

## LITTLE BROOK STAY HEALTHY STREET

### OUTREACH REPORT

December 2021

#### Overview

Stay Healthy Streets are streets that restrict pass through traffic to create more space for people to walk, bike, and play. Installed as part of our emergency response to the pandemic in 2020, they also provide opportunity to consider how they might improve communities beyond the pandemic. The [Little Brook Stay Healthy Street](#) was requested by neighbors. We installed it in April 2021 as a 3-month pilot in which the street space outside Little Brook Park was fully closed to cars and open for play.

At the start of the pilot, the community organization [Lake City Collective](#) (led by Peggy Hernandez and César Garcia) organized neighbors to make the street a community space. They worked with youth to build planter boxes and plant vegetables and to create an outdoor photo booth. They pooled resources to get a basketball hoop with extra basketballs on hand. They also held events like food trucks and movie nights to gather people in the space. Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and Lake City Collective jointly applied and received a \$50,000 grant to fund these community activities and install a street mural on NE 140th St and 32nd Ave NE honoring native culture.

Based on early success, we extended the pilot through at least November 2021 and collected input from neighbors on whether it should be made permanent, how they would feel included, and ideas for other improvements in the neighborhood. This Outreach Summary summarizes the outreach methods and input we received that will inform the next steps for the project.



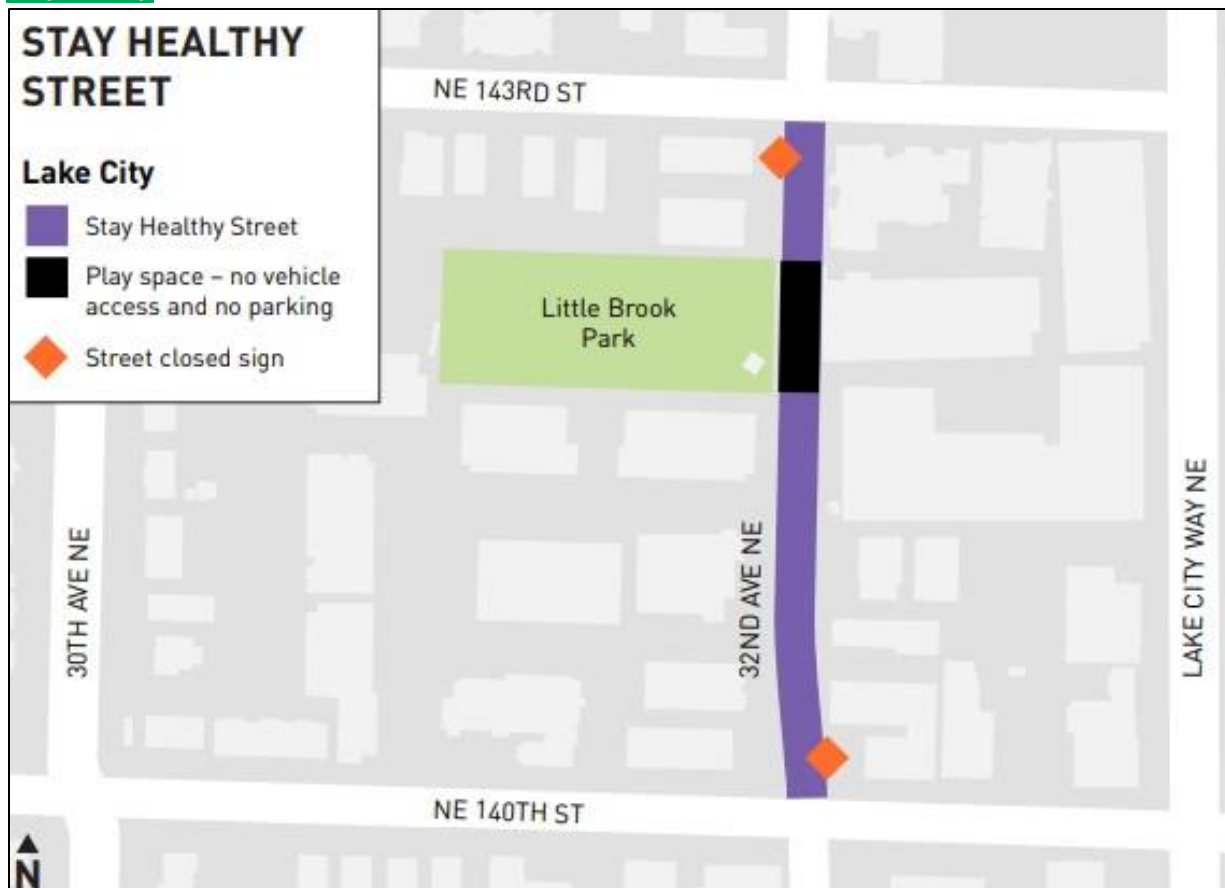
Photo collage of the mural, events, and play on the Stay Healthy Street. Credit: Lake City Collective and SDOT. See more Little Brook Stay Healthy Street and mural photos on our [SDOT Flickr page](#).

### High-level summary

SDOT and Lake City Collective collected input from neighbors through an online and paper survey available in 6 languages as well as through conversations with neighbors, and the project email inbox and phone number. Lake City Collective held 8 events to activate the space and collect surveys. We also sent email updates and posted flyers and on-site signage directing people to the survey.

We received a total of 141 surveys – 99 in English, 40 in Spanish, and 2 in Amharic. At a high level, responses from the survey and the other methods listed above showed strong support for making the Stay Healthy Street space outside Little Brook Park permanent. Support for extending the Stay Healthy Street south on 32nd Ave NE was more mixed – largely because neighbors are concerned about losing parking and driving access. Some neighbors did voice concerns about the inconvenience for people driving – particularly for access the adjacent apartment buildings. Respondents had new ideas for including more people in the space and improving the neighborhood as a whole. See details below and the [full survey results are linked here](#).

### Project map



Map above shows the space on 32nd Ave NE outside Little Brook Park is closed to cars and open to play.

### Schedule

**April 2021:** Installed pilot Stay Healthy Street

**Summer/fall 2021:** Heard from people on whether the Stay Healthy Street should become permanent  
**Fall/winter 2021:** Share next steps for the Little Brook Stay Healthy Street

### Outreach methods

SDOT and Lake City Collective collected input from neighbors through an online and paper survey available in **6 languages** (English, Spanish, Arabic, Somali, Amharic, and Russian) as well as through conversations with neighbors, and the project email inbox and phone number.

Lake City Collective held **8 events** to activate the space and collect surveys. We also sent email updates and posted flyers and on-site signage directing people to the survey. (See Appendix A for the full list and description of each event.)

### Materials

- [Little Brook Stay Healthy Street postcard mailer announcing the pilot](#) (April 2021)
- [Little Brook Stay Healthy Street flyer announcing the pilot](#) (with translation into Russian, Spanish, Amharic, Somali, and Arabic) (May 2021)
- [Little Brook Stay Healthy Street poster announcing the pilot extension](#) (with translation into Russian, Spanish, Amharic, Somali, and Arabic) (July 2021)
- [Mailer to neighbors at NE 140th St and 32nd Ave NE](#) (about street mural and curb bulbs) (August 2021)
- [Street mural poster](#) (with translation into Spanish) (October 2021)
- [Art Celebration event poster](#) (with translation into Russian, Spanish, Amharic, Somali, and Arabic) (October 2021)
- [SDOT Blog Post about NACTO grant](#) (June 2021)
- [SDOT Blog Post about mural celebration](#) (November 2021)

### Survey results

We received a total of 141 surveys – 99 in English, 40 in Spanish, and 2 in Amharic.

This link shows the full results: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-FPFP3MQ/> and below shows summarized results.

### Should we make this permanent?

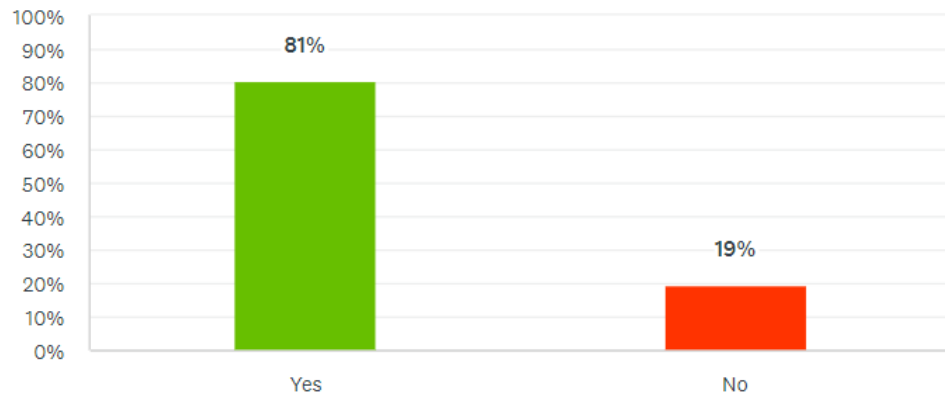
In this yes or no question, the majority of responses 81% (112 responses) are supportive of making this Stay Healthy Street permanent. People shared that it creates community, feels safer, and gives kids more space to play. People who weren't supportive (19%, 27 responses) commented that it's inconvenient, chaotic to maneuver around when driving, and that the park is a better alternative for the same activities.

When filtered by in-language results (Spanish and Amharic), 98% (41 responses) were supportive and 2% (1 response) was not supportive.

Total results:

## Should we make this permanent?

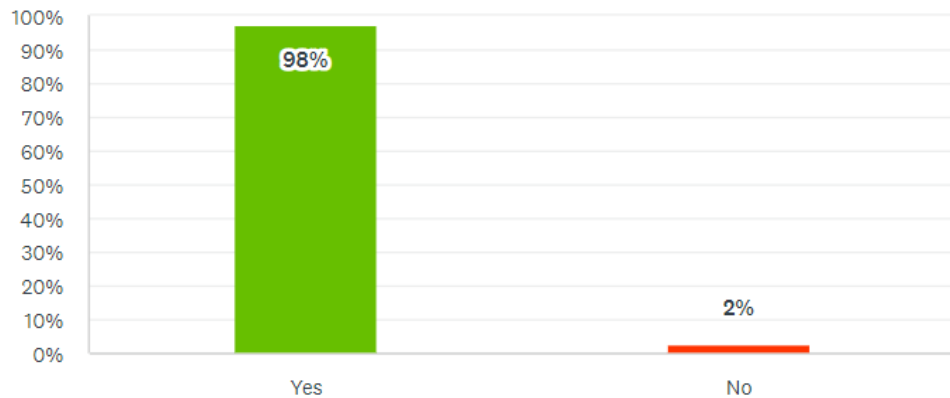
Answered: 139 Skipped: 2



Spanish + Amharic in-language results:

## Should we make this permanent?

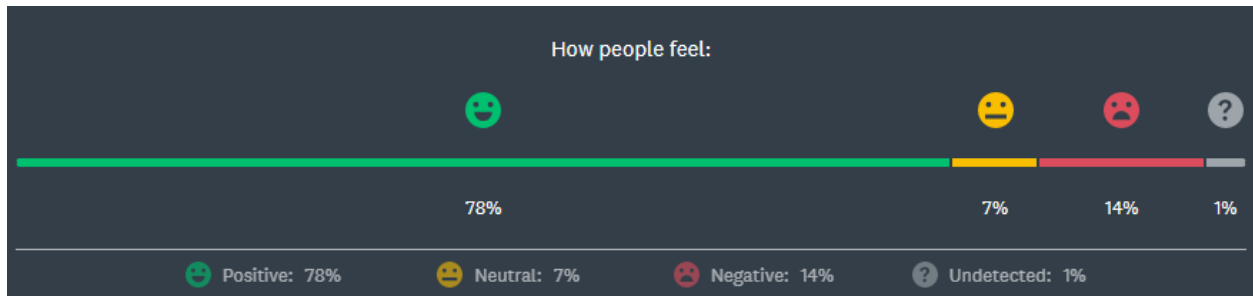
Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



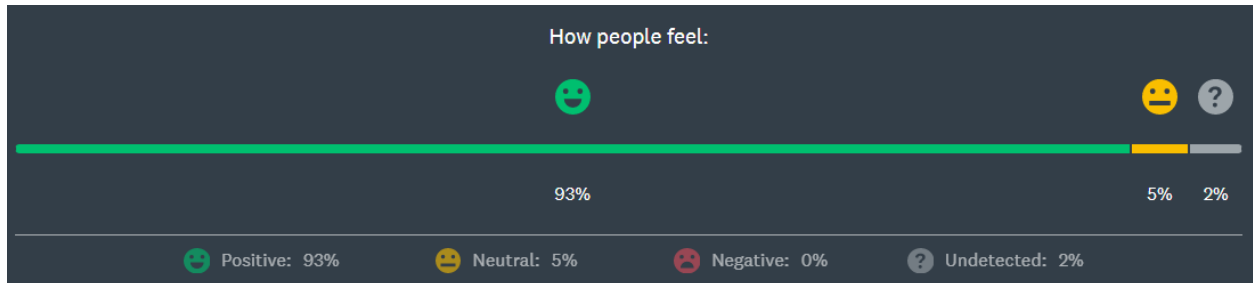
### How is the Little Brook Park Stay Healthy Street working for you?

In this open-ended question, we coded the responses as positive, neutral/mixed, or negative. Visit [this Survey Monkey dashboard link](#) to see how individual comments were coded. Out of 138 responses, most comments (78%) were positive, 7% neutral, and 14% negative. When filtered by in-language results (Spanish and Amharic), 93% were positive, 5% were neutral, and none were negative.

Total results:



Spanish + Amharic in-language results:



**Sample responses:** (Positive responses are in green, neutral/mixed in yellow, and against in red. The number of sample responses for each reflects percentages close to the total results.)

- I socialize with my neighbors and I know them better
- It is excellent! This is an important way to help the safety and vibrancy of the neighborhood.
- it's working well since the community is gathering more and its safer for children to play and cross the street
- It helps so people aren't driving fast down these streets. It's helping the community to get to know one another.
- This is awesome I love the closing of this street for kids to play safe I enjoy it my kids love the park and entertainment that has been provided thank you
- neighbors are gathering and children are enjoying the park after so many years of not being able to
- Keeping the streets closed has helped me feel safer to have my daughter play in the park. People are more respectful.
- I like having the street open to basketball and that small section being pedestrian only. We live on this very block and like the feeling of feeling safe when we step out of our home. However, the blocked area is causing traffic jams and a bit of road rage during peak driving hours. There are just too many cars that require easier and access to their buildings (Array, and all the apartments next to the park). And because there are no load/unload parking zones or 3 min waiting, people are parking and blocking driveways, or

even just blocking the road. I love the idea, but it needs modification.

9. It is extremely inconvenient. I live in the Array Apartment building and now I don't have street access to my building except for one side. And it causes traffic clusters and chaos for people trying to come and go from this side of the street.

10. Terribly. The park worked well for the couple of kids who used it this summer but now that summers over and even at night it's used by smokers and people to play loud music at weird hours. The most used feature is the basketball hoop which can easily be put into the park and doesn't need to block traffic and take away parking spots

### How would you feel included?

People answered this open-ended question with ideas about staying "in the know" about activities such as a community bulletin board and continuing to receive text messages about events. Some also shared complaints they think excluding cars from the street doesn't include them.

#### Sample responses:

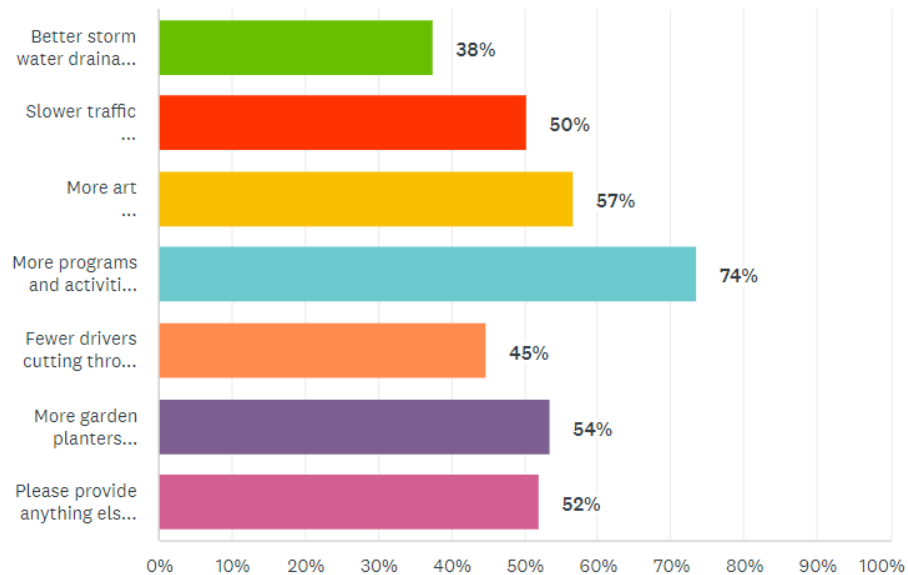
- i would like to know what is needed to maintain it so that I can help
- Getting more announcements
- Put up more notices to be able to help out in the park
- Supporting us to continue and to teach others about our culture
- A board so I can see what events are going to be taking place.
- community gardens, regular volunteer opportunities
- More community events More exercises options Better places for little kids to sit Adding a shelter or overhang for incase of weather.
- Open the street up. It's an unnecessary hassle to everyone who lives in the area.
- I don't need to feel included. I've lived in my apartment since 1990 so I've always been included in the neighborhood. Now the city is making things so hard for long-term resident.
- I don't have kids. The area closed is less than 1/2 a block, it's not as if people are utilizing it for walks, runs or biking. I would feel included if it were reopened at least during the fall/winter. It would make it more convenient for residents and there'd be less back up surrounding each end because of people parking in the middle of the street. Getting in and out of the garage is a nightmare. I would feel included if it were reopened at least during fall/winter

### What other street improvements would you like to see in Little Brook?

This question was multiple choices with an option for providing “anything else we may have missed.” People could check all that applied. “More programs and activities” got the most support at 74% (92 responses) followed by “More art (57%/71 responses)” and “More garden planters (54%/67 responses).” Many respondents 52% (65 responses) had additional ideas with many people listing more lighting at the park and traffic calming outside the Stay Healthy Street.

### What other street improvements would you like to see in Little Brook?

Answered: 125 Skipped: 16



#### Sample responses:

- We need crosswalks, but I'm not sure it this relates to this department. A lighted Crosswalk at 143rd and Lake City way
- Moving/changing where the “street is closed” because it’s awkward turning onto 32nd so I can get to my parking garage
- More park space! Push it out into the street and add more nature/plants/grass.
- Having a code of conduct listed and enforced. Lots of people blare music loudly while playing basketball which disturbs local residents working from home. More consistent segments of sidewalks in the neighborhood at large would be great. I have to walk on the shoulder of roads most of the time aside around the park itself.
- Place some traffic circles
- neighbors need to know that there are planned events. we need continued funding for activities and support like canopies for rainy days like today

- a community garden. or a class on how to grow plants like vegetables in pots that can help my family and my community. vegetables are very expensive to buy. and i don't qualify for food stamps
- Dog-friendly places to walk and relieve themselves (more trash cans for disposal of poop)
- We have a lot of families in this community. Please, help everyone keep these streets safe for children to play. Maybe traffic cameras? SPEED BUMPS,

please!! These cars drive very fast, especially down the hill around the corner. Programs and activities like reptile man, bouncy houses, basketball hoops, etc!

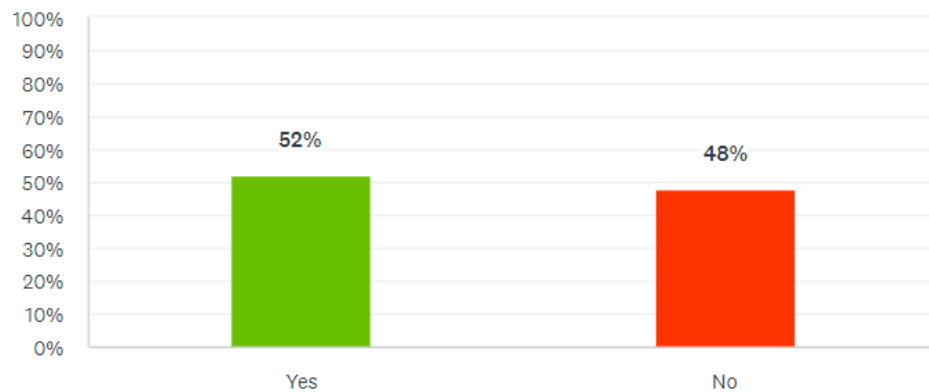
- Light at the park!
- Update the park itself, using all of the massive unused space and give us parking in front of the park so that people can actually come enjoy it and there won't be so many dangerous road conditions.

### Should we extend the Stay Healthy Street south on 32nd Ave NE?

In this yes or no question, slightly more responses were supportive of extending the Stay Healthy Street 52% (68 responses) and 48% (63 responses) were not. Some of the comments show we should have clarified in the survey that extending the Stay Healthy Street would not block people's access to their parking garages/homes because local traffic would be allowed. This perception could have deterred people from supporting it. However, many of the comments against extending the Stay Healthy Street simply shared that they like the Stay Healthy Street how it is. People do have concerns about losing more parking noting that parking in the neighborhood is already scarce and chaotic.

## Should we extend it further south on 32nd Ave NE?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 10



### Sample responses:

- More room for kids to ride bikes and play beyond the park
- many children live around here and it would be good for the community



- i would like to see all of 32nd ave NE (here, south to toyota dealership) made into a safe street primarily for people/pedestrians. I don't know how possible this is, given lots of car traffic through these streets
- Extension would be nice, but it would block the apartment buildings parking lots. If there was a way cars can still get in/out of garages, I'd support an extension.
- I don't think it would work as there are multiple large complexes that need to reach parking
- i feel this space is enough
- i think the space is big enough, i hate to cut back on parking
- Keep it like this it don't need to be bigger
- I feel like the current space is perfect! Further S could be interesting but since it doesn't border the park I don't know if it would be used as much.
- There is already no parking and is very difficult for everyone to get to the entrance to their apartments.
- We should not extend the street further south b/c doing so would "open the gates" of the streets for people to reach their homes by car. And as previously proven, would make the streets be seen as good, free parking.

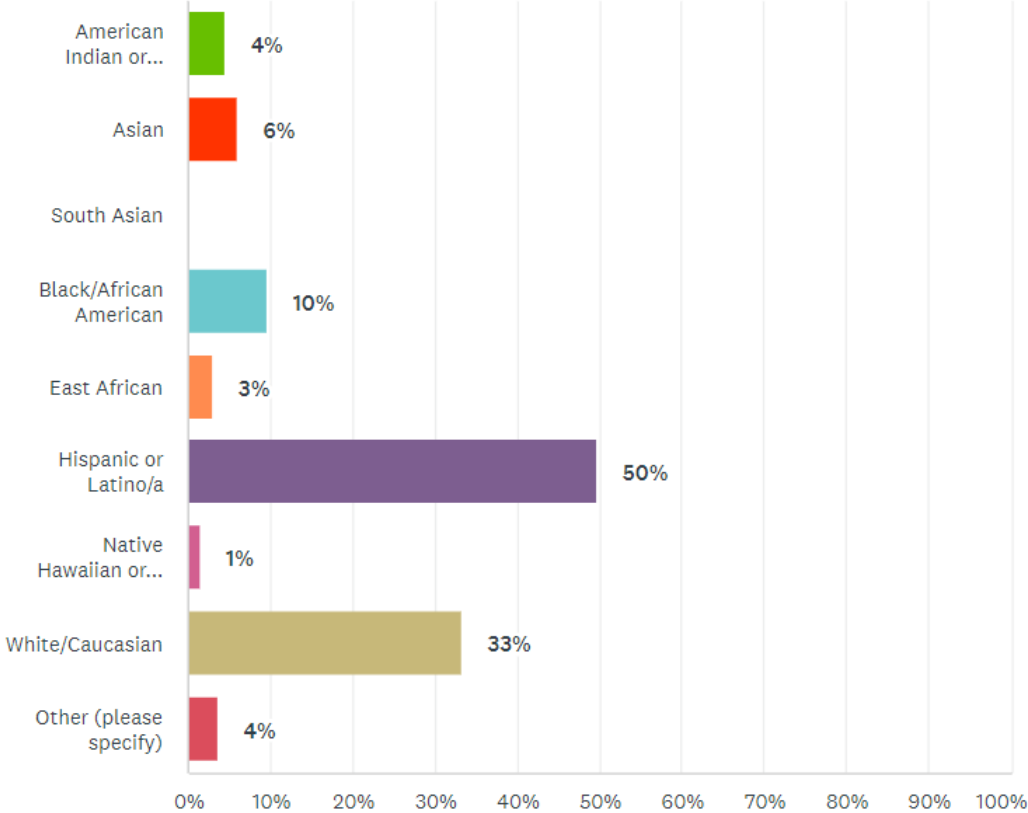
### Demographics

We asked people to identify their race, age, connection to the Little Brook neighborhood, and how they heard about the survey (all questions were optional). [Full results are linked here.](#)

Most respondents (81%, 109 responses) live in the neighborhood. In terms of race, 50% identified as Hispanic or Latino/a, followed by 33% (45 responses) White/Caucasian, and 10% (13 responses) Black/African American. The full results on race and age are below.

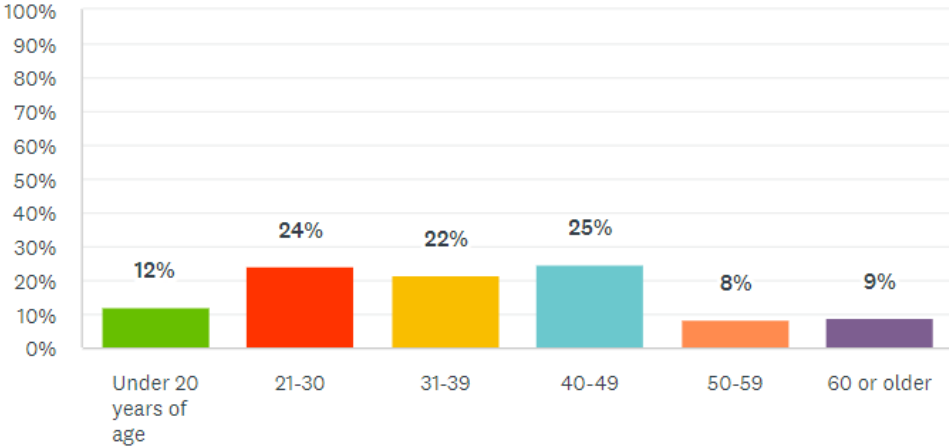
# How do you identify? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 135 Skipped: 6



# How old are you?

Answered: 133 Skipped: 8



## APPENDIX A – Event details compiled by Lake City Collective

### Event 1

**Title:** Wellness Workshop

**What:** Meditation workshop, traditional medicine and healthy food

**When:** Sat, 7/3/2021

**Why:** Moms with indigenous origins still practice ancestral techniques. This class taught them meditation techniques and plants used in traditional medicine.



*Local moms listening to the presenter at the Little Brook Stay Healthy Street site. Photo: LCC*

### Event 2

**Title:** Park's Visioning

**What:** Lake City Collective worked with local residents on a re-visioning process of Little Brook Park, which lasted one year, and at the end of that process a schematic design was created by a landscape architecture firm. This event was an opportunity for all the neighbors to give input on the final design. The event was a festival with crafts, information booths, music and a food truck.

**When:** Sat, 7/10/2021

**Why:** Little Brook Park and the adjacent Little Brook Creek are polluted due to dog waste, kids can't play safely in the park because of that, therefore the Stay Healthy Street closure fills the need for recreation that the only park in the neighborhood can't provide. The Park is in need of renovation to serve this very dense neighborhood.



*Families enjoying a Marimba concert and a free nutritious meal. Photo: LCC*



*Food truck serving free vegetarian food. Photo: LCC*

### **Event 3**

**Title:** Mexican History

**What:** Mexican History talk with artifacts display and new books giveaway from the Mexican Consulate.

**When:** Fri, 7/26/2021

**Why:** Families want their kids to know, learn and be connected to their heritage.



*Artifact display and conversation with historian. Photo: LCC*

#### **Event 4**

**Title:** Reptile Man

**What:** Presentation of live reptiles to learn about biology, take pictures and touch animals.

**When:** Tue, 8/24/2021

**Why:** Many families in the neighborhood don't have access to recreation; to bring animals to them allows them to have fun while learning.



*Neighbors listening the Reptile man presentation. Photo: LCC*

**Event 5**

**Title:** Mariachi Concert

**What:** The Mariachi is considered an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO; neighbors enjoyed this concert and Mexican food from a Taco Truck.

**When:** Fri, 9/3/2021

**Why:** To celebrate in community the end of the summer break.



*Mariachi concert. Photo: LCC*



*Teens playing basketball during the Mariachi concert. Photo: LCC*

## Event 6

**Title:** Youth Activity

**What:** A group of teens repainted the Little Brook photo booth, cleaned up the street, the planters they build with local moms and picked up garbage from the park.

**When:** Sat, 9/11/2021

**Why:** Motivate teens to participate in neighborhood activities, community building while earning school volunteer hours.



*Teen painting a stormwater drain with a “the Puget Sound starts here” stencil. Photo: LCC*



*Teens repainted the Little Brook photo booth. qwi?qu? means “Little Water” in Lushootseed, the language of the interior coast Salish people, who inhabited then and now, a major area of Western WA. This is also the name of the Lake City Collective’s center down the street. Photo: LCC*

**Event 7****Title:** Día de Muertos**What:** It's a celebration of life and death, to remember and demonstrate love and respect for deceased family members. UNESCO also recognizes Día de Muertos on its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Neighbors made lanterns, decorated sugar skulls and paper masks, enjoyed tamales, listened to traditional live music, some kids dressed up and got candy.**When:** Sat, 10/30/2021**Why:** This event has been a cultural tradition for families in the neighborhood for 5 years, Due to COVID-19, it was a great opportunity to keep this tradition in the neighborhood live by celebrating outdoors this time.

*Families receiving tamales and making crafts. Photo: LCC*





*Kids wait in line to receive candy during the Día de Muertos event. Photo: LCC*

### **Event 8**

**Title:** Street Mural Celebration

**What:** The street mural was designed by Seattle artist, Romel Belleza (Ilocano, Tlingit & Dishchii Bikoh N'Dee) and was installed in partnership between the Seattle Department of Transportation and Lake City Collective to honor Native culture and welcome people to the Little Brook neighborhood.

**When:** Sat, 11/6/2021

It was designed in July and installed in late October 2021. We held a celebration event with the community on November 6th.

**Why:** LCC has been advocating for traffic calming and cultural representation within the community.



Artist Romel Belleza (on the right) and his parents stand on top of the new mural at NE 140th St and 32nd Ave NE. Photo: SDOT



A bird's eye view of the new mural. The large piece is a Tlingit ocean monster that was used by the Shatx'Heen Kwaan and the smaller designs are Chilkat blanket sections. Artist Romel Da Vinci Belleza's intentions are to uplift native youth and honor his Indigenous heritage. Photo: SDOT



The Chief Seattle Drum Group performs including Derrick Belgarde, Executive Director of the Chief Seattle Club (on the right). Photo: SDOT



*SDOT Director Sam Zimbabwe, Lake City Collective Co-Directors César Garcia and Peggy Hernandez, and Seattle Parks & Recreation Superintendent Jesus Aguirre. Photo: SDOT*