



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: December 19, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number:

Belinda Powell, Strategic Planning Manager,
Planning & Budget Office 512-854-9506

Handwritten signature of Belinda Powell in black ink.

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:

Leslie Browder, County Executive,
Planning & Budget Office 512-854-9106

Roger Jefferies, County Executive,
Justice and Public Safety, 512-854-4415

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Commissioners Court Sponsor: Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

DISCUSSION WITH URS CORPORATION REGARDING THE CIVIL AND FAMILY COURT HOUSE PROJECT INCLUDING:

- A. PROGRAM UNDERSTANDING
- B. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
- C. PROGRAM THEMES
- D. PROGRAM PARAMETERS AND FUNCTION
- E. SCHEDULE
- F. OTHER ISSUES AND NEXT STEPS

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

On November 5, 2013, the Commissioners Court awarded the contract for Program Management Services for the Travis County Civil and Family Court House project to URS Corporation. Notice to proceed was granted to URS on November 15, 2013 after receipt of all insurance certificates and other materials required under the contract. Since that time URS has worked with county staff to prepare for an initial discussion with the Commissioners Court about the project as a whole and to present an overview of the project management structure and preliminary schedule.

The discussion for the work session on December 19, 2013 will be the first opportunity for URS and the Commissioners Court to begin the process of

refining the scope of the project and setting project specific parameters and themes for future work.

URS will spend the next several months in discussions with the Commissioners Court, in work sessions and voting sessions, to narrow the project objectives and focus on the priority work for the Independent Representative / Compliance Architect (IRCA) as they come on board in the early spring. Additionally, these discussions with URS will position the Commissioners Court to begin the work of refining and defining the overall project budget and estimated construction costs for the project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: NA

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: NA
Please see attached backup from URS

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS: NA



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Travis County Civil and Family Court House



Commissioner's Court Working Session
Civil and Family Court House
Collaborative Work Session #1
December 19, 2013

Agenda for Working Session

6 Main Parts to Our Collective Discussion:

- Program Understanding
- Organizational Structure
- Development and Discussion of Program Themes
- Program Parameters and Functionality
- Schedule Check-In
- Next Steps



Program Understanding



Project Understanding

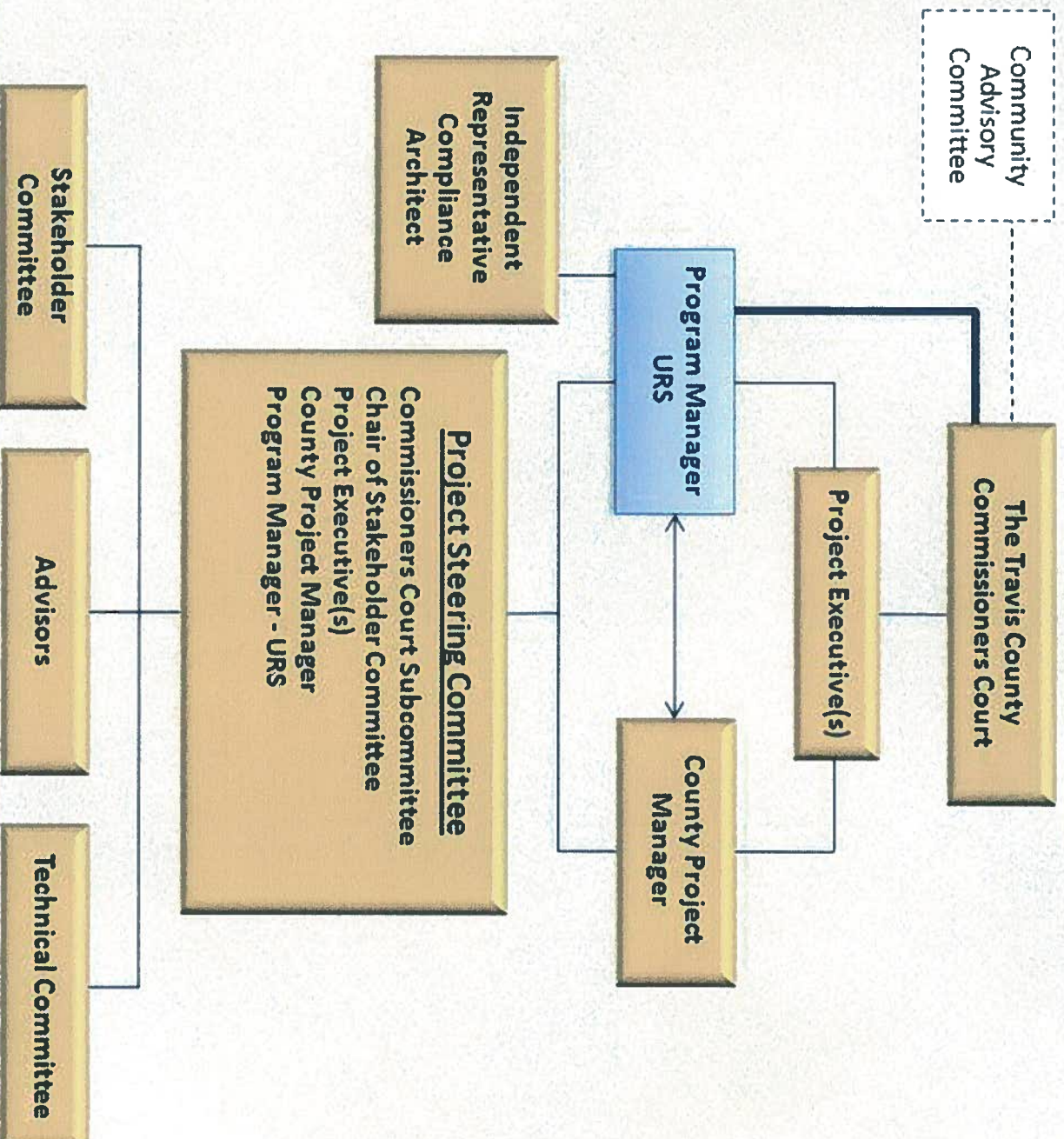
- Continual Dialogue and Communications with the Court
- Ensure Community is Informed and Involved
- Transparency Throughout Process
- Focus on Program Being “On-Time and On-Budget”
- Create an Affordable and Value Driven Program
- Preserve and Protect the County’s Credit Rating
- Deliver a Court House that is Efficient and Effective
- Foster as much Innovation, Ingenuity and Best Practices as Possible
- Deliver a Court House that is Responsive to the Needs of Staff and Users
- Preserve and Protect for County Expansion and Flexibility
- Deliver a Court House that is “Green”, Sustainable and Durable



Organizational Structure



Organizational Structure



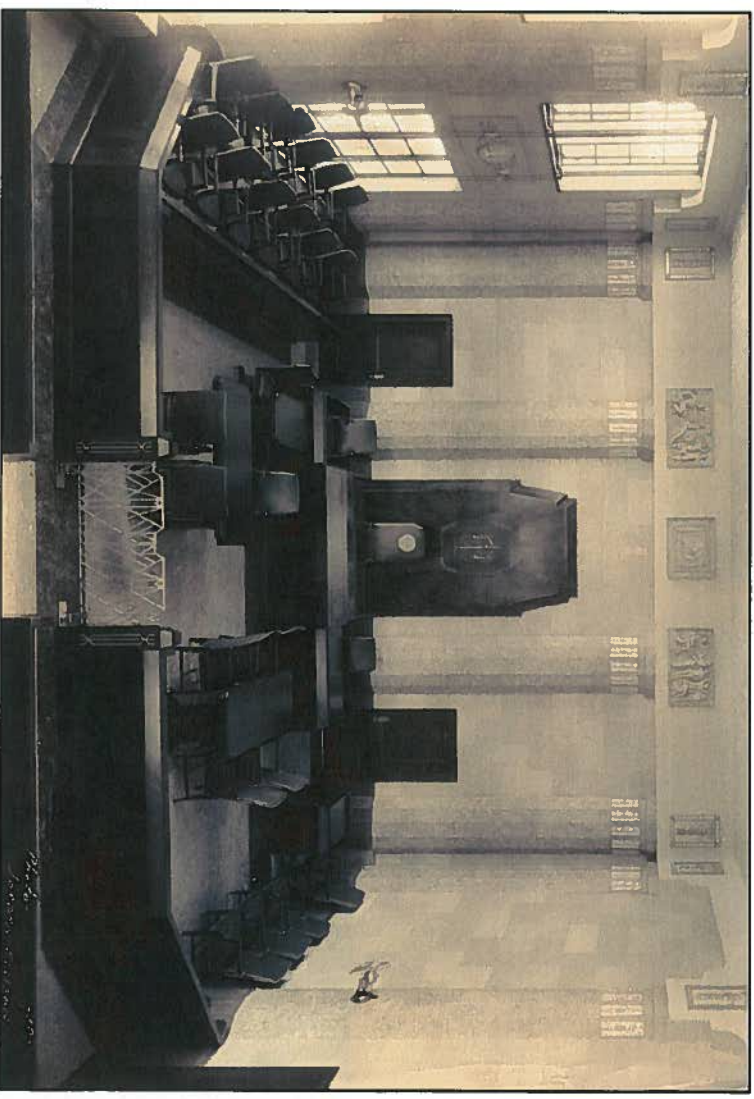


Program Themes



Honoring History and Travis County

- Honoring Court History
 - Sweatt vs. Painter
 - 1st Case - June 21, 1931 (Divorce)
- Honoring Travis County History
 - Proximity to Republic Park
 - Focal Point of Community
 - Symbolic of Growth and Resiliency of Community
- Placard above Door Says it all:
 - Courage
 - Perseverance
 - Sacrifice

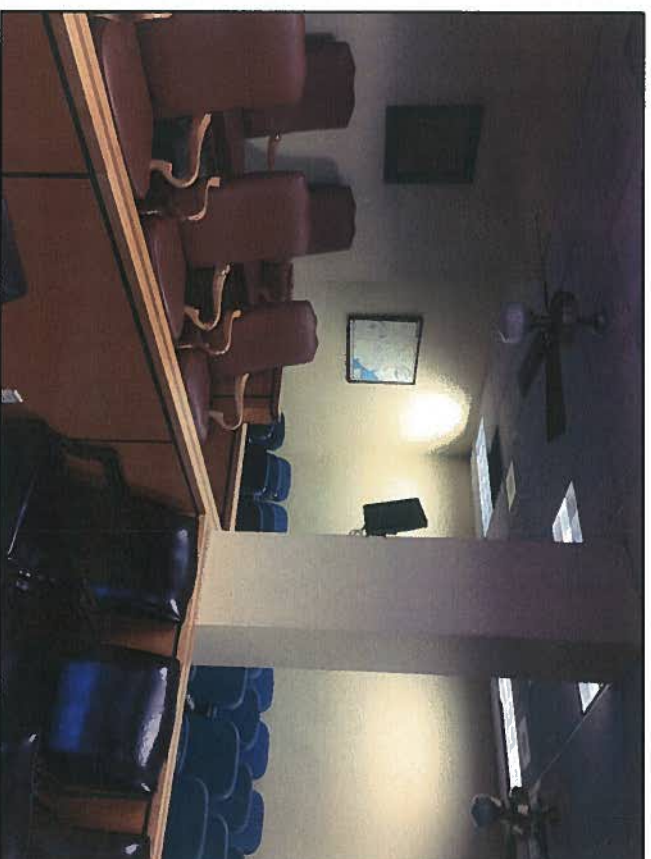


*Heman Marion Sweatt Court House
District Courtrooms, 3rd floor
Grand opening - June 1931*

Dignity of Human Spirit

- Important Social Decisions Made in Court Everyday
 - Family
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Child Custody
 - Adoption
 - Marriage / Divorce
 - Public Matters
 - Small Claims
 - Probate
- Citizens Deserve Dignified Courthouse Experience

*Non-ADA
Compliant Facilities*



*Obstructed View in
Courtroom*

Family and Children Focused

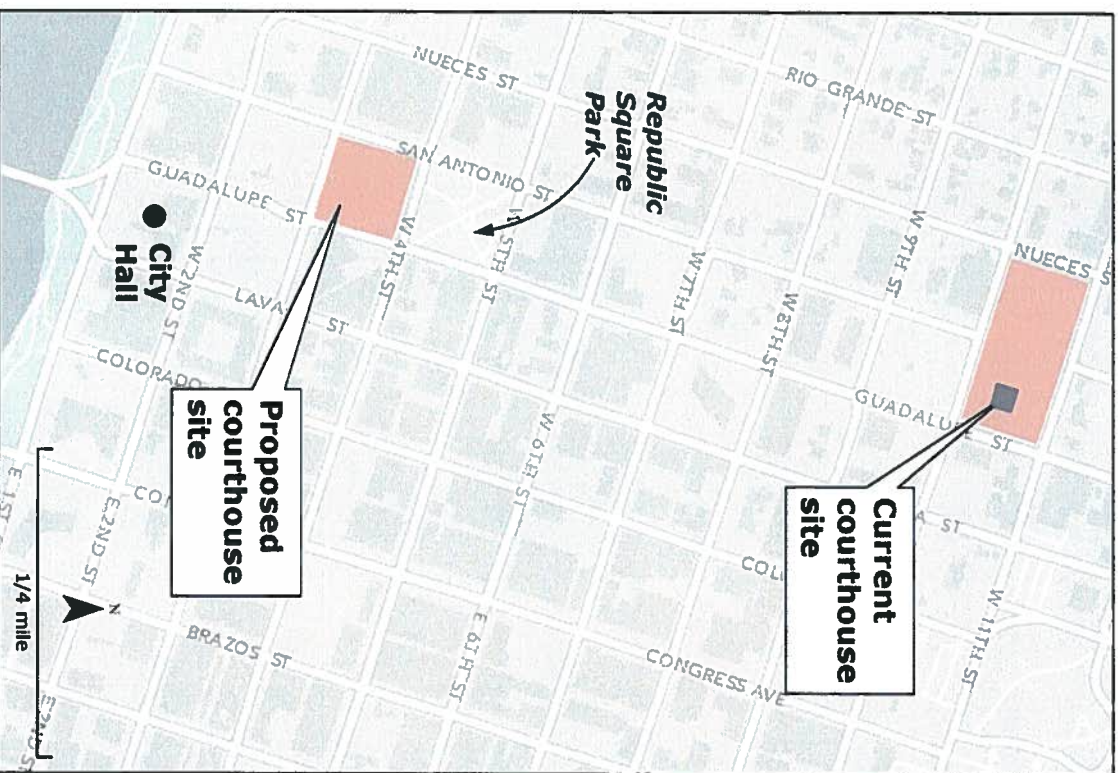
- Unique Needs for Children
 - Safe Environment
 - Reduce Stress
 - “Scaling Down”
 - Special Places
 - Familiar Themes
- Unique Needs for Families
 - Private Space
 - Child Care Facilities



*Only Current Family and Child Space Available
(Scheduled to be Repurposed - Early 2014)*

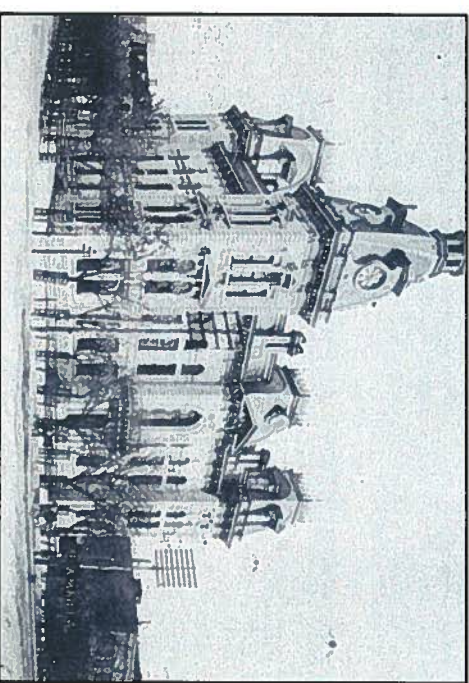
Forming Linkages and Experiences

- Existing Court House Planned for Historic Preservation and Renewal
- New Court House Needs a Connection to Past History
- Guadalupe St.
 - Provides Natural Corridor to Link Past to Future
 - Backbone of Travis County Public Services
- Prime Avenue to Connect with Travis County Citizens
- Adjacent to Historic Republic Square
- Adjacent to Federal Courthouse

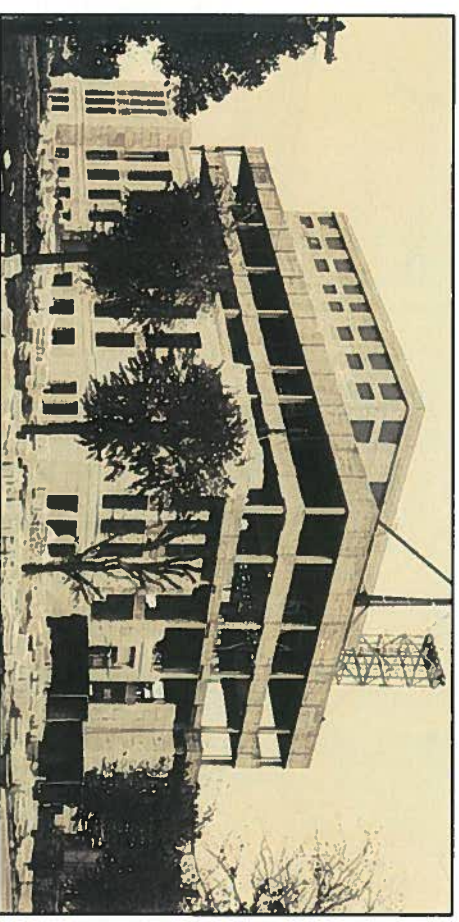


Enabling Progress

- Present Civil and Family Court House has outlived useful life
- County, Court Staff and Users need a more appropriate space with modern amenities
- Present Facility has no further ability to be efficient or flexible
- New Court House will focus on ideals, including:
 - Instill a sense of Pride;
 - Provide for future flexibilities and growth projections;
 - Invoke a sense of place and establish authority of the “Rule of Law”; and
 - Promote a place of safety and trustworthiness to the users.



Second Court House – circa 1896



Current (3rd) Court House

Heman Marion Sweatt Court House

Construction progress photo

November 21, 1930

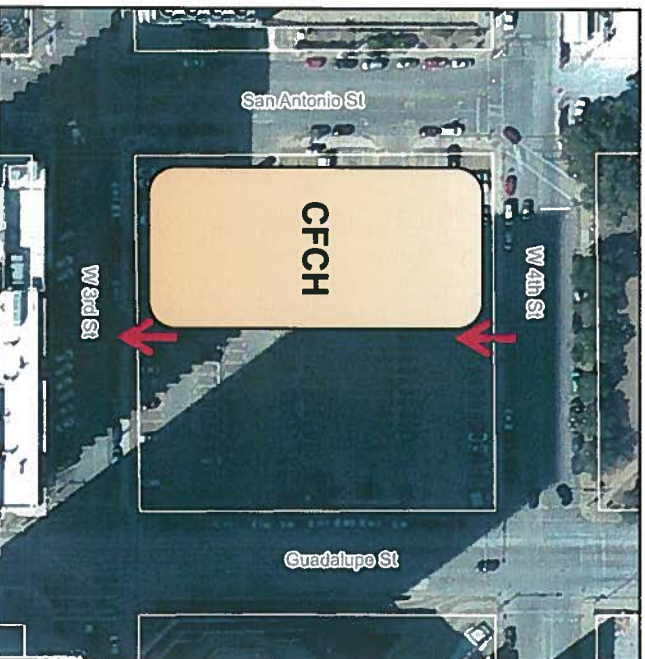


Program Parameters and Functionality

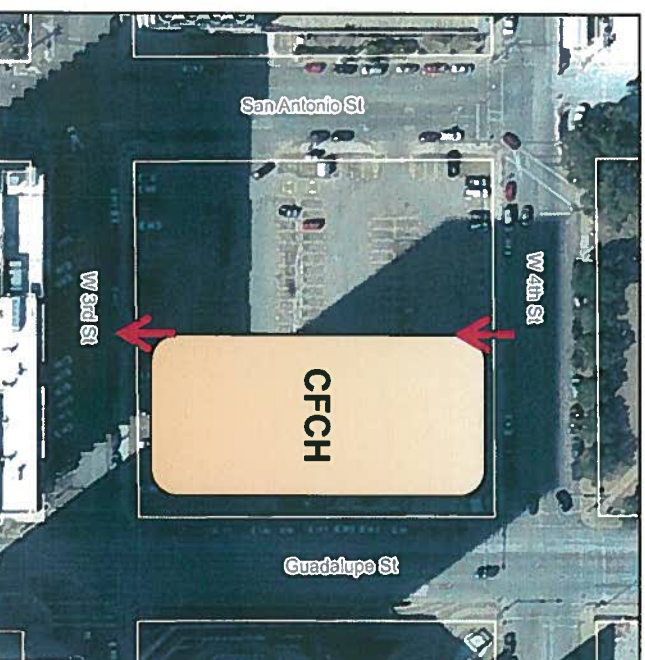


Location on Site & Garage Entrance – Option “A”

Site Split East-West (Court House Facing San Antonio or Guadalupe)



Option “A-1” – Facing San Antonio



Option “A-2” – Facing Guadalupe

Pro

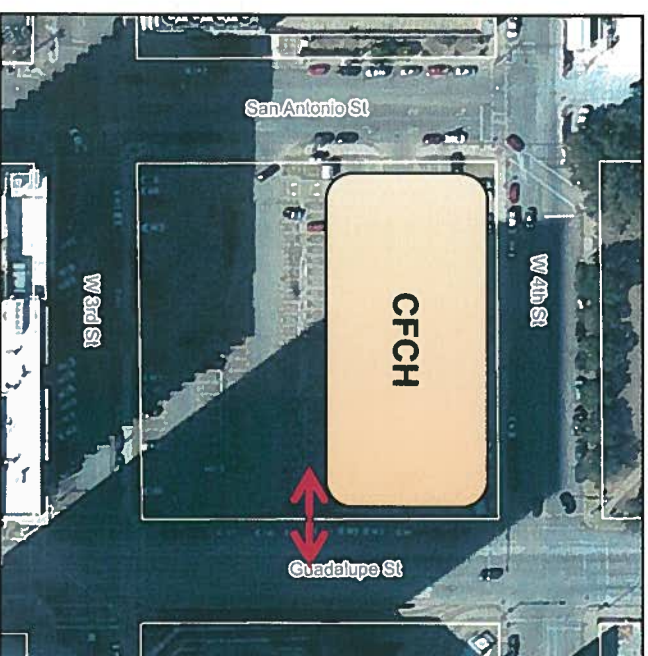
- Connectivity to Republic Square available, but not superior

Con

- Congested Parking Access
- May Create Confusion and Awkwardness with Building Entrance(s)

Location on Site – Option “B”

Site Split North-South (Court House Facing Republic Square)



Pro

- Maintains Connectivity to Guadalupe
- Faces Historic Republic Park
- Better ingress/egress for Parking
- Friendly Access for Transit

Con

- Other half of Site is “Remote”
From Republic Square

Parking Configuration – Option “A”

Parking Either 100%, or Partially Above Ground



Pro

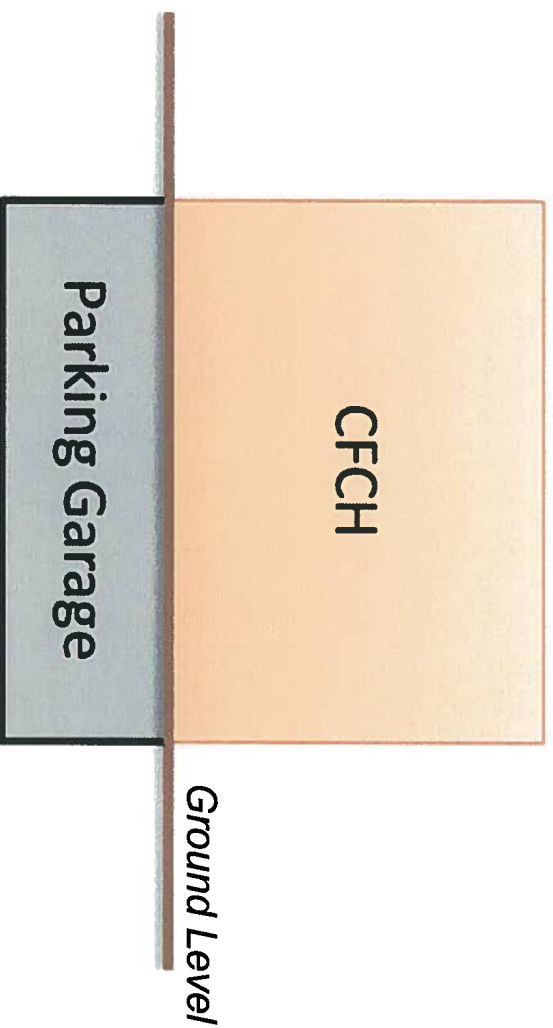
- Somewhat Less Expensive
- Multiple Points of ingress/egress (also a “con”)

Con

- Less Attractive Architecturally
- Not Street Access Friendly
- Parking Face Masking is required, which invites more Retail
- Not consistent with current City thinking

Parking Configuration – Option “B”

All Court House Parking Below Ground



Pro

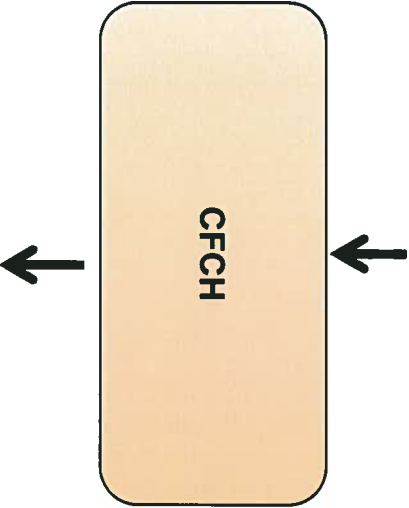
- More Attractive Architecturally
- Increased Security

Con

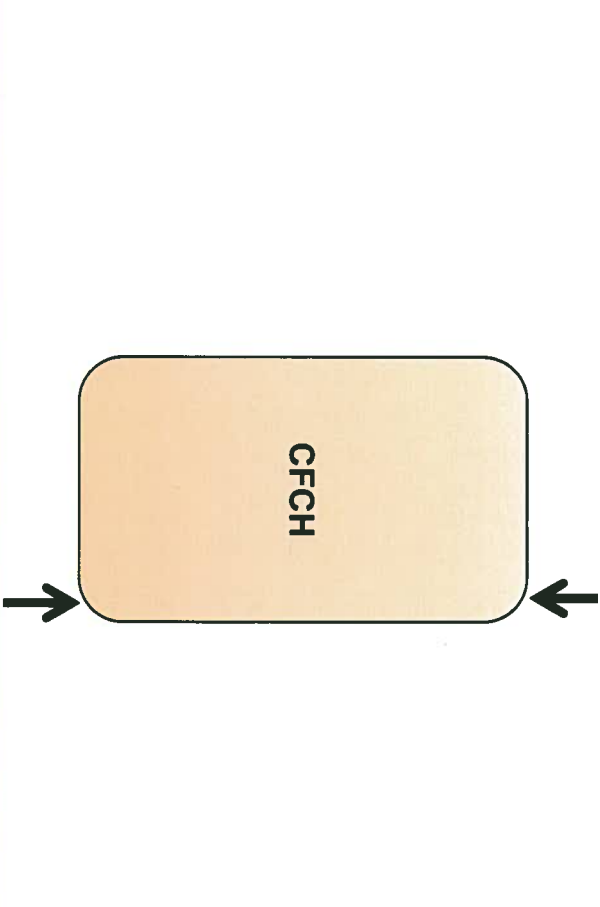
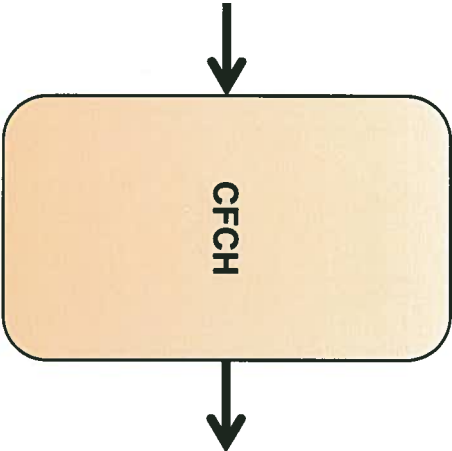
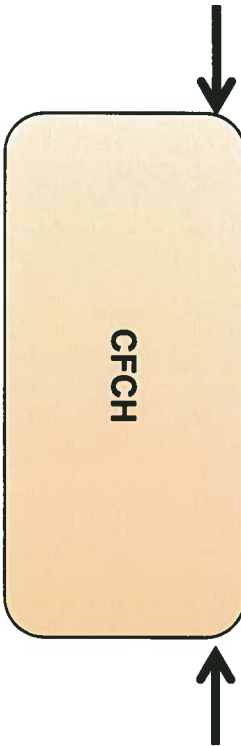
- More Expensive

Court House Entrance Location

Center of Building



End or Corner Entrances



Open Public Space Scope (1st Floor)

Description:

- First Floor Fully and Open Space
- Security for Courtrooms Located on Second Floor
- Provides Opportunity for Retail
- Provides Public Space for Displays and Events

Pro

- Inviting to Public
- Fosters Sense of Openness and Welcome

Con

- Moves Security Up One Level

Green (“Park”) Roof

Description:

- Park-Like Location on Roof
- Supports LEED Accreditation
- Provides Location for Outdoor Court Child Drop-off Center (Play Space)

Pro

- Environmentally Friendly
- Location within Building for Court User & Staff “Fresh Air”

Con

- Slight Increase in Cost

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Schedule Check-In



Schedule

Date	CFCH Project & IR/CA Milestones
December 11, 2013	TC Releases RFQ for IR/CA
December 18, 2013	Pre-submission Conference
December 19, 2013	Commissioners Court Work Session #1
January 7, 2014	Cut-off for IR/CA RFQ Questions
January 9, 2014	IR/CA RFQ Last Addendum Issue Date
January 15, 2014	RFQ for IR/CA Closes
February 4, 2014	Evaluation Team Makes IR/CA Team Recommendation
February 25, 2014	Posting of Award for IR/CA
March 18, 2014	Commissioners Court Award Contract for IR/CA
March 2014	IR/CA Kick-Off Meeting
March 2014	Project Definition
April 2014	Due Diligence Reviews
May 2014	Architectural Program Reviews
June 2014	Project Development Profile
April 2014	Sustainability Objectives
June 2014	Independent Construction Cost Estimate & Schedule
July 2014	Finalize Dollar Amount on Ballot
July 29, 2014	Final Decision on Bond Election
October 1, 2014	Procurement Document Preparation
November 4, 2014	Proposed Bond Election date not yet finalized by the Commissioners Court
February 2015	DB Open Solicitation Period
May 2015	DB Proposal Evaluation, Selection & Negotiation Period
December 2016	DB Design, Construction & Implementation

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Next Steps



Next Steps / Items for Decisions

Items for Decisions Before the Court

- Program Parameters and Functionality Decisions to be Brought to Court
- Approval of Program Themes
- Direction on Potential Bond Referendum Date (important but not immediate)
- Direction on Potential Inclusion of City of Austin Municipal Court within CFCH

Next Meetings with the Court

- Presentation of Decisions – January 14 or 21
- Working Session – January 23, 2014