

Proposed Downs Field Improvements



Neighborhood Partnering Program Application Summary

Project Name: Austin's Baseball Legacy Project at Historic Downs Field

Applicant: Friends of Downs Field (African American Cultural Heritage District & Rosewood Neighborhood Plan Contact Team)

Project location: Mabson-Downs Complex



Project Scope & Description

- Project is to create a new park entryway, landscape a wildlife habitat, and build a mosaic mural to commemorate the African-American baseball history at Downs Field. Of this project the City will be responsible for building a large cinderblock wall (approximately 10 feet x 64 feet) at the corner of E. 12th Street and Alexander Avenue, install a decorative composite fence, and entryway with lighting.
- Project concept has been reviewed and approved by staff at the Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments.

Project Costs & Cost Match

Total Project Costs: \$160,686

Friends of Downs Field – Cash Match, Professional Services, Materials & Volunteer Hours	\$57,879
City of Austin – Construction & Contingency	\$102,807

Friends of Downs Field Cost Share: \$80,343

Cash Match, Materials, Professional Services & Volunteer Hours	\$57,879
Maintenance (Not Included in Total Project Costs)	\$22,464

Project Category: Large: \$150,000 - \$500,000

Cost Match Requirement (Community Cost Share / Total Project Costs): **Met**

Required Minimum Community Match (%):	50%
Actual Community Match (%)	50%

Description of Support, Participation & Maintenance

Evidence of Support Map

Total Number of Support Signatures	7
Number on petition who plan to actively participate	7
Impacted Stakeholders	7
Impacted Stakeholders Signatures	7
Percentage	100%



- The community will be providing professional landscaped design and stamped design drawings for all the project elements. They will also be responsible for painting the fence, landscaping the entrance area around the new fence to be a Wildlife Habitat, and maintaining the landscaping element. The Friends of Downs Field will also be providing a \$4,573 cash match.
- Once the mural wall is installed the Friends of Downs Field will fund an artist, purchase the supplies for the mosaic, and assemble a mosaic mural commemorating the African American history of the field. When design for this element of the project is ready, it will go before the Arts Commission for approval.
- Letters of support were received for this project from Huston-Tillotson University and Austin Metro Baseball League for this project.

Evidence of Support
Criteria: **Met**

Quality of Life Enhancements & Incorporation of City Initiatives

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to being relocated within the Rosewood Neighborhood, the original location of Downs Field was the home field for the Austin Black Senators, the local franchise of the Texas Negro League. As such, a number of prominent and Hall of Fame players had played at Downs Field. This project will help provide a visual celebration of this history. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is within the Rosewood Neighborhood Plan area and the African American Cultural Heritage District. • The mural project incorporates art and historic preservation in an area with a lot of new development. It is the hope that this project will help Downs Field play a more significant role in hosting community events and celebrations. |
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