

## Community Equity Council Meeting

[April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023]

**Councilmembers In-Person:** Majeid Crawford, Tiffany Carter, Masha Hakimi, Ben Wong, Delano Seymour, and William Ortiz

**Councilmembers Absent:** Raquel, Lara Kiswani, Anni, Mary

**Staff:** Oscar Grande, Rich Hillis, Miriam Chion, and Aurion Wiley-Green

### 1. Opening

Oscar, as the facilitator, opened the meeting. Councilmember William volunteered to read the statement acknowledging that the Equity Council's work is done on unceded Ramaytush Ohlone lands. Additionally, councilmembers went over established community common grounds.

### 2. 2023 Focus Area Exercise

April was a continuation of nailing down project focus's for the 2023 year. February and March focused on identifying priorities and surveying interest on Planning projects across all divisions.

Through great discussions during the March meeting and the help of a survey the **top project priorities** emerged as:

*1) Cultural Districts and Community Initiatives*

*2) Community Fellowship: American Indian & Black Communities*

*3) Racial and Social Equity Plan*

*4) Land Use and Housing Data Systems*

*5) Downtown Recovery Strategies*

*6) Prioritize permits for housing projects with increased affordability and benefits*

*7) Housing Element Implementation*

*8) Equity Impact Analysis Guidelines for Permit Review*

*9) Communication and Community Engagement Strategies*

*10) Historic Preservation: Legacy businesses, community landmarks, and historic context statements*

Before facilitating an exercise, staff delivered the survey results on poster paper. Along with results staff provided project context such as the timeline and type of impact each project will have.

### *Exercise*

Councilmembers were asked to review the survey results with the guiding question – **what are the top 5 projects that can advance racial and social equity, and deliver wins for your community?**

Each councilmember was given 5 stickers to place on the board next to the projects they feel most strongly connects to the guiding question. The exercise aimed to identify 5 projects for the council to shape their work around and facilitate discussion around information needed for next steps.

### ***The exercise identified the top project priorities as:***

- 1) *Community Initiatives*
- 2) *Racial and Social Equity Plan*
- 3) *Downtown Recovery Strategies*
- 4) *Process improvement for affordable housing projects*
- 5) *Communications and Community Engagement Strategies*

*\*Absent councilmembers also completed the exercise; their votes have been incorporated into the results.*

## 3. Discussion

Given the exercise results, councilmembers began discussing key lines of inquiry needed to move forward in organizing and engaging their communities on the top five projects.

**“Build on top of community work.”** – The top priority project emerged as community initiatives including cultural districts, CHHESS reports and the community fellowship program. Councilmembers discussed how community initiatives and plans set the foundation for neighborhood priorities and money allocation. However, many communities lack the capacity to get important plans done. Council members also highlighted the importance of working in collaboration with communities to support and the work that is already being done.

**“Downtown is the heart of the City.”** – Councilmembers clearly and repeatedly expressed interest in the Downtown Recovery Strategies. Councilmembers would like to better understand the departments’ role in Downtown recovery. Additionally, Councilmembers understand that Downtown is a urgent matter and there is a need for Planning staff to take initiative to play a more active role in shaping it. Councilmembers shared the perspective that “Downtown is the heart of the City”. The reshaping of downtown is a once in a lifetime opportunity to incorporate equity and community into Downtown San Francisco.

**“Empower me to advise.”** – Councilmembers are ready and eager to get into the work of shaping their communities. Staff opened a discussion about what additional information is needed to help identify actionable next steps. Councilmembers requested that the information given on each project should be below the surface and comprehensive to empower councilmembers to take actionable steps. Planning staff will prepare a presentation of staff tasks, equity council potential tasks, timeline, and community wins for each project. Councilmembers also recommended that Planning staff invite councilmembers to

sit in on meetings to actively engage or simply be flies in the room. In essence, councilmembers want to be equipped with knowledge and resources to move the needle on their priorities.

## 4. Updates

### *In Person Reminder*

The council now will only hold a virtual meeting space as needed. In-person meeting participation is expected unless stated otherwise.

### *Seat Vacancy*

Currently, there is a vacant seat on the Equity Council. Three individuals were proposed along with their bios. Councilmembers gave feedback on each candidate. Staff will continue to work with councilmembers to select an individual to fill the seat.

### *Summer Internship Program*

Last year Equity councilmembers advocated for a more equitable summer internship program. Staff presented new hire requirements that prioritize local public school applicants. The internship program shift connects directly to the equity council priority of wealth building and community jobs.

### *Community Engagement Budget*

The department has allocated \$800,000 for community engagement. Of the community engagement budget \$550,000 is Community Engagement Fellowships in the Black and American Indian Community. \$150,000 is budgeted for housing element implementation strategies for Calle 24, SoMa Pilipinas, and the Sunset Chinese Cultural District. Lastly, \$100,000 has been allocated to the Equity Council. The community engagement budget allocation relates directly to the councils priority integrated community strategies and community visibility.

## 4. Closing

Staff closed the meeting and reminded council members that the next Equity Council meeting will take place on May 23rd, 2023 at the San Francisco Planning Department. The May Equity Council meeting will be a presentation on the top 5 projects from staff and a discussion about strategies to begin the work.