

# On Building Resilience and Economy in Central Texas

## **Building Healthy Communities: A Human-Centered Blueprint for Services**

David Smith, Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Greater Austin, roadmaps a human-centered, community-driven approach to achieving health equity through innovation in social service delivery. Highlighting the disparity that often links zip codes to access of essential opportunities like jobs, grocery stores, childcare, schools, and safe housing. Smith unveils a blueprint for uniting a diverse array of partners while stressing the influence of social determinants of health.

## **Cultivating Resilience: Food Security for a Growing Region**

Sari Vatske, President and CEO of Central Texas Foodbank, presents on the role leaders can take in securing health, sustainability, and justice within the framework of food systems as a driver for economic development and global standing. Her unique examination places a strong emphasis on creating an attractive environment for retailers and producers to invest and enhance locally sourced resources even as urban expansion and other vulnerabilities persist.

## **Powering the Future: The Semiconductor Ecosystem in Central Texas**

Ed Latson, Chief Executive Officer of Opportunity Austin, will provide insights on the dynamic and growing Central Texas Semiconductor and Advanced Manufacturing industries, the geopolitical forces driving change, and potential benefits for the region. Latson will also discuss how regional leaders can effectively capitalize on the opportunities emerging from the CHIPS Act with a keen emphasis on collaboration.

## **Water Sustainability: The Win-Win Potential for Regional Water Management**

Sharlene Leurig, Chief Executive Officer of Texas Water Trade, explores the water challenges confronting Central Texas and delves into the potential for effective collaboration between public and private sector entities to safeguard water security and resilience within the region. Her presentation showcases the application of market-based solutions and a “Net Zero Water” approach to increasing supply.

## **Diving Deeper - Policy Discussions**

### **Housing Central Texas: “All Types of Housing, For All Kinds of People, in All Parts of Town”**

Nora Linares-Moeller, Executive Director of HousingWorks Austin, facilitates an exploration of the housing challenges facing Central Texas, delving into critical concerns, including the soaring cost of housing and affordability. Her presentation will provide data-driven insights for each county in the region and propose a range of strategies to tackle these issues.

### **Advancing Social Equity: Next Steps for an Inclusive Future**

Raul Alvarez, Executive Director of the Community Advancement Network (CAN), delivers a forward-looking perspective on equity in Central Texas, providing data-driven insights and a diverse set of strategies to promote a more equitable region.

### **Understanding Environmental Considerations and Vulnerabilities for a Stronger Region**

Dr. Robert Mace, Executive Director of the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, speaks on the region's environmental challenges and opportunities, providing an overview of the complex issues of water resource management, climate change resilience, and natural resource conservation.

### **Mobilizing the Central Texas of Tomorrow: Infrastructure and Leadership**

Ginger Goodin, Partner with Blue Door Strategy and Research, offers a deep dive into the intricate system of transportation in Central Texas, examining the region's rapid expansion and its close relationship with mobility. Drawing upon her extensive experience in transportation research and policy, Ginger will explore the potential for regional improvement in the face of issues like traffic congestion and the need for increased regional connectivity.