

## Lunar New Year x Black History Month Celebration

**Event:** Lunar New Year x Black History Month Celebration

**Location:** Oakland Asian Cultural Center, Oakland Chinatown

**Date/Time:** February 2, 2023 @ 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Number of people reached: 83**

- 83 people from sign-up sheet, flyers and interactive Tree Activity



Image: Deeply Rooted outreach coordinator along with volunteers from OACC and MARA at the Oakland General Plan table, Source: Ishita Chandra

### **Event Description:**

The Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership conducted English outreach at the Lunar New Year x Black History Month Celebration event organized by Oakland Asian Cultural Center. The event had a dance performance, music, arts vendors, history exhibit, and more. The event welcomed residents of all ages.

The team shared an informational flyer on the Oakland General Plan; a 2-pager on housing and environmental justice conditions impacting Oakland residents; and resources for Emergency Rapid Assistance Program (ERAP), library, and maintenance. The 2-pager on housing and environmental justice conditions presented racial

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displacement, housing affordability, pollution burden, past and future housing production in Oakland, and a call to action.

The team displayed a tree that community members could engage with by responding to prompts related to topics in the Environmental Justice and Safety element. Community members filled the tree up with their answers, and could take home locally sourced seed packets. Deeply Rooted Collaborative outreach team members referred community members to direct service organizations or City Department to address their current needs and gathered questions regarding the General Plan and City services.

### **Engagement Approaches:**

1) Approach people to have a conversation rather than extracting information from them 2) Inform people about the Environmental Justice Element and engage people to share their experiences and solutions through an interactive tree activity, 3) Share and connect residents to City of Oakland resources.

**Demographics:** The Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership is committed to reaching people who have not traditionally been part of planning processes. At this event we spoke with youth, older adults, unhoused folks, formerly incarcerated persons, tenants/renters, homeowners, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, low-income persons, and persons experiencing environmental injustice. The following are demographic highlights based on the sign-ups and in-person interactions:

- **Race/Ethnicity:** Majority of the people we spoke to are Asian (54%) and Black (15%).
- **Age:** Spoke to youth and older adults.
- Additionally, the team spoke to LGBTQ+ folks, low-income folks, and people dealing with environmental injustice.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THEMES

### **MINIMIZE LAND, AIR WATER, POLLUTION**

- **Issues**
  - Air pollution is creating negative health impacts for residents.
  - Sound pollution is creating negative health impacts for residents.
  - Excess traffic and poor street infrastructure.
  - Trash and litter is abundant in several neighborhoods.
- **Solutions**
  - Increase public transportation to reduce car pollution.

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- Demolish I-580, or mitigate pollution for those in proximity to freeways.
- Create more composting and reuse opportunities, and increase the ability for residents to transition to renewable energy.
- Plant more trees.
- Fill potholes and improve street maintenance.
- Create more infrastructure to encourage bicycling and walking.
- Increase cleanup efforts, and education about how to dispose of trash.

### **DEVELOP AREAS FOR EXERCISE SUCH AS PARKS**

- **Issues**

- Low-income neighborhoods don't have enough access to recreational spaces.
- Low-income neighborhoods have limited access to regional parks.
- Not enough city-sponsored opportunities to be physically active.

- **Solutions**

- Create more open and green spaces in low-income neighborhoods to encourage physical activity, including community pools, basketball courts, and gyms.
- Create more physical activities for the community, such as Fun Runs, dance classes, and yoga classes.
- Designate transportation funding to support student field trips to regional parks.
- Create more bike lanes.
- Ensure that neighborhoods all have a public park that is a walking distance away.
- Create more community gardens and make it more accessible for residents to get involved.
- Ensure that there are public bathrooms and water fountains at parks, and that they are kept clean, so that residents can stay long durations at parks.

### **PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD**

- **Issues**

- Several residents lack nutritional education.
- There is a lack of walkability in certain neighborhoods, making it more difficult to access grocery stores.
- There is a lack of healthy and affordable grocery stores in East Oakland.
- Several residents don't have knowledge on where to find food donation centers.

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- **Solutions**

- Do more outreach in neighborhoods on nutritional education.
- Increase walkability of neighborhoods so that residents without a car can feasibly reach grocery stores.
- Ensure that there are more healthy and affordable grocery stores in neighborhoods.
- Do more outreach about the locations of food donation centers.
- Create more community gardens.

### **INCREASE ACCESS TO CULTURAL CENTERS, LIBRARIES, CHILD CARE CENTERS, FACILITATES, AND OTHER BASIC AMENITIES**

- **Issues**

- There's not enough public spaces where it's legal to sit and lay down.
- Many shared spaces are not properly maintained or kept clean.
- Many public spaces are dull and/or dark.
- Recreation Centers lack enough funding to support their programming.

- **Solutions**

- Create more public spaces where it's legal to sit and lay down.
- Ensure that public spaces are properly maintained and regularly cleaned.
- Create more colorful landscapes and increase lighting in public spaces.
- Designate more funding to improve existing recreational centers and create more.

### **ENGAGE PEOPLE IN CITY PLANNING EFFORTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED IN THE PAST, THOSE WHO ARE UNHOUSED, LGBTQ+, YOUTH, AND ELDERS**

- **Issues**

- There are not enough spaces specifically for Queer Trans People of Color.
- Disabled and immunocompromised residents are left out of community events.

- **Solutions**

- Create more spaces specifically for Queer Trans People of Color.
- Create more masking and mandatory testing requirements for public events.

### **ENSURE SAFE AND SECURE HOUSING**

- **Issues**

- Residents are struggling with finding affordable and eco-friendly housing.

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- Residents seek more opportunities for togetherness and fostering community.
- Residents are struggling with public safety.
- **Solutions**
  - Create more affordable housing.
  - Designate more city infrastructure to encourage bicycling.
  - Create policies to cap the increase of rents, prioritizing affordability for communities of color.
  - Create more services for public safety.

## SAFETY THEMES

### **PREPARE FOR SEA LEVEL RISE AND FLOODING**

- **Issues**
  - Protect communities from superfund sites that are affected by flooding/increased rainfall.
- **Solutions**
  - Create mitigation strategies to protect neighborhoods affected by flooding/increased rainfall.

### **PROTECT PEOPLE FROM POLLUTED AREAS SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL ZONES, FREEWAYS, LANDFILLS, AND TOXIC CLEANUP SITES**

- **Issues**
  - Excessive illegal dumping in neighborhoods is negatively impacting the health of residents.
  - Parks are poorly maintained and lots of soil has lead contamination.
  - Coal use and oil drilling is negatively impacting the health of residents in low-income neighborhoods.
  - There is a lack of access to garbage receptacles in Oakland.
- **Solutions**
  - Fund more soil restoration projects to end exposure to contaminated soil.
  - Decrease coal use and oil drilling.
  - Increase amount of garbage receptacles.