

Community Equity Council Meeting Summary

Date: August 27, 2024

Attendees: Will Cartagena, Del Seymoore, Mahsa Hakim, Mary Travis Allen, Raquel Redondiez, Ben Wong, Majeid Crawford, Anni Chung, Tiffany Carter

Staff: Miriam Chion, Rich Hillis, Sarah Dennis, Diana Ponce De Leon, Aurion Wiley, Oscar Grande

1. Opening

The meeting began with a welcome, followed by an overview of the agenda. A team-building activity called "Year of the Coin" was conducted, and the land acknowledgment was read.

2. Discussion with Office of Economic & Workforce Development (OEWD)

Sarah Dennis Phillips (Executive Director) and Diana Ponce De Leon (Director of Community Development) from OEWD shared their practices, priorities, and vision. They outlined OEWD's wide-ranging program areas, including workforce development, business support, film, nightlife, and self-sufficiency. They emphasized the importance of partnerships when investing in key commercial areas and discussed how OEWD deploys resources through grantmaking. The Ambassador Program and Cultural Districts were highlighted as examples of community engagement, originally initiated by OEWD and now managed by other departments like MOHCD. Vandalism and its impact on businesses were noted as a recent challenge.

Tiffany Carter's Experience as a Woman Entrepreneur

Tiffany shared her experience moving her business from the Tenderloin to the waterfront, highlighting the difficulties with increased costs. She expressed concerns about Bayview's lack of foot traffic and suggested exploring Special Use Districts to support the neighborhood's development, drawing parallels to Mission District's 24th Street.

Del Seymoore's Insights from the Tenderloin

Del Seymoore, with over 30 years of experience in the Tenderloin, discussed the challenges of high commercial rents and the need for long-term investments from OEWD. He pointed to La Cocina as an example of a business that needed sustained support. Seymoore also emphasized the lack of evening business activity on Larkin Street, and suggested that programs should also address income growth and job opportunities for local residents.

Emerging Issues and Ideas

Parking was raised as an ongoing issue in equity community commercial areas, calling for collaboration between OEWD, SFMTA, and Planning. Suggestions included more formal

structures through the corridor work and fostering partnerships that connect local businesses with downtown industries. The discussion touched on the need for equity-focused strategies, using downtown revitalization as an example of how local economies can retain wealth within the neighborhood. Director Hillis emphasized the importance of community vision and capacity building, particularly in areas like the Fillmore, which has less organizational capacity than other neighborhoods.

3. Working Group Report Back

Housing Working Group: No meeting was held in August. Majeid provided updates on the recovery of records from displaced residents in redevelopment areas such as the Fillmore and Japantown. The council discussed the need to follow up on these records through the Housing Stability Working Group and set up a meeting with MOHCD to address equity issues related to displacement.

Community Visibility Working Group: Announcements and updates were provided, including the upcoming Tenderloin Blackness Open House and other community events.

4. Key Updates and Announcements

Planning Updates

- Three permanent Community Development Specialist positions have been filled.
- The Regional Housing Bond was removed from the ballot for this year, with plans for 2026.
- San Francisco did not receive the PRO-Housing grant for the Fillmore.
- MOHCD is applying for the Partnership by the Bay grant for SROs.
- Planning staff are assessing the implications of AB2011 and SB423 on small business stability.
- Dr. Kofi has departed, leading to a transition for the Equity Plan team.

Community Announcements

- Tenderloin Blackness Open House on September 5th
- HRC Small Business Support Day on August 28th
- Sunset Night Market on August 30th

Closing Remarks

The meeting concluded with reminders of upcoming events and the need for continued engagement on key issues impacting equity communities.