

Compassion In Action Festival

Event: Compassion In Action Festival

Location: Mosswood Park - 3612 Webster St, Oakland

Date/Time: Monday, June 12 @ 11:00am – 5:00pm

Number of people reached: 36 people through flyers and signups

- 36 people engaged in the interactive Tree Activity

Event Description:

The Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership conducted English outreach at the Compassion in Action Festival. The Village organized the Compassion In Action Festival. It included a Blues concert for Oakland's unhoused people.

The team shared an informational flyer on the Oakland General Plan; a 2-pager on housing and environmental justice conditions impacting Oakland residents; and resources for Emergency Rapid Assistance Program (ERAP), library, and maintenance. 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.

The team displayed a tree that community members could engage with by responding to prompts related to topics in the Environmental Justice and Safety element. Community members filled the tree up with their answers. Deeply Rooted Collaborative outreach team members referred community members to direct service organizations or City Department to address their current needs and gathered questions regarding the General Plan and City services.

Engagement Approaches:

1) Approach people to have a conversation rather than extracting information from them 2) Inform people about the Environmental Justice and Safety Element, 3) Engage people to share their experiences and solutions through an interactive tree activity, 4) Share and connect residents to City of Oakland resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THEMES

ENSURE SAFE AND SECURE HOUSING

- **Issues**
 - Residents are experiencing homelessness and need help accessing housing resources.
- **Solutions**

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- Provide showers, clean drinking water, and regular trash pick-up services at encampments to support livability.
- Provide housing for unhoused residents.

MINIMIZE LAND, AIR WATER, POLLUTION

● **Issues**

- Freeways are worsening Oakland's air quality.
- Poor air quality is negatively impacting residents' health and increasing asthma rates.
- Pollution builds up under bridges.
- Neighborhoods without enough dumpsters and trash pickups experience trash buildups.
- Rats are contaminating neighborhoods' water supply.
- The City has been cutting down too many trees and poaching birds.
- Kaiser has been trying to deem neighborhood sites as toxic in order to purchase them.
- Soil contamination is negatively impacting residents' health, and exposing them to infections.
- Poor rain infrastructure leads to sewage rising to streets.
- Public bathrooms at parks are often locked, preventing residents from gaining access.
- Residents have no clean drinking water access, and are forced to buy bottled water.
- Lack of health insurance prevents residents from accessing respiratory assistance tools.

● **Solutions**

- Add more dumpsters around neighborhoods.
- Plant more trees.

PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

● **Issues**

- Residents do not have access to affordable healthy foods.
- Unhoused residents need shelter and a storage space to store food.
- Residents do not have access to culturally relevant foods.
- Grocery stores are not walking distance from residents' homes.
- Residents resort to dumpster diving and donations to get food.

● **Solutions**

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- Provide more funding for affordable foods.

DEVELOP AREAS FOR EXERCISE SUCH AS PARKS

- **Issues**

- Community swimming pools are not accessible.
- Residents do not have access to spaces for physical activities.

- **Solutions**

- There needs to be more spaces accessible for elderly residents.
- There needs to be more spaces accessible for people with disabilities.

INCREASE ACCESS TO CULTURAL CENTERS, LIBRARIES, CHILD CARE CENTERS, FACILITIES, AND OTHER BASIC AMENITIES

- **Issues**

- Residents do not have access to cultural centers.

- **Solutions**

- Create more opportunities for residents to learn about their histories.
- More spaces and services for elderly residents.
- Ensure that healthcare facilities are accessible to everyone.
- Ensure that everyone's basic needs are being met.
- Organize more cultural community events.
- The City should do wellness checks on unhoused people.

SAFETY THEMES

BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EMERGENCY, EVACUATION, AND ALERTS.

- **Issues**

- Residents don't feel adequately trained and prepared to deal with emergencies.
- Residents don't have the resources or supplies at home to survive emergencies.
- Residents don't have support to recuperate after they have been affected by a disaster.
- Unhoused residents have been refused emergency support during fires and floods.

PROTECT PEOPLE FROM POLLUTED AREAS SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL ZONES, FREEWAYS, LANDFILLS, AND TOXIC CLEANUP SITES

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- **Issues**

- Residents face negative health impacts due to proximity to industrial and hazardous areas.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Issues**

- Residents are concerned about home invasions.
- Residents are concerned about car collisions.
- Residents are concerned about gun violence.

- **Solutions**

- Increase police presence and patrols in all neighborhoods.
- Foster belongingness and a sense of community among residents.
- Provide unhoused residents with a place to shower everyday.
- Use vacant properties to house unhoused residents.
- Provide job counseling programs and rehab & recovery programs to unhoused people.
- Take steps to mitigate gentrification.
- Increase violence prevention education.
- Increase re-entry services for formerly incarcerated residents.
- Provide unhoused women and gender oppressed people with tasers, pepper sprays, and self-defense classes.