

Executive Summary for Feb/ March 2019

Submitted by: Community Engagement Consultants - Tasha Hunter and Alan Burks

Through March 25th, 2019, the Community Outreach Team hosted the first Community Roundtable, attended 8 community events and conducted four Focus Groups and two One-on-One interviews.

There were approximately 87 individuals that participated in the Outreach events.

In addition to the questions asked at each of the events, community members were also asked to share information on cultural assets (past and present) in the city. This list is part of the Cultural Asset Inventory spreadsheet that will be available at the May 2019 Steering Committee Meeting.

Community Roundtable #1

On March 7, 2019, Community Roundtable #1 was conducted with approximately 30 + attendees and took place at the LB Community Action Partnership in North Long Beach.

Community members were broken into groups and asked a series of questions. Each group selected a presenter to share the ideas and the community members present voted on the ideas. Approximately 17 individuals took part in the voting process.

One-on-One Interviews

There were two interviews conducted in the month of March. The bulk of these interviews will take place in the month of April 2019.

Events Attended

At each of these events we made participants aware of the activities surrounding the African American Cultural Center. We advertised the Community Roundtable events and gathered questionnaires about cultural assets.

- Black History Month event at City Hall

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- RISE! Black History Celebration and Panel Discussion (w/Councilman Austin)
- Young Gifted and Talented Black History Celebration, Concerned African American
- Community Leadership Meeting, Leimert Park
- Celebrating Black Excellence
- Long Beach Opera presents Equity in the Arts
- Arts Council for Long Beach Arts Internship Luncheon
- Power of Choice - Closing Ceremony for Duke Givens' Photo Exhibit

Focus Groups:

Each focus group was asked the same questions around cultural assets, programs, facilities, locations, and classes/events.

The following focus groups have been conducted as to date:

- Senior Group - 17 attendees
- 100 Black Men of Long Beach - 21 attendees
- African American Historic Society - 13 attendees
- Black Male Success Workgroup at Long Beach City College - 6 attendee

During the Focus Groups, Community Roundtable and One on One Interviews the participants were asked a few questions. The responses are summarized below with the top five responses. A full spreadsheet with all responses is attached.

Question 1:

What topics/exhibits or issues would you like to see explored in this cultural center?

1. History of Black Organizations
2. History of Black Long Beach (past and presence)
3. Permanent Forgotten Images Gallery
4. African handicrafts, art, textiles

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5. Black History (Past and Present) and History of Black music (Gospel, Jazz, Hip-Hop, etc.)

Question 2:

What programs, classes, exhibits, or other activities would you like to see at an African American Cultural Center?"

1. Cooking Classes (Food from the African diaspora.)
2. Music classes
3. Dance classes
4. African Art Classes (how to create traditional jewelry, basket weaving, etc.)
5. African Language classes (Khoisan, Swahili, Wolof etc.)

Question 3:

What facilities would you like to be included in an African American Cultural Center?

1. Dedicated children's area
2. Revolving art exhibits
3. Garden Area
4. Free community rooms for meetings
5. Educational space (for classes), Public event space

Question 4:

Where in Long Beach would you like to see an African American Cultural Center located?"

1. Anywhere in Long Beach
2. Downtown Long Beach
3. Where there's access to transportation
4. Where there's ample parking
5. In the old Osh Building at the Long Beach Exchange

What the people would like to see in an African American Cultural Center as of 03.26.19

NT = Not Taken	Total Points	Programs/Classes	Total Points	Exhibits	Total Points	Facility	Total Points	Not Categorized	Total Points
Anywhere in LB	21	Cooking Classes/Diaspora Food	54	History of Black organizations (NAACP, 100 BLACK MEN, DIVINE 9, BSUs)	21	Children's Space	15	Black Films (Hidden Colors, Kings & Queens)	36
Downtown Long Beach	21	Music Classes	36	Long Beach History (Successful LB celebrities and inventions)	21	Revolving Art Exhibit Garden for Special Needs	15	Older folks present history conversation from elders	34
Access to transportation	17	Dance Classes	30	Music engineering classes	21	Individuals	14	Cost: Free for the community	31
Ample Parking	12	African Art Classes and how to create it (basket weaving, mudcloth creation)	21	Forgotten Images gallery - invite schools	17	Allow for free community meeting rooms	13	Food Festival (like Taste of Soul)	21
In LB Exchange, take over old Osh Building	12	African Language Classes (Khoisan "click language", Swahili)	21	handicrafts, artwork, textiles exhibits	17	Educational Space	13	Books Oral History - with headsets for older people	17
Near Memorial Hospital	2	Capoeira	21	History now, current	17	Free day	13	Cost: Once per month free but charge normally	17
North LB	2	Classes on stage presence	21	History of Gospel Music	17	Library area with Black books	13	Intergenerational programs and activities	17
Central LB	NT	History of African Religions (Ifa, Yorba, Condemble, Santeria, etc.)	21	Long Beach African American experience	16	Public Events Space	13	Food Festival, activities	16
East LB	NT	History of Music classes	21	Civil rights gallery	13	Dance Studio / Mirrored Walls	12	Schools field trips to facility	16
West LB	NT	History of Music Exhibit Performances space without Censorship (like Project Blowed)	21	Recognize ancestors and elders (wall of excellence)	13	Music rehearsal space for young people	12	Ample space to and location to combine everything	15
			21	Black entrepreneur corner (John Howard and others)	6	Music Studio Space	12	Promote inclusiveness	13
		Self Defense classes	21	Black History before slavery - exhibit/classes	6	Walls for Grafitti	10	Young interview Elders for archive (Ms. Peggy Priestly will train)	13
		Programming throughout the year	17	History of African Religions	5	Ted Talk area for speaking engagements	6	Cost: Annual Membership Drive	10

	Total Points	Total Points	Total Points	Total Points	Total Points	
Location	Programs/Classes	Exhibits	Facility	Not Categorized		
	Education / Internship Programs	16	Sorority and Fraternity history to share	5	Reflection area after gallery. Allows people to process all the info	10
	Mentoring - Youth	16	HBCU College Fair	3	Cost: Free for students	6
	Community Organizing Programs	15	Display all of our gifts	1	Cost: Pay for special events to help subsidize	6
	Financial Education	15	Blacks in Law exhibit	NT	Help bridge what we don't know	6
	History	15	Blacks in Politics exhibit	NT	Interviewed this many individuals, the overall consensus	6
	Youth Entrepreneur	15	Herb/Natural Healing classes	NT	Not limited to the arts and entertainment for exhibits	6
	Teach individuals to find their purpose at early age	13	Highlight different "villages/tribes" for the month	NT	Overall this is what we want to see from the community.	6
	Violence prevention classes	13			Should be Black or Diaspora or Africana (We are more than just African Americans)	6
	Youth advocacy workshops	13			Embrace all possibilities	1
	African and drumming classes	12			Open Conversations	NT
	Relationship Building	12			Field trips to Leimert Park	NT
	Music - History of Jazz	10			Host a Roundtable at barbershops	
	Photography	7				
	Black Mommy and me classes (Cultural Yoga, Meditation, Music)	6				
	Chess classes	6				
	Drum Classes (Like Homeland)	6				
	Little book loan programs with cultural relevance (take/give a book)	6				

Total Points	Total Points	Total Points	Total Points	Total Points
Location	Programs/Classes	Exhibits	Facility	Not Categorized
	Mommy/Daddy & Me Drumming classes, etc. 6 Health Studies, Infant Mortality and prevention NT Restorative / Traformative Justice NT Self Reliance & Empowerment Programs NT Teach the bad uses of the N/word, it is not ok to use by anyone NT			

