

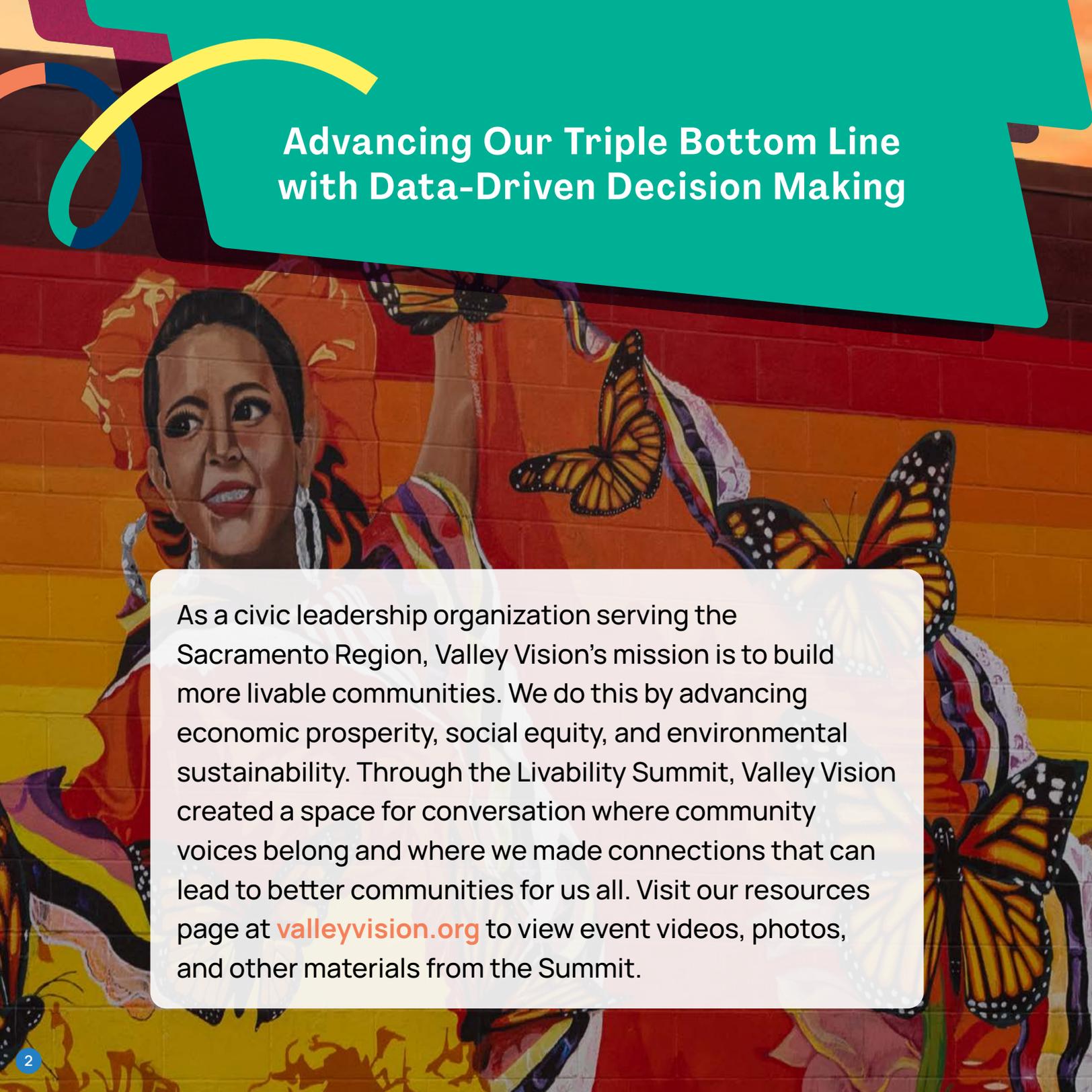


LIVABILITY SUMMIT

by Valley Vision

Event Recap Summary Report

**Sacramento, CA
10.04.2022**



Advancing Our Triple Bottom Line with Data-Driven Decision Making

As a civic leadership organization serving the Sacramento Region, Valley Vision's mission is to build more livable communities. We do this by advancing economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental sustainability. Through the Livability Summit, Valley Vision created a space for conversation where community voices belong and where we made connections that can lead to better communities for us all. Visit our resources page at valleyvision.org to view event videos, photos, and other materials from the Summit.

Virtuous Circle of Connection

What is Livability?

This is a serious question, not a rhetorical one. We asked this question of community members from all across the region, from different neighborhoods, ages, races, and professions. What we learned is that livability is not the same for everyone.

Responses ranged from housing to safety, abundant food to a quality education, and diverse cultural communities to a livable income. Indeed these are all important factors that provide a good quality of life, which proves that livability isn't just one thing, it's the combination of many things.

Valley Vision's inaugural Livability Summit was designed to create a data-informed community discussion between diverse networks of people who could exchange views and ideas about the issues that affect us most. The Livability Summit was also about belonging and being heard in a forum where community voices can make a difference. That's why the Summit tagline "Your voice belongs. Your voice makes change." was the foundation to community-building and collaborative change-making.

I want to thank the community for coming together with us in a different kind of way to engage in conversations about difficult topics and for being willing to bring an open mind so that we can make change that benefits us all. I am incredibly inspired by the conversations, connections, and collaborations that occurred and ready to build off that momentum to leverage Valley Vision's role in advancing livable communities, especially in neighborhoods that have long been underinvested and overlooked.

The Summit occurred on one day, but the outcomes will carry on through Valley Vision's work in the months and years ahead. If you were unable to attend this first-time event, I hope you will join us next fall. We will announce the 2023 Livability Summit date soon.



Evan Schmidt
CEO, Valley Vision



THANKS & GRATITUDE

We are grateful to the many contributors who helped make the inaugural Livability Summit a day dedicated to making important change happen for those who live here.

We appreciate the talented 10 local artists who took part in the City of Sacramento's **Community Murals Sacramento** program whose work we displayed on postcards for attendees. Thank you to **Donald Gensler** at the Office of Culture + Arts for collaborating with us on the project and **Roderick Cooney** for the spectacular images that he shot for this occasion. We are grateful for the creative and inspirational work of muralist **Maren Conrad** and her team for helping us imagine what livability looks like through interactive mural painting. We thank **Sacramento Dance Lab** and **Hiram Johnson High School marching band** for inspiring performances that reminded us of our individual part in a larger community ensemble.

Thanks to emcee **Vicki Gonzalez** for lending her insight and to the **CapRadio** team for important and meaningful community reporting. Thanks also to **Sacramento State** for hosting the event and for the enormous value the University offers our region.

We appreciate **Honey Agency** and **KJ2 Productions** for their creative talents. It was with great pleasure that we collaborated with community leaders in **North Sacramento** who were willing to tell their stories and remind us of the power and inspiration that community pride creates. Inspiration comes from many places, including from some very special young adults – **Tate, Sklyer, Ariana, and Grace** – who took time from the classroom to help us understand what matters most to the next generation when we consider the future of our region. Additionally, we want to thank all the speakers who lent their perspective and expertise throughout the day.

And finally a heartfelt thank you to the **Livability Summit Steering Committee** and facilitators who helped guide the planning process and lent their time, ideas, and guided support.

With Gratitude,
The Valley Vision Team

DAY AT A GLANCE

WELCOME

What is Livability?

FINDINGS

The Livability Poll: A Wellness Check of the Sacramento Region

YOUR VOICE BELONGS

The Community Table

NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

Building Livable Communities in North Sacramento

LIVABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Affordable housing discussion by SACOG

YOUR VOICE BELONGS

The Community Table

GUEST SPEAKER

Building an Equitable Future
Alicia John-Baptiste, CEO of SPUR

HOUSING THE UNHOUSED

An Action Plan for Change

YOUR VOICE BELONGS

The Community Table

A LIVABLE FUTURE

Livability in the Eyes of the Next Generation

COMMUNITY INSPIRED SOLUTIONS

Moving Ideas to Action

Event videos, powerpoints, and photos from the event are available at valleyvision.org/resources/livability-summit-2022/



LIVABILITY SUMMIT EMCEE **VICKI GONZALEZ**

Vicki Gonzalez, host of CapRadio's Insight program, is a Murrow and Emmy award-winning journalist with nearly 15 years of experience as a reporter, news anchor and producer. Vicki's coverage of rampant unemployment fraud within California's EDD was part of best continuing coverage and she earned a Regional Edward R. Murrow for the documentary Return to Paradise, which follows four resilient families for a year after the Camp Fire. Vicki won two Regional Emmys including one for the half-hour special Hope, Humanity and Housing, which looks at the health disparities of affordable housing and those experiencing homelessness.

LIVABILITY SUMMIT STEERING COMMITTEE

Erica Taylor

Golden 1 Credit Union

Gina Lujan

Hacker Lab

Rhonda Staley Brooks

SMUD

Cathy Rodriguez

Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Clay Nutting

Cannon

jesikah maria ross

America Amplified

Meghan Phillips

Honey Agency

Niva Flor

Sacramento Region Community Foundation

Maya Wallace

Caltrans

Shannon Williams

Institute for Social Research at Sacramento State

Rita Gallardo Good

Sacramento State

Tina Glover

SACOG

FINDINGS

The Livability Poll: A Wellness Check of the Sacramento Region

EVAN SCHMIDT

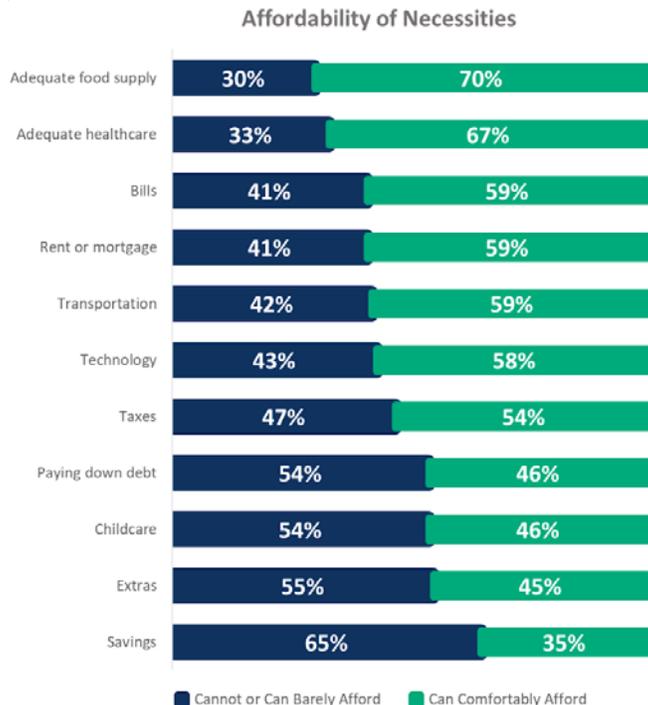
CEO, VALLEY VISION

The event kicked off with Evan's report on findings from the Livability Poll, giving the audience a clear picture of the region's overall wellness and to set the foundation for the conversations to follow throughout the day.

Post-event survey results indicated that attendees were interested in this information and would have liked more time to go deeper.

THE LIVABILITY POLL

The Livability Poll is a broad-based quality of life poll tracking residents' experiences with issues such as affordability of necessities, access to services, job and career satisfaction, safety and belonging. Some of the more notable findings from the poll are highlighted here.



Residents are split as to how their overall quality of life has changed in the last five years. They think positively of the region as a place to grow up, pursue a career, and raise a family, but more than a fourth think it is a poor place to purchase a home or retire. Residents are most concerned about the cost of housing and homelessness.

Almost a third say they are struggling to afford what they need to live. People of color, particularly Black/ African Americans, are more likely than residents overall to be unable to afford certain necessities like paying rent, mortgage, or other bills.

About a third of parents say that they do not have access to the childcare they need. Most parents have expressed concern about the effects of pandemic disruption on their childrens' education.



“1/3 of residents cannot or can barely afford adequate food supply”



96% of residents whose jobs can be done remotely **want to be able to work from home** at least one day a week.

73% of residents are interested in additional education and job training opportunities, particularly if these opportunities are...



Short-Term



Remote or Hybrid



Flexible or Weekend Hours

Many are willing to learn new skills to access more opportunities. More than two-thirds of residents say that they are interested in learning new skills or improving their skills through education and training programs, but method of delivery matters – many expressed a preference for programs that last a year or less, hybrid or remote, and have flexible or weekend hours.

A fifth say they feel their neighborhood or local community is less safe than others. This percentage is significantly higher for communities of color compared to those who are White, and those who live in cities compared to those who live in suburbs or small town/rural areas.

Residents feel the strongest connections with those who live near them. Most residents say they feel accepted and supported by, and also connected to their neighbors.

Residents are struggling with their mental health, but resources to address these issues are limited. Eighty-one percent of residents say that they have felt stress or anxiety at least once in the last seven days, and more than half also say they have felt depression and hopelessness. Yet, almost a third of residents say they do not have access to quality and affordable mental health services.

Our communities are hurting...

% of residents reporting feelings of...



52%

Depression & Hopelessness



81%

Stress or Anxiety

...in the last 7 days.



Almost a third of residents say they do not have access to quality and affordable mental health services.

Scan the QR code to view the full Livability Poll report.



Read the Full Report

THE COMMUNITY TABLE

Community dialogue was a key element of the Summit's theme – **Your voice belongs. Your voice makes change.**

There were three facilitated table discussions where participants could share their reactions, experiences, and ideas in response to the information shared by speakers and panelists.

Thank you to the table facilitators who guided attendees through a series of open, respectful conversations around complex topics, allowing for diverse views and opinions to be shared and heard.

Community Reactions to the Livability Poll

The first small group conversation was in response to the Livability Poll findings. Some of the main feedback includes:

1. The results, although heavy in subject matter, weren't surprising – especially to those working most closely with some of our most underserved communities.
2. The data provided a good reference point for the other conversations that took place throughout the day.
3. There are many different factors that compound the issues revealed by the poll, including the pandemic, isolation, and access to food and other resources.
4. We need to maximize our existing resources and connections to reach people.
5. Folks were eager to dig deeper into the data and hope to see more findings presented at next year's Summit.



NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

Building Livable Communities in North Sacramento

The Livability Summit asked two important questions: What is “livability” and how do we actualize it in our communities? The answers to these questions may be different according to one’s own experiences and interests, which is why one of the features of the event was a neighborhood spotlight. Leaders from North Sacramento provided their views what a livable community means to them and reminded us of the power and inspiration that community pride can create.

The NORTH SACRAMENTO COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT was presented by Larry Lee, Publisher of the Sacramento Observer

Video Participants:

Daniel Savala, Director of the El Paso Boulevard Partnership
Larry Lee, President/Publisher of The Sacramento Observer
Shaun Thao, Director of Hope Community Center
Mina Perez, CEO/President of The Vida De Oro Foundation
Julie Lynhiavue, CEO of T&Y Supermarket
Kevin Dobson, Founder/Executive Director of Capital College and Career Academy



LIVABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Presented by SACOG

Housing availability and affordability remain a critical topic among leaders in the Sacramento region. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments presented a progress report on how well the six-county region is doing towards meeting its Blueprint housing goals. In this session, we learned how smart policy and investments can help meet housing needs and contribute to a vibrant and thriving region.



Moderator: Kacey Lizon, SACOG's Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Programs

Community Leaders

Bonnie Gore, County of Placer Supervisor and SACOG Board Member

Rick Jennings, Sacramento City Councilmember and SACOG Board Chair

Roshaun Davis, entrepreneur, community developer, and cultural strategist



Rick Jennings



Bonnie Gore



Roshaun Davis





LIVABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS: QUOTES & TAKEAWAYS

Kacey laid the foundation for the panel by providing a snapshot of the housing challenge we're facing:

- We need to build 10,000 housing units per year to keep up with population growth. Right now, we average about 7,000. Not only do we need more housing, we need the right types of housing, such as multifamily housing and in order to accommodate our growth equitably and sustainably, one-third of that housing over the next 20-30 years needs to be in centers and corridors.

The panel discussed solutions to our housing challenge such as how local government can create policies to attract developers as well as the importance of educating and involving the community in placemaking.

“We can bring people together to start the process of planning their community to live like they want it – to make it walkable, to make it bikeable, to work and play right in the community you grew up in...” – said Councilmember **Rick Jennings** on how we can work together to turn our centers and corridors into vibrant places.

“We get people who are outside to invest in our communities instead of looking at the folks who are in the neighborhoods and working with those folks first to build them up...” – said **Roshaun Davis** describing how certain approaches lead to gentrification and how we can avoid it while reinvesting in our neighborhoods..

THE COMMUNITY TABLE

Community Solutions for Livable Housing

During the second discussion session, attendees were asked to share their takeaways from the Livable Housing Solutions panel and issues they think are overlooked in the housing challenge.

Here's what we heard:

1. The community needs to be involved in defining the problems and solutions: We need to be community focused, not development focused.
2. Financial literacy and education are essential and should be part of the core educational curriculum. We also need trusted messengers to introduce communities to the generational benefits of home ownership.
3. We need equitable policymaking to ensure that policies are being created and implemented in a way that helps those who need it most.
4. Solutions need to be appropriate for each community and also address the actual burdens people face: low wages, high costs; inaccessible transportation; and lack of access to water, energy, and other resources.
5. We can't leave renters out of the conversation and need to spread knowledge on and create other alternatives to homeownership that promote financial security.



GUEST SPEAKER

Building an Equitable Future



Alicia John-Baptiste is the president and CEO of SPUR – a Valley Vision-like organization that tackles urban planning, research and social challenges for the San Francisco Bay Area. Alicia's vision and practical approach drives SPUR's efforts to build a Bay Area where all people can thrive.



- We need to set our intentions. A lack of intention will only lead to maintaining the status quo. But with consciousness and awareness, we can make change.
- The inequity we see in our communities, especially racial disparities, are not just a random accident. It is the result of policies that not only allowed but also often incentivized discrimination. These are “designed outcomes.”
- We can create equity by placing belonging at the center of our community and future building efforts. Instead of “filtering people out, we can filter people in.”
- Creating a livable future will take bold experiments. This often looks like giving people who we typically discount the power to make decisions for themselves and their communities.

“When we witness the suffering of others, we are not okay. We cannot feel safe and secure in the face of the suffering of others. This is both a challenge and also our strength because that empathy is what will take us into a new future.”

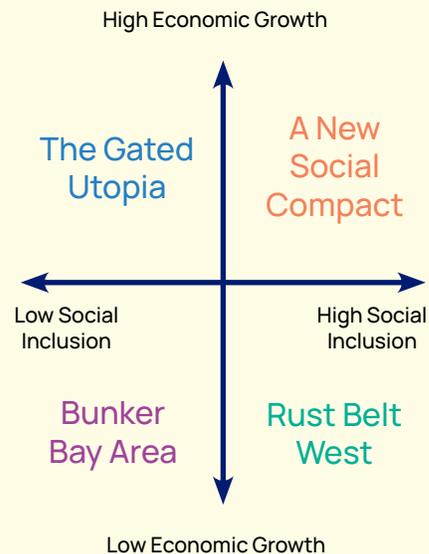
– Alicia John-Baptiste

QUOTES & TAKEAWAYS

Alicia spotlighted how oppression for people of color over generations has created a chasm of inequity that is feeding today's social challenges. Her remarks received high marks from all forms of feedback we collected. Drawing on data and psychological theory, Alicia provided an approach for how we can build a thriving and inclusive society. She laid out how we ended up where we are and the mindset we need to have in order to shift our current trajectory.



Watch Online



This graph from Alicia's presentation shows different outcomes in relation to economic growth and social inclusion. An ideal society will have both high economic growth and high social inclusion, leading to a “New Social Compact”

HOUSING THE UNHOUSED

An Action Plan for Change

Livability Poll respondents identified homelessness and affordable housing as the two top issues of highest concern in our region and among the most pressing challenges to livability that our region faces. Recognizing and taking action to address these issues is critical to support livability in communities across our region. In this session, moderated by Valley Vision CEO Evan Schmidt, we learned about solutions community leaders and advocates are advancing to address this growing humanitarian, public health and safety, and business issue.

Community Leaders



Lisa Bates
Sacramento Steps Forward



Jeneba Lahai
Yolo County Children's Alliance



Dianna Poggetto
American River Parkway Foundation



Dr. Jonathan Porteus
WellSpace Health



Rosario Rodriguez
City of Folsom



Angela Upshaw
Berkeley Food & Housing Project



QUOTES & TAKEAWAYS

Sacramento Steps Forward CEO Lisa Bates set the tone for this discussion by sharing a profound story about the power of human empathy when we work together to help one another. Lisa also provided an overview of the **Sacramento Local Homeless Action Plan**, a 3-year plan by Sacramento Steps Forward, Sacramento City and County Continuum of Care, Sacramento County, City of Sacramento and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency. The plan creates a cross-jurisdictional unified approach to addressing and preventing homelessness across Sacramento County.

[Click here to view the Local Homeless Action Plan](#)



During the session, panelists shared what their organization is doing to address homelessness in our region, the importance of a regional strategy, and what steps we can take to truly collaborate in our efforts.

“Far too often we work in silos – different government agencies, different service providers, everyone’s doing their own thing, and a lot of it is based on funding and other rules and regulations. But when you’re working in silos, you’re not working effectively together to resolve the major issues that we’re seeing.” – said Angela

Upshaw reminding us how working separately limits our effectiveness and ultimately delays and prevents us from reaching our ultimate goal.

“Change moves at the speed of trust.”

– Livability Summit Attendee

“One thing I see that’s missing from our (Yolo’s) strategic plan...is the outreach to communities. And that is messaging all across the board. Separate messaging to separate communities about how homelessness is affecting our region and that this is a collective effort...” – Jeneba Lahai explaining how we can better involve and inform the community on efforts to address homelessness.



THE COMMUNITY TABLE

Making Change for the Unhoused

This table discussion asked participants about how we can come together as a community to make change to help those experiencing houselessness.

1. We have a plan, now we just need to work the plan and make sure others know the plan and are able to implement it.
2. This work takes all of us. We need to bridge the gap between leaders, researchers, and service organizations. And most importantly, we need to ensure we are bringing those with lived experiences into the conversation.
3. This is not just about housing – we need to provide affirmation, opportunity, and support to those experiencing houselessness.
4. We need to direct our resources to support and services, not displacement.
5. We have to put aside greed and ego and instead lean into empathy.



A LIVABLE FUTURE

Livability in the Eyes of the Next Generation

The Summit ended with an uplifting discussion with four young people ages 18 to 21. It was a chance to hear what livability means to the next generation, learn more about what matters to young people most and to bring a new viewpoint to the conversations. Amidst a global pandemic, in a society and economy undergoing unprecedented change, our youth are finding ways to forge their own path and make a positive impact in the world. These students, members of SACOG's Youth Leadership Academy, shared their unique perspectives on what livability means to them and the future that they envision for our region.

Livability is about having what we want, not just having what we need. It's not about living, it's about living happily.

-Tate Chatfield



Tate Chatfield
Moderator
Yolo County



Skyler
Panelist
Sacramento County



Grace Hadani
Panelist
Yolo County



Ariana Thakur
Panelist
El Dorado County

QUOTES & TAKEAWAYS

The youth panel offered valuable insights on a variety of topics including their unique perspectives on livability; the challenges youth face around mental health and access to resources; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and how leaders can and should include youth in these important conversations.

“For me, when I think about livability, I think about connectedness. I think about connectedness with the people I live with, who I live around, and the layout of my city. I want to be able to walk to the grocery store. I want to be able to walk to school, or even bike around so it’s not difficult to interact and communicate with others.” – said Ariana Shakur, offering another perspective on what livability means.

“We have a lot of resources available and there are a lot of urgent needs that these resources can be allocated towards. But the issue is, within the college student population, you can’t find these resources because they’re not widely advertised.” – said Tate Chatfield explaining one of the biggest challenges her community is facing.

Thank you to our sponsors for recognizing the value of investing in ways that we can come together as a community to improve the conditions and quality of life for our neighbors.



Cinematography | Photography

