



Bay Area Social Equity Caucus
March 21, 2008 Quarterly Meeting
Beyond Words: Picturing Our Perceptions

At the first quarterly meeting of 2008, Urban Habitat's Leadership Institute Coordinator, Pam Graybeal, facilitated an activity 'Beyond Words: Picturing Our Perceptions.' The activity's goals were to have SEC members spend a few minutes to take a step back and think about concepts related to the Caucus' goals and activities in a different way.

Participants were divided into groups of 5 and each person was given a sheet a paper with a phrase written across the top, and asked to quickly sketch an image to depict this word or phrase. After a minute of drawing, everyone folded their papers so that only the drawing was showing (and the phrase was hidden), and passed it on to the person on their left. After being handed a paper with the drawing, they were asked to guess and write down what they thought the image was depicting. After folding the paper so that the image was no longer showing-- but the new phrase was--they again passed their paper to the left. This pattern was continued for another round before everyone unfolded the papers to reveal the entire progression of words to images, to words, back to images, and finally words again.

This was followed by a series of guessing what the image depicted and then sketching the new phrase without knowing what preceded the image or phrase at hand (see instructions below). At the conclusion, we passed the papers around, and people laughed and shared their responses. Members shared which progressions were most striking, true, entertaining, or revealing.

The goals of the exercise were to:

- 1) challenge participants to find alternative ways to express concepts we encounter frequently,
- 2) Get a sense of how other SEC members conceptualize these ideas,
- 3) Prompt discussions about preconceived ideas about sectors and how these notions affect our multi-sector and multi-issue coalition building, and
- 4) To have fun!

The activity seemed to be a hit, and we look forward to doing it again--with new phrases and more time for discussion afterwards.

Beyond Words: Picturing Our Perceptions

INSTRUCTIONS

- Each person will receive one piece of paper with a word or phrase related to the SEC written at the top. **KEEP THIS WORD TO YOURSELF, AND DO NOT SHOW YOUR NEIGHBORS.**
- For the first turn, you'll have about one minute to sketch the word or phrase on the top of your paper. **DO NOT USE WORDS. SYMBOLS AND NUMBERS ARE OKAY.**
- At the end of the first turn, fold down the top part of your paper so that **ONLY THE DRAWING IS SHOWING, AND THE ORIGINAL WORD OR PHRASE IS HIDDEN.**
- Pass your paper to the person on your left.
- Second round, you will have about half a minute to guess at or describe the image drawn by your neighbor. Write this in the area directly below the image. **FOLD THE PAPER AGAIN SO THAT THIS TIME, ONLY YOUR WORDS ARE SHOWING, AND THE IMAGE IS HIDDEN.**
- Pass the paper again to the person on your left.
- We will continue this pattern for a few rounds.
- After we have completed all rounds, we will unfold the papers and circulate them for everyone to see. Each table should try to identify **THE FUNNIEST, THE MOST ACCURATE, THE LEAST ACCURATE, or THE MOST REVEALING OR INTERESTING** paper to share with the rest of the caucus.

Basic Needs

Sketch:



Word/phrase:

~~Basic needs~~ person LOVES: housing
money
clothing

Sketch:

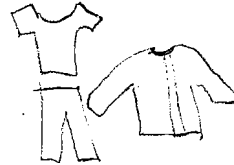
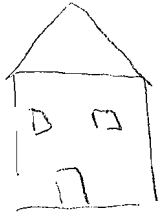


Word/phrase:

Low income housing?

Basic Needs

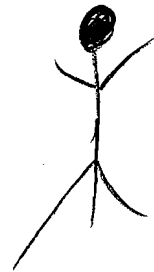
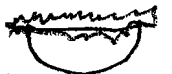
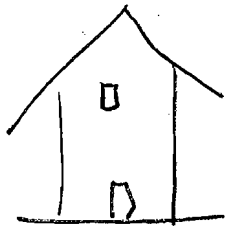
Sketch:



Wordphrase:

Meeting Basic Needs:

Sketch:



Word/phrase:

Right to food, water and housing

Decision-Maker

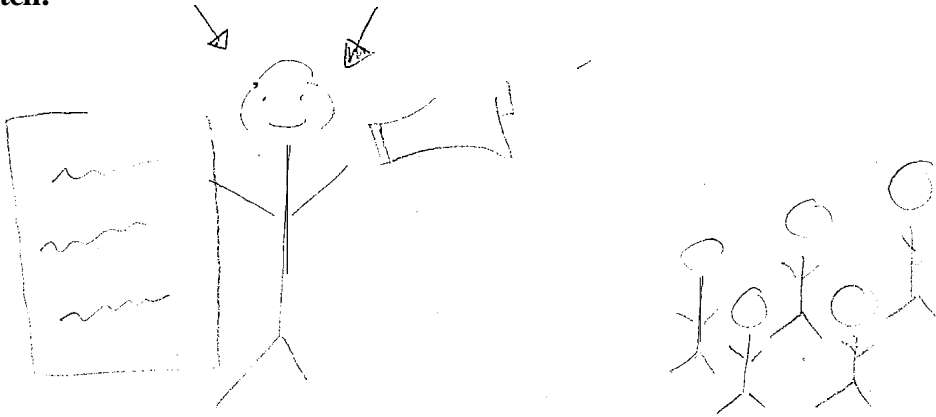
Sketch:



Word/phrase:

organizer

Sketch:

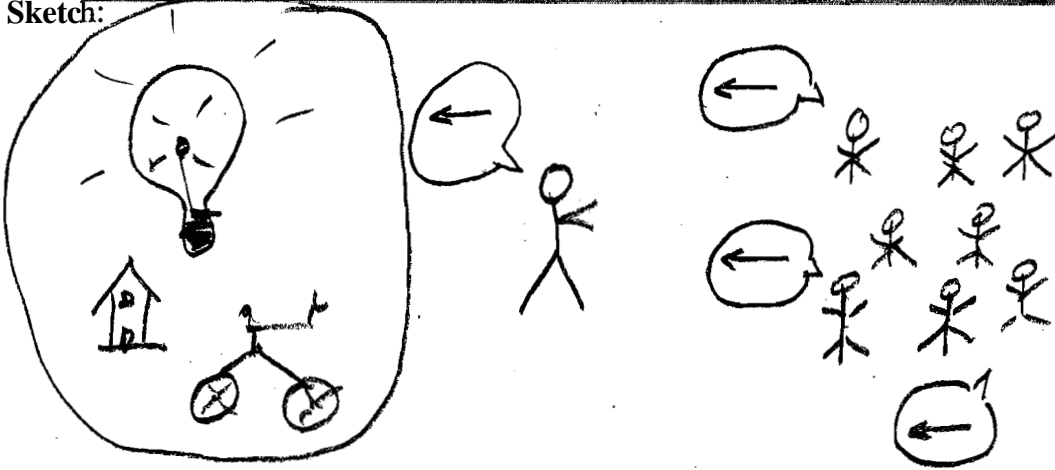


Word/phrase:

teach-in
rally

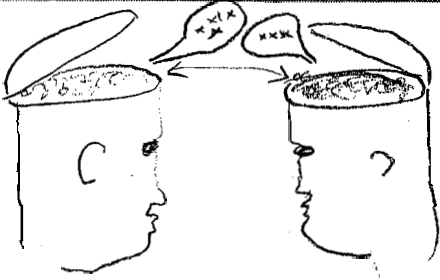
Organizer

Sketch:



Word/phrase: *sharing of ideas*

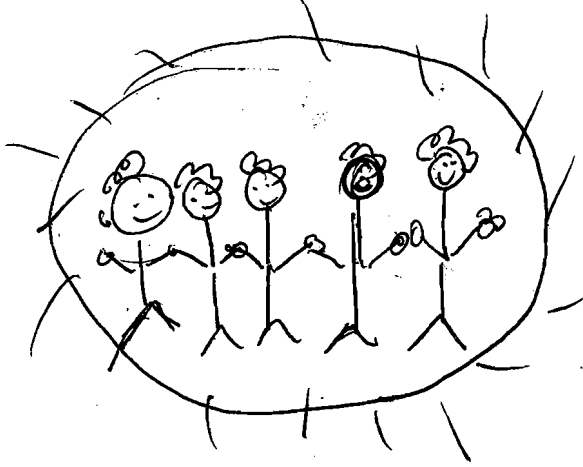
Sketch:



Word/phrase: *power of shared thought - communication*

Alliance or Partnership

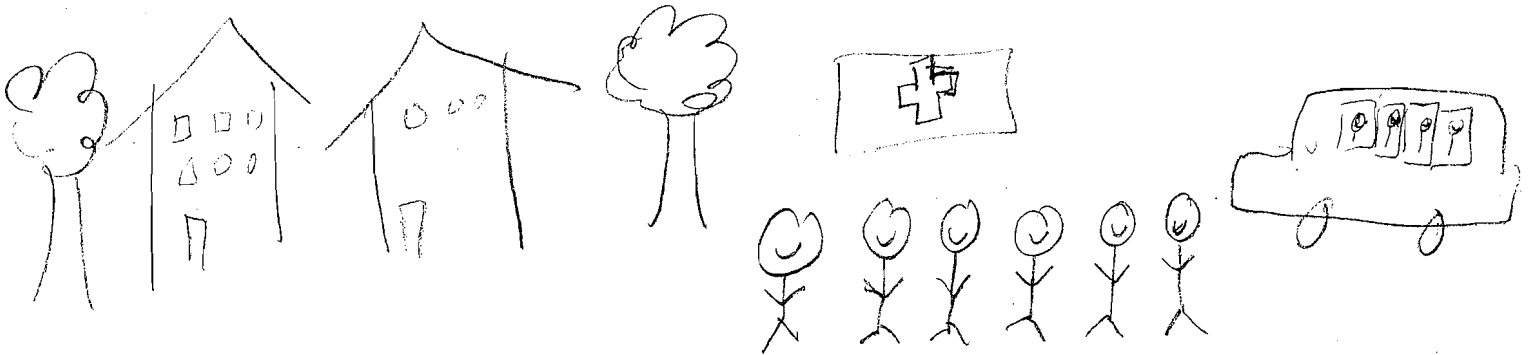
Sketch:



Wordphrase:

Healthy, Happy Community

Sketch:

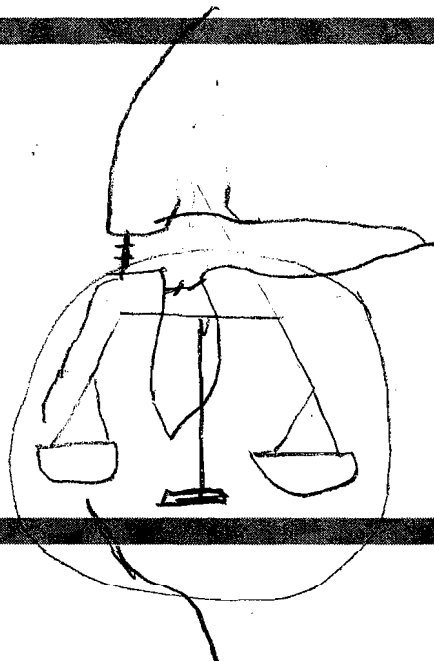


Wordphrase:

Healthy Communities are educated and happy

Regional equity

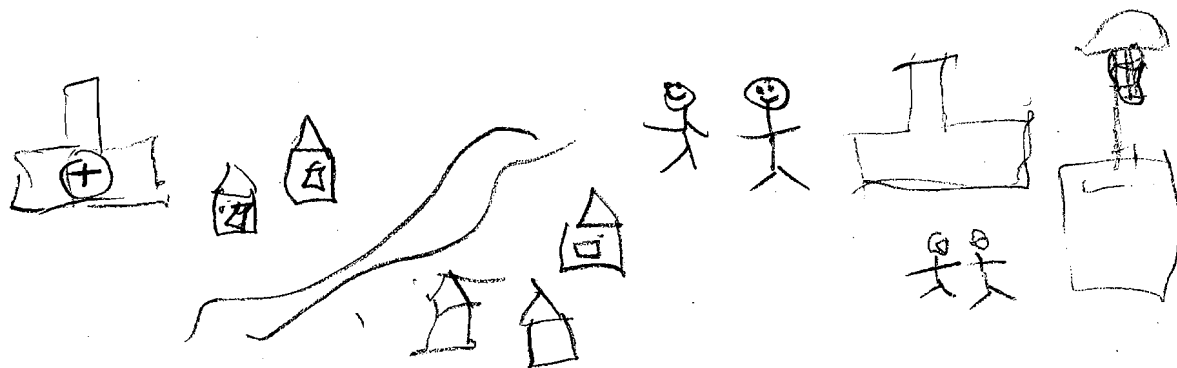
Sketch:



Wordphrase:

Justice

Sketch:



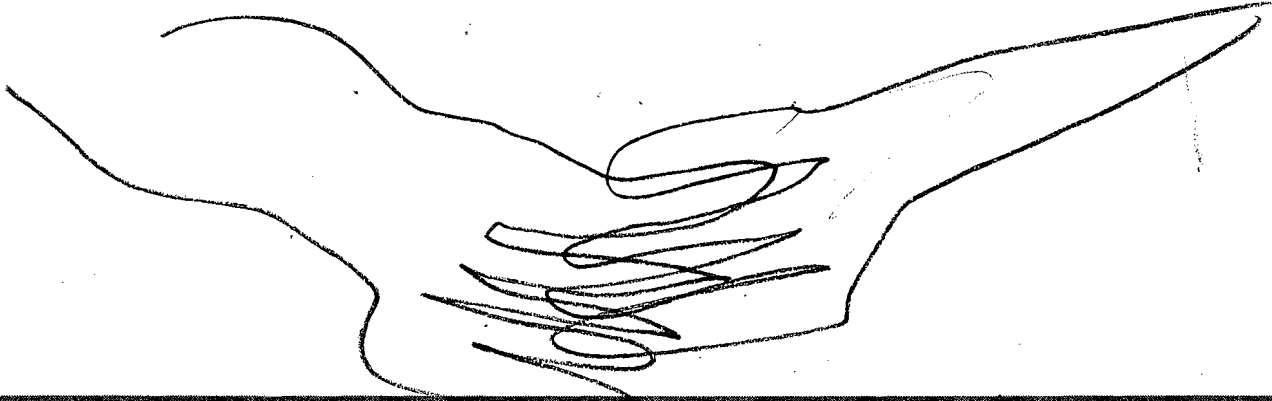
Wordphrase:

planning

Organizer



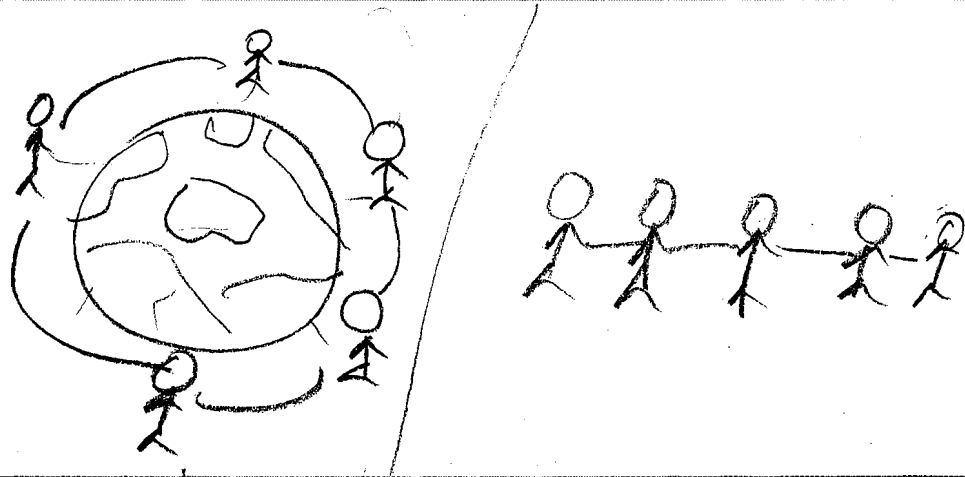
Sketch:



Word/phrase:

Unity

Sketch:

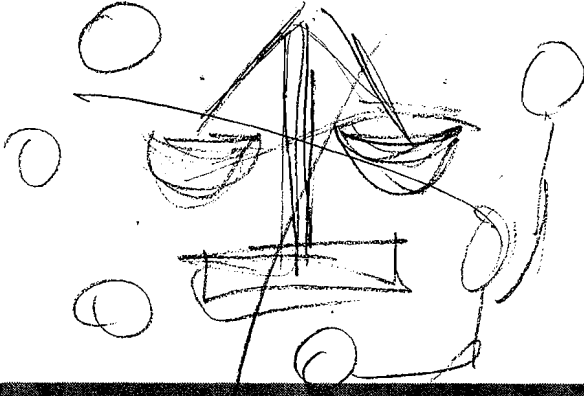


Word/phrase:

togetherness

Social Justice

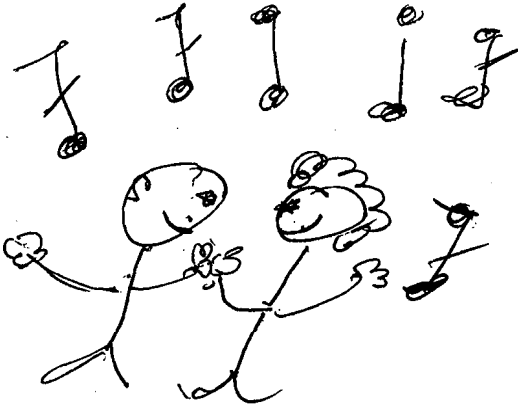
Sketch:



Word/phrase:

dancing together

Sketch:

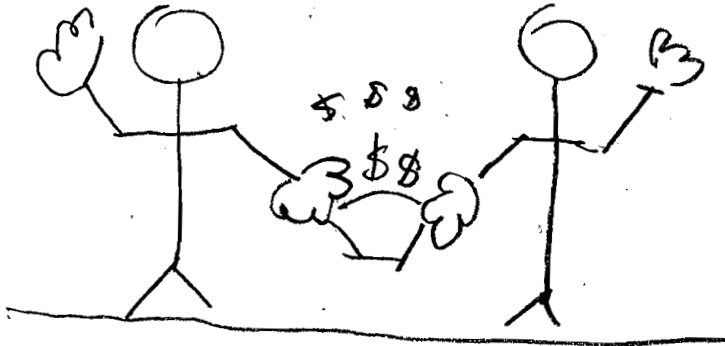


Word/phrase:

Love in the spring

Sharing Resources

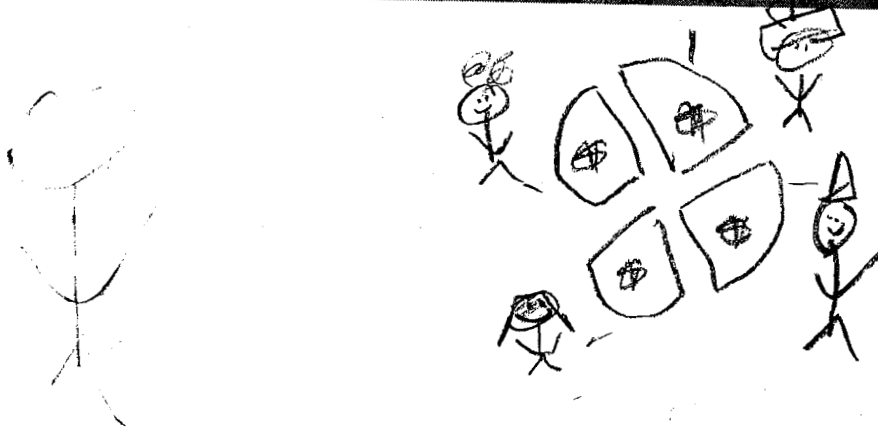
Sketch:



Word/phrase:

Revenue Sharing

Sketch:



Word/phrase:

equitable division of wealth