

Lao Family 42nd Open House

Event: Lao Family 42nd Anniversary Open House

Location: East Oakland

Date/Time: 5/12/2022 at 11AM-3PM

Number of people reached: 155

- 123 English flyers, 32 Spanish flyers distributed
- 27 in-person interviews

Event Description: The Lao Family Community Development (LFCD) staff conducted English and Spanish outreach in East Oakland for the LFCD 42nd Anniversary Open House located at the Care Campus Oakland. The Open House featured refreshments, a popcorn stand, music, raffles, tours, a photo booth, and an opportunity to meet LFCD staff and learn more about their services to support immigrant, refugee, limited-English, and low-income community members.

The team informed people what the General Plan is; conducted 27 in-person interviews; shared a 2-pager on housing and environmental justice conditions that people in Oakland are experiencing; handed out flyers for resources for Emergency Rapid Assistance Program (ERAP), library, and maintenance; 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 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.

Engagement Approaches: 1) Approach people to have a conversation rather than extracting information from them 2) A 2-pager on housing and environmental justice on the table in English 3) Create incentive to engage by providing raffle tickets and free lunch after participating in an interview

Demographics: The Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership is committed to reaching people who have not traditionally been part of planning processes. At this event we spoke with youth, older adults, formerly incarcerated persons, undocumented persons, unhoused folks, tenants/renters, homeowners, and low-income persons. The following are demographic highlights based on the 27 in-person interviews we conducted:

- **Race/Ethnicity:** Majority are Black (27%) and Hispanic or Latino (23%). *See Table 1 below for more information.*
- **Age:** Most of the people we spoke with are between the ages of 18-24 (15%) and 25-34 (19%). *See Table 2 below for more information.*
- **Gender:** Most of the people we spoke with are female (52%). *See Table 3 below for more information.*

Lao Family 42nd Open House

- **Housing:** Most are renters (48%), homeowners (19%), or live in shared housing (11%). See *Table 4 below for more information.*
- **Disability:** People shared having a sensory impairment (4%), mental health (7%) disorder, and a learning disability (7%). See *Table 5 below for more information.*
- **Annual Personal Income:** Most have an annual personal income of \$0-\$10,000 (22%) or over \$50,000 (19%). See *Table 6 below for more information.*
- **Sexual Orientation:** Most of the people we spoke with are heterosexual (59%). See *Table 7 below for more information.*
- **Experience with Mass Incarceration:** 28% of people shared they had some experience with mass incarceration. See *Table 8 below for more information.*

The 27 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, and formerly incarcerated

Engagement Summary

The following is a 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

- Individuals that we spoke to shared that their families arrived between 1950-1979 (19%), 1980-1999 (22%), 2000-2010 (24%), and 2011-2020 (22%). See *Table 9 below for more information.*
- Most people had previously been living outside the U.S. (53%) and in the Bay Area (18%). International locations included: Eritrea, El Salvador, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Nepal, Mexico, and Guatemala. Bay Area locations included: San Leandro, Tracy, Hayward, and Vallejo.

A FAVORITE MEMORY OF OAKLAND

Lao Family 42nd Open House

“Celebration and the energy of the people”

“I like how the city would get together for events and holidays”

- **Culture and Pride:** Many spoke fondly of Oakland pride through sports with memories of enjoying the A’s, Raiders, and Warriors games and their firework shows. Community events, seasonal celebrations, and festivals like those in Fruitvale are key features of the city.
- **Parks and Nature:** Many described Lake Merritt as a center for personal gatherings and celebration, and wellness with walks around the park. The Peralta Hacienda Historical Park and Oakland Zoo were also spots mentioned.
- **Local Businesses and Commercial Areas:** Downtown Oakland

HOUSING

"Yes, [I] always struggle finding housing. People with limited English language skills have a hard time finding housing."

"I would like to see affordable housing specifically for service workers and teachers. We need to keep these essential people in Oakland."

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY:

- **Issues:**
 - **Renters** shared their experiences with housing affordability being a major concern for themselves and family members, and the overpricing has driven displacement.
 - **Owners** face foreclosure because of the inability to pay mortgages and some have had to move to other housing options or make adjustments. Older homeowners may take out a reverse mortgage for cash.
 - **Overall**, people shared that both market-rate and affordable housing units are not affordable, and even working professionals struggle with payment, pointing out that living wages are also a centering issue.
- **Solutions:** Rent support, increase supply in affordable housing and general density with housing buildings, utilize existing vacancies

HOUSING HABITABILITY:

- **Issues:**
 - Overcrowding
 - Rising rent causes some to live with family members and in other shared housing
 - Building livability
 - Safety and health issues uncovered by landlord
 - Neighborhood livability
 - Nearby pollution issues
 - Neighborhood safety, especially for kids
 - Availability
 - Difficult to find places suitable for families
- **Solutions**
 - Neighborhood livability
 - Trash cleanup
 - Center walkability, increase and maintain useable sidewalks
 - Add trees and green spaces
 - Prioritize addressing gun violence
 - Road maintenance

Lao Family 42nd Open House

- Pave and maintain streets, no more potholes
- More investment in East Oakland and North Oakland

RESOURCES AND EDUCATION:

● Issues

- General access and process
 - People apply for public or affordable housing but wait long
 - Some applicants never hear back from housing agencies
- Poor or inadequate information about affordable housing or renting resources

● Solutions

- Streamline general access and process
 - Quicker response, better assistance, and follow through
 - Clearer communication for people waiting
- Decrease barriers to entry in application process
 - Rent assistance and information that is accessible to those with limited English language proficiency
- Priority housing
 - Prioritize available resources and housing for single mothers and families, essential workers, those on probation, in poverty, etc.

HOMELESSNESS:

● Issues:

- Long-standing homelessness can be generational. One currently unhoused respondent shared that they were raised in the car with a single mother and sister.

● Solutions:

- Treat housing as a human right and that all people should be housed
- Support low-income transitional housing and other relocation options

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

"[I] always see street car collisions, [it's] not safe to walk around neighborhoods."

WILDFIRES:

● Issues

- Needing to evacuate, temporary or permanent displacement
 - People with higher income can afford to evacuate, but many cannot
- Disproportionate smoke by location
 - East Oakland neighborhoods compared to Temescal
- Exacerbated respiratory issues
 - A majority of respondents stated asthma or respiratory issues for themselves or family, which was worsened because of wildfires

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- **Solutions**

- Share accurate air quality information during and after wildfires

CARS AND COLLISIONS:

- **Issues**

- Classifying street safety as a major safety issue
 - Street car collisions are high. More than half of the participants noted they had experienced or knew of family members involved.
- Poor air quality because of traffic, trucks, and freeways.
 - Areas neighboring the freeway make the air smell and taste bad.

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- **Solutions**

- Pave over potholes for safer road conditions
- Shift to alternative transit and serve fewer cars on the road
- Support transition to electric vehicles
- Improve public transportation services with both efficiency and affordability

TRASH AND WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- **Issues:**

- Dirty streets with littering and illegal dumping
- Improper waste disposal

- **Solutions:**

- Increase public trash bins
- Shift waste management system
 - Expand recycling system
 - Less burning of trash
- Encourage individual action
 - Incentives for recycling
 - Youth education on environmentalism and sustainability initiatives
- Encourage collective action
 - Coordinate clean streets campaigns

INDUSTRIAL:

- **Issues:**

- Historical industrial zoning and redlining in specific neighborhoods in East and West Oakland
- Industrial pollution from plastic manufacturing

- **Solutions:** Move factories, re-zone

PARKS AND GREEN SPACES:

- **Issues:**

- Lack of green spaces
- Contamination from industrial and trash
- No safe and clean lakes to swim in

- **Solutions**

- Plant more trees and flowers
- Pollinator-friendly districts
- Increase parks and play centers

FOOD ACCESS

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- **Issue:** Need better and cheaper food sources, too many fast food places, particularly in low-income areas.

ECONOMIC, AND EQUITY

“Low-income gives a constant struggling feeling. [We] shouldn’t have to feel poor.”

ECONOMIC:

- **Issues:** Lack of living wages to support housing, no disposable income
- **Solutions:**
 - Bring business into the city with job opportunities
 - Incentivize or require green business initiatives

EQUITY:

- **Issue:** Need more immigrant resettlement services

Photos



Lao Family 42nd Open House



Table 1. Engagement by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent
Black/African American	8	26.7%
Hispanic or Latino (non white or Black)	7	23.3%
Decline to state	2	6.7%
White/European	0	0.0%
Multi-racial	1	3.3%
Asian	7	23.3%
Caribbean Islander	0	0.0%
Native American/Indigenous or Alaska Native	1	3.3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	6.7%
Middle Eastern	0	0.0%
Other	2	6.7%

Lao Family 42nd Open House

Table 2. Engagement by Age

Age	Count	Percent
12-17	0	0.0%
18-24	4	14.8%
25-34	5	18.5%
35-44	3	11.1%
45-54	0	0.0%
55-64	1	3.7%
65+	2	7.4%
Decline to state	12	44.4%
Total	27	

Table 3. Engagement by Gender

Gender	Count	Percent
Female	14	51.9%
Male	9	33.3%
Non-binary	1	3.7%
Transgender	0	0.0%
Intersex	0	0.0%
Decline to state	3	11.1%
Total	27	

Lao Family 42nd Open House

Table 4. Engagement by Housing

Housing	Count	Percent
Rent	13	48.2%
Own	5	18.5%
Shared housing with family/roommates/partner	3	11.1%
Temporary with friends/family	1	3.7%
Mobile housing/unhoused	1	3.7%
Temporary (in shelter, hotel)	2	7.4%
Decline to state	2	7.4%

Table 5. Engagement by Disability

Disability	Count	Percent
A mobility impairment	0	0.0%
A mental health disorder	2	7.4%
A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)	1	3.7%
A learning disability (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia)	2	7.4%
Other	1	3.7%
Decline to state	21	77.8%
None	0	0.0%

Table 6. Engagement by Annual Personal Income

Annual Personal Income	Count	Percent
\$0-\$10,000	6	22.2%
\$10,001-\$20,000	2	7.4%
\$20,001-\$30,000	0	0.0%
\$30,001-\$40,000	2	7.4%
\$40,001-\$50,000	1	3.7%
\$50,001+	6	18.5%
Decline to state	11	40.7%
Total	27	

Lao Family 42nd Open House

Table 7. Engagement by Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation	Count	Percent
Decline to state	10	37%
Heterosexual	16	59.3%
Queer	1	3.7%
Bisexual	0	0.0%
Lesbian	0	0.0%
Gay	0	0.0%
Total	27	

Table 8. Engagement by Experience with Mass Incarceration

Mass Incarceration	Count	Percent
Decline to state	21	72.4%
I am a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated	2	6.9%
I am formerly incarcerated	3	10.3%
I am a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated	3	10.3%
None	0	0.0%

Table 9. Family Arrived in Oakland

Arrive in Oakland	Count	Percent
Before 1900	0	0.0%
1900-1950	0	0.0%
1950-1979	5	18.5%
1980-1999	6	22.2%
2000-2010	5	18.5%
2011-2020	6	22.2%
2021+	2	7.4%
Visiting	0	0.0%
Working	0	0.0%
Decline to state	0	0.0%
Other	3	11.1%

Lao Family 42nd Open House

Total	27	
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