

Event: Pop-up Event #7: Akoma Market for MLK Day

Location: East Oakland

Date/Time: 1/16/2022 at 10AM to 3PM

Number of people reached:

- 72 English and 15 Spanish OGP flyers (87 total) were distributed.
- 34 brief interviews

Event Description: Just Cities and East Side Arts Alliance staff conducted English outreach with East Oaklanders at the first Akoma Market of 2022. Akoma Outdoor Market is organized by the Black Cultural Zone and occurs every first and third Sunday of the month. The Just Cities and East Side Arts Alliance staff members informed people what the General Plan is, signed people up to the Oakland General Plan Listserv (11 sign ups), conducted a chalkboard visioning activity, and conducted 34 brief interviews. Ninety-five (95%) of the people interviewed are African American and 5% are Other races (White, Asian, Latinx, and Other). We spoke to children, teenagers, adults and older adults. Teenagers, adults, and older adults responded to brief interviews and took part in the chalkboard visioning.

The 34 brief interviews included the following 8 questions:

- **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 your family members live near pollution, flooding or fire areas?; and 2) What are your ideas for solutions? What would you like to see as solutions?
- **Anything else you would like to share?**

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 and Displacement

- A majority of families we spoke to arrived in Oakland between 2011-2020 (17), 1950-1979 (8), and 1980-1999 (7).

Pop-up Event #7

- People live/lived in East Oakland (10), Merritt (6), West Oakland (5), Cleveland Heights (5), North Oakland (3), Eastmont (3), Adam's Point (3), and Fruitvale (3).
- Those who were displaced move to other cities in the Bay Area (17) including San Leandro (11), Antioch (1), Vallejo (1), and Pittsburgh (1).

A Favorite Memory of Oakland

- **Family and friends:** Birth of children (Kaiser and home), spending time with family and friends
- **Community Activities:** Black Joy Parade, Akoma, Malcolm Jazz X Arts Festival, protests, Akoma Market, Oakland Warriors won
- **Community:** Culture and diversity, neighbors introduced themselves when I moved in
- **Public spaces:** Murals, Jack London, Fremont High School, local shops, Lake Merritt, parks (Redwood and Joaquin Miller), Eastmont Mall, Downtown, Oakland Museum, Bay, farmers markets, lounges and nightlife

Housing

- **Affordability:**
 - **Issues:** Increasing rents, can never own a house here, not enough Section 8 vouchers, years in public housing waitlists
 - **Solutions:** Building affordable housing (30% or more, co-ops, condos, accessory dwelling units, and teacher housing), make landlords accept vouchers, rent control, build housing in vacant lots, reduce rent to match wages, elders shouldn't pay taxes, more resources for first time homeowners, mortgage assistance program, resources/finances for owners to build accessory dwelling units, build mixed income housing
- **Substandard conditions:**
 - **Issues:** Landlords not maintaining property, mold, rodents, lead
 - **Solutions:** Lead abatement in houses
- **Displacement:**
 - **Issues:** Gentrification, families losing houses during foreclosure and predatory loan crisis, big corporations buying up property, big corporations sitting on vacant land
 - Example: Black folks and Oakland culture are getting pushed out of the City. A Black family's home caught on fire and then the house was foreclosed. The community lost the neighbor who sat on the front porch and knew everyone.

Pop-up Event #7

- **Solutions:** Creative ways to bring back displaced persons as homeowners (co-ops, land trusts, share multi-unit buildings), Predatory lending protections
- **Homelessness:**
 - **Issues:** People need to be housed, City destroying encampments, no access to hygiene and shelters
 - **Solutions:** Spreading resources across the City, building permanent housing, tiny homes, access to bathrooms and showers, shelters, stop encampment management policy for ethics review

Community

- **Neighborhoods are like a village:** Community cares about each other
 - **Issues:** The culture and village atmosphere are disappearing with ongoing displacement
- **Listen to the most impacted community:**
 - **Solution:** Community and CBO's to vet policy/large developments
- **Racism:**
 - **Issues:** Communities of color don't get enough resources
- **Cultural Arts:**
 - **Solutions:** Hire artists to make spaces (i.e., BART stations) beautiful, hold more free community events (free concerts)
- **Community Engagement:**
 - **Solutions:** Provide translations (spoken/written), continue to pay CBO's to do community engagement
- **Accountability:**
 - **Solutions:** Police get compliant on all lawsuits, elect to office those that remember living with challenges

Environmental Justice

- **Pollution:**
 - **Issues:** Trucks near 880 and 580 freeways, San Leandro refinement, incinerator, ports, big factory in San Leandro Blvd, lots of asthma and respiratory issues (East and West Oakland)
 - **Solutions:** Trucks on both highways (580 and 880), truck idling, electric vehicles, regulate air quality around warehousing
- **Wildfire**

Pop-up Event #7

- **Issues:** Smoke gets bad in East Oakland, lots of asthma and respiratory issues, lack of shrub/vegetation upkeep
 - Example: A non-smoker had to pay for smoke abatement when moving out of their Oakland apartment due to fires.
- **Solutions:** Affordable/no cost filtering, windows, access to masks, funding to maintain brush/vegetation, hold PGE accountable
- **Streets**
 - **Issues:** Lots of collisions and hit and runs
 - **Solutions:** Wider sidewalks in East Oakland, speed bumps in Fruitvale, fix potholes
- **Parks**
 - **Issues:** Rundown, Arroyo Viejo recreation center should be used, needles and drugs
 - **Solutions:** Repave Liberation Park
- **Sea level Rise:**
 - **Issues:** Concern about impacts to their neighborhoods
 - **Solutions:** Careful about building in landfills, politicians understand what's at stake
- **Heat**
 - **Issues:** Lacking trees, cutting trees when they are there
 - **Solutions:** Plant more trees
- **Food Access**
 - **Issues:** Not enough affordable grocery stores, lots of liquor stores
 - **Solutions:** More affordable grocery stores
- **Gun violence**
 - **Issues:** Too much gun violence
- **House Fire**
 - **Issues:** Firefighter took too long to respond
- **Sustainability**
 - **Solution:** Different colored recycling bags for apartments, electric buses and cars, carsharing
- **Illegal Dumping**
 - **Issues:** East Oakland trash dumping that doesn't get picked up often
 - **Solutions:** More frequent garbage pick-up, community ambassadors to conduct cleanup

Economic

Pop-up Event #7

- **Income**
 - **Issues:** Hard to afford housing and other living expenses
 - **Solutions:** Living wage, universal basic income program
- **Investment**
 - **Issues:** Communities of color don't get enough resources
 - **Solutions:** Invest in neighborhoods of color, reparations
- **Jobs**
 - **Issues:** Residents have trouble finding jobs and trainings
 - **Solutions:** For unhoused folks, prioritize local residents, training
- **Small Businesses**
 - **Issues:** Lots of businesses have closed
 - **Solutions:** More pandemic support



Pop-up Event #7



Pop-up Event #7



Pop-up Event #7

