

South of Market: Workshop #1

Wednesday | February 20, 2002 | 6:00 - 8:30 PM

@ The SoMa Recreation Center

270 - Sixth Street (@ Folsom Street)

Workshop Summary

Although the turnout was sizeable and larger than expected (about 170 people), people were concerned about the need to reach out further to under-represented communities at the workshops. Efforts to work with the PAC and other 6th Street organizations, as well as existing Merchant Associations, churches, and schools were suggested as part of this next round of outreach for this workshop.

There was agreement that the city agency representatives who presented provided much needed information and should remain aware of this process and participate in a healthy/holistic planning effort as much as possible. Although many people contributed their ideas, comments, questions via post it notes on boards, there is still a long way to go in consolidating/confirming/and reaching consensus on what the goals are for this process.

Agreement that food was good and should continue to be present and good at future workshops. Amit Ghosh explained that each neighborhood is working at a different pace and that there was not a deadline per se for when this process would have to end. Miriam Chion agreed to get strict sign off from Gerald Green as to what the timeline allowances are for this process.

Community Input

Summarized Goals

- **Housing**
 1. Increase affordable housing opportunities for families, seniors & single people.
 2. Simplify the approval process for affordable housing projects.
 3. Maintain and increase the number of SRO units in SoMa
 4. Mix housing with appropriate neighborhood serving stores, childcare, schools, and parks.
 5. Provide housing to serve those earning median income-middle class families and individuals
 6. Provide housing with appropriate transportation services and amenities
 7. Assess potential land use conflicts such as noise and truck routes when locating housing
 8. Explore opportunities for vacant lofts
 9. Reduce parking requirements

- **Jobs and Businesses-Retail, Office, Industrial, and Entertainment**
 1. Preserve and promote locally owned businesses
 2. Limit displacement of local businesses
 3. Maintain appropriate areas for industrial businesses
 4. Maintain appropriate areas for nonprofit organizations and small businesses
 5. Provide flexible space for a variety of businesses
 6. Permit office uses
 7. Encourage new businesses

8. Provide more jobs for local residents
9. Support the creation of stores that serve neighborhood residents and workers
10. Preserve and enhance the late night entertainment district
11. Support local bars and entertainment establishments
12. Encourage businesses compatible with night time entertainment
13. Encourage supermarket to locate in SoMa
14. Assess pros and cons of locating additional high-end tourist hotels in SoMa

- **Cultural Heritage and Cultural Resources**

1. Promote cultural diversity
2. Encourage additional cultural institutions and preserve existing cultural institutions
3. Create public art that reflects the history of the SoMa community
4. Provide space for arts activities, art spaces, arts organizations
5. Support Filipino culture by providing space for cultural centers
6. Designate a portion of SoMa for Filipino Town

- **Community Facilities, Parks, and Streets**

1. Improve and expand public transit
2. Create more and better bike lanes
3. Increase pedestrian safety-
 - slow down traffic
 - widen sidewalks
4. Improve and expand open space in SOMA-
 - Create playgrounds for children of all ages
 - Create appropriate recreational places for seniors
5. Improve safety in existing parks
6. Address the needs of SOMA youth in existing schools & centers and at new locations
7. Increase resources for recreational facilities
8. Improve and expand educational facilities
9. Improve social services and job training programs