| Community Connectors-in-Residence Mid-Year Update – May 2023

Mid-year Update Purpose

This Community Connectors-in-Residence (CC-in-R) mid-year update to City of Boulder City Council is designed to elevate the experiences and voices of historically excluded communities – as heard through on-going dialogue and as summarized by themes of community strengths and community issues – for use in city decision-making. This mid-year update includes:

- o 2024 City Budget Cycle – Community Engagement and Presentation to Department Directors
- o Racial Equity Instrument Step Review and Feedback, including Case Study
- o CU System Social Justice Summit Session
- o 'Building Power & Raising Voices' Update
- o Barriers to Board & Commission Participation – Testimony to City Council

We welcome city council's feedback on this format and encourage you to share any thoughts through this feedback form. Previous CC-in-R updates, including the most recent update in September 2022, may be found on the CC-in-R webpage.

Community Connectors-in-Residence

Community Connectors-in-Residence (CC-in-R) elevate the voices and build the power of historically excluded communities by reducing barriers to community engagement, advancing racial equity, and surfacing the ideas, concerns, and dreams of community members.

CC-in-Rs earn a stipend, based on four hours per week, for their commitment, time, and expertise.

The CC-in-R program specifically aligns with meaningful and inclusive engagement practices as outlined in the city's Engagement Strategic Framework as well as strategies included in the city's Racial Equity Plan: 4.1 - improve access to decision-makers; 4.3 - focus on high-quality community engagement; and 4.5 address language, cultural, and engagement access barriers.

Each bicultural CC-in-R serves as a trusted voice and works closely with a community they are already a natural leader within. This may be geographic or cultural, and throughout 2023 has included community members who identify as Latinx, Nepali, Black or African American, Indigenous, older adult, CU student, adults with disabilities, residents of manufactured home communities, multi-generational households, immigrants, and economically disadvantaged.

2024 City Budget Cycle Community Engagement and Presentation to Department Directors

Community Input on 2024 Budget Cycle

Throughout March and April 2023, Community Connectors-in-Residence, in partnership with staff from Finance – Central Budget Office, City Manager's Office, and Communication & Engagement, engaged historically excluded communities to hear their priorities for the city's 2024 budget. CC-in-Rs presented these priorities and community input to Department Directors on May 8, 2023.

In preparation, Finance staff met with Community Connectors for over four hours, increasing their understanding of the city's annual budget cycle and co-designing community sessions that included a budget overview, background on the city's Sustainability, Equity, and Resilience (SER) Framework, and two-way dialogue about prioritizing SER Objectives.

To base this community engagement on what the city has already recently heard from historically excluded communities, staff and CC-in-Rs first selected which SER Objectives aligned most closely with community strengths and community issues. These strengths and issues – identified through extensive community engagement throughout 2021, presented to city council in January

2022, and reiterated through community dialogue and 'Building Power & Raising Voices' sessions in 2022-23 – include:

- o Community Strengths
    - o Our Natural Setting
    - o People of Boulder
    - o Some Local Government Services

- o Community Issues
    - o Racial Equity
    - o Economic Opportunity
    - o Affordable Housing
    - o Youth Opportunities
    - o Healthcare and Mental Health

CC-in-Rs hosted three in-person budget education and input sessions as well as two online questionnaires for community feedback. A summary of community input and prioritization of SER Objectives is included below (please see appendix for a full extent of community perspective and experience shared).

Compiled Community Participants

- o 74 participants
- o 50% households with income under $50,000/year
- o 91% community members of color (Latinx, Nepali, Black or African American, Indigenous)

Ranked SER Framework Objective Priorities from Community Participants and CC-in-R Team
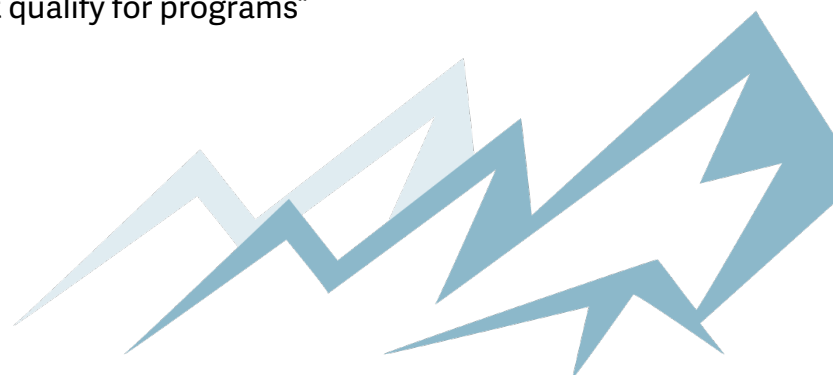
- o Provide a variety of housing types with a full range of affordability
- o Support financial security and economic opportunity regardless of race, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status
- o Support the City of Boulder advancing racial equity and implementing equity strategies and tools
- o Support community members who are unhoused or underhoused to navigate services to achieve housing security

- o Support the natural environment and its ecosystems so they can resist damage and recover quickly
- o Seek to enhance the affordability of goods, services, and real estate that support the needs of all community members
- o Support the physical and mental well-being of its community members by providing public gathering places
- o Cultivate a wide range of recreational, cultural, educational, civic, and social opportunities
- o Ensure City of Boulder programs and decisions do not have a disparate impact on historically excluded community members
- o Enhance transparency, accuracy, and efficiency of customer service for City of Boulder services

Select Community Member Quotes on Top SER Objectives

- o Provide a variety of housing types with a full range of affordability
    - o "Important because salaries should be able to cover rent and other bills and extra for such as car payment and saving but in reality, one person who has two or three jobs still struggles to pay just rent in Boulder."
    - o "The indigenous communities have less and less population before there were more indigenous people living in Boulder, but with the cost of rents and everything more expensive, we have been displaced."
- o Support financial security and economic opportunity regardless of race, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status
    - o "My husband has two jobs, he does not have time to spend with my kids, they grew up calling their uncle dad, because they never saw my husband and that makes me extremely sad, it is unjust."
    - o "People have to work a lot to be able to afford to pay rent/ housing: there is no time for civic engagement, no time to go to the library, not time to spend in the parks, or open space."
    - o "Moving financially up, but then not qualify for programs"

- Support the City of Boulder advancing racial equity and implementing equity strategies and tools
    - "Mexicans, we are everywhere, cleaning, cooking, building, everywhere. We are the ones who work the hardest, but they don't see us enjoying the city, they just want to see us working."
    - Concerns about how the Nepali community will be treated by city staff, experiencing racial disparities in accessing services and resources
    - "We would like to stay in Boulder but if we want to buy a home it will be impossible for us to stay. This directly affects racial equity; it has affected generational wealth; help people in minority communities/people of color, and immigrants to buy homes in Boulder; this can advance racial equity in our community."

Additional Themes Heard

- Mental Health Needs
    - "Diversify mental health strategies like Boulder Strong so that more people can access these services... in more areas of the city and not as something temporary but as something permanent and affordable for community members."
    - "That the city has mental health facilities that are adequate and specific for each social group, by age, where young people can have services for young people and not that now they mix all the people and sometimes it does them more harm than anything. Services are needed that are culturally relevant, in the language families prefer, and that do not isolate people, but rather provide them with real support. With a diversity of services according to the needs of the people, not only psychological therapies but other services that strengthen mental health."
    - "There are not enough mental health services, we cannot find them in our language, there are very long waiting lists, and there are no people who understand our culture."

- o Youth Opportunity, including Childcare
  - o "A community center for young people, with services and activities appropriate for their ages and culture… where they can have tutoring, create art, and learn music, as a cultural and creative center."
  - o "Childcare is expensive! Limits opportunity" "Childcare is harder to find for younger children (infants)" "Childcare centers also crowded"
  - o "Coordination between the city and the school district so that there are after-school programs like art, music, and sports that help children and youth not get into addictions, especially now that it is very easy for young people to get drugs anywhere."

CC-in-Rs presented community priorities and input to Department Directors on May 8, 2013. During the department budget development stage, departments are encouraged to prioritize and uplift, where possible, department budget submissions that align with prioritized SER Objectives and community input. The city will then seek CC-in-R and community feedback on identified key budget themes during fall 2023.

## Racial Equity Instrument Step Review and Feedback

In the summer of 2022, staff and CC-in-Rs developed and launched a Racial Equity Instrument Step Review & Feedback process, to focus CC-in-R feedback on city projects from a racial equity framework, to increase staff use of the city's Racial Equity Instrument, and to share a clear pathway for staff to hear feedback that centers the lived experiences of historically excluded communities. This valuable feedback supplements more inclusive and accessible city practices, helps guide decision-making processes, and aligns with the city's Racial Equity Plan. Since September 2022, CC-in-Rs reviewed, met with staff for 30 minutes, and shared feedback on the following city projects:

- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
- Downtown Boulder Vision Plan
- Downtown Streets as Public Spaces (see case study in appendix)
- E-bikes Incentives Program
- Occupancy Reform and Zoning for Affordable Housing

- OSMP Body Worn Cameras Policy
- Equity Index Resource
- Snow & Ice Removal Program
- Trash & Weeds Ordinance
- Vision Zero Action Plan

CU System Social Justice Summit Session

- In January 2023, three CC-in-Rs co-facilitated a session – 'Building Power & Raising Voices: Elevating Communities of Color in Institutional Decision-making' – for **156 participants** across the University of Colorado system, including students, faculty, staff, and community members. In their 75-minute session, participants:

  - "Learned more about Community Connectors-in-Residence in the City of Boulder who are addressing barriers to institutional decision-making by sharing feedback through an equity lens on policies and programs. Community Connectors also facilitate 'Building Power & Raising Voices" sessions to strengthen democracy, design community-initiated programming, and elevate community issues and bright spots to the Boulder City Council."
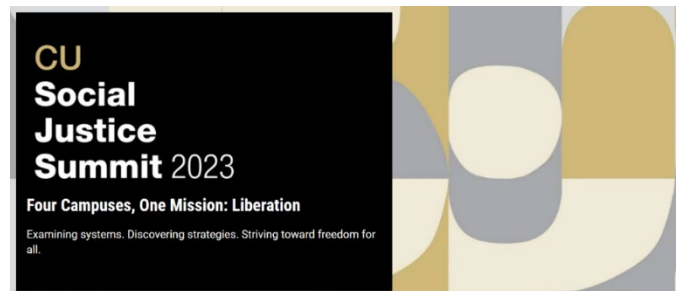
'Building Power & Raising Voices' Update

CC-in-Rs continue to build capacity to participate in local government among historically excluded community members without lived experience in that space. To address this, CC-in-Rs continue to identify barriers to community engagement opportunities as well as co-designed a two-hour 'Building Power & Raising Voices' session for community members.

These sessions focus on increasing sense of belonging and trust in city government; building power and skills of historically excluded communities to share their voices and shape decisions and policy about their community and the common good; increasing understanding of local government and how to navigate systems; and raising up aspirations, engagement barriers, or issues that communities are experiencing.

Between October 2022 and April 2023, CC-in-Rs facilitated four 'Building Power & Raising Voices' sessions:

- o Boulder Housing Partners – Glen Willow
- o Communitywide session at North Boulder Recreation Center (city budget focus)
- o Communitywide session at Penfield Tate II Municipal Building (city budget focus)
- o Natural Highs – (substance abuse prevention peer mentor program for teens)

Themes from sessions focused on city budget are included above. Themes from BHP Glen Willow and Natural Highs sessions include community strengths – community and people of Boulder, natural beauty, and creative activities – as well as community issues – substance abuse, need for youth activities, mental health needs, affordable housing, and limited public transit. Please see the appendix for full notes from these sessions.

Spotlights on City Services

CC-in-Rs have learned about and shared dozens of city services, city/county/community partner resources, and community happenings with their networks. Staff routinely join CC-in-R Gatherings to share details about services or programs, which have recently included:

- o Boulder Fire Rescue
- o Boulder County November 2022 Resource Fair (Boulder County)
- o City of Boulder Land Acknowledgement
- o Crisis Response Intervention Team
- o Group Crisis Intervention (Boulder County Community Action Programs)
- o Neighborhood Connection Grants

- o Open Space & Mountain Parks Youth Opportunities
- o Recovery Services – Mental Health Partners (community partner)
- o 'Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples' – Right Relationship Boulder (community partner)

Reflecting on-going dialogue with communities as well as lived experience shared in 'Building Power & Raising Voices' sessions, CC-in-Rs regularly support navigation with city/community services to address community issues. A few examples from between September 2022 and May 2023 include:

- o Students of color experiencing racial slurs in public schools
- o Furnace outages related to a colder winter season
- o Access to community food programs and services
- o Connection with legal resources in the community

- Access to immigration services in the community
- Concerns about speeding traffic in Boulder Meadows manufactured home community
- Sharing art-related opportunities at no cost to the community
- Door-to-door scams within neighborhoods
- Community members experiencing mandatory shifts at work

Barriers to Board & Commission Participation – Testimony to City Council

As part of a city council study session in October 2022 – focused on the city's Board & Commission process – CC-in-Rs (including testimony from CC-in-R Lenora Cooper) shared an overview of barriers to participation experienced by historically excluded communities. Recommendations included:
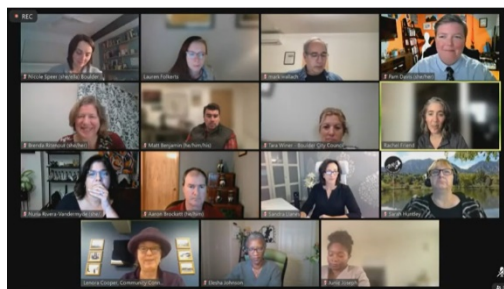
- Increase community's understanding of the role of boards and commissions, application process, and how their decisions impact the community.
- Require Bias & Microaggression training for board & commission members and develop a clear process for addressing when microaggressions occur.
- Support interview prep or support for underrepresented community members, including specific feedback for applicants who were not successful to encourage applying again/elsewhere
- Develop peer-support program (e.g., how to navigate processes, language to use) for new board and commission members; ensure participants feel welcome and that their contributions are meaningful.
- Reconsider lengthy terms for board and commission members.
- Address lack of historically excluded representation.

- o Draw from existing capacity-building groups to recruit applicants for boards and commissions.
- o Evaluate the possibility of compensating all board and commission members.
- o Launch a process to inventory barriers for participation in boards and commissions as well as possible solutions to mitigate them, including adjusting meeting times, virtual meeting options, not having enough data or not having access to a reliable digital device, needing culturally appropriate meals and/or childcare if in-person, support for transportation, etc.
- o o Provide interpretation for monolingual Spanish speakers as well as individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at all board and commission and council meetings, so that individuals do not have to request this and feel singled out.

Looking Ahead

Moving further into 2023, Community Connectors-in-Residence will continue to:

- o Engage communities on the city's 2024 budget
- o Keep city council updated on community strengths and community issues
- o Co-facilitate 'Building Power & Raising Voices' sessions and explore expanding training offerings
- o Review and share feedback on Racial Equity Instrument steps
- o Engage in on-going dialogue with community members

Questions

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or to learn more!

- o Ryan Hanschen, Community Engagement Manager, hanschenr@bouldercolorado.gov
- o Ana Silvia Avendaño-Curiel, Equity Policy Advisor, avendano-curiela@bouldercolorado.gov

Appendix

- o 2024 City Budget Cycle Community Engagement – Presentation to Department Directors
- o 2024 City Budget Cycle Community Engagement – Community Input
- o 'Building Power & Raising Voices' sessions – Community Strengths and Community Issues
- o 'Racial Equity Instrument Step Review and Feedback' Case Study – Downtown Streets as Public Spaces

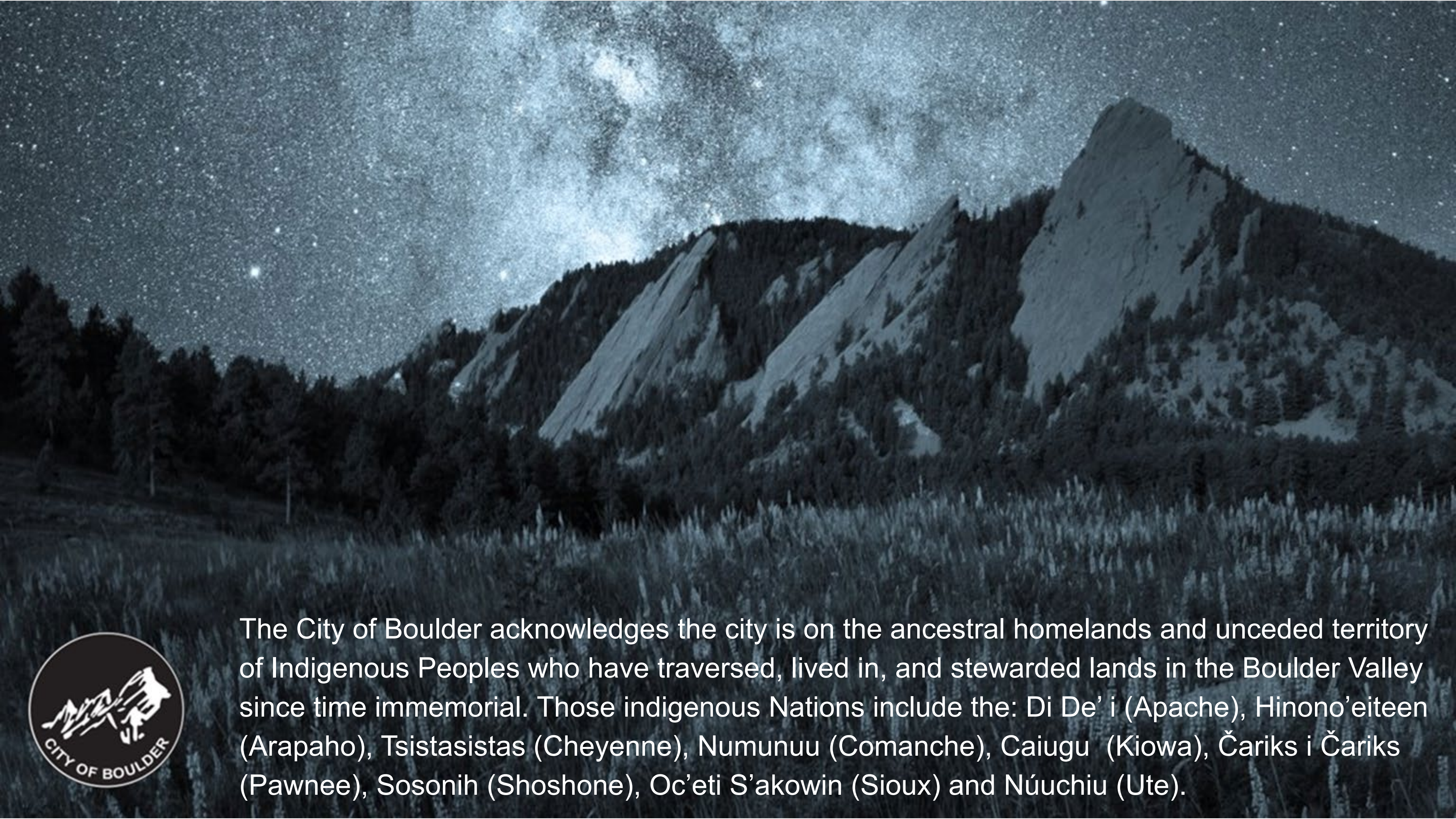## 2024 City Budget Cycle Community Engagement – Presentation to Department Directors

2024 Budget Cycle Community Engagement

Presentation to Department Directors

May 8 2023

Community Connectors-in-Residence

The City of Boulder acknowledges the city is on the ancestral homelands and unceded territory of Indigenous Peoples who have traversed, lived in, and stewarded lands in the Boulder Valley since time immemorial. Those indigenous Nations include the: Di De' i (Apache), Hinono'eiteen (Arapaho), Tsistasistas (Cheyenne), Numunuu (Comanche), Caiugu (Kiowa), Čariks i Čariks (Pawnee), Sosonih (Shoshone), Oc'eti S'akowin (Sioux) and Núuchiu (Ute).

CITY OF BOULDER

Agenda

- Intros

- Annual Budget Process

- Community Connectors-in-Residence

- Engagement Process

- Community Input

- Budget Next Steps

City of Boulder Annual Budget Process:
Budget Community Engagement
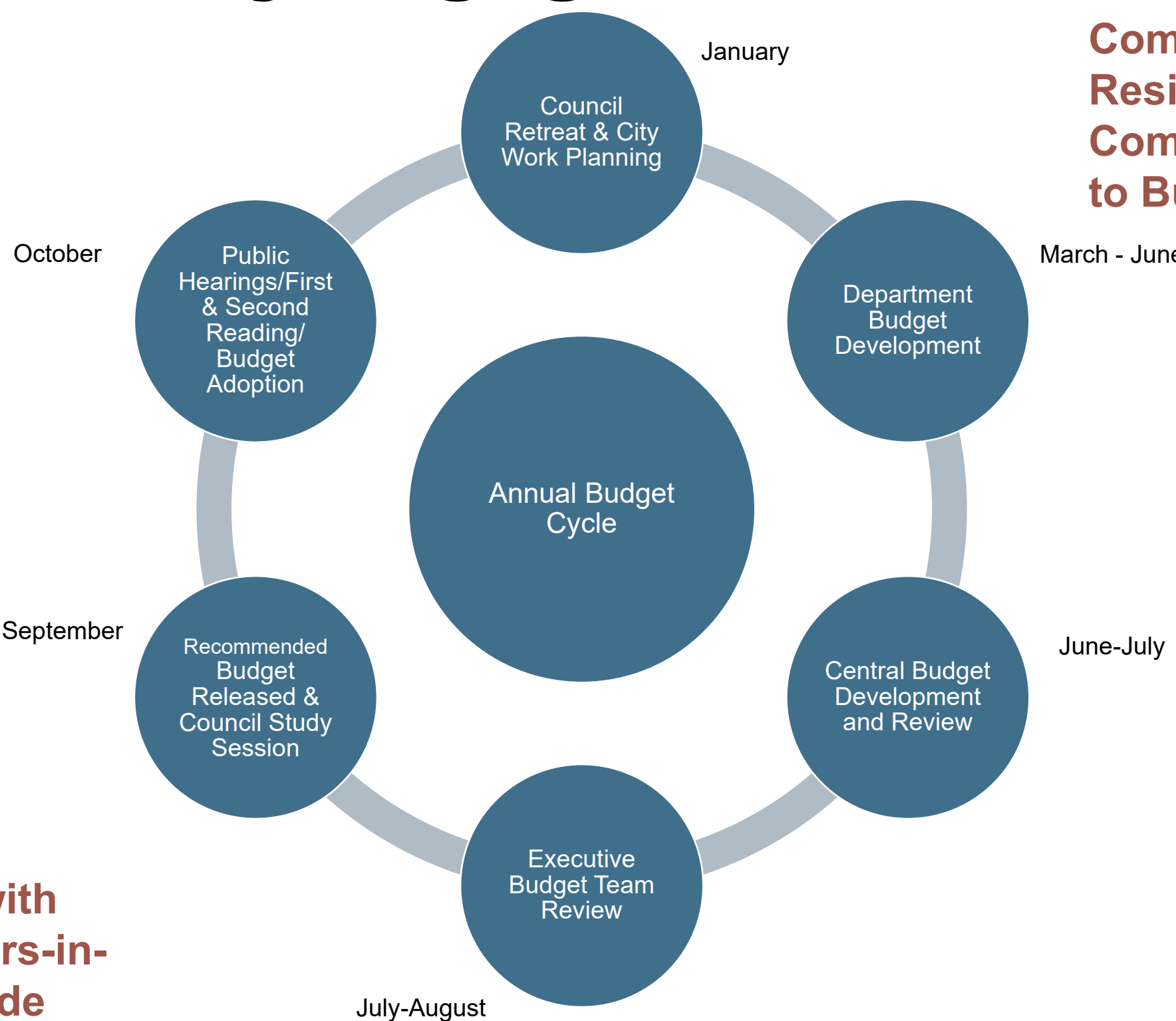
Community Connectors-in-Residence Input and Community Engagement prior to Budget Submissions

January

March - June

Council Retreat & City Work Planning

Department Budget Development

October

Public Hearings/First & Second Reading/ Budget Adoption

Annual Budget Cycle

Central Budget Development and Review

June-July

September

Recommended Budget Released & Council Study Session

Executive Budget Team Review

July-August

Key Themes shared with Community Connectors-in-Residence and Citywide Community Survey

City of Boulder Budget Process Timeline:
Budget Community Engagement

Community Connectors & Communitywide Town Hall Survey   **Public Hearings**

January-May	March-August	September-October

Analyses and Forecasting   Budget Development   Council Discussions & Adoption

Meetings with Community Connectors
> March and April discussions on budget process, budget engagement, SER Framework

SER Framework Alignment
> Aligning Community Connectors Feedback with Department Proposals

Two Budget Community Engagement Surveys through OpenGov
> Sustainability, Equity and Resilience (SER) Framework Prioritization Survey
>
> Budget Survey – Spending Priorities

Community Connectors-in-Residence

Community Connectors-in-Residence elevate the voices and build power of historically excluded communities by reducing barriers to community engagement, advancing racial equity, and surfacing the ideas, concerns, and dreams of community members.

Sustainability, Equity, Resilience (SER) Framework

- SER Framework provides strategic planning foundation for policies, programs, and projects of the City of Boulder

- Serves as a tool for city planning, annual budget, and organizational processes

- Budgeting for Resilience – strategic alignment of budget to SER Framework

Sustainability, Equity and Resilience Framework
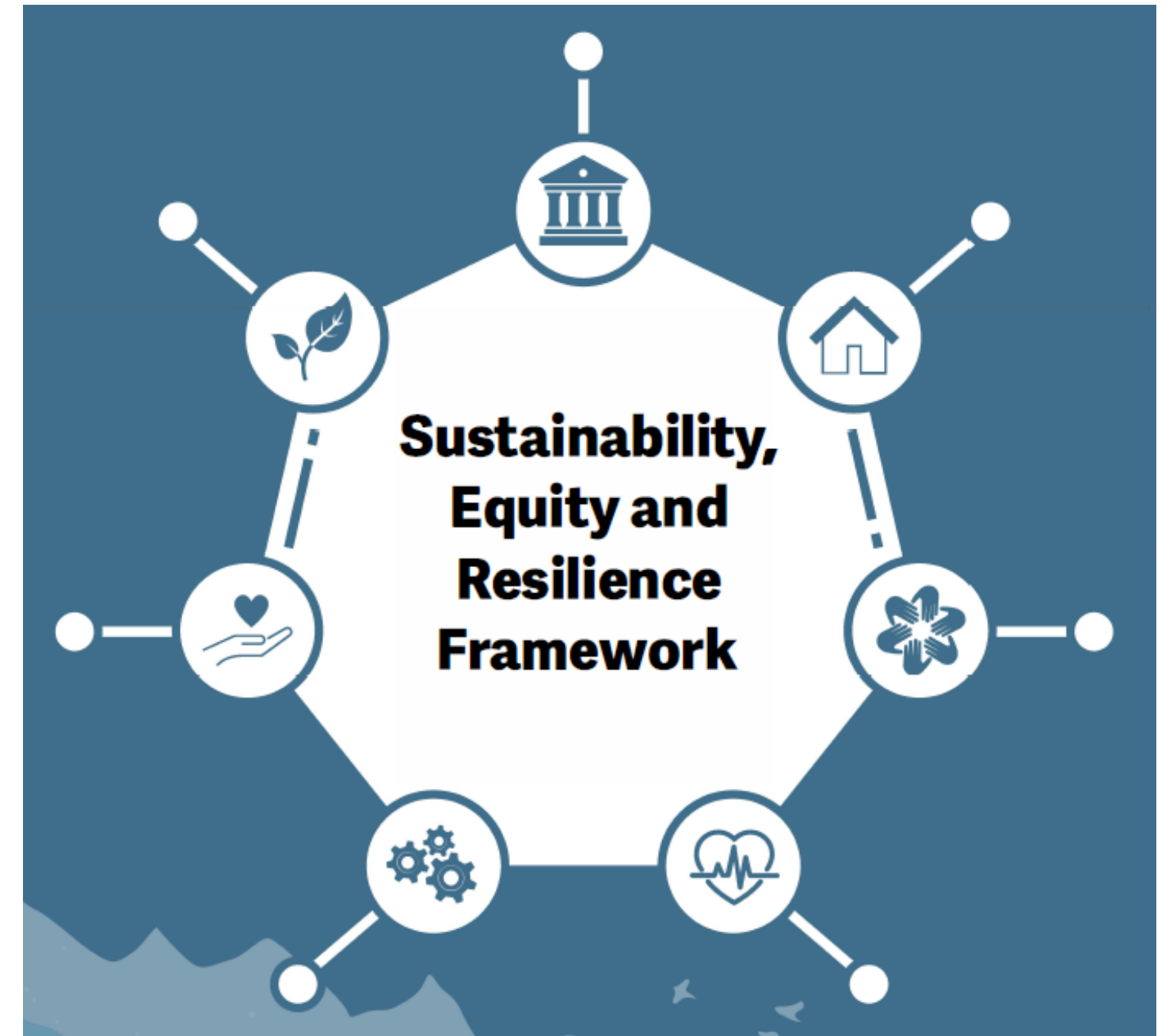
Community Strengths

- Our Natural Setting
- People of Boulder
- Some Local Government Services

Community Issues

- Racial Equity
- Economic Opportunity
- Affordable Housing
- Youth Opportunities
- Healthcare and Mental Health

Aligned SER Objectives

o   Cultivate a wide range of recreational, cultural, educational, civic, and social opportunities

o   Enhance transparency, accuracy, and efficiency of customer service for City of Boulder services

o   Ensure City of Boulder programs and decisions do not have a disparate impact on historically excluded community members

o   Provide a variety of housing types with a full range of affordability

o   Seek to enhance the affordability of goods, services, and real estate that support the needs of all community members

o   Support community members who are unhoused or underhoused to navigate services to achieve housing security

o   Support financial security and economic opportunity regardless of race, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status

o   Support the City of Boulder advancing racial equity and implementing equity strategies and tools

o   Support the natural environment and its ecosystems so they can resist damage and recover quickly

o   Support the physical and mental well-being of its community members by providing public gathering places

Engagement Opportunities

- In-person sessions on March 24, April 13, and April 21
- On-line questionnaires

Participant Demographics

o **74 community participants**

  o **91% community members of color (Latinx, Nepali, Black or African American, Indigenous)**

  o **50% of households with income under $50,000/year**

Community Prioritization of SER Objectives

1. Provide a variety of housing types with a full range of affordability

2. Support financial security and economic opportunity regardless of race, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status

3. Support the City of Boulder advancing racial equity and implementing equity strategies and tools

4. Support community members who are unhoused or underhoused to navigate services to achieve housing security

5. Support the natural environment and its ecosystems so they can resist damage and recover quickly

6. Seek to enhance the affordability of goods, services, and real estate that support the needs of all community members

7. Support the physical and mental well-being of its community members by providing public gathering places

8. Cultivate a wide range of recreational, cultural, educational, civic, and social opportunities

9. Ensure City of Boulder programs and decisions do not have a disparate impact on historically excluded community members

10. Enhance transparency, accuracy, and efficiency of customer service for City of Boulder services

Feedback on top SER Objectives

Provide a variety of housing types with a full range of affordability

o "Important because salaries should be able to cover rent and other bills and extra for such as car payment and saving but in reality, one person who has two or three jobs still struggles to pay just rent in Boulder."

o "The indigenous communities have less and less population before there were more indigenous people living in Boulder, but with the cost of rents and everything more expensive, we have been displaced."

Feedback on top SER Objectives

Support financial security and economic opportunity regardless of race, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status

o "My husband has two jobs, he does not have time to spend with my kids, they grew up calling their uncle dad, because they never saw my husband and that makes me extremely sad, it is unjust."

o "People have to work a lot to be able to afford to pay rent/ housing: there is no time for civic engagement, no time to go to the library, not time to spend in the parks, or open space."

o "Moving financially up, but then not qualify for programs"

Feedback on top SER Objectives

Support the City of Boulder advancing racial equity and implementing equity strategies and tools

- "Mexicans, we are everywhere, cleaning, cooking, building, everywhere. We are the ones who work the hardest, but they don't see us enjoying the city, they just want to see us working."

- Concerns about how the Nepali community will be treated by city staff, experiencing racial disparities in accessing services and resources

- "We would like to stay in Boulder but if we want to buy a home it will be impossible for us to stay. This directly affects racial equity; it has affected generational wealth; help people in minority communities/people of color, and immigrants to buy homes in Boulder; this can advance racial equity in our community."

Additional Themes Heard

Mental Health Needs

- "Diversify mental health strategies like Boulder Strong so that more people can access these services… in more areas of the city and not as something temporary but as something permanent and affordable for community members."

- "That the city has mental health facilities that are adequate and specific for each social group, by age, where young people can have services for young people and not that now they mix all the people and sometimes it does them more harm than anything. Services are needed that are culturally relevant, in the language families prefer, and that do not isolate people, but rather provide them with real support. With a diversity of services according to the needs of the people, not only psychological therapies but other services that strengthen mental health."

- "There are not enough mental health services, we cannot find them in our language, there are very long waiting lists, and there are no people who understand our culture."

Youth Opportunity, including Childcare

- "A community center for young people, with services and activities appropriate for their ages and culture… where they can have tutoring, create art, and learn music, as a cultural and creative center."

- "Childcare is expensive! Limits opportunity" "Childcare is harder to find for younger children (infants)" "Childcare centers also crowded"

- "Coordination between the city and the school district so that there are after-school programs like art, music, and sports that help children and youth not get into addictions, especially now that it is very easy for young people to get drugs anywhere."

$100 of Revenue

Community Connectors-in-Residence - Budget Survey Summary

- Housing Investments - Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Childcare and Family Services
- Fire Safety and Emergency Medical Services
- Behavioral Health Programming
- Recreation Facilities and Parks Maintenance
- Transportation Maintenance
- Police Training and Programming
- City Buildings & Infrastructure - Environmental Efficiency
- Safe & Managed Spaces - Encampment Management and Clean-up
- Downtown Space Programming

22%
14%
13%
13%
9%
9%
7%
5%
4%
4%

$100 of Revenue Community

CC-in-R Community Members - Budget Survey Summary

- Housing Investments - Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Behavioral Health Programming
- Fire Safety and Emergency Medical Services
- Childcare and Family Services
- Transportation Maintenance
- Police Training and Programming
- Recreation Facilities and Parks Maintenance
- City Buildings & Infrastructure - Environmental Efficiency
- Safe & Managed Spaces - Encampment Management and Clean-up
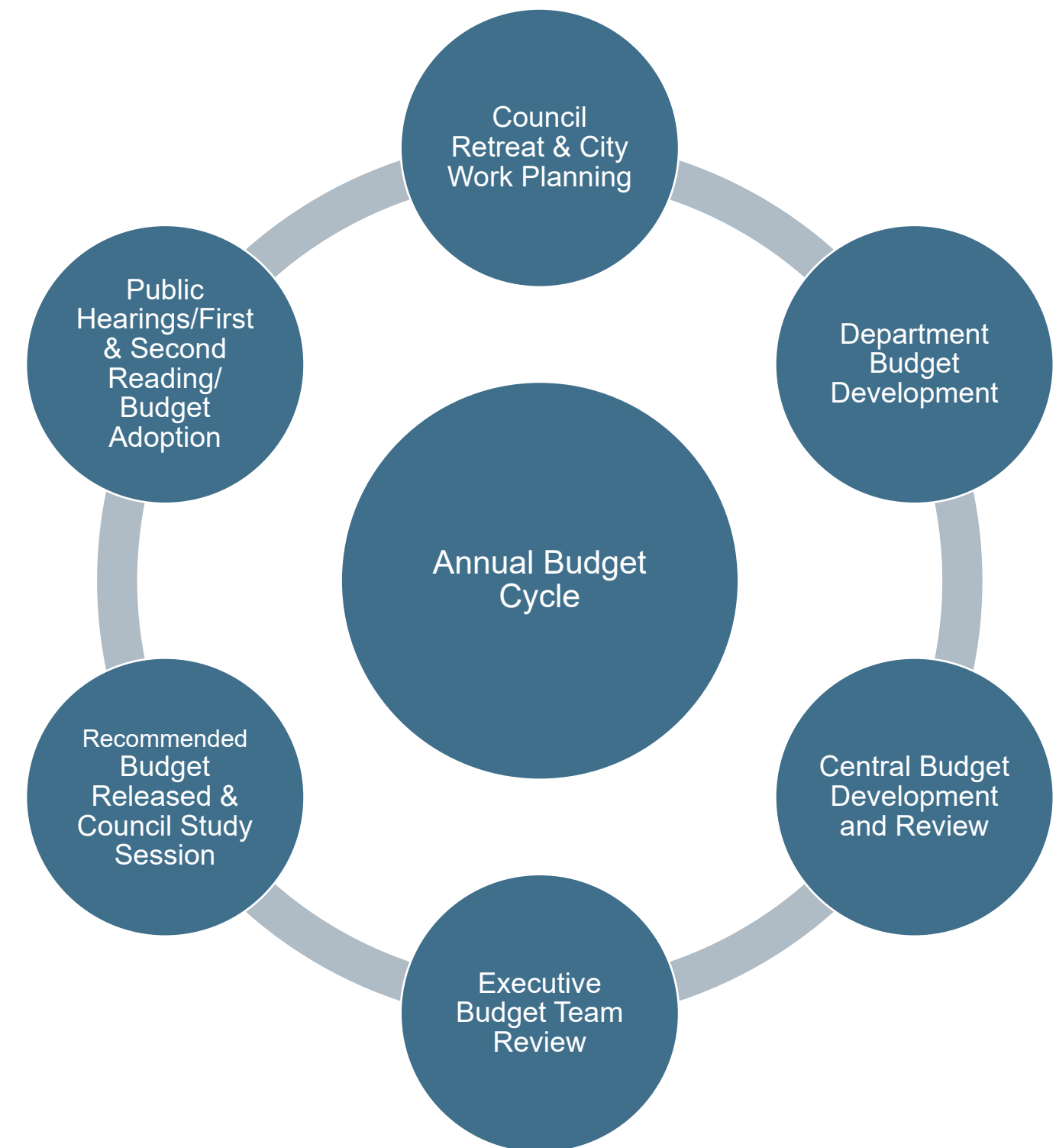- Downtown Space Programming
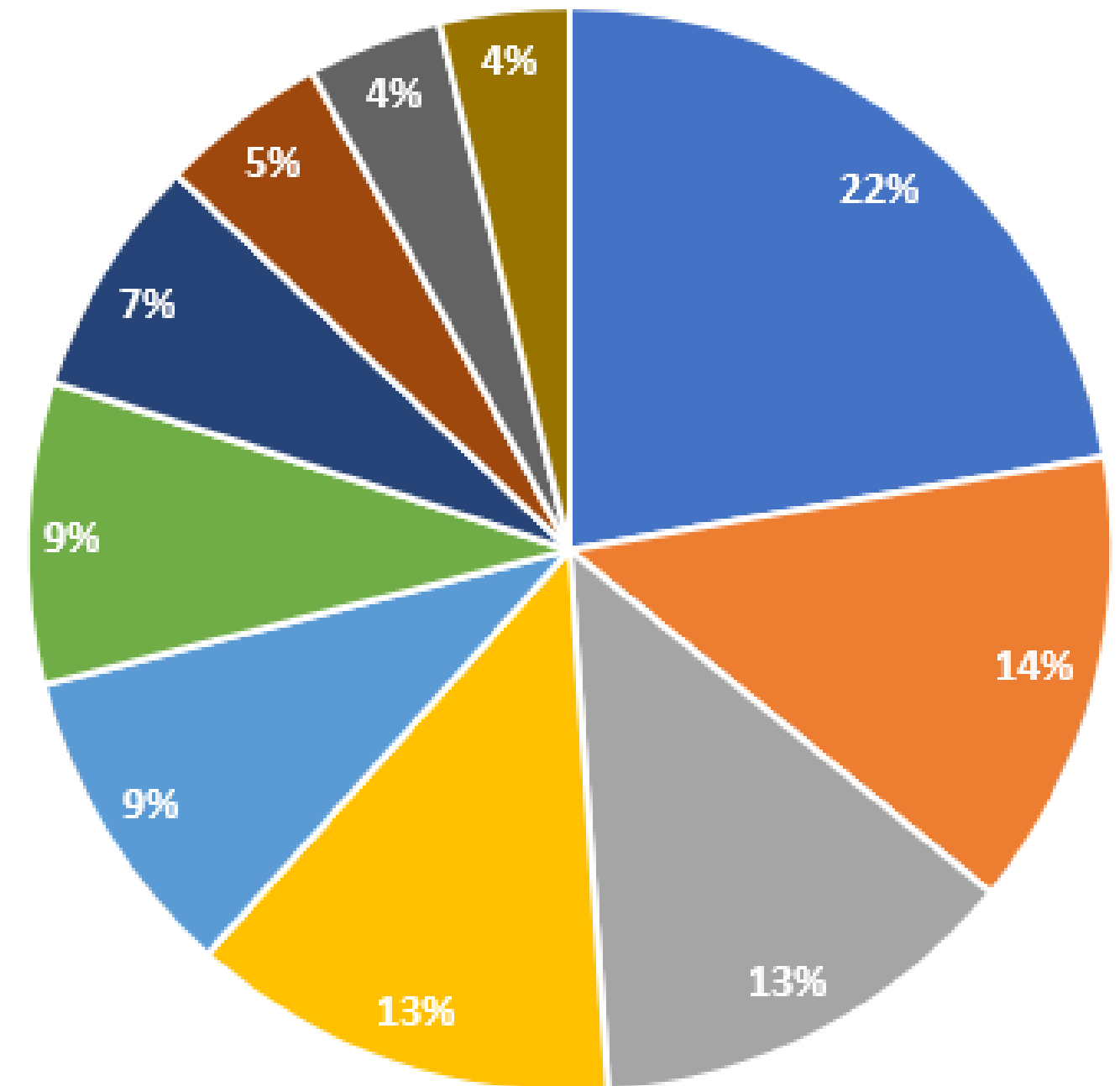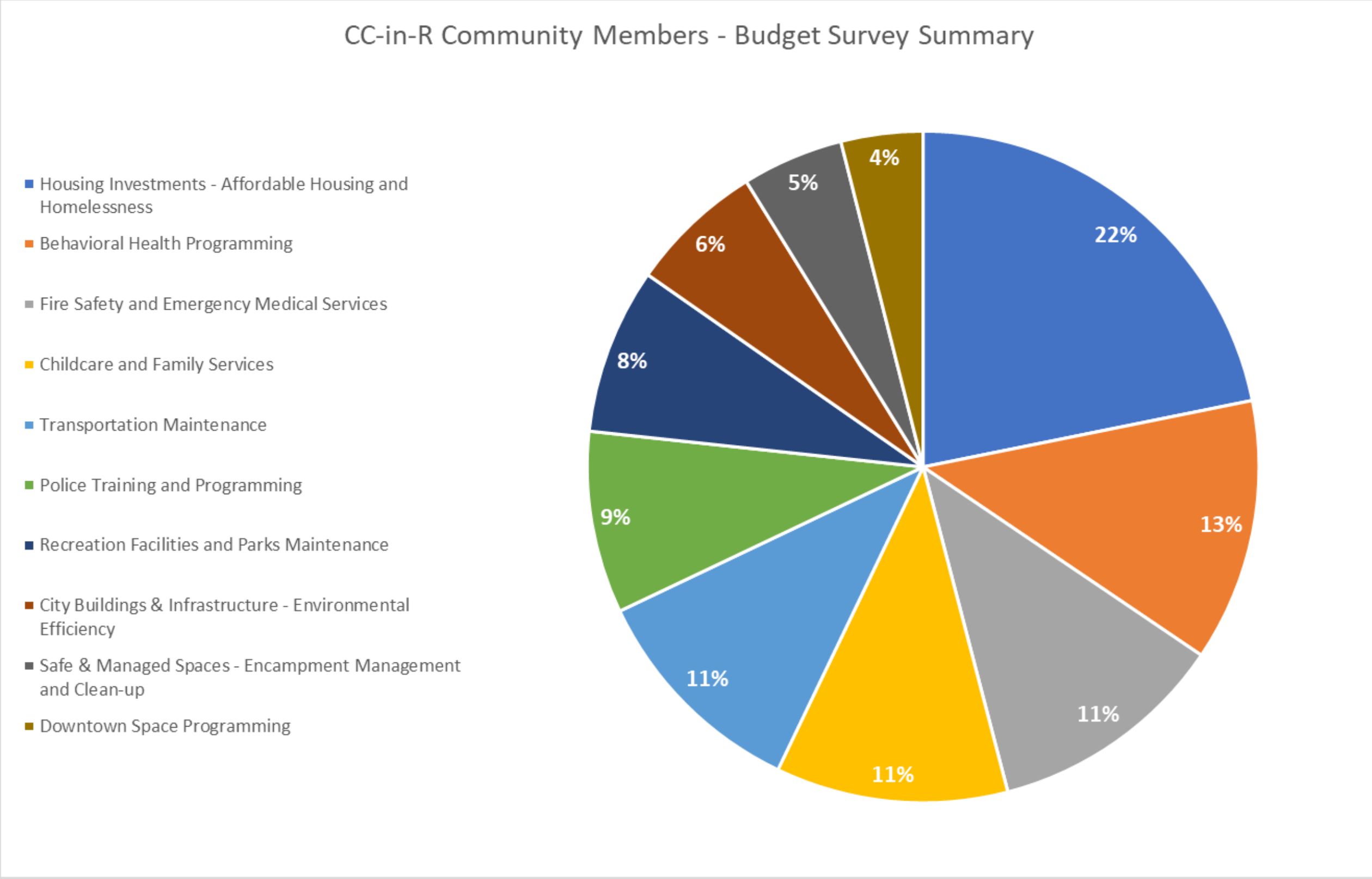
Community Connector Reflections

Budget Process Next Steps

- Incorporating CC-in-R input into Department Proposals
  - Uplifting CC-in-R key themes and issue areas within submissions

- Aligning Department Programs to SER Objectives
  - Performance trainings and outcome development

- Prioritization of review of proposals to include CC-in-R identified themes and issue areas

Annual Budget Cycle

- Council Retreat & City Work Planning
- Department Budget Development
- Central Budget Development and Review
- Executive Budget Team Review
- Recommended Budget Released & Council Study Session
- Public Hearings/First & Second Reading/ Budget Adoption

Questions?

Thank you!

2024 City Budget Cycle Community Engagement – Community Input

INPUT FROM INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS AND PARTICIPANTS

Community Connector-in-Residence Team Input

Participants

- 8 participants
- 38% low-income households (under $50,000/year)
- 88% community members of color (Latinx, Black or African American, Nepali, Indigenous)

SER Objectives Prioritized

- Provide a variety of housing types with a full range of affordability
- Support financial security and economic opportunity regardless of race, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status
- Support the City of Boulder advancing racial equity and implementing equity strategies and tools
- Seek to enhance the affordability of goods, services, and real estate that support the needs of all community members
- Support the natural environment and its ecosystems so they can resist damage and recover quickly
- Ensure City of Boulder programs and decisions do not have a disparate impact on historically excluded community members
- Support the physical and mental well-being of its community members by providing public gathering places
- Support community members who are unhoused or underhoused to navigate services to achieve housing security
- Cultivate a wide range of recreational, cultural, educational, civic, and social opportunities
- Enhance transparency, accuracy, and efficiency of customer service for City of Boulder services

Feedback on Priorities

- "Some of those should be interconnected. If the first 3 ones are solved, the rest will solve as a consequence. From a holistic approach, all these goals should be reached simultaneously. And all goals should be connected to a healthy environment for everyone's wellness, which means taking care of Mother Earth not for her to resist damage, but to be restored. The care of Mother Earth includes the care of all living beings in the community."
- "Boulder City should be a living place for all kinds of income-label people not only for rich people."
- "'Support financial security and economic opportunity regardless of race, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status' - This statement sounds to me like it is not prioritizing groups of people who have been historically at a disadvantage because of white supremacy, systematic racism, and oppression."

Participants

- o 22 participants
- o 57 low-income households (under $50,000/year)
- o 100% community members of color (Latinx, Nepali, African American)

Nepali-speaking Group Priorities

Provides a variety of housing types with a full range of affordability.

- o "Important because salaries should be able to cover rent and other bills and extra for such as car payment and saving but in reality one person who has two or three jobs still struggles to pay just rent in Boulder."

Disaggregates data by race and ethnicity to ensure programs, policies, and financial decisions do not have a disparate impact on historically excluded community members.

- o "Would like to see more representation in government offices. For example, DMV where they could take tests in their familiar languages and interpreters."

Supports the physical and mental well-being of its community members by providing public gathering places and programs to encourage social connection and prevent isolation.

- o "When one of their community members was visiting and slipped on ice and fell/broke a wrist, a $24,000 bill cost prevented them from being able to seek medical attention and the woman had to leave back to Nepal for treatment."

English-speaking Group Priorities

Cultivates a wide range of recreational, cultural, educational, civic, and social opportunities for all people regardless of their race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual identity, ability, or socioeconomic status.

- o "Housing and childcare are very important"
- o "Childcare is expensive! Limits opportunity"
- o "When they're smaller kiddos is even pricier"

- "CCAP is user friendly when kids are older, very difficult to use for babies"
- "Childcare centers also crowded"
- "Childcare is harder to find for younger children (infants)"
- "Institutions make a lively way to live – richness"
- "Caught in the middle when housing is not available"
- "Boulder is nice to live, but often gets discriminated and not belonging"
- "Cost of living with kids"
- "Moving financially up, but then not qualify for programs"
- "Have to work 3 jobs to make up"
- "Institutions that don't know how to help"
- "Difference in treatment and exposure is important"

Seeks to enhance the affordability of goods, services, and real estate that support the needs of all community members.

- "Cost of living is rising, is concerning"
- "Seems that Boulder wants to keep "rich" people vs. Focusing on the cultural diversity"
- Efforts for pushing low-income out with the rises of costs"

Supports financial security, economic opportunity, and social mobility for all people regardless of their race, ethnicity, age, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status.

- "Social and income mobility is huge"

Spanish-speaking Group Priorities

Provides a variety of housing types with a full range of affordability.

- "Is not enough to learn how to navigate the systems if the systems are what have caused the housing crisis. "
- "Is highly needed to have access to affordable rent. "
- "The city should work on a rent control program."
- "Work on removing racism in housing"
- "Mobile park homes regulations to stop abuse by administrators."
- "Mechanisms to protect mobile home residents when they are threatened or discriminated against not only by the administration but also by racist neighbors."
- "There are families who live in fear because they have been threatened by racist neighbors and the administration does nothing."
- "We need a human rights office, not only with mediation services but one that can help prevent human rights violations, that promote human rights education not only for housing but for all other problems."

Supports community members who are unhoused or underhoused to navigate systems, programs, and services to achieve housing security.

- o "To provide information for the prevention of eviction."
- o "Support security housing for all."

Seeks to enhance the affordability of goods, services, and real estate that support the needs of all community members.

- o "If we have to pay rent or buy a house and for food, health, and education, then our mental health will also be fine."

Supports financial security, economic opportunity, and social mobility for all people regardless of their race, ethnicity, age, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status.

- o "We need fair wages so we don't have to work multiple jobs for miserable pay."
- o "The Latino community is the most exploited and discriminated against."
- o "Many problems could be solved if there were economic justice"
- o "The system needs to be changed so that we do not continue to be exploited."
- o "There is no support at work and there is only one office that attends when the situation is too serious, there is no prevention either, they only want to resolve what no longer has a solution."
- o "We are being asked why we don't visit Downtown Boulder, that's because they haven't seen that we are in the kitchens."
- o "Fair wages and labor rights"

Supports the physical and mental well-being of its community members by providing public gathering places and programs to encourage social connection and prevent isolation.

- o "There are not enough mental health services, we cannot find them in our language, there are very long waiting lists, and there are no people who understand our culture"
- o "If we behave differently than what psychologists expect, then they think we're not okay, they don't consider that maybe it's the type of therapy or the therapist that isn't working."
- o "Better safe than sorry."
- o "There is no preventive culture for mental health, there are many systems to try to solve when it is too late, but few to prevent."
- o "There are no substance use recovery services that are appropriate to our culture, in our language, and affordable"
- o "Undocumented communities have many barriers to accessing health and mental health services, and there is a lot of fear."

Builds organizational capacity for advancing racial equity by normalizing conversations about race, developing a shared understanding of institutional and structural racism, confronting oppression, and operationalizing equity strategies.

- o "If we can remove racism, the mental health of our community will be better."
- o "Without racism we would have economic justice and mental health, and the services would truly be for all people."
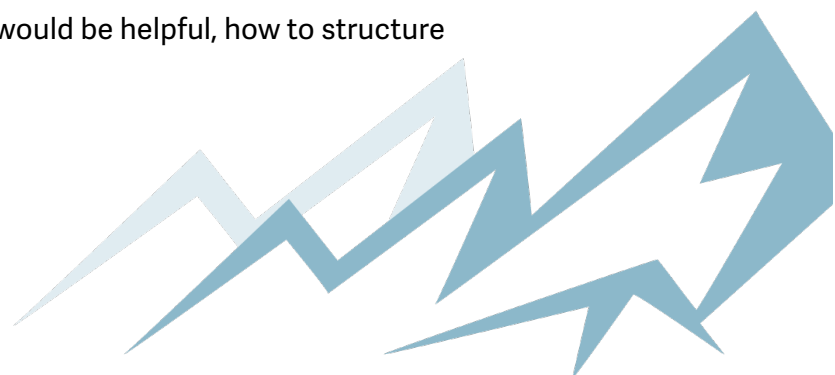
April 13 Engagement Session
12-1pm at Penfield Tate II

Participants

- o 7 participants
- o 29% low-income households (under $50,000/year)
- o 100% community members of color (Nepali)

Feedback on Priorities

- o Affordable housing is the top priority
- o Need to increase income limit to approve affordable house. City needs to focus in on affordable housing to make people stay in Boulder City
- o Income bracket needed above mid-income and below market rate
- o Many Nepali families have moved away from Boulder – to I-25 corridor – because of housing costs
- o Concerns about families with children leaving north Boulder, individuals with no/fewer children moving in, and BVSD needing to close down elementary schools due to low enrollment, years down the road
- o Boulder City is less safe than before. How much budget is allocated for community safety?
- o Concerns about how the Nepali community will be treated by city staff, experiencing racial disparities in accessing services and resources
- o HOA fees are increasing every year for affordable housing. It seems expensive to rent an apartment
- o What's city's plan to make the city affordable for all type of income of people who live in Boulder
- o Consider Shared Value Investing – crowd-funding down payments from a number of individuals interested in affordable housing
- o Safety issue with electric scooters being left on sidewalks, in driveways, on street – worry about driving over in the dark
- o Financial education for community members would be helpful, how to structure their finances

o   Worried about their voice being heard – how will this feedback reach decision-makers? Will their voices actually be heard?

Participants

- o   11 participants
- o   60% low-income households (under $50,000/year)
- o   100% community members of color (Latinx, Indigenous)

Bright Spots

- o   The way Boulder looks, I take a deep breath and say "I'm here"
- o   RTD is really good in this area
- o   I can walk to stores and walk everywhere
- o   Many elements of Mexico here
- o   I've met many people in the past two years and they say hi to me
- o   Different seasons
- o   Diverse community – where I come from is 99% Mexican and 99% Catholic
- o   Education for my children
- o   Haven't seen racism
- o   Have been able to use Spanish
- o   Reminds me of Peru, my land/mountains, and I feel at peace
- o   Uni Hill community, feel very welcome here, my child has made many friends and speaks Spanish
- o   Public services, library – first place I had access, free research for learners
- o   Mountains
- o   Beautiful to come here
- o   Amount of services for people – students, elders, young people in school
- o   Nature
- o   Living here 26 years, I love mountains and Boulder

Feedback on Priorities

Group One top Priorities

- o   **Seek to enhance the affordability of goods, services, and real estate that support the needs of all community members.**
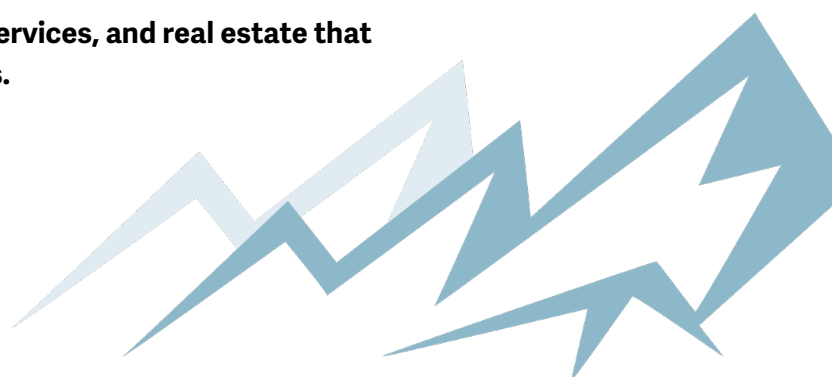
- o People able to meet their basic needs is the most important priority, if people are not able to meet their basic needs nothing else matters
- o Everything is connected
- o **Supporting financial security and economic opportunity** would support community with meeting basic needs, being able to meet our basic needs (shelter, food) reduces the risk of physical and mental illness, stress, depression, malnutrition that could lead to so many diseases.
- o **Support community members who are unhoused or underhoused to navigate services to achieve housing security.**
    - o When people are not able to meet their basic needs, having a public gathering place does not matter.
    - o Taking care of the environment also comes second, when you are worried about providing things for your family: it is really hard to say " I am not going to buy from this company because it hurts our planet, when you don't have enough money and this company provides inexpensive things."
    - o There needs to be a balance between taking care of our planet and taking care of ourselves
    - o Sometimes they (city) ask our community things that are out of their scope of thinking because their main focus is meeting their basic needs, they are preoccupied with being able to pay rent, bills, and buying food. They don't have time to think about how they want a park to look, they don't even have time to go to the park.

- o **Provide a variety of housing types with a full range of affordability**
    - o People have to work a lot to be able to afford to pay rent/ housing: there is no time for civic engagement, no time to go to the library, not time to spend in the parks, or open space
    - o My husband has two jobs, he does not have time to spend with my kids, they grew up calling their uncle dad, because they never saw my husband and that makes me extremely sad, it is unjust.
    - o Being able to buy a house in Boulder is impossible for us
    - o We would like to stay in Boulder but if we want to buy a home it will be impossible for us to stay. This directly affects racial equity; it has affected generational wealth, help people in minority communities/people of color, and immigrants to buy homes in Boulder, this can advance racial equity in our community.

- o **Cultivate a wide range of recreational, cultural educational, civic, and social opportunities (this was important to the young adults)**
    - o Options that are open late: we work late and everything is closed when we get out of work
    - o Different options for recreation that are public
    - o We are not able to stay in parks late

- o **Support financial security and economic opportunity regardless of race, gender, ability, socioeconomic status**

- o Even when people are wealthy and can pay for services they look for the cheapest option, and often they take advantage of people, especially those that are burnable like immigrants.
- o The most physically straining jobs, pay the worst.

Group Two

- o Expand child care subsidy. To make it attractive to childcare providers to accept CCCAP, they otherwise give priority to those who will pay more, leaving families with limited resources who rely on CCCAP at a disadvantage. People who need these programs the most are left out by the time resources get to families – serves 900 students with a 900 student wait list
- o Coordination between the city and the school district so that there are after-school programs like art, music, and sports that help children and youth not get into addictions, especially now that it is very easy for young people to get drugs anywhere.
- o Mental health and substance use prevention and recovery programs
- o Mental health for teenagers – easier for son to get drugs than sports, summer camps, afterschool programs
- o That the city has mental health facilities that are adequate and specific for each social group, by age, where young people can have services for young people and not that now they mix all the people and sometimes it does them more harm than anything. Services are needed that are culturally relevant, in the language families prefer, and that do not isolate people, but rather provide them with real support. With a diversity of services according to the needs of the people, not only psychological therapies but other services that strengthen mental health.
- o Alternatives and transportation services, quality services, and that are affordable for families.
- o We need mobile home parks to stop becoming no man's land, where managers do what they want. We need the city to be able to regulate and stop the harmful behaviors that managers have.
- o Community education on how to react in case of emergencies. Also that weather and climate emergencies and their effects such as the Marshall Fire can be prevented.
- o It is very important that mobile home parks have potable water and that it does not harm health. Especially in San Lazaro. And that San Lázaro can have support and services from the city.
- o Support for manufactured homes, no one has come since Marshall fire, wind damage funds were supposed to have been set aside
- o Construction of outdoor gyms in parks and in all areas of the city, because although some already exist, many areas have nothing. This can help community connection, prevent addictions, and promote health and exercise in an affordable way.
- o A community center for young people, with services and activities appropriate for their ages and culture.
- o Facilities for young people where they can have tutoring, create art, and learn music, as a cultural and creative center.
- o Having access to information, in the people's preferred language, and that it reaches people because there is a lot of information and resources, and services, but not all people find out because the information does not
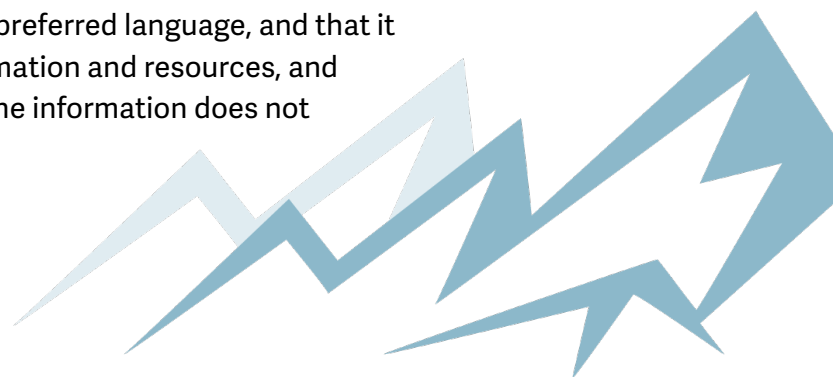
reach them. mindful outreach. Information in Spanish and other languages that people can easily understand.

- o We need a senior center like Longmont with many activities and services for the elderly, fun, creative and intelligent, and not condescending.
- o That there are programs in Spanish, because although a lot of information is translated, there are not enough programs in Spanish in all places in the city, for example, for people with disabilities, or in the rec centers, and in other places like the library, parks, walks, and that more community members can find out what's on and how to get involved and participate.
- o We need community gardens accessible to the community, mainly near housing buildings that do not have access to land on which to plant.
- o Affordable health services. The city can give vouchers for healthcare with specialists. That the clinic can make referrals to specialists and these are covered by the clinic's discount plan. Since they did it before and now that is gone, and it is very needed, there are many people who cannot have health insurance and simply do not have access to healthcare.
- o Affordable and accessible healthcare services
- o Advanced computer classes, because although there are some computer classes, there are only 8 classes that teach the basics, and then they don't advance anymore, we need classes for all levels.
- o Free physicals for all youth to get enrolled in school sports, and for all community members, thus it can be preventative health that is more effective.
- o May the play pass benefit more families and cover more programs.
- o The indigenous communities have less and less population before there were more indigenous people living in Boulder, but with the cost of rents and everything more expensive, we have been displaced.
- o More and better services. Visit the communities of the city to learn about their needs.
- o The People's Clinic used to refer to the CU Hospital, but it no longer does that, and so people are no longer getting the care they need.
- o We need rent control, in 2013 you could rent a two-bedroom house for $800, that is impossible now.
- o Return lands to indigenous people
- o Change the political systems of power that prevent people from participating, and prioritize time to listen to the community, because now we see that they gave us a lot of information but very little time for us to participate.
- o Sometimes they say they want to listen but it's performative like many city council sessions, which can last for hours, and the important issues for the community are always until the end when everyone is tired and short on time.
- o Give enough time, more outreach
- o Develop culturally relevant models for community engagement
- o Integrate a holistic approach in the models for the well-being of the community. Invest resources to really make that possible.
- o Strengthen local food systems, especially those promoted by BIPOC communities, because only white farms are privileged.
- o There is discrimination in access to land and many barriers for people to access land for food, housing, recreation, and wellness

- o Cultural relevant and land regenerative practices.
- o Affordability in housing and food, which does not have to be through food banks. Expand the veggies and fruits bucks program to more families and greater amounts.
- o Resources and services to prevent and reduce the fentanyl, drug, and mental health crisis.
- o Tiny house projects for the unhoused.
- o Remove colonial systems
- o Diversify mental health strategies like Boulder Strong so that more people can access these services, and have centers like Boulder Strong in more areas of the city and not as something temporary but as something permanent and affordable for community members.
- o Green infrastructure and natural and organic solutions to the climate crisis.
- o Plant on top of the bus stops shelters, green walls in buildings, clean energy, but including community connection and affordability for all. Electric transportation alternatives that are affordable.

On-line Engagement
OpenGov Questionnaires

SER Framework Prioritization Survey
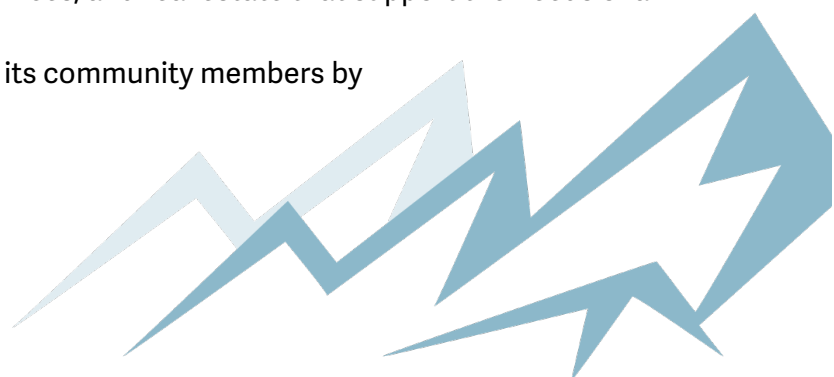
Survey Question

The City of Boulder's Sustainability, Equity and Resilience (SER) Framework serves as a key planning tool for city programs, policies, & budget. What do you think are the most important SER Objectives? On a scale of one-to-ten, what order would you give each category (objective) based on your priorities?

Participants

- o 47 participants (26 online participants, 21 in-person participants)
- o 54% low-income households (under $50,000/year)
- o 77% community members of color (Latinx, Nepali, African American)

Compiled SER Objective Priorities from Community Participants and CC-in-R Team

- o Provide a variety of housing types with a full range of affordability
- o Support financial security and economic opportunity regardless of race, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status
- o Support the City of Boulder advancing racial equity and implementing equity strategies and tools
- o Support community members who are unhoused or underhoused to navigate services to achieve housing security
- o Support the natural environment and its ecosystems so they can resist damage and recover quickly
- o Seek to enhance the affordability of goods, services, and real estate that support the needs of all community members
- o Support the physical and mental well-being of its community members by providing public gathering places

- o Cultivate a wide range of recreational, cultural, educational, civic, and social opportunities
- o Ensure City of Boulder programs and decisions do not have a disparate impact on historically excluded community members
- o Enhance transparency, accuracy, and efficiency of customer service for City of Boulder services

Feedback on Priorities

- o "Reducing the cost of housing should be the #1 priority as it is the root cause of many of these problems. The solution is to expand mixed-use zoning and reduce single-family house zoning."
- o "That the parks and the streets are kept clean, that people pick up after their dogs poop, more green spaces and other fun activities"
- o "Trabajos bien pagados, que las rentas no san tan caras y mas actiuidades enhorarios para familas" ("Well-paid jobs, less expensive rents and more family-friendly activities".)
- o "Accessibility and equality for all."
- o "Apoyar la seguridad financiera para la educacion de los ninos con los deportes" ("Supporting financial security for children's education with sports.")
- o "Denver has an affordable housing program that Boulder can base a good solution around."
- o "Mental and physical health services should be a BIG piece of supporting the unhoused or underhoused members of our community."
- o "Casos de emergencia con los casas moviles" ("Emergency cases with mobile homes".)
- o "The health area for the population identified below the poverty range is extremely neglected in terms of quality of service and qualified personnel (Doctors) to identify and prevent diseases. People's Clinic advertises itself as having 48 high quality staff but in reality, they do not have quality medical care, nor emergency service for adults or communities without medical insurance (Medicaid). This issue should be added as an objective of equity in health services."
- o "Another inequity that I can't find where to prioritize within the city of Boulder is not having affordable indoor spaces where low-income communities can rent to hold socio-cultural identity events. Holidays, culture celebrations, festivities of multiple cultures do not have options within the city of Boulder to promote the identification and extension of customs and festivities of the diversity of cultures living in the city of Boulder."
- o "The rentals of social halls are completely at rates with very high costs, the same for recreational areas. Indoor sports spaces are completely a private initiative, generating hostility for not giving access to low-income communities and being excluded from exercising sports as a community election."
- o "Rent control"
- o "Racial equity"
- o "Cultural events funding is needed for powwows, speakers, events"
- o "The City of Boulder is well known for his sustainability and inclusivity ideologies, human beings have the right to enjoy healthy environment and access to shelter. If we all could support our community basic needs, accessibility and mental health, our community will be strong and self-sufficient!"

Budget Survey: Spending Priorities on $100 of General Revenue

Survey Question

We want to hear from you! How would you spend $100 of general revenue in your city?
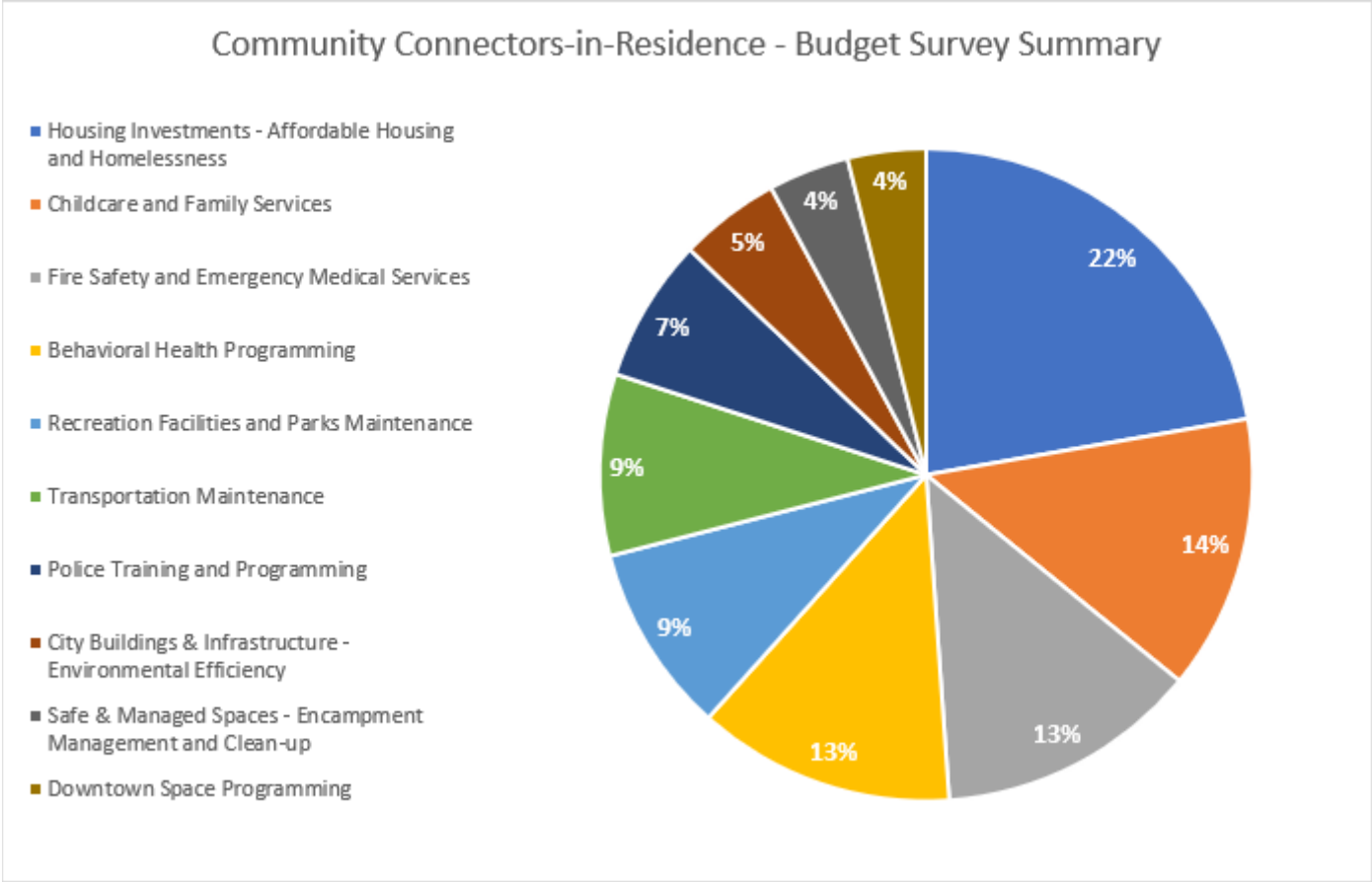
Participants

- o 8 Community Connectors-in-Residence Team
- o 17 Community Member Participants
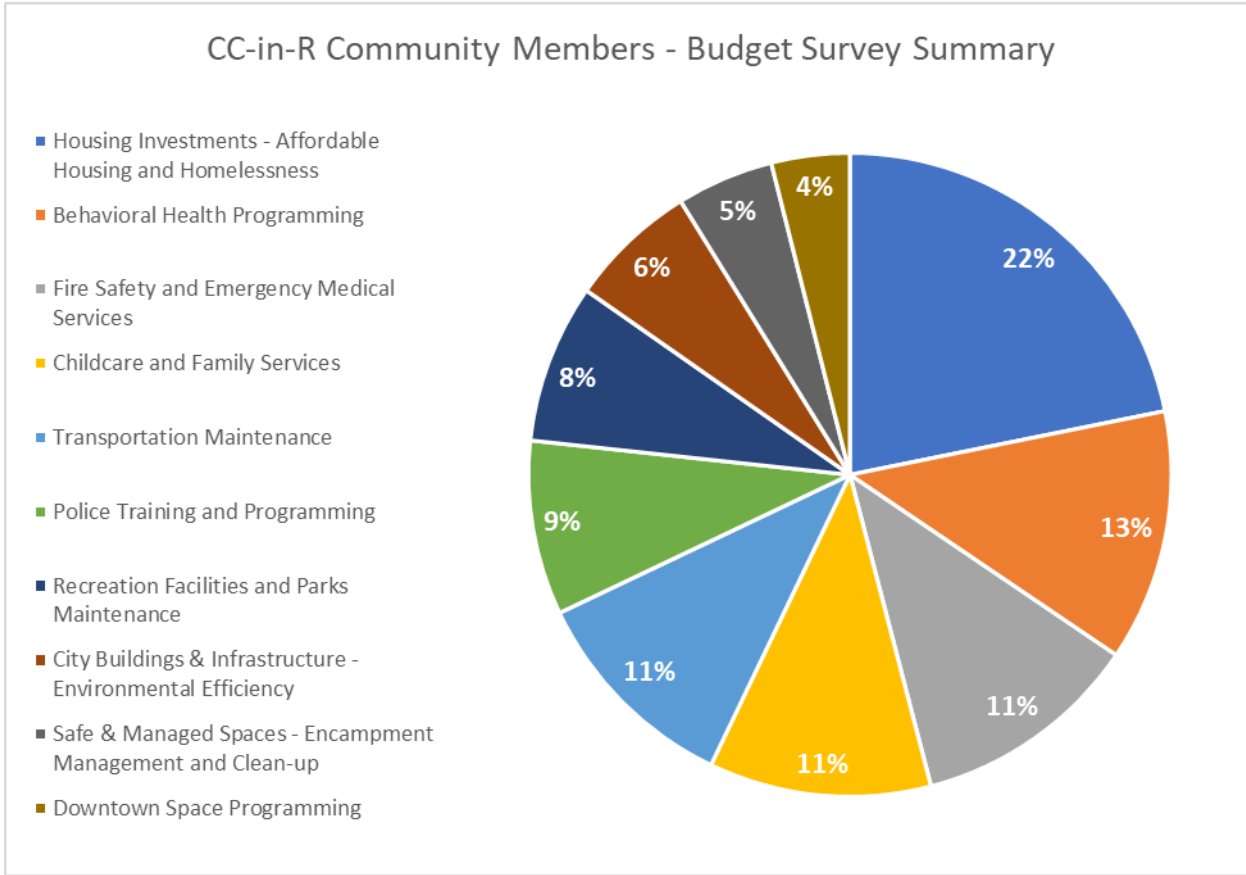
Feedback on Spending Priorities

- "Affordable housing in terms of buying a home, not renting. Make the affordable home buying program available for undocumented immigrants."
- "Funding should prioritize anti- bias , anti racism training for the police."
- "We need a 500% to make something more equitable and efficient. Very hard to decide. Every time I heard defund the police, I think is the right thing since we see so much police brutality in the whole country, but now that I see the little budget for police training I got scared that then the police will be even worse. But I think if we fund more other areas, then we won't need the police that much, because when community members' life is improved, then the crime and risk behaviors get down. So we need a balance on human safety to not need so much public safety because communities will be safer when everyone thrives."
- "More investment into multi-use paths away from loud, smelly, and dangerous roads."
- "I wish the City budget is as transparent as this. City's budget looks vague for normal people to understand. This feedback form is very user friendly."
- "Some of these items have dedicated taxes and therefore a steady stream of funding. My responses assume funding from general fund in addition to the revenue from dedicated taxes."
- "If I had more money, I would also add safe and managed places."

Survey Results: Community Connectors-in-Residence Team

Community Connectors-in-Residence - Budget Survey Summary

- Housing Investments - Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Childcare and Family Services
- Fire Safety and Emergency Medical Services
- Behavioral Health Programming
- Recreation Facilities and Parks Maintenance
- Transportation Maintenance
- Police Training and Programming
- City Buildings & Infrastructure - Environmental Efficiency
- Safe & Managed Spaces - Encampment Management and Clean-up
- Downtown Space Programming

Survey Results: Community Members

CC-in-R Community Members - Budget Survey Summary

- Housing Investments - Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Behavioral Health Programming
- Fire Safety and Emergency Medical Services
- Childcare and Family Services
- Transportation Maintenance
- Police Training and Programming
- Recreation Facilities and Parks Maintenance
- City Buildings & Infrastructure - Environmental Efficiency
- Safe & Managed Spaces - Encampment Management and Clean-up
- Downtown Space Programming

'Building Power & Raising Voices' sessions – Community Strengths and Community Issues

Sessions Boulder Housing Partners – Glen Willow and Natural Highs in fall 2022

Community Strengths

- Open-mindedness and creativity of people
- Passionate people and energy
- Inquisitive people
- Natural Highs
- Connecting to nature
- It's cool, watching movies, working at Cosmo's
- Opportunities for growth and community
- Mountains
- Outdoors, hiking trails
- Community that's accepting
- Beauty within some darkness
- Flatirons
- Services that the city offers
- Recreational passes offered by the city
- Downtown Boulder, Boulder Creek
- The diversity in rec centers and library
- Being right next to the mountains and trails
- Affordable housing
- Fresh air, safe environment
- Bus passes
- Lots of things to do
- Support and continuity with community
- Many people doing different things, evolving, access to ways of life
- Many things to do
- People way more accepting
- Lots of cool people here
- People nice and accepting, can express myself
- Sense of community
- Mountains, vibration, spirit
- Safe and brave spaces
- Opportunity for everyone to be engaged
- Felt opportunities here to create something
- Acknowledging land we're on, makes effort to make something right with indigenous community
- Opportunity to be genuinely and holistically who you are, wholer version who I am

Community Issues

- Proper drug education needed, test kits, awareness to fentanyl
- Carbon tax on pollution, transition from fossil fuels, EV infrastructure
- Never been to a youth center

- Increase density of housing, higher occupancy allowed
- More access to Narcan within schools
- Address normalization of marijuana, cocaine, drinking
- Scary gun violence
- Diverse community members may feel less welcome
- Inaccessible/unaffordable to rent in Boulder, need caps on rent amount and Air BNB offerings, more regulation
- Community housing, co-housing
- Income-based subsidized housing
- Education about Cheyenne and Arapahoe history, cultural exchange
- Police budget to mental health resources, train police in addressing mental health crises, police integration with public
- Bilingual, bicultural staff at schools, representation matters
- Increased access to services, segregation of folks with developmental disabilities
- Wished learned Natural Highs content earlier, coping strategies
- Promote creative outlets, art, music, poetry (like at Trident) - art changes the world
- Easier to access free therapy
- Access to mental health services, e.g., Larimer County
- Free place to go, youth center, art, music, gym, sports
- YOAB funding, fund youth programs
- Safe2Tell not useful, needed details to report peers, needs more resources
- More dog parks needed
- Homeless or person in subsidized housing on city council
- Bring back RTD bus route #205 – it's difficult for folks with disabilities to walk
- Bus service for all schools and students
- Free lunch for all students
- Bus for seniors to shop – grocery or 30th & Arapahoe shops
- Limited parking spaces at North Boulder Rec Center
- More home ownership programs
- More outreach for Rent Rebate program
- More affordable activities for youth – ice rink, roller rink, baseball games
- Transparency with government – more ways in which the city shares what they are doing
- Cap on housing rent/costs
- The land where the Boulder County public offices are, plaque dedicating land for the homeless
- More protection in schools needed – bullying and fighting

'Racial Equity Instrument Step Review and Feedback' Case Study – Downtown Streets as Public Spaces

Racial Equity Instrument Step Review and Feedback **Case Study** **Downtown Streets as Public Spaces**

Project Staff Process
- Project staff complete Racial Equity Instrument and request [Community Connectors-in-Residence feedback](#) on a specific step within the instrument
- Project staff share project materials and feedback prompts at least one week ahead of time
- Project staff meet with CC-in-Rs for 30 minutes to share project overview, address questions, and hear feedback
- CC-in-R staff and project staff capture notes
- Project staff share what they heard and how they used CC-in-R feedback in decision-making

Racial Equity Instrument Step Review & Feedback – Project Team Submission

Title of Service/Program/Policy: *Downtown Streets as Public Space*

Department: *Multiple (P&DS, T&M, CV, C&E)*

Main contact name and role: *Vivian Castro-Wooldridge, Project Engagement Lead*

Anticipated timeline: *City Council Study Session - March 23; Spring/Summer Implementation; Fall/Winter - long-term recommendations*

What is the purpose of your service/program/policy?: *By spring 2023, the project will lead to temporary repurposing of downtown streets with programming, cultural events, public art and more. By the end of 2023, the project will result in long-term recommendations for changes to streets as public spaces. Community engagement will consider trade-offs to create solutions for a shared vision of streets downtown. Racial equity instrument objective: The City of Boulder and its partners intentionally create opportunities for Downtown streets as public spaces that are appealing to and draw our communities of color, and that are leveraged for cross-cultural celebrations.*

Which priority populations might be impacted by this service/program/policy?: *All residents of Boulder (and visitors) could be potentially impacted by the project, which focuses on the Downtown area but may also have city-wide policy implications.*

Which of these communities are you seeking direct feedback from CC-in-Rs for your service/program/policy?: *Low-income, disabled, immigrants, racial and ethnic minorities*

Will any existing services be cut due to this new service/program/policy initiative?: *No*

Which step of the Racial Equity Instrument are you seeking direct feedback from CC-in-Rs at this time?: *Step 3: Determine Benefit and Burden*

How might the policy, program, or budget issue increase or decrease racial equity?: *The reimagining of public spaces in the Downtown area has the risk of further alienating people of color from Downtown if not carefully considered.*

Challenge your thinking. Consider one of the indicators from Step 1 and ask why a racial disparity might exist. Then, why else? Why else? Why else? Do the same exercise for another indicator:
The information below is largely based on feedback provided by community connectors in residence during the Downtown Boulder Partnership 5-year vision consultations last year.
  o *Entertainment, food and retail are expensive*
  o *Some workers in downtown shops display bias towards people of color*
  o *There are not many people of color downtown (which may be a deterrent for others to come)*
  o *Offerings are not always culturally relatable*
  o *Communities of color may not receive timely information about the event/ activation*

With which city and community partners will you engage, to listen and understand diverse perspectives, center lived experience, and further deepen your analysis of benefits/burdens associated with this issue?: *From now until end March is Phase 1. We have not yet prepared the engagement plan for Phase 2 (April - September) but we intend to ensure we hear from diverse stakeholders on their experiences with the spring and summer popups.*

Materials Shared with CC-in-R Team (in addition to submission above)
Dear Community Connectors-in-Residence,

We are excited to meet with you Friday, Feb 10 to share updates on the Downtown Streets as Public Space Project and seek your initial feedback. We will aim to keep our team's presentation to 10 minutes so that we have about 20 minutes for questions and discussion. Please find attached the slides we will present.

Project website: Downtown Streets as Public Space | City of Boulder (bouldercolorado.gov)

These are the main questions we hope you can answer:

  o   Do you have any questions about the project scope or process?

- o Do you have any general feedback about the initial recommendations, including street segments (see slide 7)?
- o Are there any holidays or celebrations that you'd like to see in a community space in downtown? What would be needed to make a celebratory event successful?
- o What else should we consider when making recommendations for City Council for the spring/summer pop-ups? Are there gaps in our thinking?

We look forward to this initial discussion, and future discussions as the project evolves.

Thanks again!

CC-in-R Feedback Notes

- o One recommended celebration would be warm welcome to black student athletes new to Boulder, humanizing people coming into our community from the south and other regions of the country
- o Will there be any closures related to students arriving for Coach Prime [schedule to be determined, not necessarily 24/7 closure but more weekends, try to compliment or get out of the way]
- o Experience as CU student when Pearl Street was a street. Now too many people there and nowhere to park, I feel like a stranger in my own home. Used to be small and independent shops, not fun for me anymore. Used to be entertainers and jugglers on the mall. I like what you're trying to do, make it more accessible for our community.
- o Not a 'Gilmore Girls' style coffee shop in Boulder, somewhere where you know everyone, a small community like Boulder you should be able to connect and feel a part of a community and that you belong. If we do arts and cultures events related to human rights events, bringing equity lens, any event has to be opportunity to educate (e.g., women's rights, children's rights, pride month), having fun and learning and connecting as community
- o If I want to celebrate my holiday, how would I do that? Once per year, Nepali holiday, New Year in April (usually), also festival Dashain in October
- o ¡Día de los Muertos! So we don't have to go to Longmont to celebrate! You can connect with the organizations that are already celebrating like Centro Amistad and Luna Cultura and other locals
- o On 13th, what is the project thinking of building? What did businesses on West Pearl say about closing recently? [different priorities to balance, some restaurants enjoyed closure but not at all times or week or seasons, considering regular events (e.g., weekends), considering repurposing parking spaces as parklets, with games, considering sense of arrival]
- o Also, how would the bike park stations would look like? [bike infrastructure important]
- o Concerns about youth safety, including drug, alcohol, and other influences
- o Part of diversity and inclusion process, could city organize something for Juneteenth? Unlike Black History Month in cold Feb, summer and nice weather. Would hate to see as party, would love to see more as educational opportunity. Black community can be split - celebrating the end of enslavement vs education about history and how Black community has been left behind. A lot of discussion would need to be had with local Black community, needs to be led/driven by African American community, approach of education

- o If you bring holidays and celebrations to downtown, do not take culture and profit from it, support local community members and their work
- o Must involve community in planning of cultural events

Follow Next Steps Shared by Project Staff

Dear Community Connectors-in-Residence,

Thank you for a very insightful conversation on Feb 10 about the Downtown Streets as Public Space (DSaPS) project. We're circling back with you to update you and share what we have learned so far.

We've wrapped up the first phase of engagement and technical analysis. We are now preparing a memo with our recommendations for Spring and Summer pop-ups throughout the Downtown area that will be available on March 10 and form part of the packet for the city council study session on March 23. The packet will include more details on the engagement and technical analyses and highlights are shared below.

We really appreciate your time and input into the process. We will also be reaching out to you during the next phase of the project to help us learn from the Spring/Summer pop-ups. Thanks again and we look forward to seeing you Downtown this spring and summer!

Highlights- Engagement

·   **Desired experiences:** Community members enjoy downtown for a variety of reasons, primarily to shop, dine, socialize, people watch and enjoy nightlife.

·   **What's missing from current experiences:** Participants identified concerns about safety and public health; affordability (both for business owners and consumers); and challenges related to mobility, access and/or parking. The city also heard clearly that some residents do not feel welcome downtown, and others expressed a desire to round out what are perceived as activities designed to attract tourists with more organic and community-centered options.

·   **Travel preferences:** People use a variety of ways to get downtown, including primarily by bike, foot, or personal vehicle. Inclement weather shifts preferences heavily toward use of a personal vehicle.

·   **Abundance of activators**: There are many ideas to activate downtown. Activators – individuals or groups who can create programming and events within re-purposed street spaces -- will need permitting and, sometimes, financial support from the city.

·   **Equity and inclusion:** There was a consistent emphasis through all engagement efforts that the city should seek to increase inclusivity through the type of activations, as well as increase collaboration, accessibility and affordability, to create a sense of belonging for all.

·   **West Pearl listening and learning:** While this project strives to consider a wider range of downtown locations for re-purposing streets, it is clear that much of the feedback stems from individuals' experiences in the context of the West Pearl closure. Some community members expressed continued frustration that

the street was reopened to vehicular traffic. At the same time, West Pearl business owners who were directly impacted by changes to street use during the pandemic shared that they did not feel heard or represented in previous community conversations about this topic. More dialogue and a collaborative approach to planning will be necessary to build greater trust and community alignment.

· **Eye on long-term impacts**. The Boulder community wants to see the city moving towards more resilient, sustainable, and people and community-centered policies in the long-term recommendations.

Highlights- Technical Assessment

·   **The scale of transformation needs to match levels of activation**. We must ensure there is a purpose to any street closure because public spaces need the presence of people to feel vibrant, inviting and safe.

· **Boulder businesses are key partners in enhancing life downtown**. Many people enjoy downtown because of the experiences businesses provide. As the city reimagines its streets together with the community, it will be important to bring all stakeholders, including businesses, along in the process. A key takeaway from similar street transformations across the country is that all successful transformations had active and excited interest from both the business community and general public.

· **The city should build on already strong activation**. We may have more opportunity for exciting experiences if we leverage and amplify existing activations while also trying out some new ideas.

· **The city can transform streets without requiring a full 24/7 closure to vehicles.** A variety of tactics can be used to create people-centric places. Full street closures are not the only tool to achieve a fun, enjoyable and inclusive experience. Closing streets to vehicular traffic permanently requires additional technical, operational, and legal evaluation. If this becomes a community goal, it is likely to take time. Meanwhile, the warmer weather in the months ahead provides an opportunity to test new ideas through temporary, or pop-up, activities and street treatments to inform future plans for, and investment in, the public realm.

What happens next?

What started as an emergency economic recovery strategy has become an experiment in reimagining the role of streets in Boulder. Here's what we expect over the remainder of this project:

· The project team is developing a set of recommendations to enhance enjoyment of our community streets. These recommendations will be available on March 10, as part of the materials released in advance of City Council's study session on March 23.

· Based on council's input, staff and community partners will implement the recommendations for spring and summer 2023.

· Engagement with the community and stakeholders will continue during the experimentation phase to seek input on peoples' experiences. The learnings will be used to craft long-term recommendations for more people-centered places that balance different needs and help to achieve a more connected and sustainable future.

Here is an at-a-glance of the process and where we currently are:
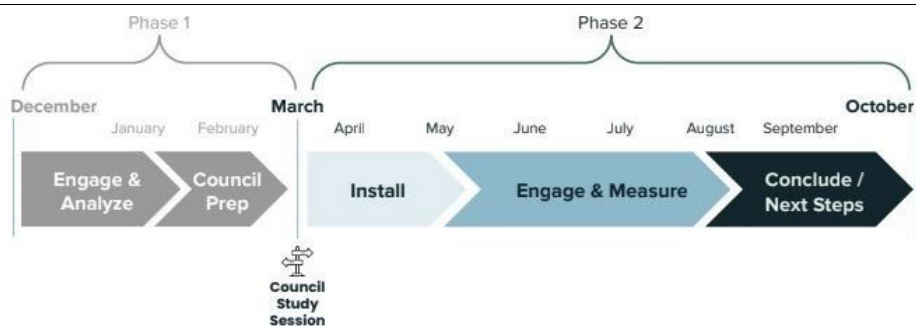
For more information about this project, please contact Senior Project Manager Noreen Walsh. Anyone interested in pursuing programming opportunities in the downtown street spaces this year may contact the city's Events Senior Program Manager Justin Greenstein.

Community Connectors in Residence

Key takeaways:

- Recommendation to **celebrate CU student athletes who are coming to Boulder with Coach Prime** to Boulder from the south and other regions of the country

- Comments about **feeling like a "stranger" in Boulder with Pearl Street changing so much over the decades**; Pearl used to be smaller with independent shops and entertainers (like jugglers) on the Mall; no sense of a place where you know everyone in a small community to connect

- Any human rights events or activities should be **an opportunity to educate**, and any **cultural events should support local community members** and not be created for profit

- Would like to see recommendations for kids/teen safety and **safe bike routes from places like Boulder Meadows to downtown**

Ideas for holiday celebrations:
- ¡Día de Muertos! (November)
- Nepalese New Year (usually in April)
- Dashain (October)
- Juneteenth (June)

Holiday celebrations should be created with the community; sensitive to the type of celebration; and a learning opportunity.

DRAFT 2/13/23   26

Feedback from Project Staff on 'Racial Equity Instrument Step Review & Feedback' Process:

- o "We appreciated the opportunity very much - and also appreciated that a few of the connectors were willing to stay longer than the planned 30 minutes."

- o "Every time I have come before this group we have taken back actionable feedback - their time and willingness to share their experience is always appreciated, valued, and makes our work better."