

## Cultural/Hub Event

**Event:** Cultural/Hub Event: OACC Asian Pacific New Year's Celebration

**Location:** Chinatown

**Date/Time:** 4/16/2022 at 11:00AM to 3:00PM

**Number of people reached: 25**

- 25 in-person interviews
- 3 Listserv sign-ups

**Event Description:** Oakland Asian Cultural Center conducted English and Chinese outreach in Chinatown at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center's (OACC) Asian Pacific New Year's Celebration. In recognition of the diversity of new year's festivities across the Asian Pacific region, OACC presents a hybrid celebration of Asian Pacific New Year traditions featuring in-person and virtual content for audiences of all ages during February and April 2022. The in-person celebration featured live performances of Balinese Dance and Music and Kathak (Indian classical dance), as well as AAPI Community Map Challenges. The celebration was free and family-friendly.

The outreach team informed people what the General Plan is; conducted 25 in-person interviews; shared a zine on Asians Americans in Oakland; 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 Asian Americans in Oakland: Getting Rooted in the Past, Present and Our Future zine highlighted a history of Asian Americans in Oakland from the 1800s to the present, and presented current housing and environmental health conditions like overcrowding, rising rents, gentrification, asthma and collisions that impact Asian Americans across the City. A link to a survey version of the interview was provided in the zine. 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 beautifully designed informational Zine and 2-pager on housing and environmental justice – both available in English and Chinese– were on the table; and 3) Individuals were given giveaway treats like chopsticks, hand sanitizer, chapstick, and chocolate.

**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

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with youth, older adults, LGBTQ+ persons, tenants/renters, homeowners, and low-income persons. The following are demographic highlights based on the 25 in-person interviews we conducted:

- **Race/Ethnicity:** Majority are Asian American (68%). *See Table 1 below for more information.*
- **Age:** Most of the people we spoke with are between the ages of 18-34 (44%). *See Table 2 below for more information.*
- **Gender:** Most of the people we spoke with are female (54%). *See Table 3 below for more information.*
- **Housing:** Most are renters (40%) and homeowners (32%). *See Table 4 below for more information.*
- **Disability:** People shared having a sensory impairment (12%) and a learning disability (4%). *See Table 5 below for more information.*
- **Annual Personal Income:** Most make more than \$50,000 (36%). *See Table 6 below for more information.*
- **Sexual Orientation:** Most are heterosexual (60%) and bisexual (12%). *See Table 7 below for more information.*
- **Experience with Mass Incarceration:** All respondents declined to state their experience with mass incarceration. *See Table 8 below for more information.*

The 25 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.

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### FAMILY ARRIVED IN OAKLAND

- Many individuals that we spoke to shared that their families arrived between 1980-1999 (28%) and 1950-1979 (12%). *See Table 9 below for more information.*
- People had previously been living in the Bay Area (38%) and Internationally (29%). Bay Area locations included: San Jose, San Francisco, and San Leandro.

### A FAVORITE MEMORY OF OAKLAND

*“Hanging out in Chinatown, took instrument classes and Chinese classes.”*

- **Culture:** Community events and street festivals included OACC’s Lunar New Year Fair, Black Joy Parade, Street Fest.
- **People and Community:** People, community and culture. Many mentioned appreciating community spaces such as Chinatown, including local shops and taking instrument and Chinese classes there. Jack London Square and teaching at Oakland Tech was brought up.
- **Small businesses and restaurants:** Many mentioned restaurants as a highlight, especially restaurants in Chinatown, as well as downtown coffee shops, Shooting Star Cafe, Farmhouse Thai Kitchen, Oakland Market & Chinese Restaurant, Swan’s Market.
- **Parks:** Many included memories in Oakland’s parks, such as fishing at Lake Merritt, getting married at the Rose Garden, and enjoying sunshine.
- **Mobility:** Riding bikes was brought up.

## HOUSING

*“More housing, ensuring affordable housing (prioritizing this).”*

*“I would like to see Oakland get real estate developers out of our community.”*

### **HOUSING AFFORDABILITY**

#### **Issues:**

- **Renters** shared that it’s hard to find truly affordable housing, rents keep increasing (overwhelming majority of responses from respondents), relying on family members for housing security.
- **Owners** struggle with high property taxes.
- Difficulty accessing information and assistance to apply for affordable/ Section 8 housing

#### **Solutions:**

- **Affordable Housing**

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- Implement **rent control** or lower the cap for rent control, especially now that COVID rent freezes are now over.
- Support from the City in **accessing and applying to Section 8**
- **Build more affordable housing**, including housing dedicated to populations such as low income, formerly incarcerated, immigrant, and LGBTQ+ folks and first responders.
- **Invest in affordable housing**, including multi-family housing options, that is tied to public transportation.
- **Higher density buildings** and Single Room Occupancy (SROs)
- **Cooperative housing model**; independent housing support, not just from government
- **Government-provided subsidies** such as rent payments and security deposits.
- **Market rate:**
  - Stop market-rate developments that are not meant for Chinatown residents.
  - No more luxury housing
  - Get real estate developers out of our community, such as through models like Moms 4 Housing

## HABITABILITY:

- **Issues:**
  - **Overcrowding** was identified by many respondents
  - Quality of housing such as lead in pipes of house
  - Landlord/ tenant relationships
- **Solutions:**
  - Sanitation
  - More green spaces

## CRIME:

- **Issues:**
  - Safety in neighborhoods

## HOMELESSNESS

- **Solutions:**
  - Provide unhoused people a specific place to heal and exist

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*"Littering/ dirty streets/ dumping, safety, smells."*

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### **WILDFIRES**

- **Issues:** Asthma and other respiratory issues get worse during this season

### **CARS AND COLLISIONS**

- **Issues:**
  - Family members have respiratory issues (like asthma) from proximity to freeway; Interviewees and their family members have been hit by cars.
  - Walkability (sidewalks) need improvement
- **Solutions:**
  - Address potholes
  - City should invest in public transportation that is affordable and frequent, less cars, bike infrastructure like bike parking, and other sustainable alternatives such as renewable energy and electric cars.
  - Prioritize pedestrian safety, such as by having consequences for drivers who turn left on red lights.

### **TRASH:**

- **Issues:**
  - Illegal dumping, littering, and broken things make the streets dirty and smelly
  - Sustainability concerns about single use plastics.
- **Solutions:**
  - More stringent laws around dumping, including on freeways
  - More trash cans, recycling bins and public restrooms (such as the new restrooms at Madison Park, which are super nice).
  - Solutions should be implemented on a small or large business level.

### **GREEN SPACES**

- **Solutions:**
  - Community gardening programs such as those led by Planting Justice organization.
  - Plant more street trees
  - Greater proximity to a water treatment plant

### **INDUSTRIAL:**

- **Issues:**
  - Idling ships in the Port of Oakland
  - Heavy industries impact on air quality and respiratory issues

### PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMUNITY GATHERING

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*"Mom (because she's getting older) is experiencing issues with transit options, safety concerns while walking around."*

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- **Issues:**
  - An interviewer was the victim of a mugging
  - Elder family member has safety concerns while walking around
- **Solutions:**
  - Increase public transportation accessibility

### **COMMUNITY GATHERING:**

- **Issues:** Wishing Chinatown became more popular and safer
- **Solutions:**
  - Community gatherings are necessary!
  - Continue supporting small businesses: "Oakland does a good job of supporting small independent businesses."

Table 1. Engagement by Race/Ethnicity

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Black	0	0%
White	4	16%
Asian American	17	68%
Latinx	2	8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Multiracial	2	8%
Caribbean Islander	0	0%
Native American/Indigenous or Alaska Native	0	0%
South Asian	0	0%
Middle Eastern	0	0%

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Table 2. Engagement by Age

Age	Count	Percent
12-17	0	0%
18-24	4	16%
25-34	7	28%
35-44	2	8%
45-54	1	4%
55-64	1	4%
65+	1	4%
Decline to state	9	36%
Total	25	

Table 3. Engagement by Gender

Gender	Count	Percent
Female	14	54%
Male	10	38%
Non-binary	0	0%
Transgender	1	4%
Transgender and non-binary	1	4%
Intersex	0	0%
Decline to state	0	0%
Total	26*	

\*Two people filled out one survey together

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Table 4. Engagement by Housing

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Rent	10	40%
Own	8	32%
Own + Shared housing	1	4%
Temporary with friends/family	0	0%
Shared housing with family/roommates/partner	6	24%
Mobile housing/unhoused	0	0%
Temporary (in shelter, hotel)	0	0%
Decline to state	0	0%
Total	25	

Table 5. Engagement by Disability

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
A mobility impairment	0	0%
A mental health disorder	0	0%
A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)	3	12%
A learning disability (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia)	1	4%
Decline to state	22	85%
Total	25	

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Note: Some individuals may have more than one disability.

Table 6. Engagement by Annual Personal Income

Annual Personal Income	Count	Percent
\$0-\$10,000	0	0%
\$10,001-\$20,000	0	0%
\$20,001-\$30,000	2	8%
\$30,001-\$40,000	1	4%
\$40,001-\$50,000	2	8%
\$50,001+	9	36%
Decline to state	11	44%
Total	25	

Table 7. Engagement by Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation	Count	Percent
Decline to state	5	20%
Heterosexual	15	60%
Queer	2	8%
Bisexual	3	12%
Lesbian	0	0%
Gay	0	0%
Total	25	

Table 8. Engagement by Experience with Mass Incarceration

Mass Incarceration	Count	Percent
Decline to state	25	100%
I am a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated	0	0%
I am formerly incarcerated	0	0%
I am a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated	0	0%

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Total	25	
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Table 9. Family Arrived in Oakland

<b>Arrive in Oakland</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Before 1900	0	0%
1900-1950	0	0%
1950-1979	3	12%
1980-1999	7	28%
2000-2010	3	12%
2011-2020	2	8%
2021+	2	8%
Visiting	3	12%
Working	4	16.0%
Decline to state	1	4%
Total	25	

## Appendix: Photos from the event

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