



BUILDING BASTROP

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**CITY CONTINUES TO GATHER PUBLIC INPUT ON THE FUTURE OF BASTROP
AT DESIGN AND CODE RODEOS**

Community Feedback to Guide Holistic Reform of Land-Use Regulations in Bastrop

BASTROP, TEXAS – December 17, 2018 – On Friday evening, the City of Bastrop wrapped up the Building Bastrop Code Rodeo, the second of its interactive workshops involving the community in conversation about current and potential development standards in Bastrop. Each of the Rodeos included two days of sessions open to the public, with table talks and presentations around streets and mobility, housing options, infill development and more.

The Design Rodeo, held on November 29 and 30, focused on the big picture, asking attendees what is most important to them, to identify the priorities of the community as Bastrop grows. At the Code Rodeo, held on December 13 and 14, attendees were asked to provide feedback on potential development standards based on input at the Design Rodeo, working to understand how the City can write a code to reflect the community's ideas and intentions.

“Building Bastrop is a community effort; the input we heard at the Design and Code Rodeos is invaluable to this process,” said Bastrop Mayor Connie Schroeder. “We launched this initiative to create new land-use regulations that are geographically sensitive and fiscally sustainable, but we are also prioritizing criteria that will honor the character of Bastrop as it looks and feels today.”

Since Building Bastrop was launched on August 14, the City's planning team has worked with Simplecity Design to look at the character of the downtown area, which represents timeless buildings and forms that pay for themselves and can turnover for multiple uses. Simplecity Design also reviewed Bastrop's current land-use regulations in detail to understand what is and is not working. Their findings showed that the code conflicts with itself in multiple places and that, outside of downtown, current regulations don't allow for any of the downtown building forms to be built again.

“Many of the unique development concepts we've heard from residents at both Rodeos are impossible to create under Bastrop's current development code,” said Matt Lewis, president of Simplecity Design. “Downtown is the heart of Bastrop; what people love most and want to see

more of as the community grows needs to be coded in to keep Bastrop authentic and fiscally sustainable.”

Immediately following the Design and Code Rodeos, the planning team will begin to draft new land-use regulations, taking into account all feedback that has been received to date. Themes that carried through all community conversations included offering a variety of housing types, with an emphasis on affordability; accessibility and mobility, with a desire to maintain connectivity and walkability throughout Bastrop; as well as drainage and the importance of responsible development that ensures neighbors are not flooding neighbors. Residents also want a simplified code that prioritizes and regulates critical elements without tightly regulating other aspects, allowing for flexibility while still providing predictability. The draft code will be released for public comment in January.

“We are using the character of Bastrop and the information we’ve heard from our residents to write land-use regulations that are unique to our city,” said Bastrop City Manager Lynda Humble. “Input has been impressively consistent throughout this process, which shows this community has clarity on what they want. We hope that everyone who has been involved will continue to stay involved and ensure the words in the new code meet the intent we heard.”

In addition to the draft regulations that will be released in January, the City will host a Pop-up Street Project in downtown Bastrop on February 16, 2019. This will provide an opportunity for the community to see an example of how the draft code could be applied, and how a change in a street or sidewalk can impact the character of an area. Additional information will be shared on the Building Bastrop website in early January.

For the most up-to-date information on Building Bastrop, visit www.CityofBastrop.org/BuildingBastrop.

About The City of Bastrop:

The Mission of the City of Bastrop is to continuously strive to provide innovative and proactive services that enhance our authentic way of life to achieve our vision.

For more information on the City of Bastrop, visit www.CityofBastrop.org and follow us on social media via Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. Residents can also tune in to BTXN TV via Time Warner Channel 10 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99, or watch online at www.btxn.tv.

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