

# CoA Strategic Planning Retreat "Be Amazing!"



Code named "Be Amazing!", College of Architecture has held its first ever faculty, staff and student retreat on September 22, 2007. Hosted at the famed Camp Street Lofts gallery space, the daylong retreat served to expressly discuss important questions about CoA identity, composition, aspirations, and collective vision. The retreat was conceived and planned by the CoA Strategic Planning taskforce led by **Mahesh Senagala**, who also facilitated the retreat, and including **Andrew Perez**, **Vincent Canizaro**, and **Irina Solovyova**. This retreat represented the inaugural phase in the currently on-going activities to develop the strategic plan of the College of Architecture.



The retreat began by a talk from Interim Dean **Bob Baron**, welcoming the attendees. He was followed by **Gerry Dizinno**, Associate Vice Provost for Accountability, who shared with the group an overview of the university's vision, as outlined in the strategic plan UTSA 2016, which was developed last year, as well as the significance of the role played by the College of Architecture within the university.



The daylong retreat consisted of four plenary sessions that addressed a variety of important topics including:

"Taking Stock and Envisioning the Future"

"Enriching Educational Experiences and Excellence, Promoting Access to Education at CoA"

"Serving Society through Creativity, Research and Innovation at CoA"

and

"Serving the Public through Community Engagement. Expanding Resources and Infrastructure at CoA".

To address each of these topics, small break-out discussion cafés were held followed by a plenary session. The results of the retreat were multifarious: hundreds of note cards full of ideas, and the excitement of intense discussions. The results from the retreat have become the starting point for the CoA Strategic Planning process that followed. The retreat was attended by a large number of tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure track faculty from the College of Architecture as well as representatives from the College's staff and students. Among others, the attendees included **John Alexander**, **Mark Blizard**, **Edward Burian**, **William DuPont**, **Taeg Nishimoto**, **Susan Lanford**, **Gayle Nicoll**, **Hazem Rashed-Ali**, **Stephen Temple**, **Jon Thompson**, **Jim Dawes**, **Diane Hays**, **Jose Jimenez**, **William Lasseter**, **David Matiella**, and **Janice Kelsey-Ferguson**.