

Subject: Progress and Delays

Dear Jessica,

The first day of spring is Saturday and vaccination eligibility expanded yesterday here in Texas. Looking back at just over a year of remote work for Austin PBS staff, I am incredibly proud of how far we've come and how much we've accomplished as a team and provider of local services. A new season of growth and days where we can gather again are right in front of us and it fills me with gratitude.

Of course, there are rocky issues that many of us are still tackling, not only from COVID-19, but from our recent winter storm and freeze. In addition to shivering through heatless days and nights, many of our homes and businesses suffered water damage. Unfortunately, Austin PBS's new office space did not come through unscathed. Sometime during the weekend of February 21-22, while construction at our new home on the Austin Community College Highland campus was shut down due to the freeze, two pipes burst causing significant flooding on the first floor of the building. We are working closely with ACC to determine the extent of the damage and best solutions, but this does necessitate a delay to our full move-in date. Our current home at UT Austin and our new ACC partners have graciously offered assistance in the form of extended move-out schedules and temporary office space. Not for the first time, I'm reminded how lucky we all are to live in the kind of community where neighbors so readily help other neighbors.

This pandemic epitomizes the proverbial lesson about best laid plans. Setbacks are inevitable, but so is progress! And despite the freeze damage, there's so much to celebrate while we work through our additional construction.

We anticipate a grand opening at our new home at ACC Highland in the fall, when we can finally open our doors to all of our incredible supporters and community members.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I'm happy to address any concerns or curiosities. Your generous and loyal support for Austin PBS is what allowed us to take the big leap to a new home — keeping you in the loop and supporting our partnership is very important to us.

Thank you for your constant commitment to our mission and for helping us Move Forward.

Sincerely,

Bill Stotesbery
CEO & General Manager
Austin PBS