



ANNUAL SUMMIT **STRONGER VOICES!** 2018 REPORT

White Center Community Development Association



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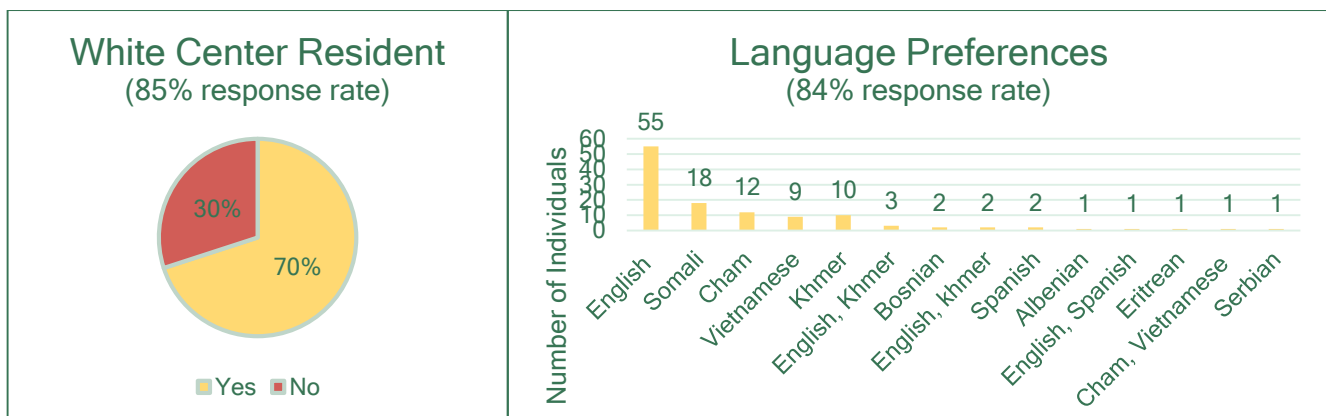
OVERVIEW

Theme & Focus

The 2018 White Center Annual Summit was held on Saturday, November 10th, 2018 at Evergreen High School from 9:00AM - 1:30PM. With the “Stronger Voices!” theme, the focus of the summit was to highlight the Communities of Opportunity (COO) work in White Center and engage community members in conversations around COO’s priority areas of community connections, housing, health, and economic opportunity. Partnering with FEEST and the YWCA, the summit included 3 breakout sessions on affordable housing and the White Center HUB, healthy food, and White Center jobs and businesses. Each session was repeated 3 times during the event.

Community Participation

Approximately 150 community members attended the summit. About 30% of community members reported being a White Center resident and 55% reported English as their language of preference. Other language preferences included: Somali, Cham, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Khmer, Bosnian, Spanish, Albanian, Serbian, and Eritrean languages. Interpreters were available in Somali, Cham, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Khmer, and Spanish.



Other Activities

Breakfast and lunch were provided before and after the breakout sessions. Partnering organizations tabled in the cafeteria to provide the community with resources during meal times. During lunchtime, a raffle was held for community members who attended all 3 breakout sessions. Two \$100 raffle prizes given were donated by White Center resident, Mark Ufkes. Childcare was also provided during the event for about 30 children.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Affordable Housing and White Center Community HUB

The Affordable Housing and WC Community HUB session was facilitated by WCCDA Community Outreach and White Center resident, Mark Ufkes and WCCDA Executive Director, Sili Savusa. This session focused on affordable housing and the development of the White Center Community HUB. Housing data from King County Housing Authority was presented, and community members were engaged in discussions around housing needs and priorities in White Center.

Some questions and ideas recorded from the housing sessions were:

- What is the overall plan for more subsidized housing in White Center?
- Require affordable units in all new developments instead of giving developers option of paying into a fund.
- Displacement is disconnecting families.
- What about Housing First model for homeless? (Mary's Place is rolling out a diversion program at Burien site)
- There is a wealth gap—how can we increase homeownership opportunities?
- How to ensure White Center residents get priority for new White Center housing?
- Be aware of and sensitive to cultural communities: Somali community is largest group in the new Top Hat development and the owners are not considerate of needs.



“Affordable housing is great; we want it for our White Center community.”

Healthy Food Round Table

The Healthy Food Round Table was facilitated by FEEST Youth Organizers, Sierra Flanagan and Milo Jackson, and students, Kadin and Isaiah. The following questions/statements were discussed during the breakout session:

- Where are your favorite places to eat in White Center?
- What foods are missing in White Center?
- Where do you think are the top three places young people access food in White Center?
- How would you describe the available food in White Center for young people and families?
- What are some positive things you've heard about the school foods?
- What are some concerns you've heard about school food?
- What do you think are some reasons for young people not eating school lunch?
- "White Center is a neighborhood with an abundance of healthy, fresh, culturally relevant, affordable, and delicious food."

During the round table discussion, community members listed off the various ethnically diverse food options that are available in White Center as their favorite places to eat. Concerns regarding the limited availability of healthy, culturally relevant (habesha, halal, and kosher), fresh, and affordable food in White Center were discussed. Though some community members felt that there are healthier food options in schools compared to the past, they communicated similar concerns regarding lack of culturally diverse and healthier food options in schools. Reasons for why children are not eating their school lunches were believed and expressed by community members as follows: food being not tasteful or flavorful enough, no one holding children accountable for eating, lack of variety and options, lack of vegetarian options, food not being fresh, lack of hot food options, and financial barriers. Some ideas/solutions that were discussed in the sessions included: increase P-patches and have classes in a community kitchen for people to learn and grow more local foods, increase organic and local farm stands and restaurants serving different cultural foods with more affordable prices, share recipes and create a cookbook, have a farmer's market in WC, have snack programs at school, and survey youth and elders.

“Enjoyed the conversation about solutions (Cultural touchstones/restaurants).”



White Center Jobs and Businesses

The White Center Jobs and Businesses session was facilitated by Beth Pascarella from the YWCA and Tommy Martin, owner of Tommy Sound in White Center. The following questions were discussed during the breakout session:

- What kind of businesses are wanted/needed in White Center?
- What are the needs for the White Center business center?

Community members discussed the following priorities for White Center businesses:

What kind of businesses are wanted/needed in White Center?

- More Somali-relevant spaces for residents to go to instead of leaving WC to another neighborhood
- More full-service banks
- Kid's store
- More daycares
- Cultural centers
- Multicultural take-out places
- Spaces for elementary/pre-teens
- Environmentally sustainable businesses
- More halal-based groceries/restaurants
- Office co-op spaces (Similar to Hing Hay Coworks)



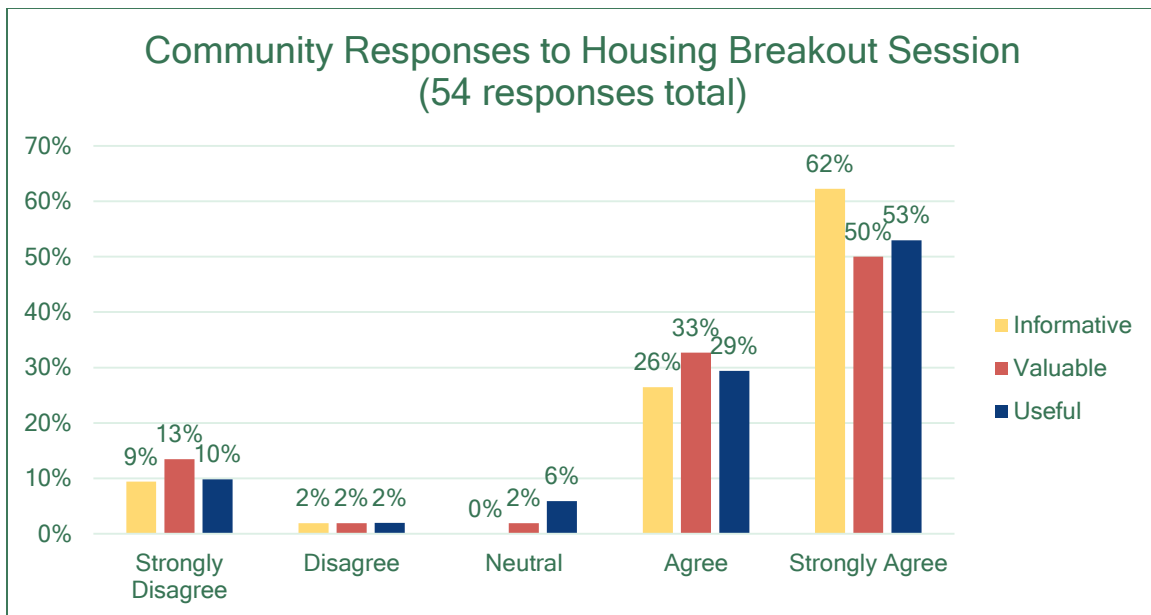
What are the needs for the White Center business center?

- Better signage
- Improve walkability
- Refresh storefronts on 16th
- Better tenant rights
- King County posts listings
- Updated WC business walking map
- Locally-owned signs for businesses
- Talk to the property owners
- More youth programs
- Connect hazardous waste to autobody & dry cleaning places
- Incentive program for businesses to have local tenants
- Help business owners to extend current leases/path to own building they are in

EVALUATION AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Affordable Housing and White Center Community HUB

Most community members who attended the housing session found it to be informative, 26% agreed and 62% strongly agreed. Most also found the information presented and discussed to be valuable (33% agreed; 50% strongly agreed) and useful (29% agreed; 53% strongly agreed).



“Would love to see affordable housing in White Center.”



Housing - Comments/Feedback from Attending Community Members

"Affordable housing is great; we want it for our White Center community."

"Great presentation! Very thought processing."

"Keep helping - it's good."

"More shelters for [the] homeless. More affordable homes to buy!"

"Not as much opportunity for community input. More like a presentation."

"Please keep up the good work, lots of people need it."

"REALLY Nice job! Hella insightful & thought provoking."

"Thank you for making this information available."

"Valued highly Mark's statistics - good basic info."

"Very organized and focused."

"We [are] hardly able to pay our apartment."

"Would love to see affordable housing in White Center."

"We have to reduce homeless[ness]."

"Would like to know how many WC residents are currently experiencing homelessness, and how can the housing secure community commit to assisting them get homes."

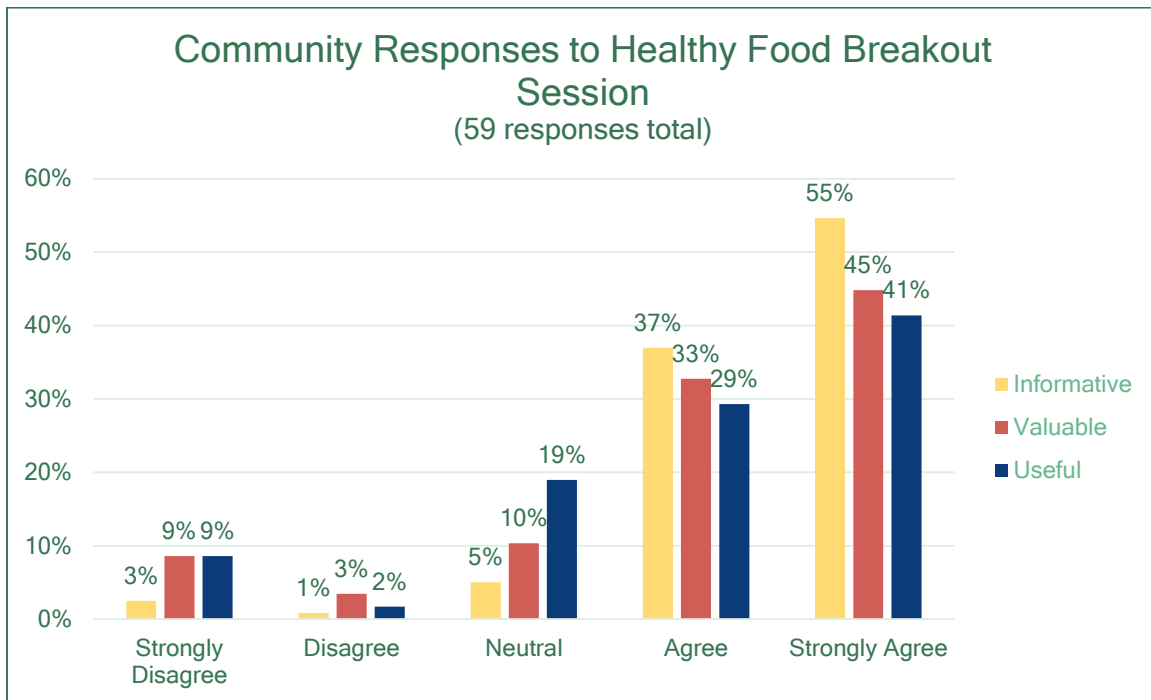
*"We have to reduce
homeless[ness]."*



*"More shelters for [the]
homeless. More affordable
homes to buy!"*

Healthy Food Round Table

Most community members who attended the healthy food session found it to be informative, 37% agreed and 55% strongly agreed. Most also found the information presented and discussed to be valuable (33% agreed; 45% strongly agreed) and useful (29% agreed; 41% strongly agreed).



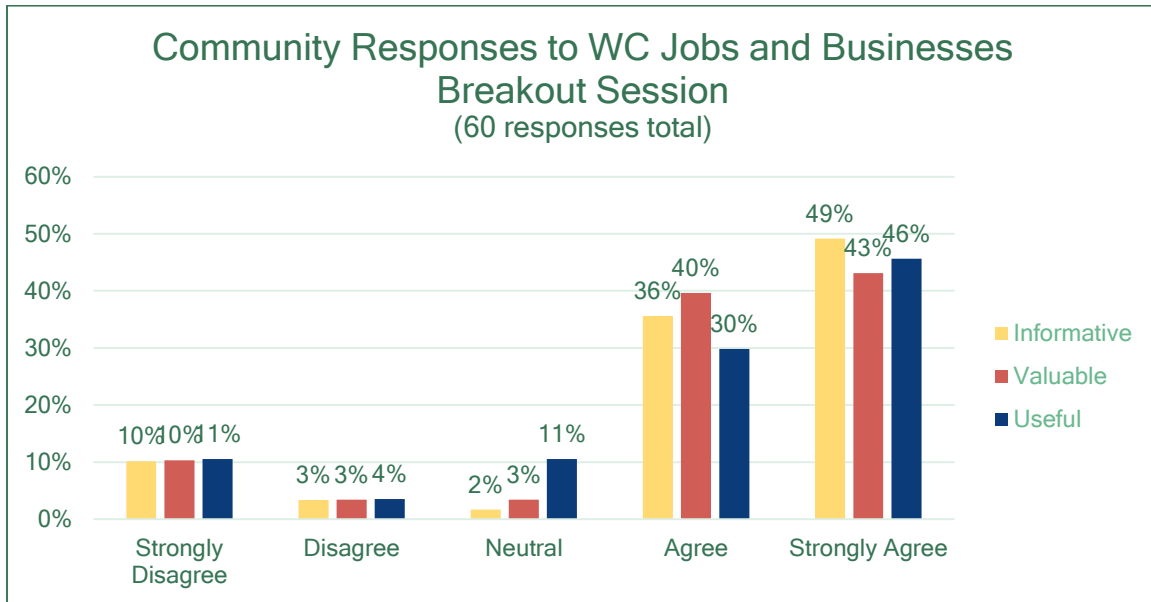
"I loved the introduce yourself section - keep doing it. Impressed by inclusion of school age facilitators."

Healthy Food - Comments/Feedback from Attending Community Members
"Awesome youth facilitation & community ideas!"
"Community kitchen."
"Enjoyed the conversation about solutions (Cultural touchstones/restaurants)."
"Fresh fruits & veggies, school gardens, plus cook veggies in ways that are delicious not soggy & bland."
"Fruit stand near students."
"Have list of questions translated before workshop. Use cardboard to list suggestions so everyone can see."
"I loved having the youth facilitator, Isaiah - he did a great job! Small group discussion circles and questions were good for participation. Solutions oriented discussion was good."
"I loved the introduce yourself section - keep doing it. Impressed by inclusion of school age facilitators."
"I wish we had a survey of what students in our schools could share what they want to eat for lunch & why they don't eat school prepared food. Also how many bring home lunch."
"Include infographics about the current state in WC about where food is, how much students are eating food, etc."
"I've attended the summit several times. At some point I would love to see the health topic extend beyond food. It's a critical piece, but also connects to several other important topics"
"Keep improving on [healthier] & warm food for school to convince more kids to eat rather than not eat. Love the interactive format."
"More halal food please (school & restaurants)."
"Set up made it difficult to hear and participate."
"Such good work is being done - go FEEST!!!"
"Thank you so much for having Isaiah facilitate! Great to empower him and read out loud. He also had great input to the conversations."
"The facilitators were amazing."
"Thank you so much for including everyone in the discussion."
"They should have soup, something warm for kids to eat or some kind of home cook meal to eat at school."
"What happens after this?"

"Awesome youth facilitation & community ideas!"

White Center Jobs and Businesses

Most community members who attended the WC Jobs and Businesses session found it to be informative, 36% agreed and 49% strongly agreed. Most also found the information presented and discussed to be valuable (40% agreed; 43% strongly agreed) and useful (30% agreed; 46% strongly agreed).



“The triangle garden WC signage need to be cleaned & improved. Boosts our reputation!”

White Center Jobs and Businesses - Comments/Feedback from Attending Community Members
"Create jobs. Create more jobs!"
"Encourage discussion from more voices in the room."
"Good to hear that we are helping. Great job!"
"I am a resource for business help & incentives. My workgroup offers financial incentives to businesses, utilities all offer rebates & we have special industry grants for autobody & dry cleaners."
"I am suggesting some middle Eastern food."
"I am thinking about Arab night club."
"International Food Coop @ Greenbridge Plaza with weekly Farmer's Market."
"Would like to learn more about who owns business-zoned property, what sq footage leased are, and how possible is it to get space rented for local business as priority."
"Useful information. Great jobs."
"This seemed directionless. Everyone who spoke wanted the conversation to move in a completely different direction. It wasn't tied together."
"The triangle garden WC signage need to be cleaned & improved. Boosts our reputation!"
"The organizer should work towards creating a process for community inputs & concerns regarding the type of businesses that will come into White Center. Currently, there's no way."
"Thank you! This was very informative."
"Need info to get involved in things & handouts. "
"Need higher paying job training like electrical and maritime."
"More purpose to the discussion."
"Keep up the good work!"
"Jobs are really important."
"It could be nice if we can have some more business owners come over to share their thoughts."
"I did not understand the point of this meeting. I live in White Center; I don't need to see pictures of it. The meeting was too "free for all" with no direction. Community members didn't say too much. I like the idea of community grants to help with a "face lift" for the business or grants/loans to help businesses buy their property."

"Create jobs. Create more jobs!"

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

American Lung Association
 Coalition for Drug-Free Youth
 Evergreen High School
 FEEST
 Habitat for Humanity
 King County Department Local Services/Community Service Area Program
 King County Parks - WCTP
 King County Sheriff's
 Local Hazardous Waste Management Program
 Puget Sound Sage/Transit for All
 Restaurant Opportunities Center Seattle (ROC Seattle)
 Safefuture Youth Center
 Seattle Foundation
 Seattle & King County Public Health – Communities of Opportunity
 Sloth Around Community Acupuncture
 Southwest Youth and Family Services
 SYVPI Case Manager Safe Futures Youth Center
 Trusted Advocates Association
 WestSide Baby
 White Center Food Bank
 White Center Heights Preschool
 YWCA Greenbridge Learning Center

