

# **Design research for community space at Old west Church**

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# Scope

## Objectives

We set out to understand what the community expects from a multi use space at Old West Church.

Our survey was sent out to members of the congregation/community.

## Limitations

The survey used a framework to help focus the respondents answers some areas of concern vs. being entirely open ended.

## Methodology

**User Survey:** A short survey was sent out to members of the community to help us address pain points with design solutions.

# Participants

## **Send out strategy**

We sent the survey out through mail and follow up reminder after two weeks.

## **Expectations**

We expected a small number of respondents with fairly detailed answers letting us qualitatively analyze the survey results.

## **Results**

We received a total of 9 responses on the survey with a descriptive answers wherever asked by more than half the participants.

# Community pain points

## Lack of volunteering space

Around half of the respondents indicated that there are not sufficient volunteering spaces for the community. Another quarter of the respondents indicated that they simply did not know if there were enough spaces. This indicated a pain point and an opportunity.

## Need for a multi use space

Around 60% of the respondents indicated need for the space to be of multi use rather than being focused on a certain section of the society. Circumstantial conversion of the spaces to help certain sections of the society might be of importance. It is important for the design team to ensure the spaces are flexible.

Old West church design research

# Community pain points

**Homelessness**

**Lack of warm/Cold safe spaces**

**Food insufficiency**

**Loneliness and isolation**

**Lack of community building space**

**Clinic for uninsured medical needs**

# Key insights- Space Utilization

## Communal Dining space

A 100% of the respondents requested a communal dining space, indicating that this design feature would be of the most use to the community.

We strongly recommend the design team to implement this feature.

## Other spaces

Food forest, free medical clinic, warm and cool spaces for the homeless, art exhibitions.

## Volunteering/Workshop space

A 100% of the respondents indicated that a volunteering/workshop space would be useful to the community. This indicates the design team should include such a space in the design. It can also be used to realize a lack of such communal spaces for the community .

## Commercial communal kitchen

Around 80% of the respondents indicated a strong favoring for a commercial/communal kitchen with the rest agreeing to a certain extent.

## Internet Access

Around 80% of the respondents suggested an internet access space be included.

# Key takeaways

## Need for the space

We reaffirm the need for a communal multi use for the community. A 100% of the survey takers strongly agree the need for such a space.

## Design Ideas

The survey helped us zero in on design features the community would find most useful. They are

- Communal dining space
- Volunteering/workshop space
- Commercial/communal space

## Pressing issues

Homelessness, food insufficiency, lack of volunteering spaces, lack of internet access, lack of space for advocacy of social causes for black, brown and LGBTQ+ communities are some of the most pressing issues the community is facing.



# Next steps

## Space vs design suggestions

The space available at the church can next be examined against the design suggestions to evaluate how the design suggestions are to be implemented. The team could also allocate portions of the space for the different implementation ideas or preferable design a space that can be altered and transformed to perform various functions.

## Designing the communal space

The design suggestions we have included along with this report can be used as a key tool while designing the communal space. The survey has let us know what are the features the members of the community would find most useful.