

Public Space Working Group:

Meeting 2 Notes

Monday, July 8, 2024

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Location: 555 Larkin Street Community Room (in-person)

Presentation Slides:

Final Community Agreements:

Meeting Objectives:

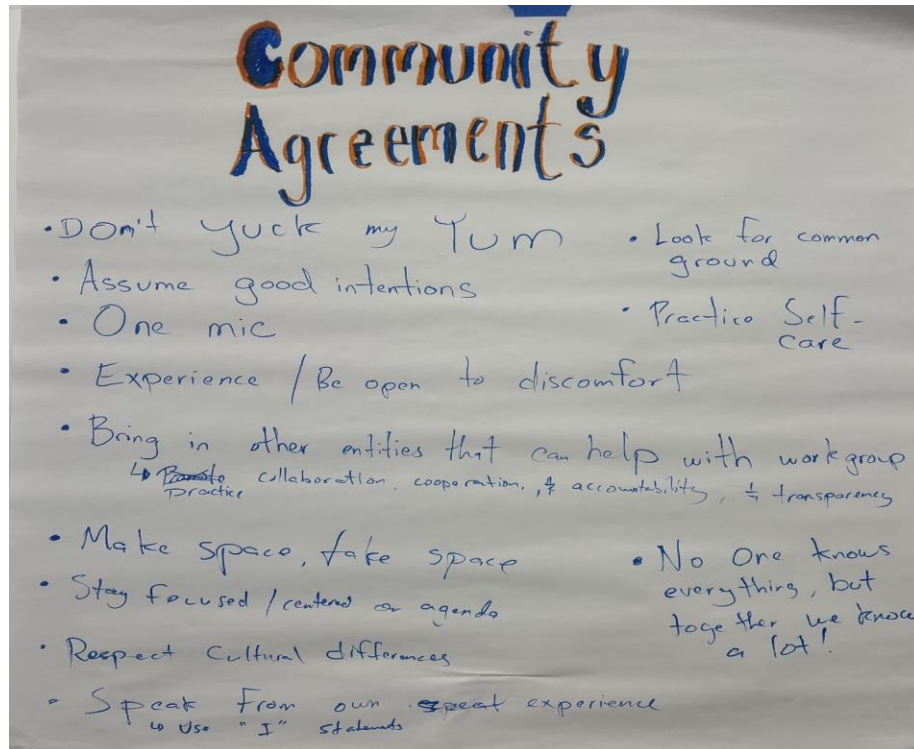
- Create community agreements to ensure a respectful, inclusive, and productive working group environment.
- Gain Insights from Cyntia Salazar's presentation on the Tenderloin Community Benefit District's (TLCBD) public space initiatives.
- Discuss examples of ground murals, their challenges, and advocacy efforts within the Tenderloin area.
- Participate in an activity to brainstorm and strategize future steps for ground mural projects in the community.

1. Introduction

Tolu: First meeting consisted of participants sharing their favorite public space in the Tenderloin, an overview of TCAP, Public Space strategic priority areas, Public Space Typologies (Ex: Alley's).

2. Community Agreements

During the meeting, the group engaged in an activity to set community agreements, focusing on promoting a respectful, inclusive, and productive environment for the working group. Key points included respecting individual preferences and opinions, assuming good intentions, and ensuring equitable participation. Emphasis was placed on the importance of Planning staff involving relevant stakeholders from the City's side and the group as a whole maintaining focus on the topic. At the end, the group discussed and refined the list and established a final list of community agreements.



Conversation about community agreements

- **Tina:** How can we bring other people to the table who are focused on overdoses. Maintenance. Poop everywhere. Encouraging coordination and collaboration. Need to hold the city accountable.
- **Anita:** Attends the People's Congress. Invites **Tina** to that meeting.
- **Cyntia:** Transparency, Respectful of people's times. Everyone deserves a voice and time to speak. Focus on the agenda and not go too off topic.
- **Soumia:** Respect Cultural Differences

3. TLCBD Public Space Work Overview

Presentation by Cyntia Salazar

Cyntia from TLCBD presented on the community engagement initiatives focusing on physical improvement projects, events, and activations in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood.

The Need

Cyntia highlighted the demographic challenges within the Tenderloin, noting that over 8,000 residents are aged 65 and above, facing significant health, poverty, and food insecurity issues. Many seniors live in single-room occupancy hotels without access to safe outdoor spaces.

The Solution

- **Dodge Alley:** Transformation of Dodge Alley from a neglected alleyway in the Tenderloin - burdened with intense open air drug use and violence, into a healthy, activated, and aesthetically positive. community experience.
 - Initially piloted with temporary activations such as live music, art performances, outdoor dining, art classes, chess, and gardening classes, this initiative laid the groundwork for more permanent community-led physical improvements.
 - OEWD mini grant awarded for monthly activations. Also received a community challenge grant of \$127K for physical improvements including mural, lanterns, and street features for events.
 - Planning a big mural. Coming soon.
- **Barklet at Myrtle Alley:** TCAP Project - Built but not open yet. Still in planning process.
- **Community Celebrations:** Over 111,1000 community members engaged in events. More money from OEWD for festivals. 206, 844 tenderloin park visitors assisted by park stewards.
- **Public Realm Improvements:** Cyntia highlighted the transformative impact of the Lower Larkin Gates project. Beyond physical installations, the project addresses community needs amid regulatory challenges.
 - Advocating for legislative reforms and addressing concerns related to ownership, taxation, and maintenance.
 - The installation of decorative gates promises safety enhancements and aesthetic enhancements for local businesses, notably improving the appeal of Lower Larkin Street as a gateway in the neighborhood.

Q & A

- **Tina:** Would like to be more community involvement in the street murals. Fan of the Sky Watchers events and artwork. (Cyntia will keep this in mind as they proceed with Murals).

- **Annita:** Very impressed by Dodge Alley.
- **Soumia:** Attended Arab event at Dodge Alley and loved it. Is there a possibility we can have resource fairs at Dodge Alley.
- **Cyntia: Reach out to Cyntia if you have any ideas for activations (Cyntia@TLCBD.org).**
- **Jamie:** What is the biggest barrier you have come across?
 - **Cyntia:** Many permits are required from many city agencies. UA presence helped improve block.
- **Annita:** encouraging Mobile Coffee space. Also, would activate during holidays such as Halloween.
- **Scott:** Would love to be in the loop about future events. (Cyntia: there is a Calander that displays all events.
 - Dodge Alley intersects Safe Passage Route - How can Dodge Alley connect with Safe Passage (network of public space)
- **Cyntia:** July 11th Dot Com and the noise at Dodge Alley.
- **Tolu:** Encouraging more collaboration with people who may not be involved.
- **Cyntia:** Envelope Architecture and Design created a toolkit that Cyntia can share with group. Tool kit consists of feedback mechanisms, community by in and more.

4. Advocating for Ground Murals as a Placemaking Strategy

Presentation

- Ground murals were defined as large-scale artworks painted directly on pavement in public spaces like streets, sidewalks, and plazas.

Key impacts:

- Creating visually appealing and memorable spaces.
- Fostering community pride and ownership.
- Encouraging foot traffic and economic activity.
- Serving as landmarks and aids to navigation.
- Engaging the community.
- Helping to calm traffic.
- Enhancing pedestrian experiences.
- Promoting local culture and history.
- The discussion highlighted that the Tenderloin has a history of advocating for murals, with ground murals being particularly desired by residents, block groups, and Community-Based Organizations.

- It was noted that ground murals could serve as a starting point for broader discussions on advocating for public space improvements in the Tenderloin.
- Currently, there is no coordinated effort between the City and Community to establish a pathway for implementing ground murals in the TL.
- Regarding ground (street) murals in San Francisco, the SFMTA's Slow Streets Mural Program was mentioned.
 - Notably, there are no Slow Streets designated in the Tenderloin. Advocacy efforts by groups such as the Tenderloin Traffic Safety Task Force, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, and Walk SF are pushing for the expansion of the program into the Tenderloin.

Reactions:

- **Scott:** The lack of slow streets in the Tenderloin is an equity issue.
- **Tina:** Would like to see SFMTA's slow streets mural program to alleys.
- **Cyntia:** Biggest cost for safe passage route thermoplastic paint: needed to pay by square footage.

Discussion

Question: How can we be creative to express the need for this type of art and treatment for streets in the Tenderloin?

- **Tina:** We need better paint that won't be washed off.
- **Cyntia:** Is there a process for getting a ground Mural. Can we collect signatures to send to the city about the need for slow streets and murals.
- **Tolu:** Through Slow Streets.
- **Scott:** Likes the idea of a collective letter.
- **Cyntia:** We can also think of a resolution.
- **Tina:** More flower paintings in our district. Can the Tenderloin have their own flag?
- **Cyntia:** Proposing that the working group do some research they are interested in regarding Public Space Improvements by the next meeting. We should move faster when we do.

5. Next Steps

- Need to bring more city stakeholders to the conversation.
- Set up a collaborative tool for folks to use for communication (folder, document)
- Summarize community agreements and send out to working group

Working Group Participants: Soumia Laktebi, Anita McDevitt, Cytia Salazar, Leontine Collins, Scott Bravmann, Ale Diaz

Staff: Tolu Atoyebi (Planning) , Aseel Fara (Planning), Jaime Vilorio (TNDC)

Not Present: Ana Gonzalez, Norma Carrera, Jude Alnajjar, Yamen Alnajjar, Serra Er, Tyree Leslie, Carlo Gomez Arteaga, Alec Hawley, Kent McCormick, Miguel Ibarra