



# Cambodian American Cultural Center of Long Beach

City Council Meeting – May 9, 2023

# Background

Cambodian American  
Cultural Center



## September 2021

Long Beach City Council directed City staff to work with community stakeholders to create a vision and a feasibility plan for a Cambodian American Cultural Center [CACCC]

## May 2022

City of Long Beach initiated the community visioning process for a CACC

## June 2022

Cultural leaders were invited to serve on the Cambodian American Cultural Center Community Steering and Honorary Committees

## June 2022 – March 2023

City Fabrick and United Cambodian Community implemented a robust community engagement process and Lord Cultural Resources developed a draft feasibility study with the guidance of the Steering Committee.

# Community Engagement



# Community Engagement



July - Sept 2022

Aug - Dec 2022

Oct - March 2023

March 2023

May 2023

## Public Survey Responses

TOTAL RESPONSES

# 360

## Relevant Plans & Policies

- Cambodia Town Thrive Vision Plan
- Zone In: City Core
- Framework for Reconciliation
- 6th Council District Vision Plan
- Land Use & Urban Design Elements
- Reimagining the Civic Commons
- Climate Action Plan
- Historic Context: Suburbanization & Race
- Assembly Bill 2097

## Spatial Analysis

- Land Use
- Zoning
- Transportation
- Median Income
- Cambodian Population
- Community Landmarks & Potential Sites

# Community Engagement

Public Survey & Spatial Analysis & Policy Review & Case Study Review

2 Public Workshops & Youth Survey & 6 Group Interviews

Report Development & Feasibility Study

Feasibility Study & Draft Report

City Council Meeting & Further Engagement

July - Sept 2022

Aug - Dec 2022

Oct - March 2023

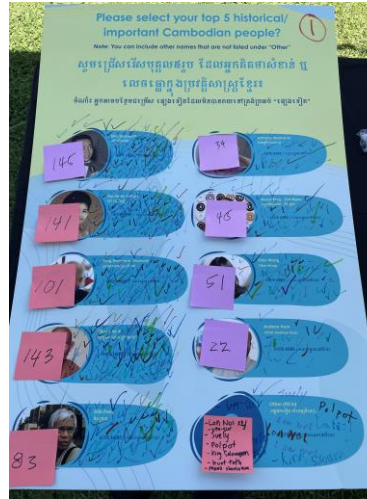
March 2023

May 2023

## Youth Survey Responses

TOTAL RESPONSES

# 220



# Key Findings



## Including but not limited to:

- Opportunities to be **immersed in Khmer culture** by offering classes and **hosting events around Cambodian history and tradition**
- Become a “**destination**,” improving the **local economy**, and **promoting Cambodian culture to all; safe, welcoming, and inclusive**
- Help **bridge generational and cultural gaps** by developing **cultural programs, classes, and events for multiple ages**
- While the CACC should welcome all, it should **target Cambodian American youth**
- Community members desired the CACC site to be located in **Cambodia Town**. A second option would be a location outside of Cambodian Town given financial feasibility and development opportunities.
- Opportunities to learn about and be **immersed in Khmer culture through classes** and **Cambodian history and tradition**
- Reflect **traditional Khmer/Buddhist values** such as respect and family at the CACC

For more information:

CACC Vision Plan – Chapter 3 “Community Voice”

# Feasibility Study



## Feasibility Study Overview

Based on the community feedback, Lord Cultural Resources developed a feasibility study, summarized below:

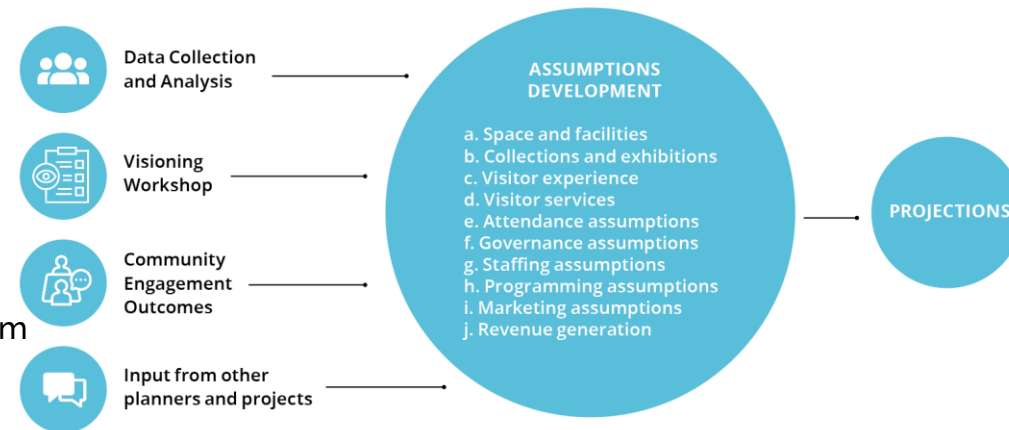
This Feasibility Study projects that by Year 5 (steady state), the Cambodian American Cultural Center (CACC) will:

- Encompass 27,500 gross square feet (19,600 nsf)
- Be visited by approximately 30,000 people per year
- Have an operating budget of around \$1,000,000
- Operate with 6 FTEs (Full-Time Equivalent Staff), supplemented by 4 contractors (ex: janitorial and security)
- Be able to cover 25% of its operating costs through earned revenue sources
- Require approximately \$750,000 yearly to break even on operations, which will come from a variety of sources including: government contributions, corporate contributions, donations, sponsorships, and grants.

For more information:

CACC Vision Plan – Chapter 4 “Feasibility Study”

## Feasibility Study Methodology



# Recommendations

## Organization & Structure

- Formation of different committees or working groups
- Creation of a nonprofit organization
- Advisory support and coordination from the City of Long Beach and various City Departments
- Consistent programming until development happens
- Continued communication with Steering Committee and community members
- Creation of website and social media accounts dedicated to the CACC



# Recommendations

## Development

- The CACC should ideally be located in the Cambodia Town neighborhood, preferably near MacArthur Park, Mark Twain Library, and the Killing Fields Memorial along Anaheim Street. A second option would be a location outside of Cambodia Town given financial feasibility and development opportunities.
- The CACC may be built together with other community-based organizations, civic uses, or on the ground floor of a new housing development
- Accommodate various modes of transportation, and incorporate ADA accessibility
- The interior and exterior spaces should be flexible to allow for a variety of programs that the community has expressed interest in

# Recommendations

## Development [continued]

- Parking is important and the community is open to shared parking with other uses
- Should be architecturally significant and serve as a landmark for the community
- Create a gift and souvenir shop that sells authentic Khmer items and locally-sold ware created by Cambodian and Cambodian American artists and craftsmen

# Recommendations

## Programming

Foster cultural preservation and learning through rotating and permanent exhibits and programs including, but not limited to:

- Khmer and English language classes
- Cambodian and Cambodian American art
- Khmer performing arts
- Traditional crafts
- Cooking classes
- History exhibitions
- Mental health
- Youth development
- Healing spaces

# Recommendations

## Programming [continued]

Develop and strengthen partnerships with the following local and relevant entities and organizations to lead or co-host programming:

- Arts & culture nonprofits
- Temples and religious institutions
- Academic institutions
- Community groups/resident leaders
- Cambodian-owned businesses
- Youth organizations
- Social service providers
- Non-Long Beach Cambodian cultural sites
- African American and Latino American Cultural Centers

# Recommendations

## Programming [continued]

Celebrate the achievements and adversities of Cambodian history, fostering pride in Khmer heritage, by focusing on and raising awareness of the following within and outside the City of Long Beach:

- Khmer American refugee experience and transitioning to life in America
- Narratives outside of solely the Khmer Rouge and the Golden Age
- The strengths and achievements of the Cambodian American community

Highlight the various religious beliefs, traditions, etiquette, ethics, and healing practices of Cambodian culture, reflecting traditional Khmer/Buddhist values such as respect and family-centeredness by working closely with temples that often host Khmer celebrations

# Recommendations

## Programming [continued]

Create a space for community economic development, improving the City of Long Beach local economy through:

- Creating job opportunities
- Workforce development
- Supporting Cambodian-owned businesses and entrepreneurs
- Technology and innovation
- Youth mentorship
- Volunteer opportunities

Use inclusive and relevant languages and messaging when creating educational or informational materials and signage with the public

# Future Actions



- Non-profit to be created to lead Cambodian American Cultural Center efforts
- United Cambodian Community received grant funding through the California Department of Social Services Stop the Hate Program. UCC will use this funding to obtain a more accurate history of Cambodians in Long Beach that can be integrated as part of the future CACC.
- Continued City Support: City to transition from a facilitative to an advisory role

# CACC Vision Plan

Thank you!  
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For more information, please visit:

<https://longbeach.gov/iteam/priorities/cambodian-american-cultural-center>