

South Brunswick Library

Date: Saturday, December 1, 2018, 11 am–4 pm

Location: South Brunswick Public Library

Rutgers POET Staff: Trish Sanchez, Ted Metz

EVENT SUMMARY

The outreach booth was stationed near the entrance of the South Brunswick Public Library and very close to the book check out desk. The outreach table was set up during the library's annual holiday fair in order to get a wide variety of participants attending the special events that day. Staffed engaged with approximately 85 people, based on the number of comments received, including feedback cards and those who did not fill out comments.

SURVEY RESPONSES

Summary Comments on what participants liked about the county touched on the following top three themes, based on the number of comments received: (1) Public Services & Facilities; (2) Arts & Culture; (3) Miscellaneous. Comments on what participants would change about the county touched on the following top three themes: (1) Transportation; (2) Parks & Open Space; (3) Land Use & Development.

Question #1 Responses *What do you like about living/working in Middlesex County?*

Public Services & Facilities (28 comments) The most common positive response from participants highlighted their appreciation for the school system. Respondents also liked the library, which was the location of the outreach event.

- Education
 - Schools (11 comments)
 - My teachers
 - Affordable education

- South Brunswick High School
- Near two great universities – Rutgers and Middlesex County College
- Library (12 comments)
- Municipal facilities

Arts & Culture (16 comments) Participants highlighted the county's friendly communities and the activities and events available.

- Community
 - Friendly (4 comments)
 - Good community to live in (2 comments)
 - Family and kid friendly (2 comments)
 - Nice, quiet, clean communities
 - Inclusive community
- Activities and events
 - Lots of things to do
 - Plays in the Park
 - New Brunswick Cultural Center
 - Rutgers Day
 - Islamic Society of Central New Jersey
- Diversity

Miscellaneous (5 comments) Respondents liked the county's proximity to nearby cities.

- Accessibility to NYC (2 comments)
- Being close to Princeton (2 comments)
- Access to Philadelphia
- Land Use & Development (4 comments)
- Great food options
- Burger King & McDonald's are right next to each other
- Shops and close to malls
- Buildings in New Brunswick

Parks & Open Space (4 comments)

- Variety of parks (2 comments)
- We love the trees and forest
- Lots of nature

Public Safety (4 comments)

- Low/no crime (3 comments)
- Great police department

Transportation

- Public transportation
- Streets and roads are clean
- Convenient to get around

Economic Opportunity

- Job opportunities
- Living and working in Middlesex County

Question #2 Responses *What would you change about Middlesex County?*

Transportation (19 comments) Participants talked about the need to reduce traffic, add more public transit options, and improve road conditions.

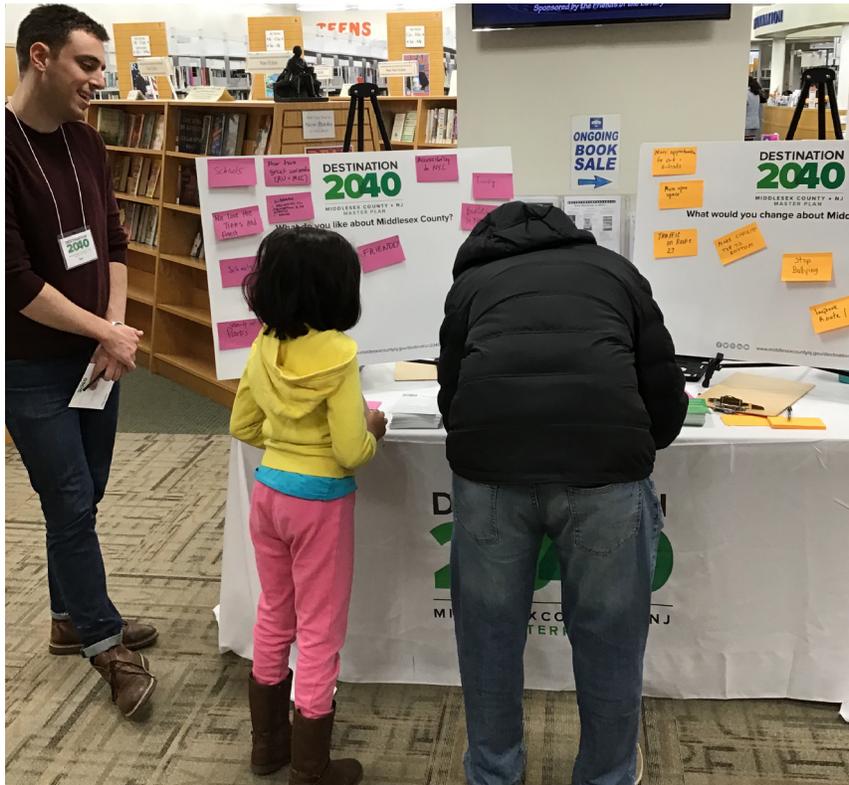
- Traffic/Congestion
 - Traffic (2 comments)
 - Widen Route 1 in South Brunswick
 - Traffic accidents on Route 1
 - Optimize lights around hospital on Route 1
 - Too many trucks on 130
- Public Transportation
 - New train to New York City (2 comments)
 - Rail service to everywhere
 - Need additional public bus transportation to South Brunswick area
 - Public transportation
- Roadway Conditions
 - Improve Route 1 (2 comments)
 - Potholes
 - Better preparation for weather condition
- Better commute to the city
- Easier access to NYC & Philadelphia
- Rename all the Ridge Roads in South Brunswick
- Free charging for electric cars

Parks & Open Space (17 comments) Respondents would like more parks and open space, and a greater variety of recreation opportunities, especially for children and activities that can be done indoors in the winter.

- Open space
 - More parks (3 comments)
 - More open space (3 comments)
 - Kids park at Cambridge Crossing, Community at 522
- Recreation
 - Swimming pool (2 comments)
 - Indoor community for winter recreation (2 comments)
 - Recreation and arts for kids – under community pass
 - More family activities
 - Kids play area
 - Table tennis
 - Tennis courts with lighting
 - Ice rink

Land Use & Development (9 comments) Participants said they wanted to see less development and better and more diverse shopping options.

- Shopping
 - More shopping malls



- More car stores
- Dining
 - More food/restaurants (besides fast food)
 - Taco bell!!!
- Development
 - More responsible development, especially near water
 - Too much development
 - Crowded
 - Too much construction going on
 - Too many motels on Route 1

Economic Opportunity

- More companies and employers
- Large retailers driving out small businesses
- Reduce property tax

Housing

- Build more affordable housing
- Universal code enforcement

Arts & Culture

- More opportunities for art and artists (2 comments)

Public Services & Facilities

- Better education, less sports
- Stop bullying



Environment

- Cutting trees (2 comments)

Miscellaneous

- More civility top to bottom

Technology & Innovation

- Community WiFi

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

Close to two-thirds of the participants were female, as shown in Figure 1. Most participants were between the ages of 35-64 (Figure 2). About two-thirds of the participants identified as Asian American, and about one-third identified as White, not Hispanic, as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 1

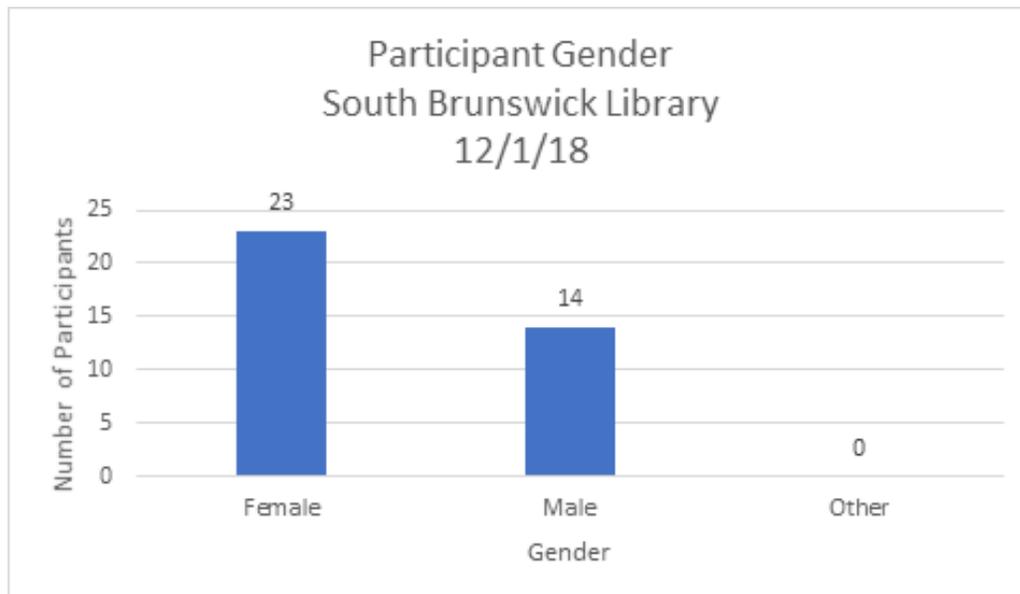


Figure 2

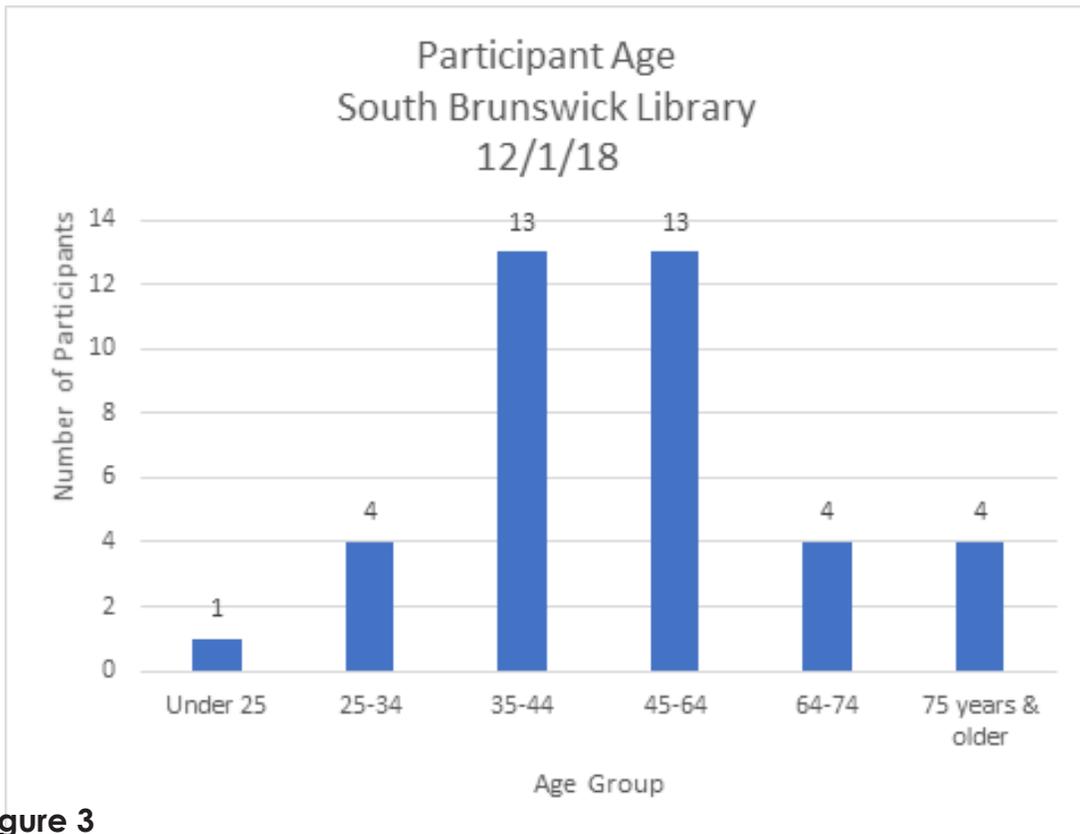


Figure 3

