

North High School Engagement – Oct. 21 & 22, 2021

North High School class focus groups: 11 classes, 20-30 youth per class

- Teachers gave presentation on what the Near Northwest Area Plan is, presented the video council woman Sandoval made about the area.
- Students then took the survey, mostly to help students get context of overall idea of the plan.
- In some classes, opted for a full group discussion; the whole class was very engaged, and youth were speaking over each other to provide input. Small group breakouts done in around half the classes.

What makes a neighborhood?

- Homes and houses
- Community- a sense of belonging, locally owned and operated businesses
- Culture, especially Chicano pride
- History and connection to place
- Parks, landscape, greenery
- Events & entertainment

Many students get around the area by walking. Most get to school on public transportation (there are not public-school buses to get students to school). Federal is a very large and busy corridor and walking along that is unsafe.

Likes:

- Amenities, there is a sense of modernness especially in the highlands neighborhood
 - Walkability
- Vibe- lots of energy, a lot to do, the art scene
- Culture/community
- Chicano and Italian history (esp legacy businesses)
- Parks (la Raza)
- Restaurants and shops:
 - Panaderia rosales
 - Little man
 - Food trucks (great tacos)
- Pretty, greenery, quiet
- Other
 - North HS
 - Parks

Dislikes:

- Crime, violence and drug use (#1 response across most classes)
- Gentrification (#2 response across classes)
 - Erasure of old culture with new buildings and development
 - Wealthy people

- Lack of cleanliness
- Driving, car culture, traffic
- Noise
- Parks problems (too many with little amenities)
- Too dense
- Lack of swimming pool
- Sidewalks, crosswalks,
- Better lighting for safety

Worries:

- Replacing small businesses
- Poverty
- Unhoused neighbors, homelessness
- Overcrowding on public busses
- Housing issues like too pricey,

Big Changes:

- Better physical infrastructure on 32nd to manage the traffic
- PUBLIC SCHOOL BUSES (I cannot stress this enough)
- Community or Youth centers
 - Youth empowerment center!!! Where there can be more after school activities for professional and emotional development and mental health
 - Centers for housing needs, where families can get assistance from the neighborhood
- More green spaces, more parks, more trees, more natural preservation
- Art district for art walks and to celebrate all the beautiful murals in the area (make interactive)
- Skatepark in one of the old warehouses, indoor skatepark especially
- More programs to boost local ownership of homes and businesses
- Collaborative ownership strategies

Below are separate questions from classes that had more small group discussions based on rotating questions. Answers are organized by number of times they were mentioned by youth.

What do you do for fun?

1. Outside activities (parks, sports, skateboarding/bike, etc.) = 27
2. Individual activities (play video games, music, social media, read) = 27
3. Hangout with friends/family = 24
4. Rec center and gyms = 3
5. Work = 1

What would you fix? Big Changes? Problems?

1. Homelessness = 25

2. Housing problems (prices, rent, access, availability) = 23
3. Skate park = 17
4. Issues with new homes (look, location)= 8
5. Interesting housing options for locals = 6
6. Sidewalks and streets = 5
7. More public art, entertainment = 5
8. School cross walk = 4
9. Less cars and more bikes/buses/trains = 4
10. Buses and bus schedules = 3
11. Parking = 3
12. Local Economics = 3

What's North side missing?

1. Parks, outdoor recreation = 14
2. Shopping stores, mall, convenience stores = 6
3. Community/youth centers = 5
4. Entertainment (music venues, theatres, etc) = 2
5. Libraries = 2
6. Better housing = 2

Restaurants you go to?

1. Local =62
2. Chain Restaurants = 36
3. Fast Food = 19