



**Interpretive Placemaking Plan  
Park Anchored Liaisons and Stakeholders (PALS) #1 Meeting Notes**

Public City began communications with potential Park Anchored Liaisons and Stakeholders (PALS) on 6/5/2019. Since then, our team has coordinated five introductory PALS group meetings, numerous one on one conversations and tabled at two public events with the intent to introduce this phase of EastLink's evolution and best understand relevant and meaningful ways to engage with the communities along the trail.

Navigating community dynamics will be an ongoing effort throughout the engagement process. This is critical to demonstrating we are doing our best to respect community leadership and emerging voices.

**Meeting Dates**

- June 20 from 12p-1p at Notes for Notes (Doris Miller Auditorium, Rosewood Park)
- June 20 from 6-7p at Notes for Notes (Doris Miller Auditorium, Rosewood Park)
- June 30 from 3-4p at Batch (Manor Road)
- July 10 from 6-8p at Millennium Youth Complex (produced by City of Austin)
- July 12 from 12p-1p at Sustainable Food Center
- July 12 from 5-6p at Sustainable Food Center
- July 12 from 6-8p at "Upper Boggy Bash" (produced by City of Austin)

**Participants to Date**

***Consultant Team:***

- Meredith Powell, Miriam Conner, Samuel Franco, Shenina Delfin (Public City)
- Jana McCann, Michelle Slattery (MAS)

***Austin Parks Foundation:***

- Cynthia Rodriguez
- Katie Robillard

***PALS/Community Members:***

***PALS1 Meeting Participants***

- Lauren Hartnett
- Neal Whetstone
- Caleb Pritchard
- kYmberly Keeton
- Volma Overton III
- Stephanie Lang
- Beth Caroll
- Jesus Mendoza
- Halana Kaleel
- Allison Ross
- Linda Guerrero
- Kelly Hassandras
- Jeanette Swensen (Windsor Park)
- Jenn Massing (Parque Zaragosa)
- Nadia Kahn (north end of Windsor Park)
- Margaret Levy (participant in activities at the Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center)
- Ray Price (Notes for Notes Executive Director)
- Raasin Macintosh



### ***One on One Meetings***

Gavino Fernandez, Jr  
Jose Velazquez  
SolAna Renteria  
Jessica Wilson  
Amanda Jasso  
Kellee Coleman  
Sarah Marshall  
Jane and Gilbert Rivera  
Ryan Eaker  
Nine Francois  
Sue Lambe  
Carl Settles  
Ashley Greenstein  
Lonny Stern  
David Chincanchan  
Sari Albornoz

### **Overarching Findings**

- + Engage across generations – senior and youth programs prolific along the trail
- + Arts based engagement through anchor programs/assets along the trail – rich cultural history
- + Actively explore the trail (and just off the trail) to illustrate its potential – history of recreation
- + Collecting histories of the communities along the trail is critical yet there are a lot of different efforts underway
- + Food production/edible landscape is anchored in both the past and present
- + Go where the communities already are and work with trusted partners
- + Safe space means different things to different communities and is critical to address
- + No one size fits all
- + Engagement fatigue—multiple projects, project leads happening at once
- + Communities along the trail can be disparate

### **Supporting Comments for Overarching Findings**

- + Engage across generations – senior and youth programs prolific along the trail.
  - Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center—Margret Levy—Golden Rollers (Group trike rides)
  - Ryan Eaker/Camacho Youth Cycling
  - Totally Cool, Totally Art (PARD youth art program)
  - Notes for Notes (youth music program)
  - AISD
- + Arts based engagement through anchor programs/assets along the trail – rich cultural history.
  - Music over voices - Notes for Notes
  - Instrumental music with stories of and from Community with surrounding sounds
  - Chitlin Circuit stage: Ike & Tina Turner; TCTA Program: Totally Cool Totally Art (who have been producing murals)—need to get youth involved! “Dory Miller”
  - We could also develop podcasts.
  - Could we consider developing stories for use on the “Travel Story” app? (smart phone app that has GIS component allowing one to open the app and listen to stories: see [www.travelstorys.com](http://www.travelstorys.com))
  - Camacho Recreation Center Youth Film/Photography program (just off the trail)
  - Austin Film Studios and Austin Public



- + Actively explore the trail (and just off the trail) to illustrate its potential – history of recreation.
  - Five pools, three merchants districts, multiple historic parks, performance spaces, youth programs (art and recreation), senior programs, cultural facilities, sports facilities, AISD, food production, public transit, bike infrastructure and so much more
  - St. John's has an active, formalized NH association that does monthly "walks" to bring people together.
  - St. John's/Bartholomew - trying to gain traction with Sports leagues - soccer
  - Rising need for youth soccer, as well as a diving program at Bartholomew Park (which is one of the few parks in town that has a diving well (?). We will be advocating a pathway through Bartholomew Park to Tilley Street as highest priority for neighborhood association's improvements. We typically must drive out of the neighborhood to participate in activities.
- + Collecting histories of the communities along the trail is critical, yet there are a lot of different efforts underway.
  - PARD, UT, Zoning, E4 Youth, Age Well/Live Well, Austin History Center
- + Food production/edible landscape is anchored in both the past and present.
  - Community garden, SFC, history of fruit trees along Nile Street, currently people forage for pecans, lead nature walks, etc.
- + Go where the communities already are and work with trusted partners.
  - Appreciates/desires direct, face-to-face communication, such as the stories and speakers.
  - Connecting Schools - Robo Calls
  - Present to Senior Commission - 2nd Wednesdays
  - PARD and NextDoor have been effective in contacting folks (APD Region 3), but door-to-door and mailing is an important means of communication. Would be interested in partnering for bulk mail-outs of newsletters
  - Windsor Park has a Newsletter "meet the people in your neighborhood".
  - Using the "Thursday folder", that AISD sends home with every kid.
  - Look at Yellow Bike Project.
  - AISD back to school
  - Hillside Concert Series, Dies Y Seis
  - Neighborhood Associations, contact teams, boards and commissions (as relevant)
  - It's still a struggle to get Hispanic community (that's where the families are!) and renter community to participate.
  - Booster clubs/PTA
  - Smart Trips and Capital Metro
- + Safe space means different things to different communities and is critical to address.
  - Park Ranger Program – Akins
  - How to create a safe space?
  - How do you feel like you belong?
  - Safe for seniors more about getting around safely—even ground, lighting etc.
- + No one size fits all.
  - Need to do a multi-pronged approach
- + Engagement fatigue—multiple projects, project leads happening at once.
  - Holly Point, Longhorn Dam, Boggy Creek, Holly Shores Master Plan
- + Communities along the trail can be disparate.
  - Warring factions even within legacy families



**Specific Participant Ideas**

- Bathrooms
- Water
- Lighting
- Safety
- Seniors and kids
- Fruit trees
- School field trips
- Combined water and wayfinding
- Golden Rollers
- The Groovers - dancers
- Smooth and Easy - dancers
- Senior trail walk in the am
- School field trips
- Pool hop
- Pleasant Valley Overpass "Pillars Art"
- Rec center connect
- Safety POC and allies bike ride
- Business District discounts
- Extend trail through Bartholomew Park to access all of Windsor Park
- Wayfinding near Parque Zaragoza to connect people to the trail and to the destinations on and off the trail.
- Signage on and off the trail

