

# Small Group Discussion Guide

## Guiding Vision

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As you discuss ideas for specific improvements, please keep in mind the overall vision for the Lake Merritt Station Area Plan, as established by community stakeholders:

- Create a financially feasible, implementable plan that is the result of an authentic community engagement process and is inclusionary of all community voices.
- Create a more active, vibrant, and safe district to serve and attract residents, businesses, students, shoppers and visitors.
- Provide for community development and economic development that is equitable, sustainable, and healthy.
- Increase use of non-automobile modes of transportation.
- Increase the housing supply to accommodate a diverse community, especially affordable housing and housing around the BART station.
- Increase jobs and improve access to jobs along the transit corridor.
- Provide services and retail options in the station area.
- Identify additional recreation and open space opportunities.
- Celebrate and enhance the heritage of Chinatown as a cultural asset and a regional community destination.
- Establish the Lake Merritt Station Area as a model with innovations in community development, transportation, housing, jobs, and businesses and environmental, social, and economic sustainability, and greenhouse gas reductions.

## Part 1: Priority Streets & Improvements

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### WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR

- Improve the connections between the many unique places and destinations in the area, such as Chinatown, Laney College, Lake Merritt, the BART stations (including Lake Merritt, 12th Street and 19th Street BART stations), Alameda County facilities, and the Jack London District.
- Ensure the safety of people walking, riding bikes, and driving cars throughout the planning area.
- Incorporate distinctive street design into the area that reflects the community.

### QUESTIONS

1. What streets do you think should change?
2. How would those changes improve your ability to get around the neighborhood?
3. How could the streets you use be safer, more attractive and pleasant for walking and biking?
4. What are your top three street improvements?

## **Part 2: Building & Services Types**

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### **WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR**

- Promote a vibrant and thriving neighborhood, including new businesses, new shopping, restaurants, and other commercial services.
- Expand and strengthen Chinatown and establish more businesses around the Lake Merritt BART station.
- Promote a night market or farmers market, and promote businesses staying open later into the night.
- Accommodate a diverse community by providing a wide range of jobs, local services, and housing – both affordable (low cost) housing and market rate housing.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Where should new shopping and dining areas be located?
2. What kinds of entertainment and attractions would you like to see? Where should new entertainment or attractions (such as a farmers market, night market, performance spaces, or other nightlife) be located?
3. Are there specific types of housing you would like to see in the area? (Examples of housing include family and student housing, and ownership and rental housing, etc.)
4. Are there specific types of goods and services you would like to see in the area? (Example of goods: home repair supplies, appliances, office supplies, etc.; examples of services: health services, senior services, child care services, etc.)
5. Are there specific types of new jobs you would like to see in the area?
6. How tall (i.e., number of stories) would you like buildings to be?

## **Part 3: Parks & Public Facilities**

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### **WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR**

- Existing parks should be improved and new parks should be added to accommodate future population growth.
- Parks should provide space for multicultural and multigenerational programs and activities (such as space for tai chi, community gardens, and athletic fields).
- Provide an additional multi-generational, multi-cultural community center, and a youth center, either as part of the same center or as a separate facility.
- Preserve, celebrate, and enhance the heritage of Chinatown, as a cultural asset, regional community destination, and an anchor for businesses, housing, and community services. Highlight these resources and ensure that new development complements these existing resources.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Existing community resources include the many historic or cultural assets in the neighborhood, such as the Buddhist Church, Lincoln Square Park and the Lake Merritt Channel. Which of the many existing community resources would you particularly like to see highlighted and enhanced in the planning area?
2. What new parks, public spaces, and/or community facilities (such as youth center, cultural center or community center) would you like to see in the area, and where would you like to see them located?