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3001 S. Lamar Suite 101
Austin, Texas 78704

512/904.9928 OFFICE
wyattbrand.com

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Media Contact:

David Wyatt
david@wyattbrand.com
512-904-9928

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area Purchases 10+ Acres NE Austin Land To Be Permanent Home For 35,000 sq ft “Legacy Club”

Project serving city’s economically disadvantaged youth approaches 50% of goal

AUSTIN, Texas - Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area (BGCAA) today announces its purchase of land in Northeast Austin for its future “Legacy Club.” After almost a year long process of site selection, and petitioning the City of Austin’s Planning and Zoning board for a zoning change, the 10.63 acres of property located behind H-E-B at 183 and Manor Road now officially belongs to BGCAA. Boys & Girls Clubs is the most vital organization doing the most vital work in the world: putting young people on the path to success.

Due to the effects of social isolation, crime, violence, and drugs, kids living in areas of concentrated poverty perform worse than their peers living in more affluent areas. Of the estimated 268,255 children living in Travis County, 61,967 (23%) are living at or below the federal poverty line (\$24,300 for a family of four).

Based on the area’s demographics and the number of youth residing within a 5-mile radius, vulnerable populations that need a Club most, this site made the most sense when determining where BGCAA would establish its first Legacy Club—the nonprofit chapter’s first custom-built, stand-alone facility, which will be a substantial investment in Austin’s future.

"We are excited to finally be able to acquire this fully entitled site after many hurdles. It was a challenging process, but with the support of the Austin community, the tenacity of our Site Acquisition and Entitlement team, a very patient and generous seller, and a unified vision guiding us to this point, we are now well positioned to complete this transformational project for Central Texas youth," said Terrell Gates, Chairman of the Club’s Board of Directors.



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A Big Facility with an Even Bigger Impact

BGCAA's new facility will be a two-story, 35,000 square foot structure that will include a comprehensive state of the art Learning Center focused in the area of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) based programming, as well as a Fabrication Lab allowing for tailored, hands-on learning opportunities. The Learning Center will further comprise a music and recording studio, a performing arts studio, a fine arts studio, as well as a library.

Additionally, the facility will include: a high school size gym, serving kitchen, outdoor eating area, game room, and teen center. The second floor will host the office space of the corporation's 40 employees, including conference and storage area. The site's amenities will showcase: soccer/football fields, tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, a picnic area, on-site parking, as well as a full-size playground. This will be BGCAA's very first purpose-built, stand-alone Club. In total, the project will allow the Boys & Girls Clubs to transform the lives of an additional 250 children and teens each day, and more than 1,000 annually.

According to Boys & Girls Club's CEO, Mark Kiester, "Our Board of Directors voted to embark on this ambitious \$14 million-dollar Legacy Club campaign 2 years ago and as of today we have raised nearly \$6.9 M towards funding the project. We have set a goal to achieve 80% or better by the end of 2016 which would allow us to break ground at the end of the first quarter of 2017."

A Considerable Return on Investment In Travis County, almost 33% of all public high school students – and nearly 50% of African-American, Hispanic, and Native American students – fail to graduate high school with their class. Meanwhile, BGCAA high school seniors see a 99% on-time graduation rate. Nationally, 26% of Club alumni are likely to earn a college degree. BGCAA members have a 15% higher overall GPA than their peers, and 87% fewer absences. Only 30% of school-aged children in Travis County have access to out of school programs.

The Legacy Club project will not only have an impact on the lives of children, but it will also directly impact the job market. BGCAA estimates that four full-time equivalent positions and approximately 20 part-time positions will be created to work directly with members daily. In addition, more than 60 full and part-time constitution positions as the project is being built.

"The Legacy Club facility will not only be an iconic project, but it will be transformational for the Boys & Girls Clubs and the broader Austin Community. The Board of Directors is



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particularly excited that not only will we be able to expand our current footprint, but we will be able to enhance the quality of programming and services we provide to our youth and their families. This will truly be a most impactful asset for Central Texas," said Mr. Gates.

About [Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area \(BGCAA\)](#)

The Boys & Girls Clubs came to Austin in 1967 and over the years it has been guided by some of the most prominent members of the community. Today, BGCAA is Austin's leading youth development agency serving nearly 12,000 kids at 29 different locations. Each day, during the most influential developmental hours of 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM, kids are exposed to dozens of life enhancing programs that enrich them both academically and socially. Currently, BGCAA partners with various organizations such as Austin, Bastrop, Smithville, Elgin and Del Valle Independent School Districts, HACA and Southwest Key Programs, and Schulman Theatres to provide the facilities for BGCAA 's 29 locations.

BGCAA predominately serves the needs of minority youth, with African-American and Hispanics making up 90% the Club's demographic. With the majority being from limited economic resources, BGCAA is ideally positioned to assist youth in improving their education and social skills, physical health and fitness, and emotional well-being. BGCAA strives to create a foundation for a positive peer culture that value learning skills and contribute to society. This mentorship paired with the academic guidance and social enrichment is what allows each individual, regardless of the obstacles that stand between them, to formulate their own destiny.

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