

GSO CHANGEMAKERS

MARCH 2025
REPORT



ROOTED

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION
BASED ON CONNECTION, JUSTICE, AND JOY



GSO CHANGEMAKERS INTENDS TO CONNECT AND SPARK ACTION...

AT THIS EVENT (OUR FIRST) ATTENDEES WERE INVITED TO ENGAGE IN AUTHENTIC AND MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS, AND THINK DEEPLY ON HOW THEY, TOGETHER, CAN CREATE LASTING CHANGE IN GREENSBORO.

THROUGH DISCUSSION, PROBLEMS ARE IDENTIFIED, COALITIONS ARE BUILT, AND PLANS ARE MADE.



SPECIAL THANKS TO...

DAYNA AND THE FOLKS AT 'GLENWOOD TOGETHER' FOR HOSTING US.

ON A WARM EVENING IN MID-MARCH...

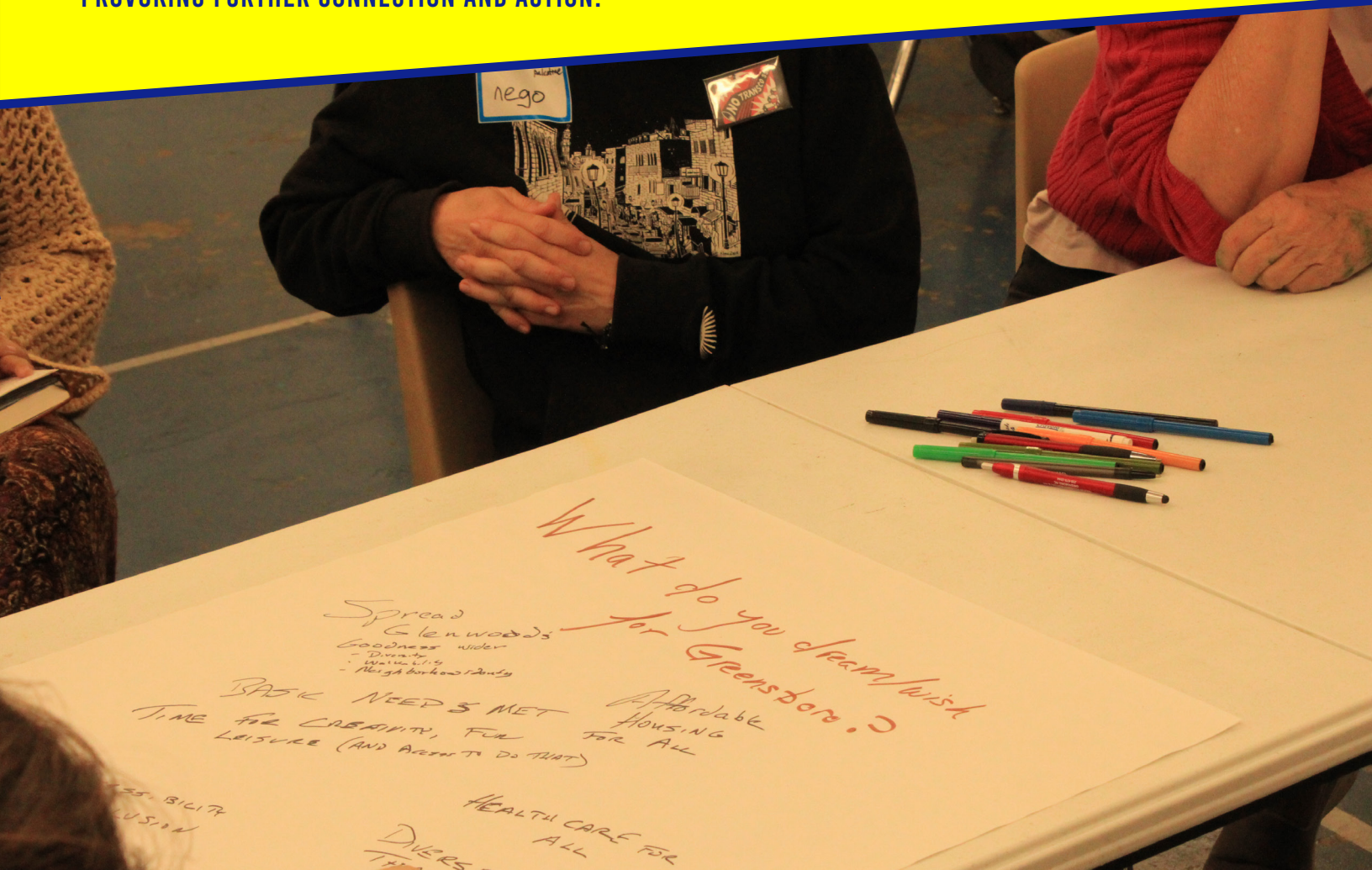
NEARLY 50 GREENSBORO RESIDENTS CAME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES FACING THEIR COMMUNITY. THROUGH CANDID GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND ONE-ON-ONES, A VISION FOR A MORE, INCLUSIVE, THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY AROSE.

THIS REPORT PRESENTS A SUMMARY THAT VISION, AND ITS TITLE ("ROOTED: COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION BASED ON CONNECTION, JUSTICE AND JOY") AIMS TO CAPTURE THE THEMES THAT EMERGED ACROSS CONVERSATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES.

AMONG THE ATTENDEES WERE...

EXPERTS IN THE NON-PROFIT SPACE, NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS, SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS, STUDENT ACTIVISTS, AND CONCERNED CITIZENS. THIS DIVERSE GROUP WAS LED THROUGH DISCURSIVE EXERCISES CENTERED ON THEY FELT WERE THE MOST PRESSING TOPICS IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

IN THE END, EVERYONE WAS INVITED TO DISCUSS DEEPER AND SHARE THEIR CONTACT INFO IN THE HOPES OF PROVOKING FURTHER CONNECTION AND ACTION.



THIS EVENT WAS STRUCTURED AROUND DISCUSSION...

AFTER ENTERING AND SIGNING IN, ATTENDEES WERE GIVEN A RANDOM QUESTION THAT HELPED GROUND THE COMING DISCUSSIONS.

AFTER MINGLING AND SWAPPING STORIES THEY WERE BROKEN UP INTO GROUPS AND SENT TO FOUR TABLES, EACH OF THEM CENTERED AROUND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT DO YOU DREAM/WISH FOR GREENSBORO?
2. WHAT ARE THE MOST CRITICAL NEEDS/GAPS WE HAVE IN OUR COMMUNITY?
3. WHAT GIVES YOU HOPE?
4. HOW CAN WE ACTIVATE POSITIVE CHANGE HERE?

AFTER SHARING THEIR THOUGHTS AND WRITING DOWN KEY POINTS, EACH GROUP WAS ASKED TO DISPERSE AND REFORM WITH NEW MEMBERS AROUND A NEW QUESTION. THIS PROCESS WAS ITERATED UNTIL EACH PARTICIPANT HAD, IDEALLY, DISCUSSED EACH QUESTION WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

AT THE END, EACH TABLE WAS ASKED TO REPORT ON THEIR OWN DISCUSSION AND A SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS GROUPS. THE FOLLOWING TRENDS WERE FOUND AMONG THOSE REPORTS AND WRITTEN COMMENTS.

- OF 28 WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE QUESTION OF “DREAMS AND WISHES FOR GREENSBORO”, 10 WERE CONCERNED WITH BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND AWARENESS, 6 CONCERNED EQUITY IN ACCESSIBILITY AND RESOURCES, AND 4 CONCERNED CLARITY IN ORGANIZING STRATEGIES.
- OF 30 WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE QUESTION OF PERCEIVED “NEEDS AND GAPS”, 15 WERE CONCERNED WITH ADDRESSING MATERIAL NEEDS LIKE FOOD ACCESS, HOUSING, AND HEALTHCARE, AND 12 WERE CONCERNED WITH BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND ESTABLISHING/STRENGTHENING MUTUAL AID NETWORKS (1 COMMENT CONCERNED BOTH).
- OF 29 WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE QUESTION OF “HOPE”, 10 CONCERNED BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND MUTUAL AID NETWORKS, AND 8 CONCERNED STRONGER ORGANIZING CAPACITY (4 COMMENTS CONCERNED BOTH)
- OF 41 WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE QUESTION OF “ACTIVATING POSITIVE CHANGE”, 22 CONCERNED THE NEED TO ORGANIZE TOWARDS SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL ACTION AND/OR CHANGE/REEVALUATE EXISTING ORGANIZATION STRATEGIES.

FREQUENTLY USED WORDS IN WRITTEN COMMENTS (ORGANIZED BY QUESTION)



BASED ON THE REPORTS & COMMENTS FROM EACH TABLE...

PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFIED 7 KEY TOPICS AMONG THEM. THESE WERE:

1. FOOD & HOUSING
2. DEMOCRACY
3. POLICE/ICE ABOLITION
4. LAYERS OF VIOLENCE
5. COMMUNITY SKILL-BUILDING
6. MUTUAL AID
7. PALESTINE, ANTI-IMPERIALISM, & INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

HERE PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO SORT THEMSELVES INTO WHATEVER GROUP THEY FELT MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT AND SHARE INSIGHTS AND POINTS OF ACTION.

THE FOLLOWING TRENDS WERE CONSISTENT ACROSS THESE FOCUSED DISCUSSIONS:

- A STRONG DESIRE TO BUILD SUPPORT NETWORKS AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD LEVEL
- OVERWHELMING NEED TO INCREASE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY (E.G. MUTUAL AID NETWORKS & SKILLSHARING).
- IMMEDIATE NEED TO PROVIDE BASIC RESOURCES FOR ALL (E.G. HOUSING, FOOD, HEALTHCARE)
- IMPORTANCE OF IDENTIFYING AND LEVERAGING EXISTING ASSETS (E.G. KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBORS AND THEIR SKILLS, LEARNING ABOUT EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS AND MODELS).
- NEED TO REIMAGINE/REFRAME EXISTING CONCEPTS (E.G. REJECTING TOP-DOWN APPROACH TO DEMOCRACY, UNDERSTANDING THE IMMEDIACY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS/WESTERN COMPLICITY, REIMAGINING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO FOOD, AND UNDERSTANDING WHAT CONSTITUTES VIOLENCE).
- THE NEED TO SECURE A SPACE FOR ACTIVISM AND CREATIVITY.
- CONNECTION & COALITION BUILDING AS A NECESSARY AVENUE FOR POLITICAL CHANGE.



DREAM

NEEDS

HOPE

HOW

- AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- WORKING TOGETHER
- DO SOMETHING UNIQUELY GSO

② NEEDS

- FOOD,
- HOUSING
- TRANSPORT MOBILITY

HOPE

WORKING TOGETHER/CO-OPS
MUTUAL AID

POS CHANGE

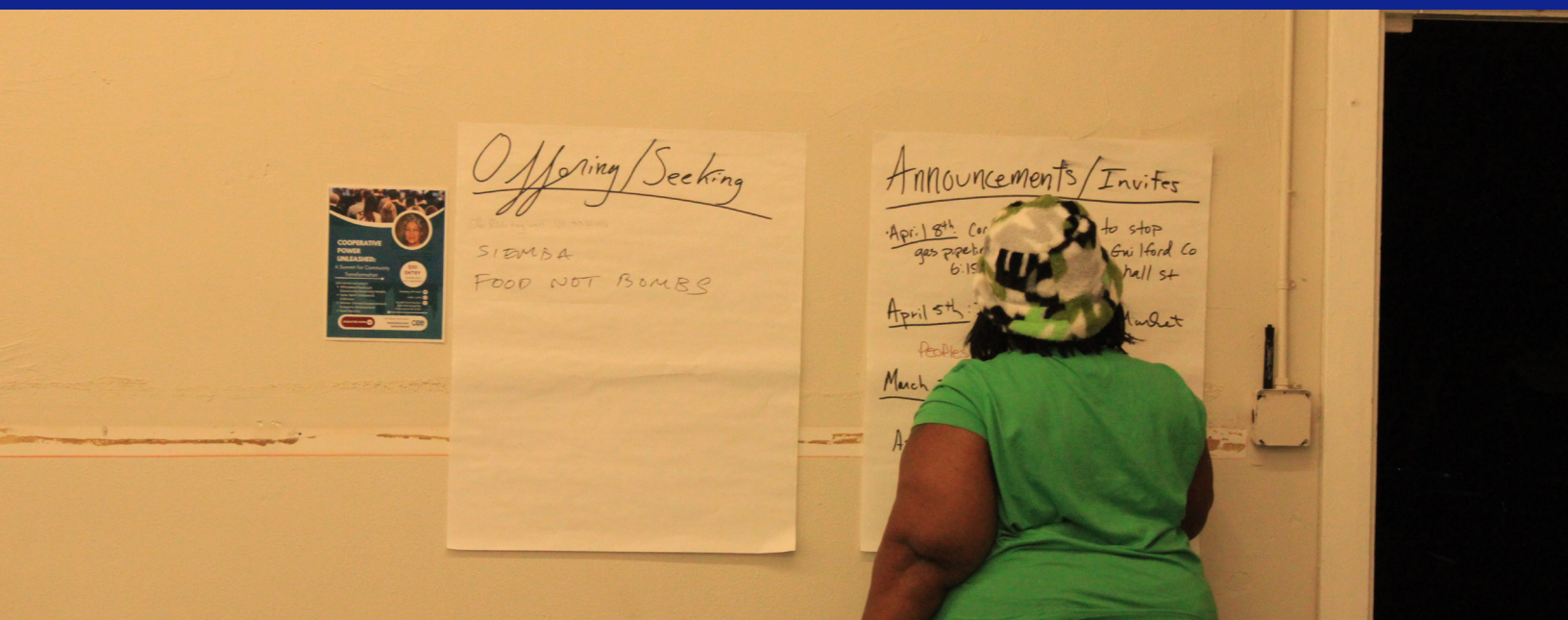
- GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER
- SHARE RESOURCES



NEXT STEPS

THE NEXT GSO CHANGEMAKERS EVENT WILL BE FOCUSED ON HOW TO ORGANIZE OURSELVES TOWARDS ACTION...

IT WILL BE STRUCTURED AS A "HACKATHON" FOR SURFACE ACTION WHERE WE WILL BRAINSTORM IDEAS FOR HOW TO ADDRESS MANY OF THE ISSUES AND DESIRES IDENTIFIED IN THIS REPORT.



WE PLAN TO LAUNCH AN ONLINE SPACE FOR GSO CHANGEMAKERS TO SHARE INFORMATION AND ORGANIZE...

WE WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO STRUCTURE FUTURE EVENTS AND INVITE YOU TO REACH OUT TO US DIRECTLY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST IN OUR MISSION TO JUMP START POSITIVE CHANGE ACROSS GREENSBORO AND BEYOND!

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