

Juneteenth (WOEIP)

**Event: Juneteenth (WOEIP)**

**Location:** West Oakland

**Date/Time:** June 19, 2022 1PM to 7PM

**Number of people reached: 28**

- 23 in-person interviews, 5 online interviews



Source: EastSide Arts Alliance

**Event Description:**

EastSide Arts Alliance and Just Cities of the Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership conducted English outreach at The West Oakland Environmental Indicator Project (WOEIP) Juneteenth Celebration featuring music, food, networking, and community resources.

The team informed people what is the General Plan; conducted 28 in-person and online 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

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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) Visible QR code to digital survey and Listserv for greater accessibility and willingness to participate 3) Designated quiet and shaded table for folks to sit and take their time with in-person interviews 4) A 2-pager on housing and environmental justice on the table in English 5) Colorful art, candy, and KN95 mask giveaways 6) Kids' corner with arts and crafts

### **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, low-income persons, and persons experiencing environmental injustice. The following are demographic highlights based on the 28 interviews we conducted:

- **Race/Ethnicity:** Majority of the people we spoke to are Black/African American (61%). *See Table 1 for more information.*
- **Age:** Majority of the people we spoke to are between the ages of 25-34 (25%) and over 65 (18%). *See Table 2 for more information.*
- **Gender:** 54% are female and 43% are male. *See Table 3 below for more information.*
- **Housing:** Majority of the people we spoke with are renters (46%) and homeowners (39%). *See Table 4 for more information.*
- **Disability:** 24% of people shared having a disability; having a sensory impairment (10%), mental health disorder (3.5%), mobility impairment (3.5%), and other disability (7%). *See Table 5 below for more information.*
- **Annual Personal Income:** Most have an annual personal income of over \$50,000 (46%). *See Table 6 below for more information.*
- **Sexual Orientation:** 82% are heterosexual and 7% are LGBTQ+. *See Table 7 below for more information.*
- **Experience with Mass Incarceration:** 42% of people shared that they had some experience with mass incarceration; being a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated (21%), a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated (11%), and being formerly incarcerated themselves (11%). *See Table 8 below for more information.*

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The 28 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 Health:** 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

- Many of the individuals that we spoke with shared that their families arrived between 1900-1950 (17%), 1950-1979 (17%), 1980-1999 (28%), and 2011-2020 (17%). *See Table 9 below for more information.*
- People had previously been living in the Bay Area (54%), Midwest (13%), South (13%), East Coast (8%), internationally (8%), and other West Coast places (4%). Bay Area locations included: San Francisco, Berkeley, Emeryville, Redwood City, and Hayward.

#### A FAVORITE MEMORY OF OAKLAND

*"You can walk anywhere and see people you [know]."*

*"BLM protests - I moved to Oakland because of [consistent] activism."*

- **Culture and Cultural Arts:** Many people find meaning in the culture of community organizing and activism, mentioning historical movements like the Black Panthers and current movements like Black Lives Matter and Reclaim MLK Day at Frank Ogawa Plaza. In addition, people describe the joy in artwork, murals, food, music, and sports (A's game, Warriors). People also mentioned community gatherings at

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Lake Merritt and MLK Days at Frank Ogawa Plazas as part of their favorite memory of Oakland

- **Oakland Locals and Community:** Gatherings, both organized and casual, are enjoyable; the ability to walk around and meet friends and family. Oakland Pride is identified in the coliseum and different sports, watching the Warriors, Raiders, A's, and international soccer players. Most mention the importance of diversity and cultural celebration. Some emphasize how the City should continue and/or improve its non-discrimination and anti-segregation efforts. One person mentioned the pride when Ms. Margaret Gordon of the WOEIP was elected as a Port Commissioner.
- **Nature and Parks:** People mention spending time at the park, Lake Merritt, Lake Temescal, Oakland Zoo, and pools; also taking time to enjoy various green spaces, flowers, trees, and local fruit. Many enjoy the daily weather and climate.
- **Local Businesses:** Swan's Market, movies at Eastmont Mall and taco trucks
- **Public transportation:** BART
- **School and Education:** McClymonds High School

## HOUSING

*"[I] just moved here as a renter [and] felt insecurity of displacement"*

### HOUSING HABITABILITY

- **Issue:**
  - Overcrowding and needing roommates to afford a place
  - No enforcement of higher living standards and little follow through on tenant maintenance requests

### HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

- **Issues:**
  - **Renters** face high rent, fear of displacement, and a feeling of constant vulnerability. Renters also face rising rents.
  - **Homeowners** face constant fear of properties getting bought out and losing housing. Prospective homeowners lack programs to help purchase.
  - **Overall**, people are displaced to housing projects like Acorn housing projects, shared housing with family, and other cities as far as Sacramento.

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- **Solutions:**

- **Prioritize affordability** through rent control and expanding quality affordable housing and Below Market Rate housing
- **Fund homeownership programs**, such as Tenant/Community Opportunity to Purchase, especially for working class individuals and families
- **Support co-operatives**, particularly student co-ops with communal kitchen and living rooms, local and community ownership of land and buildings, and overall non-corporate ownership
- **Restrict real estate companies** from buying up land without development and consider regulating how many properties one owner can own
- **Build more housing:** Mid-rise apartments with ground floor mixed use, public or social housing, duplexes, and alternatives to SROs
- **Dedicate housing** for General Assistance or General Relief (GA/GR) and Social Security (SS), multigenerational Oaklanders, and people with disabilities such as little people
- **Implement innovative building methods** such as modular construction (standardized housing with pre-made parts made from an off-site factory) and flexible housing (units that can easily be modified)
- Classify housing as a **human right**

## HOMELESSNESS

- **Issues:**

- Displacement leading to homelessness
- Homeless encampments are not improving, even with efforts to help the community

- **Solutions:**

- Prioritize building housing for homeless individuals
- Implement tiny houses where possible
- Build long-term, stable, and humanizing housing, beyond tiny homes
- Do not displace and police tent communities
- Allow RV parking and provide land for RVs

## EQUITY

- **Issues:**

- Need social connections in order to navigate housing
- Discriminatory housing application process
- Need spaces for artists and those doing community work

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- **Solutions:**

- Educate youth on political education and how to introduce housing bills
- Preserve sanctuary cities
- Accommodate growing populations while prioritizing existing Oaklanders
- Support land trusts and community ownership models
- Expand access to Section 8 housing choice vouchers and improve outreach
- Regulate profit-seeking large housing development companies
- Building housing for senior artists
- Transform West Oakland library branch to a multigenerational place where seniors can work and listen to

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

*“Family members got cancer. What created it? = red lining. Health awareness resources are not in red-lined districts.”*

## **WILDFIRES**

- **Issues:**

- Wildfire season exacerbating or creating respiratory issues
- Lingering wildfire smoke impacts after season

## **CARS, COLLISIONS & TRANSPORTATION**

- **Issues:**

- Inaccessible alternative transit system and does not reach all communities
- Limited parking access without other transit alternatives
- Downtown unsuitable for driving with flaws in public transportation

- **Solutions:**

- Build denser parking, consider multi-level parking
- Improving public transit and BART that is economically accessible and locationally equitable
- Support safe cycling/walking with protected bike lanes in low-income areas
- Integrate mixed use spaces combining supportive housing and alternative transit option
- Fund equitable programs for electric vehicles
- Support EV charging stations at laundromats and parks

## **TRASH & WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- **Issue:**
  - Trash in the street from littering and illegal dumping, concentrated in BIPOC and low-income communities
- **Solutions:**
  - Prioritize trash cleanup services, especially in low-income areas, with more frequent street cleaning
  - Consider compost toilets
  - Consider low cost or free trash and recycling services

## **NATURE & PARKS**

- **Solutions:**
  - Increase parks, including skate parks and community spaces for youth
  - Plant more trees and prioritize tree equity in neighborhoods without trees
  - Ensure frequent park maintenance
  - Increase mitigation planning and trees to treat heat exposure
  - Build and maintain a comprehensive water collection system and consider new technology

## **INDUSTRIAL**

- **Issues:**
  - Highway 580 causes air pollution, dust, and noise
  - Cancer in families living next to industrial areas, factories, and the Port
  - Generational impact of living next to military zones with airplane and jet fuel pollution
  - Redlining and racial segregation causing generational health issues and cancer
- **Solutions:**
  - Expand and enforce regulations on industrial facilities
  - Prioritize diesel and fossil fuel reduction
  - Stop airport expansion
  - Implement public air monitoring, especially near Port and high-traffic areas

## **DISASTER RESILIENCE**

- **Solutions:**
  - Build resilient infrastructure and disaster adaptation, prioritizing equity
  - Prioritize drought mitigation and adaptation

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## **FOOD**

- **Solution:**
  - Incentivize and fund corner grocery stores to carry healthy food

## **ENERGY**

- **Solutions:**
  - Develop a City General Electrification Plan
  - Look into Internal Combustion Engine technology
  - Expand incentives for solar panels available to renters
  - Implement neighborhood micro grids

## **PUBLIC SAFETY, ENGAGEMENT, TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMIC, AND EQUITY**

*“Children aren’t safe and residents live in fear.”*

## **ECONOMIC**

- **Issue:**
  - Income inequality by race
- **Solutions:**
  - Support ‘Black economics,’ Black business ownership, and economic empowerment
  - Prioritize creating jobs, career pathways, and job training in low-income and working class communities
  - Increase taxes on high-income individuals and high-income businesses
  - Implement protections for small businesses
  - Support green jobs with local hiring
  - Revitalize commercial spaces in Downtown and West Oakland

## **HEALTHCARE AND WELLNESS**

- **Solutions:**
  - Expand access to mental health services and affordable healthcare

## **VIOLENCE**

- **Issues:**
  - Drug abuse, especially publicly visible in low-income areas
  - No neighborhood safety and residents living in fear

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- High crime including car break-ins and armed robbery
- **Solutions:**
  - Acknowledge violence in neighborhoods as a health and wellness concern as well as its impact on youth
  - Address police corruption and brutality (police terror), scale back police presence
  - Prioritize gun violence prevention
  - Monitor and understand neighborhoods with high-crime

## ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Issue:**
  - Corruption in City officials, focused on profit
- **Solution:**
  - Enforce parking violations, building codes, illegal dumping, and establish accountability

## STREETS AND PUBLIC SPACES

- **Solutions:**
  - Hire artists to install art projects around the city
  - Increase and expand public common spaces
  - Stop narrowing streets (International Blvd, Telegraph, etc.) without proper adaptation and community consultation

## EQUITY

- **Issues:**
  - Infrastructure, like rail tracks, funds are not equitably distributed and must go to places beyond Downtown
  - Quality of material in Oakland stores is poorer than other cities
  - Limited access to COVID test services and rapid test kits in stores
  - Gas prices are inequitable within Oakland and compared to other cities
- **Solutions:**
  - Support community organizations and grassroots efforts like West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project
  - Focus on retaining Oakland culture in the wave of gentrification
  - Support and implement programs to help the Yemeni population
  - Build resilience centers with free resources – masks, food, large gardens and gardening opportunities

## YOUTH & SCHOOLS

- **Solutions:**
  - Support recreational programs for children
  - Stop school closures

### 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, Experience with Mass Incarceration, and Family Arrival In Oakland.

Table 1. Engagement by Race/Ethnicity

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
Black/African American	17	60.7%
Hispanic or Latino (non white or Black)	1	3.6%
White/European	7	25.0%
Native American/Indigenous or Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Asian	1	3.6%
Multi-racial	0	0.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Caribbean Islander	0	0.0%
Middle Eastern	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Decline to state	2	7.1%

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Table 2. Engagement by Age

Age groups	Number of People	Distribution (%)
12-17 year	2	7.1%
18-24 year	0	0.0%
25-34 year	7	25.0%
35-44 year	4	14.3%
45-54 year	3	10.7%
55-64 year	3	10.7%
65+ year	5	17.9%
Decline to state	4	14.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	

Table 3. Engagement by Gender

Gender	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Female	15	53.6%
Male	12	42.9%
Non-binary	0	0.0%
Transgender	0	0.0%
Intersex	0	0.0%
Decline to state	1	3.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	

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Table 4. Engagement by Housing

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
Rent	13	46.4%
Own	11	39.3%
Shared housing with family/roommates/partner	0	0.0%
Temporary with friends/family	0	0.0%
Mobile housing/unhoused	1	3.6%
Temporary (in shelter, hotel)	1	3.6%
Decline to state	2	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	

Table 5. Engagement by Disability

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
A mobility impairment	1	3.5%
A mental health disorder	1	3.5%
A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)	3	10.3%
A learning disability (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia)	0	0.0%
Other	2	6.9%
None	16	55.2%
Decline to state	6	20.7%

Table 6. Engagement by Annual Personal Income

<b>Annual Personal Income</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
\$0-\$10,000	3	10.7%
\$10,001-\$20,000	0	0.0%
\$20,001-\$30,000	2	7.1%
\$30,001-\$40,000	2	7.1%
\$40,001-\$50,000	0	0.0%
\$50,001+	13	46.4%
Decline to state	8	28.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	

Table 7. Engagement by Sexual Orientation

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
Heterosexual	23	82.1%
Queer	2	7.1%
Bisexual	0	0.0%
Lesbian	0	0.0%
Gay	0	0.0%
Decline to state	3	10.7%

Table 8. Engagement by Experience with Mass Incarceration

<b>Mass Incarceration</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
I am a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated	6	21.4%
I am formerly incarcerated	3	10.7%
I am a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated	3	10.7%
None	15	53.6%
Decline to state	1	3.6%

Table 9. Family Arrived in Oakland

<b>Arrive in Oakland</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
Before 1900	0	0.0%
1900-1950	5	17.2%
1950-1979	5	17.2%
1980-1999	8	27.6%
2000-2010	2	6.9%
2011-2020	5	17.2%
2021+	0	0.0%
Visiting	1	3.4%
Working	1	3.4%
Decline to state	2	6.9%