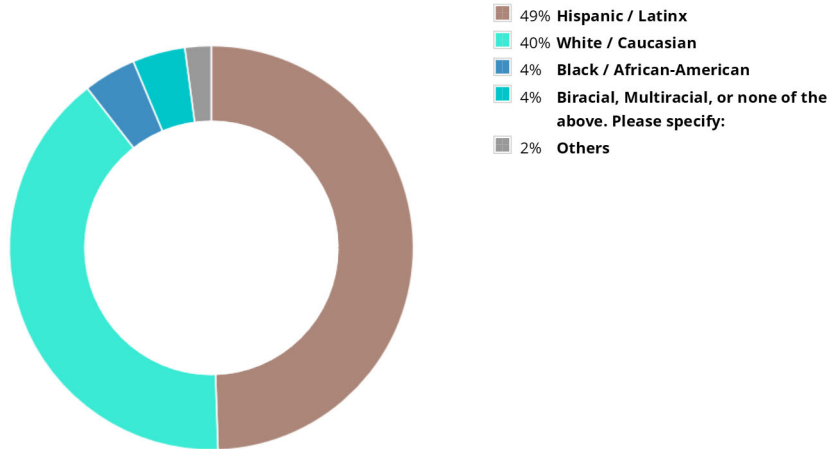
105 respondents

Loading more report objects...

Not including yourself, what other ages live in your household?

55%	17 or under	37 ✓
28%	35-44	19 ✓
19%	45-54	13 ✓
18%	18-24	12 ✓
16%	25-34	11 ✓
16%	55-64	11 ✓
10%	65+	7 ✓

What is your race or ethnicity?

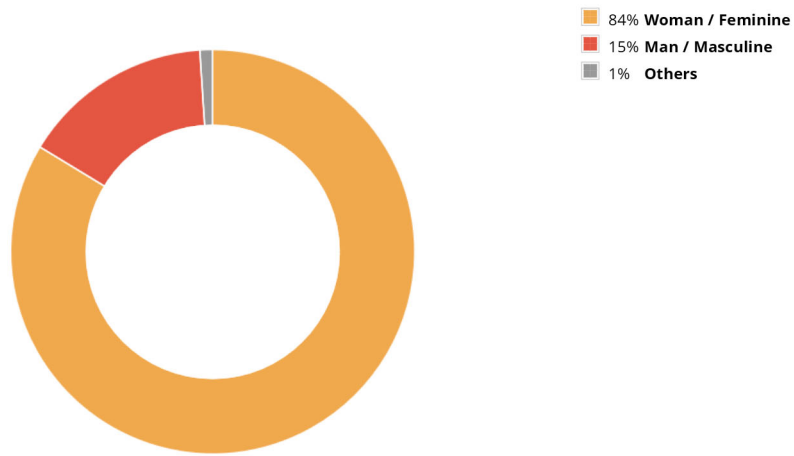


95 respondents

- ☐ Regardless of the demographic in the East Austin area now, the history of East Austin needs to include Rudy.  
3 months ago
- ☐ should i share thoughts about my race? ridiculous. I am a PERSON, not a race. I happen to have a color.  
3 months ago
- ☐ Parks are good

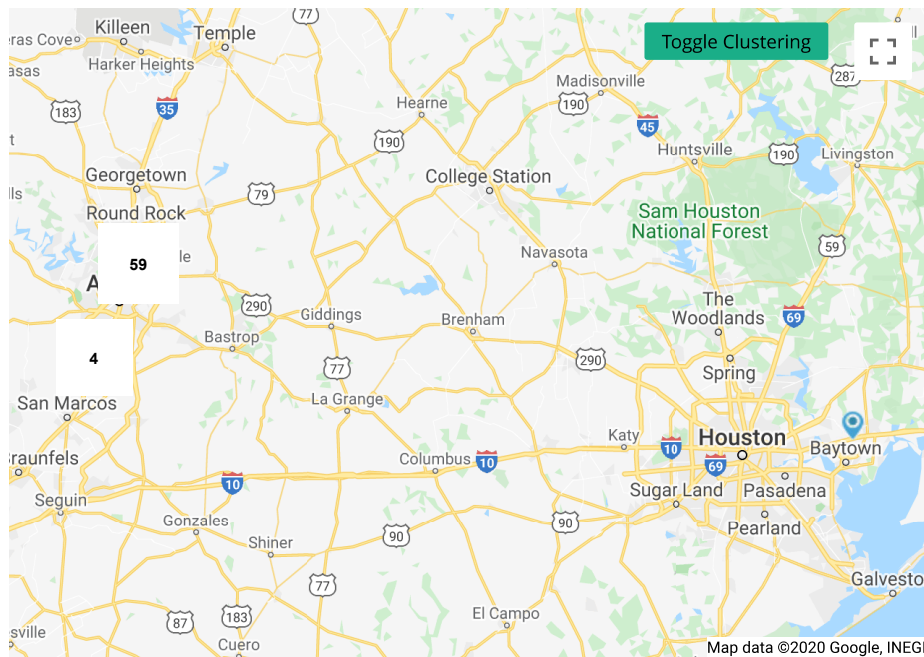
Show all 7 comments

What is your gender?

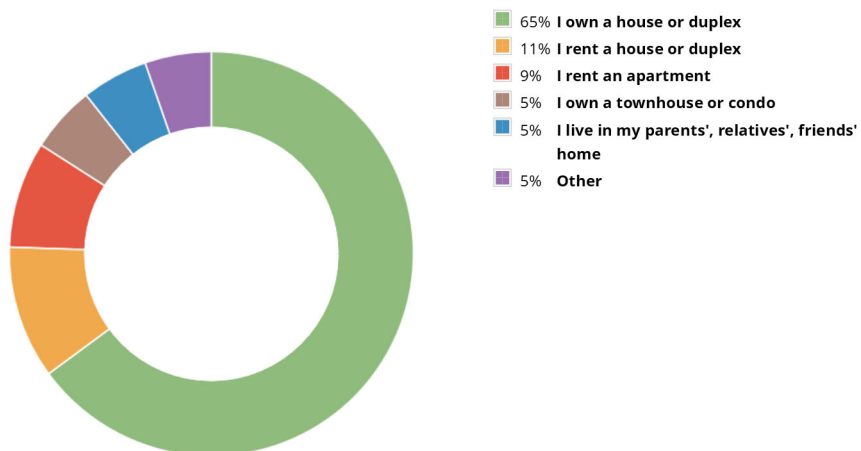


98 respondents

What is your zip code?



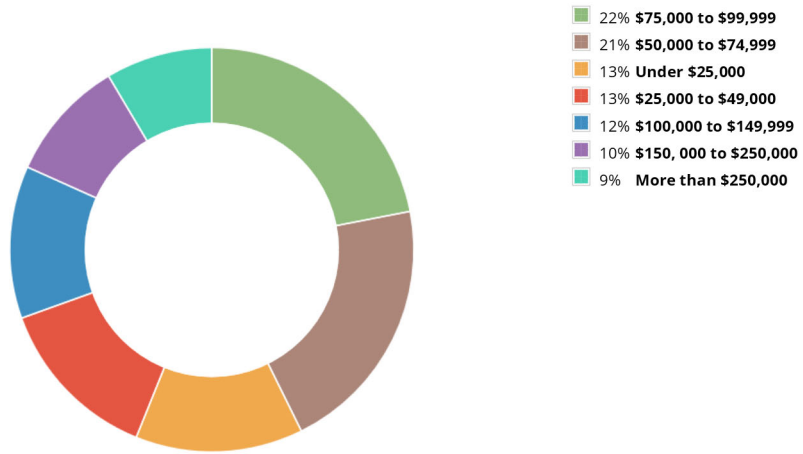
Please describe where you currently live?



94 respondents



What is your approximate household income?



82 respondents