



## ULI San Antonio

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March 19, 2009

Urban Land Institute  
**Community Action Grants**  
c/o Heidi Sweetnam  
1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW  
Suite 500 West  
Washington, DC 20007-5201

Dear Community Action Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of ULI San Antonio, a satellite of the ULI Houston District Council, I am pleased to offer my letter of recommendation for the attached ULI Community Action Grant application. This application is being submitted by ULI San Antonio Member, Trish Wallace, City of San Antonio Planning Manager, with the enthusiastic endorsement of Mike Fulton, ULI San Antonio Chair, and David Adelman, ULI San Antonio Vice-Chair for Programs.

As a new outpost of the Urban Land Institute, San Antonio has grown rapidly in just over two years, both in membership and in stature among local and regional business and community leaders. ULI San Antonio's partnership in the upcoming City of San Antonio Community Development Summit is a milestone event. It offers the ideal platform to make the program of work enabled by this grant available and relevant to the largest possible number of stakeholders and influencers.

In this proposal, ULI San Antonio is to be applauded for putting forth an approach that avoids the all-too-typical polarization of city versus suburban interests. Instead, by pursuing both a demonstration project to educate the development community and city leaders about the merits and benefits of dense, in-fill development *and at the same time* to engage the community in a discussion of regional visioning, ULI San Antonio can become the vehicle for positive, solutions-oriented collaboration across the region.

In a county that is facing mushrooming growth but strained resources, and adding 40% more residents in 25 years, it is pointless to argue whether we should focus inside the urban core or outside in the suburbs to meet the demands for housing, workplaces, schools and services. The answer cannot be either/or, it must be both, and. And, the answer must be sustainable, livable, walkable and accessible by a variety of transportation alternatives.

Pursuing this program of work also positions ULI favorably to provide the Reality Check program for regional visioning, and for future Advisory Services engagements. ULI San Antonio has identified key partners and sources of matching funds to greatly expand the impact of the seeds planted by this grant. Moreover, by providing opportunities to engage in the in-fill development planning project and in the explorations of previous regional visioning processes across Texas, ULI members and our community will have enriching hands-on experience with the powerful resources and expertise found only through ULI.

You are welcome to contact me with your questions or requests for additional information, and I am delighted to support this application.

Best regards,

Ann Taylor  
Executive Director  
ULI Houston and San Antonio