



SOULS (Prasanthi Dham)

Guru Poornima - July 2024 Update

Om Sri Sai Ram

Sairam Dear all,

With Swami's grace, we trust you and your families are doing well. Happy Guru Poornima! to all. Let us pray that Swami showers His Immense Grace to all of us.

Following the actions from last General Body meeting on Oct 1, 2023, the Executive Committee has been working on **Prasanthi Dham** project. Given the delay in Angel donor funding, we are considering the facility in phases or with a smaller footprint after waiting until March 2024. Here is the progress we have made since this April:

To minimize project costs without compromising the needs of Sai centers' activities, we have taken the following factors into consideration:

- a. Reducing land development costs by constructing a smaller facility on the north side of the land (towards 14th Street) due to its proximity to the City's stormwater, sewer, and utility systems (*Cost reduction from \$4M to <\$1M*).
- b. Retaining the current building layout of **Prasanthi Dham** on the south side, which can be constructed when funds are available with Swami's Grace. The smaller facility on the north side can then be converted to Sai pantry/clinic in future.

Further progress includes:

1. RLK Civil Engineering firm confirmed on April 4, 2024, that moving the building to the north side of the land reduces development costs considerably. A preliminary meeting with the City of Plano was setup.
2. On April 9, 2024, we met with our Land Partners to seek permission to use the north side of the SOULS land. All stakeholders agreed in principle to initiate the next steps, pending a detailed realization proposal.
3. Our general contractor provided an estimate of \$200 per square foot for construction on April 22, 2024, with potential cost reductions.
4. On May 1, 2024, we met with the City of Plano to discuss changes to the previously approved plans for **Prasanthi Dham**. The city is open to plan changes, subject to resubmission and adherence to 2024 codes.
5. We pursued a modular construction approach with Ramtech Building Systems, which could compress the construction schedule to 9 months that leverages offsite and parallel construction. Ramtech proposed building a 13,688 square foot facility at a cost of \$3 million, excluding site development. This proposal is for a facility like the educational wing of the proposed grandeur **Prasanthi Dham** layout.
6. With above proposal, we reached out to meet with both Sathya Sai centers.

Based on the responses from both Sai centers, and to expand our reach and funding sources for **Prasanthi Dham**, SOULS decided to affiliate (non-profit) with Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi, India, and the Sri Sathya Sai Global Council (SSSGC) in the USA to explore the possibility of funding for **Prasanthi Dham** project.

SOULS maintains its independent legal status with its own officers, staff, and day-to-day activities. Both SOULS and SSSGC share the objective to follow the teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and to build **Prasanthi Dham** to serve all His devotees, independent of their affiliations, those in the Dallas area and beyond.

SOULS is incorporated with a sole mission to build **Prasanthi Dham** spiritual center to propagate His spiritual teachings and to host local Sathya Sai centers. We emphasize this affiliation is to serve all His devotees irrespective of their organizational affiliation, which is for most of them, a practical convenience to access Sai center activities.

We will continue to provide updates as we progress. If you have any questions

or need more information, please contact any member of the SOULS Executive Committee, or email us at **souls.exec@gmail.com**.

Thank you for your interest and continued support.

Loving Sairam.

Sincerely

SOULS Executive Committee

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