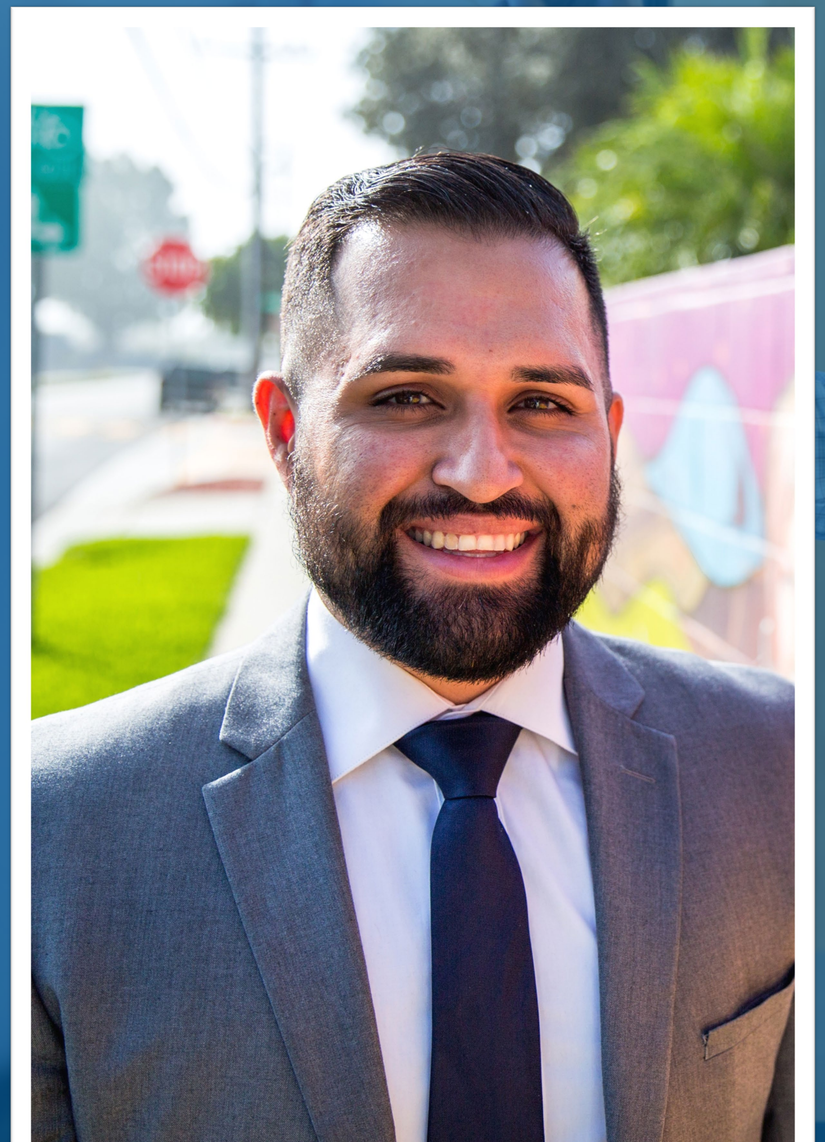
EQUITY

EPIC POLICY + INNOVATION COORDINATION GROUP



David Diaz, ActiveSGV

EPIC POLICY + INNOVATION COORDINATION GROUP

Active San Gabriel Valley

ABOUT ACTIVESGV

Dedicated to creating a more sustainable, equitable, and livable San Gabriel Valley

Equitable Community Engagement

Center community engagement by creating a genuine participatory process where the community has decision making power.

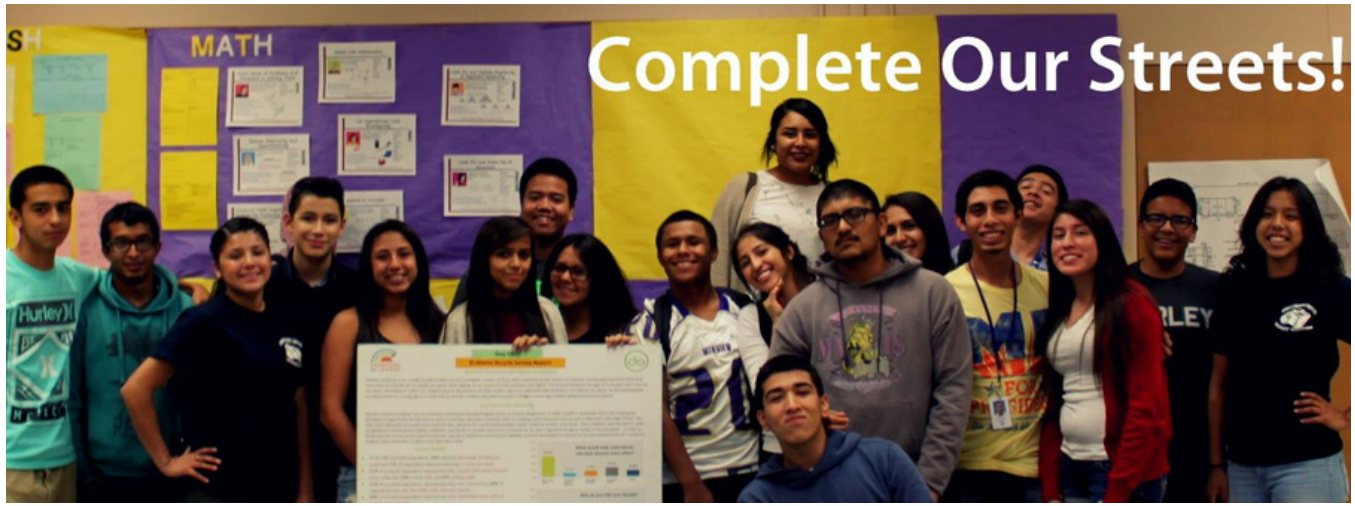
Make sure your staff reflects the racial diversity of the community

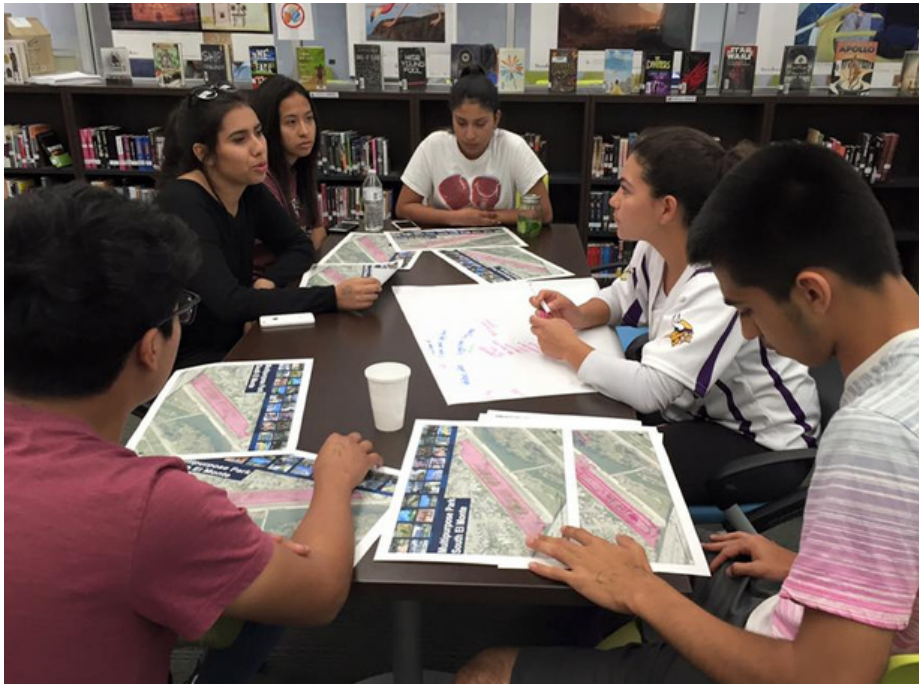
Work alongside community to build trust, codevelop strategies, and approach

Budget appropriately!

Community Engagement Story

Youth Participatory Action Research with high school aged youth in El Monte





BAKER
Walk to School
2016

COMMUNITY IMPACT

-Created a garden at a local senior center

-Over 1000 free nutrition education and physical activity classes

-Created a food forest at Mountain View High School

-Hydration stations adopted Districtwide

-City of El Monte adopted Complete Streets resolution

-City of El Monte adopted Vision Zero resolution

-El Monte hosted the first ever open streets event

-South El Monte has secured over $3 million in funding to support safer streets

-El Monte has secured over $8 million in funding to support safer streets

-Annual Walk to School event with over 5,000 participants

-Supported the transformation of landfill into 142 new acres of park space

Equitable Community Engagement

-Work alongside community members and community based organizations

-Create transparent and clear decision making processes

-Be honest about the ask

-Hire local folks!

-Think about how your project impacts the most vulnerable versus everyone in the community.

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Amee Raval, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

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Community engagement should be used to co-create projects goals, and not seen as a check-box.

Presenters in this workstream emphasized the need to adequately engage community members through the co-creation of project goals, vision, and scope through an authentic process, and be open to adjusting project plans based on community engagement throughout a project.

Community Engagement is an Authentic Process, Not a Checkbox

- **Early engagement** is key prior to identifying key parameters
- **Co-creation** of project goals, vision, and scope
- Move away from transactional to **transformational** partnerships
- Build **authentic** and **trusting** relationships
- Unlearn **extractivist mindset** rooted in white supremacy
- **Listen** and make space for community voices
- Center **racial justice** values in all project phases
- Be open to **adapting** and iterating based on **critical feedback**
- Avoid **unintended harms** such as administrative burdens

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ASIAN PACIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

Equity

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Project leaders and researchers should engage CBOs as paid project partners to achieve equitable research.

Presenters in this workstream discussed opportunities to improve research practices and community engagement by identifying community-based organizations that are recommended and vetted by local stakeholders and appropriately compensating them for the time and expertise they bring to the project.

CBOs Can Play a Multitude of Roles in Project Development

- Stakeholder outreach
- Popular education and trainings
- Facilitation of workshops and meetings
- Leadership development trainings
- Survey administration for visioning and ID'ing needs
- Project siting and coordination
- Relationship-building across diverse stakeholders
- Toolkits and in-language communications materials
- Visibility through organization networks, social media, interviews, and earned media
- Advisory committee participation
- Design community governance models
- Policy advocacy based on lessons learned in project implementation

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Alexandria McBride, City of Oakland

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Benefitting a community requires more than simply locating a project there.

Just because a project is located in a disadvantaged community does not necessarily mean the project delivers equitable benefits to the disadvantaged community. The project site selection should be a thoughtful process that not only uses local data to inform technological compatibility, but also uses insights from local leaders to determine fit.

GRAPHIC 1.1

The Engine of Climate Resilience Planning

Equity

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Early engagement strategies should be tailored to meet specific needs for each community.

In community engagement, panelists said project leaders who don’t prioritize community needs can talk past residents, leading community members to feel the information they are receiving is either irrelevant to their interests or overwhelming to understand. Panelists outlined several methods for tailoring early community engagement to the specific needs for each community.

Timeline of Block Selection

And Lessons Learned

ecoblock

Phase II Approved June 2019	Phase II Project Start October 2019	Phase II Block selected April 2020
Re-assess Phase I block	**Recruit new block**	**Assess and select new block**
• Town Hall meeting • Block residents vote	• Opportunity Notice • Outreach	• Initial screening of self-nominated candidates • Phone interviews with block leads • In-person meetings with block residents • Economic analysis for post-project viability • Meetings with PG&E, City of Oakland • Letter of Intent
There is more to neighborhood and social dynamics than meets the eye. *Transparency and trust are essential for a project like this.* *Participant fatigue can occur when there is plenty of talk but no action for a while.*	*Local knowledge and credibility are vital.* *Community engagement starts before selection.*	*There are multiple stages of participant commitment, with increasing specificity.*

Source: Dr. Alexandra von Meier,:The Oakland EcoBlock, Phase II, CPUC Equity Workstream Meeting October 6, 2020