



Highlights of 2014 Accomplishments in EastPoint

Improved Governance Structure

- Established a functional three-tier governance structure, which includes a Coordinating Council, the Implementation Team, and task forces. The Coordinating Council is currently partnering with Living Cities/SA2020 to improve the structure for sustainability.
- Developed a draft report/scorecard to track major outcomes in EastPoint. The scorecard will be finalized in early 2015.

Improved Communications and Engagement

- Created the EastpointSA.gov website, and a Facebook & Twitter #eastpointSA.
- Created the EastPoint Pride – a team of residents recruited by the MightyGroup to assist with neighborhood outreach, communications and direct engagement.
- Created “The Point” newsletter which is mailed quarterly to every residents in the footprint.
- Created the “In the Zone” newsletter to update residents on Promise Zone activities.
- Held 8 “Neighborhood Coffees” to provide information to area residents.
- Held several public information events to include SAGE business breakfast - Promise Zone 101s.
- Deployed AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers to help build neighborhood capacity & engagement.

Improved Customer Services and Responsiveness

- Created a one-stop-shop by co-locating the Choice and Promise Neighborhood staff/offices in one building (Ella Austin Community Center) to ensure coordination and responsiveness.
- Created the EastPoint Office at the City to assist with overall coordination and implementation.

Improved Resident Satisfaction

- United Way/EPN’s annual survey of EastPoint residents revealed that 68% of the residents knew about EastPoint and the various programs offered; and 80% said that overall staff and partners were doing an excellent job. The survey also revealed that over 70% of the residents felt that substance abuse was the #1 issue in the neighborhood.

Improved Public Safety (3 Cs’)

- Crime – in FY14 (from Oct. 1, 2013 to present), violent crime has decreased by 6.9%, but property crime is up 9.2% mainly due to larceny theft.
- Canine – in FY14 (from Oct. 1, 2013 to present) Animal Care Services received 3,459 calls, resulting in 949 animals impounded and 185 citations issued.
- Code enforcement - A total of 5,765 cases were responded to by inspectors and of those cases, 5,140 were proactive and 671 were reactive (citizen calls). A total 811 vacant structures were secured, 34 demolished, and 3,420 lots/yards mowed. Also 958 graffiti complaints were addressed.
- Solid Waste Management collected 151 tons of waste from illegal dumping piles and sponsored 10 recycling outreach events.

Promoted Economic Development

- Eleven (11) catalytic economic development projects (to include Alamo Brewery) have been completed or in the approval stages, totaling over \$200 million in investment.
- SAGE provided 40 façade improvement grants to Eastside businesses and launched the \$2 million Grow Eastside Fund. SAGE has also begun the process to select a consultant to develop an economic development strategy for the Promise Zone
- Café Commerce held one Who Owns the Ice House training for area entrepreneurs.
- Began conversation with Fort Sam Houston Base Commander to encourage their involvement in EastPoint and re-opening the New Braunfels gate.

Improved Infrastructure and Overall Street Conditions

- Seven (7) 2012 Bond capital improvement projects are either completed or in the planning stages, totally nearly \$30 million.
- Completed design of the \$6.5 million Menger Creek Drainage bond project with construction scheduled to begin in spring 2015. Bexar County contributed \$4 million to enhance it into a linear park. County & City staff began negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad to acquire 10-acres (the goonies) for the 2nd phase of the Menger Creek a linear park and to build an Urban Farm.
- Budgeted \$14 million for street improvements throughout the EastPoint footprint. Street improvements are scheduled to begin in spring 2015.

Secured FY15 Funding from City Council

- City Council allocated \$2.7 million in the FY15 budget as part of the City's \$19.5 million commitment to the Choice project. Also secured \$1.14 million commitment from SAWS for infrastructure improvements in Wheatley Courts.

Secured Promise Zone Designation for the Eastside

- In January 2014, the Eastside was designated as a Promise Zone which granted the area access to federal grants. Since the designation, the City developed an 8-step process to review and certify 19 federal grant applications, resulting in partners receiving \$28.78 million in federal funds to implement the promise zone goals.

Improved Housing Development

- SAHA relocated all 201 families out of Wheatley Courts
- Celebrated the grand opening of the \$29.4 million, 208-unit Park of Sutton Oaks, the first phase of the Choice Neighborhood Initiative
- Received approval from the State TDHCA Board for \$2 million in tax credit funding for Wheatley Courts Phase II development
- Demolition and site abatement of the Wheatley Courts is 50% complete. To date, 22 of the 40 buildings have been demolished. Construction of the 417 units is scheduled to begin in March 2015.
- All housing construction contractors are being held to M/WBE & Section 3 hiring goals.
- Developed an in-fill housing and rehab strategy to construct 50 new infill housing and 30 renovations to existing homes. The houses will be built to established design guidelines.
- Wells Fargo announced the NeighborhoodLIFT Program to provide \$15,000 for down payment assistance for the purchase of a primary, owner-occupied residence

Improved Education Achievements

- Early Childhood education has increased - 29.8% of kindergarten children at all three EPN schools scored as “very ready” in 4 or more developmental domains verses 14.9% the year before.
- EPN expanded SAISD pre-k classes to include additional 60 children.
- Student enrollment and student attendance in all 6 EPN schools increased by over 10%.
- Chronic absenteeism in all 6 EPN schools declined by 15%, and student mobility declined between 3 and 9% in 4 of the 6 EPN schools.
- Over 1,200 students served in after-school or summer activities, all of which contributed to a significant reduction in summer learning loss.
- 4-year graduation rate at Sam Houston High School has grown from a low of 45% to over 84%.
- EPN established internships for Sam Houston High School students with 6 week (paid) internship/ \$1,000 stipend for up to 50 students. Citibank donated \$50,000 to establish a \$1,000 college savings account for each intern.
- EPN created a dual generation program for parents of children aged 0-10 (for parents: adult education, certifications, college. For children: quality early childcare.
- SAISD opened the Early College High School at St. Philip’s College in the fall 2014 with an initial enrollment of 104 freshman students.
- SAISD converting Wheatley Middle School into a full-service community school. SAISD received a \$2.5 million federal grant for implementation.
- SAISD curriculum and instruction will focus on STEM proficiency at school levels.
- San Antonio Public Library launched the VROOM electronic book mobile.
- Provided financial empowerment coaching to over 1,100 families, resulting in \$179,000 increase in savings and \$471,000 decrease in debt.

Promoted Workforce Development/Job Creation

- Held the Eastside Job Fair where over 1,000 job seekers attended & 25 received job offers on site.
- Completed inventory of all workforce development providers on the Eastside. Now working with Workforce Solutions Alamo to develop a strategic plan.
- Continued our efforts to remove barriers that keep parents from employment such functional literacy, lack of education, transportation, child care, criminal past.
- SAHA implemented the Job-Plus program to provide employment to Choice residents.
- Pre-K 4 SA developed a strategy to provide professional development training to day care providers.
- SAHA board approved allocating \$600,000 in Choice funds to go toward renovation of the Good Samaritan Veterans Outreach Center, pending HUD approval.

Promoted Health & Wellness

- SAHA Board approved transferring a 2-acre parcel to the University Health Systems (UHS) for construction, operation and maintenance of a health clinic.
- Developed community gardens at Ella Austin and at Sutton Oaks to promote healthy eating habits.
- Partnered with the Food Bank to distribute 50 pounds of fresh fruits, vegetables and water to 400 needy Eastside residents.
- Sponsored the Midnight Basketball league.