Programming and Events

Why this issue? Description of Issue and Sub-issues

Municipal Interviews
Community Leader Interviews
Resident Survey
Focus Group

Borough programming and events are among the most active means through which residents interact with the Borough. The Borough's events can build community within Dormont by bringing residents together for a common purpose. Moreover, these events allow the Borough to highlight what makes Dormont special by capitalizing on unique spaces and resources within Dormont. The Borough, through its programs and events, can also celebrate the diverse cultures and populations that call Dormont home, and educate residents about what their neighbors contribute as fellow residents. Borough programming, additionally, can fill in gaps for populations that do not have another space or group within Dormont to provide social or supportive spaces. 51 residents who completed the Resident Survey and shared ideas for Dormont expressed an idea for a program or event, which comprised the third-highest group of ideas. 201 residents, 27% of total respondents, expressed a desire for the Borough to spend more on community events. 501 residents shared that they have attended a community event in the past year.

Concerns about current programming
As shown by the data from the Resident Survey, Borough Programming and events are a popular resource for Dormont residents. Therefore, it is important that the planning behind these programs and events is timely, consistent, and intentional. Comments from the Resident Survey and other methods have mentioned a lack of notice, pertinent information, or ability to access events, either because of the location, or their timing.

Populations missing programming currently
The population of Dormont is shifting younger, as young professionals move in to start families. Anecdotes from all parts of the Strategic Planning process reflect this trend. From feedback gathered through Municipal Interviews, Community Leader Interviews, and the Resident Survey, residents are voicing, however, that they feel the Borough's programming has adapted to this population too heavily. There is a need for events for older children, adults without children, and older adults. Dormont lacks resources for

these populations. The Borough has no teen center, there are few nicer restaurants or bars for a night out, and older adult programming has lacked since Lifespan left.

Expansion beyond recreation
Much of the Borough's programming focuses on recreational activities - Dormont Day, Street Fair, Movies in the Park. Through the Resident Survey and Focus Groups, residents have expressed a desire for the Borough to offer skills education for critical life skills, and for areas like property upkeep and maintenance.

Welcoming, diverse, and inclusive events
It is important that the Borough makes active efforts to represent the residents of Dormont and their various identities. The Borough has a responsibility to ensure that residents from marginalized populations, including, but not limited to, immigrants, refugees, religious minorities, LGBTQIA+, and individuals with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities, feel welcome in Borough spaces, meetings, and events, and in Dormont in general. The Borough can expand its programming to celebrate these communities within Dormont, and to educate the residents at-large about the cultures they contribute and the challenges they face as members of the Dormont community. Welcoming and inclusive events for one population yield more welcoming and inclusive events for all.

Recommendations/Resources and Potential Partners

Concerns about Current Programming
Develop a program/event template.

- Standard planning timeline. Timeline should include:
    - Relevant Committee/Board/Commission meetings
    - Public Notifications of event
    - Social Media outreach plan
    - Timing of website updates for program
    - Procurement of necessary resources/personnel

Populations requesting programming
Older Youth/Teens

- Consistent teen programming at recreation center
- Teen social events
- Organized sport event in Borough gym
- Gauge interest/feedback on events from Dormont youth

- Potential partnerships and resources include:
    - Wake County, NC listing of events (see flash drive)
    - Surprise, AZ Youth & Teen Programs (see flash drive)
    - City of Santa Clara, CA Teen Events Calendar (see flash drive)

Older Adults

- Social events (bingo, specialized exercise classes, book clubs, card games)
- Trainings for technology, software, etc.
- Organized trips (Harrisburg, Philadelphia, etc.)

Adults without children

- Social gathering with alcohol (offer both weeknight and weekends)
- Professional networking opportunities
- Food trucks
- Music/Arts

Skills Education

Life Skills

- Taxes
- Personal Finances
- Cooking
- Professional skills (CV/Résumé/LinkedIn, Interview, Job Searching)
- Personal health and hygiene
- Obtaining GED/high school equivalency

- Potential partnerships and resources include:
    - Allegheny County Regional Service Center
    - Literacy Pittsburgh

Welcoming, Diverse, and Inclusive events

Highlighting Diverse Cultures and Communities Present in Dormont

- Use information from Language Access Plan to identify populations present in Dormont (See: Access to Services, Spaces, Events, and Programs Memo)
- Connect with Pittsburgh-area organizations that promote education for and represent the various cultures/populations identified
- Determine anticipated outcomes of event (including cultural knowledge gained, tolerance and understanding for diversity in Borough community, how Borough supports diversity and welcomes and includes all identities *actively*)
- Events can include music, art, and food from cultures represented within Dormont

- Potential partnerships and resources include:
    - Union of African Communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania
    - All for All (part of Change Agency)
    - Allegheny County Immigrants and Internationals Advisory Council
    - Global Switchboard
    - Casa San Jose
    - Welcoming Pittsburgh
    - Age-Friendly Pittsburgh
    - Pittsburgh Equality Center
    - PERSAD Center
    - Dignity & Respect Campaign
    - YWCA Greater Pittsburgh Center for Race & Gender Equity