

Community Voices Initiative: Recommendations for the Capitol Area Community Vitality Account



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Community Voices Initiative: Background Research

Capitol Area Population Demographics

54.5% BIPOC individuals

- 22% Black/African American
- 20% Asian/Pacific Islanders
- 20.3% Has a disability

36% Speak a language other than English at home

25% Foreign-born

Economics

- 60.5% live in renter-occupied housing
- 42% of residents are housing cost-burdened - over half of these housing cost-burdened residents are renters
- 51.3% of residents live at or below 200% of the Federal poverty line

Community Voices Initiative: Overview & Approach

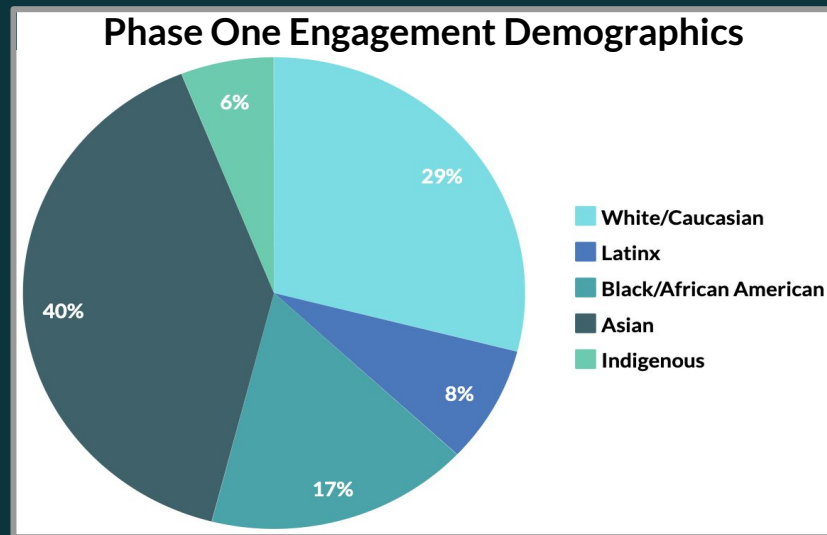
72 Total Community Engagements

How?

- 88% In-Person/Face-to-Face
- 1-on-1 interviews, both scheduled & drop-in
- Surveys: Paper & online (available in 6 languages)
- Facilitated group discussions
- Interactive, visual poster

Who?

- Good Neighbor Group
- Frogtown Community Center
- Hmongtown Marketplace
- BIPOC business owners, Indigenous residents, drug & housing counselors, educators, environmental workers, religious workers, artists, parents, etc.



Community Voices Initiative: Community Engagement Phase One Findings

The community wants solutions to:

Address Cost-Burdened Households

- Grants: Aid-based - rent/utility assistance
- Grants: Capital - residential properties improvements
- Access: Food pantries/shelves & grocery

Address Drug Use & Addiction

- Training: De-escalation & Naloxone (opioid overdose meds)
- Grants: Nonprofit outreach to unhoused &/or drug addicted youth
- Services: Social support & addiction recovery (Ex. safe injection sites)

Advance Programming for Youth & Young Families

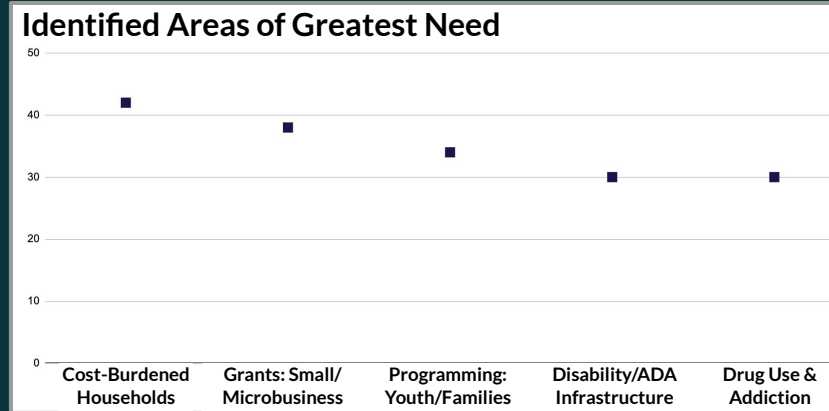
- Grants: Staff & programming at community centers & schools
- Services: Organized activities + paid staff (Ex. biking, skateboarding, arts, community gardening)
- Services: Integrated, wrap-around youth programming (healthcare, education, & workforce development)

Improve Disability & Accessibility Infrastructure

- Grants: Capital - ADA infrastructure (Ex. install automatic doors in old buildings)
- Crosswalk safety
- Services: Homebound resident outreach

Benefit all critical community & cultural assets

- Confusion/frustration with arbitrary boundaries
- Community anchors & BIPOC cornerstones: Hmongtown Marketplace & Frogtown Community Center



Community Voices Initiative: Next Phase of Community Engagement

April 3rd, 4th, & 5th

5 Interviews

- Identified engagement gaps: Karen, Indonesian, Somali, non-English speakers; renters; people with lived experience of houselessness, drug use, & disability
- Essential community services, including those who address issues related to Phase One findings

2 Gatherings

- Potential target locations/groups: Youth & families at St. Paul City School; Low-Income apartment residents; Individuals with lived experience of houselessness &/or drug addiction

Potential Areas of Discussion

- Specific solutions
- Grant program accessibility & usability
- Current community services: What do residents utilize? What do they not utilize & why not?

Community Voices Initiative: Start-Up Recommendations

Spring 2024

- Community Voices Initiative will complete the community engagement process. At that time, Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board will receive recommendations from community members to invest \$1 million on the specific strategies they identified.

2024 - 2026

- The remaining Community Voices Initiative funds will be dispersed by the City & CAAPB staff in partnership to launch & enable specific strategies—developed by community members—that address needs & challenges of residents, business owners, & community stakeholders & reflect the solutions that they co-create.