



CAN Board of Directors Meeting

10/10/25 Minutes

Location: Virtual Zoom

Meeting

Present: **Chris Cervini**, Austin Community College; **Mike Gerber**, Housing Authority of Central Austin; **Suchi Gururaj**, UT Austin; **Jeremy Martin**, Austin Chamber of Commerce; **Andy Miller**, One Voice Central Texas; **Regan Gruber Moffitt**, St. David's Foundation; **Amy Price**, United Way for Greater Austin; **Pilar Sanchez**, Travis County; **Fernando de Urioste**, Board of Trustees, Austin ISD;

Other guests: Ara Merjanian, CAN Community Council

CAN Staff in attendance: Raul Alvarez, Jelina Tunstill, Carlos Soto

Call To Order, Welcome, and Introductions: Executive Director Raul Alvarez called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm and welcomed folks in attendance. Brief introductions by those present followed.

Minutes: The August 8, 2025, Board meeting minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.

Community Council Report: Ara Merjanian provided a summary of the Building Community Forum hosted by the Community Council on September 17. This forum, in partnership with St. David's and the United Way for Greater Austin, focused on the power of social connections to enhance economic mobility. There was a presentation from Up Together, a national organization with a local chapter working on the issue, followed by a discussion facilitated by Raul on the challenges, issues, and suggestions for building social capital. This event was built on much of the work the Council has done over the past 15 years on several key issues, with the goal of supporting CAN's work and tapping directly into the community to better understand its changing needs, what they think about the issues of the day, and what suggestions they have that may be included in the final report.

Executive Director's Report: Raul discussed CAN's fall 2025 programming, beginning with a recap of events leading up to the Board Meeting. These are the "Creating a Welcoming Community Luncheon on 9/15, the Building Community Forum on The Power of Connections – Taking Social Capital to the Bank on 9/17, and the Data and Research Roundup on 10/8 events. This was followed by a preview of upcoming events, consisting of the Building Community Forum on Paving the Way for Economic Mobility on 10/21, the Expanding Opportunity Forum on How Narratives Shape Apprenticeships on 10/30, and the upcoming CAN Dashboard Report release. Mike mentioned that some of the work CAN has done has helped the City and the County work closer and better together. Having the Dashboard release date before the elections can be helpful in getting important information out that may help the public make a more informed decision at election time. Raul will explore the possibility of adjusting the release date.

2025 CAN Work Plan and Revisions to 2025-2027 Strategic Plan: Raul began with an overview of the strategic priorities that were identified. Referred to in the plan as Pillars, these are: Stakeholder Engagement & Relationship Development; External Engagement, Marketing & Outreach; Capacity Building; and Organizational Sustainability. Raul referred to the Goals to provide context on how and why the Pillars were developed, and how they fit into the Goals. Members voiced their support for the changes, highlighting some of the strengths the new changes can bring, such as bringing a clearer picture of what we do and allowing us to improve how we follow up on previous or on-going initiatives.

Potential options for 2026 Priority Issues included Mental Health & Wellness, with plans to continue the Spanish language "Pathways to Mental Healing" Toolkit trainings, establish/convene a Collective for Well-Being (focused on Spanish-speaking community), and assist in meeting our revised goal for mental Health First Aid trainings. Economic Mobility, with plans to publish the CAN Economic Mobility Report, follow up on the Building Community Forum on the Power of Social Capital, and Expanding Opportunity Forums planned for January; Creating a Welcoming Community, with plans to update CAN's Community Resource Guides, develop a new Community Resource Guide for Housing (translated to 10 languages), host "Creating a Welcoming Community Luncheon" to fundraise for the Central Texas language Access Fund, and convene a "Creating a Welcoming Community" workgroup to advance "welcoming" principles across sectors; and a consider how we might focus on the "State of the Safety Net", given significant cuts at the federal and local levels. We could potentially pair CAN Dashboard

indicator outcomes with impacts relating to funding cuts and policy changes to begin to anticipate future conditions. This information could be collected by CAN and shared with the media and community leaders to build a public narrative & identify allies and solutions, and hold forums to start community dialogues. Members used the Zoom Whiteboard tool to share their thoughts on what priority issues are most important to them.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.