

## Mid-City Communities Plan Update

### Working Group Orientation Meeting Summary

#### MEETING DETAILS

April 24, 2024 – 6:00-8:00 PM  
Mid-City Church of Nazarene, Fellowship Hall  
4101 University Ave, San Diego, CA 92105

#### BACKGROUND

As a part of an inclusive engagement process, the City has convened a Working Group for the Mid-City Communities Plan Update. The primary role of the Working Group is to inform the Mid-City Communities Plan Update process. Additional details can be found by reviewing the *Mid-City Communities Plan Update Working Group Protocol and Membership* (April 16, 2024).

#### PURPOSE AND GOALS

The purpose of the Working Group Orientation Meeting was to kick-off the first in-person meeting of the group and make connections with other Working Group members. During the orientation, City staff informed the Working Group on what to expect of their role and the timeline of their involvement. Another goal of the orientation was to receive input and questions from the Working Group on the purpose and format of the meetings. During the orientation, there was space for the Working Group members to provide preferences on meeting dates and times.

### WORKING GROUP ORIENTATION PARTICIPANTS

A total of 13 Working Group members attended the meeting, with three people unable to attend.

Participant Name	Community
Nam Nguyen	City Heights
Randy Torres-Van Vleck	City Heights
Steve Aldana	City Heights
Teresa Venezuela (Absent)	City Heights
Victor Ponce	City Heights
Angelica Rocha	Eastern Area
Eric Kelley	Eastern Area
Zach Young	Eastern Area
Kristen Spittle (Ibaibarriaga)	Kensington-Talmadge
Lisa Stone (Absent)	Kensington-Talmadge
Madeleine Baudoin (Absent)	Normal Heights
Thomas Aristide	Normal Heights
Marcellus Anderson	Designee - City Heights CPG
Lynn Edwards	Designee - Eastern Area CPG
David Moty	Designee - Kensington-Talmadge CPG
Emilie Colwell	Designee - Normal Heights CPG
Project Team	Representation
Alexander Frost	City of San Diego
Selena Sanchez Bailon	City of San Diego
Veronica Alatorre	Ascent
Manal Aleidan	Ascent
Catherine Hanna Schrock	Imagine
Peter Schrock	Imagine

### **MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTIVITIES**

The project team welcomed the Working Group members by directing them to an activity where they could share their preference of future meeting dates and time on a calendar format board. After filling out their meeting date preferences, the project team opened the conversation by asking the members to share something about themselves, and their motivation on why they joined the Working Group.

Next, the project team shared a presentation with a brief history of Mid-City, the past planning processes and documents that have been published for the project. The purpose of this overview was to show the precedent of city planning in Mid-City and better understand the importance of the Mid-City Communities Plan Update.

The project team also shared the overall purpose of the group and expectations for participation, followed by a discussion where Working Group members asked a question regarding their role, timeline, and involvement, and provided other suggestions. The questions, answers, suggestions, and other types of input from Working Group members during orientation are provided below.

### **KEY DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Working Group members provided a variety of feedback, comments, and suggestions, and asked a range of questions. A summary of the key discussion topics and questions are presented below.

1. Questions related to the presentation given, including further discussion on decreasing population, history and planning of State Route 15, among other topics.
2. Working group members asked questions about the role of the Working Group, what kind of feedback is expected, as well as whether meetings will be available to the public, the timing of the next steps, and public engagement.
3. Working Group members requested clear guidance on how to review the Mid-City Atlas: Existing Conditions Report in May (for example, questions from the City, prompts, or type of feedback needed to guide the review and further discussion).
4. The project team provided an overview of the public workshop planned for May 18th.
5. The Working Group provided feedback related to future Working Group meetings:
  - a. Provide information and materials before the next meeting so that Working Group members can prepare before the meeting.
  - b. Overall, the preference was for a hybrid format. Preferences for in-person meetings rather than online (good to have a call-in option though but not fully online); while virtual options can facilitate translations and inclusivity.
  - c. Consider changing the location of meetings to different places in Mid-City.

- d. Working Group members agreed to the 6-8 p.m. meeting time.
6. Other suggestions from the Working Group included:
  - a. Define acronyms in the future, or do not use them during meetings.
  - b. Try to avoid QR codes in public spaces.
  - c. Build on public input and engagement data collected in the past, including data collected by SANDAG and other City data from recent or concurrent planning initiatives.
7. At the end of the meeting, the Working Group was asked: *What do you want to be preserved in Mid-City?* The following answers were provided:
  - a. Transportation access
  - b. Architecture/historical preservation
  - c. Diversity of the neighborhood
  - d. Diversity of food and shops/stores, including ethnic markets
  - e. Culture
  - f. SDSU - It is great to have such a great university
  - g. Stay welcoming for refugees
  - h. Walkability - Preserve and improve walkable access to public amenities

#### **NEXT STEPS**

1. City staff will schedule a debrief for Working Group members who were not able to attend the Orientation.
2. City staff will send the Mid-City Atlas: Existing Conditions Report to Working Group Members to review (anticipated in mid-May 2024), including guidance on the type of feedback desired.
3. City will schedule the next Working Group meetings based on everyone's availability and confirm attendance with the Working Group.
  - o The first meeting is on Wednesday, June 26, from 6:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.
  - o The second meeting is on Wednesday, September 11, from 6:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.
4. City will develop a project FAQ.