

## Pop-up Event #12

**Event:** Pop-up Event #8: Akoma Market

**Location:** Liberation Park - 7101 Foothill Blvd Oakland, CA 94605

**Date/Time:** 3/6/2022 from 10AM to 3PM

**Number of people reached: 9**

- 9 in-person interviews

**Description:** East Side Arts Alliance staff conducted English outreach with East Oaklanders at Akoma Market. Akoma Outdoor Market is organized by the Black Cultural Zone and occurs every first and third Sunday of the month. The East Side Arts Alliance staff members informed people what the General Plan is, and had open conversations about their issues and concerns on housing, environmental justice and life in Oakland.

The team informed people what the General Plan is; conducted 9 in-person 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 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 older adults, LGBTQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, tenants/renters, homeowners, low-income persons, and people experiencing environmental injustices. The following are demographic highlights based on the 9 in-person interviews we conducted:

- **Race/Ethnicity:** Majority are Black (33%), Latinx (11%), and White (11%). *See Table 1 below for more information.*
- **Age:** Most of the people we spoke with are between the ages of 25-34 (22%) and 45-54 (11%). *See Table 2 below for more information.*
- **Gender:** Most of the people we spoke with are female (22%). *See Table 3 below for more information.*
- **Housing:** Most share housing with family/roommates/partner (22%) and renters (11%). *See Table 4 below for more information.*

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- **Disability:** People shared having a learning disability (11%) and mental health disorder (11%). *See Table 5 below for more information.*
- **Annual Personal Income:** Those we spoke to make between \$100,001-\$30,000 (22%) and more than \$50,001 (11%). *See Table 6 below for more information.*
- **Sexual Orientation:** Those we spoke to are heterosexual (22%) and bisexual (11%). *See Table 7 below for more information.*
- **Experience with Mass Incarceration:** 22% of people we spoke to had someone in their family who was formerly incarcerated. *See Table 8 below for more information.*

The 9 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.

### FAMILY ARRIVED IN OAKLAND

- A majority of individuals that we spoke to shared that their families arrived between 1950-1979 (33%) and 2000-2010 (22%). *See Table 8 below for more information.*
- People had previously been living in the Bay Area (44%), U.S. South (33%), and the East Coast (22%). Bay Area locations included: San Francisco, Sacramento, Fremont and Travis Air Force Base.

### A FAVORITE MEMORY OF OAKLAND

*"Being a product of Oakland".*

- **People and Community:** Growing up and being surrounded by diversity; seeing Black people and the community thriving; meeting Marcus Foster (Black educator

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who was OUSD Superintendent in the 1970s) and Vida Blue (Former U.S. professional baseball player) at the Coliseum; and visiting the house where the Black Panther Party was shot at by the Oakland Police Department.

- **Cultural Arts:** Arts scene, activist community, Open Mic Nights at Air Lounge, and working at Geoffrey's
- **Oakland Pride: Parks/Nature:** Wedding at Joaquin Miller Park, and visiting Lake Merritt
- **Education:** Visiting the book mobile, and Jr. High in Sobrante Park
- **Climate:** The weather

## HOUSING

*"[I live in a] 2 bedroom apartment with 4 people and 2 cats. I have taught here for 11 years and can't buy a house".*

### **HOUSING AFFORDABILITY**

- **Issues**
  - **Renters:** Can't afford to buy a house, rents keep increasing, people have been forced to move, and family members can't find affordable housing
  - **Overall:** Hard to find affordable housing even for educators, stop building luxury condos, people have been forced to move, no clear resources for finding housing, and do not see money from impact fees reaching community
  - **Not Interviewed:** Some folks have lost trust with the city and did not want to talk to us until the city solves the housing crisis.
- **Solutions**
  - Build affordable housing that is multifamily and dense, more affordable rental housing, more ways for people to become homeowners like grants for first time homebuyers (especially Black families), rent control, and market rate developers pay their fair share to support affordable housing development

### **HOUSING HABITABILITY**

- **Issue:** Overcrowding
- **Solution:** Improved enforcement for mold clean-up

### **HOMELESSNESS**

- **Issues:** Lots of people living cars
- **Solutions:** Use public lands to temporarily house unhoused folks, and City give Homefulness a certificate of occupancy for their MacArthur Blvd townhomes to house the unhoused.

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### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*"No sense to have freeway streets - like International and MacArthur. [They] seem like freeways instead of a place [where] people live."*

#### **CARS**

- **Issues:** Interviewees and their family members have been hit by cars (one person had 3 collisions in 2 years), neighborhoods near the 880 freeway have worse air quality, streets like International Blvd and MacArthur are like freeways, and too many abandoned cars
- **Solutions:** More walking and biking infrastructure (sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, bike parking, etc), develop transportation solutions for existing residents, and a program for city to remove abandoned cars

#### **WILDFIRE**

- **Issues:** Respiratory issues (like acute asthma) get worse during this season
- **Solutions:** Adopt indigenous practices of nurturing the forest (i.e. use excess kindling on the forest floor for medium density fireboard and blankets) and a good HVAC system for schools and homes

#### **PARKS AND GREEN SPACES**

- **Issues:** Lack of park maintenance
- **Solutions:** Invest in park maintenance

#### **INDUSTRIAL**

- **Issues:** Lots of polluted land in the city
- **Solutions:** Good HVAC systems in school and homes

#### **TRASH AND FLOODING**

- **Issue:** We are taxed for street cleaning and streets aren't kept clean, lots of dumping, and rat infestation in Eastmont
- **Solutions:** Street clean up

### CITY INVESTMENT, EQUITY, and VIOLENCE

*"When folks talk about Oakland they are mostly talking about downtown. Don't forget Districts 6 and 7".*

#### **CITY INVESTMENT**

- **Issue:** Closing public schools

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- **Solution:** Stop closing public schools and invest in them, invest in East Oakland as much as you do in Downtown, more money from the A's for community investment, and provide free life skills and trade programs

## EQUITY

- **Issue:** Neighborhoods in the hills have less air pollution and more resources than the flatlands, people usually only think about Downtown when thinking about Oakland
- **Solution:** Need to talk more about mental wellness, ensure Black representation with all contracts and vendors, and use a village approach to take care of community

## VIOLENCE

- **Issues:** Not feeling safe
- **Solutions:** Neighborhood watch and community policing

Table 1. Engagement by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent
Black	3	33.3%
Latinx	1	11.1%
Native American/Indigenous or Alaska Native	1	11.1%
Asian American	0	0.0%
White	0	0.0%
Multiracial	0	0.0%
Middle Eastern	0	0.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Caribbean Islander	0	0.0%
Decline to Comment	4	44.4%
Total	9	

Table 2. Engagement by Age

Age	Count	Percent
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12-17	0	0.0%
18-24	0	0.0%
25-34	2	22.2%
35-44	0	0.0%
45-54	1	11.1%
55-64	0	0.0%
65+	0	0.0%
Decline to state	6	66.7%
Total	9	

Table 3. Engagement by Gender

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	2	22.2%
Male	1	11.1%
Non-binary	0	0.0%
Transgender	0	0.0%
Intersex	0	0.0%
Decline to state	6	66.7%
Total	9	

Table 4. Engagement by Housing

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Shared housing with family/roommates/partner	2	22.2%
Rent	1	11.1%

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Own	0	0.0%
Temporary with friends/family	0	0.0%
Mobile housing/unhoused	0	0.0%
Temporary (in shelter, hotel)	0	0.0%
Decline to state	6	66.7%
Total	9	

Table 5. Engagement by Disability

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
A learning disability (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia)	1	11.1%
A mental health disorder	1	11.1%
A mobility impairment	0	0.0%
A sensory impairment (vision or hearing)	0	0.0%
Decline to state	7	77.8%
Total	9	

Table 6. Engagement by Annual Personal Income

<b>Annual Personal Income</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
\$0-\$10,000	0	0.0%
\$10,001-\$20,000	1	11.1%
\$20,001-\$30,000	1	11.1%
\$30,001-\$40,000	0	0.0%
\$40,001-\$50,000	0	0.0%
\$50,001+	1	11.1%
Decline to state	6	66.7%
Total	9	

Table 7. Engagement by Sexual Orientation

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<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Heterosexual	2	22.2%
Bisexual	1	11.1%
Queer	0	0.0%
Lesbian	0	0.0%
Gay	0	0.0%
Decline to state	6	66.7%
Total	9	

Table 8. Engagement by Experience with Mass Incarceration

<b>Mass Incarceration</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
I am a family member of someone who is formerly incarcerated	2	22.2%
I am a family member of someone who is currently incarcerated	0	0.0%
I am formerly incarcerated	0	0.0%
Decline to state	7	77.8%
Total	9	

Table 9. Family Arrived in Oakland

<b>Arrive in Oakland</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Before 1900	0	0.0%
1900-1950	1	11.1%
1950-1979	3	33.3%
1980-1999	1	11.1%
2000-2010	2	22.2%
2011-2020	1	11.1%
2021+	1	11.1%
Visiting	0	0.0%

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Working	0	0.0%
Decline to state	0	0.0%
Total	9	