



AIA Dallas

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

May 22, 2020

The Honorable Omar Narvaez
Dallas City Hall
1500 Marilla St.
Dallas, Texas 75201

Dear Chairman Narvaez,

Thank you for your leadership in addressing environmental quality, sustainability, and climate action in Dallas. We are grateful for the work and foresight of you and your Council colleagues to advance the Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP). **The Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Dallas) is proud to support this initiative and looks forward to working with you in the future to implement it fully.** AIA Dallas has worked to advance, disseminate, and advocate design practices that integrate built and natural systems and enhance both the design quality and environmental performance of the built environment. We support the CECAP as an essential starting point to create a healthy, sustainable, and equitable future for Dallas.

We would be remiss, however, if we failed to point out that the plan must recognize that some existing buildings have important, irreplaceable historic and cultural value, including, but not limited to, City of Dallas Historic Landmarks and those listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is important that the CECAP state that its provisions should not be construed as a mandate to require improvements or modifications that adversely affect historic integrity or cultural value. As the retention of existing buildings and their embodied energy is also a highly sustainable practice, it is similarly important that the plan's goals not be considered a mandate to encourage demolition of elements or the entire building over renovation and repair of these buildings. We ask that this language be added and incorporated into the final approved document.

AIA Dallas is committed to partnering with Council and staff to develop the necessary, specific actions that the City of Dallas and its stakeholders will undertake to meet the plan's important goals. AIA Dallas strives to empower architects to excel and impact their practice, profession, and community. AIA Dallas has a membership base of more than 2,500 members and 300 architectural firms throughout North Texas. AIA Dallas members have expertise in critical areas to the CECAP such as sustainable design and development, energy efficiency, preservation, urban design, and planning, as well as problem-solving based on these multiple issues.

Thank you, again, for proposing this ambitious plan. Please do not hesitate to call on AIA Dallas to act as a resource as you move forward. We hope to support the City of Dallas through strategy, policy implementation, and professional development and outreach.

Sincerely,

María Gómez, AIA
2020 AIA Dallas President

Zaida Basora, FAIA
AIA Dallas Executive Director

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