

City of Chelsea
ARPA Community Engagement Process
Combined Focus Group Notes

I. Introduction

Responses to this question not included to protect confidentiality

II. Perceptions of Chelsea

A. What are the good things about living in Chelsea?

- Resources (especially within walking distance), Healthcare, good leadership
- It's always been a close-knit community that has people and organizations willing to help. It's been a welcoming place to everyone.
- The residents bring a lot of strength. I've seen people come back to be community workers, social workers, etc. and there's a lot of power in that.
- The social network is another strength.
- Before the pandemic there was already collaboration with the organizations working on food insecurity and the city.
- Everybody in Chelsea has love for one another.
- We aren't competing we are helping one another. We are in support of one another.
- Collaboration and the dissemination of resources and information. Organizations can come together to learn how they can participate and learn from each other.
- Share resources and partnerships. Partnerships even within our organizations have grown stronger and we have become closer.
- I like that people know each other, there's familiarity, I have never seen a community where people help each other as much; I they see a need and find a way
- I feel like I am in my country, the food, the people, and the help from organizations that care about the people
- I like it because I walk a few blocks and can be in Boston, one block if I need to go to the hospital, and two to go the supermarket, and the people are very united, and in unity there is strength
- The people: they are friendly
- I went to high school here so I like how everything is full circle, people who grew up in Chelsea come back to help out
- The parks are great for the children to work out and play and entertain themselves
- We're a close knit community, everybody knows your name. We welcome new folks and are happy when old folks come home.
- The ability for folks to get involved and the leadership that we have. We have a good leader. It's a good city to get involved and be involved.
- Chelsea is a very small city but it has progressive politics. The leadership is progressive and they're very creative. When your ear is close to the community you're better guided. When you're a small community, you're right there. Your next door neighbor can give you a lot of advice on how to improve the community. I'm excited about what's coming up for the community
- I see Chelsea has changed, there's a lot of new things going on.
- It's such a tight knit community and that's something incredible because you know there's always someone there to support you.

- The spirit. This community from the top down, there's a resilience. I've never seen anything like it.
- We're very diverse. We're strong. No matter what we've gone through, we stand together as a community. I love the people, I love the community.
- You're close to everything. You can get in your car and get to Boston in 10 minutes. You can get to great hospitals
- It's run availability. I'm a big runner and there's routes I run now. I'm getting into the run community about Chelsea is a run community
- You have so many different groups of people – you've got everyone and we all know each other and respect one another....It's up and coming. They're doing different things. I love the city and don't want to leave.
- Accessibility. We're so close to the airport. The support in the city isn't just localized, a lot of people and organizations in the city look the help outside of Chelsea. The support extends beyond the city
- Coming up in Chelsea, we're able to thrive anywhere in the world. We're real people, we're straight up. That's what I love because that has taken me afar in many of my jobs and having conversations that are respectful but we're still able to get the point across.
- Admirals Hill is the best place. It's beautiful and you can see our community in action there.
- The proximity to Boston
- The diversity in people and the experiences and takeaways that diversity creates. And everything with COVID and the Black Lives Matter movement, the city has been amazing. They actually stuck to their word across departments and making changes. City officials are really committed to the future and growth of the youth.
- Being able to be in touch with everyone. No one is untouchable. Everybody is in touch with everybody's needs. It feels like a village within a big city.
- The transportation and having things close to me is something else that I love
- Everything is accessible and there is transportation. There are parks, there are green spaces that I love to go to when it is nice out.
- you can walk here as if you are in your country because around you, you see there are many Latinos; the food is (things you can buy in your home country), you can find what you need in the supermarket easily to make your food; the organizations that help the community like La Colaborativa, and how they teach you your rights being here. Here's why they will never take me out of Chelsea. We will fight to stay here.
- The food and the people around it
- I like that my friends are here
- I like the food and my friends, I like that I go around and know everyone
- I really like the community because in other places there aren't too many opportunities/things that make people of color feel like home, but this place shares my cultures, the diversity has different people/cultures all come together. There are opportunities at school.
- Since I've been here my whole life it's a place I can call home, the community/people are big parts
- I like the parks, the food, there are community-oriented organizations
- The bonds between the school and people, there are strong families
- I like Broadway and how there's a lot going on, I like the library, the parks are nice, and there are opportunities at Chelsea High School
- I like that Chelsea is a small city, I can get to places really easy
- The local stores are cool.
- It's very diverse and I practically know all my neighbors here and invite everyone to family gatherings and other events. I appreciate being able to take my daughter down to the park and they are all within walking distance. It's all really convenient to have small bodegas and shopping centers nearby.

- Community members, it's very friendly and sociable when we met each other. I don't really know all our neighbors to be honest. I feel really safe walking.
- It's such a diverse, welcoming community. What I love about living here now, is the same things that brought my ancestors here is the same thing that gives our community a beautiful history. As a gateway city, and a place where you live really together just by the design of the city. You know everyone but know other people with something in common. The architecture is lovely to see. The history is everywhere. Those things just make it a loving place for me.
- Here it's tightknit. I think for me especially, access to parks is really important because of my son. I wouldn't say that we have enough green space, I was visiting a friend in Brookline and was in awe with all the old trees. Parks are where we go because we don't have a backyard.
- We are by the ocean and if you get on a hill high enough you can see it. GreenRoots has helped with getting new opportunities like to Kayak. Also the library.
- When I was looking for an apartment back in the day, living here was really convenient for me to get to the airport since I was travelling so often. This is the first place in MA where I've lived where you know your neighbors 2 blocks away. We have to be nice to each other since we're going to run into each other at Market Basket.
- The community – we have a wonderful community. Even though it's next to the big city, which is a plus, there's something to be said for close knit community of Chelsea.
- For me, I love the diversity here. I love the fact that our families are Latino – I think that's an asset and I love working for a school district that's predominantly Latino. It feels like home here.
- It's 1.8 sq miles so you can walk the whole city. One of my students said that when you walk the community, wherever you go, there you are. When you walk the community you're bound to see someone you know and I've found that to be true. I see my students everywhere
- The diversity of people in this community makes it so alive and rich and beautiful.

B. What do you see as things that make it easier or make it more difficult to live in Chelsea?

- Barriers for immigrants (especially fear), unaddressed trauma, access to care for undocumented residents, long waitlists for mental health services, lack of culturally appropriate care/providers that look like the residents
- I don't see challenges at this point...All these people are doing wonderful work.
- The lack of prepared meals for those that are not kids or seniors. There is a massive demand for prepared meals for people in between.
- Lack of food that doesn't need to be cooked among homeless and those in single rooms. We have to become very creative for those people. Those who struggle with unemployment or are undocumented still struggle with getting food.
- Lack of prepared meals. We also struggle with giving quality healthy food to folks of any age. I think also being aware of how much is delivered to different places to prevent waste. The timing of delivering quality food can be challenging.
- Identifying the undocumented that need the food and helping those populations to get that food when they don't qualify for federally funded programs like WIC/EBT. Although we may be on different parts of the political spectrum it is important to feed people.
- We saw a big need there for a soup kitchen. We need to get in some sort of room away of from the elements. We really need a space large enough to operate at full capacity, so people don't go without food.
- I think in general there is a fear whether you are undocumented/documentated. With the previous administration there was a lot of fear. The way the pantries have been we don't ask for documentation. That can get in the way to get in the way of WIC/SNAP. Chelsea has the lowest car ownership in the state, so it's not easy to go to a grocery store. Housing issues is a big issue.

Multiple families will share a home and only have access to a microwave. The weather, winter is coming, and we are going to have long lines in frigid temperatures.

- I want to be able to stay in Chelsea, the cost of living is going up every day
- It's feels like it is central to everything, and everyone is coming here. Consequently, the rent is becoming too high for current residents to afford; it's also small and since it is crowded you feel you are in everyone's business/space, and it can be good and bad
- Environmental injustice: Noise, heat, not enough open space, crowded living situations
- Access to healthy food
- I talk to people who want access to spaces where they can bring their children and feel healthy and safe in those spaces, outdoors and indoors
- A clean waterfront is needed; if you want the waterfront you have to go out of Chelsea
- We need afterschool programs, a community center, I always ask about what happened to the old YMCA here
- Transportation to and from Chelsea is not good, it takes hours to get places, and is expensive to pay for gas and tolls
- Childcare: if you have to go to work, there are not so much safe, affordable childcare; people take their children to homes of neighbors
- It's dense but mobility-limited people have few options for getting around
- There is a good senior center, what we are missing is something for the teenagers, there is nothing for them
- I think there are actually not enough activities for seniors, there is not enough support for them here (despite the senior center)
- The traffic. When I was growing up in Chelsea, there wasn't all this traffic. They're doing a lot of work on the roads which is great but the traffic is a little bit much.
- I wish I could speak everybody's language. I wish there were more shopping areas in Chelsea. We used to have a little mall but they took that away. If we had one in Chelsea, that would be nice
- The amount of substance abuse that I see, particularly near the city hall area. That makes it difficult to live in the city.
- The lack of opportunity when it comes to entrepreneurship, getting resources for that. There are a lot resources towards social service but nothing towards that spectrum
- I think cost of living. I'm looking to buy a property and have future generations continue to grow in this city but that's starting to move out of reality. I'm blessed to have a great job and a lot of opportunities and it's still very hard to make happen. If that trend continues, a lot of the individuals that built this city on their back won't get to see the benefits of all the years of dedication they put into making this community the place that it is
- The connectivity from the old to the new. I've been here 25 years but I didn't grow up here so to someone that grew up here, I'm still a new person. In that, in growth, there's things that you have to pay off – like if you want nice streets, you have to pay more. I think sometimes there's this very old school mentality – you go to city hall and it's like well, Mr. Jones did this 40 years ago but we have to also learn that if we want Chelsea to move ahead we have to let go of some of that old thinking. But at the same time you want to represent and pay homage to the people that came before. You have to let go of some of those things that aren't going to work in the 2000s that you're going to have let go of. There are people who have been here their whole life and don't want anything to change and then there are people that are new that want things to change too quickly. Those two people are always that this battle instead of everyone agreeing that Chelsea needs to be as great as it needs to be

- A lack of resources towards a lot of the children in Chelsea, to build that cultural capital that they need, to thrive outside of the city. College counseling, field trips to different places, the things that they need to build that cultural capital and thrive in different environments.
- Housing is making it hard to live in Chelsea. It's just getting ridiculous. There's no affordable housing for a lot of people and people feel like they have to move out of the city that they grew up in because they can't afford it.
- Different cultural groups need to be seen and heard and have a stronger place at the table. Sometimes it's difficult when you're not part of the majority, it's easy to be left behind or left out of the conversation. There are pockets in our community that aren't seen or heard and have just as much value as larger groups do.
- I was on the planning board for about a year and what I see is the overcrowding that is coming because of all the building.
- Drivers in Chelsea. There's a lot of people that will run you down in Chelsea
- Chelsea has the potential to make a difference, especially in light of its racial diversity. Catering to the needs of its people and providing adequate resources makes a big difference.
- Learning to work with different people of different backgrounds and diversities.
- Rent is outrageous. It's just hard now to even find anywhere to live in Chelsea. The resources are not readily available for people to get. They have changed Chelsea around so much it's ridiculous. Everywhere you walk, it's buildings. We can't even afford to live in our own neighborhoods anymore.
- What is the possibility of helping those who are depressed and isolated, on drugs? There are many and I want to consider the people that suffer; the ones that struggle. We need to be united in helping those who are struggling because there are many; there are lots of people who are isolated. And there are rats everywhere, in the streets.
- It makes me sad to see that there are lots of corporations from White Americans who have lots of money, they think they have the most powerful organizations in the world and they put themselves above the people who are in the community, and they put themselves above our leaders. It's not just rats in the street, it's also in the apartments. And we still see an unjust rent hike, our people are terrorized by people who come in here and take advantage; if they are old they take advantage and feel defenseless, they tell them there is nothing they can do for them; when there are kids they tell them to move and say they can't help. Where is the authority of the city to take away these demons—that is what I call them, demons!—with money with power who want to take us out of our community; money and funds come but how will you take care of the rats; Landlords aren't receiving funding, supposedly but they want to buy 20 buildings and renovate them and leave the children living in parks. They necessity is greater than what you see, there are people who need to put their to sleep children in beds that are infested with bugs, kitchens full of cockroaches, I have a stove that I have to disinfect all the time and my landlord just tells me 'it's not illegal' and he continues to buying more apartments. What of our people who sweat working in factories, in kitchens, restaurants; our money only serves to help enrich those who are already rich; the reporters talk to me and what has happened; nothing. We are fighters from the heart and those rent hikes are not two and three dollars, it's 500, 800 dollars; many are sick, and many can only depend on their children to pay the rent of them. There is no help in making murals and beautifying this or that, the rats will be all that is left after this is done, no one hears the laments of our people. No one.
- Another thing is the parking of the cars; and when it is winter it is very frustrating because there is not space for all the people who are here; I have even noticed that there are fights and you can end up having problems; when there is snow it is crazy.

- I wanted to comment on that also, in the winter you walk over ice, snow, and no one comes to remove it; there needs to be help from the city to help clean this
- It is very true about the rats and cockroaches, I have a friend living through that; where is the landlord? He doesn't live in Massachusetts; they just tell her to buy rat poison; when I entered that house I was shocked; the cockroaches were everywhere! She says she can't take it anymore, but the rent does not let her move; she has spent so much on rat poison and all of that but she is scared to go to city hall because she doesn't want to get into trouble. She is scared to act, she is scared to use her rights. Other tenants also have hazards in the stairwells with many plants, which are a hazard, and she is unable to complain to anyone who will listen
- The problem is you can go 100 times to city hall and nothing! I have taken pictures to them, videos, and in my stove I tried to take them out. You kill 5 and 20 more show up; 1000 you can go to city hall and they don't respond. I tell him if it's okay then take them to your house. They come up to my legs, the rats.
- We should take all the rats and send them to the landlords
- My mom came here when she was 8, looking for a better life. I think if you all worked so long to give that life to your kids, and fight to get here, find papers and all that, I think it should be for something. I think Chelsea is not giving us the credit for all that work and we continue to work so much, and to end up here with rats and cockroaches and children addicted to drugs, it makes me sad; it's very difficult to see and it is bad. I also see many houses that are being taken down for people who have money in new buildings; it's a removal of people
- Good evening, we as youth also suffer in this pandemic, depression, and we also have rights to this fund; we need jobs for youth we need money for the schools; better lunches, more teachers and we need to have a future that is bright. we get help in what we want to do in the future; but we need more. There isn't enough. We are a part of this too, we need to be heard. I want to emphasize that being in the states, I think it's good when everyone has a home, but rent is being raised and we cannot . We need a shelter for the youth. Housing is a basic right, even if you are not a citizen we all deserve a place to sleep safely. Also youth have those rights but don't have a dignified place to be. It's becoming very unstable to live in Chelsea, we need affordable housing; after graduating students have to leave because there is no place they can afford to stay.
- Yes there are green spaces, but there should be a space that is closed and large where youth who are on drugs or on the streets, they can do sports instead, those who have an interest in music will have a space to practice, but there is no place to practice; we've had to go to East Boston because there is no other space. There was a push for this in the schools but no one responded to us; I have listened to many people who have gone to courts somewhere else and had to pay to play. Let's think of the youth, so that they don't turn to gangs and drugs; I have motivated many youth for this and they love it when they play (music); they have a space to practice music, to play basketball, they can leave those thoughts of the streets alone. A space, a center for the youth.
- We are happy for the food we have been given, but it's not enough. If you have children
- We were also remembering, if it was possible for city hall to give us that blue card (gift card). That has helped us a lot. It helps to buy milk, pampers, food, something that helps. But sometimes it is not just food that is needed; we should have a card for something that is not food; things that are household items that are needed and almost as important
- There are lots of people who need it, sometimes there are people who lie and take things that they don't need. I know that sometimes if you go in and tell them the truth, how you are in need, sometimes they will deny you, but if you lie they will give it to you right away; this is why some people are not honest when reporting their needs

- Yes but some people who are much more in need and don't speak up are not getting served; if I have a job then I won't go to get the food, I will give it to someone who needs it more, but some people don't do that.
- I have a suggestion; we have to be careful with our children. I have a son in the hospital; I need them not to be silent. He is depressed from the school, he slit his wrists; make sure that you are being aware of the way your children are moving through schools and ask teachers to be accountable. I didn't know why they didn't tell us, we need to tell teachers to know that it is their responsibility to take care of our children when they're on school premises. If you knew that my son was cutting himself, why did you not tell me? They said I was responsible, but this was something happening on school premises.
- they helped me here at la collaborative and also through he city with the card; but it's not sufficient. I have social security, but I have nothing else, so I appreciate the help, but I am also struggling
- I have some things to say about school underfunding and what they need in schools and how it has affected the youth. We need more support, better school lunches, better bathrooms, soap and towels; basic things. And menstrual products for the girls. Many times the bathrooms are closed down because they are out of service; we need more school guidance counselors, social workers. We also need access to Wi-Fi, textbooks, and we would love to have a youth center for the students
- There needs to be more space for mothers where they can take care of their children; there is a huge problem here because we can't leave them anywhere; if there was a centralized place it would make things easier for support for mothers. We are scared of leaving our children in certain spaces, if there was a common space for it with accessible pricing, because we don't earn much, it would be good. Many of these mothers work in factories, and they don't earn enough to pay as much as it costs to take care of their children every week
- When we went to virtual because of this pandemic, the children here were using very old used computers that did not have good Wi-Fi; in Maine, in Framingham, in New Hampshire, they got MacBooks! When I open my eyes, the children would have the same opportunities as other places; mothers would be sure that in the youth center there they would be safe and they would not have to worry. I would love for the city to find where all of these rats are coming from; it's not just the restaurants. I want all of the restaurants not to throw the waste out where it should not be. We are overpopulated and the landlords do not want to put more barrels and I want a new Chelsea where people understand what happens when you throw trash on the street. I also want a clinic for those who take drugs, less liquor stores and more places to better yourself, to learn English. People come and they turn this place into a trashcan, I want women to be reeducated out of prostitution, not just pass them by and say 'oh I am a good Christian I cannot help you,' but to actually listen to them and understand their struggle.
- I never use public transit, but what I see now with my grandson in school and the difficulties of him getting to school, I take the pass to see him. I want to see that the city gives passes for children to take the T because when it rains it's very difficult. I want them to supply our students with this. I am so sad to see something so simple not done; there are so many children, it's not just mine who are struggling every day. They will tell children to get off because they don't have money, they are rude and chase them off the bus
- Something I want is for the culture to maintain, as we experience gentrification. I was born and raised in east Boston, sometimes when I go to east Boston I see there is no one who knows about the culture and the city. I say to myself 'who even are these people.' Now that I live in Chelsea I want for that culture to stay in Chelsea. I know when I walk down the street, I want to see my culture.

- I want a city that is clean, with people who don't throw trash. People throw trash everywhere, and without so much trash that if we get rid of it I imagine it would alleviate the problem of the rats.
- They should fine the people who throw trash and really enforce it
- In Texas, you just tell them who did it and they put them to do community service picking up waste
- I want a just living here. I want that us all, our Latinos, we band together, and that we have that place for the youth. A real space.
- I want a safe city, without violence.
- The police do not do anything; I want to be able to get back from work at 11 and not be scared that I will be assaulted when I am walking through the streets
- There is one person who terrorized the pearl avenue every Sunday, I see him, and the police never come. My daughter is scared to walk down there. Maybe if we had a neighborhood watch or something. I know a woman who was attacked recently
- We want more police on the streets in the night; at 1am on Sunday I was with two friends of mine, a night on the town. One guy was going down a one way with a child behind him on his motorcycle; I am often scared because I see things like this all the time where I live, and I see drug dealers, people who unlock doors while those that live there are away to rob them; they make us feel unsafe. I need a safe Chelsea.
- I also want to say that there is a lot of assault here, it's difficult to even go grocery shopping. And men need to speak up about this; we women have a right to be able to walk freely without fear
- There are lots of streets that are not well lit. Washington, George, Clark; they are super dark and I love walking at night but it's way too dark for me to do that safely. And no, there are not enough police here, I have always said that.
- The corporations are coming and buying us out, there are businesses who have been here 20-30 years; a laundromat ...I asked them why they were selling it and they said the corporations are buying us out and we cannot fight them in court so we have to sell. They are buying our businesses and leaving us on the streets; taquerias, pupuserias, whatever it is. Those corporations are untouchable and we are being left behind.
- We want more street cleaning
- Another problem here is that they may raise our salary a dollar or two, and everything else goes up hundreds; the food, the rent. It's better that they keep our salaries the same and not inflate the prices of everything else.
- We need English classes, and we need flexible hours also; we get out of our jobs running to get our children.
- It would also be good that we learn different things; for women who want to learn how to paint (houses) for instance. It's just an example. We could also say women who want to learn to do nails or hair, it would be good to have those opportunities, because with those skills we can stay in Chelsea or nearby and not go so far for work. Many women leave and they need to pay for transportation and all the rides and it gets expensive. We need local jobs.
- I think that many of the ppl here in Chelsea, it's a lack of recognition. People do not have the things they need to reach the next level; if they are a custodian then they will never become floor manager without training or the one supervising the factory helping to build their skills; it's not just the classes in English. If there was a center not just for English but also tools that would help them elevate their (job) status; you will see people more prepared and more educated.
- In my experience here in Chelsea, we do it to be closer to our children, but in the factories the hours are terrible and we are exhausted. We only go to the factories because they are close to Chelsea and

we don't have to pay for transportation; We need courses for women that are basic, in English and other things. Many women want to learn. Many!

- Courses for aspiring Electricians would also be useful; construction as well.
- There are many women who like to take care of children, those women help the community and they can earn well if they are licensed, if they could only stay here
- If we are going to talk about Parks then we would have to talk about all the people who are buying up the buildings and taking control. It's sad to see a community so large and full of children, and the only thing we have is the Chelsea pool or the YMCA; but if you go elsewhere, if you go to East Boston, you see many more things available to residents. If children don't have a place to be they will go to the streets and learn bad things; I want commodities for the children, it's not just about rent.
- I work in the collaborative; they need also to tell the children that they have rights and give them the information of their obligations of what is needed on their part. It's not just their rights, it's also their responsibility.
- Housing crisis
- Lack of communication, misperceptions, miscommunications
- Trash on the streets, dirtiness
- Remodel houses, fix rundown areas, potholes
- Increase of smoking in the school building, it affects the health of students in the building, but also happens outside it as well
- Rent is so expensive, how there are a lot of potholes, issues with public transportation
- People don't wear their mask
- During COVID people lost their jobs, and now there aren't as many good ones available. You have to be vaccinated and not a lot of people want to be vaccinated so they can't get jobs
- Crime
- Air pollution
- Affordable housing/rent
- Gentrification of Chelsea is making it harder for people to keep leaving here
- Bad infrastructure, sidewalks, roads, racism
- High housing prices causing the crisis, help people who need it
- Protection plan for people who can help pay for rent in crisis
- Create more job opportunities for people who don't have paperwork, also for young people, having more trash cans out and about, having streets cleaned more often
- More tutoring opportunities for students that need more help, such as college assistance programs
- Mental health and behavioral health having centers, interventions, they have issues but there isn't anyone who can help there, intervention team
- School isn't doing enough to bring kids to want to come to school
- We can resolve issues with more diverse types of therapists who can speak another language of the native speaker
- Someone is going through something, you should get the help you need for your specific problems. If you just need to talk about some small anxiety things? You should be able to find that. If there is something heavier? There should be someone for that. Some basic person they can talk to
- More adults in the school that can be on call or speak about these things, if something happens right in that moment someone can be there to help you in case your social worker or therapist is busy
- Everyone experiencing heavy things after covid, need more people especially for folks who don't have insurance
- There's not a person you can just run to, everyone is very overworked

- Give people an outlet to be able to express themselves
- Kids have stress, anxiety, depression
- Has to have better support
- What is your support when something happens? Student says: yourself
- There are students who don't necessarily know how to describe what they are feeling, or don't have the words to name the emotions for what's happening to them, may casually make comments about wanting to kill themselves as a joke, but it's more of a reactionary comment to see if anyone around them interacts. A lot of times you hear that as a joke for a means of compromising
- Humor used a lot as a coping mechanism
- Having one on one services would be helpful to rely on
- It's hard to find people that you can go to talk to. Maybe there are students who could be helpful to talk to, something like a peer mediator, someone who is interested in going into psychology
- If you had activities would that be helpful to cope and not think about these things? What would be good?
- Activities could help, but not sure, may be hard to put oneself out there
- People are afraid to open up and expose themselves, when they have problems, these conditions start to take over so suicide is on their mind, when you hear your peers saying those things they don't know how to respond to someone saying these things
- Noticed a lot of kids have anxiety and depression, they just don't know how to talk about it, or who to talk about, sometimes they think their parents may be too busy so they want to go to the school but aren't sure how, more activities could help
- Why don't you share? It varies, some people think that their problems may not matter, feel heard or seen, may not understand what's going on and the gravity of it
- People need to encourage an environment where there is a culture that people feel comfortable to share
- Someone who can assess whether or not they feel more should be done when someone makes a joke about harming themselves, would be helpful to just hear people talk about this, sometimes you need that
- People aren't getting the help they need, kids don't want to talk about personal or serious things because they're afraid of their parents being called
- Teachers could be more supportive, try to understand them, don't always go to the parents
- Lack of money within families make it hard for families to live comfortably, they may live paycheck to paycheck and have to prioritize what they spend their money on, some students have to work themselves to help with the family, they are spread too thin with schools
- Offer free learning courses for the community, business, money management, support and strive for a better future, the community has to know they shouldn't have to struggle and live with their circumstances
- Have students know they can go to college and support them with that
- What will happen when the money runs out? Will everything go away? That's what I want to know
- For as long as I've been here, trying to keep the city clean has been a tough task. Getting the streets under control hasn't been enough. We have been dealing with for decades. Speeding and safe streets have become a problem. I don't know if the measures we've taken are austere enough. I think community using the open space is more utilized when there is organized events and access to bathrooms. It's great when you get to use a clean bathroom when you're outside. It's difficult for children and middle-aged women.
- The trash was the first thing that came to mind, especially in the playground. It seems like the only way to get it under control is to get DPW more involved. We just have to have more funding.
- I think part of it is that there is limited trash receptacles available. I think that's also an issue around funding.

- It is a deep problem, but it is more of a resident and businesses problem rather than just a DPW problem. It's very few people who is dropping their trash, it would be great to get more support for the people not creating the trash.
- There are so many alcohol bottles. But that's a separate issue and they are clearly suffering and needing help.
- Noise pollution. It's loud where I live. I'm awoken at all hours. The blessing and the curse of being near the airport, with the commuter rail and the bridge. The downside is the noise. I hear the accidents, it's so loud. I don't know if more trees would help.
- There isn't enough trees in certain neighborhoods. In the summer our street is very hot since most of the driveways are asphalt, the heat waves are ridiculous.
- There are no trees where I live too.
- A lot of the big shady trees are rotting or are being cut down. The city used to have an arborist that helped maintained the inventory of the trees, but that hasn't been kept track of since before the pandemic.
- The streets are named after trees. But they are all gone.
- I would love to see there be more trees on both public and private land. It would be great to city care more about the trees on the street.
- The city isn't great about ADA compliant sidewalks.
- Easier would be the proximity to Boston. Easier because it's a smaller community.
- Harder, I think housing is expensive for our community. Traffic can be a bit of a pain. Housing is an issue.
- For those I serve – housing, the price, being priced out. Not enough housing. For those I serve, rodents, the cleanliness of the city.
- Easy – proximity to Boston, public transportation – we have buses and the silver line and the commuter rail
- Difficulty – parking
- Easy – restaurants, many small businesses, many CBOs, strong CBOs in this community that are really vested in the people that live in this community
- All of the organizations in Chelsea that are helping with workforce development efforts. In Chelsea, there are multiple organizations helping with workforce development efforts. There are more than many other communities and cities.
- It is a consortium and collaboration between schools, community orgs and the city. There is a lot of space for adult education. There is now more opportunities for ESL learners. I feel like I could call up anyone in the community to talk to them. It's very collaborative.
- Government and local partners are working very hard on workforce development. There is a high focus to have workforce development be provided in Spanish.
- Municipality of Chelsea is very active and very open. I am impressed.
- Last couple of years, Chelsea government has been very active in trying to close the gaps in workforce development. Good Jobs coalition has been very active on maximizing resources and utilizing the best resources on increasing workplace development. We have people on the ground who are very active and who really understand the community. The initiatives are working hard to connect documented and undocumented people on workforce development.
- Very important to connect resources to the people. The community is good in doing that, especially in Spanish. But a big barrier is literacy. We need to work harder at connecting to the people in the community who struggle with literacy.
- Need to connect more community initiatives, resources and activism to workforce development. Community initiatives, organizations, resources and activism are vital to workforce development.
- The Good Jobs Coalition and Collab are doing a good job. I gather unemployment is down quite a bit from a year ago. Unemployment is still bad but there has been an uptick in jobs.

- We need more volume. There is a very high demand for more workforce development. We don't have enough to help small businesses. We need to do a better job at connecting people in the community to the resources available.
- From a tech perspective, we are not training for the jobs that will come, but the jobs that exist now. We need to train now for the jobs that will come. The connection between the trained person and attaining the job can be very challenging in workforce development.
- Knowledge of resources
- High cost of living, challenges to the undocumented community. Undocumented people not being able to get a driver's license/ ID, terrible infrastructure, especially with public transit. At the forefront, we should be challenging employers to design the workforce program, instead of designing what we think fits them. There is a huge digital divide. Childcare, there are not enough childcare providers. The cliff effects, losing public benefits when people start to earn. Losing SNAP benefits, childcare vouchers and public housing benefits is very detrimental.
- I think that the gaps in workforce development should be alarming to all of us. Economic issues affect all of the other issues in Chelsea. Housing, SNAP, and Mental health, we need more resources. There is a high demand for literacy, in both language and tech. We need more people trained in biotech. Most people in Chelsea are essential workers who work in food. It will be hard to train them in Biotech. The workers need more money and resources. They need more support now with both money and training. We have no strategy to connect with the youth, especially with workforce development and jobs.
- Childcare supply issues and childcare demand. Women are leaving the workforce. This issue has been exacerbated by the covid-19 pandemic. They are leaving to take care of their children and this labor has not been supported or recognized. Childcare providers are not getting paid enough. In order to improve women's workforce development, more childcare providers need to be better paid.
- Chelsea gave a lot of support to small businesses but none to childcare providers.
- Lack of information about employers that are not exploitative but who are still willing to place folks who are harder to employ. Hard to find employers who will take employees who speak limited English and undocumented workers. Great attempts but there is still more information and coordination sharing needed. Good Jobs coalition, Cross City Coalition hopes to work to create one place where you can find all of the trainings.
- A lot of stuff that we have been looking at is all of the barriers mentioned. How can workforce development be tailored so that all of these problems can be addressed? This is something that we've been working on, how to work on workforce development so that we can address these barriers.

C. As the pandemic is not over, what are Chelsea residents still facing?

- Homelessness, poverty, grieving, food insecurity, affording rent, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, subleasing issues, abuse, and neglect.
- I think we don't understand the needs of the people. I think that is what produces that waste. Taste and not having the tools to reheat/prepare food. It would be great to have people come to a physical place and giving us feedback.
- Our population is well served and I would like to touch on waste. The fact that there is waste makes you wonder what is it that we are missing. How is it that food is being thrown in the street?
- I think because of fears of gathering a lot of people indoors that is also a barrier to having soup kitchens. People's interest in healthy foods is challenging. There are cultural barriers to how we choose foods and maybe thinking about other great projects like urban gardens. Starting young and showing kids what healthy eating can look like.

- The uncertainty of the future. The situation is very fluid right now with supply chain issues. More and more are coming in through our borders so we don't know how many people will land in Chelsea. With the ongoing pandemic and socially distance/wear masks we are facing new challenges.
- One thing that I noticed is that even though we do provide food, people still don't have cash to buy pampers, formula, or other things we wouldn't have in our pantry. Food that is culturally fit. Canned stuff is what most people leave behind. So we let them choose what they like and we don't assume what they like. That minimizes the waste to some extent. There are some things that we don't have, so they still need money to go to the supermarket to supplement. So having grants for that can go far.
- Housing and cost of housing has gone way up. The inflation to buying food has been going up. Expenditures are going up and income has decreased. Unemployment benefits from the federal government have ended. They are getting crunched between less assistance and rising costs. Restaurants and other businesses where a lot of employment comes from are still empty. Just because there was a rent moratorium doesn't mean that rent hasn't been accumulating. The Chelsea EATS card was an incredible experiment but ended 2 months ago so they are back in line at the pantries. Winter is coming and just exacerbates this. The Shaw Family Foundation Harvard came together to study the Chelsea EATS experiment and have good data on what worked.
- You name it and people are suffering with it. Food security was an issue before the pandemic and it's still an issue. Housing security, financial security. Mental health for sure I see it with our youngest children in the schools. We're still trying to manage.
- A lot of people struggle to pay their rent and utilities. That's going to impact a lot of our residents. In addition to that, families because they are using whatever funds for their bills there are families that don't have coats or other things to keep people warm. The need now is far greater.
- Waitlists for rental assistance. Even rent in the past years has gone way up. The pandemic made it worse. I'm so glad that I was able to buy before, because I wouldn't be able to afford to now.
- I feel like it seems there is probably more people who have substance use issues that are out and about. I know we have a strong organization with the Hub, but they may be under resourced. I'm seeing more people struggling with that more visually.
- I've seen it in waves over the years. I think what's notable about what I see now is that we are in another wave. The people out are in much worse shape than before. The people struggling with substance misuse are really struggling. When I'm driving or walking to school, there are people really out of it. More than I have ever seen.
- Current resources for children are stretched thin, such as social workers
- They're still facing the pandemic. There's still uber caution from many...We're lucky to live in Chelsea with high vaccination rate. There's so many students that wear masks outside, it's unbelievable. There's still a level of caution. There's still a great need in our community – the food pantries are still serving a large swath of our community
- People are still trying to recover. There's still a lot of food insecurity, there's still unemployment, and there's still fear. Our vaccination rates are high and it's because of our community. Our community partners have all reached out and made an effort to educate
- It speaks to the strength of our community – everyone came together and did their part.

D. Can you talk about any inequities faced by people of color in Chelsea?

- COVID has disproportionately impacted people of color, those in multigenerational families, etc. The other thing that we didn't mention, was the resiliency of the Chelsea community. We have higher vaccination than other places.
- Mental health
- Trauma among immigrants, using substances to cope

- The immigrant and middle-class communities. I think the immigrant population is struggling the most working 2-3 jobs and trying to live in the community they call home and maintain a life for their children. With that and all the stressors from COVID, those are the people who haven't been able to work remotely. Teenagers are having to care for their younger siblings. The youth in both East Boston and Chelsea are having a hard time and they are still struggling to socializing since covid. They are all stressed, stressed all the time. They haven't been coping with the stress in the best way.
- High school students are having to work to help cover rent. Having that family dynamic, I can relate to, it's like you have to grow up and mature. The youth that I've talked to it's difficult for them. A lot of them are students of color.
- Chelsea has become a more desirable place to live for White people who can't afford to live in other areas. It's more palpable to me in past few years, the tension between the immigrant community and new predominantly White homeowners.
- There's so many. We're a community of essential workers and essential workers had to be out and contracted COVID. So many people were working from home while our community had to go out. So many of our students were still out working. They didn't have the luxury of working from home, they didn't have the luxury of internet, all these things we had to provide
- And many people are living in multi-generational households and if one person in a household gets COVID, everyone got COVID. We had to figure out how to quarantine people. We were ripe for COVID because we had so many people living in such a small place and so many essential workers.
- Chelsea is fortunate to have the diversity in the community and its concentration of low SES and essential workers – you know that this community is distressed. And we just want to make sure that you do your best to be aware of every aspect where inequities will align.

III. Strategies for Supporting Residents in Chelsea

A. What efforts or initiatives are you aware of that the City of Chelsea has done to support residents in Chelsea?

- Some trainings on how to support patients with trauma have been done, but more should be done
- Creating a trauma response team like in other communities can be beneficial
- Another org in Chelsea has been giving out cards for food to Market Basket (\$10-\$50). Some funding has come from the city and has channeled some to the Hunger Network.
- USDA funding helped to hire employees for soup kitchen. If we can do that that would be great. When you reach a certain size, we've converted restaurants in Lawrence and Brockton to a commercial kitchen to get them to a production level where they could do deliveries. I think creating an economic engine so that the meals create the employment.
- GBFB supplemented food needs with gift cards
- Discount vouchers for our pantry users and support local restaurants at the same time
- Partnerships were critical in the distribution of prepared meals. Chelsea was one of the hot spots for COVID, the National Guard distributed food in the city. The city set aside which parts of the city needed more support.
- One thing that the city of Chelsea has done, with the food insecurity at the beginning of the pandemic, they set up a pantry and the Nat Guard came out to help distribute but our city manager realized that winter was coming and there were still so many people in need, so he set up the Chelsea Eats program which was a debit card for residents to use to purchase food
 - That was amazing. The city really did an amazing pivot to serve the communities needs.
- The quarantine hotel, which was set up between Revere and Chelsea
- There was housing and legal assistance set up by the city. Supports for rent

B. Why did you choose to or not choose to participate in these programs?

- Lack capacity for Spanish speaking healthcare providers
- Lack of substance use services for youth in Chelsea
- No place for youth to congregate
- Early childhood population 0 to 5– they have challenges in accessing early childhood services.
- I think there is a lot of young adults that are uninsured. There are not many places to get services and it can be difficult to navigate.

IV. Strategies

A. What specific strategies would you like to see the City of Chelsea fund, with the ARPA funds it will receive, that will benefit residents in Chelsea?

- I don't think people realize. MGH Chelsea is a huge resource for the community. It would be good to identify who is moving around in all the healthcare institutions to try to find and help manage those folks.
- Navigators, wrap around services, housing, more frontline workers on the street at night/weekends
- Furthering mobile healthcare (especially substance use care)
- Housing insecurity, poverty, etc., raising a family is a challenge
- Collaboration across orgs, accountability, city employee overseeing/leading efforts
- I think anything we can do around prevention and early intervention through social connection or some sort of positive space. Family Wellness Center like a YMCA. Working with kids and orgs, especially among middle school kids. Addressing how some issues start in the home.
- There's a program in CA that are classes for parents that provides childcare, talks about the school system that's geared towards immigrants. It's a great idea, but it costs money.
- Sometimes there isn't that timing to be a part of programs when you are working 2-3 jobs. We aren't addressing trauma and we are seeing the generational impact.
- The education piece too. There's a language barrier. Some of these parents don't have the education and technical savviness that their kids might have. It can be hard for them to help with schoolwork.
- That look to empower the population and that shifts from emergency/provisional services. Any strategy that fosters collaborative action in the city. For example, we've been talking more about centralizing distribution in the city.
- Use of technology to develop communication systems. Like the org to rescue restaurant cuisine, have found a way to contact people who needs food. Especially using money for the undocumented and transporting meals to people's homes. Use of space. There are likely unused spaces that could be developed.
- I think that those funds should be spent on collaborative efforts between those orgs in Chelsea to streamline the process of delivering food to people in Chelsea. I think it would be a better sell to the city of Chelsea and show the state how the job can be done. I think that money can also be spent on research to look at what poverty looks like in Chelsea. That can be a springboard to getting those non-profits funded. The third thing labor, like a truck.
- Having a community truck. During the holidays, we need to transport a lot around and so renting a truck can take time. Also having a central location like a warehouse. I think looking at food pantries, food insecurity isn't going away. Investing in pantries in whatever their needs are, like personnel. Building something permanent would solve a lot of issues.
- The dignity of our residents and how we could assist that with an extension of the Chelsea EATS program. Or WIC, which focuses on healthier foods. So that they have more money in their pockets and can do it like everybody else. Not having to wait in line for handouts to get something that you're not going to want to eat. Along the same lines, being able to invest in teaching kitchens. There are a lot happening in individual kitchens, with micro/informal businesses. Maybe bringing them into teaching kitchens and cook a little healthier.

- We serve the people, but we serve them poorly. We need to enlarge our properties to build a better system to serve the people. Currently we have this program due to COVID-19, so I believe the city needs to spend on properties for us in case of emergencies/another pandemic. I feel bad for the people when they have to wait for 2-3 hours for their food. I believe the city can invest in our programs by investing in properties, so we can have more accommodations for the people we serve.
- There are a lot of resources here and ethnic richness of the Latino community here. If the city wanted to invest 7-8 million, they can have a local food fresh warehouse in New England, connecting produce from Western Mass to the Boston area. Take the talent that's already here and create a shared kitchen/incubator kitchen to support this talent, so that we can repurpose them there. The focus would be on prepared food and fresh food. I think we could nurture entrepreneurship and create employment, while highlighting Chelsea as a leader in dealing with food insecurity.
- Spare space, but we do have a lot of space and have an industrial kitchen, that would need some sprucing up.
- I know that this money isn't going to be spent on only food. Some other cities I've worked with they have block grants for housing, there is a big need for rental/utility assistance. I think that's another place where money can be allocated.
- Everyone has mentioned space, including community centers and places for teens, children, the elderly. A place with programming that is space; how do we allocate space for this that is permanent and people can depend on?
- These spaces should be used for music practice, classes to learn English, classes in Spanish, art classes, a gym where they can work out and play sports. The Santa Rosa school is completely empty, and I think it would be perfect for all of this
- We should have a bike path, one that goes to Boston, getting to Boston right now is a big adventure
- We need more vigilance (police), it's very scary to walk down the dark streets full of trash, and we don't have much safety patrolling; we want to feel safe, and also in those parks which are very large, it's easy to be attacked. We also need an effort to bring the rents down; they are rising it too fast
- They will kick you out if there is someone who will pay more; they will kick the person who cannot afford it out quickly. All of my family has left Chelsea, I am the only one still here. My sister, my niece, they all left because it's too expensive
- And what makes me sadder, something I fought for in my country and something I will continue to fight here: if someone has even just one child, they will refuse to give them housing. How can this be allowed? The children have rights to live well as well
- I would like that smoking not be allowed in the apartments of Chelsea; Even those who do not smoke are affected by this. We are already in 2021, I don't understand why administrations don't ban this; it's doing harm to those of us that don't smoke
- Renovating the former YMCA or a space that can be used for activities would help; create a space for people; it would help with some of those concerns we had regarding teenagers and seniors. You can have senior's classes, space for basketball, etc.
- A space like that could also hold classes and meetings; a space that people can depend on
- If you go anywhere here and Chelsea and ask kids how they are doing, they will tell you "I am bored", and then they pick up vices or join gangs; I think this would be a great solution
- I would suggest that some of these funds be used to subsidize the initial costs of starting a business for those who are looking to start one, they could subsidize the rent for the business space
- I think there should be a list/directory, something available online easily, of local restaurants and businesses; something accessible for those who are looking to invest and spend money here

- I would like for them to construct a public school here for children, I have visited people who say they cannot go to schools because they are put on waitlists. We need a school here for young children, it's not enough and there are too many children. I really just need someone to think of the rights of children
- Children are also having issues with obesity now because there are so few spaces and activities for them here
- The process of acquiring licenses is something that deserves attention; there were many businesses who could not navigate that process and were forced to close as a result
- So many people come here from other countries with skills but do not know how to get licensed or started in a particular space. Someone should help them through this process; if it's carpentry or construction for instance, how do you get into a union? And maybe there should be incubator spaces, not just for the office, but make use of the industrial zoning and help with industrial jobs; if someone wanted to start a commercial welding workshop then maybe help them with some of that upfront capital. I don't know how much money from ARPA can go to programming and people, not just capital costs
- Many women lose their jobs due to lack of childcare, if they get sick or just need their children supervised; they will miss work because no one is there to help them. Can we create daycares, with professionals who are trained to look after and teach children?
- We need early childhood development classes, and for people to be licensed providers of care
- We have a number of daycares, but they are far too expensive; parents will often leave children in the care of neighbors in homes that are not safe or childproofed
- Transportation is a major issue for those that live in Chelsea; it has not improved yet the fares have gone up. People pay a lot of money to get to work; just to get to Haymarket it's almost two dollars one way and it adds up if you are doing this every day there and back; if you are coming back late you often have to take the trains and they stop running, so you end up on a shuttle, or you have to take an Uber are much more expensive; you find yourself using half of your pay to get home safely
- Support for the smaller mom and pop shops, those starting businesses out of their homes; give them business management classes
- Access to Wi-Fi across the city would help tremendously
- Many people are undocumented and cannot drive; they often go to East Boston with their 3 children on a bus, early in the morning and late at night, because they cannot get licenses; why can they not approve our licenses
- One issue is that many people here are undocumented and they do not have driver's licenses. Would it be possible for the city to find a way to help them work legally and get paid and also aide in getting them driver's licenses?
- I think it's important to figure out how people can work here and get paid because, for instance if I have lost a job during COVID, how long can I go to places like La Colaborativa for handouts; I think it would be better to secure these people jobs
- The rent, it is the highest I have ever seen it; it is ending businesses. People come here from all over the world, and we all have rights, but the apartments are going to the highest bidder and if they have children they refuse to rent to them
- How can we implement rent control, and what incentives can we give landlords for them to enter into a program like this?
- A farmers market with fruits, vegetables; there are too many stores with junk food/alcohol; bring food from local farmers. It can be Saturdays, twice a month or so, but I think it would help

- Going back to investing in small business and job growth will contribute to food security.
- Engaging a more established location or center that gives out food, there are many programs in the greater Boston area that do this successfully, we can funnel existing programs with a lot of food into Chelsea, especially those with excess food
- A lot of people have come here recently and the route that they use to get here is not easy; in addition to immigration services, some sort of trauma work to deal with what they have been through to get here. Frequently we don't recognize a lot of other immigrants, especially from central America, as refugees who are fleeing violence and danger; no one is addressing this background trauma and the cascade effect on their children
- Investing in youth development programs; provide a community space where people can learn and be social; that helps less directly
- Support a pipeline of youth who would like to pursue mental health services, since it is an expensive profession to get into, you will eventually end up with a more representative mental health workforce
- I think the first thing is the education. If the parents do not teach them at home, they need find the learning somewhere; it would be good to have a campaign on healthy eating for instance; a child will listen if they are taught to listen, if they are not educated at home it will be difficult to teach them
- I believe the roadmap to recovery post COVID is getting folks to a point where they never have to experience what Chelsea experienced during this pandemic, in terms of housing, food insecurity, work force development. All of that culminated into something really bad here. We need to focus on the success of our residents so that they're self-sufficient. I think that it's our responsibility as a community to uplift our residents and our youth and people that are working 24/7 in jobs that don't pay them enough to feed their families or pay their rent. I think workforce development is big and crucial. It brings us to another level where we need to be as a community and I think we owe that to our youth and providing them with opportunities.
- The workforce development is really one of the keys because we need to bring families out of poverty. We need for folks to make and earn livable wages so that they can pay for their own benefits, their own food, their own transportation so they're not dependent on others. So if we can find some formalized training for them, that would be excellent. I think that the city could provide it.
- I go around Chelsea and see these families on the corner with their babies asking for food, money, they have no where to live. You have a lot of homeless people in Chelsea. I remember when I was a kid a 2 – 3 bedroom apartment was \$200 or \$300 a month and I'm looking at it today and its \$2300 or \$3500. There's no rent control, landlords can put you out, do what they want. They're building all these apartment buildings in Chelsea which is phenomenal but if you're building in Chelsea you need to make so that residents can afford to live there. Where are people going to live? Let's get them a place to live first and then we can get them a job or an education or anything else but they need a place to live first. Make a part of all the new buildings affordable so we can get people off the streets. Being very intentional with the money you're spending with organizations that have been around. Having the right type of professional development, that their onboarding is strong. Places that have been doing a lot with a little. Fund organizations that have already been on the ground doing the work and have them be a model for other organizations.
- I think if anything, if you look at infection and the mortality rates, COVID showed that it was a disproportionate effect on minority communities like Chelsea. I think it showed the level of work and dedication that residents in Chelsea are putting in, how much they're willing to work. We were the ones on the front line and we were the ones looking to work. That's why I think that allocating funds to workforce development is so important. COVID showed that besides that we were a disadvantaged population that we were willing to work in the face of that and no matter what the circumstances were that we would take the risk to put food on our tables.

- If you look at how Chelsea was impacted COVID. Investing in the workforce of tomorrow so that they can have those jobs where they don't necessarily have to be on the front line, where they can work in industries where they don't have to be the first ones out there, and so that they can afford those spaces to spread out. So also putting those resources towards education and workforce development. Education, workforce, and housing for sure.
- Education, workforce, getting people into housing and keeping them into housing. We have people that are coming in and all these condos being built but you have to help stay here too or else you don't have a city
- Workforce development, training, and housing
- There is also a need for a sense of consciousness, education, information dissemination and distribution, access to those resources make a big difference. A lot of times resources are available but people don't know how to read those read that information to get those resources. Education is absolutely vital in the post- COVID economy.
- Education, in training and work development because people need skills to do the work that's out there. It should be about training people for the jobs that are out there now. The old skills are gone away, we need to have training for the new skills so that people can be more proactive applying for jobs knowing they have the skills and training. There should also be funding for housing because there's not that much affordable housing in Chelsea. Everything that's being built is really expensive. What money do we have coming in for affordable housing. Everything that's being built is for the middle and upper-class when Chelsea is really a work class community. What do we really want to have happen in Chelsea? Also, we could look at, even after the pandemic winds down, where are people going to go for support. What if they need something to eat?
- We know that if you have a community and you teach them, they'll be able to provide for themselves. So we definitely need education and workforce development so that people can take care of rent, afford a car. We need to do more learning and teaching and the way we do that is through the workforce. We help people get an education. We need to get folks on trainings, get them resources of where they need to go.
- Can the funds be used to create a fund for people to become homeowners, like land trusts?
- If there could be things done for multifamily homes like air quality improvement, air conditioners, ventilation, and new windows to hold out the noise.
- What I would like to see the city push is for electrification. Small pm2.5 particles are given off whenever we use gas to heat our homes. Building out the electrical infrastructure. Educating the general public about taking care the environment.
- I think that there are things that would directly affect me like putting more things in the playground and other things that would affect everyone like air quality. I would put more money towards acute needs and that support the most marginalized people in our community. There's just so many people that are really struggling and cramped in these tiny apartments with horrible landlords.
- GreenRoots also had a number of things in the garden and it served many purposes, like showing the greenspace, teaching kids a new craft, and it was really encouraging for me to see that since the kids are eager to learn. It will check off a lot of boxes. We used to have Rx Outdoors in our parks leading things, but I haven't seen them much since the pandemic. Adults too, growing things. The community gardens are very popular. One of the great things is one of the gardens helps provide food to one of the food pantries, which is a powerful circle. So anything like that and is organized.
- The Washington park isn't as used as much. I haven't really seen it used, it's beautiful. But it would be nice to see it used for something like a winter celebration, bbq, but it would be pretty to gather the community.
- Make the 116/117 bus free
- One thing that I have noticed in open spaces, is local residents aren't able to do things at the park since you need a permit. It can be hard to organize things since you have to go through Chelsea

Recreation. Especially for those are not technically savvy and has been shifted online. If they could make it so you don't have to go through 4 departments would be great since for a lot of people it is very challenging.

- More restrooms, combine it with some shade or maybe a clubhouse. I think there could be areas that could be set up, so you don't need to bring your own tables.
- Just community spaces would be great. It can get super complicated trying to rent a space when you aren't tied to an organization or school for example. It would be really nice, I think Dorchester has a similar community room.
- I think we have to think about how so many people here don't have their own yard or area to just be outside with friends and family.
- I've reached at the end of my rope with trash. I think the lack of consequences for these things has been enough. I think we have to make people afraid. In Somerville they had a weekend where they fined \$1 for people that were jaywalking. That's why I'm a fan of announced enforcement.
- Enforce those fines AND idling of vehicles too
- They have not fined anyone for illegal dumping in the last 6 years. We have a very permissive attitude towards these things. But at some point we need to stop throwing garbage. City composting would be great to see.
- Gentrification has become a big issue. I wonder if there could be a taskforce from all different neighborhoods and cultural backgrounds to address these things and all concerns impacting quality of life. With all the work that these organizations, we are missing that hub for community residents to bring everyone together. Is the city still planning on having some sort of committee to help be involved in after the funds are allocated?
- That the city is creative about finding ways to keep our city clean. Beautification projects. The waterfront area – developing something there. Other communities have developed their waterfront and I'd like to see something like that here. There's a lot of foundational work that's already in place
- Stuff that's data driven, that's backed by expertise. Looking at best practices that other cities may have implemented
- The possibility of public-private partnerships. Whether it's new or rehabbing to have housing that's affordable housing. McCormack-Baron-Salazar – they do a lot with affordable housing
- Housing is always tough. Creative programs for people who are struggling – I don't know what that looks like.
- Our community is hard working and how do we support them with affordable housing that's not dirty, that's not a health hazard, that's clean. Those are the things that I think everyone deserves.
- We still see the lines. I loved the idea with the debit cards because people had the freedom to go where they needed to go and they talked a lot of about dignity so continuing to support that line of thinking.
- Housing prices so high – how do our families afford to live here?
- Continuing to support families. The money runs out sometimes
- For small businesses, just ensure that there's equitable support for small businesses. Just so it wasn't like it was at the beginning of the pandemic where those with means got financial support.
- I think we need to look at workforce development for adults – those who are 21 or 25 and up – and I think we need to look at workforce development in like how are we partnering with the school districts. How do we make sure that our students are best prepared to work with their hands? It's not just doctors and lawyers in our schools
- How do we support small with our policies, putting policies in place – in the pandemic, many of our small businesses didn't get much and a lot of them went out of business. How do we promote the small businesses that are present and how do we support them as a city?
- Workforce development – how are we preparing our students for the future and is what we're doing in our schools a match for our communities? Are we preparing them for the jobs of the future? Are

we giving students what they need to be successful, the skills for the 21st century jobs? Because it's always changing

- More and more of the younger generation is questioning whether it's the best decision to go to college. Kids these days are in different world than we are so that workforce piece – we're dealing with a digital generation, we're dealing a pandemic generation who are starting to question things. Things are different now and we need to think about that as we develop students for the workforce. Many of students this year opted not to go to college due to the pandemic. Partly it's because they're working full time, they're making money, and they're wondering if college is actually worth it or if they'll just go into debt
- Just read an infographic about the pollutants in our air due to the Tobin bridge, due to Logan. It seems like Chelsea is kind of the butt of the north shore – stuff just gets dropped here. It's definitely something we need to take into consideration. Environmental justice is real, and it's tied to racial justice. Because environmental justice is immaterial it can be ignored but that immaterial can impact the body. And we wonder why our kids have so much asthma, that lead keeps getting into their bodies.
- There is a lack of transportation, both for workers and for children.
- 20-30% of households are not connected to the internet consistently. Same number of people who don't have access to devices. There are many orgs doing good work, but if there is not communication and resource sharing, then the work we are doing is not going to reach people who need it. Fund public networks, fund digital literacy programs and fund workforce development to provide that access but you have to bridge the digital divide so that everyone can be able to take advantage of the resources.
- Transportation won't be resolved because of the local infrastructure. Getting more schools and community centers connected to each other to share more resources is vitally important. Building capacity to workforce development. Advocacy for investing in campaigns for hiring those who are in the opportunity gap. Investment in youth programming, such as Build to develop entrepreneurial skills. Encourage more youth to finish high school. Stipends for training programs so we have better completion and less stress because essential needs will have been provided for.
- I want to emphasize the youth employment and how necessary it is. We need more afterschool programs for youth to make money after school and we need to invest more in family programs as a whole.
- COVID is still very present, however we need hybrid programming, with both programming online and in person. It is hard for people to access resources when there is lack of childcare. Easier for parents to access resources and classes when their children have childcare, so that their children do not bother them during classes or important meetings.
- Continuing to support the building of capacity of service partners and community orgs and people and orgs working directly with the community is very important.
- We need to connect with more orgs who are doing the work of tech literacy and providing devices to people. we got volunteers to do childcare and the training provided free transit passes. We need to train more youth to provide childcare. Youth get paid and the childcare is being provided. We need more mentors in professional and workforce development. Training more youth to work in restaurants.
- We have to push more employers to employ people who aren't already trained. We need more programs to teach people who to write resumes, fill out online applications and how to interview. Our job navigator is our job developer and that's too much work for one organization. We need more people doing the work of finding jobs for the community, and also training people to be prepared to take jobs.

- Coordinating the city's ARPA funds with other orgs that have also received ARPA funds. Maximizes the best ability for the best impact for Chelsea. The state's funds are there and some of them will come down to the communities. We just need to coordinate and leverage.
- When we receive funding to implement training programs, most success with wraparound services such as transportation, childcare, and stipends for helping workers fulfill their essential services. If the state wants to have the most impact, it will be funding things in the most comprehensive way.
- the cross city coalition between Revere and Chelsea, we are looking at funding childcare providers, especially since as long as they speak the language of the children they are taking care of, they do not need to speak English.
- The focus should be youth and we need more organizations working to support the youth of Chelsea.

V. Vision

A. If these strategies are implemented and ARPA funds are used well, what do you see as the future of Chelsea after these three years?

- YMCA, reduce burden of disease. Diabetes, depression, disparities.
- The amount of people that have conditions due to poor nutrition. Having communication between the traditional business folks and minority folks has been hard. Lost opportunities for commerce, growth, education, and best practices that don't get shared.
- Going back to the collaboration piece. Like a one stop shop, where people are able to get housing information and we sort of have that in different parts of the cities. That can be a lot for a family that is already overwhelmed.
- A miracle
- A dream come true
- No worries of rent or bills, there's place for children and they are well taken care off
- The utilities are taken care of
- I would like to see, in my heart, a community united, political leaders and city leaders having done something to reform and not let landlords raise the rent hundreds of dollars in one go, stop populating the city with new buildings for offices that push us out, a center for youth where childcare service is incorporated, a computer center, and a place for recreation.
- I would hope to seen a cleaner more unified Chelsea. I just hope that the money is put to benefit the community as a whole
- I hope the funds are used to benefit everyone in the community.
- That there are systems or employees focused on service rather than only taken on by CBOs. They are taking leadership on the littering, and I wish they are able to strategize for long-term change that can impact the community.
- I would like to see that citizen group, cleaner streets, and homeownership for people who have traditionally not been able to own homes in the city.
- More equipped to meet the needs who come into our gateway city and address all the difficulties that bring people here. Immigration, substance use issues, ensuring they aren't being exploited by employers, landlords. Trauma informed education.
- I agree with everything else. One of the things I hope I really see in the future is that the city has more systems in place that they follow and abide by. Following through with permits, citations, and being a centralized place where people can seek resources and services from. I hope one day and with ARPA funds that youth will be able to come together whether that is a building or a space that youth can get resources that they need (mental health, mentorship, college prep). A place where

youth can be themselves and separate themselves from the hustle and bustle of their lives. Lots more trees.

- Taller trees, less trash. This is incredible windfall for the city, but I would like to see the money go towards things that will see dividends 15 to 20 years.
- Trees do so much to improve air quality and cool places down.
- I would love to be walking tree laden trees and seeing food secure residents. Breathing easily, no asthma.
- Our streets are cleaner, our air is cleaner, we have evidence that we're being environmentally progressive. That there's a city where there's a lot happening, that's progressive, that's a place where people want to be. It's a place where when people are looking to have roots and have a family, they'll consider Chelsea. Things for families as well
- Everything that we laid out but the 180 of it. Housing insecurity, housing affordability & stability for our families