



# Community Engagement Feedback Themes

From lunch and dinner listening sessions, January 29th 2024



## Overall

We have around 21 people attend the sessions, lunch and dinner combined. There were a variety of tribes and organizations represented. Folks were interested in jumping in right away and sharing their perspectives.

- People are excited for this research, as right now a lot of resources are word of mouth and decentralized
- People want to see a resource guide that reflects our community's values, one that is holistic and culturally aware
- Ease of use and accessibility are major priorities for both the digital and physical directory
- There is a wide variety of resources that people are looking for, some that were unexpected
- Community members are concerned about the longevity of projects, so keeping long term engagement with community is important



# Culturally Specific

Conversation largely centered around and returned to this point. It was understood that was why we are there, why the project exists, and why were were engaging community.

- Our needs are special, different
- We need accurate and culturally specific resources
- Some organizations and workers are not safe for Native folks
- Folks brought up other ways of measurement that aren't typical of Western standards, ex three aunties test (if three different aunties approve, it must be good)
- How can we provide a holistic approach?



# Centralized

Hugely important and brought up many times. Community members feel the disconnect and siloing strongly, and identify that as a reason for tension and why folks get left behind

- Community members are interested in a strategic plan for the community
- Every organization is looking to fill in holes and gaps, and can only patch up things. Community members expressed interest in moving beyond patching up holes and towards a larger, unified vision
- Grassroots community building is a priority
- How can organizations empower each other?



# Measurable

Near the end of the lunch conversation especially, community members brought up measurability, and how it can lead to sustainability. Not only are we able to report to the community, but we can get grant, federal, and state funding with data. And data can be used to show need and adapt.

- Federal programs use evidence-based funding - how can we talk about our ways that feel authentic to us while still participating?
  - Can we tell our stories and include specific measurements?
- Identify the volume of what we need and where we need it.



## Easy to Use

Ease of use was brought up as a practical issue, somewhat relating to accessibility. The directory must be intuitive for all users, from folks who already know the name of the org they are looking for, to others who may be in crisis and need a specific type of resource immediately.

- Accessibility is key: is it screen reader friendly? Can elders use it?
  - Video tutorial on the digital directory on how to use
- Keep it simple, easy to read.
- Get most specific information as possible, as phone trees are discouraging for folks to work with



# Long-Term Follow Through

Another topic that seemed to be returned to a lot. Folks want to see this as a long-term project. Our community often goes through grant specific programming that ends.

- Follow-up community review for this process.
  - Viewed by Elders?
- Some sort of process to submit changes or resources to the online directory
  - Form? Email?
  - Incentive to data collection in initial process
- Bring in community leaders to discuss one topic a month
  - Ex: leaders/directors of organizations in the housing category to come discuss with community members. Bring in more face to face interaction
- How do we increase sustainability when programming ends?



# Themes May Be Out of Scope but Worth Mentioning

Community members had a lot of really great ideas that might be out of scope for this project, but that we should keep in mind as we go forward with this work

- A community calendar is a big ask from a lot of people
  - MUID's potential work with a community calendar was also discussed.
- An app was brought up, as Urban Indigenous populations have a lot of smartphone access over computers
- Having a hotline folks can call that utilizes this directory, 311 style





## Smaller themes

- Languages
  - Key languages to include: Spanish, as well as Indigenous languages
- Staying Up to Date
  - Do we do regular reprints of the info to adjust?
- Locations
  - Orgs with multiple locations, Minneapolis and St. Paul, all of Minnesota?



## Resources People Want Listed

- Behavioral and mental health
  - Substance use support
- Workforce development
  - Mentorship
  - Technology/education classes
- Housing
  - Who provides hotel vouchers?
  - Shelters
  - Long-term
- Legal Support
  - Tenants
- Disability
- Churches
- Community Orgs
  - ex: AIM, EPNI, Little Earth Protectors
- Family Services
  - Shelters
  - New parent resources
  - Caregiver/fostering resources
- Youth Services and Programming
- Health services
  - Hospital liaisons
  - Gyms or physical services
- Clothing
- Drop in centers

## Resources People Want Listed (cont)

- Transportation
  - Bus cards and bus tokens
  - Which resources provide transportation?
- Cultural services
  - Language
- Spiritual services
  - Places for funerals and ceremony services
  - Mdewiwin
- Art
  - Who makes cultural items?  
Moccasins, regalia, etc
- LGBTQ and Two Spirit Resources
- Specific social workers deemed safe
- Individual community members not with organizations
- Liaisons, Equity and Inclusion officers at important institutions
- Access to fresh fruits and vegetables
  - Urban farms and gardens
- Trafficking/MMIWR
  - Who to call when someone is missing
  - Liaisons at the city and MPD



## Other examples mentioned

- [Handbook of the Streets](#)
- [Minnesota Valley Action Council Community Resource Guide](#)



## Questions to answer

- Area included. Twin Cities? Minnesota?
- What is included? Non profits? Religious Institutions? Businesses? Entrepreneurs?
- What exactly is our scope?
- How to we follow up? What is our long-term engagement strategy?