

Resident Panels



For the Imagine Madison Comprehensive Plan Update process, the City is trying a new program called Resident Panels to better engage with residents who have historically been underrepresented in discussions about the city’s future. The City is partnering with community-based organizations that are connected to Madison’s communities of color, lower income residents, and other residents whose voices have been missing from the community conversation. Selected Community Partners will convene panels of representative Madison residents to discuss and provide feedback on issues such as housing, transportation, and economic development.

The aim of this program is to remove as many barriers to participation with Imagine Madison as possible. The City will provide funding to cover costs such as meeting space rental, food, child care, and transportation.

In late October 2016, the City of Madison Planning Division issued a Call for Community Partners to form Resident Panels. We wanted to reach out to as many organizations as possible, also including more grassroots groups that may not have received City funding in the past. We received 40 Letters of Interest from a wide range of great local organizations – a fantastic response. After an in-depth review, we are moving forward with funding for 12 organizations that will form 18 different Resident Panels. The following organizations were selected to receive funding:

Organization	Primary Community Represented
Centro Hispano	Latinx
Foundation for Black Women's Wellness	African American
Goodman Community Center	Youth of color
Hmong Language & Culture Enrichment Program in partnership with Resilient Research Center	Hmong
Hmong Professional Networking	Hmong
Madison-Area Urban Ministry in partnership with Street Pulse	Homeless as well as formerly-incarcerated
Rebalanced-Life Wellness Association in partnership with JP Hair Design Barbershop	African American
Sustain Dane in partnership with Ho-Chunk Gaming Madison	Ho-Chunk Nation
Vera Court Neighborhood Center	Latinx
RSVP in partnership with West Madison Senior Coalition, North/Eastside Senior Coalition, South Madison Coalition of the Elderly, and East Madison/Monona Coalition of the Aging	Older adults
WI Transgender Health Coalition	Transgender
Young Gifted & Black Coalition	African American

Summary of Resident Panel Feedback – Phase 1

This summary compiles feedback from the Resident Panels for Phase 1 of the Imagine Madison process. Numbers in parenthesis indicate number of Resident Panels making each comment.

Part 1 - Big Questions

1. How do you Imagine Madison in the year 2040?

- Adequate affordable housing stock, including family housing (8)
- Culturally responsive to the needs of diverse residents (8)
- Welcoming/inclusive to all people (7)
- Professional advancement opportunities for all, and better public sector education (6)
- Regional transportation (4)
- More manufacturing jobs that pay living wage (3)
- High speed rail (3)
- Improved access to healthcare (3)
- Everyone will use bikes or bus (2)
- More conservation efforts and valued natural resources (2)

2. What makes you excited about Madison's future?

- Growing cultural diversity, but we need equity, unity, & welcoming atmosphere for ALL people (13)
ALL people = all races/ethnicity, nationalities, sexes, genders, ages, incomes, abilities, religions, etc.
- Getting more underrepresented residents in decision-making professional positions, but it must continue to improve (9)
- Excited that City is trying to get input from all segments of population, but will they actually do anything with our input? (8)
- New education and job opportunities (4)
- Many groups mentioned being cautiously optimistic (4)
- Diversity, not only of people, but also of businesses and restaurants (4)
- Cultural competency in healthcare (4) *Hmong panels especially mentioned this*
- People and organizations working together (2)
- Young people are becoming more engaged (2)

3. What makes you concerned about Madison's future?

- Racial bias and discrimination; systemic disparities (12)
- Quality of education and education disparities (10)
- Lack of affordable housing (10)
- Need an increase in minority owned businesses (10)
- Wealth gap – affects middle class/poor and people of color the most (9)
- Concern about police interaction with people of color (8)
- Need to focus on ending income disparity (8) *by race, age, gender, ability*
- Kids and older adults need more programs/activities (6)
- Loss of Hmong culture, language, and identity (5)
- Lack of culturally competent childcare and healthcare services for Hmong community (5)
- Lack of communication to the Hmong community from City and elected officials (5)
- Policies for ticketing the homeless results with them in jail, hurting their family (3)

- Violence and amount of addiction (3)
- Immigration issues (3)
- Concerned about cuts to assistance for people in poverty (2)

Part 2 – Issues and Draft Goals

Main themes of the discussion around the thirteen draft goals

Housing

- Need truly affordable housing (12)
- Discrimination based on race/ethnicity, gender, religion, appearance, or ability still highly prevalent (7)
- Too many high-end, expensive rental units (4)
- Hard to overcome barriers to housing/jobs like conviction or credit issues (3)
- Subsidized housing process is full of caveats (e.g. AMI, waitlists, paperwork, etc.) (3)
- Homelessness should NOT be criminalized (3)
- Section 8 housing does not have enough open space for Hmong lifestyle (3)
- Housing types are not suitable for Hmong elders that have many visitors (3)
- Rising prices are pushing minorities to the suburbs (2)
- Senior housing (e.g. section 42) needs improvement (2)
- Need more assistance to first time home buyers (2)

Transportation

- Need for regional transportation to access jobs in adjacent communities (5)
- Hmong elders cannot use buses because of language barrier (5)
- Safety is still an issue on busses (5) (drivers and passengers are threatened, transgender and gender-nonconforming passengers especially who often rely on transit; overcrowding on busses is unsafe for youth)
- Need BRT (3)
- Need inter-city high speed rail (2), one group disagreed with rail
- Bike share stations should be expanded to lower-income areas (2)
- Subsidized rates for bus and bike share to lower income residents (2)
- Sustainable transportation (2)

Land Use

- Lack of land for growing healthful food (6)
- Need to conserve green spaces, not allow so much residential development (4)
- Many people were unsure about or did not like Goal #5 “downtown as primary activity hub”
- Many neighborhoods with high concentrations of people of color have poor sense of place

Economic development

- Expand vocational training programs (5)
- Raise minimum wage (3)
- Need to focus on seniors in this vision (2)
- Economic development should address helping people repair credit history & access credit (2)

Cultural and Historical Resources

- Need safe, affirming spaces that are permanent social outlets for LGBT, youth, people of color, people with disabilities, and other multiply marginalized people (6)
- More multicultural events to celebrate and learn about other cultures (5)
- Hmong culture is in danger of disappearing – community centers fees are too expensive; they don't offer culturally competent services or bilingual staff; there are no funeral homes that allow proper Hmong funeral rituals (i.e. 24/7 traditions) (5)
- There is no formal celebration of Asian American history month

Park, Open Space, and Recreation

- Park spaces are not set up for Hmong community use (6)
- Equitable parks: access based on location; equitable access in that all parks should be inclusive for all ages, races, genders, economic status, ability; equitable park equipment; equitable park facilities such as equipment and restrooms (5)
- Green spaces are necessary for healthy living

Natural Resources

- Conservation of natural resources is important (3)
- Lake water quality must be improved (2)
- Strengthen municipal laws around air, water, & ground pollution (2)
 - The people most affected by environmental degradation are people of color, homeless, low-income, TGNC, disabled

Agricultural Resources

- Access to healthful foods and food security (10) – more programs like REAP
- Support local foods and small farmers (7)
- Residents want more land to grow their own food (5)
- Everyone needs access to a community garden
- More food pantries with increased accessibility

Utilities and Community Facilities

- Help residents learn about and access low cost clean/green energy (5)
- Better access to mental health services (3)
- Need a community center or city-wide nonprofit that provides services to the Hmong community
- Work needed to alleviate utility costs for families of high need
- Gender inclusive/All gender restrooms throughout Madison buildings

Regional Cooperation

- All areas must work together to create equality (3)
- More collaboration within City departments
- Create City/County ID for people without lawful US documentation
- More effort from City government to engage with Ho-Chunk government

Suggested additional goals and miscellaneous feedback

- Education –schools need equality in expectations and opportunities to support youth of color and TGNC students (7)
- Accountability and transparency in this process are needed (5)
 - funds to assist adults continuing education
- Public safety (5)
 - MPD does not have positive collaboration with many neighborhoods
 - Inequities in the criminal justice system
 - Policing and use of force (3) Trans and gender-nonconforming people will no longer live their lives in constant fear of violence, harassment, or discrimination
- Need for culturally competent childcare and healthcare for Hmong community (5)
- Something regarding access to affordable health care for all residents (3)
- A goal to get the City to better engage and support the Hmong community – without this goal, Madison will continue to develop housing, parks, transportation, etc that will not meet the needs of the Hmong community
- City advocacy: Sanctuary City; end voter ID Laws; Birth certificate modernization (make it easier for TGNC people to change name and gender)
- Although goals will be looked at through equity lens, there should be more effort to connect communications between cultures, race, language, etc.

Community Partners

Organization	Compiled	# of Panels	Participants
Foundation for Black Women’s Wellness	1	1	14
Rebalanced Life-Wellness Association, Inc / JP Hair Design Barbershop	1	1	17
Young Gifted & Black	1	1	25
Hmong Professional Networking	5	5	60
Hmong Language and Culture Enrichment Program	1	1	10
Madison-Area Urban Ministry, Inc	2	2	37
Goodman Community Center	2	3	18
West Madison Senior Coalition (WMSC) / Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	1	1	13
WI Trans Health Coalition	1	1	7
Sustain Dane / Ho-Chunk	1	1	15
Vera Court / Latino Academy of Workforce Development	1	1	15
Centro Hispano	1	1	12
TOTAL =			243