



**JUST
COMMUNITIES
ARIZONA**



COMMUNITY SAFETY INCUBATOR REPORT

Julia Keen Native
Seed Pollinators



October, 2025

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.



Monique, Jax, and Enrique

THE JULIA KEEN PROJECT

Location: Julia Keen Neighborhood, Tucson, Arizona

Community Safety Team Members: Monique Garcia, Jax Fortin, Nikki Figueroa

Project Consultant: Spadefoot Nursery; Alfonso Chavez

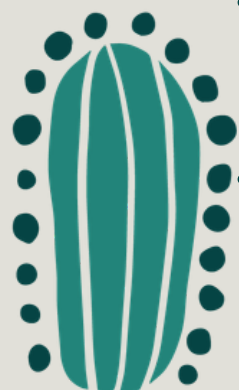
Project Duration: August-October, 2025

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Two community workshops provided by Spadefoot nursery at the Midtown Farm teaching folks how to properly care for the beautiful native flora of the Sonoran desert
- Two workshops offered by Alfonso Chavez offering hands-on planting and digging advice.
- 100 potted native seed pollinators given away to the community to support sustainable ecosystems
- A fiesta to bring neighbors together and share community resources and services



Spadefoot is a local retail plant nursery that grows native plants, domestic edible crops, and focuses on growing and providing plants appropriate to the desert southwest.





SONORAN GARDENS CLASS

Jay from Spadefoot Nursery provided expert facilitation for two evening classes, hosted at Midtown Farm. He covered everything from soil types, to native plant care, to garden siting, to fertilizer, to all the fauna you can expect to see in your garden once it's up and thriving! Truly a wealth of knowledge. All attendees got to register for free plants the day of the plant-party

HANDS ON LEARNING

The CST also wanted to offer hands on, practical learning days hosted on weekend mornings for people who could not make it to the evening classes taught by Jay. Alfonso Chavez stepped in to show people exactly how to properly bury a native seed pollinator for best results, how to trim branches, and how often to water them.



PLANT PARTY!



The final component of the project was a community celebration complete with jumping castle, coffee truck, and delicious food. Tucson Seed Bank donated seed packets, and the CST gave away all 100 native seed pollinators so the folks who live in Julia Keen will be able to turn their homes into a contributing part of a healthy Sonoran ecosystem.



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.

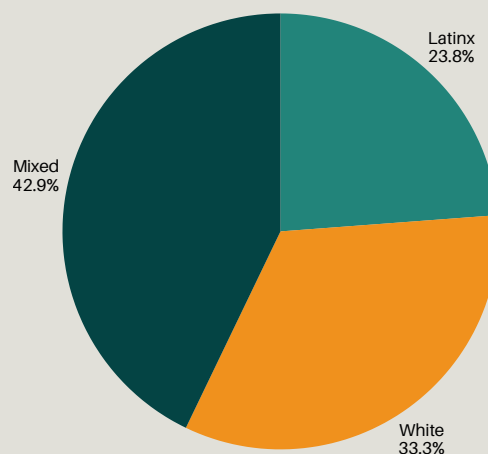
The surveys are designed to capture a snapshot of who was served by the project and how they feel it impacted their safety, social connectedness, and wellbeing.

We collected a total of 24 surveys from participants at the event:

WHO WAS SERVED?

Survey responses confirm that participants in the incubator mirror the makeup of the neighborhood. The majority (67%) were BIPOC.

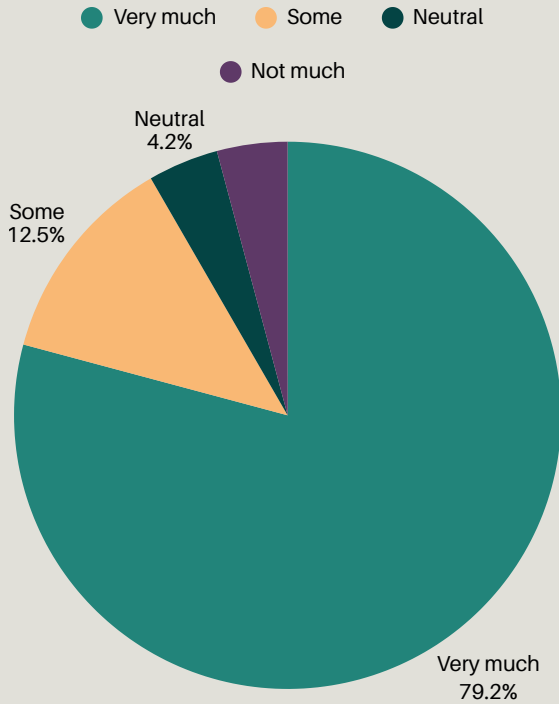
The majority of respondents have been impacted by the criminal punishment system, with 70% reporting that they themselves have been arrested, or a close family member has been arrested.



IMPACT



This project/activity made me feel safer in my neighborhood



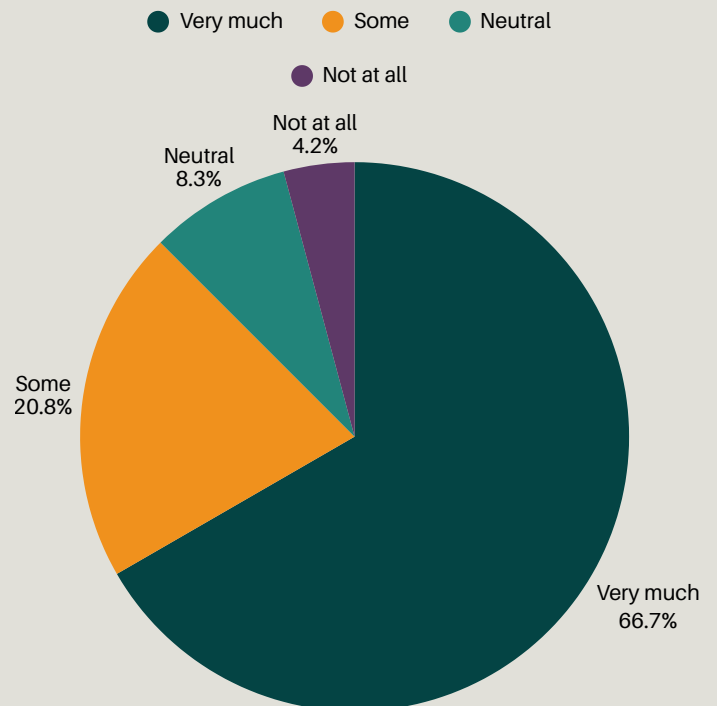
SAFETY:

The majority (92%) of residents surveyed said **the project made them feel safer in their neighborhood.**

CONNECTION:

The majority (88%) of residents surveyed said **the project made them get to know their neighbors better.**

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

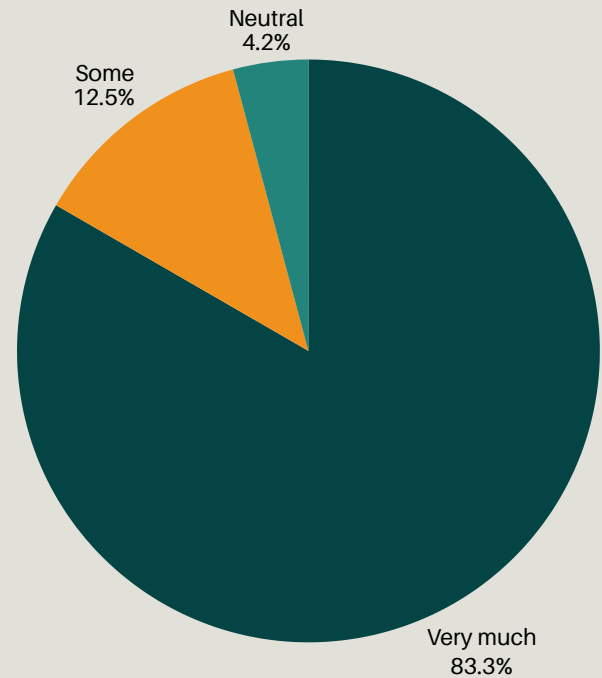


IMPACT



This project or event will contribute to better health and wellness of people in my neighborhood

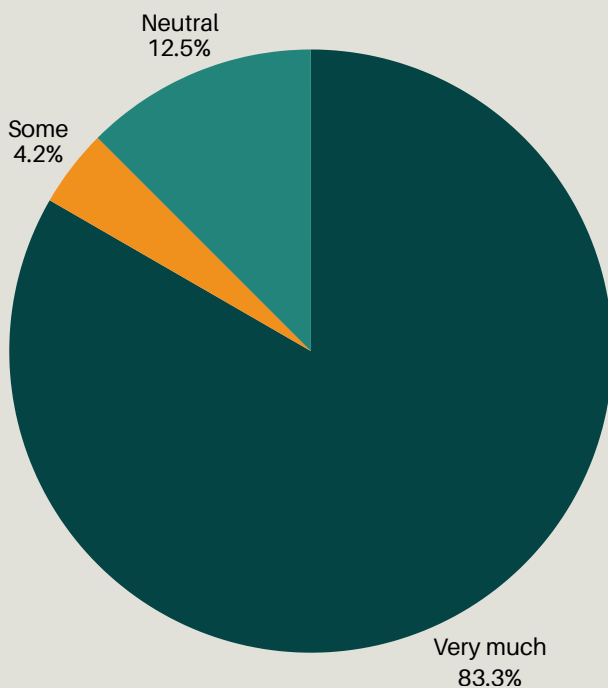
● Very much ● Some ● Neutral



HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

The majority (96%) of respondents said that **the project will contribute to better health and wellness in their community.**

This project/event made me feel proud of my neighborhood



SENSE OF PRIDE:

Respondents (88%) reported that **the project mad them feel proud of their community.**

FEEDBACK



”

All good things!
Really appreciate this
being available to the
community for free.

“

It feels like it shed light on
our community. People,
music, smiling faces, plants,
food. It feels like the block
got dusted off and we could
see each other more clearly.

”

“

Very positive I
learned so much
and got to
experience shared
love ”

”

“

I think this had a great
impact because we can learn
more about our desert
environment and how to take
care of it and also have a
positive impact on mental
health.

”

”

Felt really good to be
with neighbors sharing
a love and respect for
the desert.

“

Bright and beautiful
community building.

”



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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

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