

'Drawing Lines' asks artists to define Austin's single-member districts

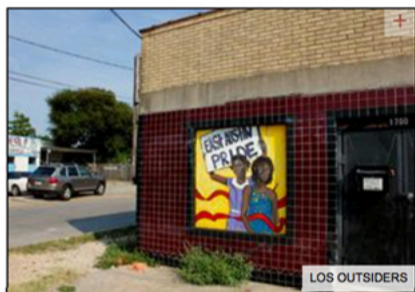
Posted: 12:00 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015

Email 0 Share 113 Tweet 5 ShareThis 123

By [Jeanne Claire van Ryzin](#) - American-Statesman Staff

For decades, Austin's City Council was composed of members elected at-large.

But two years ago, Austin redrew itself, creating 10 districts, each of which would elect its own council member. Suddenly the city had a new set of geographic parameters to identify with. Last year, voters elected Austin's first slate of single-district City Council members.



A mural in East Austin photographed by arts collective Los Outsiders for the "Person, Place, Thing" exhibit, part of the "Drawing ... [Read More](#)

Some creative professionals began to wonder how those new identities might be addressed artistically.

The result is "Drawing Lines," a citywide art project that earlier this year deployed artists into the city's newly structured districts to creatively explore what defines each emerging political community.

"Drawing Lines" is a public-private partnership between the city's Cultural Arts Division and several urban

planning and design companies including GO collaborative, Public City and Fisterra Studio. The project received \$256,500 from ArtPlace America, itself a collaboration of national foundations, banks and federal agencies that promotes placing the arts at the center of urban development.

The results of the artists' work has begun to emerge. Plans calls for an exhibit next year to cull materials and documentation from all the projects into one place.

A wide range of creatives were chosen for "Drawing Lines." Grammy Award-winning musician Adrian Quesada is working with student musicians in District Three.

And in District Five in South Austin, award-winning chef Sonya Cote of restaurants Hillside Farmacy and Eden East built a 25-foot communal table in the Cherry Creek Community Garden — a garden that occupies part of a flood-prone tract where 25 houses once stood.

Several projects launch this weekend. All events are free.

District 1: Los Outsiders, "Person/Place/Thing"

Where: Cement Loop Art Space, 5811 Berkman Drive

Opening: 7 to 9 p.m. Friday. Exhibit continues through Nov. 6

What: The Los Outsiders collaborative — Jaime Salvador Castillo, Michael Anthony García, Robert Jackson Harrington and Hector Hernandez — traveled around District One on public transportation photographing the people, places and things they saw and interviewing residents about their homes, businesses and personal objects they found most dear. The result is an exhibit of personal objects and photographs that residents ascribe to the places they call home.

District 2: Deborah S. Esquenazi and Carrie Kenny, "Portraits"

Where: Dove Springs Recreation Center, 5801 Ainez Dr.

Opening: Noon to 2 p.m. Saturday

What: The artists created a mobile portrait studio and invited families and individuals from Southeast Austin's District Two to sit for a portrait while also recording their stories on video to be shaped later into a short film. An exhibit of the portrait photographs goes on display.

District 4: Zell Miller III, "Youth Voices of the Four"

Where: Gus Garcia Recreation Center, 1201 E. Rundberg Lane

Public Reading: 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday

What: Award-winning performance poet and hip-hop artist Zell Miller III grew up in the diverse District Four. Miller will present a reading of poetry written by the district's youth in workshops he led.

More info: drawinglinesaustin.com