

**“Works In Progress”  
Downtown Austin Alliance  
Annual Report 2006**

***Chair’s Letter***

Dear Downtown Austin Community:

Downtown Austin has entered an era of incredible growth. We are on the move in all segments and in all sectors. We’re seeing exceptional activity in retail openings, new housing starts, cultural development, corporate relocation and convention business. Years of Alliance advocacy and coalition building are paying off and we’ll be seeing the fruits of these efforts for many years to come.

In particular, the housing boom has hit and seems poised only to expand as the demand and desire for downtown living continues to sizzle. New retail doors are opening throughout the neighborhood. And we’re seeing an enormous up tick in creative development, with mixed-use buildings breaking ground or being planned to serve multiple needs and diverse markets.

And while this sort of expansion is exhilarating, it is also incumbent upon us that we plan with great care so this growth is managed and proceeds responsibly. That’s why the Alliance is working so closely with the City of Austin in defining the scope of the *Downtown Plan*. This study will serve as the blueprint for the future of downtown Austin. It’s essential that as we expand, we not lose our “sense of place” – the essence, the charm and the uniqueness of who we are and what we offer as a community.

This year, we also moved forward in a number of other areas:

- The Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable, originally identified through the Alliance Security and Maintenance Committee, has grown into a broad-based community collaboration involving more than 200 volunteers and 70 organizations. The mission of this initiative is to reduce recidivism, improve public safety and address victims’ needs. Thanks to this model program, which has been duplicated in other cities throughout the country, offenders released from jail have a plan for reentering society as productive citizens. We congratulate Alliance Security and Maintenance Program Director Bill Brice, for serving as Chair of the Roundtable in 2006.
- Much of what the Alliance does happens behind the scenes. And some projects are true testaments to patience. The Waller Creek Tunnel falls into this category. The pieces seem to be falling in place for this investment to return impressive dividends in the near future.
- Some of our achievements are meaningful successes because they address issues and situations you don’t want to see. This year, there were three such victories: extending the hours of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless to seven days a week; strengthening the Public Order Ordinances; and expanding the City of Austin’s refuse zone to include the Warehouse District.

This annual report is designed to offer you a walking tour of downtown Austin. Here you will see a street-level unfolding of our future.

Meanwhile, I thank you for your support this year. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as Chair of the Downtown Austin Alliance.

John Rosato  
2005-2006 Chair  
Downtown Austin Alliance