



WEST DALLAS COMMUNITY VISION PLATFORM

2022

Project Partners:



Report Written By:





Report Written By: C-Suite Equity Consulting (formerly C-Suite Consulting) is a Dallas, Texas, based equity and justice consultancy dedicated to amplifying and centering racially and economically marginalized voices through comprehensive and innovative equity solutions. C-Suite Equity Consulting strives to holistically improve quality of life, increase access to opportunities, and ensure diversity and inclusion in decision making, especially for people of color. Our mission is to facilitate thriving equity ecosystems through community-focused solutions, strategy development, and capacity building, serving community-focused organizations, park foundations, non-profits, Community Development Financial Institutions, companies, local governments, and other partners in the areas of racial, social, environmental, and economic equity and justice, to make urban spaces more equitable places to live, work, and play.

Report Team: Dr. Lorin R. Carter, Dr. Kerri Brown, Abria B. Morrow, and Mario K. Carter

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WEST DALLAS COMMUNITY VISION PLATFORM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

STEERCO

The Steering Committee

Representative Resident Leadership Body

Jocelyn Carrillo	Donna Harrington
Alejandro Cervantes	Sharon Howard
Norma R. Chairez	Brenda Kennedy Shelton
Kentree Davis	Ronnie Mestas
Eduardo Diaz	Brenda Pegues
Lisa Jo Garcia	Starlet Ramirez
Latedra Gladney	Debbie Solis
Dr. Emmanuel Glover, Jr.	Sonya Tubbs
Connie Gonzalez	

ADCO

The Advisory Committee

Advisory Body of Subject Matter Experts

Mallory Muse	Kathy Acosta
Sarah Cotton Nelson	Jeff Blanks
Carlton Oby	Kimberly Cousin
Ilknur Ozgur	Frank DeLeon
Raul Reyes Jr.	Tracy German
Jim Reynolds	Pastor R. Mark Grace
Clive Ryan	Katherine Homan
John Sabine	Trey Hoobler
Victor Toledo	Dr. Myriam Igoufe
Dr. Bradford Williams	Marion Jackson
Victoria Almazan	Henry Martinez

WEST DALLAS COMMUNITY VISION PLATFORM INTRODUCTION



Dear Reader:

I am proud to share this vision for a healthy, equitable, thriving West Dallas that furthers the legacy of the proud families that built and continue to fight for our West Dallas neighborhoods and communities - from Ledbetter to La Bajada, La Loma to Westmoreland Heights, and everywhere in between.

This report is the first major step in the delivery of the West Dallas Community Vision Plan – a comprehensive, grassroots, resident-led plan for the future of West Dallas. The report acknowledges both the longstanding needs and recent changes affecting our West Dallas community and describes an actionable vision for the future – one that can only be realized through a multi-sector approach including City policy, resident advocacy, and collaboration with private development.

The idea for the West Dallas Community Vision Plan was born in community as a way to respond holistically to the many needs and concerns facing our neighborhood residents and leaders. In the continuous churn of environmental hearings, planning and zoning meetings, real estate deals, not to mention the diversity of activity in our nonprofit and business communities – the same questions kept emerging and the same people called to answer. Exhausted residents expressed loud and clear: it was time for a single, community-driven vision for the future.

That is where Builders of Hope CDC stepped in. As an established community development organization with deep roots in West Dallas, Builders of Hope Community Development Corporation was uniquely situated to convene West Dallas residents and stakeholders and leverage our community resources to make this vision a reality.

The seven community priorities described in this report were developed under the leadership of an incredible Steering Committee made up of 17 West Dallas residents who went above and beyond to reach out to their neighbors, schools, churches, and community centers to find answers. They were supported by hundreds of residents over a series of large and small public conversations and advised by a team of technical experts across the business, civic and public sectors. They are the true heroes and driving force behind the Plan and this report could not have happened without their leadership.

Thank you to our partners at Trinity Park Conservancy for their technical and execution support and to C-Suite Equity Consulting for their skilled facilitation and reporting of findings. Special thanks to the Communities Foundation of Texas for providing the leadership and resources to bring this report to fruition.

To keep up to date on Plan progress and activities, please visit our website at <https://www.bohcdc.com/westdallasvision>

Sincerely,

James Armstrong, III
President and CEO, Builders of Hope CDC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The West Dallas Community Vision Plan, of which this Platform is a critical first step, is a collaborative, community-led initiative to inform future investment and development in a way that meets community needs and reduces displacement. Past area plans and initiatives have not always reflected resident priorities and desires, leading to new developments that have felt less and less inclusive. This plan will be the West Dallas community's opportunity to change that.

The West Dallas Community Vision Plan is a grassroots, community-driven process to create an inclusive, unified vision for West Dallas' future. The plan will be completed in four phases: 1) Groundsetting, 2) Community Vision Platform, 3) Community Vision Plan, 4) Plan Adoption and Implementation.

The Plan is spearheaded by Builders of Hope CDC, a non-profit housing and community development organization, in partnership with Trinity Park Conservancy, community convener and steward of Harold Simmons Park, and the West Dallas Community, represented by a Steering Committee of 17 West Dallas resident leaders who hail from twelve distinct neighborhoods across West Dallas. An Advisory Committee comprised of subject matter experts across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors provided additional oversight. C-Suite Equity Consulting, a Dallas-based equity, justice, and social impact firm, was engaged as a strategy and facilitation expert to complete the Groundsetting and Community Visioning phases of the plan and to draft this Community Vision Platform.

The West Dallas Community Vision Platform was created to synthesize and amplify the voice of the community and to serve as the foundation for the forthcoming Community Vision Plan. The seven overarching goals set forth support the development of a thriving community and envision a pathway to health, vitality, stability, security, opportunity, connectivity and continued leadership for all of West Dallas.

(The Overarching Community Goals are outlined on the following page.)

7 GOALS OF THE WEST DALLAS COMMUNITY VISION PLATFORM



GOALS TO CREATE A THRIVING COMMUNITY:

HOUSING GOAL

Stabilize West Dallas neighborhoods and mitigate the threat of displacement through increased opportunities for home ownership and the creation and preservation of affordable housing.



TRANSPORTATION GOAL

Enhance West Dallas transportation options to improve neighborhood connectivity and increase resident mobility to bridge access to economic opportunity.



SAFETY GOAL

Cultivate a safe West Dallas environment for all ages through the addition of safety infrastructure and enhanced youth programming.



ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL

Create a West Dallas where all residents are free from environmental harm, have access to clean air, land, and water, and can freely enjoy open and green spaces.



ECONOMIC GOAL

Facilitate a thriving, inclusive West Dallas economy that uplifts Black and Latinx businesses and strengthens upward economic mobility for West Dallas residents.



EDUCATION GOAL

Foster an environment of lifelong learning and opportunity in West Dallas by improving existing K-12 systems and expanding access to higher education, vocational training, and continuing education for all ages.



LEADERSHIP GOAL

Build West Dallas community capacity to ensure that neighborhood history and successful tools for equitable community transformation are maintained generationally.

