

World Refugee and Immigrant Day 2023

Event: World Refugee and Immigrant Day 2023

Location: 655 International Blvd. Clinton Park

Date/Time: Saturday, June 17 @ 12:00 – 4:00pm

Number of people reached: 143 people through flyers and signups

- 45 people engaged in the interactive Tree Activity



Images: Deeply Rooted Table at World Refugee and Immigrant Day, Event Flyer

Event Description:

The Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership conducted English, Spanish, and Chinese outreach at the World Refugee and Immigrant Day 2023 event. World Refugee & Immigrant Day celebrated refugee & immigrant communities in the East Bay, in accordance with the UNHCR's World Refugee Day. This day highlighted the challenges faced by refugees worldwide due to war, persecution, ethnic cleansing and natural disasters. There was art, live music, children's activities, and free food. The event welcomed residents of all ages.

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

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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.

Demographics: The Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership is committed to reaching people who have not traditionally been part of planning processes. The following are demographic highlights based on the sign-ups and in-person interactions:

- **Race/Ethnicity:** Majority of the people we spoke to are Asian (55%). We also spoke to people who are Multiracial (11%), Middle Eastern (10%), Black/African American (8%), White/European (8%), and Hispanic/Latinx (6%).
- **Age:** Spoke to older adults.
- Additionally, the team spoke to low-income people, unhoused people, tenants/renters, and homeowners.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THEMES

ENSURE SAFE AND SECURE HOUSING

- **Issues**
 - Residents are afraid to go outside with their family.
 - Neighborhoods experience poor air quality.
- **Solutions**
 - Increase affordable housing options.

MINIMIZE LAND, AIR WATER, POLLUTION

- **Issues**
 - Residents are experiencing negative health effects from poor air quality, such as asthma.
- **Solutions**
 - Support low-income residents with paying their electricity bills.

DEVELOP AREAS FOR EXERCISE SUCH AS PARKS

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- **Issues**

- Neighborhoods need more green spaces and to be bike-friendly.

- **Solutions**

- Increase green spaces and nature sites in neighborhoods.
- Create more bike-friendly and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.
- Increase playgrounds and parks for youth to enjoy.
- Create dog parks and recreation for pets.

PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

- **Issues**

- Neighborhoods are experiencing food shortages.
- Residents don't have a space for gardening or selling their own produce.

- **Solutions**

- Create more community gardens and access to farms.

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

- **Solutions**

- Increase more family care resources.
- Increase mental health services and housing accessibility.

ENGAGE PEOPLE IN CITY PLANNING EFFORTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED IN THE PAST, THOSE WHO ARE UNHOUSED, LGBTQ+, YOUTH, AND ELDERS

- **Issues**

- Elders need more communication opportunities with each other.

- **Solutions**

- Create community watch patrols in neighborhoods.
- Create spaces for people with disabilities.

SAFETY THEMES

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

- **Issues**

- Fumes from cars are negatively impacting the air quality.
- There is a lot of trash buildup in neighborhoods.

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- **Solutions**

- Increase public transit options.
- Encourage trash cleanup solutions.

BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EMERGENCY, EVACUATION, AND ALERTS.

- **Issues**

- Several residents feel unsafe from violence.

- **Solutions**

- Increase more policing or security presence, particularly in transportation areas.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Issues**

- Being a pedestrian is dangerous in some areas, particularly crossing the streets by Lake Merritt.
- Residents are wary of walking outside of their home at night, due to witnessing or experiencing robberies, drug sales, gun violence, and trafficking in their neighborhoods.
- Police have low response times.

- **Solutions**

- Increase police presence.
- Creates spaces for conversation on public safety.