

# PVD Comprehensive Plan Envision | Adapt | Grow

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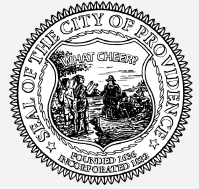
Summary Report

*2022 Listen & Learn* Community Engagement



# Contents

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- *Listen & Learn* Engagement Overview
- About the Participants
- Providence Strengths & Weaknesses
- Visions for Providence's Future
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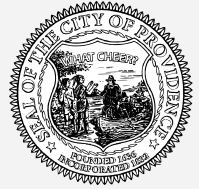


# ***Listen & Learn***

## Engagement Overview



# Listen & Learn Overview



## Listen & Learn

**Goals:** build community awareness, identify key issues, challenges & opportunities

**Methods:** Online Survey, Tabling & Presentations @ Neighborhood Events

**Timeline:**  
Summer to Winter 2022

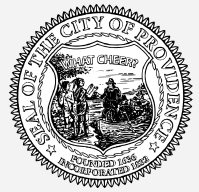




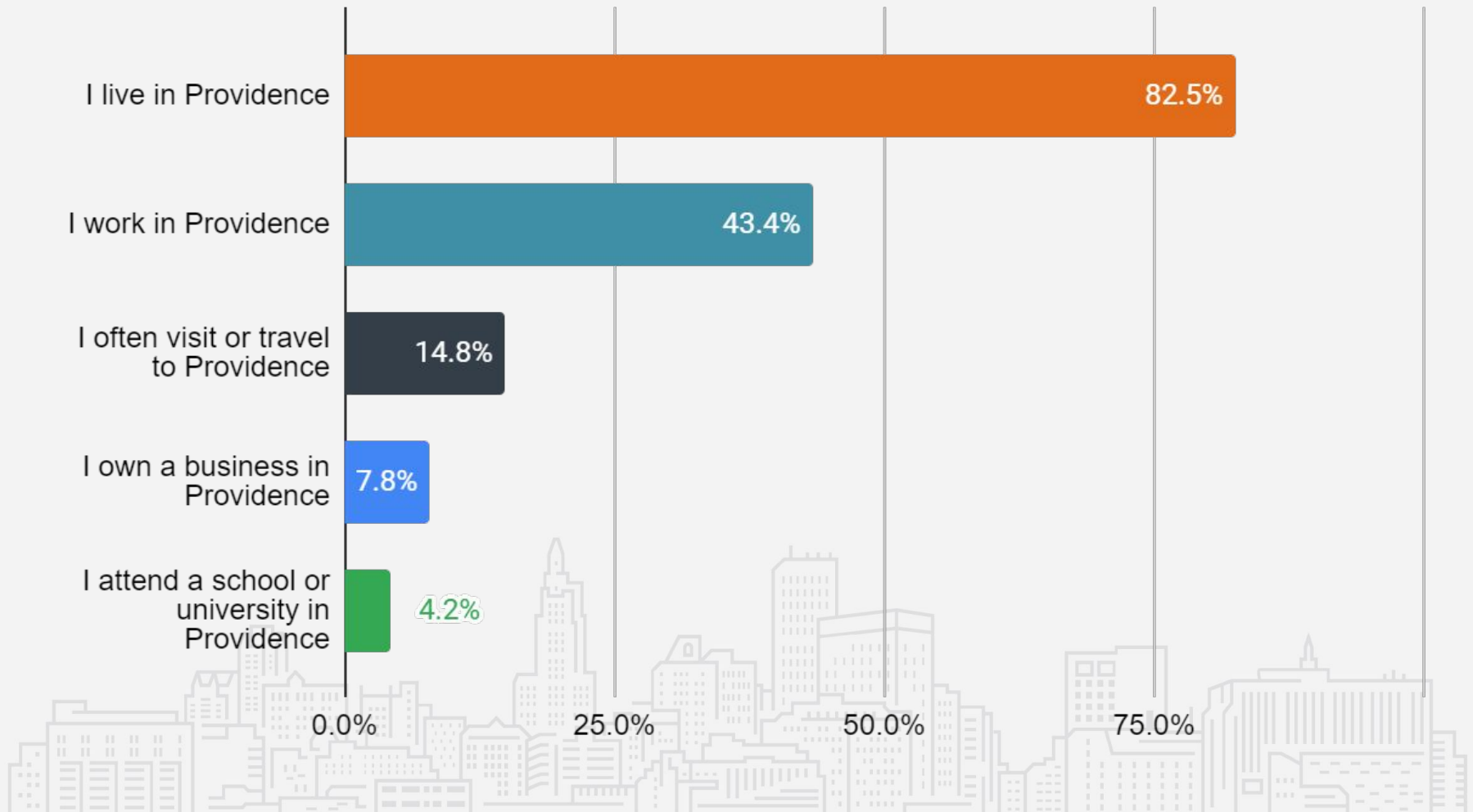
# About the Participants



# 1,100+ Survey Respondents



## What is your relationship to Providence?



# Survey Respondent Geography



Participation from all 25 neighborhoods, but clear representation gaps.

Neighborhood	Respondents
Hope	104
West End	92
Mount Hope	81
Fox Point	79
Federal Hill	79
...	...
North End	18
Valley	8
Silverlake	8
Hartford	4

Higher participation neighborhoods

Lower participation  
(further dedicated outreach necessary)

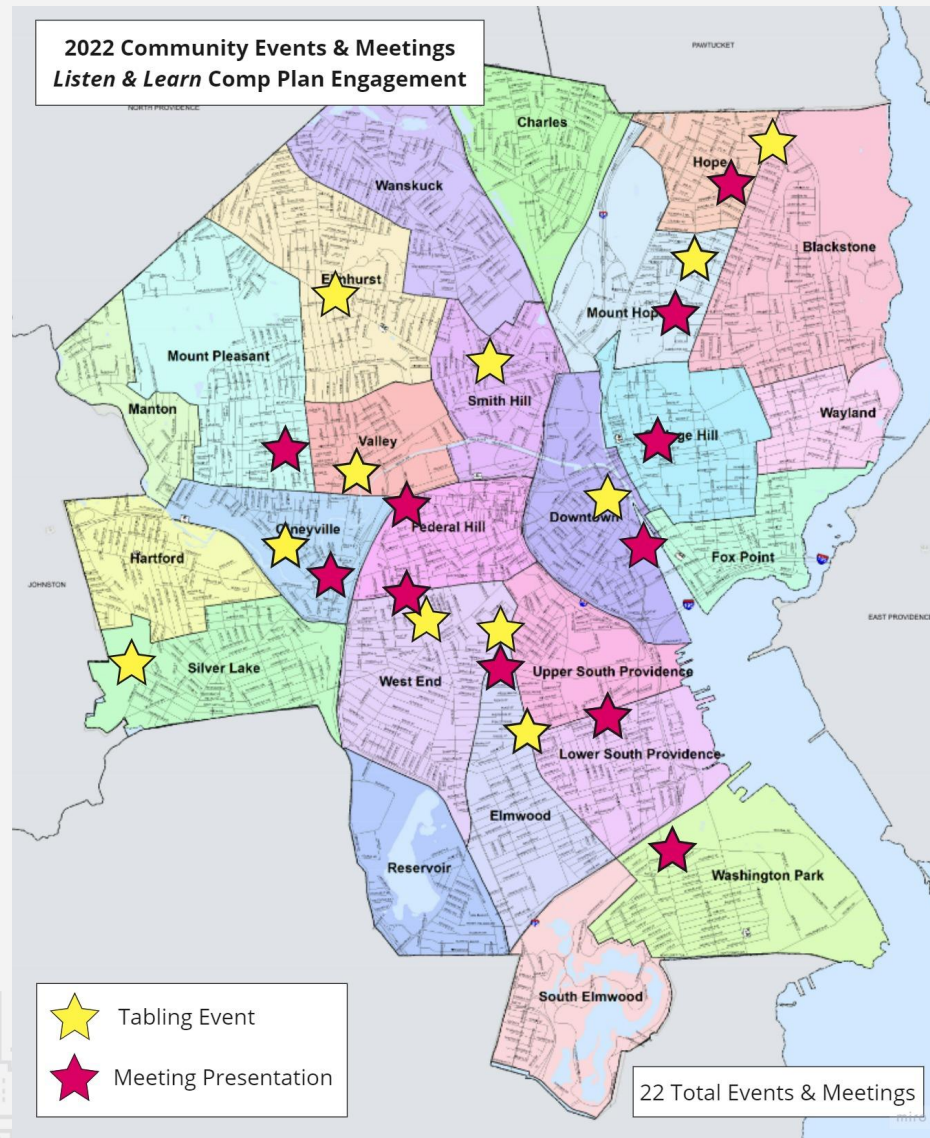
# 2022 Events & Meetings



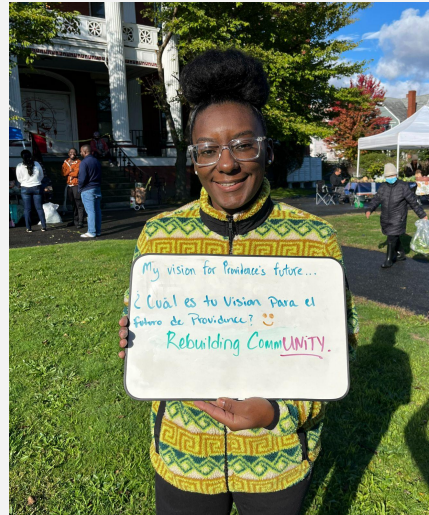
Tabling Events	Meeting Presentations
Trinity Square Block Party	South Providence Neighborhood Assoc.
Smith Hill Celebration	Trinity Square Together
One PVD Downtown Event	Central PVD Health Equity Zone
Elmhurst Block Party	Olneyville Neighborhood Association
Dexter Park Farmers Market	West Broadway Neighborhood Association
Neutaconkanut Market	Mount Pleasant Community Meeting
Broad Street Farmers Market	Washington Park Association
Olneyville Festival	College Hill Neighborhood Association
Hope Street Farmers Market	Ward 1 Meeting
Farm Fresh Farmers Market	Ward 3 Meeting
Mt Hope Garden Harvest	Mt Hope Housing Coalition
<b>300+ conversations</b>	<b>260+ attendees</b>

**+Olneyville Climate Resilience Workshop**

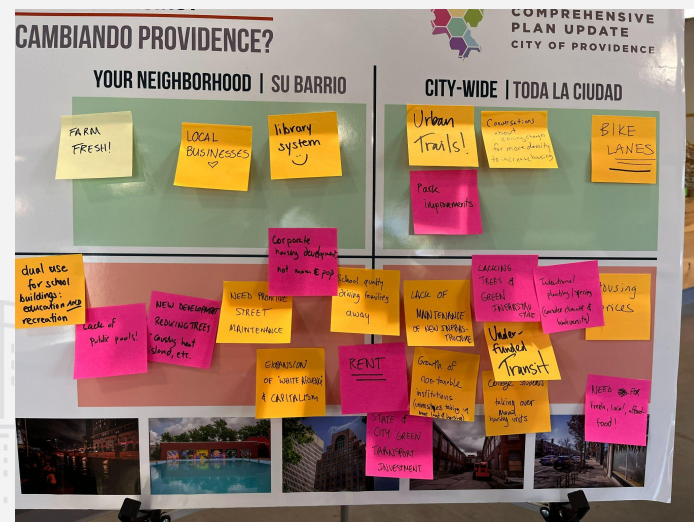
# Events & Meetings Map

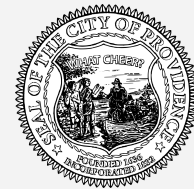


# Tabling Activities



## The seal of the City of Providence is a circular emblem. The outer ring contains the text "SEAL OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE" at the top and "FOUNDED 1636 INCORPORATED 1899" at the bottom, separated by two stars. The inner circle features a landscape scene with a river. On the left, a Native American figure stands on the shore. In the center, a small boat with two figures is on the water. On the right, a figure stands on a rocky outcrop. The text "SANT CHERRY" is visible in the background of the scene.

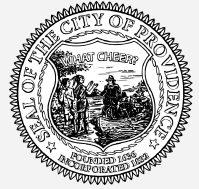




# Citywide Strengths & Weaknesses



# What do we appreciate most about Providence?



1 Diversity, Community,  
People, Neighborhoods

2 Arts, Culture, Food,  
Creativity, Vibrancy

3 Size, Scale, Compact,  
Walkability, Access

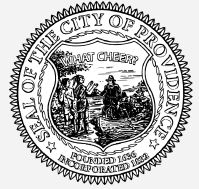
4 Beauty, Architecture,  
Sense of Place, History

5 Parks, Rivers, Waterfront,  
Green Space, Trees

## Top 5 Themes

Based on repeated words,  
phrases & sentiments

# What do we appreciate most about Providence?



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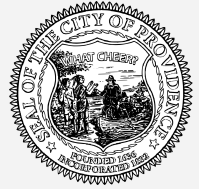
“Providence is small but mighty. Ethnically and culturally diverse, the City offers a wide range of community events, a strong arts presence, a powerful history...”

“The international cultural diversity of Providence is what makes it unique. Immigrant communities, languages, and amazing food from so many regions of the world. Deep rooted history of Black and Indigenous people here...”

“It’s a historic city with a small family feel with a tremendous amount of diversity”

“Each neighborhood is vastly different and diverse from the next. It’s beautiful and we’re lucky to have it”

# What do we appreciate most about Providence?



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"The art scene, music, locally owned shops and restaurants"

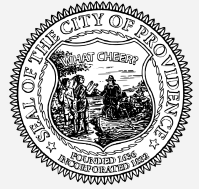
"The people. This city has a great cultural depth that shines through art, food, music, and festivals. It has Character, charm, history, and mystery..."

"It's a cultural hub, big 'small' town, great restaurants and arts / culture opportunities"

"...arts & culture is what brought me here and what keeps me here. The quirky, weird, creative place that it is."

"Creative capital, so much great stuff going on. Artists and creators can afford to take real risks."

# What do we appreciate most about Providence?



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"Providence has a scale that makes it livable and lovable."

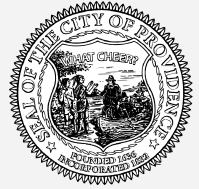
"You get the amenities and activity of a bigger City, but without a lot of the headaches ... I like that I never really have to drive anywhere and when I do, I don't have to drive very far."

"It is large enough to feel like there is always something to explore, but small enough to feel knowable"

"Great walking city. Important to keep that and for people to feel safe doing it. Easy access via foot/bike to everything."

"I appreciate the scale of the city & the diversity of streetscape & neighborhoods within a short distance of each other."

# What do we appreciate most about Providence?



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“Charming. Old without feeling decayed”

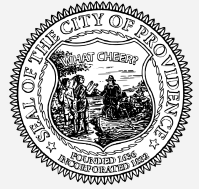
“I love Providence. What makes it so unique is its age. PVD is chock full of history. It's as beautiful as it is interesting.”

“Beautiful buildings, pedestrian bridge, the marrying of the city's history with its future (architecturally, street planning, etc)”

“Great mix of old and new, a lot of history in a compact and walkable space. The real beauty of a pre-automobile city.”

“I like being in a city that blends so much different history, from colonial era cobblestones to amazing mill buildings from the 1800s and punk rock in the 80s”

# What do we appreciate most about Providence?



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"I love how PVD cares for its parks. I love how people want to get involved, and really care for local community..."

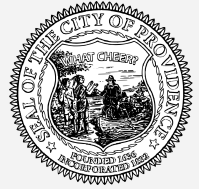
"Providence has great amenities in a small area so it is easy to enjoy. The waterfront parks are a real plus."

"Good neighborhood parks, Roger Williams Park, art and cultural opportunities..."

"I also love the waterfront areas - India Point Park and the recently developed area around the pedestrian bridge."

"Compact, parks, close to beaches and shoreline"

# What do we want to see improved in Providence?



1 Housing Affordability

2 Schools

3 Transportation, Mobility,  
Public Transit

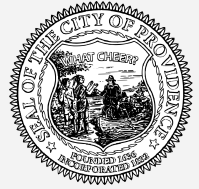
4 Parks, Green Space,  
Trees

5 Downtown

## Top 5 Themes

Based on repeated words,  
phrases & sentiments

# What do we want to see improved in Providence?



1 Housing Affordability

"Housing costs are way too high, both for rentals and home ownership. Poverty and income inequality need to be addressed..."

2 Schools

"MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING EVERYWHERE. HOUSING. HOUSING."

3 Transportation, Mobility, Public Transit

"I love Providence and want to stay here, but renting an apartment has been awful... We would love to buy but it's simply too expensive for us... Providence really needs to figure out housing, including building more and changing zoning, to allow more people to come and stay"

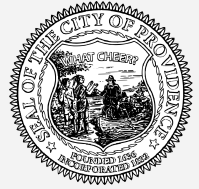
4 Parks, Green Space, Trees

"More affordable housing, less segregation of neighborhoods"

5 Downtown

"Greater diversity of housing types, including higher-density, more affordable housing, especially along transit corridors."

# What do we want to see improved in Providence?



1 Housing Affordability

2 Schools

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5 Downtown

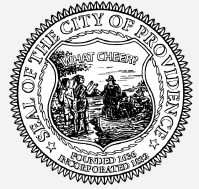
"#1 by far is the public SCHOOLS. We are never going to get anywhere economically until we address this - we need families, and everyone moves out before kindergarten. (It is seriously the first thing people ask you when you have a baby - what are you going to do about school?)"

"SCHOOLS, everything about them—from the buildings themselves to the education we're providing our youth."

"Less crime, better schools, affordable housing"

"More investment in public infrastructure (schools, housing, non-car transit options, public internet?!) that allow anyone to come here and enjoy our great city!"

# What do we want to see improved in Providence?



1 Housing Affordability

"Better public transportation -- more frequent and reliable bus service. Better taxi service. Expansion of trolley route and service. Lower housing costs..."

2 Schools

"Safe transportation options. Cars choke our city; we are too dense to be a place where everyone drives. But alternatives to driving are generally unsafe and/or uncomfortable."

3 Transportation, Mobility, Public Transit

"Safer sidewalks across city. From west end to downtown and to east side"

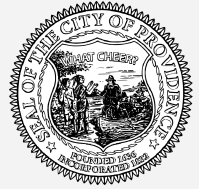
4 Parks, Green Space, Trees

"We need to make it easier to get around. We need more FREE parking. NO bike lanes on Hope Street"

5 Downtown

"Overall continue the trend of providing amenities for people walking and biking, not just cars."

# What do we want to see improved in Providence?



1 Housing Affordability

2 Schools

3 Transportation, Mobility,  
Public Transit

4 Parks, Green Space,  
Trees

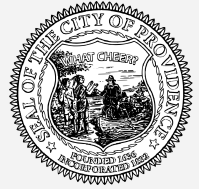
5 Downtown

"More trees and greenery, particularly in low-income areas. Would love attention paid to more trees over asphalt/concrete/parking lots to prevent overheating... Similarly, would love more attention paid to water filtration"

"We also need more investment in public spaces, not just on the East Side. Making streets safer is also important in our neighborhood. Bike lanes, public pools, walkable areas, dog parks... getting folks outside - the Woonasquatucket Greenway is an amazing example"

"Many more green spaces (parks, tree lined pathways etc.) need to be developed throughout the city, especially in the lower income neighborhoods. Too many streets are barren and treeless..."

# What do we want to see improved in Providence?



1 Housing Affordability

"More downtown rehab. More growth opportunities. More ways to get involved"

2 Schools

"Better support for businesses so downtown is more lively. The city has done a good job of promoting this since I moved here in 2003. I would like to see that continue. Walkable city is a safe city"

3 Transportation, Mobility,  
Public Transit

"I want the business climate and physical condition of downtown improved"

4 Parks, Green Space,  
Trees

"More thriving downtown. We need some kind of anchor business that can bring others to the city and improve economic outcomes for all."

5 Downtown

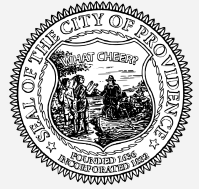
"...Better connection between downtown to the east and west side (95 really kills that....capping the highway would be amazing) and downtown to the north and south"



# Envisioning Providence's Future



# In 2040, Providence should be...



1 Affordable, Equitable

2 Vibrant, Thriving

3 Green, Sustainable

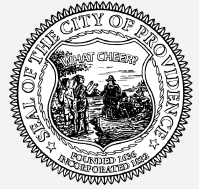
4 Safe, Clean, Healthy

5 Diverse, Welcoming,  
Inclusive, Accessible

## Top 5 Themes

Based on repeated words,  
phrases & sentiments

# In 2040, Providence should be...



1 Affordable, Equitable

2 Vibrant, Thriving

3 Green, Sustainable

4 Safe, Clean, Healthy

5 Diverse, Welcoming,  
Inclusive, Accessible

"...a city where all its residents have all the tools to be successful, from world class public education, to affordable housing and excellent environmentally friendly public transportation."

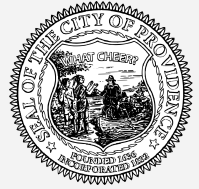
"...affordable, liveable, community centered."

"...an affordable, safe place for people of all cultures and backgrounds."

"...carbon-free and equitable."

"...an equitable, just, dynamic and safe place where a diverse community is able to live, work, learn, grow and continue to build community."

# In 2040, Providence should be...



1 Affordable, Equitable

"...a thriving community that supports and encourages its residents in arts, business, and life!"

2 Vibrant, Thriving

"...a vibrant, thriving self reliant city with truly affordable housing, and a great place to live, work, retire, raise a family."

3 Green, Sustainable

"...above water, both figuratively and literally, and the center of many thriving communities."

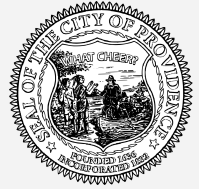
4 Safe, Clean, Healthy

"...economically thriving while maintaining the community feeling and artists"

5 Diverse, Welcoming,  
Inclusive, Accessible

"...a fun, vibrant city that allows people of all races, religions, and genders to thrive, both socially, and economically."

# In 2040, Providence should be...



1 Affordable, Equitable

2 Vibrant, Thriving

3 Green, Sustainable

4 Safe, Clean, Healthy

5 Diverse, Welcoming,  
Inclusive, Accessible

"...Clean, green, beautiful and accessible, accomplished by its vision and its encouraging its residents to take part in making the vision become reality."

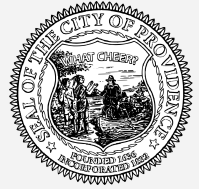
"...Green, affordable, walkable neighborhoods, with accessibility to healthy food, and good schools..a vibrant, thriving self reliant city with truly affordable housing, and a great place to live, work, retire, raise a family."

"...A clean, green metropolis where all can succeed!"

"...unique little green city"

"...a sustainable, accessible, and fun place to live"

# In 2040, Providence should be...



1 Affordable, Equitable

“...known as a safe refuge and home to all people.”

2 Vibrant, Thriving

“...a fun, safe and exciting place to live and visit.”

3 Green, Sustainable

“...a place where people can afford to live, a safe place to raise a family, and an environment that has affordable programs for kids and adults as well as free community events that allow people to contribute and get to know everyone”

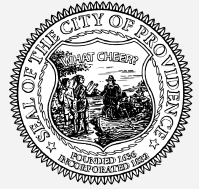
4 Safe, Clean, Healthy

“...a place where people can afford to live, offer a bright future for their children, and be safe from climate change.”

5 Diverse, Welcoming,  
Inclusive, Accessible

“...healthy in all ways”

# In 2040, Providence should be...



1 Affordable, Equitable

2 Vibrant, Thriving

3 Green, Sustainable

4 Safe, Clean, Healthy

5 Diverse, Welcoming,  
Inclusive, Accessible

"...a vibrant diverse city."

"...a diverse business hub leading the way in environmental sustainability and small business development centered on creating promoting equity and opportunities for expanded generational wealth for Providence residents."

"...still the creative capital. Always weird, diverse, and awesome"

"...diverse, accepting, and growing community, with streets and public spaces that are well-taken care of"

"...An inclusive and welcoming place that celebrates differences and lifts up all residents, creatively and sustainably."



# Priority Issues



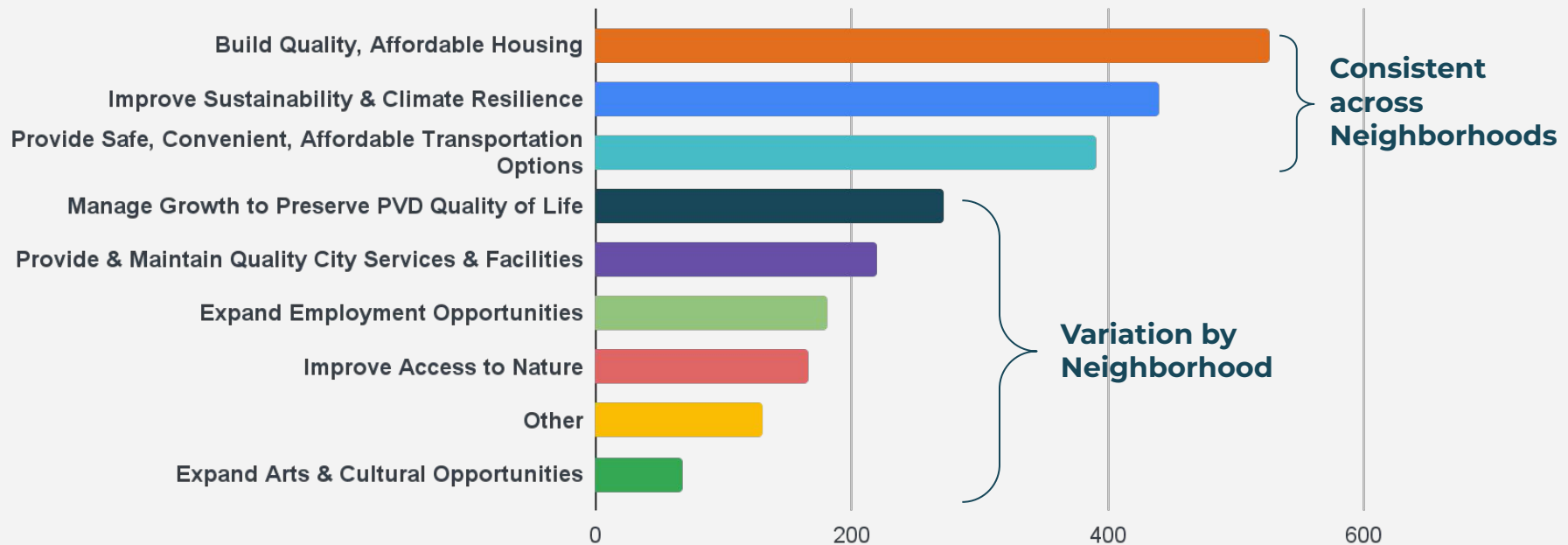


## What are the top issues that the City needs to address as it grows over the next 20 years? [You may select up to three]





## What are the top issues that the City needs to address as it grows over the next 20 years? [You may select up to three]





## Overall, do you think Providence is...

Declining

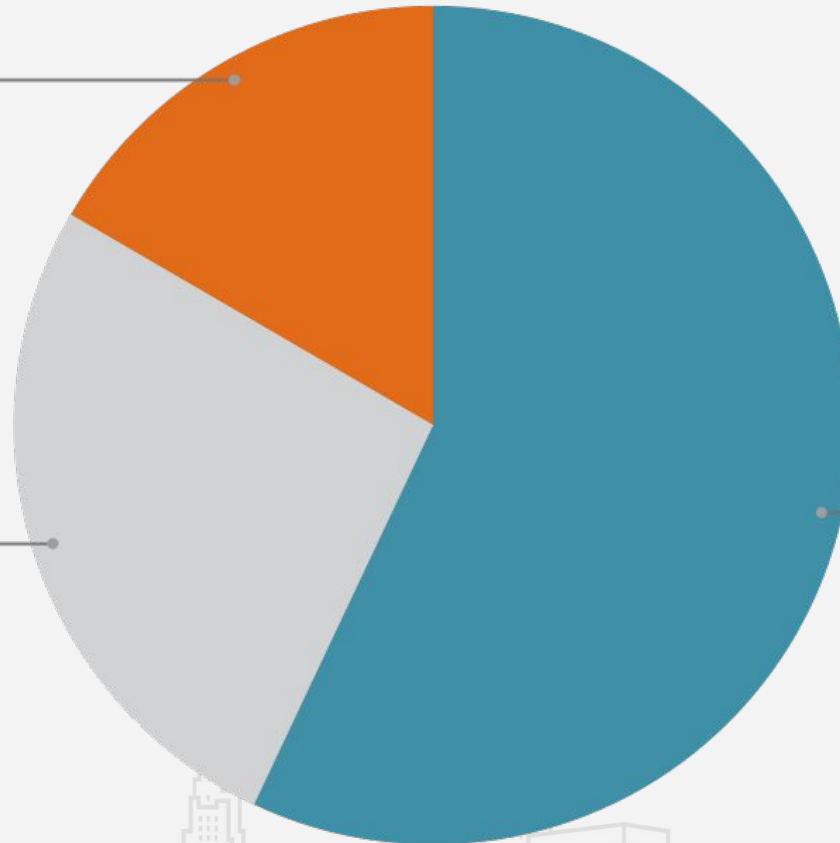
16.6%

Staying the same

26.3%

Improving

57.0%



# THANK YOU

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City of Providence

