

CONTACT

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Community
Recreational Center

Embrace and Maintain
our Waterways

Gateway to Austin
Attraction

Revitalization of Austin
Utilities Building

Education Leaders

Downtown Austin—
a Destination Point

Business Friendly
Environment

Community Pride
and Spirit

Community Wide
Technology

Expanded Bike/Walk
Trail System



Thank you to our volunteers: over 300 engaged in Vision 2020 since 2011

Committee Leaders

Community Recreational Center

Chair: Matt Cano
Co-chair: Tanya Medgaarden

Embrace and Maintain our Waterways

Chair: Sam Jewell
Co-chair: Heath Garey

Gateway to Austin Attraction

Chair: John Gray
Co-chair: Lynn Spainhower

Revitalization of Austin Utilities Building

Chair: Bonnie Rietz
Chair: Mary Anne Wolesky

Education Leaders

Chair: Randy Kramer
Co-chair: Jana Haynes

Downtown Austin a Destination Point

Chair: Stephnee Leathers
Co-chair: Sarah Douty

Business Friendly Environment

Chair: Jim Heilman
Co-chair: Rick Jaacks

Community Pride and Spirit

Chair: Kristen Olson
Co-chair: Patty Stevens

Community Wide Technology

Chair: Chris Holt
Co-chair: Mark Nibaur

Expanded Bike/Walk Trail System

Chair: Steve Kime
Co-chair: Jim Burroughs

Steering Committee

Gary Ray, Chair
The Hormel Foundation
Scott Aakre
Hormel Foods Corp.
Geoff Baker
McFarland Truck Lines, Inc.
Sandy Forstner
Austin Area Chamber of Commerce
John Garry
Development Corp of Austin
John Gray
The Hormel Foundation
Craig Hoium
City of Austin
Tamm Kritzer
Mayo Clinic Health System - A.L. Austin
Yesenia Mendoza
Riverland Community College
Bonnie Rietz
Community Volunteer
Mandi Lighthizer-Schmidt
United Way of Mower County
Jeff Thatcher
Austin Packaging

More information and volunteer sign up at
www.vision2020austin.com



Photo by Eric Johnson, Austin Daily Herald

To inspire the community to collectively create a vision for a greater Austin through a city-wide effort where all ideas are welcome and the best are brought to life.

What is Vision 2020?

Vision 2020 is a grassroots movement in Austin, Minnesota. Hundreds of volunteers are engaged with a variety of community organizations including government, business, non-profit and education to improve the quality of life by the year 2020.

How did Vision 2020 get started?

A group of community leaders convened in early 2011 inspired by success in other communities. This group launched the Vision 2020 project which consisted of the public submitting ideas on improving Austin, a public vote and a review by a volunteer committee. The result were ten Vision Statements for the community. In April 2012 the Vision Statements were revealed to the public. The goal is to achieve the visions by 2020.

Who coordinates Vision 2020?

A volunteer steering committee, chaired by Gary Ray, is overseeing the project. Laura Helle was hired as Director of Vision Creation in September 2012. She works with the volunteers on the ten committees and serves as the contact person for the effort.

How is Vision 2020 funded?

Vision 2020 projects are funded from a variety of sources such as grants and donations.

How can I get involved?

Contact Laura Helle at 507-437-3448 or laura@vision2020austin.com.



**Downtown Austin—
a Destination Point**

Building a stage on the Main Street plaza for events with labor donated by Riverland Community College students. Stage dedication with live music set for May 31. Working with the Austin Area Commission for the Arts on possibility of using old bank building (300 Main St.) for a new art gallery, studio space and more.



Community Recreational Center

Pursuing a shared-governance, shared-ownership project where the YMCA, City of Austin and other potential partners would share a recreation center. Conducting a study to gauge public interest in various features and programs at the center.

Gateway to Austin Attraction

Planning landscaping improvements along the I-90 corridor for 2013. Pursuing overpass bridge enhancements, a bike/pedestrian bridge over the interstate and a visitor's center immediately off I-90.

**Expanded Bike/Walk
Trail System**

Added bike symbols to local trails to enhance navigation. Additional trail will be built this fall by the J. C. Hormel Nature Center. Planning a Bike Safety Day on May 4 at the YMCA.

Launching a planning and assessment project in the fall to make elementary and middle schools safely accessible by bike to encourage student and staff bike commuting; funded by MN DOT.

Revitalization of Austin Utilities Building

Considering a residential focus for the building. Studying historical 'era of significance,' environmental implications of remodeling and demand for housing. Data gathered will inform business plan.

Education Leaders

Pursuing a collective impact project, modeled after the STRIVE program in Cincinnati, Ohio. Program would unite educational partners in measuring common outcomes and produce better results with limited additional costs.

Business Friendly Environment

Launching a club to support entrepreneurs, inventors and business owners. Developing a suite of workforce development services to boost employee retention.

Community Pride and Spirit

Creating a new mentoring program at Holton Intermediate School called Peer Power Partners. Working with Habitat for Humanity and the HRA on a neighborhood fix-up program for summer 2013.

Community Wide Technology

Pursuing an infrastructure project to install high-capacity fiber to each home, business, school and health care facility in Austin. Exploring possibility of becoming Minnesota's first 'Gig City.'

Embrace and Maintain our Waterways

Sponsored Plunging for Pink in February raising over \$16,000 for cancer research at the Hormel Institute. Working with the City of Austin and DNR to add canoe / kayak portage at the 4th Avenue Dam in fall 2013.



**Austin ArtWorks Festival
August 24 & 25, 2013**
at the Historic Downtown
Power Plant; Free admission
www.austinartworksfestival.org