

# AISD Repurposing Conversations

*Fó me Sim Elemen a Schóól  
Engagemen S mma*

Last updated: 9/15/23



---

## OVERVIEW: Austin ISD Repurposing

---



Austin ISD is committed to finding new uses for our properties that are underutilized or no longer in use to steward taxpayer investments and benefit students and communities. Called “repurposing,” this process aims to provide long-term investments that are responsive to affected communities’ needs while maintaining district sites as community assets.

As Austin ISD starts to explore ways we can use the former Sims Elementary School campus to strengthen our schools and communities, we held a series of virtual and in-person community meetings, both in English and Spanish, and conducted a public survey, between May 9, 2023 and June 30, 2023.

The following report summarizes the feedback from the community engagement process. For additional information about the repurposing process for the former Sims Elementary School campus, please visit [www.austinisd.org/repurposing](http://www.austinisd.org/repurposing).

### How do you define the community?

---

### What are the challenges/needs of this community?

---

### What future uses would you like to see at the Sims campus that would best address these needs and challenges?

---

#### May 23 Virtual Meeting

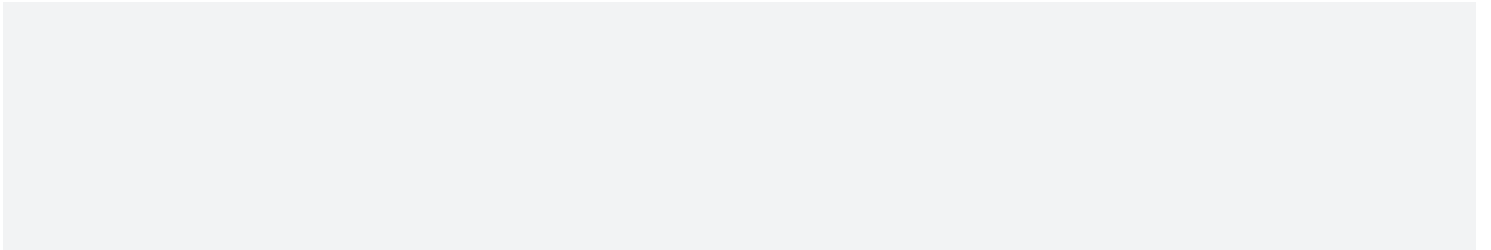


**20**  
attendees

#### June 6 In-Person Meeting



**40**  
attendees



# **Former Sims Elementary School**

**Meeting Summary - June 6, 2023**

Number of Community Members/Partners in attendance: ~40

## **High Level Feedback:**

- *Need more transparency and communication from Austin ISD*
- *Need to be cognizant of the history of the site and the neighborhood, complement the culture of the community (old and new neighbors), and bring back excellence*

## **How do you define the community?**

- This community is an under-resourced community; a lot of the original residents are still here and depend on each other for support and needs
- Lost history, lost things prominent to African Americans and have not recovered -gentri cation has impacted this community
- Community is...
  - > where you feel safe, included and welcomed
  - > a place where you have a voice
  - > its history, inhabitants, architecture and its boundaries

---

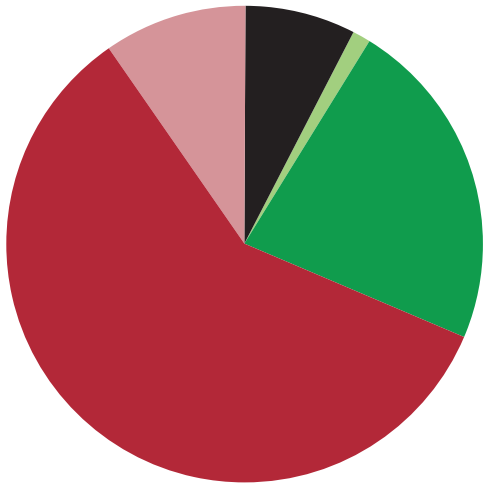
## **What are the challenges / needs of this community?**

- Not a lot for youth to do in the area
- Lack of a ordable, senior, workforce and supportive housing
- Disconnect of the Older Eastside with the new neighborhood
- Access to fresh food, green space, childcare, and physical and mental health services
- Need space for AISD schools during Bond modernization
- Lack of space to support local businesses (storefronts, marketplaces, etc.) and lack of opportunity to bring money into the community

---

## **What future uses would you like to see at the Sims campus that would best address these needs and challenges?**

- Swing space for surrounding schools that will be undergoing modernization as part of the 2022 Bond
- Should be multi-purpose; provide community focused spaces (garden, education, life skills, services) similar to a Resilience Hub
- Cultural arts program
- Desire for ways to use the existing building rather than wait for redevelopment
- Green infrastructure





**d**