

LiveableCity. Community. Communication.
E- news highlights - October 2006

In this issue:

Las Manitas

Bond-a-Rama

Liveable Vision Awards Party

There's No Place Like Home

Big Picture on Big Box Ordinance

Shout Outs

Las Mas and Escuelita del Alma

Liveable City board members are working to raise public discussion about Austin's identity and values in support of local businesses facing tough downtown development pressure, highlighted by Las Manitas' recent battle with the Marriot hotel chain. CEO J. Willard Marriott's now infamous quote in the Statesman – "Why should you hold up a several hundred million dollar investment because of a small little restaurant?" – will no doubt be discussed at the LC Town Hall Meeting scheduled for November 29; we'll let you know more about the gathering soon. What is the best way to learn more and make your voice heard today? Go to www.savelasmanitas.org.

Bond-a-Rama

At its October Board Meeting, Liveable City endorsed all seven City bond propositions. Dear to our hearts is the innovative and historic bond for affordable housing – also know as Prop 5 - which if passed will help thousands of families have the opportunity for a safe secure homes. For more information on the housing bonds, go to www.housingworksaction.org. For information on all the bonds, go to www.sevenstepsforaustin.com. To download Liveable City's resolution on the bonds, go to www.liveablecity.org.

There's No Place Like Home

LC attended the October 7th Austin Housing Summit on Preserving Affordability and Healthy Neighborhoods and was impressed with the wide range of issues discussed. Talk focused on the need to have a range of incomes across the city, preserve existing affordable housing, create community benefits programs, and improve accountability. For more information about follow-up to the summit, contact HousingWorks Austin at cgauss@austin.rr.com.

Big Picture on Big Box

After two years of work by LC and Full Circle, the Planning Commission unanimously passed on to the City Council an ordinance that will bring new innovative tools to analyze and mitigate the impacts of big box superstores. You can download the draft ordinance and full Big Box report at www.liveablecity.org.

Liveable Vision Awards

LC's annual award party was recently held at the soulful Mexic-Arte Museum (mexic-artemuseum.org). This year's awardees included The African American Quality of Life Community Teams and Capital IDEA (www.capitalidea.org) and Las Manitas. Partiers enjoyed Stubbs BBQ and Black Star Co-op beer while admiring incredible Latin art and chatting with nearly 200 Liveable City members and friends from all over Austin. LC met its goal of raising more than \$20,000 during this magical evening of celebrating some of our most visionary Austinites. Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors and volunteers!

Shout Outs

- To Ann Richards, for continuing to inspire us.
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- To the Sustainability Indicators Project 6th Annual report - The best yet...if you can't measure it, you can't manage it! www.centex-indicators.org
- To AustinCarShare – Cars are on the street and waiting for you! Check out their plans at www.austincarshare.com
- Please VOTE early or on November 7th! Don't forget to vote for your favorite candidates AND the City of Austin bonds.
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For more information on any of the items covered in our newsletter, call our office 326-3331, or email wendiwhite@liveablecity.org. To join Liveable City or to find out more about our projects go to www.liveablecity.org