

Oakland Youth Art Explosion 2022 Festival and Youth Art Exhibit

Event: Oakland Youth Art Explosion 2022 Festival and Youth Art Exhibit

Location: Joyce Gordon Gallery, 406 14th st Oakland, CA

Date/Time: 08/06/2022, 11am to 6pm

Number of people reached: 51 interviews (47 in-person, 4 online submissions)

Event Description:

Malonga Arts Residents Association (MARA) of the Deeply Rooted in Oakland Partnership conducted English outreach at the Joyce Gordon Gallery in Oakland. The Oakland Youth Art Explosion organized Live music, roller skating rink, games, poetry, food vendors, vendors and art/mural walls. The event welcomed all the youth with an emphasis on youth of color from Oakland.

The team informed people what the General Plan is; conducted 51 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, 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 51 interviews we conducted:

- **Race/Ethnicity:** Majority of the people we spoke to are Black/African American (47%). *See Table 1 for more information.*
- **Age:** Majority of the people we spoke to are between the ages of 25-34 (18%). *See Table 2 for more information.*
- **Gender:** 40% are female, 24% are male, 2% are non-binary. *See Table 3 below for more information.*

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- **Housing:** Majority of the people we spoke with are renters (47%). *See Table 4 for more information.*
- **Disability:** 12% of people shared having a disability. *See Table 5 below for more information.*
- **Annual Personal Income:** Most have an annual personal income of over \$50,001 (24%). *See Table 6 below for more information.*
- **Sexual Orientation:** 43% are heterosexual, 10% are LGBTQ+. *See Table 7 below for more information.*
- **Experience with Mass Incarceration:** 24% of people shared that they had some experience with mass incarceration. *See Table 8 below for more information.*

The 51 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 1980-1999 (32%). *See Table 9 below for more information.*
- Most people had previously been living in the Bay Area (41%). Bay Area locations included: Dublin, San Francisco, Hayward, Vallejo, Stockton, Union City.

A FAVORITE MEMORY OF OAKLAND

“Dominant Black arts featuring Black artists murals”

“Festivals, music, outdoor events

- **Parks and Nature:** People appreciate the weather, scenery, and parks- Lake Merritt, Maxwell Park, and Fairyland.
- **Oakland Pride, Locals, and Community Engagement:** People like being able to walk around their neighborhood, meeting people, and going to community events - First Fridays, Outdoor festivals. They also like local sports events, such as Warriors, Raiders games and the Warriors parade.
- **Culture and Cultural Arts:** People like access to arts venues, like the Joyce Gordon Gallery and California College of the Arts. They also appreciate Oakland’s diversity and cultural celebrations, such as Eid events at the park and the Malcolm X Jazz festival.

HOUSING

“I have to live with multiple people in order for the bay area to be affordable to me”

“My family member almost became homeless once”

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Out of 51 interviews, 25 people (49.02%) brought up housing affordability as something they struggled with.

- **Issues:**
 - **Renters** face high and rapidly increasing rents. This impacts some renters’ credit and ability to balance other expenses, like student loans.
 - **Overcrowding:** Due to unaffordable housing, people are forced to live in overcrowded conditions.
 - **Homelessness:** People face a higher risk of becoming homeless due to the unaffordability of their neighborhoods.
- **Solutions:**
 - Allocate more funding to solve homelessness. Ensure everyone without housing is housed.
 - Fund rent assistance programs.
 - Create more low-income housing and cooperative housing models.

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- Pass rent stabilization and control, and prevent additional increases of rent. Additionally, lower mortgages for homeowners.
- Utilize market-rate vacant units for unhoused people.
- Provide wrap-around services, such as financial literacy classes and food vouchers.

HOUSING HABITABILITY

- **Issues:**
 - There is **inequity in the quality of housing** based on their affordability, and what income areas they are based in.
 - Homes are **not in healthy living condition**, and are dangerous to live in.
 - **Neighborhoods** are unsafe, unclean, and lacking important resources and spaces (like parks).
- **Solutions:**
 - Take more action to keep streets clean, sanitary, and void of trash.
 - Take more action to prevent crime using anti-carceral strategies.
 - Create more parks in neighborhoods lacking them.

DISPLACEMENT

- **Issues:**
 - **Landlord Neglect:** Neglect and abuse from landlords has influenced residents into moving out of their homes.
 - Longtime residents, if not already **facing eviction**, have been pressured to **move out of Oakland**, because they can no longer afford to live anywhere in the city.
- **Solutions:**
 - City to prioritize retention of residents who are from the community in housing solutions

GENTRIFICATION

- **Issues:**
 - Housing for independent living is being turned into luxury housing.
 - Lack of communication to residents about local development projects.
 - Promises of Black Cultural Zones are falling through.
- **Solutions:**
 - Prioritize affordable housing creation over luxury housing development.

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- Create better channels of communication and require listening sessions for community members about development projects.

Ensure that areas where Black Cultural Zones are promised are given the resources to fulfill this promise.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

“My mom was diagnosed with asthma, she has trouble breathing from the fires”
“MacArthur and Martin Luther King neighborhoods have health problems because of pollution”

RESPIRATORY ISSUES & WILDFIRES

Out of 51 interviews, 22 people (43.14%) brought up respiratory issues and wildfires as something they struggled with.

- **Issues:**
 - **Health Outcomes:** Interviewees report having asthma, eczema, and heart problems due to wildfire smoke and poor air quality.
- **Solutions:**
 - Provide air purifiers in homes.
 - Specifically target neighborhoods that have been especially subjected to poor air quality, like East Oakland, for solutions.

STREETS

- **Issues:**
 - **Garbage** and litter makes streets and neighborhoods unsanitary.
 - **Noise Pollution** disturbs the environment and affects the wellbeing of residents.
 - **Freeway Proximity** and car pollution creates more poor air quality and negative health outcomes.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EQUITY...

“14th st. was supposed to be a Black cultural zone, but it hasn't risen to promise.”
“Oakland is beautiful, and has historic Black history, and it needs to be more known.”

EDUCATION

- **Issues:**
 - **Closing down** of public schools
 - **Disinvested** school programs
 - Need to emphasize **Black history and culture** of Oakland
 - Lack of **financial and civic education**
- **Solutions:**
 - End the closing of public schools, especially in neighborhoods already facing disinvestment.
 - Allocate more funding for school programs
 - Create more educational resources on Oakland's Black history and culture
 - Create more educational opportunities for financial and civic education

VIOLENCE

- **Issues:**
 - **Gun Violence** makes streets unsafe, and prevents residents from feeling comfortable walking around their neighborhoods.
 - **Human trafficking** is a safety concern for residents.
- **Solutions:**
 - Implement anti-carceral strategies for crime prevention

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.

Table 1. Engagement by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Black/African American	24	47.0%
Hispanic or Latino (non white or Black)	5	9.4%
White/European	1	1.9%

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Native American/Indigenous or Alaska Native	1	1.9%
Asian	2	3.8%
Multi-racial	1	1.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Caribbean Islander	2	3.8%
Middle Eastern	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Decline to state	17	32.1%

Table 2. Engagement by Age

Age	Number of People	Distribution (%)
12-17	1	2%
18-24	0	0%
25-34	9	17.7%
35-44	2	3.9%
45-54	2	3.9%
55-64	4	7.8%
65+	1	2%
Decline to state	32	62.8%
Total	51	

Table 3. Engagement by Gender

Gender	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Female	20	39.2%

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Male	12	23.5%
Non-binary	1	2%
Transgender	1	2%
Intersex	0	0%
Decline to state	17	33.3%
Total	51	

Table 4. Engagement by Housing

Housing	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Rent	24	47.1%
Own	6	11.8%
Shared housing with family/roommates/partner	1	2%
Temporary with friends/family	1	2%
Mobile housing/unhoused	1	2%
Temporary (in shelter, hotel)	0	0%
Decline to state	18	35.3%

Table 5. Engagement by Disability

Disability	Number of People	Distribution (%)
A mobility impairment	0	0%
A mental health disorder	2	3.9%

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A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)	2	3.9%
A learning disability (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia)	2	3.9%
Other	0	0%
Decline to state	36	70.6%
None	10	19.6%

Table 6. Engagement by Annual Personal Income

Annual Personal Income	Number of People	Distribution (%)
\$0-\$10,000	2	3.9%
\$10,001-\$20,000	0	0%
\$20,001-\$30,000	2	3.9%
\$30,001-\$40,000	2	3.9%
\$40,001-\$50,000	2	3.9%
\$50,001+	12	23.5%
Decline to state	31	60.8%
Total	51	

Table 7. Engagement by Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Heterosexual	22	43.1%
Queer	4	7.8%
Bisexual	1	2%
Lesbian	0	0%

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Gay	0	0%
Decline to state	24	47.1%

Table 8. Engagement by Experience with Mass Incarceration

Mass Incarceration	Number of People	Distribution (%)
I am a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated	4	7.8%
I am formerly incarcerated	5	9.8%
I am a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated	3	5.9%
None	17	33.3%
Decline to state	22	43.1%

Table 9. Family Arrived in Oakland

Arrive in Oakland	Number of People	Distribution (%)
Before 1900	0	0%
1900-1950	3	5.9%
1950-1979	6	11.8%
1980-1999	16	31.4%
2000-2010	7	13.7%
2011-2020	7	13.7%
2021+	2	3.9%
Visiting	3	5.9%
Working	0	0%

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Other	4	7.8%
Decline to state	3	5.9%
Total	51	