

## BuenaVida: What to Expect

By Maria Vidal

**T**hroughout my research, I have read about intentional communities built on 300+ acres of land donated through a land trust and located in a secluded region. Other communities support themselves by selling what they produce or have a lodging system that receives visitors throughout the year.

For example, I visited Brazos de Dios, a religious community in Waco that is reminiscent of original settlers. They make furniture and sew beautiful clothes with manual tools, without the use of electricity. Women only wear long skirts and they use horses to till the soil. The community was fascinating, but nowhere I read or looked, or no one I asked, could tell me step-by-step how to develop an intentional community. What became apparent is that an intentional community is organic, has a mind of its own and creating one is like a work of art.

BuenaVida Intentional Community is **in the forming** which means undergoing constant change, evolving. As applications come in, I hear questions that pertain to add-ons, pets and appliances. All these issues are important and will be addressed later. Revisions and additions such as these can be done during the construction stage. Now we are at the stage of buying land. It is at this stage that we need to be able to answer the two questions that are lingering: "Where exactly will it be located?" and "When will it be ready?"

When 14 investors have committed to the project, land will be purchased based on a consensual decision. The Development Assistance Program of

**BuenaVida Intentional  
Community in  
Austin, TX  
Offers membership  
opportunity to individuals  
who qualify.**

**We seek a diverse  
population:  
multi-generational,  
multi-cultural with  
different skills, talents  
and professions.**



### COMMON GOALS:

- Get into the rhythm of healthy living
- Develop meaningful relationships
- Prosper together

**More information on our  
WEBSITE:  
[BuenaVidaic.com](http://BuenaVidaic.com)**

the City of Austin is a great resource to find the land that can be used to build BuenaVida Intentional Community. Dividing the land is costly, especially in such a small project, since ownership includes the lot the house sits upon.

There is a process. The soil must be tested for construction and sustainability elements. Once the land is purchased, surveyors, civil engineers and architects must be hired to produce all the documents that the bank and the city requires for permitting. All these decisions should be taken to vote by the investors. Finally, construction will begin. To give a timeline, the norm is one year to get construction underway and another year to complete.

It is estimated in the offering that each one of the investors will end up paying between \$160,000 and \$180,000 which represents \$123 to \$138 per square foot of construction. This is the origination price to **original investors**. The savings come from the type of community that we are developing. Natural materials are cheaper, we don't need Realtors or a general contractor or employ consultants and marketing specialists to sell the 14 homes that are presently available.

BuenaVida Intentional Community is an evolving work of art that with time, vision and a group of like-minded investors, will become a shining example of what can be done when people work together to collectively create their ideal place to live.

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Only 18 houses

1,300+ sq. feet

Est Price:  
160 to 180's

Location:  
SE Austin



BuenaVida will  
be designed and  
planned to be a  
green community