



CITY OF OAKLAND

NOTES

Community Kickoff Meeting

Project: St Andrew's Plaza

Date: January 27, 2016, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: West Oakland Youth Center

Over 100 attendees

Lead by Council Member President, Lynette McElhaney

Background

- Diverse community groups – long term residents, seniors, children, and existing park users
- Is there a solution for everyone?
- Overall, the space is highly utilized on a daily basis but it is not a space for children and youth. One criterion for success of the project could be the presence of women and children as an indicator of a safe and healthy environment.

Community Concerns:

- 1) **Community Dignity** – both for residents of the community and those using the park.
 - a) Get beyond status quo to our better selves - Existing residents don't feel safe with current use. This space currently supports less than desirable activities such as drugs, prostitution and illegal dumping which are detrimental to the community and impact the children in the community.
 - b) Connect existing park users in need with Community Services - City is offering outreach to provide services – housing, health care, and job outreach. Include homeless in design. Advocates for the existing users: “Why demo the site before new design” and “Disrespectful to have police – fear that they may over react” Some members of the community made the point that the City and design team should be accountable for following through with the statements made to the community.
- 2) **Avoid gentrification** – point made that the community has been diverse for many generations and a park should not promote gentrification.
- 3) **Art discussion** – many questioned the value and who made the decision – many explained it was requested, produced by the community. Art can heal. “This community deserves beauty and art”.