

Notes from CDBG community meeting held on 10/29/12.

29 members of the public, 8 staff members

Prepared by Pam Sims and Bruce Ito

**Breakout Group #1** – Cantonese speaking participants - facilitated by Brian Cheu and Peter Cohen

**Question 1** – What do you love about your neighborhood? What makes you feel that you are part of your community?

- 4<sup>th</sup> St., likes the convenience of the transportation available.
- Transportation
- The sunshine and transportation
- 19<sup>th</sup> and Holloway, near City College and SF State, likes the educational environment, culture
- Sunset, likes the foggy, cool weather
- Near John King Center, good area, safety and issue but improving
- Good transportation
- Civic Center, lots of events in the area now, good restaurants
- Visitacion Valley (VV), low rent, could be safer
- San Bruno Avenue, wants more affordable housing
- Sunnydale, high crime
- Outer Mission/Excelsior (near City College) good freeway access, transportation including MUNI streetcars and buses. Safer now because of patrols. Recreation, the parks and the swimming pool. Free activities.
- Easy to park, good transportation

**Question 2** – What is your vision for a healthy, great community where you live? (What would it look like, what services would be there, how would people be there together?)

- Safety, can hear shootings near the Cow Palace
- Safety
- Geary and Van Ness, safety, cars broken into, neighbor was followed into elevator and robbed
- 4<sup>th</sup> and Shipley, no homeless, get homeless housing
- Bilingual services, a parking lot at Bayview and Leland, low-mid income housing . Often overcrowded housing conditions, 4-5 people living in one room.
- SF State, students park in neighborhood, leaving little parking for residents. Widen the roads, there was a proposal for this 15 years ago
- Safety
- San Bruno Ave., more parking, at 5:30 p.m., already hard to find parking

- Safety and general cleanliness, some parking spaces aren't taken because of excrement in the streets

**Questions 3 and 4** – What's your vision as to how people in your community can be well served by our community institutions? What do you think are the most creative, effective and efficient ways to deliver these services? What is the biggest challenge to this being true right now? What are the biggest challenges for you in your community?

- Need more police
- VV, only one organization to distribute low income affordable housing forms. Hard to get information, very scattered. Could 311 help?
- APAC promotes use of 311, can get Cantonese translation 24/7
- Language access, in Sunnydale no Asian language services, no information coming to them, bilingual staff is not qualified
- Need night time English classes. Class at 50 Raymond is gone, no PGE at site, no insurance, program had to leave
- APAC tried to borrow space at VV Elementary, but was turned down. There are spaces available but poor people have no access
- No translation available, employees are not truly bilingual, employer can't tell because they don't speak the language
- Property managers are not nice to the elderly, they are intimidated and scared by them
- At 133 Shipley (Silvercrest), residents are fearful, can't complain, fear harassment
- Need night classes but there are safety issues, esp. in winter
- Need guardian/ambassador program to promote safety
- Cantonese emergency education classes
- Training programs, classes near where the residents are
- Heritage Homes (Sunnydale) good building but safety and issue, especially in VV, need shuttle
- Training classes on healthy families, education and health
- Police can't be everywhere, Chinese New Year is a risky time because people know about red packets and cash and residents may be the target of crime
- Police presence, squad cars are good
- Use social media to increase awareness
- Other ethnicities sometimes harass or mug residents, creates a climate of mistrust
- Get the elders of different ethnic communities to know each other, this will trickle down to younger generations
- Need more cost effective programs, long term, efficient and measurable outcomes
- Bridge the digital divide with seniors
- Help middle income renters
- First time homebuyer education
- More funding
- Some centers get money, but don't offer Chinese language services
- Need real services

- Outreach to ethnic specific clubs, some have hundreds of members
- Stop misallocation of resources
- The current services in VV, such as VVCC, the elementary school PTA and One Stop are not enough
- Nonprofits need a permanent location and address, Schlage Lock was a potential site
- Reduce duplication of Services, centralize and consolidate

**Breakout Group #2** – Facilitated by Utuma Belfrey and David Taylor

**Question 1** – What do you love about your neighborhood? What makes you feel that you are part of your community?

- SOMA is like two communities, industrial and residential. Range of income is blended. Small business has an SF feel.
- Sunset community is connected to families, all kinds. Homeownership, children outside which is nice to see.
- Likes knowing neighbors, look out for each other. Bar next door will share resources. Same at home, next door neighbor will pick up newspaper.
- Represents Self Help for the Elderly, clients are 27% lower income and 1/3 Chinese American. Wants to make sure that there are plenty of housing for seniors. Help them figure out applications, provide landlord tenant resolution and prevent evictions. Continue funding.
- Preserve and build more affordable housing. SOMA has some nice housing and some rat holes and SROs.
- Wants to make sure people have same connections at home as they have at work in case of disaster
- Bayview has had 10 years of gentrification. Works in Potrero Hill. Constant robberies. Wishes City would recognize Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. Constant robberies in neighborhood. They reach out to these people.
- Reduce negative influences in community so they have something to do.
- Likes the interactions with the community. Especially in Bayview and SOMA.
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**Question 2** – What is your vision for a healthy, great community where you live? (What would it look like, what services would be there, how would people be there together?)

**Questions 3** – What’s your vision as to how people in your community can be well served by our community institutions? What do you think are the most creative, effective and efficient ways to deliver these services? What is the biggest challenge to this being true right now? What are the biggest challenges for you in your community?

- Having service providers in the community, so the community gets what they need. Especially the youth! Entrepreneurship.
- Worried about election and propositions, so not things don’t get worse. Go vote.
- Services to different areas.
- Open dialog. Funders and service delivery issues.
- Ideas to collaborate. Networks to conduct open dialogs in community.
- Money for small organizations. So get grant writers and dollars for small groups, not always through technology.
- Increasing rents, need support for organizations (capital dollars), facility improvement.
- What is the definition of smaller organization?
- Fund the smaller groups. Have trust and know the community. Need capacity building dollars to grow. Wrap around services and TA to build collaborations.
- Bureaucracy investing wisely so society can function better.
- Check on larger orgs to find out what they have really done. Smaller orgs are already doing it.
- Collaboration between large and small organizations. Nonprofits need to be advocated for. Not enough motivation. Support people are dedicating their lives to this work.
- Mental health service providers. Affordable housing. Employers who hire people with various backgrounds. Capacity issues even in large organizations. Need the staff to adequately support populations.
- Affordable housing issue. Cross cultural issues. African American out migration.
- NERT training – to be prepared for earthquakes and bring communities together.
- Education and training. Entry level employees. Training opportunities. Need entry level for infrastructure of SF.
- Community members are disenchanted with naysayers.
- More robust local hire requirements.

**Question 4** - What is the biggest challenge to this being true right now? What are the biggest challenges for you in your community?

- Workforce development funding – squeezing out lower income and immigrant communities. Tech companies coming in for higher level people but nothing for entry level. Wants training for adults.
- Affordable housing a challenge. MOH needs to be the housing agency since SFRA went away. Employer opportunities and benefits package aren’t fulfilled by large companies. Need them to be better policed. Need to have service providers connect with companies. JRI barrier mitigation in RFP coming out, driver’s license, interview clothes, etc.

David Taylor's comments:

- Workforce does address tech industry issues and others
- WIA equals placements
- Pulled back from green because couldn't get the placements

Public comment continues

- (B1) Separate proposals for each aspect of organization is a challenge
- Workforce – re-entry navigator, barrier remediation, formally incarcerated have a tough time with computer based world. Advisory councils – how to better connect with people with jobs. Change perception of people with convictions, can't get housing without income.

Committee member comments:

- People are here, should form coalitions and work with each other because CDBG dollars are shrinking. Community members don't like to pick and choose. Would like to see better collaboration. Would make \$ decisions easier if collaboration is there.

Public comment continues:

- Been there done that (collaboration). You guys make this a competitive process.
- When get complaints, go out into the community and investigate
- Bring groups together and get a better sense of the community.
- "Ulterior" motives, trust is a bust. CDBG dollars shifted to pet projects. Do surveys to find common grounds to help better move forward.
- 2005-06 dollars better served people. Now more paperwork and serves less people?

David Taylor comments:

- CDBG budget was higher in 2005-16. Case loads and showing service delivery is more stringent with workforce than CDBG. RFP will look for collaborations.