

Reuse Meeting Feedback
St. James Senior Center, 1:00 pm
October 8, 2009
Attendance: Adults, 40

1. What are the most important services, in priority order, that you want delivered at this facility?

- **Senior Nutrition:**
 - Hot meals served five days a week
 - Variety of food served: Mexican, Chinese, Vietnamese, etc.

- **Recreational Services**
 - More activities
 - Exercise programs (e.g., Thai Chi, Chinese Swords)
 - Bingo, Loteria (Mexican Bingo)
 - Dancing: Ball Room, Disco, Line Dancing, Performing Dance, Folk Dance, Mexican Folklorico
 - Continue Chinese Choir (70 +members)
 - Karaoke: Chinese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Spanish
 - Chinese Performance Opera
 - Recreation/Game Room: Ping Pong, Billiards, Chess, Piano, Mahjong
 - Piano Classes
 - Haircuts
 - Blood Pressure Checks (Free)
 - ESL Classes
 - Chinese Painting
 - T.V. Media Room
 - Immigration/Citizenship Class
 - Chinese Calligraphy
 - Bridge Club

- Computer Room, and classes
- More Spanish in more programs
- Birthday Party Celebrations

- **Social Services:**
 - Legal Aid
 - Tax Service
 - Health clinics
 - Information and Referral

- **Volunteer**
 - Home Support Visits for people in crises, ill, funerals
 - St. James is run by a large volunteer-based programs, and individuals
 - Provide support for people to look for jobs
- **Clubs**
 - Chinese Culture Club 600 + members provides support services
 - Vietnamese Culture Club, provides support services
 - Filipino Club, provides support services

2. What qualities are most important to you in the services offered at this facility? E.g., staffing, cost, cultural programs, accessibility (days and times), etc.

- **Staff:**
 - Family atmosphere
 - Friendly staff that makes a family atmosphere and home at the center, we like the current staff
- **Cultural Programs**
 - All cultures welcome to come to events for 50+
 - Keep it a Senior Center for Seniors only (afraid Roosevelt will blend Youth with Senior programs)
 - Keep Saturday Dance
 - Cost Recovery Programs
 - Celebration of Hmong (Mong) New Year
 - Free Christmas Dinner 800+ participants (provided by the Mercury News)
- **Accessibility**
 - This facility is centrally located and there are more transportation options for seniors.
 - Monday – Saturday, open earlier, close later
 - More day and more hours
 - The St. James Senior Center is conveniently located close to senior housing and VTA, Light Rail, and bus service.
- **Cost**
 - Continue free, low, or cost recovery basis

3. Who should provide these services?

- City of San Jose and Office on Aging Services, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- City of San José and Senior Volunteers (ourselves)
- Chinese Culture Club
- Volunteer groups
- Vietnamese nonprofit

General Comments:

- “St. James is centrally located in San Jose, because seniors who arrive use the bus and light rail. If the Center is further away it will be difficult to get to. Also, St. James is close to senior housing, which it makes it easier for seniors to access and get to. The services that the City of San Jose is providing to the Seniors are multi-cultural. If the Seniors have to move to a new Community Center, look at a transportation system that works. My hope is for the St. James Senior Center not to close. The center is close to many senior housing complexes and the services are very affordable to seniors who are on a limited budget. Also, the senior center offers services to many cultures including Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Japanese, Taiwanese, Korean, Tunisia, Morocco, etc.” Where else can you serve that many nationalities?” (90 yr old St. James Senior Center participant).”
- “Roosevelt is far, will the City provide transportation?”
- “Get more staff that is Mexican. Use Spanish-speaking seniors like myself, “(P)ara poder explicar a mi comunidad cuales programas hay aqui.”
- “The value of St. James Senior Center is that it has family atmosphere.”
- “If the City moves the senior program to Roosevelt, the City must develop a transportation plan to get seniors from St. James to Roosevelt.”