



**JUST  
COMMUNITIES  
ARIZONA**



# COMMUNITY SAFETY INCUBATOR REPORT

Arroyo Chico,  
Tucson, AZ



*November,*  
**2024**

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[www.justcommunitiesarizona.org](http://www.justcommunitiesarizona.org)

# ABOUT JCA

**MISSION:** To create, foster, and resource community-based models for safety and justice outside the punishment system.

We work with people impacted by the punishment system to promote a holistic view of safety that encompasses physical, emotional, and economic health and wellness; cultivate the next generation of community leaders; and build community-based solutions.

## Community Safety Incubator Projects

**Goal:** To invest in projects or services identified by neighborhood residents as solutions to the problems they face in order to increase safety and wellbeing of all community members.



**Incubator Projects are designed to:**

1. Generate dialogue, engagement, and cohesion in neighborhoods.
2. Invest in interventions, projects, and programs that increase community safety for all.
3. Strengthen, expand, and replicate holistic approaches to community safety that already exist in our neighborhoods.
4. Increase the capacity and sustainability of community-based organizations and initiatives that represent and serve under-resourced communities that have experienced high rates of arrest and incarceration.



# THE ARROYO CHICO PROJECT

**Location:** 18th St. & Forgeus Ave., in front of Robison Elementary School

**Community Safety Team Members:** Andrew Christopher, Jenny Moscato, Jose Luis Munoz, Amanda Smith

**Project Consultant:** Camila Ibarra, Muralist & David Garcia, Barrio Restoration

**Project Duration:** October-November, 2024

## PROJECT COMPONENTS

- A Dia de los Muertos themed community cleanup featuring face painting for the children in the neighborhood to prepare the walkway off of Forgeus, planting macetas, and community input on which of two possible murals the neighborhood wanted to paint.
- A “paint by numbers” inspired mural project along the property adjacent to a walkway used by neighborhood kids to get to school everyday.
- A well attended painting day where the whole neighborhood came out to collaborate on what turned out to be a stunning mural and celebrate their contribution alongside one another.



# DIA DE LOS MUERTOS COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

The Community Safety Team strongly believes in contributing to the safety of the children who attend Robison Elementary School in Arroyo Chico. One of the primary walkways to the school cuts through an alley that was dirty, overgrown with vegetation, and tagged with graffiti.



Cleaning up the path



Macetas in place, ready for a mural!



A huge thank you to all the volunteers!

In preparation for the main event of painting a mural, the Safety Team decided to host a community clean up on Mexican Day of the Dead. Neighbors dug up weeds, trimmed branches, cleaned up trash, and decorated planters, called macetas in Spanish, prepared by Barrio Restoration. By the time the party was over, the walkway adjacent to Forgeus Ave had been transformed.



No fiesta is complete without face painting!



# PAINTING THE MURAL



At the Cleanup event, neighbors got to vote on which of two different mural ideas they wanted to see painted alongside the path.



Camila, the mural artist, explains the concepts for the two different mural options to Safety Team Member Jose

The chosen design features a little girl dreaming of an 'alebrije'--colorful Mexican folk art sculptures of fantastical creatures or animals



Everyone had a chance to contribute to the mural using the "paint by numbers" template that Camila provided.



Many hands make light work



# IMPACT



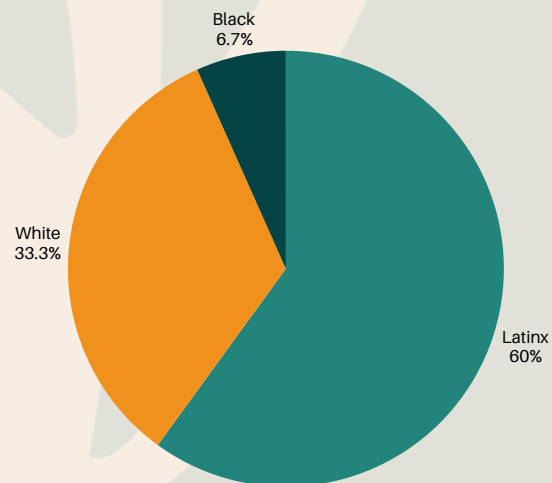
At each Incubator site we offer up a survey to participants--whether they are members of the Community Safety Team, volunteers who help with the project, or just neighbors who attend events.

The surveys are designed to capture a snapshot of who was served by the project and how they feel it impacted their safety, social connectedness, and wellbeing.

We collected a total of 16 surveys from participants at two events: The Neighborhood Cleanup and the Mural Painting

## WHO WAS SERVED?

Survey responses confirm that participants in the incubator mirror the makeup of the neighborhood. The majority ( 62%) were BIPOC.

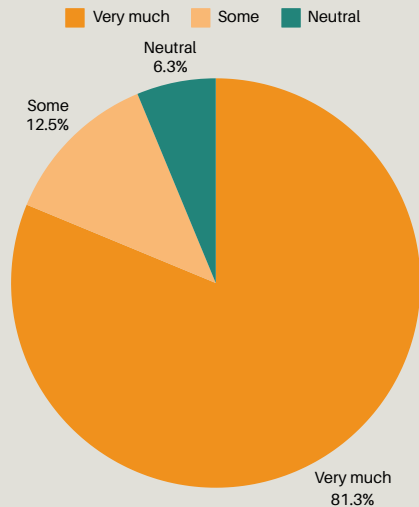


Half of respondents (50%) have been personally impacted by the criminal punishment system or have had a close family member who was systems-involved. This is an unfortunate reality for many communities of color here in Tucson.

# IMPACT



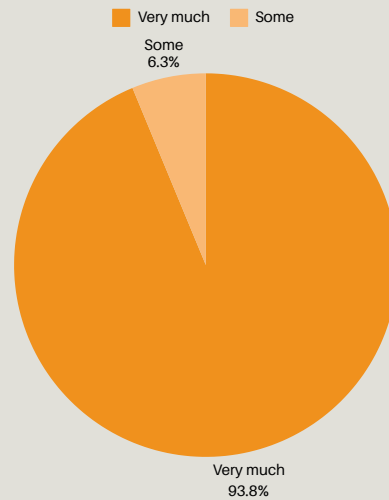
**This project/activity made me feel safer in my neighborhood**



## **SAFETY:**

The majority (81%) of residents surveyed said **the project made them feel safer in their neighborhood.**

**This project/activity helped me get to know my neighbors better**



## **SOCIAL CONNECTIONS:**

The majority (90%) of respondents said that **the project helped them get to know their neighbors better.**


**This project/event made me feel proud of my neighborhood**



## **SENSE OF PRIDE:**

Respondents unanimously (100%) reported **that the project mad them feel proud of their neighborhood.**

# FEEDBACK



“  
Made the  
neighborhood feel  
more welcoming

“  
Got to meet  
new neighbors  
and connect.”

“  
It empowers  
community  
and a sense of  
belonging  
which only inspires  
positive outcomes”

“  
I feel safer and  
more united with  
my community”

“  
It's made me feel  
better about  
being outside at  
night”





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JCA is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. EIN: 87-0884330



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH SERVICES

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