

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:54:09 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:18 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 - 15:18

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Debbie

Last Name: Kizer

Title: Executive Director

Organization you are affiliated with: Imagine Art

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am excited to hear about the recommendations to move towards closure of SSLC in Texas. There is concern that the Austin community is not equipped to receive and support 280 residents with profound disabilities. Does that mean they will simply be moved, again, to another facility? We need more providers and we need to ensure that services are of good quality.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Imagine Art is rising up a grassroots group of people with disabilities to recommend system's change for the SSLCs in Texas during the 84th Legislative session.

We are a group of 65 artists with disabilities, using art as a vehicle for change within our community for 17 years. We successfully have partnered arts/disability dollars and creatively leveraged dollars to support person centered choices (including micro-enterprises and job placement).

Imagine Art is proposing that the state of Texas give us an opportunity to step in and manage a portion of the Austin SSLC, during the closure transition period. We propose to facilitate a partnership between city and state to repurpose the closed buildings of the ASSLC creating an Arts District.

Our vision is to establish an affordable live-work space where artists with and without disabilities thrive interdependently in the context of community.

Austin artists would be selected to engage in an Artist In Residency Program, giving access to space while engaging their creative talents for the community. Artists with disabilities would be selected to engage in the Artist In Residency Program as well, modeling the creative leveraging of dollars and interdependent tools for engaging in community.

A partnership with the city of Austin and HUD dollars would renovate the spaces and establish an inclusive live-work community for both artists with and without disabilities. We expect such a community to impact the ASSLC and provide both accountability and vision as residents are transitioned out.

As the Austin community is not equipped to absorb 280 people with profound disabilities, Imagine Art is proposing to establish community based waiver alternatives on the land, within the Arts District. Imagine Art would manage DAD contracts to provide community based alternative to select number of ASSLC unable to transition by 2017.

Imagine Art considers this a creative pilot that has potential in the other 12 SSLCs throughout Texas. Most communities have artists and arts organizations in need of affordable spaces. Imagine Art is interested in establishing an incubator program here in Austin and then replicating it elsewhere.

Imagine Art has been invited to present to 7 key City of Austin officials on July 1, 2014. We are also submitting to the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities for a grassroots advocacy grant to support this effort. We will begin face to face legislative conversations this summer, seeking a representative to 'champion' our cause during the 84th Legislative Session.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree