

Equity for All Arizonans

PHOENIX REVITALIZATION CORPORATION COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

November 4, 2023 – Phoenix, AZ

DEFINING EQUITY AND ITS IMPACT

Equity provides opportunities for education and economic opportunities. With respect to economics, it includes opportunities for entrepreneurs and the education needed to take advantage of economic opportunities. Equity provides opportunity no matter where you are from and takes historical discrimination and obstacles into account. For example, equitable access to education would include providing transportation or other opportunities that allow people to take advantage of educational resources that otherwise would not be available. It might also include programs like Upward Bound that provide experiences for students who would not otherwise be able to learn about opportunities for higher education.

Equity also means uplifting and showcasing local art and culture from areas that have been subject to historical discrimination. Equity includes additional investments in beautification, local business, and art and culture that are responsive and inclusive of these neighborhoods.

OPTIMIZING EVERYONE'S POTENTIAL AND IMPROVING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EQUITABLE APPROACHES

An equitable approach is essential for optimizing the potential of our community. When additional investments are made, whether in programs, parks and recreational, education or economic opportunities, history has demonstrated that it makes a big difference. Likewise, when these investments have been taken away or if the programs exist, but our communities are not aware of them, we immediately see the negative impact on our families and neighborhoods.

Families in our communities do not currently get the robust and diverse experiences that make a difference in their lives—whether programs on hiking or swimming or exposure to different public service careers. We need to recommit to these programs and do it in a way that actively engages and educates our communities.

These types of programs provide an opportunity for children and families to learn skills and to learn about opportunities that even out inequities and that allow them to maximize their potential. Education begins in the home, and it is not only parent to child. It is also the education that children bring home from these types of programs and share with their family.

We need to make ourselves heard at the city, and state level. First, our community needs to be involved in city and state discussions that impact our neighborhood. We need to advocate for the need to include our perspective in decisions that impact us with public meetings that are intentionally held within our neighborhoods and done so in a way that invites participation in a meaningful way—one that includes and considers the voices and needs of our community. We also need to advocate for the need to distribute resources in a more equitable way so that the resources go to the communities where there is more need.

We also have a role. We need to lead by example. As individuals, we need to be civically engaged in our community and reach out to other community members to engage them and to make them feel included. We also need to vote, and we need to educate our fellow neighbors on how to make an informed decision about voting for those who will best represent our community.

NEXT STEPS AND ACTIONS

We cannot ignore our role in the community. We need to start with ourselves, raising our voices as individuals and supporting and educating each other. We need to reach out to our neighbors and connect with them in ways that allow them to engage. For example, we can create events that occur at times and places that work for our community members and make special efforts with traditional and social media to reach out to those who are disengaged or not connected. We can then educate community members on how to participate in events that support our community, which includes how to take action in a positive way, how to stay connected, and how to advocate for and vote in a way that allows our community voices to be heard.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions during the Phoenix Revitalization Corporation Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Educate myself on how I vote.
- Be more involved in community activities.
- Help with community events.
- Help other youth learn to expand their thinking on helping the community and indulging in events that will help us communicate and bring ideas together.
- Educate my non-profit about our South-Central community, making connections, and growing together.
- Continue to advocate for South-Central.
- Create civic activity through my volunteer work that engages with youth.
- Continue to volunteer teaching U.S. Citizenship classes weekly.
- Bring Boy Scouts of America into our community.
- Continue to support and volunteer at the Grant Park Community Garden.
- Continue to be involved in my community and bring awareness to equity vs. equality.
- No tener miedo de hablar de lo que pasa al rededor de nuestra vecindad.
- Talk to my friends about coming together in community youth events and learning new things.
- Discuss with others what I have learned.
- Look for classes that teach people how to vote and how to reach their goals for their education.