



**JUST
COMMUNITIES
ARIZONA**



COMMUNITY SAFETY INCUBATOR REPORT

FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD



February, 2024

hello@justcomaz.org

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.



David , Enrique , Ben , Ricardo, and Erica

THE FAIRGROUNDS PROJECT

Location: Fairgrounds Neighborhood/La Mariposa Park, South Tucson

Community Safety Team Members: Ben Hagyard and Ricardo Monteblan

Project Consultant: David Garcia, Barrio Restoration

Project Duration: August-October, 2023

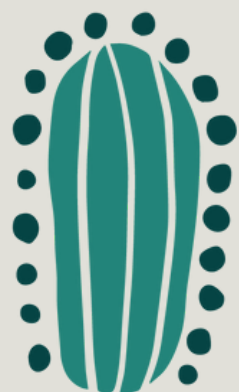
PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Street cleanups to remove trash and weeds
- Neighborhood beautification: Creating and installing macetas (planters)
- A “Little Free Library” or Book Bank near the park
- A fiesta to bring neighbors together and share community resources and services

BARRIO RESTORATION

“As residents of Tucson's South side, our mission is to inspire and teach our neighbors to respect and not neglect our Barrios. We activate youth and adults, teach skills like up-cycling and landscaping and provide affordable yard & street-scape services to residents and businesses on Tucson's South & West sides.”

<https://www.barriorestoration.com/home>



NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION

David makes macetas (planters) out of old tires. The CST organized an evening in the park where neighbors could come by and help decorate the macetas. JCA supplied the paint and everyone had a great time getting creative with this 'upcycling' project! Some neighbors also made signs asking people to slow down when driving through the neighborhood. Cactus and other native plants for the macetas were purchased by JCA from [DruTopia](#), a local Black-owned plant nursery. The macetas were placed on corners all around the neighborhood.



NEIGHBORHOOD BOOK BANK

The CST also wanted to create a book bank in or near the park so that local families had free access to books. A neighbor with expertise in welding was tapped for the job. The little library now sits less than 30 feet away from the park, secured in concrete and constructed from steel that will rust in an aesthetically pleasing way, decorated with metal mariposas (butterflies) like its namesake Mariposa Park.



CARNE ASADA FIESTA!



The final component of the project was a community celebration with a carne asada cookout in the park. Community organizations like BICAS, Tucson Clean & Beautiful, and Pima County Animal Control were invited to table, and Barrio Books donated over \$300 worth of books to the library. The whole 'hood turned out to party and have a good time. Pinatas, raffles, and games filled the park with the sound of children laughing. The next morning, the little library was officially installed and filled with books.



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.

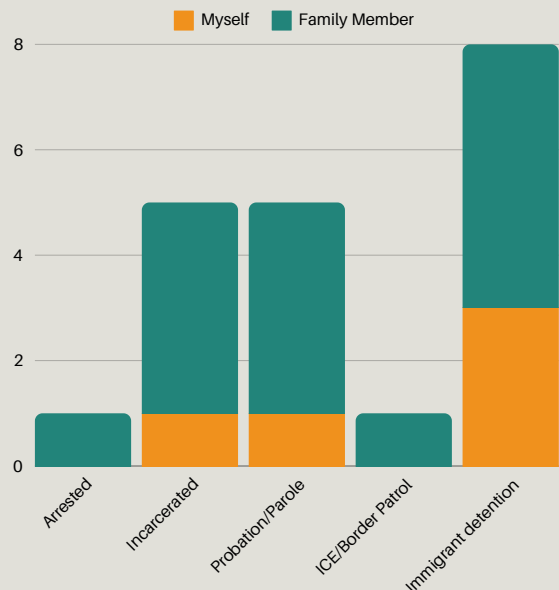
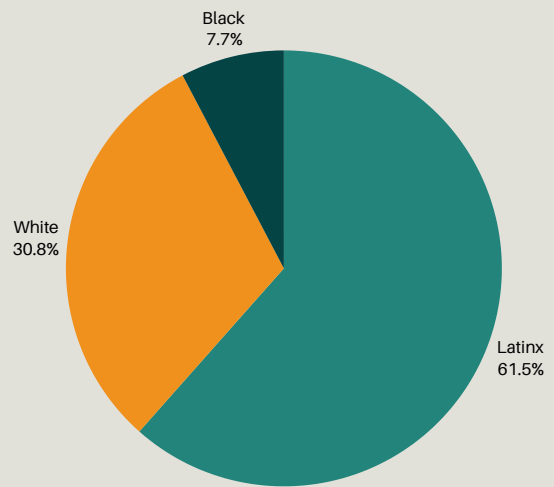
The surveys are designed to capture a snapshot of who was served by the project and how they feel it impacted their safety, social connectedness, and wellbeing.



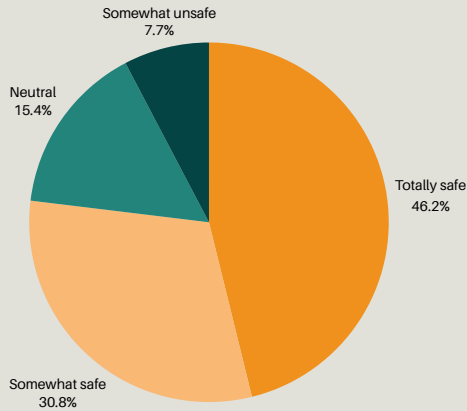
WHO WAS SERVED?

Survey responses confirm that participants in the incubator mirror the makeup of the neighborhood. The majority (nearly 70%) were BIPOC.

It also indicates that the **majority of respondents (58%) have been personally impacted by the criminal punishment system--most notably the immigration detention system.** This is an unfortunate reality for many majority Latinx communities here in Tucson.



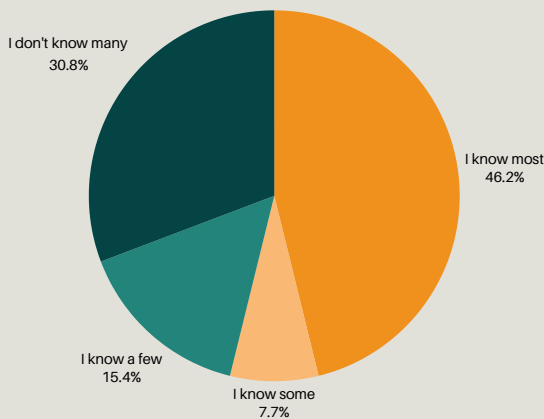
IMPACT



SAFETY:

The majority (77%) of residents surveyed feel safe in their communities.

How safe do you feel in your neighborhood?



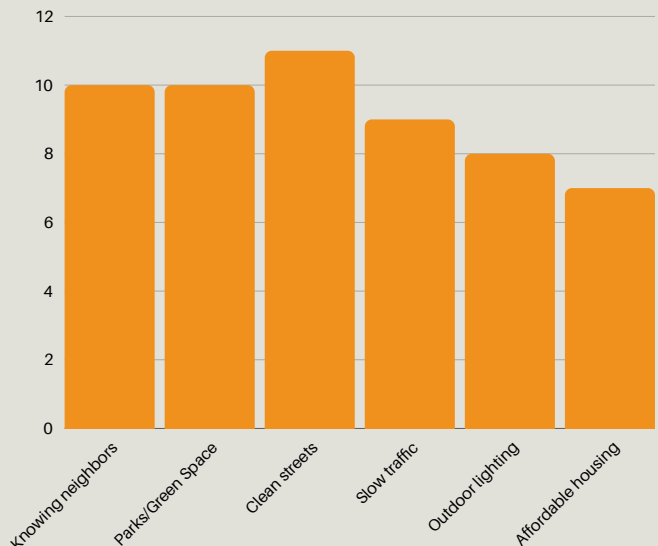
SOCIAL CONNECTIONS:

These feelings of safety correlate to the level of social connectedness people experience in the Fairgrounds neighborhood. Slightly over half reported that they know some or most of their neighbors.

How Well do you know your neighbors?

WHAT CONTRIBUTES TO SAFETY?

When asked “What makes you feel safe in your neighborhood, the items with the highest response rate were clean streets, knowing one’s neighbors, and having parks, sidewalks, and green spaces to be outside. Infrastructure issues also factored in: Traffic circles and other ways to slow traffic, outdoor lighting, and places for kids to play. Notably, just 30% of respondents said that a police presence makes them feel safe.



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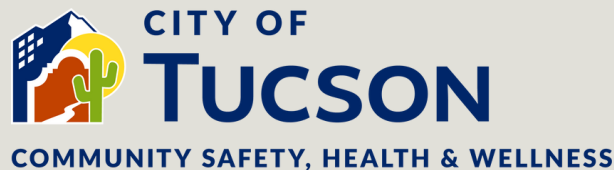


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Donate

www.justcommunitiesarizona.org/donate

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THANK YOU!