

Community Equity Council Meeting Summary

Date: January 27th, 2024

Councilmembers: Anni Chung, Ben Wong, Lucia Obregon, Mary Travis-Allen, Mahsa Hakimi, Del Seymour, Raquel Redondie, Lara Kiswani, Tiffany Carter, Majeid Crawford

Staff: Oscar Grande, Kofi Akinjide, Aurion Wiley-Green, James Pappas, Rich Hillis and Miriam Chion

1. Welcome and Agenda Overview

The meeting began with a welcome from Giuliana, the facilitator. A land acknowledgment was read by Mary, and the agenda was reviewed. The icebreaker was skipped due to time constraints. The council acknowledged Martin Luther King Jr. Day, reflecting on his contributions and relevance to equity work.

2. Review of EC's 2023 Accomplishments

The council reviewed their major accomplishments from 2023, including:

- Completing and presenting the Equity Vision of Downtown at the Planning Commission
- Providing guidance on the Planning Code Audit
- Conducting the first Housing Workshop within the American Indian community
- Shaping equity communities' housing implementation priorities
- Strengthening the equity framework in Affordable Housing Leadership Council recommendations
- Hiring key staff, including the Equity Plan Manager and Fillmore Community staff

3. Housing Bond

The City Attorney advised the council on the limits of its advocacy role regarding the Affordable Housing Bond. As a body, the council cannot officially endorse the bond, but individual members and organizations can advocate independently. Council members are working within their personal networks to raise awareness.

4. Affordable Housing Pipeline

A proposal was made to develop a collective list of ~30 affordable housing projects to increase visibility and solidarity among equity communities. The goal is to focus advocacy efforts on equitable housing distribution.

Questions/Comments:

- A council member stressed the importance of directing bond funding to equity communities and avoiding further concentration of affordable housing in low-income areas.
- Concerns were raised about ensuring affordable housing projects actually reach the intended communities through systems like DAHLIA.

- A member highlighted housing needs in LGBTQ+ communities, particularly in the Castro District.
- Another expressed concern about sub-communities excluding themselves from advocacy efforts.

Next Steps:

The Housing Working Group will create a pipeline/collective list of affordable housing projects for advocacy.

5. Affordable Housing Leadership Council Updates

The Affordable Housing Leadership Council is finalizing its process, with the final recommendations and report expected in February. The report will include community priorities informed by the Equity Council's Equity Analysis.

6. Equity Housing Goals and Equity Vision

The Housing Element's five goals were outlined, focusing on racial and social inclusivity, well-being, and equitable neighborhood investment.

Questions/Comments:

- **Q:** Will the Equity Council have input on the final report?
A: The report framework is being developed, and input will be sought at the right time.
- Concerns were raised about the inclusion of LGBTQ+ and MENA communities in the recommendations. The Castro district and MENA communities have been engaged, but more support is needed for Pacific Islander and Southeast communities.

Next Steps:

The Housing Working Group will continue discussions on the recommendations.

7. Downtown Updates

The Union Square Market Hall received no proposals for funding, and the City is exploring other options. The Union Square Tenant Attraction program received one application, and Planning has been reaching out to neighborhoods to ensure inclusivity.

9. Key Updates

- **New MOHCD Director:** Dan Adams
- **Commercial Storefront Grants:** Applications open until February 23rd
- **Planning Department Budget:** \$750k retained for equity communities, though the internship program has been cut
- **Community Announcements:**
 - Raquel: "Larry, the Musical" at Brava Theater from March-April
 - Tiffany: HBCUs visiting San Francisco from February 2-6
 - Mahsa: Grand opening of KOMAAJ Persian restaurant on February 7-8

- Del: Black leaders in the Tenderloin will be recognized in the TL Action Plan
- Anni: Westside Affordable Housing Resources Fair on March 9th
- Ben: Chinese New Year celebration on February 11th on the Westside

10. Closing Remarks

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 27th, 2024.**

The Housing Working Group will design a draft solidarity pipeline list and continue discussing the Affordable Housing Leadership Council recommendations.