

## OPEN HOUSE MEETING SUMMARY

### Far East Community Area Community Meeting #1

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022

**Time:** 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**Location:** District Two Senior Center – 1751 S WW White Rd.

**Attendees:** 33 members of the public + Planning Staff and Consultant Team

#### Planning Staff & Consultant Team

Dave Powell, Project Manager / Senior Planner

Bridgett White, AICP, Director

Chris Ryerson, AICP, Planning Administrator

Channary Gould, Planning Coordinator

Sarah Serpas, AICP, Senior Planner

Ana Villarreal, Senior Planner

Jacob Howard, Senior Planner

Iris Gonzalez, Special Project Manager

Joyce Palmer, Senior Planner

Sidra Schimelpfening, Senior Planner

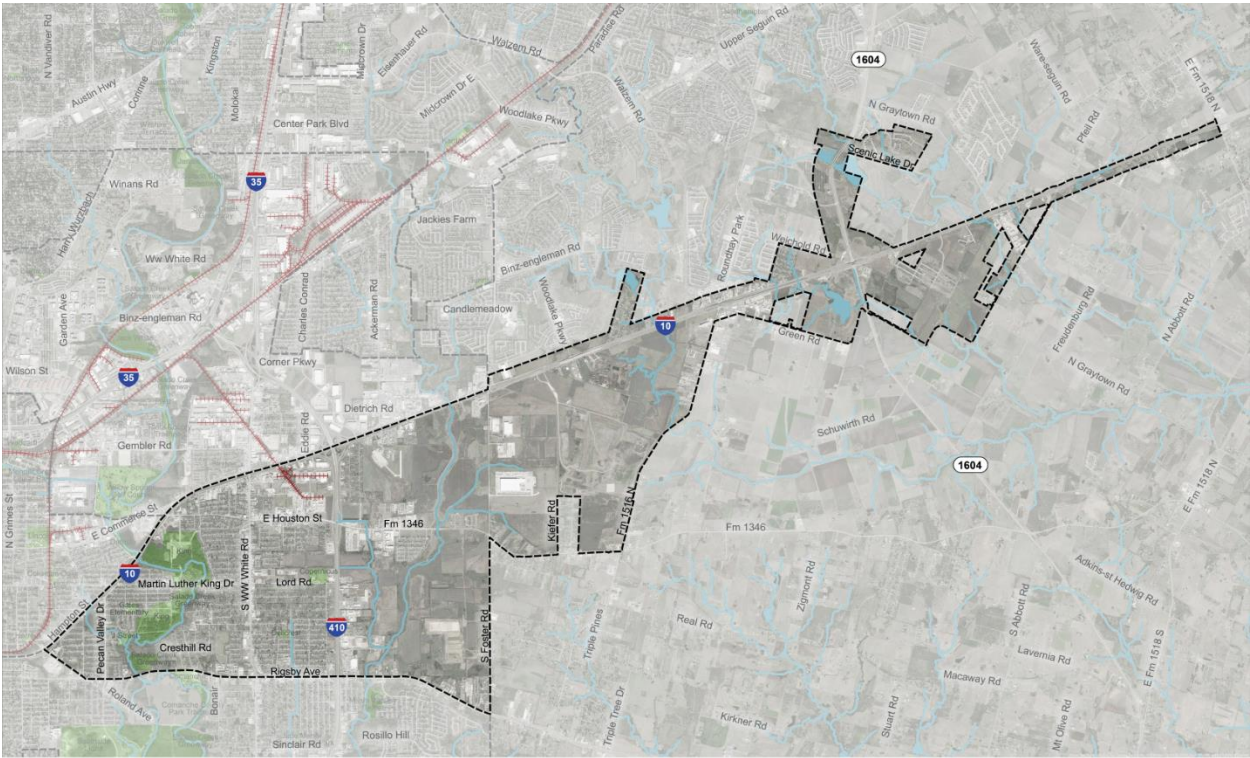
Gretchen Roufs, AMS

Krystin Ramirez, MIG

#### Background: Far East Community Area Plan

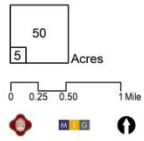
The SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan identifies 30 sub areas that make up the entire city. As part of implementation of the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan, 13 Regional Center Plans and 17 Community Area plans will be developed over 5 phases. Far East Community Area Plan is among the Phase 3 plans which also include; the Ft. Sam Houston Area Regional Center, Greater Airport Area Regional Center, the Rolling Oaks Area Regional Center, the Stone Oak Area Regional Center, and the South Community Area. Each plan is being developed by a team of local stakeholders, neighborhood leaders, and city departments. The process is generally 18-24 months from the start date to adoption by city council. The plan will feature specific recommendations and strategies for several plan elements including: Land Use, Mobility, Economic Development, Amenities and Public Spaces, Housing, and Neighborhood Priorities.

The Far East Community Area Plan is bounded by IH-10 to the north, the ending of the city's jurisdiction to the east, Rigsby Dr. (SH-87) for the south border, then where IH-10 and Roland Rd meet to the west. This area includes Martindale Army Airfield, Salado Creek greenway, industrial areas such as H-E-B and Amazon centers, District Two Senior Center, major transportation corridors (IH-10, IH-410, SH-87, WW White Rd.), one registered HOA, Quiet Creek HOA, and six registered neighborhood associations: Dellcrest Area, Eastgate, Eastwood Village, Hein-Orchard, Royal View, and Wheatley Heights Action Group.



**STUDY AREA**

- Community Plan Area Boundary
- Adjacent Regional Center or Community Area
- Public or Private Park or Open Space
- River or Stream
- Railroad Line



**Meeting Objectives:**

The purpose of the first Community Meeting was to gather input from the public, to begin the development of the community’s vision for the plan area. Several engagement activities, facilitated by Planning staff, were available for participants to record their feedback. The project manager was also conversing with attendees, at various stations, throughout the meeting.

**Meeting Format**

The meeting was designed entirely as an open-house. At the entrance to the conference room, a sign-in table was set up where attendees were encouraged to sign in and sign up for updates related to future public meetings, as well as general infographics related to the plan area and the SA Tomorrow planning process. The space was also organized with stations to collect input and ideas, from the attendees, for the future of the area.

There were five (5) total stations at this meeting, which are detailed below:

- Vision Board
- Equity Maps
- Demographic Boards and Existing Land Use Map
- Survey Station
- Big Idea Station



**Vision Board**

A visioning station was set up for participants to write down what they enjoy, what’s missing, or what they would like to change about the area. Stock images of development types, land uses, and amenities were provided to help participants illustrate their ideas. Attendees were encouraged by staff to write their feedback on paper and attach their responses to the board.

A transcription of all comments received on the vision board is at the end of this document.



**Equity Maps**

As part of the City of San Antonio’s commitment to equity, the Planning department is incorporating Equity studies into the plan. Maps of the entire city were displayed and highlighted the sub area’s equity score, access to grocery stores, employment, and access to Parks and Recreation options.

Staff explained how through Equity Mapping, the planning team and staff can begin to identify underserved areas, and ultimately develop recommendations and strategies to address inequities within the plan boundary.

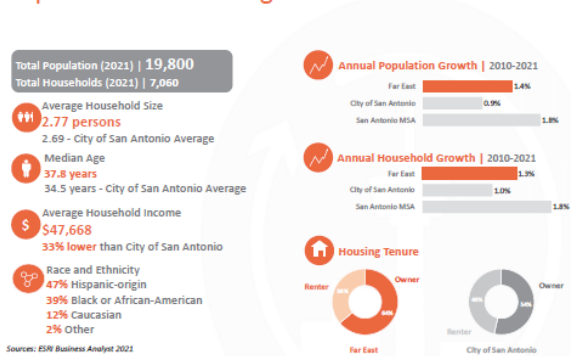




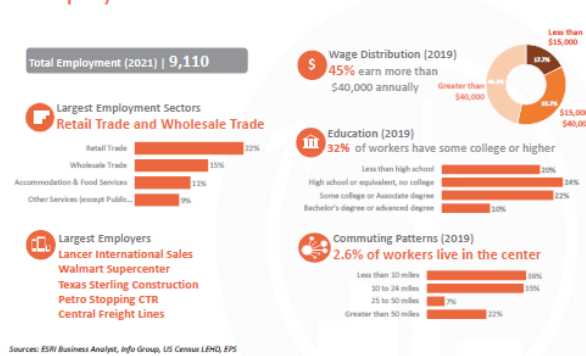
## Demographic Boards and Current Land Use Maps

The next station had two infographics that showed employment, population, and housing data along with a current land use map to show the amount of industrial space in the area. The data included the total population, housing and household growth.

### Population and Housing



### Employment



## Survey Station

A table was organized with several iPads for attendees to complete the online survey through the Far East Area Website: <https://saspeakup.com/fareast-plan-survey>



The survey asked respondents to provide their answers to the following questions: “What do you like most about this area?”, “What is missing from this area?”, “What would you change about the community so that it attracts future generations?”, “What is your vision of what are your ‘big ideas’ for the future of the area?” Additional, optional, questions asked participants how long they’ve lived in the area, as well as their neighborhood.

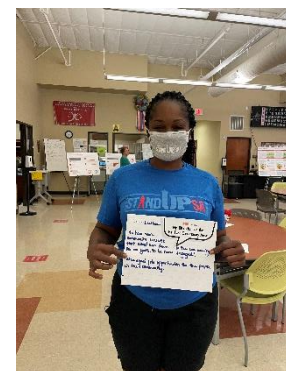
The survey closed on July 10<sup>th</sup>

<https://saspeakup.com/fareast-plan-survey>

### Big Idea

The final station asked participants to write down their “big idea” for the future of the area. The responses were intended to provide broad direction for what the future of the Far East Area could look like in the future.

Scans of all the “big idea” comments received at the meeting are presented at the end of this document.



## Next Steps

Staff will review feedback from the community meeting and the survey results (after the survey closes) to develop the draft vision and goals before being reviewed and discussed by the Planning Team at the next Planning Team meeting.

**Planning Team Meeting #2:** Monday, July 18, 2022 via Zoom 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

**Project Manager:** David Powell, City of San Antonio Planning Department

**Emails:** [david.powell@sanantonio.gov](mailto:david.powell@sanantonio.gov)

**Phone:** 210.207.0244

## APPENDIX

- I. Transcription of all comments received at Vision Board Station
- II. Scans of all Big Idea Station Responses
- III. Vision Board Exercise Photos

### I. Transcription of all comments received at Vision Board Station

#### What do you like about this area?

1. "The availability of a few parks. Convenient to most neighborhoods"
2. "Senior Center! (However, there is demand for more space for the Senior Center, more opportunities to workout)"
3. "Parks! (well maintained and safe)"
4. "Lighting and maintenance of bridge by East Police Precinct at ATT Center"
5. "I like the greenery around"
6. "I like single-family residences and open spaces where children can play safely"
7. "My neighbors who care and share"
8. "Access to shops and bus"
9. "The opportunity for growth!"
10. "There's room for more residential, retail, community gardens and parks, etc."
11. "The community feel"
12. "My friends and family"
13. "It's familiar"
14. "Location"

#### What is missing from this area?

1. "There's room for more residential, retail, community gardens and parks, etc."
2. "More retail stores and shopping stores"
3. "Marriott, Hilton, reputable new motels"
4. "'Pearl' with farmers market, restaurants, mixed-use, quality experience"



5. "Commercial amenities like Guilds"
6. "Medical – specialty medical for example dermatology, orthopedic, physical therapy"
7. "Computer technology jobs, cyber security, executive"
8. "Place for younger people to go, youth resource center -> not just for crisis but a resource center for all community members"
9. "Shopping center (smaller scale)"
10. "Nice restaurants"
11. "Park and ride to Spurs games at ATT Center!"
12. "Improved and quality grocery stores (including improvements to H.E.B.)"
13. "Amenities closely because many Seniors don't want to/feel comfortable driving faraway"
14. "Where are the worthwhile attractions into the area, during Fiesta, Rodeo and other major events, there should be expansion into the Far East also!"
15. "Sidewalks and curbs. Some parts are 80+ years old and still waiting"
16. "Stray dogs. I called Animal Control, they told me to call the Police. The Police told me to call Animal Control."
17. "Homelessness. Is an issue that will require the attention of all residents; SAHA/BCHA are failing Seniors, cut funding to the slumlords that are ungraciously feeding on seniors and families. Roseville Apartments"
18. "On the west side of Rosillo Creek is overgrown. The streets have trees growing in them."
19. "Need a stand alone District Two Senior Center with plenty of parking and in house swimming pool and movie venue"
20. "Sidewalks needed"
21. "Traffic into area demands adequate lighting and realistic (speed bumps/cameras) and additional means of slowing people down!"
22. "Farmers market/vendors staging area (like at the Pearl)"
23. "Outdoor gathering places with shade and lighting"
24. "Better grocery stores"
25. "Activity centers for youth"
26. "Local college, adult education Pre-K 4 S.A."
27. "Everything is missing"
28. "Tennis courts, community sports complex"
29. "Swimming pool"
30. "Ross, Marshall's, wellness center, high end massage/spa, movie venue/bowling, entertainment, mini-golf"
31. "Retail, commercial opportunities (no furniture (stores), would like Discount Tire)"
32. "Sit-down restaurant (Chili's, etc.)"
33. "H.E.B. full size (existing one needs renovation/enlargement), Walmart grocery (quality), need Central Market, Whole Foods, Sun Harvest, Trader Joe's"
34. "Community services for non-English speakers, homeless/housing childcare services (pre-k), VIA transportation"
35. "Park similar to Hardberger Park"



36. "Senior housing, lack of ADA-approved housing, infrastructure to accommodate wheelchairs, mobility issues"
37. "Bike trails, better lighting, equestrian areas"
38. "More bus routes into city will benefit business growth and job maintenance"
39. "Less on the spread of industry and issues that each bring, CPS Hub/Saws district, - oil refineries are cropping up like weeds; whereas, there is not a corresponding increase in jobs for area residents nor area improvements (strip malls)"
40. "Safe designated space for electric wheelchairs to travel along WW White to Businesses like stores and restaurants"
41. "Managing growth and putting it where is appropriate"
42. "Spread huge apartment complexes out more to not overwhelm the neighborhoods"
43. "Also, better energy plans with updated equip on plans that can take affect immediately with rising costs can fund to balance out. Budget to be able to withstand any programs"
44. "This area is long overdue for a large H.E.B., one that will carry fresh fruits and in-demand items. The people on the east need to be provided and afforded an H.E.B. like those on the northside"
45. "American food restaurant"
46. "Sidewalks, curves, and drainage (maintenance)"
47. "Mall and hospital needed in the area. Walzem Park closed 10 years ago"
48. "Fix-up/expand Copernicus Park and community center. Shaded splash pad with water fountains"
49. "Area hospital to where residents don't have to spend 2 ½ hours on the bus we have enough "clinics""
50. "Comanche Park? Needs maintenance, better roof, restrooms"
51. "Addition of a TIRZ to cover areas inbetween IH-10 and IH-410 S spanning from E Houston and Rigsby Ave."
52. "Park improvements (aesthetics) Copernicus, as largest regional park desires greater city presence and beautification. Additional small parks should facilitate the elderly and desired"
53. "Heavy traffic throughout region is accelerating in the destruction of roads throughout area. Are these large corporations (HEB, Amazon, Fider, UPS, Saws, CPS, etc.) helping with the costs of maintaining these roads? Do they know (and care) about these focused meetings?"
54. "Parked cars (not working)."
55. "More lights on WW White Rd. It's road to get out of the subdivisions"
56. "Nice restaurants"
57. "Real help and support"
58. "Trauma informed care"



**What should change about this area?**

1. "Stop going up on property taxes a lot of people are on fix incomes"
2. "Flood area owned by the city off of Brooksdale needs lots updated for soccer and football activity. J Street park updated. Pecan Valley repaved from MLK to Rigsby"
3. "New employers should hire local, neighborhoods. Neighborhood preference"
4. "Homeownership, focus on keeping existing community"
5. "Better communication about community events/meetings, brush pick up, better way"
6. "Need bus stop (to include): covers and benches"
7. "More bike trails other than Salado Creek"
8. "More community parks not located directly on the East, but Far East"
9. "An ability to get from the East to the Far East via bicycles"
10. "No commercial vehicles or large trucks on neighborhood streets. Our street is for residential not commercial"
11. "What I don't want: trash, apartments, highways"
12. "I would like a nicer walking/picnic area maybe a dog park since we are way overdo"
13. "Better quality daycare for kids that are affordable"
14. "Homeless over run. Neighborhoods"
15. "More options to commute through city parks that connect from landmark to landmark"
16. "All communities need speed bumps"
17. "More companies that offer opportunity for employment"
18. "Local homeless care facility (Haven 4 Hope is too far to walk). Multi-lingual office for city services"
19. "Add aesthetically pleasing additions to our existing parks"
20. "Better maintenance of alleys. Trimming of trees"
21. "Astonia Dr. Eastwood and Upland, and WW White Rd. and Lakewood all need street drainage improvements. Too much speeding"
22. "Cold drinking water and AC (too hot!)"
23. "Better representation, less crime, more activities for kids and youth"
24. "Bigger H.E.B. economic development. Better stores, restaurants. Keep funding in the area and draw funds (money) in"
25. "Redevelop old WW White Elementary School (empty/vacant)"
26. "Over policing"
27. "More reliable resources"
28. "Better quality of stores in our community"
29. "The abandonment of the community"
30. "WW White a lot of vehicle accidents and traffic conflicts (blocking the left lane). Car repair shops."
31. "More sidewalks, curbs (complete networks)"
32. "Stray animals (too many running around)"
33. "Allow less pawn shops, liquor stores and unattractive car repair shops. Bring more diverse businesses"
34. "Bring swimming pools to be available for seniors without traveling to far"
35. "Aesthetics (ex. Tire shops (too many/too much industrial))"





- 36. "Too many eyesores (old buildings, repair shops)
- 37. "Better transitions between (land) uses"

II. BIG IDEA STATION RESPONSES

Name:

**Dellcrest Park needs shade trees + shading for kids and parents.**

**VIA Bus Stops need shade.**



My BIG idea for the Far East Community Area:

Name:

**Safer bike lanes w/ lights,**

**Rice + Diane St. find a permanent solution for re-appearing potholes, flooding, standing water and fix sidewalks.**



My BIG idea for the Far East Community Area:




Name:

  
 My BIG idea for the  
 Far East Community Area:

More Street  
 lights on FM 1346 between  
 1516 and Foster Rd. and  
 should be 4 lanes. More  
 investment in the area.

Name:

  
 My BIG idea for the  
 Far East Community Area:

To see inclusion and diversity at its finest.  
 For there to be equal access. (access to housing, retail, grocery)  
 Better lighting and better streets (bond)  
 Extensive bike trails and community parks.



Name: EDWARD



My BIG idea for the Far East Community Area:

HOW ABOUT A NICE SHOPPING MALL (NOT ANOTHER STRIP MALL AND IMPROVED ROADS LEADING TO AND THROUGH OUR BEAUTIFUL AREA THAT IS DUE FOR (LONG OVERDUE FOR) A BEAUTIFICATION

Name:

Economic Development



My BIG idea for the Far East Community Area:

Interested in restaurants, eateries, recreational venues, things for enjoyment for our citizenry. Answers on industrial venues going up everywhere, no more... What about the 'SPURS' venue? Is it to stay in our District? Build it up then...



Nombre:



Mi idea PRINCIPAL para el  
Área Comunitaria Far East

BETTER STREET & more side  
walks to walking instead  
of walking streets so you don't  
get hit by cars  
more lights on streets

Name:




My BIG idea for the  
Far East Community Area:

Better  
lighting

More development similar  
to what has been done  
on Military Drive. No  
more liquor stores. How  
about retail, Movie theatre  
Like the one coming to  
S. Side. We need a hospital.




Name:

  
 My BIG idea for the  
 Far East Community Area:

A new  
 HEB Plus!  
 Greenspace in my neighborhood! Eastgate  
 NO hotel for homeless!

Name: J. Williams

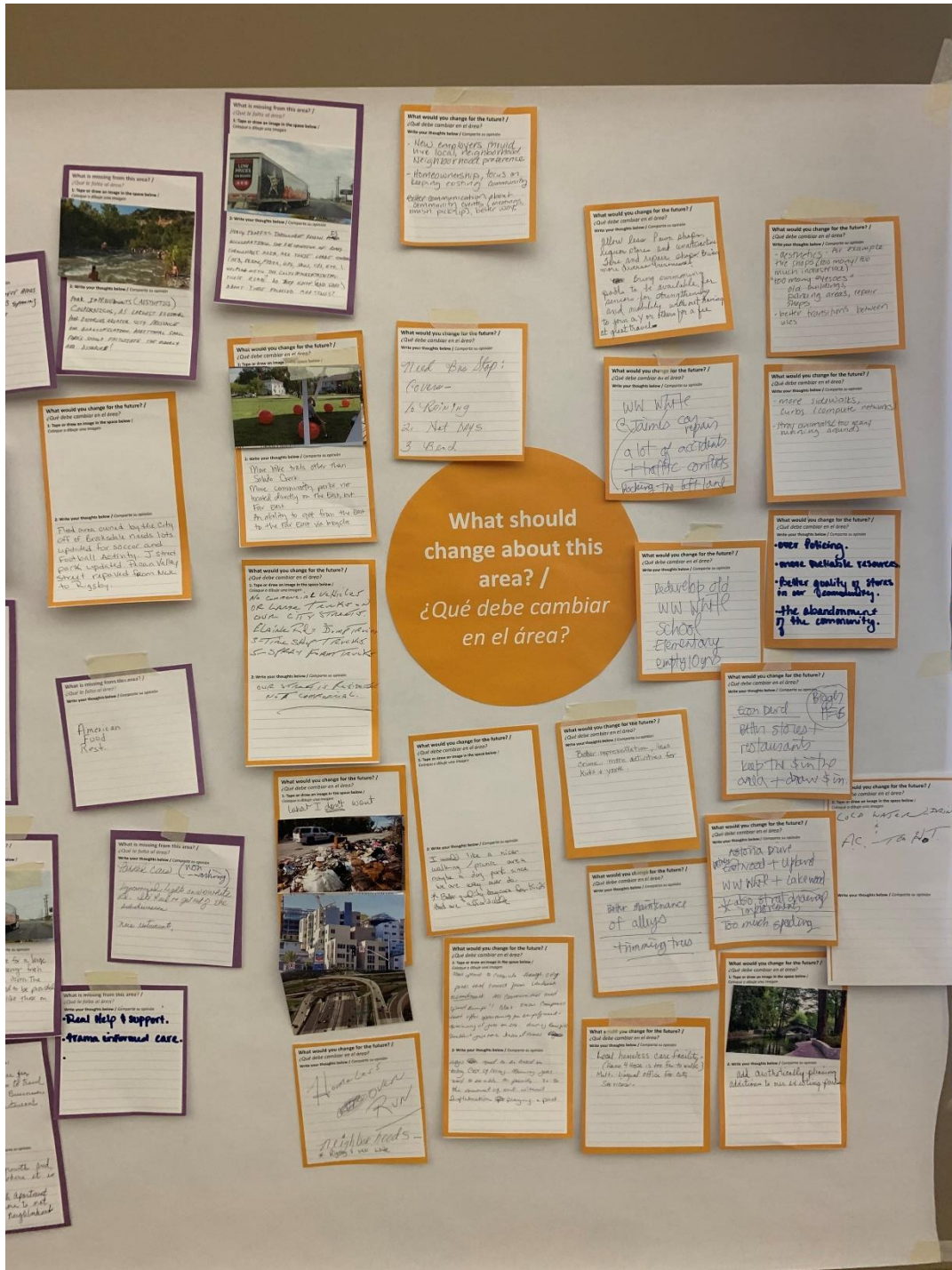
  
 My BIG idea for the  
 Far East Community Area:

to have more  
 community centers  
 that are ran down in the community  
 for our youth. to be more engaged!  
  
 Also. equal job opportunities for the people  
 in the community.





IV. Vision Board Exercise



### What is missing in this area? / ¿Qué le falta al área?

*Examples of handwritten notes:*

- Manat Hills, repatriate, new markets, speciality shops, restaurants, market, use, quality, experiential, amenities, live, build's
- Medical, speciality medical, diagnostic, technology, therapeutic, physical therapy
- Comanche Park SECAP? Needs multi-purpose with roof, rainwater
- Fix up/extend Copernicus Park + community center with splash pad
- Need a stand alone District Senior Center with plenty of parking + increase swimming pool + more vehicles
- Need a stand alone District Senior Center with plenty of parking + increase swimming pool + more vehicles
- Need a stand alone District Senior Center with plenty of parking + increase swimming pool + more vehicles





# FAR EAST COMMUNITY AREA PLAN

Community Meeting #1 | June 21st


What do you like about this area? / ¿Qué te gusta del área?  
 Write your thoughts below / Comparte su opinión

The availability of a few parks convenient to most neighborhoods.

What do you like about this area? / ¿Qué te gusta del área?  
 Write your thoughts below / Comparte su opinión

- Senior Center (Homes, close to church) nice space for the Senior Center, under apartment to workout!  
 - Park! (well maintained, safe)


What do you like about this area? / ¿Qué te gusta del área?  
 1. Type or draw an image in the space below /



2. Write your thoughts below / Comparte su opinión


LIGHTING AND MAINTENANCE OF BRIDGE AT EAST BRIDGE DISTRICT & ART CENTER

What do you like about this area? / ¿Qué te gusta del área?  
 1. Type or draw an image in the space below /



2. Write your thoughts below / Comparte su opinión

I like the greenery around I like single residences and open spaces where children can play safely.



What do you like about this area? / ¿Qué te gusta del área?

What do you like about this area? / ¿Qué te gusta del área?  
 Write your thoughts below / Comparte su opinión

LOCATION

What do you like about this area? / ¿Qué te gusta del área?  
 1. Type or draw an image in the space below /

more retail stores  
Shopping stores


2. Write your thoughts below / Comparte su opinión

Stop going up on property taxes  
A lot of people are on fix income

What do you like about this area? / ¿Qué te gusta del área?  
 Write your thoughts below / Comparte su opinión

My neighbors who care and share!  
Access to shops and bus.

What do you like about this area? / ¿Qué te gusta del área?  
 1. Type or draw an image in the space below /



2. Write your thoughts below / Comparte su opinión

The opportunity for growth! There's room for more residential, retail, community gardens & parks, etc.

What do you like about this area? / ¿Qué te gusta del área?  
 Write your thoughts below / Comparte su opinión

•the community feel.  
•my friends & family.  
•it's familiar.

