

Our Austin Story:

The Story of Austin Through the Lens of Our Historic City Squares

The purpose of Our Austin Story is to engage the public in the shared heritage expressed in, by, and through Austin's historic city squares. This project is sponsored by the Downtown Austin Alliance, working in partnership with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Our Austin Story will develop, in concert with the public, interpretive plans for each of the three remaining squares: Brush, Republic, and Wooldridge. These plans will relate key storylines and stories to their most appropriate square. These interpretive plans will help inform park planning, in-park interpretation, marketing, public engagement, and programming.

Conversations will address these questions:

- What is your familiarity with the remaining Austin squares – Brush, Republic, and Wooldridge?
- What personal experiences do you have with or around these squares?
- What information has been passed to you about the squares from your family or friends?
- What do you feel is important about the heritage that is embodied in these squares?

Why is this topic important and how will feedback be used?

Austin continues to grow at an unprecedented rate. There is a risk that Austin's heritage will be lost (or at least diminished) during our maturation into a major city. Austin's historic squares are common ground, and ideal for the interpretation and communication of this shared heritage. Our Austin Story is reaching every facet of our society, and constructing a narrative of our city from the stories and experiences shared by those who lived them.

The information that is gathered from these discussions will be used to shape and craft a narrative of Austin's heritage as filtered through the lens of its historic squares – Brush, Republic, and Wooldridge.

Who will be reviewing the feedback?

- Melissa Barry, AICP
Vice President, Planning
Downtown Austin Alliance
- Kim McKnight, MSHP, AICP, CNU-A,
Project Coordinator, Community Projects
Preservation Planner I Cultural Resource Specialist
Austin Parks and Recreation Department
- Ted Lee Eubanks
President and Founder
Fermata Inc.

What else do I need to know?

The interpretive narrative developed by Our Austin Story also will help visitors and residents alike better understand Austin present by acknowledging and embracing Austin's past. Our Austin Story is more than a historical exercise, though. Our Austin Story will guide and aid the public in learning to embrace the past in a way that brings meaning to the present and illumination to the future.

Are there other ways to participate?

Online engagement, public meetings, interviews, surveys, and meetings with various stakeholder groups and organizations.