

Community Equity Council Meeting Summary

[July 25th, 2023]

Councilmembers: Majeid Crawford, Tiffany Carter, Ben Wong, Anni Chung, and William Ortiz, Masha Hakimi, Raquel Redondiez and Delano Seymour

Staff: Miriam Chion, Jacob Bintliff, Lily Langlois, Giuliana Martinez, and Aurion Wiley-Green

1. Opening

Giuliana, as the facilitator, opened the meeting. Staff then read the statement acknowledging that the Equity Council's work is done on unceded Ramaytush Ohlone lands. Lily Langlois (SF Planning) and Jacob Bintliff (Office of Economic and Workforce Development) joined the Council meeting to present on the Future of Downtown strategies and efforts. Lastly, the council went over established community common guidelines.

2. Downtown Presentation

Downtown is the city's economic engine, and it has unique infrastructure - including regional transportation connections, public spaces, and millions of sq ft of building space - that make it the foundation of our economic success. As a city, we need to invest in that foundation while also re-imagining what Downtown can be if San Francisco is going to fully recover from the pandemic and continue to grow and sustain itself.

The Mayor put forward her Roadmap to Downtown San Francisco's Future in her State of the City address that lays out her overarching vision and nine strategies for the future of Downtown.

The nine strategies include:

- 1) Ensure downtown is clean, safe, and inviting
- 2) Attract and retain a diverse range of industries and employers
- 3) Facilitate new uses and flexibility in buildings
- 4) Make it easier to start and grow a business
- 5) Grow and prepare our workforce
- 6) Transform Downtown into a leading arts, culture, and nightlife destination
- 7) Enhance public spaces to showcase Downtown
- 8) Invest in transportation connections
- 9) Tell our story

3. Working Groups Report

Community Initiatives & Housing Working Group - For the month of July, the Community Initiatives and Housing working group joined to discuss the Activating Community Priorities initiative spearheaded by the department as a part of Housing Element implementation. For this effort, staff is working with equity communities to elevate and integrate their housing priorities into a single platform. These community

priorities will be shared with the Equity Council for feedback in September. The priorities will also inform the work of the Affordable Housing Leadership Council and be shared with the Mayor's office.

Downtown Working Group - The downtown working group discussed the closure of the La Cocina Municipal Marketplace. Members see the model of La Cocina as something that can be duplicated and could be more successful in a different location. community interest in Vacant to Vibrant. The bulk of the discussion focused on input for the Vision of Downtown statement to bring the full council.

4. Discussion

Given the Downtown presentation and Downtown working group report out, council members began discussing key lines of inquiry in order to give critical feedback to the development of the Equity Vision of Downtown Statement.

Economic Participation

How can Equity Communities participate in wealth creation?

The council members highlighted the gap that currently exists between small business and larger retail Downtown. Additionally, there are many barriers that prevent smaller community driven businesses Downtown such as language and intimidation. Therefore, for Equity Communities to be able to participate in wealth creation Downtown, subject experts need to exist to help build capacity and support small businesses with challenging systems like obtaining proper permits.

Council member Tiffany also made it clear that space for small businesses have to be both accessible and affordable for them to be economically sustainable Downtown. The La Cocina market place is a great model on how to subsidize spaces for small businesses.

Gathering Place

How can Downtown invite Equity Communities to gather, engage, and have fun?

Council members highlighted that currently Downtown lacks the intersectionality of food and music which brings together people from all cultures. In order for Downtown to be a gathering place there must be more events that celebrate the rich cultures of San Francisco.

5. Community Announcements

Mayor Breed has signed the Community Benefits District for the Excelsior Corridor. SOMA has received a vehicle to do tours of the cultural districts and are actively looking for a parking spot, preferable in the Downton SOMA area. When the tours begin, the cultural district will prioritize Equity Council Members. Self Help for the Elderly along with other cultural districts will be a part of SF Art Walk in the Outer Sunset on August 5th. The Art Walk will take place on Irving St. between 19th and 25th Avenue and will consist of music, art, and wellness activities. The New Community Leadership Foundation along with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development has funded a Soul Music Festival in Downtown Yerba Buena Gardens on August 20th. Majeid would like to partner with the Filipino community for this event and will reach out to Raquel. Del Seymore is conducting 90 minute walking tours of the Tenderloin, council members can reach out to Del if they'd like to go on one.

6. Updates

The Affordable Housing Leadership Council - The Affordable Housing Leadership Council has begun researching funding strategies in partnership with Enterprise Community Partners.

Cultural Districts - An overview of the cultural districts was presented at the Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission.

Community Equity Hiring - Council members Tiffany and Mary will take part in the hiring of the RSE Plan Manager. For the RSE Plan manager position there were a total of 80 applications; 32 of the applications were Black candidates, 25% Asian, and 11% Latino. Council member Majeid will take part in the hiring of a Community Development Specialist for the Fillmore. 40 applications were received from this position and they are actively being reviewed.

Fellowships - Three fellows have started working at Planning and will be in the office every Thursday. Each fellow represents the American Indian, Bayview, and Fillmore.

7. Closing

Staff closed the meeting and reminded council members that the next Equity Council meeting will take place on August 22, 2023 at the San Francisco Planning Department.