

White Center Community Development Association

WHITE CENTER 2019 SUMMIT

REPORT



SUMMIT OVERVIEW

The White Center summit is an annual gathering for community members to connect, learn, and participate in community discussions around current events in White Center.

The 2019 White Center Summit was held on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at Evergreen High School from 9:00AM – 1:30PM. The summit provided highlights and updates from our Communities of Opportunity work, focusing around the theme of housing. The WCCDA partnered with FEEST and King County Local Services to provide 2 break-out sessions for the community to review the history of housing in Washington state, share their stories, and provide input for the subarea planning and housing development in White Center.

Approximately 72 community members participated in the summit. Partnering organizations provided resources for the community which included information around health, community engagement, economic opportunities, and improving the health of our neighborhood. Community interpreters were available during the summit to provide support in the following languages: Spanish, Cham, Vietnamese, Khmer, Somali, and Chinese.

Breakfast and lunch were provided before and after the breakout sessions. Lunch included time for our community to share out their ideas, provide feedback, and participate in a fun raffle drawing of gift cards prizes and giveaways!

"I learned a lot. Great to hear from community members in the sessions."

PARTICIPANTS DEMOGRAPHICS

Approximately 72 community members participated in the summit. About 47% reported being a White Center resident and 46% being their first time attending the White Center summit.

Approximately 75% of community participants identified as a person of color, and 36% preferred to speak a language other than English. Person of color included people identified as: Hispanic or Latino (19%), Cambodian/Khmer (13%), Vietnamese (10%), Somali (4%) African American/Black (4%), Korean (3%), Cham (3%), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (1%), Japanese (1%), Bosnian (1%), Salvadoran (1%), Filipino (1%), Middle Eastern (1%), and all others who are identified as multiracial (10%).



FIGURE 1. LANGUAGE PREFERENCE

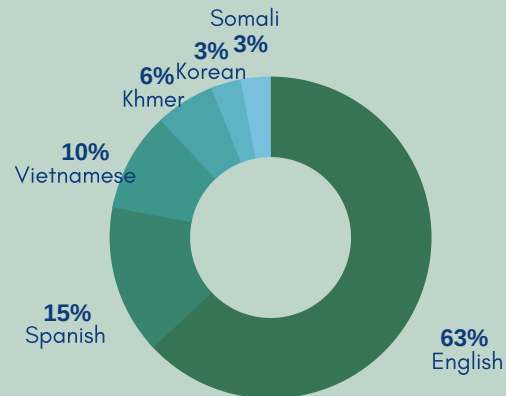
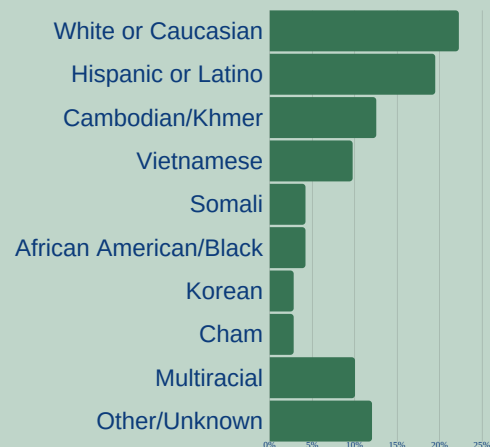


FIGURE 2. RACE & ETHNICITY



- 72 community members attended
- 46% attended summit for the 1st time
- 75% identified as a person of color
- 47% White Center resident
- 23% identified as a community partner
- 36% prefer a language other than English

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

SUBAREA PLANNING

The Subarea Planning workshop was facilitated by David Goodman, Senior Subarea Planner from King County Department of Local Services, and Helen Shor-Wong, Anti-Displacement Coordinator from White Center CDA. The workshop included an activity to demonstrate the considerations and challenges of zoning, in particular to the housing, commercial, and industrial areas. Community participants were engaged in discussions around the issues of housing, sharing stories of their lived-experiences and providing feedback to the planners.

During the discussions, community voiced their concerns regarding the continuous rise of housing costs. The following questions and concerns were also raised:

-What can we do to stop the rising of housing costs now? Would there be guaranteed low income housing in new developments? How can zoning facilitate both affordable home-ownership and rental costs? If not through zoning, what are some other tools we can use to increase affordability? What can King County do to support WC residents?

-How will increased density of housing units affect affordability? And what would be the differences in affordability for the different types of development, i.e. apartments versus town-homes? What are some creative solutions to increase density without increasing cost?



BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

SUBAREA PLANNING CONTINUED...

-Increasing housing density, whether it be multi-use buildings, duplexes, apartments, town-homes, etc., will increase traffic/congestion. There is already concerns regarding overcrowding in classrooms. Would there be requirements for expanded infrastructure such as roads, parking, etc. for new developments? And who will it ultimately cost?

-How can we increase economic opportunities and bring jobs other than retail and industrial jobs to White Center? Adding residential capacity to areas that are currently commercial use is a concern. Can mixed-use be able to facilitate home-ownership for residents? Will businesses/services in mixed-use developments cater to the economic needs of the community?

-How will decisions made for White Center be affected by future annexation? Could there space for conversations around annexation to Burien or Seattle?

Though community participants were engaged in these conversations, there were limitations on time and resources to have deeper conversations around displacement and immediate solutions for displacement. Many participants were interested in participating in follow-up discussions around housing and the impact of development and having more/different spaces for diverse groups to be fully engaged.



"[I would like to know] more about affordable rents."

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

LAND-USE & HOUSING TIMELINE IN WASHINGTON

The Land-use & Housing Timeline in Washington was facilitated by Sierra Flanagan, Youth Organizer from FEEST, and Aaron Garcia, Community Inclusion Manager from White Center CDA. The workshop engaged community participants in reviewing the historical timeline of land-use and housing policies in Washington and specifically around King County area.

The historical timeline highlighted the Indigenous peoples and Indigenous land stewardship for thousands of years and how land-use and housing have been impacted throughout time from major historical events such as colonization, slavery, urbanization, de-regulations and privatizations of housing, immigration, redlining, and the current housing crises with gentrification and displacement. Community participants were engaged in personal reflections and discussions of how we can share and live in unity as a community, recognizing the history of place and of the community.

The workshop also opened up brief discussions on community land stewardship and the complexities of private and public land ownership. Community participants shared feelings of anxiety around growth and development of White Center and expressed the need for property owners, developers, planners, and government to have accountability to the community.



"Loved the history session. Maybe have more sessions. Thank you for your work. We appreciate it."

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Out of the 72 community members who attended the summit, 32 (44%) community members completed the evaluation survey. Overall, most people reported having a positive experience at the summit and found the information provided at the summit to be useful (61% extremely useful, 31% very useful, 6% somewhat useful, and 3% not so useful). Most comments provided in the survey were also positive; some stated they "learned a lot" and "really enjoyed the event."

Out of the 32 who completed the survey, 25 (75%) community members indicated interest in being involved in future efforts around housing in White Center and provided their contact information to the CDA. Some community members "wanted more information about what's going on in the community, changes that are coming, and how [they] can get involved [beyond] housing."

FIGURE 3. OVERALL, HOW WOULD YOU RATE THIS YEAR'S SUMMIT?

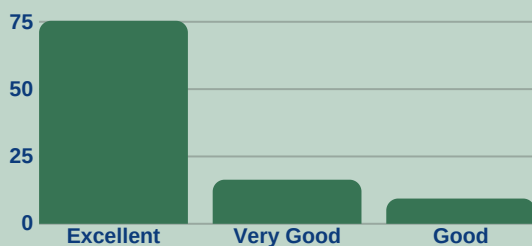
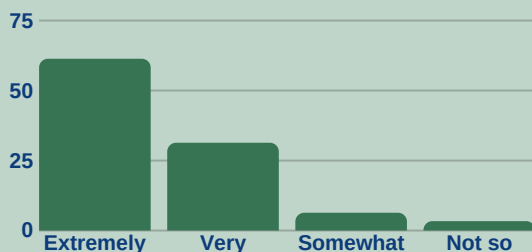


FIGURE 4. WAS THE INFORMATION PROVIDED AT THE SUMMIT USEFUL TO YOU?



"Let us know what was said today, the progress and the next steps that will be formed."

"I would like to have a group like this again in the future."

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

CAMBODIAN CULTURAL ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON
CHAM REFUGEES COMMUNITY
COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY
EDUCATION FOR ALL
FEEST
HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
HEALTHPOINT
HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND PARKS
KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
KING COUNTY LOCAL SERVICES
KING COUNTY PARKS
KING COUNTY SOLID WASTE
LEAD WHITE CENTER
PARTNER IN EMPLOYMENT
RECICLA MAS
SEATTLE FOUNDATION
SEATTLE SUBWAY
SLOTH ACUPUNCTURE
SOUTHWEST YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
TRUSTED ADVOCATES
VILLAGE OF HOPE
WHITE CENTER FOOD BANK
YES! FOUNDATION OF WHITE CENTER
YWCA

ALSO, THANK YOU TO OUR SERVICE PROVIDERS:

A LIST NANNY SERVICES - CHILDCARE
CHATO - CATERING
EVERGREEN HIGH SCHOOL - VENUE
MELISSA PONDER - PHOTOGRAPHY
REVOLUTION STAGING LLC - SOUND

*"Both workshops
were very
powerful in
reminding me of
the importance of
grassroots
movements [] and
that both private
[and public]
institutions can
fail our
communities if we
don't come
together to shape
what is happening
locally."*

