

HOPE SF: Alice Griffith Community Café Reflections 2012

The HOPE SF evaluation serves as an important tool for learning and improvement, and can help HOPE SF stakeholders come to an understanding of the initiative's progress toward achieving its objectives. A critical part of the evaluation is collecting input from residents on how the redevelopment initiative is affecting the resident community. To collect resident feedback, the LFA Group: *Learning for Action* evaluation team asked Alice Griffith residents to share their thoughts through the household survey administered in the spring of 2012. In October 2012, the evaluation team asked residents to participate in a reflection meeting (the *Alice Griffith Community Café*) to review the survey results and engage in a thoughtful discussion about the data. A summary of survey findings can be found on page two of this document, and the following section summarizes key takeaways from the *Community Café* reflection meeting.

Reflection Meeting Highlights

The objectives of the *Community Café* meeting were to: (1) review results from the Alice Griffith household survey; (2) identify key messages to communicate to HOPE SF leadership; and (3) discuss areas for progress in the Alice Griffith community. The table below includes four specific areas for improvement that residents highlighted during the meeting, along with suggested next steps for HOPE SF stakeholders.

| Area for Improvement | Resident Suggestions |
|--|---|
| Safety: Violence in the community impedes participation in community events, services, and employment opportunities, and causes significant emotional stress for residents. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">There is a significant amount of lack of trust in the communityResidents identified children, not necessarily adults, as posing the greatest safety riskThere is a strong desire for more programs that specifically target youthChildren need more daily after-school activities and places to expend their energy (e.g., a gym)If children had more responsibility in the redevelopment process they would have more pride in the Alice Griffith communityProviding consistent tutoring opportunities and homework assistance would encourage children to spend more time studying outside of school hours |
| Participation: Strategies to increase resident participation in the redevelopment process and community processed need to be developed and implemented. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The same residents usually don't participate in any aspects of the redevelopment processHaving translators for the languages residents speak (e.g., Samoan) would be helpful and decrease barriers to participationUrban Strategies 'living room' revitalization meetings were cited as an effective strategy to increase resident participation in revitalization discussions |
| Parenting: Increased interaction between parents and children, and among parents in the community would increase safety in the community. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Parents have an opportunity to step in and provide accountability to maintaining a safe community, but are currently not doing soThe provision of parenting classes might help keep some residents on track and increase personal responsibility to promote safety in the communityHelping parents provide positive reinforcement to children might help reduce negligent behaviorParenting classes have the potential to foster greater involvement in children's lives |
| Employment: Meaningful employment opportunities will help residents experience a greater level of pride and wellbeing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Many residents face barriers retaining employment because of lack of public transportation in the communityResidents expressed a desire for employment opportunities that are long-term (as opposed to temporary) and training programs that build the skills necessary for meaningful, long-term employmentThe LIFT program was cited as a program that successfully linked residents to long-term employment |

Resident Engagement

Participating residents generated several ideas about potential next steps to facilitate change more immediately. Residents should:

- Attend the current HOPE SF meetings
- Stay informed about Alice Griffith Revitalization Activities the HOPE SF initiative through the HOPE SF Revitalization websites at <http://hope-sf.org/alice-griffith.php> and www.hope-sf.org
- Visit the Opportunity Center to obtain information about resources currently available in the community

Household Survey Objectives

As part of the HOPE SF initiative evaluation, LFA Group: *Learning for Action* conducted a Household Survey at Alice Griffith to gather information from residents on:

- Their understanding of and satisfaction to date with HOPE SF;
- Perceptions of their neighborhoods and developments;
- Safety; and
- Outlook on life.

METHODS & RESPONSE RATE

LFA Group's Community Feedback Team, which included four Alice Griffith resident field coordinators and three community feedback facilitators (LFA evaluation team members), surveyed 144 of 158 randomly selected Alice Griffith households from April through May 2012 (a 91% response

Expectations for HOPE SF and the Future

RESIDENTS ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE HOPE SF INITIATIVE

- 93% know about the revitalization and rebuilding (n=143)
- 56% have attended a revitalization meeting (n=124)

RESIDENTS HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR THEIR COMMUNITY...

- 82% believe they as an individual will be better off in three years (n=140)
- 86% believe their family will be better off in three years (n=140)
- 70% believe their community will be better off in three years (n=136)

... AND SLIGHTLY LOWER EXPECTATIONS FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

- 69% are satisfied with what is planned for future housing development (n=125)
- 77% agree redevelopment plans take into account the best interests of Alice Griffith residents (n=132)
- 72% feel they have a voice in plans for how the new housing will look (n=69)

HOUSEHOLD PROFILE

- 87% of respondents have lived in SF for more than 10 years
- 52% have lived at the Alice Griffith development more than 10 years
- 67% of respondents have children under the age of 18 living with them

RESIDENT VOICES

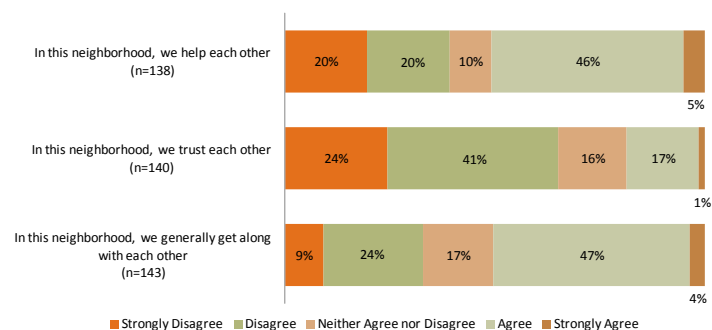
I hope it will mean me and my family will be able to come back as residents. I hope the redevelopers have good intentions. I hope I fit into the redevelopers picture of what this community should look like.

I hope the community will be safer. Right now it is not safe. I have been robbed twice.

[Urban Strategies] could do more outreach by coming to people's houses. Some people don't understand their role in the redevelopment and revitalization.

Neighborhood Relationships and Safety

RESIDENTS HAVE LIMITED TRUST IN THEIR NEIGHBORS



SAFETY IS A LARGE CONCERN FOR RESIDENTS

Primary Public Safety Concerns Among Alice Griffith Residents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Shootings and Violence (n=139) | 94% |
| People using drugs (n=128) | 93% |
| People selling drugs (n=127) | 91% |
| People being attacked or robbed (n=141) | 90% |

RESIDENTS KNOW WHERE TO ACCESS RESOURCES

- 97% agree they know where to go to apply for food stamps, unemployment, or cash assistance (n=143)
- 92% agree they know where to go if they want help from local agencies in getting job training, or finding a job (n=138)

AREAS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS:

- Residents know where to access resources; but to what extent are they actually doing so?
- Does a general lack of trust in the neighborhood affect residents' perspective and reaction to the redevelopment?

RESIDENTS HAVE AMBIVALENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS AND COMMUNITY

- 33% report they would miss their neighbors (n=141)
- 47% report they would miss the neighborhood of Alice Griffith (n=141)

AREAS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS:

- Do safety & trust issues affect connection to services or the level at which residents engage with other residents in their community?

RESIDENT VOICES

I hope we all can come together. We used to pay attention to the kids and where you lived and how you lived. It was a more caring place. We had a role in the community at one time and I want that.