



Long Beach Neighborhood Associations Meet Up for Collaboration



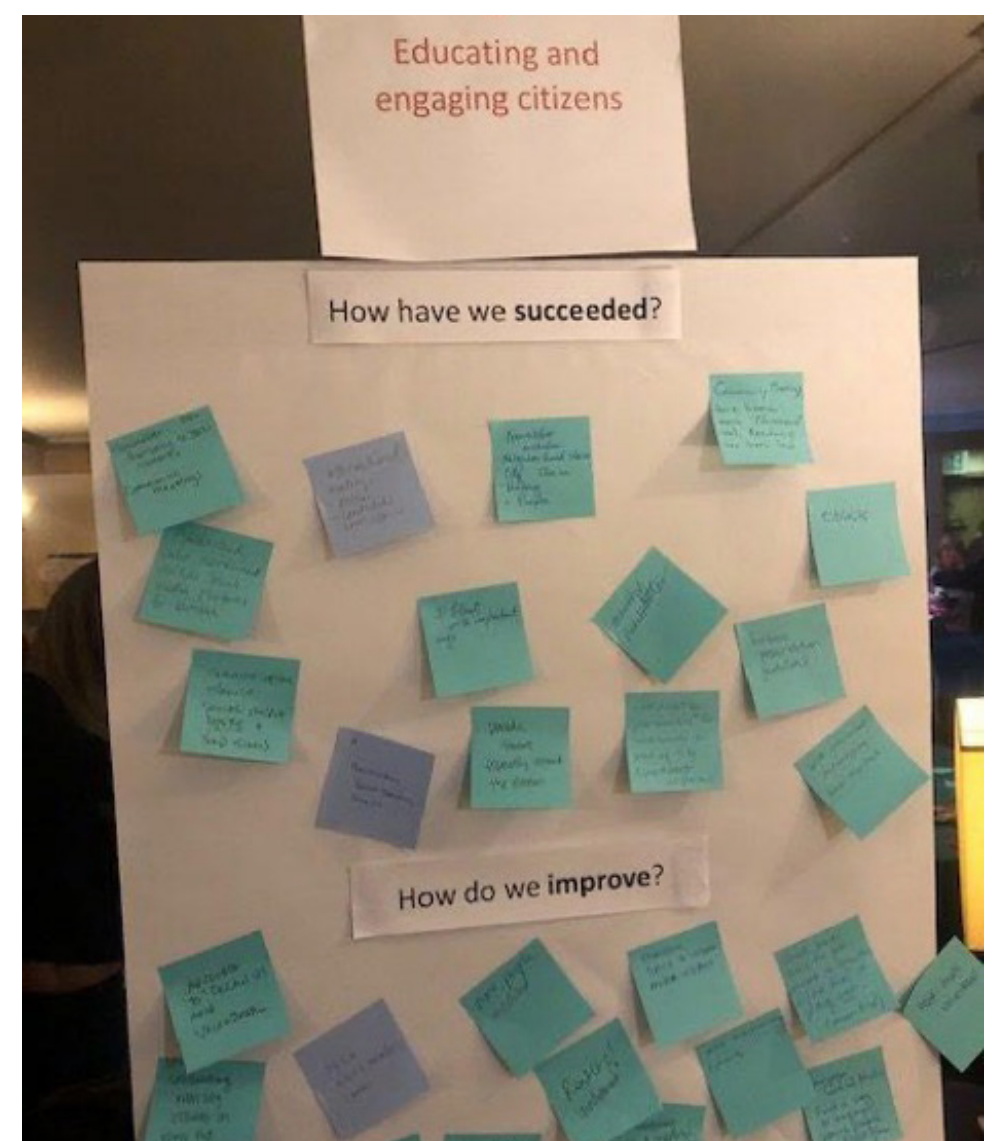
By Danielle Potter Dague

Bluff Park Neighborhood Association President Jeff Mallin facilitates the Neighborhood Association Board Development Meeting in Long Beach on Sunday, December 4th.

Bluff Park Neighborhood Association President Jeff Mallin brought together an array of Long Beach neighborhood associations on Sunday, December 4th in an effort to learn, strategize, and develop stronger inter-association relationships. Participants included members from Alamitos Heights, Alamitos Beach, Bluff Park, Bluff Heights, Belmont Heights, and Rose Park Neighborhood Associations.

Attendees discussed the 2021 report entitled "[The Roles and Contributions of Neighborhood Associations Within the City of Long Beach](#)" by Melissa Matthews, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration in the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Administration at California State University, Long Beach. Dr. Matthews provided a brief overview of her research and findings via Zoom.

It was a night of team building and discussion around Dr. Matthew's research, which identified three main roles that neighborhood associations serve in their communities:



- Developing community and improving the neighborhood
- Educating and engaging citizens
- Representing and advocating for the neighborhood

Attendees identified their perceived success in each of these areas and outlined ideas for improvement. The need for building community, relationships, and trust with all residents and local businesses emerged as an important action for the neighborhood associations to continue in 2023. Attendees also highlighted the need for the voices, participation, and ideas of youth and resident volunteers.

Danielle Potter Dague has experience working with nonprofit organizations. She is an active neighborhood volunteer, a PTA member of Mann Elementary, and lives with her husband Brian, son Bennett, and cat Twerp in the Bluff Heights Neighborhood. She is passionate about bringing neighbors together to connect and create relationships that result in positive change for our communities.