

Chapter X: Engagement and Enrichment

Introduction

Burlingame is an engaged, active community with many educational resources, cultural amenities, and opportunities to participate in civic life. These assets contribute to the community's character, and the City's commitment to maintain these qualities will preserve and expand opportunities for personal and collective growth through education, arts, and civic engagement. Burlingame strives to be a place where all community members can learn and develop in a variety of ways: from participating in educational programs, to seeing public art throughout the city, to attending community events or joining a City commission or community organization.

The Education and Enrichment Element establishes goals and policies aimed at solidifying and enhancing local educational, arts, and public engagement offerings focused on:

- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Arts and Culture
- Civic Engagement

Education and Lifelong Learning

Education is the foundation of a thriving community. The public and private schools in Burlingame provide the local youth with the skills and knowledge to succeed in life; support for the K-12 educational system remains a top priority. The City can also continue to provide learning opportunities for residents at all stages of life, from early childhood education to adult courses and professional development.

Goal EE-1: Provide opportunities for residents of all ages and backgrounds to access high-quality educational services and resources.

EE-1.1: Early Childhood Education

Encourage efforts to expand the overall capacity of local childcare and early childhood development centers in Burlingame. Identify opportunities for affordable alternatives to pre-school and pre-kindergarten through partnerships with the Burlingame School District, the Parks and Recreation Department, libraries, and community organizations. [AC]

EE-1.2: Childcare Facilities

Integrate childcare facility needs into the City's planning processes. Where possible, locate childcare services in or near housing and transportation and employment centers for convenient access. [DR, PA]

EE-1.3: Public Schools

Support Burlingame's well-regarded public-school system, working with the Burlingame School District and the San Mateo Union High School District as appropriate to ensure program and facility needs are met. [AC]

EE-1.4: School Facilities Master Plan

Support the efforts of the Burlingame School District to implement the *School District Facility Master Plan*, and ensure timely renovations and reconstructions of aging facilities by including street improvement needs in the City's Capital Improvement Program. [MP, FB]

EE-1.5: City and District Collaboration

Assist local school districts in identifying potential school locations to serve growth in enrollment. [AC]

EE-1.6: School Partnerships

Support creative public-private partnerships to facilitate the funding and development of public school facilities. [AC, PA]

EE-1.7: Sustainable School Design

Encourage local school districts and private educational institutions to incorporate sustainable design practices into construction and renovation of school facilities to reduce energy and water consumption. [S] [DR]

EE-1.8: School Technology

Support the efforts of public and private schools to improve school facilities with cutting-edge technologies that enhance the learning environment. [PA]

EE-1.9: Private and Alternative Schools

Support Burlingame's private and alternative technical schools to ensure a variety of options for different learning environments. [PA]

EE-1.10: Community Partnerships and Lifelong Learning

Identify opportunities for partnerships with schools, libraries, local colleges, and other educational organizations to establish accessible community education programs and events for all ages, including early childhood education, English Language Learner classes, technology classes, after-school programs, recreational activities, and senior programs. [AC]

EE-1.11: Online Learning

Partner with schools, libraries, and local colleges to expand access to online courses and digital learning opportunities. [AC]

EE-1.12: Library Facilities

Provide public library facilities that are inviting, accessible, and comfortable for residents of all ages. Support facility and research technology improvements as needed. [SO]

EE-1.13: Library Collections and Programs

Adapt library collections, materials, and programs over time to respond to evolving community needs and advances in technology. [SO, FB]

EE-1.14: Expand Library Services

Increase access to educational resources by promoting online and digital technologies that allow users to access non-print collections through electronic devices. Consider innovative ways to bring library services into the community through library kiosks, pop-up libraries, book vending machines, and book fairs. [SO]

EE-1.15: Library Funding

Pursue funding for library facility maintenance and enhancement of programs and services through a variety of mechanisms, including developer fees, general fund resources, special service districts, user fees, bond initiatives, and grants. Include funds in the Capital Improvement Program for timely facility improvements. [FB]

EE-1.16: Continuing Education

Encourage local colleges, vocational and technical schools, and large institutions such as Mills-Peninsula Hospital to provide continuing education courses and certificate programs. [AC]

EE-1.17: Workforce Resources and Training

Promote career resources, programs, and occupational skills training services offered by local and regional agencies, such as the NOVA Workforce Board and the California Employment Development

Department. Coordinate with local schools, colleges, and businesses to sponsor job fairs and career training programs. [PI, AC]

Arts and Culture

Arts and culture are integral to a well-rounded community. The City strives to expand arts and culture resources to meet the needs of all Burlingame community members, and to have Burlingame recognized as an arts and culture hub in the Bay Area, where cultural resources and arts programming are interwoven into the community.

Goal EE-2: Celebrate and accommodate a diversity of arts and culture programs and institutions.

EE-2.1: Arts and Culture Master Plan

Develop a comprehensive Arts and Culture Master Plan that identifies needs, opportunities, and funding mechanisms for arts city-wide. [MP]

EE-2.2: Arts Education

Partner with schools and other educational institutions to promote arts-based learning for residents of all ages. [AC]

EE-2.3: Public Art

Establish an Art in Public Places Program, governed by a Public Art Commission or committee, that provides opportunities for visual art to enhance Burlingame's open spaces. Utilize local artists for public art installations whenever possible. [MP]

EE-2.4: Private Development

Encourage developers to incorporate public art into new development sites and to participate in the Art in Public Places Program. [PA]

EE-2.5: Equitable Access

Provide all Burlingame community members with opportunities to experience arts and culture by reducing barriers to entry, establishing free and open community arts programs, and providing a range of arts and cultural spaces for Burlingame's diverse population. [PI, FB]

EE-2.6: Community-Based Institutions

Support community-based arts and culture institutions, and expand partnerships to ensure long-term feasibility. [PA]

EE-2.7: Community Events

Support events that build community through a range of arts and cultural opportunities. [PA]

Civic Engagement

Burlingame residents and business owners are passionate about their community, and the City has created an environment in which the public feels engaged and included. Residents have dubbed this “The Burlingame Way.” As needed to address pressing community issues, working groups are formed to map out solutions and plans. This approach has been used to design a new train station platform, create the Downtown Specific Plan, and most notably, craft this General Plan. Burlingame’s governance structure will continue to be open and participatory, promoting respectful public discourse and democratic processes. The following goal and policies bolster established public engagement mechanisms and ensure inclusive decision-making processes that bring diverse people together in meaningful ways.

Goal EE-3: Maintain an environment that promotes and encourages productive public discourse.

EE-3.1: Council, Commissions, Committees, and Boards

Ensure that City decisions involve all interested community members by continuing to use commissions, committees, councils, and boards consisting of Burlingame residents, employees, and business owners.

EE-3.2: Diverse Representation

Ensure committees and decision-making bodies include representatives that reflect the diversity of Burlingame’s population.

EE-3.3: Equitable Opportunities

Provide a range of opportunities for community participation in policies and decision-making, and ensure access for Burlingame community members of all ages, abilities, races, and socioeconomic statuses.

EE-3.4: Community Groups

Support and encourage neighborhood associations and other community-based civic groups, and include these groups in decision-making processes. [PA]

EE-3.5: Public Outreach

Conduct outreach to educate Burlingame community members about City issues and policies. [PI]

EE-3.6: Community Trust

Foster an environment of trust between Burlingame community members and City government, and support the voices of all participants.

EE-3.7: Political Action

Promote tolerance of all legal forms of political action and protect the rights of individual political expression.

EE-3.8: The Burlingame Way

Continue to engage residents and the business community in task-focused working groups representing key stakeholder groups in the City to address pressing issues in the community.

EE-3.9: Future Leaders

Conduct programs such as the Burlingame Citizens' Academy to educate residents about how the City works and to train future community leaders.

