



AIA
Austin

October 6, 2019

Contact: Courtney Mallen, Assoc. AIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

512.452.4332

Austin, October 6, 2019—The American Institute of Architects, Austin Chapter (AIA Austin) will be hosting a series of workshops over the next month, testing the latest draft of Austin’s Land Development Code, which was released Friday, October 4. Much like the charrettes AIA Austin conducted in 2017 and 2018 on previous drafts of the code, these testing workshops include teams made up of professionals from a variety of disciplines, including architects, landscape architects, preservationists, land-use professionals, and engineers. During these workshops, actual code will be tested on real sites within the city, and the teams will analyze and report the results.

“As design professionals who interact and use our city’s Land Development Code every day, we are glad to be a resource to our city leaders,” says AIA Austin Advocacy Commissioner David Carroll, AIA.

While there have been attempts to spread fear and misinformation about the draft code, process, and timeline, AIA Austin recognizes this draft code as a continuation of a robust public process that began in 2012 with the adoption of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. “AIA Austin believes that the long overdue rewrite of our Land Development Code is the blueprint for a more inclusive, equitable, affordable, connected, and livable Austin,” says AIA Austin President Michael Hsu, AIA. “The promise of the Imagine Austin plan for more compact and complete communities all over Austin is encompassed in the performance of the new code. We’re optimistic about the direction we’ve seen from new city leadership, including City Manager Spencer Cronk.”

AIA Austin will recommend changes to the draft code and maps that the organization believes will better implement Imagine Austin, City Council’s policy direction from May 2019, and other policies that would result in a more inclusive, sustainable, compact, and connected community. They will share the work of the group with AIA Austin membership, city staff, commissions, and city council, but will withhold broad statements of approval or criticism until the testing and analysis is complete.

“We appreciate the policy direction from City Council and we understand there is still ample opportunity for public input on this code in the coming months,” says Hsu. “We encourage AIA members and all civically engaged Austinites to review the new code and maps objectively, and consider the incredible opportunity this code rewrite affords us to shape growth in a way that benefits everyone.”

###

About AIA Austin: AIA Austin is a chapter of the American Institute of Architects. We serve as the voice for our region's architecture community by advocating for our 1,160 members, the profession, career development, and design excellence. Together with our sister organization the Austin Foundation for Architecture, we work to make the appreciation of architecture and design a standard for our community, hosting a range of programs and events at our shared home in the Austin Center for Architecture and across the city. For information contact courtney@aiaaustin.org.