

World Café Notes – Southern CA Convening – April 13, 2017

Topic: Housing & Economic Development

- What are the needs/challenges?
 - Pomona – Sr. Housing vs. low income housing; city rents are expensive so a need – work arounds have challenges (garage conversions; multiple families in homes) etc.
 - Stigma for low income families
 - Parks, dog parks, space, markets – 0 in these areas
 - Irvine company had low income housing requirements – can't tell difference from wealthy areas (keeps property values up for wealthy but some community benefits)
 - Affordable housing a reaction to workforces being displaced-econ development tied to affordable housing
 - Housing in econ terms is key strategy
 - Hard to capitalize on schools/universities
 - Cities will prioritize transportation, housing, etc where growth is projected – divested communities further segregated and left behind
 - Freeway expansion mostly in low income areas
 - Housing diversity/integrated important and under utilized
 - Santa Ana – pros and cons of downtown revitalization -a model for both
 - Safety as crime vs pedestrian accidents -transportation role

- Where is the momentum in the region?
 - Schools provide driver's ed, but cities raise driving priorities in planning (need \$)
 - Cities and areas with rise in econ development also breeding rising rates of homelessness
 - Push from developers
 - Encampments as a mixed strategy
 - Green spaces and park services – role
 - Mental health services needed (eg. Pomona-tri-city service provider)
 - Some headway in trauma/ACES
 - Need more support around developing econ development -need to learn correct languages, ect. They want (public works, econ biz, etc.) healthy workers/so do we. Need more planning
 - Movement – OC PICH in rise cross collaboration needed

Topic: Food Recovery

- What are the needs/challenges?
 - More robust physical fitness standards needed
 - Efforts don't necessarily reduce food waste – just recover what is there
 - Not necessarily nutritious
 - Equity issues – giving people leftovers/stigma
 - Not looking at why so much left over
 - Fine line with measuring food waste and not demonstrating “kids don't want/won't eat” healthy food
 - Need more creativity / transformational leadership.
 - Pre-packaged food – need more from scratch kitchens in schools
 - Talk consumption – need portion sizes moderation as a value

- Where is the momentum in the region?
 - School wellness policies – food waste as tracking measure
 - Recess before lunch/ or allow food in classrooms
 - Compost
 - Opportunity to rebrand consumption with values for job creation -speak the language that resonates
 - Technology can help prevent co-option

- What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?
 - Urban ag policy – localize policy
 - Local/city policies – not just county issue
 - Healthy cities initiative
 - Share examples from other cities
 - School wellness policies – but there are challenges
 - LCAP – Local Control and Accountability Plan – creates opportunities

- What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?
 - Federal restrictions – use rollback of regulations to our advantage
 - Job creation argument
 - Healthy Food Financing Initiative – tie in evaluation of food waste
 - Work with big fed orgs – Feeding America, YMCA, Boys & Girls club
 - Make sure national orgs serve the community with health
 - Re-evaluate statewide – wellness policies and physical activities standards. Need enforcement of “200 minutes” (Dept. of Ed physical education requirements)

Topic: Employment & Education

- What are the needs/challenges?

- Areas want to be high tech centers which impacts education and employment opportunities
 - Tied to land use and land speculation
 - As areas change, service sector jobs become essential but people may not be able to afford living nearby
 - Skills lacking for students moving on/ out to college (cooking and other life skills)
- Where is the momentum in the region?
 - Lots of colleges in the region
 - Colleges reaching out to high school students to discuss opportunities
 - Increase in 1st generation students at UC schools
 - UC Riverside Med School incentives for graduates to stay in Riverside
 - Organizations are creating engaged citizens, leading to good students (holistic/ family approaches to assist with readiness)
 - LA Kitchen culinary training program, linked to employment opportunities, food waste, etc.
 - Schools not prisons movement
 - Bike tree programs / apprenticeship model
 - Compadres Network in CA - (<http://www.nationalcompadresnetwork.org/>)
 - What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?
 - State sponsored colleges consider guaranteed admission to X% CA graduates who have X GPA
 - Faculty diversity mandates
 - Focus energy on secondary education to move people on to college
 - Creating infrastructures within school district for opportunities to prioritize students
 - Restorative justice programs in schools (budgeted instead of policy)
 - Finding opportunities to pay the youth to be involved in efforts programs

Topic: Labor / Land & Resources

- What are the needs/challenges?
 - Anaheim – hard with Disney corp influence – very big
 - Relationships with local decision makers is big- makes work easier when there, but hard to facilitate
 - Current political environment doesn't always prioritize needs – not necessarily focused on Bee survival – huge issue for ag production – hard to address
 - Land in OC changing – used to be orange/ strawberry ag land – now almost entirely commercial real estate – hard to repurpose for gardens etc, in economy/real estate – ag land less appealing to developers
 - People in cities favor convenience

- How do we reimagine land as a resource – a relationship – ag culture vs. ag business – impacts labor, rights, values, etc.
- Have to make issues personal
- Where is the momentum in the region?
 - In lower income areas, lots of \$ can come in for support (eg. Santa Ana) so change is possible – after 501c3 \$ and other \$ - Santa Ana has best water, school pipes, etc some movement there
 - Promote apps like “boycott”
- What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?
 - Get constituents in front of council members / local decision makers because if issues not in front of members they won’t care (has been successful at local level eg. CAPOC trainings), etc
- What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?
 - AB551- can be approved at county level – local levels still need to agree – has been hard. Staff may only work in few places and may not even have land
 - Need power social practices (labor etc.) to influence their “bottom line” – politicians, companies, etc
 - Class action lawsuits as an option -hold industry/corps accountable – public health needs to do more here.

Topic: Food Insecurity

- What are the needs/challenges?
 - Is food insecurity more about access to healthy food vs access to culturally relevant food vs just access to food? – Access to food that allows you to lead an active and productive life. – Don’t know where your next meal is coming from
 - Some food a false sense of security (eg school food not particularly nutritious)
 - Dignity of being seen taking shared food (eg. Lunch-shaming / food bullying)
 - Funding allowing for innovation and funding for non-profits
 - Cost
 - Immigration issues now / not wanting to fill out forms
- Where is the momentum in the region?
 - Looking into backpack program where fruits/foods can be put in backpacks and given to students (helps with dignity issues)
 - Mapped food services near schools (8 schools across the city of Santa Ana) to start assessing types of food needed to help with what students are eating / need

- Youth-led education (HS – grade school) Community Services Unlimited (CSU)
 - Pomona working on an urban agriculture program
 - Looking for how to use EBTs for CSAs
- What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?
 - Rise in school funding for student meals
 - Rise in minimum wage now, not 5 years from now
 - Beverage taxes and proceeds being used for broader, more upstream social determinants than just education
 - More education on nutritional labels / label reading assistance