Baltimore Data Week | Effect of Digital Equity on Learning and Working

Using Resident Data to Address Neighborhood Concerns

Thursday, July 23rd 2020
Agenda

1. Introductions
   1. OSI - Baltimore
   2. Organizing Black
   3. HR&A

2. Blueprint for Baltimore overview

3. Key takeaways for using resident data for policy change

4. Q&A
Introductions
Open Society Institute-Baltimore is the only US field office of Open Society Foundations, an international network of grantmaking institutions that invest in progressive initiatives that center the principles of freedom, democracy, and human rights.
Organizing Black is a grassroots, member-led organization dedicated to fighting for the liberation of all Black people by building local power through transformational Black direct action organizing, political education, and participatory governance practices.
HR&A Advisors is an employee-owned consulting firm with wide-ranging experience in inclusive engagement for policy change.
Blueprint for Baltimore Overview
Blueprint for Baltimore | Goals

1. Be inclusive of a diversity of Baltimoreans
2. Lead to actionable results
3. Lead to transformative change
4. Hold government accountable
Blueprint for Baltimore | Key stats

5 Community Partners led the design and canvassing for the survey: Baltimore Votes, Black Leaders Organizing for Change, Black Girls Vote, CASA, and No Boundaries Coalition.

44% did not vote in the last municipal election

5,000 Baltimoreans responded

The survey was offered in 4 languages: English, Spanish, simplified Chinese, and French
A survey asked thousands of Baltimoreans about their priorities for the city. Here’s what they said.

By CHRISTINE ZHANG
Baltimore Sun | JAN 27, 2020 AT 1:44 PM
Blueprint for Baltimore | Process

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Public engagement led by OSI
Blueprint for Baltimore | What did we ask?

Screening

“Do you live in Baltimore City?”

7 questions on civic engagement and demographics

“Which neighborhood do you live in?”

“Which of the following racial/ethnic categories do you identify with?”

22 questions on specific issues (11 on how the city should spent money)

“Every year, the mayor decides how to spend $1 billion out of the City's operating budget of $3 billion. Based on what you believe Baltimore needs, which of the following City services do you think should be prioritized?”
POLL:
Every year, the mayor decides how to spend $1 billion out of the City's operating budget of $3 billion.

Based on what you believe Baltimore needs, which of the following City services do you think should be prioritized?
Key Takeaways
Survey Design + Data Fellow Training

Data Collection

Data Analysis

How We Use the Data

The thing that would make the most difference in my neighborhood is...

N = 1,747  N = 1,105  N = 1,156  N = 83  N = 169  N = 70

Baltimore Justice Report

Baltimore residents’ priorities sharply at odds with proposed city budget

Thursday, June 18, 2020

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<td>18%</td>
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Baltimore City General Funds, by Agency

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Survey Design + Data Fellow Training

Design the survey with community members at the center.

Hold a canvasser training to share best practices.

Use the surveys to raise awareness of policy issues.
Creative approaches to collecting data included...

Target geographies based on real-time monitoring.

Don't just hire "canvassers," develop leaders who see the larger strategy.
Check whether the sample is representative of your audience.

Break down the data by race/ethnicity, by age group, and by race AND age.

Compare responses across multiple questions.
Did you know about the Consent Decree?

Break down the data **by race/ethnicity, by age group, and by race AND age.**
Compare responses across multiple questions.
Publish the data on a public portal.

Inform priorities among City Councilmembers.

Organizing Black is using data as part of its demand that 50% of BPD’s budget to be invested in Baltimore’s Black Communities.
Demonstration of Data Portal
Thank you!

Get involved:
- Get more info at OSI-Baltimore’s website
- Read the one-page summary
- Read the full report
- Explore the data

Contact us:
- Evan Serpick (OSI-Baltimore): evan.serpick@opensocietyfoundations.org
- Tre Murphy (Organizing Black): minister.murphy1@gmail.com
- Jose Serrano-McClain (HR&A): jserranomcclain@hraadvisors.com
- Eri Furusawa (HR&A): efurusawa@hraadvisors.com
Blueprint for Baltimore 2020 & Beyond

Survey Report

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-BALTIMORE
The survey reached over 5,000 people and included residents that are not usually consulted about policy priorities.

We partnered with community-based organizations to help us design and deliver the survey to thousands of residents.

CBO’s: Black Girls Vote, Baltimore Votes, Baltimore BLOC, CASA and No Boundaries Coalition. And partnered with HR&A for technical assistance.

We held community-based Survey Design Workshops to inform the development of survey questions.
Baltimoreans across all demographics have a positive view of the neighborhood they live in with 70% rating it as “great” or “Ok”.

Respondents’ first choice for improving neighborhoods was to have Safer Streets.

Respondents’ second and third choices for neighborhood improvement were to have less trash City streets and fewer vacant homes.
Allocation Priorities for Mayor’s $1 Billion Budget

1. Investment in youth programs was selected as the top priority for mayoral spending.

2. Investment in affordable housing and Community-Based Safety Programs came in as the second priority.

3. Small business and neighborhood development were each tied as the third most important priorities.
How Can **Baltimore Police** use its budget to better serve City residents?

1. Residents ranked training police on how to connect people to supportive services as their first priority.

2. Improving police-community relations came in as a close second priority.

3. Training police to treat residents equally came in as the third priority on this question.
If more money was allocated to reducing violence, Baltimore City government should . . .

1. Expanding the Safe Streets program was selected as the first choice for this question among residents.

2. Improving access to mental health and substance use services came in as the second choice.

3. Improving witness and victim support was the third most selected response to this question.
Top prioritized criminal justice policy changes in order of priority...

1. Supporting formerly jailed residents in obtaining employment, housing, and access to social services.

2. Allowing non-violent offenders to obtain counseling and/or rehabilitation in lieu of serving jail time.

3. Discontinue jailing and punishing people for possessing small amounts of marijuana.

4. Providing ways for people who cannot afford bail to wait for trial at home.
If more funding is allocated to Baltimore City Public Schools it should pay for . . .

1. Additional services and counseling for students facing poverty, mental health, trauma and other challenges
2. Ensuring that every school has AC/heat and other necessary equipment
3. Raising teachers’ salaries
If more funding was allocated for Baltimore City children and youth, City government should . . .

1. Provide access to jobs through youth job skills training and employment programs
2. Provide money to low-income families to meet basic human needs
3. Expand neighborhood recreational centers