



Good Stewardship: Repurposing Sims

October 5, 2024 | 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

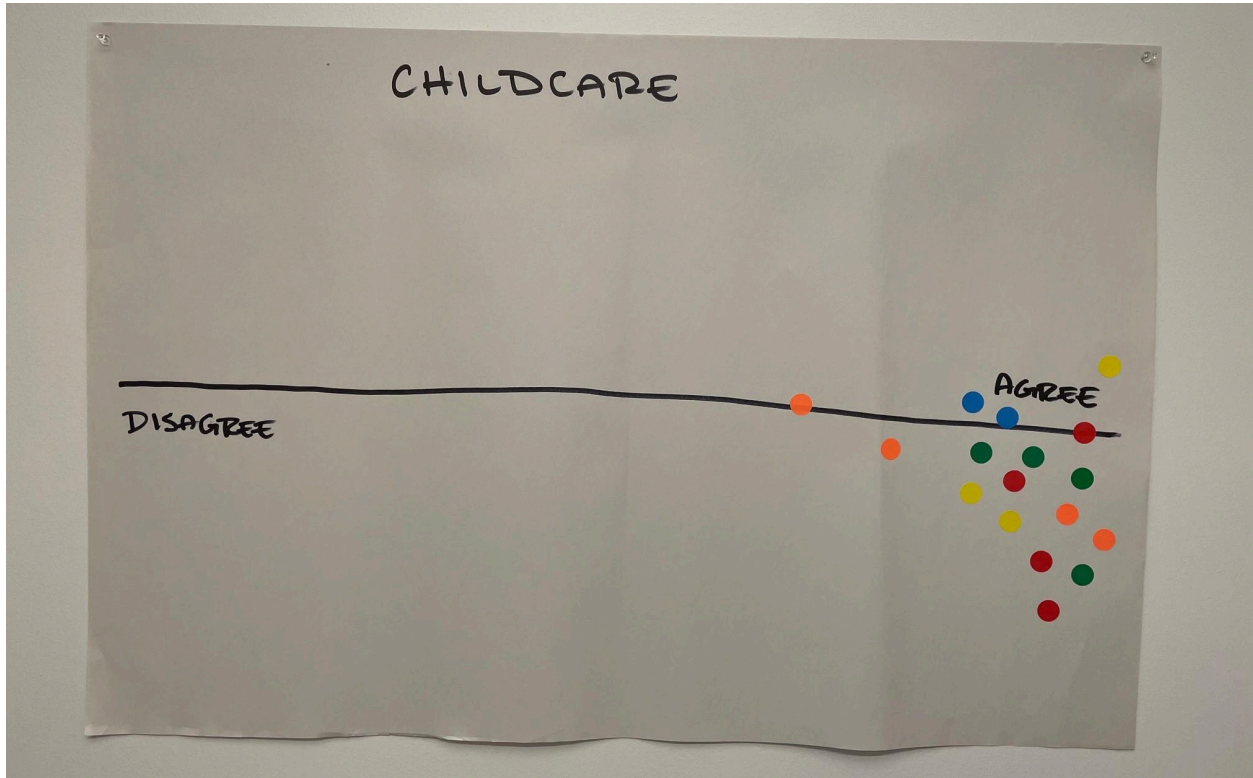
Topic:
Facility Tour and Discussion

Number of Attendees:
18

- Meeting Notes:**
- Sims School is part of Austin ISD’s repurposing process. The goal is to identify future uses for underutilized sites that can be responsive to community needs.
 - Background information can be found on the district website >> [Site Repurposing | Austin ISD](#)
 - Community members toured the Sims School to better understand the current layout and explore future uses of the building that dates from 1956.
 - Community members were invited at the end of the tour to show whether they agree or disagree with proposed uses for the building and to provide suggestions for any other uses that were not identified. These options were presented on a series of scales.

Look at the options and scales below:

Childcare



- Engage students w/ local history - [Bethany Cemetery](#)
- Affordable childcare option

Education (Adult)



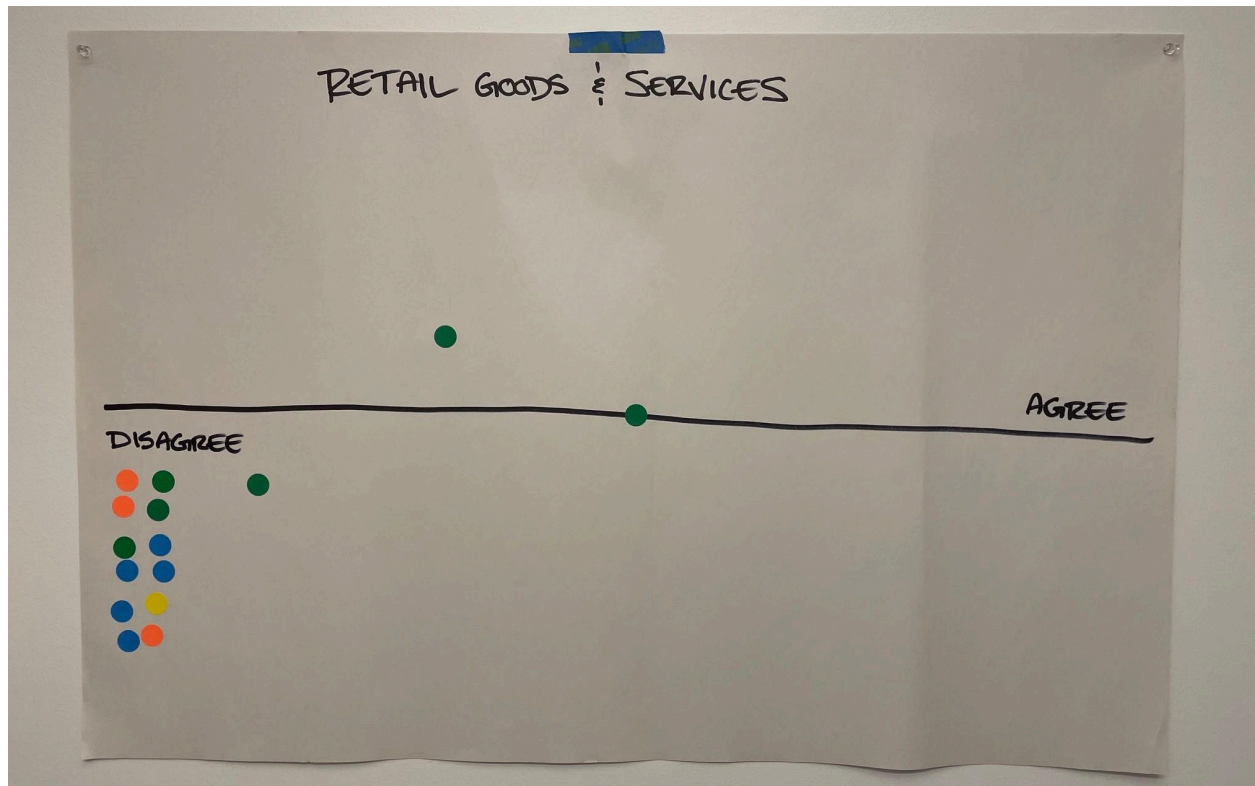
- Where does this exist already in Austin? Can this campus be revamped to support new, unique education programs?

Community Center



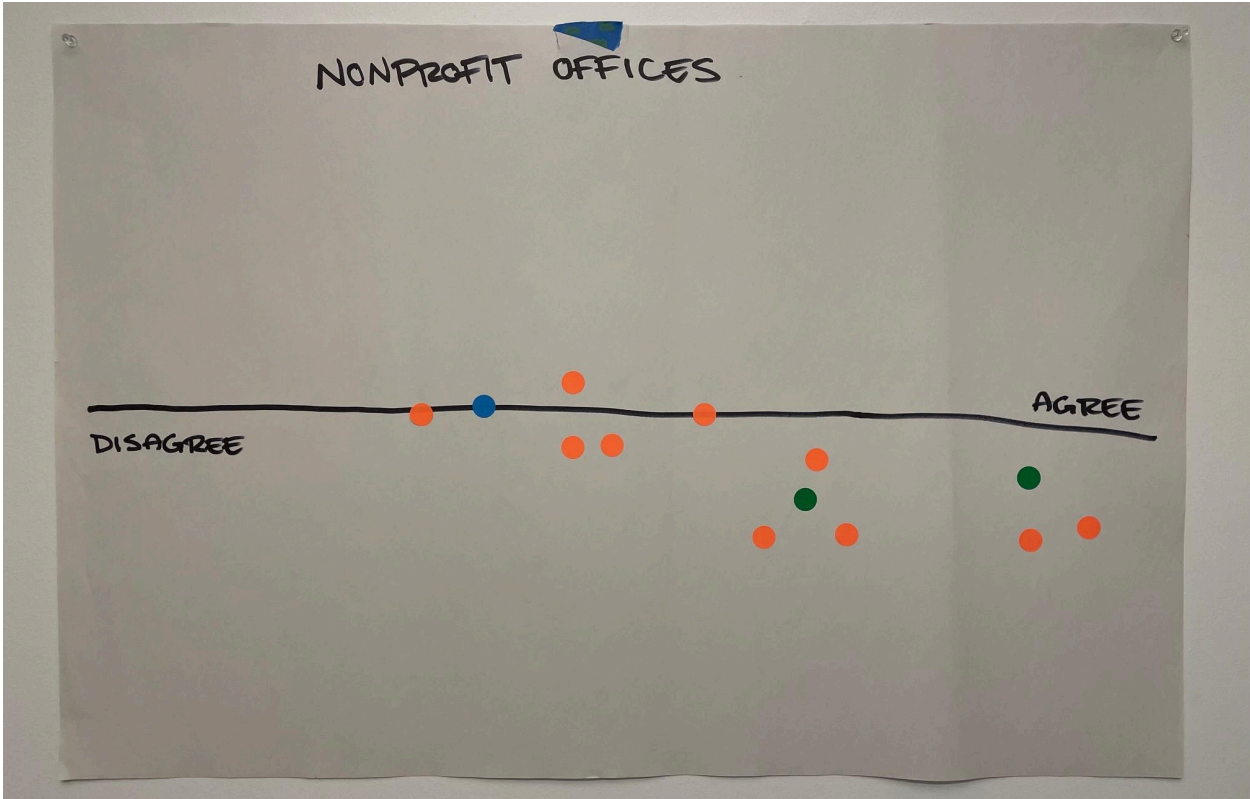
- How would this interact w/ [Givens](#)?
- Partnership between Givens + Sims School
- How would a community center at Sims School augment what Givens field + community center already offers? How can a community center at Sims support Givens?
- Free & low cost air conditioned meeting spaces (which are child friendly) are lacking in the community. It's difficult to even organize neighbors.

Retail Goods & Services

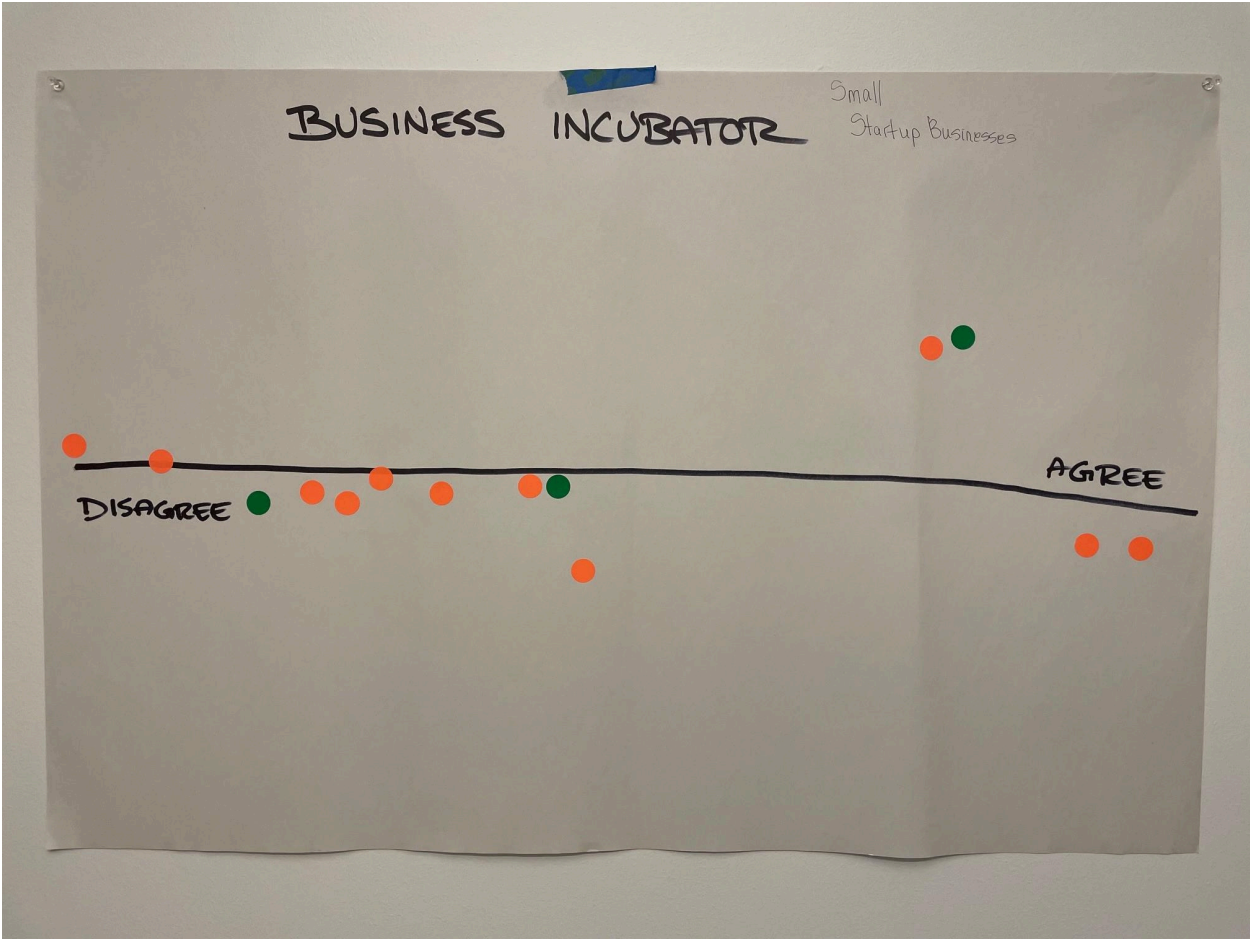


- Don't want another mixed use space; no Canopy
- There is also the retail space across Springdale already
- No more displacement through gentrification

Nonprofit Offices



Business Incubator



Housing



- True low income housing for Austin ISD hourly workers
- I am skeptical & lack trust in our role with housing - given the Baker Center promises
- I would absolutely support Austin ISD staff housing w/an affordability scale that speaks to salaries earned + a robust long term plan that does now allow for unrealistic increases in prices long-term

Artist Studios / Maker Spaces



- Creative / artist rental spaces
- City of Austin giving grants: [Elevate & Thrive](#)

Other

- Maintain and reuse the original cafeteria and administration building and courtyard
 - Provide housing for bus drivers, retired teachers, cafeteria workers, etc.
 - Cafeteria = a gathering space
 - Courtyard = great space & the playground
 - Admin building = office space / nonprofit space
- Bring it up to code to fit the 2024 school model and bring back Sims Elementary
- Office space for Austin ISD employees (Student Support Services) who are itinerant or HQ with no place to go

Action Items:

- District to host virtual meetings on Wednesday, November 13 and Wednesday, December 11 to continue conversation
- District to host learning session for the community about the [Educational Specifications for Modern Learning](#)
- District to continue to improve outreach to community to bring a higher level of awareness to the repurposing effort

