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# SMARTOWN

AN ARTS DISTRICT FOR AUSTIN

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Imagine a model district of affordable live + work spaces where artists lead the way to establish a community that solves the age-old problem of segregation of people with disabilities in Texas. Imagine **ART** being a vehicle for transformation.

## VISION...

- To revitalize a land and it's people, the remaining 192 residents of the **Austin State Supported Living Center**.
- Imagine public-private partnerships that rethink state and city resources to seek the welfare of a people group in our city.
- Imagine artists, living + working on the land, bringing transformation.
- Imagine a creative process of Master Planning that breaks historical barriers between stakeholders to pioneer a path that can be replicated statewide.
- Imagine under-utilized state resources being repurposed to **create a thriving arts-district destination where artists will live and work, creative non-profits will reside and where people with disabilities are woven into the daily life as citizens.**

## GOALS

- **Short-term:** Establish a working relationship with DADS and HHSC to **demonstrate** community revitalization, using art as a vehicle of transformation.
- **Mid-Term:** Facilitate a **creative Master Planning** process that brings together stakeholders (residents/families, city and state leaders, neighborhoods and interested like-minded players) to establish vision that steers development decisions on the land, keeping the welfare of the people as first priority.
- **Long-Term:** Establish an **arts district destination** that seeks to provide for the welfare of a city and it's most vulnerable people.

## PROBLEM & IMPACT

- **The Problem of Segregation:** Historically hidden, people with disabilities, are woven into the fabric of daily life with increased accountability, community access and quality of life. HHSC operates 13 State Supported Living Centers in Texas and there is opportunity to replicate a model that meets needs statewide.
- **The Problem of Affordability for the Arts:** Austin's creative people and their non-profit livelihoods relocate to the land, **securing long-term affordability** to establish **facilities, programming and live + work** opportunity.
- **The Problem of Disconnect:** Historical patterns of disconnect between state and city will be broken with opportunity for creative partnerships revitalizing under-utilized state resources to meet the needs of a city and impact the overall health of Texans.



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