PARTICIPANTS

A General Plan community meeting was held on November 4th 2015 as part of an early outreach effort to help inform the Santa Ana community about the upcoming General Plan update and to identify ways the community perceives the City of Santa Ana today and in the future. Participants were greeted by staff who presented a sign-in sheet and a citywide map where participants were asked to place a colored dot on the map representing their respective residence or place of business. Individuals were also provided a copy of an “important topics” survey to complete in preparation for the workshop discussions.

Staff kicked off a group exercise called the “Secret in a Box” where different items were placed in a large closed cardboard box. Participants were divided into four groups each with a different task. Each group, starting with Group A, was asked to carry out their activity in front of the entire group. After discussing, they shared what they thought was the secret in the box.

Group A was allowed only to walk around the box before it decides what they think is inside. Group B was allowed only to pick up the box and smell or shake it. Group C blindfolded one person who was able to put their hand in the box and feel the objects inside without taking them out of the box. Group D is allowed to take out the objects one at a time and describe them.

The “Secret in the Box” comprised all the important knowledge and resources contained within our local area, and the exercise helped emphasize which group know most and least about the ‘secret.’ In the context of community knowledge, the Group D who represented residents and who were able to take out and feel the items knew best about what is available within our local area.

MEETING FORMAT

Following a brief introduction to the basic elements of the General Plan and its role in setting the VISION for the future, attendees participated in a small group discussions related to two items of conversation:

1) What are three topics are the most important to you in Santa Ana?
2) Tell us more about each of these topics.

Individual group discussions included a staff facilitator and scribe who transferred ideas onto a flip chart. All members were asked to participate in the smaller discussions. One participant at
each table was later selected to represent the group as part of the next exercise which involved reporting out to the larger audience. Through a series of small presentations, each group leader reported out their findings based on the smaller discussions.

The following pages are a transcript of these group discussions and written comments submitted separately from group discussions.

**MEETING SUMMARY NOTES**

**GROUP 1:**

- **Arts & Culture** - Lack of cultural programs, Lack of art programming in Santa Ana
- **Community Safety** - Lack of trust in police, Problematic collaboration between police and ICE that create fear and mistrust between the community and police
- **Housing & Neighborhoods** - Density in housing units is affecting the ability of youth to learn, Density is a problem and solution to affordable housing, Shortage of affordable housing, Numerous neighborhoods not being reinvested in
- **Human Services & Social Justice** - Priorities aren't focused on improving conditions for people living in Santa Ana and improvements are not equitable
- **Youth Development** - There is a lack of after school community based programs for K-12, In partnership with non-profits, City, and school district, Need to increase capacity of existing service providers, Needs assessment for after school service necessary, Lack of sports and recreation opportunities for youth that can't afford private teams, Nearly all sports in Santa Ana are private, Lack of youth programming, Lack of support and services for youth with severe mental health needs, Age restrictions are creating problems

**GROUP 2:**

- **Business and Economic Development** - Work with existing businesses to help develop opportunities, Create programs between local businesses and school district to create student programs, Focus on local businesses on 4th Street, Place cap on Police Department budget, Investing in intervention programs, youth, education, arts, culture (ex. Barrio writers, culturally relevant art and music programs, Jovenes Noble, Xinachtli)
- **Community Facilities** - Women’s Center programs and space, Space where women can feel safe and have access to programs for health and Xinachtli, More spaces where woman can engage, open daily and access to all, Child care
- **Housing & Neighborhoods** - Half affordable housing, No increase in rents, Fixed prices
• **Youth Development** - Intern programs for students, Jobs for youth, Job skills and training, Work with local businesses like San Francisco program operated by city staff, Irvine programming by community, Kinship circles

GROUP 3:

• **Community Facilities & Programs** - Increase hours of operation, Technology and Wi-Fi in coffee shops, Santa Ana College library during finals, Public libraries during finals, City recreational and community centers, Study hall spaces during finals, Lighting enhanced and improved, Emergency Call Button Line, Bus shelters, Parks such as Jerome lights go out too soon (Ex. handball courts), Install Emergency call button line at bus shelters and parks

• **Community Safety** - Youth prevention and intervention, Support to reduce number of youth in juvenile justice system, Lack of community policing with trauma and culturally informed practices of Santa Ana, Proactive not reactive

• **Health and Sustainability** - Urban gardens wellness center for women and community centers developed on City owned vacant lots

• **Housing & Neighborhoods** - Affordable housing, Persons per household, Multiple families rent rooms and moving all the time, No stability, Owner ups the rent but no increase in income, Code enforcement fire hazard, Families end up moving, Cap in effect immediately and no adjustment, Rents too expensive and need rent control

• **Visual Character & Design** - Exterior improvements of properties with improvements to environmental design especially in areas with apartments

• **Youth Development** - Job placement and career path programs and facilities, Interviewing and computer technology skills, Door-to-door outreach and increase capacity to work with community organizations (ex. Xinachtli, Jovenes Nobles), City invest more in youth opportunities building and police enforcement, Divest more money for more handball courts, Transparency in budget better user interface, Resources and information for special needs and learning disabilities, Access education on process, Health fairs in neighborhoods at Townsend Avenue and Madison Park, More child care centers allow for parents and moms to participate in meetings and activities, Allow for home school moms to participate in other community activities

GROUP 4: *(Translated from Spanish)*

• **Housing & Neighborhoods** – Economically affordable housing, Rent control so only a single family can live in a home, Reduce density, crime and vandalism, Homeless in Civic Center result in dangerous conditions and housing for them, Accessible homes for low income families
• **Human Services & Social Justice** - More police to enforce driving laws, Undocumented should integrate their voice to politics
• **Mobility** - Pedestrian and child safety
• **Youth Development** - Quality of education and health in education system, Better food in public schools, Better preparation for college and technology schools

**ADDITIONAL SURVEY COMMENTS:**

• Improve transparency in government to remove availability for corruption
• Crime and safety is 70% of budget, Can’t increase taxes for what advocacy groups want
• Reduce cycle to compete with other cities
• Build a team that seeks to bring new companies into the City that would increase the tax basis, therefore the tax revenue that would pay for services that are not funded or underfunded
• Communication with the greatest number of constituents as possible
• All the City has done regarding the homeless this past decade is just trying to ignore them, Need to provide homeless housing and emergency shelter which is more cost effective than paying for police and emergency services
• Why are some schools high performing and others not? Could be the result of underfunding. Model schools in the City should share their strategies so all schools can be fundamental schools
• Safety with regards to crime such as graffiti and gang involvement, Pedestrian and bike safety, Street improvements for pot holes, flooding and lighting
• Provide cultural and language training to Santa Ana Police Department to improve relations with community, particularly the low-income neighborhoods
• In such an old city, the need for open and safe space is huge
• Low-income immigrants have little or no say in City development for both short and long term projects