

## Community Equity Council Meeting Summary

[August 22nd, 2023]

**Councilmembers:** Mary Travis-Allen, Lucia Obregon, Lara Kiswani, Tiffany Carter, Anni Chung, and William Ortiz, Masha Hakimi, Raquel Redondiez and Delano Seymour

**Councilmembers Absent:** Ben Wong and Majeid Crawford

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

### 1. Opening

Oscar, as the facilitator, opened the meeting. Council member William then read the statement acknowledging that the Equity Council's work is done on unceded Ramaytush Ohlone lands. Councilmembers Anni and Majeid were both congratulated on successful community events.

### 2. Equity Vision of Downtown Workshop - Activity #1

Councilmembers were instructed to further develop the Vision for Downtown statement. They began by reviewing the introduction and four main themes of the Equity Vision statement. Council members then broke into three groups based on the themes of the vision statement. They were asked to explore the following questions while reading their assigned section:

- Is this section reflective of the Equity Council's priorities?
- Sample actions that can be taken as a result of this section?

Through the discussion, several key lines of inquiry were established based on each section:

#### *Economic Participation*

Economic participation means access to capitalism. In order for Equity Communities to economically participate Downtown, there must be liveable wages. Although economic participation is necessary, the goal is not more revenue but to create more of a community feel Downtown. The term wealth building should be removed and replaced with generational wealth. Additionally, there must be more construction and trade jobs for BIPOC people. There should be an independent council that advises on the Future of Downtown activities and represents communities of color. A Lot of activities Downtown that were successful are no longer viable. So, there must be plans that reflect those changes and how proposed activities will be successful. Some proposed actions should be to hire locally, support small businesses, prioritize community benefits, equity disparity of tech workforce, displacement of long-term SF's residents.

#### *Cultural Identities*

In the statement, there is a need for Downtown to serve as repositories of historical information, but how that happens should be identified. Additionally, Downtown should not only showcase but also current contributions and assets. Downtown must show that Equity communities are still here.

### *Gathering Places*

Gathering places must center gender equality and inclusivity of the LGBTQ community. More spaces and resources are needed to support those gathering places such as funding from OEWD.

### *Affordable Housing*

Affordable housing must cultivate a diverse and equitable residential neighborhood, but the Vision statement must state how it should happen. Additionally, the Vision can not be just aspiration it must be tangible as well.

## **3. Downtown Vision Statement Actions - Activity #2**

For this large group activity, council members read out loud imaginary media headlines that could potentially come into fruition if the Vision of Downtown was implemented. The headlines included:

- Sample Headline 1: "Black & Immigrant Women-led food hall brings new flavor to Powell Street"
- Sample Headline 2: "Vacant to Vibrant celebrates a new wave of Filipino businesses"
- Sample Headline 3: "The Summer gets cool as Downtown plays host to a series of Jazz concerts led by Fillmore legends"
- Sample Headline 4: "The city boasts 300+ new units of affordable housing in former Downtown Office space"

Councilmembers were then asked to review, modify and finalize a set of recommended actions that is needed from City departments, Downtown merchants and industry leaders, and community partners to achieve the headlines.

The group immediately delved into the possible closure of La Cocina Municipal Marketplace and its relation to the City's lack of equity commitment. The following lines of inquiry were discussed:

La Cocina Municipal Marketplace is a jewel to the Tenderloin community and the Council along with community members, students, and local workers would like to see OEWD, Planning, and the Mayor's office to keep it open. The Council expressed, the closure of La Cocina highlights the City's hesitation to fund spaces and projects that uplift equity. Additionally, members expressed hesitancy around how the Downtown Vision will ever be brought to fruition if projects like La Cocina are closing with no support. The council would like to support La Cocina by requesting City support to keep La Cocina open to the community for two years, collaborate/problem solve cross-departmentally, and meet with stakeholders.

## **5. Updates**

*The discussion above went over time and lasted till 6:15. The Facilitator adjourned the meeting and following items were tabled.*

Tenderloin - Golden Gate parklets to be implemented this Fall.

Hiring Planning staff and manager - Thanks to Mary and Tiffany for conducting interviews for the Equity Plan manager applicants. Thanks to Ben for the interviews of Policies and Strategies manager. Thanks to Majeid for the interviews of Fillmore applicants. We will complete the hires in the next two weeks.

Mission Housing Priorities - The housing workshop had a great turnout of residents & community based organizations.

HUD Grant - Planning and MOHCD are applying for a HUD grant for \$1 to 4 million.

Summer Interns - The summer internship program has concluded and each intern had a stellar presentation. Thank you to the Equity Council members who supported their work.

Strategic Growth Council Meeting - The American Indian Community met with the Strategic Growth Council to propose changes to grant guidelines to allow funding for American Indian community projects in cities.

## **6. Closing**

Staff closed the meeting and reminded council members that the next Equity Council meeting will take place on September, 26th 2023 at the San Francisco Planning Department.