



Asian Contractor Association
4201 Ed Bluestein Blvd. #2100
Austin, TX 78721
Tel: 512-926-5400

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ACA Newsletter



ACA Exhibits at 8th Annual *Getting Connected* Event

Austin—Austin's Small Business Program hosted its 8th annual **Getting Connected**[®] business resource event and expo on September 2, 2015 at the Palmer Event Center. *Getting Connected* is the small business resource event of the year with business assistance organizations, lend-



ers, and government agencies together under one roof to create an unmatched, one-stop resource expo for Austin's entrepreneurs. Over two dozen guests visited ACA booth mostly new to the city either to relocate their business or start a new one. They each received consultation from ACA staff on how to do business with the city and ACA publications plus a 2GB ACA USB drive giveaway.

2015 *Getting Connected* features:

- Increased outreach and media attention to achieve greater attendance
- Expanded exhibit hall
- Added content and offerings
- Exhibit hall activities and engagements

(source: City of Austin Small Business Development Program)

Getting Connected Event Photos





City of Austin Partners with GivePulse for Volunteerism

City of Austin leaders recently announced a partnership with GivePulse, an ACA member and a civic startup, to make it easier for Austinites to find volunteer opportunities.

The online tool at GivePulse.com matches community members and service-learning students who want to make a difference with nonprofits and organizations seeking volunteers.

Mayor Steve Adler welcomed the partnership and stressed the importance of volunteerism to help meet community needs.

The VolunteerATX Drive calls all Austinites to volunteer at least one hour in August. Residents can make good on that pledge on Saturday, Aug. 8 by joining Keep Austin Beautiful for a "[Clean Lady Bird Lake](#)" event from 9 to 11 a.m. Find details on givepulse.com.

"We are excited about this partnership with GivePulse, a locally grown startup with a civic good mission," said Mayor Steve Adler. "My push to all Austin residents is to volunteer one hour in August. Together, our time, talents, and passions will make a significant lasting impact."

Share your volunteer activities with the Mayor by using **#VolunteerATX**.

On GivePulse, residents can register to be notified of volunteer opportunities that interest them from the City of Austin and several Central Texas agencies. Volunteer opportunities range from one-time events to ongoing activities for individuals, youth and large groups.

City departments often rely on volunteers to provide an enhanced level of public service. Needs include youth sports coaches, docents, dog walkers, tree-planters and volunteers to help seniors in library computer labs.

In 2015, GivePulse has tracked more than 30,000 volunteer hours contributing to City of Austin programs and services.

"Our community's success depends on the success of our partners, including our residents, our nonprofits and our local businesses. Our work with GivePulse represents the best of all of those -- an opportunity to partner with a local startup business that connects residents with the volunteer causes they believe in," City Manager Marc Ott said. "It is living proof of how innovators in our community can connect in meaningful ways with innovators in local government to begin solving our complex problems."

GivePulse was founded in Austin with the mantra to "empower social good."

"We are honored and thrilled to partner with forward-thinking cities like the City of Austin. Together, we will increase the capacity and unlock the human potential of our residents," said George Luc, GivePulse CEO and co-founder, who is also a White House Champion for Change and SXSW Dewey Honoree.

Learn more at www.austintexas.gov/volunteer or watch the new Public Service Announcement at <https://youtu.be/1H9sE97dXhw> (source: City of Austin Public Information Office)

Building Professionals Demur at Proposed City Lobbying Changes

In a meeting of the Ethics Review Commission on September 28th, engineers and others in the building industry voiced grave concerns over a proposal that would likely require many of them to register as lobbyists because of their regular interactions with city officials. A final draft of the changes is unlikely to mature anytime soon as the commission is posed to discuss the issue further at meetings on Oct. 13 and Oct. 27.

ACC to Implement Race and Gender Neutral Certification Program

In an effort to establish its own vendors list, Austin Community College is implementing a new certification program for small and local businesses to participate in its new bond program totaling \$368 millions.

The program does not consider race or gender as a factor to qualify for the program under the SLBE (small and local business enterprise) certification. The ACC Board of Trustees has elected to adopt SLBE last year becoming the only public entity in central Texas that does not recognize MBE/WBE, HUB, or DBE certifications. It is to ensure there are data to support disparity in ACC contracting especially at a time when minority groups in the country pose to take the majority seat, according to program coordinator, Jason Clark.

Austin Selected for Unique Partnership to Transform Mobility

The City of Austin, together with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and the City of Denver announced their partnership recently to transform Austin and Denver's mobility future. The partnership will leverage the power of emerging technology and innovation to expand transportation options to address congestion, costs, commuting, safety, and the environment.

RMI chose Austin and Denver for this innovative project after a national search. Austin was chosen as the lead implementation city because of its strength as an education and technology center, its entrepreneurial culture, and collaborative government. Google recently picked Austin as the second city in the country for testing their autonomous vehicle.

Development and Permitting Fee Increases Become Effective October 1

Effective October 1, 2015, the Development Services Department and Planning and Zoning Department will imple-

ment fee increases for all development and permitting-related activities in accordance with recent cost of service studies. The new fee structure for the Development Service Department will apply to all building permits, trade permits (plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and irrigation), commercial and residential, site plan, and subdivision applications. The Planning and Zoning Department's related fees will apply to zoning, historic preservation, and special districts such as Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) and Public Improvement (PID) districts.

Alliance for Economic Inclusion's Central Texas Small Business Forum

October 14th, 2015 from 8:00 am - 1:30 pm at Shoal Crossing Event Center at 8611 N Mopac Expy for the Alliance for Economic Inclusion's Central Texas Small Business Forum. For more information and to register, please visit <http://bit.ly/1F3bV82>.

White Lodging to Repay Waived Fees to City

White Lodging will be repaying the city \$2.4 million in fees that were initially waived for construction of the JW Marriott downtown. The announcement in a recent council meeting came after The Workers Defense Project and other community groups took it to the council regarding the hotel conglomerate's failure to pay prevailing wages after receiving fee waiving benefits. The company will also drop its lawsuit against the city.

Public Meeting for Lamar Beach Master Plan

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department will host a Vision Workshop, the first public meeting for the Lamar Beach Master Plan, on October 14, 2015, from 6:30–8:00 p.m. at Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez Street.

The public meeting will include the following activities: a 30-minute open house starting at 6:30, and a 60-minute interactive presentation beginning at 7 p.m. The project team will lead the interactive presentation and mapping exercise to capture input from participants, including opportunities and challenges of the planning area.

City Auditor Seeks Media Feedback on Website

The Office of the City Auditor has been brainstorming about how to improve the Auditor's website at www.austintexas.gov/auditor, and better serve you.

Before changes are made the Office would like to get feedback from users. Please take a few minutes to complete the brief survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QKN9J3T>