



THE IABA MOSQUE & EDUCATION BUILDING PROJECT



وَأَنفَقُوا مِنْ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ أَحَدٌ كُمُّ الْمَوْتِ
فَيَقُولَ رَبِّ لَوْلَا أَخْرَجْنِي إِلَيْ أَجَلِ قَرِيبٍ فَأَصْدِقْ وَأَكِنْ مِنْ
الصَّالِحِينَ

And spend (in the way of Allah) from what We have provided you, before death approaches one of you and he says, "My Lord, if only You would delay me for a brief term, so I would give charity and be among the righteous."

Surah Al-Munafiqun (63:10)



HISTORY OF IABA

- ▶ The Islamic Ahlul Bayt Association (IABA) of Austin, Texas was founded in 1997
- ▶ It is the only Ithna 'Ashari organization in the greater Austin area
- ▶ At current location since 2002 (former Baptist church on 4.1 acres)
- ▶ Multi-ethnic membership of 450:
 - ▶ U.S., Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar, Pakistan, India, East Africa, and more
 - ▶ 5% annual growth
- ▶ English is the official language for all IABA programs



CITY OF AUSTIN

- ▶ Capital of Texas, located in Central Texas
- ▶ 11th largest city in the U.S., and 4th largest in Texas
- ▶ Metro area population approximately 2.2 million
- ▶ One of the fastest-growing cities; consistently ranked one of the best places to live and work in the U.S.
- ▶ Major Industries:
 - ▶ Technology hub of the south: Software, Hardware, Systems, and Biotechnology
 - ▶ Pharmaceutical
 - ▶ State Government and Education
- ▶ Home of the University of Texas (best public university in Texas), a premier research facility bringing students from all over the world for Master's / Ph.D.

It is quite likely that someone you know is in Austin or will be moving there soon!



RESIDENT SCHOLAR

- ▶ Sheikh Jafar Muhibullah
- ▶ Born and raised in North Carolina
- ▶ Master's in Islamic Studies, Duke University
- ▶ Ph.D. in Arabic Literature, Tehran University (near completion)
- ▶ 16 years of Hawzah study (in Medina, New York and Qom, Iran)
- ▶ Speaks English, Arabic, Farsi, and Urdu





GOVERNANCE

- ▶ Constitution and By-Laws in place since 1997
- ▶ 7-Member Executive Committee
- ▶ Executive Committee elections held every two years (two-year staggered terms)
- ▶ Executive Committee meetings open to all paid members
- ▶ Appointed officers serve as Chairs of sub-committees, such as: Education, Program, Youth, Building, Fundraising, Funeral, Outreach, and Welfare

Current Executive Committee

Member: Amer Allami



Amer Allami has been a member of IABA since 2009, and moved to the U.S. from Iraq. He is a graduate of Austin Community College, with an Associate Degree in Motion Graphics.

Member: Atefah Naeemi

Atefah moved to Austin in 2013 with her family. She grew up in Seattle Washington. She has undergraduate degrees in Journalism and International Relations and an MA in International Relations from the University of Washington. Atefah is a busy, happy and devoted mommy to three lovely human beings.

President: Reza Aghili

Reza Aghili, has been in the US for more than 35 years. He has a Masters in Mechanical Engg. and has extensive experience in the Aerospace Industry. He has been a member of the executive committee at IABA for the past 7 years

Secretary: Syed Ali Akhtar



Ali Akhtar has been a member of IABA since 1999 and an attorney in Austin since 2000 (University of Michigan Law School graduate), assisting IABA with all legal compliance and record-keeping.

Member: Akbar Sahrapour



Akbar Sahrapour has been a member of IABA since 2000 and is currently the Building Committee chair at IABA. He has a Ph.D in Mechanical Engineering.

Vice President: Syed Ijlal Shah



Ijlal Shah has been a member of IABA since 2006. He is currently Director at Arteris, Inc., and has a Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Member: Maliktaj Akhtar



Maliktaj Akhtar has been a member of IABA since 2000, and has lived in the U.S. since 1969. She is a registered nurse with over 25 years experience in trauma and emergency medicine.



PROGRAMS

- ▶ Religious programs for Wiladat and Shahadat of Masoomeen
- ▶ Muharram and Arbaeen programs
- ▶ Month long programs during Ramadan, with pot luck Iftar on weekdays and full sponsored Iftar on weekends and Nights of Qadr
- ▶ Eid prayers
- ▶ Thursday night Du'a Kumayl and Ziyarat Waritha
- ▶ Friday Jummah prayers
- ▶ Lectures by Resident Aalim on Saturday evenings followed by sponsored community dinner
- ▶ Friday night youth activities



MADRASAH

- ▶ KG through 8th grade weekend classes in Islamic Studies & Quran
- ▶ 90+ students, ages 5 to 15
- ▶ All-volunteer faculty of 31 teachers, with a Principal and Vice Principal
- ▶ Arabic language classes also offered
- ▶ Older youth Halaqa
- ▶ Adult education



ADULT ISLAMIC EDUCATION

- ▶ Track record of producing young scholars from within:
 - ▶ Eight former community members have gone on to Hawzah study in Chicago (Bait-ul-Ilm Academy) or Iran (Qom Seminary)
- ▶ IABA is playing a crucial role in helping university and high school students learn more about Islam and take pride in their Islamic identity!



Meet the IABA Family



IABA IN PICTURES





YOUTH COMMITTEE

- ▶ Chair: Sister Sabika Bharmal
- ▶ Youth committee organizes Friday night youth activities (e.g., sports nights, youth Halaqas with Sheikh Jafar and other visiting scholars, etc.)
- ▶ Special events include, e.g.:
 - ▶ Recently, an evening campfire with hot chocolate, snacks, and informal Q & A session with our very own visiting youth scholar Azhar Sheraze (Bait-ul-IIm Academy in Chicago)
 - ▶ Annual Candlelight Vigil on the eve of Ashura (Quran, poetry, speech, noha/latmiya, and ziyarat entirely organized by youth of various ages)
 - ▶ Youth boating trip to the near by lake



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

- ▶ Chair: Dr. Syed Hasan Akhtar
- ▶ Committee works with different faith groups:
 - ▶ Interfaith Action of Central Texas (IACT), Church without Walls, Muslim Community Support Services (MCSS), and individual churches and temples
 - ▶ Conducts Da'wah activities through sharing Qurans and other literature
 - ▶ Hosts other faith groups to attend Ramadan iftar at IABA, as well as attend other special events
 - ▶ Recently co-sponsored Milad-un-Nabi (s.a.w.) celebrations with Muslim Space (an umbrella Muslim group in Austin), to promote intra-faith harmony
- ▶ Committee has conducted an annual holiday Cookie Drive around the neighborhood of the mosque for the past 4 years now. Volunteers bake and deliver cookies wrapped in holiday packages to our neighbors. In 2018, about 1,000 cookies were baked by volunteers, and delivered to 200 homes in the neighborhood, including a nearby retirement home



Dr. Syed Hasan Akhtar has been an active member of IABA since 2000, and is current Chair of the Outreach Committee. He is a frequent writer and speaker on Islamic da'wah and interfaith topics, and has published two books and many short articles.



2018 Cookie Drive: Volunteers from IABA deliver cookies to the Clairmont Retirement Home



WELFARE COMMITTEE

- Led by Sheikh Jafar and other members of the community including the IABA President
- Committee is responsible for distributing funds to needy Muslims in the Greater Austin area
- Actively helping out the influx of Iraqi refugees that have settled in the Austin area
- Also holds campaigns to collect and send funds to Muslims in need all over the world:
 - Collected over \$10,000 for Rohingya relief
 - Collected over \$10,000 for Yemen relief
- With the generous support of the community, the Committee has distributed the following funds to needy Muslims:
 - Over \$37,000 in 2017
 - Over \$40,000 in 2018



IABA VISION

- ▶ Establish a great learning place for all ages:
 - ▶ Top notch Saturday Madrasah for children
 - ▶ Adult Islamic education, e.g., advanced classes in Fiqh, Arabic, Quran, and Hadith
 - ▶ Create a scholars exchange program with Chicago's Bait-ul-Ilm Academy
- ▶ Maintain the unity IABA has enjoyed within our multi-cultural, multi-ethnic community
- ▶ Be a beacon of Islamic values in Austin and the surrounding area, with generosity, hospitality, and openness to all
- ▶ Become a leader and host for Interfaith and Intra-faith activities and projects in Austin
- ▶ Establish a true community center, where youth can also come to play sports, socialize, do homework, etc.

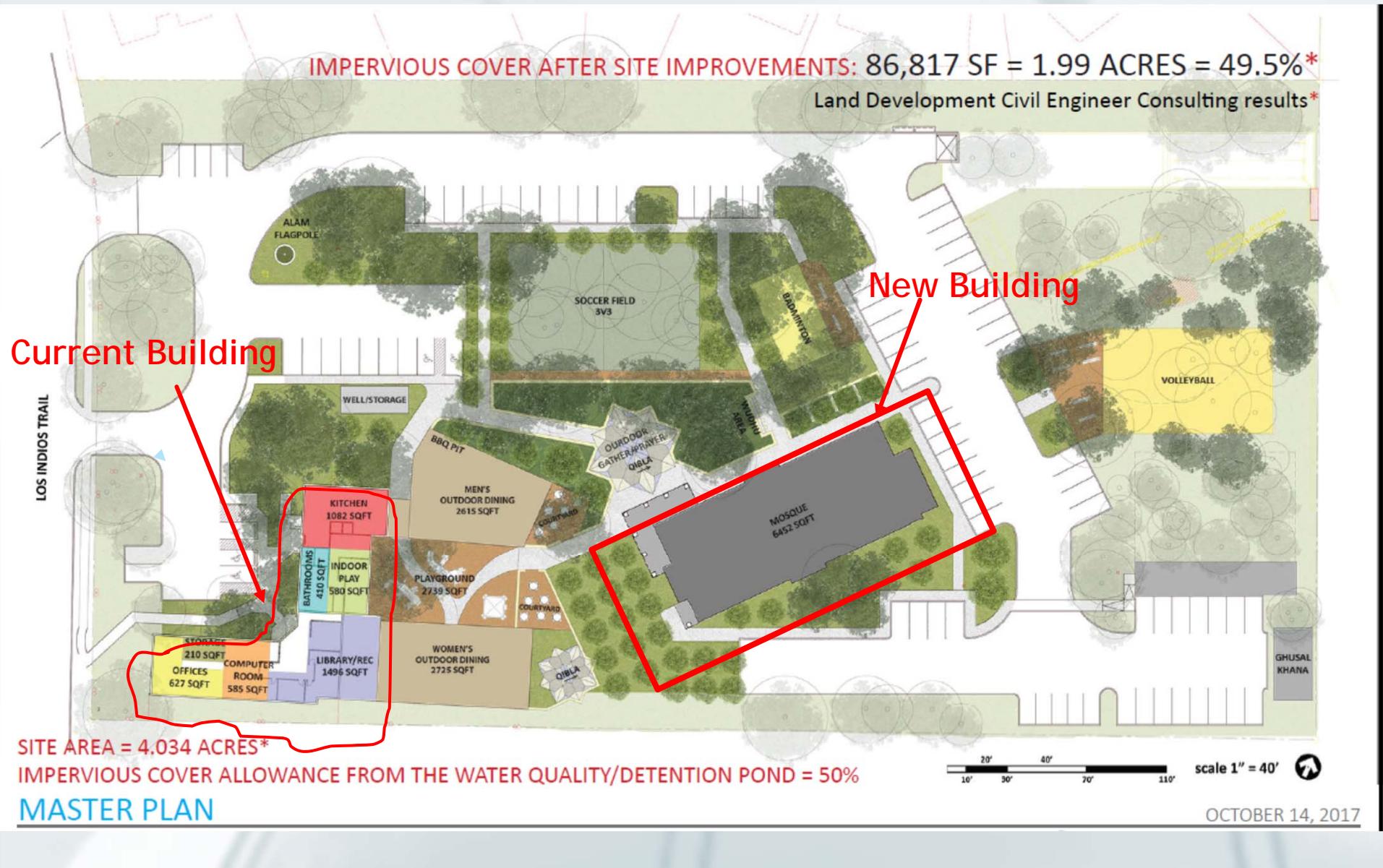


NEED FOR THE NEW BUILDING

- ▶ Community has outgrown the current space of one congregation hall with partition (jamaat prayers on big gathering nights cannot fit all in the hall)
- ▶ Need proper classrooms for Madrasah students (many classes being held in one hall with makeshift partitions)
- ▶ Need proper all-weather dining facility (current makeshift outdoor tent for dining)
- ▶ Need proper sports facilities and gathering place for youth
- ▶ Need a proper library space for good collection of books on Islam and other religions/topics



PROPOSED MASTER PLAN FOR THE SITE





BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

- Total area: 12,600 sq. ft.
- Two-story building:
 - Prayer/lecture hall on ground floor
 - 10 classrooms/library on upper floor
- Parking lot, retention pond, utility lines, and landscape done in 2014 (\$850,000)
- Building permit approved
- Projected total remaining cost for Project: **\$2.6M***



*Cost includes development of the master plan: Building, Eating Pavilion, Playgrounds, Kitchen



FINANCIALS

- ▶ Funds already raised from within the community:
 - ▶ \$1.0 M
- ▶ Target: raise another \$0.8-\$1.0M from within the community, Insha'Allah
- ▶ Need: Another \$0.6-0.8M in fundraising from outside the community to complete the project



“The parable of those who spend their sustenance in the way of Allah is that of a grain of corn; it grows seven ears, and each ear has a hundred grains. Allah gives manifold increase to whom He pleases.” (Quran 2:261)



HOW TO DONATE

- ▶ IABA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit (all donations tax-deductible)
- ▶ Cash donations accepted
- ▶ Checks can be written out and sent to:

IABA
P. O. Box 202583
Austin, Texas 78720-2583
- ▶ Donate through the IABA website:

<https://iaba-austin.com/?campaign=new-building-construction>
- ▶ ACH / Bank Debit: provide IABA authorization to withdraw amounts on a monthly basis (contact treasurer@iaba-austin.org for details)
- ▶ Zelle / QuickPay option (for participating banks):

Zelle / QuickPay I.D.: treasurer@iaba-austin.org
- ▶ Donate through PayPal: treasurer@iaba-austin.org (Please note: PayPal charges IABA a 2.2% transaction fee)
- ▶ Contact for more information:
 - ▶ Ijlal Shah: 512-966-6370, ijjlalalishah@gmail.com
 - ▶ Saeed Kazmi: 512-650-7813, skazmi.re@gmail.com
 - ▶ Ashher Syed: 512-659-3796, ashher@gmail.com



**THANK YOU
&
JAZAK ALLAH!**