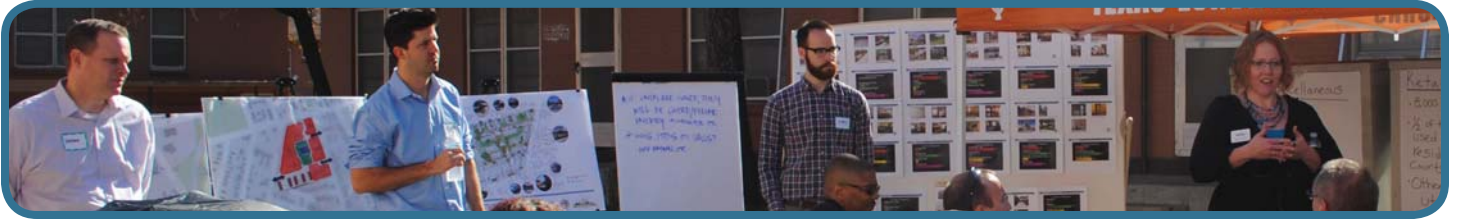


POTENTIAL SITE APPROACHES FOR ROSEWOOD COURTS PREVIEWED AT RESIDENT MEETING



A warm thank you to all residents who came out on the morning of December 18th to participate in the latest Resident Meeting regarding the

redevelopment and improvement of Rosewood Courts. Congratulations to all who won an H.E.B. gift card for your participation! If you were unable to attend the meeting, here is a recap of what took place.

In early December, nine initial drawings or rough drafts, of basic potential site layouts for Rosewood Courts were posted on the project website, rosewoodchoice.com. These nine drawings pulled together many ideas that had been discussed at Community Meetings and other resident meetings throughout the past year.

Prior to this December 18th Resident Meeting, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) Planning Team of HACA, Camiros and McCormack Baron Salazar worked together to refine the nine drawings. The best parts of each drawing were reviewed, discussed and considered and were combined to create three potential site approaches. The approaches were presented to Rosewood Courts residents on December 18th and the residents were the first to view these three drawings.

Since the Planning Team is still at the initial stages of examining site concepts, the drawings were very broad and proposed only different “areas” of action such as housing, greenspace, parking and community buildings. The drawings did not indicate what new buildings might look like - size, height, design, etc. There was great participation and interaction from residents as they listened to a brief presentation and asked important questions.



After the presentation, residents examined the three drawings close-up as well as unit set-ups from other affordable housing projects around the country. They had the opportunity to ask more detailed questions of the professional planners and architects.

The CNI team will spend January to further fine-tune these drawings in time for the next Community Meeting which is scheduled for **January 30th**.

The success of the project depends on the participation of Rosewood Courts residents. Please attend Community Meeting #5. Make sure the neighborhood hears your voice and your desires for Rosewood Courts!



ONGOING EVENTS

HACA is committed to the well being of you and your family. By keeping you informed of programs and services, HACA hopes to provide you with various opportunities. Listed below are some programs currently offered.

~ Sandra still has applications for the **City of Austin Customer Assistance Discount Program**. Visit her office to complete an application and receive \$10 off your monthly Austin Energy utility bill.

~ In collaboration with OneVoice Central Texas, **CapMetro** is offering **discounted monthly bus passes** for elderly and disabled residents and **FREE** bus passes for ROSS participants. Bus passes are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve your discounted or free pass, please call Debbie Kucaj at 512-926-7757; she is a Service Coordinator working at HACA's Gaston Place. Include your name, telephone number, property name, unit and building number, and type of bus pass needed. Debbie will coordinate the delivery of your bus pass.

~ **Capital IDEA** is currently conducting information sessions and enrolling students for its upcoming Spring 2014 classes in **Health Care Careers** (Licensed Vocational Nurse), **High Tech** (Automotive) and **Professional Trades** (Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning). Please call 512-457-8610 for additional information on applying for these programs with Capital IDEA. We can also connect you to current residents attending Capital IDEA if you have questions.

~ Blackshear Elementary School has created a program called **Blackshear Bridge** to help increase economic sustainability and academic excellence at the school and in the neighborhood. If you or someone in your family is interested in helping the school with its community garden or other environmental events, please contact Donna Hoffman at 512-299-5776 or visit blackshearbridge.org. This is a great way to get involved if your child attends Blackshear Elementary School.

~ **WeViva** provides accessible and affordable fitness and nutrition programs for people in low-income neighborhoods. They accomplish this by providing the classes on-site and completely free of charge. Classes are coming to Booker T. Washington, Santa Rita, Meadowbrook and Thurmond Heights in January. More information on these classes will come soon!



AUSTIN INTERFAITH EMPOWERS LEADERS; LEADERSHIP CLASSES AND APPRENTICESHIP TO BEGIN SOON

Austin Interfaith organizers **Jesse Posner** and **Jacob Cortés** will begin a 40-week curriculum for six to ten Rosewood Courts residents beginning on January 7th and ending in October. HACA and Austin Interfaith are very excited to be partnering and working together to provide this leadership development and apprenticeship program!

The selected residents will train to become leaders at Rosewood Courts and learn to gather information to speak on behalf of all residents regarding the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and other important issues. They will, over the course of these next 10 months, learn valuable empowerment, job-readiness and self-building skills that can be used in the community and future job opportunities. Congratulations to the selected residents and good luck!

COMMUNITY MEETING #5

HACA is hosting an open house on **Thursday, January 30th** for the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. The open house will take place in the neighborhood, possibly at Blackshear Elementary School, though a final location has yet to be confirmed. This meeting will be held from **4-7pm** when Rosewood Courts residents, neighborhood residents and other project stakeholders can drop in to provide input on the project. The design of the meeting should give all Rosewood Courts families and other interested individuals the ability to participate. Attendees will be able to learn more about the initiative, ask questions and submit comments. HACA will be sharing potential approaches for the layout of a redeveloped Rosewood Courts that fulfill the purpose of the initiative, address the needs for current and future Rosewood Courts families, as well as address other considerations and concerns of neighborhood residents. No formal presentation will be given during the open house. Attendees are invited to **come and go at their convenience**.

If you've never been to a Community Meeting, don't be shy or concerned -- please attend! It will be a very casual atmosphere where you can ask questions in a one-on-one setting directly to the CNI team. Please try to attend this very important meeting and feel free to bring your children: their feedback is also important.



TO ALL NEW RESIDENTS OF ROSEWOOD COURTS:

If you have moved to Rosewood Courts in the last 12 months, or if you just have questions about the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, please feel free to call Sandra, Eileen or Nick. We will be glad to answer your questions. This process can seem confusing and overwhelming, especially for new residents. HACA has heard various myths and rumors during this past year about what will happen

at Rosewood Courts and no doubt there will continue to be more. If you are concerned about something you have heard, please don't hesitate to check the facts with CNI staff. Even though public housing is a transitional time in your life, Rosewood Courts is your home and your voice for a better way of life and your needs must continue to be heard. Without your participation, the process and decision-making will be driven by those who don't live at Rosewood Courts. Do not feel intimidated by this process and please understand that YOU are HACA's #1 priority - nothing will be done without your best interest considered. All new residents will be contacted by Sandra this month so you can meet with her and learn about Choice Neighborhoods.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON GIVES CHANCE FOR NEW FRIENDSHIPS

On December 12th, thirty residents at Rosewood Courts and Salina Apartments gathered to celebrate the holiday season with a free lunch from Bob-Bo's Mobile Vending. The luncheon gave residents an opportunity to get to know each other better and chat about the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and other activities, and just engage in fun and fellowship. At the end of the party, Sandra raffled off H.E.B. gift cards to those in attendance. A big thank you to the Rosewood/Salina Resident Council for funding the luncheon and to Bob-Bo's for providing the delicious food! Most importantly, thank you to all residents who shared in the celebration of the season.

THE HACA MISSION

To cultivate sustainable affordable housing communities and partnerships that inspire self reliance, growth, and optimism.



THE HACA VISION

We envision neighborhoods where poverty is alleviated, communities are healthy and safe, and all people can achieve their full potential.



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AUSTIN'S CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

HACA'S COMMITMENTS TO ROSEWOOD COURTS' RESIDENTS

- ~ HACA will fully replace all Public Housing Units at the Rosewood Court site.*
- ~ HACA will preserve Rosewood Courts' unique history.*
- ~ HACA will guarantee the right to return and work to minimize displacement if construction occurs.*