

Immigrant Affairs Update & Welcoming San José Plan

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Zulma Maciel, Director
Office of Racial Equity

Overview

1. A Look Back

Office of Immigrant Affairs, Accomplishments

2. Challenges and Opportunities

Response to federal administration

Response to COVID-19

3. Informing & Developing the WSJ Plan

Two-Pronged Approach

4. A Look Forward

Welcoming San José Plan, 2021-2024

Background

- Office of Immigrant Affairs established in 2015
- First Welcoming San José Plan developed, 2016-2019

Vision Statement:

Immigrants and refugees are engaged, respected, and have opportunities to reach their fullest potential.

Mission Statement:

To facilitate and accelerate immigrant inclusion in civic, economic, linguistic, and social aspects of life in San José.



Accomplishments



Progress, Collaborations, Deliverables

1. Naturalization efforts: Citizenship
2. Language Access Policy
3. Civic Leadership Academies
4. Demographic Data Reports
5. Legislative Advocacy
6. Silicon Valley Pro Bono Immigration Network
7. Skilled Refugee and Immigrant Convenings
8. Special Events

Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges:

- Federal Administration (2017-2020)
- COVID-19 pandemic

Opportunities:

- Rapid Response Network
- Census Count
- Racial Equity
- Immigrant Affairs team deployed to EOC

Informing & Developing the WSJ Plan

1. Audit
2. Community Engagement



Audit by

WELCOMING
AMERICA



Action Items:

1. Develop evaluation and data collection plan;
2. Improve feedback and accountability, through an advisory group;
3. Integrate specific goals around immigrant inclusion and language access into racial equity action plans;
4. Increase partnership with City departments, related to equity planning, community engagement, and language access;
5. Focus on job training and opportunities with the goal of moving immigrant residents towards middle skills jobs; and
6. Explore greater collaboration with the philanthropic and private sectors.

Community Engagement Process

- Phase 1, Aug 2019 Visioning and high-level process
- Phase 2, Sept 2019 Broad community input
- Phase 3, Nov 2019 Prioritization of strategies
- Phase 4, Jan 2020 Review draft strategies
- Phase 5, Nov 2020 Reflect and revise



Welcoming San Jose Plan, 2021-2024

1. Leadership and Communications
2. Access and Engagement
3. Education and Economic Opportunity
4. Safe Communities

Leadership and Communications

Establish equitable systems, policies, and practices throughout the City that create a welcoming and inclusive environment that allows immigrants, residents of color, and all people of San José to thrive.

- Immigrant-friendly policies and practices and support of immigrant-friendly legislation
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training for City staff
- City's active participation in community events to connect long-term residents and immigrant/refugee communities
- City-County coordination

Access and Engagement

Improve immigrant access to City information and services, and augment immigrant participation in civic life.

- City-wide standard for equitable public outreach and engagement
- City-wide Language Access Implementation Plan
- Partnership on an English-Learners Civics curriculum
- Naturalization and voter registration support, including citizenship workshops, partnering with smaller/newer immigrant and refugee groups
- Address anti-Blackness in immigrant communities

Education & Economic Opportunity

Advance educational and economic opportunities among immigrants and refugees through job skills training, strengthening career pathways, promotion of entrepreneurship, small business retention and growth, and financial literacy.

- Convene partners to expand job training towards middle-skills jobs
- Increase participation in ESL
- Support immigrant entrepreneurship and financial literacy
- Facilitate credentialing processes
- Create career pathways for foreign-trained professionals

Safe Communities

Foster trust and communication between law enforcement, local governments, immigrants, and the community at large.

- Continue support of the Rapid Response Network
- Engage immigrant communities in “Reimagining Community Safety” and build relationships between the Police Department and immigrant/refugee communities, especially teens and young adults
- Engage in additional work with OEM around linguistically and culturally responsive emergency planning



**MAKE IT CLEAR:
IMMIGRANTS ARE
WELCOME HERE!**



CITIES for ACTION

