



City of Denison

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 10, 2023

City of Denison Partners with Non-Profit Community Design Center to Address Housing Challenges

Denison, Texas (April 10th, 2023) – The City of Denison and buildingcommunityWORKSHOP ([bc]), are pleased to announce a new collaborative planning effort to address housing challenges in the area around downtown Denison. [bc] was one of 17 organizations awarded a cooperative agreement through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge. Placemaking is a collaborative planning and technical assistance process that helps leaders from rural communities create quality places where people will want to live, work, visit and learn. The assistance will help selected organizations support people who have been unserved or underserved and live in socially vulnerable communities, Tribal communities, and rural areas.

Through this agreement [bc] and non-profit partners Come Dream, Come Build and ConnectHumanity will work with three rural areas - Port Lavaca, Denison, and colonias in the Rio Grande Valley - in Texas to address housing and broadband challenges they are facing. In Denison, [bc] will work with the City of Denison to lead workshops that address identified priorities in the area around downtown. Priorities include:

- Document historical, existing, and envisioned future neighborhood identities for the purpose of informing new development and renovations in the area around downtown.
- Build capacity for existing property owners to maintain existing properties.
- Build capacity of Denison residents to actively engage in the City’s planning and policy work.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for the community to actively participate in the planning process by providing constructive input on their neighborhoods. The City of Denison is committed to investing in what we already have, but we need a plan to help identify where we can make intentional and impactful change. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with buildingcommunityWorkshop and look forward to developing a stronger partnership with the USDA,” said Denison’s Director of Development Services, Mary Tate.

Members of the community are encouraged to “save the date” for workshops to be held on the following dates:

- April 20th and 21st, 2023*
- July 13th and 14th, 2023*
- September 28th and 29th, 2023*

Stay tuned for more information about the individual workshops and other ways to participate in the project. Any questions can be directed to lizzie@bcworkshop.org

** All workshops will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall, 300 W. Main Street, Denison at 12pm and 5pm on the Thursdays noted above and at 12pm on the Fridays noted above. Should you wish to participate but are unable to attend, please contact lizzie@bcworkshp.org.*

About buildingcommunityWORKSHOP: The buildingcommunityWORKSHOP is a Texas based nonprofit community design center seeking to improve the livability and viability of communities through the practice of thoughtful design and making. We enrich the lives of residents by bringing design thinking to areas of our cities where resources are most scarce. To do so, [bc] recognizes that it must first understand the social, economic, and environmental issues facing a community before beginning work. As the only community design organization working across Texas, [bc] is unique in its approach to community engagement. We form strong relationships through our collaborative design work, educational outreach activities, and social media channels, enabling us to engage with a broad segment of the population. The success of our work is contingent upon reaching those residents not typically sought out by the design and planning community.

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About Denison Founded in 1872, the City of Denison is located 40 minutes North of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in Grayson County. The city comprises a population of approximately 25,000. The city offers an exemplary school district, a vibrant historic district, a robust housing market, excellent quality of life amenities, and an expanding business climate. Denison is moving forward and kicking back. For more information, visit us at www.cityofdenison.com.