



RUSSELL CITY REPARATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT

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Russell City Heritage Preservation Programs

Summary of the Reparative Justice Recommendation: The proposal for a community center and public benefit programs stemmed from past feedback from Russell City descendants and former residents. See the table below for a summary of draft recommendations related to this proposal. As of the March 26, 2024 work session with Hayward City Council, the Russell City Reparative Justice Project Steering Committee, and City of Hayward staff, the development of a community center as well as public benefit programs were relatively low priorities for reparative justice actions.

During the September 25, 2024 town hall to discuss draft recommendations, several community members shared that this proposal was not a priority for reparative justice. At the same time, some community members voiced that having a gathering space for cultural events, as well as programs for elders could be helpful.

Given this mixed feedback, staff do not recommend this as a proposal for consideration by the Hayward City Council. Alternatively, there might be ways to implement elements of this idea to support the goal of no-cost space for Russell City community events.

- Access to public space for community events was one of the more significant themes among those who supported this proposal. The Cinemark Century Movie Theater was suggested as a space that could be made available for free rentals,
- Hosting senior or other public benefit programs at the Stack Youth & Family Center, and/or
- Creating a museum exhibit to celebrate the culture of Russell City within existing or upcoming developments.

If any of these ideas are approved in the December 3, 2025 Hayward City Council Meeting, eligibility criteria and specific objectives can be developed.

From List of 26 Recommendations (Community Center & Benefit Programs)

Russell City Community Center: Establishing a community center within the old Russell City boundaries to foster community development, well-being, social interaction, education, and recreation.



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Environmental Justice & Health Initiatives: Promote environmental justice and overall community health through specialty clinics. Mental health resources tailored to address historical and current challenges.

Infrastructure Development: Restoration requires more than just returning lands; it calls for equipping those lands with modern amenities and services to ensure residents and their descendants can build a prosperous future.

From RCRJP Steering Committee Addendums (Community Center & Benefit Programs)

Establish a Russell City Community Center (RCCC): within the boundaries of Russell City – wholly owned and debt free by a (Russell City) Resident-led non-profit to manage and maintain (RCCC) via a Community fund.

- Multi-purpose venue with parking and a minimum capacity of 500 people
- Administrative offices
- RCCC Theater with box office, stage, dance floor, A/V capabilities, dressing rooms, bathrooms, bar, and adjunct commissary
- 3 Conference rooms for use as training centers, conferences, and rental space
- Computer/Tech center
- RCCC Child-care center
- RC Healthcare Clinic – with a primary focus on the identification and treatment of physical and mental challenges caused by toxic environments to which former RC Residents were exposed