

# Greater Austin's Commercial Property Journal

Dec. '97 / Jan. '98

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## TRENDS

**Downtown Austin Alliance** announces that it will focus on downtown housing and retail development, and will work on expanding the Austin Convention Center. **Bobbie Barker**, regional vice president of Southern Union Gas is taking over as chairman for **Tom Stacy**. He says Austin is at a most dynamic period in the development of Downtown. The group is credited with removing graffiti; sprucing up streets; increasing safety and reducing traffic congestion; finding solutions to vagrancy; and working to forge key relationships with legislators, hosting the Austin Bash to kick off the last legislative session. The alliance recently helped coordinate a daylong planning session that brought urban experts to Austin under a program called **R/UDAT**, or Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team. More than 100 ideas and suggestions on everything from transportation to social services was discussed, and they came up with five district goals for Downtown Austin to accomplish in the near future.