

**ANTI-DISPLACEMENT TASK FORCE  
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020  
6:00 – 8:00 PM**

MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM; A VIDEO OF THE MEETING  
IS AVAILABLE HERE: :  
[HTTPS://WWW.DROBOX.COM/S/UJAON5O4QL0NP5K/ADTF  
MTG092120.MP4?DL=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ujaon5o4ql0np5k/adtfmtg092120.mp4?dl=0)

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

Amber Crowell  
Ana Lilia DeAlba  
Debbie Darden  
Morgan Doizaki

Grecia Elenes  
Robert Fuentes  
Kathryn Forbes\*  
\*Alternate: Artie Padilla

Sal Gonzales  
Hilda Lopez  
Eric Payne\*, Acting Chair  
\*Alternate: Cherella Nicholson  
Preston Prince

**1. Welcome** S. Pagoulatos, staff to the Task Force, opened the meeting, provided the welcome and logistics for translation.

Roll Call: Members present: Amber Crowell, Morgan Doizaki, Grecia Elenes, Kathryn Forbes, Artie Padilla (alt), Sal Gonzales, Eric Payne, Cherella Nicholson (alt) and Preston Prince.

Members absent: Ana Lilia DeAlba, Debbie Darden, Robert Fuentes, Hilda Lopez

Staff Present: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning & Development Department; Courtney Espinoza, Office of the Mayor and City Manager; Gavin Haubelt, Information Services Department

Public Present: Approximately 65 members present; see attached attendee report.

**2. Overview of Agenda** S. Pagoulatos provided overview of the agenda

**3. Task Force Business: Welcome New Member and Election of Chair and Vice Chair** – Acting Chair Payne facilitated this Item, beginning with welcoming new member Amber Crowell. P. Prince nominated Acting Chair E. Payne as Chair and G. Elenes as Vice Chair. After closing the nominations, P. Prince moved and M. Doizake seconded a motion to elect E. Payne as Chair and G. Elenes as Vice Chair. The motion was approved unanimously.

**4. Thrivance Group Anti-Displacement Update**

Dr. Thomas from the Thrivance Group opened the conversation with a brief introduction of the Thrivance Group and gave an overview of Thrivance activities in the project area. Then she or one of her team members provided detail on each activity, noted below, and used a powerpoint to help communicate the information:

### Social Climate Analysis

Part 1: Preliminary Assessment of Displacement Factors

Part 2: Research Design and Strategy Development

Part 3: Findings, Final Recommendations, and implementation

Findings: Need a Thrivance Narrative – People didn't like the way they were being described in planning documents-felt erased. Rich Narrative: Yokut Heritage, Black Agriculture, Chicano Movement, Mong/Hmong Legacy.

### Anti-Displacement Safety Net

Opportunities for Deeper Understanding:

- Labor profile
- Current phase of displacement (sw)
- Zoning Laws
- Mobility Attitudes
- Sites for Cultural Thrivance
- Youth Engagement
- Ongoing Harm

### Critical path considerations

- Creek fire
- 45% increase in unhoused population
- Statewide eviction moratorium end (Jan 2021)
- Brownfields
- Destabilization of Small Businesses

### Tools

- Activated Anti-Displacement Rubric
- Core values via community engagement

### Oral History Project: Brytanee Brown, Thrivance Group

Oral History Labs – Opportunity for capacity building

Fall 2020: Collecting the stories

Winter 2021: Showing them

Findings/themes: displacement, arts & culture, visibility/erasure, age/eras/generational migration

Internal findings: must reveal and honor the journey and tell the story of Fresno's most marginalized communities with the purpose of developing policies ...so that it doesn't keep happening.

Oral History Project Design: Guiding Principles: Dignity Infused Community Engagement – Special Invitation You're invited! *Oral History Interest Form* link will be on their website very soon.

This feeds into:

### Policy Gap Preliminary Findings:

- Need for immediate development interventions
- Restorative zoning
- Right to Return
- Equity – developers

### Info Hub – Alejo:

- Invitation to join – join us in projects
- Policy Workshops
- Focus: essential businesses, safety-net service providers, flexible and adaptive
- 3 Types: Info (in a grocery store for example); digital hubs, and hub ambassadors. Showed map of potential and current locations. Yellow: potential; green: secured. Interactive map with will on the [thrivancegroup.com](http://thrivancegroup.com) website

### Dignity Labs – Ndid Love

1. Introduce approach and invite residents to co-lead-Oct. 12
2. Provide update through resident-led workshop-Nov 9th
3. Final policy recommendations community workshop (pre-council presentation)-move away from high stakes meetings-December 7, all at 5:30-7:30; will be updating to community calendars at [www.TransformFresno.com](http://www.TransformFresno.com) or [www.Thrivancegroup.com](http://www.Thrivancegroup.com) .

## **5. Q & A** Chair Payne opened the floor to questions from the Task Force members.

G. Elenes: Dignity Labs – should people attend all 3? Response (Thrivance) Yes.

P. Prince: Likes all of the Thrivance activities; overwhelmed. Asked if they are connecting with cultural arts organizations, and how would the oral history project reside in Fresno into the future? How will it last?

Dr. Thomas responded that she hopes it lasts through Thrivance because they hope to continue their time here (in Fresno) – but connecting with youth and arts organizations in Fresno; still building relationships – can email with suggestions; [info@thrivancegroup.com](mailto:info@thrivancegroup.com). Also, she noted that the oral history project will last because it will remain open for people to contribute. The door will never close.

Seeing no further questions from task force members, Chair Payne opened the floor to questions from the public:

## **Public Questions:**

Kathryn Crozier: How many can participate in the dignity labs? Is there a cut-off: Are transformative justice opportunities still available?

Dr. Thomas: No maximum number of participants in dignity labs – open to all. Transformative justice is still available. Email [info@thrivanceproject.com](mailto:info@thrivanceproject.com)

Yonas Paulos stated that he wanted to be involved, homeless veteran's advocate. Dr. Thomas thanked him and said she follows up on his leads.

Bernice: Manager of United Health Centers – New office on Tuolomne Street – stated that she wants to be involved and looks forward to building community partnerships.

Lisa Harry: Talk more about pushout: Dr. Thomas: lots of moving vans and furniture dumping. Dignity Labs – October 12.

Keep this attendees list so that public can receive more info. Dr. Thomas will request.

Kaya Herron: Thanks to Task Force and Thrivance; at Fresno Metro Black Chamber would like to participate. Interested in labor profile, dignity labs, right of return is important. She will reach out.

Emily Brandt: When people are pushed out, assume that the city is buying their property, but can they afford to return? Dr. Thomas: still studying the relationship between development and displacement; working on stability. Eric : City is not displacing people through eminent domain. Hope you will participate.

Michaelynn Lewis: How will Thrivance contact some of the least known historians in SW Fresno? Dr. Thomas: spreading reach – resident ambassador program and other means – no expiration date, although unveiling planned in January 2021, but hopes assets will remain open in collecting more stories.

Lisa Flores: When does Fresno get around to doing rent control? With new construction & there is displacement; those displaced have right to receive subsidy. Des: ask for staff support; I said not policy now, but many things in flux and I look forward to hearing from the dignity labs.

## **6. Action Items, Next Steps and Task Force Meeting Schedule**

Staff asked the Task Force for guidance on future meeting schedule, noting that the current schedule is quarterly meetings. After deliberations, it was decided that task force members can attend the dignity labs (coming up on October 12, November 9 and December 7) as individuals but the Task Force may meet shortly after these labs to discuss the outcomes, which will be provided in synopsis format by the Thrivance Group after each of the 3 labs.

## **7. Unscheduled Oral Communications**

Dallas Blanchard: interested in the task force but never got invited; staff will follow up. Staff/Thrivance agreed to put everyone who attended on the email outreach list.

Morgan Doizake: think definition of displacement is too narrow. Thinks displacement in Chinatown and Fulton Mall could have been avoided? Thought residential development was going to be negatively affected in SW Fresno

Rose Howell: Wanted to know the boundary of the anti-displacement task force, and the priority of the Southwest Fresno area. Staff S. Pagoulatos explained that Southwest Fresno/Downtown is the first priority, but Anti-Displacement Task Force may make recommendations that cover the entire city.

Venise Curry: Asked how the activities of the Task Force (or Thrivance) will affect existing development. Staff S. Pagoulatos said she didn't know yet.

**8. Adjournment – 8:00 pm** – Chair Payne provided some closing comments, thanking the Task Force members, Thrivance Group, staff and the public, and the meeting adjourned around 7:50 p.m.