

Notes from CDBG community input meeting 4/21/20 (Andrea Waner)

Discussion Questions:

- How has your experience with the current crisis exposed your deepest fears and hopes for Columbia?
 - a. Impact the ability to recover and come back.
 - b. Impact on downtown restaurant business
 - c. Philosophical impacts on the future
 - d. Really exposed how fragile our economy is, sorely lacking in social safety nets
 - e. Shows the divide between white collar and blue collar jobs – essential services who don't have security or income but are still putting their lives on the line
 - f. Division of the haves and have nots have been laid bare even more than before
 - g. Hope is that we can start to understand from this crisis and all the strategic add on plans that are being developed to some how better support those “have nots”
 - h. Hope is that we will be able to see the true value of all work
 - i. Homeless camp – individuals who are least prepared in so many ways to deal with this situation are the most impacted.
 - j. Safe, sanitary, socially acceptable bathrooms
 - k. Already clinging to the fringe of society
 - l. Sense was that we are not able to make use of under or unutilized resources, but we'll have the RFP go out – no responses. Made it a bureaucratic process
 - m. No real sense of urgency
 - n. Fear is that we will not really see a change in the value of work and how we value all work
 - o. Do the right thing by employees – upper mgmt. and owners taking salary cuts, and that's great, but all the business loans get snapped up
 - p. Concern is that further division between those who have and have not will continue to grow
 - q. Moment of upheaval to build something new.
 - r. Less top down manner
 - s. Ordering food from local restaurants even though I don't really need to
 - t. A lot of homeless people downtown – not practicing social distancing, don't want to call the police because that's not going to help anything.
 - u. Impressed with como mutual aid and the different groups to help each other out (different sizes of diapers, food, people are a lot nicer)
 - v. It's very dystopian
 - w. Two weeks without a paycheck and I'm out of work – on the street
 - x. Impact on churches, we can't afford to lose these faith-based social service programs, maintaining that priority of community-based groups
- What daily life struggles of low to moderate income households impacted with the crisis need to be lifted up to leaders the most?
 - a. Lack of childcare

- b. Schools – large amount of kids who aren't working online or can't work online, not enough computers, parents aren't able to advocate/assist their children during this time
- c. Internet access – no library, no schools where they can use the computer
- d. Ability to access hardware and software for students – how much of this is infrastructure, how much of this is the fact that internet is a luxury?
- e. These things exist already – it's exacerbated by pandemic
- f. How do we ensure kids have access to computers so they can keep learning?
- g. Can people work with Partners in Education, is there a community org already in existence who can put something like this in place?
- h. Food access for all families
- i. Increased stress on food banks
 - i. Boys and girls club, alameda's program, all giving out meals
- j. Access to transportation
- k. Its makes everything more difficult
- l. Rent and/or mortgage payments – even then you're behind and charged late fees
- m. Plant-a-row
- n. Seniors on single, limited incomes
- o. Utility payment, shut off notices still going out
- p. Subculture of people in Columbia (and worldwide), don't have a doctor, people using the ER instead of a primary care, not having insurance
- q. Testing said you had to call a doctor, but many people don't have a doctor
- r. Kids falling further behind in school, parents/caregivers having harder time helping students
- s. What's the impact on sales tax? Construction projects that the city has going that have been impacted? Because that could be employment.
- t.
- What is your hope for Columbia's future as we work through this crisis and grow as a community?
 - Landlord education on the eviction process, have to find another tenant, maybe this could curb the desire for landlords to kick out tenants
 - We're all in this boat – everyone is impacted, we'll get out of this a better sense of flexibility and working toward the common good rather than the bottom line
 - Working toward being a better neighbor
 - Better funding health dept.
 - Test everyone that want to be tested, test all who need to be tested
 - Some sense of normalcy
 - Fundamental changes to community
 - Not have the last 2-3 months as a loss in the school system.
 - Better connect people with resources and the outsourcing/crowdsourcing of resources
 - Better ingenuity and adaptivity of people in our community
 - Better management of risk in our community

- Better prepared for the future
- Communities realize they have to mobilize, organize, and work together
- Better understand and remember the lowest groups of people
- Better digital connection between those who didn't use it before
- A culture shift toward people working together, better neighborhoods
- Isolating will bring us closer together in the long-run

a. Common themes.

b. Areas of consensus and most salient points.

c. Big ideas, or something you feel we may not thought of.