

# COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY

The Choice Cooper Visioning Event was held at the Rosenwald Recreation Center on July 17, 2024. Around 30 residents gathered to participate in activities and discussions related to the Choice Cooper Neighborhood Transformation Plan, and to enjoy free food and raffle prizes. Four activity stations were set up for residents to engage the past, present, and future of the B.W. Cooper Neighborhood, as well as gather information on the Early Action Project.

The four activity stations included:

- Past: Postcards from B.W. Cooper
- Present: Early Action Project
- Future: Mapping the Neighborhood
- Future: Visioning for the Future





# POSTCARDS FROM B.W. COOPER

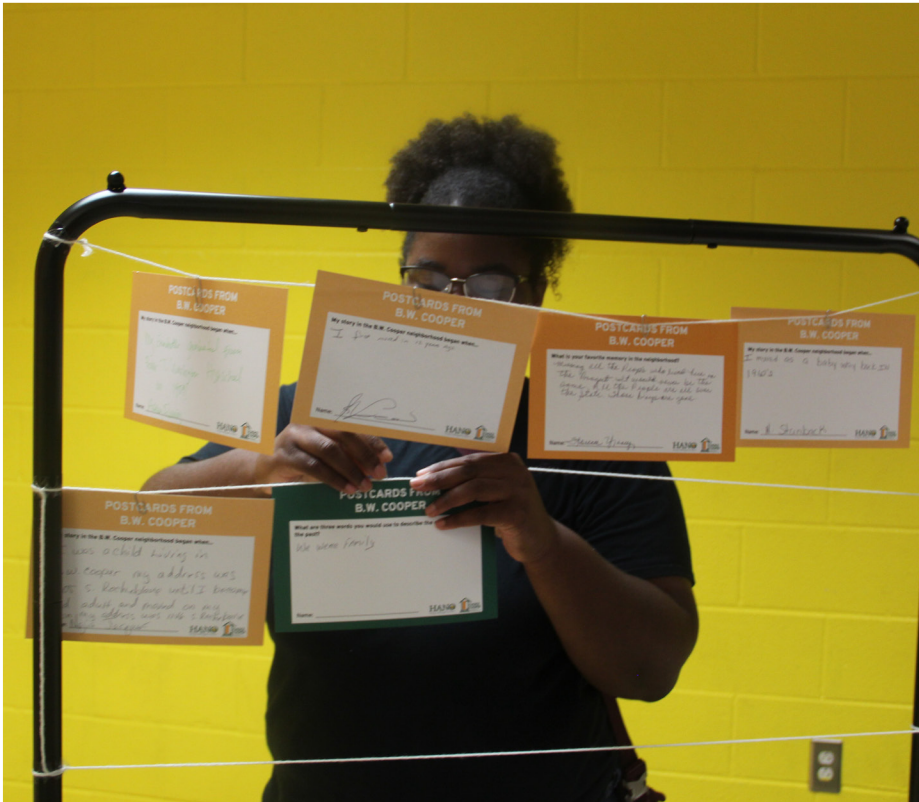
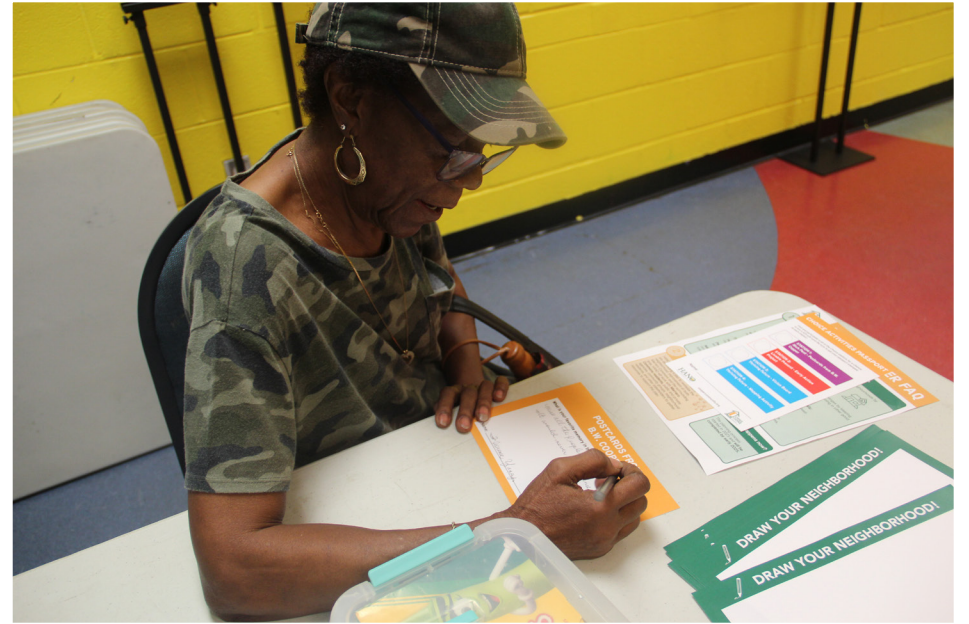


In order to honor and acknowledge the history of the B.W. Cooper Neighborhood and its residents, participants were asked to share their experiences by answering one of the following prompts:

- **What is your favorite memory of the neighborhood?**
- **My story in the B.W. Cooper neighborhood began when...**
- **What are three words you would use to describe the neighborhood in the past?**

<p>"When I moved in the development as a child from a residential neighborhood having attended a parochial school everything was so different and new but it wasn't long before my family was welcomed and embraced by the neighbors till this day those of us that's left remain in touch via email messaging calling ourselves the drive way pals"</p>		<p>AWESOME BEAUTIFUL LOVE FAMILY COMMUNITY RESPECT</p> <p>"Board of ladies the run the department Neighbors can come together for each other"</p>	<p>BEAUTIFUL PARTIES LOVE FAMILY RESPECT</p> <p>"February 1975 So much love still"</p>	<p>"Missing all the people who lived here in the project. It would never be the same. All the people are all over the state. These days are gone."</p>
<p>INTERESTING SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD</p>	<p>"I began when in elementary school Florence Wheaton to now present"</p>	<p>"When I toured the neighborhood and met many wonderful residents"</p>	<p>"I was a child in B.W Cooper my address was on Rocheb Ave until I became an adult and moved."</p>	<p>"My grandmother graduated from Booker T Washington High School in 1959!"</p>
<p>"When I graduated from Booker T Washington High School"</p>	<p>"I was 10 years old"</p>	<p>"Loving, being loved, always was there time being all up about alert goodness neighbors gave if needed you know"</p>	<p>"It was for family that cared about each other"</p>	<p>"Maintenance was good Had lights"</p>
<p>FAMILY ORIENTED RESPECT UNION</p>	<p>"I moved as a baby way back in 1960's"</p>	<p>"Lights were everywhere"</p>	<p>UNITY SUPPORT LOVE</p>	<p>"In 1970 me and my children moved in"</p>
<p>I first moved in 12 years ago</p>	<p>"Community"</p>		<p>CARING LOVING PASSIONATE</p>	<p>"Raising my kids"</p>

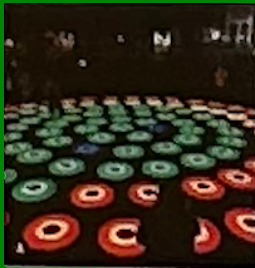




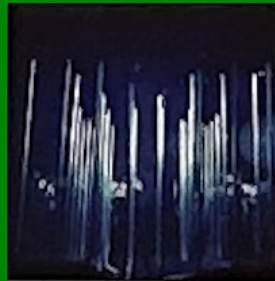


# EARLY ACTION PROJECT

**ART LIGHTS ON GALVEZ STREET:** The Choice Neighborhood Grant provides funding for an Early Action Project that can be built within the next year. The project focuses on working together with residents to improve the community. For this activity we asked residents to vote on which type of light art installation they would like to see added along Galvez Street. The options below reflect the votes each precedent theme got. The flower lights were the most popular amongst residents. Many believed that those lights reflected their culture and felt more “New Orleans” than any of the other potential light projects.



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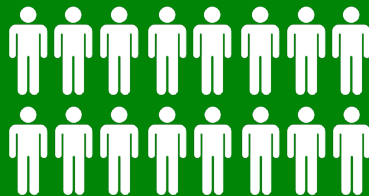
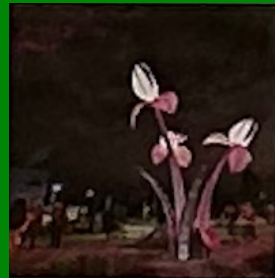
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# VISION FOR THE FUTURE

This station focused on creating a community vision for the future of the B.W. Cooper Neighborhood. Participants were asked to choose 3 icons that represent their vision for the community's future from a collection of graphics. The icons were captured and populated on a large banner hung on the wall, creating a 'vision board' for the neighborhood in real time. Based on the icons participants chose, it can be said that they share a similar vision for the future. Community health and well-being is a priority. There's a demand for health care services, amenities, as well as resources for families and the youth. Some topics of discussion included the following:

- The need for lighting
- Lack of sense of safety
- The preservation and celebration of their music, culture and history
- Additional recreation and resource spaces for youth









# MAPPING THE NEIGHBORHOOD

This station focused on understanding resident's current experiences in the B.W. Cooper Neighborhood. A large-scale map of the neighborhood was set up for residents to identify where public investment (green dots) is most needed to improve streets, parks and public spaces, and where private investment (orange dots) is most needed to build or repair homes, businesses and services. The following are initial ideas that emerged from the activity:



- The preference between public and private investment is almost even amongst the participants with 23 interested in private investment and 26 interested in public investment.
- Most of the investment is located in the lower end of the target neighborhood, including the Hoffman Triangle.
- Residents emphasized the need for investment near MLK due to vacancies.
- Rosenwald Center is identified with need for public investment.



