

# TEEN CENTER OUTREACH REPORT

**EARTHCARE**  
YOUTH AT THE CENTER

NOVEMBER 2019



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## INTRODUCTION

The following report outlines the design of and results from the public outreach campaign conducted in the fall of 2019 in order to inform the southside teen center's design. The purpose of this specific outreach, commissioned by the City of Santa Fe, was to hear from young people and key stakeholders about what kinds of spaces should be included in the design and construction of the planned 10,000-square-foot facility. Some resources have already been secured for the project's construction including \$1.1 million set aside from the NM State Legislature in Capital Outlay dollars as well as an additional \$1 million dollars from the City's capital improvements plan (CIP).

Results from this outreach campaign will be integrated into site design and budget forecasting that will inform the project's next steps of development. Community engagement will continue to be a central element of the project throughout in order to ensure that the process is driven by the input of our young people, area residents, and stakeholders.

**This report is prepared by Earth Care a local nonprofit whose mission is to educate and empower young people and their families to create healthy, just, and sustainable communities.**

Earth Care has been working to lift up the voices of young people and other marginalized communities in civic affairs and community decision-making spaces for more than fifteen years. In August 2019, Earth Care convened its research team - comprised of its college interns, youth and parent leaders to design the outreach and engagement process. From August-November the team conducted workshops, gathered stories, and administered surveys. This report presents the findings relevant to the Teen Center's construction.

The input collected through this outreach campaign builds on youth engagement processes dating back as far as 2007 and it incorporates input from young people at the 2007 Youth Summit, through a 2015 youth survey, the 2015 Youth Summit, and the 2017 Youth Summit. **As early as 2007 young people in Santa Fe identified the need for a Teen Center on the Southwest side of the City.**



## YOUTH AT THE CENTER

In addition to identifying the need for a physical space to learn, grow, connect, and have fun, young people have consistently shared that they do not feel valued by adults in our community. In the last survey conducted about the potential teen center in 2015, the 2nd greatest need youth identified, after the need for jobs (89%), was that:

### **"Youth Need To Feel Trusted, Comfortable & Accepted By Adults"**

Eighty-eight percent of respondents identified this need. We see this theme throughout the outreach results dating back to 2007 and as recent as the 2017 Youth Summit. This outreach project is part of a larger campaign led by Earth Care and partners with funding from the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, and the Santa Fe Public School District to place our children and youth back into the center – by listening to their concerns and engaging them meaningfully in civic affairs and in the planning and development of their community.

Rather than a single youth summit or survey project, this project is an ongoing effort to engage young people so that they feel valued and seen – so that their voices and needs can guide our growth and development - so that they feel like they have an important and lasting role in Santa Fe – and so that we can rally their invaluable gifts to strengthen our community. This campaign is called *Youth at the Center*.

**This campaign imagines the Teen Center not only as a place for young people to learn and grow and thrive but also a community space and practice at the center of civic life.**

The hope is that the physical Teen Center as well as the community engagement process to build it - will provide an important avenue for young people, families, and residents on the southside to address unmet needs, develop the community's talents and insight, and realize its vision for itself with investment and support from government agencies and the wider public.

# OUTREACH DESIGN & RESULTS

## Phase 1: Youth Workshops & Reflections about the big picture

Earth Care's outreach team consisted of current student leaders, alumni, parent leaders, and board members with the organization as well as partners with experience in digital storytelling and community planning. Earth Care hosted two planning workshops with the team in participatory planning and attended a training by the Health Equity Partnership on community-based research methods.

The first survey instrument developed was a Southside Community Planning Survey which was co-developed by Earth Care staff and the team of Earth Care youth leaders between the ages of 17-26 years old. This survey focused on broader questions regarding the way our youth feel about our community - their sense of belonging and possibility in Santa Fe.

To administer this survey and have it serve in a larger context, we partnered with a multimedia project that Dr Estevan Rael Galvez, Littlelobe, Chainbreaker, and our Earth Care youth developed called Presente!.

We trained 14 student facilitators and worked with 9 teachers at Capital High School and 1 teacher at The Masters Program Charter School to engage over 200 students in a participatory workshop that concluded with the completion of the survey. The 200+ students first viewed a 20 minute presentation from Presente! that addressed fellow Santa Feans' feelings of belonging, place, and community within the context of historic displacement and ongoing gentrification in Santa Fe, then the students reflected in small groups and completed the survey.

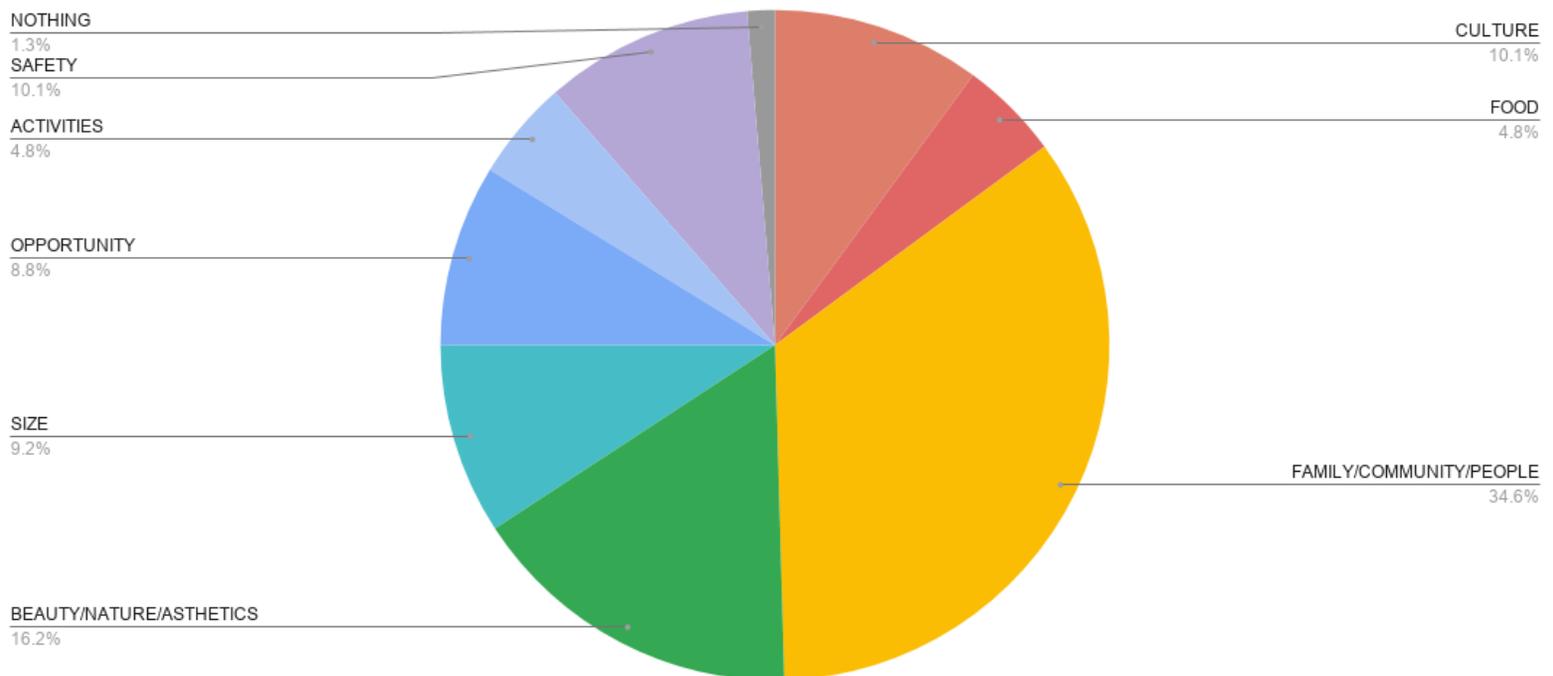


# WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT SANTA FE? QUE ME GUSTA DE SANTA FE?

Students were asked what they love about Santa Fe and what keeps them here.

Themes that emerged from the 113 surveys that students returned:

Family, community or culture, beauty and nature, size, safety, food, history, opportunity & education, and weather.



## Method:

The survey asked three main questions. The data collected was qualitative in nature and responses were analyzed for common themes. Once the themes were identified the responses were reviewed a second time to ascertain how many times each theme appeared across all of the responses. The themes that were identified within a response were given the code 1 for yes or 0 for no. This allowed for the creation of a summary score across all of the responses to accurately gather the amount of times each theme appeared. Descriptive statistics was used to summarize the total amount of times each theme appeared and identify the most and least common themes. The representative data is unweighted and includes the mean or percentage, sum of the total number of those that answered yes and the total count of responses.

# WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT SANTA FE? QUE ME GUSTA DE SANTA FE?

Young people's relationships to their family and surrounding community are the things that they love the most about their hometown. The youth surveyed for this portion of the outreach effort were from Capital High and the Masters Program and 100% of respondents live on the Southside of town. The particular cultural orientation of area youth should be incorporated into the Center's design with an acknowledgement that family and culture are the bedrocks of this southside community.

## THE PEOPLE! 35%

The thing our young people love the most about Santa Fe that keeps them here is their Family, Community, and the People

## THE PLACE 16%

The second most frequently named reason is the qualities of the place we call home.

### A sample of responses:

*I love community, the amazing people here.*

*I love how many different cultures/kinds of people we have in Santa Fe. What keeps me here is my family.*

*What keeps me here is the culture.*

*What I love about Santa Fe is the people/culture. My family keeps me here.*

*I love the way people try to make the community more closer.*

*What keeps me here is my family and their jobs. It's the only place they really know.*

*Something that I love about Santa Fe is that it's not a huge city.*

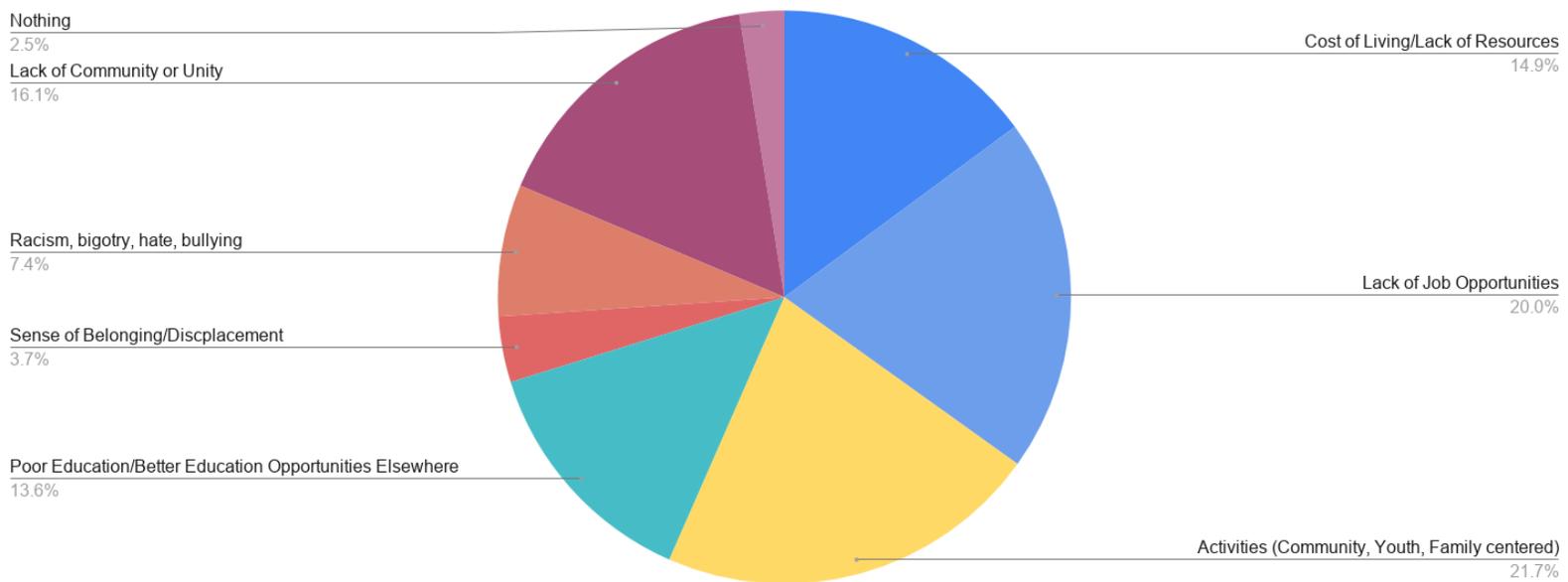
*My age and my family keep me here.*

*Yo sigo aqui porque me siento seguro aqui me siento comodo. Otra razon porque mi familia esta aqui.*



# WHAT IS MISSING/QUE HACE FALTA?

Students also responded to the survey questions - "What is missing? What could push you away?" The themes that emerged from youth respondents included the cost of living in Santa Fe, lack of resources (housing, food, etc.), lack of job opportunities, better educational opportunities elsewhere or poor education, a lack of community or unity, that there are not enough youth or family activities, not belonging or gentrification, racism, bigotry or hate.



Forty-eight percent of respondents stated some lack of resources - whether financial, housing, educational, or employment resources - as the thing missing in Santa Fe or the thing that might push them away.

This affirms what we already know which is that many of our working families in Santa Fe's southside struggle to make ends meet and that greater investment in the quality of life and educational, and professional development and diverse job opportunities available in our neighborhoods is needed in order to make it possible and desirable for our young people to stay in Santa Fe. While a teen center is important, addressing these structural barriers to our young people's success and sense of possibility in Santa Fe is imperative. While outside the scope of this City commissioned outreach campaign, the need for greater investment will be a central focus of our larger, collaborative Youth at the Center Campaign.

## **A sample of responses:**

- *I want to see more opportunities for young people and families to thrive-not dependent on tourism but grounded and long term jobs, more affordable housing.*
- *I think that we need more places for people. Our community needs to come together more.*
- *I think Santa Fe is missing community places were every one can bond.*
- *Santa Fe needs more affordable rent, more job opportunities, and more educational opportunities.*
- *Something that is missing is money. My parent's work there asses off just to make sure we have food a house to live, a place to sleep, clothes and thats all they worry about.*
- *Me hace falta dinero y podria permanecer aqui por mi familia, lo que hace falta son trabajos que paguen, porgue me gustaria ver mas trabajos bien pegados.*
- *I think that we need more jobs that pay well. I might move away if housing gets way too expensive. I would like to see more help towards homeless and people who need help for housing.*
- *More entertaining things to do because Santa Fe is pretty boring. Also I would like better opportunities for students and way better education.*
- *There's not a lot of activities and facilities for the youth to do. We need more networking social activities and activities that promote and attract outdoor activity.*
- *What's missing is the kind of community I found in smaller towns, missing is house parties and gatherings to honor the passages of life. What could keep me here is work that allows me to serve my community and make enough money to live. What might push me away is isolation, and my anger/rage at the newcomers. I want to see more healing for our town-restorative justice.*



# A REPEATED THEME: "MORE POSITIVE ACTIVITIES"

While the need for more economic/educational resources in one form or another was the most frequently cited unmet need, the next most common need identified by respondents was activities for youth and family-friendly activities (21.7% of respondents named this issue). These findings reinforce priority concerns expressed by Santa Fe youth in 2015 and 2017 through the Teen Survey and Youth Summits in which a lack of resources and a lack of activities were top needs and priorities to address.

## RELEVANT FINDINGS FROM 2017 CONCERNING A LACK OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Santa Fe is built more for tourists than teens
- Not all teens participate or receive notification of Teen Night Activities/Events
- Lack of or no space dedicated to all youth
- No place for young parents to hang-out that has child care
- No Center or place for teens to gather to discuss life issues, essential needs, socialize or get help with tutoring or educational support and/or job searches
- No Arcade/Trampoline Gym/Putt Putt or any other fun activities for youth
- Recreational Centers/Movie Theaters are unaffordable
- Closest bowling alley is in Pojoaque
- No safe and neutral place for creating graffiti

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FROM 2015-2017 INPUT

- 1 More Arts: Affordable classes, activities, & camps (74%)
- 2 Water sports/swimming pools w/slides (73%)
- 3 Trampoline gym (73%)
- 4 Paintball (72%)
- 5 Music: more local bands/events (71%)
- 6 Studio access (to record music, make art, etc.) (68%)
- 7 Rec Center/community involvement center (68%)
- 8 Bowling (66%)
- 9 Martial arts/self defense class (64%)
- 10 Learn another language (62%)
- 11 Affordable summer leagues (60%)
- 12 Interactive science museum (59%)
- 13 Free Wall (Graffiti wall) (57%)
- 14 Dancing (hiphop, ballet, Norteños) (57%)
- 15 Workout stations along trails (54%)
- 16 Indoor soccer/sports center (53%)
- 17 Signs and Maps for trail system (43%)
- 18 More skateboard parks (37%)
- 19 Tennis (36%)
- 20 Karaoke opportunities (36%)
- 21 Hockey (28%)

# **OUTREACH DESIGN & RESULTS**

## **PHASE 2: TEEN CENTER FACILITY DESIGN SURVEY**

The outreach team designed a survey based on input about the kinds of spaces and activities that young people in our community think should be available at the teen center based on input from youth that was collected in 2007, 2015, and 2017 as well as in previous design drafts by City staff. The survey asked respondents to list their top five priority spaces, to explain their top choice, to describe how they see themselves utilizing the Center, and what qualities the space should have in order to attract them.

The spaces listed on the survey were:

**Arts and Crafts / Artes y manualidades**

**Computers / Centro de Computo**

**Dance/Music Studios / Estudio de baile/música**

**Inside/Outside Theatre / Teatro interior/exterior**

**Kitchen/Nutrition / Cocina/Nutrición**

**Cafe/Lounge area / Cafe/sala de descanso**

**Outdoor lounge area/ areas de descanso al aire libre**

**Game Rm / Juegos/Maquinitas**

**Movie-TV Room/Salon para peliculas y television**

**Resource Library/Tutoring/Study / Centro de recursos/tutorías/tareas**

**Gym/Indoor Sports / Gimnasio/espacio deportivo**

**Outdoor Sports / Deportes al aire libre**

**Community Food Garden / Huerto Comunitario**

**Multi-media studios / Centro Mediatico**

**Indoor/Outdoor Concert/Dance Spaces / Conciertos interior/exterior/espacios para bailes**

**Relaxation/Meditation Rm / Sala de Relajación/Meditación**

**Health and Wellness Center / Centro de salud y bienestar**

**Education, Training and Talent Development / Educación, formación y desarrollo.**

**Childcare for Young Parents or siblings/ Cuidado de niños para padres jóvenes o hermanitos menores**

**Ceremonial spaces / Espacios ceremoniales**

Starting in October, Earth Care conducted outreach in the Santa Fe Public Schools, with area Charter Schools, and with youth serving organizations to solicit youth and adult stakeholders' input through the surveys. Outreach methods included workshops, presentations, tabling, survey distribution to partner orgs, and canvassing.

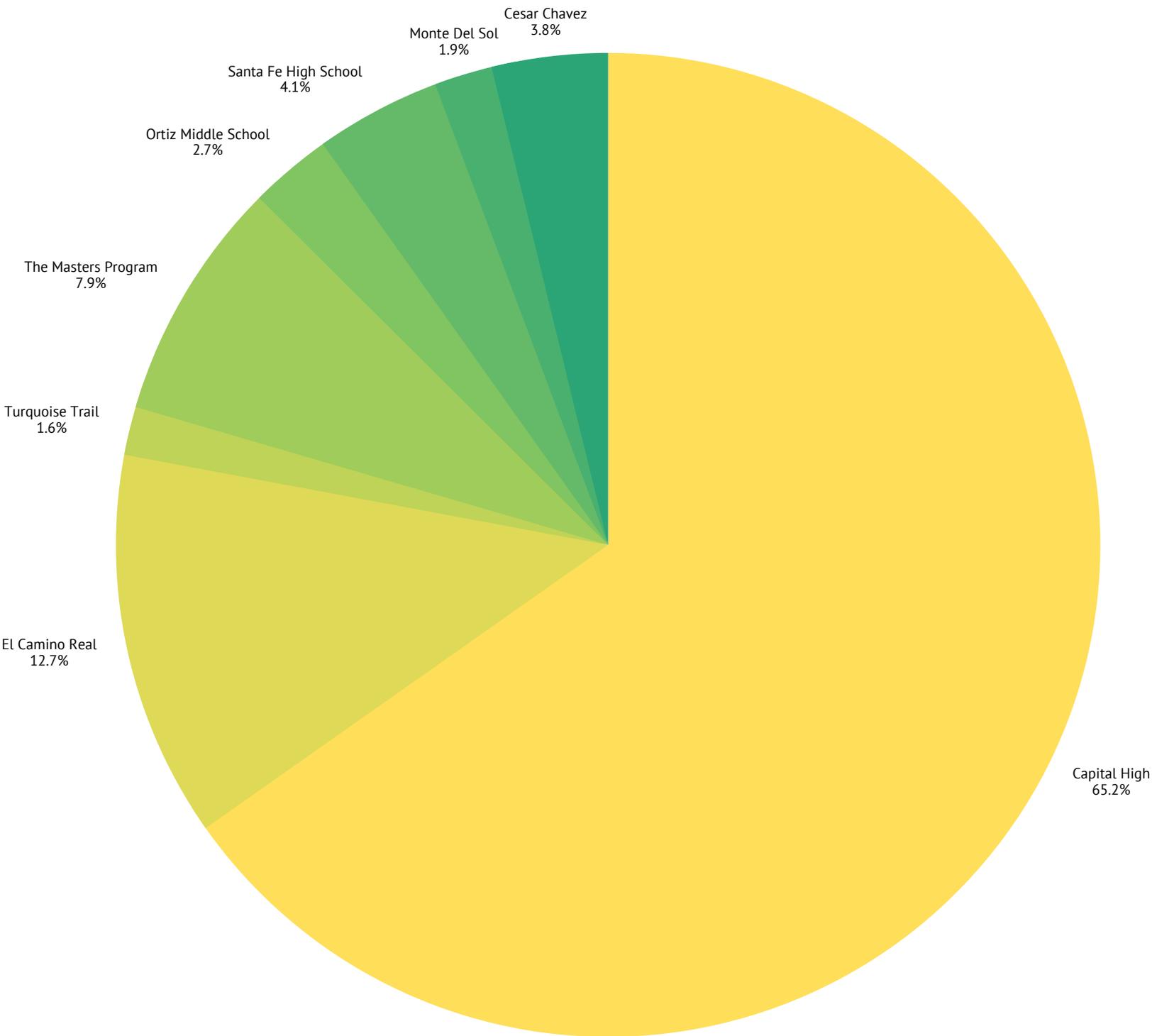
In order to engage youth through a variety of avenues, schools as well as youth-providing organizations and the members of community organizations were invited to participate. Invitations and surveys were sent to partners in October and a training workshop was held for those interested in participating on 10/13/19 and 11/3/2019. A full list of organizations that were invited to participate formally, or whose members were engaged, is below.

CHS	Milagro MS	Little League	Youth Works
Ortiz MS	NM Dreamers in Action	YAFL	Somos
Cesar Chavez ES	NM Dream Team	Native American Center	Masters Program
Nina Otero CS	NEA	NASS	SFCC Ambassadors
ECRA	SW College	SFPSAdelante	ENLACE
ECO	County Health/Promotoras	Earth Care Alumni	Poder Familiar
TTCS	La Liga	Local Businesses	YUCCA
Monte de Sol CS	Boys and Girls Club	San Isidro	Youth Shelter
Tierra Encantada CS	W21	Guadalupe	ECOEngage/AlternativesSFHS
		Santa Maria	

Organizations whose members returned surveys included the Boys and Girls Club, NM Dreamers in Action, La Liga, Somos Un Pueblo Unido, San Isidro Church, and NEA. Schools that participated included Capital High, Ortiz Middle School, Cesar Chavez, El Camino Real, Santa Fe High School, the Masters Program at SFCC, Tierra Encantada Charter School, Turquoise Trail Charter School, and Monte Del Sol Charter School. A total of 682 surveys were collected. The outreach team made an effort to collect surveys from both Middle and High School age students in Santa Fe since the Teen Center will be serving both in the years to come.

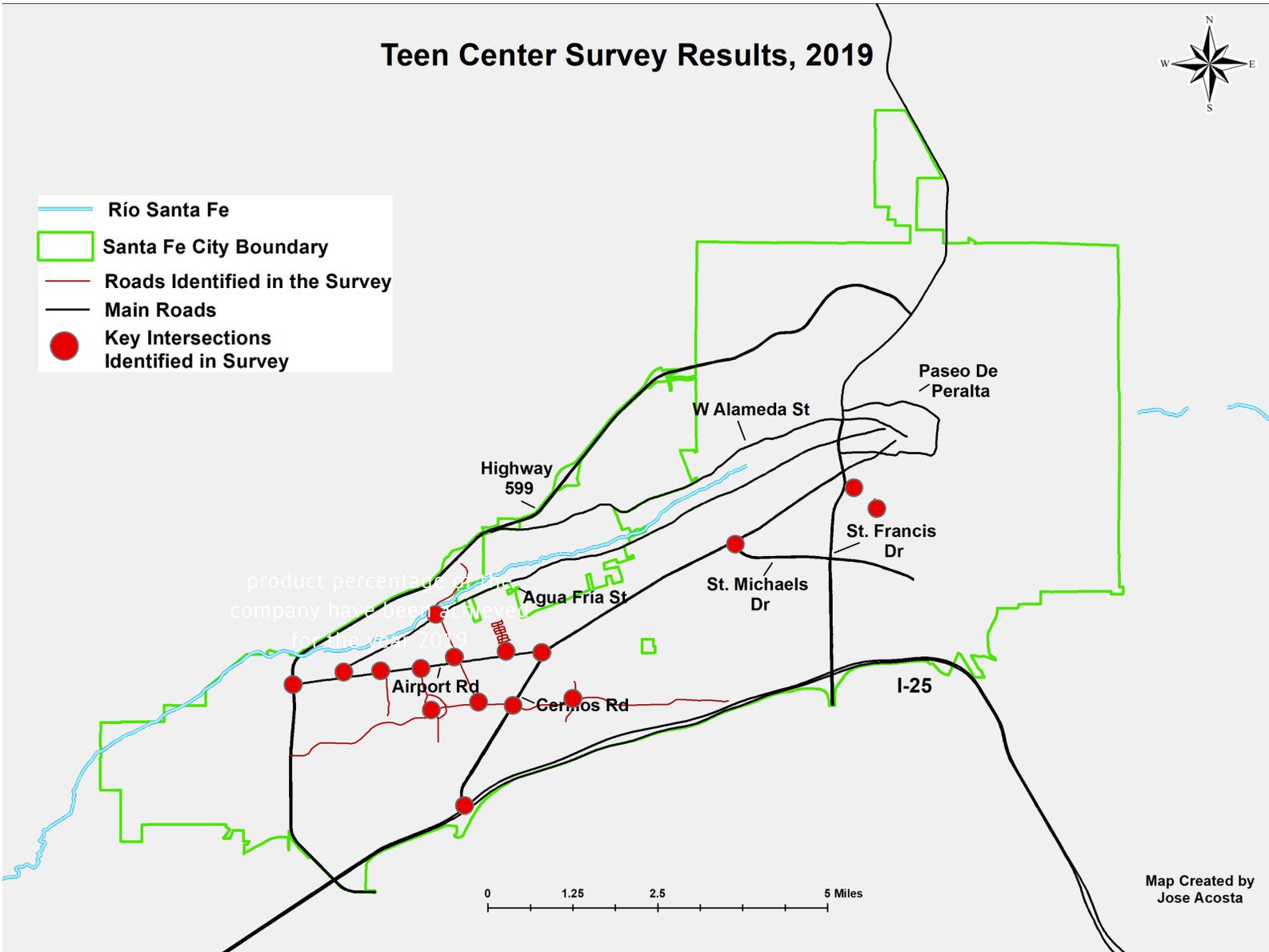


# RESPONDENTS



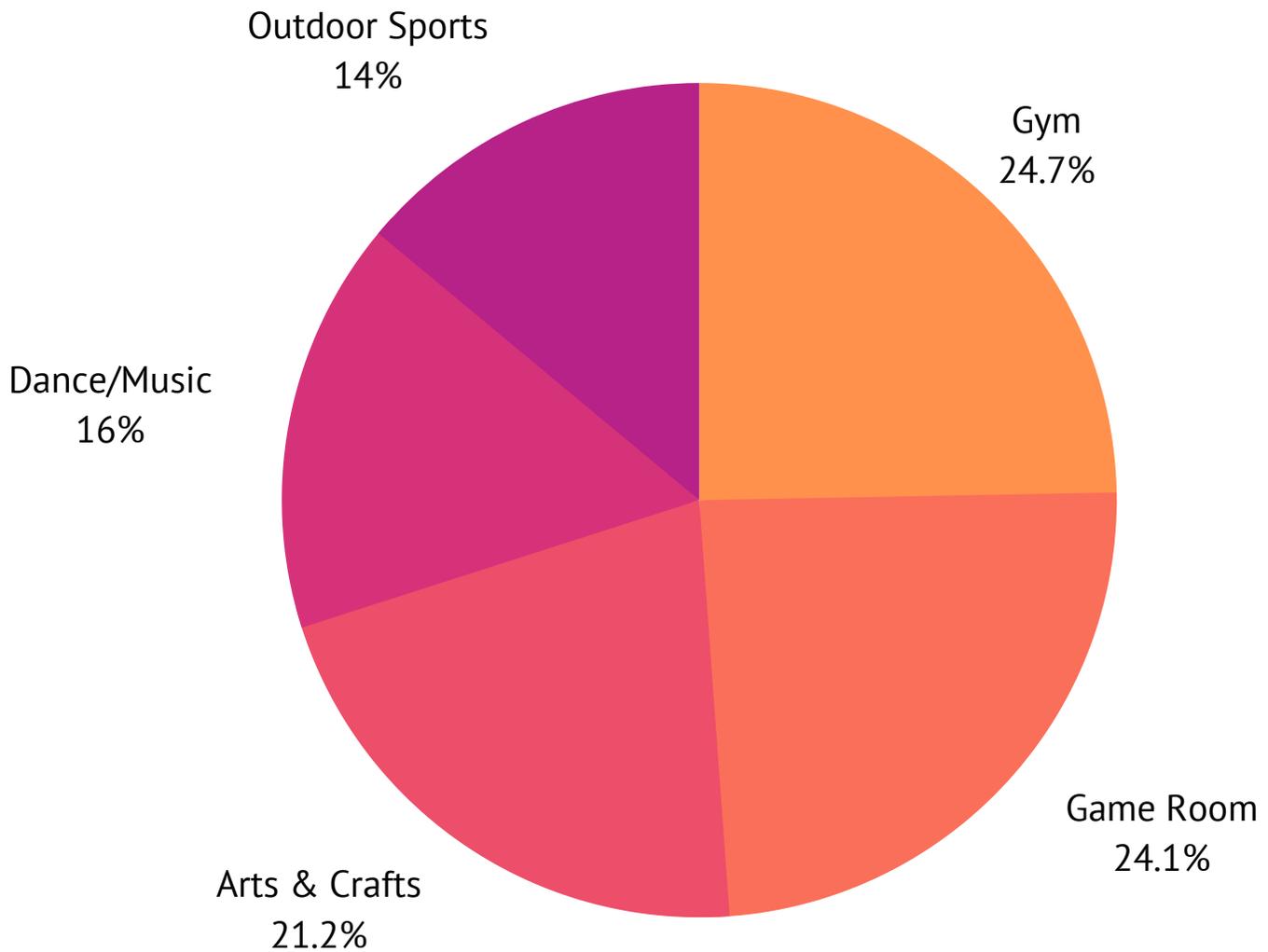
# RESPONDENTS

## Teen Center Survey Results, 2019



Given the southside location of the Teen Center as well as the fact that the Airport Road corridor has the city's largest proportion of residents 18 and under, students living on the southside were the primary target of the survey. Survey respondents were asked to identify the nearest major intersection from their house. The vast majority (98%) of respondents live on the Southside of Santa Fe. A small percentage of respondents live in midtown and in the Hopewell/Mann neighborhood. On the map above, you can see the neighborhoods reflected in the sample.

# RESULTS: #1 SPACE PRIORITY



The results from the survey show that the most important spaces to be included in the center, as identified by youth participants, are a gym (24.7%), a game room (24.1%), a space for Arts & Crafts (21.2%), a Dance/Music Performance studio (16%), and Outdoor sports (14%). The outdoor sports space most widely requested is a soccer field.

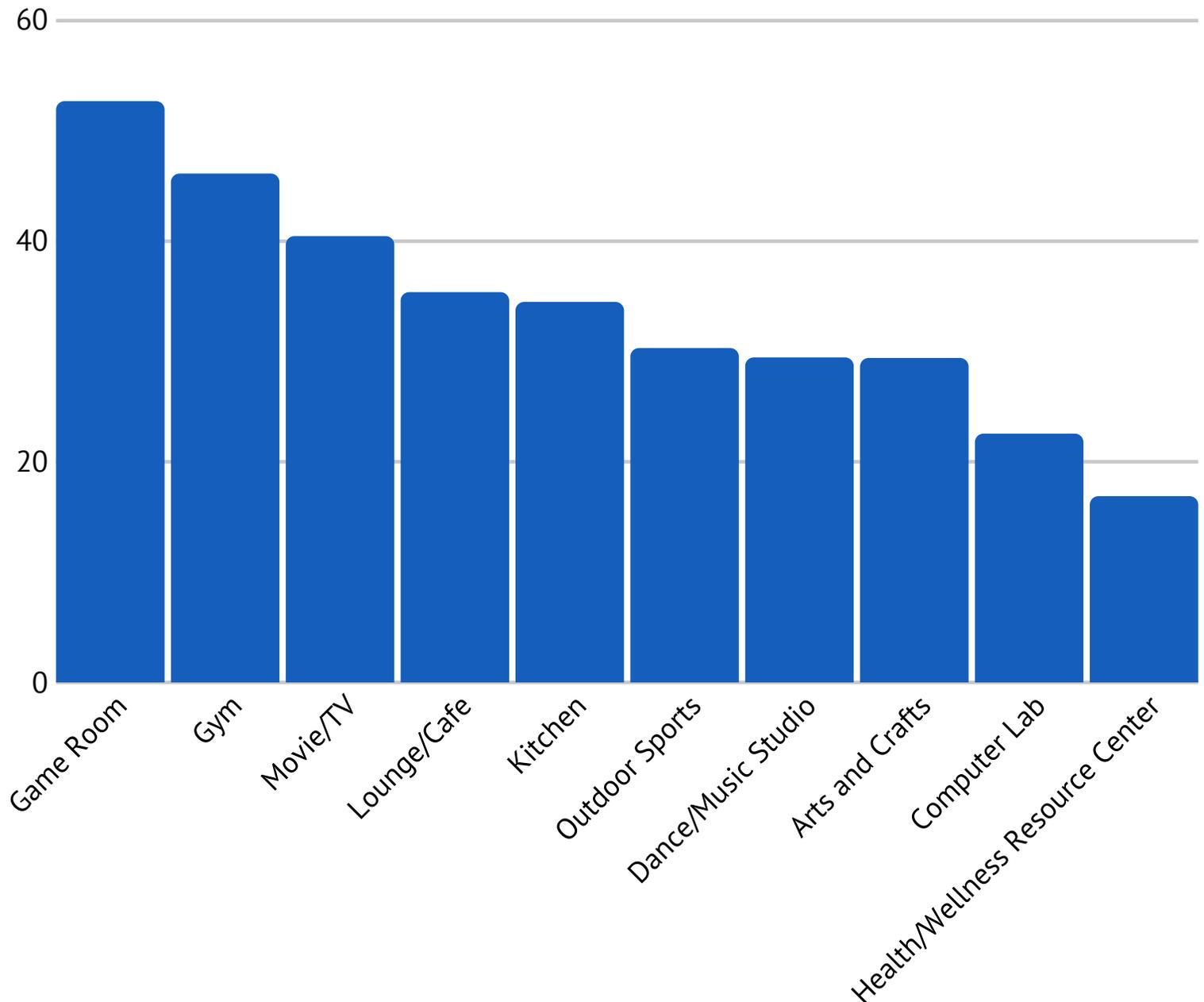
When answering why they chose their #1 top choice, most respondents shared that they were looking for ways to de-stress, stay healthy, and enjoy/build relationships with their peers. Though a gymnasium and game room are obviously spaces that will be fun and entertaining - those reasons were mentioned far less frequently. Our youth are looking for healthy activities to stay active and engaged, and to grow their talents and relationships. They understand the need to find healthy ways to release stress and energy.

## A sample of responses:

- *My #1 choice was a game room. I choose it because it seems like a really fun idea and something that a lot people would enjoy.*
- *I chose gym because its important to stay active and there's only a few gyms here.*
- *Games are going to be a good addition since it could help relieve some stress.*
- *Because we need to do exercise because sports help you stay fit.*
- *Because I like playing sports and its good for you and your body.*
- *To encourage a safe place to go for physical health. There aren't many options in Santa Fe.*
- *Why it is important to me is because you move your body a lot while your having health fun*
- *Because it's good to have people outside playing and not at home with phones.*
- *It is really important because I've seen many of my classmates not having a place where to de-stress.*
- *My first choice is important because dancing and music comes with many emotions, I think having a dance room or music studio would help teens with their hardship. They can express their feelings though dance or music.*
- *Es importante porque todos necesitan un momento para relajarse y limpiar su mente. It's important because we all need a moment to relax and clear our mind.*
- *My first choice is important to me because I'm creative I'm sure other people are too and that's why I chose this because people can do art in many different ways.*
- *It gives many young people the opportunity to express arts through dance.*
- *To keep our youth active and healthy, not on their phones.*
- *Because I've always liked Art growing up and I like to draw and I wanna get better at it.*
- *A game room can help teens communicate and interact with each other.*
- *Dance / music has been very important in my life because it is a form in which I am able to let go of anything It's a form of expression. It's a stress reliever.*
- *Art making is important because you can learn to make new things. And also you can earn money instead of buying a thing that cost a lot.*



# MOST COMMONLY RANKED AMONG TOP 5 PRIORITIES



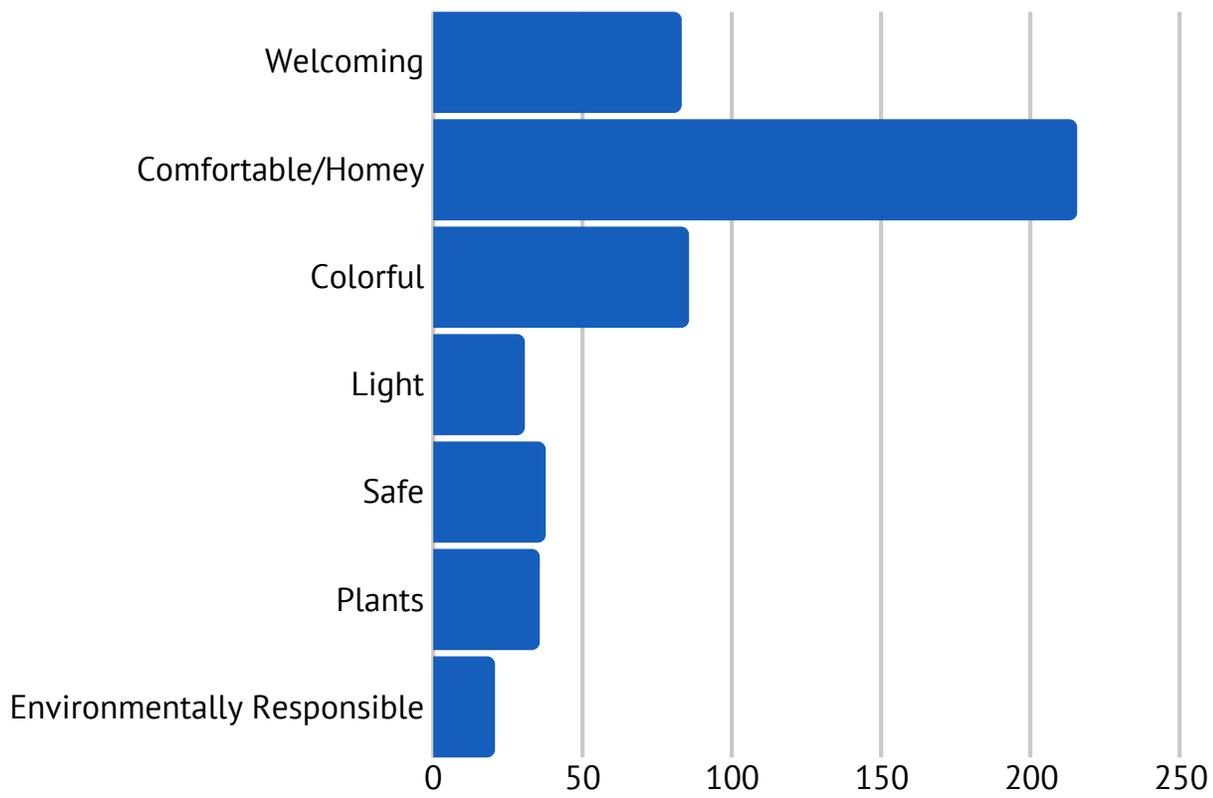
In addition to identifying the most popular priorities based on 1st place rankings, we also analyzed the results to determine the order of space preferences based on the frequency that each option was listed as one of the five priority spaces identified by respondents. For example, even though Game Room was the 2nd most popular space based on 1st place rankings, it was the MOST popular space when an analysis of top five priority selections was conducted.

When the input from youth is analyzed in this way, we see the wide variety of spaces requested. Some of the spaces in the facility can house more than one kind of activity. However, listed above are ten distinct kinds of spaces. The arts & crafts and movie/tv could be housed in a multi-use space. And the Health/wellness resource center could be addressed through scheduled programming/health fairs and a bulletin board area.

# VOTE TABULATION

Row Labels	Count of Game Room	Percentage of Game Room	Count of Gym/Indoor Sports	Percentage of Gym/Indoor Sports	Count of Movie/TV Room	Percentage of Movie/TV Room	Count of Cafe/Lounge	Percentage of Cafe/Lounge
0	317	47.31%	361	53.88%	398	59.40%	433	64.63%
1	83	12.39%	88	13.13%	10	1.50%	17	4.03%
2	78	11.64%	59	8.81%	60	8.96%	66	9.85%
3	86	12.84%	62	9.25%	69	10.30%	65	9.70%
4	51	7.61%	49	7.31%	70	10.45%	41	6.12%
5	54	8.06%	50	7.46%	51	7.61%	37	5.52%
(blank)	1	0.15%	1	0.15%	1	0.15%	1	0.15%
<b>Ranking</b>	<b>#1</b>	<b>52.54%</b>	<b>#2</b>	<b>45.97%</b>	<b>#3</b>	<b>40.30%</b>	<b>#4</b>	<b>35.22%</b>
Row Labels	Count of Kitchen	Percentage of Kitchen	Count of Outdoor Sports	Percentage of Outdoor Sports	Count of Arts and Crafts	Percentage of Arts and Crafts	Count of Dance/Music Studio	Percentage of Dance/Music Studio
0	439	65.52%	468	69.85%	473	70.60%	473	70.70%
1	46	6.87%	49	7.31%	72	10.75%	72	10.76%
2	57	8.51%	33	4.93%	34	5.07%	34	5.08%
3	43	6.42%	35	5.22%	30	4.48%	30	4.48%
4	46	6.87%	38	5.67%	26	3.88%	26	3.89%
5	38	5.67%	47	7.01%	34	5.07%	34	5.08%
(blank)	1	0.15%	1	0.00%	1	0.15%	3	15.00%
	<b>#5</b>	<b>34.33%</b>	<b>#6</b>	<b>30.15%</b>	<b>#8</b>	<b>29.25%</b>	<b>#9</b>	<b>29.30%</b>
Row Labels	Count of Computers	Percentage of Computers	Count of Health and Wellness Center	Percentage of Health and Wellness Center	Count of Resource Library/Tutoring/Study	Percentage of Resource Library/Tutoring/Study	Count of Relaxation/Meditation Room	Percentage of Relaxation/Meditation Room
0	515	77.46%	558	83.28%	577	86.12%	579	86.42%
1	25	3.73%	30	4.48%	20	2.99%	16	2.39%
2	38	5.67%	12	1.79%	12	1.79%	9	1.34%
3	28	4.18%	21	3.13%	16	2.39%	18	2.69%
4	34	5.07%	25	3.73%	21	3.13%	28	4.18%
5	25	3.73%	24	3.58%	24	3.58%	19	2.84%
(blank)	1	0.15%	1	0.00%	1	0.00%	1	0.15%
	<b>#9</b>	<b>22.39%</b>	<b>#10</b>	<b>16.72%</b>	<b>#11</b>	<b>13.88%</b>	<b>#12</b>	<b>13.43%</b>
Row Labels	Count of Childcare	Percentage of Childcare	Count of Outdoor Lounge Area	Percentage of Outdoor Lounge Area	Count of Inside/Outside Theater	Percentage of Inside/Outside Theater	Count of Education/Training/Talent Development	Percentage of Education/Training/Talent Development
0	596	88.96%	581	86.72%	607	90.60%	611	91.19%
1	12	1.79%	12	1.79%	13	1.94%	10	1.49%
2	15	2.24%	20	2.99%	12	1.79%	11	1.64%
3	11	1.64%	14	2.09%	14	2.09%	10	1.49%
4	11	1.64%	22	3.28%	9	1.34%	20	2.99%
5	24	3.58%	20	2.99%	14	2.09%	7	1.04%
(blank)	1	0.15%	1	0.15%	1	0.15%	1	0.15%
	<b>#13</b>	<b>13.43%</b>	<b>#14</b>	<b>13.13%</b>	<b>#15</b>	<b>9.25%</b>	<b>#16</b>	<b>8.66%</b>
Row Labels	Count of Multimedia Studio	Percentage of Multimedia Studio	Count of Community Food Garden	Percentage of Community Food Garden	Count of Indoor/Outdoor or Concert and Dance Space	Percentage of Indoor/Outdoor or Concert and Dance Space	Count of Ceremonial Space	Percentage of Ceremonial Space
0	621	92.69%	625	93.28%	639	95.37%	657	98.06%
1	7	1.04%	3	0.45%	10	1.49%	1	0.15%
2	8	1.19%	6	0.90%	5	0.75%	2	0.30%
3	4	0.60%	10	1.49%	3	0.45%	3	0.45%
4	11	1.64%	13	1.94%	6	0.90%	6	0.90%
5	18	2.69%	12	1.79%	6	0.90%	1	0.15%
(blank)	1	0.15%	1	0.15%	1	0.15%	670	100.00%
	<b>#17</b>	<b>7.16%</b>	<b>#18</b>	<b>6.57%</b>	<b>#19</b>	<b>4.48%</b>	<b>#20</b>	<b>1.94%</b>

# THEMES ON THE VIBE



By far, the quality of the space mentioned the most by respondents was that it should be comfortable and homey. Many respondents specifically stated that it should feel like a home and many explicitly stated that it should NOT feel like a school, hospital, or "institution". Couches, couches, and more couches were suggested as well as bean bags, soft carpets, comfy chairs were all mentioned.

Many respondents emphasized that the space should be welcoming, should feel like a judgement-free space, and feel very friendly and inviting. Ideas for how to make that be the case included making the space feel homey, non-institutional, filled with friendly staff, and made for youth.

Many respondents also mentioned the aesthetic of the space in terms of colors and light. Most commonly, respondents asked that it be colorful -with fun, bold, youthful aesthetics. Some respondents asked for what might seem like competing aesthetics. Some wanted the space dark. Others asked for the space to be light and airy. It would make sense to include spaces that meet both needs - darker, cozier feeling spaces, and open, naturally lighted spaces. Many respondents mentioned that there should be murals on the walls inside and out and previous outreach in 2015 and 2017 included requests for free walls for graffiti. Suggestions on lights included glow in the dark, LED, and natural light.

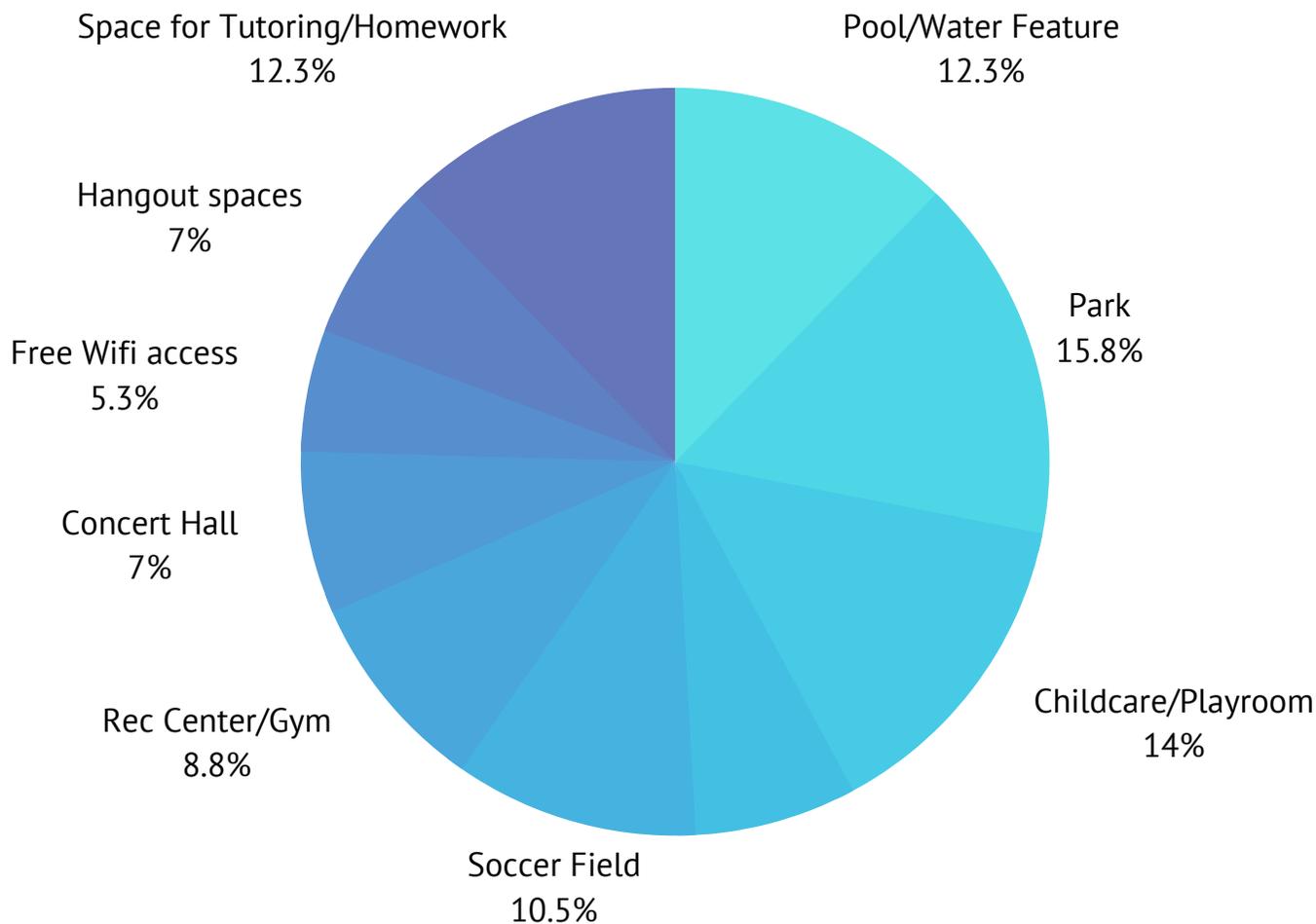
On the outside in addition to murals, respondents asked for a patio with outdoor seating, landscaping, gardens, paths, and hangout areas in addition to outdoor sports spaces, especially soccer.

# OUTREACH DESIGN RESULTS

## Phase 3: Canvassing the Neighborhood

The final stage of Earth Care's outreach was conducted by teams of youth and parent leaders from the design team who canvassed the neighborhood immediately surrounding the Zona Del Sol site as well as a nearby trailer park. The bilingual teams talked with residents about the Teen Center, about our Youth at the Center Campaign and solicited feedback about the proposed spaces at the Center. We canvassed for two weekends - October 10&11th and October 17th&18th. The team knocked on over 150 doors. Fifty-five households completed and returned the survey. Those responding were a mix of youth (16%), adults (56%), and seniors (28%). At many homes more than one member of the family participated in the completion of the survey.

This survey was expanded slightly to address community concerns and included questions 1) What other spaces and uses would be helpful to include at this Center? 2) Besides this Teen & Multi-Generational Use Center, what kinds of spaces/facilities/services are needed on the Southside? The answers to both questions were coded for emergent themes. The repeated suggestions are reflected in the chart below.



# CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

The youth community and surrounding neighborhood are excited that the Teen Center's development is finally moving toward construction. The outreach campaign reached a total of 937 youth and community members who took part in workshops and/or completed one of the three different surveys administered. Key concluding takeaways are:

- **DIVERSITY OF SPACES**

Youth want a diversity of spaces including: **a game room, gym, movie/tv viewing space, lounge/cafe, kitchen, outdoor sports, dance studio, arts and crafts, computer lab, and health/wellness resource center.** Some of these could be addressed using a multi-use/flexible design, others should be designed specifically for their use.

- **MULTI-USE SPACES**

Some spaces should be designed for multiple uses for example the art/crafts space could also be used for other programming including studying/homework as well as workshops of all kinds. Some spaces that were identified may not be necessary as separate spaces. For example, rather than having a separate computer lab, it may be advisable to acquire a set of laptops for checkout in the building. The building should have open access wifi which would allow students to do homework and do computer work throughout the building or even outside when the weather is nice. Students will likely prefer to do homework in a comfortable lounge/cafe setting rather than a traditional computer lab. Similarly, the health/wellness resource center can be a pop-up resource with a calendar and permanent bulletin board and a closet full of supplies and information. Either the lounge or the dance studio could be set-up for movie viewing as long as comfortable seating can be arranged.

- **AMPLE STORAGE SPACE IN ORDER TO FACILITATE FLEXIBILITY**

If multiple-use spaces are included, it is critical that the facility include ample storage so that programming supplies can be stored when other uses are in play. This has been a major limitation for the Zona Del Sol building currently shared by the Boys and Girls Club and Earth Care and of Warehouse 21.

- **COMFORTABLE HOMEY FEEL**

Youth want a Teen Center that is comfortable, inviting, welcoming, and reflective of a youth aesthetic. The space should NOT feel institutional. This will be a challenge when designing a multi-use space but will be critical if young people are going to use the space. It should have comfortable spaces to gather - rather than classroom type settings. The space definitely should include comfortable seating like couches, area rugs with floor pillows, etc.

# CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **YOUTH SPACES, OPEN HOURS AND USE**

We highly recommend that the Center NOT require enrollment for the Center's use. Though a schedule and opportunities for structured programming should be provided that should include registration, it's clear from the outreach results that young people in our community want to have a space that they are welcome in as they choose to come and go - where they can meetup with friends, hangout, participate in activities, do homework, and leave without feeling like they are being managed. Staff should support relationship building but also allow for self-driven activities and youth dropping by and hanging out.

- **CULTURALLY & LINGUISTICALLY COMPETENT**

The majority of youth living in the area are bilingual Latinx students. The Teen Center staff should be bilingual and be reflective of the community served. Signage and information about the Center's program, schedule, and resources should be made available to the community in both English and Spanish and decisions about everything from design to programming should take into consideration local cultural sensibilities. For example, the most popular sport among students in the area is soccer.



# CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **MULTI-GENERATIONAL USE**

The facility should be considered for multi-generational use - as the top times articulated by youth for its use by youth (from the 2015 survey) were Monday-Friday 6-9PM, and Monday-Thursday after school. Area residents and youth respondents identified the need for childcare/kid/family friendly spaces as well as the need for Senior services in the area. Potentially the space could be used for these purposes during the daytime/school hours.

- **CAMPUS & AREA DESIGN INTEGRATION**

The facility and the spaces included must be designed with other neighborhood spaces in mind. It is our recommendation that the entire Zona Del Sol campus be considered in relation to the space needs identified through this outreach and that the campus could be managed and made available to the community in a coordinated fashion. For example, a kitchen exists in the existing Zona Del Sol building. If the kitchen was upgraded with greater storage capacity, cooking classes for teens could take place in the evening hours and weekends or it could even be retrofitted for commercial cooking uses and used by families for income-generating food businesses with youth job training. In other words, the need identified by youth for a kitchen facility at the Teen Center site could be met through an alternative location. Similarly, conversations about joint-use agreements for field use for outdoor sports or large performances could be explored with the Santa Fe Public School District that has neighboring school sites.



# NEXT STEPS

- **INVENTORY OF SPACES & COORDINATION WITH NEIGHBORING SITES**

Before the architectural designs are finalized, strategic planning meetings should be held with the Zona Del Sol occupants, Southside Library, and Santa Fe Public School District to determine how the needs for spaces identified through the Teen Center Outreach might be met through partnerships/coordination and how the site's development relates to planning in the area.

- **FOLLOW THROUGH**

Given the protracted timeline of the teen center development over these last 12 years, many outreach respondents were disillusioned and distrustful of the City's ability and intention to follow through with the actual construction of the Center. It is imperative that the City support ongoing community engagement efforts throughout the process in order to demonstrate accountability by communicating progress along the way and continuing to seek community input and participation throughout the process.

Upcoming points of engagement should include:

- 1) Report Backs:** The results of the outreach conducted and the draft architectural plan should be shared back with students and the community.
- 2) Site Design:** Once the blueprint for the site is drafted, youth participants should have an opportunity to provide feedback.
- 3) Programming & Operations Plan:** Youth participants should be the leading voice in determining which programs are offered at the Center.
- 4) Advocacy, Decision-Making, and Resource Allocation:** As democratic decision-making processes take place to determine the form, funding, and programming, young people who have been activated through the outreach process should be informed and encouraged to participate and advocate so that their voices inform decision-making at all levels and so that the process achieves the goal of youth empowerment and civic leadership development.

- **YOUTH STEERING COMMITTEE**

Over a dozen young people were trained as outreach facilitators through this process. These youth should be supported in their role helping to lead the project and they should serve as advisors throughout the process. Follow-up processes that were identified through our outreach include - site visits to other centers to identify key design features that resonate with the youth, advocacy at the 2020 Legislature to secure additional funding, focus groups on operations and programming, and broader neighborhood planning initiatives.



**YOUTH AT THE CENTER**  
**CAMPAIGN PRODUCT 2019**

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