



# CORAL GABLES WAR MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTER PLAN

VISIONING WORKSHOPS - OCTOBER 24, 2019



1

**PURPOSE**

2

**RESEARCH**

3

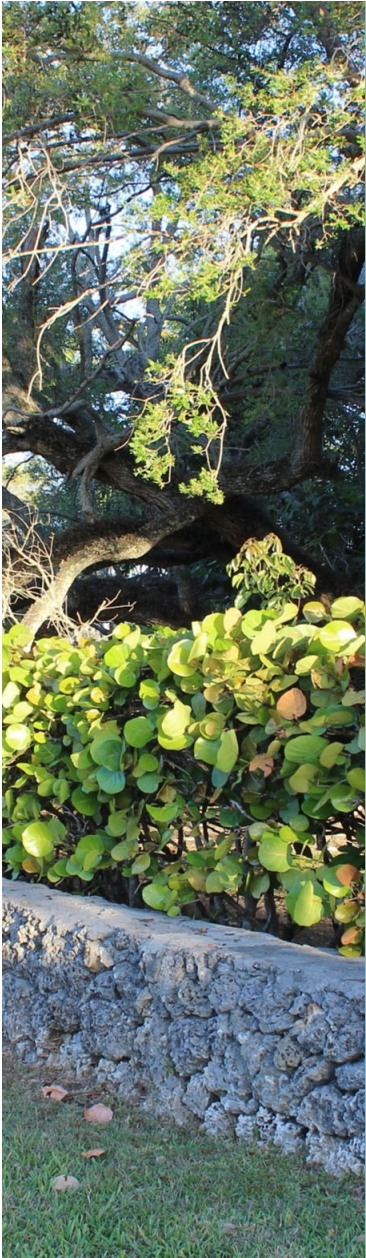
**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

4

**QUESTIONS**

5

**VISIONING EXERCISE**



## PROJECT PURPOSE

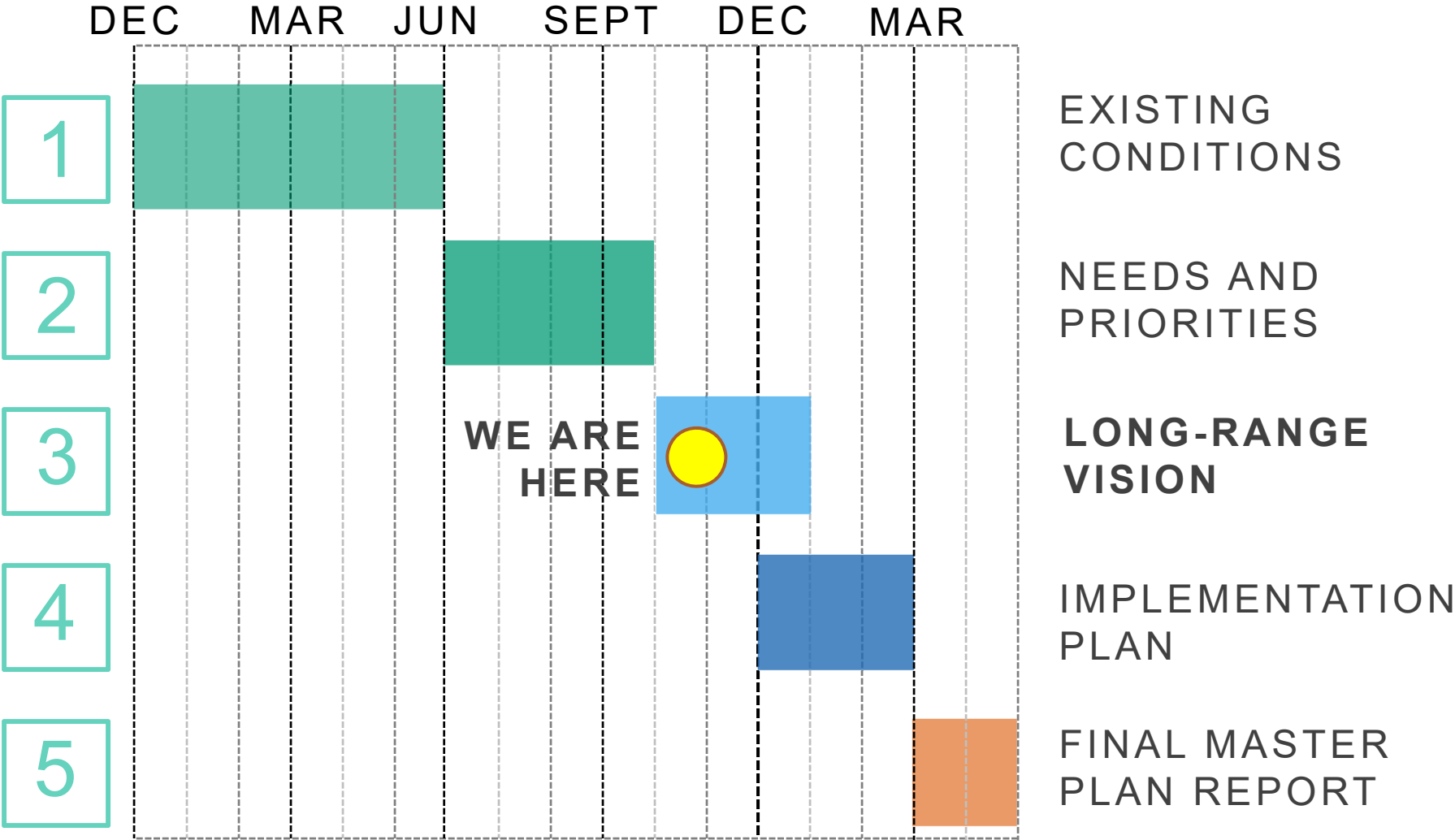
To develop a long-range, community-based master plan for the War Memorial Youth Center.



## MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

- Complete a comprehensive and transparent needs and priorities assessment;
- Develop a long-range vision for the WMYC facility and site;
- Develop a realistic implementation plan based on community needs and support; and
- Identify priority projects and action items for the War Memorial Youth Center.

# PROJECT SCHEDULE



2

# RESEARCH





Anastasia Avenue

Parking

Parking

Men's Bathroom

Women's Bathroom

Outdoor Basketball Courts

War Memorial Youth Center Main Building

Concessions

Batting Cages

Playground

University Drive

Baseball, Soccer, Football, and General Recreation Field. Special Events, Seasonal Camps and Programs. Games and Various Recreational Activities.

Parking

Sarto Avenue

Parking

Riviera Drive

Parking

City Owned

**Legend:**

- Athletic Areas
- Recreational Areas
- Bathrooms
- Storage
- Vegetation
- Parking Areas
- City Owned



*City of Coral Gables*  
COMMUNITY RECREATION

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War Memorial Youth Center  
Outdoor Amenities with Field

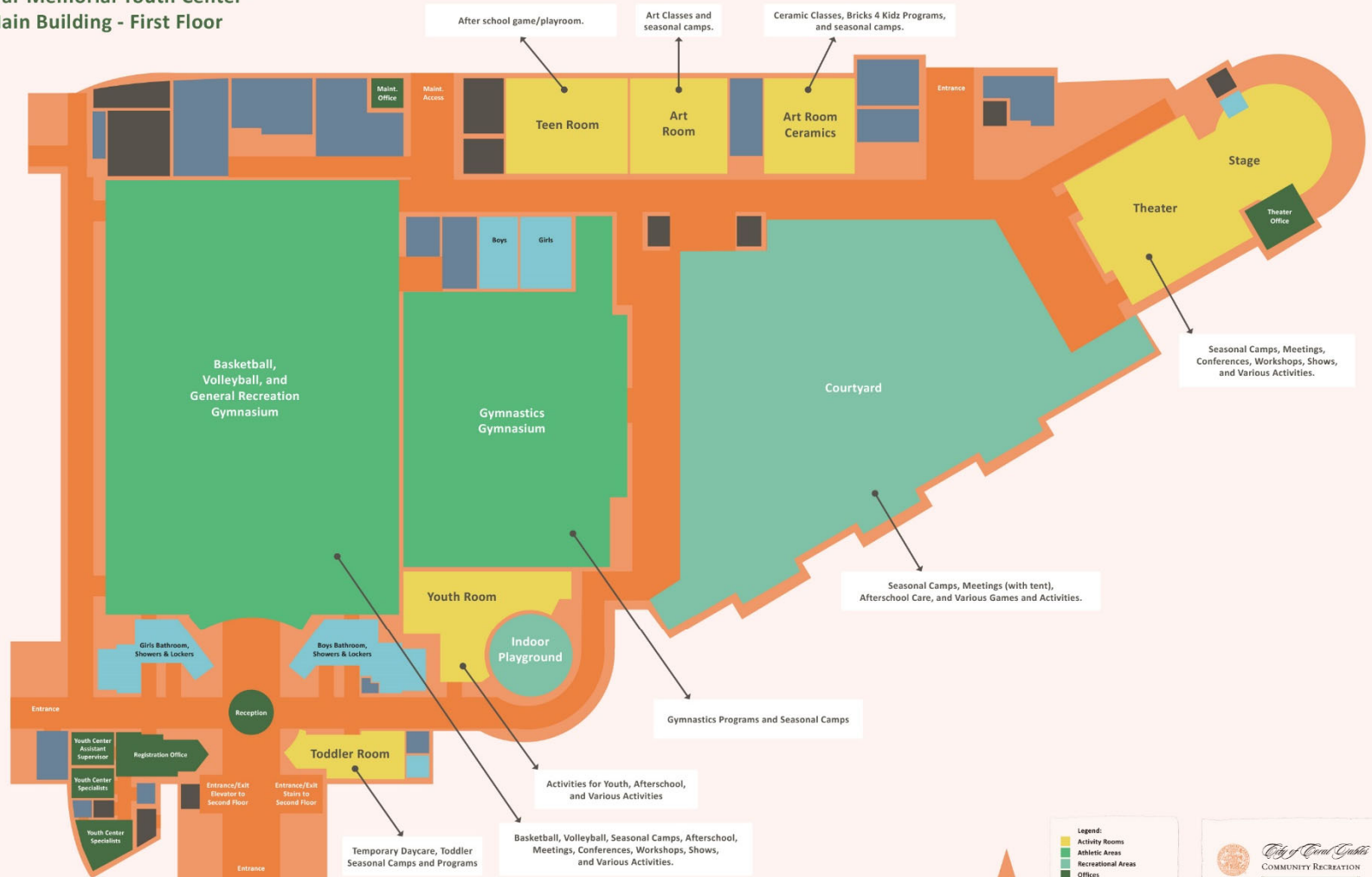
Camilo Avenue

Segovia Street

Parking

# WAR MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTER - FACILITY

## War Memorial Youth Center Main Building - First Floor



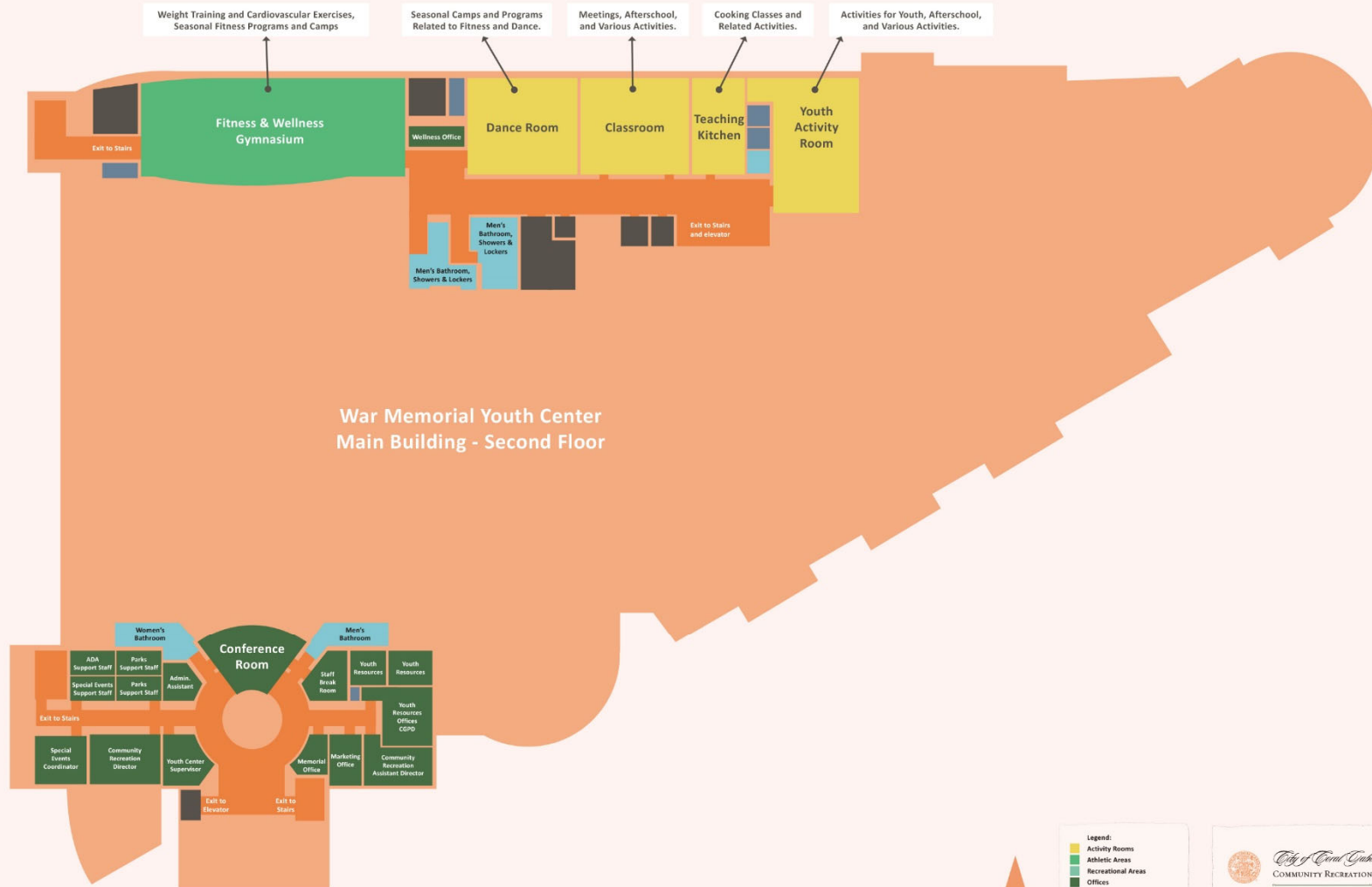
Legend:

Activity Rooms
Athletic Areas
Recreational Areas
Offices
Bathrooms
Storage
Mechanical/Electrical





# WAR MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTER - FACILITY



Legend:	
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	Activity Rooms
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Athletic Areas
<span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span>	Recreational Areas
<span style="color: darkgreen;">■</span>	Offices
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	Bathrooms
<span style="color: grey;">■</span>	Storage
<span style="color: black;">■</span>	Mechanical/Electrical



# FACILITY EVALUATION

Organizational elements of the facility have evolved over time according to the express needs and desires of members/residents; the facility has been more or less able to evolve to accommodate these changes.

- **Facility Recreation Amenities**

- Gymnasium
- Tumbling
- Fitness
- Dance
- Locker Rooms

- **Community Amenities**

- Indoor Playground / Daycare Room
- Courtyard
- Classrooms
- Theatre

- **Site Amenities**

- Basketball Courts
- Playground
- Grass Multipurpose Fields
- Exercise Stations

- **Administrative**

- Community Recreation Administrative Offices
- Conference Room
- Leased space

- **Facility Functionality**

- Security
- Flexibility of spaces
- Hurricane Preparedness
- Storage
- Members/Community Residents benefits

# FACILITY - RECREATION AMENITIES

- Interior basketball courts are inadequate for current needs presented by basketball leagues.
- Existing gymnastics space is adequate for the program.
- Interstitial space between circulation and gymnastics space is awkward and hard to program.
- Existing fitness facility is inadequate in size and in quality; unable to compete with commercial facilities.
- Lockers/bathrooms for existing fitness facility are inadequate.



# FACILITY - COMMUNITY AMENITIES

- Existing east courtyard is not effective in its current design – not enough shade; unusable in many months of the year.
- Theater/performance space could benefit by an expansion.
- Existing second level recreation/activity rooms vary in quality and effectiveness for their programs; several rooms, including ceramics and cooking, are designed for programs that no longer exist.
- Spaces may benefit by being designed in a more flexible way, where each space might be usable by different programs.



# SITE AMENITIES

- Baseball / soccer fields work well for the heavy use by soccer and softball leagues.
- Turf on existing fields has been recently refurbished.
- Existing concessions building could use a larger food prep spaces as well as a rooftop viewing level that could be used to view the entire field area.
- Exterior basketball courts are heavily used.
- Existing monument is hard to clean and maintain.



# ADMINISTRATIVE

- Several spaces on the second level administrative area are leased to outside entities.
- The large conference room on the second floor suffers from acoustical problems.
- Enclosing area above entry could be additional administrative space on the second level.



# FACILITY FUNCTIONALITY

- Lobby bathrooms need to be re-configured for security.
- Storage rooms and support spaces on the ground level are currently ineffective with a lack of adequate shelving and overall organization.
- Delivery area on the north side of the building is adequate and operates effectively.
- Existing building is hardened for hurricanes with the use of metal hurricane panels. Panels are difficult and time consuming to install and take down.



3

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT





# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Online Survey
- Statistical Survey
- Focus Group
- Community Meetings
- Advisory Board
- Presentations



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## FOCUS GROUP THEMES

1. **Expand athletics and offerings and improve quality programing** at the Youth Center by better utilizing the existing property, rooms, and facilities.
2. **Enhance pedestrian and biking access to Youth Center** by incorporating bike facilities such as covered and lighted bike parking at the Youth Center to encourage non-vehicular transit.
3. Evaluate **addition of a protected walking path/running track** around the Youth Center that could be used by residents with special needs and children.
4. **Evaluate redesign of the Youth Center** that could be implemented in phases by building on the fields and redeveloping outdoor facilities where the buildings are currently.
5. Consider converting existing fields at the Youth Center to **synthetic turf** to extend playable time.
6. Explore **enhancements at the Youth Center for youth-oriented service** such as after-school transportation, academic support and tutoring, and access to fitness area (with supervision).
7. **Improve communication** to users and residents that the War Memorial Youth Center programs and facilities are **inclusive** to people of all ages with diverse types of special needs.
8. **Redesign the hurricane preparedness** system for the War Memorial Youth Center in order to increase efficiency of preparing and reopening the facility.
9. Consider **rebuilding the outdoor bathrooms and concessions** in a new, combined facility near the fields.
10. Create **development of a second floor over the courtyard** to add additional facilities.

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- Hosted May 7-11th, 2019
- Geographically distributed
  - Ponce de Leon Middle School
  - Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
  - Coral Gables Adult Activity Center
  - War Memorial Youth Center



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMUNITY MEETINGS THEMES

- 1. Provide safe pedestrian and bike routes** from surrounding neighborhoods to the War Memorial Youth Center.
- 2. Increase running and track and field amenities** at the Youth Center.
- 3. Expand facilities and programming capacity** for Coral Gables residents.
- 4. Increase child/youth-focused** play areas, education, and athletics.
- 5. Create meditative/exercise spaces** at the Youth Center.
- 6. Incorporate accessibility into Youth Center and programming** for special populations.
- 7. Expand diversity of athletics programming** at the Youth Center.
- 8. Promote a holistic, multi-generational, family-centered community.**

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## STATISTICAL SURVEY

- Mailed in June
- Approximately 4,000 households were contacted
- Responses were completed by mail/ phone/ website
- Directions were provided in English and Spanish
- Random/ stratified to match each sample zone's demographics

Community Interest and Opinion Survey: *Let your voice be heard today!*

The City of Coral Gables would like your input to help determine park and recreation priorities for our community. **This survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete.** When you are finished, please return your survey in the enclosed postage-paid, return-reply envelope. We appreciate your time.

1. Please indicate if you use the following major Recreation Services amenity types provided by the City of Coral Gables by circling the YES or NO next to each. If you do use the type of facility, please rate your overall satisfaction on a scale of 4 to 1 where 4 means "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied."

City of Coral Gables Recreation Services and Facilities:	Have you used this service or facility?		How satisfied are you with this facility or service?				
	Yes	No	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A
A. Playgrounds	Yes	No	4	3	2	1	5
B. Large community parks	Yes	No					
C. Small neighborhood parks	Yes	No					
D. Walking paths	Yes	No					
E. Athletic fields	Yes	No					
F. Restrooms	Yes	No					
G. Fitness equipment	Yes	No					
H. Open space or lawn	Yes	No					
I. Outdoor sport courts	Yes	No					
J. Tennis centers	Yes	No					
K. Venetian Pool	Yes	No					
L. War Memorial Youth Center	Yes	No					
M. Golf courses	Yes	No					

2. Which **THREE** of these parks and recreation amenities the City of Coral Gables offer the next **TWO** years? (Pick from Question #1 above in the spaces below.)

1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_

3. How would you rate the overall quality of the City of question #1 that you and members of your household

\_\_\_\_(1) Excellent \_\_\_\_\_(3) Fair  
\_\_\_\_(2) Good \_\_\_\_\_(4) Poor

4. Have you or other members of your household participated in special events, etc.) offered by the City of Coral Gables

\_\_\_\_(1) Yes [Please answer Questions #4a ] \_\_\_\_\_(2) No

4a. Approximately how many different recreation programs of your household participated in over t

\_\_\_\_(1) 1 program \_\_\_\_\_(3) 4 to 6 programs  
\_\_\_\_(2) 2 to 3 programs \_\_\_\_\_(4) 7 to 10 programs

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5. Please use a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied," to rate your satisfaction with the following program services provided by the City of Coral Gables.

City of Coral Gables Recreation Services Program service:	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A
A. Times programs are offered	4	3	2	1	5
B. Location of programs	4	3	2	1	5
C. Quality of instructors	4	3	2	1	5
D. Fees charged for value received	4	3	2	1	5
E. Quality of the facility where program is offered	4	3	2	1	5
F. Availability of information about programs and services on website	4	3	2	1	5
G. Ease of use of website	4	3	2	1	5
H. Ease of online registration process	4	3	2	1	5
I. Quality of customer service for registration	4	3	2	1	5

6. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the programs that you and members of your household have participated in?

\_\_\_\_(1) Excellent \_\_\_\_\_(3) Fair \_\_\_\_\_(5) I have not participated  
\_\_\_\_(2) Good \_\_\_\_\_(4) Poor

7. Please check **ALL** of the ways you and members of your household travel to recreation facilities that you use. (Check all that apply.)

\_\_\_\_(1) Walk \_\_\_\_\_(3) Drive \_\_\_\_\_(5) Trolley \_\_\_\_\_(7) Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_(2) Bike \_\_\_\_\_(4) Scooter \_\_\_\_\_(6) Freebie \_\_\_\_\_(8) None, don't use parks

8. Do you feel there are sufficient parks and green space areas within walking distance of your residence?

\_\_\_\_(1) Yes \_\_\_\_\_(2) No \_\_\_\_\_(3) Not sure

9. Please **CHECK ALL** the reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using parks, trails, waterways, recreation facilities, or programs in the City of Coral Gables more often.

\_\_\_\_(01) do not know locations of parks/facilities \_\_\_\_\_(11) Lack of sidewalk or bike lane access  
\_\_\_\_(02) Facilities are not well maintained \_\_\_\_\_(12) Lack of access to waterways/kayak launch  
\_\_\_\_(03) Program or facility not offered \_\_\_\_\_(13) Parks are not well maintained  
\_\_\_\_(04) Security is insufficient/Littering \_\_\_\_\_(14) do not know what is being offered  
\_\_\_\_(05) Lack of trail access \_\_\_\_\_(15) Use private or other community's facilities  
\_\_\_\_(06) Parks/facilities too far from residence \_\_\_\_\_(16) Lack of parking  
\_\_\_\_(07) Parks or facilities are too crowded \_\_\_\_\_(17) Park operating hours not convenient  
\_\_\_\_(08) Lack of accessibility \_\_\_\_\_(18) Lack of public transportation  
\_\_\_\_(09) have physical health limitations \_\_\_\_\_(19) Lack of access to alternative transportation  
\_\_\_\_(10) Poor customer service by staff \_\_\_\_\_(20) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

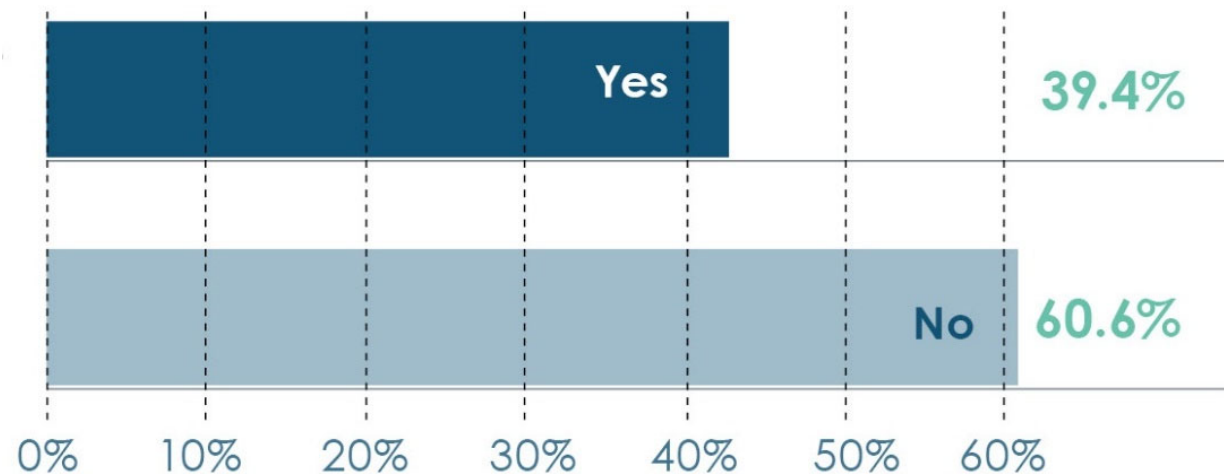
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# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## STATISTICAL SURVEY

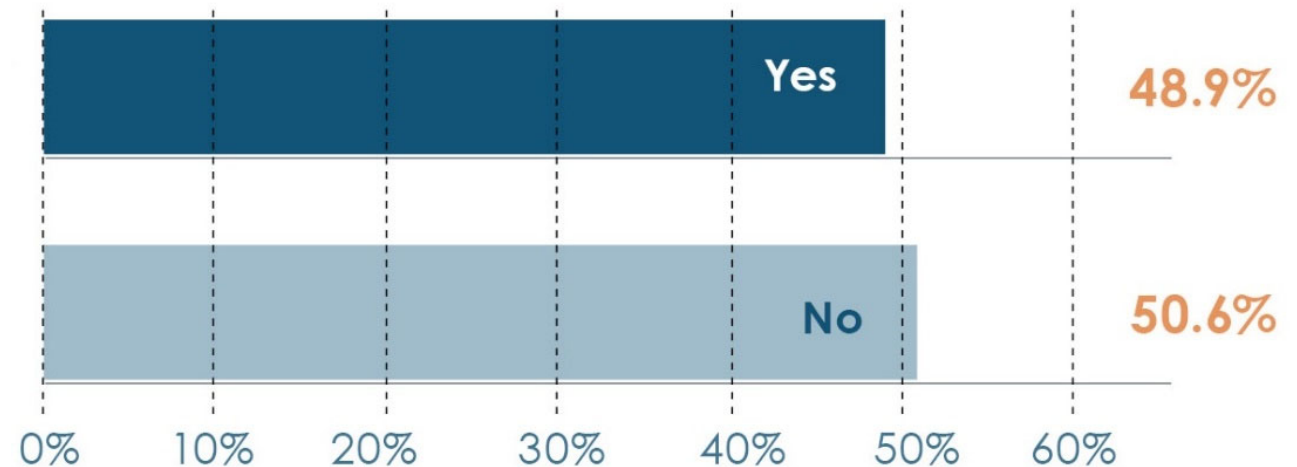
HAVE YOU OR ANY MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD **VISITED** THE WAR MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTER IN THE **PAST 12 MONTHS**



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## STATISTICAL SURVEY

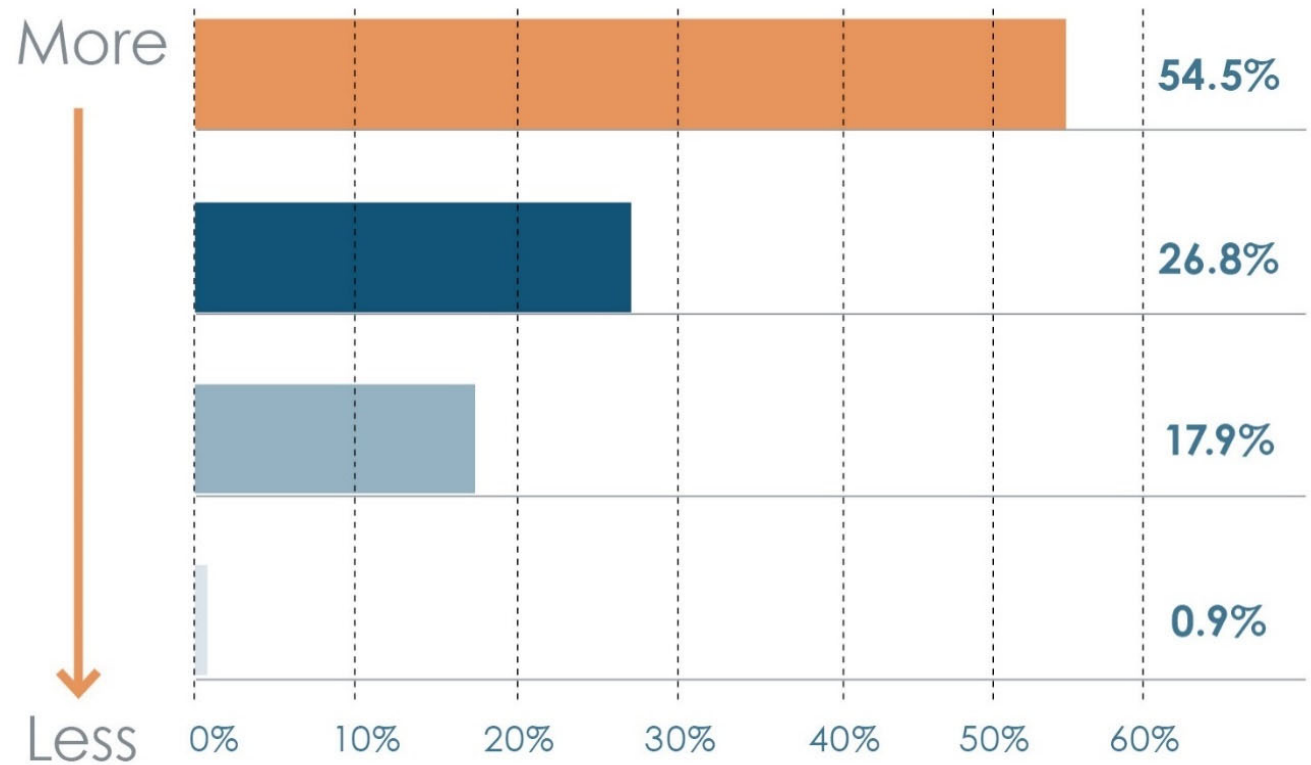
HAVE YOU OR ANY MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE OR HAD A MEMBERSHIP TO THE WAR MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTER IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## STATISTICAL SURVEY

OVERALL RATING OF EXPERIENCE WITH WAR MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTER



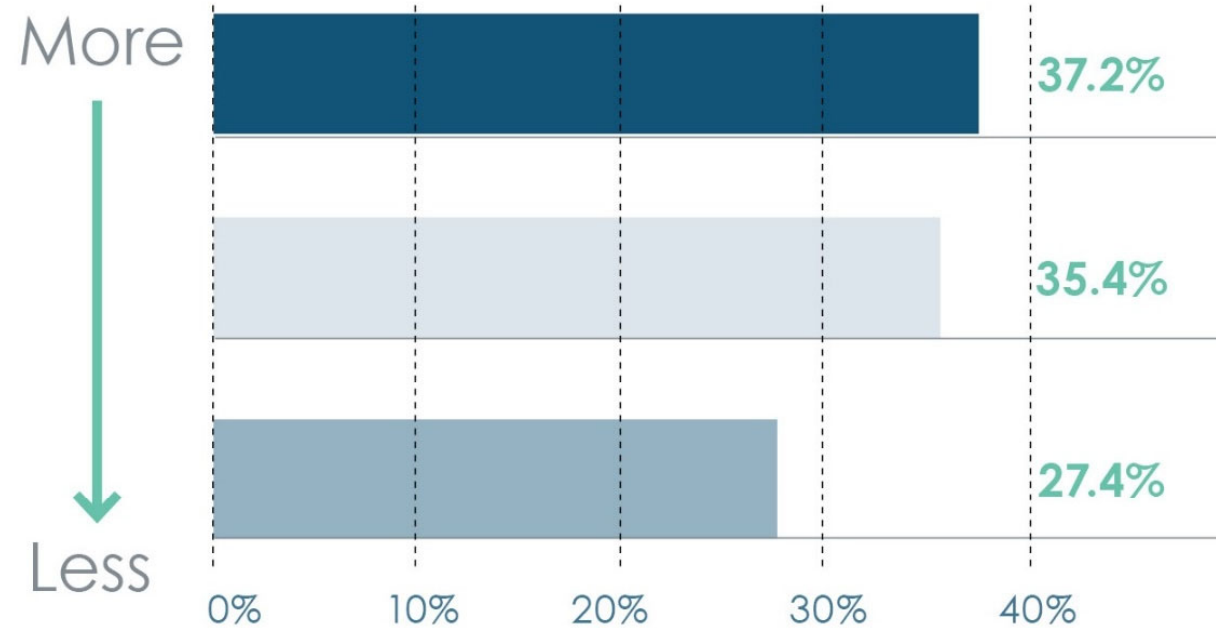
Good    Excellent    Fair    Poor



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## STATISTICAL SURVEY

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE WMYC THAT YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS



Fitness Membership



Full Membership



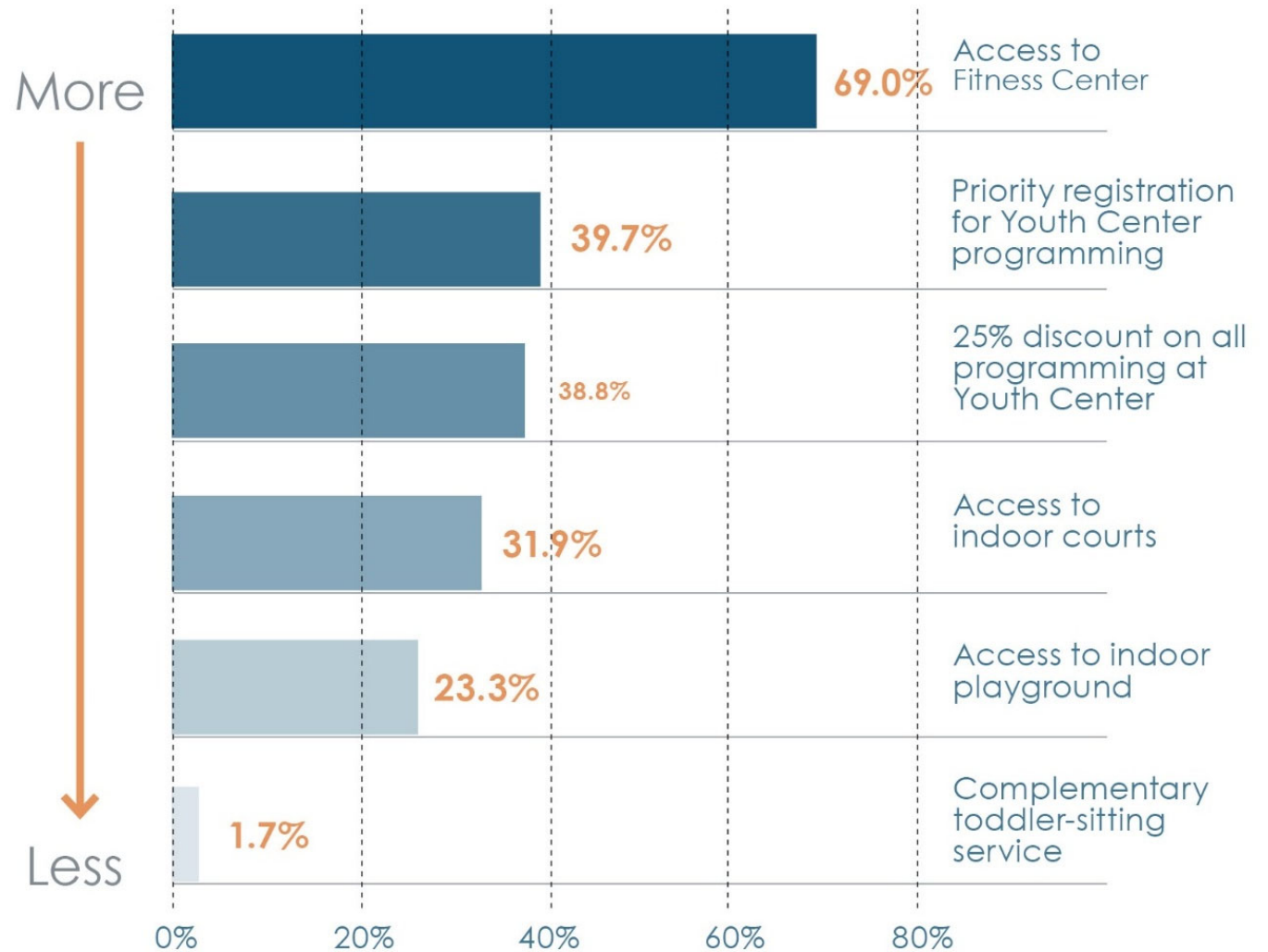
Youth Membership



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## STATISTICAL SURVEY

### TOP BENEFITS ENJOYED WITH WMYC MEMBERSHIP

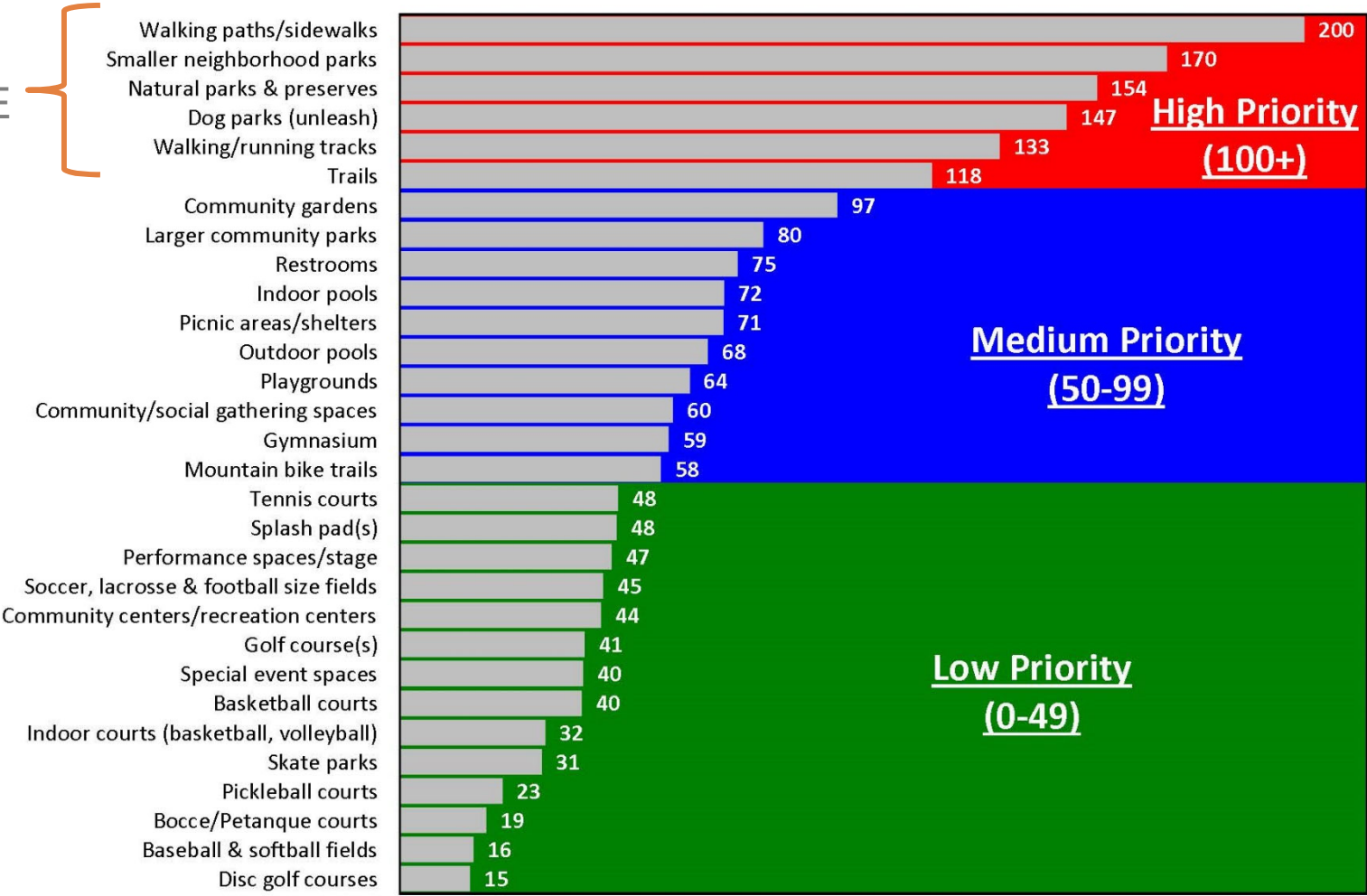


# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

# STATISTICAL SURVEY

HIGHEST  
IMPORTANCE  
AND MOST  
NEED

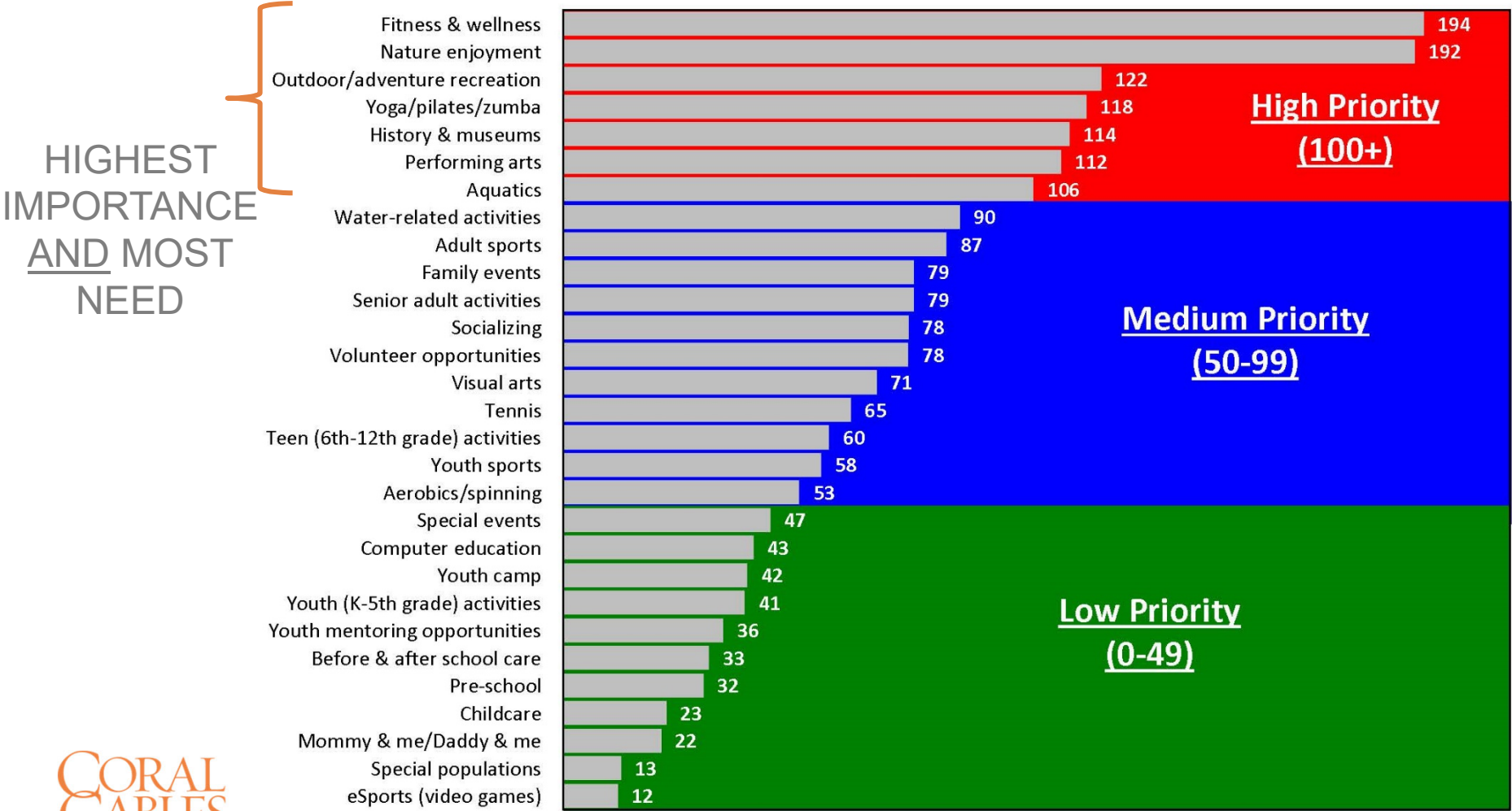
## TOP PRIORITIES FOR FACILITIES



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## STATISTICAL SURVEY

### TOP PRIORITIES FOR ACTIVITIES



4

# QUESTIONS



DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

# 5

## INTERACTIVE EXERCISE



# VISIONING WORKSHOP

- Focused on long-range goals and vision for the War Memorial Youth Center.
- Will address:
  - Community needs and priorities;
  - Operational and maintenance needs;
  - Site constraints and opportunities;
  - Phased implementation.





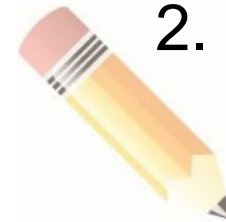
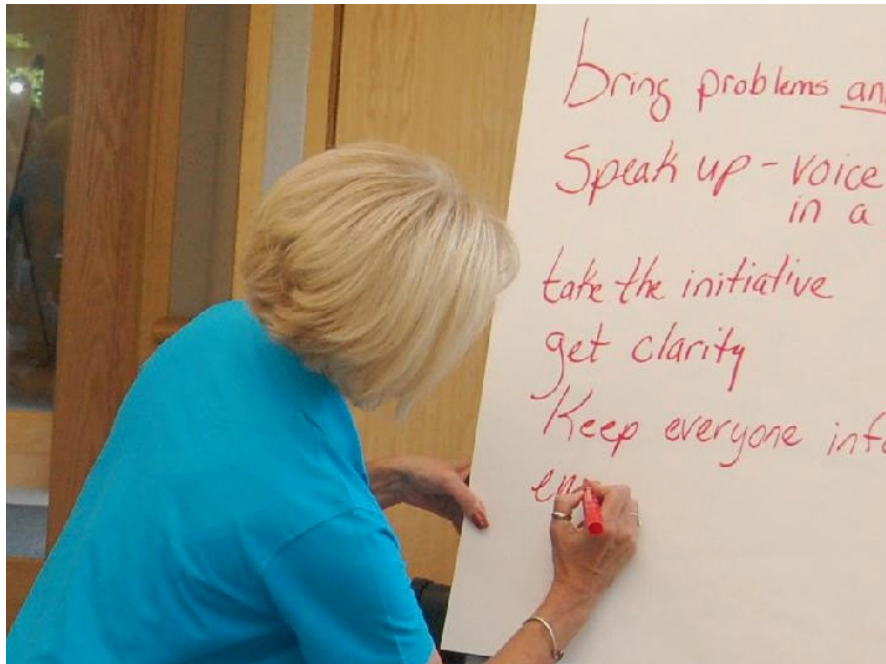
# INTERACTIVE EXERCISE

## STEP #1

**(15 Minutes)**

Using Flip Charts:

1. As a table, identify 3-5 goals that should be accomplished within next 20 years.
2. Write down your tables goals



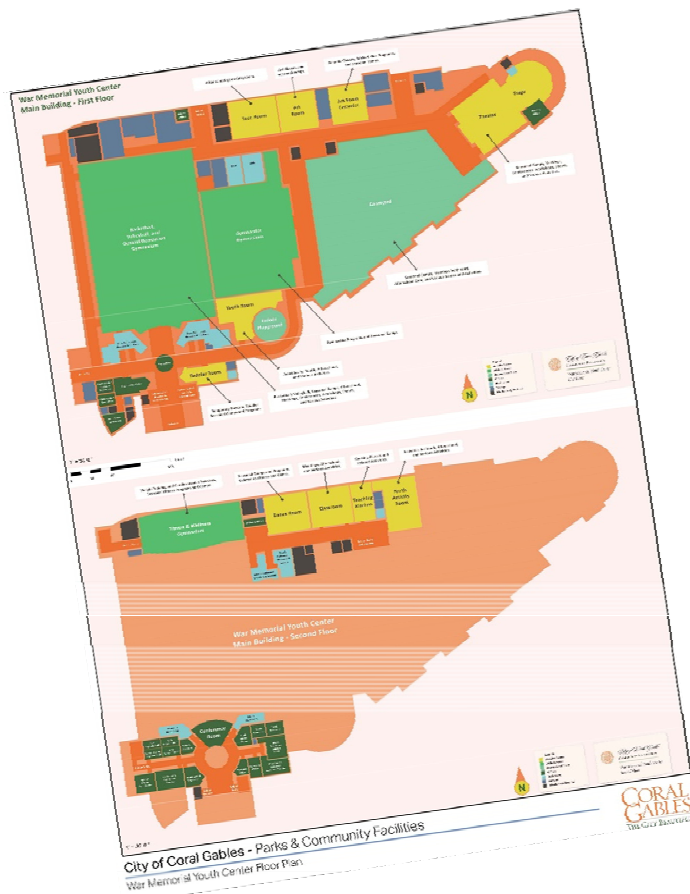
# INTERACTIVE EXERCISE

## STEP #2

**(45 Minutes)**

Using Plans on Table:

1. Identify projects, actions or improvements for the WMYC facility and site.
2. Grab a pen or marker and draw your ideas on the plans (use lines, notes, circles, etc.)





City of Coral Gables - War Memorial Youth Center  
Site Plan

# INTERACTIVE EXERCISE

## STEP #3

to do list:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**(15 Minutes)**

Using Flip Chart:

1. Identify the **TOP FIVE** (5) projects or actions your table feels is most important to complete.
2. Grab a pen and write down your list.

# INTERACTIVE EXERCISE

## STEP #4

1. Select your table's Speaker
2. Summarize your table's goals to accomplish in next 20 years.
3. List your TOP FIVE (5) projects or actions needed to accomplish goals.



A photograph of an outdoor park area. In the foreground, there is a paved plaza with several green picnic tables. A large palm tree stands in the center. In the background, there are more palm trees, a building with a red roof, and a parking lot. A blue banner is overlaid on the top part of the image.

5

INTERACTIVE EXERCISE

RESULTS

# PROJECT SCHEDULE

