

## **Community Equity Council Meeting Summary**

**[June 3rd, 2023]**

**Councilmembers In-Person:** Majeid Crawford, Tiffany Carter, Masha Hakimi, Ben Wong, Delano Seymour, Anni Chung, Mary Travis-Allen

**Councilmembers Online:** Raquel Redondiez

**Councilmembers Absent:** William Ortiz, Lara Kiswani, and Lucia Obergon

**Planning Commissioner:** Theresa Imperial

**Staff:** Oscar Grande, Rich Hillis, Miriam Chion, Wade Weitgreffe, Rich Sucre, Lily Langois, and Aurion Wiley-Green

### **1. Opening**

Oscar, as the facilitator, opened the meeting and read the statement acknowledging that the Equity Council's work is done on unceded Ramaytush Ohlone lands. To provide additional information on the priority projects identified in April, additional Planning staff attended the meeting. The council also acknowledged Asian American and Pacific Islander Month in May and Pride Month for June. Lastly, the council went over established community common guidelines.

### **2. Identifying Tasks to Make Equity Wins**

In the May meeting, the objective was to establish working groups that would move forward in accomplishing equity wins for the year. Each meeting this year has brought the council one step closer to identifying specific action items that will yield results. Top priorities were identified as Community Initiatives, Racial and Social Equity Action Plan, Future of Downtown, Prioritize affordable housing projects, and Communication and Engagement Strategies.

During the meeting, staff members presented a project description, outlined staff tasks associated with the projects, highlighted possible community benefits, and identified potential tasks for the equity council for each project. Based on the information presented, staff organized an activity to group council members into working groups based on their chosen project.

### **3. Activity**

Staff prepared a table listing each project, including potential tasks, time commitment, time frame, and additional information. The equity council members reviewed the table and were tasked with identifying their top three project choices. After the exercise, the council members collectively decided to form three working groups focusing on community initiatives, prioritizing affordable housing, and shaping the future of downtown. Additionally, the council will receive regular updates and broadly advise on the two remaining priorities that do not have dedicated working groups.

### **4. Discussion**

Given the exercise and presentation, council members began discussing key lines of inquiry in order to gain more insight into potential work plans.

**Communities have more to offer than just arts and culture.** Council members have selected community initiatives as a priority project. A potential task for this project includes providing input on programming and activities to support arts, culture, and entertainment Downtown. However, Council members have expressed reservations about relying solely on communities to advise on arts and culture. It is crucial to integrate community input and participation at all levels in shaping the future of Downtown, including jobs, funding allocations, contracting, and more. The working group for the Future of Downtown will not only work towards advising and providing input but would like to identify specific ways their community will directly benefit from the selected tasks.

**Equitable inclusivity must be the standard.** Council members highlighted the key importance of distinguishing inclusivity and equity. Many citywide initiatives have included disenfranchised voices but not in an equitable way. It is important to include everyone, but in order for something to be equitable there must be an intentional effort to highlight and serve historically disenfranchised voices even in inclusive spaces. Councilmembers encouraged Planning staff to review web pages, images, language, used to ensure messaging centers equity.

**The revitalization of Downtown will be a reoccurring issue until communities are stabilized and served.** Council members know and understand the importance of Downtown's role in making San Francisco thrive. Therefore, the Council is vested and wants to be a part of weaving community input, voice, and presence in the shaping of Downtown. In turn, Downtown will move from just an economic engine to a place that reflects community and the values of San Franciscans. Additionally, integrating community into the fabric of Downtown could make it less susceptible to workforce changes in the future.

**What do maps imply?** Planning presented a map that highlights areas with active community initiatives. Council members urged Planning to be critical about the maps displayed and the message they may convey. These maps may restrict people to certain spatial bounds and reinforce patterns of segregation. The African American Arts and Cultural District may give the impression that the area is predominantly inhabited by one group or limit that group to that specific space. While this may not be the intention of the map, it is important to consider the implications of these visuals and how they influence people's perceptions.

## **5. Closing**

Council members chose to focus on Community Initiatives, the Future of Downtown, and Affordable Housing Process Improvement. Staff closed the meeting and reminded council members that the next Equity Council meeting will take place on June 27th, 2023 at the San Francisco Planning Department.

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[ACTION REQUIRED] Agenda Committee Meeting

Good afternoon Agenda Committee,

First, I hope you are all having a great week.

Staff is considering canceling the Agenda Committee meeting for June. As you know we will be crunching two monthly meetings into June along with possibly three working group meetings.

To move forward efficiently, Planning staff has drafted a proposed agenda for the June monthly meeting.

The proposed agenda is:

- Intro
- Code Audit Presentation - Wade Weitgreffe
- Discussion/Activity
- Closing

The Code Audit was selected as the June focus because it has been identified as a priority by the Council, but was not selected for a working group. Additionally, this project is ready to be worked on ASAP as opposed to other projects where tasks may not be ready to be completed until July or August.

**We would like to hear your feedback on:**

- 1) If you are okay with the agenda committee meeting being canceled?
- 2) Would you like to add/remove anything from the proposed agenda?
- 3) Other feedback

**Please provide any feedback by Friday June 9th, 2023.** If we hear no response we will assume everyone is okay with the Agenda Committee meeting cancellation and the proposed agenda.

Thank you,

Aurion Wiley-Green