

Community Equity Council Meeting Summary

Date: June 25, 2024

Councilmembers: Mary Travis-Allen, Tiffany Carter, Delano Seymour, Ben Wong, Raquel Redondie, Majeid Crawford, Lara Kiswani, Mahsa Hakimi, William Ortiz

Staff: Aurion Wiley-Green, James Pappas, Miriam Chion, Oscar Grande, Dr. Kofi, Dan Adams

1. Welcome and Agenda Overview

The meeting was facilitated by Oscar Grande, who welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the agenda.

Land Acknowledgment

Majeid Crawford read the land acknowledgment, followed by recognition of Juneteenth Freedom Day and Pride Month.

2. Internship Program Introduction

Tiffany Carter welcomed the new interns to the Planning Department, noting that the internship program is part of the city's equity initiative and downtown revitalization efforts, which aim to incorporate a student presence. The interns introduced themselves, shared their backgrounds, and discussed what they hoped to gain from the experience. Interns came from a range of locations, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle, and they are working on issues such as housing and the preservation of unique construction methods.

3. Director's Vision for Affordable Housing

Director Dan Adams introduced himself and shared his vision and priorities for affordable housing. He emphasized innovative models to increase affordable housing, strengthening the network with local and community-based developers, and advancing racial and social equity goals. He highlighted the Dream Keepers Initiative (DKI), which has improved homeownership opportunities for the Black community, but noted that the limited equity model does not allow for wealth-building. Challenges discussed included the high cost of building, depleted federal funding, supply chain issues, and some community resistance to affordable housing. He also stressed that other forms of housing, aside from affordable units, are important for integrating communities. The upcoming Bay Area Regional Housing Bond was highlighted as a potential source of substantial funding for the housing pipeline, with an expenditure plan expected in the fall.

Discussion and Reflections

Councilmembers and interns posed several questions and reflections. Topics included the Small Sites Program's role in preserving housing for families, challenges in new construction that may not support family needs, and the lack of culturally responsive amenities. Comments were made about the need for more Black representation across the city and for policies that open up westside neighborhoods for housing development. Additionally, the council discussed the importance of real estate brokers assisting equity communities in property purchases and creating programs that support Black homebuyers, not just for affordable units, but also market-rate homes. A suggestion was made to coordinate with local, state, and federal resources on fair housing laws to address ongoing discrimination against Black communities.

Next Steps: Director Adams was invited to return to the council to discuss preservation, community development, anti-displacement strategies, and unoccupied Below Market Rate (BMR) units.

4. Working Group Report Backs

Housing Stability

A draft of the Affordable Housing Pipeline infographic was shared, designed to educate and mobilize communities around funding the 10,000+ affordable housing units in the pipeline. The infographic highlights what affordable housing is, how it is funded, information on the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) bond, and the locations of pipeline projects. The biggest barrier to building affordable housing is funding.

Rose/Thorn Feedback:

- **Rose:** The graphic provides handy, accessible information.
- **Thorn:** The graphic does not explain why the housing system is the way it is or address historical exclusionary zoning practices that have led to most developments occurring in certain areas, particularly on the east side. The lack of development in the westside neighborhoods was noted as an issue, and suggestions were made to position the graphic to better engage with communities.

Next Steps: The council will refine the graphic to include more racial equity language and promote affordable housing development on the westside.

Wealth and Jobs

This section was not covered due to time constraints, but the focus will be on multicultural corridors like Larkin Street, Black businesses on 3rd Street, and immigrant merchants on Mission Street. The discussion will explore planning and development tools to combat disinvestment and commercial gentrification, with strategies supporting BIPOC and anti-displacement initiatives.

Community Visibility

This section was also not covered due to time constraints but will explore actionable steps to empower marginalized communities, influence public officials, and drive change through initiatives such as the Black 2 SF and HBCU workshop.

5. Key Updates and Announcements

Planning Updates

- The city's budget includes major cuts, impacting community organizations due to DCYF reductions.
- Planning is focusing on landmark designations.
- Booker T. Washington Community Service Center and TNDC have been invited to the second round of Crankstart housing funding.
- Friendship House is working to close a \$60M gap for its health and housing center.
- HBCUs are proposing a satellite school downtown, with interns arriving for a six-week program.
- Planning and Mission Economic Development Association received a Small Business Anti-Displacement Network Grant.

Community Announcements

SOMA Pilipinas will be hosting art walks featuring new murals in the area.