

# Community Meeting Number Two

On Wednesday, September 1, 2021, the second community meeting for San José encouraged both virtual and in-person participation. Attendees opted to attend the public meeting in person at Purl Elementary School, with a virtual presentation, or listen to the virtual presentation from home. Attendees at Purl Elementary School registered feedback on station boards. Remote participants provided their feedback via an online survey. Questions focused on six (6) major categories and requested responses to progress the development of the Neighborhood Plan. All meeting collateral, station boards, and online survey accommodated English and Spanish-speaking participants.



The five (5) stations consisted of a total of seven (7) exercises. APD-U led a virtual presentation for in-person and virtual attendees. The meeting from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, encouraged participants to weigh in at the five (5) stations. City Staff facilitated the station discussions and documented participants comments. The online survey was shared during the virtual presentation and in-person meeting, and posted on the City of Georgetown’s website. The survey was open from September 1st to September 8th, 2021. Results from the station boards and the online survey were compiled and shared in the project report.

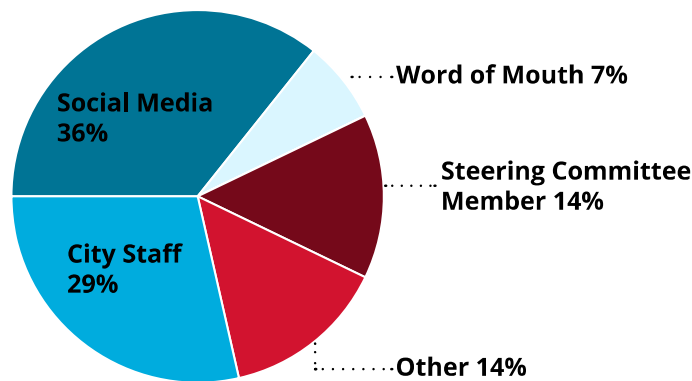
When attendees signed in at Annie Purl Elementary School, they were asked how they heard about the meeting and their connection to San José. These questions were also included at the beginning of the online survey.

## Respondents

Seventeen (17) people signed in at the Purl Elementary School meeting, and nine (9) completed the online survey. Most people heard about the meeting via social media and the City of Georgetown staff. The Steering Committee was also effective at broadcasting the public meeting and the online survey. Another successful outreach method that several respondents mentioned was a flyer located near the splash pad in San José Park (Figure 38). A majority of the respondents are current homeowners in the San José Neighborhood (Figure 39.).

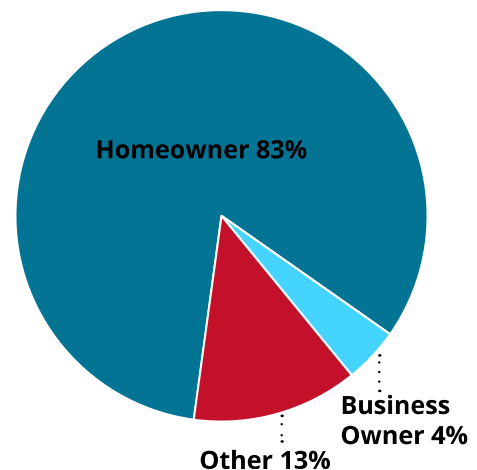
### Most Respondents Heard About the Meeting/ Survey Through Social Media

Figure 38: How Did you Hear About the Meeting/ Survey?



### Most Respondents are Homeowners in San José

Figure 39: In San José are You A...





## Vision and Goals

Input received from meetings conducted with the San José Steering Committee, and from the first community meeting helped create two draft vision statements and draft goals for the Neighborhood Plan. Exercise 1 asked respondents to vote on their preferred vision statement, and Exercise 2 asked respondents to share which goals they do and do not support for the San José Neighborhood Plan.

### Vision Statement Number One was Most Preferred

Figure 40: Draft Vision Statements

- 10 San José is a historic, multigenerational, safe neighborhood close to the Downtown Square that celebrates and protects its Hispanic heritage, residential character, and community assets like San José Park, San José Community Church, and the historic altar to San José.
- 4 The San José neighborhood is a multigenerational community that protects its long-term residents and is rich in heritage with safe streets and parks, which promote opportunities to share its culture.

One edit was made to the first vision statement. The last sentence was modified to say “historic shrine to San José” in place of historic altar to San José.

The first vision statement option received ten (10) votes, and the second vision statement received four (4) votes. The first vision statement was vetted with the San José Steering Committee as the final vision statement for the San José Neighborhood Plan.



Source: City of Georgetown

Exercise 2 asked respondents to select goals for the San José neighborhood. Input from the Steering Committee kickoff meeting and the first public meeting, were used to form the draft goals. Figure 41 shows the results of this exercise. One blue box represents two “support” votes for the goal, and one red box represents two “do not support” votes. For example, protection of long term-homeowners received fourteen (14) total support votes.

## Infrastructure that Improves Drainage and Reduces Flooding is a Priority

Figure 41: Goals Attendees Most Want to See Realized



### Major takeaways

- Overall feedback was positive for both vision statements. The first draft statement received ten votes and the second draft statement received four votes. The first vision statement includes existing community assets in the neighborhood, which respondents liked;
- A majority of the goals received positive feedback, receiving more “support” votes than “do not support” votes;
- “Promote neighborhood safety and stability” received three “do not support” votes, the most of any goal;
- “Increase access to youth programming and recreation” received nine support votes, the least number of votes; and
- “Supporting infrastructure that improves drainage and reduces flooding” received seventeen support votes, the most votes overall. Such high support indicates improving infrastructure is an important goal to respondents and should be prioritized in the Neighborhood Plan.

### Final Vision Statement

San José is a historic, multigenerational, safe neighborhood in the heart of Georgetown that celebrates and protects its Hispanic heritage, residential character, and community assets like San José Park, San José Community Church, and the historic San José shrine.



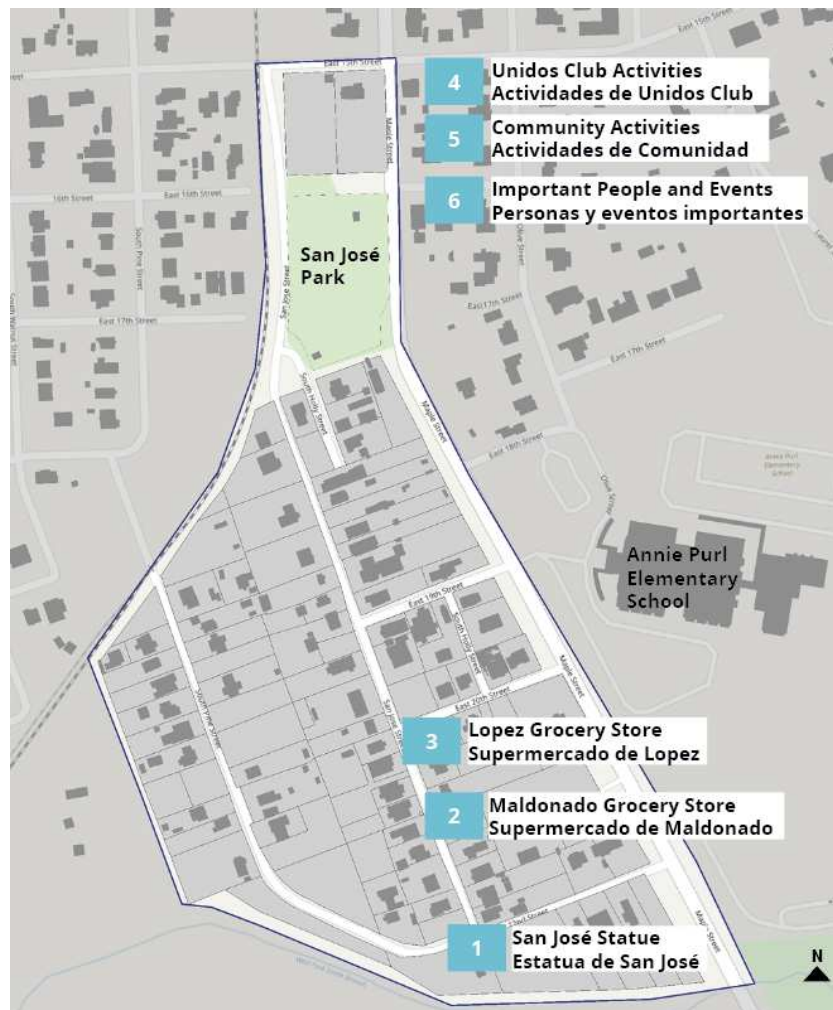
## History

Feedback on neighborhood history from the Steering Committee and from the first public meeting was used to create a list of historic places, people, and events that was shared at the second public meeting. Six (6) topics were included in the second public meeting for respondents to provide information on. They are written below and also included on the map shown in Figure 42.

1. San José Statue;
2. Maldonado Grocery Store;
3. Lopez Grocery Store;
4. Unidos Club Activities;
5. Community Activities; and
6. Important People and Events.

Respondents also had the opportunity to include any additional information about the history of the neighborhood.

Figure 42: Historic Assets Map



1

### **San José Statue**

- Mass of feast of St. José with celebration;
- Property owned by Tomas Zavala and donated. In March mass was preformed on the feast day of San José. On Good Friday the Stations of the cross would end at the shrine; and
- Statue was moved from original location-owned by E Family. She had a beautiful voice and would sing in mass.

2

### **Maldonado Grocery Store**

- Lasted seven or so years; and
- The owner would allow customers to run a tab for goods.

3

### **Lopez Grocery Store**

- The store was much larger than Maldonado Grocery Store (pre 1956);
- The store would extend credit;
- Nothing to preserve here, because there's a big house where it used to be;
- Owned by Nat Lopez. Neighborhood children would receive a free ice cream or candy for a good report card. A hang out spot for children to meet up and play arcade games;
- Sno cones; and
- My Grandfather, who was "Nat Lopez" served on city council for awhile, as well he owned, and operated "Lopez Grocery" for many, many years.

4

### **Unidos Club Activities**

- Scholarship fundraiser annually with a 2-day fiesta; and
- Henry Bracamendez.

5

### **Community Activities**

- Cinco de Mayo Celebrations at Getsemanie;
- Single member districts 1988/1989 for minority to have a voice on council; and
- San José mass in March in celebration of San José. The Stations of the Cross done on Good Friday.

6

### **Important People and Events**

- Easter and Good Friday celebrations carrying the cross down San José Street from the park to the San José Statue;
- Josie Lopez got the City to pave the streets. Mud to gravel to paving when Leo Wood was City manager-part of Urban Renewal. Shorty was first council person for District 1. Lupe was second, Patty Eason was 3rd and was a member for a long time;
- Mr. Lozano (Jesse) has a building named after him-school teacher (mech. Building of the school).
- Richard Vasquez 1st Hispanic Sheriffs Deputy for WILCO;
- Nat Lopez, owner and operator of Lopez Grocery, as well he served on city council for several years. Ask anyone in the neighborhood, and they can tell you who Nat Lopez was. He is my grandfather. He was also appointed to Williamson County Opportunities Board of Directors;
- Four city council members- Lupe Caranco, Lorenzo Valdez (Shorty), Llórente Navarrete, Mary Calixtro;
- School board member- Llórente Navarrete;
- Richarte school was named after Cipriana Richarte; and
- Matt Dominuez professional football player, Rebecca Hernandez, Jova Richarte, Ramona Jasso part of the first integrated nurses class that was started by Dr. Gaddy and Dr. Shepherd.

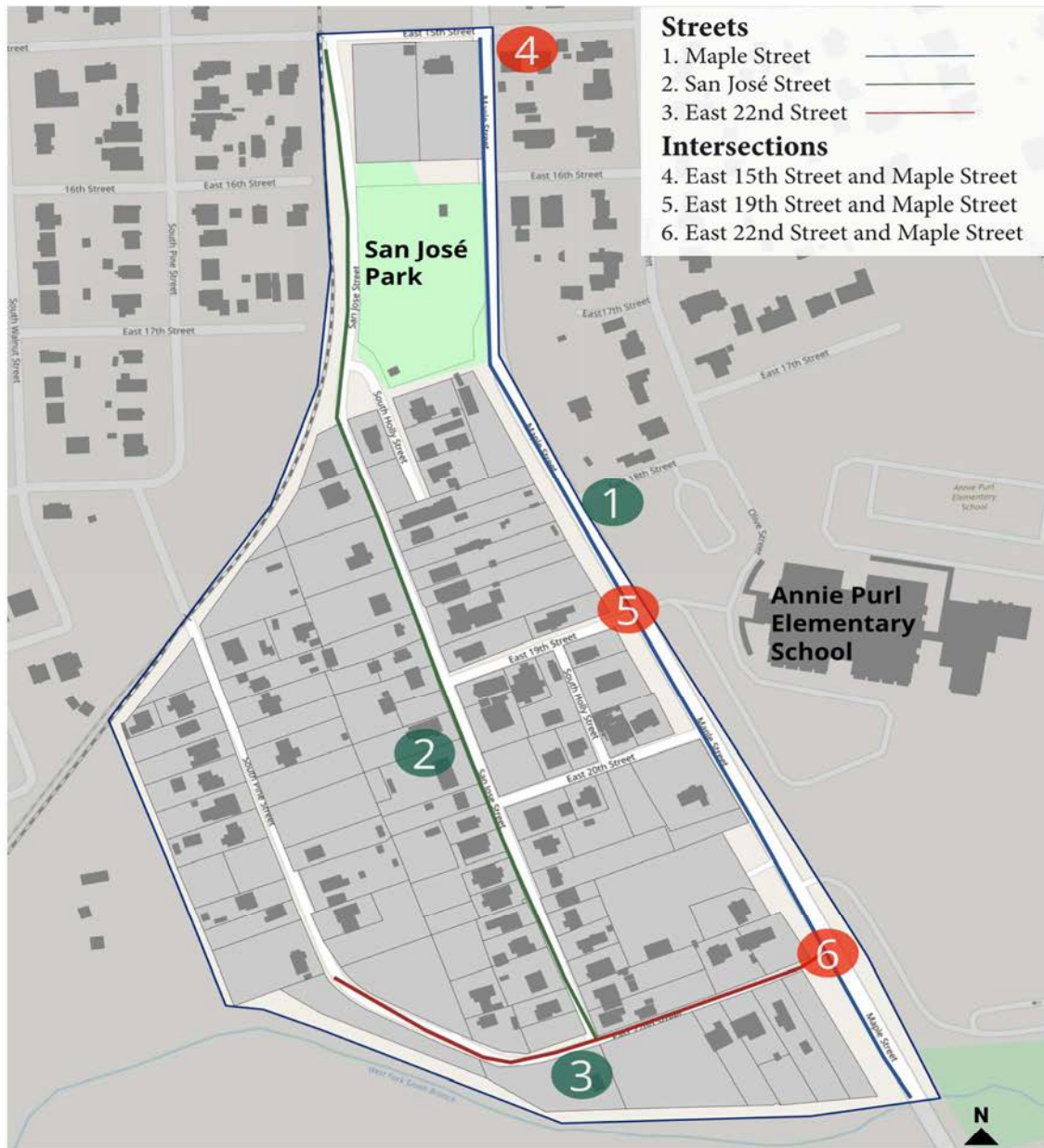




## Transportation

The transportation station consisted of two (2) exercises. The first was to confirm that particular streets and intersections that have major issues that need to be addressed. The second displayed an initial list of recommendations for implementation, addressed the issues raised in the first public meeting, and asked respondents to pick which recommendations would work best in San José.

Figure 43: Major Transportation Issues



### Major takeaways

There was a general consensus that improvements to these six (6) streets and intersections should be of prime concern. Recommendations for these streets and intersections are prioritized in the San José Neighborhood Plan.

Exercise 2, asked respondents to vote on initial transportation recommendations for San José, shown below. The number of votes each received is in blue to the left of the image. The recommendations are split between physical improvements and educational improvements.

### Physical Improvements



Speed Awareness Signage

0



Traffic Control Signs

4



Bulb Outs

4



Chicanes

0



Pinch Points

2



Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing

7



Sign Relocation/  
Tree Trimming

3



Roundabouts

### Educational Improvements

7



Enhanced Striping

10



Police Enforcement

1



Neighborhood Discussion

2



Educational signage

### Major takeaways

- Speed awareness signage and sign relocation/tree trimming were the most popular recommendations for physical improvements, receiving twelve (12) and seven (7) votes, respectively;
- Traffic control signs and pinch points each received zero (0) votes;
- The two recommendations that received the most votes for educational improvements were police enforcement, with ten (10) votes, and enhanced striping, with seven (7) votes;
- A neighborhood discussion and educational signage received the least number of votes; and
- Overall, the recommendations that received the highest votes are relatively simple recommendations that do not require a significant initial investment to begin to implement.



## Urban Design

Four (4) questions regarding urban design were asked to gain a better understanding of the housing types residents prefer in San José. Respondents selected their preferences on four (4) distinct urban design categories, which were building material, number of stories, architectural style, and garages. The number of votes each choice received is written in blue to the left of the category image.

### Building Material

7



Limestone

10



Vinyl Siding

2



Stucco

2



Brick

### Number of Stories

11



One Floor

6



One and a Half Floors

2



Two Floors

0



Three Floors

### Architectural Style

9



Ranch

11



Craftsman

3



Modern

15



Minimal

Traditional

### Garage

9



Attached Garage

7



Carport

6



Detached Garage

7



No Garage

### Major takeaways

- Vinyl siding and limestone are the preferred building material, receiving ten (10) and seven (7) votes, respectively;
- One-floor homes were the overwhelming preference for respondents, with eleven (11) total votes. One and a half-floor homes were a distant second, with six (6) votes;
- Modern received only three (3) votes for architectural style and was by far the least preferred architectural style. Minimal traditional had the most votes, with fifteen (15), closely followed by craftsman with eleven (11) votes, and ranch with nine (9) votes. These last three styles reflect the existing housing stock in San José;
- There is no strong preference for one type of garage over another. All four possibilities received about an equal number of votes; and
- Building material preferences revealed neighborhood partialities. However, the regulation of building materials is beyond the scope of the recommendations. The final urban design recommendations are derived from these responses.











## Programs

An initial list of potential recommendations to address issues raised in Steering Committee meetings and the first public meeting were presented. Respondents selected which recommendations they preferred to address the issues and needs in San José. Respondents could only vote once for each recommendation. Results are shown below, with each blue square representing two (2) votes. For example, under Greenspace and Recreation, the choice of an urban garden with raised beds received a total of five (5) votes.








### Housing Strategies

The housing strategies presented today focus on addressing issues related to housing concerns shared in the first public meeting.






-  Homeowner Rehab Program: Examples include financial assistance for emergency repairs, and potential code violations to promote safety. These programs focus on promoting safe structures for long-term homeowners.
-  Property Tax Assistance: These programs address any increases in property taxes to ensure homeowners can stay in their homes.
-  Will Creation for Property Disposition: Connecting residents to low-cost services to create a will for property owners who do not currently have one.
-  Homeowner Education: Providing education on the existing housing programs in the City of Georgetown, such as homestead exemptions, and the Home Repair Program.
-  New Development: Through regulation, ensure new development is similar to the existing character of the neighborhood.
-  Neighborhood Association: Assist in creating a San José neighborhood association.

### Greenspace and Recreation Strategies

The addition and programming of green space in the neighborhood should provide recreation opportunities that increase connectivity to other amenities and help manage floods. The green space can be designed with flooding in mind, considering flood resistant plants and water flow.

-  A passive park, that might include walking trails and benches.
-  An urban garden with raised beds.
-  Additional programming at San José Park.
-  Community festivals and events.
-  Additional parking for San José Park.
-  More gazebos at San José Park.
-  Sidewalks on the east and west side of San José Park.

### Flooding and Stormwater Management Strategies

-  Increase stormwater and drainage maintenance.
-  Additional flood monitoring.
-  Curb and gutter.
-  Passive recreation programming in the floodplain.
-  Limit development in the floodplain and other environmentally sensitive areas.

## Youth Programming Strategies

Activities to support youth growth and development.

- ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Programs that focus on college readiness.
- ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Job training.
- ■ ■ ■ Outdoor recreation opportunities.
- ■ ■ Social gatherings focused on youth.
- ■ ■ ■ ■ Soccer goals.

## Historic Preservation Strategies

Preservation Strategies prevent the loss of history by incorporating it into the redevelopment process. This policy action moves beyond simply restoring old structures and instead looks at the history of the neighborhood as a key redevelopment tool for marketing, and cultural enrichment.

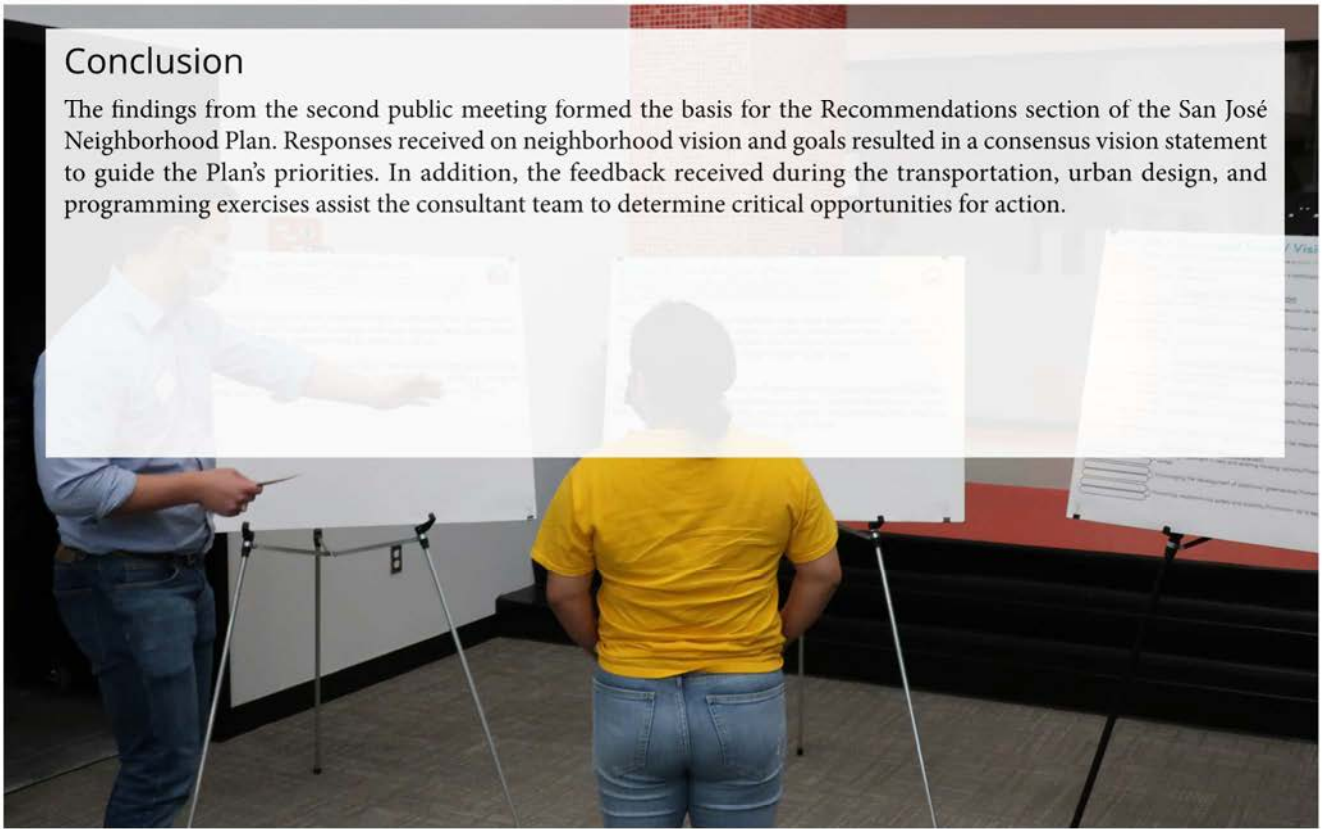
- ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ The design and implementation of a cultural heritage trail would provide residents and tourists with an easy to follow path of neighborhood landmarks.
- ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Incorporate local history into a marketing and branding campaign that emphasizes the areas rich cultural heritage.
- ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Invest in public art that highlights the history and Hispanic culture of the neighborhood.
- ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Incorporate neighborhood history into the naming of trails and park amenities.
- ■ ■ Host exhibits in open space and parks.

### Major takeaways

- The two recommendations with the most votes were a homeowner rehab program, with nineteen (19) votes, and increasing stormwater drainage maintenance with fifteen (15) votes. Two recommendations tied for third place: property tax assistance and youth programs that focus on college readiness, both receiving fourteen (14) votes. Since these four recommendations received the most support from the community, implementation of these recommendations are prioritized in the San José Neighborhood Plan;
- The recommendations that received the least support include hosting exhibits in parks and open space, and additional programming in San José Park, with three (3) votes each. Additional programming at San José social gatherings focused on youth and limiting development in the floodplain and other environmentally sensitive areas also scored low, both receiving four (4) votes;
- Overall, there is support for all of the draft recommendations shared as part of the second public meeting, reflecting that respondents feel they each could address the current needs of the neighborhood; and
- Results from this section influenced the final recommendations included in the San José Neighborhood Plan.

## Conclusion

The findings from the second public meeting formed the basis for the Recommendations section of the San José Neighborhood Plan. Responses received on neighborhood vision and goals resulted in a consensus vision statement to guide the Plan's priorities. In addition, the feedback received during the transportation, urban design, and programming exercises assist the consultant team to determine critical opportunities for action.



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# Community Meeting Number Three

The third and final public meeting for the San José Neighborhood Plan was held on Wednesday, November 10th, 2021, at Purl Elementary School. The meeting presented the final vision and goals for San José and the final recommendations included in the San José Neighborhood Plan. Attendees were asked to provide input at two stations, focused on sharing the history and culture of the neighborhood and civic engagement recommendations.

The meeting began with a presentation, conducted in both English and Spanish, summarizing the work completed on the San José Neighborhood Plan and the recommendations received from participants. Six (6) stations were set up for feedback, four (4) shared draft recommendations, and two (2) asked for specific input on implementation. All content on the station boards was presented in both English and Spanish. The four stations that included:

- Vision and Goals;
- Transportation;
- Land Use and Urban Design; and
- Policy Recommendations.

Two stations asked attendees for input:

- History Implementation; and
- Civic Engagement Recommendations.

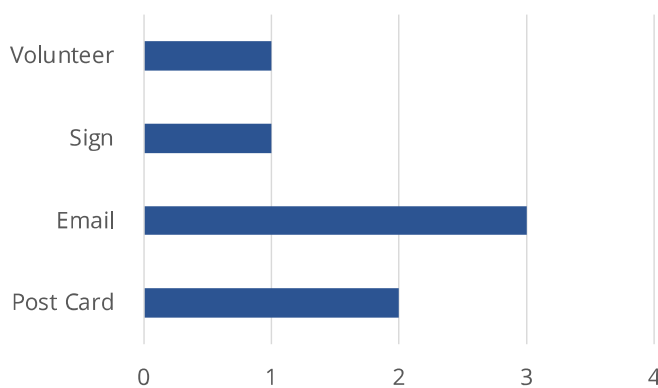
Content shared on the draft recommendation boards is included in the “Neighborhood Preservation Plan” section of this report.

## Attendees

Seventeen (17) people signed in at Purl Elementary School for the San José public meeting. Attendees learned of the meeting from a range of sources, including emails, postcards, yard signs, and Steering Committee Members. Figure 44 summarizes how attendees heard about the meeting. Not everyone answered the question on the sign-in sheet, so the total in the chart is less than the total attendance for the meeting. Email and postcards were reported as the most frequent way attendees heard about the community meeting.

### Most Attendees Heard About the Meeting through Email

Figure 44: How Did you Hear About the Meeting?



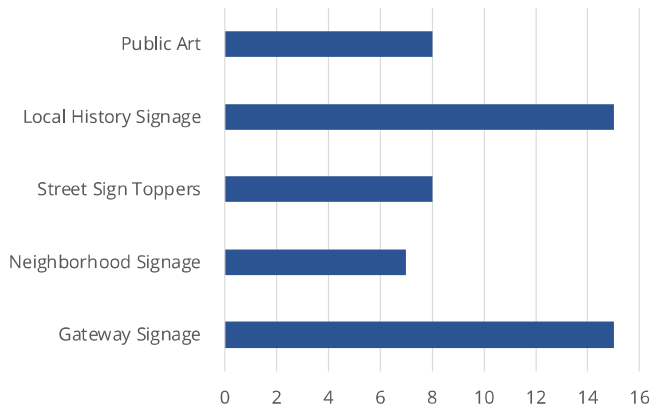
Source: APD Urban Planning and Management

## History Implementation

Attendees reported how they prefer the history and culture of San José to be shared. They selected three out of five implementation options. Figure 45 summarizes the results from the History Implementation Station. Both gateway and local history signage received fifteen (15) votes, the most votes overall. Public art and street sign toppers received eight (8) votes, and neighborhood signage received seven (7) votes.

### Local History Signage

Figure 45: Historic Preservation Implementation Preferences



Gateway Signage



Neighborhood Signage



Local History Signage



Street Sign Toppers



Local Public Art



Local Public Art

### Major takeaways

- Attendees most prefer gateway signage, which is signage located at neighborhood entrances, and local history signage to share the history and culture of San José. Public art and street sign toppers ranked a distant second; and
- Based on community feedback, priority should be placed on creating and installing gateway and local history signage.

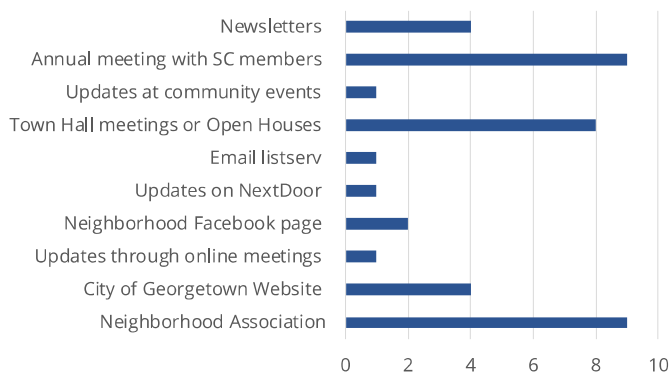
## Civic Engagement Recommendations

The Civic Engagement Station asked attendees how the City of Georgetown should communicate implementation updates with the neighborhood. Attendees selected how they prefer to be engaged from ten (10) different options. There was no limit to the number of options attendees could choose. However, they were only allowed to place one (1) sticker per recommendation option.

The creation of a neighborhood association, and an annual meeting with the Steering Committee Members, received nine (9) votes each, the most votes overall. Town hall meetings and open houses, received eight (8) votes each, a close second place. Updates through online meetings, and through an email listserv each received only one (1) vote, the least amount of votes overall. Results are shown in Figure 46.

### Neighborhood Association Scored the Highest

Figure 46: Continued Engagement Preferences



#### Major takeaways

- Online engagement received the least support overall and should be avoided when possible;
- Attendees most prefer for a San José neighborhood association to be created to allow for streamlined communication with the City of Georgetown;
- There was strong support for an annual meeting with the San José Steering Committee to provide an update on plan implementation progress; and
- Based on this feedback, the City of Georgetown and the San José neighborhood should create a San José neighborhood association and establish a standing annual meeting with the new neighborhood association or the Steering Committee appointed for the San José Neighborhood Plan.



## Conclusion

The third and final public meeting for the San José Neighborhood Plan shared the final Vision and Goals for the Neighborhood and the final recommendations included in the plan. Feedback from attendees on history implementation and civic engagement were incorporated into the final recommendations.

