

510 Day

Event: 510 Day

Location: Lake Merritt

Date/Time: 5/10/2022 at 3PM to 7PM

Number of people reached: 51

- 51 in-person interviews

Event Description: Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ) and Just Cities conducted English outreach at Lake Merritt along Lakeshore Avenue for 510 Day. Centered on celebrating Oakland residents, this was the 7th annual event featuring community organizations, food, local artists, performances, and local vendors. The CURYJ setup included a table with resources as well as a grill with BBQ dinner plates ready for community members. The EastSide Arts Alliance table included books for sale from Bandung Bookstore and resources. Both organizations were located on opposite sides of the Lake. The Village in Oakland, also engaged community at 510 Day, but their surveys will be analyzed alongside their Living Room outreach in another summary. A variety of social justice and community organizations were also present, discussing issues that affect Oaklanders such as anti-displacement and school closures. The outdoor event had a center stage area with performances and vendors as well as more tabling along the Lakeshore Avenue path.

The team informed people what the General Plan is; conducted 51 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 and 2) Create an incentive to engage by providing a ticket for free dinner 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, LGBTQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, formerly incarcerated persons, undocumented persons, unhoused folks, tenants/renters, low-income persons, and people experiencing environmental injustices. The following are demographic highlights based on the 51 in-person interviews we conducted:

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- **Race/Ethnicity:** Majority are Black (37%), Hispanic or Latino (22%), and White (13%). *See Table 1 below for more information.*
- **Age:** Most of the people we spoke with are between the ages of 25-34 (20%). *See Table 2 below for more information.*
- **Gender:** Most of the people we spoke with are male (47%). *See Table 3 below for more information.*
- **Housing:** Most are renters (43%), homeowners (17%), or live in shared housing (11%). *See Table 4 below for more information.*
- **Disability:** People shared having a mobility impairment (2%), mental health (10%) disorder, and a learning disability (4%). *See Table 5 below for more information.*
- **Annual Personal Income:** Most have an annual personal income of \$0-\$10,000 (10%), \$20,001-\$30,000 (14%) or over \$50,000 (33%). *See Table 6 below for more information.*
- **Sexual Orientation:** 57% are heterosexual and 26% are LGBTQ+. *See Table 7 below for more information.*
- **Experience with Mass Incarceration:** 53% of people we spoke to had some experience with mass incarceration, with 24% being family members of someone who is formerly incarcerated. *See Table 8 below for more information.*

The 51 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

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- A majority of individuals that we spoke to shared that their families arrived between 2000-2010 (24%) and 2011-2020 (16%). See Table 9 below for more information.
- Most people had previously been living in the Bay Area (31%), West Coast (23%), or internationally (23%). Bay Area locations included: San Francisco, El Cerrito, Berkeley, Vallejo, Antioch, Hayward, Pittsburg, Marin City, San Jose, and East Palo Alto.

A FAVORITE MEMORY OF OAKLAND

“Oakland culture is the people. Losing people means losing culture.”

- **Culture:** Many appreciate community events like festivals at the Lake, Malcolm X Jazz Arts Festival, Xicana Moratorium Day, First Fridays, and Cinco de Mayo at San Antonio Park. Exploring neighborhoods through activities like the Black Liberation Tour and seeing murals and performance arts. Many spoke fondly of Oakland pride through sports and enjoying A's, Raiders, and Warriors games.
- **People and Community:** People, community and culture. Many mentioned the long history of art and artists including the Hyphy Movement. Some described Oakland as both the origin and continued opportunity for art and culture. Recognizing the history and present of community mobilization and activism with inspiration in organizations like the Black Panthers.
- **Parks and nature:** Many described Lake Merritt as a center for their community and personal gathering, celebration and wellness.

HOUSING

“My folks lost their home during the housing crisis but late in 2012. After that, my folks lived in an overcrowded duplex.”

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY:

- **Issues:**
 - **Renters** shared how affordable housing is not affordable and renters are faced with needing to move or relocate due to overpricing.
 - **Aspiring homeowners** have limited opportunities unless they come from a higher income background.
 - **Overall**, people expressed how housing is unaffordable for everyone, even those with full time jobs. This connects to a major issue with fair and living wages. The living wage is influenced by how expensive the housing is and people are unable to find an income to sustain themselves. Respondents also shared how green gentrification and academic institutions are connected with displacement.
- **Solutions**
 - Increase affordable housing units and rent-controlled affordable housing
 - Utilize currently developed and underdeveloped land
 - Increase Section 8 housing and subsidized housing
 - Implement assistance to help 1st time homeowners
 - Implement the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) as proposed by Moms 4 Housing

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- Improve tenant protections with eviction limits and rent control

ZONING AND BUILDING HOUSING:

- **Issue:** Not enough housing and need more options for the unhoused
- **Solutions:**
 - Increase density and remove single-family zoning
 - Mixed-use development in East Oakland
 - Height restrictions removed, particularly in Foothill, International Boulevard corridors and along High Street
 - Prioritize transforming city blocks
 - More cooperative and cooperatively owned housing

RESOURCES AND EDUCATION:

- **Issues:**
 - Barriers to receiving housing due to credit history
 - Limited financial literacy resources
 - Little to no resources and housing options for formerly incarcerated persons
- **Solutions**
 - Create and expand financial literacy and education in low-income communities through City programs and partnerships

HOUSING HABITABILITY

- **Issues:**
 - Low-maintained apartment units and slumlords
 - Neighborhoods with limited access to basic needs
 - Grocery stores and public transportation
- **Solutions:**
 - Prioritize access to community schools
 - Prioritize community assets such as recreation centers and parks

EQUITY:

- **Issues:**
 - Long history of policies that furthered displacement of people of color
 - Racial discrimination in bank lending
- **Solutions:**
 - Right to Return to address historical and ongoing displacement

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

“Cut down on gas/electricity with not necessarily regulation but education. [Create the] opportunity for people to conserve and provide incentivizes”

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WILDFIRES:

- **Issues:**
 - Needing to evacuate, temporary or permanent displacement
 - People with higher income can afford to evacuate, but many cannot
 - Exacerbated respiratory issues
 - A large potential of respondents stated asthma or respiratory issues for themselves or family, which was worsened because of wildfires
 - Power outages
- **Solutions:**
 - Prioritize wildfire prevention
 - Sacred burning and indigenous practices as a preventative strategy to prevent uncontrolled fires
 - Fire banking

CARS AND COLLISIONS:

- **Issues:**
 - Classifying street safety as a major safety issue
 - Street car collisions are high. Many of the participants noted they had experienced or knew of family members involved.
- **Solutions:**
 - Shift away from single occupancy vehicles and lessen car traffic

TRASH AND WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- **Solutions:**
 - Regulate and enforce fines on illegal dumping and littering
 - Run trash pickup programs, specifically near housing, highways, and wetlands
 - Expand waste disposal with mandatory green bins
 - Relocate landfills away from residential areas and housing

PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

- **Issues:**
 - Lack of green spaces, particularly in low-income neighborhoods
- **Solutions:**
 - Prioritize public land stewardship
 - Plant trees and support community gardens
 - Increase green jobs through careers in green spaces and street maintenance
 - Address pollution and contamination of wetlands by MLK park

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- Clean Lake Merritt
- Build recreational spaces such as skate parks

INDUSTRIES

- **Issues:**
 - Lead contamination in water
 - Safety issues with children around air quality and trash
- **Solutions:**
 - Relocate factories away from residential areas
 - Host trash cleanups particularly around homeless encampments

WATER

- **Issue:** Nearby pollution contaminates water quality and drinking water

FOOD ACCESS

- **Issue:** Need healthy and affordable food sources, currently neighborhoods with majority fast food places and liquor stores particularly in low-income areas. Need to be more grocery department stores in East Oakland specifically.
- **Solutions:** More local agriculture and community gardens

PUBLIC SAFETY, TRANSPORTATION, CITY INVESTMENT, AND HEALTHCARE

"[Oakland is] losing culture by pushing out vendors."

PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLICE

- **Issues:**
 - Misidentification
 - Police brutality and homicides
 - Weak or no connection to the community
 - Police presence causing less traffic to local vendors
- **Solutions:**
 - Improve police-community relations
 - Requiring police to engage in 6 months minimum of work in the community between achieving badge
 - Decrease police presence near local vendors

TRANSPORTATION

- **Issues:**
 - Highly congested streets and freeways
 - Increase in collisions, fatal, and nonfatal accidents

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- Air pollution particularly in residential areas nearby highways, creating and exacerbating respiratory conditions
- Transit inequity and affordability barriers with bus and BART

- **Solutions**

- Encourage hydrogen-powered buses
- Require City facilities and vehicles to be efficient
- Consider free public transit
- Transition to EVs with incentives and infrastructure support

CITY INVESTMENT

- **Issues:**

- Respondents expressed that existing residents are not being prioritized, particularly among gentrification from big tech and industries.
- Public spaces must be prioritized as accessible spaces

- **Solutions:**

- Emphasize existing residents in policies and community engagement
- Financial investment for the unhoused and homeless, such as dedicated fundraising events
- Increase public restrooms

ECONOMIC

- **Solutions:**

- Raise minimum wage
- Support intentional employment opportunities for people of color in tech, law, and public service sectors

HEALTHCARE

- **Issue:** High medical bills and unaffordable health insurance

- **Solutions:**

- Consider healthcare access on both a free and market-rate level
- Support more doctors to be located in East Oakland

Table 1. Engagement by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent
Black/African American	20	37.0%
Hispanic or Latino (non white or Black)	12	22.2%
Decline to state	7	13.0%

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White/European	7	13.0%
Multi-racial	3	5.6%
Asian	2	3.7%
Caribbean Islander	1	1.9%
Native American/Indigenous or Alaska Native	1	1.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	1.9%
Middle Eastern	0	0.0%

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Table 2. Engagement by Age

Age	Count	Percent
12-17	0	0.0%
18-24	4	7.8%
25-34	10	19.6%
35-44	5	9.8%
45-54	5	9.8%
55-64	1	2.0%
65+	1	2.0%
Decline to state	25	49.0%
Total	51	

Table 3. Engagement by Gender

Gender	Count	Percent
Female	18	35.3%
Male	24	47.1%
Non-binary	4	7.8%
Transgender	0	0.0%
Intersex	0	0.0%
Decline to state	5	9.8%
Total	51	

Table 4. Engagement by Housing

Housing	Count	Percent
Rent	24	45.3%
Own	9	17.0%
Shared housing with family/roommates/partner	6	11.3%

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Temporary with friends/family	2	3.8%
Mobile housing/unhoused	1	1.9%
Temporary (in shelter, hotel)	1	1.9%
Decline to state	10	18.9%

Table 5. Engagement by Disability

Disability	Count	Percent
A mobility impairment	1	1.9%
A mental health disorder	5	9.6%
A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)	0	0.0%
A learning disability (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia)	2	3.9%
Decline to state	42	80.8%
None	2	3.9%

Table 6. Engagement by Annual Personal Income

Annual Personal Income	Count	Percent
\$0-\$10,000	5	9.8%
\$10,001-\$20,000	2	3.9%
\$20,001-\$30,000	7	13.7%
\$30,001-\$40,000	2	3.9%
\$40,001-\$50,000	1	2.0%
\$50,001+	17	33.3%
Decline to state	27	33.3%
Total	51	

Table 7. Engagement by Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation	Count	Percent
Decline to state	9	17.7%
Heterosexual	29	56.9%

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Queer	5	9.8%
Bisexual	4	7.8%
Lesbian	3	5.9%
Gay	1	2.0%

Table 8. Engagement by Experience with Mass Incarceration

Mass Incarceration	Count	Percent
Decline to state	24	47.1%
I am a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated	12	23.5%
I am formerly incarcerated	7	13.7%
I am a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated	8	15.7%
None	1	2.0%

Table 9. Family Arrived in Oakland

Arrive in Oakland	Count	Percent
Before 1900	0	0.0%
1900-1950	1	2.0%
1950-1979	4	7.8%
1980-1999	6	11.8%
2000-2010	12	23.5%
2011-2020	8	15.7%
2021+	3	5.9%
Visiting	5	9.8%
Working	1	2.0%
Decline to state	1	2.0%
Other	10	19.6%
Total	51	