



Environmental Justice Outreach and Engagement Summary



Students at Morse High School build their ideal city featuring an ocean, environmentally diverse ecosystems, unhoused shelter and a Chinatown that celebrates diversity. Key features also include places that encourage and facilitate mindfulness such as outdoor gyms, trees, area for children and community spaces.

Table of Contents

Overview / 1

Preliminary Engagement / 1

Building Awareness / 2

About the Survey / 3

Key Findings / 3

Developing a Strategy / 5

Identify the Audience(s) / 5

Spectrum of Public Participation / 6

Engagement Strategy / 7

Project Timeline / 12

Engagement Summary / 13

Summary of Engagement Tactics / 13

Demographics and Location / 14

Schedule of Events / 17

What We Heard / 24

Lessons Learned / 38



Overview

The development of the Environmental Justice Element (EJ Element) relied on inclusive community input to inform the development of goals, policies and objectives. This document provides an overview of the steps taken to create opportunities for meaningful public input and gather feedback from partner organizations on opportunities to better engage the public. An overview of engagement events conducted, the project timeline and overall strategy for outreach and engagement are provided, followed by an engagement summary that informed the Environmental Justice Element.



Preliminary Engagement

- Building Awareness
- About the Survey
- Key Findings

The City of San Diego's Planning Department conducted initial outreach and engagement to build awareness around the Environmental Justice Element. This section summarizes activities conducted to build awareness and a high level overview of survey participation and key findings—up to this point in the process.

The online survey encompassed two questions that presented environmental justice issues and several more questions that captured the demographics of respondents. The first question sought to identify and prioritize environmental justice issues

being experienced by San Diegans based on topics that will be covered in the Environmental Justice Element. The second question focused on broadening understanding of environmental conditions impacting communities. Demographic questions helped identify gaps and opportunities to broaden engagement. Together, these efforts informed engagement materials and activities that supported and expanded the reach of this initiative.

Building Awareness



Community Group announcements and presentations.

23 Meetings



Stakeholder Outreach, introductions, and conversations.

18 Organizations

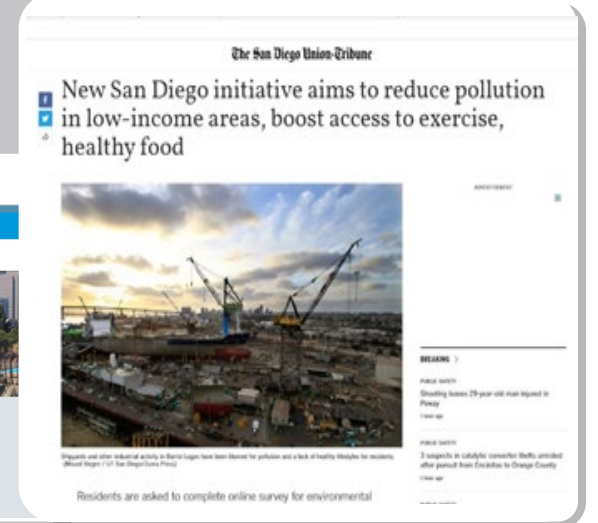


Attendance and Participation in meetings for promise zone, climate equity stakeholders, and portside steering committee.

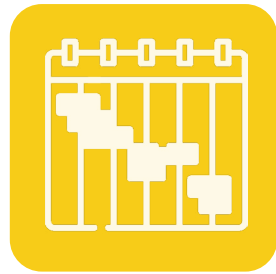


Outreach at Libraries across San Diego.

Sharing Information through traditional and social media outreach.



About the Survey



**Nov 2020 -
June 2021**

The survey was live from November 2020 to June of 2021.



**Available in
10 Languages**

English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Tagalog, Arabic, Somali, Swahili, Korean, and Burmese.

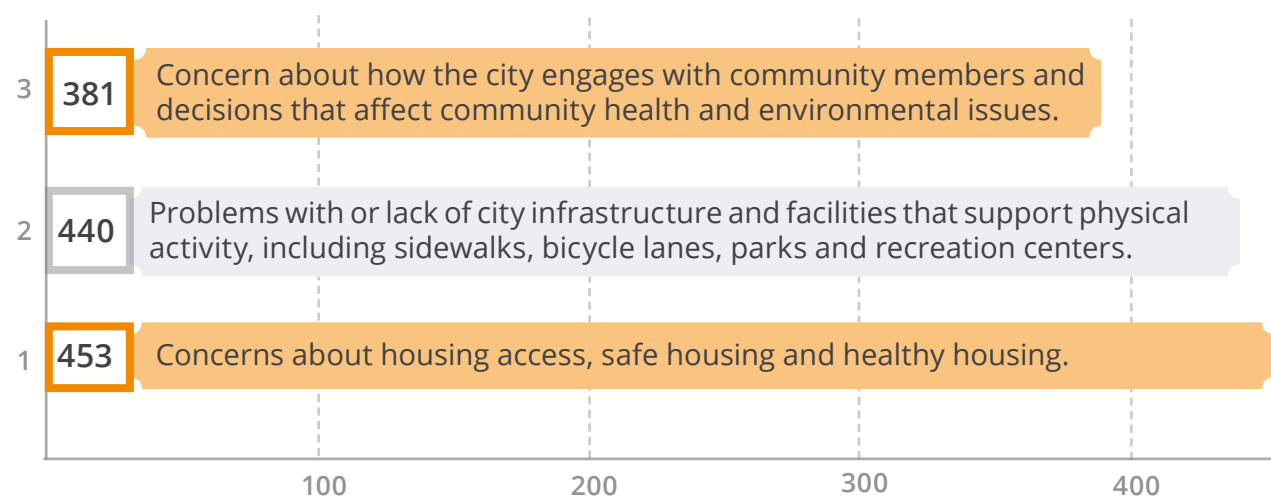


**835
Responses**

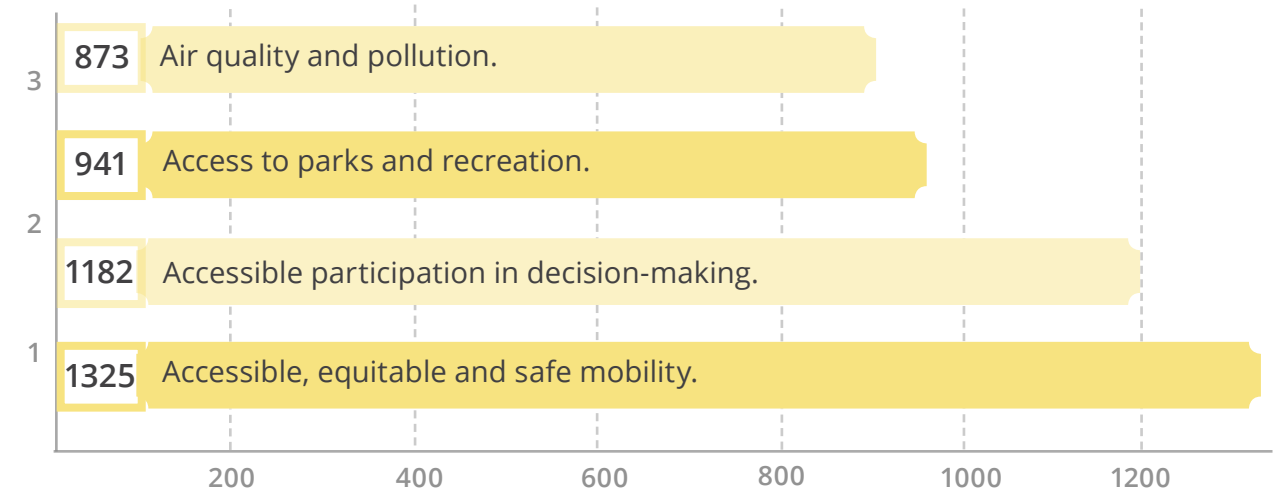
A full survey report is available on the project website.

Key Findings

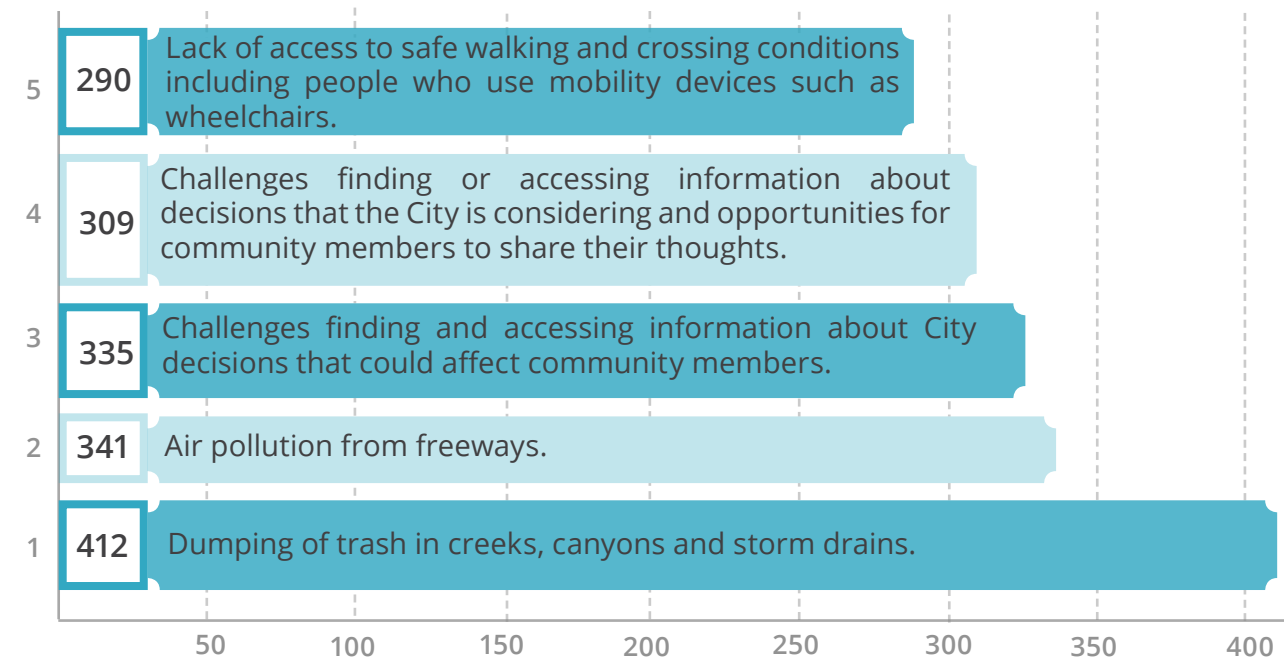
TOP 3 environmental issues:



TOP 4 categories summarizing environmental conditions impacting health and livability:



TOP 5 most commonly reported environmental conditions:





Developing a Strategy

- Identify the Audience(s)
- Spectrum of Public Participation
- Engagement Strategy
- Project Timeline

Identify the Audience(s)

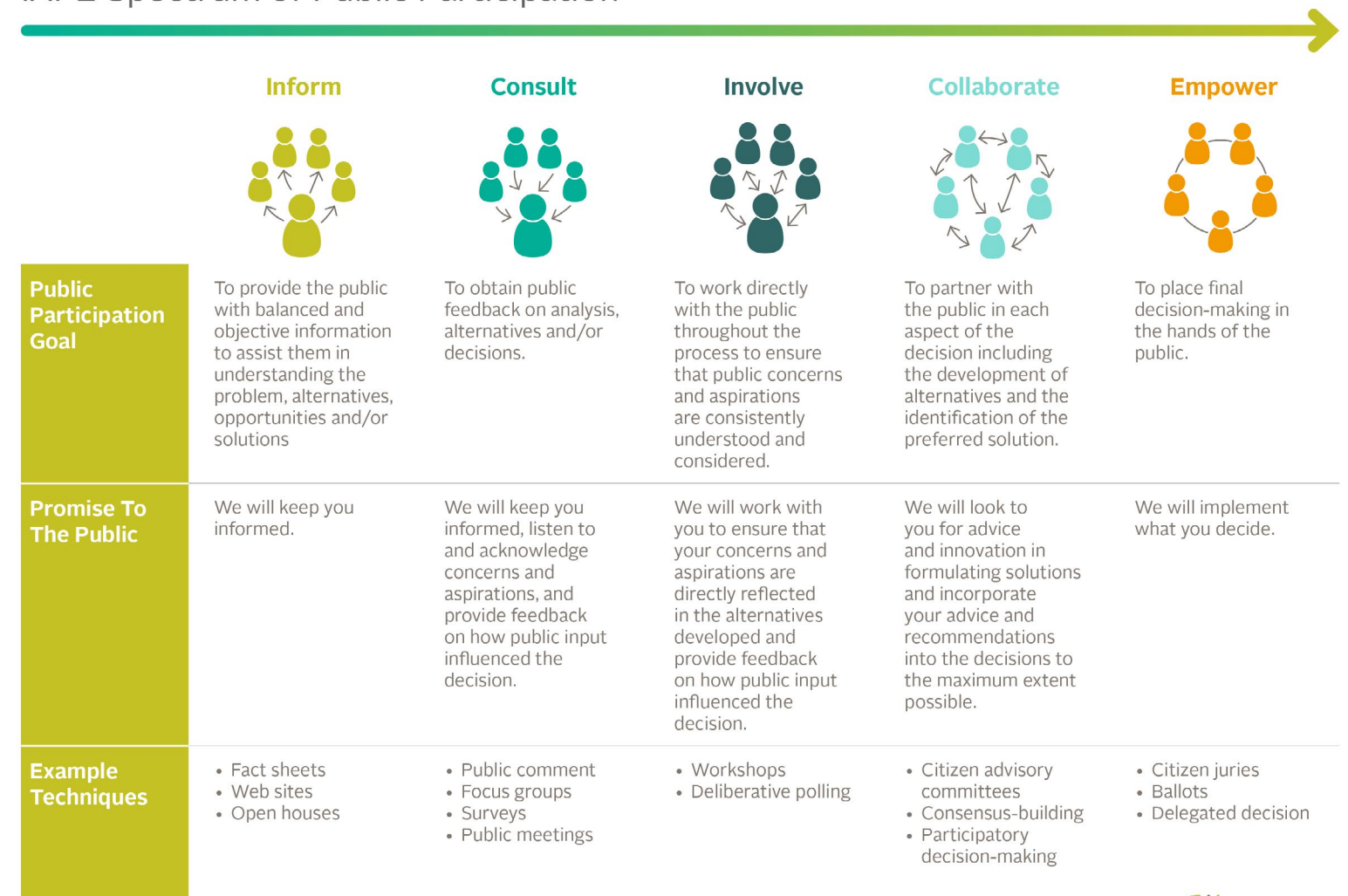
There are several audiences that were engaged throughout this process.



Spectrum of Public Participation

The IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation, developed by the international association for public participation, helps identify the level of participation by the public. This tool is used globally and is commonly found in plans for engaging the public in different activities. Where each engagement type and event falls on the spectrum was identified to ensure a well-balanced mix of opportunities to engage is provided.

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



Adapted from: International Association for Public Participation, Canada

Engagement Strategy

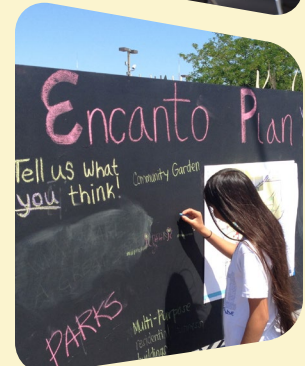
A variety of methods were used to reach stakeholders to share and receive feedback on issues related to Environmental Justice. This section outlines the outreach and engagement strategy for the Environmental Justice Element.



Partnered with Community-Based Organizations

Collaborate **Involve**

The City partnered with community-based organizations (CBOs) to inform and support the development of the General Plan’s Environmental Justice Element.



Collaborated on Project Outreach and Engagement Plan

Collaborate **Involve**

Input from partner CBOs was incorporated into the Environmental Justice Element Outreach and Engagement Plan to support a strategy that was equitable, culturally competent and effective.



Supported Area-Specific Engagement Activities Lead by CBOs

Collaborate **Involve**

The City worked closely with five selected CBOs on outreach efforts and engagement activities to gather feedback, with the goal of reaching those most impacted by unique and compounded health risk.

Hosted Cross-Collaboration Event

Collaborate **Involve**

The City convened six workshops to foster coordination and planning collaboration between organizations working to advance environmental justice in San Diego. These events helped identify opportunities to coordinate programs and implementation activities.

Designed & Facilitated Community and Stakeholder Events

Involve

A variety of interactive and inclusive events were hosted by the City throughout the life of the project to further obtain input from community stakeholder.

Pursued Pop-up Outreach Opportunities

Involve

The project team hosted a booth at various community events to make information more accessible and reach community stakeholders to share more about the City’s efforts to advance environmental justice.

Presented at Public Hearings

Consult

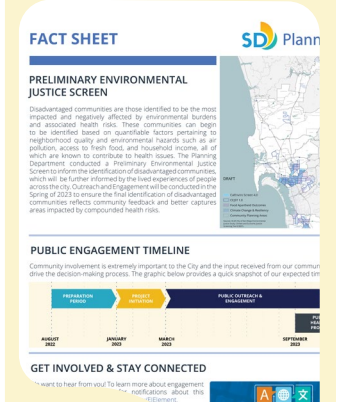
Feedback gathered was incorporated into the Draft Environmental Justice Element, which at the time of this report is being presented at various Commissions and City Council for consideration and adoption. The public is invited to all public hearings to share additional information and listen to ongoing discussions around this initiative.

Provided Informational Materials

Inform

A variety of informational materials have been developed to easily learn more about the Environmental Justice Element and foster a transparent process. These materials included:

- Project Website
- Story Map
- Fact sheet
- PowerPoint presentations
- Newsletter articles



Engagement Strategy

ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS

The City of San Diego partnered with five community-based organizations (CBOs) to ensure the community engagement was inclusive and meaningful to people of all age groups and abilities. They helped gather feedback on the topics that the Environmental Justice Element covered with a series of community pop-up events, workshops or meetings, bike rides or walks and community clean-up events. The CBOs that were selected through an equitable application process, and an overview of this work is provided below.



Bayside Community Center is a non-profit organization working to empower its diverse community to improve quality of life through services, education, and advocacy. Bayside predominantly serves the Linda Vista community and surrounding neighborhoods.

Bikes Del Pueblo



Bikes Del Pueblo is an educational bicycle co-op empowering marginalized and under-supported communities through bicycle maintenance workshops that provide access to tools, parts and in-person assistance.



Casa Familiar is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance quality of life for people living in underserved and underrepresented communities.



City Heights Community Development Corporation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to partner with community members in enhancing the quality of life in City Heights. The organization strives to build an inclusive and equitable community that embraces diversity, creates opportunities for all, and connects individuals to each other.



The Urban Collaborative Project is a nonprofit organization advocating for equity in the under-resourced areas of Southeastern San Diego by building capacity for local community members to overcome community disparities together in the areas of health, housing, art, transportation and infrastructure.

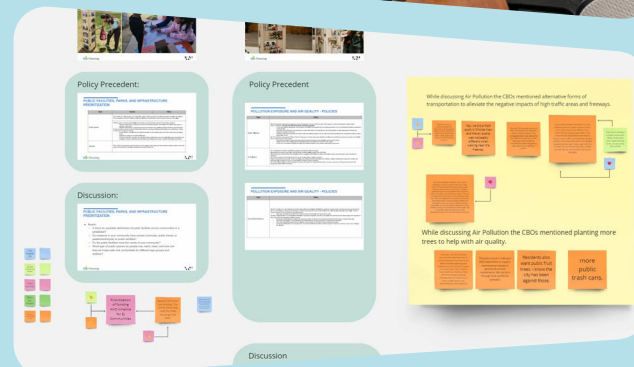
ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

A multifaceted approach was used to ensure various ways of community involvement and empowerment to facilitate the development of the Environmental Justice Element.



Visioning Workshops (VW)

Visioning workshops to inform the development of the Environmental Justice Element were led by City Planning to meet community members of all age groups at places within their neighborhoods.



Roundtable Meetings (RM)

Facilitated by the project consultant Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI), Roundtables provided the space for CBOs to share updates on ongoing outreach and engagement activities and lessons learned, as well as to provide input on the development of environmental justice goals, policies and objectives.



Community Events (EE)

Community events were led by the CBO partners throughout the city to broadly engage community members on EJ topics in their neighborhoods, using different methods to meet people where they are.

Engagement Strategy

ENGAGEMENT TACTICS

The various engagement tactics that were deployed in order to get a variety of input from all different individuals are described below:



Clean-up events offered an opportunity to discuss EJ issues as community members came together to improve their neighborhood’s cleanliness and aesthetics.



Walks and bike rides created an opportunity to discuss and identify surrounding environmental justice issues that have been uplifted by the Environmental Justice Element.



Workshops and meetings facilitated open discussions and knowledge-sharing around relevant environmental justice topics, ensuring that community members had a platform to voice their ideas and concerns.



Pop-up events were organized at established events to meet the community where they are to gather input on EJ issues.

TOPICS COVERED

The City of San Diego’s Environmental Justice Element Outreach and Engagement Plan focused on the topics listed below. To hear from community members in areas most impacted by compounded health risks, various events were held by each of the CBOs to help inform the goals, objectives, and policies related to each topic—advancing environmental justice across the city.



Active Play



Safe and Healthy Homes



Public Facilities and Infrastructure Prioritization



Inclusive Public Engagement in City Decisions



Promoting Healthy food Access



Pollution Exposure and Air Quality

Project Timeline

NOV 2021 -
DEC 2022



EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Environmental Justice Survey Report Released
- Environmental Justice Background Review Report Released

WINTER
2023



PROJECT INITIATION

- Project Webpage Updated
- DRAFT Environmental Justice Communities Map Available for Discussion and Further Input

SPRING -
SUMMER
2023



VISIONING AND PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- Community-Based Organization Application Opens
- Community-Based Organizations Selected (at least 5)
- DRAFT Project Engagement Plan Released
- Findings from Past Outreach and Engagements Released

FALL 2023 -
WINTER 2024



DRAFT PLAN

- FINAL Project Engagement Plan Released
- Engagement Activities Designed & Facilitated (at least 4)
- Cross-Collaboration Event Designed & Facilitated
- Community Engagement Summary Report Published
- DRAFT Environmental Justice Element Opens for Public Review

SPRING -
SUMMER
2024



PUBLIC BRIEFING, HEARINGS & ADOPTION

- Public Hearings & Adoption of Environmental Justice Element



Engagement Summary

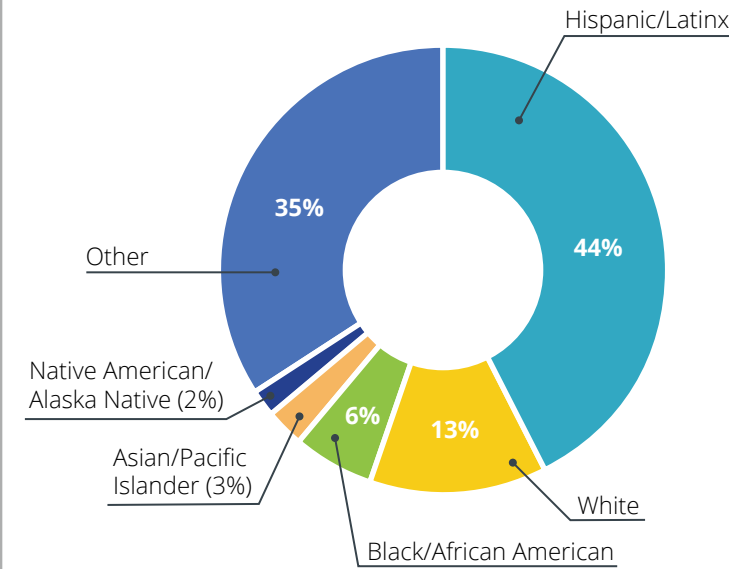
- Summary of Engagement Tactics
- Demographics and Locations
- Schedule of Events
- What We Heard
- Lessons Learned

Summary of Engagement Tactics



47 events reaching a total of **1,473** community members

Demographics and Locations

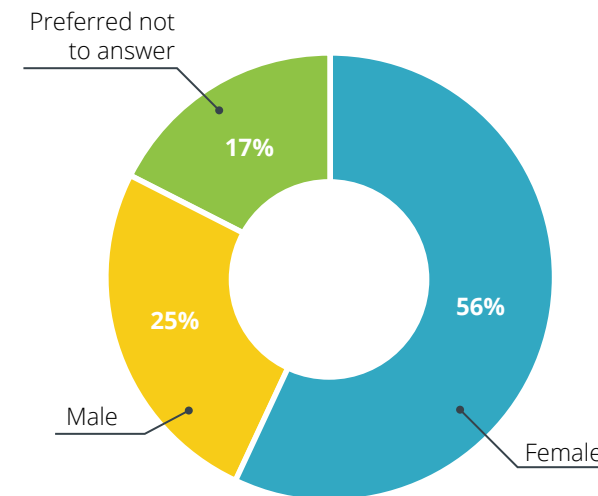
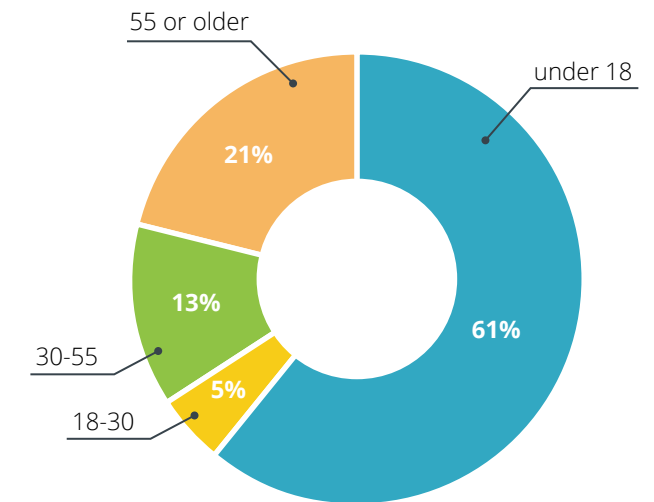


Ethnicity

Of participants that attended engagement events, 302 individuals provided demographic information. The majority identified as Hispanic/Latinx (44%), followed by White (13%), Black or African American (6%), Asian/Pacific Islander (3%) and Native American or Alaska Native (2%), with the remaining representing various ethnic backgrounds such as Middle Eastern and Eritrean.

Age

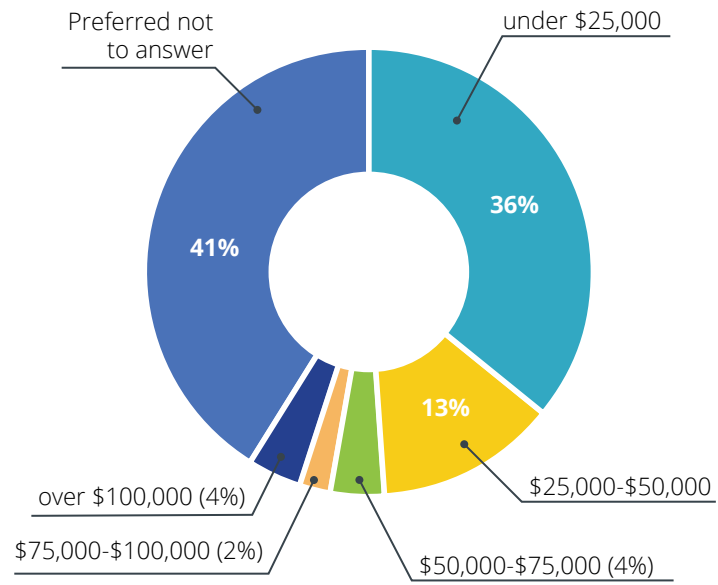
In addition to the 302 individuals that submitted comment forms, demographic information for age also reflects 261 high school students engaged in visioning workshops. This indicates that of people engaged 61% were under 18, 5% between 18 and 30, 13% between 30 and 55 and 21% were 55 or older.



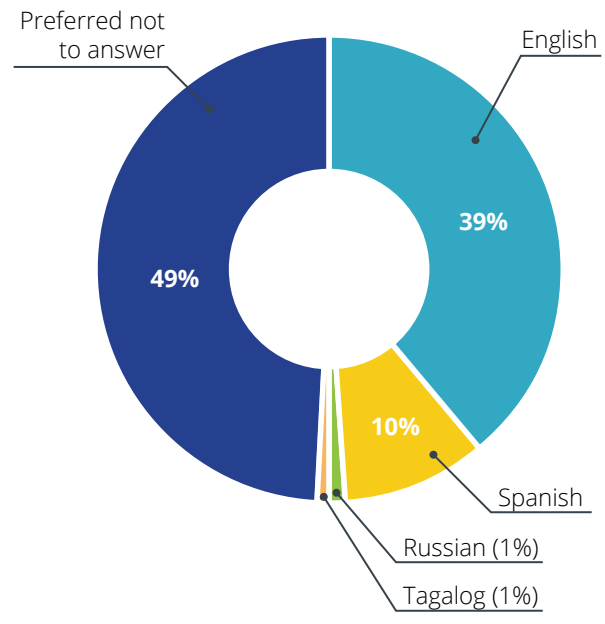
Gender

Gender distribution showed 56% female, 25% male and 17% preferred not to answer.

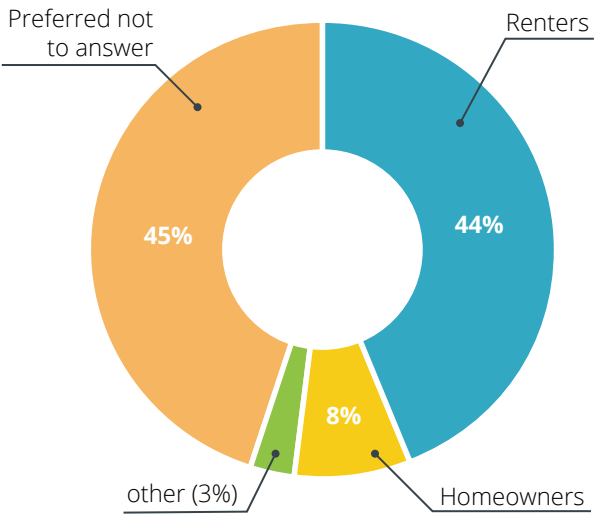
Demographics and Locations



Household Income
Regarding household income, 36% reported earning under \$25,000, 13% between \$25,000 and \$50,000, 4% between \$50,000 and \$75,000, 2% between \$75,000 and \$100,000 and 4% over \$100,000, while others preferred not to disclose.

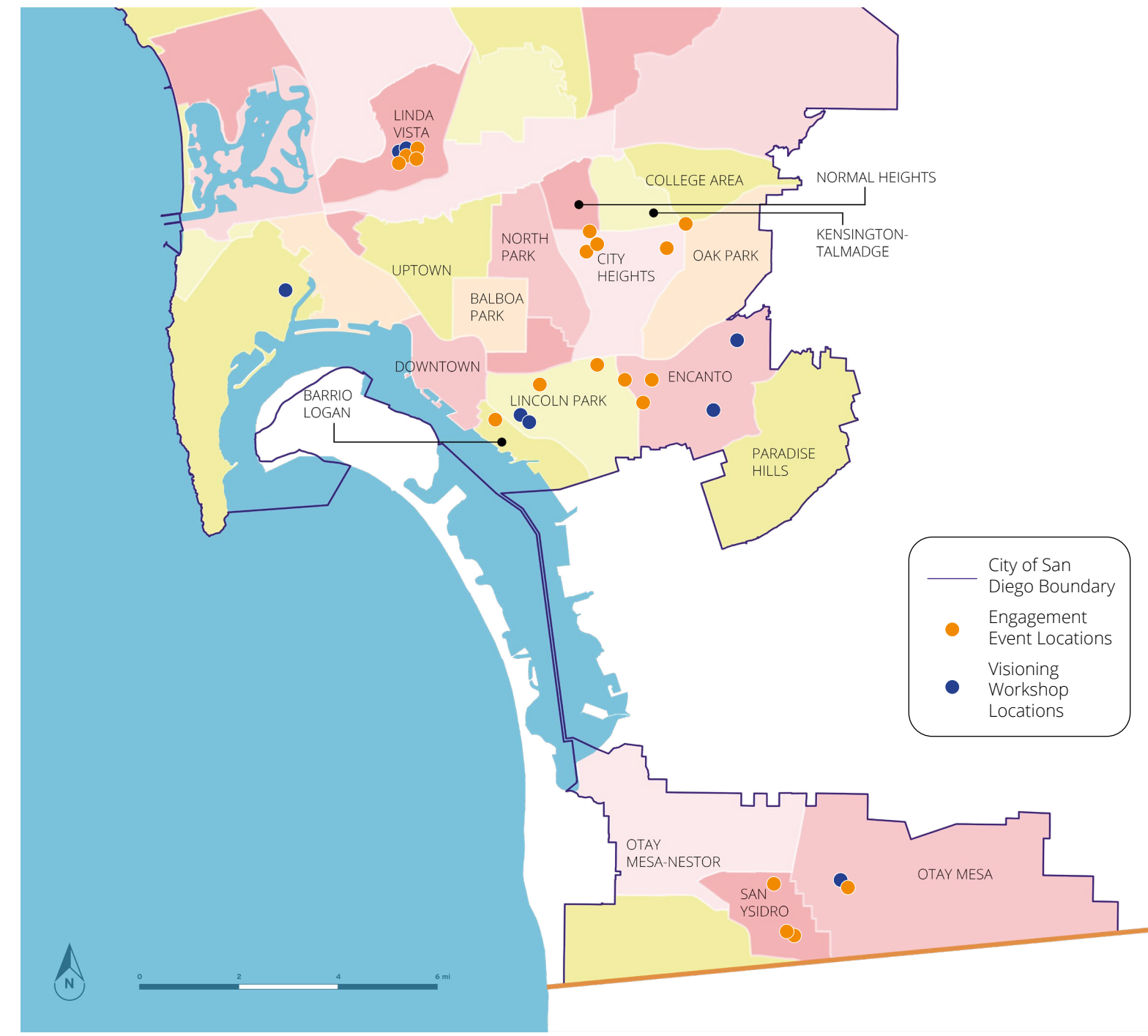


Preferred Language
English was the preferred language for 39%, followed by Spanish at 10% and Tagalog and Russian each at 1%, with others opting not to answer.



Housing Status
In terms of housing status, 44% were renters, 8% were homeowners, 3% had other arrangements and the remaining respondents preferred not to answer.






ENGAGEMENT EVENT LOCATIONS



Schedule of Events

City Heights CDC











The events that follow are listed by organization and were done with the idea of connecting with community members at places, events or established meetings that people already planned to attend.

Event	Topic	Approach	Strategy
Access to Green Spaces Survey Friday, October 06, 2023 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Little East Africa	 		Collaborate Involve
City Heights Built Env Team Meeting Thursday, October 19, 2023 5:30 PM Online	 		Collaborate Involve
City Heights Task Force Public Meeting Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:00-7:00pm 4071 39th, San Diego, CA 92105	 		Collaborate Involve
El Cajon Blvd Transit Plaza Pop up Tuesday, December 05, 2023 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM 2645 Ulric Street, San Diego, CA 92111			Collaborate Involve
City Heights Built Env Team Meeting Thursday, December 21, 2023 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM Online			Collaborate Involve
Transit Station Pop-up Event Thursday, January 11, 2024 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM City Heights (54th St & El Cajon Blvd)	 		Collaborate Involve
City Heights Task Force Public Meeting Thursday, January 18, 2024 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Metro Villa Apartments			Collaborate Involve



Schedule of Events

Bikes del Pueblo

Event	Topic	Approach	Strategy
Pop-up Event at Bike Workshop Sunday, October 15, 2023 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 4050 El Cajon Blvd	 		Collaborate Involve
Mid-City Community Clean Up Saturday, October 28, 2023 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Teralta Park	  		Collaborate Involve
Pop-up Event at Bike Workshop Sunday, November 05, 2023 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 4050 El Cajon Blvd	 		Collaborate Involve
Pop-up Event at Bike Workshop Sunday, November 12, 2023 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 4050 El Cajon Blvd	 		Collaborate Involve
Get Outside Bike Ride and EJ Chat Friday, November 24, 2023 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Barrio Logan - Chicano Park	 		Collaborate Involve
Pop-up Event at Bike Workshop Saturday, December 02, 2023 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM 4050 El Cajon Blvd	 		Collaborate Involve
Bike Workshop Sunday, December 03, 2023 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 4050 El Cajon Blvd	 		Collaborate Involve
Senior Lunch Saturday, December 09, 2023 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM 4050 El Cajon Blvd	  		Collaborate Involve

Schedule of Events Urban Collaborative Project

Event	Topic	Approach	Strategy
D4 Joint Town Council Meeting Wednesday, September 06, 2023 Online			Collaborate Involve
Black Tech Link's Community Health & STEM Fest Saturday, September 16, 2023 Educational Cultural Complex	All Topics		Collaborate Involve
Tree Planting Event Friday, October 06, 2023 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Gompers Prep Academy			Collaborate Involve
Mobile Engagement at Southeastern Live Well Center Community Resource Fair Saturday, October 14, 2023 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM Southeastern Live Well Center	All Topics		Collaborate Involve
Pop-up with Lincoln High Youth Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Lincoln High School			Collaborate Involve
Walk Audit at Lincoln High School Thursday, November 28, 2023 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Lincoln High School			Collaborate Involve
Pop-Up at Malcolm X Library Friday, December 01, 2023 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Malcolm X Library			Collaborate Involve
Holiday Celebration Pop-Up Sunday, December 16, 2023 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Urban Collaborative Project Office			Collaborate Involve

Schedule of Events Casa Familiar

Event	Topic	Approach	Strategy
Parent Meeting Wednesday, October 25, 2023 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Perkins Elementary			Collaborate Involve
Casa Familiar Fall Festival Wednesday, October 25, 2023 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM 125 Cypress Dr., San Ysidro, CA 92173			Collaborate Involve
Dia de los Muertos Festival Pop-up Wednesday, November 01, 2023 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM The Front Gallery in San Ysidro			Collaborate Involve
San Ysidro Resident Leadership Academy Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM			Collaborate Involve
Casa Familiar Thanksgiving Pop-Up Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM Villa Nueva Community Center			Collaborate Involve
Casa Familiar Community Clean up Saturday, November 18th, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 125 Cypress Dr, San Ysidro, CA 92173			Collaborate Involve
Cafecito with Casa Familiar Wednesday, November 29th, 2023 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Virtual Meeting			Collaborate Involve
Engagement with Seniors Wednesday, December 06, 2023 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM San Ysidro Senior Center			Collaborate Involve

Schedule of Events Casa Familiar (cont'd)

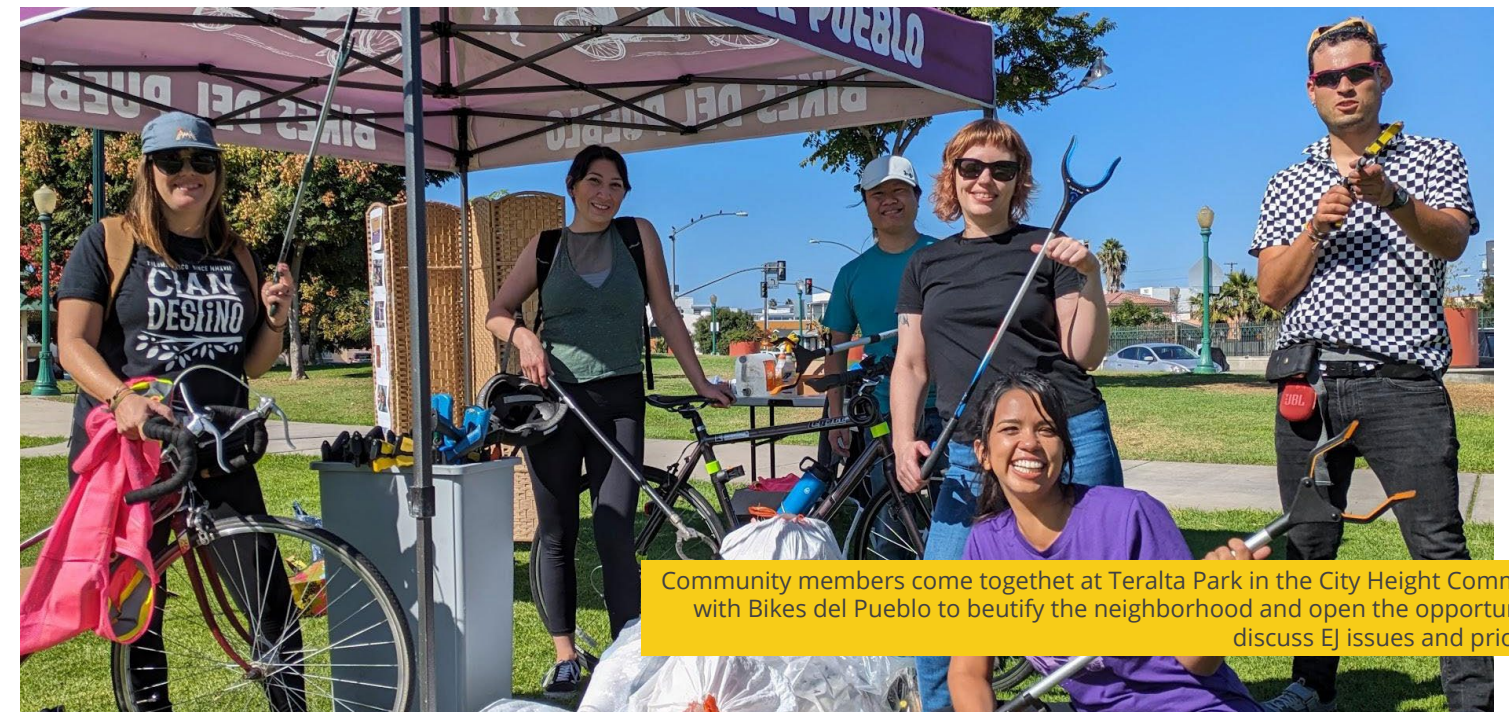
Event	Topic	Approach	Strategy
San Ysidro Resident Academy Wednesday, October 24, 2023 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM San Ysidro High School	All Topics		Collaborate Involve

Schedule of Events Bayside Community Center

Event	Topic	Approach	Strategy
Food Distribution Friday, October 20, 2023 8 AM Bayside Community Center	 		Collaborate Involve
Linda Vista Farmers Market Pop up Thursday, October 26, 2023 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM 6939 Linda Vista Road, San Diego, CA	 		Collaborate Involve
Senior Lunch Tuesday, October 31, 2023 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Bayside Community Center	 		Collaborate Involve
Linda Vista Community Clean Up Sunday, November 05, 2023 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Linda Vista Branch Library	 		Collaborate Involve
Linda Vista Collaborative Meeting Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Online	 		Collaborate Involve

Schedule of Events Bayside Community Center (cont'd)

Event	Topic	Approach	Strategy
EJ Walk w/ Leaders in Action Sunday, November 17, 2023 9:00 AM - 10:30 PM Bayside Community Center	 		Collaborate Involve
EJ Walk and Discuss with Bayside Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM 2645 Ulric Street, San Diego, CA	 		Collaborate Involve
Linda Vista Collaborative Meeting (Part 2) Wednesday, December 20, 2023 3:00 PM Bayside Community Center	 		Collaborate Involve
Linda Vista Farmers Market Pop up Thursday, December 21, 2023 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM 6939 Linda Vista Road, San Diego, CA	 		Collaborate Involve



Community members come together at Teralta Park in the City Height Community with Bikes del Pueblo to beautify the neighborhood and open the opportunity to discuss EJ issues and priorities.

Schedule of Events

Visioning Workshops

Event	Topic	Approach	Strategy
San Ysidro Resident Leadership Academy Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM San Ysidro High School			Collaborate Involve
Linda Vista Collaborative Wednesday, December 20, 2023 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM			Collaborate Involve
Morse High School Tuesday, February 6, 2024 10:15 AM - 3:28 PM Morse High School			Collaborate Involve
Envisioning an EJ City Workshop Monday, March 04, 2024 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Logan Heights Library			Collaborate Involve
Advancing Healthy Food Access Wednesday, March 7, 2024 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM San Diego Foundation			Collaborate Involve
Logan Memorial Educational Campus Monday & Tuesday, March 18 & 19, 2024 9:20 AM - 10:40 AM Logan Memorial Education Campus			Collaborate Involve

What We Heard

This section summarizes the community feedback received at the Community Engagement Events (EE), the Roundtable Meetings (RM) and the City Planning led Visioning Workshops (VW). Each topic has a summary paragraph that gives an overview of what was commonly said by community members, followed by a section that outlines recurring themes and key issues regarding the topic. All key issues are identified by an “EE” or “VW” indicating the engagement setting in which it was raised by community members, whereas key issues raised by partner CBOs during Roundtable Meetings are identified by “RM.”



INCLUSIVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN CITY DECISIONS

Community members were highly interested in participating in civic engagement opportunities and expressed a desire to be included in future decision-making processes. However, some community members were unsure of how to initiate their participation and voiced concern that they may not be aware of the various opportunities available to them. Distance, time, and traffic hinder active civic engagement, highlighting the need for easily accessible opportunities to encourage involvement. Other barriers to participation, such as limited access to technology and transportation, were also noted, emphasizing the importance of increased outreach efforts and providing a variety of ways to engage in City processes.

Suggestions for improving opportunities for civic participation included designating City staff as a point of contact for ongoing engagement, offering translation services and sharing with community members how their input is being used, such as follow up meetings and additional opportunities for iterative feedback.

What We Heard

Roundtable Meetings (RM)
 Visioning Workshops (VW)
 Community Engagement Events (EE)

Themes	Key Issues
Desire for Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members expressed a positive attitude towards civic engagement, emphasizing their desire to be heard and be involved in decision-making processes. (EE, VW) Challenges such as distance, time and traffic were identified as impediments to civic engagement, highlighting the need for accessible opportunities for involvement. (EE)
Barriers to Civic Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some community members felt uncertain about how to begin engaging and were not aware of available opportunities for involvement. (EE) Challenges around access to technology and transportation were noted as barriers to participation, indicating a need for increased accessibility and outreach efforts. (EE)
Communication and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving communication between city officials and the community was suggested to facilitate civic engagement and ensure that community members are informed about opportunities to participate. (EE, VW) Designating community members as points of contact for engagement and improving workshop accessibility, including virtual options, was suggested to enhance community involvement. (EE, VW) CBO's highlighted the helpfulness of city representatives during engagement, noting that their presence makes community members feel heard and valued. (RM) Language and technology barriers hinder access to information, necessitating the translation of planning language into more accessible messaging and concerns about engaging unhoused individuals. (RM)
Youth and Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging youth, community members, and stakeholders in identifying disparities and advocating for solutions was highlighted as essential for meaningful civic engagement. (EE) Participation in activities like walk audits and advocacy for improvements in walkability and environmental conditions were seen as effective ways to engage the community and address local needs. (EE)

Themes	Key Issues
Community Engagement and Inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members suggested parks that are community-oriented and offer a variety of activities to engage people of all ages and backgrounds. (EE) Creating inclusive spaces and hosting community events were seen as ways to foster a sense of belonging and strengthen community bonds. (EE) Libraries were noted as valuable for the free resources they provide to the community, highlighting the importance of investment in these institutions to support community engagement and learning opportunities. (EE)
Community Engagement and Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was interest in increasing the amount of programs and assistance to support affordable housing and address parking issues associated with housing affordability. (EE)



Community members discussing environmental justice with the Urban Collaborative Project and identifying their top three EJ priorities at the Southeastern Live Well Center's Open House & Resource Fair.

What We Heard



POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND AIR QUALITY

Community members advocated for integrating eco-friendly community amenities and practices to promote environmental sustainability and resilience, such as water recycling and the use of solar power. Planting trees and increasing green spaces were identified as strategies to improve environmental health, reduce pollution and provide recreational opportunities. Addressing pollution exposure and air quality concerns, such as traffic-related pollution and trash accumulation, was identified as essential to ensure the well-being and health of the community.

Throughout the engagement activities, excessive trash and debris on the streets and sidewalks, overflowing apartment trash cans and a desire to improve the waste management systems were reported. An interest in community cleanups was conveyed to promote cleanliness and mitigate the impacts of these contributors to pollution exposure.

Air and noise pollution due to heavy traffic were identified, especially in densely populated areas and near schools. Improvements to public and active transportation options, implementing regulations on vehicles to prevent traffic congestion and increasing the number of green spaces and trees were requested to enhance overall health and air quality.

Community members suggested improving access to clean drinking water sources. San Diego youth demonstrated a significant and notable interest in addressing water pollution and air quality challenges. Additionally, participants would like green jobs that recognize the potential for sustainable employment opportunities to be established in their communities.

Roundtable Meetings (RM)
 Visioning Workshops (VW)
 Community Engagement Events (EE)

Themes	Key Issues
Trash and Debris Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members reported excessive trash and debris on streets and sidewalks, which contributes to pollution exposure, poses obstacles for non-motorized transit and negatively impacts neighborhoods' aesthetic appeal. (EE) Issues with overflowing apartment trash cans and ineffective waste management systems were cited as contributing to pollution exposure and detract from community cleanliness. (EE)
Traffic-related Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised about air and noise pollution resulting from heavy traffic, particularly in densely populated areas and near schools. (EE, VW) A desire for improved public transportation and active transportation options to mitigate the negative effects of traffic on air quality was raised. (EE, VW) More trees and green spaces are needed to improve air quality and overall environmental health. (EE, VW) Community members suggested programs that promote clean air/Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEV) to improve air quality. (VW) Increase micro-transit, greening programs in schools, community gardens, a continuation of the youth opportunity pass for transit, wider sidewalks, bike lanes, accessible transportation options for non-drivers, speed management for motorized vehicles, public restrooms, human-scale lighting, bus shelters with weather protection and a departure from car-centric culture. (RM)
Water Treatment and Drinking Water Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members expressed concern about the potent odor resulting from an inoperative water treatment plant, which contributes to air quality concerns. (EE) Concern about potential E. coli outbreaks have led community members to be apprehensive of drinking water sources. (EE)

What We Heard



ACTIVE PLAY

Community members highlighted that accessible healthcare services and well-maintained public spaces, including parks, are crucial to promoting physical and mental health in their communities. Community members that were engaged through this process emphasized the importance of infrastructure improvements for cycling and coastal access to encourage active lifestyles and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation. Community health centers were also prioritized to promote overall well-being and physical activity. Participants were interested in expanding outdoor exercise programs, especially for children, and discussed the benefits of gardening and sports for physical health and community engagement.

Roundtable Meetings (RM)
 Visioning Workshops (VW)
 Community Engagement Events (EE)

Themes	Key Issues
Improvements in Public Facilities and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community expressed a need for enhancements in street infrastructure, including improvements in intersections to ensure smoother traffic flow and safer pedestrian crossings. Additionally, upgrading bus stations with shaded structures was mentioned to provide more comfort and convenience for commuters. (EE) The community would like improved parks with updated equipment and activities. Safety concerns at parks, particularly during nighttime highlighted the importance of park ranger presence. (EE) There were concerns about the cleanliness and maintenance of public spaces, such as parks and streets. Those engaged called for initiatives to tackle trash accumulation and maintain cleanliness, as well as regular upkeep of park facilities and amenities. (EE) Accessibility was a priority, for those advocating for accessible walkways, trails and facilities to improve mobility and inclusivity within the community, including a universal design approach to city projects. (EE, VW) Safety enhancements, such as installing street lights and improving cycling infrastructure, were suggested to address safety concerns in

Themes

Key Issues

Improvements in Public Facilities and Infrastructure (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public spaces and promote active transportation. (EE) Access to clean and safe drinking water was highlighted as a way of addressing aging infrastructure systems to ensure water quality. (EE) Improvements to public transit accessibility and efficiency to reduce reliance on cars and promote sustainable transportation options was raised at community events. This includes addressing issues such as limited nearby amenities and inefficient transit routes. (EE) Community members were interested in more easily accessible routes to travel to the beach. (VW)
Community Health and Well-Being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community health centers were identified as a priority, emphasizing the need for accessible healthcare services to promote overall well-being within the community. (EE) Activities for children were discussed as being essential to promote well-being at an early age. (VW) Safe and well-maintained, lit, public spaces, including parks, were noted as essential for promoting physical and mental health. The importance of investing in these spaces to create environments conducive to community health and well-being was raised. (EE, VW) Infrastructure improvements for cycling and coastal access were desired to encourage active lifestyles and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation such as exercise equipment at parks, contributing to improved health outcomes for San Diegans. (EE, VW)



City staff listen to community members at the Logan Heights Library share their vision for an environmentally-just city, prompting conversations that informed proposed activities within the Environmental Justice Element to better meet community needs.

What We Heard



PROMOTING HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Three main focus areas were suggested as priorities for improving access to healthy food: food affordability, improving food systems and expanding community garden programs.

Community members would like to improve the accessibility of healthy and affordable food options, especially for seniors with limited mobility. Community members have limited access to healthy and affordable options within walking/rolling distance, as the current food system is car-centric and the few large grocery stores are separated by significant distances. To make healthy food options more accessible and affordable, it was recommended that smaller grocery stores can be reintroduced, local food systems can be incentivized, the community garden footprint can be increased and the CALFRESH program can be improved. Workshops and programs that promote that learning, personal growth, mental well-being and focus on nutrition were

Roundtable Meetings (RM)
 Visioning Workshops (VW)
 Community Engagement Events (EE)

Themes	Key Issues
Affordable and Accessible Healthy Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community prioritized access to fresh and healthy food, emphasizing both affordability and distance as key factors. (EE, VW) Healthy and affordable food for overall well-being and the health benefits of nutritious food was raised by those engaged. (EE) Financial constraints were identified as a barrier to food access for some community members, underscoring the need for affordable options. (EE) Community members expressed concerns about the lack of accessibility to healthy and affordable food options, particularly for seniors with limited mobility. (EE) Farmer's markets were highlighted as a desirable addition to help promote access to healthy and locally grown foods. (VW) Education programs were suggested to help community members learn how to grow and access affordable and healthy food. (VW)

Themes	Key Issues
Affordable and Accessible Healthy Food (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for food banks was highlighted as a need within the community. (VW) Concerns about the distance to healthy and affordable food, safety issues and limited space for growing food were also raised. (EE) There was a need voiced for health centers to offer nutrition workshops to support community members in making healthy lifestyle choices. (EE) Better access to CALFRESH workers/services is identified as a priority, indicating a need for increased support for food assistance programs within the community. (EE)
Community Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those engaged expressed a desire for increasing community gardens throughout the city as a solution for improving access to affordable and healthy food options. (EE, VW)
Local Food Systems and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised about the current food infrastructure, which relies on a car-centric model with few large grocery stores separated by large distances. (EE) Suggestions included bringing back smaller grocery stores to provide more accessible options for San Diegans and incentivizing local food systems. (EE)



San Ysidro Resident Leadership Academy members participate in the obelisk activity and share their highest priorities for various topics informing the Environmental Justice Element.

What We Heard



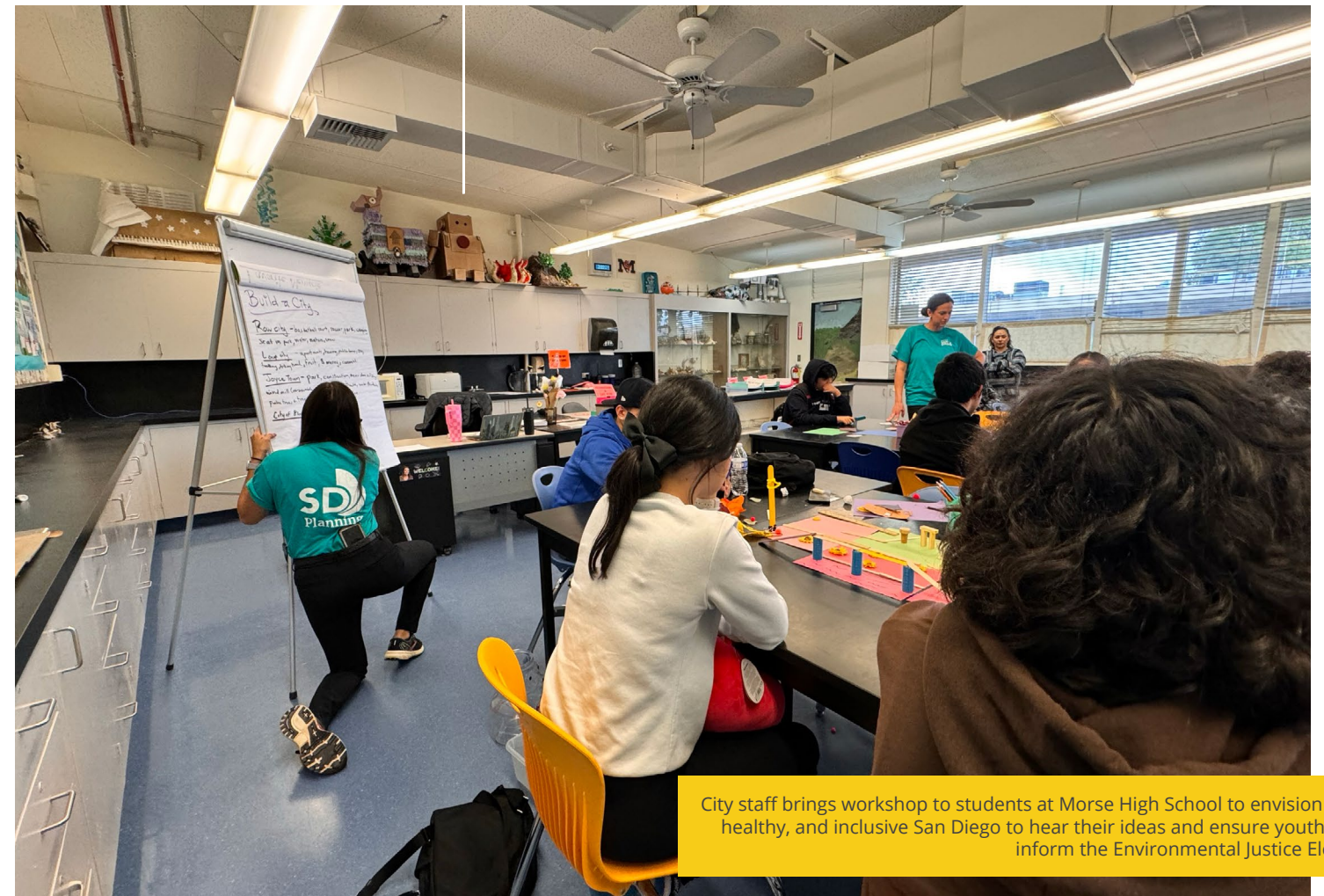
SAFE AND HEALTHY HOMES

The increasing cost of housing and the limited availability of affordable options were identified as the main barriers to safe and healthy homes. There was an overwhelming concern that individuals and families will be forced out of their homes due to the high costs of buying or renting property, making it difficult to find a suitable place to live in San Diego. In addition, there was an underlying demand for more subsidized and affordable housing, including single-story and accessible housing options for middle-income families, to tackle the housing affordability crisis.

Roundtable Meetings (RM)
 Visioning Workshops (VW)
 Community Engagement Events (EE)

Themes	Key Issues
Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members expressed concerns about the affordability of housing in San Diego, making it difficult for individuals and families to buy or rent property. (EE, VW) There was a call for more subsidized and affordable housing, including single-story and accessible options, to address the housing affordability crisis. (EE) Issues related to rising housing costs, limitations on housing availability, and concerns about displacement were highlighted as major community priorities. (EE) Community members expressed concern about the displacement of community members due to rent increases impacting food affordability and emphasized the importance of developers considering community input for their projects. (RM)
Safety and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety was a top priority for the community, with concerns about drug use in public spaces, police activities and a lack of adequate street lighting. (EE) Community members emphasized the need for measures to mitigate crime, violence and illegal dumping, as well as addressing safety hazards such as speeding cars and unsafe living conditions. (EE, VW)

Themes	Key Issues
Safety and Security (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members expressed the need for affordable housing close to economic opportunities. (VW)
Community Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring safe and healthy homes was a priority, with a focus on improving living conditions, trash management and access to clean water to enhance community well-being. (EE) Issues of displacement, building maintenance and the economic challenges faced by the community were also highlighted. (EE)



City staff brings workshop to students at Morse High School to envision a safe, healthy, and inclusive San Diego to hear their ideas and ensure youth voices inform the Environmental Justice Element.

What We Heard



CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

EJ Communities are more impacted by environmental and social factors influenced by climate change and the resilience of the built environment than more affluent communities. Climate change is giving rise to extreme weather conditions that impact well-being, safety and overall health across the City, such as flooding, wildfires and extreme heat; however, some neighborhoods bear a heavier burden and possess fewer resources to be able to cope and respond to these challenges. To safeguard the city's most vulnerable populations, such as children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, it is essential to address climate vulnerabilities, especially within EJ Communities. Community members highlighted the need for increased resilience and health within their neighborhoods, ranging from clean energy transition suggestions to increased active transportation opportunities.

Roundtable Meetings (RM)
 Visioning Workshops (VW)
 Community Engagement Events (EE)

Themes	Key Issues
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members emphasized the need for a clean environment by implementing policies and practices that reduce pollution conserve natural resources, and mitigate environmental degradation. (VW) Community members were interested in opportunities to transition to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydroelectric power. (VW)
Transportation Options and Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for increased access to environmentally friendly transportation alternatives such as walking/rolling, biking, public transit and electric vehicles were highlighted. (VW)
Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding clean water sources was cited as a need within the community. (VW) Community members spoke about the need to preserve plant diversity to support pollinators and ecosystems, and conserve wildlife diversity through habitat protection and responsible land management practices. (VW)



PUBLIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIZATION

When community members were asked how to improve existing infrastructure and public spaces, many of the responses centered on increased support, access and funding for programming opportunities. Community members voiced a desire for enhanced parks that catered to the needs of families, particularly children, and provided safe opportunities for physical activity. Apprehensions about recreating in the evening led community members to provide a broad range of ideas for how to increase safety within public spaces.

Community members expressed a need for programs that address physical, mental and emotional well-being within their neighborhoods. This includes enhancement and support for social infrastructure such as health centers, places for accessing technology such as computer labs and tutoring services that could help community members access better jobs or other economic opportunities.

Stormwater infrastructure improvements were recommended as many community members had experienced some level of flooding within their neighborhoods. While specific suggestions for solutions to this were not made, it highlights the need for climate resilience and runoff capture both during times of extreme weather and normal storm events.

Roundtable Meetings (RM)
 Visioning Workshops (VW)
 Community Engagement Events (EE)

Themes	Key Issues
Stormwater Management and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members suggested improving stormwater management practices and infrastructure to avoid flooding in their neighborhoods. (VW)

What We Heard

Themes	Key Issues
Support for Recreation and Physical Activity Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members expressed a desire for more exercise programs and initiatives that encourage outdoor play and physical activity, particularly among children. (EE) There was recognition of the benefits of gardening and playing sports for physical health and community engagement. (EE) Community members were keen on enhancing connectivity (such as bike paths, pedestrian friendliness and ensuring universal design) to facilitate access to public amenities. (VW)
Programming for Personal Health and Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members valued workshops and programs that promote learning, personal growth and mental health well-being. (EE) Those engaged suggested that developers should address critical community issues when building new developments. They recommended features such as study rooms, computer labs and tutoring services to support health and well-being. (EE) Community members suggested ideas for programs that address various community needs, including educational support, youth programs, nature activities and more community events. (EE) Community members suggested continued and additional support for libraries, central hubs, accessible technology and observatories. (VW)
Access to Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better access to healthcare facilities (pharmacies, mental health, hospitals) was highlighted as a key need. (VW) The need to prioritize funding and addressing urgent projects in EJ Communities, advocating for equitable distribution. (RM) Public facilities in EJ Communities are often inaccessible due to distance, traffic congestion, safety concerns and inadequate maintenance of transportation infrastructure. (RM)

Lessons Learned

From August 2023 to February 2024, the City collaborated with KDI to organize seven roundtable sessions in partnership with five CBOs to spearhead engagement around EJ issues. These sessions aimed to provide ongoing updates, offer a platform for CBOs to voice community concerns directly to the City and foster knowledge-sharing among participants. This approach facilitated the identification of recurring themes, real-time resident feedback collection and the enhancement of activity reports submitted to the City by the CBOs.

At the end of the engagement process, the CBOs had time to reflect and share back to the City what lessons were learned during that period. They spotlighted accessibility challenges, such as distant or under maintained public facilities, alongside transportation hurdles. Proposed remedies included alternative transportation options and immediate tree-planting endeavors to enhance shade and air quality. Moreover, CBOs underscored community anxieties regarding displacement due to escalating rents and the significance of incorporating community perspectives in development endeavors. Relating to uncertainty due to climate change, there was a pressing call for a robust response to flooding incidents in EJ communities, marked by accounts of homelessness, health risks and severe weather events.

When discussing the engagement events facilitated by the CBOs with the help of the City and KDI, the CBOs appreciated the supportive presence of city representatives within the process. Farmer markets were a valuable location to engage community members, and food provision during engagement events was impactful. On the other hand, overcoming language barriers was identified as essential and key to future engagement endeavors led by the City.



Lessons Learned

Overall, CBOs shared that the roundtable meetings helped exchange ideas, share findings, and learn more about ongoing efforts by partner organizations. Interest in collaborating on events between CBOs when supporting future initiatives was expressed and roundtables were identified as an excellent place to foster these collaborations.

In the roundtable sessions, CBOs and city officials collaborated to align on goals and expectations, devised engagement strategies, and addressed prevalent Environmental Justice concerns within San Diego communities. Throughout the process, key takeaways included:

- A clearer understanding of the Environmental Justice Element
- The development of cohesive engagement messages
- The identification of priority Environmental Justice topics
- Recommendations for improving community participation like incentive strategies, including raffles, gift cards, food and translation services
- CBOs shared effective engagement event strategies, such as the obelisk activity, and offered suggestions on enhancing its effectiveness

The roundtables underscored the importance of community input in shaping policies and initiatives, highlighting the need for ongoing collaboration and support between the city and CBOs to address environmental justice issues effectively.



Discussing and prioritizing EJ topics with community members before taking a walking tour of the surrounding area in the Linda Vista Community led by the Bayside Community Center.

