

OCCUPY AUSTIN
ATX JOINS OCTOBER 6TH

Guide to Thrive

www.OccupyAustin.org

Solidarity Statement

“We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who #OccupyWallStreet and occupy around the world. We are dedicated to non-violently reclaiming control of our governments from the financial interests that have corrupted them. We demand that our public servants recognize that the people are the supreme authority.”



~ Occupy Austin General Assembly

THIS IS THE SOLIDARITY STATEMENT THAT WAS CREATED BY THE VALUES AND MISSION COMMITTEE, AND WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE GA FOR PUBLICATION ON THE WEBSITE.

Mission Statement

"Our mission is to assert our rightful place within the political process, and take the reins of power away from profit-driven interests."

Disclosure: This is a living statement, depending on the consensus, it may evolve and further develop over time.

Ammendments will be added as the consensus agrees to them.

General Assembly

- Location
 - Austin City Hall
 - Address: 301 W. 2nd Street
 - Meet at the south entrance of the City Hall building (corner of Lavaca and Cesar Chavez)



- Occupy Austin protest begins at 10am, October 6, 2011, and continues everyday thereafter, until our mission is complete.
- Protest will mobilize to corporate banks and to the State Capitol, from central point at Austin City Hall

General Conduct

- Violence, destruction of public/private property, obstructing traffic, smoking in parks, and camping are prohibited by the Austin Police Department

-Rules to keep in mind:

- we must maintain a peaceful presence
- we must maintain a clean space
- we must maintain a presence on public space that does not block motor vehicle or human traffic
- we must abide by the burn ban and fire safety rules (no smoking in parks)
- we are allowed to occupy space, so long as we do not camp or sleep (shifts will be taken 24/7 to keep an ongoing presence of occupation)

- The Use of a Sidewalk for: Protest, Demonstration or Picketing

-Protesting, demonstrations or picketing activities that occupy the public sidewalk, do not require a permit from the City.

-There are rules that you must follow so as not to violate several laws:

- You can not block the sidewalk where it prevents the use by other citizens
- You can not block ingress or egress to the doors of the building
- You can not block driveways from the street to the property
- You can not set up tables or other obstructions on the sidewalk
- You can not get into the street for any reason
- You can not get on “private property” without the permission of the property owner
- Careful consideration to the wording and/ or graphics that are placed on posters or signs should be considered. Threatening, vulgar or pornographic; words or images could prompt other citizens to complain causing police action.

- Banners or signs may not be hung off of or attached to bridges over roadways; signs may be carried while walking on sidewalks over bridges.

To request the use of a public street to hold “March”, a Parade Permit is required 10 days prior to the date of the event. Parade Permits are approved by APD – Special Events. The permit is at web site: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/parade.htm>.

If you have further questions about your particular event, you may contact: Austin Police Department – Special Events Unit at: [512-974-5032](tel:512-974-5032) fax [512-974-6636](tel:512-974-6636)

Other contacts:

The use of the State Capitol grounds for an event requires permits from the State Preservation Board, [512-463-3051](tel:512-463-3051); and coordination with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Capitol District at [512-463-3556](tel:512-463-3556).

The use of City Hall Plaza is arranged through the City of Austin, Building Services Division, at [512-974-3962](tel:512-974-3962).

A request to use City of Austin parkland is approved through the Parks and Recreation Department, reservation office, at [512-974-6797](tel:512-974-6797).

Assembly Procedures

INTRODUCTION

As a group we have decided to take on the form of the Occupy Wall Street movement to have all planning and activities (from the logistics of the operation of the occupation to the planning of activities) take place through committees. The General Assembly (GA) is a gathering for these committees to report back to the group as a whole on their progress and receive consensus approval to move forward with activities that affect the occupation as a whole. The GA is not meant to micro-manage the decisions of the group or openly debate ideas. All idea generation and discussions should be held within committees, developed in these committees and brought to the GA as a full-fledged plan of action. The GA will be proposal based and consensus driven. During the GA proposals can also be made to create an action committee to fill a void for needs of the occupation. By participating in the GA you are agreeing to respect why we are here and the procedures by which we operate.

PROCEDURES

The GA operates under some strict procedures. These procedures are not intended to silence or keep anybody from having their voice heard. However, the GA exists for a very specific purpose and these procedures exist to limit the length of the GA meeting. The facilitators must be harsh at times to make sure we stick to these procedures. Apologies for this from the beginning.

Besides being proposal based and consensus driven, the most important rule of the GA is that to speak to the GA you need to get on Stack. Stack is a list of people who want to speak. By getting on stack we keep from speaking over each other and descending into chaos. Stack will be opened at the beginning of each agenda item. Get the attention of the Stack Taker and they will put your name on the list to speak. Please only get on stack if you intend to speak on the topic of the current agenda item and have a proposal to make or a check-back report to deliver. Underrepresented groups and people will be given priority on stack.

Facilitators: Two facilitators ensure that meetings sticks to procedure and on topic. Facilitators are Neutral. Facilitators must remove themselves from facilitation if they wish to join the GA as a participant.

Vibe Checker: Keeps an eye on tension and vibe of group. Can propose breaks if people are tired.

Time Keeper: Keeps track of time allowed for each agenda item and per speaker.

Stack Taker: Keeps track of who wants to speak for each agenda item. Underrepresented people and persons will be given priority.

Minutes Taker: Keeps detailed minutes of each meeting for open record.

General Assembly Outline

Check Backs: All present committees pick one representative to give GA an update on what has been going on in committee since the last GA. No requirement to give update if there is no progress to report.

Agenda Setting: Proposals on agenda items for current GA. Please include a time length for proposed topic.

Agenda Items: Proposed items that need the attention of the GA.

Hand Signals to Facilitate Communication

Sparkly Hands: A silent way to express support for a topic or express agreement on consensus being taken. Since we are not using amplification clapping can easily drown-out somebody speaking. Use this a lot.

Point of Procedure: Used by those who have gone through facilitator training to bring to attention to facilitators that GA has moved off topic or is operating outside of the agreed upon procedures. Used sparingly.

Direct Response: Used to offer up a direct factual contradiction to a fact presented, such as, “The pizza is here.” “No it is not.” This does not mean “Hey, I want to debate you about this topic.” Used sparingly.

Clarifying Question: Used to ask a direct question to clarify something not heard or understood. For example, “Did you say pizza is here?” “No, I said Lisa is here.” This is not meant to open up a question/answer session. Used sparingly.

Block: Used during consensus taking on proposals. Explained in detail below.

We love you, we respect your idea, but get to the point: Self-explanatory.

Proposal Based

All communications within the GA that are not report-backs should be proposals to action. For example, “I propose the creation of a committee to consider the needs of child care,” or “The Child Care Committee proposes we set up an area at X-location for child care to be staffed by a rotating crew of the parents of the children.” The only exception to this is on the occasion that the GA agrees to open up the floor for a pros/cons list to facilitate consensus taking for a predetermined time period.

Consensus Driven

At the proposal of each item to action or the creation of a committee the GA will take a consensus to see if the proposal is agreed upon. This is done by the use of

Sparkly Hands. If there is a general consensus the proposal is approved. If the consensus is close a count can be taken. If consensus fails proposal is not accepted. A block can be used if there is an important, direct objection to a proposal. The blocker will then need to explain their objection. Proposer and blocker should get together after the GA to resolve concerns then bring the proposal back to the GA at a later time. Debate should not happen on the GA floor unless an agreed upon time is given to present pros and cons which should be done through stack. The block can also be used to propose Friendly Amendments. That is, you agree for the most part but offer a working suggestion to refine the idea. If an amendment cannot be agreed upon the same actions should be taken as a block. A block can be overruled by a 9/10 consensus, but this should be done sparingly.

Formation of Committees

Committees can be formed by (A) Proposing a committee with its purpose to the GA. Proposer should be willing to be the magnet for this committee at least until it is established. (B) Two other people agree to join the committee. (C) The GA takes a consensus vote on the formation of the committee. Block can be used to point out if a committee already exists or if this committee can fit inside an existing committee.

** Facilitators are rotated out from among a large group of trained facilitators. If you would like to receive facilitators training ask a facilitator!*

Assembly Groups

Art

This group is working to make posters, flyers and other signs and art for the occupation.

Contact: Nova

HYPERLINK "mailto:art@occupyaustin.org" art@occupyaustin.org

Base camps for 24/7 occupation

This group is working to ensure there are places to rest and sleep away from the occupation area so we can rest and return to the occupation for as long as possible.

Contact: Anna

HYPERLINK "mailto:basecamps@occupyaustin.org" basecamps@occupyaustin.org

Child Care

This group is working to help those who have children at the occupation.

Contact: Courtney

HYPERLINK "mailto:childcare@occupyaustin.org" childcare@occupyaustin.org

City Ordinance

This group is working to help us learn about and comply with city ordinance.

Contact: Jason

HYPERLINK "mailto:cityordinance@occupyaustin.org" cityordinance@occupyaustin.org

Diversity

This group is working to reach out to diverse groups within ATX.

Contact: Cuquita

HYPERLINK "mailto:diversity@occupyaustin.org" diversity@occupyaustin.org

Mission and Values

This group is working to take the pulse of the people and craft mission and value statements that reflect everyone involved in the occupation.

Contact: Clifton

HYPERLINK "mailto:mission@occupyaustin.org" mission@occupyaustin.org

Education

This group is working to bring literature to the event to set up education stations during the occupation.

Contact: Levi

HYPERLINK "mailto:education@occupyaustin.org" education@occupyaustin.org

Finance and Bank Switch

This group is working to collect monies for the event and assisting people who would like to withdraw their money from banks and move them to credit unions.

Contact: Lucian

HYPERLINK "mailto:finance@occupyaustin.org" finance@occupyaustin.org

First Aide and medical

This group is working to ensure there is first aide available for participants of the occupation.

Contact: Claire, Joe, BeeDubYa, Bishop and Cameron

HYPERLINK "mailto:medical@occupyaustin.org" medical@occupyaustin.org

Food

This group is working to bring food for participants of the occupation.

Contact: Justin

HYPERLINK "mailto:food@occupyaustin.org" food@occupyaustin.org

Facilitators

This group is working to inform people on how to be a facilitator in the General Assembly.

Contact: John

HYPERLINK "mailto:facilitators@occupyaustin.org" facilitators@occupyaustin.org

Guide to Thrive

This group is working to develop a guide to thrive document to help participants understand the rules of the General Assembly.

Contact: Kristian

HYPERLINK "mailto:guidetothrive@occupyaustin.org" guidetothrive@occupyaustin.org

Holistic Health

This group is working to provide holistic health to the participants of the occupation.

Contact: Emily

HYPERLINK "mailto:holistichealth@occupyaustin.org" holistichealth@occupyaustin.org

Labor Union Outreach

This group is working to reach out to labor unions around ATX for support.

Contact: Snehal

HYPERLINK "mailto:labor@occupyaustin.org" labor@occupyaustin.org

Transportation

This group is working to meet the needs of anyone who needs transportation to the event via pedicab and electric cab rides.

Contact: Harry

HYPERLINK "mailto:transportation@occupyaustin.org" transportation@occupyaustin.org

Legal/Arrest Team

This group is working to provide legal assistance to anyone arrested at the occupation.

Contact: Peter

#arrestedaustin (twitter)

HYPERLINK "mailto:legal@occupyaustin.org" legal@occupyaustin.org

Coalition Outreach

This group is working to reach out to various diverse coalitions in and around ATX for support at the occupation.

Contact: Danny O.

HYPERLINK "mailto:coalitions@occupyaustin.org" coalitions@occupyaustin.org

Media

This group is working to facilitate all things media, including the livestream.

Contact: Lauren

HYPERLINK "mailto:media@occupyaustin.org" media@occupyaustin.org

Moderation

This group is working to help moderators thrive in the General Assembly.

Contact: Joshua

HYPERLINK "mailto:moderation@occupyaustin.org" moderation@occupyaustin.org

IT

This group is working to provide robust IT support.

Contact: Isaac

HYPERLINK "mailto:it@occupyaustin.org" it@occupyaustin.org

Music

This group is working to craft sweet, sweet tunes.

Contact: William

HYPERLINK "mailto:music@occupyaustin.org" music@occupyaustin.org

Keeping the peace at the occupation

This group is working to ensure that our occupation remains non-violent at all times and will work to calm any situation that arises during the occupation.

Contact: Levi

HYPERLINK "mailto:peace@occupyaustin.org" peace@occupyaustin.org

Twitter

Contact: Jonathan

This group is maintaining the #occupyaustin twitter feed.

HYPERLINK "mailto:twitter@occupyaustin.org" twitter@occupyaustin.org

Youtube

This group is working to maintain the occupy Austin youtube channel.

Contact: Ryan

HYPERLINK "mailto:youtube@occupyaustin.org" youtube@occupyaustin.org

Web Team

This group is working to maintain the occupyaustin.org website.

Contact: Anton

HYPERLINK "mailto:info@occupyaustin.org" info@occupyaustin.org

Welcome Committee

This group is working to have information available for people new to the General Assembly.

Contact: Jessica

HYPERLINK "mailto:welcome@occupyaustin.org" welcome@occupyaustin.org

Veterans Outreach

This group is working to reach out to veterans in ATX.

Contact: Petty Officer 3rd Class Alex

HYPERLINK "mailto:veterans@occupyaustin.org" veterans@occupyaustin.org

Co-ops

This group is working to find ways that cooperatives can assist in the occupation.

Contact: Josh

HYPERLINK "mailto:coops@occupyaustin.org" coops@occupyaustin.org

Local issues

This group is working to explore local issues and bring the worldwide movement into perspective by showing local examples of corruption.

Contact: David

HYPERLINK "mailto:local@occupyaustin.org" local@occupyaustin.org

Discussions mini-group

This group is working to facilitate mini-discussion groups at the occupation.

Contact: Fred

HYPERLINK "mailto:discussions@occupyaustin.org" discussions@occupyaustin.org