CJP Steering Committee Meeting Notes

January 25, 2024 - Steering Committee Meeting #3

Breakout group notes (link here)

- Attendees: Jairaj, Tim, Sonrisa, Monique, Frida, John Maddalena, Kim C, Nakisha, Sam Guthman, Samantha Hernandez, Siraat Younas, Taren Evans, Xitlali Torres, DesireeEden Ocampo

Agenda review/intros

- Loss of heat, transportation means no groceries
- Lost water for several days,
- Transportation, even with a car it felt unsafe. Even if there is another place you can go you can't get there.
- Concern about office damage for community serving spaces,
- Loss of loved ones in the storm
- Wanted to help neighbors but unable to at times, too dangerous
- Events like this really bring community connectedness to the forefront. We can have an impact in peoples' lives.
- Flooding is real, broken pipes and otherwise. Stress. Cost. Struggle for orgs to provide the community resources/services, be a shelter. Challenges to mobilize during extremes, not enough people, even incentivizing folks doesn't matter if they need to take care of their family, can't move around. Building the right pieces ahead of time.
- Life events that are hard, are even harder during these events. Isolating.
- Power outages are a way of life for many people around the world. But that doesn't make extremes any easier to manage.
- Real concerns that the shelters weren't opened because above 32 but still very cold, still significant ice on the ground.
- Making a living that requires driving, need for economic assistance to be able to stay safe.
- People wanting to volunteer, shelters etc., but couldn't. Need to organize ahead of time.

2024 Project Roadmap

- Meeting work plan (link here)
- Monique presented roadmap,
- Likely the next few meetings are virtual due to winter obligations.
- Will review the plan outlines, including priority areas, universal goals, and priority actions.
- Will need to articulate what growing community engagement/partnership once the priority areas and actions start to take form. Could look at hosting a big workshop, engaging through SC member community spaces.

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- Will need to develop specific metrics=> accountability. Being clear about where the community is coming into each of the actions, both developing and implementing.

Setting priorities - purpose/overview

- Can think about priority areas as chapters of the plan.
- Recognition the need to define each of the proposed areas.
- Goal is to have 6-8 areas. Opportunity to refine based on overlaps, or what might be missing, once the SC is going deeper into universal goals, strategies etc. Universal goals based on the concept of targeted universalism, meaning leaning into/prioritizing those with the most need/centering/targeted attention.
    - Each strategy will include accountability; implementation; engagement.

- Breakout groups
    - Group 1 - Monique, John, Frida, Kim C, Lorri
    - Group 2 - Nakisha, Sam, Siraat, Sonrisa
    - Group 3 - Jairaj, Desiree Eden, Samantha, Taren, Xitlali
- Breakout groups Notes - report back
    - Group 1 - Group okay with the PAs, dug more into the structure/outline, like the focus on accountability metrics, implementation, engagement and strategy. Thinking about how the CJP can be a tool for the community. Being clear how engagement serves a purpose for communities. A lot of the themes/priorities tie closely to sense of feelings, of community, of belonging. Goal is to translate that into something tangible. Continue to be explicit about which communities we are focusing on, which neighborhoods.
    - Group 2 - Affordable/sustainable/resilient housing missing from the list. Key climate justice issue. Indoor/outdoor air quality is a priority, discussed if this is a sub strategy to multiple (EJ/TJ) or stands alone. Data - asthma, proximity to emissions, maps can be helpful. But map data can often be delayed or government driven, like EJ Screen.
    - Group 3 - More critical of the priority areas, not being specific enough about people and places, too traditional in structure. Not so much a grassroots approach. Really centering on community and placed based solutions. Don't want to lose the intersections and overlap of the proposed priorities. For example, focusing on unhoused folks as a priority, with the layers of EJ/TJ/CJ underneath. EJ is confusing, because everything falls underneath that. Priority is breaking silos, and the proposed risks siloing. Focusing on people and places more like to help flip the script of this work. People-first, topic-second approach.

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    - Generally - Don't lead with these priorities, lead with people. For example, with utilities, lead with the communities most at risk of power loss (or power cost) as the place to start. Question if there could be mini-plans, community/people focused, that come together under overarching framework and topical strategies.
    - Everyone needs a little time to sit with this conversation, and look at some other examples, think about how to structure to make sure this work is people centered and intersectional.
- ~~Consensus vote - priority areas -~~ Need to workshop/rethink approach
    - NW Energy Coalition (Alma Pinto) - absent
    - Rahab's Sisters (Desiree Eden) -
    - OPSR (Samantha Hernandez)
    - Neighbors for Clean Air (Nakisha Nathan) -
    - Clean Energy Project (Siraat Younas) -
    - Unite Oregon (Lorri O'Neill) -
    - Self Enhancement Inc (-

Next steps

- More time for SC members to take back the information to consider, discuss with orgs / communities
- Need to revisit the priority approach:
    - Next step: Xitlali suggested maybe a survey on alternative priority areas to share in advance for people to sit with
    - DE: 20 minute brainstorm sprint to workshop some of these ideas
    - Suggesting schedule three different sessions folks can drop into
    - Nakisha - likes the idea of a set time to consider/work with ideas/docs between meetings, use live documents for folks to work on in between meeting. Welcomes more chances to connect between meetings. DE and XT as well.
    - Taren: Different things work for different people. Some folks need just to sit with it on their own. Also likes shared docs to work from.
    - DE: second the idea of multiple pathways to engage
    - Monique - trying to learn the best ways to engage with folks, lot's of pathways.
    - Samantha - Uprose GRID plan, community led plan for historically polluted/industrial area of NYC. Format/approach is really interesting, very community centered. (Tim's editorial: really interesting to think of this as small community planning efforts under a common "macro" strategy)
    - Sonrisa - Uprose is organized by the needs of the community.
    - MS Proposal to revise and vote on priorities at the next meeting.

    - Taren - While its good to look back at framework, recognize that the engagement process was not comprehensive. Want to make sure that there continues to be flexibility even with possible decision making.
    - NN - Really like the people center focus and flipping the script, but also want to be cognizant of risk that people may not see themselves in a community specific approach. Society wants to put a wedge, as we get specific risk folks feeling alienated.
    - Sonrisa, appreciate of group raising and questioning approach.
    - if nothing gets us 'off the schedule' it might be that we need to ask if we're really doing what we set out to do here!
- Capacity/interest in working between meetings? How to cultivate a sense of ownership?
    - Office hours? Workshops?
    - Recognition of the tension of getting more involved and that folks are already overcommitted.