

# AISD Repurposing Conversations

Sims Elementary Campus | May 23, 2023

## How do you define the community?

- Austin ISD students, family and staff
- Community is layered
  - Those who have a historical attachment to the school
  - Those who live near the school
  - Students/families that were impacted by consolidation of Norman-Sims
- Community is a place where people can feel safe, accepted, encouraged and have a sense of family
- Unhoused neighbors
- Encompasses the people who live, work and those who utilize the local businesses

## What are the challenges / needs of this community?

- Affordable housing
  - Attainable for teachers/staff (transportation, custodial, food service, etc.) at the schools in the neighborhood
  - Also deeply affordable housing
- Need for stability for families/students in terms of housing but also in terms of other services, school, etc.
- Retired faculty/staff who are having difficulty staying in the neighborhood
- Short-term need to house other AISD school communities during Bond construction
  - Prefer to use school facility versus portables
  - Avoid co-housing campuses
- Underfunded and inequitably funded school system
- Childcare/daycare
- Area is a food desert (have to go out of the community for groceries and restaurants)
- Increasing gentrification
- High cost of living
- Healthcare desert

## **What future uses would you like to see at the Sims campus that would best address these needs and challenges?**

- Housing for many populations (retirees, teachers, students, families)
- Community garden
- Short-term use for swing space to help during the 2022 Bond construction
  - Oak Springs, Pecan Springs, Sadler Means
  - Concern that could delay long-term use
  - Questions around feasibility and what happens in the interim to the building
- Deeply affordable housing
  - Believe we can talk about ownership in this context
    - Echoed interest to see ownership
  - Can be done and it can be sustained
    - Mueller condos cited as example
    - Restrictive covenant placed on home to prevent “flipping” so it stays affordable over long term
- Small food market (could sell the food grown in the community garden)
- Place for multi-generations to interact
- Provide support for the unhoused
- Remain as a school
  - In the past it was stated there would be 5 magnet schools
  - District never opened a magnet elementary
- Mixed-use building that addresses housing and services
- Need density if we talk about housing
  - Echoed with emphasis also on height
- Utilize Sims as a commercial propagation room for trees and accompanying educational opportunities for students
  - Bio network of life
- Sims site could accommodate large housing building
- Would like to see variety of options - rent, own