

ZNA Executive Committee Message about Butler Shores and the Dougherty Arts Center

The Zilker Neighborhood Association Executive Committee supports the mission of the Dougherty Arts Center and its relocation to a site near its present location. We have not taken a position at this time on the design proposal to build a new center on Butler Shores, at the site of the two ball fields now managed by AISD. However, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) is preparing drawings for the site, which will surely evolve. The site will be affected by nearby development, both private and public. The City owns two structures within the scope of the project: the PARC Headquarters and the Transportation Management Center. In addition, the effects of floodplains on both sites need to be carefully considered.

Butler Shores, Butler Park, and Zilker Park need a comprehensive traffic/parking study and subsequent plan to address the findings. A working group has already been formed for Zilker Park. Any further planning must include the continued implementation of the Town Lake Master Plan, with completion of Butler Park.

In addition to the traffic/parking study, Butler Shores needs a comprehensive vision for its future within the requirements of the Waterfront Overlay that were adopted by the City Council. This vision must go beyond processing individual developments one at a time.

In the upcoming November 6 election, the Dougherty Arts Center is not specifically named in the ballot language. Prop B, which would fund libraries, museums, and cultural arts facilities, encompasses much more than the Dougherty. Prop B authorizes the City to relocate the Dougherty but does not specify a location or a design.