

Fragment of a body map created by a participant in the Body Map Storytelling activity.



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# Reimagining Community Engagement to Increase Resilience to Climate Change in El Punto Neighborhood, Salem, Massachusetts.

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# Executive Summary

In November 2021, the Mauricio Gastón Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston partnered with the Woods Hole Group (WHG) to develop a community outreach strategy for the *Climate Change Deep Dive Model, Alternative Analysis, and Targeted Outreach & Engagement* project in the Point/Palmer Cove neighborhood (El Punto), in the city of Salem, MA. El Punto, including its residents, workers, infrastructure, and development areas, is particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts (such as sea level rise, storm surge, precipitation, and heat waves). Researchers from the Gaston institute engaged El Punto residents to:

- Increase the community’s knowledge of current and future climate change risks, vulnerabilities, and opportunities in El Punto;
- Learn from the community the best solutions to implement to prepare for climate change and reduce its impacts; and
- Build trust and strengthen relationships between the community members and the City of Salem for future collaboration and communication.

We conducted: interviews with key informants who work in community organizations in the community and facilitated Community Mapping and Body Map Storytelling activities.

Our engagement activities, which enabled us to hear what residents think about climate change, revealed a large set of other issues that compound the effect of climate change. If those issues are not addressed, it will be difficult for the City to get buy-in from the community for their climate change initiatives.

Historically, El Punto has always attracted low-wage immigrants, either French-Canadian at the onset of the 20th century<sup>1</sup> or most recently Latinos, mostly Dominicans. Since the 1980s, Latinos in El Punto have undergone a rapid population growth, currently representing about 50 to 60% of all residents in El Punto. Despite this growth, Latinos in El Punto do not have significant economic resources and/or political leverage to participate in decision-making affecting their community. Issues of language exclusion, negative perceptions of the community, and unequal

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<sup>1</sup> Encyclopedia of French Cultural Heritage in North America, The Point: a Franco-American Heritage Site in Salem, Massachusetts, [http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-739/The\\_Point:\\_a\\_Franco-American\\_Heritage\\_Site\\_in\\_Salem,\\_Massachusetts.html](http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-739/The_Point:_a_Franco-American_Heritage_Site_in_Salem,_Massachusetts.html). Last visited July 1, 2022.

social-economic opportunities have prevented even the most eager residents from participating in the governance of their community. Equally important is lack of economic investments targeted for this community, as demonstrated by the apparent abandonment of the infrastructure, lack of response from police, and limited Spanish-language material provided regarding city meetings and other engagement opportunities. Increasing resilience in the community should mean increasing the wellbeing of the residents, increasing the community's power to help make decisions that impact the community, increasing spaces of inclusion, and in general fomenting a different attitude toward the community.

In our study, we saw evidence of community strength that makes us hopeful for change. This change can be built on the existing solidarity, engagement, care, and leadership, as well as the pure will of the people. The data from the interviews with key informants, from community mapping, and from body map storytelling have shown three major contextual realities that can inform actions the City can take to shift the everyday experiences of residents and help the community thrive in the face of climate change.

Many aspects of this research relate to wider issues beyond the case of El Punto. The predominant approach to creating climate change resilience is a technical fix. Band-aid solutions to the climate catastrophes often rely on market responses and are reactive rather than proactive, leaving Indigenous, low-income, and other marginalized groups vulnerable to exploitation (Adger 2001). These approaches have not worked. Instead, solutions are needed that are grounded in traditional knowledge, long-term, culturally appropriate engagement, and mutual respect, i.e., reciprocity.

By acknowledging this more global phenomenon of isolated technical approaches to climate change we see the opportunity for the City of Salem to really change the status quo in El Punto. By re-imagining engagement, seeing climate change in its evolution as essentially a problem of inequality, and embracing an ethos of cultural humility (Sweet 2018) leading to community accountability and healing justice, the City of Salem could be a leading national or even international example of how to get climate change resilience right.



# Recommendations: Re-imagining Engagement with El Punto Residents

Some of the residents who participated in our outreach activities acknowledged that there have been improvements in the way that the City reaches out to the community members. However, they also mentioned that existing City initiatives need to be scaled up to increase the speed at which the economic status of residents of the Point improves. This will also increase the ability of the community to quickly recover after all sorts of shocks including the ones related to climate change.

Based on the participants' feedback, we recommend that the City of Salem re-imagine the way it engages with El Punto by operating within a framework linking social, political, and economic phenomena to the ongoing crisis of climate change. Isolating climate change mitigation and adaptation to a singular process of dealing with extreme heat, flooding, and storms misses the much broader reality in El Punto that these issues compound the inequality that residents face in their everyday experience. At its worst, a singular approach would lead to green gentrification that worsens racial, social, and economic inequalities.

## 1. Promote a positive perception of what El Punto and its residents are.

- a. Develop an understanding of the history of the Point and how it became what it is today. Additional efforts need to be made from the perspective of current and past policies, City ordinances, and regulations that led to the current situation where the community has few resources to adapt to the effects of climate change. This could be carried out through oral-history interviews with long-time residents combined with the analysis of City records.
- b. City officials should understand that to address the effects of climate change, the City must go beyond controlling extreme flooding and extreme heat, especially in communities such El Punto that have a history of social injustice. There is a real risk that prioritization of market forces and real estate developers' interests will leave unaddressed the needs and priorities of El Punto residents, and will exacerbate the racial, social, and economic disparities that currently exist
- c. Build upon current residents' eagerness to participate in conversations about the future of El Punto. Ideally, this will be conducted through culturally and linguistically appropriate practices that consider the conditions of living and working conditions for all residents.
- d. Embrace cultural humility (Sweet 2018) to see what community residents have to offer. Cultural humility in contrast to cultural competence contests the idea that someone can actually become competent in someone else's culture, rather public officials should practice an ongoing commitment to self-evaluation and self-

critique to decrease power imbalances between city authorities and community members that builds collaboration rather than top-down power dynamics.

- e. Recognize the assets and valuable knowledge and the extensive experience and wisdom that are present in the rich fabric of the community.
- f. Using an assets-based approach, reshape the narrative about El Punto. Provide Salem-wide news and information about all the amazing things that people and organizations in El Punto are doing. Highlight the murals, the unique food, creativity, and opportunities for cultural enlightenment for residents in other parts of Salem.

## 2. Facilitate processes of community empowerment.

- a. Facilitate the participation of the El Punto community in the planning process and decision making that affects the community. It has been shown that top-down green planning processes in communities like El Punto have led to exclusionary results and have exacerbated racial disparities.<sup>2</sup> One reason is that these traditional planning processes do not truly engage the community in decision-making processes, which reproduces unequal political power relations.
- b. Increase the opportunities to engage and integrate El Punto residents into the process of green infrastructure planning. This will increase individual and community participation in decision-making in ways that will reduce the risks of green gentrification. This type of research builds on the strengths of the residents in El Punto and will prioritize their needs. From the beginning, residents will become co-creators and collaborators of the research projects, participating in all phases of the research, from the design to the presentation of the results to the broader community and city agencies (Hacker, 2013).
- c. Use participatory budgeting models as often as possible. These models provide communities with ways to participate in the decision-making process of how to spend portions of the annual budget in ways that benefit the community. Ideally, this will not only make budget decisions more transparent and equitable, but also engage the community in processes of which they are traditionally excluded.<sup>3</sup>
- d. Use a community accountability approach that centers the abilities of the community members to make decisions about how policy and programs being developed impact their community.
- e. Search for mechanisms for all residents regardless of citizenship status to participate in the local political process and demand accountability of elected officials.

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<sup>2</sup> Bellboy, P., Raciti, A., Rivera-Kientz, K., & Herts, R. (2021). Opportunity in the Complexity: Recommendations for Equitable Climate Resilience in East Boston, [https://www.umb.edu/editor\\_uploads/images/centers\\_institutes/sustainable\\_solutions\\_lab/Opportunity\\_in\\_the\\_Complexity\\_Recommendations\\_English\\_final.pdf](https://www.umb.edu/editor_uploads/images/centers_institutes/sustainable_solutions_lab/Opportunity_in_the_Complexity_Recommendations_English_final.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Organizing Engagement, Participatory Budgeting. Participatory Budgeting, <https://organizingengagement.org/models/participatory-budgeting/>. Last visited on June 11, 2022.



### 3. Support and strengthen local community-based organizations.

- a. Make an inventory of grass-roots organizations that could be added to the list of partners of the City, and that can help bridge the gap between other issues affecting the community and the preparation and adaptation of the community in facing climate change.
- b. Since the City relies on community organizations to do outreach, there is a need to build their capacity as they are in an advantageous position to conduct outreach by incorporating CBO (community-based organizations) staffing in grant applications.
- c. Facilitate training for leadership and community organizing. This has proven to be effective in other minority communities throughout the United States—for example, in the Little Village community of Chicago, where LVEJO (Little Village Environmental Justice Organization) was implemented. The Little Village community is made up of immigrant, low-income, and working-class families, like El Punto. Through leadership and community organizing training, they have made strides in fighting for environmental justice in the community and have facilitated community engagement.<sup>4</sup>
- d. Create a Community Collaboratory that includes CBOs, different government agencies, and representatives from different sectors of the community (elders, students, workers, small business owners, etc.) to meet two or three times a year to help guide policy and planning efforts. Participants should be compensated for their time.

### 4. Consider specific interventions that link the interests of the residents and the City.

- a. A basic infrastructure development plan in El Punto, focused on updating roads, sidewalks, sewer system, and rain-catching systems.
- b. A comprehensive plan dealing with the ongoing pest problems such as rats, roaches, etc., including an open dialogue between property owners and renters, facilitated by City officials looking for long-term solutions and accountability.
- c. A green jobs workforce development plan focused on the development opportunities in the new economy in El Punto. Examples of the success of such a strategy can be found in one initiative in Portland's Cully neighborhood, Living Cully. In this initiative, the community successfully organized and integrated a

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<sup>4</sup> Leadership Development for the Sustainable Self Determination of Little Village, LVEJO; Last visited on June 23, 2022. <http://www.lvejo.org/>



green infrastructure plan that also served as an anti-poverty program by engaging the community members in the plan, from design to implementation.<sup>5</sup>

d. Exploring the ability of the City to mandate Community-Benefit Agreements for future real estate developments, with accountability and enforcement mechanisms. One example of such agreement can be found in 2018 Somerville's Community Benefits Agreement on the development of Union Square.<sup>6</sup>

e. Possibly, given the current number of open positions at City Hall, a job fair in El Punto with the aim of identifying and matching community members who may qualify for those positions.

## Methodology

Researchers conducted nine individual interviews with El Punto advocates, along with two community mapping activities (17 people total) and one body map storytelling activity (9 people).

The study adopted an asset-based approach to conduct the research. This research approach highlights the assets of communities, rather than their deficits, and reflects an important shift in the mindset and practice of many policy makers.

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<sup>5</sup> Next City, When Green Infrastructure Is an Anti-Poverty Strategy. <https://nextcity.org/features/when-green-infrastructure-is-an-anti-poverty-strategy>. Last visited on June 11, 2022

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/1\\_CBA%20Report%202022%20March%202018.pdf](https://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/1_CBA%20Report%202022%20March%202018.pdf)



# Introduction

In November 2021, the Mauricio Gastón Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston partnered with the Woods Hole Group (WHG) to develop a community outreach strategy for the Climate Change Deep Dive Model, Alternative Analysis, and Targeted Outreach & Engagement project in the Point/Palmer Cove neighborhood (El Punto), in the city of Salem, MA.

This project focused on The Point/Palmer Cove neighborhood (“the Point,” “El Punto”), which the City has identified as particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts (such as sea level rise, storm surge, precipitation, and heat waves) combined with the vulnerability of its residents, workers, infrastructure, and development.

The Gastón Institute was responsible for leading the study’s qualitative research and community engagement activities with Spanish-speaking and immigrant residents in the neighborhood. Researchers at the institute targeted efforts to engage Latino, low-income, and other hard-to-reach community members. The Gastón Institute’s framework for civic engagement continued to build upon their successful community outreach and collaborations with trusted community leaders in communities such as El Punto/Palmer Cove. The idea was to build on the institute’s social networks and draw on their experienced multilingual researchers to develop positive relationships with residents and community leaders in Salem.

At the Mauricio Gastón Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston, our mission has been to inform policymakers and the public about issues vital to the state’s growing Latino communities and to provide research, analysis, and information necessary for more effective public policy development. Our long track record of conducting collaborative mixed-methods research, especially with Latino immigrants from Central and South America, has allowed us to identify and recommend culturally appropriate outreach strategies that aim to benefit all Latino residents across Massachusetts. In this case, we were responsible for leading the study’s qualitative research and community engagement activities with Spanish-speaking residents in “El Punto”

As participants in this project, researchers from the Gaston institute engaged El Punto residents in different activities that aimed to:

- Increase the community’s knowledge of current and future climate change risks, vulnerabilities, and opportunities in El Punto;

- Learn from the community about the best solutions to implement to prepare for climate change and reduce its impacts; and
- Build trust and strengthen relationships between the community members and the City of Salem for future collaboration and communication.

The outreach to the community was conducted via different activities: interviews with key informants who work in community organizations in the community, Community Mapping, and Body Map Storytelling, which will be described later in the methods section.

This report compiles the key findings and recommendations that resulted from conducting a qualitative study with residents and other individuals who play important roles in advocating for and supporting this community. Assuming an asset-based approach rather than a deficit-based one (Green & Haines, 2011), our study focuses on community strengths and identifies a myriad of possibilities for City administrators to build upon existing practices and behaviors to further promote and support the community's pathway to climate change resilience.

## Neighborhood Context

The Point/Palmer Cove neighborhood (El Punto) in the city of Salem, MA, is a vibrant, ethnically diverse community that has long been a settlement destination for new immigrants. The Census 2020 points out a growth in population of around 7% from 2010, with Latinos representing 62% of all residents. Other socioeconomic metrics, based on the American Community Survey (ACS), point to the need to improve the economic status of the residents:<sup>7</sup>

- In 2019, 83% of housing units were renter-occupied compared with 79% in 2013.
- Median income increased from about \$25,000 in 2013 to about \$30,000 in 2019. Adjusted for inflation this is only around a \$2,500 increase (Or 10%).
- Unemployment fell from about 19% in 2013 to 8% in 2019.
- In 2019, 23% of people aged 25 and older had a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 17% in 2013. The city-wide average attainment at this level is 38%.
- The percentage of households that speak "English only" went up slightly from 59% in 2013 to 61% in 2019. Immigration status and eligibility may be a hindrance to delivering of some of the programs needed to achieve better outcomes, insofar as they are restricted by State or Federal laws or regulations.

The above indicators are pre-pandemic, and we can safely assume that performance on these indicators may have worsened as is the case for many communities like the one in El Punto.

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<sup>7</sup> 2019 and 2013 ACS 5-year estimate data

## Methodology

The study adopted an asset-based approach to conduct the research. This research approach highlights the assets of communities, rather than their deficits, and reflects an important shift in the mindset and practice of many policy makers. Researchers conducted nine individual interviews with El Punto advocates, along with two community mapping activities and one body map storytelling activity. Interviews were conducted in English, while the Community and Body Mapping activities, were conducted in Spanish.<sup>8</sup>

The nine interviews were conducted via ZOOM during the months of January and February. To recruit participants, City officials provided contact information on potential participants. All interviews were recorded, and notes were taken. They ranged from 40 minutes to an hour and all recordings were transcribed verbatim. The research team analyzed a subset of verbatim transcripts with the purpose of creating an initial codebook that could be applied to the rest of the transcripts. The coding process, i.e., the process of finding the most relevant themes, was iterative and two different researchers coded each interview. Frequent meetings between researchers were held to ensure both reliability and inter-coder agreement; when a revision of the coding framework was necessary, interviews were re-coded. The verbatim transcripts were coded and analyzed using the software program NVivo, Version 12.

**Community Mapping:** El Punto residents gathered and collectively picked a route linked to events, experiences, or any concerns specific to climate change in the vicinity. The group shared what strategies they have used to navigate floods or other climate events that have clear links to historical weather events and demonstrate their adaptation. Participants took notes and photos of the places that we visited, and they also discussed, the importance of space and related events, concerns, or desires.

We convened two community mapping activities in March of 2022. Five people participated in the first one: 3 men two white and one Latino) and two women (one white and one Latino). Twelve people took part in the second one (all Latinos, 4 men and 8 women). In a community space, we provided a brief overview of the process and purpose of the community mapping activity. We explained that we were interested in their experiences with climate change and any other related issues they faced. They picked the streets we walked on, and we had conversations about the attributes of the built and natural environment. Both the participants and the researchers took photographs. Upon arrival back at the community space, the participants and researchers created a map of the area covered in our walk and

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<sup>8</sup> El Punto advocates included individuals, community organization members, and/or City officials who are associated with promoting and supporting the well-being of El Punto residents.



added different colored sticky pad notes to tag what participants observed (or have experienced) in different sites. The color-coding of the type of attribute noted on the map showed patterns of issues and where they were co-located or dispersed. At the completion of the event, we provided \$75 Amazon cards to each participant.

**Body Map Storytelling:** The goal of the body map storytelling is to document the visceral experiences of community members, accessing data related to participants' physical and emotional experiences linked to the topic being explored and it reveals information not exposed through interviews or surveys. The synergies experienced in body map storytelling often expand to community mapping. Community members can see their shared experiences and connections to events on the land.

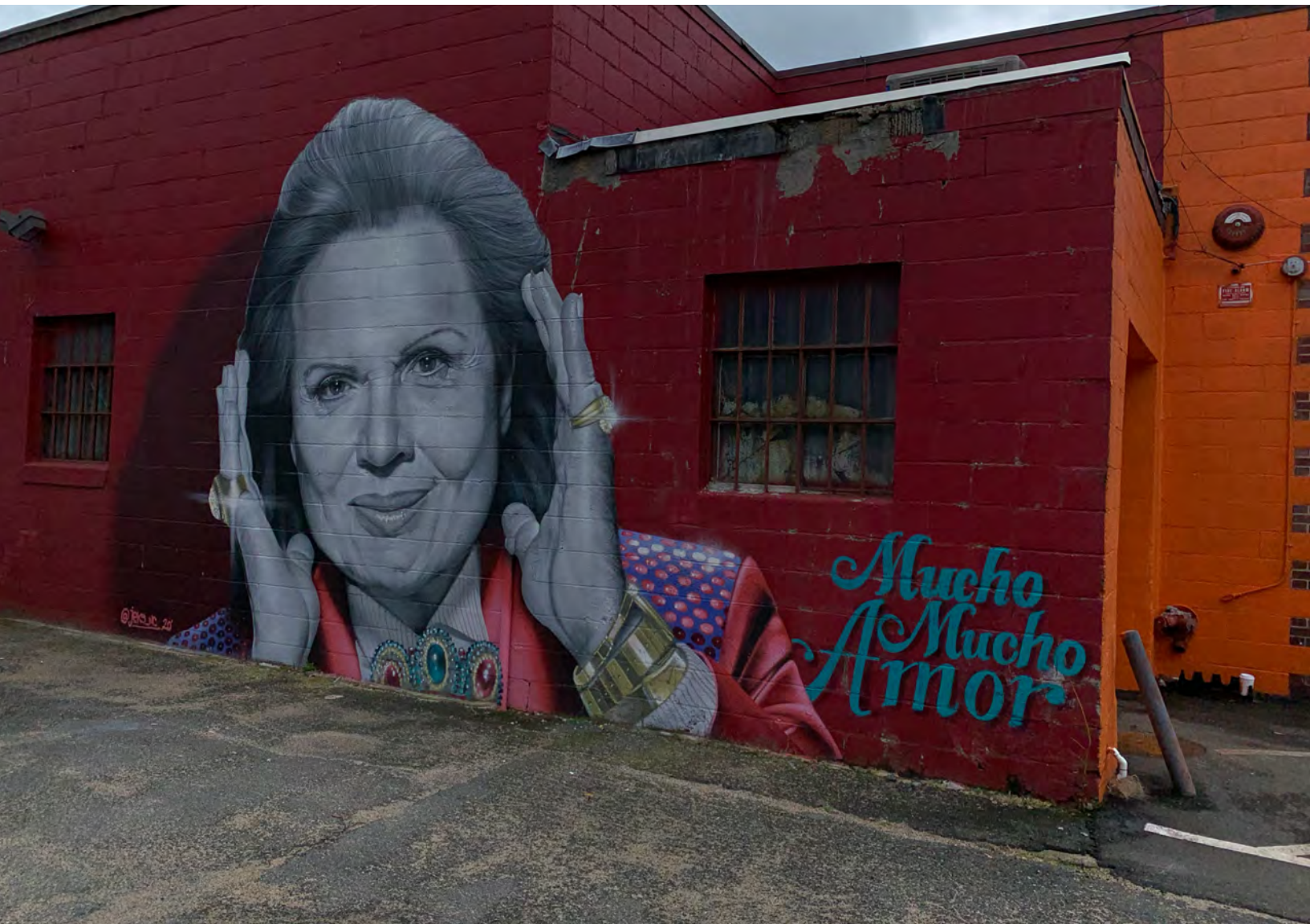
We conducted a body map storytelling activity that included 9 women, some of whom had also participated in the community mapping activities. First, we explained the process and purpose of the event and then asked the participants to help each other draw their life-size silhouettes on a piece of butcher block paper. Once they were complete, we asked a set of five questions (see Appendix II for a list of questions). After everyone drew their answers to the questions, each participant taped their map to the wall and we video-recorded their explanation of the attributes of their body maps. Co-PI Sweet has written extensively about this method and has used it in the U.S. and Latin America (Sweet & Ortiz Escalante, 2017; Sweet, Sanders, & Peters, 2021; Hayes-Conroy & Sweet, 2015; Jenkins and Sweet, 2022). Following a group discussion of their experience with the body map storytelling, we provided each participant with a \$75 Amazon card. We used a combination of visual analysis and content analysis to assess the meaning of the maps individually and as a collective expression of everyday visceral experiences of climate change and related issues.

Data on how residents experience climatic events can be important to stakeholders and local policymakers as they prioritize potential interventions. The shared experience of creating the maps in the presence of others can trigger ideas and memories that encourage participants to remember and document their experiences. The session was two hours long and followed the body map storytelling protocol in Appendix II.

Through all these activities we gained a better understanding of the dynamics between El Punto residents, City officials, and community organizations interested in increasing the community's preparedness for extreme climate events produced by climate change.

## Limitations

As with any study, this one has several limitations that must be acknowledged. The main limitation is the small number of participants. A small sample size limits the extent to which the findings can be generalized. However, it allows for a deep description of what some residents in the neighborhood are experiencing and adds to a story that is just starting to be told. Future researchers should reach out to a larger number of potential respondents to ensure a more comprehensive picture of the community's views on climate change and other issues affecting the community.



# Findings

## Findings from Key-Informant Interviews

In connections to the goal of the project, there were four main themes identified during the key-informant interviews:

1. Community strengths: Describes the strengths associated with the Point neighborhood and the residents who live there. This includes culture, leadership, and how close the residents are to one another.
2. Challenges: This theme describes interview participants' perceptions of what are the challenges to truly engage El Punto residents and advocates in actions to prepare the community for the future effects of climate change. Challenges are distributed in three areas: 1. Challenges to organizations, 2. Challenges to engage the community, and 3. Socioeconomic challenges.
3. Current climate change effects in El Punto: Describes the ways that the effects of climate change are felt currently in El Punto. They include 1. Direct effects, 2. Residents' perceptions about the future, and 3. Residents' levels of awareness
4. Participants' suggestions for answering community needs: Describes strategies to engage Point residents and the City and make improvements for the community around climate change issues. Strategies are distributed in three ways: 1. Improvements for the Point neighborhood, 2. Suggestions to improve engagement among residents, and 3. Recommendations for the City.

Due to the small number of individuals interviewed it is difficult to discuss their demographics and positions within the community without inadvertently revealing their identity. Because of this, in the following sections respondents will all be identified with pseudonyms and no information that allows for personal identification will be included.

### 1. Community Strengths

This theme highlights the strengths associated with the Point neighborhood, but also the qualities that the residents bring to the community. To create meaningful social change, it is important to understand who the community residents are and what they bring to the city. Most participants agree that the strengths are associated



with the Point being a close-knit community willing to engage in the issues that affect them:

*“I think the strength is that we are a very close community, and people do care... I know that we are a very close community, very diverse, and people are very passionate. When they’re into something, they’re very passionate” (Alaysha).*

Many participants referred to that sense of community felt by all residents in El Punto,

*“...The-Point is great and then it has a really high degree of social capital. There’s-- people know their neighbors, people care about their neighbors, there are lots of multi generation families living in The Point and even if a generation kind of moves out of The Point, there’s still real connectivity to the neighborhood”. (John)*

The potential for leadership was also stressed. In particular, referring to specific residents in El Punto that other residents listen to and look for wisdom and advice as well as organizations such as the El Punto neighborhood association, North Shore CDC, and their leaders.

## 2. Challenges

This theme describes interview participants’ perceptions of what are the challenges to truly engaging El Punto residents and advocates in actions to prepare the community for the future effects of climate change. Challenges are distributed in four areas: 1 Challenges to organizations, 2. Challenges to engage the community, and 3. Socio-economic challenges.



Figure 1: Challenges. This diagram illustrates the interconnection between all the challenges in the Point neighborhood suggested by interview participants.

## A. Challenges to Organizations

Some participants listed several challenges posed to existing community-based organizations as they seek to fully participate in the City's initiatives. One of these challenges is having the necessary organizational capabilities to do all this work:

*“What seems to work for me when I want the information to get into the Point is to do door knocking. It’s to bring the information into people’s homes. I don’t necessarily have the capacity to do this every time with my team...” (Alaysha)*

Even implying that this is a 24/7 job:

*“... Sometimes, you see me walking in the neighborhood with my team at eight o’clock at night, and people think we’re crazy. Because they’re like, “Why are you working-why are you working so late?” It’s because this is the time.” (Alaysha).*

Other times participants refer to lack of resources or even misalignment with the organization's own priorities, as John mentioned:

*“...we don’t disagree that it’s [Climate change] important, but it isn’t our first mission in life to focus on climate change. That’s not what our organization’s priority is...” (John).*

## B. Challenges to Engage the Community

Most of the interviewees referred to the difficulties of engaging El Punto residents in activities related to the preparation for future climate change effects. A few refer to various challenges to community engagement. One of these challenges is that a sizable portion of the population in El Punto are renters, and it seems hard to engage renters about climate change:

*... most of the people who live in the Point are renters, and don’t even have the capacity to change their, you know, heating structure or, you know, what their roof is made from those like independent things we ask folks to do to fight climate change (Lillian).*

**Education.** Many in the community require educational opportunities to increase their understanding of climate change effects:

*... They [residents] might understand the concept, but the harm is long-term, and like the common solutions and actions that we can take, I don’t necessarily think people are aware of them (Alaysha).*

The same participant referred to the issue of accessing the necessary information and residents' lack of funds to respond to the challenges of climate change:

*The challenge is access, you know, access to information that is understandable and easy to comprehend and is direct... what are some of the actions that they could take collectively as a family*

*to contribute to the benefit of the neighborhood?... some of these things cost a lot of money and people don't have that, unfortunately (Alaysha).*

**Need to understand the differences between the Point Community and city at large.** Some interviewees expressed that The Point Community is often looped into the community of Salem at large but it needs to be analyzed as its own individual community with its own needs to close the divide:

*The culture of being in a segregated neighborhood [The Point], inherently, the fact, it's inherently segregated, right? It wasn't meant to be segregated, but it is, it just is and good luck changing that (Eduardo).*

As a result of The Point having such a large immigrant community, there are language and cultural barriers that need to be understood to adequately engage the community:

*There's a language barrier for older residents who are Spanish speaking, and who don't get out very often... And getting these people in-- just in touch with what's going on and informing them of important things can be a challenge (Elio).*

**Challenges created by City initiatives.** The participants discussed and criticized how some of the City's initiatives may hinder the engagement of El Punto residents. Some participants discussed about the City's limited understanding of the El Punto community:

*"But when it comes to diversity and inclusion, that doesn't mean that the Point is going to need the same approach. And I think that's what the problem is. The city has good intentions about this and has good intentions about most of the problems that I have seen..." (Alaysha).*

They also mentioned that some city-wide initiatives are not being implemented in the Point community:

*"...The city has this page called Salem Together. Right? It's an awesome website. It has a ton of information that if people in the community will be aware of, they could go through Facebook and find resources, especially with COVID. You know, the city of Salem has cellphone numbers for everyone in the neighborhood. They can text and call and do wellness calls. Why aren't they doing that with people from the Point?" (Lillian)*

Lillian offers an answer,

*"They [the city] assume that because they have information on the website and many people outside the Point know how to navigate*

*those resources, understand that those resources exist, so they [El Punto residents] know how to look for them.”*

One participant even mentioned that there may be political agendas not in synchrony with community needs:

*“I could name three or four really important issues in The Point Neighborhood that we can and-and are engaging people on. That’s not what the city is interested in right now. They have a different political agenda. And that-- there’s no question that-that-that it doesn’t build trust. It-it over time does exactly the opposite” (John).*

### **C. Socioeconomic Challenges**

The participants discussed that the main challenge in seeking to engage the community is the fact that most of the residents have more urgent priorities in mind such as poverty and economic security, lack of affordable housing, gentrification, etc. Regarding housing, John says

*... When we’re talking about people who are experiencing poverty, I think they maybe, well, aware that climate change [is an issue] like globally, but I think when they think of their day-to-day lives and they’re thinking about where their next paycheck’s going to come from, where their next meal is going to come from, maintaining a roof over their family’s heads... I think their goals are focused on economic security and basic needs (John).*

Regarding housing, some participants mentioned the disarray of the types of affordable housing in the community.

*“... A lot of them are also really in a state of disrepair, I mean, in my street alone I know at least five buildings that are horrendous and they’re just not in good state. And I know people who live there, and they say, yeah, I live here because it’s cheap, right?” (Eduardo).*

To continue, the neighborhood is also becoming subject to gentrification:

*“I think the biggest thing right now is the potential of Shetland Park becoming these luxury condos, the goal to bring in, you know, double the population size of the Point neighborhood by bringing in these luxury condos that will effectively price out anyone who’s not living in a rent-controlled building... I do worry that if those like luxury apartments go through, that it’ll be detrimental to the neighborhood” (Lillian).*

### 3. Current climate change effects in El Punto.

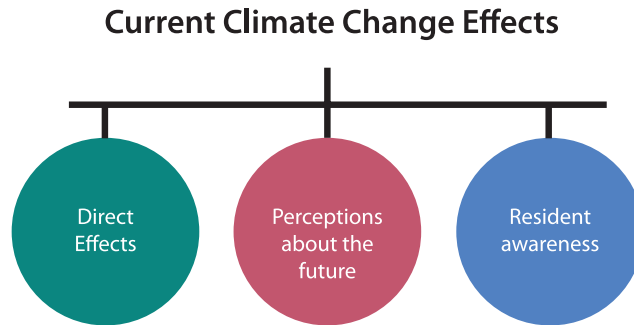


Figure 2: Diagram that illustrates the different Climate Change effects that are currently perceived by residents in El Punto.

#### A. Direct Effects

Participants discussed several direct effects of climate change that they have witnessed in The Point community. Many mentioned the vulnerability of El Punto compared to other communities in the area:

*“I think climate change is impacting everyone. I find that less-resourced neighborhoods are at higher risk of receiving the impacts of climate change. One, because I find that lower resource neighborhoods tend to have less of an emphasis on educating the population because there are so many other greater needs in lower-resourced areas” (Lillian).*

Many described the unstable weather that is experienced in the winter and summer months:

*“I can see the changes, the systematic changes in the climate because of how, um, you know, sometimes it’s like December of like January, and we don’t see snow” (Alaysha).*

In conjunction with the extreme weather, one participant hypothesizes how it exacerbates the trash problems in the neighborhood:

*“The more our weather patterns are unpredictable and unstable, the more challenging it is to maintain, good quality of life in the neighborhood. And by that, I mean several different ways, for example, as mundane as it may seem, trash in the neighborhood is a big problem and it’s not just because of bad trash policies... It’s a byproduct of climate change, it’s not necessarily a cause per se, but it is a byproduct of it” (Eduardo).*

To continue, multiple participants mentioned mild to severe flooding of various streets in the community, which can be seen in the community mappings done as well:

*“There are a couple of streets in the neighborhood that traditionally would flood Peabody Street and Prince Street, which is closest to the*



*parks, tend to flood as well. And so, that I hadn't seen growing up in the neighborhood as much as I do now" (Clara).*

## **B. Perceptions about future effects**

Participants also foreshadowed some of the climate change effects that may be experienced in the community:

*"Salem is a coastal community and much of Salem is built on filled tide land. And The Point Neighborhood has, is surrounded by the ocean on, you know, two sides and is very vulnerable to rising sea levels" (John).*

Not only did participants list things such as rising sea levels, severe weather, and more but they also mentioned food shortages:

*"... I do think a lot of that is tied into long-term sustainability. For example, food access is already something that the Point community is struggling with. It is a food desert. There are a few bodegas in the area, but real consistent access to food is limited in the area... We know that communities like the Point are going to have even more limited access to food ..." (Lillian).*

## **C. Resident Awareness of the effects of Climate Change**

Resident awareness of current climate change effects was also discussed with the interviewees. Many participants mentioned the lack of awareness of the residents:

*"Climate change is a global problem that is affecting not only the Point, but really the entire world. And I think it is affecting the Point specifically because of the lack of understanding of what the problem is, and like the common solutions and actions that we can take. I think because right now it's not in a critical stage" (Alaysha).*

John discussed this idea further by stating:

*"I don't think it's that there's necessarily a lack of awareness that climate change isn't an issue, but I don't think that people view that as a high priority in their daily lives right now... I don't think there is any awareness whatsoever population wise" (John).*



## 4. Participants' Suggestions to Answer Community Needs.

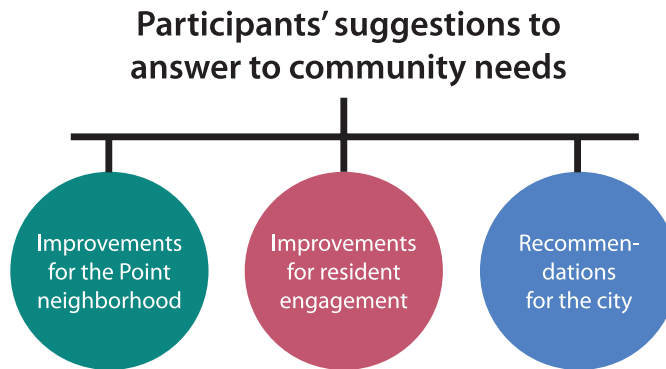


Figure 3. Diagram illustrating the different kinds of suggestions offered by participants to improve the response to community needs.

### A. Improvements for the Point Neighborhood

Participants expressed that to improve the conditions of the Point neighborhood, issues such as food access, housing related concerns, and addressing trash issues for the neighborhood, should be key priorities to address.

*“I think like finding those opportunities [referring to food related access, better housing, trash bins for the community] is what is going to allow us to connect more with residents, and then educate them in like why this work needs to happen in the Point neighborhood” (Alaysha)*

Others more specifically referred to the benefits that creating green spaces will bring to the community

*“... there’s just such a space that could be created into an open green space for the community, which would bring-- would reduce like a lot of impact [from climate change]. I’m just thinking about it systemically, we know that having green space is beneficial for communities” (Lilian).*

### B. Improvements for Resident Engagement

Several participants expressed that providing educational resources and access is key to getting the Point community engaged in projects to improve the neighborhood.

*“We really [need to] get the educational piece out there. What climate change is the differences that we’re seeing in the impacts of these storms and why. So, these are things that can kind of be predicted... So, the effects of rising sea level, the effects of the warmer climate in the summer, the colder winter [educate] how that’s all connected” (Clara).*

Other participants expressed more technical solutions to engage Point residents in initiatives.



*“Sign up for the red alert or you can get messages on your cell phone or your home phone or your text message or your email” (Paula).*

Some participants expressed that collaboration with the City to engage Point residents is also crucial. This includes collaborating with local organizations, but also with schools and parents.

*“So I usually send information like every week around and to the parents to know what’s going on and to is also part of what I want to accomplish...hear their voice and know what they’re interested in about and what they want to know, about the whole city and that way we can help them and this is absolutely an important thing for the whole community, and, I think that we can support each other in that” (Gina).*

Participants also provided future recommendations for the city and for the Point neighborhood. Many participants expressed the need for technical material related to climate change to be translated and simplified to be understood by residents.

*“So, one important [aspect] is for us to find the right language to communicate technical things, and to make it close to the people in the sense of how it is affecting what you can do, and how doing this is also going to benefit some other aspects of your life, or at least having the understanding to what point you will” (John).*

Lastly, one participant suggested that to engage Point residents, a good strategy is to involve local churches and pastors, as well as other community leaders.

### **C. Recommendations for the City**

Participants offered several suggestions for the City to take into consideration. They included regulations to combat climate change or address flooding issues, guidelines for property owners, improvements for infrastructure, and incorporating and engaging Point residents in a needs assessment.

*“Like the city can and should require folks who are doing renovations to say, “Well, if you’re going to pull a building permit, you got to elevate your mechanicals, you got to convert to electric. You got to, you know, incentivize people to include renewable energy that can fund their mechanicals...” (John)*

## **Findings from Community Mapping Activities**

The community mapping activities were enlightening. In both groups it was clear that the infrastructure, trash, and pests as they related to their everyday engagement with their community were key elements of distress but that they were also related to climate change. In the first group of 5 participants there was a differently abled

man with a walker, and he was able to graphically demonstrate how difficult it was for him to move around the community because of the faulty infrastructure but also how flooding and cold prevented him from crossing streets and walk on sidewalks. The flooding at the bottom of curb cuts was treacherous for him to traverse and during cold spells when those puddles froze, he would slip and slide as he tried to pass.

During both mapping sessions we were shown the substantial amounts of uncollected trash, rat traps, inoperable or damaged infrastructure that was ubiquitous throughout the community. Participants showed us the scars they had from falling, the limited mobility they experience and the fear of crime and police in specific places that continue to hold trauma for them. The trash and leaves were covering sewage holes that prevented excess water from flooding from being redirected away from homes and streets. The heaves in sidewalks made negotiating paths to different destinations dangerous. One person showed us where a guest of hers had fallen on the sidewalk after she got out of her car. Another mapper pointed to the spot where someone was murdered in front of her house and how the police mistreated community members in their search for evidence. Other participants showed how the parks were unsafe for families to bring their children. There were people doing drugs and there was not police response that helped make the parks safe.

In both Map 1 and Map 2 you can see patterns of orange sticky notes that show the existence of frequent moist and wet areas in the community indicating many areas with poor drainage. Residents noted that there was an increase in days with fog. The yellow sticky notes show specific places where a crime or multiple crimes have occurred. The pink stick notes denote broken infrastructure. Residents also noted the lack of street signs. The purple stickies represent spaces where trash was a concern: there was trash, no trash cans, dog poop, or rats. A few blue sticky notes represent important institutions in the community. Purple and pink stickies are dominant, suggesting that infrastructure and trash are critical issues interrupting everyday life. Flooding is also widespread and important and was linked to infrastructure and trash issues. The trash and broken infrastructure were seen as implicated in flooding problems. In one group the crime was seen as being concentrated in the center of the community, but in the second group it was depicted as more widespread.

It is also worth noting that as we walked many of the participants greeted people we passed and often explained to them that we were working on a climate change project. In one instance however a group of young Latina girls were saying "Black Lives Matter" but one of the white people in our group shouted back "All Lives Matter." This exchange did not generate any other tensions or actions, but it was a signal to us that issue of race and racism are areas of potential confrontation and in need of healing justice.

The combination of the data from the conversations during the mapping activity and the maps that the residents created indicate the need for a broader lens for thinking about climate change and climate change remediation and preparation.

Figure 4. Map 1 created by the community

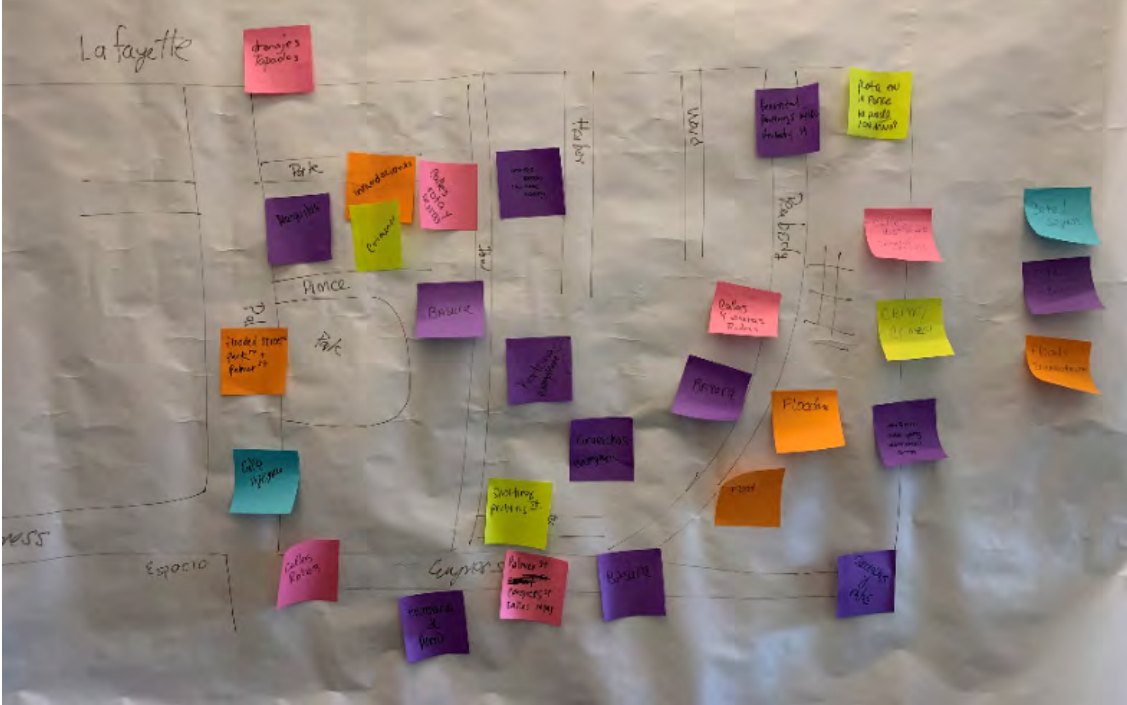


Figure 5. Map 2 created by the community along a different route

## Findings from Body Mapping Storytelling

The body map storytelling activity yielded 9 completed body maps. After they were completed. Each mapper explained the different attributes the map contained. The maps included physical pain and discomfort from the built environment, intense emotional distress linked to social and economic issues they face including crime and police mistreatment, strength through individual abilities, and comradery through caring. The combination of these attributes demonstrates a complicated story of difficulties and fortitude.

In most body maps there were elements of visceral difficulties and emotional distress linked to the built and natural environment in El Punto. Some participants drew physical injuries they experienced because of the crumbling streets and sidewalks in El Punto. One participant drew her cheek red and her hand with pain because of a fall on a broken sidewalk. Another drew the pain she had in her knees and hips from the uneven sidewalks. Multiple mappers drew their sleep interrupted and pain in their hearts because of worries about crime and other stressors in the community including discrimination and the fear of what climate change will bring. Many mappers drew tears to represent their sadness at the state of affairs in El Punto. They were worried about rats, trash, and crime as well as other detriments to their wellbeing.

A great deal of strength was also documented in the maps and observed during the mapping process. We saw individual mappers taking care of other mappers. One mapper was depressed, and other participants made sure to let us know to “take care of her” which we did but they also took care of her and other mappers. We made special efforts to support the person who was depressed but others did too. They helped her with the placement of materials on her map, put their arm on her shoulder to show affection, and checked in with her frequently to make sure she was okay. But it was not limited to that one mapper. Multiple times we observed mappers helping other mappers with their maps. For example, one mapper was gluing pipe cleaners on her map to represent her hair. Another mapper noticed that the glue was not holding so she bought over some tape and started putting small pieces of tape on each pipe cleaner so the hair would not fall off. Additionally, when we started drawing the silhouettes, they helped each other get to the floor, draw the silhouettes, and then get up again.

We specifically asked mappers to draw their strengths on their maps and there were many. Several mappers drew strength from their brains and the ability to analyze the information as well as in their mouths to share and if necessary, scream about what they thought and what the needs of the community are. Their hearts were a



space of both pain and strength where they could care for one another. Another space of strength was arms and legs to walk and work to make things better in the community. A couple of mappers drew music as their strength to heal themselves and others. Listening to music is healing for them. For us, these strengths represent an opportunity for the City of Salem to engage in meaningful ways that support equity and development.



Figure 6. Examples of body maps created during the Body Mapping Storytelling sessions.

# Discussion

At its onset, the main goal of the project was to co-create data that would lead to an increase in the resilience of the community and its residents to the effects of climate change. However, in conducting the community engagement activities, which enabled us to hear what the residents think about climate change, we encountered a large set of other issues that compound the effect of climate change. If those issues are not addressed, it will be difficult for the City to get buy-in from the community for their climate change initiatives.

Historically, El Punto has attracted low-wage immigrants, either French-Canadian at the onset of the 20th century<sup>9</sup> or most recently Latinos, mostly Dominicans. Since the 1980s, Latinos in El Punto have undergone a rapid population growth, currently representing about 50 to 60% of all residents in El Punto. Despite this growth, Latinos in El Punto do not have significant economic resources and/or political leverage to participate in decision-making affecting their community. Issues of language exclusion, negative perceptions of the community, and unequal social-economic opportunities have prevented even the most eager residents from participating in the governance of their community. Equally important is lack of economic investments targeted for this community as demonstrated by the apparent abandonment of the infrastructure, lack of response from police, and limited Spanish language material provided regarding city meetings and other engagement opportunities. Increasing the resilience in the community should mean the increase of the living standards of the residents, power to help make decisions that impact the community and create spaces of inclusion, and in general a different attitude toward the community.

In all three data sets, we saw evidence of community strength that makes us hopeful for change. The change can be built on the existing solidarity, engagement, care, and leadership, as well as the pure will of the people. A combination of the data from the interviews with key informants, community mapping, and body map storytelling have resulted in three major contextual realities that can inform actions the City can take to shift the everyday experiences of residents toward justice and help the community thrive in the face of climate change. While we go into detail

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<sup>9</sup> Encyclopedia of French Cultural Heritage in North America, The Point: a Franco-American Heritage Site in Salem, Massachusetts, [http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-739/The\\_Point:\\_a\\_Franco-American\\_Heritage\\_Site\\_in\\_Salem,\\_Massachusetts.html](http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-739/The_Point:_a_Franco-American_Heritage_Site_in_Salem,_Massachusetts.html). Last visited July 1, 2022.

below regarding recommendations, we want to discuss here the importance of this research as it relates to wider issues beyond the case of El Punto. The predominant approach to climate change is a technical fix (which you will see in other parts of the bigger project) and in the literature. Band-aid solutions to the climate catastrophes often rely on market responses and reactive rather than proactive approaches, leaving Indigenous, low-income, and other marginalized groups vulnerable to exploitation (Adger 2001). These approaches have not worked. Therefore, solutions are needed that are grounded in traditional knowledge, long-term, culturally appropriate engagement, and mutual respect, i.e., reciprocity. By acknowledging this more global phenomenon of isolated technical approaches to climate change we see the opportunity for the City of Salem to really change the status quo in El Punto. By re-imagining engagement, seeing climate change in its evolution as essentially a problem of inequality, and embracing an ethos of cultural humility (Sweet 2018) leading to community accountability and healing justice, the City of Salem could be a leading national or even international example of how to get climate change resilience right.





# Recommendations: Re-Imagining Engagement with El Punto Residents

Based on the community engagement activities, we recommend that the City of Salem re-imagine the way it engages with El Punto by operating with a framework linking social, political, and economic phenomena to the ongoing crisis of climate change. Isolating climate change mitigation and adaptation to a singular process of dealing with extreme heat, flooding, and storms misses the much broader reality in El Punto that compounds inequality in everyday experience. At its worst, a singular approach would lead to green gentrification that worsens racial, social, and economic inequalities.

Some of the residents who participated in our outreach activities acknowledged that there have been improvements in the way that the City reaches out to the community members. However, they also mentioned that existing City initiatives need to be scaled up to increase the speed at which the economic status of residents of the Point improves. This will also increase the ability of the community to quickly recover after all sorts of shocks including the ones related to climate change.

Below we provide four broad recommendations on how to re-imagine engagement and a more realistic framework to comprehensively address climate change and prevent increased inequalities relative to the more affluent parts of the city. In bullet points below each broad recommendation are specific concrete ways to change:

## **1. Promote a positive perception of what El Punto and its residents are.**

- a. Develop an understanding of the history of The Point and how it became what it is today. Additional efforts need to be made from the perspective of current and past policies, City ordinances, and regulations that led to the current situation where the community has few resources to adapt to the effects of climate change.

This could be carried out with oral-history interviews with long-time residents combined with the analysis of City records.

- b. City officials should understand that to address the effects of climate change, the city must go beyond controlling extreme flooding and extreme heat, especially in communities such as El Punto that have a history of social injustice. There is a real risk that prioritization of market forces and real estate developers' interests will leave unaddressed the needs and priorities of El Punto residents, and will exacerbate the racial, social, and economic disparities that currently exist.
- c. Build upon current residents' eagerness to participate in conversations about the future of El Punto. Ideally, this will be conducted through culturally and linguistically appropriate practices that consider the conditions of living and working conditions for all residents.
- d. Embrace cultural humility (Sweet 2018) to see what community residents have to offer. Cultural humility in contrast to cultural competence contests the idea that someone can become competent in someone else's culture, rather public officials should practice an ongoing commitment to self-evaluation and self-critique to decrease power imbalances between city authorities and community members that builds collaboration rather than top-down power dynamics.
- e. Using an assets-based approach, reshape the narrative about El Punto. Provide Salem-wide news and information about all the amazing things that people and organizations in El Punto are doing. Highlight the murals, the unique food, creativity, and opportunities for cultural enlightenment for residents in other parts of Salem.

## 2. Facilitate processes of community empowerment

- a. Facilitate the process for the community of El Punto to participate in the planning process and decision making affecting the community power sharing). It has been shown that top-down green planning processes in communities like El Punto have led to exclusionary results and the exacerbation of racial disparities.<sup>10</sup> One reason is that these traditional planning processes do not truly engage the community in decision-making processes, which reproduces unequal political power relations.
- b. Increase the opportunities to engage and integrate El Punto residents into the process of green infrastructure planning. This will increase individual and community participation in decision-making in ways that will reduce the risks of green gentrification. One way to do this is to engage the community in

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<sup>10</sup> Bellboy, P., Raciti, A., Rivera-Kientz, K. & Herts, R. (2021) Opportunity in the Complexity: Recommendations for Equitable Climate Resilience in East Boston, [https://www.umb.edu/editor\\_uploads/images/centers\\_institutes/sustainable\\_solutions\\_lab/Opportunity\\_in\\_the\\_Complexity\\_Recommendations\\_English\\_final.pdf](https://www.umb.edu/editor_uploads/images/centers_institutes/sustainable_solutions_lab/Opportunity_in_the_Complexity_Recommendations_English_final.pdf).

quantitative and qualitative community-based participatory research. This type of research builds on the strengths of the residents in El Punto and will prioritize their needs. From the beginning, residents will become co-creators and collaborators of the research projects, participating in all phases of the research, from the design to the presentation of the results to the broader community and city agencies (Hacker, 2013).

- c. Use participatory budgeting models as often as possible. These models provide communities with ways to participate in the decision-making process of how to spend portions of the annual budget in ways that benefit the community. Ideally, this will not only make budget decisions more transparent and equitable, but also engage the community in processes of which they are traditionally excluded.<sup>11</sup>
- d. Use a community accountability approach that centers the abilities of the community members to make decisions about how policy and programs being developed impact their community.
- e. Search for mechanisms for all residents regardless of citizenship status to participate in the local political process and demand accountability of elected officials.

### 3. Support and strengthen local community-based organizations.

- a. Make an inventory of grass-roots organizations that could be added to the list of partners of the City, and that can help bridge the gap between other issues affecting the community and the preparation and adaptation of the community in facing climate change.
- b. Since the City relies on community organizations to conduct outreach, there is a need to build their capacity as they are in an advantageous position to outreach by incorporating CBO (community-based organizations) staffing in grant applications.
- c. Facilitate training for leadership and community organizing. This has proven to be effective in other minority communities throughout the United States—for example, in the Little Village community of Chicago, where LVEJO (Little Village Environmental Justice Organization) was implemented. The Little Village community is made up of immigrant, low-income, and working-class families, as is El Punto. Through their demanding work and determination, they have made strides in fighting for environmental justice in the community and have facilitated community engagement.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Organizing Engagement, Participatory Budgeting. Participatory Budgeting, <https://organizingengagement.org/models/participatory-budgeting/>. Last visited on June 11, 2022.

<sup>12</sup> Leadership Development for the Sustainable Self Determination of Little Village, LVEJO; Last visited on June 23, 2022. <http://www.lvejo.org/>

- d. Create a Community Collaboratory that includes CBOs, different government agencies, and representatives from different sectors of the community (elders, students, workers, small business owners, etc.) to meet two or three times a year to help guide policy and planning efforts. Participants should be compensated for their time.



# Re-imagining Engagement with El Punto Community

Results of a qualitative study of El Punto residents perceptions of the risks of Climate change.

## Who Participated

- El Punto advocates
- Residents

## Activities Conducted



- Interviews
- Community Mapping
- Body Mapping

## Key Findings

- Lack of trash cans, trash pickup, or clean streets lead to rodents, insects, and public health concerns.
- Trash on the streets leads to clogged sewer drains and contribute to flooding
- Complains about rent increase, gentrification, and landlords unresponsiveness
- Crumbling roads and sidewalks difficult mobility and create unsafe streets
- Crime and relations with police lead to a sense of unsafe streets

## Re-imagining Engagement with El Punto Community





## 4. Consider specific interventions that link the interests of the residents and the City.

- a. A basic infrastructure development plan in El Punto, focused on updating roads, sidewalks, the sewer system, and rain-catching systems.
- b. A comprehensive plan dealing with the recurrence of pests such as rats, roaches, etc., including an open dialogue between property owners and renters, facilitated by City officials looking for long-term solutions and accountability.
- c. A green jobs workforce development plan focused on the development opportunities in the new economy in El Punto. Examples of the success of such a strategy can be found in one initiative in Portland's Cully neighborhood, so-called Living Cully. In this initiative, the community successfully organized and integrated a green infrastructure plan that served as well as an anti-poverty program by engaging the community members in the plan, from design to implementation.<sup>16</sup>
- d. Exploring the ability of the City to mandate Community-Benefit Agreements for future real estate developments, with accountability and enforcement mechanisms. One example of such agreement can be found in Somerville's Community Benefits Agreement (2018) on the development of Union Square.<sup>17</sup>
- e. Possibly, given the current number of open positions at City Hall, a job fair in El Punto with the aim of identifying and matching community members who may qualify for those positions.



<sup>16</sup> Next City, When Green Infrastructure Is an Anti-Poverty Strategy. <https://nextcity.org/features/when-green-infrastructure-is-an-anti-poverty-strategy>. Last visited on June 11, 2022.

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/1\\_CBA%20Report%2022%20March%202018.pdf](https://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/1_CBA%20Report%2022%20March%202018.pdf)

# Appendices

## Appendix I: Interview Protocol

### Interview protocol for stakeholders City of Salem project.

We will use “The Point community” to refer to the Point/Palmer Cove community

#### **- Before we begin, can you please tell us a little bit about your organization and your role?**

1. Please tell us what you think about what climate change is, and whether it is affecting or not the city and/or the Point community.
2. What do you know about how the residents in the Point are thinking about climate change?
  - Can you tell us of any initiatives that the Point/Palmer Cove community are doing around climate change?
  - Please tell us whether you think there are other issues that the Point community consider more important than the effects of climate change.
3. What about your organization/company, what initiatives are you taking in your own work to consider climate change or other related issues?
  - Is there any coordination between the work that you or your organization do around climate change and city officials?
  - If there is none, does there exist coordination with the city officials around other issues?
4. In cases of flooding, extreme heat or any impacts of climate change in the city or the Point, what current initiatives are you aware that are trying to address these impacts both in the city overall and the Point in particular?
5. What do you think you or the Point community need to do to be able to respond to the impacts caused by climate change or other related issues?
6. What do you think are the main strengths of the Point community that gives you hope that the impacts of climate change or other related issues will be effectively addressed?

7. What are the main challenges of the Point community, from your perspective that are or could become an obstacle to address any potential climate change impacts in the community?
8. Is there any question that you have for us? Are there other issues that you would like to address?

## Protocolo de entrevista para las partes interesadas en el proyecto de la ciudad de Salem (Spanish version)

### Usaremos “La comunidad del punto” para referirnos a la comunidad de Point/ Palmer Cove in Salem

1. Por favor, díganos lo que piensa sobre lo que es el cambio climático, y si está afectando o no a la ciudad y/o a El Punto
2. ¿Qué sabes sobre cómo piensan los residentes del punto sobre el cambio climático?
  - ¿Puede hablarnos de alguna iniciativa que la comunidad del punto esté haciendo en torno al cambio climático?
  - Por favor, díganos si cree que hay otros temas que la comunidad de El Punto considera más importantes que los efectos del cambio climático.
3. Por favor, cuéntenos sobre su organización/empresa, ¿qué iniciativas está tomando en su propio trabajo para considerar el cambio climático o en caso contrario otras actividades que puedan estar relacionadas?
  - ¿Existe alguna coordinación entre el trabajo que usted o su organización hacen en torno al cambio climático y los funcionarios de la ciudad?
  - Si no hay ninguna coordinación alrededor del cambio climático, ¿existe coordinación con los funcionarios de la ciudad en torno a otros temas?
4. En casos de inundaciones, calor extremo o cualquier otro impacto del cambio climático en la ciudad o en el punto, ¿qué iniciativas actuales conoce que están tratando de abordar estos impactos tanto en la ciudad en general como en el punto en particular?
5. ¿Qué crees que tú o la comunidad del punto deben hacer para poder responder a los impactos del cambio climático u otros temas relacionados?
6. ¿Cuáles crees que son las principales fortalezas de la comunidad del punto que te dan la esperanza de que los efectos del cambio climático u otros temas relacionados se abordarán de manera efectiva dentro de la comunidad?
7. Desde su perspectiva, ¿Cuáles son los desafíos principales que la comunidad del punto afronta y que son o podrían convertirse en un obstáculo para abordar cualquier impacto potencial del cambio climático en la comunidad?



8. ¿Hay alguna pregunta que tengas para nosotros? ¿Hay otros temas que le gustaría abordar y que esperaba que consideráramos en esta entrevista?

## Appendix II. Body Map Storytelling Protocol

### Pregunta 1/Question 1

Draw on “your” body map where and how you experienced the infrastructure (streets, homes, services in the point). and/or environmental threats (storms, flooding, extreme heat etc.) You may have felt these phenomena target a particular place on or in your body, but you may have also felt it extend to other parts of your body. What did/does it feel like? What were/are the emotions that you felt/feel? How can you draw those feelings, sensations, and emotions? Are their colors or patterns that represent what you felt

Dibuje en la silueta de su cuerpo dónde y cómo experimenta la infraestructura (calles, casas, servicios del Punto). Y/o problemas del ambiente (inundaciones, tormentas, calor extremo). Puede ser que haya sentido esas cosas en alguna parte específica de su cuerpo, pero después pudieron haberse extendido a otras partes de su cuerpo. ¿Como se ha sentido o se siente? ¿Qué emociones ha sentido? ¿Puede usted dibujar los sentimientos, sensaciones y emociones? ¿Hay colores, patrones, o símbolos que podrían representar como se siente usted?

### Pregunta 2/Question 2

When you have experienced or witnessed or heard about crime in the point, how did it make you feel? Where on your body did you feel it? What kinds of emotions, sensation or feelings did you experience and what do they look like?

¿Cuándo ha experimentado en su propia persona, visto, o escuchado sobre algún crimen en el Punto, cómo le hizo sentir esto? ¿En qué parte de su cuerpo lo sintió? ¿Qué tipos de emociones, sensaciones o sentimientos ha experimentado y como podría usted visualizarlos?

### Pregunta 3/Questions 3

When you have experienced or witnessed or heard about racism in Salem, how did it make you feel? Where on your body did you feel it? What kinds of emotions, sensation or feelings did you experience and what do they look like?

¿Cuándo ha experimentado en su propia persona, visto, o escuchado sobre casos de discriminación racial, en el Punto, como le hizo sentir esto? ¿En qué parte de su cuerpo lo sintió? ¿Qué tipos de emociones, sensaciones, o sentimientos ha experimentado y cómo podría usted visualizarlos?

## Pregunta 4/Question 4

Draw on “your” body map where and how you experienced violence of any kind (state, community, intimate/family, economic) or other kinds of violence. You may have felt it target a particular place on or in your body, but you may have also felt it extend to other parts of your body. What did it feel like? What were the emotions that you felt? How can you draw those feelings, sensations, and emotions? Are there colors or patterns that represent what you felt?

Dibuje en la silueta de su cuerpo donde y como ha experimentado cualquier tipo de violencia (del gobierno, de la comunidad, de su pareja, o violencia económica) u otros tipos de violencia. Puede ser que haya sentido esas cosas en alguna parte específica de su cuerpo, pero después pudieron haberse extendido a otras partes de su cuerpo. ¿Cómo se ha sentido o se siente? ¿Qué emociones ha sentido? ¿Puede usted dibujar los sentimientos, sensaciones y emociones? ¿Hay colores, patrones, o símbolos que podrían representar como se siente usted?

## Pregunta 5/Questions 5

Where on your body do you have the strength to fight/organize for your community? What are the places of strength and force that you have on/in your body to challenge the norms, structures, and practices that disadvantage the point in any way?

¿En qué partes de su cuerpo, siente fortaleza para luchar u organizar para mejorar su comunidad? ¿Cuáles son los lugares de su cuerpo donde siente fuerza para luchar en contra de las normas, estructuras y prácticas que perjudican a El Punto en cualquier manera?



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# About the Gastón Institute

Established in 1989, the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy was created by the Massachusetts Legislature in response to a need for improved understanding about the Latino experience in the commonwealth. Now in its 30th year, the Gastón Institute continues its mission of informing the public and policymakers about issues vital to the state's growing Latino community and providing information and analysis necessary for effective Latino participation in public policy development. To learn more about the Gastón Institute, visit [www.umb.edu/gastoninstitute](http://www.umb.edu/gastoninstitute). Follow us on Twitter: @GastonInstitute

One of the goals of the Gastón Institute is to be responsive to the needs of the Latino and policy communities through the research we undertake. Please feel free to contact us with suggestions or requests for specific information.

