# St. Paul Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
April 19, 2023 Community Open House – Meeting Notes

How To Interpret These Notes

- Responses in green were shared by middle and high schoolers the day before the open house
- Open house participants were asked to add stars next to ideas and comments that they agreed with; "x#" indicates the number of stars following a response. Within each question, items with the most stars are at the top of each list. When similar responses were written to the same question, those responses have been combined.

*Question: What do you like about living on Saint Paul Island?*

- Small town lifestyle (x13)
- The smallness, the shared history and love for many – because we all know one another (x11)
- Its' a safe place for kids (x9)
- Proximity to family (x9)
- Beaches and tundra (x8)
- My kids can play outside without a fence (x7)
- People (x7)
- The scenery, beauty, landscape (x6)
- We take care of each other (x6)
- Clean air (x5)
- The beaches/lakes (x4)
- The different flowers and plants (x4)
- All things "island" – beach, sea, salt, air, fog (x4)
- Our Island and people (x3)
- Community activities (x3)
- Culture, language (x3)
- The different animals (x3)
- Living by the ocean and many relatives, human and non-human (x3)
- Playing outside with my friends (x3)
- Aleut time (x3)
- Hiking (x3)
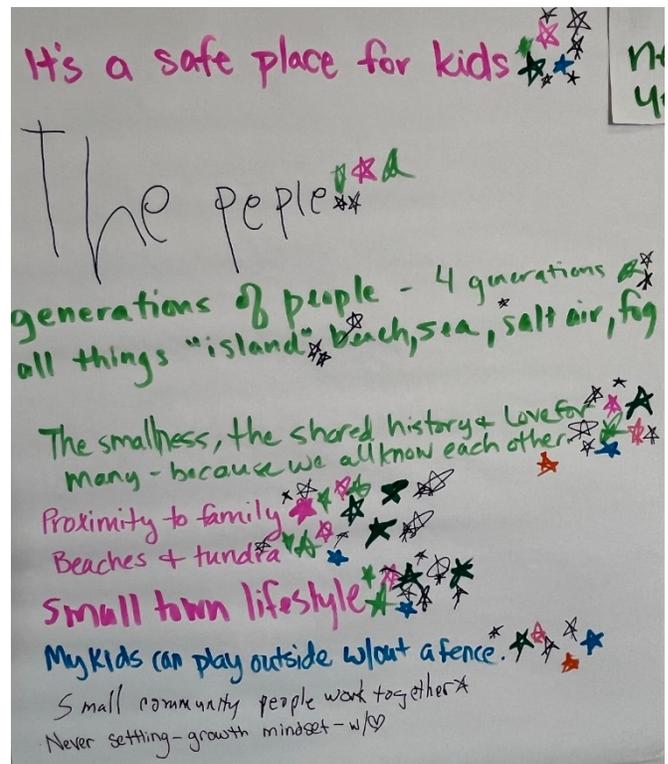
- Generations of people – 4 generations (x3)
- We live on a volcano (x2)
- The school gym (x2)
- The ocean (x2)
- Swimming at peer point in summer (x2)
- Fishing (x2)
- Car rides; going around the Island (x2)
- Quickness in which people can pull together (x2)
- Subsistence (x2)
- The store (x1)
- The backcountry (x1)
- All my family and friends, and everybody being healthy (x1)
- Small community – people work together (x1)
- All my friends live here (x1)
- The cats
- Church
- Never settling; growth mindset with love
- Kayaking and paddle boarding
- Beach clean up
- Camping
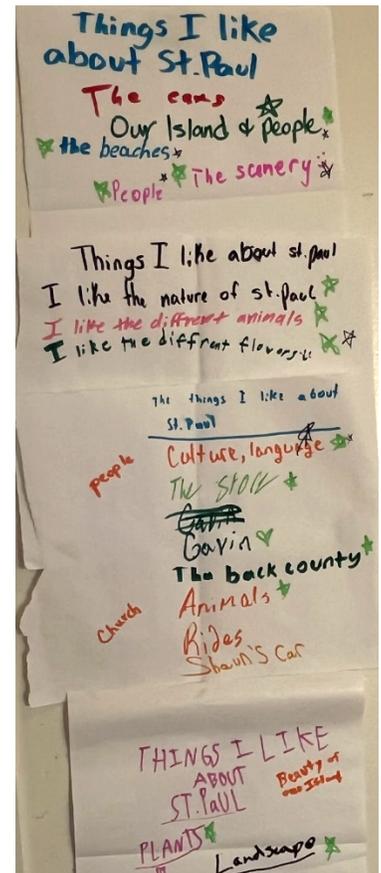
Question: What makes it challenging to live on Saint Paul Island?

- Cost of living (x24)
- No child care; community needs a daycare! (x18)
- Lack of housing (x15)
- Store prices (x14)
- Social isolation (x3)
- Core group of people who take responsibilities (burnt out) (x3)
- It's hard to find people who want to work. (x7)
- The recent break-ins, makes it feel a little unsafe. (x4)
- Living far away from mainland/family and the cost to travel (x14)
- Being directed by off-island leadership (x6)
- People are afraid to confront one another. (x3)
- Paternalism (x2)
- The "cost" of "travel," to operate any businesses (x5)
- To live not paycheck to paycheck (x9)
- "Government" mentality is still here (x5)
- The lack of engagement in community groups (entity councils, boards) (x9)
- No dogs (x2)
- Inability to own land (x6)
- Lack of volunteerism (x5)
- Not a lot of people socializing without alcohol abuse (x3)
- Restaurant for tourists
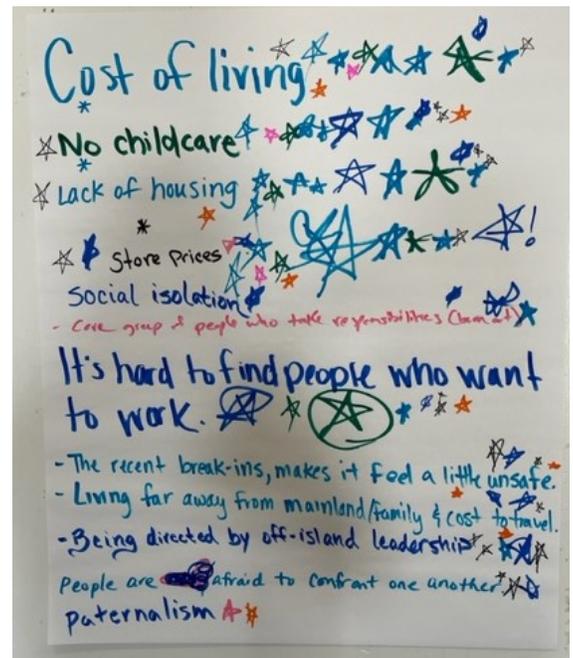
- Lack of job opportunities for teens (x2)
- Difficulty "accessing" needs, i.e., education, cars, health care, and tools/skills/resources to bridge the gap or gain access (x1)
- More things for Elders – interactions with different ages besides the church
- Water tank improvement/fuel versus other cities where apartments or houses depend on electricity
- Farm fish for the halibut and crab since the numbers went down

Question: What are your ideas for making life better on Saint Paul Island?

- Lower Store prices (x12)
- The school with a cafeteria (x12)
- More getting together when its NOT a special occasion, just day to day activities outside of work/holidays; more community gatherings (x9)
- 24/7 Fitness Gym (x9)
- Better educational opportunities; job education and training for those who don't quality for available positions (x7)
- Better wifi/internet (x6)
- Less alcohol use; less alcohol sales/fewer hours at the tavern (x5)
- Community collaboration (x4)
- Aligning community projects with project based learning – experience, credentials, shared input/meaning/purpose into something tangible we're proud of and useful (x4)
- More people (x3)
- Less drug use (x3)
- More stuff inside the school (x3)
- Take care of our Elders – keep them home (x3)
- Home repair and improvements – heaters, plumbers, etc. (x3)
- Mental health within organizations (x3)
- More activities for children and teens, other than video games (x3)
- Open and inclusive discussion: community-based (x3)
- More homes for families and singles; homes for <u>anyone</u> to rent (x5)
- Higher wages (x3)
- Swimming pool/salt water pool/sauna/jacuzzi (x3)
- Basketball court (x2)
- Volunteerism (x2)
- Restaurant for family gathering (x2)
- More senior activities (x2)
- "Community" (people) vs. Organization (TGSPI, City, CBSFA, TDX) centric (x2)
- Open a store to compete with the Tribe – help to lower costs (x2)
- Our own plane and barge (x2)
- Job opportunities (x1)
- The playgrounds (x1)
- Recycling (electronics, glass, compost, cardboard) (x1)
- Better roads (x1)
- The church (x1)
- Qualified local employees, more workforce (x1)
- Open more small businesses; help individuals that want to start businesses (x1)
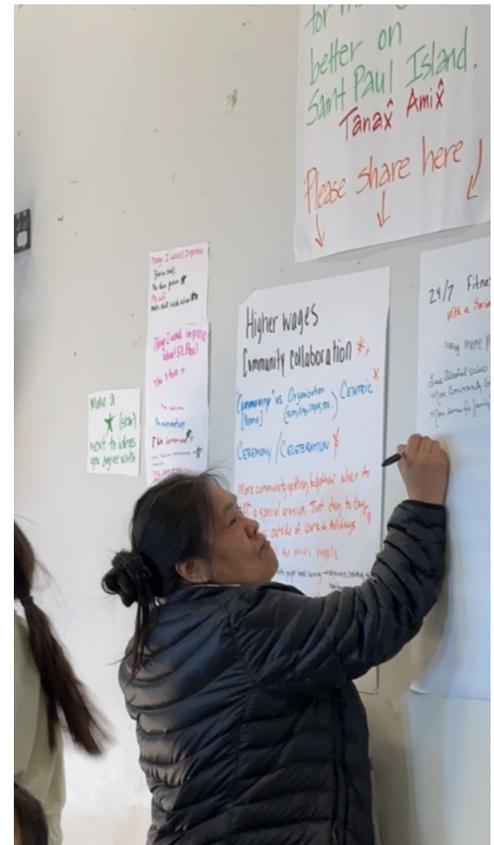
- More sober activities (x1)
- Ceremony/celebration (x1)
- A safe place to decompress, like a break/meditation/massage chair for teachers and staff, and all Attract more people from different countries and ethnic groups and their families (x1)
- Boat trips (x1)
- Everything
- More flights for more TDX tourists for the hotel
- Litter pickup all over the Island
- Different opportunities for learning out of school, like job shadowing!
- More social places
- Lower shipping costs
- Entities meet more with community!
- More houses for more people
- Priest
- Community greenhouse
- Safer school facilities

Question: 20 years from now, what do you want Saint Paul Island to look like?

- A thriving community (x12)
- The lifestyle of drinking and health will be improved; less people drinking alcohol (x10)
- Less families moving away (x9)
- A place where nobody struggles to find affordable housing (x8)
- Increase in population, more people contributing to keep the community thriving (x8)
- A community with people that are educated, helpful, motivated who have purpose (x6)
- Less dependence on fossil fuels and shipping in food (x5)
- More housing in general (x4)
- Good education for all ages (x4)
- Unangan culture more integrated into events, education, dancing, etc. (x3)
- Fixed homes and less garbage (i.e., vehicles, appliances) around properties (x3)
- Abundant indigenous wildlife (x3)
- Living in locally sustainable housing i.e. ulan (barabaras) or just somewhat subterranean (x3)
- Healthy in many ways – economically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually (x2)
- Not too many people (x1)
- No flushing bleach into our ocean! (x1)
- Cool playgrounds for kids (x1)
- We survived in a positive way
- I'd like our community to be able to thrive and a lower cost of living and affordable housing!
- Food security

Word Cloud – All Responses Combined

More frequently repeated words appear larger in the image. For example, "people" was repeated 17 times, and "community" was repeated 14 times, so they show up the largest. Source: wordclouds.com