



To: California Racial Equity Commissioners

From: Racial Equity Commission Staff

Re: Community Meet-n-Greet Event Summary

Date: September 17, 2024

On September 17, 2024, Racial Equity Commission Staff, the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, Commissioners Matthews and Commissioner Hedrick visited Oakland, CA for the fourth Community Meet-n-Greet. The Meet-n-Greet was sponsored by Blue Shield of California Foundation.

took place at the Scottish Rite Center across from Lake Merritt. Trybe Inc. is a community-based non-profit rooted in Oakland's Eastlake/San Antonio/Fruitvale area, serving youth, young adults, and families in Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond, Hayward and the greater East Bay Area. Trybe provided refreshments, travel stipends, and childcare services during the Meet and Greet. Over 30 people were present and participated in the hybrid meeting. The meeting and meeting materials were translated into the following languages: Korean, Tagalog, Cambodian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Cantonese.



Figure 1 above of attendees and residents of Oakland at the Committee Meeting

Opening Remarks

Commissioner Matthews presented opening remarks about his background and purpose of the Meet-n-Greet. Dr. Estes provided an overview of the Commission, its purpose and role in addressing racial equity. Dr. Estes explained the Commission purpose is to recommend opportunities and best practices to address racial disparities and inequities to better serve historically marginalized communities. The Commission is committed to developing community engagement and to better meet the needs of community. The community engaged with the Commissioners by asking a number of questions about the mission and vision of the Commission. Questions included: key outcomes of the Commission, defining collaboration with community, and preparing for the paradigm shift.

Below is a list of Key takeaways and their summaries from the Meet-n-Greet in Oakland.



Community Building Exercises

The attendees engaged in a community building exercise where they engaged in small Key themes heard were reflected in graphic notes by Raven Tahara.

When asked “***What makes you proud of/about your community?***” residents reflected on how proud they were of their community. One resident shared, “[I am] Proud to be in Oakland. Proud to be part of Trybe and to be able to offer what they have to help others. [I am] Proud that children want to come.” A different resident recalled how “people watch out for each other” in response to the prompt. Another resident responded stating how they are “proud of their communities who are maintaining their happiness and trying to find it again.” Another response from a resident described how the Oakland community “is hardworking and can figure out solutions”.

Considerations for Change

The residents were also asked “***What do you want to change?***” so they brainstormed ideas for change. One of the residents discussed “the power of culture and the importance of how to lead with intention”. Another resident “hoped for a time when people did not have to be resilient”. A different resident shared the “value of learning how to be open to asking for help and accepting it”. The next response came from a resident who described the “desire to have more city and local officials be a part of these conversations, so the officials know what to advocate for”. The last response came from a resident who emphasized the “need to prepare young people now”.

Considerations for the Commission

The Meet-n-Greets for communities serve as a tool of collaboration between the lived experiences of community members and as opportunity for the Racial Equity Commission to further invest in the communities they serve in the state of California. The Meet-n-Greet of the community in Oakland passed along knowledge of how to meet community where they are at instead of where they are expected to be. In addition, the Commission learned more about power of community connection and leading with intention. The Commission will continue to engage in community connections and practices to further expand on discussions and topics such as community engagement, the stories of Oakland’s community and other areas throughout California will be considered.



Figure 2 above of attendees and residents of Oakland at the Community Meet-n-Greet

9-17-2024
OAKLAND, CA



MEET-N-GREET

ANDREW PARK

- TRYBE

Community Engagement

"Community - During COVID, it brought us together."
... IN THE TRENCHES



KEYS

- Step Out - Little Saigon story
- Create a space of trust & RESPECT AND HONOR



TRAGO MATTHEWS

- COMMISSIONER

WHY is this important?

It impacts:

- My Life
- My Community
- Californians everywhere

Your Story is Valuable!

→ Humanize the Data!



FOOD • Resources • Childcare!

Meet People Where They ARE...

What IS the Racial Equity Commission?

Dr. Larissa Estes

PURPOSE - Public Advisory Body

- Tools
- Methodologies

LOOK AT:

Ways to BUST The System (it's by DESIGN)

- ▶ Economic Equity
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Data to shift resources to those in need



Community Questions...

When was it started?
2022 - First meeting 1/24

What does COLLABORATION look like?

- Not enough to just LISTEN!
- Address BARRIERS
- Call it out!

Biggest Effect?
4 cities - Being in Space and Place!

Meetings like these!



What Makes you PROUD?

Diversity!

Families - still here!

Changes

Reforms Solutions Actions

Maintain/Find Happiness

Oakland is Beautiful (Proud to live here!)

Resilience (looking forward to NOT...)

Being Involved → Youth

People watch out for each other

We are hard working

Acceptance - Part of the Community

Kids like to HELP others!

Neighborhood CULTURE

ONE THING you'd CHANGE?

Stubborn - more open to change & help

Young people are our CURRENT leaders

Homeless Community (Need healthy spaces to connect)

More City & Local Gov't attending these meetings

Not checking on our neighbors

