

NEIGHBORHOOD PLATFORM

iSÍ SE PUEDE!
COLLECTIVE



Amigos de Guadalupe
Center for Justice & Empowerment

School
of Arts
& Culture

Mexican
Heritage
Plaza



GFSSM
Grail Family Services

MAYFAIR NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY



The **Mayfair neighborhood in East San José** has been a home for people from across the globe for nearly 100 years. Like many communities of color in San José, especially those with Mexican/Latino families, Mayfair has long been subjected to racism, economic inequities, and violent suppression. Although East San José residents – for generations – have been a force that generates wealth for Silicon Valley, they continue to suffer the impact of economic exploitation and disempowerment as the result of the policies and decisions made by various governing bodies. Yet this historic community has survived because of organizational partnerships, mutual aid networks, alternative community systems, and a deep legacy of community organizing.

Systems of oppression thrive on keeping people and organizations divided, creating a competitive environment where communities are confined to a limited vision, with limited hope, and limited self-determination.

The Sí Se Puede Collective was created to change that. **We are committed to working together in solidarity to reach community sovereignty, to challenge existing systems, and to shift power back to the hands of community residents.**



SÍ SE PUEDE MISSION:

Together, we leverage our creativity, services and advocacy to create opportunities and access to basic needs, education, literacy and community engagement in the Mayfair community.

SÍ SE PUEDE VISION:

Mayfair is a rooted and thriving community where resilient families have confidence in their gifts, choices and dreams.

SÍ SE PUEDE VALUES:

Shared Leadership: We make our Collective's decisions democratically to avoid power imbalances.

Principled Behavior: We act with integrity.

Transparency: We engage openly and honestly with our Collective members and our stakeholders.

Quality: We provide affordable, accessible, and culturally relevant services and programs while consistently evaluating our delivery to ensure we are meeting the real needs in our community through programs and services that are proven effective.

Accountability: We answer to our Collective members and our stakeholders.

Interdependence: We rise and fall as one community.



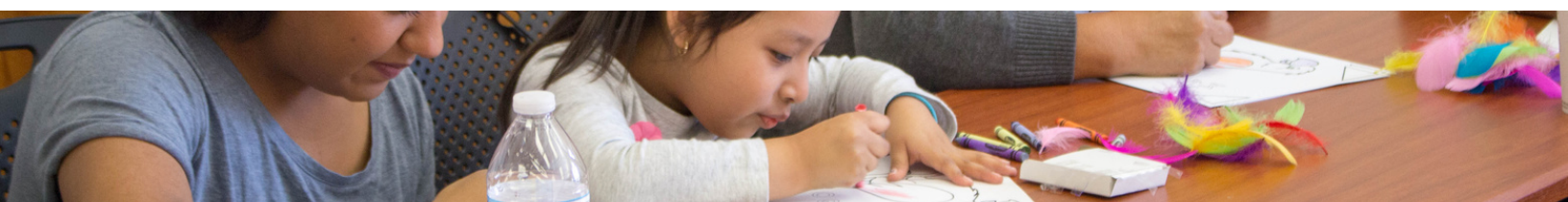
WE WANT HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION:

We want high quality public education focused on our children's intellectual gifts and strengths, the growth of their talents, and the development of the skills necessary to thrive and achieve their potential. In addition, the public education system should reflect the children that they serve. Our students deserve content that highlights the history, values, language, and culture of our community.

Also, we believe that our education must be rooted in our own experiences and stories. It must respect our own recollection or articulation of our observations and awareness, as it teaches us our history, culture, language, and the role of people in today's society. We believe that all adults who work with children should be just and have the skills and tools to be effective teachers and advocates for students and families. Educators should strive to create strong partnerships with families where the voice of parents is uplifted. The education system must use a race and equity lens to support our children as the future leaders in our society.

WE DEMAND:

- Free and universal access to quality early care and education for all children.
- Uplifting Family, Friends, and Neighbor childcare as an important part of early care and education support and recovery in our community. It is a cornerstone of our economy in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Addressing inequalities in the education system to afford equal opportunities for low-income, undocumented, special education, and LGBTQ students.
- Empowering children of color by providing access to ethnic studies, bilingual education, and dual immersion programs.
- Design and implementation of policies that are rooted in positive discipline practices that respect the individuality of the students and promote their mental health, well-being and academic progress.
- Equitable policies and practices designed to close the achievement gap, such as changing the ratio of students to teachers, etc. Implementation of family engagement practices and systems that see families as equal partners and decision makers.
- The creation of decision-making committees, and positions that increase student and parent decision making and oversight of our education.
- No collaboration with ICE, enforcement agencies or police.
- Distance learning support, training, and resources specifically designed to meet the needs of our community.
- Higher education opportunities that offer our children and youth different career paths so they can thrive and be successful.



PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE PUBLIC HOUSING



WE WANT PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE PUBLIC HOUSING:

We want collective housing to be seen as a human right that improves student educational outcomes, and addresses the needs of all families, especially those of extremely low- and low-income immigrant families. We want quality and permanently affordable housing systems free of intimidation, unscrupulous owners, and oppressive and racist contracts so that we can raise our children in a safe and stable environment.

We want homes with decent living conditions that support the health and well-being of families and children. We are committed to repairing land that has been stolen and/or destroyed by capitalism, colonialism, genocide, and slavery. We stand firm in the belief that all human beings deserve a decent place to live.

WE DEMAND:

- The creation of permanently affordable housing models for extremely low- or low-income families, such as cooperatives, alternative housing models, and community land trusts.
- The opportunity to purchase Community Act/Opportunity (TOPA/COPA) laws and local preference systems to serve our residents at risk of displacement.
- Enforceable harassment protections, including the right to paid tenant legal advice.
- Ending discrimination based on Section 8, immigration status and criminal records.
- Establishment of housing information and education centers within county districts or jurisdictions.
- Creation of decision-making structures that enable meaningful, informed, inclusive and solution-oriented decisions representative of the spirit of collective ownership.



WE WANT ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY:

We want a pollution-free environment devoid of excessive extraction that destroys our natural resources. We are concerned about our global home. Because this economic system continues to burn, dig, and dump our natural resources, we are facing a global climate crisis.

We believe that everyone has the right to live free from exposure to dangerous toxic pollution in the soil they till, in the air they breathe, in the food they eat, and in the water they drink.

Regardless of income level or zip code, we must have the ability to access free, affordable, accessible, safe, and culturally relevant food. Our children deserve a healthy environment in which to live, play and thrive.

WE DEMAND:

- Support of a healthy climate and air quality for everyone.
- Reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity, water and transportation in our community.
- Support for a local sustainable food system to ensure that food is grown, processed, distributed, and recycled in an environmentally responsible, equitable and economically viable manner for current and future generations.
- Equitable distribution of public spaces within San José that prioritizes historically marginalized neighborhoods.
- Public green spaces as a component of all urban renewal and urban development processes.
- Promote Indigenous Sovereignty and Decolonization by relocating sovereignty to Indigenous communities, promoting projects that protect sacred sites, and honoring life forms and relationships with land.



CULTURAL ASSETS & COMMUNITY IDENTITY



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WE WANT TO PROTECT OUR CULTURAL ASSETS AND COMMUNITY IDENTITY:

East San José is a cultural center that reflects and represents the diverse communities that live here such as our East San José artists. We have historical legacies, identities and artistic and cultural perspectives that demand visibility and preservation. Many of our histories and legacies are in danger of being erased due to racism, class war, gentrification and displacement.

We will seek to preserve the unique character and identity of this place by offering opportunities for artistic and cultural participation, community events, and continued access to our cultural assets for Mayfair residents. We will celebrate the vitality, cultural heritage and creativity that is East San José for our families.

WE DEMAND:

- Establishment of a cultural district with the Mexican Heritage Plaza as its center.
- Public art that reflects the stories of our neighborhood and leverages the talents of our local residents
- Documentation of our stories to raise our own voices instead of allowing others to speak for us.
- Continued reinvestment in our cultural assets.
- Recognition that the arts are transformative, and that they support social justice movements.



WE WANT TO PROMOTE A DEEPER DEMOCRACY:

Mayfair is a community of immigrants and mixed status families where many are unable to vote or organize freely. To build a deeper democracy we are committed to building movements and community power deeply rooted in the struggles for justice, focusing those who have historically been marginalized to increase community self-determination and cross-racial collaboration. We are committed to organizing spaces for community decision-making and to protect our right to organize without fear of reprisals.

A pathway to citizenship is a basic first step to allow our families the power to determine decisions for the Mayfair community, regardless of their immigration status, income and race/ethnic or national origin, gender or age. We will also support policies and practices that empower community decision-making and uphold the power of organizing to transform society. In addition, to build a society with deeper democracy, we believe that all institutions and agents working in the Mayfair community must adhere to some collective community norms:

- Check their Privilege: Practice cultural humility and meet the community where they are. This means that people should meet residents where they live.
- Build trust through clear mutual expectations: Genuine community participation will result in a longer and more mutually beneficial relationship for the common good.
- Support a sense of belonging: Understand the vision of the community as they already have the answers to the problems they face. Build on the past and listen carefully. Our community belongs here. They have invested in a vision of the future that is grounded in their collective knowledge. As such, those who enter into the Mayfair owe them the respect and courtesy of deep listening.
- Recognize leadership and celebrate legacy: There are already networks of mutual help and organization for sustainable change. Learn from the work that has already been done.
- Take collective action: DO SOMETHING TANGIBLE, bring equity to action.
- Shared decision making: Implement a shared vision for shared ownership and responsibility.
- Show: Be receptive, and advocate on behalf of communities that don't have a voice on archaic tables.



WE WANT TO PROMOTE A DEEPER DEMOCRACY (CONTD.):

- Foster relationships: Expect accountability and feedback as part of the community change process.
- Restore relationships within ourselves and with our Communities: Provide ways to heal by creating opportunities for real and inter-class relationships, decentralizing power structures and rebuilding our communities together.

WE DEMAND:

- A pathway to citizenship for the millions of undocumented people living in the shadows.
- Implementation of immigration reform, including increased citizenship pathways, especially for all DACA recipients; DACA expansion; and similar programs without criminalization.
- The power for undocumented residents to vote in school board, city, county, state and national elections boards.
- The creation of progressive political organizations and coinciding district elections with presidential elections.
- Access to appointment to Boards and Commission without barriers of citizenship
- Political and organizing skills training for all community members.
- Creation of spaces where translation, board time, facilitation and process increase public participation.
- The immediate end of I.C.E. raids
- The repeal of the policy that separates children from families at the border and the prompt deployment of resources to identify, locate, and reunite these children, who are still in cages in detention centers, with their parents or families



WE WANT ECONOMIC JUSTICE:

We believe that a regenerative economy is the basis of a thriving community. The purpose of our economy must shift to promoting ecological and social well-being. The current system has thrived through racist exploitation, exclusion, and wealth extraction, endangering Black, Raza/Indigena and Asian families and Mother Earth.

We believe that families must have the tools and knowledge to secure more economic control, and to not be excluded based on race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. We require policies to start, grow and sustain small family businesses, especially cooperative businesses, and a redistribution of resources for Black, Raza/Indigena and Asian families that have been excluded from the extractive economy.

WE DEMAND:

- Increased community wealth. Transfer the resources of a few large institutions to many smaller and more diverse institutions where the benefits of investment are distributed among more people and communities.
- Change of economic control. Prioritize the interests of workers and communities. Focus on the success of the company rather than solely on income.
- Democratization of the workplace. The new economy should support and increase worker ownership, democracy and rights in the workplace, and democracy in the economy as a whole.
- Increased social equity. Actively work against current and historical social inequalities based on race, class, gender, immigrant status, and other forms of oppression.
- Advancement of the regenerative ecological economy. A regenerative economy promotes ecological resilience, reduces resource consumption, restores traditional life forms, and undermines the extractive economy that is eroding the ecological basis of our collective well-being.
- Primary consumption and production that are local.
- Strengthening of the public sector. Move resources from the business sector to the public sector to build the economy of peoples.



We believe that real change is possible, and that cross racial and poor people's solidarity is necessary to build a world where everyone can live free of fear and reach their fullest potential. We are committed to building a collective organization rooted in this new vision for Mayfair and East San José families. We believe revolutions or transformational change is possible, and we must continue to do our work deep in the heart of our neighborhoods and with our families.

