



Austin Area Research Organization

They are body builders.

The city is a body
and like a living organism it grows with prosperity
or it shrivels and dies with failure.
Every part of the body adds to the whole.

Accept that prehistoric left over we loving call the appendix.

When the body expands faster than it can compensate
skin becomes stretched
and distorted with permanent trails
marking points of weakness.

Stretch marks.

The accelerated growth of bones stretches tendons to agony.

Growing pains.

If people and commerce are the vital nutrients this central Texas
body needs then with out an adequate infrastructure,
the arteries are clogged
organs die,
systems collapse
and the heart fails.



When cells grow unchecked they are crowned cancer.
No matter how successful,
a body
that can't manage new cells becomes cancerous.
But AARO
is the chemo,
the radiation
and the healthy living.
They are the cure and prevention.

Imagine if roots stop reaching for water.
If leaves stop soaking in the light.
If the trunk refused to nurture the branches that feed and support
the fruit.
If the brain refuses to create new opportunities and find resources.
If the feet refuse to move to said resource.
If the hand refuses to feed the body.
The engine, the community, the body, the tree will fall.
All pieces must provide support for the whole.

A strong and expanding infrastructure is as important to the hand
as it is to heart.

Austin Area Research Organization is the Gardner with the green
thumb.
Solving problems in our lawns before we know there is one.
They are the doctor's foresight
and delicate hands.
Maybe this is why they are so dedicated to building a school of
medicine.
A living breathing metaphor of AARO's goals.



They are bridge builders.

In Texas I35 is the spine that bridges north with south. Brings us people, commerce and puts food in our mouth. In Austin it separates west from east, like UT from HT. It's sanctuary to our favorite beast, the bat and urban umbrella for our least favorite creature the homeless. It's the great gulf fix between got and lack. We don't need a train to know it's the other side of the tracks. An economic boundary, A billion tons of earth and concrete no need for border patrol you can't afford to cross this street.

Home of SXSW this, is the music Capitol of the world. Austin City has no Limits but we be the bat, hiding from the light of day. Making lots of noise and pretending we can't see the problem. How many say they don't see color, but colorblind cataracts conveniently conceals the lack of diversity?

QUOTE: AARO believes that poverty and a lack of equality in our community can—and already are—holding Central Texas back from achieving true excellence. The Social Equity Committee did extensive research on a core issue—the widening income gap between those who have not completed their educations and those who have.

Acknowledgement is a bridge to solutions.

Empathy is a bridge to respect.

Education is a bridge to equality.

The sum total is a bridge to our future.



So I image AARO as a collection of dreamers and reality shapers peering into the sky. How appropriate that the armillary is the avatar,

a tool of interlocked circles pointing the way to the stars. I see the circles as all the communities of Central Texas banded together supporting the AARO in the center, striving for the excellence of our tomorrow
the hands,
the roads,
the leaves reaching for the stars.`

Look

There are 100 billion galaxies in a universe
There are 100 billion stars in a galaxy
There are 100 billion cells in the brain
There are 100 brilliant minds in here

This means,
there is an entire universe of intelligence in one place
dedicated to solving the problems of central Texas
be it infrastructure,
water supply
or economic inequality.

Thinking outside the box is a necessity
cause you can't fit this much intelligence
in one think tank.

Christopher-Michael © 2015