

MTI Research Snaps Presents *“Advancing Transportation Equity”*



Voices of Impact

Miguel A. Vazquez, AICP

President, California Planning Roundtable

Health Equity Urban & Regional Planner, Riverside University Health System

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#MTIResearchSnaps



Record videos/films giving laypersons an opportunity to tell us how planning, directly or indirectly, has affected them and their neighborhoods. Themes include:

- What is systemic discrimination?
- How have people experienced systemic discrimination?
- How have planning decisions contributed to systemic discrimination?
- How have planning decisions helped mitigate systemic discrimination?
- What should planners do differently/ better to understand the perspectives of local community members?

Objectives



December 10, 2020

**Project Description for California Planning Roundtable (CPR)
Oral History Project
(aka How Planning Affects People)**

Why?

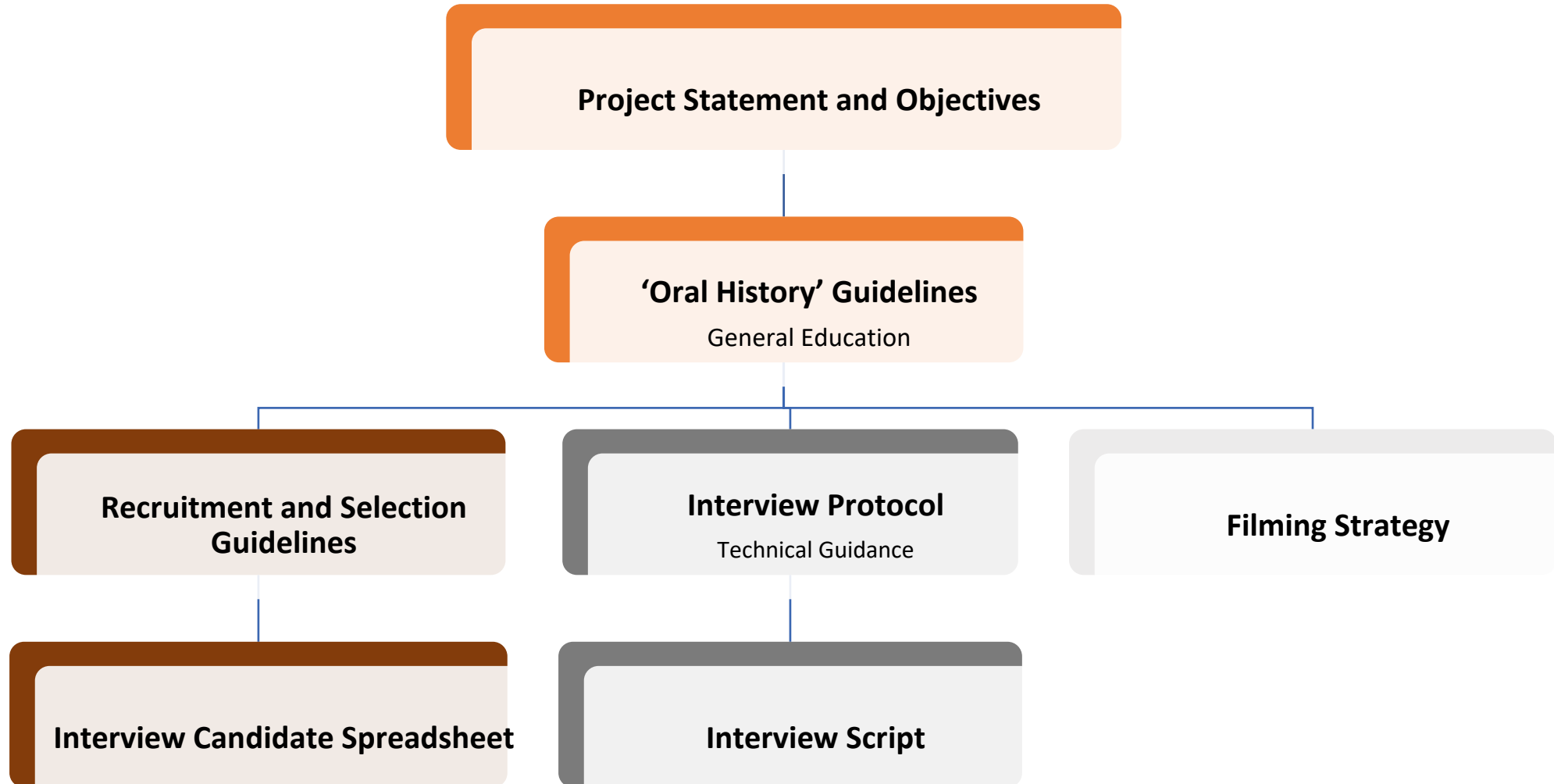
The vision of the California Planning Roundtable (CPR) is to advance planning practice and influence policy through innovation and leadership to create healthy, prosperous and equitable communities.

CPR is a known resource for policy exploration, innovation and development for California planning to enhance the sustainability, equity and livability of California communities. CPR focuses on emerging policy issues with cutting edge solutions.

With the concept of systemic discrimination becoming significantly more prominent in the public dialogue, and, in particular, how the planning practice has contributed to systemic discrimination and, conversely, helped integrate communities, CPR is well positioned to advance the dialogue and help improve understanding among California planners.

For planners to effectively serve the community, planning policies and practices need to be focused on addressing the needs and experiences of community members. Planners can often approach planning from a very academic perspective, which can be detached from those needs

Key Working Documents



Oral History Guidelines

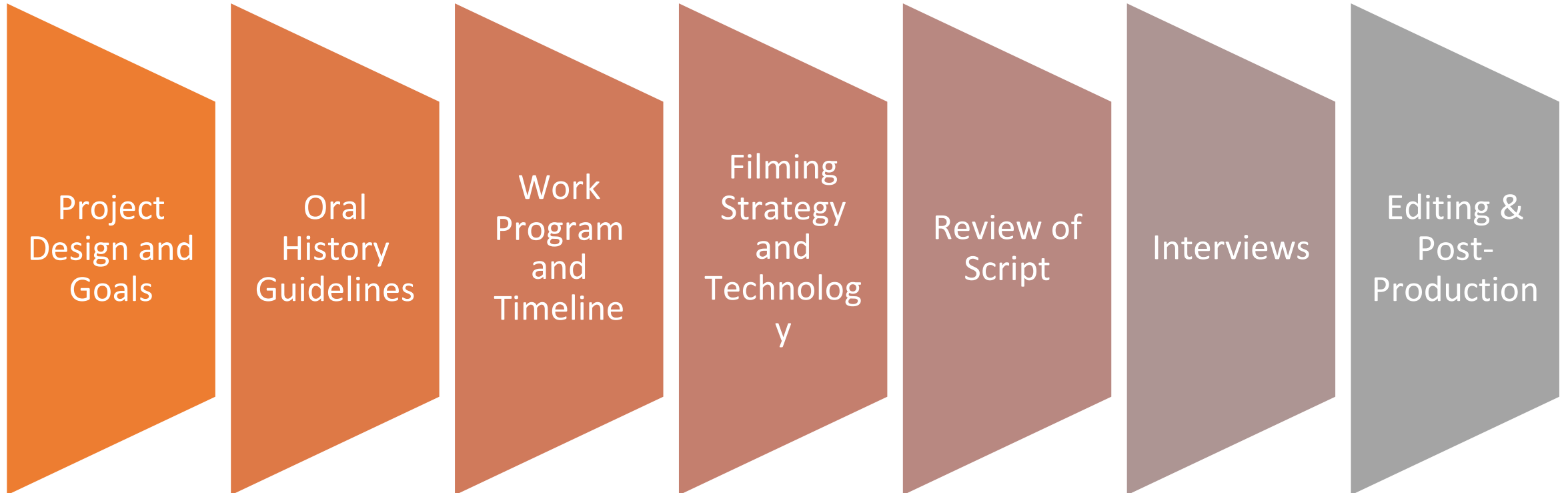
Educational document approved by Communications Committee after several rounds of review and editing

General guidance for conducting interviews/conversations in a manner that reduces unintentional bias

Includes broad principles from UC Santa Cruz and other sources; not intended for technical direction or substitute for the interview protocol

“Discussion” v. “Oral History” – why this project uses both terms

The Process



Interview Selection Criteria

- Geographic balance
- Diversity (race, ethnicity, gender, age)
- Non-planners
- Pre-screening process
- Pre-interview (waiver, language, setting, technology)
- Technical rehearsal



The Script



- Includes statements that reinforce the purpose, as well as establishing a comfort zone for dialogue
- Each interviewer is receiving a copy of the script.
- While we ask that you start with the same questions so that we can have comparability between interviews, you may expand on or follow up as you see fit.
- You may adjust questions as you ask them to fit your conversational style but keep in mind the principles expressed in the protocols
- We will be happy to assist you with script questions, and you are welcome to try out (practice) a section of the script during the second half of today's training session.

Interview Technique

PROTOCOL
DOCUMENT



- Setting the stage
- Calming and reassurance
- Confirm willingness to proceed
- Shared memory technique
- Establish authenticity, vulnerability
- Use open ended questions
- Avoid jargon
- Let them speak – do not appropriate their voice
- Avoid “Leading the witness”
- Avoid unintentional bias
- Respect time limits

Meet our Project Assistants



MANU MULTANI

I am a first-generation Punjabi woman who is the first in her family to pursue higher education in the United States. My passion aligns with organizations that value social change. I seek to highlight the authenticity of our lives through visual storytelling. I am currently working on documentary film projects locally and globally.

- PhD student in Anthropology and Social Change at California Institute of Integral Studies
- Los Angeles City College student in Cinematography/Post-Production/Photojournalism



JOYCELYN YEE

I am a third generation Chinese American from Honolulu, Hawaii. My siblings and I were the first generation in our family to attend college. I seek to equitably engage communities in public decision-making processes, especially communities who have been historically underinvested in. Some of these processes include neighborhood assessments, visioning for general plans, area plans and urban designs.

- Recent graduate of the UC Davis Master's program in Community Development
- Currently a Teaching Assistant at UC Davis



Discussion Guide

Planning for Equity – Stories from People Affected: A Film and Discussion

California Planning Roundtable

CCAPA Conference Session, October 3, 2022

Prior to and during viewing of the film:

- Read the brief biographies of those interviewed (see reverse side).
- Jot down a few statements/sentiments shared during the film that resonate with you.

With a group, after the film is shown:

- How does the community where you were raised/work now compare with the experiences highlighted in the film? Things in common? Differences?
- What questions does/did the film raise for you?
 - What surprised you in the film?
 - What did you learn from the film?
- What have you observed are the major impacts that planning decisions have had on lower-income and minority neighborhoods?
 - Why have some impacts been negative?
 - How can planning have a more positive impact? What are the challenges? How can they be overcome?
- Why is it important to hear from and engage with people in diverse communities of color about planning issues?
 - Why can it be challenging?
 - What does successful engagement with people in diverse communities of color require? What are the constraints to doing this now?
- How does/will the film influence how you will go forward in your career as a planner, especially how you will engage communities of color?
- We would like you to share this film with other planners in your network—work colleagues, local planning groups. What would help you do that? What would hold you back?



Ivory Chambeshi, MPA, MPL. *Urban planner and social justice advocate, Los Angeles, CA*
Born and raised in South Central Los Angeles, Ivory currently serves in Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's Office as the **Director of Neighborhood Initiatives** for the Watts Rising Collaborative, a place-based, sustainable community development initiative co-led by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles. She is implementing CA Transformative Climate Communities and U.S. HUD Choice Neighborhood Implementation grants, as well as the Jordan Downs public housing redevelopment.



Rocina Lizarraga. *Community organizer for a non-profit, San Diego, CA*
As a **Special Projects Coordinator** for Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center, Rocina oversees transit, equity justice, and community outreach efforts in collaboration with the San Diego Association of Governments. She was born and raised in Mexico and is a 9th generation *Kitchenista*. Rocina serves as an elected member of the National City School District Governing Board.

Oscar James. *Community activist, San Francisco, CA*

Oscar was born, raised, and still lives in Bayview Hunters Point and currently serves on the **Board of Directors of the Dr. George Davis Senior Center** in Bayview Hunters Point. His grandmother was the first Black person to purchase a home in Bayview Hunters Point in the late 1930s. Oscar began engaging in community issues as a teenager. He is now retired after working for several San Francisco City and County agencies.



Maria Cortez. *Long-time community advocate, Community Heights, San Diego, CA*
Maria currently serves as a **Community Outreach Assistant** for Community Heights Development Corporation in San Diego, an organization that has worked to enhance the quality of life for residents of Community Heights by creating and sustaining quality affordable housing and livable neighborhoods and by fostering economic self-sufficiency.

Faye Wilson Kennedy. *Long-time community advocate, Sacramento, CA*

Faye is a founding member of the Red Black and Green Environmental Justice Coalition (RBG EJC) and the Black Parallel School Board (BPSB). She also serves as a co-chair for the California Poor People's Campaign (CA PPC) and co-led the Sacramento Poor People's Campaign (Sac PCC). Faye lives, works, and organizes in Sacramento on the land of the Miwok/ Me-Wuk Peoples.



Javier Rodriguez. *Community member, Roseville, CA*

Javier grew up in Oakland, very close to the Fruitvale neighborhood. He is familiar with the many changes he has seen in this neighborhood over time—in racial demographics, economics, and how the neighborhood's home prices have gone up tremendously. He says that no one he knows can afford to buy a home there now.

Questions

Discussion

Thank you for joining us for:
Advancing Transportation Equity Series

Voices of Impact

For more MTI events and webinar visit <https://transweb.sjsu.edu/events>.

Learn more about Voices of Impact and the interviewees:
<https://cpoundtable.org/projects/voices-impact/>

Have a suggestion for a webinar topic you'd like to see featured? Email
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