

Cultural Hub Event #1

Event: Cultural Hub Event #1: OACC Lunar New Year

Location: Chinatown

Date/Time: 2/6/2022 at 11AM to 3PM

Number of people reached: 119

- 98 English and 21 Chinese Zines.
- 93 in-person interviews and 1 virtual interview

Event Description: Just Cities and East Side Arts Alliance staff and UC Berkeley Urban Studies students conducted English and Chinese outreach in Chinatown at Oakland Asian Cultural Center's (OACC) Asian Pacific New Year Celebration. In recognition of the diversity of new year's festivities across the Asian Pacific region, OACC presents a hybrid celebration of Asian Pacific New Year traditions featuring in-person and virtual content for audiences of all ages during February and April 2022.



The team informed people what the General Plan is; signed people up to the Oakland General Plan Listserv (10 sign ups); conducted 93 in-person interviews and 1 online zine survey, shared a zine on Asians Americans in Oakland; handed out goodie bags with various resources for Emergency Rapid Assistance Program (ERAP),

library, maintenance, and Fair Chance Housing; 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 Asian Americans in Oakland: Getting Rooted in the Past, Present and Our Future zine highlighted a history of Asian Americans in Oakland from the 1800s to the present, and presented current housing and environmental health conditions like overcrowding, rising rents, gentrification, asthma and collisions that impact Asian Americans across the City. A link to a survey version of the interview was provided in the zine.

Engagement Approaches: 1) Approached people to have a conversation rather than extracting information from them; 2) We had 2 poster boards on easels of the zine, a Housing page in Chinese and an Environmental Health page in English to share context on

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current conditions and start a conversation; 3) a beautifully designed informational Zine was on the table and we ran out of all the English copies. 4) Individuals who completed an interview spun our wheel to win prizes like chopsticks, hand sanitizer, chap stick, and chocolate.



A. "Karriem" Khan, @ak2webd3, and Jessica Lee, @jessicazylee, discuss their vision for Oakland's future @oaklandasiancc.

Demographics: The Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership is committed to reaching people who have not traditionally been part of planning processes. This includes people of color, working class communities, youth, older adults, unhoused people, and people impacted by incarceration. The following are demographic highlights based on the 119 people we spoke with:

- **Race/Ethnicity:** 53% were Asian Americans, 13% White, 8% Multiracial, 6% Black, 3% Latinx, 2% Middle Eastern, 1% Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander, and 13% declined to comment. *See Table 1 below for more information.*
- **Age:** Most of the people we spoke with were between the ages of 25-34 (26%) and 35-44 (18.5%). And 29% declined to comment. *See Table 2 below for more information.*
- **Gender:** 41% female, 30% male, 3.4% non-binary, and 25% declined to state. *See Table 3 below for more information.*
- **Housing:** 30% rent, 29% own, and 27% declined to state. *See Table 4 below for more information.*
- **Disability:** 4% have a mental disorder, and 3% a learning disability, 2% have a mobility impairment, and 87% declined to state. *See Table 5 below for more information.*
- **Annual Personal Income:** A majority (37%) have an annual income of more than \$50,001, 11% make \$0-\$10,000, and 33% declined to state. *See Table 6 below for more information.*
- **Sexual Orientation:** A majority (52%) are heterosexual, 8% queer, and 34% declined to state. *See Table 7 below for more information.*
- **Experience with Mass Incarceration:** 7% have a family member who is formerly incarcerated and 92% declined to state. *See Table 8 below for more information.*

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The 94 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 Justice:** 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, formerly incarcerated

Engagement Summary

The following is a preliminary 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

- A majority of individuals that we spoke to shared that their families arrived recently 2011-2020 (28%) and 1980-1999 (13%). And 12% of individuals are Oakland visitors. *See Table 8 below for more information.*
- People had previously been living in the Bay Area (36%), West Coast (17%), International (16%), and East Coast (14%). Internationally a lot of people we spoke with came from China and the Philippines.

A FAVORITE MEMORY OF OAKLAND

"Oakland is the home of every major movement, which is the cutting-edge front. Oakland is the heart of the Bay Area and the future of the world."

- **Culture:** People, food and community. Many mentioned the diversity, rich culture, food spots (e.g., First Fridays, Jack London Square, Chinatown dim sum, and Soul food), and the sense of community they feel in Oakland.
- **Parks and Nature:** Visiting Lake Merritt, Fairyland, Zoo, Reinhardt Forest, Tilden, Lake Bonsai, and MLK Shoreline.

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- **Community Events:** Lunar New Year, Juneteenth, Stop Asian Hate Rally, Oakland Food Festival, First Fridays, Malcolm X Jazz Festival, Lantern Ceremony, Kite Fest, Ball Performances at Lake Merritt, and Autumn Lights Festival
- **Small and Legacy Businesses:** People who aren't from Oakland frequently come to shop at small local business in Chinatown (Shan Dong and Fortune Cookie Factory) and other parts of the city (First Fridays, flea markets, local bars)
- **Oakland Pride:** When the Oakland A's won the world series.

HOUSING

"How do you balance being invested in my Oakland community when they may not be invested in me."

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Issues:

- **Renters** shared that the rent keeps increasing (legally and illegally), they are living paycheck to paycheck, fear eviction, and can't afford to own a home.
- **Seniors** can't find affordable housing.
- **Owners** shared that there are high property taxes and water bills.
- **Overall** neighbors are leaving Oakland including growing families who can't afford to stay.

Solutions:

- **Build housing** like public housing to preserve affordable housing, multi-unit housing, tiny homes, higher density housing, at all income levels (including low-income), and on vacant buildings/properties.
- **Preserve** existing affordable housing with rent control, community land trusts, and tenants having the first opportunity to purchase property from the landlord (e.g., Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act -TOPA).
- **Create more Affordable Housing** in Chinatown and Downtown.
- **Shift** some police funds and invest in housing development, and use local median income instead of regional for low-income housing eligibility.

HOMELESSNESS

- **Issue:** Unhoused people don't have shelter and live in public spaces.
- **Solutions:** Improved homeless services, permanent affordable housing, and job training.

HOUSING HABITABILITY

Issues:

- **Overall** renters and owners experience overcrowding in their households because people can't afford to live elsewhere.
- **Renters** shared living in unsafe housing conditions with poor air ventilation, mold, lead, water leaks. And that some old buildings with small landlords lack maintenance.
- **Owners** shared that there they sometimes can't afford home repairs and need support.

Solutions:

- **City provides financial support** for landlords and homeowners to make home repairs.
- **Design accessible homes** for people with desirability and the elderly. For improved indoor air quality, and tax credits/programs to install air ventilation (MERV 14 filter systems or better).

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

"I had Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) so my lungs are damaged. It's hard to breathe during fire season. I ended up going to the office because they had better ventilation than my home."

CARS AND TRUCKS

- **Issues:** Lots of collisions and drunk driving in Chinatown, potholes, no parking available.
- **Solutions:** Improve transit to reduce cars on road, fix potholes and repaint lines, and improve biking and walking lanes (Pedestrian bridge from Alameda to Oakland).

WILDFIRE

- **Issues:** Loss of power when the region is undergoing wildfire season, asthma gets worse during this season, and their home air quality is bad, especially with no air conditioner.
- **Solutions:** City should provide air filters for all indoor public spaces, and encourage hybrid and electric car use.

SUSTAINABILITY

- **Solutions:** More composting, testing air and water quality in low-income communities, wetlands habitat restoration, recycling water, indigenous methods for cooling homes, and solar programs for low-income households.

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PARKS

- **Issues:** Lack of parks and green space in Downtown and Chinatown.
- **Solutions:** More green spaces and parks for young and older people (Downtown and Chinatown), plant more trees, and clean water to swim.

INDUSTRIAL

- **Issues:** Address industrial and residential land use conflicts, Poor air quality for people who live near 880 freeway, and Port of Oakland may be running 24/7.
- **Solutions:** Don't have the port running 24/7, Electrification of trucks to reduce diesel emissions, and Stricter reg on corporations.

TRASH

- **Issue:** Not enough trash picked up in Lake Merritt.
- **Solutions:** Run a litter campaign to reduce trash in public spaces.

PUBLIC SAFETY, ENGAGEMENT, TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMIC, AND EQUITY

VIOLENCE

- **Issues:** Asian people should not be afraid of walking around in Oakland, Asian elders are getting attacked, and gun violence.
- **Solutions:** Buyback gun programs, restorative justice, provide affordable housing and a livable wage.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Solutions:** Language accessibility with government staff and documents in Chinese, Tagalog and other Philippine dialects. And more senior engagement, they deserve to know what's happening too.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Solution:** Access to transit and neighborhood services (e.g., doctor).

CITY INVESTMENT

- **Solution:** Invest in existing low-income community members.

EQUITY

- **Solution:** General Plan must have equitable policies.

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Table 1. Engagement by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent
Asian American	63	52.9%
Decline to Comment	17	14.3%
White	16	13.4%
Multiracial	9	7.6%
Black	7	5.9%
Latinx	4	3.4%
Middle Eastern	2	1.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	0.8%
Caribbean Islander	0	0.0%
Native American/Indigenous or Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Total	119	

Table 2. Engagement by Age

Age	Count	Percent
12-17	0	0.0%
18-24	10	8.4%
25-34	31	26.1%
35-44	22	18.5%
45-54	9	7.6%
55-64	4	3.4%
65+	8	6.7%
Decline to state	35	29.4%
Total	119	

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Table 3. Engagement by Gender

Age	Count	Percent
Female	49	41.2%
Male	36	30.3%
Decline to state	30	25.2%
Non-binary	4	3.4%
Transgender	0	0.0%
Intersex	0	0.0%
Total	119	

Table 4. Engagement by Housing

Housing	Count	Percent
Rent	36	30.3%
Own	35	29.4%
Decline to state	32	26.9%
Shared housing with family/roommates/partner	15	12.6%
Temporary with friends/family	1	0.8%
Mobile housing/unhoused	0	0.0%
Temporary (in shelter, hotel)	0	0.0%
Total	119	

Table 5. Engagement by Disability

Disability	Count	Percent
Decline to state	104	87.4%
A mental health disorder	5	4.2%
A learning disability (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia)	4	3.4%
A mobility impairment	3	2.5%
A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)	1	0.8%

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Multiple Sclerosis (AAS)	2	1.7%
Total	119	

Table 6. Engagement by Annual Personal Income

Annual Personal Income	Count	Percent
\$0-\$10,000	13	10.9%
\$10,001-\$20,000	4	3.4%
\$20,001-\$30,000	7	5.9%
\$30,001-\$40,000	6	5.0%
\$40,001-\$50,000	6	5.0%
\$50,001+	44	37.0%
Decline to state	39	32.8%
Total	119	

Table 7. Engagement by Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation	Count	Percent
Heterosexual	62	52.1%
Decline to state	41	34.5%
Queer	10	8.4%
Bisexual	4	3.4%
Gay	1	0.8%
Lesbian	1	0.8%
Total	119	

Table 8. Engagement by Experience with Mass Incarceration

Mass Incarceration	Count	Percent
Decline to state	110	92.4%
I am a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated	8	6.7%
I am a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated	1	0.8%
I am formerly incarcerated	0	0.0%

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Total	119	
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Table 9. Family Arrived in Oakland

Family Arrive in Oakland	Count	Percent
2011-2020	33	27.5%
Decline to state	28	23.3%
1980-1999	15	12.5%
Visiting	14	11.7%
2021+	10	8.3%
2000-2010	7	5.8%
Working	5	4.2%
1900-1950	4	3.3%
1950-1979	3	2.5%
Before 1900	1	0.8%
Total	120	