



# BISHOP ARTS DISTRICT

DALLAS, TEXAS

## GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGNEE—2020

As an original streetcar-oriented neighborhood center, what is now known as the Bishop Arts District was developed at optimal pedestrian scale, serving streetcar patrons. The streetcar helped maintain a resilient economy in the emerging neighborhood, and Oak Cliff residents were highly dependent on the connection to Downtown Dallas.

In 1956, all Dallas streetcar systems ceased operations, which created a disruption of lifestyle choices, mobility patterns, and orientations and associations previously held in the Oak Cliff community. The neighborhood experienced a transition period during the 1960s to 1980s with many businesses and entertainment spots in Bishop Arts closing.

But by 1985, a local developer began buying and investing in multiple properties and renting the space to artists, photographers, and other live-work uses. By 1994, the commercial district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and neighborhood stakeholders were working with the city to conduct an urban design study for new streetscape and infrastructure improvements. A merchant's association was formed in the early 2000s to lead several neighborhood improvements such as public art and new bicycle facilities and a grassroots initiative helped spearhead the re-introduction of the Dallas Streetcar in 2015 connecting Bishop Arts to Downtown Dallas. This was funded through regional planning grants, Texas Mobility Funds, and federal TIGER funds.

Today, Bishop Arts is one of the most dynamic real estate markets in Dallas. As growth continues, its active residents remain ever vigilant, seeking inclusive and equitable growth to maintain Bishop Arts as a neighborhood cultural center of Oak Cliff.

