

SUCCESS STORY: AUSTIN, TEXAS



A lot has changed for Austin in the past 50 years. Back then, we were a small city known for the state government, the University of Texas, and country music that brought together the cowboys and the hippies. We've still got all that, but we've added a tech industry that's a magnet for companies and people from around the world, a food scene as good as anywhere in the country, and film and television production to complement all the great live music.

What hasn't changed is our commitment to the people of Austin. All of the people of Austin. The way we put that is "Y'all means all!"

The City has been a leader in protecting the rights of the LGBT community dating back to 1975, when adoption of our Equal Employment Opportunity Ordinance included anti-discrimination protection for sexual orientation. Austin was the first Texas city to offer this protection and a model for the rest of the state, who eventually adopted similar ordinances.

Jump ahead to the summer of 2023, when we hosted a Party at the People's House in conjunction with Austin's Pride Parade. A part of the City's anti-hate We All Belong campaign—a collaboration of City Council, City staff, and the Austin Police Department—the event celebrated community, promoted inclusion, and introduced a new hate crime and hate incident reporting system and dashboard.

The City's Equity Office recently partnered with the LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission on a Quality of Life Study that identified key issues needing immediate attention and that will inform strategic planning going forward. Austin will continue to innovate and be on the cutting edge of change because its residents, activists, and elected officials believe a moral stand to protect rights—even when it is unpopular—will pay great dividends for the future.