



**JUST
COMMUNITIES
ARIZONA**



COMMUNITY SAFETY INCUBATOR REPORT

Palomino Crossing
Apartments,
Tucson, AZ



August, 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.



Enrique, DeAnna, James, Caroline, Virginia

THE PALOMINO CROSSING PROJECT

Location: Palomino Crossing Apartments/Rudy Garcia Park, South Tucson

Community Safety Team Members: Virginia Mirales, Gina Navarrette, PJ Leos

Project Consultant: David Garcia, Barrio Restoration

Project Duration: May-August, 2024

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- A piñata party at Rudy Garcia Park to kick off the project by bringing neighbors together (both housed and unhoused), offering games for kids, and sharing a meal together.
- Installation of wood chips to transform Palomino Crossing's play area from dirt and rocks to a safe place for kids to play.
- An after school Paleta (Popsicle) Party for the kids at the apartments to celebrate the playground upgrade.



PARTY IN THE PARK AND BLESSING BAGS FOR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS

The Community Safety Team strongly believes in spreading care and consideration to all neighbors, including the unhoused people in their community. In order to kick off the project with an event everyone could attend, the CST decided to have a party in a nearby park. The event was open to all, bringing together families, residents, and unhoused neighbors to gather, play, and share a meal.

The CST filled 32 large bags with hygiene products, socks, dog food, reusable water bottles, and other items so that unhoused neighbors would leave the party with something tangible and helpful. At the park, free bicycle repair was offered by BICAS, and eight people got their main means of transportation fixed up that day. Meanwhile, everyone got to enjoy games, face painting, Eegees, a piñata, and Petunia the Goat!



TRANSFORMING THE PLAYGROUND



Before: Rocks, dirt, and trash

The CST talked to their neighbors about what would make their apartment complex safer. One neighbor noted that the complex had a playground, but there was nothing but dirt and rocks under the structures, which was unsafe for the kids. They suggested adding a softer surface underneath the play structure in the center of the complex.

JCA teamed up with Barrio Restoration to make it happen! We spread 7 yards of wood chips under the playground equipment to ensure the kids have a soft (cool) landing pad for their playtime! We are grateful to the folks at AZ First Realty Management for their support of the project.



CST member Virginia Mireles and the Barrio Restoration crew at work



After: Ready for fun!



PALETA PARTY!

The final component of the project was a community celebration with a Paleta (popsicle) Party at the playground. All the kids coming home after school were invited to hang out, enjoy a popsicle, and play on the newly renovated playground. The CST was able to celebrate a job well done accompanied by the happy shrieks of children playing.



Popsicles are better with friends!





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.

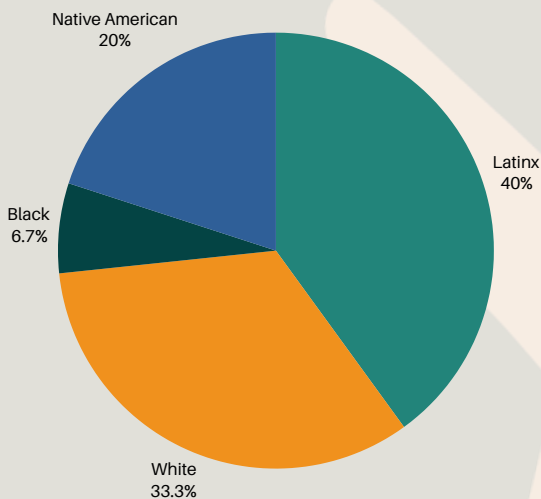
The surveys are designed to capture a snapshot of who was served by the project and how they feel it impacted their safety, social connectedness, and wellbeing.

We collected a total of 16 surveys from participants at two events: The Party in the Park and the Paleta Party.

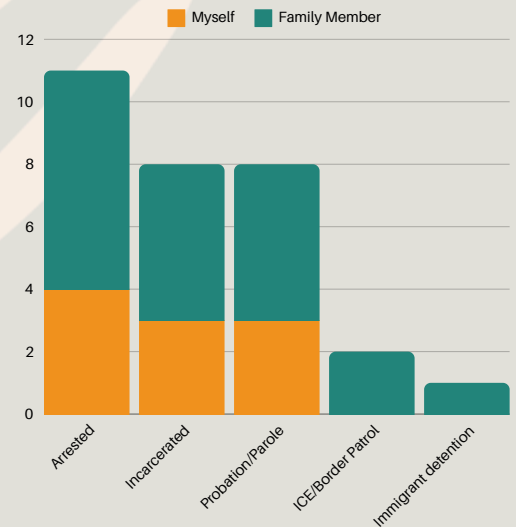


WHO WAS SERVED?

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



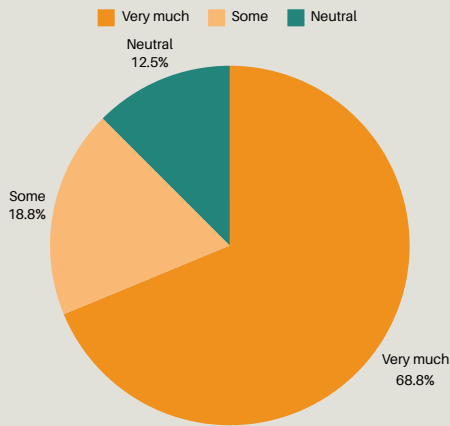
The majority of respondents (56%) have been personally impacted by the criminal punishment system--most notably the immigration detention system. This is an unfortunate reality for many communities of color here in Tucson.



IMPACT



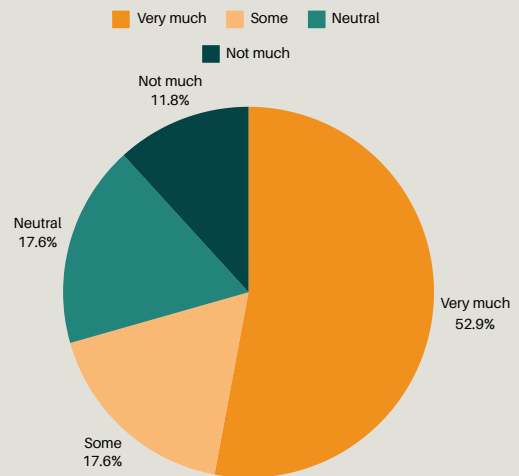
This project/activity made me feel safer in my neighborhood



SAFETY:

The majority (88%) of residents surveyed said **the project made them feel safer in their neighborhood.**

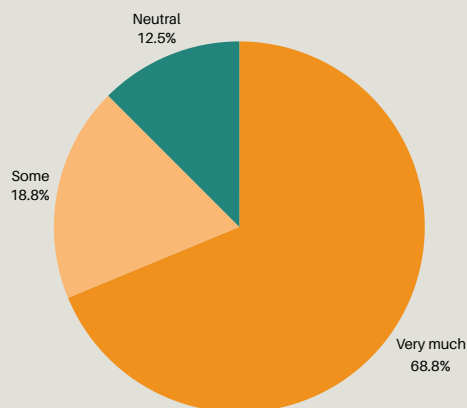
This project/activity helped me get to know my neighbors better



SOCIAL CONNECTIONS:

The majority (75%) of respondents said that **the project helped them get to know their neighbors better.**

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



HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

Respondents overwhelmingly (87.6%) felt that **the project would contribute to health and wellness in their neighborhood**.

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

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