

Pop-up Event

Event: Pop Event: Porch Chat

Location: B-Love's Guest House, 1131 Center St, Oakland, CA 94607

Date/Time: 4/23/2022

Number of people reached: 9

- 5 in-person interviews
- 2 Listserv sign ups

Event Description: House/Full of Black Women and EastSide Arts Alliance staff conducted English outreach with West Oaklanders with a Porch Chat at West Oakland Mural Project. These Porch chats will take place in front of BIPOC businesses, organizations, private homes, and in open spaces throughout Oakland. These chats are a series of informal gatherings to discuss topics and questions that will help shape Oakland's equitable vision and policies for housing, environmental justice, economic development, climate protection, and transportation over the next 20-30 years. There are no lead speakers, just folks interested in listening and sharing thoughts and perspectives on these issues. Porch chats can vary in size from 5-20 people. Interviews were conducted as part of the event. Staff also shared a 2-pager on housing and environmental justice conditions that people in Oakland are experiencing.

Engagement Approaches: 1) Facilitate open conversation/ dialogue, rather than extracting information from participants and 2) a 2-pager on housing and environmental justice on the table in English.

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 adults, older adults, LGBTQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, tenants/renters, homeowners, and low-income persons. The following are demographic highlights based on the 4 in-person interviews we conducted:

- **Race/Ethnicity:** Majority are Black (60%). *See Table 1 below for more information.*
- **Age:** Most of the people we spoke with are between 35 and 64 years old (60%). *See Table 2 below for more information.*
- **Gender:** Most of the people we spoke with are female (60%). *See Table 3 below for more information.*
- **Housing:** Most are renters (60%) or owners (20%). *See Table 4 below for more information.*
- **Disability:** People shared having a learning disability (20%). *See Table 5 below for more information.*
- **Annual Personal Income:** Most make more than \$40,001 (60%). *See Table 6 below for more information.*

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- **Sexual Orientation:** Responders are heterosexual (40%), gay (20%), or bisexual (20%). *See Table 7 below for more information.*
- **Experience with Mass Incarceration:** 60% of people we spoke to had some experience with mass incarceration. *See Table 8 below for more information.*

The 5 interviews included the following 8 questions and demographic information:

- **General:** 1) When did you/your family arrive in Oakland? Where were you living before?; 2) What neighborhoods have you lived in?; and 3) What's your favorite memory of Oakland?
- **Housing:** 1) Have your family members struggled with housing problems? If so, what have been your major problems?; and 2) What are your ideas for solutions? What would you like to see as solutions?
- **Environmental Justice:** 1) Do any of your Oakland family members have trouble breathing, been involved in a car collision, been affected by wildfires (proximity or smoke), or flooding?; and 2) What are your ideas for solutions? What would you like to see as solutions?
- **Anything else you would like to share?**
- **Demographic Information:** Zip code, neighborhoods, age, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, housing, disability, annual income, and formerly incarcerated

Engagement Summary

The following is a summary of the main points that community members brought up during the event. Points under each topic are ordered by most to least mentioned.

The following are summarized points from the interviews.

FAMILY ARRIVED IN OAKLAND

- Individuals that we spoke to shared that their families arrived between 1950-1999 (40%) and after 2011 (40%). *See Table 9 below for more information.*
- 40% of people were born in Oakland. Others had previously been living in the Bay Area (20%), Midwest (20%) and Internationally (20%).

A FAVORITE MEMORY OF OAKLAND

- **Culture and Community:** Cultural celebrations such as the Black Joy Parade, Festival of the Lake and festivals at Laney College, as well as cultural institutions such as Everybody's Creative Arts Center and Oakland summer theater. Others mentioned Occupy Oakland and marches.
- **Parks and Nature:** Lake Merritt. A respondent shared about summertime in their youth and swimming at Castlemont High School.

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HOUSING

"My family lived on Section 8, as market rate housing was not affordable."

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND DISPLACEMENT

Issues:

- **Renters:** housing unaffordability leads to risk of being displaced, relying on Section 8 housing because market-rate housing isn't affordable, hard to find affordable housing on a modest salary.

Solutions:

- **Affordable Housing**
 - Income-based housing
 - **Rent control** for residents of 10+ years
- **Market rate**
 - Keep predatory developers from sweeping up properties and pushing out Oaklanders.

HOUSING HABITABILITY

Issues:

- Respondents struggled with the quality of housing and overcrowding.

Solutions:

- Maintain water infrastructure so water is safe to drink from the tap.
- Maintain affordable housing so that habitability and quality is kept up.
- Preserve historical buildings rather than demolition.

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

- Some respondents struggled with housing discrimination, personal exclusion, and abusive housemates.

HOMELESSNESS

- **Solutions:**
 - Provide housing for unhoused people

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

"[I have] family members with asthma. Definitely have noticed a negative change in air quality."

AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH IMPACTS

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- **Issues:** Respondents and their family members have asthma, noting the negative change in air quality, potentially from proximity to port, and industrial areas and freeways. A respondent shared they were diagnosed with asthma in adulthood.
- **Solutions:**
 - Strive for cleaner air, especially in West and East Oakland, and **less impact from industrial, development, and energy use**. An example was having more solar energy.
 - Reduce drinking water contaminants so we can drink water from our faucets
 - More green spaces, especially for youth and families to enjoy. Tend to existing greenery on the streets.

TRASH

- **Solutions:** Better trash collection

Table 1. Engagement by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent
Black	3	60%
White	0	0%
Asian American	0	0%
Latinx	0	0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Multiracial	1	20%
Caribbean Islander	0	0%
Native American/Indigenous or Alaska Native	0	0%
South Asian	0	0%
Middle Eastern	0	0%
Decline to State	1	20%
Total	5	

Table 2. Engagement by Age

Age	Count	Percent
12-17	0	0%
18-24	0	0%
25-34	0	0%

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35-44	1	20%
45-54	1	20%
55-64	1	20%
65+	0	0%
Decline to state	2	40%
Total	5	

Table 3. Engagement by Gender

Gender	Count	Percent
Female	3	60%
Male	1	20%
Non-binary	0	0%
Transgender	0	0%
Intersex	0	0%
Decline to state	1	20%
Total	5	

Table 4. Engagement by Housing

Housing	Count	Percent
Rent	3	60%
Own	1	20%
Temporary with friends/family	0	0%
Shared housing with family/roommates/partner	0	0%
Mobile housing/unhoused	0	0%
Temporary (in shelter, hotel)	0	0%

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Decline to state	1	20%
Total	5	

Table 5. Engagement by Disability

Disability	Count	Percent
A mobility impairment	0	0%
A mental health disorder	0	0%
A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)	0	0%
A learning disability (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia)	1	20%
Decline to state	4	80%
Total	5	

Table 6. Engagement by Annual Personal Income

Annual Personal Income	Count	Percent
\$0-\$10,000	0	0%
\$10,001-\$20,000	0	0%
\$20,001-\$30,000	0	0%
\$30,001-\$40,000	1	20%
\$40,001-\$50,000	2	40%
\$50,001+	1	20%
Decline to state	1	20%
Total	5	

Table 7. Engagement by Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation	Count	Percent
Decline to state	1	20%
Heterosexual	2	40%
Queer	0	0%
Bisexual	1	20%

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Lesbian	0	0%
Gay	1	20%
Total	5	

Table 8. Engagement by Experience with Mass Incarceration

Mass Incarceration	Count	Percent
Decline to state	2	40%
I am a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated	1	20%
I am formerly incarcerated	0	0%
I am a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated	2	40%
Total	5	

Table 9. Family Arrived in Oakland

Arrive in Oakland	Count	Percent
Before 1900	0	0%
1900-1950	0	0%
1950-1979	1	20%
1980-1999	1	20%
2000-2010	0	0%
2011-2020	1	20%
2021+	1	20%
Visiting	0	0%
Working	0	0%
Decline to state	1	20%
Total	5	

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Appendix: Photos from the Event



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