

East Portland Community Prosperity Initiative: 2021 Engagement

Final Report and Recommendations



October 12th, 2021



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Introduction

Unite Oregon Background

East Portland Community Prosperity
Initiative



Introduction Cont.



Project Goal

Gaps in Existing Services

East Portland Community Summit

Final Report



East Portland

East Portland is Portland's most diverse district and is continuing to grow and change.



Lack of Access to City Parks

Two out of every five households in East Portland do not have ready access to a city park. That is in contrast to the rest of Portland where four out of every five households live within a half mile of a park or natural area.



Higher Levels of Pedestrian Deaths

According to Oregon Walks, between 2017-2019, the pedestrian death rate per 100,000 was three times higher east of 82nd Avenue than it was west of 82nd Avenue.



Challenges Facing East Portland

East Portland has a higher poverty level, lower educational level and higher levels of income inequality compared to the rest of the city. Southeast Portland also has the highest population of communities of color in the city.

Community Engagement Process

Phase 1: Online Survey



Two online surveys were administered between April and June 2021.

Phase 2: Focus Groups



Focus group discussions were conducted between May and June 2021 via Zoom and kept small with 5-10 participants each.

Phase 3: East PDX Summit



The East Portland Community Summit brought together community members, local entrepreneurs and stakeholders from across the city.



Summary and Outcomes

Unite Oregon facilitated the community engagement process in three phases from April to June 2021.

Survey Feedback

312 responses to the online surveys in 7 languages

Focus Groups

36 participants in focus group discussions in 5 languages

Community Summit

265 participants in the East Portland Community Summit in 9 languages

Facilitators

To administer the engagement process, Unite Oregon enlisted the support of 13 volunteers, 10 translators and 6 community organizers



Participant Backgrounds

Derived from community survey results

Demographics

50% immigrants, 25% refugees, 2% asylum seekers, 23% American born or preferred not to answer. 68% of survey participants are aged 18-44.

Housing

51% rent housing, 38% own, and 6% identified as houseless. Only 23% said that their rent has not increased in the past 12 months.

Economic Prosperity

31% disclosed an average household income below \$30,000. 27% are unable to save some of each paycheck, and 38% are able to save less than 10%.

Entrepreneurship

24% of households surveyed own a small business. 6% had lost a small business in the past year. 22% are unemployed or on temporary suspension.



Key Findings

Themes identified in survey answers, focus group and summit discussions.



Affordable Housing / Rent and Mortgage Assistance

The most common priority expressed throughout the community engagement process was the need for more affordable housing options.



Public Safety

The second most frequently communicated priority by community members was public safety.



Job Training / Small Business Help

The need for job training and entrepreneurship resources / education was regularly expressed throughout the process.



Key Findings Cont.

Themes identified in survey answers, focus group and summit discussions.



Affordable childcare options

There is a large need throughout East Portland for affordable, reliable and conveniently located childcare, especially for young children who are not yet school aged.



Community Centers

There was profound interest in community centers that can provide space for communities to provide culturally specific language classes, legal services, climate resilience resources, tax and finance assistance, job/small business support, meals and food and worship.



Road and Infrastructure Improvements

Concerns were voiced about not having sidewalks or crossings on some streets, dangerous crossings at busy intersections, lack of parks and green spaces, lack of street lighting and concerns about personal safety.

Recommendations

Derived from results of surveys, focus groups and summit

Affordable Housing

Banks, credit unions, mortgage companies and government investment in options outside of traditional rental housing

Small Business Help

Collaborative business model, mentorship program, East Portland small business incubator, forgivable loans

Workforce Training

Workforce training center, scholarships to PCC/MHCC, culturally specific training and job placement, climate resilient workforce opportunities

Community Centers

Community center in East Portland that allows community members to decide on programming and use of the building, climate resilience resources

Recommendations Cont.

Derived from results of surveys, focus groups and summit

Affordable Childcare

Assist with licensing, insurance, and setting up childcare business, faith institutions, schools and community centers provide space

Infrastructure Improvements

Prioritize sidewalk and road improvements, additional parks, green spaces and community gardens in East Portland.

Public Safety

Invest in culturally specific programs for pedestrian safety, provide training for neighborhood support programs, Safe Routes to schools led by communities of color

Resource Navigation

Invest in resource navigation services, designate employees throughout bureaus, prioritize strengthening CBOs, embed into programs



Service Provider Engagement

Summit Attendance

Survey Responses

Services offered to community in the East Portland area:

- Affordable housing
- Youth services
- Transportation advocacy
- Leadership development
- Loans and economic services
- Technological literacy support
- Meals and hygiene services



Conclusion

Urgency of Current Challenges

Unite Oregon's Vision

Partners' Call to Action

Thank You





Contacts and Questions

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