Govans Feedback Session
November 7, 2022

Intros, what do you love about your community?:

* Walkable; commercial offerings
* Relationships; new $50M school; 14 acre park in the middle of the community, on the verge of being a totally family friendly park being used by neighbors.
* Everyone is very supportive, feels very much like a family
* University and relationships Loyola has in the community
* Community; access to school, market, Belvedere Square, etc.
* Community; walkable, amenities, great partners
* Old and the new – 100 year old library, Belvedere Square, Govans School community, Govans school (new), new restaurants
* Bringing resources into the community and bringing the community together as one; ensuring communities have access to resources

How has the community changed since the start of 2020?

* Since the pandemic, the Library has lost staff. More people are using the library. People are looking for resources, families are looking for activities. Before, used to be at the market every Wednesday, but can’t because of budget cuts. Requesting additional staff.
* Learning how to use resources – learn how to be a parent to a kid at home. Learning to be financially responsible, but also learning how to do low budget fun things. Now feel like more of a member of the community because more present. Living in other communities as a worker. Feel more connected to the community.
* GEDCO: Seen lots of people needing food from CARES. Lots of people still need utility and rental assistance. Because of COVID, increased the household contribution. Requests are still very high for much more money. Mental health needs are higher. Had to write more grants to be able to offer more mental health resources.
* Govans School: been very intentional about reaching multi-lingual families. Have been successful at hosting multi-lingual meet and greets. Still have families who are in need of food each week. Families are coming together and sharing information. Going into the busy season – many families will be getting special assistance for Christmas. Loyola is providing 60 more gifts, increase from previous year.
* Community: Working with York Road Partnership Housing Committee about the things accomplished. Split areas to use community leadership to talk with residents and provide a house counseling day. Commissioner DHCD was there. 8-10 houses have been improved on one block to change the entire block. Now have one 1 house that is vacant on the block. Has been an incredible change for residents. CIP was very successful and there is 4 years of funding to implement things in the master plan.
* Back to life/kind of, but life has
* Community has been disparate. The leaders have been doing the work and are tired now. There is a struggle to get new people and new perspectives.
* Loyola: Community Engaged Literacy Program and creative writing programs are new. Engagement with volunteers have been a challenge. Framing of volunteer work has changed and to get people motivated.
* Drastic drop in volunteers all across (volunteers, church, non-profit orgs, etc)