Greater SoMa Community
Facility Needs Assessment
Outreach, Engagement, and
Key Findings



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Introduction

This document provides a summary of the outreach process for the Greater SoMa Community Facility Needs Assessment. This Assessment came out of the Central SoMa Area Plan Settlement Agreement and requires the City to analyze community facility needs in the greater South of Market area by July 1, 2021. The primary goal for outreach was to connect with SoMa residents and organizations including Community Advisory Committees (CAC) and Community Benefits Districts (CBD) to understand community facility needs and priorities. The outreach took place during shelter in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic between January and April 2021 and required a multifaceted and creative approach to connect with stakeholders in absence of in-person gatherings. This document also provides a summary and analysis of the feedback collected through our community engagement efforts.

Community Outreach and Engagement Process

Project Timeline

July 2020 – December 2020: Initial Scoping Outreach
January 2021 – March 2021: Public Outreach and Strategy
April 2021 – May 2021: Analysis of Outreach and Survey Results
June 2021 – July 2021: Sharing of Final Report and Recommendations

Details of Public Outreach

Meetings Completed: 14

Total Attendees: 200+ attendees

Postcards Mailed: 300

Emails: 65+ organizations, and their networks

Virtual Engagement

Meetings with Community Based Organizations

Between January and April 2021, the Planning Department attended 14 meetings hosted by community based organizations and District Supervisors to share details about the project and listen to feedback to better understand communities facility needs and priorities. A list of the meetings, date and number of attendees is summarized in the table below.

Calendar of Virtual Meetings Attended

Meeting	Date	# of Attendees
Market Octavia Community Advisory Committee	January 11, 2021	6
SoMa Community Planning Advisory Committee	January 12, 2021	9
 Cultural Districts American Indian Cultural District Castro LGBTQ Cultural District Leather LGBTQ Cultural District Transgender Cultural District 	January 20, 2021	11
Resilient D10	February 8, 2021	48
South Beach, Rincon, Mission Bay Neighborhood Association	February 8, 2021	39
Mission Bay Community Advisory Committee	February 11, 2021	12
SoMa Pilipinas	February 15, 2021	3
SoMa West Board of Directors	February 16, 2021	25
Kultivate Labs	February 17, 2021	2
Yerba Buena Central Business District	February 25, 2021	29
Yerba Buena Alliance	March 11, 2021	18
Supervisor Matt Haney's Office, District 6	March 5, 2021	4
Joint SoMa Community Planning Advisory Committee and SoMa Community Stabilization Fund CAC Meeting	April 15, 2021	27

Online Survey

An online survey was developed to get feedback on community facility priorities. The survey was translated into Chinese, Spanish, and Tagalog, and was available for three months. The survey link was shared directly with over 300 stakeholders and was further circulated to their networks. A total of 166 surveys were completed.

Email Circulation

300+ residents, organizations, and stakeholders were contacte through direct emails, newsletters, and other networks. The purpose of the email was to introduce the project, share the link to the online survey and request to attend a community meeting. The text of the email, as well as the list of organizations contacted, are included in the appendix.

Online Engagement

Planning Department staff posted updates about the project on NextDoor, Twitter, and Facebook. The NextDoor posts were directed to the SoMa, Tenderloin, Hub and Mission Bay neighborhoods. The posts encouraged viewers to complete the online survey and contained information about how to further participate and give feedback on the project.

Social Media

A social media strategy including scheduled posts for Twitter and NextDoor was included as a part of digital outreach. Over the course of two months (from February through March 2021), two tweets and two NextDoor posts were shared with the public to provide awareness of the online survey and of upcoming events (a screenshot of one Tweet is included below).

San Francisco Planning @sfplanning · Mar 1

Do you have feedback on your community facilities? Help the Planning Depart understand if facilities are meeting the needs of existing SoMa residents by participating in this survey, closing 4/1: tinyurl.com/yc6vz2q5

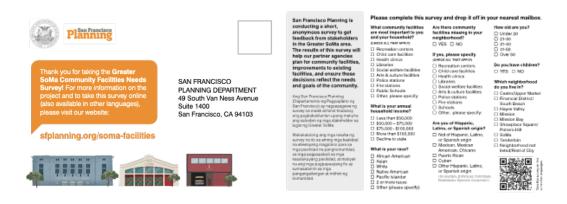
Figure 1: Greater SoMa Community Facility Needs Assessment Twitter Post

Physical Outreach

Postcards

300 postcards – pre-stamped with return postage – were shared with SoMa stakeholders. SoMa Pilipinas distributed 200 of these postcards at the Bayanihan Center, which was a meal pick-up site during the COVID-19 pandemic. The remaining 100 postcards were distributed by City of San Francisco Disaster Service Workers at the Moscone Center Vaccine Site in SoMa. The postcards included Filipino translation, as well as instructions to accessing additional translation services.

Figure 2: Postcard Survey



Flyer

A one-page flyer was distributed to administrators at Bessie Carmichael Elementary School, SoMa Pilipinas and the Cultural Districts Manager, at MOHCD to share with organizations. The flyer included an introduction to the project and a link to the online survey. A full-size version of the distributed flyer is included in the Appendix.

Figure 3: Greater SoMa Community Facility Needs Assessment One-Pager



Feedback Collected

In order to obtain feedback from a diverse and representative population of the Greater SoMa, Planning Department staff reached out to residents and organizations of the Greater SoMa and offered multiple ways to connect and engage on the project. Over a three-month period beginning in January 2021 and concluding in April 2021, staff developed a survey that was posted online and widely circulated to Greater SoMa residents and stakeholders, partnered with community-based organization to distribute 300 postcard surveys, partnered with community-based organization to attend their community meeting, and provided opportunities to share feedback online and on social media. Planning Department staff spoke with residents, elected officials, business owners, volunteers, property managers, and non-profits. Below is a summary of the key takeaways from our community engagement efforts.

Questions About Project and Process

We received a wide range of questions over the course of our meetings with SoMa stakeholders and community groups. While the questions often varied depending on the constituency, several themes emerged. The questions received during our stakeholder engagement can be encapsulated in five distinct categories.

How was the scope of the study determined?

Throughout our community engagement process, we received several questions about how the scope of the study was determined. Participants were curious about the geographical boundaries and how they were decided upon, as well as the initial impetus for the study. The most common questions in this category involved the specific facilities covered by the study – participants frequently wanted to know how the various facility types were selected, and why. People were particularly curious as to why parks were not included in the study.

How does this assessment relate to zoning and prior regulatory efforts in the Greater SoMa area?

Those who participated in our community meetings were often curious about the big picture context of the Greater SoMa Community Facility Needs Assessment. There was particular interest on how the study relates to the Central SoMa Area Plan, and how, if at all, the study will impact the outcomes of that plan. There were several questions about whether the study will entail changes to the area's zoning regulations.

How accessible and equitable is the assessment?

We consistently heard from stakeholders who wanted to make sure that the Greater SoMa Community Facility Needs Assessment is carried out equitably. Those we spoke with wanted information about what languages the survey was translated into, with particular interest in whether it has been circulated in Tagalog to ensure it is accessible to SoMa's large Filipino

population. Participants also wanted to know which community groups we engaged with, who is eligible to complete the survey, and what the demographic makeup is of those who have completed the survey thus far.

What information is informing the assessment?

Stakeholders were interested in how the data informing the survey was calculated and collected. The Southeast Framework – something of a predecessor of the Greater SoMa Community Facility Needs Assessment – operates on the assumption that 75% of San Francisco's population growth by 2040 will be located in the Southeast of the City, which includes Greater SoMa. There was significant curiosity as to how this figure was calculated, and how the boundaries of the Assessment were determined.

What will be the tangible impact of the final report?

By far the most common questions we received involved the ways in which the study's findings will be used. Participants wanted to know if the Planning Department's recommendations would be binding, and whether the report would change the ways in which funding is allocated and impact fees are distributed.

Questions Received at Stakeholder Meetings

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At the conclusion of each of our stakeholder meetings, Planning Department staff asked the participants if they would be interested in participating in the project, and if they could suggest ways to circulate the survey to reach a large and diverse audience. Several meeting participants offered to broadcast the survey and website to their networks, and some scheduled follow-up meetings with Planning Department staff to learn more about the project. The feedback we received regarding the circulation of our survey was very helpful – some of the most common suggestions, which we implemented while carrying out the engagement process – are below:

- Changes to the project website to make it more accessible to non-English speakers
- Specific organizations in SoMa to connect with that were not on the initial outreach list
- Ways to reach people with hard-copy surveys instead of relying on digital circulation

Major Themes from the Feedback Collected

Overall, the needs and priorities for community facilities differed by race and income; furthermore, the demographics of survey respondents varied significantly depending on the medium (i.e. online survey and postcard survey). Through the postcard surveys and attendance of virtual community meetings, we were able to receive input and feedback from a more diverse population. While the majority of online survey respondents were over fifty years old, and the plurality earned more than \$100,000 a year and identified as white, postcard respondents were younger (50% under 30 years old), earned less (58% earn less than \$50,000 a year), and entirely composed of people of color. The majority of respondents that provided feedback during this outreach effort live in the Greater SoMa area.

Another significant takeaway from our outreach is the need for more creative solutions to provide community facilities – one of the most common suggestions we received was to co-locate facilities at one location to allow people to access multiple services without requiring multiple trips.

Similarly, the online survey indicated that people do not have a single criteria for how they decide which community facility to use – for example survey respondents were more likely to use a library in their neighborhood, while they were more likely to visit an arts and culture facility outside their neighborhood. Many survey respondents identified service gaps within the community facilities in the Greater SoMa area. The vast majority – over 80% - of survey respondents said they found the community facilities they utilize to be either fully or somewhat welcoming and accessible. As such, it is important to understand how people access facilities and consider how access can be improved when planning for new community facilities or making improvements to existing facilities.

A common theme we heard while attending our community meetings was a sense that SoMa stakeholders don't feel like the City of San Francisco is genuinely interested in serving them and meeting their needs. Underscoring this point is data collected through both the postcard and survey, indicating that over 70% of both groups of respondents feel there are facilities missing in their neighborhood. One way to address this concern is to ensure that future capital planning is rooted in a thorough engagement process that highlights the needs, goals, and priorities of the residents and organizations based in SoMa.

A common theme from the online survey is the desire for more programming - including classes, workshops, speakers, and events for both youth and adults. Survey respondents identified programming – such as classes, events, and speakers – as something that would make them more likely to use multiple different facilities.

Feedback Collected on Specific Facility Types

Arts and Culture Facilities

Survey respondents ranked arts and culture facilities as the single most important facility, and they were also heavily prioritized by community meeting attendees. Postcard survey respondents did not favor them as heavily, ranking them as the 6th most-important community facility out of the 9 options to choose from. Over 70% of online survey respondents indicated that museums were the type of arts and culture facility they utilize most; while the SoMa area has many museums, community meeting participants identified a shortage of community performance venues and maker spaces. Specifically, meeting participants noted there is a need for a performance space large enough to accommodate traditional Filipino dances and celebrations. Regarding maker spaces, there is a need for drop-in accessible facilities wherein SoMa stakeholders – especially youth – can make art and engage in creative pursuits without being required to make a reservation or pay a fee.

Childcare

The vast majority of online survey respondents indicated that they do not have children, and thus had limited need for childcare facilities. However, although slightly less than 50% of the postcard survey respondents have children, they still ranked childcare centers as the fourth most important community facility. Of those who utilize childcare facilities, 80% of them indicated that they utilize the facility

closest to their home. The plurality of online survey respondents indicated that the childcare facilities they use are privately-operated. We received substantial qualitative feedback from attendees at the community meetings at which we presented that there is a shortage of childcare facilities in the Greater SoMa area. Online survey respondents indicated that the primary way to better meet their family's needs would be to increase the number of teachers.

Health Clinics

While health clinics were ranked as one of the least important community facilities according to the online survey, the postcard survey ranked them tied with social welfare centers as the third most important community facility, behind only public schools and recreation centers. Over 90% of online survey respondents indicated they have health insurance, which perhaps explains the fact that nearly 75% of respondents visit a privately-operated health clinic, rather than a public health center. Over 80% of online survey respondents indicated that their primary health clinic meets their needs. Feedback on this facility type indicates a significant discrepancy in the resources of the respondents, as the generally more-resourced online survey respondents were satisfied with the quality of their health care and services that they did not view public health clinics as priority for their neighborhood.

Libraries

According to the online survey, libraries are the second-most important community facility, behind only art & culture facilities, to Greater SoMa stakeholders. Respondents overwhelmingly use the library in their neighborhood of residence – in this case, either the Main Branch or the Mission Bay Branch constituting over 80% of library use – as opposed to venturing to use one in another part of San Francisco, with their main reason for visiting being the convenient location. Although the primary reason for visiting the library is to borrow books, over 60% of respondents identified increased programming (such as events, lectures, or classes) as the improvements that would make them more likely to use the library.

Our postcard survey elicited a different result, with libraries ranking as the least important community facility.

Public Schools

Postcard survey respondents listed public schools as the single most important community facility. They also selected public schools as the most common response to the question, "Are there facilities missing in your neighborhood?" Several respondents added additional comments noting specifically that a public high school is needed in the area. Online survey respondents, who are just as likely to have children (about 40% of both groups indicated they have children), but more likely to earn well above the median household income and not need to rely on the public school system, ranked public schools as the 5th most important community facility out of a possible 9 options. Public schools, along with health clinics and social welfare centers, indicate how substantially needs and priorities differ by race and income.

Recreation Centers

Recreation centers are of very high importance among all respondents. Postcard survey respondents ranked them as the second-most important community facilities, while online survey respondents ranked them as the third-most important. Consistent with our findings across facility types, a plurality of online survey respondents indicated that increasing the class and event offerings would make them more likely to utilize recreation centers more often. Survey respondents were less likely to utilize the recreation center in their neighborhood, indicating that programming or specific amenities may be more important than the physical location in determining which recreation center to use. The oppositive was noted for libraries. As noted above, survey respondents were more likely to use a library in their neighborhood.

Although parks and open spaces were not analyzed as part of the Community Facility Needs Assessment, those who attended community meetings and completed the online survey repeatedly indicated the need for more parks and open spaces in the area. Specifically, stakeholders shared concerns that the City is substituting Privately Operated Public Open Spaces (POPOS) for parks; these stakeholders indicated that POPOS are not actively used by families, and do not address the need for more parks in the area.

Social Welfare Facilities

Social welfare facilities, similar to health clinics, demonstrated a large discrepancy in feedback depending on the medium; postcard survey respondents ranked social welfare facilities – tied with health clinics – as the third-most important community facilities, while 86% of online survey respondents indicated that they do not utilize them at all. Consistent with our findings across facility types, respondents indicated that programming such as classes, lectures, and workshops would make them more likely to visit social welfare facilities.

Appendix

Exhibit A: Email to SoMa-Based Organizations

Greetings All,

I hope everyone has had a good start to the new year. My name is Dylan Hamilton, and I'm working on the Greater SoMa Community Facility Needs Assessment on behalf of the San Francisco Planning Department. We are reaching out to community leaders and stakeholders to introduce the project and get input on how best to conduct outreach and engagement. Please forgive the long email, but I am writing to A) request your advice and input, B) share some background about the project, and C) suggest some next steps.

Request:

Over the next couple of months, we are hoping to collect input through an online survey, individual conversations, and attending community meetings. Given the unique remote world we are working in, we could use your help in connecting with residents to ensure we receive feedback from many voices. As community leaders and advocates, we would appreciate your perspective on the community facility needs and priorities of Greater SoMa residents:

Can we attend your organization's future meeting where we could (virtually) present the project, and connect with residents?

We've developed an online survey to get some preliminary feedback. Could you share the survey with your network?

Background:

The Greater SoMa Community Facility Needs Assessment aims to identify the need for nine types of community facilities - such as recreation centers, libraries, and child care facilities - in the greater South of Market area, which includes SoMa, Tenderloin, Mission Bay, Showplace Square and Market & Octavia neighborhoods. The assessment includes identifying existing community facilities in these neighborhoods, assessing existing levels of service for each facility type, and identifying ways to accommodate the community facility needs of existing and future residents. This assessment is summarized in an online Storymap.

We want to complement this assessment with feedback from neighborhood residents to gain a better understanding of which community facilities or amenities they would like to have in their neighborhood. This feedback will help the San Francisco Planning Department form a list of priorities for community facilities to share with partner City agencies and it will help inform Departmental priorities in the City's Capital Plan.

Next Steps:

Please do let us know your thoughts on the questions above. For more information about the project, please visit our website. When you have a moment, please complete our survey and circulate it to other members of your community. The online survey will close on April 1st, 2021.

If you have questions or comments about the project, we would be happy to meet with you as well please feel free to reach out with a date and time for a phone call/virtual meeting.

Thank you for your support and involvement, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Best Regards,

Dylan

Exhibit B: List of Organizations Emailed

1 SOMACC	35 Mission Housing
2 SoMa Arts	36 PODER
3 Supervisor Walton	37 Mission Neighborhood Center
4 Supervisor Haney	38 Mission Neighborhood Health Center
5 Supervisor Preston	39 Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
6 SoMa CAC	40 SF Housing Development Corporation
7 Soma Stabilization CAC (MOHCD)	41 Mission Yimby
8 Market Octavia CAC	42 Central City SRO Collaborative
9 Mission Bay CAC	43 Glide Memorial Church
10 Eastern Neighborhoods CAC	44 SoMa Neighborhood Association
11 SoMa West CBD	45 Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association
12 Yerba Buena CBD	46 Market/Van Ness Neighborhood Association
13 Greater Rincon Hill CBD	47 Alliance for a Better District 6
14 Central Market CBD	48 Market Street Association
15 Civic Center CBD	49 South Beach/Rincon Hill/Mission Bay Neighborhood Association
16 Tenderloin CBD	50 SomaBend Neighborhood Association
17 Union Square CBD	51 Native American Health Center
18 Mission Merchants Association CBD	52 Lafayette, Minna, Natoma Neighborhood Association
19 Excelsior Action Group	53 Eucharist Church
20 SF Black Wall Street	54 Alliance for a Better District 6
21 Megablack	55 St. Patrick Church
22 Rafiki Coalition	56 Christian Science Church
23 SOMCAN	57 Dogpatch Neighborhood Association

24 TODCO	58 Potrero Boosters
25 SoMa Pilipinas	59 Dogpatch Merchants Association
26 Leather and LGBTQ Cultural District	60 Pamela Lewis, Mission Bay Maintenance Corp
27 Bayanihan Equity Center	61 San Francisco Community Clinic Consotrium
28 West Bay Pilipino Multi-Service Center	62 Hospitality House
29 United Playaz	63 Code Tenderloin
30 La Casa De Las Madres	64 Episcopal Community Services
31 MEDA	65 Yerba Buena Alliance
32 Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation	66 Kultivate Labs
33 Tenderloin Housing Clinic	67 Yerba Buena Gardens
34 Chinatown Community Development Center	68 Pat Zamora

Exhibit C: One-Page Flyer



The Greater SoMa Community Facility Needs Assessment plans for equitable access to community facilities to serve existing and future residents in the greater South of Market area.

The Greater SoMa Community Facilities Needs Assessment aims to identify the need for ten types of community facilities - such as recreation centers, public schools, libraries, and child care facilities - in the greater South of Market area, which includes SoMa, Tenderloin, Mission Bay, Showplace Square and the Market & Octavia neighborhoods. The assessment includes identifying existing community facilities in these neighborhoods, assessing existing levels of service for each facility type, and identifying ways to accommodate the needs of existing and future residents.

We want to complement this assessment with feedback from neighborhood residents to gain a better understanding of which community facilities or amenities they would like to have in their neighborhood. This feedback will help the San Francisco Planning Department form a list of priorities for community facilities to share with partner City agencies, and it will help inform Departmental priorities in the City's expenditures going forward.

WHY TAKE THE SURVEY?

- » The best way for us to generate a report that truly reflects what Greater SoMa residents want is to collect as much feedback as possible. To that end, please complete our survey and circulate it to other members of your community. The more responses we get, the more information we will have about the goals, issues, and priorities of SoMa stakeholders. The online survey will close on April 1st, 2021.
- » The survey is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Filipino

PROJECT LINKS

SURVEY

WEBSITE

STORYMAP

For information in a language of your choice, please call **628.652.7550** Para información en Español llamar al **628.652.7550** Para sa impormasyon sa Tagalog tumawag sa **628.652.7550**

sfplanning.org

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- August 2020 March 2021 » Develop inventory and understanding of existing community facilities
 - Analysis of existing standards for community facilities
 - Connect with stakeholders and community groups to shape the outreach approach
 - » Interagency coordination

March 2021 - April 2021

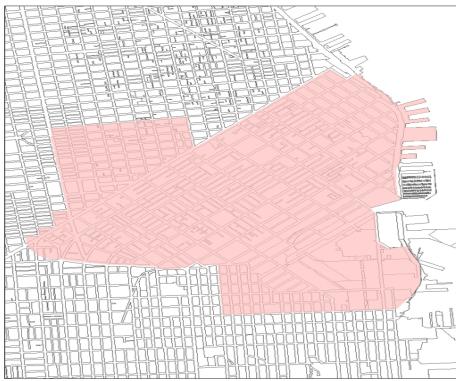
- » Share key findings from inventory of existing community facilities
- Share key findings from community input on community facility needs
 Apply existing nexus standards to community facilities (where applicable) to understand what is needed
- Continue stakeholder engagement
- » Interagency coordination

May 2021 - June 2021

» Share findings, incorporate feedback from Phase 2 of outreach

DELIVERABLES

- Determine what neighborhood priorities are for community facilities
- Provide recommendations to partner agencies for the planning of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities
- ③ Inform Departmental priorities in the City's future expenditures and capital plans



THE GREATER SOMA COMMUNITY FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT BOUNDARY

For more info on this project:

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