

Name (s) Ben Yisrael and Iris Viveros

Organization: N/A

Community/ communities engaged: African diaspora and Latinx communities

Date: November 13, 2018

### 1. Overview:

- a. **What were your major findings?** Members of the Black and Latinx community were very interested in having more trees planted in their communities. There was a strong emphasis on planting native trees, planting fruit bearing trees as resources to economically underserved communities, and concern for protecting the environment/natural habitat.
- b. **What challenges did you face in doing this work?** The short time constraint was a limitation. We would have appreciated more time to engage the communities in the north and south end where there is a higher concentration of working class latinx population.
- c. **How did you overcome them or recommend to others facing similar challenges in the future?** We overcame the short time constraint by hosting a single event in a more centralized location. We used social media marketing to cover the geographical areas that time limitations did not allow us to conduct face to face marketing in. Our recommendation is to reach communities that are already meeting on a regular basis and visit them at their locations. For example, schedule a visit with Casa Latina Workers Center which already hold regular meetings with the women workers and/or visit the center in the morning while workers wait to be called for work.

### 2. Process:

- a. **How did you go about collecting information?** Attendees filled out surveys, and later engaged in an open dialogue with representatives of the city. This allowed for a more organic engagement, we took notes to document the responses.
- b. **How many people did you engage?** 33 people attended the event and 18 individuals filled out surveys.

### 3. Findings:

- a. **For each of the focus community questions, what were the most common responses you heard?**

**For question 1:** People stated that trees were important because: they provide clean air, because they are part of the city's identity, their beauty, the way they help us connect to our culture, and the calming impact that they have. They are educational tools because they teach us about nature and life cycles.

**For question 2:** These answers focused on honoring the Duwamish people, planting more trees in communities color, planting more trees with food and medicinal value, planting trees in more underserved communities, and tree maintenance.

**For question 3:** Educating the public on the benefits of trees, engaging communities of color, planting fruit trees, building relationships with community based organizations that are already doing work to protect trees, creating incentives for local business owners to plant trees. Requiring developers to plant more trees to replace those that they cut (for example: for each tree you cut plant more).

**Question 4:** The vast majority of people are not homeowners. Those who were owners said that the city should offer more education to homeowners on how to take care of trees and plant them.

**Question 5:** Information on the news, advertisement, FB, and social media to educate citizens, more surveys, more events like this where the city is engaged in education and building community.

**What responses do you believe we should pay the most attention to?**

Planting more trees in communities of color

Planting more fruit trees

Doing more community outreach education in the regular basis.

Honor the cultural knowledge and value of people in relationship to trees.

**b) What were the most prevalent attitudes, common barriers, and opportunities you heard?** One of the major concerns expressed in our meeting was the need to connect the recent changes of the city's landscape with the department of forestry's commitment to serve underserved communities. It was clear that some of these concerns require the engagement of other city departments and potentially reconsider current laws and structure of the city. Black and Latinx communities would like to push and move into that direction giving that these changes directly impact them.

**c) Did you hear any other valuable information outside of the questions?**

That information is documented on the additional comments section on our response sheet.

**d) What are the summarized demographics of the people engaged?** About 60% Latinx and 40% African American.

**4. Recommendations:**

- a. **Based on what you what you heard, what recommendations do you have for Urban Forestry work as we move forward?** More community engagement should be a priority moving forward.
- b. **Do you see any possible opportunities for future urban forestry engagement work with your community?** There was definitely interest in learning more about urban forestry from the community members that we engaged in.

5. We turned in all surveys to document our work.