

Opening the Gate: Using Neighborhoods to Create Community

Neighborhood Partnership and Promotion Programs
Richardson, Texas

**2005 ICMA Conference
Minneapolis, MN**

Presented by: David Morgan, Assistant City Manager

Neighborhood Associations Philosophy

- Long held commitment to fostering healthy neighborhoods by working together with community leaders.
- Neighborhood associations are viewed as assets to the City.
- Neighborhood associations are valued for their input related to the operation of the City.

Neighborhood Associations Fulfill Many Important Roles

- Encourage unity and two-way communication
- Organize residents to work together to achieve neighborhood goals
- Facilitate neighborhood social activities
- Provide an effective communication link with the City

Richardson's Neighborhood Association Partnership and Promotion Programs

NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS

Neighborhood Awareness
Neighborhood Association Development
Neighborhood Leadership Training

Neighborhood Awareness

- **Email Update Program**
 - **Neighborhood groups that register for the program receive an email update every two weeks detailing code enforcement activity in their neighborhood.**
 - **Residents work with staff to identify new issues and to share information about ongoing issues.**
 - **The two-way communication has resulted in a better working relationship between citizens and staff that has carried over to other initiatives.**

Neighborhood Association Development

- **Neighborhood Association Development Program**
 - **Strategies to create homeowner associations in neighborhoods with no formal organization include:**
 - **helping potential leaders establish a core group,**
 - **providing valuable information and services, and**
 - **providing much needed resources in the early stages of the group's formation.**

Neighborhood Leadership Training

- **Neighborhood Leadership Workshops**
 - Workshops focus on supporting established neighborhood associations by providing regular leadership development training opportunities. Workshops are held in the spring, summer and fall.
 - The workshops include a general curriculum, including presentations from a city official / staff, a community partner and a neighborhood leader. The summer workshop is more specialized and focuses on neighborhood association management techniques and “best practices”.

Neighborhood Enhancement

Neighborhood Assessment Program
Neighborhood Vitality Program
Matching Fund Beautification Program
Volunteer Assistance Program

Neighborhood Assessment Program

- **Neighborhood leaders and city staff work together to identify what's working and what's not working in their neighborhood by partnering to gather neighborhood data, evaluate neighborhood standards, track neighborhood trends over time, and develop and implement neighborhood improvement initiatives.**
- **The purpose of the assessment process is to provide a forum for resident involvement in addressing neighborhood issues and thus encourage creative problem solving and a spirit of teamwork between neighborhood leaders and city staff.**

Neighborhood Vitality Program

- **Entry Features, Screening Walls, Bridge Aesthetics, and Sidewalk Repair**



Matching Fund Beautification Program

- Landscape improvements in median areas of neighborhoods.



Volunteer Assistance Program

- Home improvement projects to address code violations that cannot be abated by the resident.



Current Challenges – Maturing Neighborhoods

Numerous Code Changes

Recreational Vehicle Parking Ordinance

Graffiti Abatement Program

Home Occupancy Limitations

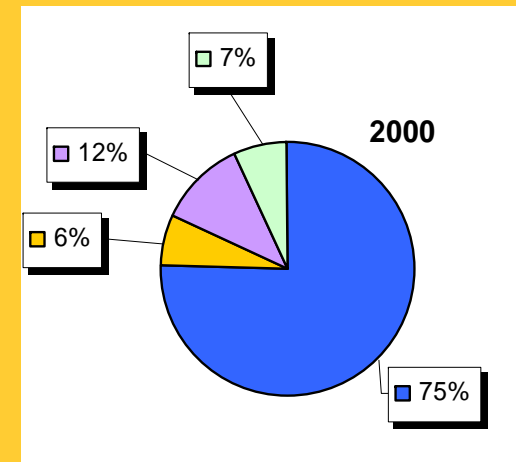
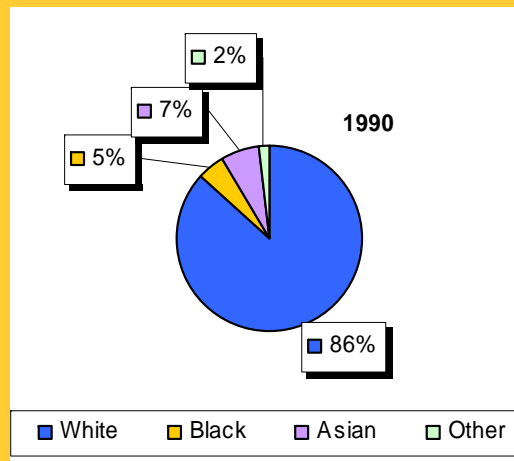
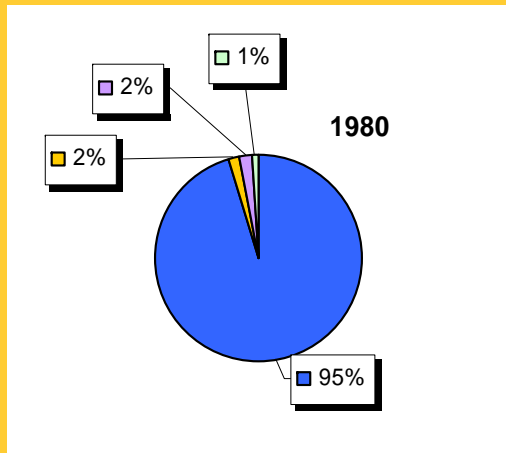
Rental Registration Program

Garage Enclosure Ordinance

Current Challenges – Demographic Shifts

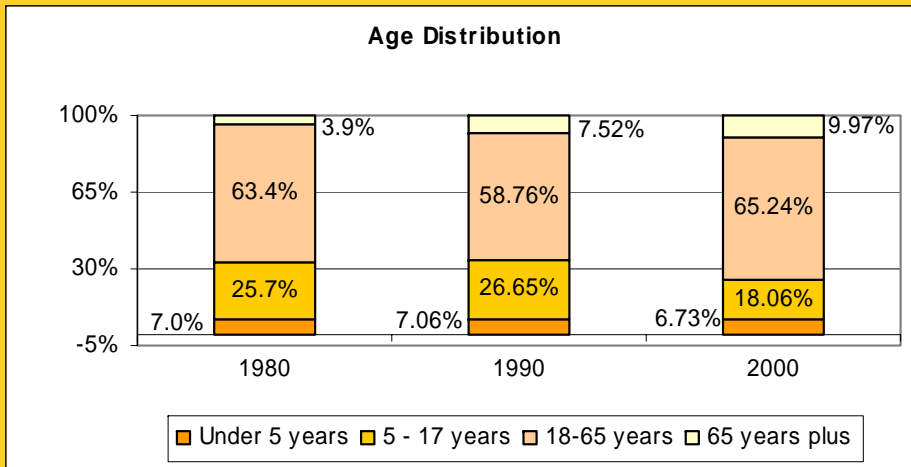
Race Composition
Age Distribution
Hispanic Population Growth

The Changing Face of Richardson



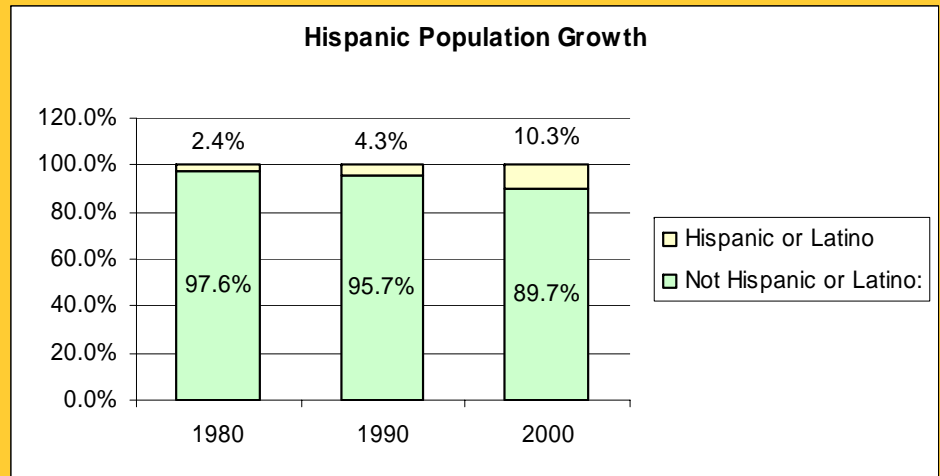
The City's overall level of racial diversity increased over time, with the largest gains shown among Asians and otherwise classified racial minorities.

The Changing Face of Richardson



As the City's population has grown more diverse, it also has grown a little older.

The City's Hispanic population showed substantial growth, increasing by 6%.



Current Challenges –

Neighborhood Repositioning

vs.

Redevelopment Regulations

Warning: Proceed With Caution

- **Wolf in Sheep's Clothing**
- **Renegade HOA Leader**
- **Divisive Neighborhood Issues**
- **"What have you done for me lately?"**
- **Citizen Journalism/Blogs**