

GREAT COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE (GCC) 2019 Network Member Survey Results

The GCC Network

GCC is a collaboration of funders, non-profits, and public sector partners working to ensure that low-income people and communities of color can shape a more equitable and sustainable Bay Area.

GCC was founded in in 2006 with a bold vision: healthy, thriving and affordable neighborhoods across the Bay Area, linked to regional opportunities by a premier transit network. In 2019, GCC's vision remains the same, though the stakes are higher, with the Bay Area experiencing the effects of a housing affordability crisis, an aging transit system, growing inequality, and climate change. The promise of achieving this vision in the nine-county Bay Area region is fueled by the contributions and connections of GCC's robust network of members. Over 30 nonprofit organizations, 12 foundations and grantmaking organizations and 12 private partners and federal, state and regional agencies have counted themselves as members of the GCC network over the past 14 years. These diverse members engage in grantmaking, advocacy and shared learning to address the Bay Area's housing, transportation and climate challenges. GCC members work across six priority areas in aligned groups, named below, and co-led with key partners:

- Bay Area for All (2017-Present)
- CASA Kitchen Cabinet (2017-2018)
- Climate Equity Working Group (2018)
- Public Lands Working Group (2015-Present)
- TOD Implementation Table (2014-Present)
- GCC Funders Network

Assessment & Learning: A Core Strategy of GCC

To foster a healthy and collaborative network to advance its vision, GCC is aspiring to incorporate *assessment & learning* as a core strategy. GCC leaders employ ongoing research and assessment activities for network members to share, communicate and reflect on emerging information and developments across multiple priority areas. GCC collectively uses this information to support better and more inclusive decision-making, build stronger partnerships, and to achieve more sustainable, equitable community development efforts and impacts in communities and policy systems.

The 2019 GCC Network Member Survey

Recognizing both the strength of its network and the high value of learning to advance its vision, GCC commissioned a survey in 2019 to better understand the experience of non-funder GCC network members and their ideas for improving network effectiveness. This survey explored network perceptions of GCC's strengths, challenges and relevant impacts in 2016-2019, as well as opportunities for generating greater future impact.

The survey was shared with 50 individuals representing the 35 active nonprofit and public sector organizations within the network. Participation was strong with responses from:

59% OF
INDIVIDUAL
MEMBERS



77% OF
MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS



This report captures findings from the survey to inform learning and decision-making for the network.



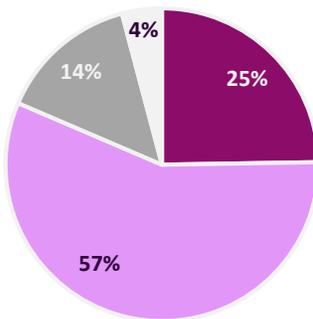
WHAT WE LEARNED ... about the GCC member experience

1. GCC MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT GCC MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE REGION

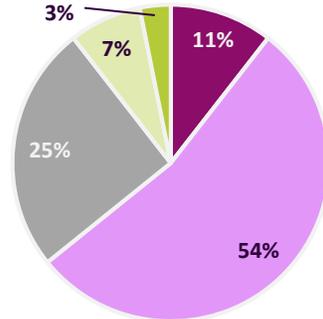
- 86%** of survey participants believe that GCC serves an important purpose in the region
- 90%** believe that the political and social climate seems “right” for GCC’s work
- 60%** can see the positive difference that their participation in GCC makes on the ground

2. GCC MEMBERS SEE MANY BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING IN THE COLLABORATIVE

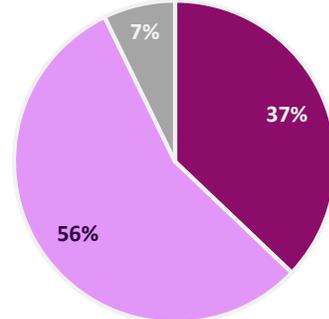
“My participation in GCC has contributed to stronger advocacy agendas for the issues I work on”



“My participation in GCC has contributed to greater and/or better messaging about issues I work on”



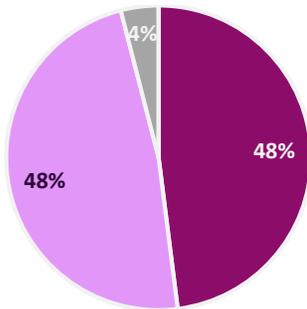
“My participation in GCC has provided insights or knowledge that have benefited other work”



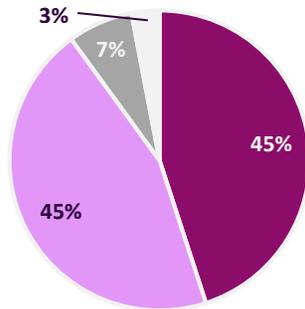
● Strongly Agree ● Agree ● Neither Agree nor Disagree ● Disagree ● Strongly Disagree ○ Skip

3. GCC MEMBERS DEEPLY VALUE THEIR GCC PARTNERS

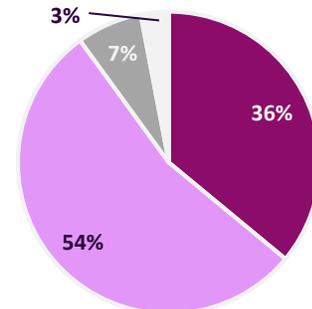
“I respect the other people and organizations involved in GCC”



“My participation in GCC has allowed me to develop new partnerships or deepen existing ones”



“My participation in GCC has provided me or my organization with other benefits”



● Strongly Agree ● Agree ● Neither Agree nor Disagree ● Disagree ● Strongly Disagree ○ Skip

4. GCC MEMBERS SEE OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE COLLABORATIVE

- 17%** of survey participants believe that the composition of the GCC network could be improved
- 14%** of survey participants had concerns about GCC’s balance between breadth and depth
- 13%** would like better communication about the purpose, content and progress of GCC activities



What We Learned ... about GCC member perceptions of shared impact

5. THERE IS STRONG AGREEMENT AMONG SURVEY PARTICIPANTS THAT GCC'S ROLE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REGION ARE MAKING IMPORTANT PROGRESS TOWARD ITS VISION

80%

of survey participants believe GCC's role and contributions to the region are important for **ensuring communities can stay and thrive in the face of climate & economic pressures**

20% hold a neutral stance
0% disagree

80%

of survey participants believe GCC's role and contributions to the region are important for **protecting, preserving and producing affordable housing near transit in the region**

16% hold a neutral stance
4% disagree

84%

of survey participants believe GCC's role and contributions to the region are important for **ensuring that land use decisions and investments are driven by community priorities**

16% hold a neutral stance
0% disagree

6. THERE IS STRONG AGREEMENT AMONG SURVEY PARTICIPANTS THAT WORKING GROUPS IMPACT LOCAL LEADERSHIP AND MIXED FEEDBACK ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH GCC WORK GROUPS IMPROVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, BOTH IN PUBLIC PROCESSES AND DIRECTLY

"There would not have been an equity analysis or outreach to low income communities of color were it not for the GCC CASA Kitchen Cabinet"
- survey respondent

WORKING GROUP	Impact on Local Leadership	Impact on Public Engagement	Impact on GCC Direct Engagement
CASA Kitchen Cabinet	Positive (+)	Mixed (+ =)	Mixed (+ ?)
Bay Area for All Working Group	Positive (+)	No Change (=)	Positive (+)
Public Land Working Group	Positive (+)	Positive (+)	No Change (=)
Transit-Oriented Development Implementation Table	Positive (+)	Mixed (+ =)	No Change (=)

"BA4A has been a great vehicle for GCC to put into practice its value of listening to and supporting low-income communities of color... figuring out how [to create] direct participation by organizing groups and community leaders was a great way to ensure that the goal of engagement came to life"
- survey respondent

"We were able to shift the priorities of decision makers on public land use for transit agency owned sites" - survey respondent

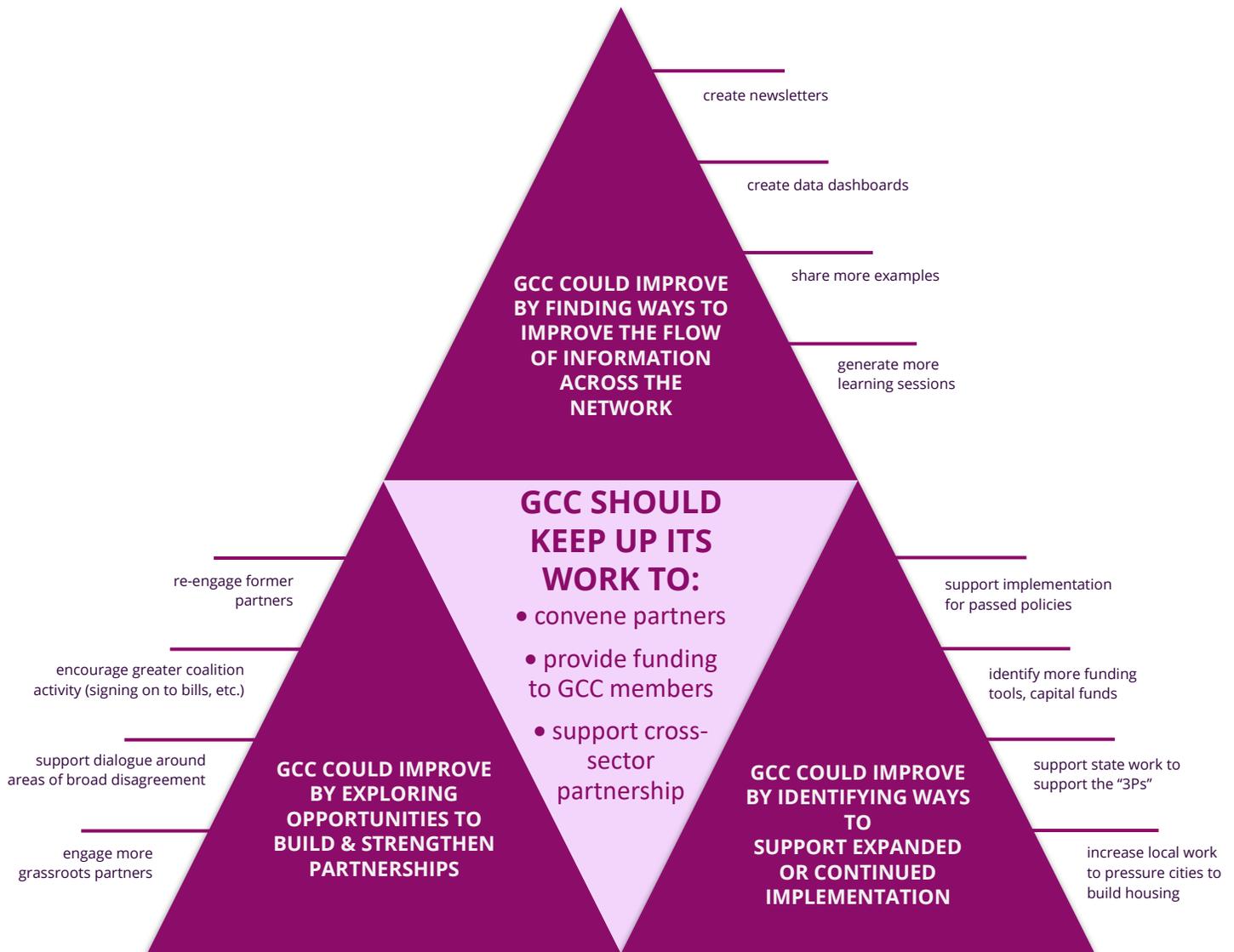
"We brought the racial and low-income lens to all of the campaigns that we engaged in. It was mostly successful in framing the conversation"
- survey respondent



What We Learned ... about GCC member suggestions and ideas

7. SURVEY PARTICIPANTS HAVE BOTH GREAT SUPPORT FOR GCC TO CONTINUE ITS CURRENT PATH AND ALSO SEVERAL IDEAS FOR BUILDING UPON ITS STRENGTHS

The graphic below illustrates both common themes (within the triangle) made by survey participants and the range of suggestions they offered (outside the triangle).



GCC’s Path Forward

The 2019 GCC Network Member Survey provides GCC Network Members with the opportunity to understand the breadth of perspectives regarding the health of the network and the impacts of its recent work. Overall, findings from this survey indicate that GCC members value their participation in GCC and believe current efforts are making a difference in the region – though there is room for improvement on all fronts. The survey data and participant suggestions gathered in this survey should be considered with other relevant information (e.g., external partner input, internal programmatic information, political climate, etc.) in the development of plans and strategies and evaluation of success.

