


Democracy Center: Community Use Proposals Results

September 2025

A stylized graphic in the bottom right corner featuring white line art of a city skyline with several buildings of varying heights and a single tree with a rounded canopy.

Research Goals & Methodology

Goals for Data Collection

Zencity was commissioned by the City of Minneapolis to understand stakeholders' opinions about the future of the Democracy Center at Minnehaha 3000 Ave. This site was formerly known as the 3rd precinct building. The City, as part of the Democracy Center project, is planning a community-centered redevelopment for this property.

By collecting input from people who live or work in Minneapolis, this report will support the City in deciding which organization should receive exclusive rights to redevelop the site.

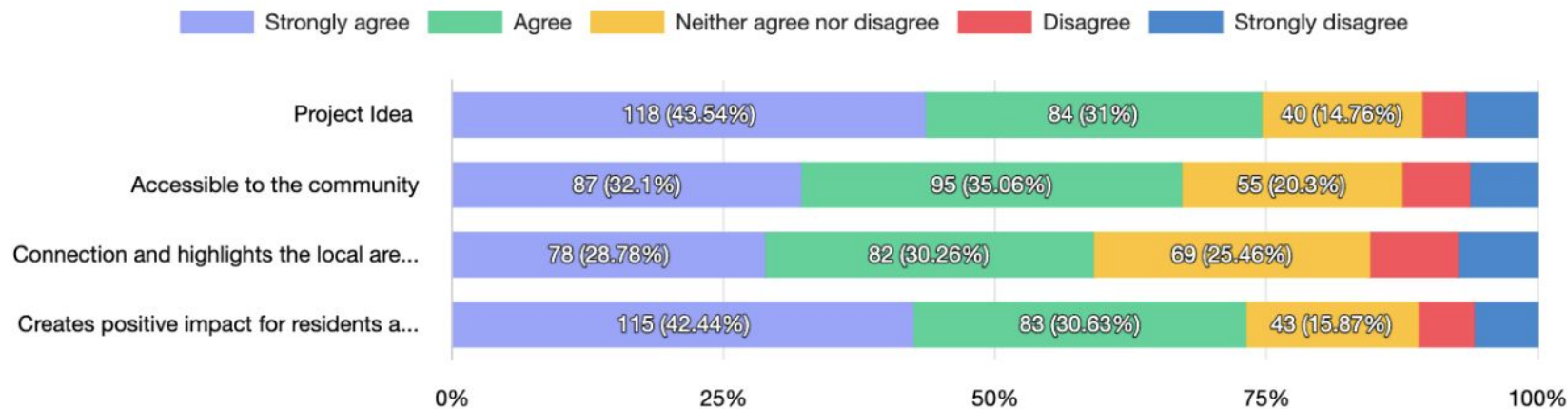
Methodology and Sample

This survey was distributed by the City of Minneapolis. After a deduplication process, Zencity analyzed **539 submissions** which were collected online between August 25th and September 12th, 2025. No weighting techniques were applied to the data.

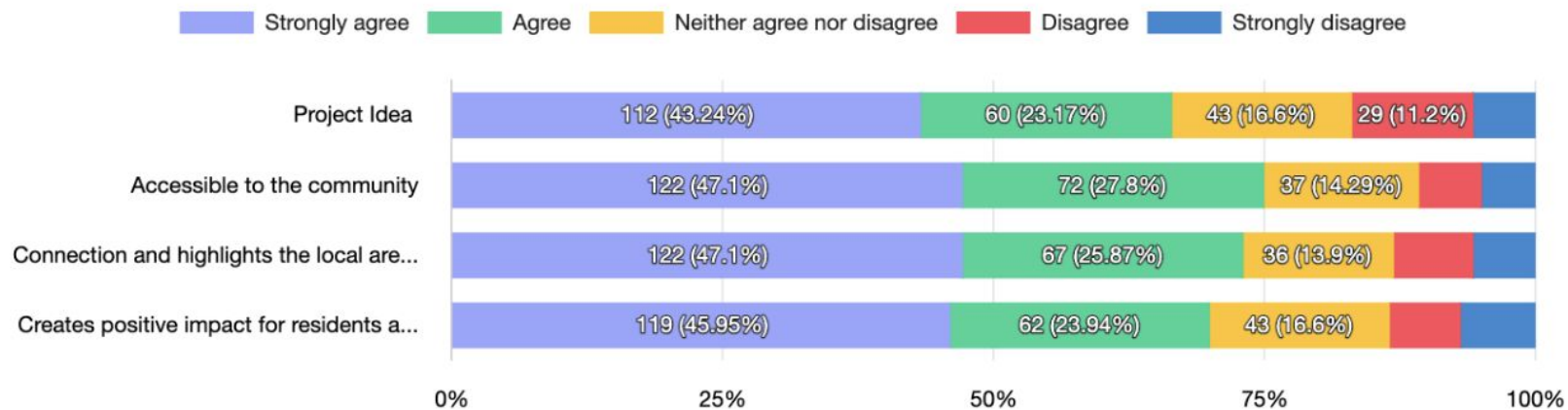
Overall Scores

Democracy Center Engage Survey 2025

How well does the Change Inc. application provide a community benefit to the residents around the Democracy Center and the City?



How well does the Mama Sheila's House of Soul application provide a community benefit to the residents around the Democracy Center and the City?



Open-Ended Question Analysis

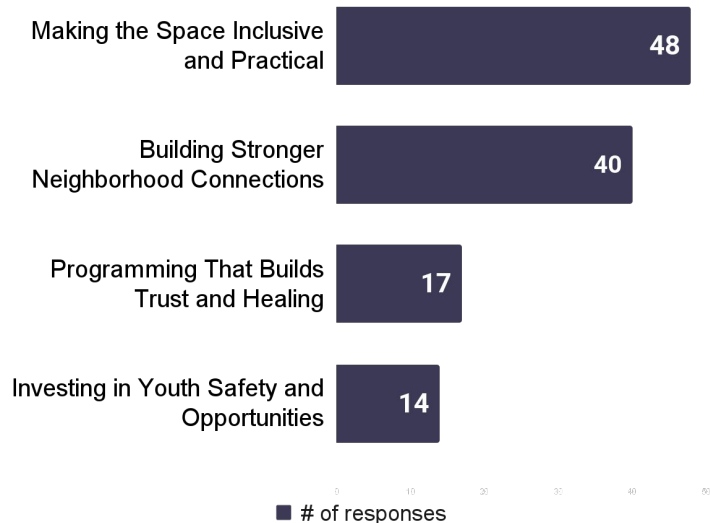
Democracy Center Engage Survey 2025

What could be improved or added to the Change Inc. application for the Democracy Center's community space to make it more successful?

114* community members provided suggestions, with consistent calls for:

- **Making the Space Inclusive and Practical (48 responses):** Calls for a clearer plan on daily operations, funding, and sustainability. Many urged expanding beyond youth to include all ages, with suggestions like adult job placement, tech training, senior services, food access, and community dining.
- **Building Stronger Neighborhood Connections (40 responses):** Emphasis on linking the center to the local community through local hiring, partnerships with businesses and cultural groups, and ensuring it adds to the area's vibrancy.
- **Programming That Builds Trust and Healing (17 responses):** Respondents stressed acknowledging the site's history while fostering healing through education, opportunity, restorative justice, memorials, and multi-generational involvement.
- **Investing in Youth Safety and Opportunities (14 responses):** Calls for safe, structured spaces for youth — from recreation and tutoring to trauma-informed support — to keep young people engaged and supported.

Top Themes in Community Input



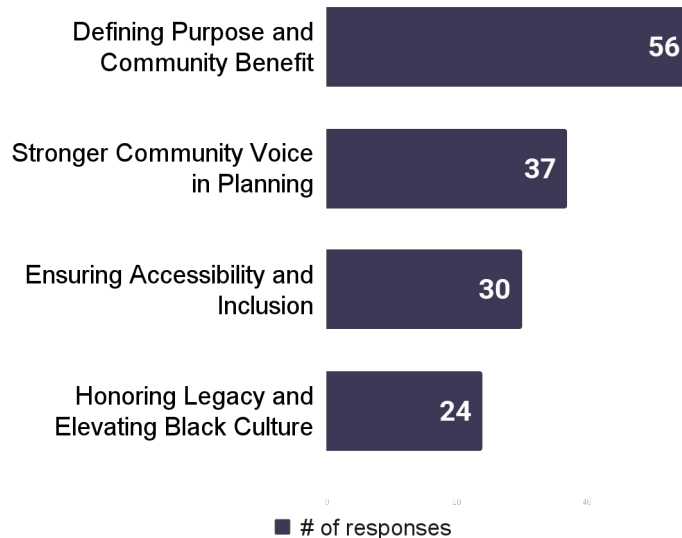
*Note: Totals may not align with the number of respondents, as some gave multiple suggestions.

What could be improved or added to the Mama Sheila's House of Soul application for the Democracy Center's community space to make it more successful?

126* community members provided suggestions, with consistent calls for:

- **Defining Purpose and Community Benefit (56 responses):** Many questioned the community value of adding a for-profit restaurant and raised concerns about long-term sustainability. Respondents called for clearer plans on funding, affordability, and added civic or cultural benefits.
- **Stronger Community Voice in Planning (37 responses):** Many felt the proposal reflected private interests more than community needs. Respondents wanted greater local input, stronger neighborhood ties, and consideration of alternative locations or partnerships.
- **Ensuring Accessibility and Inclusion (30 responses):** Suggestions focused on making the space more welcoming, with affordable pricing, broader food options (e.g., vegetarian/vegan), and accessibility for the wider community.
- **Honoring Legacy and Elevating Black Culture (24 responses):** Respondents highlighted the importance of tying the project to Black history and culture, often through a museum. Many saw this as a chance for healing and civic pride, while some called for broader cultural representation.

Top Themes in Community Input

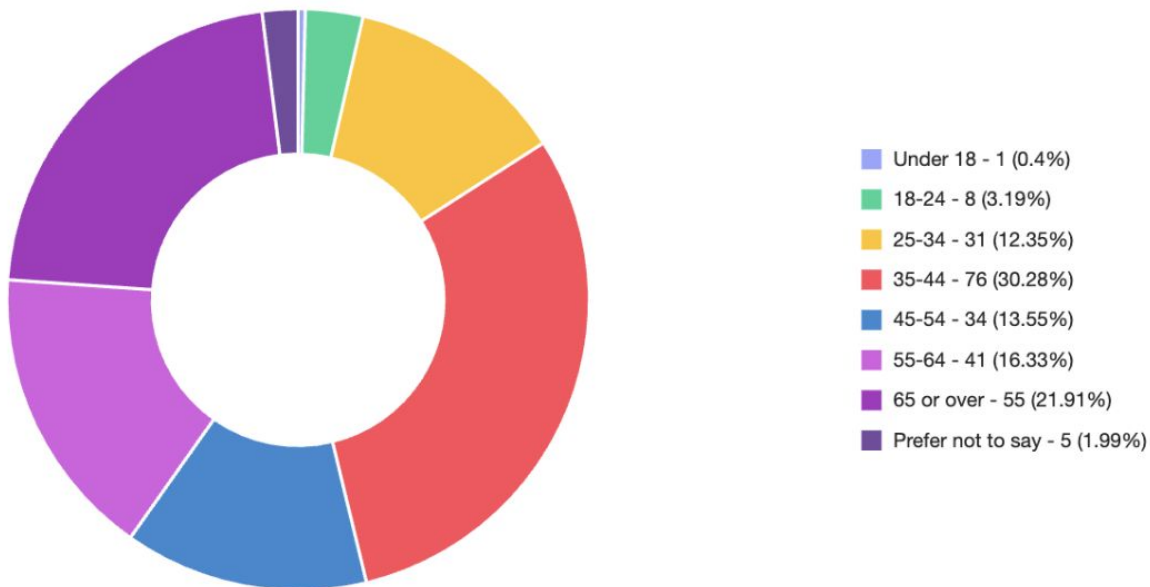


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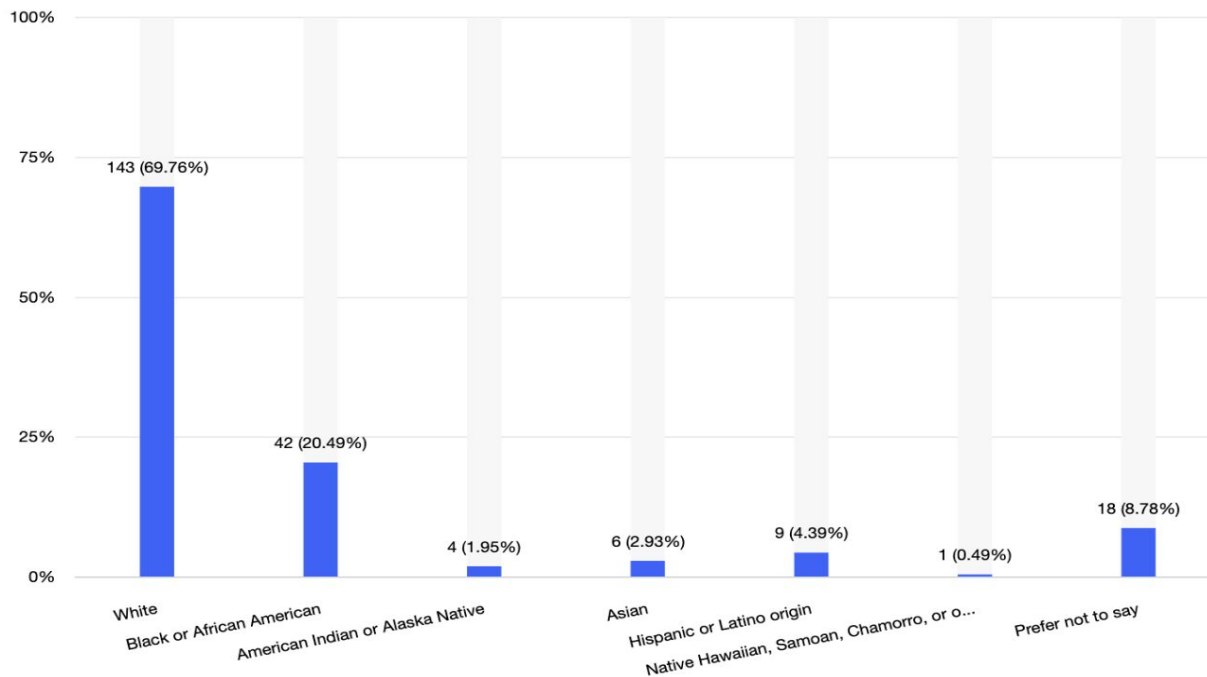
Breakdown by Demographics

Democracy Center Engage Survey 2025

What is your age?



What is your race? Select all that apply.



In which neighborhood do you live or work in?

