

Causa Justa::Just Cause Final Report

Bay Area Regional Prosperity Plan
EQUITY INITIATIVE SUB GRANTS
2014 - 2015

A. Project Profile (1 page maximum)

Project Name: Black Regional Resiliency Project

Lead and Partner Organizations: POWER and Causa Justa::Just Cause (now merged as one organization)

Primary Contact Person: Jaron Browne, Causa Justa::Just Cause, jaron@cjjc.org, Causa Justa :: Just Cause PO Box 3596, Oakland, CA 94609

Sub-Grant Program: Housing the Workforce / Equity / Economic Prosperity

Project Type: Equity Initiative

Total Grant Amount: \$25,000

Total Match (if any): \$6,000

Geographic Coverage of Project: Antioch, California, Contra Costa County

Brief Description (150 words maximum):

Causa Justa::Just Cause (RECIPIENT, formerly People Organized to Win Employment Rights) will plan and conduct two (2) community meetings to investigating the root causes of displacement for Black families, and identifying the specific factors pushing Black families in particular out of the Bay Area, and to build a network of Black families who can advocate for themselves and influence and impact the implementation of Plan Bay Area.

Images: Please find attached images of the community meetings and community outreach

B. Project Description (1 page maximum)

1. Goals and Objectives *Describe what the project expected to achieve, why there was a need for this project, who would have benefited, and how they would have benefited.*

While Alameda and San Francisco counties are experiencing extremely high rates of African American displacement, Contra Costa County is one of the few places in the Bay Area where the African American population has been increasing. The Black Regional Resiliency Project focused on Antioch, which has seen a nearly 700% increase in the Black population over the last twenty years. We conducted outreach to new African American residents in Antioch and held two community meetings focused on the conditions that lead people to leave Oakland, San Francisco, Richmond, and other parts of the Bay Area. Participants in the community meetings compared their experiences before and after re-locating, and shared both what they have gained and what they have lost in this transition. The findings gathered through this work are intended to help inform policy changes that could help stem displacement in the core

urban cities of the Bay Area, as well as to inform policy initiatives that could improve conditions in suburban cities like Antioch, where new populations are relocating.

2. Work Plan Describe the key tasks and deliverables for the project. Include information on outreach and engagement activities.

From Summer 2014 through Winter 2015, POWER and CJJC leaders and organizers conducted outreach door-to-door specifically targeting newer African American residents in Antioch. We asked people how long they had lived in Antioch; where they moved from when they moved here, and what conditions were like for African American families in Antioch. We also asked people about what connections they still had to the other parts of the region where they no longer lived.

We invited the contacts from our community outreach to two Community Meetings held in Antioch near public housing developments. The first Community Meeting was held on October 11, 2014 and the second was held on December 4, 2014. There were five core findings from outreach and Community Meetings: 1) The search for affordable housing is the greatest factor driving African American families to move from Oakland, San Francisco, and Richmond and relocating in Antioch; 2) displaced families experience a loss of community services and support; 3) African American families find higher levels of racial discrimination in Antioch; 4) African American families in Antioch feel isolation due to long commute hours and transit disparities; and 5) many African American residents in Antioch expressed increased depression that they attribute to the previous 4 core findings.

3. Role of Lead and Partners List the lead and partner organizations and briefly describe the role each organization fulfilled on the project.

POWER and Causa Justa: Just Cause collaborated on the project and worked together to develop outreach materials, conduct outreach, develop the agenda for the listening sessions, carrying out the meetings, and synthesizing the findings from our collective project. Jaron Browne, originally the Acting Director of POWER, coordinated the project.

C. Challenges and Outcomes (1 page maximum)

4. Challenges Describe the main challenges faced of implementing the project. How did your team address them? Describe what worked well and what did not work. What would you have done differently if you could start over?

One of the challenges we faced in carrying out this project is the travel time required for our team of leaders and organizers from Oakland and San Francisco traveling back and forth to Antioch on outreach and meeting days. Each day of outreach required at least 3 hours of travel time. We worked with staff and leaders from our organizations who recently had moved

to Antioch to help support communication and logistics coordination between our team outreach and meeting dates. This is a challenge that Causa Justa will continue to face as we plan the continuation of this project with the residents we have engaged in Antioch.

An additional challenge was when our lead organizer based in Antioch had a family medical emergency and had to take leave from the last round of outreach. This caused some delay in our second meeting, but overall both meetings were very successful. This challenge could not have been prevented, but in the future we will develop the capacity of members from the community in Antioch to help play support roles within our organizing activities.

5. Outcomes *Describe key outcomes, achievements, successes, deliverables, findings and/or lessons learned for the project. Describe who benefited from this project and how.*

- **Finding 1: Affordability of housing** was the number one reason why African American participants moved to Antioch from other parts of the Bay Area.
- **Finding 2:** One of the greatest impacts faced by African American families who have been displaced from San Francisco and Oakland to Antioch is **the loss of community services and support**. difficulty accessing services to support people looking for employment, as well as the lack of youth services, family support, and other resource needs. Many people talked about the need for recreation centers, community gathering spaces and programs that help young people in the area.
- **Finding 3:** While Antioch has seen a large expansion of African American residents, new residents experience high levels of **racial discrimination and structural exclusion** including racial profiling by police, discrimination in schools, and under-representation in elected office.
- **Finding 4:** African American residents who were displaced from other cities in the Bay Area face **isolation** and lost connections to both family and community. Residents described poor access to public transportation and long commutes to cities with more employment opportunities. As a result of monster commutes and the intensity of growing traffic congestion and limited public transit, residents expressed both having less time to connect with their neighbors, and less ability to stay connected with family and community in other parts of the Bay Area.
- **Finding 5:** African American residents participating in the project described higher levels of **depression** among their peers and family members as a result of the increased isolation, racial discrimination, loss of services and support in Antioch.

The main beneficiaries from the work of the Black Regional Resiliency Project were Black families who have been displaced from the large urban cities within the Bay Area and Black families who are at risk of displacement from the large urban cities within the Bay Area. Black families are disproportionately impacted by displacement that results from increased

development, however, other racial and/or ethnic communities who are low income or low waged are also likely to benefit from this project, as in general, low income and low waged communities of color and immigrant communities are also impacted by displacement that results from increased development—just not to the same degree. Creating policy and implementing policy with an eye towards how Black residents are impacted will provide valuable information and resources to support other low income and low waged communities of color.

Through the listening sessions we created opportunities for connections and community building that help to break down the isolation resulting from displacement. Participants were also able to share their experiences and over time can help to inform a regional analysis and policy platform to address core concerns that they identify.

D. Replicability and Dissemination (1 page maximum)

6. Replicability *Describe what, how and where (within the region) the above mentioned project outcomes may be applied to address similar issues as your project.*

The agendas and core questions used in our community listening sessions could be replicated in cities around the region where displaced African Americans families are moving as a result of development pressure and the rising cost of housing in the core. For example, Stockton would be an interesting case study in the consequences of displacement for the displaced families. Additionally, a similar process could be adapted to investigate similar dynamics happening in other low-income communities and communities of color that are being impacted by displacement, such as West Oakland and historically Black neighborhoods in Richmond.

7. Tools and Resources *List the tools and resources developed through this project. These may include policies and strategies, analysis and communication tools, collateral material, key findings, etc. Please attach copies of the materials to this report.*

- Findings (attached in question 5)
- Community Meeting Agenda (attached)
- Outreach flier (attached)

8. Sharing and Dissemination *Describe how and with whom you will share these tools and resources over the next 12 months. How can other communities access the tools and resources developed through this process?*

Causa Justa :: Just Cause plans to share findings from our listening session at the regional equity conference being planned as part of the larger HUD Equity Collaborative. Additionally,

we will share our findings with other grassroots regional alliances such as Bay Area Equal Voices, and the Six Wins Coalition.

E. Recommendations and Next Steps (1 page maximum)

9. Recommendations *List and describe the top four to five recommendations from your project. Recommendations may include but are not limited to (1) policies, projects and/or programs that may be adopted at the local and/or regional level (name agencies and/or organizations where possible); (2) tools, approaches and/or methodologies that may be adopted for analysis, communication and/or decision-making; (3) funding, capacity-building and/or engagement strategies for target communities (specify geographic areas where possible); and/or (4) implementation of specific projects and/or programs to support regional goals.*

Recommendation One: Protect and expand section 8 housing and very-low income housing in the core cities in the region. Participants in the Black Regional Resiliency Project identified housing costs and the search for affordable housing as the main factor that drove them to leave San Francisco and Oakland and move to Antioch, in spite of the loss of family, community and critical social services.

Recommendation Two: Expand community services and infrastructure for low-income families in Contra Costa County. While thousands of low-income families have been displaced from the core counties to the outer counties of the region, the critical services that support youth and families have not been developed to match this growing need. Parents talked about the lack of after school programs that support safety and child development for working parents. Several of the contacts we met said that their families still rely on services in core counties. Some parent are even forced to live apart from their children during the week so that their children are able to attend schools in core counties with after school programs that extend through parents work days. Participants also identified the lack of reliable and effective public transportation as a key factor in both isolation and depression.

Recommendation Three: Develop grassroots African American voter engagement programs throughout Contra Costa County. In order to achieve policy initiatives that address the concerns of the growing African American community, Black voters need to be registered and mobilized to increase political representation and accountability from elected officials.

Recommendation Four: Increase cultural competency practices throughout Contra Costa County public institutions to address racial biases.

Recommendation Five: Advance regional policy initiatives, such as regional minimum wage increases, just cause eviction and tenant protection laws, and transit equity policies.

10. Next Steps *Describe the next steps for your project and how the proposed recommendations will be institutionalized in your community.*

Causa Justa::Just Cause is continuing to work with a core group of leaders who participated in the listening sessions to explore the particular needs of African American families living in Antioch and to build regional relationships between grassroots leaders in Alameda, San Francisco and Contra Costa counties. Over time, this leadership building and on-going regional organizing can help to inform a regional policy agenda that we can work to advance organizationally and in collaboration with our regional allies.

Antioch Community Meeting #2

December 6, 2014

Rivertown Community Center

I. Welcome and Intro (15 mins) - JBz and RC

- Welcome & who CJC and POWER Are
- What the BPP is (RC)
- Agreements (JBz)
- Introduce themselves (JBz)

II. PE and Context Setting for the Meeting (15 mins) - JBz and Vjm

- Case study on the Suburbanization of Poverty--Ferguson (JB) - 8-10min

Ferguson as example of Suburbanization of Poverty. We took the following excerpts from this article and read them out loud as a group.

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-ferguson-economy-20140817-story.html#page=1>

- Until the late 1940s, restrictive covenants blocked Blacks from buying homes in many areas.
- Well into the 1970s, tight zoning restrictions and other rules kept many of the areas largely white.
- In a generation — from 1990 to today — the population changed from three-fourths white to two-thirds black.
- Since 2000, the median household income has fallen by 30%
- Median income is less than \$27,000. Just half of the adults work.
- "It's very hard for [youth] to find jobs," said Babcock, who runs a community service program for youth convicted of minor criminal offenses. "That sets up a situation where they tend to get in trouble, and they probably wouldn't under other circumstances."
- "It's a shortage of everything," she said. "It's a shortage of jobs. Of African Americans on the police force and in government. Of people not being able to get a good education."
- "The question is — in a city that's 67% African American — how do you have absolutely no African American political representation?"

Ask people where we are describing -- They should respond ANTIOCH. Talk about the similarities between Antioch and Ferguson, Missouri.

- Timeline of Black Migration in the Bay Area (VJM) - 5-7min
1619 – the first 19 African slaves are brought to Jamestown, Virginia a

1787 - The Constitution of the United States was drafted & included several provisions regarding slavery.

1790 - “United States Naturalization Law” which left out American Indians, indentured servants, slaves, free blacks, and Asians. --> 1860’s (Emancipation Proclamation & end of Civil War)

1914 to 1919 – World War 1

1920s

- **1926 - the U.S. Supreme Court upheld/validated a practice of using “Housing Covenants,”** deed restrictions based on race The restrictions were an enforceable contract that required an owner to sell their home to white people only, an owner who violated them risked forfeiting their property.

1940s

- **1939 – 1945 – World War II**
- 1940 - Hunters Point Navy Shipyard is opened, including the National Radiological Defense Lab.
- **1941 – The “Fair Employment Act”** is passed as a result of the March on Washington, which requires all federal agencies and the companies they contract with “not to discriminate against persons of any race, color, creed or nationality in matters of employment” which allows many Blacks access to the war time jobs in Oakland’s factories and ship yards.
- 1945 - First atomic bomb “Little Boy” was constructed at the Hunters Point Navy Shipyard
- 1948 -. **Supreme Court declared that racial restrictions (Housing Covenants) would no longer be enforced**

1949 - Fillmore is adopted as one of the first “urban renewal projects”

1950s

- Rise of the Civil Rights Movement fighting racial segregation in the South

1956 - The “Federal-Aid Highway Act”

1958 to 1966 - War-time industries dry up

1968 - Housing Rights Act

1960’s – “Urban Renewal” and the use of eminent domain to take the homes of thousands of Black home owners in SF’s Fillmore neighborhood.

- **1963 - The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom**
- **1964 – The national poverty rate climbs to a very high level of 19% and President Johnson introduces the “War on Poverty”**
- **1966 – Black Panther Party for Self-Defense is organized** by Bobby Seal & Huey P. Newton in Oakland
- 1966 - 3-day riots in Bayview Hunters Point after a teenager was shot dead by the police.
- 1969 - Hunters Point “model city” program - funding for affordable housing and services in response to the riots

1970 - national economy begins shift from manufacturing to service-sector jobs. Companies relocated to the suburbs from urban areas

- 1974 - Hunters Point Shipyard is closed

- **1978 – California voters passed Proposition 13,**

1980-90's – Deindustrialization across Oakland and San Francisco

- **1984 - Crack cocaine hits Oakland, SF and other urban areas nationally**
- 1989 - Hunters Point Shipyard declared a Superfund Site - a highly contaminated area requiring extensive long-term clean up.
- **1999 – The closure of the Oakland Army base**

2000s

- **2000 – New mayor Jerry Brown initiates his “10K Plan”**
- 2006 - Bayview Hunters Point is adopted as the largest redevelopment area in the history of Ca.
- 2008 - Voters approve a plan for Lennar to build a 10,000 unit luxury condominium complex in Bayview Hunters Point
- **2008 – The subprime mortgage crisis that led to a recession a rise in foreclosures.**

2010

- African American population in Antioch increases doubled (from 8,826 in 2000 to 17,667 in 2010)
- African American population drops in half in SF (from 96,000 in 1970 to 48,000 in 2010)
- African American population drops in Oakland by 25% (from 133,000 in 2000 to 106,637 in 2010)

[Pictures for the above:](#)

III. Listening Session Questions (75 mins)

Instructions & getting into groups - 5min (**RC & JB**)

Small Group - 3 groups (facilitators, Note Takers, Recorders) - 40min (15, 15, 10) (**Vjm, RC, and JBz**) (**JB** keep time)

- What is your experience of being Black and living in Antioch? If you could make Antioch better for Black people, what would you do?
- If you came from another part of the Bay Area to Antioch -- why did you leave the city where you lived? Do you still have a connection to that city? What have you gained and what have you lost in moving here?
- Do you see connections between the conditions Black people face in SF, in Oakland, in the South Bay, Pittsburg and here in Antioch?

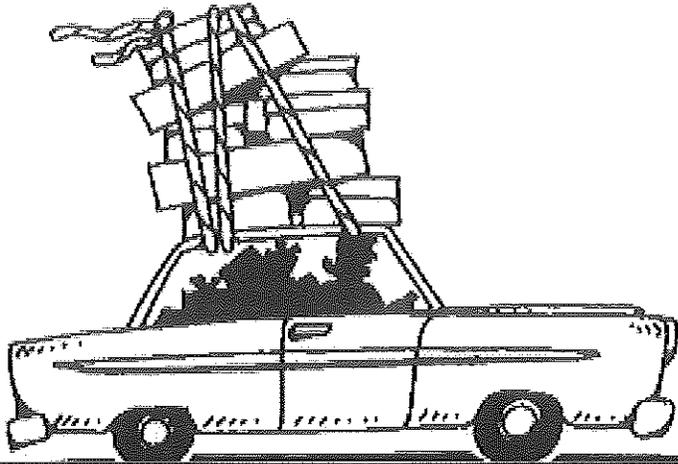
Larger Group - 25-30min - **VJM**

- Key issues raised in the small groups
- Present summary of responses from Community Meeting #1 in September
- Do you think these issues (and in general the ideas, needs, and concerns of Black communities) are important to the Antioch City government?

- What would it take to have the ideas, needs and concerns of Black people in Antioch (and SF and Oakland) be advanced by our elected officials?

IV. Sum-up/ Next Steps (5 mins) - JB

- December meeting
- Eval / highlights
- Handle gift-cards - (RC & vjm)



Vallejo
Antioch
Stockton
Brentwood
Pittsburgh
Sacramento

**Were you displaced from SF or Oakland?
You're Not Alone.**

**Did you know that Antioch is one of the only cities in the Bay Area
where the Black population is increasing?**

Every day, African American families are leaving San Francisco and Oakland. For some, the rent was just too high. Others were victims of the foreclosure crisis. Others want to be near more African Americans. Others are frustrated with cycles of violence that claim the lives of too many of our children.

Over the last 5-10 years, one of the only cities in the Bay Area where the Black population has been increasing is Antioch. But we know that relocating to the outer counties has come with its own struggles as well -- including long and expensive commutes, isolation from family and community resources, among others.

We think it's time to figure out how to keep our communities intact, connected, and thriving.. POWER and Causa Justa::Just Cause are community organizations based in Oakland and San Francisco. We launched the Black Priorities Project as long-term organizing campaign to secure resources that strengthen Black communities across the Bay Area.

We're holding this 2 listening sessions this Fall in Antioch to share some of the work we have been advancing and to hear from people who have been displaced about the struggles facing the Black families in the eastern counties as well. We are working to increase the link between our cities ---
will you join us?

Black Regional Resilience Project Listening Session

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th from 6-8pm

Rivertown Community Center, 811 West 4th Street Antioch, CA 94509

*** food, childcare and gift cards will be provided ***

please RSVP by calling (415) 864-8372 ext 307