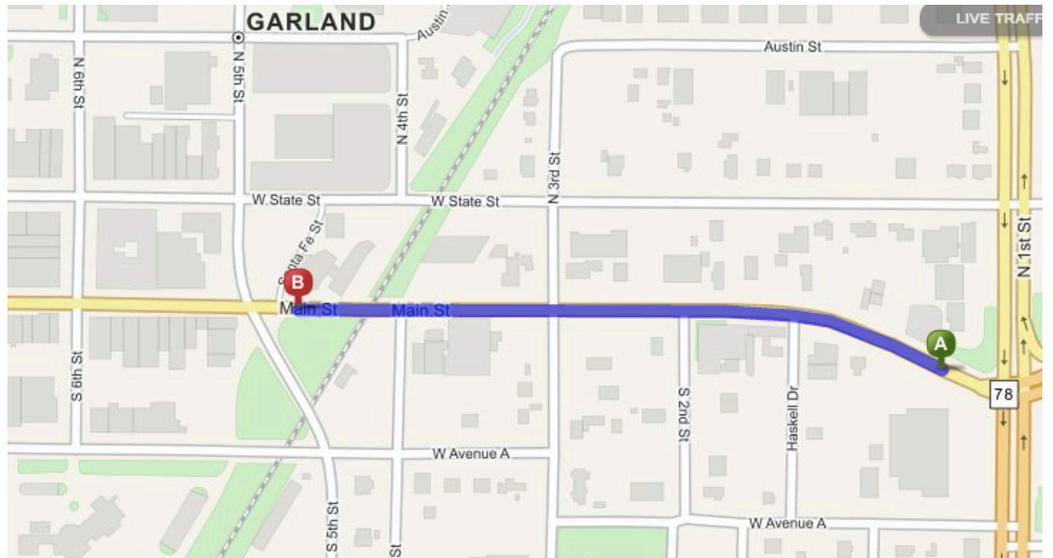


# PORTABLE BUSINESSES

## Walkable Main (and two other potential makerspaces)

Location: MAIN STREET

Fifth to 78/First/Main



## Overview of Portable Businesses for Walkable Main

Portable businesses are part of the street elements, the unique charm that will entice walkers to keep walking on Walkable Main. The carts for some of these portable businesses could be built in a woodworking shop that is located perhaps in a makerspace that is part of the Garland Saw and Lawnmower building located at 129 Walkable Main Street.

This woodworking makerspace could also build wooden benches that are positioned along Walkable Main and then once that area reaches its bench capacity, they would be sold elsewhere locally. The benches on Walkable Main could serve as advertisements for these products: You want a bench like this for your yard? Go to the Makerspace located at 129 Walkable Main and talk to them.

In addition to selling the carts to local entrepreneurs who want to establish a portable business on Walkable Main, these carts could be sold for use elsewhere throughout the city. For example, the not so far away world of downtown Garland would also be a good place for a few portable business carts.



It is suggested the material for the construction of the carts be organic material as opposed to plastic.

## Suggested Products for Portable Businesses

- Flowers grown on land in the Walkable Main Street Village
- Blackberry plants grown on land in the Walkable Main Street Village
- Local Food items created by residents in the HOUR Kitchen
- Vegetable Seedlings for local gardens
- Smaller items made at the Wallis Welding Makerspace (larger items made at this makerspace would be feature in an about the are where the shop is located and also on the street itself in front of a few of the other Walkable Main Street businesses.
- Healthy drinks such as blackberry tea, water, etc. (Some of these drinks could be made in the HOUR kitchen.)
- Local bread (made by local entrepreneurs in the HOUR kitchen)
- Local cookies (made by local entrepreneurs in the HOUR kitchen)
- Used books – This fits well with the themes of sustainable and re-use.
- Other products dreamed up by you.

## Materials

Materials needed are to be determined and specified by those organizing the makerspace for creating the portable businesses

## Resources

Resources needed are determined for according to needs identified by the organizers and leaders of this undertaking for creating portable businesses.

Some of the resources for these undertakings might come from community donations, volunteer labor, and grant money obtained from various urban land use/improvement offerings by various government and private foundations.

Walkable Main expected to attract financial investors for some aspects of this project such as the funding and development of the two pocket neighborhoods.

*Note: Most of the WALKABLE MAIN project is a Soup Stone community involvement project whereby all participants bring “vegetables” to make the “soup.” We are working together to make our community more inviting, unique and lovable and in so doing, we are lifting up the quality of our own lives and our local economy. We are all connected.*

## Additional Designs for Portable Businesses

Many of them could have awnings such as the example below. The addition of awnings could possibly lead to the establishment of another makerspace—Canvas Creators, people who make awnings and other canvas items, constrained only by their imagination (and perhaps a little by market demand).



## Graphic Design Makerspace

Walkable Main Street would be a good location for Graphic Design business and ideally a related makerspace. One existing space might be the empty brick building that is for lease (across the street from Staten’s Used Appliances). Walkable Main will soon develop into a charming, mixed-use space that will attract all sorts of people. It will become a very hip place. Plenty of people are soon going to be attracted to this area because it offers so many things—tangible things and intangibles things of the spirit such as the comfort of a really connected neighborhood and friends.

One of the basic principles of living a sustainable giving lifestyle is that the giver also receives. Thus, one of the benefits for those who host makerspaces is that in doing so they can create revenue for themselves too. For example, some of the patrons at the makerspaces could be student apprentices who in addition to learning the trade also help the small business owner of the graphic design shop.

Using the graphics design shop as one example, the shop could host a poster-making event. Attendees are charged a certain fee and in return they get a lesson in poster making, have some fun and create a poster. Some of these posters could even become products that are

sold in the graphic design shop and also perhaps marketed on Walkable Main in one of those portable business street carts made by another group at another makerspace on Walkable Main Street. (See how connectedness with other folks pays off?)

Speaking of even more connectedness of this proposed graphic design shop to Walkable Main Street: HOUR Kitchen can send people (walking of course) down Walkable Main to the Graphics Design shop to work with the folks there to create labels for the food products they are making for commercial sale in the HOUR Kitchen. Other services offered by the graphics place might be signage or other types of advertisement for the food-based product made by this entrepreneur.

We can also get a lot of ideas and inspiration for some of the street designs for WALKABLE MAIN STREET from The Lab Antimall ( <http://thelab.com> ) located in Orange County California. It's a very radical design concept, but remember, Orange County California is perhaps one of the top three politically conservative urban areas in our nation. If they can have an antimall—anything is possible.

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## Terms Related to this Document

### **Makerspace**

A makerspace is a physical location where people gather to share resources and knowledge, work on projects, network, and build. Makerspaces provide tools and space in a community environment—a library, community center, private organization, or campus. Expert advisors may be available some of the time, but often novices get help from other users.

The makerspace—sometimes referred to as a hackerspace—is often associated with fields such as engineering, computer science, and graphic design. The concept emerges from the technology-driven “maker culture,” associated with Make magazine and the Maker Faires it promotes. <http://www.makershed.com/collections/make-magazine>

This idea of a collaborative studio space for creative endeavors has caught hold in education, where the informal combination of lab, shop, and conference room form a compelling argument for learning through hands-on exploration. On campus, the makerspace is being embraced by the arts as well as the sciences, and a new energy is building around multidisciplinary collaborative efforts. In the Garland ISD we have Makerspaces in place at some of our public schools. For example, Watson Tech, a local Garland magnet school, has a makerspace located in their library.

### **There are three very good reasons for establishing makerspaces along this strip of WALKABLE MAIN.**

- 1) Makerspaces are great laboratories for job creation and job training.
- 2) Makerspaces will attract people to this area and give people one more reason for coming here.

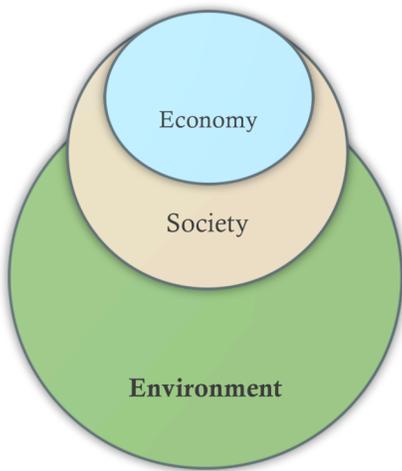
3) Makerspaces can contribute to growing and strengthening our local economy and especially the businesses located on Walkable Main Street.

### **Sustainable**

One of the key concepts for the development of this area is the concept of sustainable. We want to ensure the development of this project supports activities that are deemed sustainable.

The [2005 World Summit on Social Development](#) identified sustainable development goals, such as economic development, social development and environmental protection. These three pillars have served as a common ground for numerous [sustainability standards and certification](#) systems in recent years.

Sustainable can be measured and it is suggested that plans for Walkable Main be subjected to measurement by established sustainability standards.



#### PILLARS OF SUSTABILITY

These three pillars of sustainability are often expressed as nested circles. Both economy and society are constrained by environmental limits. Ideally, sustainability will improve the quality of life while at the same time supporting eco-systems. It is founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace.

### **Inclusionary Zoning**

Communities adopt inclusionary zoning policies primarily to increase new housing opportunities for moderate-income families. However, inclusionary zoning can also help stem displacement of existing residents in neighborhoods undergoing redevelopment, where the cost of housing increases to levels that are unaffordable to current residents. In addition to increasing the overall supply of affordable homes, inclusionary zoning can play a role in alleviating the "spatial mismatch" that occurs in many high-cost areas when local housing prices rise out of reach of low-wage workers who serve the community.

It is hoped that the members of the Garland City Council will carefully consider putting some sort of financial controls on the development of this area to avoid the ironic situation of redevelopment pricing current residents out of their homes and places of businesses.

## **Walkable Concept**

There is an increasing amount of literature available today with suggestions that address how to make urban areas more walkable. In “Walkable City”, for example, Jeff Speck proposes ten key ways to creating walkability. One of his ten key ways is “Mixed Use.” According to Speck, “. . . the research shows that neighborhoods with a diversity of uses – places to walk to – have significantly more walking than those that don’t.“

Walkability offers surprising benefits to our health, the environment, our finances and our communities.

Some communities are choosing to develop differently than they have in the past, and I am happy to see that Garland is joining in this national movement to a more walkable world. By creating a more pleasing mix of homes and businesses we can give residents an alternative to the car.

Using Photo-editing software, the visionaries of Urban Advantage have transformed pictures of communities from all over the country to show how they could become more pleasant, walkable neighborhoods. By working together with their city planners and officials, the residents of Garland can bring about similar transformations in their own community. Visit the link below to see the startling transformation to walkable.

<http://www.nrdc.org/smartGrowth/visions/default.asp>