



SPANISH LANGUAGE WORKSHOP SUMMARY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

On November 19th, 2019, the City of Grand Junction hosted a Spanish Language Workshop at the Mesa County Central Library. The workshop was part of the public outreach process for the creation of the new Comprehensive Plan, *One Grand Junction*. Attended by 17 individuals, this workshop was an opportunity for residents and community stakeholders, particularly Spanish speakers to offer their input and feedback regarding the City and the Plan. The workshop included a review of the planning process to be undertaken as well as a group exercise designed to gather input regarding issues, opportunities, potential projects, and key strengths and assets of the City. Input from this and other workshops and focus groups will help to guide the planning process and will be directly reflected in the vision, goals, recommendations, and policies of the final *One Grand Junction Comprehensive Plan*.

The following is a summary of the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded privately on worksheets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, but rather represent feedback and comments received from those who participated in the workshop.

CONCERNS

At the beginning of the workshop, participants were asked to identify the issues confronting the Grand Junction community in a single list. Participants were then asked to rank the top three of the identified 26 issues. Below, in no ranked order, are the highest-ranked issues as determined by this method, as well as all other issues identified through the workshop.

HIGHEST RANKED ISSUES

- More schools offering classes in Spanish and English (dual language) (9)
 - Also, for adults
- The cost and inaccessibility of healthcare especially for the Latino community (9)
- Public safety (6)
 - More police officers (5)
- Public transportation (5)
- Affordable housing (4)

OTHER ISSUES BY CATEGORY

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Need a community center that is open year-round (2)
 - More restaurants
 - Lack of retail stores
-

ECONOMY & JOBS

- Impacts of marijuana on local fruit production and sales
-

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- More parks (3)
 - Access to recreation for young people (2)
-

AMENITIES, SERVICES, AND LIVABILITY

- Homelessness (3)
 - Racism (fear) (3)
 - More/bigger libraries with more computer classes (3)
 - Recycling (2)
 - Continued support from the library with English classes
 - Communication from and by the City in Spanish
 - More information regarding the community's obligations to the city and their respective rights
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TRANSPORTATION

- Reduce traffic
 - Unsafe streets by CMU
 - Lack of bike paths
 - Infrastructure
-

HEALTH & SAFETY

- More public lighting (2)
- Suicide
- Psychologists/mental health resources
- Healthier food in schools
- Better security in schools

PRIORITY ACTIONS & PROJECTS

Participants were asked to name specific projects or actions to help solve the issues identified in the first part of the exercise.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

- A community center with volunteers to teach classes (6)
- Trade school

HOUSING AND GROWTH

- Identify a location for housing for homeless persons

AMENITIES, SERVICES, AND LIVABILITY

- Better education including more bilingual schools and more teachers (7)
- Invest in bilingual staff to work with the Hispanic community (2)
- Create a department dedicated to the Hispanic community
- Dialogue with the representatives to see if it is possible to adapt the laws without breaking the constitution to access housing and education
- More libraries in Clifton
- More inclusive community events to bring diverse cultures together

TRANSPORTATION

- Improve traffic along major roads to make for smoother commutes

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Cheaper and better healthcare (6)
- More hospitals, especially in Clifton (2)
- Deep dialogue with lawmakers so that laws and judges don't let repeat criminals free
- Better security in schools and public areas
- Fewer guns

STRENGTHS & ASSETS

For the final part of the exercise, community members were asked to list Grand Junction's strengths and assets that should be preserved.

ECONOMY AND JOBS

- Workforce (2)
- Opportunities for work (2)

PARKS, NATURAL AREAS, AND OPEN SPACE

- Maintenance/care of public places
- Natural beauty (3)
- Open spaces

AMENITIES, SERVICES, AND LIVABILITY

- The library (7)
- English classes (4)
- Good officers
- Safe place to live

CHARACTER AND IDENTITY

- The awareness of being better citizens
- Good climate