

# FY24 BUDGET COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Budget Office  
Fiscal Year 2024  
March 2, 2023

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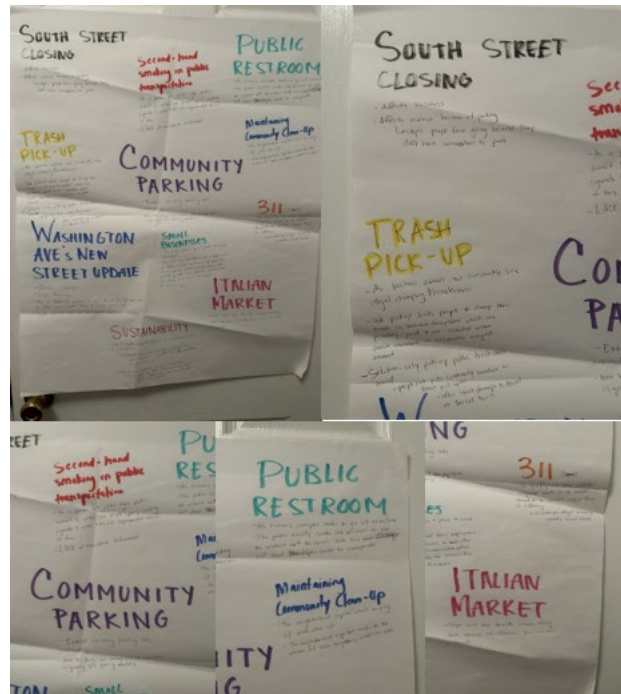
### What We Heard

Before the FY24 Budget was developed by the Kenney Administration, the Budget Office’s Education Engagement and Impact Unit (EEI) reached out to community members across Philadelphia about their priorities for City spending. This is the second year in-depth focus groups were utilized, and what community members expressed they care most about can be found in **Figure One**. Within **Figure Two** is a snapshot of feedback from the in person Spanish language specific session held with community members in South Philadelphia which was hosted through a partnership with The Welcome Center for New Pennsylvanian’s held on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Figure One:



Figure Two:



## Key Themes

Community, grasstop<sup>1</sup>, and employee insights across the 26 sessions during FY24 Budget Engagement revealed recurring themes, including:

- **Racial Equity & Poverty**
  - Underlies nearly every issue, services, as well as the history and state of the City
  - Residents want to see tangible action, ownership and not have community continued to be ignored, or experiences conflated together
- **Public Safety & Crime**
  - Gun violence & violent crime are making people leave the city, feel unsafe working for or within the city, creating difficulties to be a parent, student, and community member
  - Want to feel safe, and communities are aware investment in safety does not only take the form of police presence alone
- **Education & Youth Concerns**
  - Concerned for the future generations within the city
  - Youth support programs, Free Library access, afterschool programming seen as assets to boost public safety, community engagement, and dampen a multitude of City issues
- **Housing, Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment**

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• <sup>1</sup> Grasstops: Leaders or representatives of stakeholder of groups or communities such as nonprofits, arts, philanthropy, business, various City Commissions, and more.

- It's becoming more difficult to remain in the City due to increasing costs, with many feeling preference is given to developers and newcomers rather than life long Philadelphians
- Historic Black communities and lower income residents feel ignored, and pushed out
- **Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**
  - Labor shortage, lack of competitive wages, and capacity are stretching employees thin
  - Quality of services inconsistent across the city from sanitation, transportation, public safety and the ability for employees and residents to provide feedback for concerns or ideas is minimal
- **Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**
  - Lack of community voices, involvement, and participation
  - Engagement burnout due to lack of tangible change, and ineffective relationship building with community members

### Definitions

- **Focus Group** – smaller sessions where participants are recruited, screened, and compensated for their time. There is a focus on facilitation and creating conversation. The expectation is that all participants will actively provide input. These were held either in person or virtually.
- **Registered Community Group (RCO)** – Are community groups registered with the City who are concerned with the wellbeing of their community. They conduct public meetings and receive notice from the Philadelphia City Planning Commission on upcoming or current projects. [More information can be found here.](#)
- **Grasstops** – Leaders or representatives of stakeholder of groups or communities such as the nonprofit, arts, philanthropy, various City Commissions and more.
- **Education & Engagement Unit (EEI)**- Newly created Budget Office Unit focused on providing ways for employees and communities to see, speak on, and shape City spending in an equitable and effective manner.

## FY24 Budget Community Engagement Recap

The FY24 budget community engagement cycle sought input to guide the City's spending decisions. The FY24 process expanded who is involved and shifted how the budget process works by changing the outreach channels and timing so that more community members had a voice earlier in the process. The Administration intentionally engaged communities who have historically been divested, marginalized, or disengaged from the center of decision making. The Administration strove for meaningful resident insight to impactfully inform Departments how to shape their budgets more equitably. The goal was to identify which types of investments will best provide quality government services, reliable infrastructure, maintain the City's long-term fiscal health, and strive to reduce racial disparities among residents to advance equitable outcomes for all Philadelphians.

Utilizing lessons from FY22 and FY23, as well as from peer cities' community engagement processes, the FY24 Budget Community Engagement was a hybrid model. It included in-person Budget Forums held in partnership with local nonprofit and community groups who work directly with residents who have not



been as robustly engaged in prior budget community engagement efforts such as the Hispanic, Latin and Latinx community. Additionally, online resident, grasstop, and City employee focus groups were offered.

Emphasis on accessibility, community outreach, equitable engagement, providing more sessions for residents, as well as financial compensation were key foci of the FY24 Budget engagement. This year offered more opportunities for residents to have their voice heard, City employees to reflect their experiences and share insight, and grasstop leaders to share their expertise. In addition to adjusting strategies to increase equitable engagement, the City utilized strategies to increase language, digital, and disability access in the engagement process. Specific focus was directed at Spanish speaking, Chinese, Southeast Asian, immigrant, and LGBTQIA+ members to provide platforms for communities who have yet to be engaged in the City's budget process. FY24 was the first year that budget engagement outreach materials were translated in Spanish, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Vietnamese.



### How community feedback will be incorporated into the FY24 Budget

The feedback from residents, employees, and grasstop representatives was shared with City departments with the FY24 Capital Budget Call to inform departments' requests for funding, as well as with Mayor Kenney and his staff to inform decisions for the FY24 budget. These findings continue to build off investments made by the City to better align community experience, ideas, and concerns to develop a more effective and equitable City Budget. The following pages outline the structure and timing of the FY24 Budget community engagement.

Examples of new spending that align with FY24 community engagement feedback:

- \$1.3M new spending for 100 new supportive housing units
- \$10.7M increase to achieve stable six-day service at all City library locations
- \$300K increase for Group Violence Intervention (GVI) participant stipends

### Outreach Process: Expanding Language Access

The Budget Office worked closely with a diverse team of City departments and partner organizations such as the Mayor's Office of Public Engagement, the Free Library of Philadelphia, The Welcome Center for New Pennsylvanians and others to make sure material creation, messaging, and outreach in an effective and equitable manner. Language interpretation was available for all focus group sessions materials were distributed to branch libraries in English, Spanish Portuguese, Chinese, and Vietnamese.

Accessibility and language support was provided in partnership with Philly311 to assist with phone registration for residents with technical, sight, language, or hearing support. The EEI Unit within the Budget Office created a communications toolkit which was shared with City departments, Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) and offices who engage with the community directly and focus on social inequity issues. Outreach for the Virtual Community Focus Groups and Survey was distributed in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, and Vietnamese. **Please view Appendix Section D for complete list of city departments and partner nonprofits who were engaged in this process.**



# Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

## Grupo focal da comunidade sobre orçamento

O Escritório de Orçamento da Filadélfia precisa da contribuição dos residentes antes que o Orçamento do Ano Fiscal 2024 da Cidade da Filadélfia seja proposto.

### Nós queremos ouvir você

- O que você acha dos serviços e programas municipais?
- Quais são as suas preocupações e ideias sobre os gastos municipais?
- Como a cidade pode usar melhor os fundos de forma mais eficaz e equitativa?

### REGISTRE-SE AQUI

Para se registrar, use o link, leia o QR code ou ligue para 311 e solicite o "Grupo Focal da Comunidade sobre Orçamento" para se inscrever por telefone



### Como você pode se envolver

Siga os links de inscrição se quiser participar de nossos grupos comunitários focais virtuais sobre o Orçamento do Ano Fiscal 2024.

As vagas são limitadas, e quem participar receberá uma compensação de US\$40 pelas sessões de uma hora e meia.

As sessões abordarão o funcionamento do Orçamento da Cidade e lhe darão tempo para fazer perguntas e compartilhar suas experiências e ideias.

Tradução em tempo real, legendas e outras adequações de idioma e acessibilidade estarão disponíveis mediante solicitação.



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## 关于市政预算的社区论坛

费城预算办公室 (Philadelphia Budget Office) 需要居民在费城2024财年市政预算提出之前协助提供意见和建议。

### 我们希望听到您的声音

- 对市政服务及市政项目的思考
- 对费城财政开支的关注和想法
- 市政府如何更有效、更公平地使用资金

### 请在这里注册参与

欲注册参与，请使用链接、扫描二维码或 (We will insert RCO & Nonprofit information)

Insert Link & QR Code

### 如何参与

如果您希望参与有关2024财年市政预算的社区论坛在线讨论，请点击注册参与链接 with

这些讨论会将持续一小时，内容包括市政预算运行方式介绍、提问环节和经历、想法分享环节。

### 参与

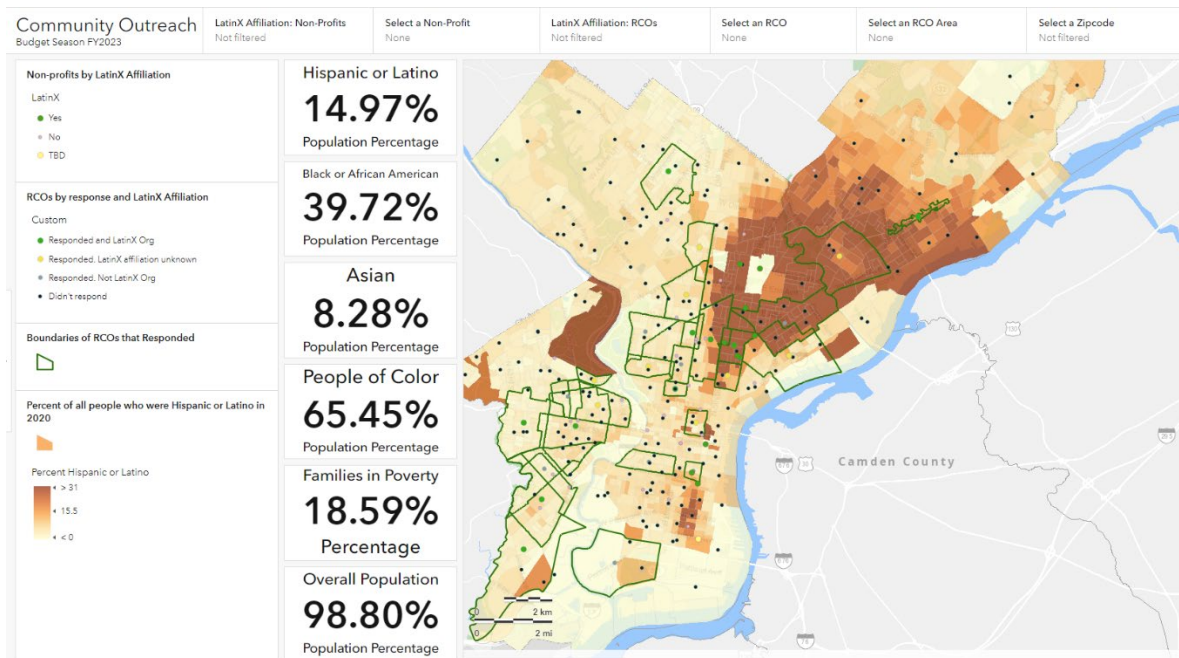
Insert RCO & Nonprofit event information

- Date, time, location
- Other details



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## Outreach Process: Utilizing Data to Focus on Racial Equity



An interactive map of RCOs and nonprofits that work with and within communities of particular focus was created by the Finance Program Management Office (FPMO) to help the EEI Unit identify target areas for outreach, with a clearer sense of what RCOs and nonprofits the Office can partner with to connect with these communities. [This tool can be found here.](#)

in the Budget Office hosted language specific and targeted community sessions online and in person. Leveraging partnerships with local nonprofit organizations who work primarily with Spanish speaking, Chinese, Southeast Asian, immigrant, LGBTQIA+, and youth communities, events were co-designed to meet their community members' needs.

### Engagement by the Numbers

The Budget Office held 26 community engagement sessions with 445 community members. Participants included residents, leaders from businesses, non-profits, arts, and cultural organizations, as well as City employees that shared their thoughts, concerns, and ideas. Community focus group sessions covered citywide concerns, perspective, lived experiences, providing the public with insight to how the City budget works and idea sharing for citywide issues.

### FY24 Engagement Total Participation Recap

Type of Engagement	Participants Total
<b>In-Person</b>	71
<b>Virtual</b>	374
<b>Total</b>	445

Engagement Group	Session Total	Participants Total
<b>Virtual Community Sessions</b>	12	103
<b>In Person Community Sessions</b>	4	42
<b>Total Community Sessions</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>Virtual Grasstop Sessions</b>	6	110
<b>In Person Grasstop Sessions</b>	1	21
<b>Total Grasstop Sessions</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Virtual Employee Sessions</b>	4	153
<b>In Person Employee Sessions</b>	1	16
<b>Total Employee Sessions</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Total FY24 Sessions</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>445</b>

## Community Focus Groups

The City's Budget Office conducted 15 community focus groups attended by 145 Philadelphia community members. In all focus group sessions participants were provided an overview of the budget process and the current fiscal year budget (FY23) plus discussion of the challenges the City is facing in the upcoming fiscal year.

To engage a more representative proportion of residents, the City utilized multiple forms of outreach such as in person flyers shared at Free Library locations, sharing social media content with partner organizations and City Offices, posting updates through the Press Office and creating materials in multiple languages. Philly311 helped members in need of technology or accessibility support.

Registration materials included a brief form for members to share their interest, as well as demographic information they were willing to share with their consent, to assist the City with selecting as representative as possible of a cohort of focus group participants. A weighted lottery system was used to select members who would be able to participate within the 11 available sessions to prioritize communities historically neglected or marginalized.

Participants were led through a series of discussion questions and an interactive word cloud activity, which prompted participants to share their priorities, preferences, and concerns for the upcoming budget cycle. Feedback was also accepted after the session for members who felt more comfortable outside of a group setting, or had ideas post session. These prompts can be found on **Appendix C**.

Participants received \$40 for their participation to the hour-long session. Ongoing contact with the Budget team provided continuing opportunities to voice their concerns, share ideas, and reflect their experiences to influence the FY24 budget. After the session, participants were sent an online survey to provide feedback on the session and space for them to share more concerns on the City Budget. The follow up feedback can be found on **Appendix B**.

The Budget Office collaborated with RCOs and Nonprofits to promote the virtual sessions and co-hosted events with select organizations. This led to four community specific sessions, one virtually for Chinese speaking community members in partnership with NEPCA, an in-person event with the LGBTQ+ centered organization Galaei, and two in-person Spanish language focused sessions with the Mann Older Adult Center, and the Welcoming Center hosted by the Mexican Business Owner Association of Philadelphia.

### Engagement Snapshot

**145** community members participated in **15** focus group session.

**90** participated in **11** virtual sessions and **55** participated in **four** in-person sessions.

**Three** sessions were held with translators for Spanish and Chinese.

### Community Focus Groups Engagement Totals

Community Members Engaged	Participants Total
<b>In Person- 4 Sessions</b>	55
<b>Virtual- 11 Sessions</b>	90
<b>Total</b>	145

Focus Group Applicants & Selections	Participants Total
<b>Resident Applicants for Virtual Focus Groups</b>	371
<b>Residents Invited</b>	216
<b>Residents Attended</b>	90

Virtual Focus Group	Date	Participants
<b>Community Focus Group 1</b>	11/26 11am-12pm	5
<b>Community Focus Group 2</b>	11/28 6-7pm	8
<b>Community Focus Group 3</b>	12/1 6-7pm	6
<b>Community Focus Group 4</b>	12/3 11am-12pm	4
<b>Community Focus Group 5</b>	12/6 6-7pm	7
<b>Community Focus Group 6</b>	12/7 6-7pm	8
<b>Community Focus Group 7</b>	12/8 6-7pm	12
<b>Community Focus Group 8</b>	12/10 11am-12pm	9
<b>Community Focus Group 9</b>	12/12 6-7pm	11
<b>Community Focus Group 10</b>	12/13 6-7pm	14
<b>Community Focus Group 11</b>	12/14 6-7pm	6
<b>Total</b>		90



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Community Sessions In Person or Virtual	Date	Participants
Spanish Speaking Community & Elders- MANN Older Adult Center	12/6	28
Chinese Speaking Community Members (Virtual)- NAPCA	12/15	13
LGBTQIA+, Youth and Lived Experience with Poverty & Substance Disorder- Galaei	12/16	5
Spanish Speaking Community Members – Association of Mexican Business Owners	12/20	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>55</b>

## Summary Statistics

*Demographic Data based on 102 Virtual Resident Attendees*

These are the analytics for the FY24 Virtual Community Focus Groups as well as the Virtual Chinese Language Session held in partnership with NEPCA. These statistics do not include the demographic information for: grasstop sessions, employee sessions, nor the in Spanish language and LGBTQ+ sessions. Those in-person session did not require demographic intake forms for participants, to make these sessions as accessible as possible, so only attendance information was collected.

- The FY24 Engagement racial breakdown was similar the makeup of Philadelphia based on the most up to date Census: American Community Survey (ACS) Data, except participation of members who identified as Black was lower in comparison to the City as a whole. Although, members who were Hispanic or Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander were significantly increased in comparison to FY23's engagement efforts and higher in comparison to the City as a whole

Race & Origin	FY24 Engagement	Census: 2022 ACS
Asian/Pacific Islander	16%	7.4%
Black or African American	21%	40.8%
Hispanic or Latino	13%	15.4%
Two or More Races	5%	5.3%
White or Caucasian	46%	33.8%

- Focus group attendees were more racially representative of Philadelphia and diverse than the FY22 Budget Survey and slightly above the FY23 Budget Engagement. 54% of attendees identified as non-White/Caucasian, with 20% identifying as Black or African American, 12% Latinx or Hispanic, with 16% being members of the AAPI community, and 5% identifying as Other or Multiple Races.
- Majority of attendees live and work in Philadelphia
- 59% of attendees were female



- 40% of attendees were between the ages of 27 and 40
- Of the 145 community members engaged in FY24, 38% percent attended one of four in person sessions, which was a first for the City's Budget Cycle

### Disclaimer on Focus Group Summaries

Feedback from community members, Grasstop sessions and employees were received via virtual or in person focus group sessions, as well as through follow up forms and emails.

They are the individual experiences, reflecting real life experiences of participants, and the testimonials are not necessarily representative of all of those who were participants within their specific group as well. Feedback provided by participants is not representative of the City of Philadelphia's stances, policies, or practices, and have been shared to highlight lived experiences, concerns and ideas of participants engaged for the FY24 Budget Cycle.

The feedback and quotes displayed are given verbatim except for correction of grammatical or typing errors. Screen shots of Slido focus group prompts provide may retain user spelling mistakes because those results cannot be edited by the City once participants submitted responses either through their phone or computer. Any names or identifiers have been redacted to protect anonymity of residents, Grasstop and employee participants.

### Community Focus Group Summaries

This section highlights main points, quotes, and questions from the FY24 Community Engagement sessions. Points and quotes are summarized within the six main themes: *Racial Inequity & Poverty, Public Safety & Crime, Education & Youth Concerns, Housing (Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment), Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure, Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership.*

FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Community Focus Group 1  
November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Participants: 5

Main Themes: Concerns

**Racial Inequity & Poverty**

- “The issue of poverty drives all the issues we are discussing today.”

**Public Safety & Crime**

- Violence – Lack of police to protect public transportation
  - o Feel there should be targeted police and public safety presence across public transportation
- Need to address the present concerns, and the prior systemic ills at the same time
  - o Some participants have experienced police brutality, believe there are a large amount of money going towards officers that can go elsewhere

**Education & Youth Concerns**

- Members wanted an increase in afterschool programs and activities for youth to address a multitude of intersecting issues

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Fully funded public services, and protection for employees
  - o Mention of Parks employee who was killed is a stark example that they should have been more supported and protected.
  - o “We should be fully funding Parks & Rec and public services.”

**Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**

- Concerns around the privatization of City assets in relation to how City Council members are making those available for private businesses

Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- “There are multiple ways to address public safety”
  - o Investment in parks
  - o Educational support- afterschool programming, more robust resources
  - o Support City employees
- Better engage youth in budget specific forums
  - o Engage groups like Philly Student Union, etc.
  - o Invest in youth engagement surrounding not only the Budget, but how the City operates, services, and make a more impactful engagement effort with the future generation
- Aim to boost civic engagement from voting, community involvement
  - o “Have the City more accessibly provide resources, information, and education on the interconnecting nature of all of these issues”
  - o Invest in community leaders who can share this information within their families and community
  - o Invest in Vision Zero, to have no pedestrian traffic deaths.



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In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?

Not enough police  
Poverty School Safety Educational support  
**Violence** Entrenched poverty  
Public safety **Parks** Lack of funding  
Create more rec centers

How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs?

Open forums  
climate actio Implement Vision Zero  
hiring transparency  
Public discussions  
Ppark maintenance  
Fully fund public service

FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Community Focus Group 2  
November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Participants: 8

Main Themes: Concerns

**Racial Inequity & Poverty**

- Burnout from institutions using DEI language but not seeing real impact
  - o “Words like ‘equity, inclusion, racial equity’ and more used, but what comes of it? Feels hollow.”
- Financial literacy and security are concerns
  - o “Studies have shown that a large percentage of Philadelphia residents cannot maintain bank accounts.”

**Public Safety & Crime**

- Many advocated for better access to mental health help for youth, outside of police intervention
  - o “Why are we funneling money into police department, and sheriffs when we are not experiencing a benefit in crime reduction and safety.”

**Housing, Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment**

- Development is pushing out communities at a concerning rate, with less subsidized and affordable housing options

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Accessible, safe, and reliable transportation was a major concern
  - o “Need a joint effort from Septa, Police, Parking Authority to get streets cleared for easier traveling for buses. Police maybe need to be trained better to direct traffic.”
  - o “Systemic racism problem to have public transit and parking be solely through Center City “
  - o “There is a lack of priority to make efficient and effective transportation services a priority in the city.”
- Trash and sanitation services are of mediocre quality, many residents have called 311 and sanitation and have a lack of follow through
  - o “Trend of mediocre city services or approaches in general.”
  - o Trash on the streets, near schools and across communities leads to a variety of issues.
  - o “Feel like no one cares, with communities unsure of what to do”
  - o “Hard to breath with trash around”
  - o “If it is happening (mediocre services) with trash pickup, how are larger issues being addressed?”
- Many have had issues with SEPTA key cards, system is not up to date compared to other major cities who are moving away from cards entirely
  - o “We are using systems from 10 years ago, that already do not meet the standard that it could be at for not only public transportation, but other issues in general”

**Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**

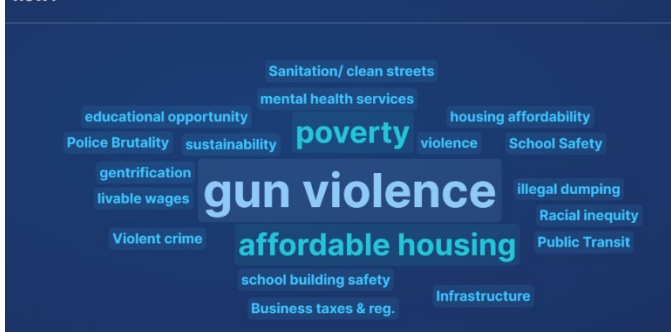
- Feel current structure of City funding undercuts citizens who want areas such as public safety, housing, sanitation, and services improved.

- Frustrated at lack of urgency by the City to meet these issues, with no response or inconsistent responses from City Council and City Departments
  - o “City and federal government can’t address everything, but they need to be more effective, reliable, and properly administered.”
- Many felt City Councilors pick and choose who they connect with, are not as reliable, transparent, or available as they should be
  - o “Upsetting that the people in charge of the city allowed the amount of luxury housing to go up.”

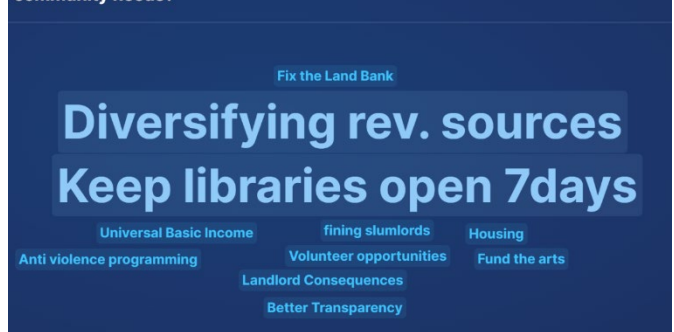
### Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Urgency for an overall and comprehensive vision
  - o “Need an approach to maximize resources that we have.”
- Need more affordable housing options
- Look at other cities for answers for sanitation, transportation, governance
  - o Trash – “Like in LA, that they have municipal trash cans.”
- Rethink tax base, investigate alternative revenue streams
  - o Universities commit more to revenue stream.
  - o Wealthy and large businesses
  - o PILOTS
- More equitable outreach efforts to gain input to budget.
  - o Flyers at schools, daycares, and rec centers. Announcements through TV and newspapers. Especially for non-English language.
  - o “So many City services, programs and processes are not regularly communicated to the everyday public, it allows for people with more means to be the consistent participants and skew the voice of the community”
  - o When proposing budgets, provide analysis for impacts including communities.
  - o Admin neutral plans (plans that exist across Mayor and City Council administrations)
  - o Zero based budgeting
  - o Participatory Budgeting
  - o Test UBI- Universal Basic Income
- 311 – Should be able to contact 311 and have access to the proper people
  - o Need better access to city services as a new resident to Philadelphia.
- Libraries should be open full time with rec centers as well
- Restructuring City Council to prioritize power that is more community centered
- Invest in anti-violence workforce development.

In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?



How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs?



FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Community Focus Group 3  
December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022  
Participants: 6

Main Themes: Concerns

**Racial Inequity & Poverty**

- Racial inequity is enmeshed across issues, and better understood, but the concept can mean many things, and the benefits for the community don't feel felt yet
  - o "Racial Equity can also mean many things. POC from outside Philly doing better doesn't help POC Philly natives. DEI folks make good money and that's not really what will create the change we need."
  - o "People are making good money on DEI initiatives, but I don't see poor people making more money as the result of DEI initiatives."
- Representation does not always equate to impact or equity
  - o "We are still the largest poor city and that hasn't changed. You can have a black chief of police and other position of powers but if things don't change at the bottom that doesn't do enough."

**Public Safety & Crime**

- The concept of public safety can mean many things, not just police intervention.
  - o "Public safety can mean many different things. It isn't just police. There's traffic safety, environmental safety, and many other issues."

**Education & Youth Concerns**

- Education – K -12 as well as the community college have consistently been underfunded
- Childcare and youth services being inaccessible was a major concern. Even people making with more financial security struggle, let alone those below the average income
  - o "I am a single mother. It is 1,800 a month for full-time daycare. I simply can't afford it. Right now I send him 2 days a week and that's still 1,000 a month."

**Housing, Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment**

- Overdevelopment, homelessness and gentrification feel rampant
  - o "The tax abatement which makes it so developers don't have to pay property tax which would directly go towards the schools"

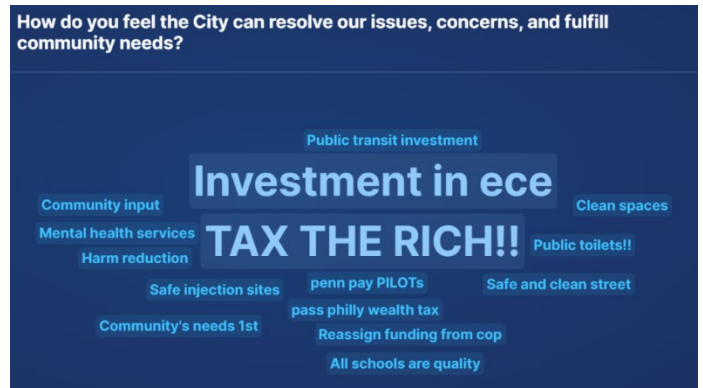
**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Libraries and Rec Centers understaffed – having these kinds of public goods open consistently have multiple benefits
- Lack of access to public water fountains, clean streets or greens spaces, and lack of public bathrooms was a major concern

Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Create new streams of revenue and taxing that feels more equitable
  - o "Tax the Rich – there is wealth in this city, but the ultra-rich don't pay their share. We could do so much if we taxed them at a proper rate."

- “Reallocate police funds to public services (libraries, parks, schools, rec centers, streets, public health, arts)”
- “PENN has billions in endowment. They can afford it. They choose not to respect Philadelphia.”
- Increase community input for community development and budget decisions
  - “Collaboration with other stakeholders”
- Access to public toilets, safe and clean streets
- Harm reduction practices in the face of the opioid crisis
- Reassign funding from police
- Invest in Early Childhood Education



FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Community Focus Group 4  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Participants: 4

Main Themes: Concerns

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

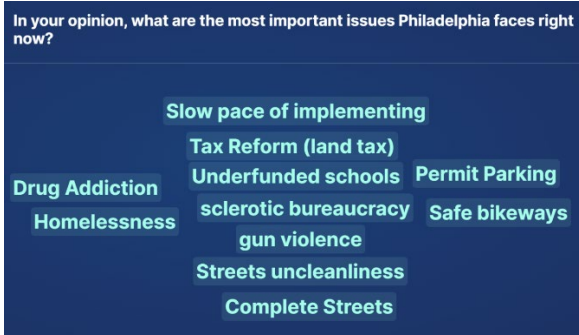
- Sanitation was brought up as a surface level service that is very noticeable in how different areas of the city have or do not have priority
  - o “Why can't they flood the streets with sanitation trucks like they do the white areas?”
  - o “More sanitation trucks in the areas that are neglected could possibly let the people in those areas see that the city of Philadelphia actually cares about those areas.”

**Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**

- Concerns about lack of leadership follow through were front of mind, with many feeling there is a systemic slog with city services as a consistent norm
  - o “Can lead to apathy, civic distrust, and continuance of problems”
- Residents have experienced and observed stronger standards, services, and processes in other City's such as sanitation, infrastructure, and engagement
  - o “All of these issues feel insurmountable, but not impossible to take a stab”

Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- More cohesive leadership communication and comprehensive planning
  - o “It is preposterous that you have "leaders" that refuse to talk to one another. Whether it's the mayor, DA, city councilors, the controller, and anyone else, they should be talking to each other. You don't have to like each other, but you have to do your job.”
- Focus on community assets like rec centers, libraries, and education
  - o “I signed up because I'd love to see our budget continue to prioritize funding for public education, for libraries, and for orgs doing violence prevention work.”



FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
In Person Spanish Speaking Session at Mann Older Adult Center  
December 6, 2022  
Participants: 28

Main Themes: Concerns

**Racial Inequity & Poverty**

- Longtime residents were concerned that other communities and issues were taking precedence over them. Cohort was primarily Spanish speaking elders in the Northeast who are lifelong Philadelphians, their concerns highlight there is often an inequitable response to communities, as well as that City elders and non-English speakers are not heard.
  - o “How do we keep everything balanced with the people that are living here with difficulties and now we have other people coming from other places?”
  - o “I am want to implement some kind of study to help the people are coming from other places. Not all people in the streets are drug addicts – they just lost their parents or homes and how we can help them. People taking advantage of the system. We need to serve the people that need to be served but also, we need to know who to serve.”

**Public Safety & Crime**

- Small crime, stolen property, public safety, and feeling a lack of clarity on response were echoed consistently by members
  - o “What is the Government doing in Kensington regarding drugs, alcohol, crimes and homelessness?”
  - o “How is the City implementing and using the funds since we are not seeing anything happening or any results?”
  - o “Every City should have public safety”
  - o “One thing that bothers me with the City. This is a City with a lot of famous people of theater and art and in the news we see that this City is one of the highest City of crimes and violence”.

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Sanitation inequities, lack of communication from the City, as well as lack of access for residents to make inquiries or assistance was voiced. Residents are aware of inequitable response in many sanitation and basic services. Members were also frustrated with level of enforcement or lack thereof for basic services
  - o “Area in a Park Tacony Creek. It’s been abandoned and trashed. We need to have clean up and we need more Police presence. Security cameras are needed.”
  - o “I don’t believe the City is poor. The City is delayed and behind for example in Society Hill, if the sanitation workers come and something gets spilled on the floor, they clean it up. But if it happens in other neighborhood they don’t clean up after themselves.”
  - o “You go around the City and all you see this City very dirty. There are so many abandoned vehicles and buildings that are abandoned and not being used to help the homeless. As people are driving they are littering out their windows. The empty lots that have a lot of waste and garbage and not being cleaned. We need to fine them. We need to tear down the abandoned buildings.”

- Handicap accessibility needs, elder support, and non-English speaker access were brought up as issues where residents have difficulty moving around the City, or accessing supports such as handicap stickers/plaques
  - o “The new construction and they are destroying the streets and are not fixing them and it’s destroying our cars. “
  - o “But the wealthier neighborhoods they fix the roads quickly.”
  - o “Handicap parking should be only for the people that have a plaque, and that have applied for a parking permit- some people don’t have a plaque”
  - o “I was in Puerto Rico and the revision for us came late – we called but it was delayed by a week and when we finally got it and we missed the deadline and now I have to park a block away and I have to make my wife walk to the house. Now we can’t get a renewal until in March 2023.”
  - o A resident who participated mentioned they have to walk a significant distance with wife in a wheelchair because they can’t find parking near their home, and have a lack of clarity on how to find supportive services or assistance
- Communication with 311 – many have made reports but 311 are not receiving help or any feedback. Residents are taking the time to report the situation, but do not see follow through.

#### **Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**

- Elder members only felt engaged by City Leadership during election time
  - o “We need to make sure that something gets one. When politicians are hunger for votes they say nice things to get it and they end up forgetting about us and they do nothing”

#### **Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?**

- Members would like to see more direct action in focusing on elder needs, in terms of process support, outreach, and quality of services across languages as well as accessibility needs
  - o “We are people with an advance age, but the Mayor can put more of his part to help more. But as elderly people with physical needs, if the Mayor can put a little effort into this, something needs to be implemented so when we go and pay our bills, they give us accommodations to be able to go in front of the line and not be criticized skipping the line.”
  - o “I was going to get a fine because of the sewer water was leaking out. During that time, I did not have a car, but cars were parking in front of my house. I called the City, but I received a notice that I was fined.”

FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Community Focus Group Session 5  
December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Participants: 5

Main Themes: Concerns

**Racial Inequity & Poverty**

- Members reflected concerns around inclusivity not only surrounding race, but for members with disabilities. Members expressed disability access around the city is not quality or accessible. Transportation infrastructure isn't equitable in general, especially for members of the disabled community. Not reliable bus services always.
  - o "Cannot be involved with community always."
  - o "Creates isolation, lack of trust, and lack of engagement from members of this community"
  - o "Huge portions of the city's public transit system are simply not accessible, like just wholesale acceptance of failing to meet ADA obligations"
  - o "We need more visible action towards a more inclusive city."
  - o "We've come so far with people having such a better attitude and outlook about access and pwd's. However, we definitely need more visible action towards a more inclusive city."
- Members can significantly see the interconnections between overlapping themes and the importance to enmesh aspects of racial equity across them all. Education and Infrastructure investments are racial equity issues. Education and infrastructure, along with arts and culture, and parks and rec, can all serve to improve public safety.
  - o "Education and Infrastructure investments are racial equity issues (especially in a city as segregated as this). Similarly, education and infrastructure, along with arts and culture and parks and rec, can all serve to 'improve' public safety."

**Public Safety & Crime**

- Community violence & gun violence can be approached in many ways
  - o "Too much funding going towards the police department and not libraires and rec centers that keep kids away from trouble."

**Education & Youth Concerns**

- Gap in education and divestment in youth programming, education as well as our local community college have been consistent trends over time
  - o "Funding community services like Rec Centers and Libraries are essential pieces of how we should support youth in this city."
  - o "It's really a systemic issue with the school district and requires a big change in the way the schools get funding from the state and city. So, advocating for change is a great thing to do with your local groups and elected officials."

**Housing, Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment**

- Developers have profited from the property tax abatement, gentrification, and unequal development.
  - o "There's a lot of abandoned buildings and houses that could be rehabbed into affordable housing, it often seems like the city just tries to sell those properties off

either via sheriff sale or other deals to developers who can make money by quickly flipping them for inflated amounts.”

#### **Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Large portions of public transit are not accessible and not up to par with community needs
- Communication of effective and supportive City services is not always apparent
  - o “A lot of people do not know what resources exist to further their education.”

#### **Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?**

- Investing in historically divested or poor-quality community assets such as libraries, schools, and rec centers
  - o “We should be funding community services like rec. centers and libraries so we can support our youth in the city.”
  - o “We should have our libraries open 7 days a week.”
- Need to revisit the tax structure and revenue streams to look at large developers, businesses, and local universities such as Penn, Aramark, and Comcast
  - o “Penn ABSOLUTELY should be paying PILOTS”
  - o “There is such wealth in the immediate suburbs and a lot of it is extracted from the city, from its infrastructure and status as a major city. This extraction is a unique feature of this city and its geography (and history of redlining and suburbanization), which allows people to live close but not actually have to invest in the city. Philly needs to revisit its tax structure to address this.”
  - o “Between Aramark, Comcast & Penn, there are hundreds of millions that could be used to improve citizen’s lives.”
  - o “In addition to those corporations, developers have profited enormously from the property tax abatement, fueling gentrification and unequal development”
- Better support City employees in the operations and procedures for City services outside of their own scope of work. The City should provide better communication on excellent supportive services as well and make them more accessible.
  - o “Train city employees in actual procedures and not just policy to give access for minority groups an easier time actually participating.”
  - o “Make access to resources and services more known” (*participant has experienced homelessness*)
  - o “There aren’t clear pathways for services when in need”
  - o “There are great resources, opportunities, and services that are unknown”
- Create a comprehensive, compassionate, and equitable service implementation, outreach, and strategy for public safety and poverty
  - o “In regard to Public safety, there are multiple approaches that can be used outside of investment in Police- which research shows often has an inequitable impact on Black residents”
  - o “Treat issues with whole person, community supports such as investing in social workers, services, community programming, as well as quality services, resources and more “



# Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?

ineffective leadership  
PILOTS payments systemic disinvestment  
unreliable septa service Safety  
nonresident wage tax violence poverty Gun Violence  
L&I issues underfunded libraries aging infrastructure  
tax abatement Safe public spaces  
crumbling education

How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs?

Improve public amenities  
Reliable public transit Fix sidewalks/bike lanes  
eat the rich 😊 Invest in mutual care  
Invest in Youth fully fund public goods  
Engaged local leaders Train Empl. in Procedure  
Tax rich / corporations  
Follow thru on promises

FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Community Focus Group Session 6  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Participants: 8

Main Themes: Concerns

**Racial Inequity & Poverty**

- Residents are aware that racial inequity is weaved into all the City's societal issues
  - o "Cannot have racial equity if schools are failing, streets are unclean and cannot walk outside without fear of being assaulted."
  - o "Racial equity is the foundation of all of the other issues with the city."

**Public Safety & Crime**

- People have different approaches, and Safety can mean many different things to different people, and people have multiple forms to address these concerns

**Education & Youth Concerns**

- Members concerned over the quality of public education in the City being inequitable, as well the haphazard funding structure
  - o "In terms of education, low investment in education in communities of color."
  - o "The education funding seems like a bit of a loophole and way to avoid accountability"

**Housing, Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment**

- Members expressed a lack of urgency in homelessness, affordable housing, and support

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Lack of basic service, maintenance is in disrepair such as basic infrastructures, sidewalks maintenance, and sanitation services not equal across the City

Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Residents are keenly aware of the intersecting nature of these themes, and issues across the City from public safety, City services, youth support, etc.
  - o "Can't take one single approach, or focus on one area alone without addressing the others "
  - o "Investment in areas around school so youth have a place to turn to instead of going to violence."
  - o "Pedestrian safety and making sure streetlights work with maintained sidewalks. Make sure needles are picked up."
  - o "Consider psychological safety too"
- Support more effective and equitable transportation systems that are clean, safe, and reliable
  - o "Need to better support SEPTA's projects with investments. Keeping bus/train stops clean, adding bus shelters, more bus lanes."
- Increased accountability of elected officials to those they represent, and interdepartmental communications could be improved for more comprehensive approaches
- Look at other cities and for ideas, programs, and approaches
  - o "Implement and fund best practices from other cities"
  - o "Need out of the box thinking"



# Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?



How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs?



FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Community Focus Group Session 7  
December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Participants: 12

Main Themes: Concerns

**Public Safety & Crime**

- Urgency for a comprehensive and clear vision on how to address public safety in the present and at the root is advocated for
  - o “We need to address the systemic roots of violence in Philly. More money for police is not a solution.”
  - o “Violence is such a big issue, the other issues stem from that”
  - o “Cannot attend church at evenings because of the gun violence.”

**Education & Youth Concerns**

- Lack of youth recreation opportunities

**Housing, Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment**

- Members were concerned on the treatment of houseless individuals and the speed in which housing was becoming more inequitable and scarcer to retain
  - o “Homeless should be put in housing and not shelters. People also paying a large percent of their income for housing and wouldn’t be able to afford if an emergency happens.”
  - o “Do not criminalize homelessness
    - “Totally agree with you **PARTICIPANT**—both the problem, and the solution. We must not criminalize homelessness.”

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Members felt there is little control over litter and trash situation within communities

**Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**

- Residents keenly aware of the interconnecting nature of long-term generational issues and feel lack of urgency, and quality responses from the City itself

Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Invest in community well-being in a variety of ways to hit multiple issues at once
  - o “Spending for lighting in poor neighborhoods.”
  - o “Would like to see the budget show our goal of 0% carbon emissions by 2050.”
  - o “Needs to be more green space. More trees in our parks. A lot of our parks are devoid of anything”
- Utilize other approaches for policies and practices to treat public safety, housing, and revenues issues
  - o “If representatives from Arts & Culture programs can redirect youth in public space to create art and not graffiti like in New York.”
  - o “Simplify housing laws and give greater protections to tenants and people who inherit homes.”
  - o “Raise taxes on the wealthy and corporations “
  - o “City needs to get suburban employees back into offices / businesses”



# Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?

Lack of youth support  
Family support Transit safety Education  
Sidewalk maintenance Violence Trash dumping City's vitality  
Lighting Youth services (lack of) Gun violence  
Lighting issues Vehicle speeds Job growth Crime  
Trash collection Drugs  
Security in public spaces

How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs?

Set goals/target&fulfill  
library staffing  
Youth engagement more rec centers Raise taxes on weath  
overdose prevention sites Implement the PPFA  
non-police mobile crisis  
car repair grants Long term projects  
Public-private partners

FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Community Focus Group Session 8  
December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Participants: 9

Main Themes: Concerns

**Racial Inequity & Poverty**

- Some members worked or have worked for the City and saw racial inequities in salary, roles, and responsibilities for employees mirrored inequity within communities. Members saw inequitable pay ranges for employees, that don't meet the economic realities around them, and felt the City was not directly aiming at specific communities and groups both in residents and employees.
  - o "I work at the Free Library and all the job classes that are populated by primarily black and Latino workers are paid massively less. I'd like to see the Mayor focus on giving DC33 workers huge raises. We have thousands of workers living in poverty."
  - o "That the civil service system pay ranges need to be revisited. we have job classes (Library Assistants, Municipal Guards, Laborers in sanitation) that are literally paid half. My coworkers in parks and rec, sanitation and PPA workers have all recently been shot/killed at work"
  - o "Pay ranges need to be revisited and adjusted"

**Public Safety & Crime**

- Members wanted more direct anti-poverty approaches to face public safety and crime
- "Anti-violence spending needs to be tied to anti-poverty and violence/crime are linked."
  - o "Economic Mobility – Connected to a lot of issues we are having."
  - o "Spending should be focused on those in need. Affordable housing."

**Education & Youth Concerns**

- Residents mentioned the importance of quality education and youth support, but it is continually divested or poorly approached
  - o "Poverty and poor education connected"
  - o "Feel there has been a consistent lack of investment in public education, adult education, and surrounding programs like rec centers, libraries, etc."
  - o "People are moving out of the city because of the poor schools and education. Never has seen education be a focus for the city."
  - o "Many people move out of city because of poor schools"

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Sanitation and basic quality of life services are severely lacking
  - o "The city has privatized cleaning services downtown. It should be in every neighborhood."
  - o "Streets are never clean. Litter everywhere. We need to get our communities clean."
  - o "(A Council Member) once told me and other Strawberry Mansion residents that people there don't know how to use trashcans so there is no reason to put trashcans there."
  - o "There are VERY specific solutions to trash: buy all city residents high quality trash cans, get mechanized trash trucks (if this decreases labor needs, reassign those workers to other sanitation duties), street sweeping, trashcans EVERYWHERE"

**Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**

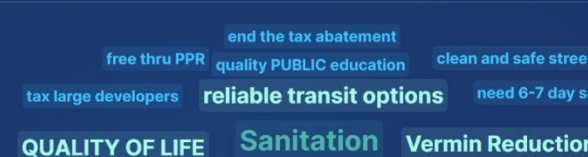
- Members felt often the City makes surface level revenue and program policies that do little but are reactive, punitive, and less than efficient, such as the soda tax, and recent curfew put in place without clear community input
  - o “Recently there was a curfew put in place for youth - and at the same time our young people are saying that it won't work - another example of how input from affected community would make for better solutions”

#### Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- These members wanted to raise revenues in a variety of ways from taxing exempt organizations, and larger entities who have benefitted from abatements, to taxing absentee landlords who they feel have historically been prioritized over communities in need
  - o “When Comcast, Aramark, large developers, wealthier new homeowners should be paying for that through fair taxes. not by targeting the poor to pay for services they should all be getting anyway”
  - o “We have so many organizations that don’t pay any taxes.”
  - o “Studies have shown that people don’t mind paying more in taxes if they see they are getting the services that they need.”
  - o “Money is the biggest lever the city has. Soft language about equity is not important if we are just changing words and not putting massive amount of money to fix the problems. And the money is there. I don't want to hear one more word about racial equity in the city if we don't start paying black city workers more.”
  - o “Raise revenues from tax exempt organizations and the wealthiest people and companies.
  - o “Tax absentee landlords a little more than resident landlord”
  - o “If we effectively fight poverty and unemployment, and fund quality education, over the long term we \*will\* have a larger tax base”
  - o “The problem with taxing wealthy individuals is that they can very easily leave (vote with their feet)”
- Residents wanted bolder more comprehensive visions and adjustments to face issues such as public safety and deep-rooted issues. Residents keenly aware of the interconnecting nature of our long-term issues
  - o “Spend less money on band aids, like police and prisons, and shift to funding measures and programs that address causality.”
  - o “I think everyone in the room here is demonstrating Philadelphians are smart and passionate and know how to fix this. But politicians don't listen to us/don't care”
    - “They listen to big business and developers”
    - “Engaging RCO’s in this process could go a long way!”
  - o “I want bold and transformative public spending (within what’s possible) from the city but not if that means paying police officers six figures of overtime every year. There are more direct ways to support citizens and reduce crime with those funds.
    - “Agree. We need to divert city money away from police, prisons, and courts. If we didn't strand our youth with no activities and safe spaces after schools .and they didn't live in families crippled by poverty, we could prevent "crime"
- Police accountability and changes were advocated for. Many have had experiences and heard of experiences of waiting hours for basic safety and follow up from the Police, as well as Police



- “Need to take money out of the Police Department. Invest in physical infrastructure in the city.”
- “Property crime, stolen packages, and break ins that aren’t solved or met with action by the Police”
- “Audit the police department and response times.”
- “We set police to do the job that well-funded public housing and public health systems should do. Police are struggling under the weight.”
- “Money for social and emotional learning in schools.”
- “Approach current issues at the root”

- In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?
- 
- A word cloud on a dark blue background showing various issues. The words are in different colors (white, light blue, green, yellow) and sizes. The most prominent words are 'Education', 'Sanitation', 'Vermin Reduction', 'Violence', 'Libraries', 'Parks and Rec Centers', 'widespread poverty', 'Community college', 'Gun control', 'tax the rich', 'reliable transit options', 'quality PUBLIC education', 'end the tax abatement', 'clean and safe streets', 'need 6-7 day service', 'need more staff', 'Mental health', 'fund youth sports', 'wealth tax needed', 'Crime', 'Traffic Cams', 'gentrification', 'tax large developers', 'free thru PPR', and 'the public library'.
- end the tax abatement
- free thru PPR
- quality PUBLIC education
- clean and safe streets
- tax large developers
- reliable transit options
- need 6-7 day service
- QUALITY OF LIFE
- Sanitation
- Vermin Reduction
- Violence
- Education
- the public library
- tax the rich
- gentrification
- Traffic Cams
- Gun control
- Theft
- Libraries
- Parks and Rec Centers
- Crime
- wealth tax needed
- widespread poverty
- need more staff
- Mental health
- Community college
- fund youth sports

Ending corruption

Money 4 education

More shelter beds

Taxlandlordsw/emptystores

Fund Recreation Centers

Organize volunteers

**Defund the police**

Kendra Brooks' wealth tax

Police accountability

Tax the wealthy

**PILOTs from Penn**

Reduce crime

Raise wages 4 city worker

expand cty health center

Street Sweeping

esp. black workers

end the tax abatement

Fun parks and rec

Non-police emerg. respons

Special gun laws 4 Phila

Gun control

Fund the Libraries

Fund pub housing-10k wait

FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Community Focus Group Session 9  
December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Participants: 11

Main Themes: Concerns

**Public Safety & Crime**

- City has seen an increase in Police Department funding, but violence is still increasing. Multiple members in the group had experienced crime, gun violence, and significant trauma, but did not experience effective follow up by the Police or services. An audit of Police spending was brought up multiple times
- There was a shooting out front of home and neighbor was injured.
  - o “Contacted Police Department and have not received a response on if shooter was ever caught or an update.”
  - o “I want to add, that I know many people and have heard of many stories of people experiencing crimes happen right in front of police officers, and not a thing being done. If the Philadelphia Police Department is to get an expanded budget, I expect them to do a better job.”
  - o “Their budget needs to be slashed. They're obviously not a solution. Police don't PREVENT crime, they REACT to it. As we've seen they aren't even doing the reacting part right. We need to invest in services that cut crime AT THE ROOT. We need to think long term. Poverty reduction, education funding, after school programs, etc.”

**Education & Youth Concerns**

- Schools are one of the best ways to help stop crime and gun violence.

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- The accessibility, equity and quality of basic City services is an indicator not only of the look and cleanliness of a city, but the efficacy of services. Residents both new to the city and lifelong are seeing lack of equity and effectiveness in services such as:
  - o Public safety
  - o Sanitation
  - o Education
  - o Housing/homelessness
  - o Recreation services
  - o Social Services

Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Members want bolder, more whole community, and preventative approaches at the root of poverty, inequity, public safety and more
  - o “Prevention vs. reaction”
- Members have seen more prioritization where there is more money, or reactive measures
  - o “Police Department’s budget needs to be cut. Police do not prevent crime; they react to it. We need to invest in services that cut crime at the root. We need to think long term, poverty reduction, education funding, after school programs.”

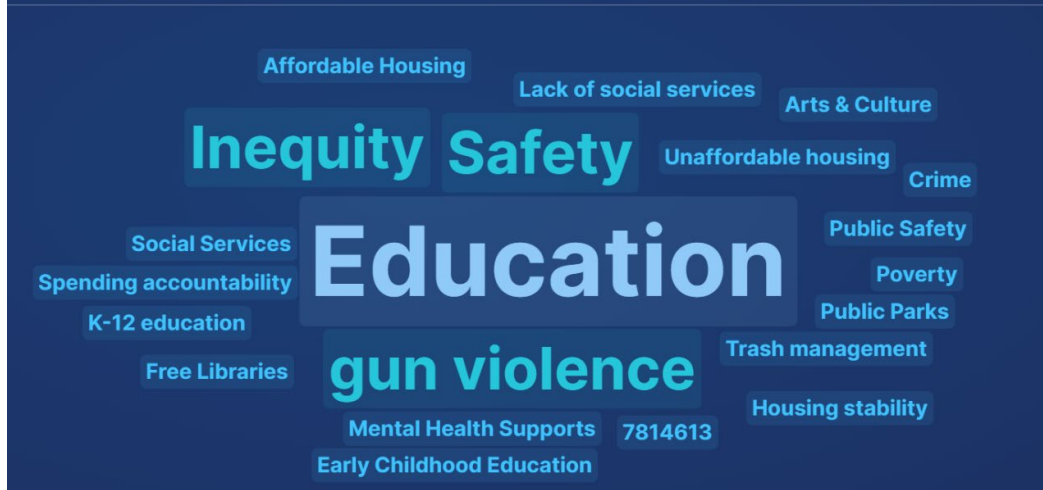
- One participant was a teacher- “A private prison was funded, and schools were not given money at one point. Clear to where prioritization was”
- Need more activity within the communities such as input collection and collaboration
  - Recreation centers, libraries, more options for out of school and community centered programming
  - Libraires should be open past 5PM.
  - Need more social services for youth.
  - “Prioritize education, libraries, fund parks and rec for summer and programming, fund housing stability. Ensure availability of emergency shelters, ensure affordable housing.”
- Minimum wage is an issue and leads to poverty, crime, and long-term adverse effects for communities
  - Pilot Universal basic income
    - “Can the city pilot this program for residents in most need?”
  - “We need to look at the problem that many parents are working 3-4 jobs to make ends meet so their teens never see their parents and end up taking care of younger siblings. If parents can't parent because they can't be home then we have almost no chance of helping our educators or our kids.”
  - “Students who are parents, as well as students carrying adult responsibilities have minimal support and entering minimally invested education landscape”
- There was debate on having street sweeping and installing community cameras
  - “The fear with street sweeping in my neighborhood at least is there just isn't enough parking to avoid a whole side of the street or whole street for a day... if we implement street sweeping then we severely increase the public parking issues.”
  - “My feeling about street sweeping is that there is less of a need if trash is actually picked up properly (best to solve the problem at the source)- not that we can't have both!”
- On Cameras
  - “Cameras in public places are the least violent way of deterring crime. Can ever provide exculpatory evidence in situations where people are being prosecuted on thin eyewitness testimony.”
    - “I understand the impulse, but I don't think cameras are the answer - I think that's a dangerous road. Seconding (Participant) that we need a long-term focus - education, addressing poverty & inequity, etc.”
  - “YES. Cameras in public places are the least violent way of deterring crime. And can even provide exculpatory evidence in situations where people are being prosecuted on thin eyewitness testimony.”
  - “A truck ran into my car and tore off the side window... if the neighbor hadn't had a video that clearly showed exactly what company and truck number it was nothing would have been done and I would have been responsible for paying for the damage. Camera's definitely help!”



# Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?



How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs?





FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Community Focus Group Session 10  
December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Participants: 14

Main Themes: Concerns

**Housing, Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment**

- Renter's rights and housing inequity were major concerns with members who had experienced homelessness, unsafe housing, or were pushed out of their neighborhood

**Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**

- Cronyism, gatekeeping, and lack of outside ideas was brought up by members who have worked with or tried to work with the City's grant system to support grassroots efforts.
  - o "We are a major US City, but need to look for other answers and opportunities to solve these long terms issues"
  - o "Becomes difficult when the process and the outcomes for grantees is less than transparent, especially when working with the City"
- It is clear residents see the connection between sanitation, public safety, education, and more . Many did not feel there was a plan, communications, or vision to address these long term issues

Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

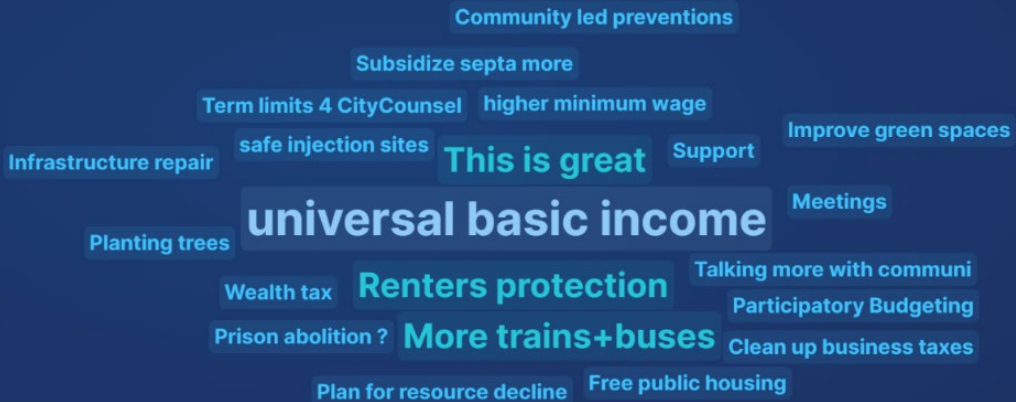
- Better and more consistent City outreach around the Budget, as well as civic education in general
  - o "In addition to engaging the community through budget focus groups, the city needs to invest in Civic Education- because most people do not understand how any of this works "
  - o "Your group should go to the civic association meetings throughout Philadelphia, would get good results"
- More transparency with grant processes, and aim for grassroots support as well as new revenue streams
  - o "The performance outcomes of grantees needs to become public information since taxpayers pay for those programs"
    - Infrastructure



# Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs?



In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?



FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Community Focus Group Session 11  
December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Participants: 6

Main Themes: Concerns

**Education & Youth Concerns**

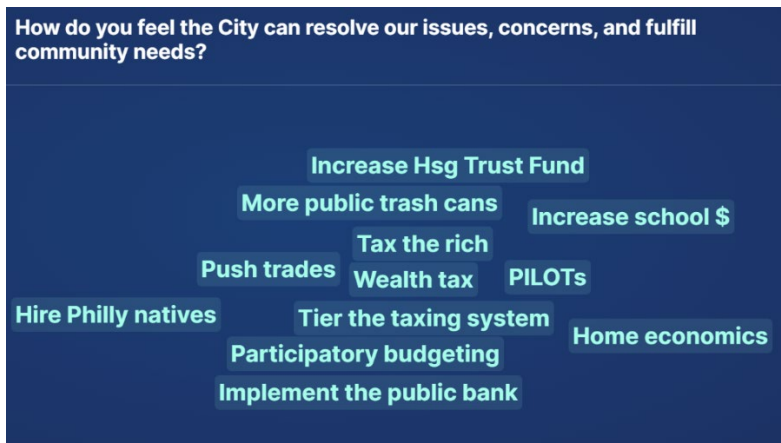
- Education divestment has been seen consistently over the year for lifelong and recent Philadelphians. Leads to Philadelphians to not send their children to local schools, and newcomers invest their children's education into charter systems
  - o "The City has not met it's requirement for financially supporting the Community College since the 80s"
  - o "Skills like home economics, carpentry and other wrap around programs in school and after have been significantly cut."
  - o "More focus on basic life skills and training offered within our public schools."
  - o "Bring back home economics, more information and support for trades as well."
- There is no pipeline for providing priority for long term Philadelphians in particular fields within the private sector, small government, and nonprofit such as mid-level, executive and positions that require higher education experience
  - o "We may hit diversity, equity, and inclusion quotas, but what about the 'local and generational equity' to invest into the longevity of long term residents, communities, and youth."

**Housing, Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment**

- Generational or 'native' Philadelphia communities are being pushed out, ignored, and divested in. The City has some of the highest home ownership rates for minority communities, who have stayed within the City across hard and easy times, yet have not seen the benefits of services, provided a platform for their voice, or prioritized in development decisions. This is very apparent for elder, non-English speaking, and communities of color within the City.
  - o "We are a Minority Majority City, with high poverty, costs and issues "
  - o "Yet we also have high amounts of residence ownership by members of these communities"
  - o "Many who have stayed through the highs and lows of the city. Yet become pushed out due to taxing inefficiencies, inequitable service, safety, and remaining unseen"
- Tax abatement and ineffective tax/revenue structures allow for divestment to occur in longtime residents, and predatory development pushes members, That in tandem with poor services, access to support, and communities being invalidated is a reason why long term residents may leave such as small business owners, Non English speakers, and elders
  - o "The abatement rises the property taxes for long term residence
  - o s when refurbished properties cause local property taxes to increase, yet long term residents may not be able to meet that pace, and don't receive the same priority of newer residents and developers."

## Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Members want more comprehensive approaches that aim at long term prevention poverty, quality of life issues, and supporting Philadelphians. They see past investments in historic institutions not paying off in areas of public safety such as the Police
  - o “We are a major US City we can do both it shouldn’t just be either or.”
  - o “Equal opportunity education is essential to combating crime. Plus equal access to quality, permanent affordable housing”
  - o “The City spends \$800 million/year on police and together with prisons and courts spends roughly 1/3 of discretionary funding on the criminal justice system. So, if that type of investment worked, then we'd be the safest city in the world, but unfortunately it doesn't. This huge cost robs critical funds to schools, housing, community services, and job training that actually reduces crime.”
- Members advocated for a review of the tax and revenue system to support intergenerational Philadelphian with concerns of estate support, gentrification protection, and more equitable/effective services
  - o “The senior tax cap does not carry over if their descendants take control of the property--cuts off a life line for generational equity . Create a tiered tax system”
  - o “Yes, we need to invest in the natives who have been here.”



FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Chinese Language Focus Group with NEPCA  
Participants: 13  
December 15, 2022

Main Themes: Concerns

**Racial Inequity & Poverty**

- AAPI violence, vandalism, hate and discrimination have been on the rise, and often Non-English speaking members of the community have little support, involvement, or engagement
  - o “During covid-19 – there were a lot of robbing and Asian communities experienced a lot of this hate and crime. We feel unsafe. It is not fair.
  - o “Since the epidemic, businesses in Chinatown have been robbed, and even some Chinese families have been watched and robbed”
  - o “**(MEMBER)** was harassed many times by adults, teenagers, children, neighbor. We wish for having a good community space so her team don't bother the community.”

**Public Safety & Crime**

- Members of this Chinese community have experienced violence, inability to use public spaces, with a deep want for safety and security
  - o “Chinese community’s biggest concern is our safety”
  - o “Park spaces are very important to our community but being harassed by residents because we don’t have enough community space”
  - o “Mayfair school – we try to use school space but are being threatened by the neighborhood”
  - o “Safety on public transportation – want to see increase in police or security on public transportation”
  - o “There were a lot of vandalism and looting. In particular, many comments that discriminated against Asians, hurting Asians. We felt insecure when we walk and take bus; Last year, an Asian American female student was beaten up on Septa because she helped a bullied Asian male classmate. If adults have discriminated against Asian Americans for a long time, why should simple and kind students hate and bully an innocent classmate?”
- Residents also see other small crimes and issues that lead to feelings of unsafety, and want more approaches to meet these needs
  - o “The biggest feeling is that there are many unemployed people smoke marijuana in the streets during the day, the roads are broken and lots of trash. The future financial budget should strengthen reemployment guidance and training of vagrants; Increasing the input in public security management”

**Education & Youth Concerns**

- Chinese student safety, language access, appropriate resources, personnel, and program support is deeply needed. Members are concerned over the status, and for the younger generations of Chinese students in Philadelphia receiving inequitable services, treatment, and education opportunities

- “Our household has our first baby and we are worried. We hope the city will put more money to student education.”
- “Increase language accessibility for students”
- “Chinese students don’t feel safe on transport, and there is not enough robust afterschool or in school resources for this growing population of students. Not enough staff capacity. Language resources, and culturally specific support. Attacks and harassment happen consistently on public transportation”

#### **Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- The ability to move throughout the City with accessible transportation, as well as safe sidewalks, crosswalks and streetlights is needed. Members of this community who are international students or elders and cannot work need the ability to receive support for basic needs like rent, food, housing, etc.
  - “Red light signals for children’s cross walk on Montour Street and Adam St. – have been trying to get communication through to different agencies with no request “
  - “From northeast Philadelphia it is hard to get public transportation to temple university and Chinatown”
  - “There were few bus routes to the temple university and Chinatown nearby, and we had to walk far away; The financial budget can increase the investment in public transportation lines and safety”
  - “We need to spend more money on food, as well as high water and gas bills. We are international students and cannot work legally. We are about to have our first child. We are inexperienced and worried. I hope that in the future, Government budget can increase the construction of public facilities, hold more interesting community activities, and provide children's education benefits to students who can't work like us. Let's also feel at home in Philadelphia.”

#### **Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**

- Community members said they had to install their own CCTV cameras in several areas after asking for local assistance
  - “The city has this budget – why do we have to spend our own money to put in the camera”
  - “Last month our community spent our own money to put up camera”

#### **Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?**

- Invest in safety and security through historic means of the Police, as well as mental health services, community support and poverty prevention efforts. Promoting intercultural unity and support can dampen AAPI discrimination and racism.
  - “Mental health is a big problem after the pandemic. Should give budget to make program that help coping with mental health issue, may be dedicate a mindfulness meditation session in every recreation center to help people deal with mental health and have inner peace.”
  - “The police is underfunding and don't have enough hand to handle the crime. low police new recruit.”

- “Please give more budget to programs that promote intercultural, interracial interaction in the neighborhoods, communities to create understanding, collaboration and harmony”
- Focus directly on anti-discrimination programming, policies and resources so residents, students, and elders are able to feel safe, supported, and involved
  - “Specific cultural and resource support for younger generations in and outside of school. More language specific staff support. Afterschool programming “
  - “Our financial budget must increase investment in combating Asian hate crimes, campus racial discrimination, and increasing community cultural activities. We Asian Americans have made great contributions to the economic and community development of Philadelphia through our hard work. We should be respected as well, and our security should be guaranteed; We should increase investment in governance and education against Asian hate , discrimination and violence; Hold some multi-ethnic cultural exchange activities between campus and community; Strengthening the friendly understanding among all ethnic groups;”
  - “Put more money into keeping us safe and to combat discrimination especially against the Asian community”
- Many communities are already creating solutions and supporting themselves, these are important points of contact the City can invest, support, and connect with
  - “I am very grateful for the existence of non-profit organizations such as NEPCA that are dedicated to serving Asian communities. Many people in our community do not speak English, especially the elderly. NEPCA has sent us a lot of useful information, provided us with a lot of services and help, so that we can better understand our city, better integrate into our

In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now? 在您看来，费城目前面临的最重要的问题是什么？



How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs? 您认为纽约市如何解决我们的问题、疑虑并满足社区需求





# Budget Office

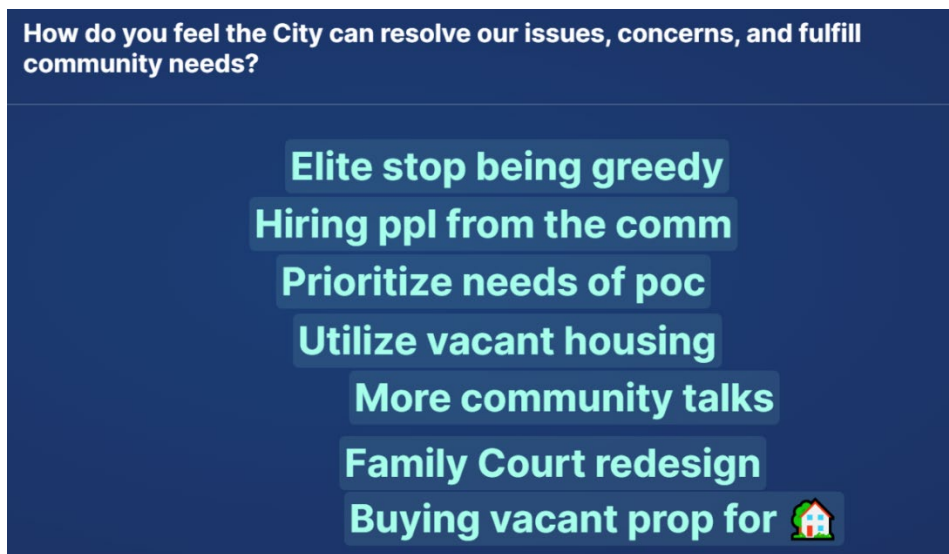
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
In Person Community Focus Group with Galaei  
Participants: 5  
December 16, 2022

Main Themes: Concerns



Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?



FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
In Person Spanish Language Focus Group  
Welcome Center & Association of Mexican Business Owners  
Participant: 9  
December 20, 2022

Main Themes: Concerns

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Washington Ave Street Updates are not accessible for disabled residents
  - o “The new design for Washington Ave is discriminatory for handicapped residents”
  - o “SEPTA doesn’t follow the accessibility guidelines for the handicapped”
  - o “As a handicapped person it will be difficult or impossible to walk when winter comes and snow piles up”
- Lack of consistent sanitation on the streets, within public spaces, and public transportation hurts community morale, economic opportunities, and leads to civic distrust and frustration
  - o “Tourists no longer drive down Washington or to the Italian market. So much litter, congestion. It is a powerful cultural landmark with small businesses and massive diversity that should be protected”
  - o “There is so much trash on a community, public transport, and with little clarity on what to do “
- Some business owners pay significant costs that have skyrocketed over the pandemic to clean and maintain services that the city does not. Many have privately paid for trash services, but others are taking advantage of it. Their dumpsters and services bring on outside trash through illegal dumping as well
  - o “Late pick up leads to illegal dumping”
- Secondhand smoking in public transportation
  - o “Why isn’t it being enforced? There are families, children, and it is dangerous as well as gross. Why is the L so dirty?”
- Public Restrooms leads to respect/dignity issues and public health concerns
  - o “Complete lack of bathrooms is a public health issue”
  - o “Feels discriminatory and shameful for business owners who have to turn people away”
- Lack of community engagement to locally battle litter, and degradation of green spaces
  - o “Becomes a public health issue in the summer by attracting pests”
  - o “Dog poop and feces is a problem”
- Participants said it’s great that 311 has language access, but said the quality of the service isn’t reliable, and there often feels like there is a lack of follow through
  - o “Love that they speak Spanish, but they don’t really help”
- Small Business contract opportunities are not readily available for grass root and small businesses or non-English speakers
  - o “Feels discriminatory and unfeasible to only support ‘larger’ entities”
  - o “If smaller businesses had better opportunities to build relationships and contracts with the city it could help support local communities. Keep people employed and within the city”

- Overall quality of basic services feels inadequate, such as lack of cameras for illegal dumping and vandalism, sanitation, transportation and more.
  - o “There are streetlights in Latin American Countries, but not here?”
  - o “Darkness invites danger”
  - o “How is it that our home countries have better public lights”
  - o “Also, cleaner services, more community led support.”

**Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**

- Lack of community engagement with Spanish speaking communities to support their local efforts and members in need, especially for non-English speaking children, and those with special needs
  - o “There should be more support for childcare”
  - o “It is a social and employment problem; parents can’t work if their children can’t safely be watched”

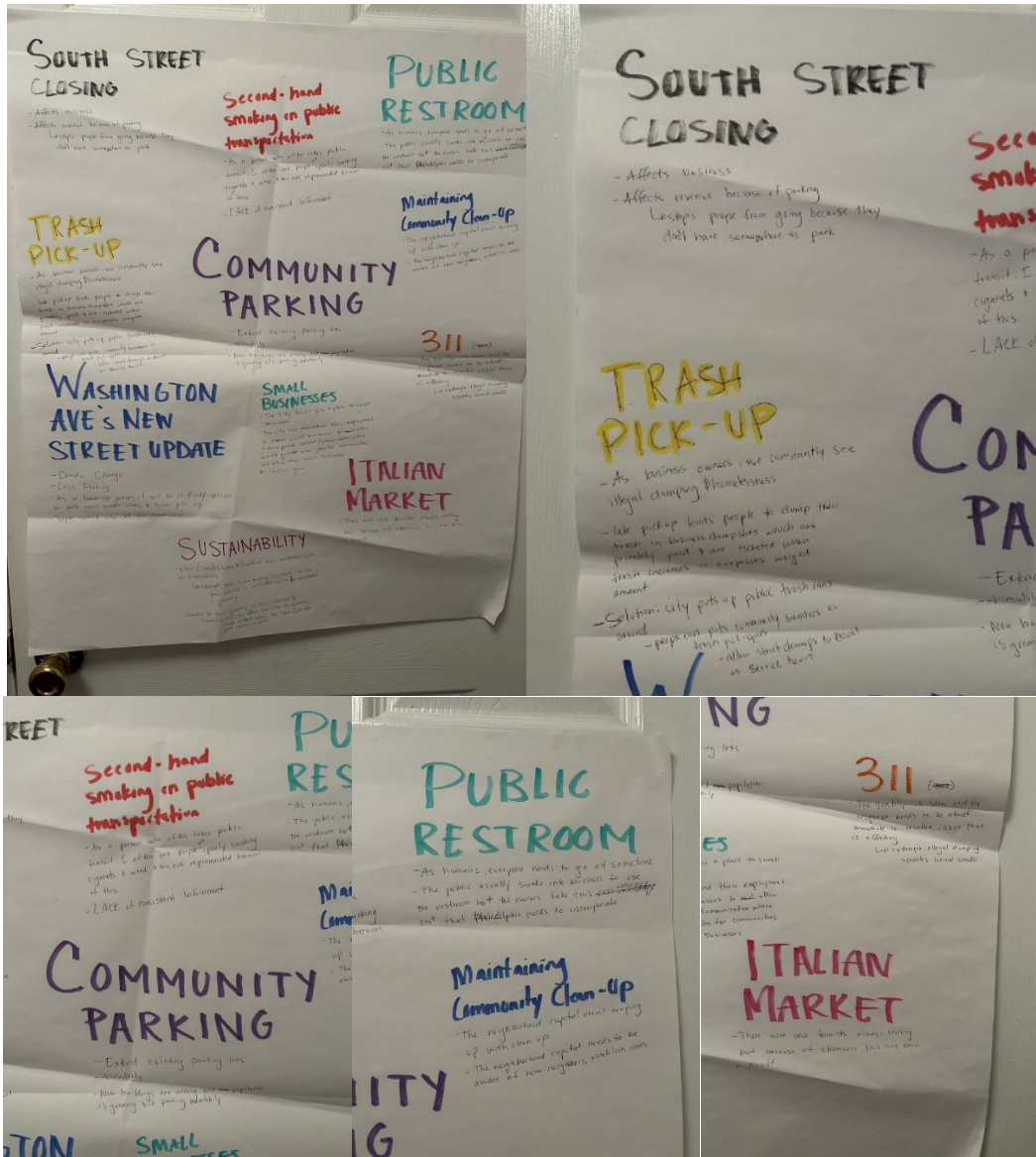
**Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?**

- Members of the Spanish speaking community need to be seen more as resources to connect with, support locally, and engage with more consistently. Build support to Block Captains, support locally created ideas, and engage across language divides. Even pay communities directly, communicate with them, and provide support to them when they are filling the gaps for city services and basic needs
  - o “You need to do better outreach and spend the time to meet community leaders”
  - o “Connect with the local Spanish Speaking newspapers, organizations, and meet people on the ground”
  - o “Community participation should be better uplifted”
  - o “Focus on community participation led solutions”
- Participants suggested that the City significantly invest in sanitation efforts that are effective, equitable, and sustainable in communities, public spaces, and transportation. Provide more trash cans, dumpsters, as well as public bathrooms for those in need.
  - o “If the L was cleaner and there were public bathrooms, safety officers and equal enforcement many of these issues would not exist”
  - o “There may be more SEPTA ridership and less cars if safety and sanitation were met
  - o “As humans, everyone needs to go sometimes”
  - o “My husband thought about buying land and turning it into restrooms to rent out!”
- Engage people’s creativity, pride, and resourcefulness
  - o Create campaigns for communities to take better care of green spaces, stoops, flower boxes, and plant more trees
  - o “Build pride through people’s creativity!”
  - o “More child friendly playgrounds, green spaces, and public parks”
- Look at other American and Global City responses for examples of community participation/support , green spaces and sustainable practices



# Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA



## City Employee Focus Groups

City employees participated in focus groups. These sessions were voluntary, and allowed for employees to voice their opinions, ideas, and concerns for the City's FY24 budget. City of Philadelphia employees from a variety of roles and departments were provided an overview of the budget process and the challenges the City is facing in the upcoming year.

Participants were led through a series of three discussion questions, as well as an interactive polling, and word cloud activity, which prompted participants to share their priorities, preferences, and concerns for the upcoming budget cycle. **These prompts can be found on Appendix C.**

### Engagement Snapshot

**169** City employees participated in **five** City employee focus groups both virtual and in-person

Engagement Type	Participant Total
In Person	16
Virtually	153
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>

City Employee Session	Date	Participants
Philadelphia Parks & Rec (In Person)	11/1	16
Racial Equity	11/7	60
Commerce Department	11/17	21
City Fiscal Officers	11/18	40
Chief Administrative Officer	12/19	32
<b>Total</b>		<b>169</b>

### City Employee Focus Group Summaries

This section below highlights main points, quotes, and questions from the five FY24 Community Engagement sessions which were virtual and in person. Points and quotes are summarized within the six main themes: *Racial Inequity & Poverty, Public Safety & Crime, Education & Youth Concerns, Housing (Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment), Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure, Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership.*



FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
In Person Session  
City Employees: Parks & Recreation  
November 1, 2022  
Participants: 16

Main Themes: Concerns

**Public Safety & Crime**

- Investment in public safety and not just police officers for resident and employees alike. Employee safety is an indicator of the quality of services, protects community members, and invests in retention.
  - o "Invest in city employees and workforce"
  - o Lots of people leaving the city because of safety issues
  - o "We can't have people run the City if we don't have them feel safe"

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Resources to complete one's job are difficult to procure at times, often maintenance is not continual, it is reactive and leads to more problems
  - o "Gone to 11 rec centers and clean them up and make them better but sometimes as you go there are some resources that are hard to attain."
- Many issues such as asbestos at rec centers, lead paint, mold and degraded facilities are connected to years of neglect
- Many employees are lifelong residents and concerned of the state of sanitation and facility neglect occurring.

Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

**How do you think we can resolve these issues?**

- Invest in public education, community involvement, and bringing more resident and employee stakeholders from groups historically unheard such as frontline employees, non-English speakers, and communities of color
- Care for employee's wellbeing and invest in making their work more efficient, benefits supportive, and access for provide accountability, as well as up to date technology
  - o "Employee incentives to bring people into these positions because folks are leaving these jobs and the city"
  - o "Onboarding and hiring processes made a little easier. Takes a long time from a test to an interview to get hired. Nowadays people are not waiting to get a position"
  - o "More accountability of who is involved in which services"
  - o "We have windows 7 on our computers and we could not use them; there is no consistent IT"
  - o "PPR – make plans in the budget to include continuing maintenance to restore public land, facilities, rec centers, buildings, and parks"
  - o "Just involving more grounds staff in the budget process and having quarterly meetings with everyone."
  - o "The folks who are impacted by the budget should be more involved in the dept budget process"

- “More jobs and more competitive salaries to attract people who don’t want to live in the City”.
- “Basic City plan that doesn’t change what every department does despite admin change”
- “Creating more external partnerships and funding sources “
- More preventative support for facilities, services, and make inter departmental communication more streamlined to procure resources, personnel, and collaborate
  - “Better preventative maintenance for infrastructure and other assets in the City”
  - “Better conversation between skilled trades and capital so that parts can be ordered and repaired on time”
- Look into different streams of revenue, review the tax code, and look for ways to receive revenue from large corporations
  - “Major corporations (should) pay more in real estate taxes”
  - “Finding more revenue to include revising the tax structure and have more of the burden be on corporations and entities and have it be more equitable and have the end result be more revenue in general”
  - “City should create a strategic plan that maintains operations despite change in the administration”



## FY24 Community Budget Engagement

### Virtual Session

### City Employees: Racial Equity Working Group

November 7, 2022

Participants: 60

### Main Themes: Concerns

#### **Public Safety & Crime**

- Employees who are lifelong Philadelphians have deep concerns about the state of the City's safety, community wellbeing and future. Employees who are in the public often feel unsafe, and as residents feel the same concerns.
  - o "I have lived in Philly for 33-34 years and I used to be a proud Philadelphian and I love my city, but I don't love my city right now. Policing and police reform. We need to reach groups that are at risk which tend to be BIPOC communities. Mentorship needed. Young ppl of color are out there and lost and raising themselves and getting into things that they should not be getting into. Safety and educating youth are top priorities."
  - o "Safety is one of the biggest issues and our parks are seeing unsafe behavior. Disrespect for police is alarming. Rangers are unarmed and we are trying our best to keep parks safe. Rangers are resigning and it is getting tough to maintain same level of safety."
  - o "Lack of a sense of community"

#### **Housing, Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment**

- Members had questions on how poverty and pushing out community members is going to be halted
  - o "The City continues to have highest poverty rates in the US and with all of the development going on... does the City have in place to have the citizens in Philly continue to live in place in Philadelphia?"

#### **Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Understaffing, attrition and turnover, and a lack of emphasis on internal culture were mentioned as reasons why employees face difficulties providing services, quality of work, and feelings of support

### Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Importance to build off prior successes and invest in community, employee and comprehensive plans to treat issues that are deeply connected
  - o "Proudest of Philly is that we do have City owned health centers. We have centers in the lower NE with a waiting time for new patients for 8 to 10 months. We could put another health center there and in terms of future public health emergencies."
  - o "City should push for unions to diversify"
  - o "Safety-Opportunities to thrive including job pipelines, education, and access to primary care for everyone-Cleanliness of the streets-Policing/safety/education-Eliminating Racial Inequality"
  - o "Addressing basic quality of life needs and ensuring equitable and consistent services across communities"
  - o "Could identifying intersections and prioritizing them be better"



## Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

- “We need to approach every problem by starting with racial equity. Too often it's something that we also consider, often at the end of a plan or report, even though racial inequity drives most of the problems facing our city.”
- “Also, I think the City should find ways to give money to residents to solve problems in their own neighborhoods! More micro-grants, guaranteed income, etc. “
- Invest more in staff support with wellbeing services, opportunities to collaborate, and provide feedback on what is and is not working
  - “More staff capacity for public and service-based roles-Livable wage employment infrastructure for residents”
  - “Increase worker owned cooperatives-Intentionality of focus for communities historically ignored or at high risk of various social inequities”
  - “Increasing racial equity in one area can benefit most if not all issues in other categories”
  - “Invest more in Racial Equity in a robust and direct fashion”

FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Session  
City Employees: Commerce Department  
November 17, 2022  
Participants: 21

## Main Themes: Concerns

### Racial Inequity & Poverty

- Racial equity approaches are needed in areas of mental health support, building relationships with the Police, and empowering historically neglected communities
  - o Need more therapists, mental health support, community driven responses to issues

### Public Safety & Crime

- Public safety consistently main concern for many members. Violent crime, crimes connected to scarcity or mental health distress was seen as interconnected across issue areas.
  - o "Hard to ignore public safety issues"
  - o "Makes it difficult for businesses to operate."
  - o "Businesses are starting to lock their doors while they are open and have to vet out customers"

### Education & Youth Concerns

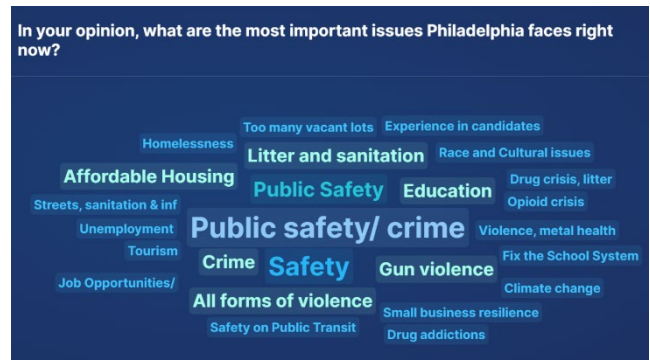
- Education is often the root of many of the City's current issues
  - o "Need tangible tactics and resources to boost building, education, and staff support."

### Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure

- Not enough workers, low wages, lack of incentives and hard work loads lead to service delivery issues, quality of service inequities, and hamper opportunities for growth

## Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Would like to see a firmer sanitation system in place
  - o "Litter and sanitation is a high priority to me because it's totally solvable and within the city's current capability to do so. Litter persisting year after year is such an embarrassment because it reflects our prioritization of parked cars over street sweeping among other things. I understand that it's not directly a life-or-death problem but it's so solvable with ripple effects that could alleviate other challenges."
- Supporting employees by empowering them, providing equitable resources and incentives
  - o "Hire people that care not in it for just money"
  - o "More therapists and counselors and mental health advocates"
- Aim to bridge gaps between departments, types of employees and roles
  - o "We have deep community connections that go a long way. our philosophy of bottom."



FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Session  
City Employees: Citywide Fiscal Staff  
November 18, 2022  
Participants: 40

Main Themes: Concerns

**Public Safety & Crime**

- Employees reiterated feelings of unsafety, and seeing their communities degrade consistently over time
  - o “No matter what part of the city we live in, we don't feel as safe as we used to”
  - o “Throughout this city citizens and workers are exposed to gun violence in the everyday movement It's very frightening”
- Access to firearms, and lack of community or youth engagement are major concerns
  - o “There are too many young people getting their hands on guns. Parents should be held responsible. There are too many parents not paying attention to what their children are doing.”
  - o “Getting the Community engaged and involved with the issues are key”

**Education & Youth Concerns**

- Investing in education is consistently echoed but often unmet with robust support for those or communities most in need
  - o “Investing in our children today will help for a better tomorrow”
  - o “I worked for the Free Library for many years, and we consistently had programs for kids to attend. The problem was only the kids who were already involved in positive activities attended. We had a lot of community partners that put together many programs for young people.”
  - o “When I was I school we had programs like woodshop, cooking sewing, metal shop etc. Where are these life lessons today?”
  - o “Open up trade schools for the youth who are not interested in college”
- Social media and online disputes often lead to real time issues in the classroom, or public safety
  - o “We have advanced our focus on education but considering the comments we have seen regarding violence and what is happening in the household, we need to find a way to educate our residents on filtering education. We have access to a lot of education, but there is an increase in a lot of misinformation, but education that needs to happen with our youth needs to combat rise in misinformation, especially due to rise of social media. We must undo effects or habits that wide access to social media has created.

**Housing, Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment**

- Members mentioned it is becoming harder to live in the City, and preference seems higher for developers
  - o “Soon there won't be any homes to purchase unless you're a wealthy investor”

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

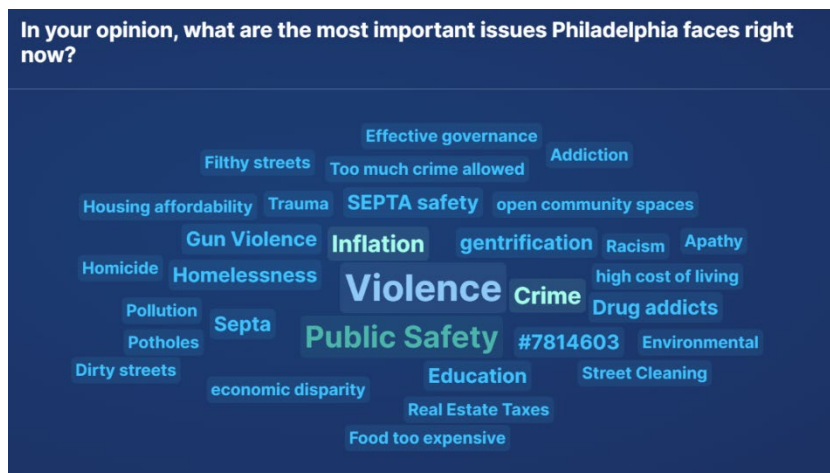
- Lack of accountability and enforcement for issues such as traffic violations or littering was brought up many times
  - o “The city has stopped holding people accountable for their actions, when we were growing up you couldn't just litter, jay walk, skip school, etc.”

### Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership

- Members tired of seeing these conversations and engagements fail to lead to impact or action
  - o “More investment in short, immediate and long-term solutions so that residents see change. Currently folks feel like it's all talk.”

### Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Employees want more comprehensive approaches to engage from the bottom up when facing issues such as building trust between the city and communities, public safety, and more resident centered solutions. Often employees felt like they were untapped resources
  - o “Build trust between communities and the police. Communities should feel like they can rely on and trust the police to protect them and show up when they are called...”
  - o Employees are an untapped resource, and we are sharing a lot of these experiences and sharing the highs and the lows. Especially hearing from front line employees; an untapped resource.
  - o “More streamlined processes and accountability to services”





Participants:32

## About the Grasstops Focus Groups

Leaders of City Boards & Commissions, the Arts and Culture community, the Nonprofit Sector, and Business community participated in dedicated sessions.

Grasstop representatives were provided an overview of the budget process, the FY24 budget, and the challenges the City is facing in the upcoming year.

Participants were led through a series of questions, as well as an interactive polling, and word cloud activity, which prompted participants to share their priorities, preferences, and concerns for the upcoming budget cycle. **These prompts can be found on Appendix C.**

### Engagement Snapshot

**131** community members participated in **6** focus group session.

**110** participated in **5** virtual sessions and **21** participated in **one** in-person sessions.

Session Type	Participant Total
In Person	21
Virtually	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>

Grasstop Sessions	Date	Participants
Arts Community	11/30	2
City Boards & Commissions	10/27	18
Philanthropy Community (In Person)	11/30	21
Philanthropy Community Virtual	12/1	47
Business Community	11/15	6
Faith Community	11/21	37
<b>Total</b>		<b>131</b>

## Grasstops Focus Group Summaries

This section below highlights main points, quotes, and questions from the six FY24 Community Engagement sessions. Points and quotes are summarized within the six main themes: *Racial Inequity & Poverty, Public Safety & Crime, Education & Youth Concerns, Housing (Homelessness, Gentrification & Overdevelopment), Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure, Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership.*



FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Session  
Grasstops: City Boards & Commissions  
October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Participants: 18

City Boards and Commissions Invited

- Mayor's Commission on African American Males
- Philadelphia Youth Commission
- Millennial Advisory Committee
- Philadelphia Commission for Women
- Mayor's Commission on Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs
- Mayor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
- Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs
- Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities
- Mayor's Commission on LGBT Affairs

Main Themes: Concerns

**Education & Youth Concerns**

- Education issues are deeply connected to multiple layers of inequity, economic, and public safety issues. Do not feel investments or proper focus is aimed at School District
- Frustration, and general lack of insight that the City Budget does not connect to the School District

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Services quality, accessibility, and involvement of people with disabilities is severely lacking in transportation, access to services, and levels of engagement/empowerment

Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Uplift disability support, services, and fill gaps in historic negligence within transportation, functions of the City for public participation and processes such as community outreach & engagement. Include processes and practices for residents to make complaints, highlight needs, etc.
- Archaic tax system and slow levels of bureaucracy need to be updated, reviewed, and streamlined
  - "What are their metrics? How are they centered on equity, poverty, antiracism?"
  - "What is the measure for success that can lead to effective equitable outcomes"
  - "Need more innovation, outside of the box ideas, and community input to make processes more effective and streamlined"
  - Increase public's ability to be involved in small government. Ability to review, speak, advocate, and change historic processes, wasteful spending, department practices, and align what we have towards what we need
- Uplift small business support for historic residents who have been divested such as non-English speakers, immigrants, disabled members, and communities of color

In one word or phrase, what services are most important for the City to maintain or improve?





# Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Grasstops: Business Community

November 15, 2022

Participants: 6

## Main Themes: Concerns

### Public Safety & Crime

- Gun Violence, mental health issues, homelessness, public education are all interconnected. The current state of safety makes small business owners more likely to leave or shut down. Many small businesses care about the City but need to feel safe in general
  - o “People right on Kensington Ave are shooting up and you see needles on the street”
  - o “Lots of people that have lived in the area speaking to gun violence saying that it’s the worst it’s ever been saying that it might be better to move out of the City”
  - o “Experiencing an exodus of people, capital, and businesses from the City. Have been a resident for 8 years but am leaving due to safety concerns”
  - o “Number one issue in this City is crime”
  - o “Police feel they are not being backed by DA, Mayor and City Council”
- Some members of business community are angry, frustrated and not supported robustly on a local level
  - o “My wife is black, but she won’t go to center city”
  - o “Cops are saying that if they shoot someone, they will be persecuted”
  - o “How come BLM has gone crickets on this?”
  - o “We are hoping that the new elected officials in City Council will begin supporting the business community and working-class people in the City”

### Education & Youth Concerns

- Education was a mentioned major concern, and many people said they do not send their kids to City schools due to the staff issues, safety, and lackluster materials/support Many lifelong Philadelphians do not want to send their children to local schools that they themselves attended at students.

### Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure

- Taxes feels outdated, reactive, and not effective towards meeting the City’s needs
  - o “If I live in the City and pay the wage tax, I want to see what I am getting in return. It appears that we are not getting anything” re: safety
- From business perspective, it seems City seems to favor other business over others, e.g. Tobacco industry versus others, even though they are a community business. Some have been shifting their businesses outside the city. Transparency in licensing is not apparent or accessible
  - o “We only hear from the City when we are in trouble and when we try learning about it, we don’t hear anything otherwise”
  - o There needs to be more awareness of Office of Business Services in what they can provide, assist, and provide so businesses, especially local ones are equitably supported

### Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership

- Unclear sense of cohesive leadership or plan

- “Counterproductive loop between specific communities are moving from pointing out issues to actually addressing the issues, for example Police feeling hindered, but community members feeling over policed at times”
- Lack of follow through from the City creates more apathy on the civic engagement side
  - “Are our voices going to make a difference.”
  - “People want impact, and tangible change”

### Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Communication across sectors among public and private sectors needed to address these issues from a local and community level, as well as from the top down. The Commerce Department has done a wonderful job supporting local businesses, other City department and services could learn from their approach. Aim to build relationships across sectors than can be mirrored on the ground within communities.
  - “Small businesses are pillars in the community. Our success is directly correlated to the success of our neighborhoods. By giving funding and resources to these businesses, the positive effect will trickle down into the community. Perhaps in return for funding. mandate community enrichment programs for small businesses. This neighborhood isn’t the greatest, but the community knows my face. I speak to them, some of them help me out from time to time. So now, before getting high in front of my business or breaking into my place, they think twice because there’s a relationship. I’m not just a faceless business owner making money in their neighborhood. We all have to respect and take care of each other.”

In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?

Infrastructure development  
Safety Violence Homelessness  
**Gun violence**  
Mental health crisis Taxes Public education  
Mental Health Access to capital  
Businessfriendliness

How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs?

Mental health awareness  
Incentivize business open War on drugs Decrease Corruption  
**Community involvement**  
Communication across sect Transparency  
Mandate community activit

FY24 Community Budget Engagement

Virtual Session

Grasstops: Faith-Based Community

November 21, 2022

Participants: 37

Main Themes: Concerns

**Racial Inequity & Poverty**

- Faith communities' rites for those that have passed are often not respected by the Medical Office.
  - o "Is a relatively small investment in Virtual Autopsies, may not be an urgent need, but many faith-based nuances are not considered in City processes/functions"
- Racial inequity is not being address more directly for specific communities, and often the language makes monoliths or over generalizes specificity of needs, identity, even location. Black Philadelphian communities in West or North Philadelphia have different histories, needs and realities than Spanish speakers, immigrant communities and LGBTQ+ members, and vice versa. Communities are not being directly identified or it is done in round about ways. The needs and experience of the Black community in particular
  - o "Issues are not addressed for Black Americans just a lot of terminology thrown around like diversity, etc. Economic funding are not being dispersed correctly to Black Americans. No office of Freedom Affairs or Black American affairs."
  - o "Many groups get conflated together, and it waters down the effect, focus, and resources from the City, which comes at the cost of public danger, civic apathy, and repetitive social ills"
  - o "How we even do a budget and the disparity between the budget is not for Black and Brown communities. Some of these processes are fixed. Want more representation."
- The Budget process and cycle does not address the flows of harm to occur, especially across our Black communities. Development has led to gentrification, pushing residents out of the City or into untenable situations. Need to review the racial effect on these systems, and how they allow for Budget neglect to occur, and lack of effective ways for communities to have accessibility to come up with their own solution
  - o "Vast majority of money will be allocated towards communities who are at not at the highest risk for public safety issues"
  - o "Philadelphia isn't being scaled for Black Americans any longer. Hipsters and other groups getting more attention from the Budget."
  - o "More voices heard surrounding dog parks, street maintenance, lighting, bar pop ups, happy hours, and less in communities of color, particularly historic Black communities within the City"
  - o "Philly is becoming overly racist. Budget needs to be comprised of real concerns and issues to future proof Black people in Philadelphia. Definitely seems like the young white person in Philly is the priority."

**Public Safety & Crime**

- Crime prevention measures are not as effective as they can be, and there are immense barriers for small groups, or community organizations to receive City funding or support to address these issues
  - o “We are allocating over 300M to anti-violence, but it takes 2 years to get the funding and then you cannot get more than \$1 million.”
  - o “Violence is an issue and I know that the city allocates money to violence intervention efforts but: Grassroots orgs are not allocated the same way as the same way as the City wants them to be funded. CCIP (is a failure) and GVI... organizations cannot meet that kind of dollar match. Money should be invested toward people doing the work and living here. Long-term City commitment needed”
  - o “Practices to fund grassroots orgs, ‘boots on the ground’ leaders, and community groups is not user friendly, and does not allow for long standing vision, or community led approaches”
  - o “A lot of resources, research, and tools brought in from other cities, but to support local led efforts does not feel properly invested in nor supported”
- Members are deeply concerned at the state of the public safety crisis, and feel a lack of cohesive energy or expediency to approach these issues
  - o “This City is a hot mess. When I was in HS, we used to called Philadelphia, Kill-a-Delphia and it hasn’t gotten any better. When you call 911, they may not show up at all.”
  - o “Whenever you have a health crisis, there needs to be immediate action just like there was with COVID.”
  - o “Can’t expect 2400+ shootings in one year, and there won’t be at least 2000 the following year”

#### **Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**

- Members want more urgency, comprehensive collaborative measures, and don’t feel urgency or bold action across issues
  - o “Lots of these issues raised are hugely important and many of them are urgently important. Budgeting is planning for the future. Urgent is crowding out the important.”
  - o “Year to year investment needed, longer vision is needed”
- People want tangible, actionable change, and in new ways, members are aware of the interlocking nature of these issues, but feel the effects of hollow engagement, lack of follow through, and City practices that aren’t publicly accountable
  - o “The budget promotes disparity – we took relatively solid neighborhoods, and we demolished them for no real reason, and we did it at the expense of poor people. And then you just transfer the wealth through Land Banks.
  - o “Structure of the budget, its lack of public voice/accountability, and rushed nature creates disparity for residents, and inaccessible means to alter the structure, or input voice in this process
  - o “Sometimes engagement just feels like a check mark, or going through the motions”

Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- The main ideas were for more community involvement, grassroot support, with significant review of power structures, and City leadership positions with ideas such as term limits, new leadership, and audits of historic processes such as Police leave, and the Budget Cycle

How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs?

**Address cops "on leave"**

**Term Limits**

**New leadership**

In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?

Health disparities  
Neglected infrastructure  
Absent police  
Corruption  
Non affordable housing  
Overpriced rentals  
Minimum Wage needs to go  
Public safety  
Public schools  
Immediate relief  
Gentrification  
Violence  
RACISM  
Lack quality resources  
Systemic neglect  
Education  
Fake allyship  
Reparations  
Homelessness  
Opiod Epidemic  
Budget Disparity  
Loss of trust with faith  
Housing insecurity  
young white ppl - priority  
Kids Being killed  
Mental health /homeless  
Bidet Disparity  
Afterschool activities



## FY24 Community Budget Engagement

Virtual Session

Grasstops: Arts Community

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Participants: 2

### Main Themes: Concerns

#### Public Safety & Crime

- Safety and how to approach it through other means than the police such as through the arts was brought up.
  - o “People want to give kids a safe place to go that interests the kids.”

### Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- The arts sit at a unique position to address communities, issues, and people outside of regular City processes/services. Have historically been divested in, with methods, local groups, and community relationships not utilized in a more robust manner to meet people’s needs in unique or even more effective means

In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?

Equity

FY24 Budget Engagement:  
In Person Session  
Grasstops Session: Philanthropy Community  
November 30, 2020

Main Themes: Concerns

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Members keenly aware of the complexity and interconnecting nature of issues that then lead to disparate services, inequity, and systemic issues. Posited questions on how the philanthropic field can be more involved
  - o “The issues facing the city are all interconnected”
  - o “How does the city define “quality” when referring to quality outcomes?”
  - o “Can philanthropy partner with the city to fill funding gaps and better align investments? “
  - o “Can this be done with a collective philanthropic commitment?”

**Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**

- Members expressed want for collective, bold, and clearer vision on meeting City issues across sectors, departments, and approaches
  - o “There is a lack of leadership around these issues”
  - o “There is no vision for the future.”
  - o “Feeling of beginning year to year, season to season, or admin to admin without much progress”
  - o “Consistently reacting without planning”
  - o “Does not feel there is a unified vision, strategy, or goal posts for equitable change”
  - o “What metrics and outcomes can we create that lead to more impact?”
  - o “What relationships or processes can be adjusted so there is a more unified vision of impact”
  - o “Can the city share all/more of its data sets with the public?”
  - o “How can transparency be uplifted, including keeping residents informed, engaged, and in relationship to city spending.”

Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Members advocated for more cohesion from bottom up and top-down solutions that involve multiple approaches, directly affected stake holders, and different sectors of the City , as well as nonprofit, business, and community organizations
  - o “Go deeper. Focus on the root causes of poverty”
  - o “The participatory approach is much appreciated”
  - o “These conversations should also include community and or other sectors”
  - o “We need better communication channels”



# Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs?



In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?



FY24 Community Budget Engagement  
Virtual Session  
Grasstops: Philanthropy Community  
December 1, 2022  
Participants: 47

Main Themes: Concerns

**Racial Inequity & Poverty**

- Members aware of how interconnected racial inequity is to the state of poverty, education, housing, governance, and all issues, and don't feel there is enough being done to boldly or comprehensively attack the root of these issues
  - o "These feel like symptoms – one thing that's missing is the lack of imagination and boldness, calling transformative ideas naïve or unrealistic.
  - o "It's hard to make decisions that go beyond narrow scopes, but all these issues impact us.
  - o "Education, racial equity, public safety, arts and culture are all intertwined"

**Quality & Accessible City Services & Infrastructure**

- Complex systems of bureaucracy where there isn't public input, engagement, or opportunities to update outdated systems lead to employee burnout, mismanagement of resources, and lack of cohesive action
  - o "Paperwork and convoluted processes delaying action is a major problem. Projects on hold for years."
  - o "Insufficient support for teachers, front line employees"
  - o "The process is difficult across sizes of organizations, let alone small grassroots and community organizations
  - o "We look at siloes at our own peril, all issues create an ecosystem that is foundational to wellbeing."
  - o "Even when there is a big bold idea, the bureaucracy can really take the wind out of the sails."
  - o "Budgets are siloed but problems need to be solved across departments, everything is interconnected."

**Perceived lack of expediency & action with City Leadership**

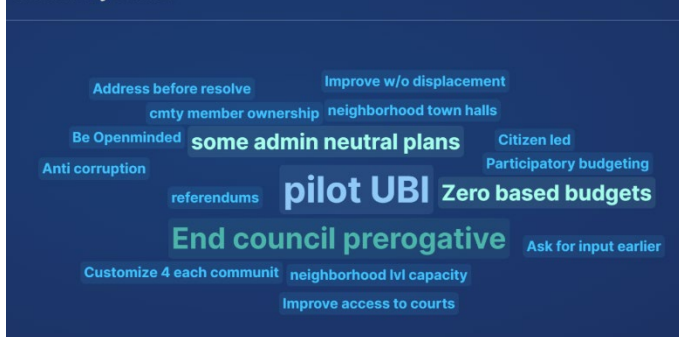
- No sense of coherent vision, mission, strategy, or vision outside of the year to year, administration, seasonal, and very much in the box thinking
  - o "Lack of communication, we find out about good ideas after the fact"
  - o "I think the devil is always in the details - For example, Public Safety includes many investments and it's really hard to come to agreement on how to split that baby. Also, City Council is often not transparent in how its decisions are made so even with these conversations how do these get input into that process?"

- “What kind of lag/progress do you see within the changing political landscape?”
- “When Mayoral admins end City Council often shifts, so working bodies, groups, and personnel are shifting with a lot of unknowns, while issues persist”
- “Need more abundance in process, ideas, and bolder vision to treat these needs/issues”

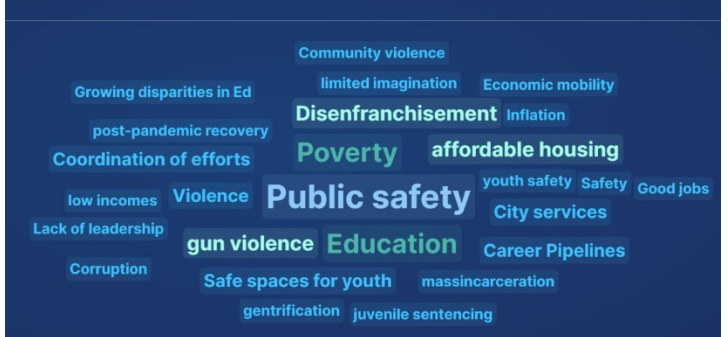
## Main Themes: How can the City resolve our issues & fulfill community needs?

- Members have a variety of ideas that aimed at approaches these issues more directly, and in more collective, participatory, and impactful means
  - Admin neutral plans
  - Zero based budgeting
  - Participatory Budgeting
  - Ask for input earlier
  - End council prerogative
  - “Invest in community organizations and organizing to engage/educate people at the most local levels so they are involved in issues that are important to them.”
  - “Money for building relationships with historically oppressed communities within each dept budget”
  - “UBI we haven't moved the needle on our poverty ranking in any substantial way - PHL fits the profile for a great case study for UBI”
    - “UBI is also a way to get the budget money out of silos!”

### How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs?



### In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?



## Appendix A

### Analysis of Participant Statistics

#### *Demographic Data based on 102 Virtual Resident Attendees*

These are the analytics for the FY24 Virtual Community Focus Groups as well as the Virtual Chinese Language Session held in partnership with NEPCA. These statistics do not include the demographic information for: grasstop sessions, employee sessions, nor the in Spanish language and LGBTQ+ sessions. These statistics do not include the demographic information for: grasstop sessions, employee sessions, nor the in Spanish language and LGBTQ+ sessions. Those in person session did not require intake forms for participants, the EEI Unit wanted to make these sessions as accessible, and respectful for time as possible, so only attendance information was collected.

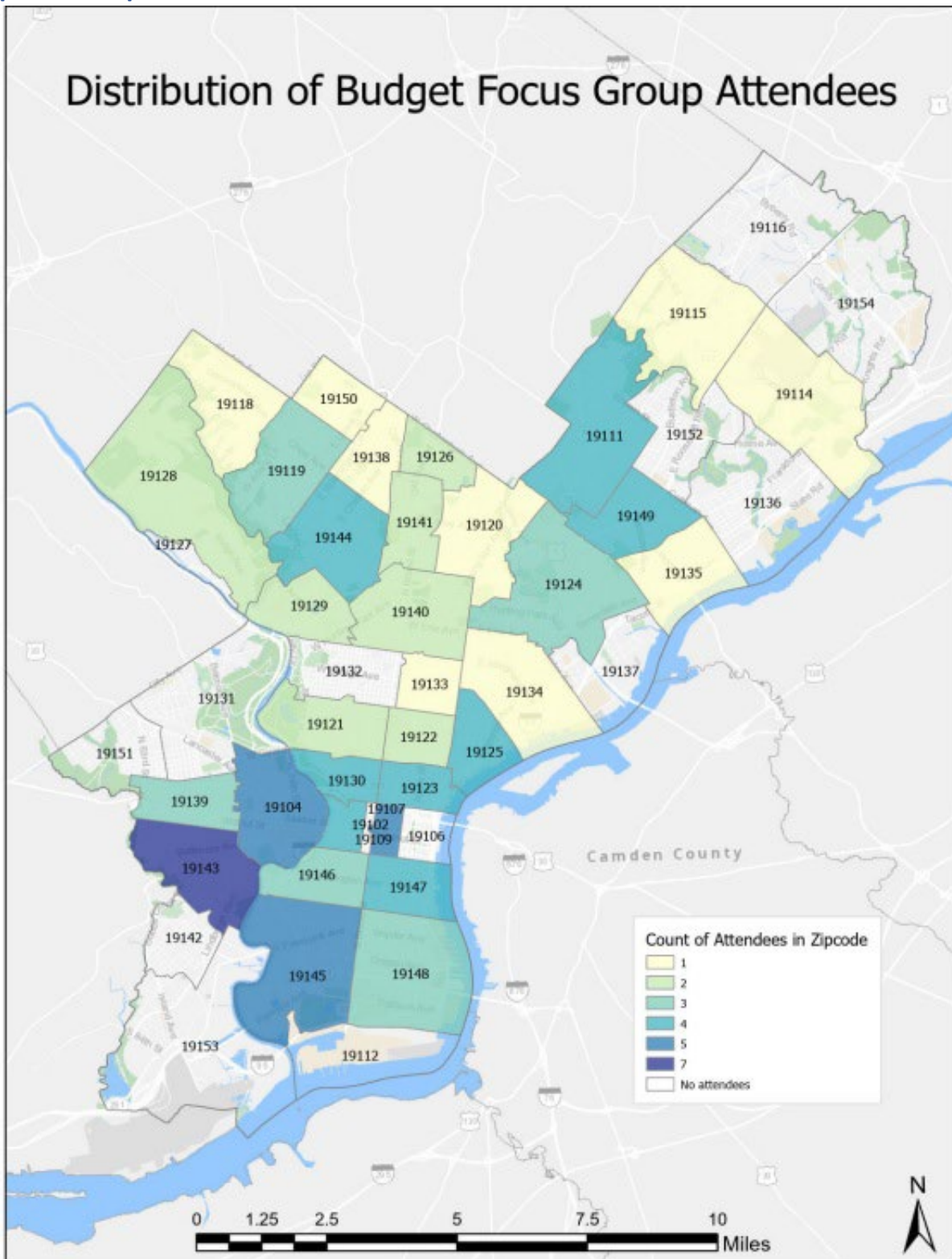
- Focus group attendees were more racially representative of Philadelphia and diverse than the FY22 Budget Survey and slightly above the FY23 Engagement. 54% of attendees identified as non-White/Caucasian, with 20% identifying as Black or African American, 12% Latinx or Hispanic, with 16% being members of the AAPI community, and 5% identifying as Other or Multiple Races.
- Majority of attendees live and work in Philadelphia
- 59% of attendees are female
- 40% of attendees were between the ages of 27 and 40
- Of the 145 community members engaged in FY24, 38% percent attended one of four in person sessions, which was a first for the City's Budget Cycle



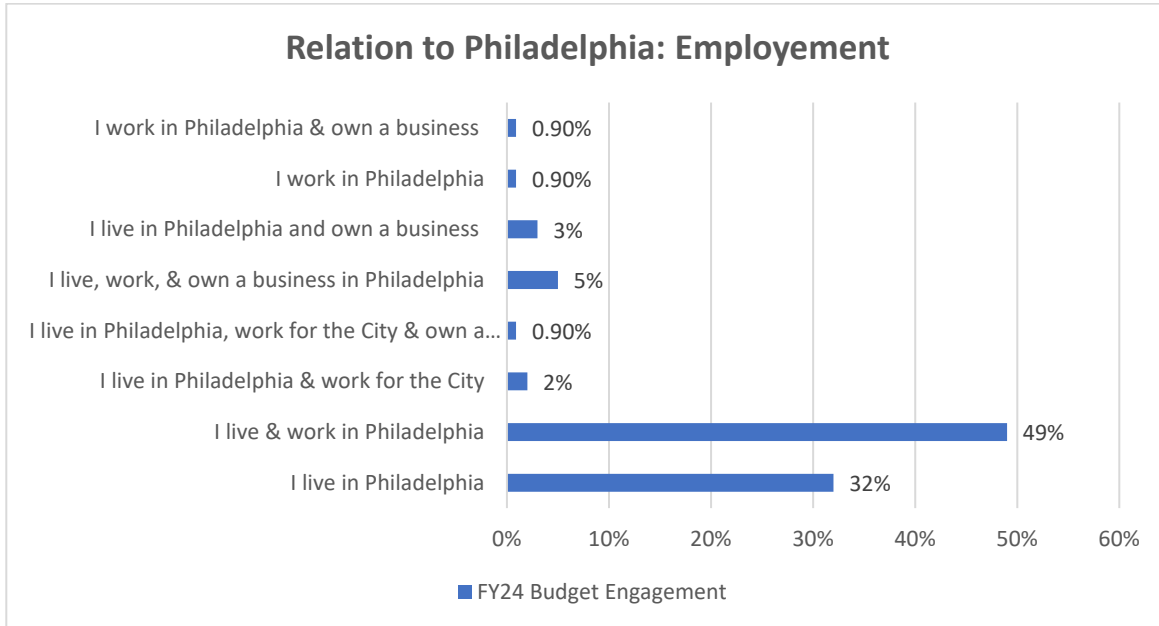
# Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

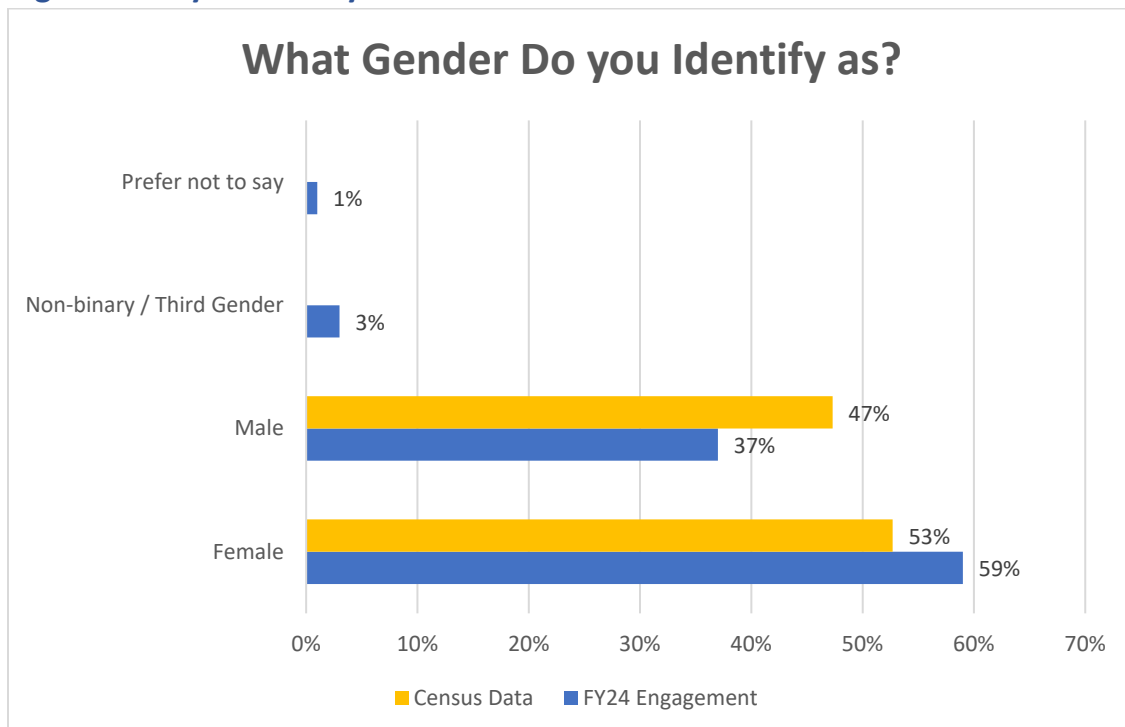
Zip Codes Represented:



**Please check all that apply (Employment)**



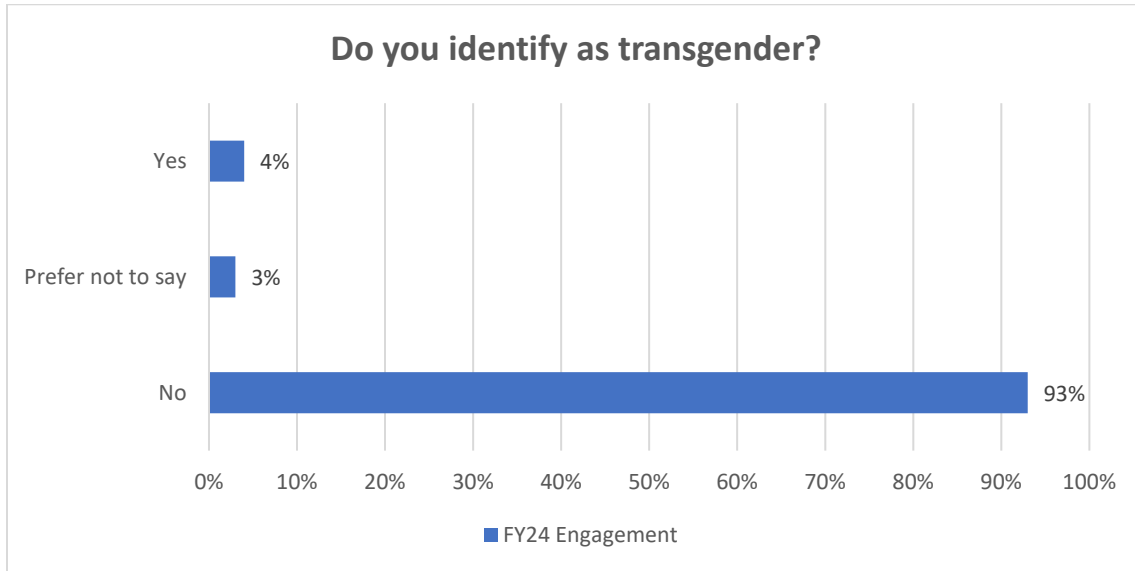
**What gender do you identify as?**



**Notes**

- FY24 had more female participants than FY23 (50%), with the same amount of Non-Binary/Third Gender members of 3% across both years

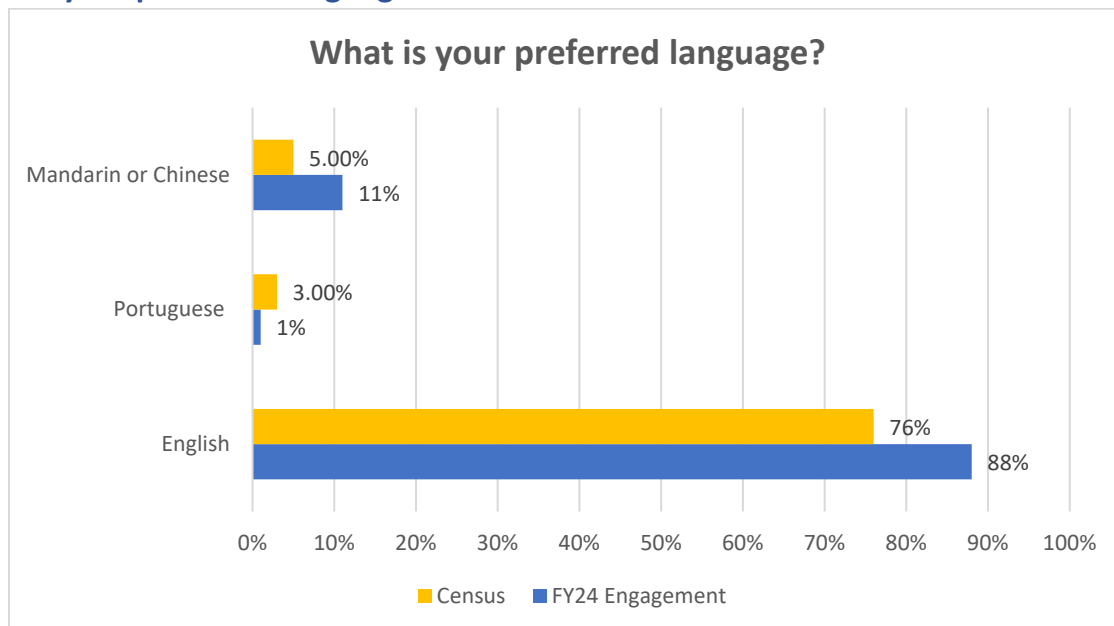
### Do you identify as transgender?



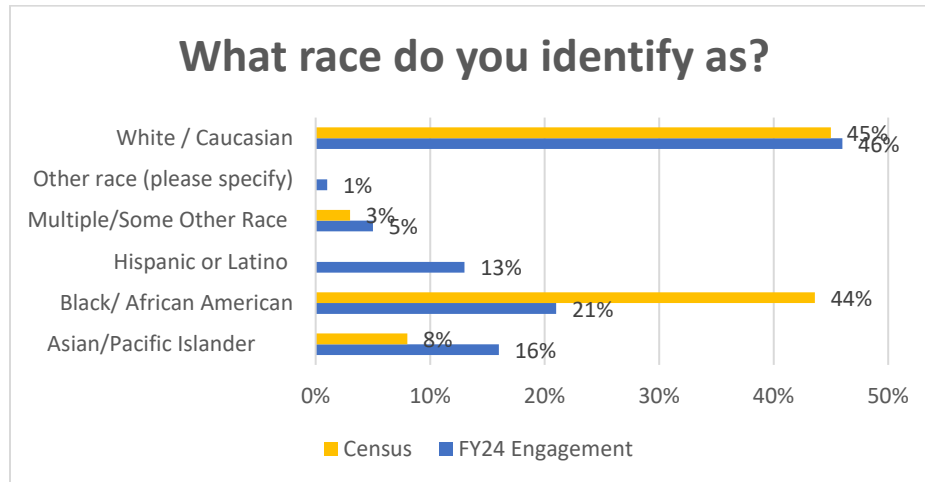
### Notes

- FY24 had a decrease in members who identified as transgender, with 9% identifying themselves as such in FY23

### What is your preferred language?



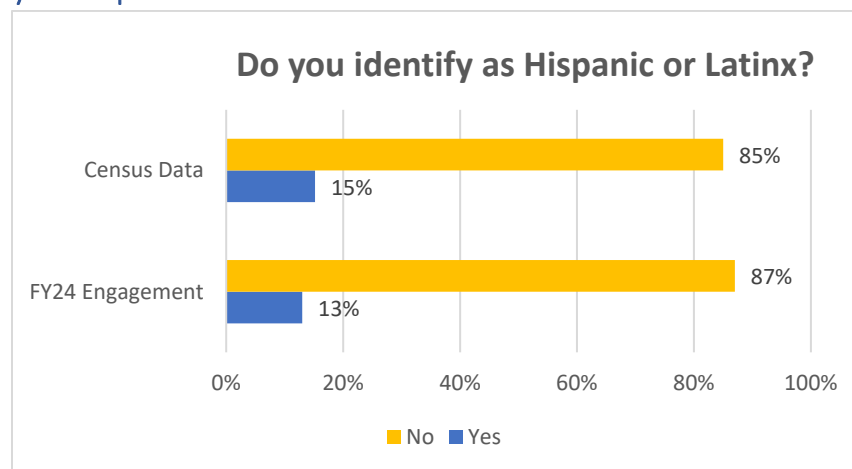
## What is your race?



### Notes

- FY24 saw a decrease of Black/ African American participants in comparison to 36% who identified themselves as such in FY23, FY24 was still significantly higher than participation in FY22 with only 12%
- Hispanic or Latino as a racial group was tracked for the first time in FY24 with 13% identifying themselves as members of that community
- Significant increases were made in Asian / Pacific Islander participation with 16% in FY24, which is an increase from 10% in FY23, and only 3% in FY22, as well as only 8% of Philadelphia's racial breakdown as a whole

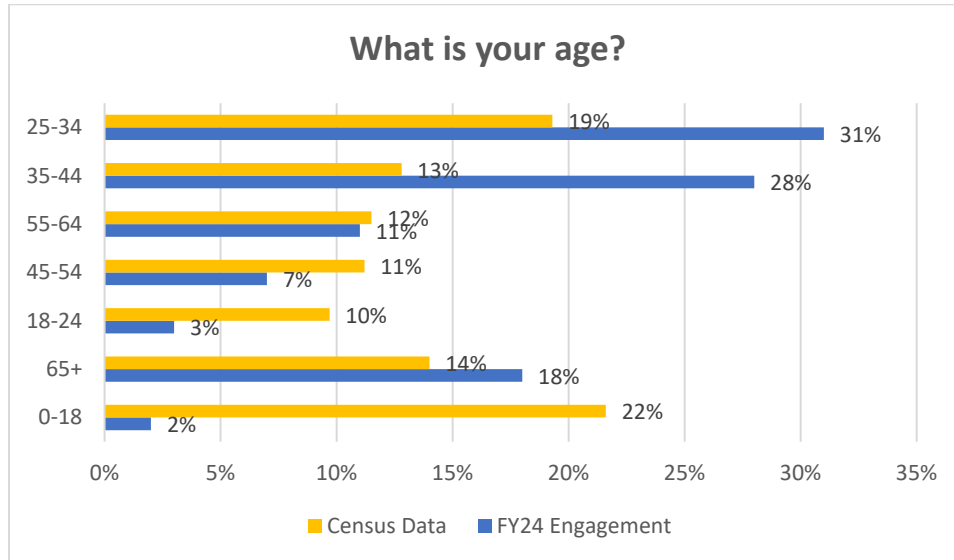
## Do you identify as Hispanic or Latinx?



### Notes

- Members in FY24 identifying as Hispanic or Latinx was very close to 2022 Census findings, and an increase in comparison to FY23 of 10% and only 6% in FY22

### What is your age?

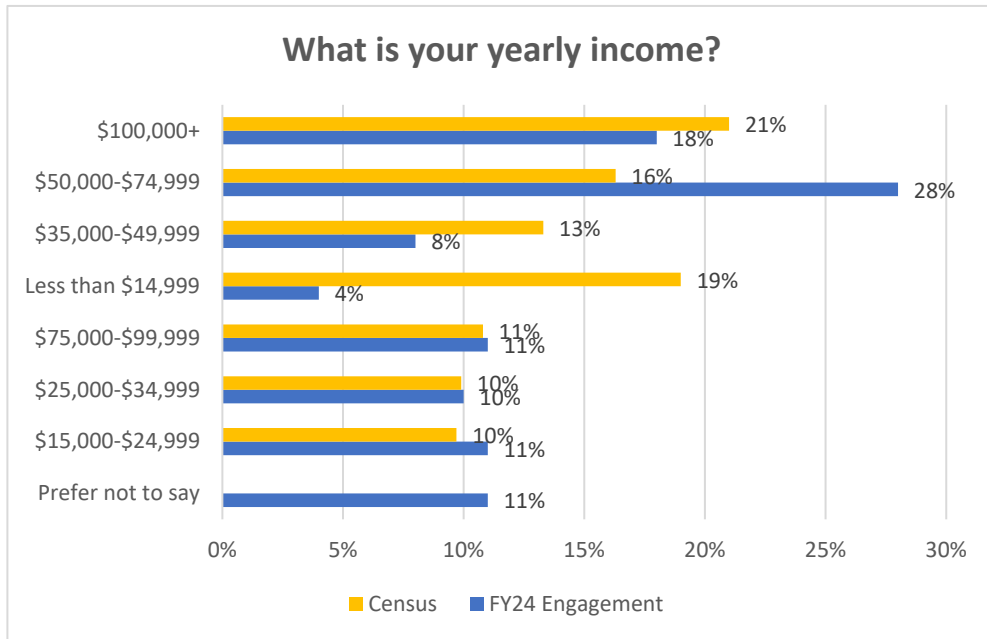


### Notes

- Significant increases in participation of 35-44 year olds with 28% and 65+ members with 18% in FY24 were apparent in comparison to FY23 with only 11% of members being between 35-44 years old, and under 5% ages 65+
- Although small this was the first time 18 and under members were participants with 2% in FY24, with none as participants in FY23 or FY22

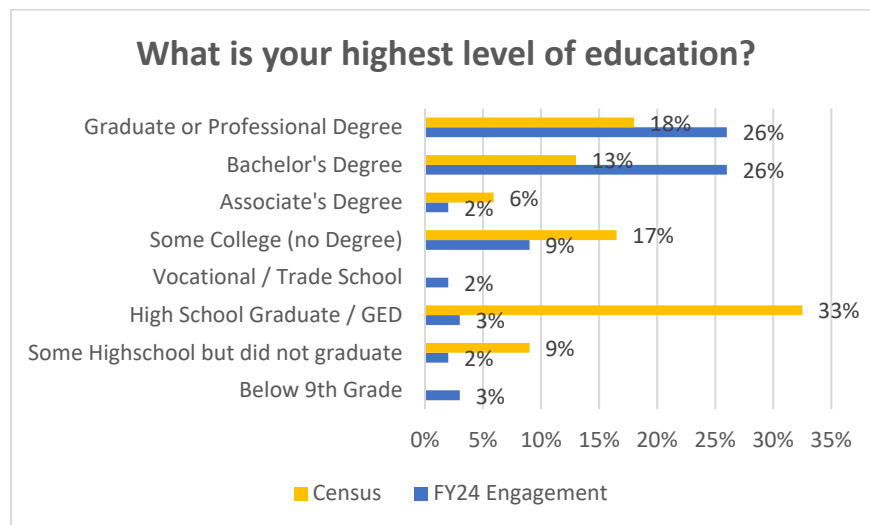
## What is your annual household income?

your  
level



What is  
highest  
of

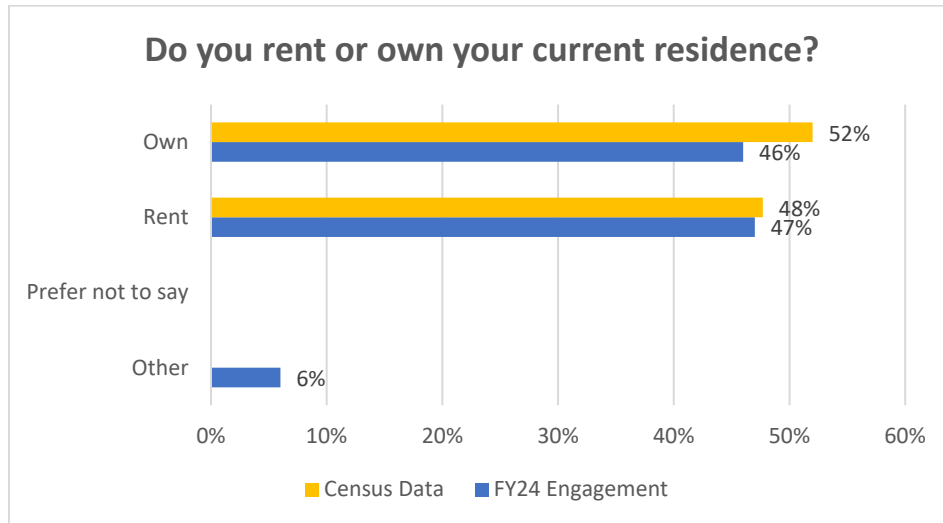
## education?



## Notes

- FY24 participants were primarily members who had completed higher levels of education in comparison to the Census findings, although this was the first year participants who had not completed High School engaged in these focus groups with 3% of members identifying as having
- 
- below a High School education

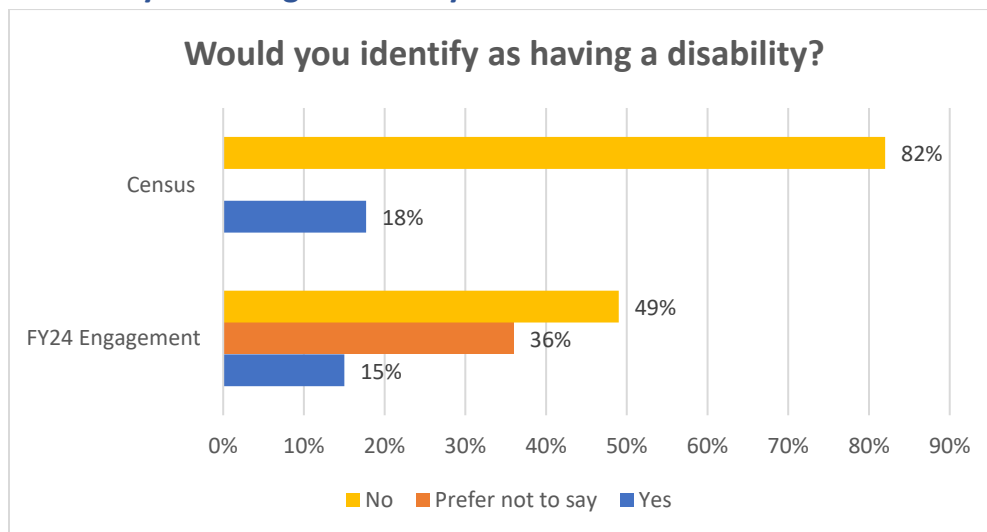
### Do you rent or own your current residence?



#### Notes

- There was a slight increase in FY24 renters of 47% compared to 41% in FY23, as well as a decrease in homeowners at 46% in FY24 compared to 49% in FY23.

### Would you identify as having a disability?



#### Notes

- There was a significant increase in members who identified as having a disability in FY24 with 15% of participants compared to 5% in FY23 and 8% in FY22. A broad range of physical, and mental health related circumstances were openly provided by participants such as use of a wheelchair, PTSD, depression/anxiety, and more.

## Appendix B

### Post Virtual Focus Group Follow Up & Feedback

#### *Post Virtual Focus Group Follow Up*

Follow up outreach was sent within 48hrs for all FY24 Virtual Community Focus group members as well as the Virtual Chinese Language Session with NEPCA to provide debriefs of their session and share presentation materials. 68% of all virtual attendees provided feedback for the FY24 Budget Community Engagement session they attended

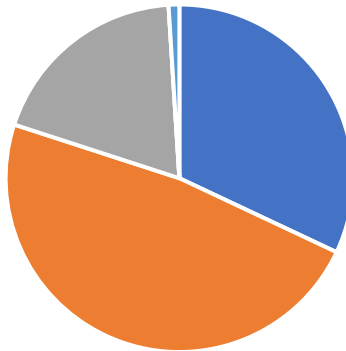
- 80% of respondent agreed or strongly agreed that they had a better understanding of the City Budget after attending the session
- 22% of respondents agreed, while 23% disagreed that the City Budget reflected their community's needs
- 39% felt that the City's Budget does not reflect residents needs across the entire city, as well as 10% strongly disagreeing with the Budget representing needs across the city, with 20% agreeing, and 5% strongly agreeing that the City Budget does reflect community needs citywide
- 33% felt their voice can affect the City Budget, with 43% neither agreeing nor disagreeing



## Budget Office

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I have a better understand of the City's Budget, and  
spending process.



■ Strongly agree-32%

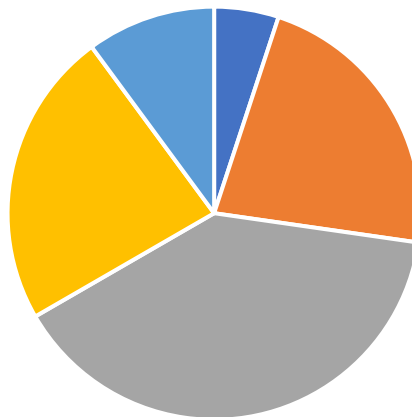
■ Agree-48%

■ Neither Agree or Disagree-19%

■ Disagree-0

■ Strongly disagree-1%

The City's Budget reflects the needs of residents within my  
community.



■ Strongly agree- 5%

■ Agree-22%

■ Neither Agree or Disagree-39%

■ Disagree-23%

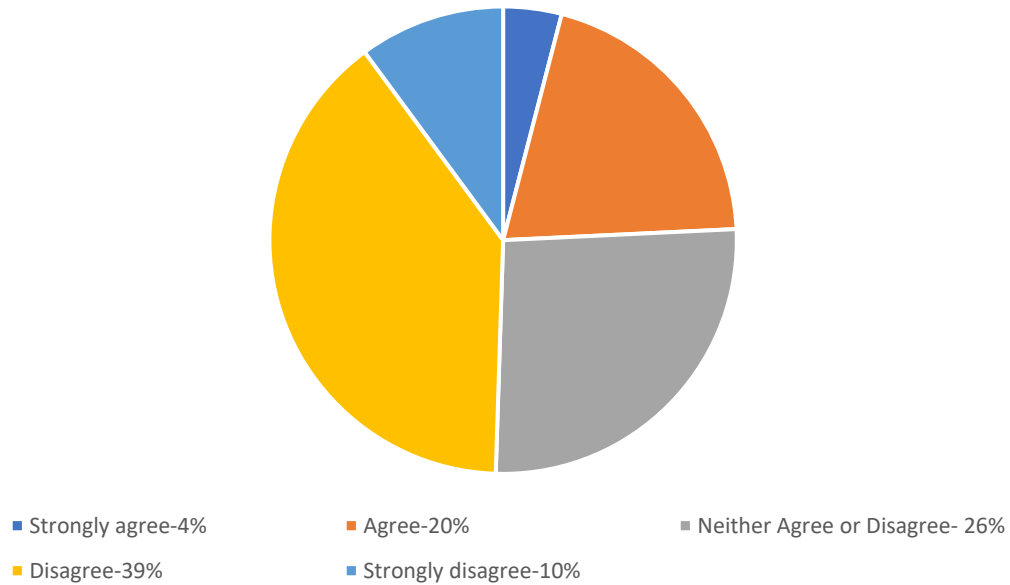
■ Strongly disagree-10%



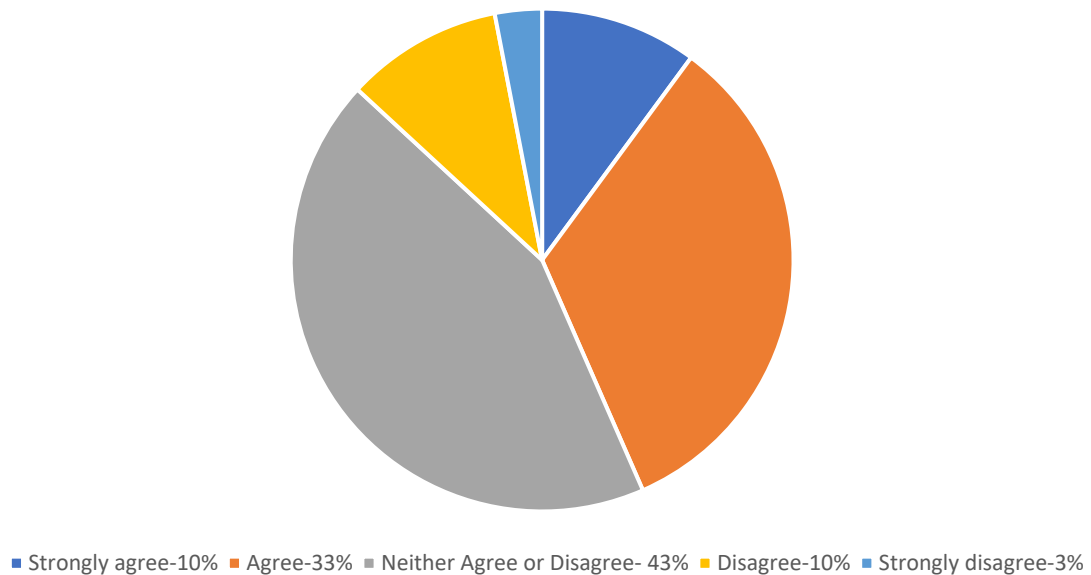
## Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

The City's Budget reflects the needs of residents across the City.



I feel like my voice that can affect how the City creates the Budget.



## Appendix C

### Session Discussion Questions & Prompts

Participants were led through a series of discussion questions, as well as an interactive word cloud activity through Slido, which prompted participants to share their priorities, preferences, and concerns for the upcoming budget cycle.

- **In your opinion, what are the most important issues Philadelphia faces right now?**
- **Please rank the following areas as most important for the City to invest in?**
  - **Education**
  - **Public Spaces & Parks**
  - **Racial Equity**
  - **Public Safety**
  - **Streets, Sanitation & Infrastructure**
  - **Arts & Culture**
  - **Other**
- **How do you feel the City can resolve our issues, concerns, and fulfill community needs?**

## Appendix D

### City Departments, RCOs & Nonprofit

Many organizations did not initially have awareness of City Budget community engagement. To assist with promotion of the Virtual Community Focus Groups and trying to build relationships to hold RCO or Nonprofit Partnered Sessions, the Budget Office worked with the Free Library, the Mayor's Office of Public Engagement and Press Office to promote outreach materials in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, and Vietnamese across all Free Library locations, and through City press releases. The Budget Office contacted 254 RCOs and 66 nonprofits.

#### *Nonprofit Partnered Sessions*

To engage communities who have historically not been involved in the City Budget development, special focus was made on non-English speaking community members, LGBTQ+, youth, and communities of color. Partner organizations assisted with outreach material promotion, providing space, or recommendations on materials, presentation requirements, and community awareness to these residents in an effective, engaging and equitable manner.

- Mann Older Adult Center
  - o In person Spanish Language Specific Session on 12/6/22
  - o 28 Participants
- NEPCA- Northeast Philadelphia Chinese Association
  - o Virtual Chinese Language Specific Session on 12/15/22
  - o 13 Participants
- Galaei
  - o In person community session on 12/16/22
  - o 5 Participants
- Welcoming Center & Association of Mexican Business Owners of Philadelphia
  - o In person Spanish Language Specific Session on 12/22/22
  - o 9 Participants

## Appendix E

### Outreach Materials Samples

#### a. English Focus Group Outreach Samples



**Budget Community Forum**

The Philadelphia Budget Office needs resident assistance to provide input before the City of Philadelphia's FY24 Budget is proposed.

**We want to hear from you**

- Thoughts on city services & programs
- Concerns, ideas with City spending
- How the City can better use funds more effectively & equitably

**REGISTER HERE**

Registration is not mandatory, but you can register through this [link](#), scan the QR code or email [budget@phila.org](mailto:budget@phila.org)

**How you can get involved**

Follow the registration links if you want to participate in our FY24 Budget Community Forum at **INSERT ORG**

This two hour session will cover how the City Budget works and give you time to ask questions and share your experiences and ideas.

**ATTEND**

- Insert Info



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# Budget Community Focus Group



The Philadelphia Budget Office needs resident assistance to provide input before the City of Philadelphia's FY24 Budget is proposed.



## We want to hear from you

- Thoughts on city services & programs
- Concerns, ideas with City spending
- How the City can better use funds more effectively & equitably

### REGISTER HERE

To register scan the QR code or Call 311 and ask for 'Community Budget Focus Group' to apply over the phone



## How you can get involved

Follow the registration links if you want to participate in our **virtual FY24 Budget Community Focus Groups**.

**Space is limited, participants will be compensated \$40 for participating in the hour and a half long sessions.**

Sessions will cover how the City Budget works and give you time to ask questions and share your experiences and ideas.

Live translation, closed captioning, and other language and accessibility accommodations will be available upon request.



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a. Spanish Focus Group Outreach Samples

# Foro comunitario para el presupuesto



La Oficina de Presupuesto de Filadelfia necesita asistencia de los residentes para proporcionar comentarios antes de proponer el presupuesto del año fiscal 2024 de la Ciudad de Filadelfia.



## Queremos escuchar su opinión

- Opiniones sobre los servicios y programas de la ciudad
- Inquietudes e ideas sobre el gasto de la Ciudad
- De qué forma la Ciudad puede usar los fondos de manera más efectiva y equitativa

### REGÍSTRESE AQUÍ

Para registrarse, utilice el enlace, escanee el código QR o (We will insert RCO & Nonprofit Information)

Insert Link & QR Code

## Cómo puede involucrarse

Siga los enlaces de registro si desea participar en nuestro Foro comunitario para el presupuesto del año fiscal 2024 virtual **(We will insert RCO & Nonprofit Information)**

Estas sesiones de una hora cubrirán la forma en que funciona el presupuesto de la ciudad y le darán tiempo para realizar preguntas y compartir sus experiencias e ideas.

### ASISTIR

Insert RCO & Nonprofit event information

- Date, time, location
- Other details



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## Grupo de enfoque comunitario para el presupuesto



La Oficina de Presupuesto de Filadelfia necesita asistencia de los residentes para proporcionar comentarios antes de proponer el presupuesto del año fiscal 2024 de la Ciudad de Filadelfia.



### Queremos escuchar su opinión

- Opiniones sobre los servicios y programas de la ciudad
- Inquietudes e ideas sobre el gasto de la Ciudad
- De qué forma la Ciudad puede usar los fondos de manera más efectiva y equitativa

### REGÍSTRESE AQUÍ

**Para registrarse, escanee el código QR o llame al 311 y pregunte por el 'Grupo de enfoque comunitario para el presupuesto' para inscribirse por teléfono.**



### Cómo puede involucrarse

Siga los enlaces de registro si desea participar en nuestros Grupos de enfoque comunitarios para el presupuesto del año fiscal 2024 virtuales.

**El espacio es limitado, y los participantes recibirán una compensación de USD 40 por participar en las sesiones de una hora y media.**

Las sesiones cubrirán la forma en que funciona el presupuesto de la ciudad y le darán tiempo para realizar preguntas y compartir sus experiencias e ideas.

Se dispondrá de traducciones en directo, subtítulos y otras funciones relacionadas con el idioma y la accesibilidad según solicitud.



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**b. Portuguese Focus Group Outreach Samples**

## Grupo focal da comunidade sobre orçamento



O Escritório de Orçamento da Filadélfia precisa da contribuição dos residentes antes que o Orçamento do Ano Fiscal 2024 da Cidade da Filadélfia seja proposto.



### Nós queremos ouvir você

- O que você acha dos serviços e programas municipais?
- Quais são as suas preocupações e ideias sobre os gastos municipais?
- Como a cidade pode usar melhor os fundos de forma mais eficaz e equitativa?

### REGISTRE-SE AQUI

Para se registrar, use o link, leia o QR code ou ligue para 311 e solicite o “Grupo Focal da Comunidade sobre Orçamento” para se inscrever por telefone



### Como você pode se envolver

Siga os links de inscrição se quiser participar de nossos grupos comunitários focais virtuais sobre o Orçamento do Ano Fiscal 2024.

**As vagas são limitadas, e quem participar receberá uma compensação de US\$40 pelas sessões de uma hora e meia.**

As sessões abordarão o funcionamento do Orçamento da Cidade e lhe darão tempo para fazer perguntas e compartilhar suas experiências e ideias.

Tradução em tempo real, legendas e outras adequações de idioma e acessibilidade estarão disponíveis mediante solicitação.



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# Fórum da Comunidade sobre Orçamento



O Escritório de Orçamento da Filadélfia precisa da contribuição dos residentes antes que o Orçamento do Ano Fiscal 2024 da Cidade da Filadélfia seja proposto.



## Nós queremos ouvir você

- O que você acha dos serviços e programas municipais?
- Quais são as suas preocupações e ideias sobre os gastos municipais?
- Como a cidade pode usar melhor os fundos de forma mais eficaz e equitativa?

## REGISTRE-SE AQUI

TPara se registrar use o link, leia o QR code ou (insert RCO or Nonprofit Info)

Insert Link & QR Code

## Como você pode se envolver

Siga os links de inscrição se quiser participar de nosso fórum virtual da comunidade sobre o Orçamento do Ano Fiscal 2024. (We will insert RCO & Nonprofit Information)

Estas sessões de uma hora abordarão como funciona o Orçamento da Cidade e lhe darão tempo para fazer perguntas e compartilhar suas experiências e ideias.

## PARTICIPE

Insert RCO & Nonprofit event information

- Date, time, location
- Other details



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c. Chinese Focus Group Outreach Samples



# 关于市政预算 的社区论坛

费城预算办公室（Philadelphia Budget Office）需要居民在费城2024财年市政预算提出之前协助提供意见和建议。



## 我们希望听到您的声音

- 对市政服务及市政项目的思考
- 对费城财政开支的关注和想法
- 市政府如何更有效、更公平地使用资金

## 如何参与

如果您希望参与有关2024财年市政预算的社区论坛在线讨论，请点击注册参与链接 with

这些讨论会将持续一小时，内容包括市政预算运行方式介绍，提问环节和经历、想法分享环节。

## 请在这里注册参与

欲注册参与，请使用链接、扫描二维码或 (We will insert RCO & Nonprofit Information)

Insert Link & QR Code

## 参与

Insert RCO & Nonprofit event information

- Date, time, location
- Other details



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# 关于市政预算的社区焦点小组讨论会

费城预算办公室（Philadelphia Budget Office）需要居民在费城2024财年市政预算提出之前协助提供意见和建议。



## 我们希望听到您的声音

- 对市政服务及市政项目的思考
- 对费城财政开支的关注和想法
- 市政府如何更有效、更公平地使用资金

## 请在这里注册参与

欲注册参与，扫描二维码或拨打311，并通过电话申请参与“关于市政预算的焦点小组讨论会”

## 如何参与

如果您希望参与有关2024财年市政预算的社区焦点小组在线讨论会，请点击注册参与链接。

参与名额有限，参与者将参加一个半小时的讨论会，并获得40美元的时间补贴。

讨论会将包括市政预算运行方式介绍，提问环节和经历、想法分享环节。

我们可以根据需求提供现场翻译、隐藏式字幕以及其他语言和无障碍协助。



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**d. Vietnamese Focus Group Outreach Samples**



## Nhóm Tập Trung Cộng Đồng Thảo Luận Về Ngân Sách

Văn Phòng Ngân Sách Philadelphia cần sự hỗ trợ từ cư dân để cung cấp thông tin đầu vào trước khi Ngân Sách FY24 của Thành Phố Philadelphia được đề xuất.

### Chúng tôi muốn lắng nghe chia sẻ của quý vị

- Suy nghĩ về các chương trình và dịch vụ của thành phố
- Các mối quan ngại hoặc ý kiến về việc chi tiêu của Thành Phố
- Thành Phố có thể sử dụng nguồn quỹ hiệu quả và công bằng hơn như thế nào

### **ĐĂNG KÝ TẠI ĐÂY**

**Để đăng ký, quét mã QR hoặc Gọi 311 và hỏi về "Nhóm Tập Trung Về Ngân Sách Cộng Đồng" để đăng ký qua điện thoại**



### Quý vị có thể tham gia như thế nào

Nhấn vào các liên kết đăng ký nếu quý vị muốn tham gia Nhóm Tập Trung Cộng Đồng Về Ngân Sách FY24 ảo của chúng tôi.

**Không gian có hạn, và người tham gia sẽ nhận được \$40 khi tham dự các phiên thảo luận kéo dài một tiếng rưỡi.**

Các phiên thảo luận sẽ đề cập đến cách thức vận hành của Ngân Sách Thành Phố và cho quý vị thời gian để đặt câu hỏi cũng như chia sẻ kinh nghiệm và ý kiến của mình.

Dịch vụ phiên dịch trực tiếp, phụ đề, các dịch vụ ngôn ngữ khác và cách hỗ trợ tiếp cận sẽ được cung cấp theo yêu cầu.



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# Diễn Đàn Cộng Đồng Về Ngân Sách



Văn Phòng Ngân Sách Philadelphia cần sự hỗ trợ từ cư dân để cung cấp thông tin đầu vào trước khi Ngân Sách FY24 của Thành Phố Philadelphia được đề xuất.



## Chúng tôi muốn lắng nghe chia sẻ của quý vị

- Suy nghĩ về các chương trình và dịch vụ của thành phố
- Các mối quan ngại hoặc ý kiến về việc chi tiêu của Thành Phố
- Thành Phố có thể sử dụng nguồn quỹ hiệu quả và công bằng hơn như thế nào

## ĐĂNG KÝ TẠI ĐÂY

Để đăng ký, hãy nhấn vào liên kết, quét mã QR hoặc (We will insert RCO & Nonprofit Information)

Insert Link & QR Code

## Quý vị có thể tham gia như thế nào

Nhấn vào các liên kết đăng ký nếu quý vị muốn tham gia Diễn Đàn Cộng Đồng Về Ngân Sách FY24 ảo của chúng tôi (We will insert RCO & Nonprofit Information)

Các phiên thảo luận kéo dài một giờ này sẽ đề cập đến cách thức vận hành của Ngân Sách Thành Phố và cho quý vị thời gian để đặt câu hỏi cũng như chia sẻ kinh nghiệm và ý kiến của mình.

## THAM DỰ

Insert RCO & Nonprofit event information

- Date, time, location
- Other details



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