CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Environmental Justice Community Dialogue Series

Summary Report May-June 2023



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Background & Purpose

In 2023, the Philadelphia Office of Sustainability and Department of Public Health kicked off a Community Dialogue Series in collaboration with the resident-led **Philadelphia Environmental Justice** Advisory Commission. The series focused on environmental justice and began in two priority communities: Grays Ferry and Strawberry Mansion. The City partnered closely with other government partners, specifically the PA Department of **Environmental Protection Office of** Environmental Justice and US Environmental Protection Agency, to design and launch the series. Additionally, the Office of Sustainability engaged Social Contract, a social impact consulting firm, to provide facilitation and meeting support.

The Office of Sustainability defines environmental justice (EJ) as

- the equitable distribution of environmental benefits (e.g., affordable utilities, transit, green space) and burdens (e.g., pollution, waste, hazards);
- redress or righting of past harmful environmental policies and practices; and
- meaningful involvement of residents-particularly those most impacted and that have been historically marginalized--in decision-making.

Grays Ferry and Strawberry Mansion were specifically chosen to participate in the series due to the measurable environmental injustices these communities experience. While government partners have access to quantitative information demonstrating these challenges, it was important to contextualize that information with meaningful community input and dialogue. Through this series, residents shared their personal stories, experiences, and concerns regarding environmental injustices they endure in their respective communities. They also envisioned what an environmentally-just community could look like and learned about resources to help communities achieve that vision.

To gather participants for these sessions, the Office of Sustainability (OOS) engaged local community organizations (such as Registered Community Organizations or RCOs), advocacy organizations, and council members in outreach efforts to community members. Fliers were created with links to Eventbrite pages to encourage pre-registration. After learning about the sessions, some local community members acted as ambassadors to encourage the participation of their neighbors. During the course of the Dialogue Series, community members shared other suggestions for outreach, including connecting to faith-based organizations and utilizing block captains.

Partner Overview

- Local Partners: Philadelphia Office of Sustainability, Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Philadelphia Environmental Justice Advisory Commission (PEJAC)
- **State Partners:** Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Office of Environmental Justice
- Federal Partners: US Environmental Protection Agency Region 3

Session Timeline/Overview

JUNE 6 STRAWBERRY MANSION LISTENING SESSION

This session was hosted virtually via Zoom. Participants were asked:

- What environmental injustices have you experienced? Especially in the context of air, land, and water concerns.
- Where do these occur?
- How are you/have you (or your family) been impacted by these environmental injustices/experiences?
- What are the community assets/strengths and where are they located?

JUNE 14 -

GRAYS FERRY VISIONING & RESOURCING SESSION

This session was hosted in person at the New Temple Baptist Church at 27th & Wharton. Participants were asked:

- To confirm or elaborate on experiences shared in Session 1.
- To share additional experiences that were not previously shared.
- Given the resources that are available, what is missing in Grays Ferry that funding could help address? What doesn't exist in the community that should?

JUNE 21 GRAYS FERRY VISIONING & RESOURCING SESSION

This session was hosted virtually via Zoom. Participants were asked

- To confirm or elaborate on experiences shared in Session 1.
- To share additional experiences that were not previously shared.
- Given the resources that are available, what is missing in Grays Ferry that funding could help address? What doesn't exist in the community that should?

MAY 31

GRAYS FERRY LISTENING SESSION

This session was hosted at the New Temple Baptist Church at 27th & Wharton. Participants were asked:

- What environmental injustices have you experienced? Especially in the context of air, land, and water concerns.
- Where do these occur?
- How are you/have you (or your family) been impacted by these environmental injustices/experiences?
- What are the community assets/strengths and where are they located?

JUNE 7

GRAYS FERRY LISTENING SESSION

This session was hosted virtually via Zoom. Participants were asked:

- What environmental injustices have you experienced? Especially in the context of air, land, and water concerns.
- Where do these occur?
- How are you/have you (or your family) been impacted by these environmental injustices/experiences?
- What are the community assets/strengths and where are they located?

JUNE 20

STRAWBERRY MANSION VISIONING & RESOURCING SESSION

This session was hosted virtually via Zoom. Participants were asked:

- To confirm or elaborate on experiences shared in Session 1.
- To share additional experiences that were not previously shared.
- Given the resources that are available, what is missing in Strawberry Mansion that funding could help address? What doesn't exist in the community that should?

Grays Ferry



Grays Ferry Experiences

Government partners hosted two community dialogue series sessions with Grays Ferry residents, then duplicated these sessions via Zoom for a virtual option. In-person sessions were held in person at the New Temple Baptist Church in Grays Ferry.

The first session centered around listening to community members share their environmental injustice experiences and identifying community assets and treasures. The second session focused on community members envisioning what an environmentally-just community would look like and learning about available resources for solutions.

In person sessions saw robust attendance; the second session saw new attendees who had not joined the first session, so facilitators ensured that those residents were able to share their environmental injustice experiences. The virtual sessions had only one to two attendees.

The following chart provides an overview of experiences shared by residents, as well as the impact of those experiences.

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

IMPACTS TO COMMUNITY

Greening

Lack of trees, low tree canopy

Potential zoning changes at community garden

Vacant lots being held by land banks/others

Green space being sold off, lack of green space

Participants noted that while more shade and tree canopy would help alleviate heat, residents are held responsible for the damage trees cause to sidewalks/buildings and that tree roots damage plumbing around the home, which residents ultimately must pay to fix. Additionally, community assets, such as gardens and other green spaces, are threatened by development.

Transportation & Walkability

Lack of public transportation, limited transit options

Unsafe public transportation

No infrastructure for bike security

Speeding along Grays Ferry Avenue

No sidewalks at intersection of Grays Ferry Ave and Washington

According to participants, bus routes 12 and 67 are essential to the community; if those routes were to be limited or changed, the community would have very little additional public transit options.

While critical bus routes exist, there are no shelters at bus stops, and the traffic on Washington Ave (where many bus stops are located) is dangerous. Additionally, recent violence has made safely accessing transit options more challenging.

Traffic along main thoroughfares in Grays Ferry is not safe for pedestrians or cyclists, due to speeding and a lack of sidewalks. There are limited spaces to secure bicycles in the community.

Grays Ferry (continued)

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

IMPACTS TO COMMUNITY

Community Programming & Cohesion

Competition for resources between communities and organizations	Residents felt that communities and organizations were being pitted against each other to compete for resources each community needs. Additionally participants noted that Grays Ferry was significantly under-resourced relative to other communities. Kids in Grays Ferry don't get similar quality schools, parks, and recreation spaces to kids in other neighborhoods. Participants shared that they feel that they are often asked to go to meeting after meeting to share their experiences, only to have nothing meaningful done to address them.			
Lack of, or disparate, community resources				
No neighborhood school, failing charter school				
Lack of kids' programming in parks				
Lack of spaces for low-income residents to go				
Sense of brokenness in the community				
Ongoing experiences without intervention or investment				
Industry				
Industrial plant pollution	Participants shared that the industrial plants around the			
Need refinery plant footprint clean up	community created air pollution and foul-smelling air Refinery pollution has led to years of illness, multiple occurrences of cancers within families, and othe diseases like asthma.			
Oil refinery pollution, explosions				
Infinity RNG project				
Public Health				
Excessive heat	Participants noted that there are no safe places to cool off, and splash zones in the community are not open enough. Multiple generations in Grays Ferry have endured recurring and debilitating diseases.			
Disparate health issues				
Multiple disease occurrences within families				
Air	Quality			
CSX train idling	Participants shared that the idling trains contributed to			
Pollution from I-76	air pollution in the community, in addition to the pollution from vehicle traffic on I-76 and nearby industrial plants.			
Industrial pollution				

Grays Ferry (continued)

Transportation & Walkability		
Sink holes appear because Grays Ferry is built on top of streams	In addition to public pedestrian challenges, C	
CSX train idling at 25th and Alter St	and air pollution, and infrastructure is dangero	
Truck/car pollution and debris next to 76	Residents are impacte	
Parking is very limited	stemming from traffic Expressway (I-76). Air p to illnesses such as asth	
Schuylkill Riverbanks Community Connector funding cut		

IMPACTS TO COMMUNITY

ic transportation, cycling, and CSX train idling causes both noise d the train yard's deteriorating ous to community members.

ed by air pollution and debris ic on and near the Schuylkill collution from car emissions leads hma.

Housing

Inability for homebound seniors to access homes/second floor

Need zoning protection for property taxes for existing residents

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

Damage to homes from new development construction

Water leaking between existing homes/new construction

Lack of quality/affordable housing

Developers (impacts of poor construction quality on community)

Residents aging in place need resources from home modification programs to improve their home's accessibility; this is especially problematic when most bathrooms are located on the second floor.

As Grays Ferry continues to attract developers, participants urged increased zoning protection to ensure affordability for residents. New development has increased damage to existing homes and roads, yielded low/poor quality new construction, and increased costs. often structural, housing Damage, from developers to existing homes is often not remediated by the developer or code enforcement, and hurts residents' property values.

Waste & Litter

Scrap yards/tire fires across Schuylkill River

Dumping

Truck/car pollution and debris next to 76

Participants stated that enforcement was needed for people who come into the community and dump in vacant lots and at dead end streets.

Food Security

Lack of fresh, nutritious food

Food insecurity, high food prices

Participants noted that food costs increased especially after SNAP benefits were reduced, and there are few places to get fresh food in the community.

Vision for an Environmentally–Just Grays Ferry

Grays Ferry residents were asked to consider how funding could help address what was missing in Grays Ferry and what doesn't exist that should. Suggestions and ideas from the community are grouped into the categories below.



Recreation

Grays Ferry should receive much needed **recreation center improvements**, as other communities do. Specifically, the recreation center located at 30th & Wharton needs improvements. Additionally, more **recreational/sports opportunities** for kids are needed, and could utilize parking/vacant lots.



Green Spaces

Community members would like to see places for the community to grow their own food/community gardens. Community members also want more green spaces to host community organized and led activities. They added that they would like to see the Myrtlewood tree plaza protected and better ivy management (which kills trees/damages canopy).



Safety/Enforcement

Generally, the community wants access to **safe housing**, **employment, recreation, and schools**. Specifically, the community wants more **drug enforcement** from police, especially around open air drug houses and landlords who permit drug activity in homes. Safety with the **CSX** train at 25th street should also be prioritized.



Senior Supports

Community members noted that there's a need for more **low income senior housing and subsidized senior living**. Funds for home modification to improve accessibility are also necessary.



Development

Grays Ferry wants to ensure more thoughtful new development in the neighborhood (not rubber stamping all new development). To address the damage that has been done already by new development, the community would like to see a **whole home repair program and street repair/repaving**. Residents also want to limit or prohibit home sale solicitations from developers.

New development in Grays Ferry has made staying in the community unaffordable; residents want to continue to raise their families in the community and would like **financial support to stay in Grays Ferry.**

Residents said **help with the land bank** was needed and suggested that the land bank should prioritize affordable housing

Lastly, residents suggested rethinking policies and regulations that make it easy for nonprofits to take over vacant properties, as they can be veiled new development efforts.

Vision for an Environmentally–Just Grays Ferry (continued)

Grays Ferry residents were asked to consider how funding could help address what was missing in Grays Ferry and what doesn't exist that should. Suggestions and ideas from the community are grouped into the categories below.



Additional Community Investments

Many residents expressed challenges with tangled titles; they requested financial and legal support programs to defray the costs associated with managing the transfer of the title and taxes.

Community members shared that they would like more quality neighborhood grocery stores/supermarkets, beyond the one main market they currently have.

Some residents shared that they would like to bring back block captains.

The community noted that they wanted opportunities to preserve community treasures, such as New Temple Baptist Church.

Lastly, community members shared that they needed more dog waste stations.

Community members expressed interest in more co-ops and community banking opportunities.



Education

Community members shared that they wanted more equitable funding for education, noting that more resources should come to the community as more development happens. They added that a neighborhood school would be valuable to the community.

Creative solutions for support could include giving college students credits for supporting seniors and the aging population.

Community members also suggested education programs around mobility and economic development, as well as how to navigate the land bank.



Community Assets

Treasured community members • Dead end/cul de sac at 25th and Alter where folks can sit and relax • Stinger Square between 32nd and Reid • Donald Finnegan Playground on 30th and Wharton • Smith Playground on 25th and Snyder • The Forgotten Bottom and bike trail on 36th and Wharton • The 7th street bridge • New Temple Baptist Church • 25th and Alter Garden • 30 plot community garden near where the dollar tree is • Neighborhood Association

Strawberry Mansion



Strawberry Mansion Experiences

Government partners hosted two community dialogue series sessions with Strawberry Mansion residents. Two sessions were held virtually. The planned in-person sessions at Mander Playground were canceled due to low registration.

The first session centered around listening to community members share their environmental injustice experiences and identifying community assets and treasures. The second session focused on community members envisioning what an environmentally-just community would look like and learning about available resources for solutions. Session attendance was less than 10 community members; government partners asked attendees how they could better engage the community in the future. Attendees noted feeling disconnected in the community and difficulty sharing information about various engagements and events. The second session saw new attendees who had not joined the first session, so facilitators ensured that those residents were able to share their environmental injustice experiences.

The following chart provides an overview of experiences shared by residents and the impact of those experiences.

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

IMPACTS TO COMMUNITY

Pocket parks and other recreational Part opportunities that the community cannot use arou

Managing tree canopy (ensuring that correct trees are being planted)

Participants noted that trees well suited for planting around sidewalks/buildings should be prioritized. Many recreational spaces, like parks, are not accessible to the community, making it challenging to organize activities for children in the community.

Community Programming & Cohesion

Gentrification

Disjointed feeling in community (largely due to land grabs)

Outsourcing work that should be happening within community

Pocket parks and other recreational opportunities that the community cannot use

Participants noted that the systems and policies enabling community demolition are shattering the fabric of the community. They added that resources to improve the community should be made accessible to Strawberry Mansion residents who are already doing community work on a volunteer basis; things like requiring nonprofit designation make accessing grant and other resources especially challenging.

that the community cannot use		
Safety		
Nuisance Businesses not being addressed	Despite numerous complaints to the City regarding nuisance businesses in Strawberry Mansion, no meaningful actions has been taken to address the issues these businesses cause, up to and including gun violence.	

Strawberry Mansion (continued)

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

IMPACTS TO COMMUNITY

Housing

Gentrification	Property ownership and community knowledge no longer passes from generation. to generation, as homes are quickly sold to developers, leveled and rebuilt, and sold to new residents. Residents who lack defined wills and estates are unable to pass their homes on to their families, and resources aren't available to untangle title issues after the fact. Landlords who convert single family homes into multifamily homes don't subsequently ensure proper trash service and maintenance of those properties, including alleyways.	
Tangled Titles		
Land grab (developers and PHA, housing theft by deception)		
Investors hold onto properties and don't keep them up/take care of them		
Placing multiple families in single family homes		
Demolition by Neglect		
Waste & Litter		
Apartment building owners allowing dumping, trash build up, no accountability	Participants felt as though there was little accountability for building owners who continue to allow dumping and excessive trash on and around their properties. In the past, two trash days were helpful, but that was cut.	
Transportation & Walkability		
Unintended consequences of policies (bike lanes resulting in less parking)	Residents used the installation of bike lanes to highlight a disconnect between those deciding on infrastructure changes and those who these decisions will impact. There isn't a discussion about community needs.	
Air Quality		
Demolition of buildings impacting the air quality	Demolition under the guise of blight remediation has led many homes to be mold infested due to water utilized in the demolition.	

Strawberry Mansion (continued)

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

IMPACTS TO COMMUNITY

Government Programs & Policies

Frustrations with L&I (lack of responsivity)

Blight bill allowed numerous buildings to be sold off to developers

Inequitable distribution of funds to community organizations fighting for EJ (funding that is reimbursable only, excluding anyone but nonprofits)

City disbanded Zero Waste & Litter Cabinet

Disinvestment in historic corridor (more tourism could provide funding to support community programs)

Parcels of land are auctioned in packages of multiple parcels, so the community can't afford to bid on/ buy them Participants shared that ongoing efforts to secure an audience with Licensing & Inspections were challenging, despite multiple attempts to connect regarding nuisance businesses in the area. They also shared that the Blight Bill enabled numerous properties to be sold off to developers; 800 parcels were taken away, resulting in diminished property ownership for the residents of Strawberry Mansion.

Additionally, funding for EJ efforts have consistently failed in the past. One resident noted that when she searched for funding to support their work, they could only access reimbursements. She points out that this creates significant barriers for grassroots and smaller, local organizations. At the same time, larger, corporate, and other outside organizations receive direct funds as opposed to reimbursable funding. This exemplified the distrust and ongoing discrimination that funding systems embody.

Vision for an Environmentally Just Strawberry Mansion

Strawberry Mansion residents were asked to consider how funding could help address what was missing in Strawberry Mansion and what doesn't exist that should. Suggestions and ideas from the community are grouped into the categories below.



Recreation

Participants suggested utilizing vacant lots to host various types of **fitness classes** for the community.

Participants also noted that there weren't many **sports leagues** available for kids in the community, and adding leagues with **uniforms** would provide a good opportunity for youth and contribute to community unity & identity.

Community members also suggested that **community gardens** and **community walks** would be good additions to Strawberry Mansion.



Enforcement

Participants proposed the creation of jobs as **community ambassadors** who would identify individuals who don't adhere to rules/norms within the community and act as a link between government actors and enforcement agencies.

Others suggested a **government funded & monitored home security camera program** for community members to enhance security and safety, similar to a neighborhood watch program.

Lastly, participants suggested uniform-looking trash cans and a program to enforce regulations for renters to ensure proper waste management.



Education

Participants pointed to education as a way to mitigate challenges and meet community needs. Program suggestions included a **door-todoor educational initiative which would help residents identify risky behaviors related to trash disposal**, property equity, and violence.

Community members also suggested a **"fact vs. fiction"** education program to help folks understand alleyway clean-up responsibilities.

Lastly, participants recommended programs geared toward **proper trash disposal education**, including harms associated with improper disposal and water system maintenance, **for multifamily units/landlords**.

Vision for an Environmentally Just Strawberry Mansion (continued)



Additional Community Needs

Participants noted that **funding** eligibility for programs operated by for-profit organizations was critical.

They added that more **information sharing around permits for community events** would be welcomed, and that **funding for multiorganization events** would help promote collaboration and strengthen community connections.

Funding support for administrative tasks related to community programming would alleviate the workload of community members and organizations.



Resource Access

During a grant access follow up meeting, residents provided suggestions for improving accessibility to environmental justice funds.

Residents suggested eliminating the 501c3 status requirement. They added that asking for prior financial information, age, and capacity requirements restricted access for many well positioned organizations.

Restrictions for small grant opportunities are especially difficult, as disadvantaged **communities don't need to compete for small amounts of money**. Community members and organizations asked for **opportunities to apply for larger grants and operational support.** Organizations asked what opportunities for **fiscal sponsorship** were available, or for more to be made available.

Other organizations recommended more **inclusion and connection to faith-based organizations.**

Some community members noted that some reimbursable grants offer up to 40% **funding advance upfront**, based on an estimation of what might be needed to help get projects off the ground with small organizations.

Community members asked for more information to get access to **funding opportunities for entities that identify as a corporation.**

Community Assets

Multigenerational families • The land and deeds community members hold • Strawberry Mansion Bridge • Beautiful churches still functioning as spiritual and community places (2509 N 30th Street- holds community meetings still) • Smith Playground • Hatfield House- Juneteenth • Stories of generations (want to memorialize stories about the neighborhood) • Quality transportation (after battle to keep 33) • History (Vernon Marks)- share the history of people who salvaged community (mural 27/28th and Diamond) • East Fairmount Park Coalition • Preservation of several community blocks • Rowhouse

Community Resources



Community Resources

Housing Resources

PHDC First Housing Fair

This event is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 10 AM – 3 PM at the Temple University Aramark Student Training and Recreation (STAR) Complex located at 1816 N 15th St. The fair will provide resources for current homeowners, small landlords, first-time home buyers, renters, landlords and others who are interested in learning more about homeownership, maintaining a home, repairing your home, development opportunities, and more. RSVP here: <u>https://tinyurl.com/PHDC-Housing-Fair</u>.

Whole-Home Repairs Programs

The City of Philadelphia Housing Benefits Tool (<u>https://dpdhousingbenefits.phdcphila.org/#/</u>) is the best starting place to determine which of the City's housing programs you may be eligible for.

- PHDC's Basic Systems Repair Program (BSRP) provides free repairs to correct electrical, plumbing, heating, limited structural and carpentry, and roofing emergencies in eligible owner-occupied homes in Philadelphia. See the Basic Systems Repair flyer in English and Spanish (<u>https://phdcphila.org/residents-and-landlords/home-repair-and-improvements/basic-systems-repair-program/</u>) for more information.
- PHDC's Adaptive Modifications Program (AMP) is designed to help low-income individuals with
 permanent physical disabilities live more independently in their homes. It provides free adaptations to a
 house or an apartment, allowing easier access to and mobility within the home. See the AMP flyer in
 English and Spanish for more information (<u>https://phdcphila.org/residents-and-landlords/home-repairand-improvements/adaptive-modifications-program/</u>).
- PEA's Built to Last Program (BTL) is a platform for programs that provide low-income housing
 intervention services to deploy their services collaboratively. Partners deliver services needed for a
 comprehensive home restoration, including health, safety, pest management, basic home repairs, site or
 structural work, exterior lighting and security, energy efficiency, electrification and solar where
 appropriate. More information on Built to Last can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/Built-to-Last

Other Resources

Philadelphia Clean & Green Resident Resource Guide (<u>https://hinge-collective.com/resources</u>)

This guide includes resources offered from government and non-profit partners to benefit your home and neighborhood including: planting and caring for trees and gardens; keeping neighborhood and block clean; preserving and maintaining green space; growing food in your neighborhood; and more!

Extreme Heat Guide (<u>https://www.phila.gov/guides/extreme-heat-guide/</u>)

Grant & Financial Assistance

Community Resilience & Environmental Justice Fund (CREJ) (<u>https://philacityfund.org/crej-fund/</u>) This fund disburses \$10,000 grants to community serving organizations working to ensure that all Philadelphia residents have a livable community, free of environmental toxins and hazards. The 2023 funding opportunity has closed, but this will be a recurring annual opportunity through at least 2028.

Community Resources (continued)

Grant and Financial Assistance (continued)

LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

LIHEAP provides financial heating assistance to qualified households in the form of a CASH or CRISIS grant. The assistance is available to help customers that are at or below 150% of the federal poverty income guidelines and demonstrate a heating burden. The CASH grant is a one-time direct payment sent to your utility or fuel provider like PECO to be credited to your bill. The CRISIS grant is a direct payment for households experiencing a heating emergency. All requests must be made by the customer to the local county assistance office (<u>https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/CAO-Contact.aspx</u>). Applications will be open November 1, 2023 to April 5, 2024.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem (EJCPS) Solving Grants (<u>https://tinyurl.com/EJCPS-Grants</u>)

EJCPS provides financial assistance to eligible organizations working to address local environmental or public health issues in their communities. The program assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses and industry, local government, medical service providers, academia, etc.) to develop solutions to environmental or public health issue(s) at the community level. The 2023 funding opportunity has closed but will open again in 2024.

Community Change Grants (<u>https://tinyurl.com/Community-Change-Grants</u>)

This grant supports environmental and climate justice activities that benefit disadvantaged communities. Eligible projects include but are not limited to climate resiliency and adaptation; mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands and extreme heat; community-led air and other (including water and waste) pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation; investments in low- and zero-emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure; workforce development that supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants; reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution; facilitating the engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rule makings, and other public processes. This funding opportunity will open Fall 2023.

Food Justice Initiative (<u>http://www.reinvestment.com/grants/phl-food-justice-initiative/</u>)

The Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative (PFJI) empowers communities to exercise their right to grow, sell and eat healthy food. PFJI is a partnership of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health's Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) and Reinvestment Fund. PFJI provides funding for innovative, community-led projects that work to further food justice. PFJI prioritizes projects led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, immigrants and people living with disabilities, and those with lived experience with health injustice. PFJI supports projects that offer fair compensation to staff and partners. Applications are closed for 2023, and will reopen in 2024.

Community Resources (continued)

Grant & Financial Assistance (continued)

Public Space Enhancement Mini-Grants (<u>https://feetfirstphilly.org/public-space-enhancement-minigrant/</u>)

The mini-grant program has a funding focus on supporting communities that historically have had less investment (or active disinvestment) in the built environment and city services. Feet First Philly seeks projects that improve walkability by making neighborhoods safer and easier to walk and roll in. The program has supported many different types of projects over the past few years, based on the belief that residents know their community best and are the best advocates to identify and carry out public space improvements. This program is partially funded by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and grants range from \$500 to \$2000. Applications are closed for 2023, and will reopen in fall of 2024.

Reporting

Philly311

The Philly311 (https://www.phila.gov/departments/philly311/) contact center is Philadelphia's customer service center for non-emergency inquiries. Residents can report potholes or other street damage and illegal dumping to Philly311. Highway debris should be reported as illegal dumping. See these tips for submitting service requests: https://www.phila.gov/2021-09-16-4-tips-for-submitting-a-service-request-to-philly311/.

Health Department EJ Hotline

If you believe there is an environmental or health hazard in your community, you can report it for investigation by the Department of Public Health by emailing <u>EJcomplaints@phila.gov</u>. Be prepared to provide the location and description of the hazard.

Industrial Noise and Pollution

You can report air and noise pollution from commercial and industrial sources by contacting Air Management Services by calling the complaint line at (215) 685-7580 or emailing <u>dphams_service_requests@phila.gov</u>. Complaints are investigated the same day they are received. To report complaints of noise from individuals or residential sources, call 911 or contact your local police district.

Key Updates

Philly Tree Plan (https://www.phila.gov/documents/urban-forest-strategic-plan/)

This Plan released in 2023 is the city's first-ever urban forest strategic plan. The Department of Parks and Recreation along with City and non-governmental partners applied for and on September 14, 2023 received \$12 million dollars in federal funding to implement the plan.

Stay In Touch

THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
OFFICE OF

SUSTAINABILITY

Philadelphia Environmental Justice Advisory Commission







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Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Office of Environmental Justice <u>RA-EPOEJ@pa.gov</u>

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