

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**September 10, 2024**

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**SUBJECT: PANTHER ISLAND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

On May 21, 2024, the Fort Worth Housing Finance Corporation board – comprised of the Mayor and all ten Council members – received a briefing from Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President Anette Landeros about the Panther Island equitable development initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to assess the potential impacts of Panther Island development upon adjacent neighborhoods, including Northside and Historic Marine, and to formulate effective strategies for promoting economic development and neighborhood conservation in view of those impacts. The initiative’s total budget is \$230,000, toward which the Housing Finance Corporation has contributed \$37,500. Other funders include the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Dallas – Fort Worth District Council, the ULI Foundation, the North Texas Community Foundation, the Rainwater Charitable Foundation, the Hispanic Chamber, and the Amon G. Carter Foundation.

As an important part of this initiative, a ULI Advisory Services panel of national real estate development experts will be visiting Fort Worth on September 15-20 to receive briefings, tour the study area, interview stakeholders, analyze and debate pertinent issues, and produce a report of findings and recommendations. The ULI panel will be chaired by Omar Gonzalez, Director of Development for Oxbow Development Group in San Antonio. Other panel members include the following:

- Agnes Artemel, President of Artemel & Associates in Alexandria, Virginia;
- Laura J. Cortez, Founder and CEO of Cortez Consulting in Driftwood, Texas;
- Antonio Fiol-Silva, Founding Principal of SITIO architecture + urbanism in Philadelphia;
- Lucia Garsys, Principal of GarsysPlanning in Tampa;
- Danielle “Dee” Giarla, Real Estate Associate for VanTrust Real Estate in Kansas City;
- Liliana Gonzalez, Development Manager for Cinnaire in Detroit; and
- Ashley Terry, Vice President of Development for Wheeler District in Oklahoma City.

Henry Cisneros, Founder and Senior Advisor for American Triple I Partners in New York -- as well as a former Mayor of San Antonio and a former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development -- will serve as an advisor to the panel. The panel will present its report to the public on Friday, September 20, at 9:30 a.m. at Rose Marine Theater, 1440 North Main Street.

City staff is supporting the ULI panel by preparing a briefing book, presenting briefings, conducting the study area tour, providing technical assistance, and helping ULI staff on logistical arrangements. Participating departments include FWLab, Neighborhood Services, Economic Development, Development Services, Diversity and Inclusion, and Communications and Public Engagement.

For additional information about these activities, please contact Assistant City Manager Fernando Costa at 817-392-6122.

David Cooke
City Manager