



Community Collaboration at Work in Habitat Neighborhoods

Oak Cliff Gardens and Bonton Make Exciting Progress

Community Collaboration

Exciting things are happening in Oak Cliff Gardens and Bonton this fall. Transforming communities and impacting lives requires the help and collaboration of partners who are dedicated to serving others.

Oak Cliff Gardens -- Art and Sidewalks!

On Saturday, October 19th, Dallas Habitat partnered with the Nasher Sculpture Center for the unveiling of [Lara Almarcegui's Buried House](#) at 2226 Exeter Ave in Oak Cliff Gardens. The project was a unique collaboration between the Nasher Sculpture Center and Dallas Habitat commemorating the [Nasher XChange](#) and the connection between public art and communities. Both art aficionados and community members participated in the completion of urban sketches by students from the UT Arlington School of Architecture. The sculpture has resulted in hundreds of individuals discovering the Oak Cliff Gardens neighborhood.

In addition to the sculpture activation, members of the Oak Cliff Gardens Crime Watch Meeting have been working closely with a PhD candidate from the UT Arlington School of Urban and Public Affairs to complete a walkability study, which assesses the residents' abilities to walk through their neighborhood, engage in neighborhood activities and the issues affecting their engagement, such as poor lighting or structural obstructions. Dallas Habitat, P & S Corner Store (owned by Habitat homeowners Patrick & Sharon Aycock), and the Crime Watch hosted "Snow Cones & Sidewalk Saturday" to learn about walkability issues from residents. Over 50 community members participated and provided specific insight



Oak Cliff Gardens Neighbors

participated and provided specific insight to the issues affecting the community, such as the presence of stray dogs, trash on vacant lots, and excessive speeding.

Identify Community Issues

Community members decided that they would like to contact the City of Dallas in order to have speed bumps installed and for trash to be picked up more often. A group of individuals from the Oak Cliff Gardens Crime Watch Meeting will attend the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) meeting on Thursday, December 5th at Dallas City Hall to present the CDBG committee members with their walkability findings and seek assistance in addressing some of the more serious issues, such as a lack of adequate lighting.

Bonton -- Trees, Sign Toppers, and a Revived Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood beautification efforts are also underway in Bonton. On Saturday, November 16th, over 20 volunteers helped plant 22 crepe myrtles on Silkwood in the Bonton neighborhood. The trees and six bags of mulch were provided by the City of Dallas' Planning and Development department. In addition to planting trees, volunteers also collected debris on the street, tossed a football around with neighborhood children and held an impromptu coloring contest. As a result of focus groups held in collaboration with H.I.S. BridgeBuilders, the University of North Texas at Dallas, and CitySquare, the Bonton Neighborhood Association has reemerged with plans to elect new officers in January 2014. Next on the beautification agenda, are sign toppers provided by the City of Dallas' Neighborhood Investment Program. On Tuesday, November 19th, Bonton community members selected their sign topper design and also the sign topper locations.



Planting Trees in Bonton



Visualizing a New Oak Cliff Gardens

We are so grateful for all of our community partners and realize that we could not serve our neighborhoods as effectively without them. With their help, we can continue to Build Louder.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Kave".