

West Side United Encuentro Registration and Survey Results Analysis

West Side United held an Encuentro on October 16, 2004 at Irving Middle School - 1300 Delgado. This event was a celebration of the successes of nine neighborhood organizations in the Making Connections area. Edgewood Family Network (EFN), Project FLOR, San Antonio Time Dollar Community

Connections, St. Agnes

Beautification Project,

Christian Base Community

Ministry, Western Deanery,

Project Learn to Read, San

Antonio Housing Authority Resident Community Leaders, and the Little Flower Basilica

Beautification Project presented on the work they do for the West Side. Their presentations

encouraged the attendees to participate in events and to discuss their involvement in improving

the community. As they left, the participants were invited to fill out a survey to discuss what they

thought of the Encuentro. This survey provided a glance at the type of people who attended, and

except for the large number of females, the group generally reflected the residents of the West

Side (see Table 1).

The day began with the registration of 165 participants. The sheet gathered contact information of the attendees, and asked them if they were interested in working towards any of the seven results areas. As seen in Table 2, numerous attendees showed interest in each

Table 1. Demographic information of Encuentro participants*.

Male		Female	
26.8%		73.2%	
Hispanic	Anglo	Other	
89.2%	6.0%	4.8%	
Younger than 30	30-49 years	50 or older	
13.3%	56.6%	30.1%	
Married	Never Married	Widowed/other	
59.5%	18.9%	21.6%	

*Based on Encuentro survey, which did not include people related to MC.

Table 2. Interest in Result Areas*

	Number of people stating interest in given result area.
Result 1	17
Result 2	8
Result 3	18
Result 4	19
Result 5	16
Result 6	25
Result 7	38

* Based on Encuentro 2004 questionnaire.

area. A comparison of the demographic information further revealed that there were no factors, such as age, education or employment, influencing people’s interests. In other words, the interest in each result was a general interest. The contact information has been organized into lists of the people interested in each result area, including people who are interested in more than one area.

The attendees participated in the discussions and group sessions, allowing them to get a clear impression of the West Side United groups and what they want to do in the West Side.

After the event, 85 attendees filled out the survey to discuss the event. The questions include information about the attendees, their neighborhoods, their thoughts of the meeting, and whether or not they would plan on attending “another meeting like this.” Among the attendees,

Table 3. Significant Correlates of People’s Interest*.

	Correlation with people’s interest in “another meeting like this”.
Format of summit	.470
Amount of information covered	.410
Appropriateness of information	.308
General neighborhood attitude.	.229
A closer look at neighborhood attitudes	Percent interested in another meeting
Positive attitude	100%
Moderate attitude	95%
Negative attitude	83%

* Significance is based on a backwards regression, which removes redundant and unimportant variables. In other words, there were other significant variables, but they were secondary to the above variables.

93% said they would attend another such meeting. Further analysis of the feedback reveals four significant reasons for explaining why the attendees would or would not attend “another meeting like this.” Regarding the nature of the meeting, the biggest differences (between people who did vs. did not want to attend another meeting) were in their opinions of the format, amount of information, and appropriateness of the information. Further, neighborhood attitudes played a major role in the people’s interest in other such meetings, as the majority of people who did not want to attend another meeting were people who also had a relatively negative attitude towards their neighbors and neighborhood.