



Communications Office
402 E. Blanco Road
Boerne, TX 78006
Contact:
Pamela Bransford
830.249.9511 ext 1171
pbransford@ci.boerne.tx.us

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WHAT IS THAT RUDAT?

The City of Boerne has been selected by the prestigious American Institute of Architects (AIA) for a specialized visioning and planning effort known as a Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (RUDAT) workshop.

According to Paul Barwick, senior planner for the City, “the American Institute of Architects recognizes the unique character of Boerne and has chosen to provide their specialized volunteer services of professional staff and membership to assist in the preparation of a vision and plan for downtown Boerne.”

The RUDAT is not just another master plan, it takes the next step and begins to implement the master plan by developing concepts and ideas for targeted priority project areas. The project areas will include:

City Campus on North Main
Central Business District (Main Street - Oak Park to Frederick Street)
Cibolo Creek (Main Plaza to River Road Park)

Nationally recognized architects, planners and other allied professionals from across the country will spend several days in Boerne, visit with all interested members of the

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community, evaluate existing conditions, create conceptual plans and sketches, and prepare a prioritized action plan for future implementation.

“Before leaving Boerne, the RUDAT team will prepare and provide the community with a final draft report and representatives of the team will revisit Boerne in a year to check on progress and make suggestions,” added Barwick.

The success of this process is highly dependent on active public participation from all sectors of the community. Prior to and during the 4-day site visit, interested residents, property and business owners, community leaders, and citizen groups will be encouraged to share ideas and concerns related to the specific study areas with the RUDAT team.

The City is working closely with AIA San Antonio, the regional AIA chapter, and architecture students from the University of Texas at San Antonio who will contribute as part of their academic requirements and there may be opportunities for Boerne students to also participate.

The City Council appointed steering committee co-chairs, Paula Hayward and Ben Adam, for this rare and unique community visioning project. Other appointed committee members include; Patrick Heath, Dayna Cartwright, Israel Pena, Nancy White, Paul Duran, Richard Chapman, Ed McClure, Bryan D'Spain, Marty Bryant, Michael Giddens, Ron Cisneros, and AIA Architects Daniel Ochoa, Frank Valadez, Larry Travis and Barry Wagner.

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A schedule for public workshops and the site visit by the RUDAT team is being developed for later this spring. The AIA project manager, Joel Mills, and Boerne RUDAT team leader, James Abell, will be visiting Boerne on March 13-15 to meet with various groups, individuals and organization to get the flavor and feel of the character of Boerne. Mr. Abell has participated on seven other design assistance teams and firmly believes “There can be no more noble gift than to give your children a town center that is walkable, friendly and human scaled”.

Over the past 40 years, only 140 RUDAT projects have been completed across the nation, of those, 12 were conducted for Texas cities and the last AIA RUDAT in Texas was conducted 10 year ago for the City of Temple.

For details and schedule information, contact Paul Barwick at 830-249-9511 and watch for more information on the City’s website, www.ci.boerne.tx.us and Boerne RUDAT website, www.rudatboerne.com.