

Join the Original Austin Neighborhood Association

www.originalaustin.org

Hello Neighbor:

We are the board of the Original Austin Neighborhood Association, and are soliciting new and renewal memberships from those who live, lease or own property in the area Lady Bird Lake on the south; West 15th Street in the north; Lavaca Street on the east; and, Lamar Boulevard on the west.

The Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA) takes its name from the fact that it is the residential district of the original city, as laid out by Edwin Waller in 1839. Since the 1970's OANA members have been working to preserve and promote the livability of this historic downtown neighborhood. In 2009, OANA recorded articles of formation with the Texas Secretary of State, adopted goals, recruited an interim board and set new membership criteria. Since then we've been active in zoning cases, noise abatement, the cleaning up of Shoal Creek and Wooldridge Park and in many other ways pursuing the following OANA goals:

1. Preserving the neighborhood's historic character: Even with all the changes that have taken place over the years, this neighborhood still retains much of the character that has always made it so appealing. We want this character to survive for future generations.

2. Bringing residents back: Fifty years ago, this neighborhood was almost entirely residential. Today we have far fewer residents. Five entire blocks that were completely residential in 1935 have no residents today, a sixth is devoted to the Criminal Justice Center, and many others have only a few residents. We support efforts that will result in returning a residential population to the neighborhood.

3. Preserving the tree canopy: For many years, trees have been a defining feature of this neighborhood's character. If you look at a [1964 aerial view of downtown](#), you'll notice a heavy concentration of trees in the area north of West 7th Street and west of Guadalupe. The same can be seen in a [1980 aerial view of downtown](#). We want to make sure the canopy remains here.

4. Preserving green space: As the neighborhood has evolved from residential to commercial uses, many of its yards, and some entire lots, have been paved to meet parking requirements for the office uses. The loss of green space erodes an important part of the neighborhood's character, and undermines the preservation of the tree canopy. We want to see some greenspace restored, and to preserve the greenspace we have left, including [Wooldridge Park](#), [Duncan Park](#), and the [Shoal Creek Greenway](#).

5. Improving our sidewalks: There are still some gaps in our sidewalk network, and many of the sidewalks we have are too narrow, or lack curb cuts, or are otherwise in need of repair.

6. Improving conditions for bicycles: The neighborhood currently has several segments of [bicycle routes](#), mainly along Nueces and W. 12th Streets, but none are considered easy to use; in fact the W. 12th Street route is marked in red from Nueces to West Avenue, indicating it "[m]ay function as a barrier to cyclists." We want our streets to be more bike-friendly. We support the implementation of a [bicycle boulevard](#) along rio Grande.

7. Fostering neighborliness: We hope to host informal social events where OANA members can meet and get to know each other with no formal agenda.

8. Participating in the Downtown Plan: The [Downtown Austin Plan](#) is currently underway. Early versions of the plan have proposed a "Northwest District" covering much of our neighborhood. We'd want careful attention given to this area, and the plan to advance all the goals listed above.

OANA members is just \$25/year per individual. Please fill out and return the form below to become a member.

OANA Membership Form	
Name:	_____
Address:	_____
Email:	_____
Phone:	_____
YES, I want to join OANA. Enclosed is my membership fee of \$25/year:	_____
Here's an additional contribution to support OANA:	_____
Total:	_____
_____ Please send this form & payment to: Michael Portman , OANA Treasurer	
604 West 11 th Street Austin, TX 78701	