

Event: Lao Family Community Development's 27th Annual Youth Conference

Location: 2325 E 12th Street, Oakland

Date/Time: 08/05/2022

Number of people reached: 43 people

- 40 in-person interviews, 3 online interviews



Source : Lao Family Community Development Center- Facebook Page

Event Description:

Lao Family Community Development center of the Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership conducted English outreach at the 27th Youth Conference at the Latham Square, Oakland. The event created a space and opportunity for the youth to interact, build relationships, network and understand the community we live in and the social responsibilities.

The team informed people what the General Plan is; conducted 43 interviews; shared a 2-pager on housing and environmental justice conditions that people in Oakland are experiencing; handed out flyers for resources for Emergency Rapid Assistance Program (ERAP), library, and maintenance; referred community members to direct service organizations or City Department to address current needs; and gathered questions regarding the General Plan and City services. The 2-pager on housing and environmental

justice conditions presented racial displacement, housing affordability, pollution burden, past and future housing production in Oakland, and a call to action.

Engagement Approaches:

- 1) Approach people to have a conversation rather than extracting information from them
- 2) A 2-pager on housing and environmental justice on the table in English

Demographics: The Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership is committed to reaching people who have not traditionally been part of planning processes. At this event we spoke with youth, older adults, unhoused folks, formerly incarcerated persons, tenants/renters, homeowners, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, and low-income persons. The following are demographic highlights based on the 43 interviews we conducted:

- **Race/Ethnicity:** Majority of the people we spoke to were Asian (63%). *See Table 1 for more information.*
- **Age:** Majority of the people we spoke to are between the ages of 12-17 (37%) and 18-24 (35%). *See Table 2 for more information.*
- **Gender:** 56% are male, 28% are female. *See Table 3 below for more information.*
- **Housing:** Majority of the people we spoke to are renters (49%). *See Table 4 for more information.*
- **Disability:** 14% of people shared having a disability. *See Table 5 below for more information.*
- **Annual Personal Income:** Most have an annual income of between \$0-\$10,000 (37%). *See Table 6 below for more information.*
- **Sexual Orientation:** 56% are heterosexual and 12% are LGBTQ+. *See Table 7 below for more information.*
- **Experience with Mass Incarceration:** 12% of people shared that they had some experience with mass incarceration. *See Table 8 below for more information.*

The 43 interviews included the following 8 questions and demographic information:

- **General:** 1) When did you/your family arrive in Oakland? Where were you living before?; 2) What neighborhoods have you lived in?; and 3) What's your favorite memory of Oakland?
- **Housing:** 1) Have your family members struggled with housing problems? If so, what have been your major problems?; and 2) What are your ideas for solutions? What would you like to see as solutions?
- **Environmental Justice:** 1) Do any of your Oakland family members have trouble breathing, been involved in a car collision, been affected by wildfires (proximity or

smoke), or flooding?; and 2) What are your ideas for solutions? What would you like to see as solutions?

- **Anything else you would like to share?**
- **Demographic Information:** Zip code, neighborhoods, age, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, housing, disability, annual income, and formerly incarcerated

Engagement Summary

The following is a summary of the main points that community members brought up during the event. Points under each topic are ordered by most to least mentioned.

FAMILY ARRIVED IN OAKLAND

- A majority of individuals we spoke to shared that their families arrived between 2000-2010 (51%). See *Table 9 below for more information*.
- Most people had previously been living outside of the United States (44%).

A FAVORITE MEMORY OF OAKLAND

“Hanging out with friends after school and the diversity in terms of people”

“Going to Chinatown with family and friends”

“Walks around the lake”

- **Culture:** Interviewees appreciate the diversity of Oakland, as well as ethnic enclaves and opportunities for immigrants to have a gathering space.
- **Oakland Locals:** Interviewees appreciate the people of Oakland, and the ability to spend time with family, friends, and neighbors.
- **Schools:** Interviewees named their schools that they attend currently or have in the past, especially their elementary schools. Schools include: Castlemont High School, Prescott Elementary, Lincoln Elementary.
- **Community Engagement:** Interviewees appreciate local community events and programs as part of their favorite memories of Oakland. Events include: First Fridays, food festivals, fireworks, and protests.
- **Parks:** Spending time at parks, especially in their youth. Parks include: Mosswood Park, Lake Merritt, Lincoln State Park, Oakland Zoo, and skateparks.

HOUSING

“A few years back, my grandmother lost her home due to rising rent prices”

"Yes, we had to move because we couldn't afford; the quality is degrading and not healthy living standards"

"Overcrowding, only one bathroom and two rooms"

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

- **Issues:**
 - **Renters** experience exponentially increasing rents and lack sufficient income to afford it.
 - **Displacement:** Due to unaffordable housing, people lost their homes and were forced to move elsewhere or become homeless.
 - **Overcrowding:** Due to unaffordable housing, people are forced to live in overcrowded conditions.
- **Solutions:**
 - Prioritize creating more affordable housing for low-income residents, and less luxury housing.
 - Reduce and prevent further increases of rent and mortgage prices.
 - Create more jobs and increase wages to provide a livable income.

HOUSING HABITABILITY

- **Issues:**
 - There is **inequity in the quality of housing** based on their affordability, and what income areas they are based in.
 - Homes are **not in healthy living condition**, and neighborhoods are unsafe.
- **Solutions:**
 - Improve the quality of all housing, but especially blighted low-income housing.

HOMELESSNESS

- **Issues:**
 - Streets are filled with people who deserve **access to permanent housing**.
- **Solutions:**
 - Explore solutions to homelessness.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

"Asthma is an issue because of pollution"

"More green, more community gardens"

RESPIRATORY ISSUES

- **Issues:**
 - **Health Outcomes:** Interviewees report having asthma and allergies due to poor air quality.
- **Solutions:**
 - More trees and cultivating green spaces/nature, including community gardens.
 - More affordable healthcare.
 - Better monitoring of air quality, and providing air filtration systems in homes.
 - Explore solutions to prevent wildfires.
 - Explore solutions to reduce traffic.

TRASH & POLLUTION

- **Issues:**
 - Streets are full of **trash and litter** due to poor city cleaning.
 - City **water** supply is polluted.
- **Solutions:**
 - Cleaner streets and sidewalks and more enforcement against littering, illegal dumping, and pollution, as well as more trash cans.
 - Ensure better water quality and less contamination of city water supply.

PUBLIC SAFETY

"No more gang shootings"

"Stop street violence and harassment"

"Hope we can establish a safe community together"

VIOLENCE

- **Issues:**
 - Streets are filled with violence, such as **gang shootings**, and people also feel unsafe on them due to **harassment**.
- **Solutions:**
 - Improve security and explore solutions to combat violence and harassment.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA ANALYSIS

Note: The tables listed below do not include a total count because respondents can select more than one response for subsections – Race/Ethnicity, Housing, Disability, Sexual Orientation, and Experience with Mass Incarceration.

Table 1. Engagement by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Black/African American	5	11.6%
Hispanic or Latino (non white or Black)	3	7%
White/European	0	0%
Native American/Indigenous or Alaska Native	0	0%
Asian	27	62.8%
Multi-racial	0	0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Caribbean Islander	0	0%
Middle Eastern	2	4.7%
Other	0	0%
Decline to state	7	16.9%

Table 2. Engagement by Age

Age	Number of People	Distribution (%)
12-17	16	37.2%
18-24	15	34.9%
25-34	0	0%

35-44	0	0%
45-54	0	0%
55-64	0	0%
65+	0	0%
Decline to state	12	27.9%
Total	43	

Table 3. Engagement by Gender

Gender	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Female	12	27.9%
Male	24	55.8%
Non-binary	1	2.3%
Transgender	0	0%
Intersex	0	0%
Decline to state	6	14%
Total	43	

Table 4. Engagement by Housing

Housing	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Rent	21	48.8%
Own	6	14%
Shared housing with family/roommates/partner	7	16.3%
Temporary with friends/family	5	11.6%
Mobile housing/unhoused	1	2.3%

Temporary (in shelter, hotel)	0	0%
Decline to state	3	7%
Total	43	

Table 5. Engagement by Disability

Disability	Number of People	Distribution (%)
A mobility impairment	0	0%
A mental health disorder	1	2.3%
A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)	3	7%
A learning disability (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia)	1	2.3%
Other	1	2.3%
Decline to state	10	23.3%
None	27	62.8%

Table 6. Engagement by Annual Personal Income

Annual Personal Income	Number of People	Distribution (%)
\$0-\$10,000	16	37.2%
\$10,001-\$20,000	1	2.3%
\$20,001-\$30,000	2	4.7%
\$30,001-\$40,000	2	4.7%
\$40,001-\$50,000	2	4.7%

\$50,001+	2	4.7%
Decline to state	18	41.9%
Total	43	

Table 7. Engagement by Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Heterosexual	24	55.8%
Queer	0	0%
Bisexual	4	9.3%
Lesbian	1	2.3%
Gay	0	0%
Decline to state	14	32.6%

Table 8. Engagement by Experience with Mass Incarceration

Mass Incarceration	Number of People	Distribution (%)
I am a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated	2	4.7%
I am formerly incarcerated	0	0%
I am a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated	3	7%
None	29	67.44%
Decline to state	10	23.26%

**total is above 100% due to interviewees selecting multiple options*

Table 9. Family Arrived in Oakland

Arrive in Oakland	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Before 1900	0	0%
1900-1950	0	0%
1950-1979	0	0%
1980-1999	2	4.7%
2000-2010	22	51.2%
2011-2020	15	34.9%
2021+	1	2.3%
Visiting	0	0%
Working	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Decline to state	3	7%
Total	43	