

Lincoln Square Park Municipal Resilience Hub



A future-forward Recreation and Resilience Center inspired by tradition, featuring community-based design and opportunities to play, learn, connect, and contribute to the rich history and cultural legacy of Oakland Chinatown.

Planned Features (Final Features Subject to Change)

- Solar Panels
- Backup off-grid power
- Air filtration
- Improved heating and cooling systems
- Commercial kitchen
- Shower facilities
- Broadband
- Indoor/outdoor gathering area
- Chargers for medical devices and phones on backup power
- Refrigeration for medication on backup power
- Environmentally friendly construction methods
- Low-water landscaping, bio-filtration systems and permeable paving

Community Benefits

- Expanded program space
- Clean air center for poor air quality days
- Ample storage for food and supplies
- Workforce development, including within the Green economy
- Multi-lingual community distribution point for information and resources
- Resilience programming including disaster preparedness and response workshops





WHAT IS A MUNICIPAL RESILIENCE HUB?

Municipal Resilience Hubs are community-serving City facilities designed to support residents, coordinate communication, and distribute resources in the face of disasters and the stressors of everyday life experienced in frontline communities. Municipal Resilience Hubs offer year-round services, tailored to the needs of the local community. Operating at the nexus of community resilience, emergency management, climate change mitigation and social equity, Resilience Hubs support communities to become stronger, more self-determining, socially connected, and successful before, during, and after disruptions. Municipal Resilience Hub facilities have backup sources of energy, heating, cooling, and air filtration. They may have green infrastructure such as reducing carbon pollution, providing green space, and utilizing gray water systems.

EQUITABLE CLIMATE ACTION

Action A-1 of Oakland's Equitable Climate Action Plan (ECAP) requires the creation of a minimum of three Resilience Hubs by 2030 to build climate resilience and accomplish a just transition to a low-carbon economy through an equity- and community-driven approach.

The neighborhood surrounding Lincoln Square Park is particularly vulnerable to the causes of, and impacts from, climate change including pollution, poor air quality days and extreme weather events as well as disasters such as major earthquakes. It is surrounded by busy auto and truck traffic created by two freeways, rail lines and the Port of Oakland. The community is low income and has a large population over the age of 65, with several affordable senior housing developments in the area. The community is predominantly Asian and speaks a language other than English at home. The Census tract housing Lincoln Square Park has a median income of \$27,774, has 34.4% of residents living in poverty conditions and scores

in the 100th percentile of linguistic isolation in Cal EnviroScreen 4.0. Many residents live in older buildings without air conditioning or adequate building insulation, increasing vulnerability to extreme heat and poor air quality. The Census tract surrounding Lincoln Square Park is a low-income community disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution, scoring within the worst 10% of census tracts in California. The community has high rates of asthma.

ABOUT LINCOLN SQUARE PARK

Lincoln Square Park was developed in the 1850s as one of the City's seven original public squares and has been an activated space for community gathering since that time. The adjacent Lincoln Elementary School has partnered closely with the park for generations. About 1,000-1,500 people use the park each day. The new Municipal Resilience Hub will be a part of a new Recreation Center replacing an aging building in need of costly repairs. The community will enjoy increased programmatic space to better meet the needs of one of the City's busiest and most densely programmed facilities.

While the Municipal Resilience Hub is new, resilience activities are not new to the Lincoln Recreation Center. The center has been the host of numerous activities building community resilience and safety, including classes in collaboration with the Emergency Management Services Division and, food distribution during the pandemic. In the aftermath of escalated violence against Asians, the center hosted a Safety and Resource Fair.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Friends of Lincoln Square Park (Friends) and the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), the two partners playing a leadership role in this project, have led resilience-focused community outreach and engagement for the past six years, identifying community needs

and priorities for Lincoln Square Park, the new recreation center and its resilience features. These efforts have been combined with community outreach conducted by the City to shape project design.

Friends, a collaboration between multiple Chinatown- and Oakland-based organizations, was formed in 2017 to support the creation of a modern and expanded recreation center at Lincoln Square Park. Friends is led by local community volunteers, parents of Lincoln Elementary School, community-based organizations and business leaders. This group began a community outreach campaign that engaged neighboring Lincoln Elementary School, youth and seniors participating in park activities, local businesses, Chinatown community organizations and the public at large. APEN joined project efforts, engaging its active membership base of approximately 425 community members.

In 2018, the Oakland City Council adopted a new, inclusive forum for Oakland community members to provide feedback and introduce new project ideas to be considered for the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) selection process. FLSF and APEN advocated for the expansion of Lincoln Recreation Center. After scoring the project with new, equity-based criteria, the City ranked this community-proposed project as the highest parks and recreation priority. The project received significant funding support in the 2019-21 budget cycle to begin design and planning.

As the City began planning for a new recreation center, Friends, APEN and City staff conducted extensive neighborhood outreach to solicit feedback. Members of the local Chinatown Coalition, representing multiple Chinatown organizations, also advocated for this project. Community members have submitted over 300 letters of support in multiple languages.

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