

# How Do Residents Think and Feel About Housing Plans In Berkeley?

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**Results of a scientific study about residents' thoughts and feelings about housing plans for Ashby BART station, North Berkeley BART station, and People's Park**

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## Summary

This report presents the findings of a scientific study on housing development plans for three sites in Berkeley: Ashby BART station, North Berkeley BART station, and People's Park. The study was carried out by Erasmus University Rotterdam (the Netherlands) and University of California, Berkeley. Findings presented here are based on a large community survey of 1,480 people residing near the sites (Respondents) as well as 16 interviews with key stakeholders. The study's main goal was to better understand people's thoughts and feelings toward and engagement with the new housing plans. In the following, we first provide a brief summary and then a more detailed description of the study and our findings.

## Key findings

Respondents from Ashby are relatively supportive about the housing plans compared to Respondents from North Berkeley and People's Park. Respondents from people's park are the most opposed, but it is important to say that there is also a large group of Respondents who strongly support the housing plans for People's Park.

On the whole, thus, attitudes towards the plans for People's Park are extremely polarized, with almost 36% of the respondents extremely against the plans and 32% extremely in favor. In Berkeley North we also see high percentages of strong opposition or support, but less than in People's Park.

In Ashby many Respondents feel hope and excitement about the plans. Respondents hope that the planned housing development will provide affordable housing for the community, and that it will improve the area in a spatial sense. Respondents from North Berkeley and People's Park reported more negative emotions, with increased levels of anxiety, anger, worry, exhaustion, and disappointment. People's Park exhibited the most negative emotions—strongest anger, frustration, and disappointment. However, they also reported substantial compassion.

We further found that Respondents in Ashby were less familiar with the plans than those from People's Park and North Berkeley, and they also engaged less with the plans.

Interestingly, our survey shows that Respondents with negative emotions tend to engage more with the plans than Respondents who feel positive about the plans. Those with negative feelings about the plans voice their opinions more and may thus be more visible in the public debates about the plans.

On the whole, the study found that residents near housing developments report – as a group – quite polarized attitudes ranging from extreme opposition to extreme support. They also have strong and complex emotions about the developments. These emotions, in turn, are linked with whether and how residents engage with the developments (e.g., protests).

# Chapter 1. Introduction

This report presents the findings of a scientific study on housing development plans at three different sites in Berkeley: Ashby BART station, North Berkeley BART station, and People's Park.

The study focuses on people's opinions and engagements regarding housing development plans.

The study was carried out by Erasmus University Rotterdam (the Netherlands) and University of California, Berkeley. The data were collected through a survey in the three communities around the housing development plans, as well as interviews with key stakeholders. We also analyzed documents and did observations. The data were collected between September 2022 and September 2023.

## 1.1 The Research Team

The following four researchers had a main role in the study.



**Dr. Jasper Eshuis**

Jasper is a full professor in Public Administration at Erasmus University Rotterdam, and a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley. He is an expert on urban governance, citizen participation, and emotions in interactions between governments and citizens. Jasper loves doing fundamental research, as well as applied research in which he aims to contribute to practice by advising public organizations, NGOs and communities.



**Dr. Iris Mauss**

Iris Mauss, PhD, is the director of the Emotion and Emotion Regulation Lab and a professor in the social and personality psychology area at the University of California, Berkeley. Her lab's research focuses on emotions and emotion regulation, with an emphasis on their links to psychological health.



**Dr. Joseph Ocampo**

Joseph graduated from UC Berkeley with a Ph.D. in psychology. He is currently a postdoctoral research scholar at San Diego State University. His work focuses on emotional well-being, culture, and undergraduate interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers.



**Bingyue Tan**

Bing is a post-baccalaureate student in Psychology department at UC Berkeley. She is interested in understanding social issues like inequity and poverty through the lens of emotion, and researching how emotion regulation strategies can be used as cognitive interventions to address these challenges.

## **1.2 Research Assistants**

The following three research assistants (students in Psychology at the UC Berkeley), were an important part of the research team when we prepared the survey and distributed the survey: Snow Lin, Nicole Prislin, and Allison Hersh. Also Elizabeth Peele, a staff member of the Department of Psychology at UC Berkeley, also assisted the preparation and distribution of the survey.

## **1.3 Funding and Independence**

The study is funded through two sources: (1) Erasmus University Rotterdam, specifically the research budget of primary researcher Eshuis, and a contribution from a research program at Erasmus University called 'Vital Cities and Citizens'; (2) The Erasmus Trust Fund. This is the official support-fund for Erasmus University. Its aim is to promote the flourishing of the Erasmus University Rotterdam.

The researchers have no political or financial interest regarding the housing development plans under study, and they are independent of any party involved in housing development. This is an independent academic study, which means that no one outside the research team had any influence on the study, including the research question, analyses, results, and report.

# Chapter 2. Research method

We studied three sites — North Berkeley BART, Ashby BART, and People’s Park.

## 2.1. Data collection

We did 16 in-depth interviews with key stakeholders of the planned housing developments, and 11 shorter informal interviews at the Flea Market and People’s Park. We interviewed people who were closely involved and therefore had much information about the developments. We interviewed people from different organizations and backgrounds, to include the variety of views on the developments. See Appendix 2 for the interview topics. See Appendix 3 for an overview of the interviewees. We also collected 1480 surveys (234 from Ashby, 737 from North Berkeley, 500 from People’s Park, and 9 were not connected specifically to one of the three sites).

To obtain a good and representative coverage of the communities, and reach as many people as possible, we collected survey data in several ways. First, we went door-to-door to distribute the survey in the community around the area planned for the development.

For each case, we covered 2000 to 2500 addresses around the development area. This intensive way of surveying helped to get a thorough coverage of the three communities. Second, we asked interest groups and advocacy groups to help to reach more people who feel involved with the housing development plans. Appendix 4 shows the groups that distributed the survey among their members. Lastly, we invited people who play important roles in the housing plans to fill out the survey, including project managers representing the municipality, BART, and the University.

## 2.2. Data Coverage

The combination of methods to distribute the survey, led to a good coverage of the communities around the planned housing developments and people outside the communities with interest in the plans. However, we cannot guarantee a perfect representativeness of our survey.

One limitation is that there might be an overrepresentation of people with strong feelings and opinions about the housing plans, because these people may be more motivated to communicate their opinion and fill out our survey. Having said that, we



do have quite some people with moderate opinions and less strong feelings in the sample.

Although our survey about housing plans in the 3 communities was not meant to be representative of the entire Berkeley community, readers may find it interesting to know how far the survey is representative of Berkeley as a whole (see table 3.1 from Chapter 3). The genders, income levels, and education levels of our Respondents are similar to the population of Berkeley. Our Respondents are slightly older and we have an overrepresentation of White ethnicity in our sample compared to Berkeley as a whole. This may have to do with our large number of Respondents from Berkeley North, which is a community with relatively high percentages of White ethnicity. The demographic details of our sample can be found in chapter 3.

The survey data were collected between November 2022 and November 2023. Therefore our data may not reflect the developments after November 2023.

# Chapter 3. Who Participated In This Study?

## 3.1 Description of the Respondent Group

Our Respondents can be generally characterized as diverse in terms of age, ethnicity, and income. Because we surveyed mainly in areas dominated by family-owned houses in Berkeley North and Ashby, we have relatively many house owners in the sample, compared to renters.

Next, we describe the demographic characteristics of our respondent groups. We also show how it compares with the Berkeley community as a whole.

Table 3.1. General Description of the Respondent Group and Berkeley community

		Berkeley community*	Ashby Respondents	North Berkeley Respondents	People’s Park Respondents
<b>Number of people</b>		<b>118,942</b>	234	737	500
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Female</b>	53%	48%	50%	47%
	<b>Male</b>	47%	46%	45%	36%
	<b>Non-Binary</b>	<b>Data not found</b>	1%	1%	13%
	<b>Gender Not Listed Above</b>	5%* (Across Ashby, North Berkeley, and People’s park)			
<b>Race &amp; Ethnicity</b>	<b>White</b>	50%	58%	65%	50%
	<b>Black</b>	7%	4%	2%	4%
	<b>Asian</b>	20%	5%	10%	8%
	<b>Hispanic / Latino</b>	13%	6%	3%	10%
	<b>Race Not Listed Above</b>	3%* (Across Ashby, North Berkeley, and People’s park)			
<b>Income (per year per household)</b>	<b>Under \$50,000</b>	30%	18.1%	11.9%	33.5%
	<b>\$50,001 - \$100,000</b>	20%	24.4%	24.1%	24.4%
	<b>\$100,001 - \$200,000</b>	20%	41.3%	32.9%	25.2%
	<b>&gt; \$200,000</b>	29%	26.2 %	31.1%	16.9%

● Source Berkeley community data: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0606000-berkeley-ca/>

### 3.2 Race and Ethnicity

The majority of our Respondents identify as White. Only low percentages of our Respondents identify as Latin, Black, or Asian, with the rest of our Respondents declaring double identities, self-identified or no declaration of any ethnic identity. Compared to the Berkeley community as a whole, our sample has a higher percentage of people who identify as White, and relatively lower percentages of minorities.

### 3.3 Social-economic situation

Our North Berkeley and Ashby sample has a large percentage of households with higher income levels of \$100,000 or more. Respondents from People’s Park have lower household incomes, with about 30% of the Respondents having household incomes below \$50,000. Comparing our Respondents from the three communities with the Berkeley community as a whole, we see that our Respondents from People's Park showed the most similar income level to the wider Berkeley community, while Respondents from the Ashby and North Berkeley communities showed slightly higher incomes than the wider Berkeley community (see Table 3.1).

### 3.4 Housing ownership

Table 3.2 Housing Ownership Percentage Compare to Berkeley Community

Housing ownership (51,183 unites/ Occupancy)		Berkeley community	Overall	Ashby	North Berkeley	People’s Park
	Full-Ownership	57%	61%	69.5%	76.4%	36.2%
	Rental	43%	31%	31.5%	24.6%	59.0%

Overall, 61% of our participants own their own properties, while 31% are now renting a house or apartment (see Table 3.2). Respondents from Ashby and North Berkeley have higher rates of full ownership compared to those from People’s Park. This difference might contribute to the socioeconomic variations observed in the Ashby and North Berkeley communities, which are known for their high housing prices and strong community ties driven by high incomes.

### 3.5 Age

Table 3.3. shows that our respondent group has a rather evenly spread age distribution, compared to the Berkeley community as a whole we have a slight under-representation of people who are from 30 to 39, which can probably be explained by the large number of Respondents that we have from North Berkeley which is a community with an older population. Another explanation could be that people above 60 may have more time to fill out the survey and are therefore overrepresented in our survey.

*Table 3.3 Respondents' Age Distribution Comparing to Wider Berkeley Community*

<b>Age</b>	<b>Berkeley Community</b>	<b>Our Respondents in the Sample</b>
18-19	3%	3%
20-29	15%	15%
30-39	25%	14%
40-49	13%	12%
50-59	10%	16%
60-69	10%	19%
70-79	9%	19%
80+	8%	2%

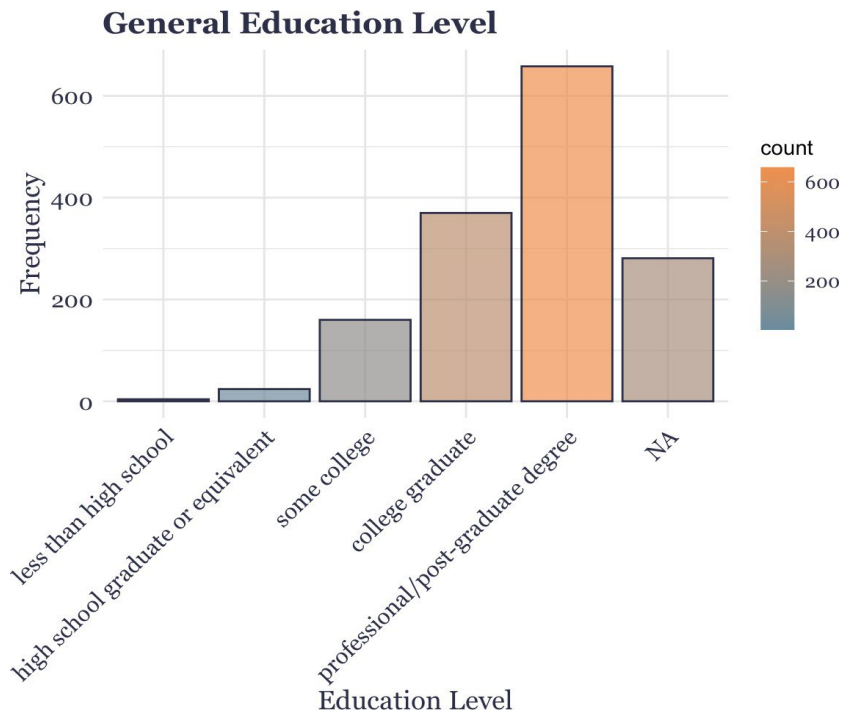
### 3.6 Education

Our participants exhibit a notably high level of education attainment. Almost 99% of our participants received education beyond high school, with 84% obtaining bachelor's degrees or higher. (See Table 3.4 and Figure 3.1). This reflects the high level of education in the Berkeley community as a whole.

*Table 3.4. Respondents' Education Level Compared to Berkeley Community*

<b>Education</b>	<b>Berkeley Community</b>	<b>Our Respondents in the Sample</b>
<b>High school or higher</b>	97.2%	99.7%
<b>Bachelor's degree or higher</b>	79.6%	84.9%

Figure 3.1 Education Level of the Respondents



# Chapter 4. Research Findings

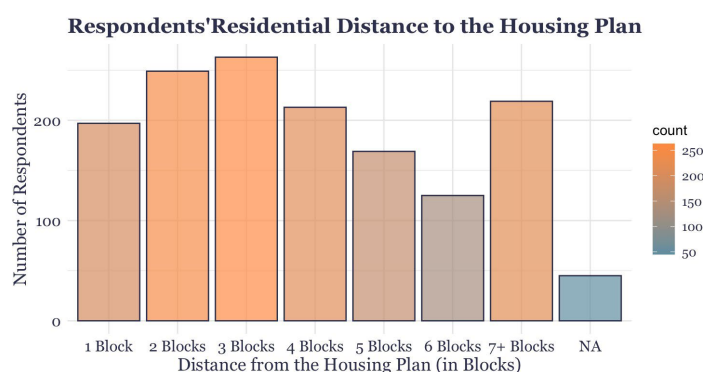
This chapter describes key research results. Appendix 1 shows the questions as we asked them in the survey.

## 4.1. Relationships and Attitude Toward the Housing Development Plans

### *Distance from the Planned Housing Developments*

The majority of our Respondents live closely to the planned housing developments (only 1-4 blocks away, see Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1 Respondents' Residential Distance to the Housing Plan



### *Familiarity*

All Respondents are aware of the housing plans. Most indicated that they are moderately familiar with the housing plans in their community. Notably, 63% of participants are either moderately or very familiar with the plans.

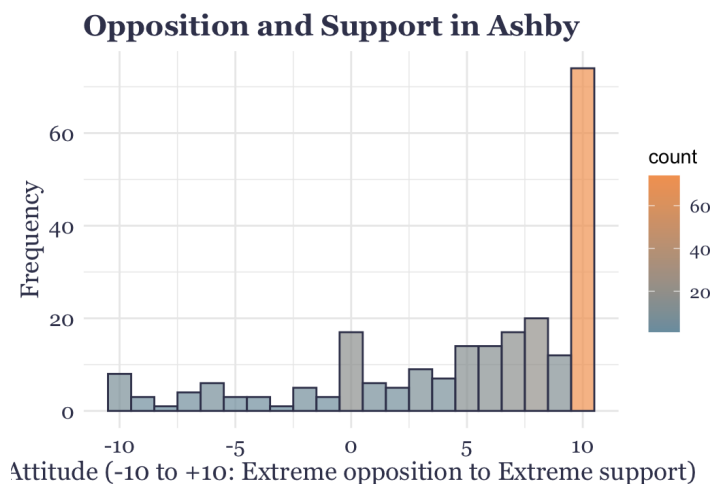
On average, Respondents in Ashby are less familiar with the plans than those from People's Park and North Berkeley. Nearly 70% of Respondents in Ashby are only a little familiar or somewhat familiar with the new housing plans, while only 27.5% of Respondents in People's Park and 36.7% of Respondents in North Berkeley reported limited familiarity with the plans.

## 4.2 Support and Opposition Toward The Housing Development Plans

The respondent group from Ashby demonstrates a more positive outlook towards the new housing plans compared to North Berkeley and People's Park. In North Berkeley and People's Park, Respondents displayed more polarized attitudes toward the new housing plans, with nearly half of each group expressing opposition. While many Respondents from People's Park are also positive, there are more individuals

strongly opposed to the plans. People's Park shows strong polarization of opinions, with very high percentages of Respondents scoring -10 or +10. (see Figures 4.2 to 4.4).

Figure 4.2. The degree of opposition (left) versus support (right) in Ashby



In North Berkeley, people who live closer to the housing development area are more strongly against it than those who live farther away. Residents who live closer to the future housing building here exclaimed that the new residences will make their neighborhood more crowded or that the large and tall residential blocks near their homes will cause light loss and decrease housing prices, as exemplified by the following quote:

*“If they're going to lose the light on their property, then that's the quality of their life is going to change. The very real fact is that their property values are going to go down.” (interview 10 North Berkeley)*

For People's Park, the situation is different: immediate neighbors support the plans. They support the plans because they want something to be done about the nuisance they experience from the homeless, and for the park to look better again. There are also people living in People's Parks who want to protect the park against the plans, because they want to preserve People's Park's unique historical character.

*“It is a wonderful historical place, and saying that, it is a public place and it should remain open and public.” (interview 10 People's Park)*

*“The park is a historic space that we need to keep for future generations to learn about.” (respondent from the survey)*

Some Respondents showed strong ownership and emotional attachment to this park and its unique historical value; they came to stay in the park for protection against what they see as a bad and harmful plan. There are two quotes from our Respondents to express their protection toward the park and their anger:

*“I came to People's Park when the trees were cut, because that really pissed me off. I am here to protect the park.” (interview 11 People’s Park)*

*“I feel like that it's our land, and it should be governed with how we governed years ahead.” (respondent from the survey)*

Figure 4.3. The degree of opposition (left) versus support (right) in North Berkeley

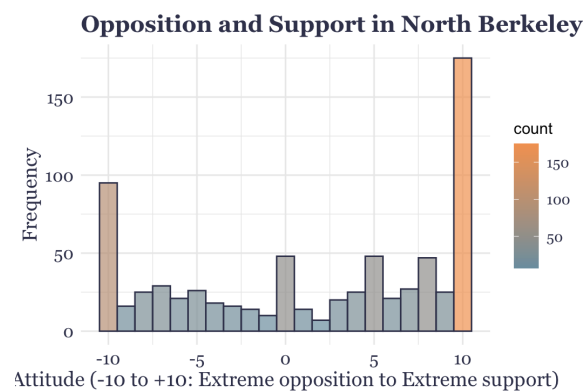
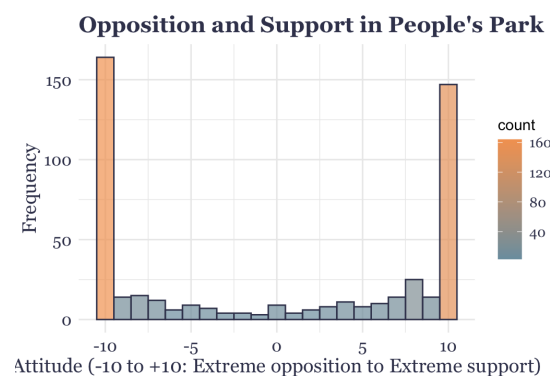


Figure 4.4. The degree of opposition (left) versus support (right) in People’s Park



### 4.3. Engagement with the Housing Development Plans

We assessed people's engagement with the plans by inquiring whether they had participated in 16 different types of activities. Examples of the activities are putting



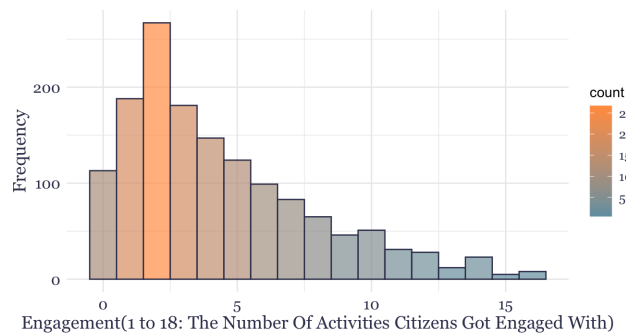
up a yard sign, attending a public meeting about the plans, or following news related to the plans. Appendix 1 shows the complete list of activities. On average, our Respondents engaged in four to five types of activities, such as displaying a yard sign at home (n = 251), attending public meetings (n = 459), and participating in vote balloting (n = 385). Ashby exhibits lower levels of engagement than North Berkeley and People's Park.

*Table 4.1. Citizen’s Engagement (Every number counted as one type of activity citizens did, a score of 0 means no engagement at all, 16 means extremely engaging)*

	General	Ashby	North Berkeley	People’s Park
Engagement ( amount of activity types done)	4.4	2.6	4.9	4.5

The distribution of the level of engagement can be seen in more detail in Figure 4.5

*Figure 4.5. Distribution of the level citizen’s engagement*



#### 4.4. Emotions Toward The Housing Development Plans

We analyzed the mean emotional responses of different subgroups regarding the new housing development plans. On average, our Respondents showed significant emotional involvement with the housing development plans (See Table 4.2 for an overview).

Overall, Ashby exhibited more positive emotions toward the plans, showing higher levels of calmness, excitement, happiness, and hopefulness. In contrast, Respondents from North Berkeley and People’s Park displayed more negative

emotions, with increased levels of anxiety, anger, worry, exhaustion, frustration, and disappointment—suggesting an overall more negative attitude compared to the Ashby group. People's Park exhibited the most negative emotions—strongest anger, frustrations, and disappointment—while also demonstrating a comparatively high level of compassion. The high level of compassion also became clear during interviews we had with Respondents. Several people told us how important they found it to be compassionate with the people currently living in the park, and make sure that housing plans would not be at their detriment. Others showed high compassion toward students who cannot afford housing near Berkeley:

*“ You know, there are thousands of students living in cars. The local Berkeley Government had to make some special arrangements so that students don't need to live in cars on the streets. Can you imagine being a student doing some tense work and trying to live out of a car? ” (interview 1 People’s Park)*

*Table 4.2. Respondents’ emotional reactions toward the new housing plans (scale from 1 to 7: 1 = not feeling this emotion at all, 7 = very strongly feeling this emotion)*

	Ashby	North Berkeley	People’s Park
<b>Anxious</b>	2.8	3.8	3.6
<b>Frustrated</b>	2.9	3.9	<b>4.9</b>
<b>Compassionate</b>	4.4	4.0	4.2
<b>Hopeful</b>	<b>4.5</b>	3.8	3.7

#### **4.5. Relationship between engagement and emotions**

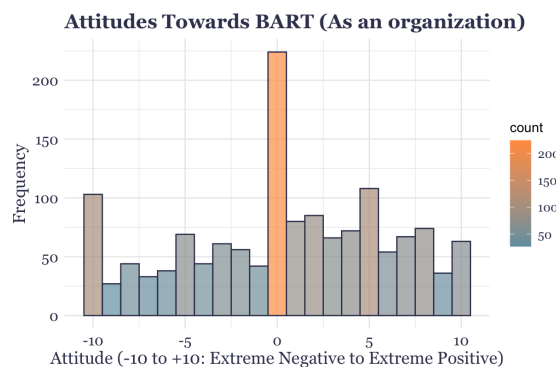
The more people feel negative emotions, the more they engage with the housing development plans. For example, people who are angry about the plans tend to take part in a demonstration more, go more to public meetings, communicate more with public officials, and more often like or share posts on social media. People with stronger positive emotions engage less. This finding shows how negative feelings drive people to become active and voice their opinion. A side effect of this is that the voice of people who feel positive about the plans may become less heard, and that public debate becomes relatively dominated by people who feel negative about the plans.

## 4.6. Perceptions of the Project Developers and the Local Authority

### Attitude towards the developers (BART - as an organization)

Respondents' general attitude towards the developers of the housing development plans (BART - as an organization) tends to be neutral to slightly positive. Most Respondents score 0, which stands for a neutral attitude, neither negative nor positive, see Figure 4.6). Compared to the attitude towards the local government, Respondents did not report very strong orientations toward the project developers.

Figure 4.6 Respondents' attitude towards BART as an organization from Extremely Negative (-10) to Extremely Positive(+10)



### Attitude towards Local Government and UC Berkeley

Respondents' general attitude towards the Local Government (Berkeley Government) varies widely from extremely negative to extremely positive and everything in between. As a side note, Respondents from people's park were asked about their attitude toward UC Berkeley On average. Respondents are close to neutral or just slightly negative. (see Table 4.3)

Table 4.3 Mean values from people's attitudes towards local government and toward UC Berkeley (Only People's Park) from Extremely negative (-10) to Extremely Positive(+10)

	Mean Value from All Respondents	Ashby Respondents	North Berkeley Respondents	People's Park Respondents
Attitudes	0.5	1.1	1.0	-0.6

#### 4.7. Citizens Trust Toward the Government

We measured the extent of public trust in the local government (City of Berkeley) by examining three types of trust. Firstly, intention trust refers to the belief that the local government has good intentions

and aims to act in the best interests of its citizens. Secondly, integrity trust entails confidence in the local government's adherence to high standards of integrity, transparency, and ethical behavior.

Thirdly, competence trust involves belief in the local government's capacity, skills, and experience to effectively perform its functions and deliver service.

*Table 4.4 Respondents' trust in the local government's authority (Berkeley Government), Value ranged from 0 to 7 corresponding to lowest degree of trust (0) to the highest degree of trust (7).*

	<b>Mean Value from All Respondents</b>	<b>Ashby</b>	<b>North Berkeley</b>	<b>People's Park</b>
<b>Intention Trust</b>	3.4	3.7	3.7	2.8
<b>Integrity Trust</b>	3.7	4.1	4.0	3.1
<b>Capacity Trust</b>	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.7

In general, Respondents expressed more trust in the local authority's competence and integrity than in its intentions. This suggests that Respondents tend to have less trust that the local government will act in their interest, but more trust that the government is competent enough to carry out its projects. Respondents from People's Park reported less trust in the local government compared to Respondents from Ashby and North Berkeley, especially when it comes to trust in the intentions and integrity of the city (see Table 4.4).

#### 4.8. Sense of Power

We measured whether Respondents feel that they can get their voice heard with council members, and whether their views can influence council members.

*Table 4.5 Respondents’ Sense of Power in the three cases.*

*Respondents indicated on a scale from 1 to 7 whether they disagree or agree with several statements (1 stands for strongly disagree, 7 stands for strongly agree).*

	Statement	Mean Value from All Respondents	Ashby	North Berkeley	People’s Park
Statement 1	I can get the local council member to listen to what I say.	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.0
Statement 2	I will have a great deal of power in my contact with the local council member.	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.2
Statement 3	I will be able to get the local council member to do what I want.	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2

Table 4.5. shows that Respondents from People’s Park feel less power to influence council members than Respondents involved with North Berkeley and Ashby. For example, on average the Respondents from People’s Park (somewhat) agree that their views little sway with council members, and they disagree with the statement that they have a great deal of power in their contact with council members.

#### 4.9. Further findings

We also found that people who trust the government more, are less inclined to engage with the plan. A possible explanation for this is that people who trust the government feel that they can leave the plan to the government, and that it is not necessary to try to influence the developments and engage with the plans. We further explored whether peoples’ engagement is correlated with their gender.

Unfortunately we could only statistically analyze two genders (male and female)

because we had too few other genders in our sample to analyze that group statistically. We found that men and women engage similarly with the plans, so there is no significant correlation between gender and this housing plan's engagement.

Additionally, our sample did not show a strong correlation between engagement with the plans and education levels. We also tested the correlations between this engagement and people's household income. We found that the more income people make, the less engaged they are with the housing development plans. More research would be needed to explain this finding with certainty. One of the possible explanations could be that high-income groups can often change their living situations more easily compared to low-income groups. Thus, they are less influenced by the housing developments in their community and therefore less motivated to engage compared to groups more affected by it.

## Chapter 5. Discussion and Conclusion

Respondents from Ashby are relatively supportive about the housing plans compared to Respondents from North Berkeley and People's Park. The latter are the most opposed, but it is important to say that there is also a large group of Respondents who strongly support the housing plans for People's Park.

The attitude towards the plans for People's Park is extremely polarized, with almost 70% either extremely against the plans or extremely in favor of it (36% extremely against and and 32% extremely in favor). Such extreme distributions of attitudes are very uncommon in social scientific surveys.

In Berkeley North we also see high percentages of strong opposition or support, but less than in People's Park. How people engage with the plans in Berkeley North also differs from People's Park: people in Berkeley North tend to do this more via formal participatory meetings and procedures.

In Ashby many people feel hope and excitement about the plan. Respondents hope that the planned housing development will provide affordable housing for the community, and that it will improve the area in a spatial sense. Our survey shows that people with negative emotions tend to engage more with the plans than people who feel positive about the plans. Those with negative feelings about the plans voice their opinions more.

## Appendix 1. List of survey questions

<b>Familiarity</b>	What is your current housing situation?	1. Own a house; b. Rent a house or apartment; c. Stay in an RV; d. Stay in a tent; e Other (please write in)
<b>Opposition / Support toward to the plans</b>	How strongly do you oppose or support the planned Berkeley Housing project	Choose from the scale : -10 to +10 from strongly oppose to strongly support
<b>Attitude Toward the Government</b>	Please indicate your general attitude towards the local government (The City of Berkeley)	Choose from the scale : -10 to +10 from very negative to strongly positive
<b>Attitude Toward the BART's train system's idea of the Berkeley housing development plans</b>	Please indicate your general attitude towards BART, as an organization. This question is not about your attitude towards BART's train system, but about BART as an organization involved with the Berkeley housing project	Choose from the scale : -10 to +10 from very negative to strongly positive
<b>Emotions</b>	The following questions are about emotions you may currently have about the Housing Project. We are interested in learning about your current, honest feelings about the planned project	Choose from the scale of 1 to 7 from Not at all to extremely for the following emotions: anxious, angry, calm, excited, relaxed, worried, happy, compassionate, indifferent, hopeful, exhausted, frustrated, resigned, disappointed
<b>Trust toward the local government (the City of Berkeley)</b>	Intention Trust	Choose from the scale of 1 to 7 from Disagree strongly to Agree strongly: 1) will do its best to help me if I need help; 2) acts in my best interest; 3) is interested in my well-being, not just its own



	Integrity Trust	Choose from the scale of 1 to 7 from Disagree strongly to Agree strongly: 1) is sincere; 2) honors its commitments; 3) is honest; 4) is truthful
	Capacity Trust	Choose from scale of 1 to 7: Disagree strongly to Agree strongly: 1) is competent and effective; 2) performs its role in the project very well; 3) is capable and proficient; 4) is knowledgeable
Sense of Power	See section 4.8	

Respondents were asked whether they did one or more of the following activities regarding the project.

<i>Item 1</i>	<i>Looked for information on the planned project</i>
<i>Item 2</i>	<i>Followed the news on the planned project</i>
<i>Item 3</i>	<i>Signed a petition</i>
<i>Item 4</i>	<i>Liked, shared, or posted content about the planned project on social media</i>
<i>Item 5</i>	<i>Wore a badge / put up a yard sign / put up a sticker</i>
<i>Item 6</i>	<i>Donated money to organizations that support your views on the project</i>
<i>Item 7</i>	<i>Attended a public meeting</i>
<i>Item 8</i>	<i>Attended a meeting of an advocacy or residential group</i>
<i>Item 9</i>	<i>Participated in a protest activity against the planned project</i>
<i>Item 10</i>	<i>Raised funds</i>
<i>Item 11</i>	<i>Wrote letter/contribution to newspaper/blog/website</i>
<i>Item 12</i>	<i>Wrote a response to official plans</i>
<i>Item 13</i>	<i>Communicated with an official to give my opinion (face-to-face or via phone, e-mail, mail, or online platform)</i>
<i>Item 14</i>	<i>Voted for an official who supports my views on the planned project</i>
<i>Item 15</i>	<i>Voted in a ballot</i>
<i>Item 16</i>	<i>Distributed flyers</i>
<i>Item 17</i>	<i>Other</i>

## **Appendix 2. Interview topics**

The interviews were adapted for each interview to fit with the role and position of the interviewee. But in general we asked questions about the following subjects:

- Personal background + what role/position the interviewee has in the plans + how the interviewee got involved with the plans
- Feelings of the interviewee about the plans so far + what are emotions commonly felt about the plans in the community
- Personal involvement with the plans + how is the community involved with the plans
- The role of the developer (University/BART) and how the Respondents perceive the developer.
- What opportunities did the community have to get involved with the plans and get their voice heard

## Appendix 3. Overview of interviews (anonymized)

### In-depth interviews

Date	Time	Case	Role / affiliation
14 Oct 22	15-16.15	People's Park	People's Park user and Activist
14/Oct/22	15-16.15	People's Park	People's Park Council
18/Oct/22	15-16.15	People's Park	UC Berkeley, Public Affairs
19/Oct/22		Ashby BART and People's Park	Board Flea Market, Member of community advisory group
19/Oct/22	11-12.30	People's Park	Defend People's Park
22 Nov/22	15h - 16:15h	North Berkeley Bart	Resident
20 Nov 2022		People's Park	UC Berkeley, Public Affairs
21 Oct/22	12:30-14.45	Berkeley North BART	Community Advisory Group BART Berkeley North, resident North Berkeley
22/Oct/22	15:30-16:30	Ashby Bart	Community Advisory Group BART Ashby and North, Green Church
25/Oct/22	10:30-11:45	Berkeley North BART	Community Advisory Group BART Ashby and North, resident Berkeley Hills
26/Oct/22	16:00-17.00	Berkeley North BART and Ashby BART	BART
26/Oct/22	16:00-17.00	Berkeley North BART and Ashby BART	BART
26/Oct/22	19:15-20:00	Ashby BART + North Berkeley a bit	Community Advisory Group BART North and Ashby
02/Nov/22	14:30 - 15.38	People's Park	TBID Telegraph Road
03/Nov/22	12-13h	North Berkeley + Ashby BART	Official of City of Berkeley
17/Nov/22	8:40-9.20	Ashby BART	South Berkeley Now! and Resident Ashby Area

<b>Short Informal Interviews</b>			
20/Nov/22	13.15-13.25	Ashby BART	vendor
20/Nov/22	13.30-13.40	Ashby BART	vendor
20/Nov/22	13.45-13.55	Ashby BART	vendor
20/Nov/22	14.15-14.20	Ashby BART	vendor
20/Nov/22	14.25-14.30	Ashby BART	vendor
02/Dec/22	11h	People's Park	user People's Park
02/Dec/22	11h	People's Park	user People's Park
02/Dec/22	11h	People's Park	user People's Park
02/Dec/22	11h	People's Park	user People's Park
02/Dec/22	11h	People's Park	user People's Park
19/Oct/22	10.40-10.50	Ashby BART	Affiliated with a local café

## **Appendix 4. Groups and newsletters where the survey was announced/shared**

South Berkeley Now!

North Berkeley Now!

TBID (Telegraph Business Improvement District)

People's Park News e-maillist

### **Groups that did not share the survey**

North Berkeley Neighbourhood Alliance