

# Renters Commission Listening Session





## Purpose of the listening session

The intent was to hear **directly** from tenants in the city about their rental experiences.

The goal is to use this information as a baseline to understand where we should be putting our efforts as a commission to help guide our work and policy recommendations.



# How did we recruit for the event?

## **Paper flyers**

Posted them outside in various sections of the city focusing on different rental communities

## **Social Media**

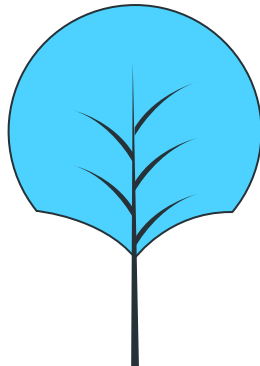
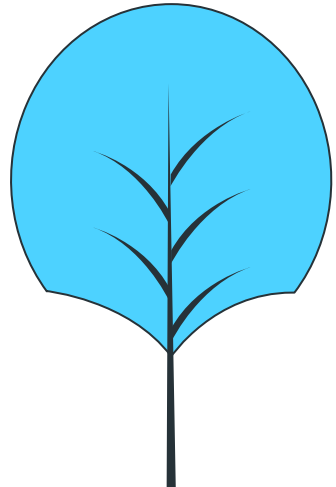
Encouraged people to share the digital flyer

## **Newsletters**

Included the event information in Ann Arbor Public Schools Parent Newsletter

## **Prior Connections**

Shared the event with the Renters Commission listserv and other connections from previous events



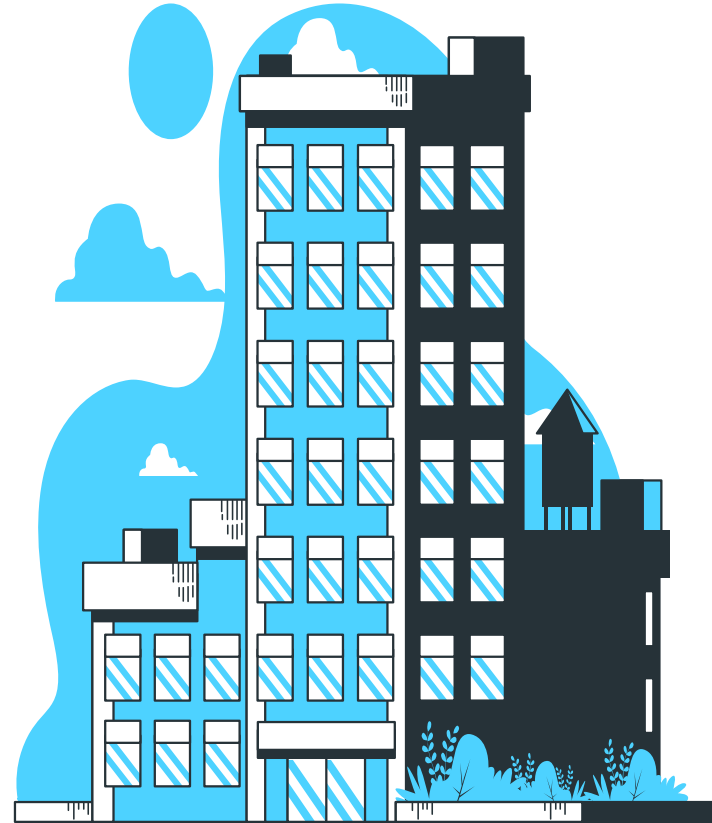
# What worked well?

## Location

- Sculpture Park
  - Outdoor venue- more informal setting
  - Allowed people to come and go
  - Visible to passersby in a busy area of town (across from the farmers market)

## Format of the event

- More of a “meet and greet”
  - Allowed for more personal connections and intimate conversations



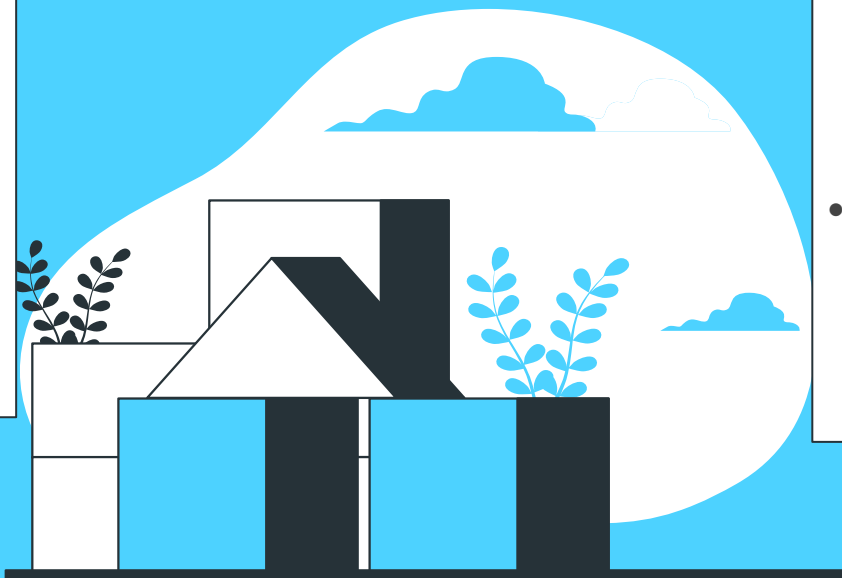
# What can we improve?

## Recruitment

- Ensuring we have a large enough window of time before the event to get the word out.
- Targeting all renters in the city to make sure we're not missing certain neighborhoods or complexes.

## Accessibility

- Provide a variety of meeting formats (in person/virtual), occurring at different days/times of the week
- Choosing different locations across the city that will be more centralized to different neighborhoods.



# Other Considerations

## Ethics

How do we ensure all community members are adequately supported through this process and feel heard and respected?

-Can we implement some of the City's ethical engagement practices/use the toolkit as a guide?

## Trust

How do we build trust with tenants so they feel comfortable attending/sharing their experience at a listening session?

-How can we engage in *active* advocacy within the scope of our role as commissioners?

## Response

How do we elevate issues when we learn of a situation where tenants are experiencing active harm (discrimination, threats, eviction)

-Is it appropriate to have a different response for tenants who are vulnerable and/or hold a marginalized identity?



# We would love to hear from YOU!

- Please feel free to share any ideas or suggestions for listening sessions going forward!
- Attend our next education committee meeting to be part of the ongoing conversation

