

INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN



**BORDERLESS
COLLABO**

NM
DESIGN & PLANNING
ASSISTANCE CENTER

COMMUNITY MEETING #5 SUMMARY JUNE 2025

JULY 2, 2025

MEETING GOALS

On June 14th, a community meeting was held at the Wainwright Manor courtyard, drawing approximately 35 participants. Attendees included Wainwright Manor residents, along with other community members who live or work in The International District. The meeting provided an opportunity for participants to engage in discussions, share insights, and contribute to the planning process for the neighborhood.

The goals of this meeting were to:

- Reviewing the Draft Plan goals, strategies and projects on the three elements: Neighborhood, Housing and People
- Reviewing updates on the Early Action Activities and get residents involved in art workshops to beautify the International District and the target housing sites.



COMMUNITY MEETING #5



PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The meeting utilized an interactive format, featuring engagement stations with materials and prompts designed to gather resident input on key aspects of the Draft Plan and community priorities.

- **People:** Residents learned and prioritized people's strategies and projects.
- **Housing:** Residents reviewed the concept proposal that was developed with their input from the last meeting, and provided feedback about goals, strategies as well as types, open space, and amenities.
- **Neighborhood:** Residents learned about neighborhood projects on key focus areas and provided feedback using an interactive map of The International District.
- **Early Action Activities:** Residents provided feedback to proposed early action activities at Wainwright, Pennsylvania and Grove and shared ideas for the art panels design while learning how to get involved when implementing these improvements.

A permanent gallery that summarizes the Choice process and the three elements of the Draft Plan was installed on the three housing sites fences.



HOUSING ELEMENT STATION



EARLY ACTION ACTIVITY STATION



NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITY STATION



PEOPLE ELEMENT STATION

DRAFT PLAN: PEOPLE WHAT WE'VE HEARD

The People Plan element was presented to residents to continue refining the projects outlined in the Plan. Residents were engaged in conversations providing feedback on what strategies they thought would have the most positive impact.

Some key highlights focused on the following:

- **Education: connecting residents online on- and off-site**
 - Partner with CSW Library
 - Residents have access to Wi-Fi connections (bundled with cable)
- **Health: accessing healthy food options and fitness training classes**
 - Some residents have access to health workers through insurance
 - Exercise room in the community space or outdoors
 - Delivery for healthy food options (i.e. Meals on Wheels)
 - Wi-Fi connection for medical devices
- **Income and Employment: creating a career counselor that helps residents with all types of needs**
 - Partner with a program for seniors for job training
 - Day to Pay program would help unhoused residents earn some money
 - Credit to purchase a home and learn how to manage and earn money



PEOPLE ACTIVITY STATION

DRAFT PLAN: HOUSING WAINWRIGHT MANOR

The majority of comments received covered both concept proposals presented, revolving around the following main themes:

Design and Layout Preferences

Residents emphasized the importance of large windows for natural light and open spaces for walking, reading, and biking that would support a healthier and more enjoyable living environment.

Other design features desired include:

- Walk-in showers without tubs
- Separating the bathroom from the bedroom for more privacy
- A designated area for clotheslines accessible to all neighbors



REFINED CONCEPT FOR WAINWRIGHT MANOR

DRAFT PLAN: HOUSING GROVE APARTMENTS

Safety and Comfort

Security in general was noted as a top priority. Residents stressed the need to include secure fencing around the properties to help prevent break-ins.

Additionally, addressing sound transmission between units, and creating a designated dog area that helps to maintain cleanliness.



REFINED CONCEPT FOR GROVE APARTMENTS

DRAFT PLAN: HOUSING WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Residents also recommended the prioritization of the following projects:

Goal 1: Redevelop housing sites to be integrated into the larger neighborhood

- Creating safe, walkable outdoor spaces, more accessible sidewalks and environments for seniors.
- Ensure nearby access to vital resources and public amenities for all.

Goal 2: Increase support and resources for permanent affordable housing in the International District

- Offering programs that support first-time homebuyers: education on homeownership, financial assistance, and knowing one's rights.
- Many expressed a desire to own their homes and for resources that guide and prepare them for that process.

Goal 3: Expand resources & support systems to provide stable housing solutions

- More shelters evenly distributed throughout the neighborhood, as current shelters feel disconnected and too far from essential services such as grocery stores, senior centers, and pharmacies.



HOUSING ACTIVITY STATION



DRAFT PLAN: NEIGHBORHOOD WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Residents engaged with an interactive map of the planning area, where draft plan projects and their proposed locations were displayed. Participants provided feedback using input cards that included questions about neighborhood clean-up, strategies to activate community spaces, and places that should be celebrated with public art.

Some key priorities included the following:

- **Community Space Activation:**
 - Park improvements and community-based programs
 - Creating a community garden at Phil Chacon Park where people can grow and harvest food.
 - Enjoying BBQ grills in shaded seating areas
 - Hosting cooking classes, board games, movie nights, and interactions with animals or pets.
 - Inviting families for shared events and setting up spaces for recreation like a basketball court
 - Community clean-ups to encourage a stronger sense of community



NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGIES ACTIVITY STATION



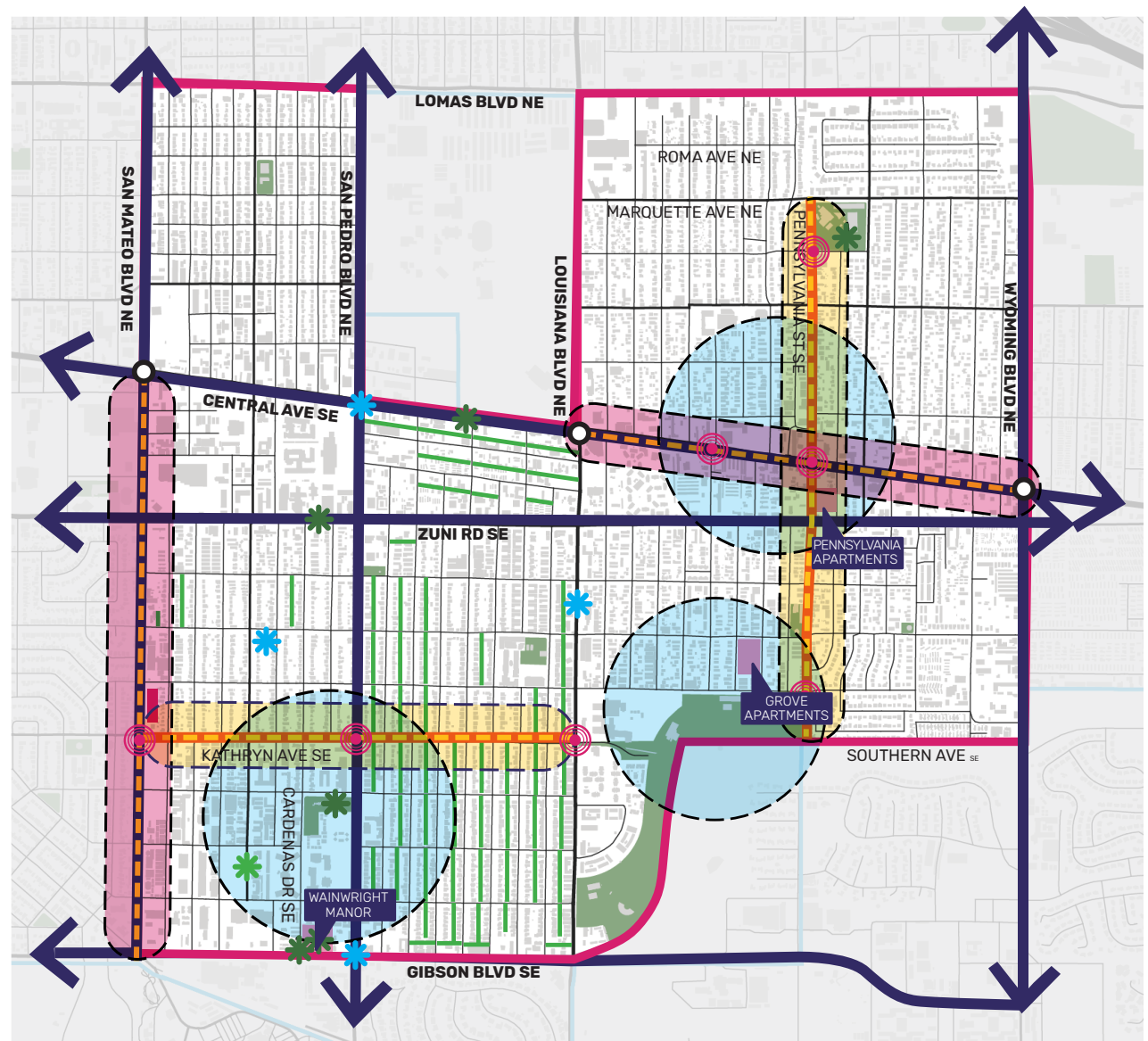
DRAFT PLAN: NEIGHBORHOOD WHAT WE'VE HEARD

* Neighborhood Area Cleaning:

- Residents identified the Wainwright Manor site as the primary area in need of cleaning
- Improved garbage disposal and maintenance of spaces such as the courtyard and the West side of the property
- Other areas include parks, major corridors and public pools.

* Neighborhood Landmarks:

- Central Avenue as the main area to celebrate with public art, as well as the Southeast of the International District.
- Other key locations include The Way of Light Alley (Cardenas and Valencia), Cardenas and San Pedro, and Louisiana.



KEY NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT LOCATIONS

EARLY ACTION WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Residents provided specific suggestions for elements of the Early Action Activities at the three key housing sites. These activities fall into three key categories:

- **Artwork themes for exterior panels:**
 - Incorporate themes such as shapes or the New Mexico desert landscape.
 - At Wainwright, art is suggested for the south side walls and the east side of the building, with additional art panels facing outward and placed against walls or in the middle between walkways.
- **Community gardens:**
 - Growing their own food. At Wainwright, there has been already the initiative of starting garden projects.
 - Featuring a Three Sisters Garden, focusing on growing traditional crops like chile, squash, and corn, alongside other plants.
 - A grass area is desired for the northwest corner to offer additional green space
- **Exercise and play areas:**
 - Outdoor and indoor exercise equipment
 - Separate spaces for yoga, a dog park with benches, and a BBQ grill
 - Musical and tactile play features for residents of all ages



EARLY ACTION ACTIVITY STATION



CURRENT COMMUNITY GARDEN AT WAINWRIGHT MANOR



WAINWRIGHT MANOR RESIDENT DISPLAYING THEIR ART



EARLY ACTION ACTIVITY STATION

DRAFT PLAN GALLERY

As the planning process has come to a major milestone we have placed boards describing the three aspects of the draft plan:

- What is Choice Neighborhoods
- Neighborhood Plan
- Housing Plan
- People Plan

The boards were attached to the fences surrounding the three housing sites to bring about more awareness of the Choice Neighborhood Plan.

There was a QR Code embedded on the boards to help receive feedback and comments from the broader community in The International District.

These insights will inform the refinement and implementation of the next phase of the Final Plan, seeking to align with resident priorities and community needs.



DRAFT PLAN GALLERY INSTALLED

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: WHAT WE'VE HEARD

As part of the engagement agenda, the Choice team hosted a pop-up at the International District Library on Friday, June 13th. People participated in the Neighborhood interactive map activity, where draft plan projects and their proposed locations were displayed. The community provided feedback using similar input cards.

Some key priorities included the following:

- Clean and accessible public restrooms, suggesting San Francisco as a city precedent that has well-managed public restrooms that stay open
- Shelters and transitional housing options for the unhoused neighbors
- Shelters near places like God's Warehouse
- More public water fountains on outdoor spaces
- Communal mailboxes located at libraries, community centers, or shared public sites



NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGIES ACTIVITY STATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT LIBRARY

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to the staff from the Albuquerque Housing Authority and the City of Albuquerque for their work in organizing and hosting this meeting. We are also grateful for all the participants that joined us and engaged in the conversations and activities.

Community Ambassadors:

Josiah Fowler, Wainwright Manor Resident
Naima Hurain, Pennsylvania Apartments Resident

Albuquerque Housing Authority

- Linda Bridge, Executive Director
- Daniel Foster, Housing Development Director
- Shawn Watson, CN Project Manager
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- Danielle Tsosie, Intern

City of Albuquerque

Department of Health, Housing & Homelessness:

- Monica Montoya, Manager, Community Development Division, HHH
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- Planning
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COMMUNITY MEETING #5

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