
Vietnamese American Community Center Project

Vision Event

September 12, 2009

Summary

Task Force

- **21 Members**
 - **Vision Statement** - Build an inclusive and effective community engagement process to help create the vision for Vietnamese American Community Center where people from all walks of life love to gather, learn and grow together
 - **Mission Statement** - Gather community input through public meetings and individual conversations and based on this input, make recommendations to the City to help shape the vision for the Vietnamese American Community Center in San Jose, California
 - **Value Statement** - We seek to build an inclusive and transparent community engagement process where differences are embraced and community input is respectfully solicited, properly documented, and clearly communicated
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Vision Event

214 participants attended the community meeting and provided input on:

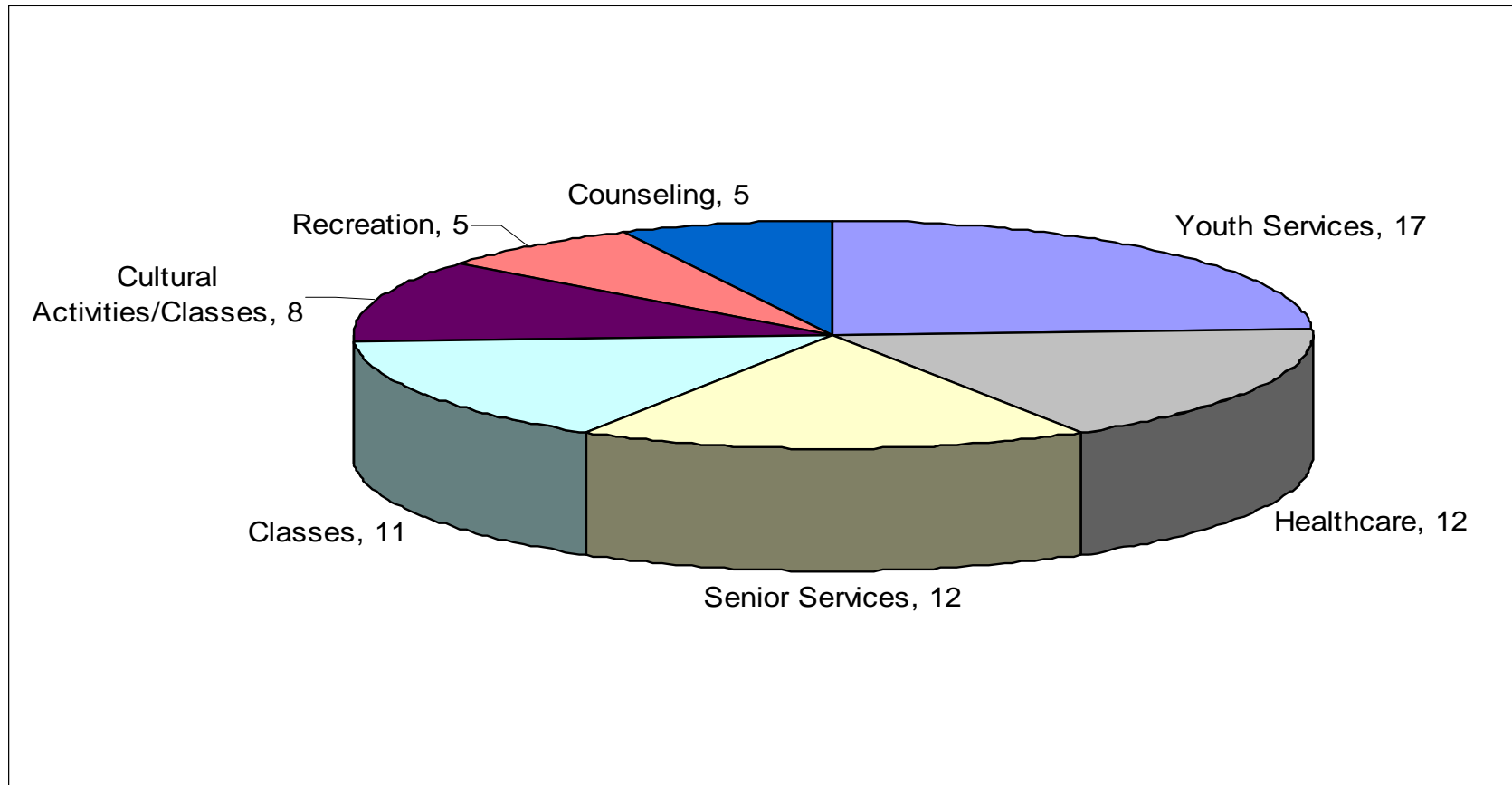
- Needs
 - Opportunities
 - Values
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Participants' Input: Services

Vietnamese Americans need a community center with:

- **Youth services** (support groups, homework assistance, after school programming)
 - **Healthcare** (mental, nutrition, medical/medicare)
 - **Senior services** (health, fitness, dance, hot lunches)
 - **Classes** (ESL, citizenship, computer lab)
 - **Cultural activities/classes**
 - **Recreation** (lottery, bingo, karaoke)
 - **Counseling** (family, teen, truancy)
 - **Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender/LGBT support**
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Participants' Input: Services



Top 5 Themes:

- 1) Youth Services
- 2) Healthcare and Senior Services
- 3) Classes
- 4) Cultural Activities/Classes
- 5) Recreation and Counseling

*Based on number of mentions

Participants' Input:

Shirakawa Center Location

- Too small
- Too old/unsafe (concerns about earthquake)
- Does not have enough parking spaces for events (Tet, Mid-Autumn Festival, etc)
- Cannot accommodate the Vietnamese American community, events and activities
- In this real estate market, money can be spent towards a newer, safer and better center

*Reflects majority of comments

Participants' Input: Name/Process

- Majority consensus/voting process
- “Vietnamese American” is too general and leaves opening for interaction with agents of other political forms
- Prefer “Resource” vs. “Community” Center
- Do not use the term “Vietnamese” if the focus and intent are not to provide true Vietnamese cultural experience
- Vietnamese Americans are immigrants of politics, not economic immigrants
- Only hang the Republic of Vietnam flag (yellow with three red stripes)

*Reflects majority of comments

Additional Themes

- The Vietnamese Americans need a community center
 - Who will pay the operation and maintenance costs?
 - Who will administer and oversee the center?
 - Will the City respond to the community input?
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Questions?

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