

The following information is based off of a visioning workshop held in South San Gabriel on 11/30/2023. The purpose of this workshop was to share information and gather feedback for the West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan.

The workshop included a mix of presentations and interactive activities. The presentations included information about the work of LA County Planning, an overview about the West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan, and information about the community of South San Gabriel.

In between these presentations were three distinct activities. The first activity was based around sharing favorite memories and places. The second activity tasked participants with prioritizing and reimagining community change. The third activity involved identifying specific community assets, opportunities, and concerns.

Primary Themes and Community Recommendations

Based on all of the information collected from the attendees of the workshop, the following section provides summaries of feedback in thematic categories. These summaries are related to the group's stated values from the memory, the second visioning activity, and the main themes of the third activity covering community asset mapping.

1. Community Safety and Cleanliness

- Need for increased code enforcement, particularly with businesses operating illegally.
- Implement more frequent sidewalk and street cleaning.
- Improve lighting and other security measures in public areas.

2. Infrastructure and Public Spaces

- Enhanced repair and maintenance of sidewalks and public walkways.
- Maintain overgrown greenery to avoid obstructed sidewalks.
- Encourage the planting of street trees and the development of visually pleasing public spaces.

3. Community Engagement and Identity

- Establish a dedicated website for South San Gabriel to improve information sharing.
- Foster community pride to reduce litter and vandalism.
- Improve coordination and communication between County and local authorities, including addressing service gaps in unincorporated areas.
- Additional programming and community services for older adults.

4. Planning and Land Use

- Consider in-scale housing options for older adults and families.
- Encourage the development of family-oriented shops and community spaces.
- Create more green spaces, such as parks and community gardens.

5. Community Identity and Heritage

- Support local "mom-and-pop" shops and cultural landmarks.
- Preserve and highlight the local identity, including cultural and historical aspects.

- Encourage community events and activities that celebrate local heritage.

6. Economic Development and Local Business Support

- Incentivize small businesses and startups, especially those offering artisanal products or services.
- Establish local markets or fairs to showcase and support local artisans and small businesses.

7. Mobility and Accessibility

- Improve public transportation options and accessibility to community destinations.
- Address traffic congestion issues, particularly spillover effects from developments in neighboring cities. Address traffic concerns, particularly around the City of Montebello boundary and freeway entrances.
- Promote pedestrian and bike-friendly infrastructure, with safe crossings and walkable streets.

Full Group Discussion and Responses (Notes written for the audience)

Activity 1 (Memory/Values): *Write down your favorite memory growing up. The memory should be related to a favorite place or activity growing up.*

- Summers swimming at the park pool, hanging out at the beach, walking to local parks
- 4H club, horseback-riding as kids, riding along canals
- Safe communities, knowing your neighbors
- Walking to street markets, temples, as a kid on their own, local identity and vibrancy of Chinatown
- Mom and pop shops, fresh foods and home cooking
- Cozy, intimate, safe places to walk as children
- Playing football on a vacant field as a kid on breaks from work
- Making toys from metal scraps

Activity 2 (Magic Wand): *Q1- If you had a magic wand that could change one (and only one) thing in the community, what would that be? Q2- Imagine you are standing on your nearest main/commercial street in your community 20 years from now, and you are looking down the block. In your ideal vision of your community 20 years from now, what do you see?*

- Code enforcement for cannabis uses
- Improved County services, more of a local County presence
- Safer walkways, overpasses over Del Mark, more street trees. Sidewalk repairs.
- Safer/more activities in Whittier Narrows, more programming
- Cleanliness of sidewalks/parks
- Senior citizen programs, community service in exchange for tax reductions
- Sidewalk cleaning
- Clean streets, aesthetically pleasing environment
- Coordination public realm and cleanliness across jurisdictional lines
- South San Gabriel "orphaned": no collaboration on services, Montebello needs to know repair responsibilities for streets/sidewalks/services

West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan
2023 Visioning Workshops
South San Gabriel Workshop Notes (11/30/2023)

- Unincorporated “islands” receive same services as other areas- address service gaps
- County needs to educate/tell Montebello service/repair/maintenance responsibilities
- Better communication between County and Montebello and other surrounding Cities.
- No litter and refuse in the community.

Activity 3 (Stoplight): *Using 3 color categories, each participant should write down place-specific notes and attach them to the map.*

- *Green. Positive Community Assets. These are places that “charge up” the community in a positive way. It could be a great coffee shop, a town center, a historic church, a local park. These are things that make you proud to be a part of the community.*
- *Yellow. Community Opportunities. These are places or elements that are okay but could be better. They are not outright concerns but missed opportunities. If these places were improved or reimagined, they could become strong community assets.*
- *Red. Community Concerns. These are places that do not correspond to the community’s values, or threaten the safety of residents.*
- Green Category (Community Assets)
 - Community Center, well-maintained spaces
 - Big Ed’s Restaurant
 - Close by shopping in cities (Costco/Walmart)
- Yellow Category (Community Opportunities, etc.)
 - Website dedicated to South San Gabriel for community information.
- Red Category (Concerns/Risks)
 - No litter/need to foster community pride
 - Overgrown greenery takes over sidewalk
 - Streetlights needed for safer walking at night, also security cameras
 - Graffiti and gang activity