

## Community Equity Council Meeting Summary

[October, 24 2023]

**Councilmembers In-Person:** Masha Hakimi, Ben Wong, Anni Chung, Majeid Crawford, Del Seymore, and William Ortiz

**Councilmembers Online:** Mary Travis Allen, Lucia Obergon, and Tiffany Carter

**Councilmembers Absent:** Lara Kiswani and Raquel Redondiez

**Staff:** Oscar Grande, Miriam Chion, James Pappas, and Aurion Wiley-Green

### 1. Opening

Oscar, as the facilitator, opened the meeting and Councilmember Lucia read the statement acknowledging that the Equity Council's work is done on unceded Ramaytush Ohlone lands. Oscar then welcomed Planning staff James Pappas and Lauren Hiller who joined the Council meeting to share their work on Activating Community Housing Priorities.

### 2. Activating Community Housing Priorities

The Activating Community Housing Priorities is an initiative led by the Community Equity Division to collect Equity Community housing priorities to inform funding strategies developed by the Affordable Housing Leadership Council and shape investments and implementation of Housing Element. Planning staff collected community priorities for the Latino community, American Indian Community, Sunset, SOMAS Pilipinas, Japantown, Tenderloin, and Bayview/Black community. However, Sf communities have very diverse needs that urgently need to be addressed but too many priorities lead to little success on housing needs. Therefore, community priorities were grouped based on common themes and consolidated into a single synthesized priority that highlights commonality across different communities and uplifts key issues.

The Activating Community Housing Priorities include:

1. *Expand production of affordable housing for lower income people with diverse needs, including different households types, ages, abilities, and cultures, and ensure 100% affordable housing is built in both priority equity and well resources areas.*
2. *Preserve existing housing affordable at low and moderate incomes, such as multifamily, rental, SROs, and co-ops, through maintenance, rehabilitation, and acquisition and expand funding for preservation programs, like Small Sites Programs, ensuring that these programs meet needs of each equity community.*
3. *Establish and/or build community capacity to own, produce, and preserve affordable housing in equity communities that currently lack non-profit capacity.*
4. *Provide deeper affordability for and stabilize buildings serving the lowest income renters and people most vulnerable to homelessness by expanding rent and operating subsidies.*
5. *Maintain and increase tenant protections, assistance, and services that are culturally and linguistically responsive to diverse communities,*
6. *Strengthen culturally responsive homelessness response by improving living conditions, speeding placement, and increasing case management in supportive housing, and explaining shelters and interim housing with services, especially substance abuse treatment.*

7. *Implement and expand low- and moderate-income homeownership programs, particularly for communities that have faced housing discrimination, including programs for homebuyers and to help homeowners maintain their homes, build wealth, add accessory units, and age in place.*
8. *Build capacity for community based organizations to provide linguistically and culturally responsive housing education, navigation, and other services to increase knowledge, access housing opportunities, and prevent or exit homelessness.*
9. *Improve affordable housing lottery process and address eligibility barriers to increase affordable housing access for communities with disproportionate needs and honor preferences.*
10. *Implement or expand housing policies, programs, and preferences that redress racial discrimination and/or honor promises to harmed communities including American Indian, Black Filipino, Japanese, and others.*
11. *Adopt zoning and processes that encourage more and varied multifamily housing and living options for diverse needs in well-resourced areas including families with children, senior housing, housing for people with disabilities, and residential care facilities.*
12. *Strengthen community decision-making on land use in equity communities to support housing, culture, arts, economic vitality, and community serving uses.*

### **3. Priorities Feedback - Activity #1**

Based on the Activating Community Housing Priorities presentation, Councilmembers were asked to simplify or add to the language to make sure diverse communities are captured in the priorities.

The key lines of inquiry includes:

The way the priorities are currently presented

### **4. Advocacy Efforts - Activity #2**

Given the exercise and presentation, council members began discussing key lines of inquiry in order to gain more insight into potential work plans.

**Communities have more to offer than just arts and culture.** Council members have selected community initiatives as a priority project. A potential task for this project includes providing input on programming and activities to support arts, culture, and entertainment Downtown. However, Council members have expressed reservations about relying solely on communities to advise on arts and culture. It is crucial to integrate community input and participation at all levels in shaping the future of Downtown, including jobs, funding allocations, contracting, and more. The working group for the Future of Downtown will not only work towards advising and providing input but would like to identify specific ways their community will directly benefit from the selected tasks.

**Equitable inclusivity must be the standard.** Council members highlighted the key importance of distinguishing inclusivity and equity. Many citywide initiatives have included disenfranchised voices but not in an equitable way. It is important to include everyone, but in order for something to be equitable there must be an intentional effort to highlight and serve historically disenfranchised voices even in inclusive spaces. Councilmembers encouraged Planning staff to review web pages, images, language, used to ensure messaging centers equity.

**The revitalization of Downtown will be a reoccurring issue until communities are stabilized and served.**

Council members know and understand the importance of Downtown's role in making San Francisco thrive. Therefore, the Council is vested and wants to be a part of weaving community input, voice, and presence in the shaping of Downtown. In turn, Downtown will move from just an economic engine to a place that reflects community and the values of San Franciscans. Additionally, integrating community into the fabric of Downtown could make it less susceptible to workforce changes in the future.

**What do maps imply?** Planning presented a map that highlights areas with active community initiatives. Council members urged Planning to be critical about the maps displayed and the message they may convey. These maps may restrict people to certain spatial bounds and reinforce patterns of segregation. The African American Arts and Cultural District may give the impression that the area is predominantly inhabited by one group or limit that group to that specific space. While this may not be the intention of the map, it is important to consider the implications of these visuals and how they influence people's perceptions.

## **5. Updates**

*The discussion above went over time and lasted till 6:10. The Facilitator adjourned the meeting and following items were tabled.*

Equity Council informed hiring of Equity Plan manager, Policies and Strategies Manager, and Fillmore Community staff.

Senior managers retreat: Be The Change consultants led a retreat to deepen our approach to equity and design actionable tasks. Each Planning division will be having individual discussions.

HUD Grant: MOHCD and Planning will collaborate on a \$3+ million grant application for Fillmore.

Cultural Districts meeting at Planning, Wednesday, October 4

African American Historic Context Statement Open Forum in Bayview yesterday, Monday, September 25.

Planning Commission on Downtown - update on the Mayor's Roadmap and ULI findings will be covered, Equity Council can present Vision statement on Oct 19th

## **6. Closing**

Staff closed the meeting and reminded council members that the next Equity Council meeting will take place on December 5th, 2023 at the San Francisco Planning Department.