

Community Equity Council Meeting Summary

Date: July 23, 2024

In-Person Attendees: Mahsa Hakimi, Delano Seymour, Tiffany Carter

Online Attendees: Anni Chung, Mary Travis-Allen, Ben Wong

Absent: Majeid Crawford, William Ortiz, Lara Kiswani, Lucia Obregon, Raquel Redondiez

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

1. Welcome and Agenda Overview

Oscar Grande facilitated the meeting and provided a brief overview of the agenda for the session.

Land Acknowledgment

The meeting began with a land acknowledgment, highlighting the significance of the land and the historical context in which the work of the Equity Council takes place.

2. Commercial Corridors

The discussion focused on the policy direction guiding the strengthening of neighborhood businesses as part of the housing plan. The council emphasized the need for a holistic approach to community development, noting that the focus on housing should be balanced with efforts to support workforce development and business support, as these are key to creating complete neighborhoods. Economic vitality was highlighted as a priority, with the recognition that retail and business models have evolved to emphasize the value of experience, especially in culturally significant areas.

Commercial Corridors of Focus

Three key commercial corridors were discussed: 3rd Street, Mission Street, and Larkin Street. These areas are located in equity communities and have received policy directives to bring tangible results.

- **3rd Street:** Located in the historically Black neighborhood of Bayview, there has been little land use intervention to date. Future strategies will focus on clustering community stakeholders to deploy resources effectively.
- **Larkin Street:** Known for its Southeast Asian culture, the street has diversified over time. While housing has been a priority, business assistance and addressing retail vacancies are now key focuses moving forward.
- **Mission Street:** MAP 2020 was formed to address the community's concerns about residential and commercial displacement. The corridor's goals include securing affordable commercial spaces and preserving cultural resources.

Scope of Work

The council discussed the importance of increasing culturally driven economic prosperity in equity communities. The discussion was structured around four core tasks:

1. **Interagency Collaboration:** The Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) typically provides funding but has a hands-off approach once funds are distributed. The council noted the need for more collaboration between OEWD and Planning to preserve and protect cultural prosperity.
2. **Community Desires:** Engagement with the community must be structured to lead to tangible outcomes. Clear intentions and strategic partnerships are needed, along with fresh perspectives, including youth voices, to ensure the engagement is representative and impactful.
3. **Existing Local Tools:** Strategies to support cultural vitality were discussed, with examples like Chinatown's art community and the Sunset's Night Market. Local events such as sports activities and community centers were noted as effective in promoting economic and cultural prosperity.
4. **Place-based Strategies:** The City must take a more active role in solving community problems. The importance of anchor tenants and local hire policies, as seen in Calle 24, was highlighted to preserve cultural heritage and support economic growth.

3. Housing Stability Report Back

A draft infographic designed to educate and engage communities about affordable housing was shared. The infographic can be used as a training and knowledge-building tool for advocates, with a final draft expected by August. It is intended to support the BAHFA bond, which aims to address the housing crisis.

4. Key Updates and Announcements

The council received several key updates:

- Federal funding will support 3,700 units affordable to low-income populations through the "Faircloth to RAD" initiative.
- Crankstart funded \$300k for Housing Element Implementation in Fillmore, Tenderloin, and Sunset communities.
- The Planning Department is facing a \$10 million budget deficit due to a decline in building and project applications.
- The Tenderloin funding was cut, and efforts are underway to restore it.
- The American Indian community hosted a successful fundraising event.
- The HBCU interns' closing ceremony will be held at the SF Center's Emporium this Thursday, with project presentations at Planning on Friday morning.

Community Announcements

Upcoming community events include:

- **Tenderloin Blackness:** August 1st at 5 PM.
- **Sunset Night Market:** In August.
- **Constitutional Conversations:** Hosted by the Arts Commission on September 24th.

Closing

The meeting concluded with reminders of upcoming events and further discussions scheduled on wealth-building, jobs, and housing stability throughout the following weeks, with the next Equity Council meeting set for **July 23rd, 2024**.