



NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY

Excelsior Outer Mission Neighborhood Strategy

Youth Focused Conversation Notes

July 25th, 2018 3:30pm to 5:30pm

Excelsior Works!

INTRO/Ice Breaker

- Community, traffic, little district
- People of color, community, ? (check recording)
- Home, community, people of color
- Family, local, community
- Diversity, community, fresh
- Home, diversity, resilience
- Where I spend half my time, community, diversity
- Community, family, diversity
- Home, diversity, beautiful murals
- Charlie: struggle, unity, lots of young people
- Lavender: diversity, community, buses
- Miriam: panaderias, parks, families
- Aaron: resilient, community, grit
- Reanna: neighborhood, community, hidden

MOBILITY

- Most people took the bus
- Taking the bus takes a lot of time in my day when I commute from Mission to the Excelsior—I'm always on the bus
- It's unfair the bus fare prices; mostly POC take the bus and we're expected to pay high prices
- Buses are very full
- I love the bus, but I agree with all of the above. I spend most of my time on it. Even though it's always crowded and the prices are unfair, there's so much happening on the bus with things to be heard—it's a fusion of cultures and stories
- It's not on time
- I can't rely on the bus, I get places late bc it takes too long
- I live in the Mission and it takes me more than an hour to get here
- I agree—sometimes the bus app lies to you with the time
- Walking and bus are our main modes of transportation

- The bus can take you anywhere; you just hop on one bus and if you need to you can connect
 - Most places need at least two buses to get to in the city
- I appreciate that the bus goes everywhere, esp. in SF; other rural areas have transportation not as cool as ours that can reach every point in the city
- I live in Persia and on this side I have ___ and on this side I have the 29
- I'd like the bus to be on time
- There should be a 49R, rapid version of the 49
- A lot of young people like to tag and that's our form of art and revolutionary art; it would be amazing if the walls where they put advertisements were designated places for art; this would minimize the amount of art in places where they don't want it to be
 - Ad spaces on the buses and bus stops for young people to create art
- I like walking through the Excelsior; it's bright and colorful and I feel safe; there are POC just like me
- It's accessible to walk here and you can go anywhere, just like the bus can take you anywhere, as long as you're willing to put the time into walk
- There are a lot of hills; my cousin is in a wheelchair and it's hard for her to go up the hills; it would be good to build a ramp for her to go up the hill
 - The housing on hills adjacent to McLaren Park
- Walking allows you to get access to food, clothing, medicine, Goodwill, Walgreens
- I also feel very safe in this community/neighborhood; I feel comfortable when I look out the window or down the street who don't look exactly like me but are part of my community
 - I don't feel safe when I start seeing that weren't made for my community by my community (local businesses being torn down, gentrification and displacement don't make me feel safe)
 - New condos don't make me feel safe; they pose threats to the people who were already here; it's not that we don't want it, but we want to be a part of it, and we can't because it's on an enormous other level and doesn't fit in here
- I don't live in the Excelsior but I spend a lot of time here; when I walk around and see these new buildings, I always think that someone is about to get kicked out and prices are about to go up
 - Not up until now have I really started to pay attention to it
- What concerns me about the new building is that there was hidden work behind it; no community members knew about it until it started happening; there should be transparency and we should be able to voice what we want in the community
- I feel safe at all hours
- I don't go out at night; it's not a choice
- People are out late drinking and I have programs after school; when I take the bus there are usually drunk on the bus and they cause a commotion, esp. on the 14
- There is a lot of traffic on Mission
- No parking
- Ubers and Lyfts are parking in the wrong places and disrupt bus service
- They've re-paved the roads in my neighborhood, so that's good

- It's hard getting up the hills on bikes, but this applies to everywhere in SF
- I think we need bike lanes in order to be safe; cars drive crazy
 - We need a bike lane on Mission
- Reaction to aspiration:
 - I think it's important to have access to bike lanes, more encouragement to be healthier and exercise; includes skate lanes and ramps where people can put their bikes and skateboards
 - All 8 in agreement with statement

PUBLIC REALM

- I hang out at Goodwill
- I tend to stay between Persia and Onondaga on Mission after I get out from school to meet up with friends and catch the bus to my house
- I usually walk around and hang out on Mission
- Most like to hang out at Excelsior library; "I think we need to expand that and make it bigger"
- I hang out around Excelsior Park, by the gardens (Geneva/Cayuga), Boys and Girls Club
- I volunteer at the Boys and Girls club and there are many things to do: video games, pool table
- I know a lot of people living around Excelsior Park, so we hang out there
 - It's very accessible
- I go to Mission, Bernal Heights, McLaren Park—I wish there were more parks that were more accessible to all of us
 - Crocker Amazon is kind of far, but we do go there
 - It's more so what's closest to us
 - We like parks that have more green—nothing beats mother nature; less like cement
 - Bernal Heights: I can just walk or take the bus there; when I do really in the morning you can feel the fresh air; in the summer it's very dry and in the rainy season it's really green. You can oversee the city and see all the districts. So far, nothing in the Excelsior beats Bernal Heights for me.
 - We love Twin Peaks; our school is near there
 - Dolores Park: it's easier for me to go to the Mission because that's where I live
 - Mission is the place to be, especially if you're hungry because you can find affordable and healthy and delicious food concentrated in one place
- We feel welcome here
- We would like a lot more community spaces; Mission Cultural Center has access to art and class, it's run by community and for community; these spaces are really necessary; or Brava Theater with many local artists and classes; more places open to the public (not like an AMC)
- I notice that there are a lot of vacant lots; those spaces can be used to build affordable housing and community centers; places for flea markets and where people can share and bring stuff
 - Farmers market, more green!

- I feel even if you weren't accepted in a place, you still find a way to make it your own space; I feel accepted wherever I go in the Excelsior, but if I weren't I could still make it something of my own
- I experience racial profile, not in the Excelsior, but just in general
- Reaction to aspirational statement:
 - Should include something about "locals", for example in Chinatown, there are things about Chinese people but they are run by white people (it's appropriating); I hope to not see things that are run by people who are not of that culture
 - I think local families are able to run their own businesses in the Excelsior, so I think it's going well in the Excelsior

BUSINESS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Goodwill; we need more thrift shops and Goodwills instead of boutiques or chains
 - We've seen a lot of Goodwills taken down (Van Ness and Mission)
- More local vendors; everywhere in the Mission you can buy clothing from local businesses and you can help locals by buying their merchandise; I don't know if there is opportunity here for that
 - Arts & crafts, Mission Skate,
 - Large Latino population in the Mission with shops that sell traditional clothing
- I don't feel like we have that local shops here; there's a lot of food here
 - There are Burger Kings and McDonald's nearby, purposely placed here bc they're cheap and so we don't get good food
 - But we also have a lot of Mexican food
- There is a good representation of local food here; La Loma produce and different restaurants all around
- Where we shop: Casa Lucas, Dollar Store, La Loma, El Chico, Mr. T's, Soul Dinner, place that sells banh mi (Thai's) (next to a taqueria) they give a discount to Balboa students, Chewy's, the salad place, Salvadoran places, panaderias (Persia)
 - Supporting local economy
 - My parents go there
 - Mostly run by and for community
 - affordable
 - Thrift shops have great clothes
- We are missing a bookstore and store to get school supplies; sometimes the Dollar Store works for that
- We need an art store
- We need a theater like Brava that tells about local struggles on stage—LIVE theater
- We need more art spaces where people can take classes for art

- I like coming here because it teaches us about problems we're having at a younger age in our community; we grow up getting involved and have more knowledge of that's actually happening to us
 - We can advocate for those who don't have a voice
- I think it's inclusive, the services that are given here
 - People from other neighborhoods can still come here and get their support
- We like the youth space and reaching out to youth
 - But they're also intergenerational; we have a diverse group in the Excelsior and are inclusive in making sure everyone has a voice; all ages have access
 - We need MORE youth programs: college access (we have to go all the way to Bayview for those), college track
 - More adult programs where they are allowed to get services for mental health and help dealing with their own children; not just youth and adult separately, but family services together
 - We have a large immigrant population here in the Excelsior; it's a beautiful thing when you can have people come and talk in an open space as a form of healing
 - Summer programs for little kids (elementary and pre-school)
- Reaction to aspirational statement:
 - I feel like there should be more added to the statement; it focuses a lot on profit and there should be a human/people aspect
 - Business and service providers should assist with thriving CULTURALLY
- Need more boba shops!

LAND USE AND HOUSING

- I'd like to think that it's good the way it is; there's nothing extremely bad, but there's room for improvement and growth. It's good to get development, but that doesn't just mean housing and complexes; it could be gardens and community centers
- Local radio station, music studio, publications
- I think of the most environmentally just place—filled with color, every wall has a mural, everyone can draw and paint wherever they want; people want to bike and walk; if people are using cars, it's to the bare minimum and they're solar powered; gardens and trees everywhere; we need to not disrupt our physical environment that used to be green and is now all cement; we need more farms and parks and open spaces; access to healthy foods
- Farmer's markets are the most local and fun ways to interact with your community and affordable
 - Flower beds and green everywhere, vertical gardens, art everywhere
 - Daylighting Islais Creek
- More shelters/navigation centers
 - Guides people to be more successful

- People with different interests (anime), we don't really have that here, so we have to go to Japantown to buy things we're interested in
 - Special interest stores: comic books, anime
- Clinic and health services; people's way of healing; traditional healing practices
- Prices of housing are not affordable for people not making a lot of money; ive had to move a couple of times within Excelsior bc of affordability
- My friend's situation: he's been lucky enough to stay in Excelsior, but he's living in a small space with younger siblings who want to move around a lot; it's cramped with all family members; owner has been generous with rent they can pay; they are scared that they could get kicked out at any moment bc contract/lease has been extended for longer than it's supposed to
 - People are seeking out safety nets: moving elsewhere
 - Many times, people have to move away and it would be difficult for him to come to Mission and Balboa HS everyday from Richmond, CA
- You don't only need affordable access, but also dignified access: a space can be affordable, but it needs to be a dignified living space that isn't like an SRO with families of 5-7 who are forced to live there
- We want development, but we want us to be at the forefront of shaping those developments to fit our needs
- Affordability should be inclusive of larger families
 - Latino families have larger families, living with uncles and aunties, many children, it's not just a mom and dad and kid
 - Persia/Mission laundromat issue could've been avoided if there were affordable housing for families; it's important to have apartments geared towards people in this neighborhood, not kinds that will push them out
- There was enough housing here, but there are more white people in tech who come in with money and are buying our places; places that aren't being used for our benefit
 - Money is the priority here and they come in and take our houses
- The houses in the Excelsior are all made differently; if you went somewhere else they all look the same
 - The inside of the house is nice, but because it's not affordable in the city, we have to split up the house for multiple families; would prefer to have the entire house
- The services should provide economic justice and access to knowledge about finances, credit, financial literacy; there's no way that we can have a house if we don't have a good credit score or know how to navigate the financial aspect of owning a home
- Reaction to aspirational statement:
 - Development shouldn't be at the expense of the cultures already in the neighborhood
 - It shouldn't be an open door for cultural appropriation
 - Prioritize cultures already in the neighborhood
 - Do not take advantage of people already here
 - Should be equitable

Misc.