

## Black August Literary Festival

**Event:** Black August Literary Festival

**Location:** Latham Square, Oakland

**Date/Time:** 8/28/2022

**Number of people reached:** 6 in-person interviews

### **Event Description:**

BAMBD of the Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership conducted English outreach at the BAMBD CDC's Black August Literary Festival at the Latham Square, Oakland. The event culminated with a vendor market and poetry reading in collaboration with Black Bird Press. Local Oakland businesses and Oakland's local writers and poets participated in the event.

The team informed people what the General Plan is; conducted 6 interviews; shared a 2-pager on housing and environmental justice conditions that people in Oakland are experiencing; handed out flyers for resources for Emergency Rapid Assistance Program (ERAP), library, and maintenance; referred community members to direct service organizations or City Department to address current needs; and gathered questions regarding the General Plan and City services. The 2-pager on housing and environmental justice conditions presented racial displacement, housing affordability, pollution burden, past and future housing production in Oakland, and a call to action.

### **Engagement Approaches:**

1) Approach people to have a conversation rather than extracting information from them 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 youth, older adults, people related to 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 6 in-person interviews we conducted:

- **Race/Ethnicity:** Majority of the people we spoke to are Black/African American (50%). *See Table 1 for more information.*
- **Age:** People were ages between 12-17 (17%), 25-34 (17%), and 35-44 (17%). *See Table 2 for more information.*
- **Gender:** 33% are female, 33% are male. *See Table 3 below for more information.*
- **Housing:** Majority of the people we spoke with are renters (50%). *See Table 4 for more information.*

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- **Disability:** 17% of people shared having a disability. *See Table 5 below for more information.*
- **Annual Personal Income:** People have an annual personal income of \$0-\$10,000, \$40,001-\$50,000, and above \$50,000. *See Table 6 below for more information.*
- **Sexual Orientation:** 33% are heterosexual, 17% are LGBTQ+. *See Table 7 below for more information.*
- **Experience with Mass Incarceration:** 34% of people shared that they had some experience with mass incarceration; being a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated (17%) and individuals who were formerly incarcerated (17%). *See Table 8 below for more information. See Table 8 below for more information.*

The 6 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 Health:** 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.

#### FAMILY ARRIVED IN OAKLAND

- A majority of individuals we spoke to shared that their families arrived between 1950-1979, 1980-1999, and 2000-2010. *See Table 9 below for more information.*
- Most people had previously been living in the Bay Area. Bay Area locations included: San Francisco

#### A FAVORITE MEMORY OF OAKLAND

“The art, the ice skating rink”

- **Culture:** Interviewees appreciate Oakland’s diversity, and especially the Black people.
- **Community engagement:** Interviewees appreciate events, like First Fridays and the A’s games, and spaces, like the ice rink, where they can hang out.

HOUSING

“The landlord is not doing repairs”  
“Family is still on section 8”

**Issues:**

- **Affordability:** People struggle with housing affordability since there is a boom in pricing, and some rely on Section 8 vouchers. People pointed out the distinction in access to affordable housing in some neighborhoods compared to others.
- **Discrimination:** People mentioned experiences with housing discrimination.
- **Gentrification:** People mentioned witnessing gentrification.
- **Landlord Neglect:** People struggle with getting their landlord to complete repairs.

**Solutions:**

- Combatting racism and discrimination
- Solutions to create equitable access to affordable housing across a variety of housing types

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

“Since moving from SF, folks have developed asthma”

**Issues:**

- **Health Outcomes:** Respiratory issues (like asthma) and COVID-19

**Solutions:**

- City investment in tools to clean up neighborhoods
- More strategies for safety

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA ANALYSIS

Note: The tables listed below do not include a total count because respondents can select more than one response for subsections – Race/Ethnicity, Housing, Disability, Sexual Orientation, and Experience with Mass Incarceration.

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Table 1. Engagement by Race/Ethnicity

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
Black/African American	3	50%
Hispanic or Latino (non white or Black)	1	16.7%
White/European	0	0%
Native American/Indigenous or Alaska Native	0	0%
Asian	0	0%
Multi-racial	0	0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Caribbean Islander	0	0%
Middle Eastern	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Decline to state	2	33.3%

Table 2. Engagement by Age

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
12-17	1	16.7%
18-24	0	0%
25-34	1	16.7%
35-44	1	16.7%
45-54	0	0%
55-64	0	0%
65+	0	0%

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Decline to state	3	50%
Total	6	

Table 3. Engagement by Gender

Gender	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Female	2	33.3%
Male	2	33.3%
Non-binary	0	0%
Transgender	0	0%
Intersex	0	0%
Decline to state	2	33.3%
Total	6	

Table 4. Engagement by Housing

Housing	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Rent	3	50%
Own	0	0%
Shared housing with family/roommates/partner	0	0%
Temporary with friends/family	1	16.7%
Mobile housing/unhoused	0	0%
Temporary (in shelter, hotel)	0	0%
Decline to state	2	33.3%

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Table 5. Engagement by Disability

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
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)	0	0%
Other	1	16.7%
Decline to state	3	50%
None	2	33.3%

Table 6. Engagement by Annual Personal Income

<b>Annual Personal Income</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
\$0-\$10,000	1	16.7%
\$10,001-\$20,000	0	0%
\$20,001-\$30,000	0	0%
\$30,001-\$40,000	0	0%
\$40,001-\$50,000	1	16.7%
\$50,001+	1	16.7%
Decline to state	3	50%
Total	6	

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Table 7. Engagement by Sexual Orientation

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
Heterosexual	2	33.3%
Queer	0	0%
Bisexual	0	0%
Lesbian	1	16.7%
Gay	0	0%
Decline to state	3	50%

Table 8. Engagement by Experience with Mass Incarceration

<b>Mass Incarceration</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
I am a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated	1	16.7%
I am formerly incarcerated	1	16.7%
I am a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated	0	0%
None	1	16.7%
Decline to state	3	50%

Table 9. Family Arrived in Oakland

<b>Arrive in Oakland</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Distribution (%)</b>
Before 1900	0	0%
1900-1950	0	0%

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1950-1979	1	16.7%
1980-1999	1	16.7%
2000-2010	1	16.7%
2011-2020	0	0%
2021+	0	0%
Visiting	0	0%
Working	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Decline to state	3	50%
Total	6	