

06/27/2023 Living Room Block Party

Event: Living Room Block Party

Location: East 12th Street & 17th Avenue

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 27 @ 2:00 – 7:00pm

Number of people reached: 12 through flyers and signups

- 12 people engaged in the interactive Tree Activity

Event Description:

The Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership conducted English outreach at the Living Room Block Party. The Living Room Block Party is organized by The Village. The Living Room block party is a resource hub for residents & floaters of the East 12th curbside community and residents of other communities recently bulldozed by the city.

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

MINIMIZE LAND, AIR WATER, POLLUTION

- **Issues**
 - Residents are experiencing negative health impacts, such as asthma, due to air pollution.

- Oakland's airport is contributing to the worsening air quality.
- Chemtrails and toxins are making soil unusable and harmful.
- **Solutions**
 - Clean the streets and ensure regular maintenance.
 - Ensure drinking water sources are purified and not contaminated.

DEVELOP AREAS FOR EXERCISE AND TO STAY ACTIVE

- **Issues**
 - Residents don't have places where they can be physically active.
 - Residents want areas designated for skateboarding.
 - Gyms are unaffordable.
- **Solutions**
 - Invest in creating more spaces for physical activity.
 - Create safer road infrastructure.

PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

- **Issues**
 - Residents struggle accessing affordable healthy foods.
- **Solutions**
 - Encourage and support residents growing produce in personal gardens.

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

- **Issues**
 - Residents don't have access to cultural centers and facilities.
 - These centers are underfunded and its staff is stretched for capacity.

SAFETY THEMES

BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EMERGENCY, EVACUATION, AND ALERTS.

- **Issues**
 - Residents don't feel adequately prepared to deal with an emergency.
- **Solutions**
 - Prepare residents with safety plans and emergency kits.

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

- **Issues**

- Residents who live in close proximity to factories face health issues.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Issues**

- Residents are afraid of crime and violence in their neighborhoods.

- **Solutions**

- Provide residents with more information about locations that are safe to visit at night.
- Guarantee housing for all people undergoing mental health issues.
- Instate community-led policies and reform regarding the police department.
- Create more opportunities for youth and people re-entering society after incarceration.
- Provide more visible police presence at community spaces.
- More intergenerational conversations between youth and elders.