

Palm School Steering Committee Meeting #7 Summary
November 13, 2025, 1-3pm
700 Lavaca Street, Austin Texas

Members Present: Marcos de Leon, Linda Quintanilla, Gilbert Rivera, Toña Vasquez, Maria Solis, Dr. Colette Pierce-Burnette, Novert Morales, Anna Maciel

Members Absent: Andrew Gonzales, John Rosato, Ted Eubanks, Peggy Vasquez

County Staff: Amy McWhorter, Bill Wilson, Sergio Plaza, Addison Ptomey, Jasmin Gardner, Madai Montes

The Steering Committee Charge

The Palm School Steering Committee (the Committee) will be an active partner in the Palm School Concept Plan development process and in efforts leading up to the restoration and reimagining of the Palm School property. Working in partnership with the County’s consultant and staff, the Steering Committee will:

1. Provide input for the design of a community engagement plan that will be used to inform a Concept Plan for the Palm School property
2. Review and offer feedback on processes, plans, and materials created by the consultant leading up to and including the Concept Plan for the Palm School property
3. Review and offer feedback on processes, plans, and materials created by staff and/or consultants related to any restoration and reimagining of the Palm School property
4. Provide a consensus recommendation to the Commissioners Court on the community engagement process used to inform a Concept Plan and the Concept Plan for the Palm School property

1. Welcome & Announcements

Travis County staff will keep the binders at 700 Lavaca. Members are free to take notes in the binders and take materials home as they see fit. Staff will continue to add materials to binders before each Steering Committee meeting.

There was a Proclamation on Palm School Oral History Project during Commissioners Court on October 28th. The project was announced to the public and can be found [here](#).

2. Review and Approve Meeting Summaries

A consensus was reached to approve the meeting summary for the last Steering Committee meeting on October 23, 2025. The meeting summary will be added to the Palm School website.

3. Partner Organization Updates

Save Palm School Coalition

None.

Travis County Historical Commission

The Commission has been in the process of engaging with different Mexican American businesses and people to get possible historical designations. The Commission has partnered with Preservation Austin and students from Texas State University. Student interns do initial research to determine historical designation eligibility, and the Commission works with business and the state to receive the designation. Once received, the designation plaque has a minimum of 250 words about its historic importance.

ULI – Austin

Absent.

Waterloo Greenway

The confluence has a formal opening date of June 6, 2026, that is open to the public. The confluence will stretch from Lady Bird Lake to 4th Street.

4. Group Charter Discussion

The Steering Committee agreed on all sections of the Group Charter except the language related to open and closed meetings. The Steering Committee requested some additional language in that section that will be considered during the December 11th meeting. The Steering Committee reached a consensus to finalize the remainder of the Group Charter.

5. Community Engagement Plan

County staff reviewed the Steering Committee notes from the previous meeting. The Committee then split into small groups to brainstorm strategies, methods, and approaches to engage the community and reach specific groups.

In 2018, Travis County published a historic structures report on Palm School. The Report can be found [here](#). Palm School does have a historic designation from the City of Austin, which provides a degree of protection for the structure and would require the County to consult with the City of Austin prior to initiating exterior modification to the structure. Staff noted that the property is not designated at the Federal level, but it has been recognized as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in the environmental documents associated with the I-35 project. Federal designation does not provide any additional protection for the property as it has been determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. One Steering Committee member recommends that the Steering Committee should encourage the Austin City Council and Travis County Commissioners Court to protect Palm School in perpetuity.

6. Meeting Schedule and Follow Up

a. Future Meeting Schedule

- December 11th, 700 Lavaca, 1st Floor, MF-B
- January 8th, 700 Lavaca, 1st Floor, MF-B
- February 12th, 700 Lavaca, 1st Floor, MF-B

b. Action item before next meeting

- i. Continue brainstorming best ways to get in contact with community stakeholders