

The City of Waco Bledsoe-Miller STEAM Center Programming and Partnership Strategy Update

March 18, 2025



WHY ARE WE HERE?

Purpose



PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON
THE BLEDSOE-MILLER
STEAM CENTER
INITIATIVE



RECAP PHASE 1
ACHIEVEMENTS OF
TRANSFORMATION
WACO, INCLUDING
PARTNERSHIPS AND
PROGRAMMING
FRAMEWORK



OUTLINE NEXT STEPS
AND PRESENT THE
ROADMAP FOR PHASE 2
AND PHASE 3



SEEK COUNCIL SUPPORT
TO PROCEED WITH
THESE PHASES

Transformation Waco

- Through a consultant agreement, Transformation Waco (TW) created a programming development and partnership strategy for the center.
- TW is dedicated to addressing the comprehensive needs of students and their families through early childhood programs, wraparound services, and afterschool programming
- Currently serve 2,200 students across 1,500 families at 4 Waco ISD campuses
- Effort is led by Dr. Robin McDurham, CEO, and Joshua Wucher, Chief Communications and Development Officer



Programming Vision

Key Strategies

Strong Partnerships: Collaboration with educators, businesses, & nonprofits

Tailored Programs: Aligned with state standards & workforce needs and that meet the needs of all ages

Hands-on Learning: Real-world, project-based STEAM education

Promote Access: Actively engage underserved families in Waco to ensure inclusive participation and maximize community impact.

Three-Phase Approach

Phase 1: Partnership Strategy (Complete)

Overview

- Phase 1: Partnership Strategy was active December 2024 to March 2025
- Developed and executed a partnership strategy to recruit potential partnerships with key organizations and individuals
- Conducted more than 45 partnership meetings and 7 site visits
- Developed four key programming pillars based on insights gathered

Partnership Strategy Overview

- Curriculum & Program Design
- Industry & Workforce Readiness
- Educational Experiences
- Community Access
- Site Visits
- Advisory Committee Formation



Programming Pillars

Pillar 1: PreK-12 Academic Achievement

Pillar 2: Workforce Development & College and Career Readiness

Pillar 3: Lifelong Learning

Pillar 4: Community and Cultural Connections



Partnership Discussions

Category	Partnership Discussions	Focus
Education & K-12 Enrichment	Region 12, Waco ISD, La Vega ISD, Rapoport Academy	School collaborations & outreach
	Cameron Park Zoo, US Naval Academy, 4-H, Girl Scouts, Discovery Education, Waco Links, Hip Hop Architecture	Hands-on STEAM learning
Workforce & Career Readiness	Mars Wrigley, Cisco, Howmet Aerospace, Cen-Tex Chambers, Magnolia, Waco Chamber, City of Waco	Industry & career pathways
	Baylor University, MCC, TSTC, Triple Win	Higher education & technical skills
Lifelong Learning	Senior Planet (AARP), HOTCOG (Area Agency on Aging)	Older adult education
Community & Culture	Creative Waco, Waco Libraries, Parks & Rec, Keep Waco Beautiful, Rogue Media	Arts & culture in STEAM
	Grassroots Waco, Texas Agri-Life	Community wellbeing
	Mayborn Museum, iGEN Academy, Discovery Lab, DoSeum, LA Nube, Explora, STEM Nola	Science centers & museum partnerships

Site Visit Highlights



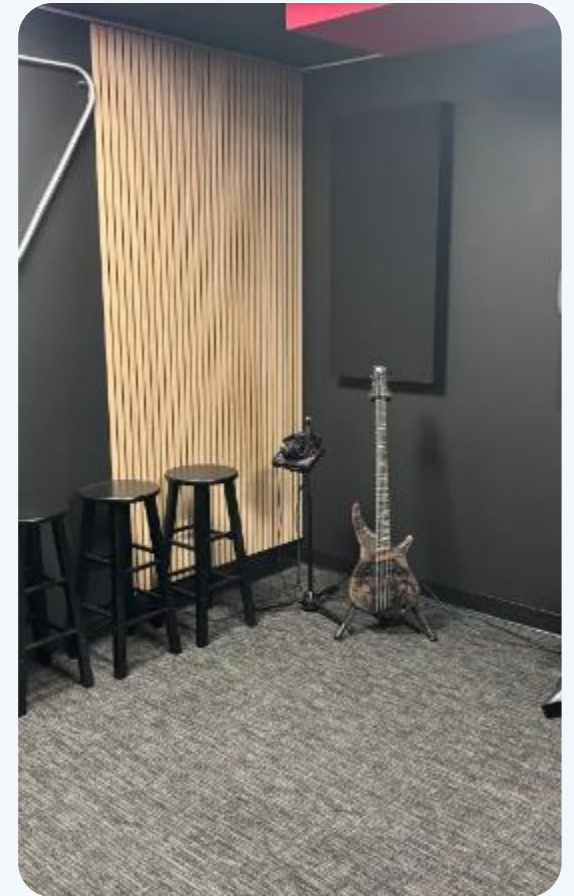
Thinkery Del Valle



Cedar Park Public Library



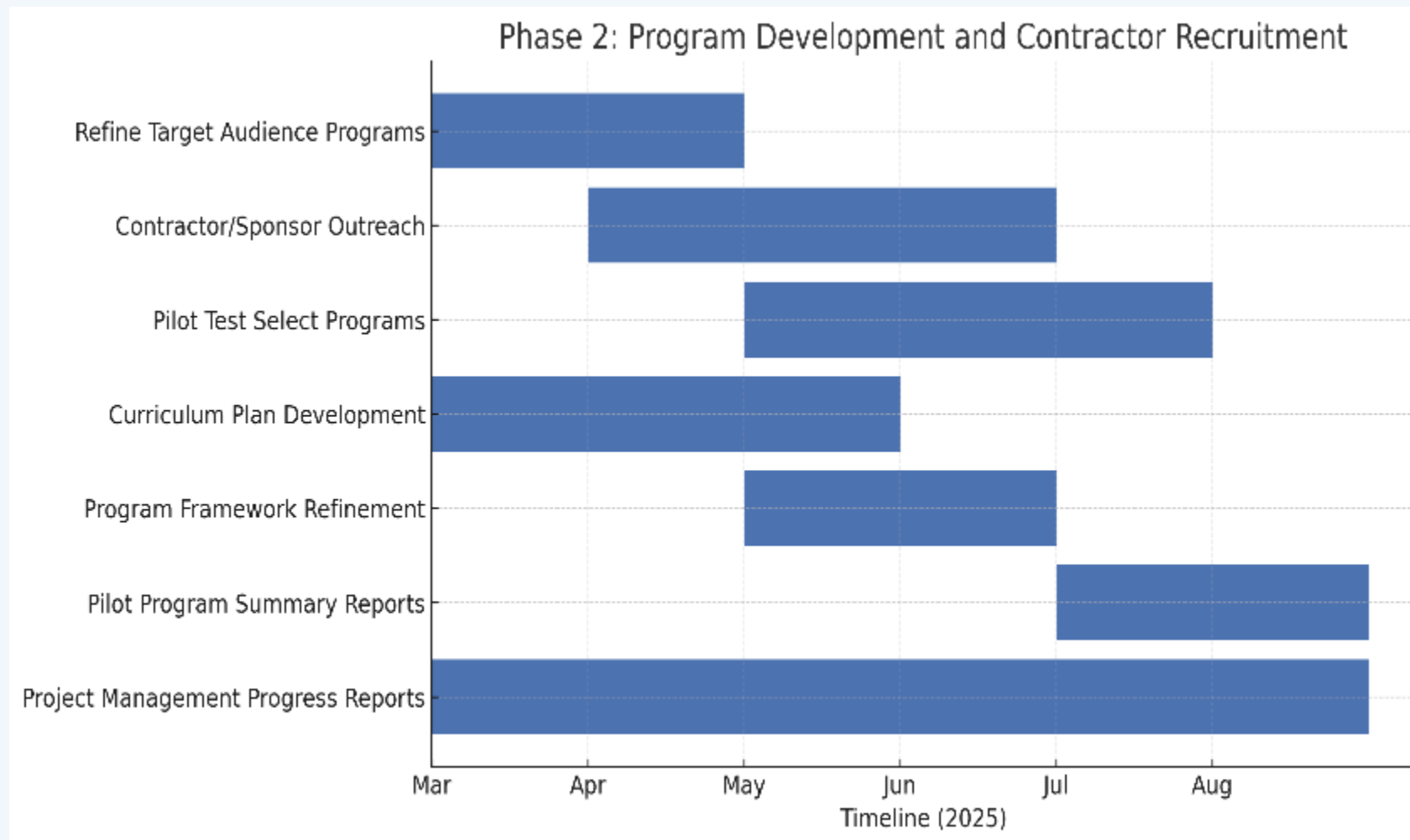
Richardson ISD Immersion Lab



Fort Worth YMCA 4all Studios

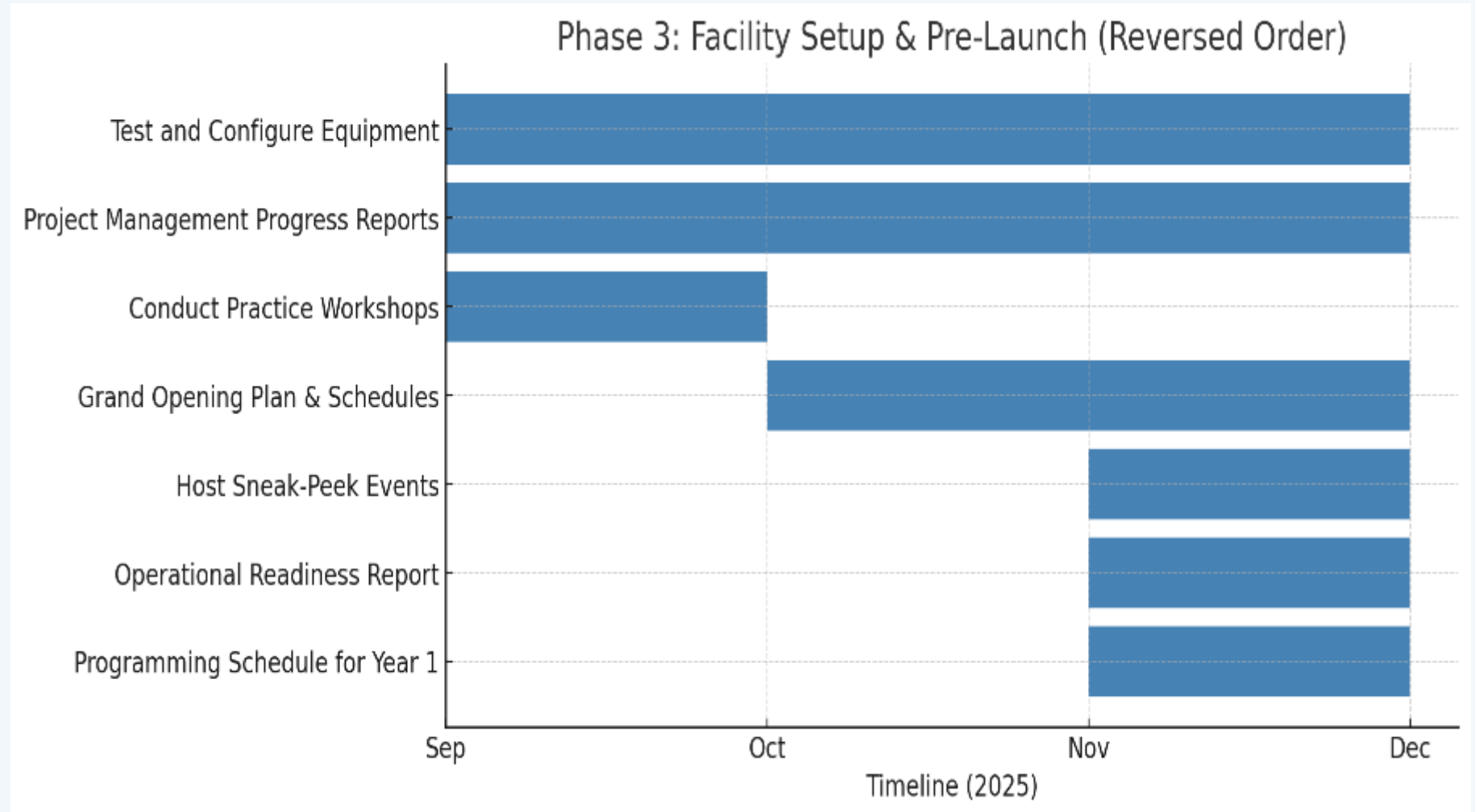
Phase 2: Program Development and Contractor Recruitment (Mar –Aug 2025)

Overview



Phase 3: Facility Setup & Pre-Launch (Sep –Dec 2025)

Overview



Proposed Playground Structure







In Summary

- The Bledsoe-Miller STEAM Center will be a transformative hub for education, workforce development and community engagement.
- Transformation Waco completed Phase 1: Partnership Strategy on time.
- We are ready to advance to curriculum development, contractor recruitment, and program piloting.
- Upon approval from Council, we will commence Phase 2 of this project and ensure installation of the playground structure.

THANK YOU.

Please contact robertoz@wacotx.gov with any questions.