

06/27/2023 Living Room Block Party

Event: Living Room Block Party

Location: Oakland, CA 94606

Date/Time: Thursday, June 29, 2023 @ 2:00pm to 7:00pm

Number of people reached: 5 people through flyers and signups

- 5 people engaged through the interactive Tree Activity

Event Description:

The Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership conducted English outreach at the Living Room Block Party. 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**
 - Due to pollution, residents are experiencing negative health impacts, like asthma and cancer.

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- Illegal dumping and littering is distressing for residents.
- Many vehicles leak hazardous fluids into neighborhoods.
- Residents are forced to purchase water because their tap is unsafe to drink from.
- **Solutions**
 - Adding more public bathrooms for people to use would reduce pollution.

DEVELOP AREAS FOR EXERCISE SUCH AS PARKS

- **Issues**
 - Residents don't have places where they can be physically active.
- **Solutions**
 - Provide more parks in all neighborhoods.

PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

- **Issues**
 - Grocery stores are not located at convenient or walkable distances from residents.
 - Residents are unable to find culturally relevant foods.
 - Several food banks have been shut down.

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

- **Issues**
 - Residents don't have access to cultural centers and facilities at walking distances from their homes.
 - It's dangerous to walk to-and-from these centers and home at night.
- **Solutions**
 - Create centers where residents can access therapy services.
 - Provide regular showers and laundry for unhoused residents.

SAFETY THEMES

BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EMERGENCY, EVACUATION, AND ALERTS.

- **Issues**
 - Residents don't feel adequately informed or equipped to deal with an emergency.

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

- **Issues**

- The industrial work done at the Port of Oakland threatens the health of nearby residents.
- The freeway, especially when there is lots of traffic, threatens the health of nearby residents.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Issues**

- Shootings in neighborhoods are distressing to residents.
- Residents are afraid of collisions when crossing the street.

- **Solutions**

- Increase opportunities for the city to directly listen to residents' concerns over public safety.
- There needs to be faster emergency response, with all neighborhoods' concerns being taken seriously.