
2018 WE ARE WILLOWBROOK SUMMIT REPORT

January 2019



WILLOWBROOK COMMUNITY ACTION FOR PEACE

Prepared by Urban Peace Institute for the Department of Public Health,
Trauma Prevention Initiative



WE ARE WILLOWBROOK 2018 SUMMIT REPORT

October 2018

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The opinions, findings and recommendations expressed are those of Urban Peace Institute.

Sponsors and Partners

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Willowbrook Community Action for Peace (CAP)

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URBAN PEACE INSTITUTE

Urban Peace Institute (UPI) is a national social justice non-profit organization working with communities across the country to develop and implement innovative policy, system and practice solutions. Through policy and program development, training, smart justice, and technical assistance UPI implements effective strategies to reduce violence, achieve safety, and improve overall community health. Building on 16 years of success as a program of the Advancement Project, UPI launched as an independent organization in 2015 and is currently operating under the fiscal sponsorship of Community Partners.

TRAUMA PREVENTION INITIATIVE

The Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI) was established in December 2015 to reduce trauma visits and deaths throughout Los Angeles County, beginning with reducing the high rates of violence related injuries and deaths in South Los Angeles. In 2015, this region experienced some of the highest rates of assault - related trauma center visits (62.8 per 100,000) and homicide (10.7 per 100,000) in the county. TPI is partnering with community residents and stakeholders to develop strategic priorities to prevent and reduce violence. Informed by community leadership, TPI is coordinating with county services and initiatives to build a comprehensive, place-based approach through innovative programs, policies, and partnerships. TPI is built on the core values of community empowerment and systems change and includes three key strategy areas: Prevention, Intervention and Capacity. TPI is led by the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the DHS Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, and many other county and community partners.

Several indicators were used to identify priority communities for TPI implementation, including (1) status as an unincorporated community, (2) high violence: assault rates, homicide rates, violent crime rate, gang-related crime rate, assault-related trauma visits, and (3) established community infrastructure: adjacent to a GRYD zone, Parks After Dark (PAD) park in community, DPH existing relationships with community, and a Trauma Center within 5 miles. Based on these criteria, Willowbrook was identified as one of four unincorporated communities in addition to Westmont/West Athens, Florence-Firestone, and unincorporated Compton in which TPI seeks to build a comprehensive, place-based approach to violence prevention and intervention that can be scaled to more communities.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Staff at the 2018 We Are Willowbrook Summit.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“You get desensitized by violence in the community or you get paranoid.” – Willowbrook teenager describing how violence and trauma affects young people

“Willowbrook is a place of healing” – Willowbrook CAP member

Urban Peace Institute (UPI) was contracted to provide community engagement and strategic planning support for the Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI) led by LA County Department of Public Health (DPH). UPI conducted focus groups and one-on-one interviews with Willowbrook stakeholders to develop a baseline understanding of community dynamics. In addition, DPH-TPI partnered with UPI to host a community Summit that engaged over 100 stakeholders who participated in four breakout sessions focused on various topics impacting the Willowbrook community.

As an unincorporated County area, Willowbrook stakeholders feel a sense of social and political isolation given the lack of community-based resources. Per UPI’s research, almost \$1 billion of investment is being focused in the area through Martin Luther King Hospital, Charles Drew University, and the Metro Rail Station. In addition, LA County invests in Park After Dark programming at two parks located in the area. Willowbrook has one of the highest poverty rates in all of LA County. When viewing the community through a health lens, Willowbrook residents experience a number of health disparities ranging from lack of green spaces to endemic concerns for physical safety.

On May 19, 2018, DPH’s Trauma Prevention Initiative hosted the first “We Are Willowbrook Summit” for residents and stakeholders. Planned in partnership with community residents and stakeholders of Willowbrook—Community Action for Peace (CAP) over 6 months— the gathering focused on strengthening relationships, develop community priorities, identifying next steps, and strengthening the CAP coalition to inform the development of the TPI strategic plan that is specific to Willowbrook needs. Four breakout sessions were planned to generate dialogue on specific issue areas identified by the CAP coalition. Notes were taken by UPI staff members to capture key information that could inform the development of a strategic plan for trauma and violence prevention.

Willowbrook residents vocalized a strong sense of pride among neighbors and strongly identified with their community. Embracing this strength, TPI staff and CAP members developed the Summit agenda to reflect the core needs of the community. Preliminary findings from UPI data collection efforts through community interviews and focus groups as well as Summit breakout sessions included:

- Law enforcement-community relations are strained with some respondents requesting improved “customer service” from Sheriffs as a result of feeling “criminalized” by law enforcement;
- Distrust of law enforcement coupled with the fear of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) among the immigrant community was raised as a major concern;
- A need for youth development opportunities including increasing access to existing youth resources;
- Expansion of economic opportunities for youth and adults through quality job development and training;
- Residents expressed that negative media attention unfairly depicts Willowbrook as a dangerous community;

- Lack of safety has been normalized whether it be issues with pedestrian safety or fear of gang-related activity;
- Residents desire to rebrand and overcome the negative reputation of Willowbrook.
- Residents reported service overlap among several community groups and the need to coordinate services;
- Language barriers were cited as a barrier to accessing resources for Latino residents since lack of Spanish translation is a common issue.

Key findings from the Summit breakout sessions included:

- Willowbrook youth need investment in primary prevention infrastructure including increase in youth programming;
- Residents need access to healthy food and diversity of food outlets;
- Community has been desensitized to violence which leads to increased trauma, therefore trauma-specific services are required;
- Quality jobs particularly for the reentry population in Willowbrook;
- Homelessness is an issue thus there a large need for development of affordable housing.

Given the findings outlined above, UPI developed some general recommendations to support the development of the TPI strategy to address the needs of Willowbrook stakeholders.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In December 2015, Los Angeles County leadership, recognizing the importance and cost-benefit of focusing efforts upstream on violence prevention, allocated funding to the Department of Public Health to implement a Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI), using Measure B dollars. Measure B funding is collected through a county parcel tax to provide funding to support the county's hospital trauma system. The goal of TPI is to develop a comprehensive, community-driven, place-based approach to prevent violence in regions of the county experiencing a disproportionately high incidence of violence-related injuries and deaths. Based on these criteria, Willowbrook was identified as one of four unincorporated TPI communities to pilot a comprehensive, place-based approach to violence prevention. TPI is striving to achieve a 10% reduction in the number of violence-related trauma center Emergency Department visits and hospitalizations among residents in the four TPI identified communities in South Los Angeles that include Willowbrook, Westmont West Athens, Florence-Firestone, and Unincorporated Compton.

One of TPI's Core Strategies is Facilitated Community Engagement and Strategic Planning. In Willowbrook, the TPI team began a 6-month community engagement process culminating on May 16th at Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science for the "We Are Willowbrook" Summit.

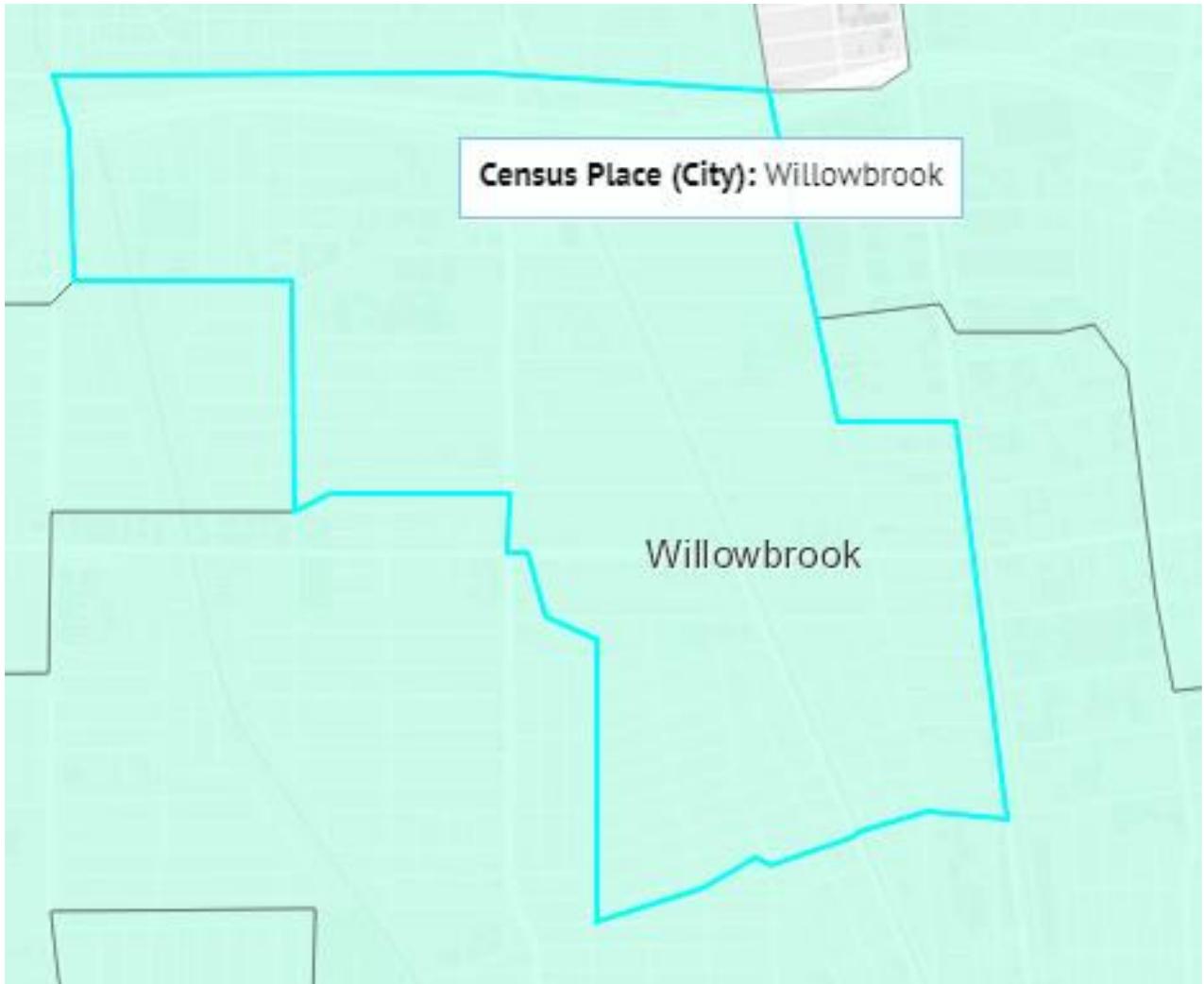
WILLOWBROOK DATA SNAPSHOT

Geography

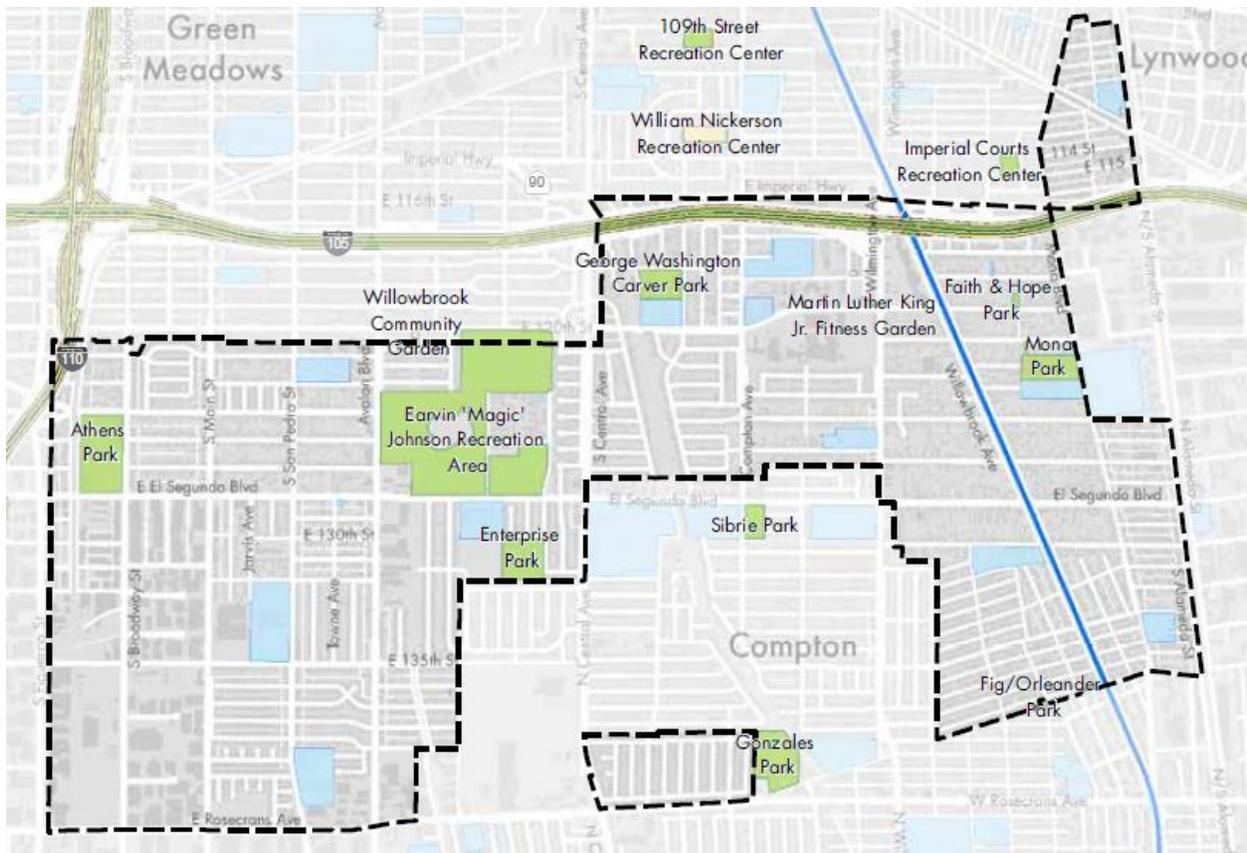
Willowbrook is located in unincorporated south Los Angeles County, south of Watts and the 105 Freeway, north of Compton, west of Lynnwood, and east of Athens and the 110 Freeway. Willowbrook is 3.77 square milesⁱ with a population of 35,983 according to the 2010 Census.ⁱⁱ A significant change to the census boundary in 2012 will result in population decreaseⁱⁱⁱ – population estimates for 2016 are 22,035.ⁱⁱ The population density of Willowbrook is average for LA County, and low compared to other areas of South LA.ⁱ



Map of Willowbrook reflected in 2010 Census.ⁱ



Map of Willowbrook reflected after 2012 census boundary change.^{iv}



Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation Map of Willowbrook.^{xv}

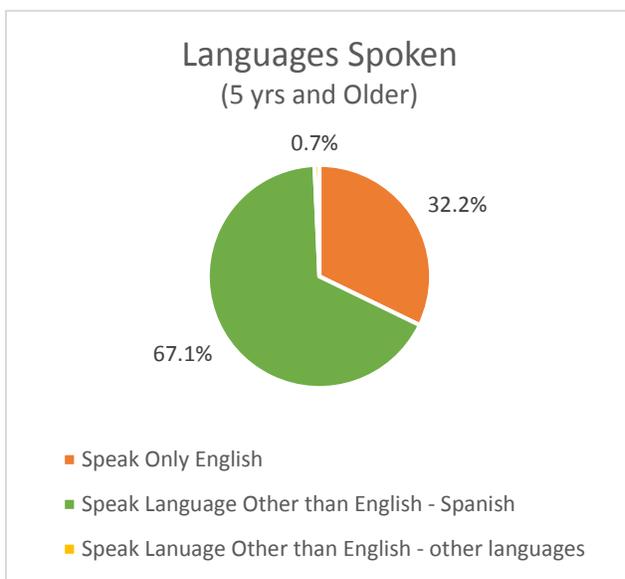
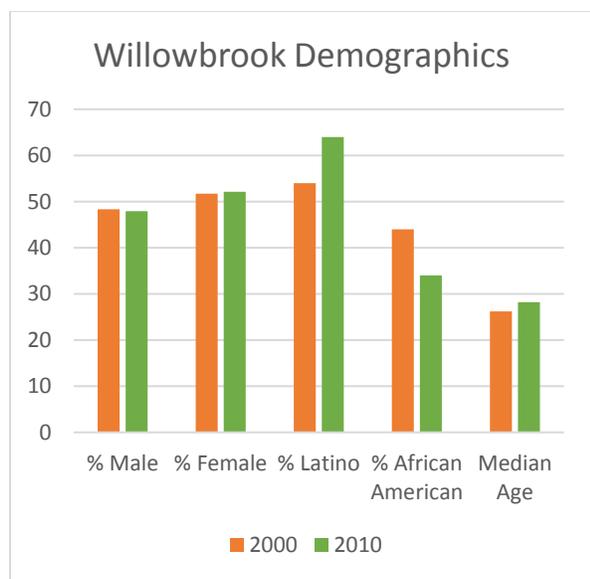
Willowbrook is located in Los Angeles County Supervisorial District 2, LA County Department of Mental Health, Health Neighborhood Service Area 6,^v and the Department of Public Health Service Planning Area (SPA) 6.^{vi} Within SPA 6, Willowbrook spans the South Health District and the Compton Health District.^{vi} Three zip codes encompass Willowbrook: 90059, 90061, and 90222 (though these zip codes do expand beyond Willowbrook’s boundaries). Willowbrook is served by two Los Angeles County Sheriff Department stations – the South Los Angeles Station and Century Station – and two school districts – the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Compton Unified School District.

Willowbrook has established jurisdictional boundaries distinguishing it as unincorporated LA County, outside of the service area of the neighboring municipalities of Los Angeles, Lynwood, and Compton. It is defined by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, the LA County Department of Regional Planning, and the US Census to distinguish it from other areas including neighboring unincorporated communities for voting, planning, and statistical purposes. But these technical boundaries often do not reflect residents’ perceptions of their community.^{vii} During the cultural asset mapping process Project Willowbrook in 2013, residents identified with neighboring communities such as Watts or Compton as often as they did with Willowbrook.^{vii} The blurred perception of Willowbrook’s boundaries can exacerbate challenges that community members face in accessing already limited services and resources by creating confusion about eligibility among residents and decreasing accountability among service providers who can claim to not be responsible for a given area. Particularly for residents who live on the border of city and county boundaries, people who live across the street from one another may

have different services providers and may be referred to a different service provider when they reach out for help. Crime is not constrained to jurisdictional boundaries. Dividing services along these boundaries can lead to heightened perceptions that a community is not safe, particularly when neighbors can only be served by Sheriff Deputies from a specific station, or by Los Angeles Police Department officers (LAPD), depending on which side of the street they happen to be on at the time of a crime.

Demographics

Willowbrook is 47.9% male and 52.1% female according to the 2010 Census.ⁱⁱ The median age was 28.2 years old in 2010ⁱⁱ compared to 34.8 in Los Angeles County.^{viii} The demographics of Willowbrook have shifted to have a ten percent higher Latino population and a ten percent lower African American population in 2010 compared to 2000.^{xv} In 2010 the racial and ethnic demographics of Willowbrook were: 64% Latino, 34% African American, and less than one percent white, Asian, and “other,” respectively.^{xv} In Willowbrook 67.8% of the population 5 years and older speak a language other than English, with 67.1% speaking Spanish, with 44.8% of those people speaking English less than “very well,” according to the 2012-2016 American Community Survey.ⁱⁱ The foreign born population was 27.5% in Willowbrook according to the 2010 Census, with 72% of those people not being U.S. citizens.ⁱⁱ

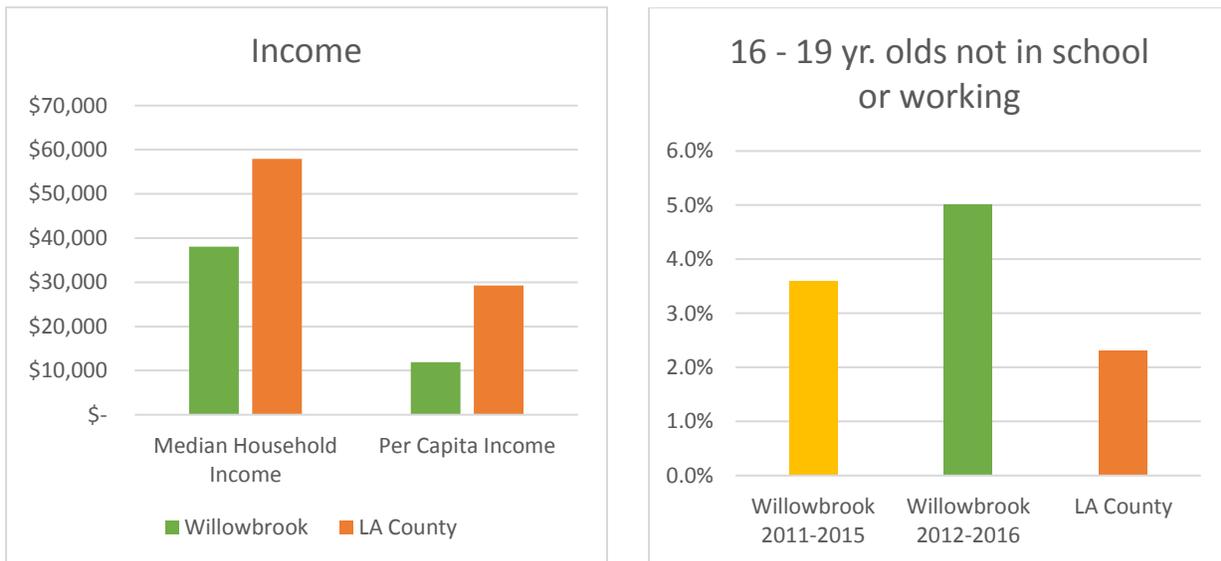


Socioeconomic Characteristics

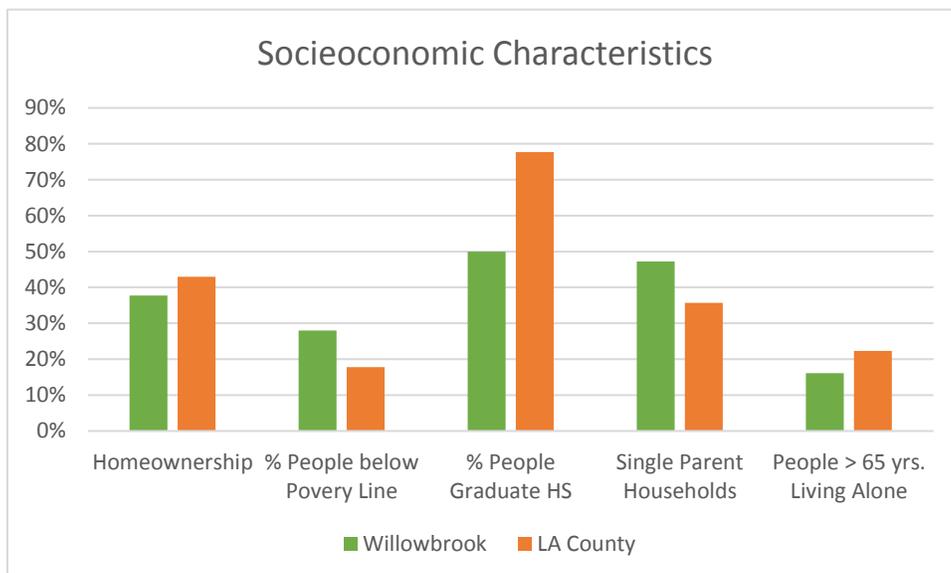
Homeownership is 37.7% in Willowbrook compared to 43% in Los Angeles County.^{iv} Sixty-five percent of renters in Willowbrook spend 30% or more of their household income on rent, about ten percent more than the Los Angeles County rate of 56.5 percent.^{iv} Median household income in Willowbrook is \$38,070 while per capita income is \$11,878 – compared to the median household income in Los Angeles County of \$57,952 and countywide per capita income of \$29,301.^{iv} Thirty-seven percent of children, 26.8% of families, and 28% of people in Willowbrook live below the poverty line compared to 25.3% of children, 13.9% of families, and 17.8% of people in LA County.^{iv}

The percent of 16-19 year old youth in Willowbrook who were not in school or working increased from 3.6% in 2011-2015 to 5% in 2012-2016, more than double the 2.3% in LA County.^{iv} Unemployment estimates were higher for Willowbrook at 18% than LA County at 11.4% according to the 2007-2011 American Community Survey.^{xv} Only 4.5% of people who are 25 years and older have a Bachelor’s degree in Willowbrook compared to 30.8% county-wide.^{iv} Fifty percent of people in Willowbrook have graduated from high schoolⁱⁱ compared to 77.7% in Los Angeles County.^{viii}

The number of single parent households is nearly ten percent greater in Willowbrook at 47.2% than in LA County at 35.7%.^{iv} The number of people older than 65 years old living alone is 16.1% in Willowbrook, lower than the 22.3% in LA County.^{iv}



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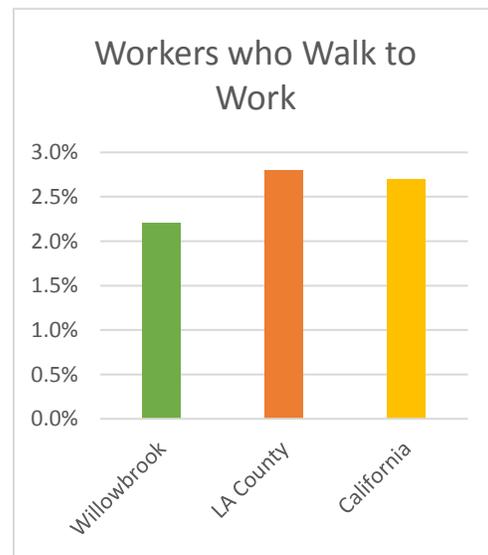
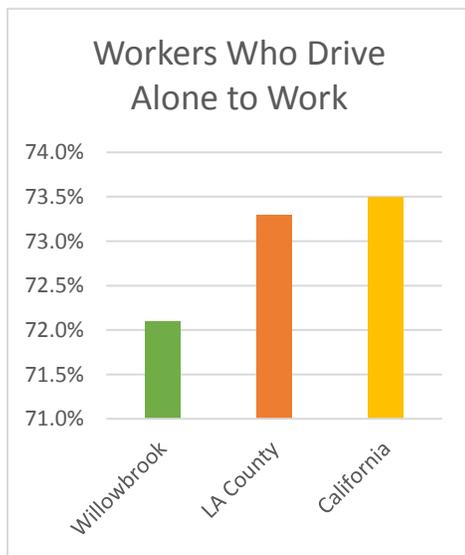
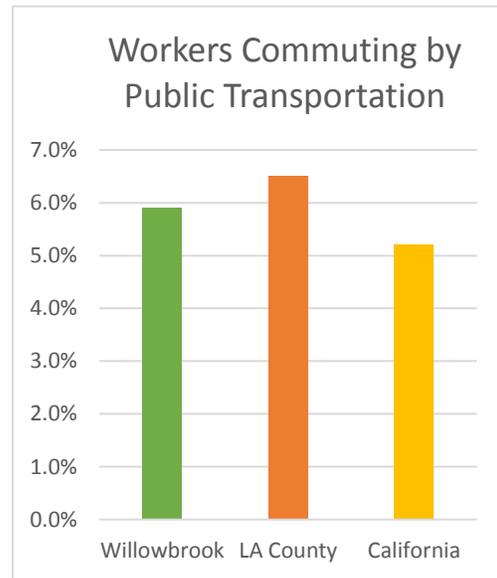
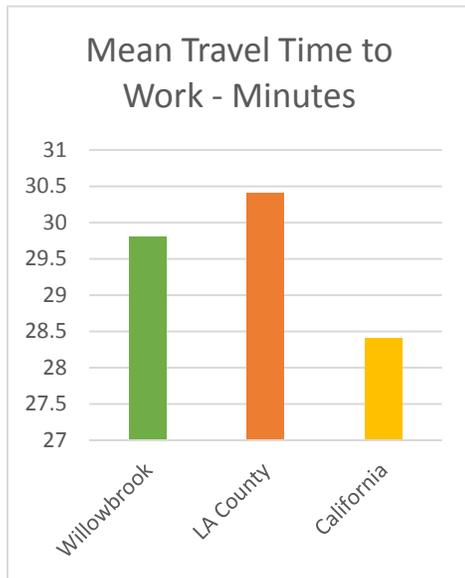


¹ Unless otherwise stated, socioeconomic characteristics are from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Transportation

Mean travel time to work in Willowbrook is 29.8 minutes which is slightly lower than the 30.4 minutes in Los Angeles County, and slightly higher than the 28.4 minutes in California.^{iv} The percent of workers in Willowbrook who commute by public transit is 5.9%, lower than the 6.5% in Los Angeles County, and higher than the 5.2% in California.^{iv} Seventy-two percent of workers in Willowbrook drive alone to work, lower than the 73.3% in Los Angeles County, and lower than the 73.5% in California.^{iv} Only 2.2% of workers in Willowbrook walk to work, fewer than the 2.8% in the county, and fewer than the 2.7% in California.^{iv}

2

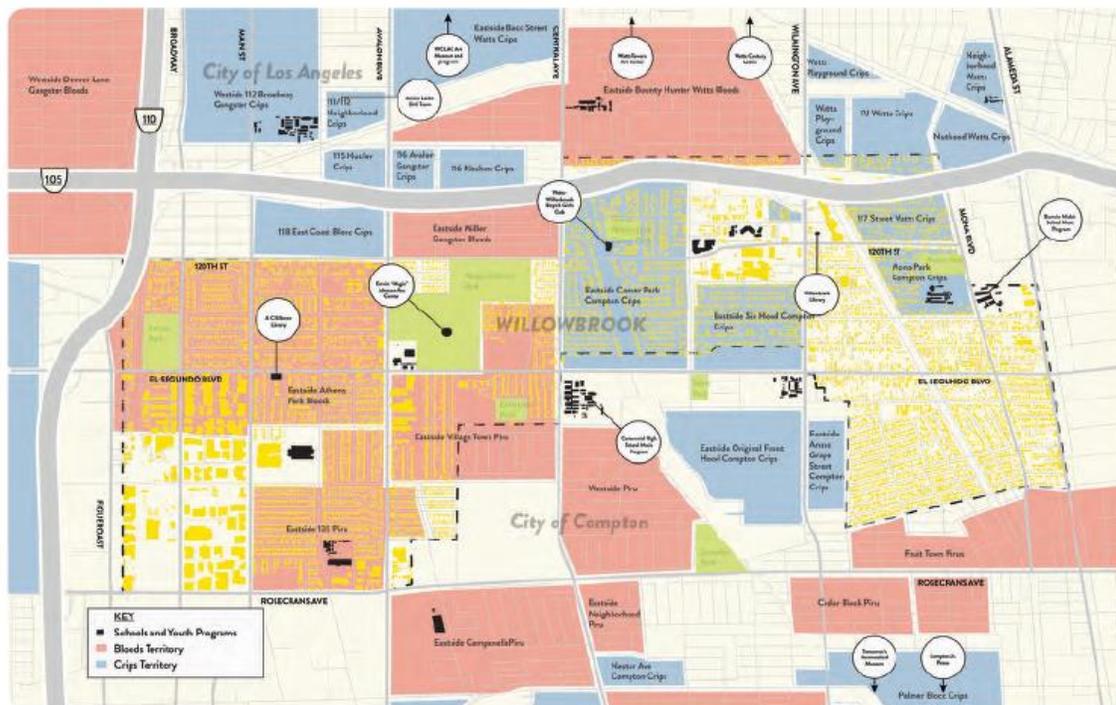


² Transportation statistics are from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Crime and Violence

There were 98 violent crimes in Willowbrook over the last six months as of May 27, 2018, including 235 property crimes, and 97 total crimes per 10,000 people. ^{ix} Willowbrook ranked 54 out of 209 neighborhoods in Los Angeles County with the highest violent crime rate. ^{ix} The 98 violent crimes reported included one homicide, two rapes, 47 aggravated assaults, and 48 robberies. ^{ix} Safety and blight were among the top concerns identified by Willowbrook residents in the Project Willowbrook assessment by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. ^{vii} Within LA County, SPA 6 has the lowest levels of perceived neighborhood safety by more than half with just 40.3% of adults believing that their neighborhood is safe from crime compared to 84% countywide. ^x Willowbrook is home to a number of gangs. The Project Willowbrook community asset map included the following map of cultural assets with an overlay depicting gang territory:

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CULTURAL ASSET MAP WITH A GANG TERRITORY OVERLAY | MAP BY ROSTEN WOO



Project Willowbrook: Cultivating a Healthy Community through Arts and Culture 2013

vii

Community Assets and Strengths

Close to one billion dollars is currently being invested into Willowbrook. ^{xiii} The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital recently underwent a \$650 million renovation ^{xiii} Community assets at the MLK Hospital, in addition to the medical services that the hospital provides, include a Public Health Community Center, and a weekly farmers' market that accepts CalFresh/EBT/food stamps, WIC, and offers a Market Match program that matches up to \$10 of customer's WIC and CalFresh spent at the market providing bonus dollars for fresh fruits and vegetables. ^{xi} The MLK Center for Public Health opened a Community Healing and Trauma Prevention Center (Community Healing Center) on September 5th, 2018. ^{xii} Community

input was gathered about what services people would like to see at the Community Healing Center during the We Are Willowbrook Summit.

Charles Drew University (CDU) is also a community resource that offers pipeline programs for youth who are interested in pursuing medical careers. CDU provided meeting space for the We Are Willowbrook Summit. Community Faculty who serve as role models within the community actively participated in the summit.

Willowbrook is a public transportation hub. It is home to the fourth busiest Metro Rail station in the County, the Rosa Parks Station that over 36,000 passengers utilize daily.^{xiii} The station is currently undergoing a revitalization with investment from a \$38.4 million state grant.^{xiv} Reginald Johnson of the Willowbrook Inclusion Network provided an overview of the investment that is currently going into Willowbrook during the Workforce and Economic Development breakout session, and pointed out that the Metro revitalization will create opportunities for jobs including new businesses that will be housed at the station.

Willowbrook has seven parks: Athens Park, Enterprise Park, Faith and Hope Park, Carver Park, MLK Jr. Fitness Garden, Mona Park, and the Earvin “Magic” Johnson Recreation Area.^{xv} Parks After Dark (PAD), a Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation violence prevention and health promotion program supported by DPH that extends park hours and programming with an enhanced and positive presences of Sheriff Department Deputies, during the summer months,^{xvi} is currently operating in three parks in Willowbrook: Athens Park, Carver Park, and Mona Park.^{xvii} Carver Park and Mona Park were added as PAD sites for 2018. LACDPH’s TPI encouraged Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation to include these additional Willowbrook parks as PAD sites.^{xviii} The Earvin “Magic” Johnson Recreation Area is currently undergoing a major renovation, described in detail to community members by Reginald Johnson to community members during the Workforce and Economic Development breakout session. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art is also planning to develop a satellite location at the park.^{xix}

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is also investing in bike and pedestrian infrastructure and streetscape improvements on three streets in Willowbrook which will include street lighting, bike lanes, and planting trees.^{xx}

Willowbrook is home to the first branch location in the LA County library system, the Willowbrook Library, and the only Black Resource Center in the library system, the A.C. Bilbrew Library.^{vii} Willowbrook boasts the historical architecture of Carver Manor, homes developed by renowned architect Paul Revere Williams who is known as the first African-American architect to be licensed by the American Institute of Architects.^{xxi} Williams designed Carver Manor with 250 homes for returning Black military veterans that were built in the 1940s, in addition to designing homes for famous celebrities.

The Willowbrook community is also home to a number of prominent churches, a K-9 Club, Youth Equestrian Club, and Aviation Club.^{vii} The Fellowship Baptist Church hosts a large Juneteenth celebration for the community every year at Mona Park.

Project Willowbrook was a cultural asset mapping process that produced a rich resource that provides further detail on community assets.^{vii} The Watts-Willowbrook Boys and Girls Club was identified in Project Willowbrook as a community asset, though there was discussion about the club during the We Are Willowbrook Summit with community members expressing concern that it is no longer accessible to local youth.

Finally, the people power of local coalitions is an asset in the area. Since 2010, First 5 LA has invested in the Best Start Watts-Willowbrook community partnership. The Watts / Willowbrook Partnership seeks to strengthen the collective will within communities, organizations and systems to promote the safety, healthy development, and well-being for children prenatal to age five and their families. Also, the Watts Gang Task Force has reach beyond City of Los Angeles boundaries and into unincorporated areas like Willowbrook. The Watts Gang Task Force was created in 2005 as a community-led group to reduce gang violence by bringing community, law enforcement, government agencies, school representatives and gang intervention together. The Watts Gang Task Force has also been recognized for its ability build positive relationships between law enforcement and community. Several Willowbrook residents and Willowbrook CAP members participate in the Watts Gang Task Force and Best Start Watts-Willowbrook. Not to be overlooked is the quick emergence of the Willowbrook CAP. In less than a year, the Willowbrook CAP was able reach multiple residents and a variety of stakeholders. The engagement and energy created by the Willowbrook CAP and the We Are Willowbrook Summit provide encouraging prospects that they can continue to grow.

WILLOWBROOK STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

METHODOLOGY

UPI participated in the Willowbrook Community Action for Peace (CAP) meetings composed of residents, stakeholders, and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Additionally, UPI gathered community feedback through one-on-one interviews and Summit participation. Through these interactions, UPI developed a community-based lens to offer an understanding of community issues and needs expressed by residents and stakeholders. From January through July 2018, UPI met with 10 residents and stakeholders to discuss community needs and gain insight on perceptions of the Willowbrook community. UPI synthesized information to create a list of core themes that frequently emerged during the CAP Meetings, interviews, and Summit breakout discussions. This information was utilized to develop a series of recommendations to help inform the development of a community-based violence prevention strategy.

PROMINENT THEMES

Willowbrook is often portrayed as a dangerous place, that only appears on the news because of violence and tragedy. But as one resident said “Willowbrook is a place of healing, not a black eye.” UPI met with a number of Willowbrook residents, many who have lived in the community for over 50 years. Through personal experiences and recollection shared during the data collection process, Willowbrook residents identified the following themes as major issues in their community: 1) lack of quality employment, 2) lack of youth resources, 3) concerns on quality of law enforcement, 4) stigmatization by the media, 5) public safety issues, and 6) barriers to community cohesion.

Lack of Quality Employment

Through multiple interviews and meetings, residents continually pointed to quality jobs as a priority for the community. The lack of quality employment, job training programs and opportunities has continually been an issue in the area. Residents have complained that the jobs available to community members often offer only meager pay and follow a similar pattern: part-time, minimum wage, no benefits, and no upward management mobility.

Residents added that businesses and employers in Willowbrook often hire people from outside the community for management positions. As one Willowbrook resident expressed, “Neighborhood jobs are not benefitting the neighborhood.” Instead, many households have family members who work two or three jobs and rely on programs like Cal-Fresh and Medi-Cal to make ends meet. These meager employment opportunities leave community members living with increased stress and adversely affect community members’ physical and economic health.

Moreover, employer harassment was cited as a major concern. Various residents shared that they have experienced continual harassment by their employers. These residents also reported feeling vulnerable experiencing sexual harassment and wage theft by employers. Residents reported their hesitancy to report these issues for fear of retaliation or being fired. Lack of employment in Willowbrook has been a major factor keeping residents in the area in a cycle of poverty, prohibiting social mobility.

Willowbrook's youth need better opportunities to generate higher incomes because violence and trauma stem from poverty. – Willowbrook Resident

In Willowbrook, youth and young adults also face employment difficulties. Job opportunities and employment resources are scarce for all residents, particularly for youth and young adults. Jobs that are available to young adults tend to be seasonal, temporary, and offer no training to promote or become a permanent employee. Participants stated that employers range from fast food chains to seasonal part-time employment with local businesses. When job fairs and resources become available, young adults are often unaware. The absence of these opportunities and resources have resulted in young adults “hustling or self-medicating to deal with it.” As a result, this type of lifestyle has instilled hopelessness as a norm for the young generations of Willowbrook.

Lack of Resources for Youth

Along with lack of economic opportunities for youth, residents also identified a lack of educational opportunities. Many residents of Willowbrook claim that poor quality schools are a major concern that deeply affects their community. Public schools in the area lack magnet programs or advanced learning programs for youth. Often, schools have no art or performing arts programs available. Additionally, public schools in the area refrain from informing parents (especially those that are monolingual Spanish speakers) about the advanced learning opportunities available for their children. Many interviewees expressed the following as a common feeling, “school administrators and staff are disinterested in the education of my children, my questions and concerns are seen as an inconvenience.” It is evident that public schools in the area are underfunded, but many parents of Willowbrook feel they that there exists a major disconnect between the schools and community.

Concerns on Quality of Law Enforcement

Residents described three primary issues with local law enforcement: 1) High level of distrust between community and law enforcement, 2) Fear of excessive use of force and 3) Poor customer service and response times.

One resident poignantly described that the law enforcement motto in Willowbrook appears to be to “serve and arrest” instead of “serve and protect.” Multiple respondents spoke about feeling criminalized by law enforcement during routine interactions. The lack of relationship building on behalf of the Sheriff’s Department has often resulted in a “us versus them” dynamic, as another resident described. Several community members expressed feeling that they are treated like criminals for simply being residents of Willowbrook.

“The relationship between law enforcement and the community is like animals in the slaughter house – because it is easier for police to shoot and kill community members whom they have no emotional attachment to or relationship.”

– Willowbrook Resident

Distrust of law enforcement, residents cited, has led to under-reporting of crime. Residents spoke about the fear of unnecessary use of force utilized by police as a major issue with local law enforcement. Residents shared that local officer involved shootings and the fear of aggressive officers are fresh on the mind of the community. Community members spoke about refraining from calling the Sheriff’s Department for fear that instead of diffusing the situation or finding a solution, local law enforcement might become overly aggressive. In the case of family disputes, residents fear that a family member or friend might end up “shot or dead” by local law enforcement—so they would rather not call. Undocumented residents claimed that they fear police officers may report them to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Conversely, some community members reported having positive relationships with law enforcement. There are a handful of residents in Willowbrook that participate in various community organizations and regular meetings with law enforcement.

Lack of adequate response times from law enforcement was also cited as an issue. Residents perceived a lack of urgency from Sheriffs when reporting serious situations such as burglary, domestic violence, or gang activity. One interviewee shared that Willowbrook residents often exaggerate their situation to 911 operators because they feel it is the only way to get a response from law enforcement. Additionally, residents described experiences where deputies were unhelpful upon responding to the scene and that some deputies appeared reluctant to want to write a report. Residents claimed that additional issues arise when an area borders the City of Los Angeles and it is unclear whether LA County Sheriff’s Department or LAPD is responsible for responding. Other residents described experiences in which sheriff’s deputies were unhelpful and told them they should call the adjacent Sheriff station. Police presence was reported as inconsistent. A community member mentioned that some Deputy Sheriffs give the impression that they don’t like the community and are “only here because this is where they were assigned.”

When Willowbrook residents were asked to reimagine their relationship with law enforcement many responded that officers should “do a simple thing like say hello or good afternoon—maybe smile”

Overall, resident leaders believe improving customer service and increasing the trust with local law enforcement needs to improve in order to prevent violence and improve community safety.

Media Stigmatization

Willowbrook residents identify with their community much differently than past media portrayals. Words like “healing” and “hope” resonated with community members. Residents argued that the media has constantly focused and reported on negative news in Willowbrook. Residents expressed that media outlets have confused the area of Willowbrook with neighboring cities like Compton and Watts when reporting on crime. In the past, the media focused on the number of gunshot wound victims at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital (MLK) which connected Willowbrook with high rates of gun violence. At the time MLK hospital served as an area trauma center where victims from the surrounding areas would receive treatment. MLK hospital received the nickname “Killer King” as a result of the number of deaths inside the hospital from the perceived lack of care and the large amount of trauma victims arriving. Residents shared that this further contributed to the stigma community members reported.

Public Safety

Willowbrook residents raised several issues on public safety that has always been a concern for the community of Willowbrook. Several community members reported that their lack of safety has become normalized. Residents reported that gun and gang violence has plagued the neighborhood for many years. Many community members shared that, “gun shots are heard constantly--mainly at night.” They expressed that police rarely respond to calls about gun shots, unless someone is wounded. They reported that it was normal to hear gun shots coming from different parts of Willowbrook. A number of residents reported witnessing fights break out at local parks and other public areas. There is a reported heavy presence of gangs and gang activity in Willowbrook particularly at parks such as Magic Johnson and Mona. Residents reported how the prevalence of graffiti in public spaces such as on traffic signs and building walls contributes to them feeling unsafe.

A number of residents reported that they do not feel safe at the park at night. Others refuse to let their children play at the park and instead keep them indoors for fear of gang recruitment or violence. Some youth in the area seek gang-involvement as a source of income, for a sense of family and protection. Gang prevention and intervention services were a common suggestion amongst families in Willowbrook to increase public safety.

Residents expressed that families in the neighborhood would like to have more safe places for their children to run and play which would contribute to improved health outcomes. A number of residents expressed they would like to have a place to exercise and do other outdoor activities. Community members complained that, “existing parks are rundown and not well-maintained.” Oftentimes, park restrooms are out of order, there is graffiti on the playground, and trash is overflowing from the trash bins. Most parks in the area are considered gang territory which residents lift up the need for safe public spaces.

Pedestrian Safety

Pedestrian safety is another area of concern for Willowbrook residents. Interviewees complained that there are many accidents caused by drunk driving and speeding. Dangerous drivers pose threats on the streets to children and older residents. Community members often fear walking on sidewalks at night. On intersections such as 120th Street and Avalon Boulevard, residents reported waking up to their cars dented or completely totaled from collisions.

Barriers to Community Cohesion

Willowbrook has many passionate and proud residents. Community members identified the following as barriers to community cohesion. First, there are few local groups that meet and promote positive efforts within the Willowbrook community. Oftentimes there is a lack of communication and outreach to achieve broader community participation. Secondly, Willowbrook's demographics consist of a majority of Latino residents but community meetings often lack their participation. The lack of translation or bilingual services were cited as a common barrier for monolingual Spanish-speaking residents.

Additionally, participants shared that many community groups overlap and duplicate services. For example, there is a perception that there are multiple organizations surveying the community and oftentimes asking the same questions causing "surveying fatigue." Lastly, outside organizations were cited as doing a poor job in involving the community in their efforts.

SUMMIT OVERVIEW & AGENDA

The We Are Willowbrook Unity Summit was held at Charles Drew University on May 19, 2018. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Trauma Prevention Initiative convened a group of community leaders and stakeholders, who later named themselves Willowbrook Community Action for Peace (CAP), to plan the summit beginning in December 2017. The goals of the summit were to: build relationships, develop community priorities, identify action steps, and establish a foundation for the CAP to continue ongoing collaboration and develop a strategic plan to reduce trauma and violence in Willowbrook. 159 people attended.

Participation

Twenty-two percent of summit evaluation respondents reported living in Willowbrook, while 78% reported that they do not. The longest-term resident who attended the summit reported living in the Willowbrook for 65 years. Most attendees (44%) reported finding out about the summit from a community-based organization, while 31% heard about the summit from a friend or family member, 25% received an email about the summit, and 17% found out about the summit from the CAP meetings. Fifty-five percent of respondents indicated that they were affiliated with a community-based organization on the summit evaluation, while 30% reported affiliation with the faith community, and 25% reported affiliation with a county department.

“Today is about Willowbrook. We are Willowbrook! We are Willowbrook!”

–Summit Emcee

Morning Program

Lively activities and opportunities for networking were provided in the morning to open the day with a festive atmosphere in celebration of the community. Arts for Incarcerated Youth and LA Commons provided an interactive arts activity in which participants made touchstones of hope and healing, that would later be incorporated into a community mural at the MLK Community Healing Center. Summit emcee Dr. Perry Crouch, a member of the Willowbrook Community Action for Peace (CAP) and Education Chair of the Watts Gang Task Force opened the summit.



Dr. Diane Breckenridge, Dean of the Charles Drew University (CDU) Dymally School of Nursing, and Dr. David Carlisle, President of CDU welcomed the community to the CDU campus. Deacon Michael Torrence

“I was happy to see a lot of community come out. I hope that this is something we can build on going forward.”

– Willowbrook Stakeholder

of the Fellowship Baptist Church gave a spiritual invocation and recognition of the late Pastor Glass, a renowned community leader who he described as “a pioneer, soldier, and fighter for Willowbrook,” who “was all about walking the walk.” The Fellowship Baptist Youth Choir performed, “Proud to Be a Willowbrookian,” the anthem that Pastor Glass wrote out of love and pride for the community. Reginald Johnson of the nonprofit Willowbrook Inclusion Network (WIN) and the CAP was recognized for his commitment to the community. Three generations of Willowbrook community leadership – CAP members Stephen Fisher and Ebony Luchien, and youth leader Jacques Fields – led the audience through an illustrative history of Willowbrook. Deputy La Mark Williams, the Community Relations Deputy for the Willowbrook Community from the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department Century Station, also addressed the crowd. DJ Cell provided entertainment throughout the day.

Breakout Sessions

Four breakout sessions on topics identified as priority issues by the CAP were the focus of the summit: (1) The Troubles Teens Carry/Youth Empowerment, (2) Economic and Workforce Development, (3) Civic Engagement and Community Hubs, and (4) Willowbrook on the Move. Breakout sessions were held in the morning and the afternoon, so community members had the opportunity to participate in two topics.

“It is a beautiful day. Everyone was out for one cause – children, youth and adults. Nothing but up from here.”

– Willowbrook CAP member and resident

Afternoon Program

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, addressed the community during lunch that was provided from Apple Spice Kitchen, a local business. After expressing great faith in the community’s ability to build peace, Dr. Ferrer made a pledge of support to align the County’s resources for peace in Willowbrook. After urging the community to come together to develop a plan for peace, Dr. Ferrer told the crowd, “your plan is what we will act on.”

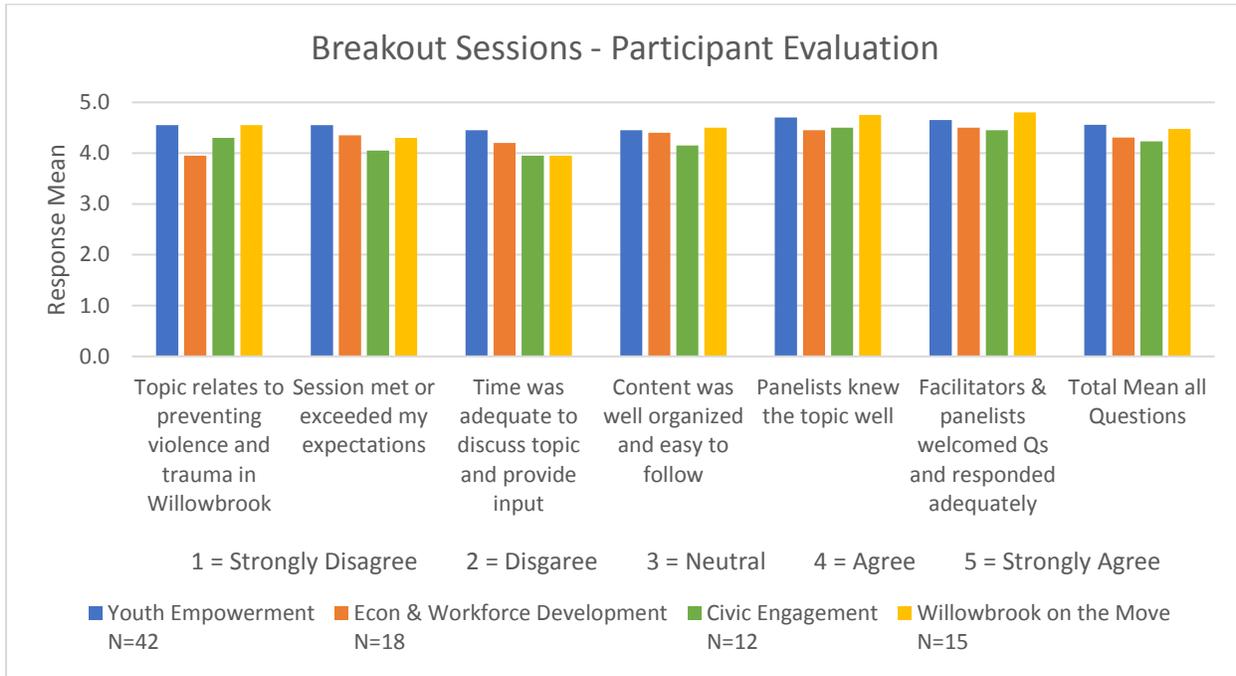


“We are committed to supporting the community of Willowbrook to change this environment and to develop locally driven solutions.”

– Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

SUMMIT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout sessions featured CAP members, community leaders, and content experts, and allowed for resource sharing, community discussion about priority issues, and were designed to identify focused next steps for action. See Appendix A. for detailed evaluation responses from the summit and breakout sessions.



Breakout Session 1: The Troubles Teens Carry

Facilitators: Jazlyn Scarbrough & Dalilah Valencia, King Drew Medical Magnet High School, & Aarti Harper, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Description: The session began with a skit that took audience members through the challenges that young people face – at home and school, with family members, adults, and peers – and the trauma they experience. King Drew High School’s Mega Projects leadership program and Jordan High School’s Wellness Mural were highlighted through the skit including traumas associated with undocumented status, fear of homelessness, body shaming, food deserts, and the stigma of mental health and accessing health care.

Community Voice:

The skit was followed by group discussion on specific topic areas, each led by a youth facilitator.

Community Strengths: Participants identified organizational and institutional strengths that included: Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital, Charles Drew University and High School, churches, community organizations, and county agencies such as Public Health, Parks and Recreation, and Mental Health. Programs that empower the youth and get them away from life struggles, and events such as the summit were also highlighted as strengths. Participants also talked about community collectiveness and pride as a strength and highlighted the acceptance of diversity in the community.

Existing community resources: Participants listed a range of youth resources that included: the King Drew Hospital program that provides internship experiences for high school aged youth, First 5 LA Best Start for young children aged 0-5 years, the Baptist Fellowship Church that supports youth who need help with personal problems, the new library, and youth programs such as the Boys & Girls Club and Motivate 'Em. Participants also expressed that community members and neighbors, people reaching out to help each other, were also are resources for local youth. Additional resources discussed included trauma/mental health phone applications and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

What youth need: Identified needs included improvements to the physical and built environment, local jobs, mental health, sexual health, academic support, and outreach for youth to be aware of the currently existing resources. Specifically, participants mentioned the need for increased access to healthy food, laws to restrict smoking, and sexual health resources and a clinic to ensure youth are informed, protected, and healthy. The need for internship and career development opportunities outside of the medical field was highlighted along with the need for local jobs for youth under the age of 18 because commuting can be dangerous for youth. One community member pointed out that there was too much separation between different racial and ethnic groups, stating, "What the community needs is more unity." Stigma was also raised as a barrier to people accessing existing programs. Participants also expressed the need for teachers to be educated about trauma so that they can better interact with and support youth, and youth shared feeling like they don't have time to deal with trauma while balancing a heavy workload at school.

What empowerment means: Participants shared their vision of the meaning of youth empowerment. Responses centered around the themes of: giving youth a voice and platform for being actively involved in decision-making, showing youth they can create change in their community and organize for change, and supporting and mentoring youth to take on leadership roles.



How youth are affected by trauma and violence: Youth described being desensitized to violence because of frequent exposure, such as being numb to gunshots and the sight of dead bodies:

“You get desensitized by violence in the community or you get paranoid.”

“I got a gun pointed at me and I didn’t care.”

“I heard someone get robbed by house three consecutive times, and I didn’t care.”

“It’s either gunshots or fireworks, it doesn’t matter in the end.”

“Sometimes we don’t even recognize that we are traumatized and build this unhealthy behavior that can pass on generationally.”

– Summit Participant

Participants also raised issues about smoking and drug abuse around young children setting a bad example and kids learning that hitting is okay due to domestic violence in homes. People also shared examples of engaging in maladaptive behaviors, avoiding walking in certain areas after being robbed, and the impact that trauma has on youth over the course of their lifespan. Youth also expressed feeling like they were often not heard by adults, or that adults diminished the emotions and issues that youth face.

How we can keep kids from joining gangs: Discussion about keeping kids from joining gangs centered around keeping kids busy with extracurricular activities that influence them in a positive way, mentoring and motivating youth, and having engaged families that give kids positive support. One participant shared that “good communication in the household can be preventative; turning to family is key.” Another participant suggested that bringing gang members into community conversations, such as at the summit, could be more productive than excluding them, noting that gang members are part of the community and could be resources.

What has been successful in keeping kids out of gangs: Addressing the root causes of gang violence was highlighted as a successful strategy for keeping kids out of gangs. Specifically, participants discussed the lack of opportunities to make money as being a motivation for people joining gangs. Strategies to keep kids from joining gangs included: connecting youth with jobs, volunteer opportunities, mentoring programs, general community involvement and improved relationships, after school activities, and quality education to set youth up to pursue higher education and good jobs in the future.

What we need to do to address the violence and trauma in Willowbrook: Several participants expressed the need to come together as a cohesive community to address violence and trauma. Community members also expressed the need for arts programs and support groups for youth. Communication, listening, and sharing love with youth were uplifted as a successful strategy for working with gang-involved youth. Another strategy discussed focused on safety and law enforcement – with participants sharing that there is a need for law enforcement to address certain issues but that many people in the community don’t trust or feel safe around law enforcement. Participants also shared a need to address stigma from people outside of the community which was seen as a barrier for getting resources in the community.

Breakout Session 2: Workforce and Economic Development

Facilitator: Patricia Hernandez

Panelists:

- *Reginald Johnson – Willowbrook Inclusion Network (WIN)*
- *Casswell Goodman – Exceptional Quality Professional Development (EQPD), LA County Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services*
- *Vera Arellano – Rancho Dominguez/Compton America’s Job Center of California (AJCC)*
- *Paul Guzman – New Opportunities Organization*
- *Dexter McCloud – South LA Chamber of Commerce*

Description: The session brought together panelists that represented a diverse range of interests and expertise related to workforce and economic development that included small businesses development and support, jobs for justice-involved individuals, internship and job opportunities for youth, and opportunities currently being created through investment in Willowbrook.

Panelist Perspectives:

Reginald Johnson of the Willowbrook Inclusion Network (WIN) gave a presentation on the economic picture in Willowbrook that detailed the nearly \$1 billion of investment going into Willowbrook including: renovation of the Rosa Parks Metro Station that is part of a Transit Oriented Development plan, renovation of the Earvin “Magic” Johnson Park, and improvements to parks and streets. Reginald Johnson emphasized his view that investment in the Willowbrook community creates a structure that community members can plug into. He shared his vision that the Metro Station renovation creates opportunities for local businesses, and that the renovation to the park will establish a beautiful promenade, improve the environment, and provide outdoor opportunities for families to physically active. Reginald Johnson also expressed a particular interest in developing the Willowbrook creative economy to catalyze economic opportunities, especially for youth.



Casswell Goodman, a consultant to Los Angeles County, and CEO and Founder of Exceptional Quality Professional Development, shared his experience as a community representative for the County, going undercover to assess the quality of job services that the county provides. He shared that the County does provide a number of job resources for justice involved individuals, foster youth, and the homeless, at American Job Centers of California (AJCC). He also highlighted that the County needs to do better outreach about the resources that are available and highlighted the lack of outreach as a key barrier to people accessing resources. Lastly, he pointed out that there is a lot of confusion about what services are available through the County and the City.

Paul Guzman of New Opportunities Organization, a reentry provider for the county, shared information about the resources available through his organization which operates charter schools in correctional facilities, reentry programs, expungement services, degree programs, and mental health counselling. The organization began holding classes for people inside of jails to obtain high school diplomas and evolved to address additional needs that were identified including support for mental health, housing, and social workers.

Dexter McCloud, who grew up in Willowbrook and is President of South LA Chamber of Commerce, shared his perspective that hope and purpose are the element needed to build the community. He started the Chamber of Commerce after trying to get what he referred to as “predatory businesses” to hire residents, support the community, and invest in South Los Angeles. He observed that it was difficult to place justice involved individuals into good paying jobs, and now advocates for entrepreneurship, telling participants: “if you can’t find a job, create a job for yourself.” He created South LA Chamber of Commerce to serve as a resource to help people who want to start their own business.

Vera Arellano, with the AJCC, discussed job placement services for adults and youth that are available through AJCCs, including reentry services. She shared her perspective that employment opportunities for at-risk-youth can be preventative to keep them from going to juvenile hall or jail. Resources that are available to youth at AJCCs include: skill development, support to meet GED and career pathway goals, and public safety training with the Sheriff’s and Fire Departments. The AJCC provides paid work experience for youth with the goal of getting people into careers.

Community Voice:

Discussion following panelist presentations focused on access to quality jobs – especially for people who have been incarcerated, lack of accessible resources in the Willowbrook community, the poor quality of the resources that are available, and the need for reentry and youth focused resources. Participants also discussed the need for local hire commitments tied to the investments being made in Willowbrook. Reginald Johnson encouraged participants to connect with WIN to engage in those conversations, noting that residents’ voices will be stronger together.

Accessibility & Quality of Job Resources: Participants expressed frustration that many of the county resources described by panelists were not available in the Willowbrook community and shared that when going out of the community to access resources, they have found them to be lacking quality. Reginald Johnson expressed that since there is not currently an AJCC serving Willowbrook, WIN is partnering with the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide services to Willowbrook, stating that, “Willowbrook is taking care of its own.” Panelists acknowledged that there is variability in quality of job services available at the county and shared a strategy to work with community-based organizations which can provide better customer service. Casswell Goodman shared that he sees a need for better outreach on what services are available.

Reentry Services: One audience member who was incarcerated for 33 years and now works as a job developer for a reentry program, spoke about the challenges of finding work after being justice-involved, noting that it was particularly difficult to find quality jobs. He expressed his view that there is a lot of power in the men and women coming out of prison who are underutilized assets to the community. There was discussion about potential opportunities to smooth transitions for people leaving prison by lining up jobs and resources prior to their release through in-reach. Caswell Goodman shared information about a pilot project to provide comprehensive reentry services at AJCCs, a Justice Metrics data program, and a new Office of Diversion and Reentry within the Department of Mental Health that is in development. Participants also discussed the need for expungement services in Willowbrook.

Affordable Housing: Community members voiced concern that affordable housing was missing from the conversation about economic development. One participant shared concern that lack of affordable housing made it difficult for parents to be involved in the lives of their children: "If parents can't afford where they live, they can't get involved. Many of my neighbors work multiple jobs to make ends meet and pay high rents. When do you have time to get involved in their kids' school?" Another participant noted that affordable housing was recently built in Willowbrook for seniors, but asked, "what about families?"

Gentrification: Reginald Johnson cautioned that with the investment in Willowbrook, if the community doesn't raise its voice, others will get those benefits. He called for the community to build a culture of opportunity for local creators and outlined a vision that included training geared towards art and culture to make Willowbrook a destination for people to come to for arts and culture, and then spend money in the neighborhood.

Civic and Community Engagement: Participants expressed the need to have better information about opportunities that do come to Willowbrook in order to take advantage of those opportunities, sharing examples of the building of the MLK hospital – many residents were qualified to secure jobs when there was a local hiring agreement, and Mosaic Gardens affordable housing – which quickly reached capacity.

"We don't have a mayor, city council, neighborhood council. Civic engagement is low. That's why things go over our head"

– Summit Participant

The lack of local government was cited as a barrier to civic and community engagement. Participants expressed interest in more regular community forums and meetings, and traditional outreach. Reginald also highlighted the WIN as a community resource created to connect people in the community, and also expressed his enthusiasm for the CAP as a place for regular community meetings and engagement. Participants also discussed developing a resource guide for Willowbrook.

Breakout Session 3: Civic Engagement and Community Hubs

Facilitator: Nellie Marie Nunez

Panelists:

- Terry “CT” Williams, Community Organizer
- Carolyn Kobayashi, LA County Library Administrator

Description: The goal of the session was to identify opportunities to engage community members in the development of resources and programs for the Willowbrook community. Session panelists shared different perspectives and expertise on civic engagement and community hubs including bringing resources into the Willowbrook through the new library, leveraging connections from the entertainment industry to bring in related resources, and continuing to provide gang intervention resources including developing a new generation of leaders in gang intervention.

Panelist Remarks:

Carolyn Kobayashi provided an update on the new library facility scheduled to open in the summer of 2018, that was designed to be an engaging and vibrant community space. She described the services and amenities that would be available through the library that included a community meeting room, workforce development office, and preventative health series, mental health services, financial planning and tax preparation services, and tools for going through the immigration process. Carolyn Kobayashi also spoke about how the library was working with several community groups and actively expanding partnerships.

Terry “CT” Williams, a Community Organizer in Willowbrook, spoke about bringing entertainment resources into the community through his connections to the industry, and about his peace work with gangs that includes helping to establish a ceasefire that resulted in two years of peace without any violent deaths. He shared that Willowbrook was ground zero for gang feuds and spoke about the importance of gang intervention work and the need to develop a new generation of gang intervention workers for peace to continue. CT Williams also spoke about a gap of services in Willowbrook, sharing that he works to get private businesses to donate to fill those service gaps. He also talked about the need to create jobs for reentry so that justice-involved individuals have a smooth transition back to the community. CT Williams also spoke about his use of entertainment, as a way to reach out to youth, about the importance of youth being invited to participate in activities, and about the importance of community and of neighbors knowing one another. He also raised concern about the Boys and Girls Club which he stated was formerly a good resource for youth in the community but has since become inaccessible because of cost and because it serves a larger metro area.

“Entertainment is a way to reach at youth – to connect them. Sometimes neighbors don’t know each other and I want to change that. Kids are still out on the street.”

– Community Member



Community Voice:

Requested Resources: County agencies asked participants to identify community needs and resources they would like to see at the library, the MLK Community Healing Center, and at Parks After Dark. Specific resources and services that participants requested included: programs that engage youth and teenagers, peer run support groups for youth, bullying prevention, technology resources, tutoring, parenting programs and resources, resources on autism, self-defense, support systems for home placements. Participants also requested activities such as cooking, golf, sports and athletic programs, and safe zones around parks.

Community Hubs: Participants asked about how organizations can work with the library. The library administrator shared that they are working to be more community based – to be a community hub – and are actively trying to partner with community organizations. The Community Healing Center was also lifted up as potentially a community hub that can connect people with the County services.

Affordable Youth Programming: There was discussion about the Boys and Girls Club and the need for low cost programming for youth. Participants spoke about the need to address the disparity between the need for services and people’s ability to access services. Frustration was also expressed that Willowbrook resources are diverted to Compton or Watts residents; once again the Willowbrook community is overlooked. Some sentiments of “manipulation and exploitation of our own people,” and that “parents are disconnected from their children,” were also expressed.

Community Cohesion: Terry Williams spoke about the need for community cohesion. Participants expressed a need to share meeting times and locations and attend each other's meetings because there are several groups in the community working toward the same cause. Residents also called for appropriate outreach to be done for the programs and services that are implemented so that community members are aware of available programs. Participants expressed feeling that they system was disconnected, and uncertain about the communications channels for community agencies since there are no City Council meetings in unincorporated Willowbrook.

Community organizations, agencies, hubs, and spaces for community engagement that were discussed included: Willowbrook CAP, Willowbrook Inclusion Network (WIN), PAD at Mona Park and Carver Park, Community Healing Center, and TC Partner with Family Man (Washington High School). Outreach strategies and available communications channels discussed included: flyers distributed through schools; the library registry / email list; and social media.

Breakout Session 4: Willowbrook on the Move

Facilitator: Beatriz Navarro

Panelists:

Jose Gutierrez, LA County Land Trust

Dr. Perry Crouch, CAP Member/Watts Gang Task Force Education Chair

Ebony Luchien, CAP Member/Volunteers of America

Description:

This session covered a number of topics including prevention and intervention, the built environment/green space, and community identity/rebranding. Panelists provided perspectives on what is happening in Willowbrook related to each of these topics, and community members were then engaged in a discussion about how multiple groups in Willowbrook can collaborate, and opportunities to improve services available in the Willowbrook community.

Panelist Remarks:

Dr. Perry Crouch gave background on his work, which included starting a college readiness program, and working on gang intervention and prevention. He spoke about how violence had been prevalent in the community, and how he has dedicated 32 years to reducing violence in Willowbrook. He also spoke about the importance of safe passages which allows kids go to and from school safely, without having to deal with gang members trying to recruit them. Dr. Crouch also discussed the high rate of pedestrian deaths in Willowbrook.

Ebony Luchien, a Willowbrook resident and Program Coordinator with Volunteers of America (VOA), talked about her work turning vacant lots into community parks. VOA also partnered with the LA Arts Commission to create the “Welcome to Willowbrook” sign. She spoke about the need to rebrand the identity of Willowbrook because it had been depicted as a negative city for many years. She expressed that the renovation of the Rosa Parks Metro Station and Earvin “Magic” Johnson Park was an opportunity to show Willowbrook in a positive light. She shared that the goal of re-branding is to build a positive tone about Willowbrook, including on the internet, and that she saw the summit as a kickstart to re-branding its identity.



Jose Gutierrez, a Community Organizer with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, discussed his work building community gardens, which included building one in Willowbrook. The panel discussed healing gardens which the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and the Seed Library of Los Angeles were partnering to create in Willowbrook. Dr. Perry Crouch spoke about the importance of these types of services in the community, and the need to break the cycle of intergenerational violence. Panelists also shared that Green Allies landscape architecture is working to create safe places for the Willowbrook community.

Community Voice

Session participants were asked to share positive things happening in the community, and the things that they would like to see improved.

Community and Youth Engagement: Community members expressed a sense of pride for all of the programs and activities that were happening in Willowbrook, but also shared the need for continued community involvement. A community faculty member at Charles Drew University spoke about her role in bringing the community and the university together, expressing the importance of the community knowing about the resources available through the university, especially for youth to know about education as an alternative to participating in gangs. Dr. Crouch pointed out that the lack of knowledge about available community resources results in people not being able to utilize the resources that are available.

Affordable Housing: Dr. Perry Crouch gave an example of an affordable housing residence for seniors that local residents weren't able to move into because they weren't aware of the resource. Ebony Luchien shared further that the "affordable" housing was too expensive for many low-income seniors to afford. A community member also raised the issue that homeless people in Willowbrook were not utilizing shelters because they were not aware of them, and instead homeless people from other areas were taking up those beds.

Safety and Healing: One community member expressed that the community needs to feel safe. They expressed the importance of the new Community Healing Center which was a needed resource in the community.

Parks & Green Spaces: Participants expressed concern that parks in the community were not clean or green, which meant that families did not utilize those facilities. Community members expressed a need for more maintenance staff for the parks, and additional trash cans in parks to prevent littering.

Gentrification: Participants expressed their concern about gentrification and expressed the need for good jobs that paid a living wage on which people can survive.

Next Steps: The session closed with the facilitator asking participants to identify one or two next steps that could be started in the next six months following the summit. Participants expressed the need for better outreach to the community about CAP meetings, and future summits. There was also an interest expressed to recruit more community members to the CAP, and for the CAP to take information back out to the community to reduce duplication of efforts among community groups. Participants also discussed engaging in positive messaging on social media to support the rebranding effort to build a more positive image of the neighborhood. More park activities were also requested by community members. Participants also expressed the need for more childcare centers and for parenting support.

KEY FINDINGS

Summit participants expressed the need for quality job opportunities, reentry support for justice involved residents returning to the community, and local jobs for youth under the age of 18. Youth activities and support groups, safe open spaces, and spaces for healing were also needs identified by community members. Participants expressed the need for unity and community cohesion, and for clear opportunities for civic engagement for both adults and for youth given the limited political representation in unincorporated Willowbrook. A common theme expressed by participants in all breakout sessions was the need for better outreach about existing resources and services available in the Willowbrook community. Several participants identified lack of knowledge about existing resources as a barrier to community members utilizing those services. Willowbrook residents expressed an interest in having regular community meetings and forums. The CAP was identified as a resource for building community cohesion. Participants expressed interest in making CAP meetings available to more community members through outreach and holding the meetings at alternative times. Participants also expressed interest in CAP members helping to disseminate information throughout the community. Community members also identified a need for affordable housing in the Willowbrook community and expressed concern that investment made to revitalize the community could lead to gentrification.

PATH FORWARD

The following recommendations were developed and informed by multiple stakeholder interviews, We Are Willowbrook Summit breakout sessions, and CAP meetings:

Broaden Community Engagement & Leadership

Building off the momentum of the We Are Willowbrook Summit and Willowbrook CAP meetings is an opportunity to broadly connect to more residents of all demographics.

- ❖ Grow CAP meetings to formal monthly or bi-weekly meetings with residents, local elected offices, law enforcement, Los Angeles County departments, school administrators, faith-based groups, local service providers, and community-based organizations;
- ❖ Provide translation support to ensure monolingual Spanish speakers can participate in meetings;
- ❖ Establish a formal CAP youth advisory committee to add youth voice in local decision-making, partner with local high schools and colleges on a youth advisory committee;
- ❖ Link existing TPI efforts such as hospital-based and street intervention services, and PAD events to CAP priorities;
- ❖ Continue to foster a space for information sharing, problem solving and collaboration to strengthen local TPI efforts.

Support Youth Engagement and Youth Opportunities

Continue to provide youth opportunities to inform violence prevention and community campaigns as well as providing economic and leadership opportunities.

- ❖ Continue engagement with local youth in order to create a youth advisory committee
- ❖ Seek new partnerships to provide educational, vocational and creative opportunities that supplement existing youth initiatives or campaigns
- ❖ Seek partnerships that can provide youth internships (i.e. Chargers, Rams, community-based organizations, entertainment studios, etc.)
- ❖ Seek funding and opportunities for youth health promoters
- ❖ Provide youth jobs at local Parks After Dark
- ❖ Dedicate capacity for school connectivity, to ensure locals schools, parents, and youth are informed about DPH, TPI and County resources available to them
- ❖ School and college admin participation in CAP meetings

Support Resident-Led Jobs Committee

Residents overwhelmingly raised the issue of lack of quality jobs. By creating a committee focused on jobs, residents can ensure local youth and adults are connected to job opportunities.

- ❖ Develop capacity of residents to be “job mentors” for youth, hard-to-hire and re-entry populations
- ❖ Connect with local job centers, request capacity and invite to CAP meetings
- ❖ Connect with local high schools and colleges around job placement leveraging local hire initiatives
- ❖ Develop a robust communications plan to share job opportunities broadly with residents
- ❖ Develop formal partnerships with reentry service providers in region
- ❖ Educate residents on local hire initiatives
- ❖ Establish Safe Passage routes along popular commute routes especially for youth, reentry populations, and high-need populations who are employed outside of the community.
- ❖ Address mobility and safety barriers for employment for youth, reentry populations and high-need populations.

Create Space for Law Enforcement Relationship Building

Law enforcement plays a critical role in violence & trauma prevention efforts.

- ❖ Hold monthly DPH and LASD leadership meetings to deepen relationship, further define roles, in coordination with TPI initiative (i.e. Hospital-based and street intervention protocols)
- ❖ Invite local law enforcement leaders to consistently attend CAP & community meetings
- ❖ Reserve time in community meetings for law enforcement to share updates and field questions from community members
- ❖ Engage law enforcement leaders on opportunities to build positive interactions in violence prevention efforts, such as community meetings and PAD
- ❖ Request law enforcement share plans and policies on diversion for youth and non-violent offenders
- ❖ Hold monthly incident review meetings with intervention provider, DPH staff, and law enforcement for accountability as well as protocol refinement
- ❖ Capture best practices from DPH, LASD, and intervention provider for further county-wide strategy implementation
- ❖ Train LASD on TPI’s comprehensive safety strategy around working with gang intervention workers and other service providers

Expansion of Safe Public Spaces

Continue efforts to increase parks and safe public spaces for all residents.

- ❖ Expand PAD to more recreation centers in the Willowbrook area
- ❖ Leverage PAD programming by investing more TPI resources and coordination, and add youth jobs and services as prioritized by the Willowbrook CAP
- ❖ Increase role of gang prevention and gang intervention service providers at local parks
- ❖ Increase positive law enforcement presence at local parks
- ❖ Ensure local law enforcement adopts a relationship-based approach with residents and TPI partners
- ❖ Ensure local law enforcement understands the role of gang prevention and gang intervention as part of the Trauma Prevention Initiative, and more broadly in reducing violence and trauma

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

I. Develop Funding Streams for Youth Programming and Primary Prevention

Develop and maintain adequate comprehensive primary prevention infrastructure. There is a need for recreation and enrichment programming for youth. Beyond that, there is a need for services and programming for at-risk youth that are in danger of entering gangs. Programming and resources targeting high risk youth is essential to trauma prevention efforts and disrupting the cycle of violence. Willowbrook needs targeted investment that spans the spectrum of youth development.

II. Institutionalize Community Meetings in TPI Areas

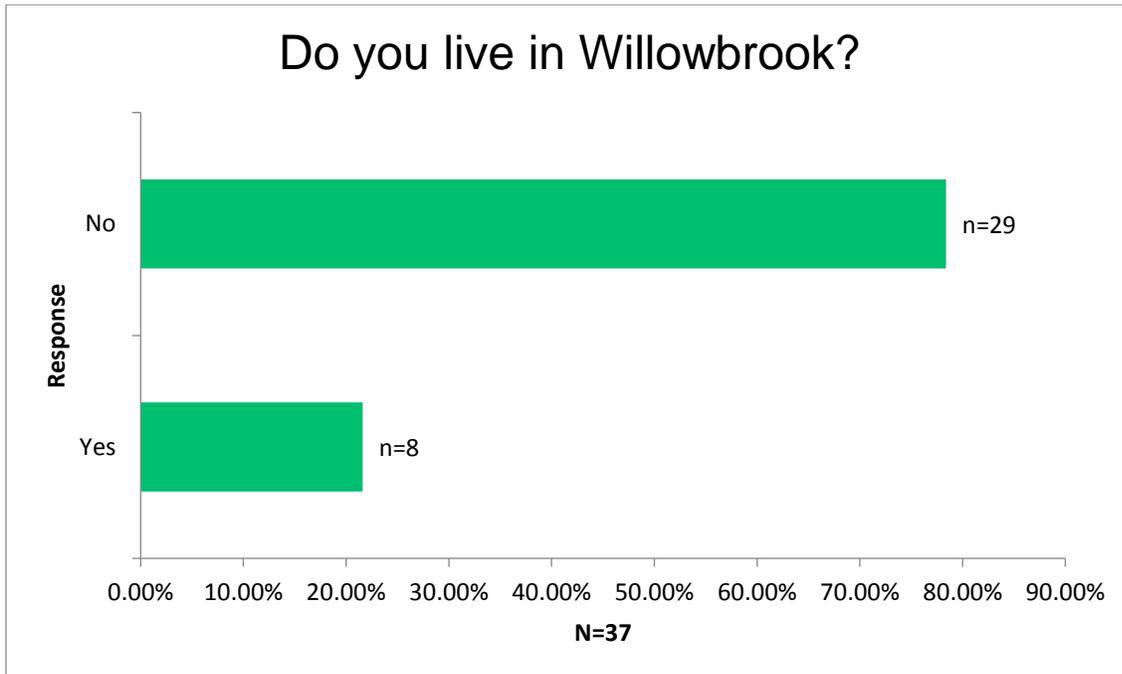
Willowbrook has a myriad of social conditions that can impact violence and community safety. By institutionalizing TPI community meetings, residents and county officials can work together to inform local policy and local initiatives. These meetings should be on a regular, continual basis. These meetings need to include law enforcement, local elected office staff, as well as multiple LA County staff. There is a need to create a space for residents to discuss needs and provide feedback for local government service provision. Creating a problem-solving and collaborative culture can empower residents to address the social conditions that foster violence.

III. Develop a Relationship-based Approach for Law Enforcement

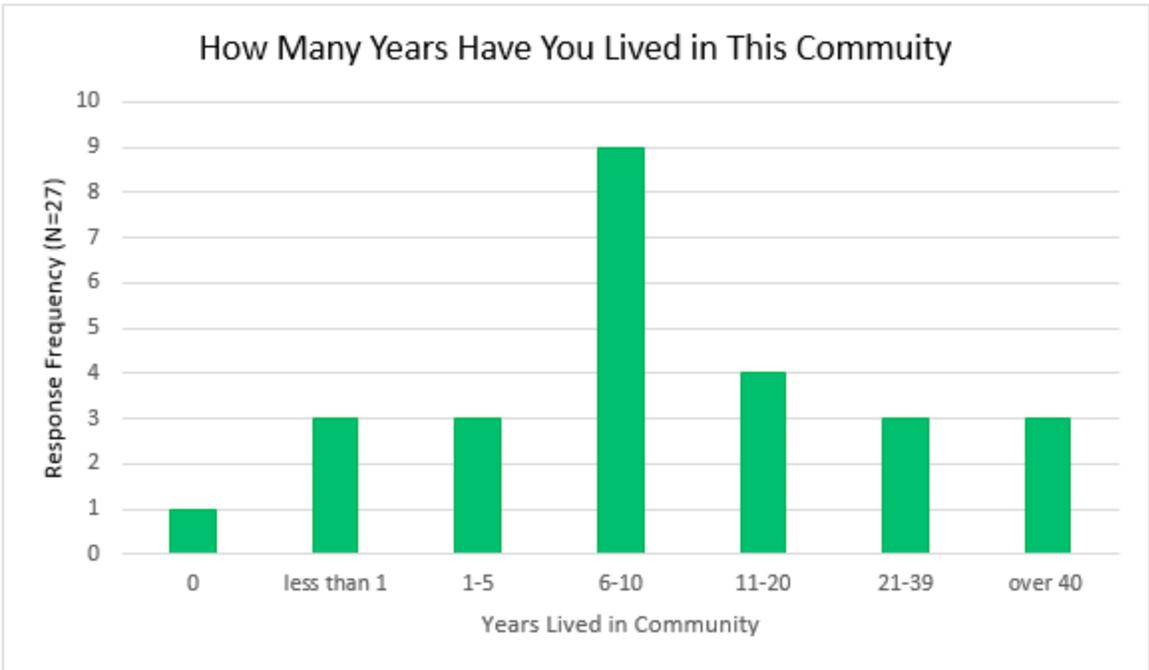
In order for a violence prevention and trauma prevention strategy to be successful, law enforcement needs to be part of it. Law enforcement will need to play a coordinated role in safe parks strategies and law enforcement leaders need to understand the mission of TPI. All law enforcement officers need to understand the role of gang prevention and gang intervention workers that will be servicing the same area in these TPI communities. Law enforcement leaders need to understand the needs of the communities and the concerns that residents have raised. TPI and local law enforcement will need to build a robust partnership to create a better approach that focuses on customer service, relationship building and partnership policing in the TPI areas.

APPENDIX A. Summit Evaluation Survey Report

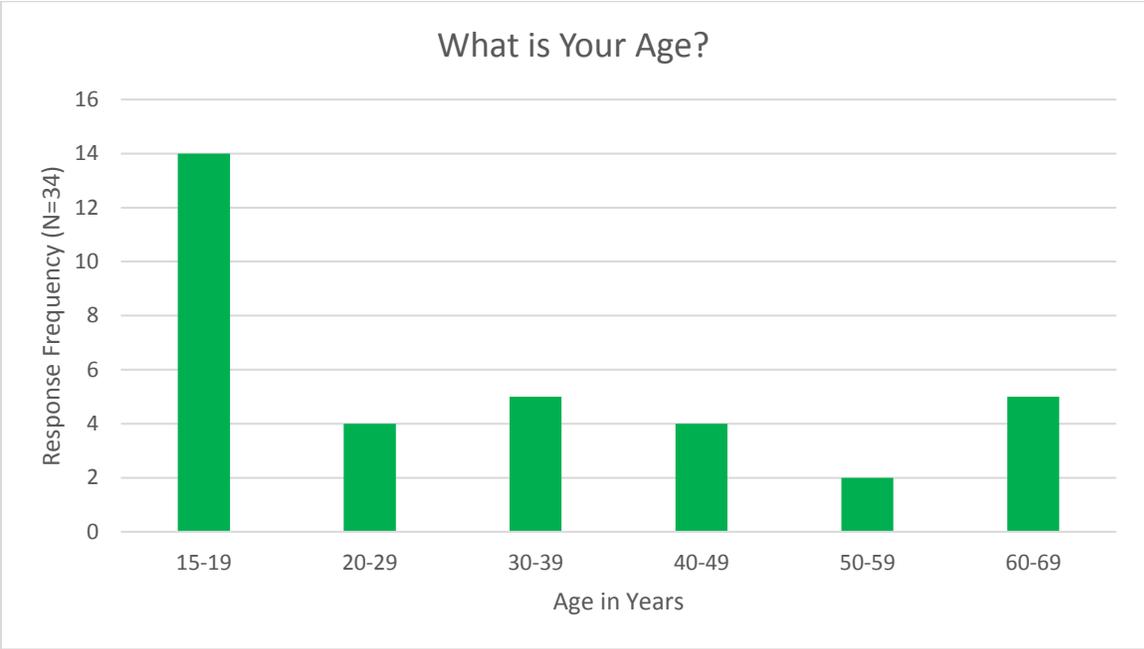
One hundred fifty-nine of people attended the We are Willowbrook Summit on May 19, 2018. Thirty-seven of the 159 attendees completed the summit evaluation for a 23% response rate. Morning breakout session evaluations were completed by 61 participants, for a response rate of 38%, while 34 people completed afternoon breakout session evaluations for a 21% response rate. The lower response rates of the afternoon breakout sessions and the overall summit evaluations, which were collected at the end of the summit, are likely due to lower attendance for the afternoon portion of the summit.



Of the respondents to the overall summit evaluation, 22% or 8 people responded that they live in Willowbrook. Some participants may not self-identify as a Willowbrook resident. Also, it may be that people who did not complete the overall summit evaluation do reside in Willowbrook and are not captured here; people who travelled from outside of Willowbrook to attend the summit may be more likely to stay for the duration of the day and thus would represent a larger percentage of people included in evaluations that were collected at the end of the event.

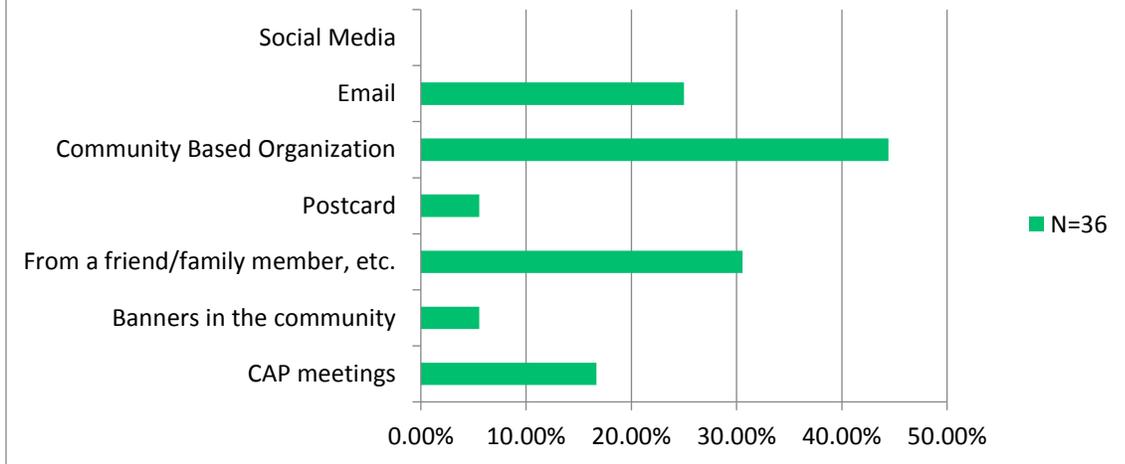


The duration of time that summit evaluation respondents reported living in Willowbrook ranged from fewer than one year to sixty-five years. The mean response was 19 years while the median response was 14 years. One respondent expressed living in Willowbrook for “all my life.”



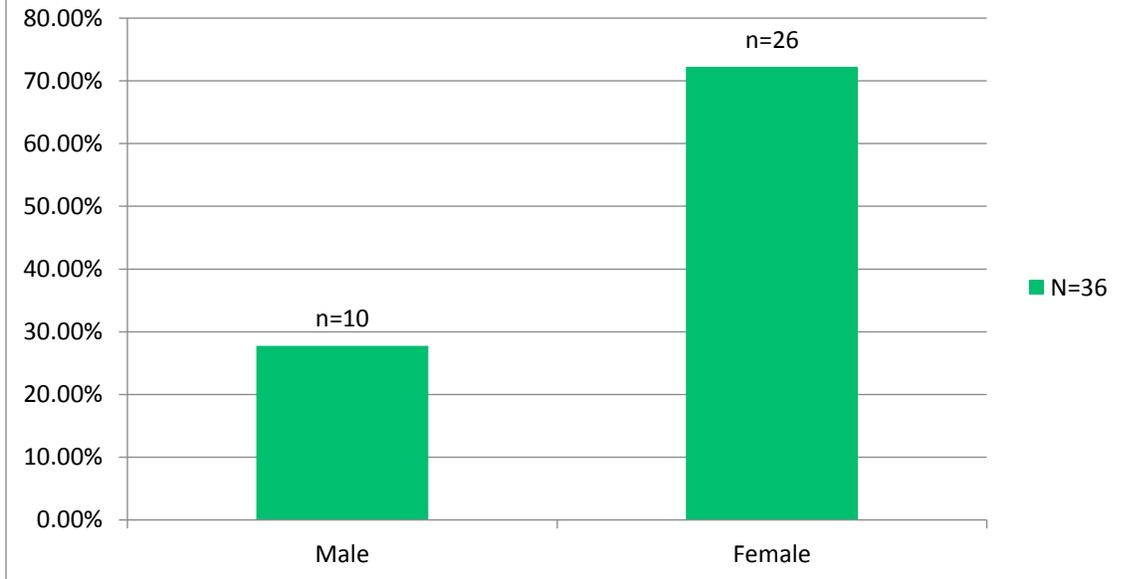
Summit evaluation respondents ranged in age from 15 years old to 67 years old. The most frequent response (n=14) was from youth in the 15-19 age range. The mean age response was 33 years old; the median age response was 26 years old.

How did you hear about the We Are Willowbrook Summit? (check all that apply)

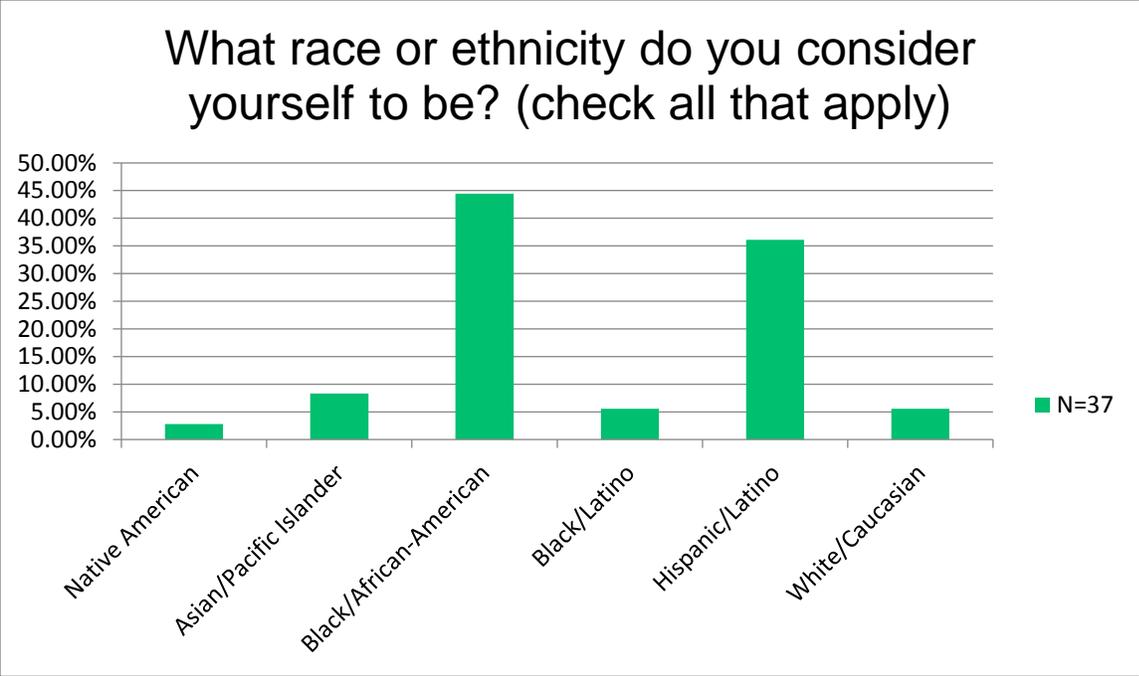


Most people who completed the summit evaluation reported learning about the summit from a community based organization. No respondents reported learning about the summit from social media outlets.

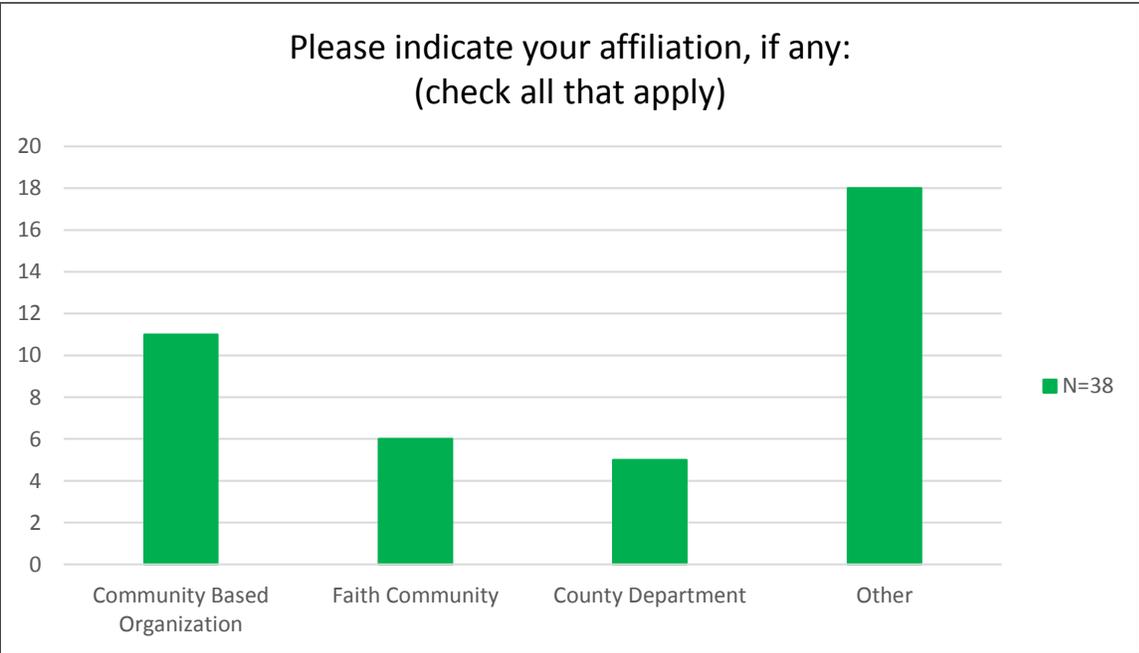
How do you identify?



The majority of summit evaluation respondents identified as female (72% or 26 respondents); the remaining 28% or 10 people identified as male.

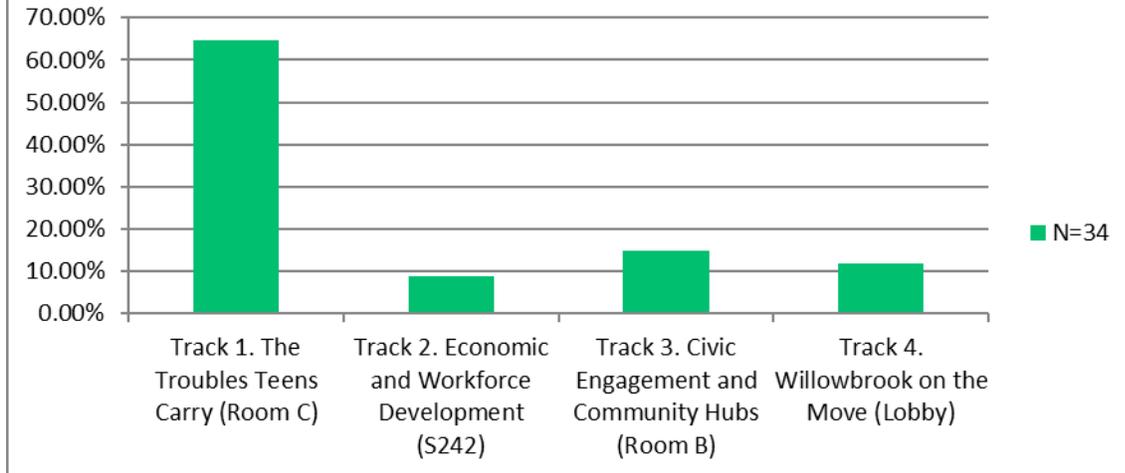


The majority of respondents to the summit evaluation identified as Black/African American (44% or 16 people). Thirty-six percent of respondents, or 13 people, identified as Hispanic/Latino; eight percent or three people identified as Asian/Pacific Islander; and six percent or two people identified as White/Caucasian.



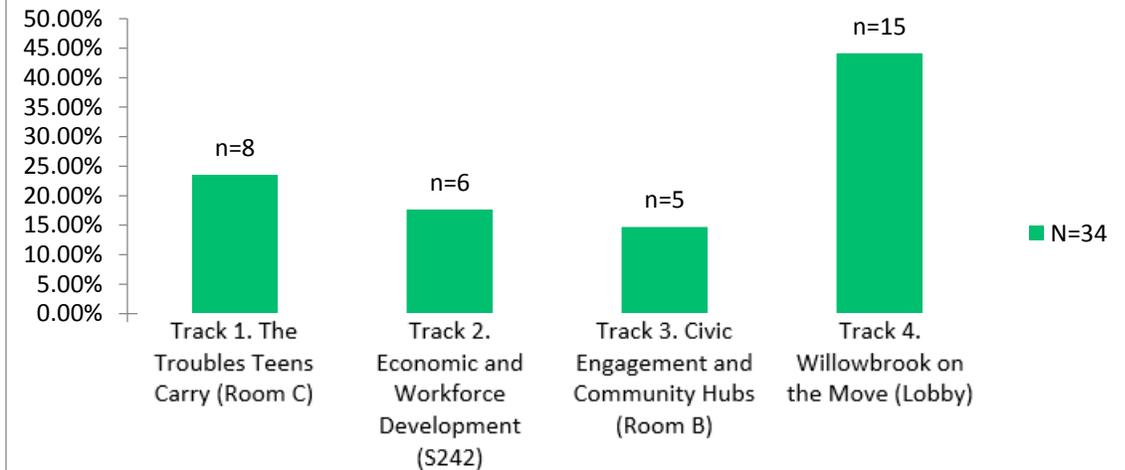
The majority of summit evaluation respondents reported their affiliation as “other.” The most common “other” responses were: student, Mega Project, and Charles Drew University.

Please check off which Breakout Sessions (tracks) you attended in the MORNING



The majority of respondents to the summit evaluation attended the youth focused session, *The Troubles Teens Carry*. This breakout session yielded a wealth of thoughtful feedback about the challenges youth face in the Willowbrook community, and specific recommendations about what youth would like to see to reduce violence, prevent, and heal from trauma.

Please check off which Breakout Sessions (tracks) you attended in the AFTERNOON



The majority of respondents to the summit evaluation reported attending the Willowbrook on the Move breakout session in which participants discussed issues related to community and youth engagement, affordable housing, gentrification, parks and green spaces, and safety and healing.

Please let us know what you thought about the Breakout Session(s) by circling one of the four choices:

N=37	Totally Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Totally Agree
The session(s) provided opportunities to discuss and understand the assets and needs of the Willowbrook (WBK) community.	0%	0%	35% n=13	65% n=24
I had an opportunity to connect with residents, leaders and agencies from WBK at the session(s).	0%	0%	51% n=19	49% n=18
I had an opportunity to share my input on the safety and health of residents in WBK.	0%	0%	40% n=14	60% n=21
I learned a new perspective on this/these issue at the session(s) that let me think about it differently.	0%	0%	39% n=14	61% n=22
I feel confident that the input gathered in the session(s) will assist in developing a plan of action for a safe and healthy WBK.	0%	3% n=1	40% n=14	57% n=20
The session(s) was (were) informative and productive.	0%	0%	35% n=13	65% n=24

Please let us know what you thought about the We Are Willowbrook Summit overall by circling one of the four choices:

N=37	Totally Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Totally Agree
The Summit met my expectations.	0%	0%	38% n=14	62% n=23
The Summit was worth my time and effort.	0%	0%	38% n=14	62% n=23
Youth were given the opportunity to contribute to the Summit.	0%	0%	30% n=11	70% n=26
The speakers were informative and interesting.	0%	0%	34% n=12	66% n=23
I enjoyed participating in the interactive art activities.	0%	3% n=1	32% n=11	65% n=22
Overall, I was pleased with the venue, activities, and accommodations today.	0%	0%	30% n=11	70% n=26

Please tell us what you liked most about the summit?

N=33

Key themes:

- The youth breakout session, and youth interaction were key themes highlighted by many of the summit evaluation respondents (15 out of 33 respondents). Adult participants appreciated hearing from and interacting with youth, and youth appreciated the opportunity to be engaged.
 - *"I enjoyed the speakers who spoke honestly as people of the community. I also felt included in the conversation about empowering Willowbrook despite being a younger attendee."*
 - *"I enjoyed how everybody got to put in their opinion and you could see all point of views. Also how the youth was able to participate and have a voice."*
 - *"Youth Summit (encourage engagement though cross generation, excellent skills)."*
- Interacting with other community members and networking was also a highlight of the summit mentioned by evaluation respondents (seven out of 33 respondents).
 - *"Interacting with the people from Willowbrook and listening to their stories."*
 - *"The interaction with youth."*
 - *"The interactive art."*
 - *"The play/interactions."*
- The opportunity to receive information about Willowbrook was also a highlight for participants.
- Additional themes included excitement and enthusiasm in the community, and the opportunity to engage in solutions and to take action.
 - *"Excitement generated by the community."*
 - *"How they engaged Willowbrook's problems."*
 - *"An opportunity to hear what going on in the community and to be part of possible solutions."*
 - *"Everyone is enthusiastic about change."*

What could be improved to make the Summit better next time?

N=23

Key themes:

- The most common suggestion for improvement was to increase outreach to have more participants from the community engage in the event. One respondent suggested:
 - *"Outreach for more residents to attend. Assist with transportation for more community members to attend."*
- Participants also suggested engaging public officials in future summits.

- *“It would be a great idea to have public official who represents the agency/program/that has the power to implement the change being requested by the community (upper management).”*
- Additional feedback included better facilitation techniques, more involvement from Charles Drew University and Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital, a shorter agenda, and better food.
 - *“Perhaps a shorter agenda.”*
 - *“CDU/MLK could have had more presence, so that they could hear from the community.”*
 - *“Intentional focus on enhanced use of media and facilitation techniques to elicit input from all voices.”*

APPENDIX B. Summit Program

WE ARE WILLOWBROOK



2018 SUMMIT MORNING PROGRAM

Saturday May 19, 2018

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:00 am	REGISTRATION & MORNING ACTIVITIES (DJ Cell) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continental Breakfast• Interactive Arts - Arts for Incarcerated Youth and LA Commons• Community Storytelling
9:00 am	OPENING & WELCOME <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emcee: Dr. Perry Crouch, Willowbrook Community Action for Peace (CAP) Member/Co-Chair of the Watts Gang Task Force• Dr. Diane Breckenridge, Dean of CDU Dymally School of Nursing
9:20 am	SPIRITUAL INVOCATION & RECOGNITION OF PASTOR GLASS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deacon Michael Torrence, Fellowship Baptist Church• Fellowship Baptist Youth Choir - "Proud to be a Willowbrookian"
9:40 am	RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY AND SPECIAL GUESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aarti Harper, Co-Lead of Trauma Prevention Initiative, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health• Recognition of Community Summit Planning Committee (CAP)
10:00 am	HISTORY OF WILLOWBROOK <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephen Fisher, Resident and CAP member• Ebony Luchien, Resident and CAP member• Jacques Fields, Resident
10:30 am	BREAK (DJ Cell)

WE ARE WILLOWBROOK

2018 SUMMIT

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

TIME	ACTIVITY
10:45 am	<p>BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Select 1 of 4 sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRACK 1: The Troubles Teens Carry (Room C) • TRACK 2: Economic and Workforce Development (S242) • TRACK 3: Civic Engagement and Community Hubs (Room B) • TRACK 4: Willowbrook on the Move (Lobby)
12:00 pm	<p>LUNCH, Apple Spice Kitchen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Lunch Speaker: Beatriz Navarro, Public Health Nurse, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health • Lunch Speaker: Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health • DJ Cell • Interactive Arts – Arts for Incarcerated Youth and LA Commons • Community Storytelling
1:00 pm	<p>BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Select 1 of 4 sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRACK 1: The Troubles Teens Carry (Room C) • TRACK 2: Economic and Workforce Development (S242) • TRACK 3: Civic Engagement and Community Hubs (Room B) • TRACK 4: Willowbrook on the Move (Lobby)
2:15 pm	BREAK & AFTERNOON SNACK (DJ Cell)
2:30 pm	<p>REFLECTIONS & WRAP UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout Session Reports – Aarti Harper, Patty Hernandez, Nellie Nunez, and Beatriz Navarro • Nellie Nunez, Health Education Assistant, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Wrap Up/Next Steps/Closing » Evaluations
3:30 pm	SUMMIT CLOSE

WE ARE WILLOWBROOK 2018 SUMMIT

Community Action for Peace (CAP)

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations who provided their time, dedication, and input over several months to plan the We Are Willowbrook Summit.

Kyle Stinson | **Absolutely Powerful Society** Robert McLean | **ALFAC** Ja'net Young | **Alliance for Young Women and Girls** Jena Chomchava | **AltaMed** | Janelle Turner, Vanessa Petti | **CA Conference 4 Equality & Justice** Dr. Margaret Avila, Cynthia Gonzalez, Jahmil Lacey, Meskerem Haile, **Karen Wade** | **Charles R. Drew University** Andre Noralez, Andre Stevenson. Crystal Williams, Darrel Glover, Darrel Turner, Denorris Thomas, Dorothy Glover, Guadalupe Zapata, Sandra Reece, Stephen Fisher, Terry Williams, Willie Williams, Zane Smith, | **Community Members and Residents** Dr. Anissa McNeil, Jerry Henry | **Education Works** Deacon Michael Torrence | **Fellowship Baptist Church** Alex Wade | **First 5 LA** Sandra Erkhart | **Forgotten Children** Mike Sonksen | **KCET** Karen Mack | **LA Commons** Kirkpatrick Taylor | **LA City Mayor's Office** Jose Gutierrez | **LA Neighborhood Land & Trust** Gregg Johnson | **LA County Arts Commission** Kisha Thompson, Margarita Cabrera | **LA County Department of Mental Health** Esmeralda Ortiz, Yasmin Maldonado, Freddy Bryant, Esther Gonzalez | **LA County Department of Parks and Recreation** Laura Magallanes, Robyn Williams, Amy Troung, Ariel Young, Brighton Kimbell, Kimberly Mendoza, Miguel Ramos, Robbin Randolph | **LA Department of Public Health** Jonathan Bell | **LA County Department of Regional Planning** Casswell Goodman | **LA County Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services** Jelani Harrison, Lamark Williams | **LA County Sherriff's Department** Shari Farmer | **Bureau of Victim Services** Desiree Magsonbol, Nkem Ndufo | **Lumos Transforms** Russell Draugham | **Metro Club of LA** Norchelle Brown | **Office of Congresswoman Nanette Barragan** Daniela Vidal, Liroy Williams | **South Bay Counseling Center** Azita, Eluterio Navarro, Jeremy Maler, Marylou Hanna, Meryl | **Seed Library of Los Angeles** Gil Espinoza, Jessica Canales | **Urban Peace Institute** Brandon Elliott, Dayana Reyes, Ebony Luchien, L.V. Thomas, | **Volunteers of America** Dr. Perry Crouch, Donny Joubert, Jacqueline Ellis-Trice | **Watts Gang Task Force** Shantanishia Battiste, Tearmeasha Jacobs, Tenesha Taylor | **Watts Health Care Corporation** Andre Christian | **Watts United** Pahola Ibarra | **Watts Century Latino Organization** Reginald Johnson | **Willowbrook Inclusion Network** Naomi McSwain | **Al Wooten Jr. Youth Center** Guadalupe Zapata, Leticia Martinez, | **First 5 LA Best Start Watts-Willowbrook**

Special thanks to Rebecca Salen and Annie Kong at King Drew Medical Magnet High School for encouraging and facilitating the participation of your Mega Projects students in the Summit.

DPH Facilitation & Summit Planning Team

Aarti Harper, Patricia Hernandez, Keith Baker, Kelly Fischer, Christine Li, Nicolle Perras | **Injury & Violence Prevention Program** (Andrea Welsing, Director; Dr. Tony Kuo, Director, Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention)

Beatriz Navarro, Nellie Nunez | **SPA 5/6 Area Health Office** (Dr. Jan King, Area Health Officer)

WE ARE WILLOWBROOK

2018 SUMMIT

Sponsors



The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation Hosted Community Summit Planning Meetings at Mona and Carver Parks for several months of planning, and loaned staff time, assisted with promotional materials, a stage with band shell, and audio equipment for local performances during the Summit. www.parks.lacounty.gov



L.A. Care
HEALTH PLAN.

LA CARE Health Plan Provided Sponsorship for the Summit to support healthy food and community involvement and performances. Established in 1997, L.A. Care Health Plan is an independent public agency created by the state of California to provide health coverage to low-income Los Angeles County residents. LA Care also promotes community engagement through Community Advisory Committees, Family Resource Centers, and peer Health Promoters. www.lacare.org



Kaiser Permanente Provided Sponsorship for the Summit to support healthy ongoing community engagement. For more than 60 years, Kaiser Permanente has provided quality health care. We're dedicated to improving the health of our members and the communities we serve, by creating safe, healthy environments and providing care and coverage for all. www.kaiserpermanente.org



Charles R. Drew University School of Nursing Host site, has provided much support and assistance to make the Summit a success. Thank you to Dr. Margaret Avila, Heather Harding, Dr. Diane Breckinridge and all other campus staff who have provided support. Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science is a private, non-profit, historically black university and a minority-serving institution located in Willowbrook, unincorporated Los Angeles County. www.cdrewu.edu

Special thanks to Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and his staff for their support of the Trauma Prevention Initiative in Supervisorial District 2.



Los Angeles County is partnering with communities to implement the Trauma Prevention Initiative to reduce violence related trauma injuries and deaths. The Los Angeles County Trauma Prevention Initiative is supported in part by Measure B.

WE ARE WILLOWBROOK 2018 SUMMIT

Partners



Urban Peace Institute Summit facilitators, has provided technical and onsite support to make the Summit a success. Thank you to Gil Espinoza, Fernando Rejon, Jessica Canales, and all other staff who have provided support. UPI develops and implements policy, practice and systems solutions to reduce violence, achieve safety and improve community health.

www.urbanpeaceinstitute.org



Los Angeles County Arts Commission Facilitating interactive arts and storytelling activities at the Summit. Thanks to Gregg Johnson and Tom McKenzie for their support. The Arts Commission funds 364 nonprofit arts organizations, runs the nation's largest arts internship program, coordinates the LA County Arts Education Collective, manages the County's civic art policy, and produces free community programs. www.lacountyarts.org



Arts for Incarcerated Youth Coordinating arts integration at the Summit to engage youth and residents, and as a tool to increase and improve community health and wellbeing. Thanks to Maira Rios and Kaile Shilling for leading these efforts. AIYN is an organization providing structure and coordination for the collaborative work of community-based arts education organizations serving high-needs youth order to provide alternatives to incarceration, build resiliency and wellness, eliminate recidivism, transform the juvenile justice system, and support community and youth wellbeing and safety. <http://aiynetwork.org>



LA Commons Hosting an art engagement activity at the Summit for community to contribute to a mural project called touchstones to celebrate hope, healing spaces and a world without violence. Special thanks to Karen Mack and Beth Peterson. L.A. Commons, a project of Community Partners, works in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles, facilitating artistic processes, open to all, that result in highly visible public art projects that tell dynamic neighborhood stories. <http://www.lacommons.org/>



Al Wooten Jr. Youth Center Community partner, has coordinated support for community engagement in Willowbrook. The center is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) agency founded in 1990 by Myrtle Faye Rumph in honor of her son, killed in a drive-by shooting. Located at 91st and Western, the center provides free and low-cost afterschool and summer programs for more than 350 students per year in grades 3-12 at the center and other sites. www.wootencenter.org



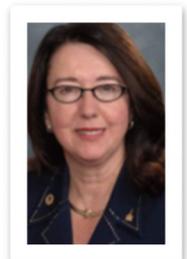
Apple Spice Kitchen Providing meal service for the Summit. Whether you need lunch for a few in the office or several thousand at your next corporate event, Apple Spice is ready with the perfect menu. From box lunches to hot & cold catering, their team will take care of every detail to make your meal a success. www.applespice.com

WE ARE WILLOWBROOK 2018 SUMMIT

Speakers



Dr. Perry Crouch is the Co-Chair of the Watts Gang Task Force and a Willowbrook CAP member. He holds a Ph.D from La Salle University, MA in curriculum and instruction education from Chapman College (now University), and a BA in pre-law political science from California State University-Chico. He has served 32 years as a peace ambassador and received a governor's commendation. He has dedicated over 30 years to saving lives and stopping gang violence in South Los Angeles.



Dr. Diane Breckenridge is the new Dean of CDU Dymally School of Nursing. She received her PhD in Nursing from the University Maryland, and her MSN from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as graduate credits from their School of Education. In her 40 plus years in education, practice, research, and leadership positions her specialty has been honed in regional, national, and nursing program accreditation and policy regulations as a turnaround specialist in the prevention interventions of noncompliance.



Michael Torrence is the Deacon of Fellowship Baptist Church and Program Coordinator for the Volunteers of America-Positive Alternatives Program. He has worked providing AOD Prevention services to Youth and families in South Los Angeles since 1979. As a resident of the Willowbrook Community since 2000, Mr. Torrence has worked with The Concerned Citizens of Willowbrook, and Fellowship Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Dr, Deloris Glass and the VOA to advocate for the underserved and disadvantaged residents of Willowbrook. As a Deacon and recently licensed Minister of the Gospel at Fellowship, Mr. Torrence is committed to continuing the Vision of Service to the oppressed and improving the quality of life in the Willowbrook community.



Fellowship Baptist Youth Choir is led by Deacon Michael Torrence and is comprised of Willowbrook area youth.



Steven Alan Fisher is a CAP member who was born and raised in Willowbrook - six generations strong. His view on Willowbrook is "there's no place like home."

Speakers



Ebony Luchien is a CAP member and Prevention Coordinator for Volunteers of America – Positive Alternatives Program. She was born, raised, and still resides in Willowbrook. Growing up, she witnessed hectic times when gang violence and drugs ran rampant and took over, leaving families crying and children becoming products of their environment living a vicious cycle. She became passionate about helping those suffering from substance abuse. Working side by side with her mentor Dr. Deloris Glass for seven years until her passing, Ebony is committed to keeping Dr. Glass's vision and advocacy for Willowbrook going strong.



Jacques Fields is a born and raised Willowbrookian. He is twelve years old and a 6th grade student at St. Albert the Great Elementary School. He is a proud product of Willowbrook and has assisted in protest demonstrations regarding matters in Willowbrook. His voice is one that should be heard.



DJ Cell is from Los Angeles and has over 19 years of experience in the music industry. He learned how to DJ at the age of 9-10 years old. His credits and affiliations include tours with Katt Williams, Snoop Dogg, Ice Cube, Eminem, and Dogg Pound.



Dr. Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd leads the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health which protects and promotes health and prevents disease among LA County's more than 10 million residents across its 4,000 square miles. She oversees a budget of \$1 billion and directs a workforce of over 4,100 public health practitioners. Dr. Ferrer is a nationally-known public health leader with over 30 years of professional experience as a philanthropic strategist, public health director, educational leader, researcher, and community advocate.

Special thanks to the DPH Communications Team and Public Affairs for their ongoing support, technical assistance, and dedication to helping program staff ensure the Summit is a success; from graphic design and engaging speakers, to media outreach and photography. Thank you, to: Rachel Tyree, Susan Lesser, Amy Truong, Jennifer Florez, Sergio Belletini, Jackie Valenzuela, Natalie Jimenez, and Bernard Tolliver.

Proud to Be a Willowbrookian

Lyrics by Dr. Deloris Glass

Chorus

We're proud to be a Willowbrookian----proud to be a Willowbrookian
Proud to be a Willowbrookian today
Where children laugh and play
Health and wellness, the order of the day
We're proud to be a Willowbrookian, today (repeat)

Verse 1

Now in 1843, the governor of Mexico granted three-
Thousand acres to the Avila family-
For the grazing and raising of cattle,
The enjoyment of willows and streams,
That was the humble beginnings of Rancho La Tajuata

Chorus

Verse 2

Now times have truly changed, no more home on the range'
Progress has moved us ahead, old traditions left behind---
With our families, our homes, and our hope
Looking forward to better days
We're proud to be Willowbrookians today

Chorus (Twice and Out)

WE ARE WILLOWBROOK



2018

SUMMIT

Community Building Unity

FREE! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Charles R. Drew University
School of Nursing
1748 E. 118th Street
Los Angeles 90059

May 19, 2018
9am - 3:30pm



Register here:

Publichealth.lacounty.gov/IVPP

For questions, contact:

Patricia Hernandez 213-351-1902
phernandez@ph.lacounty.gov



Brought to you by: Willowbrook Community Action for Peace, Charles R. Drew University, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



Los Angeles County is partnering with communities to implement the Trauma Prevention Initiative to reduce violence related trauma injuries and deaths. The Trauma Prevention Initiative is supported in part by Measure B.

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