



## Community Visioning Survey Summary

To gather insight into community priorities for the future of the Lane Events Center (LEC), a LEC Community Visioning Survey was conducted as part of the Master Planning process. The survey provided insights into what the community currently values about the LEC and how the LEC should continue to evolve for the next 10-20 years.

The survey was open and available for the community to participate from February 10, 2025 to February 24, 2025 and was available in both English and Spanish (*see Appendix A for the survey*). The community was encouraged to participate through a variety of outreach efforts, including:

- Lane County E-newsletter
- Lane Events Center Email list
- Lane Events Center Master Plan Project List
- Project Website
- Social media promotion
- Press Release and Earned Media
- Direct outreach to CBOS and community groups

A total of 646 surveys were completed.

The feedback collected from this survey will help shape the long-term vision for the LEC, ensuring it reflects the evolving needs, values, and aspirations of the community.

### Survey Respondent Profile

To better understand the perspectives captured in the survey, respondents were asked about their familiarity with the Lane Events Center, as well as their priorities for its future. The survey gathered insights on how frequently respondents visit the LEC, the types of events they attend, and their perceptions of the center's role in the community.

Additionally, participants provided demographic information, including their age, zip code, and other relevant characteristics.

With over 600+ responses, community members identified their level of familiarity with the Lane Events Center: 45.51% were **Very Familiar** and 38.854% were **Extremely Familiar** with the LEC. Around 16% were **Somewhat** or **Not Familiar** with the LEC (*figure 1*).

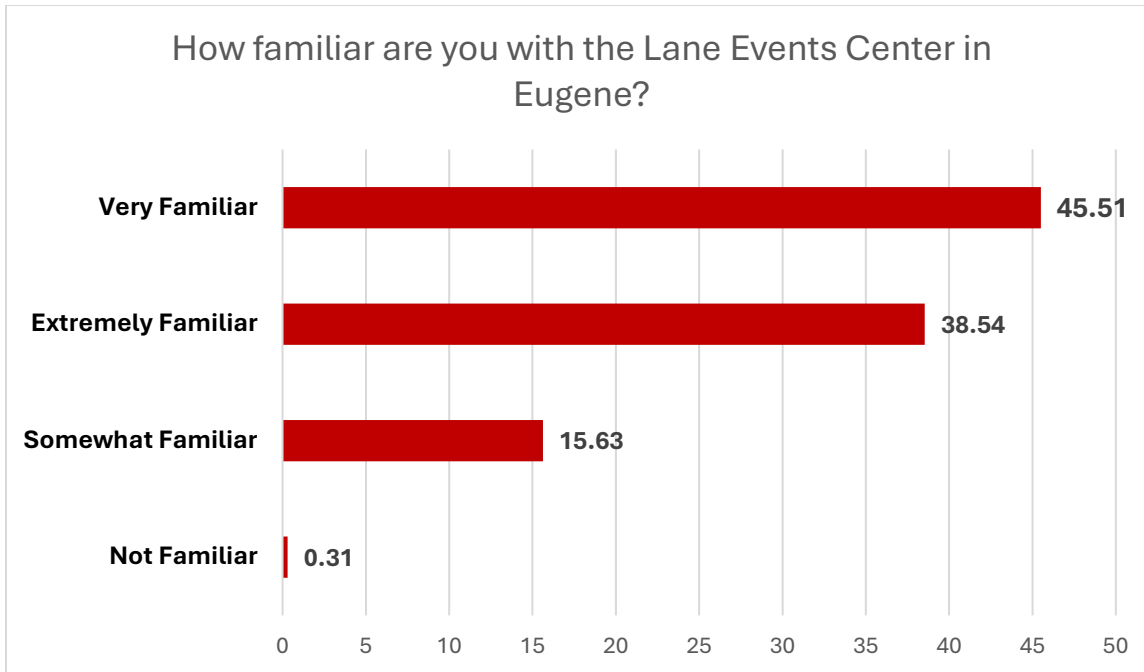


Figure 1: How respondents are familiar with the LEC

In addition to familiarity, respondents were asked if they have visited the LEC in the last three years. The majority of responses indicated yes (95.82%) and 4% indicated no (figure 2).

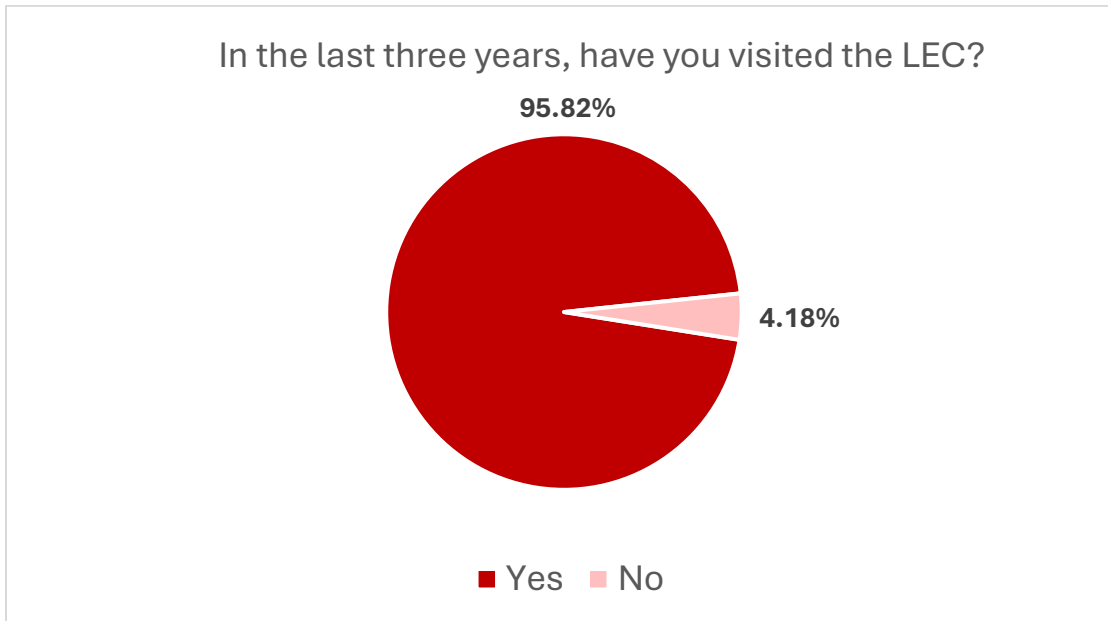


Figure 2: Have respondents visited the LEC in the last three years

Respondents were asked to identify which activities or events that they have attended at the LEC (Figure 3). Around 80% of respondents indicated that they have attended **A flea market or holiday market** (80.50%), **Lane County Fair** (79.57%), and **A convention or tradeshow**

(76.32%). The **Activity at the Lane Center** (38.70%), **A show or concert** (25.54%), **Emergency Services** (21.67%), and **Sports game or event** (21.52%) options were all between 20-35% of respondents.

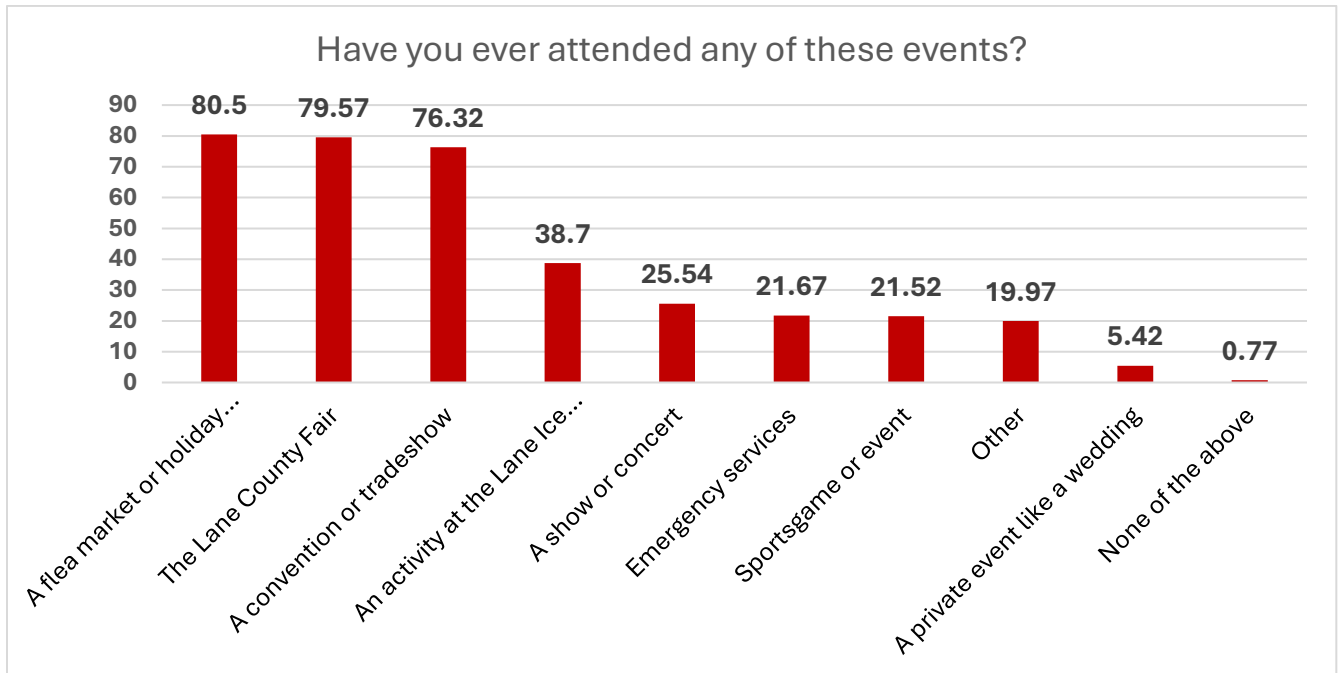


Figure 3: Responses to which events respondents attended at the LEC

The “**Other**” option had around 130 responses. The Responses were categorized into 4 main themes shown below:

### Community Engagement and Nonprofit Events

Community-driven events were mentioned frequently as another option that respondents identified with as events they attend at the LEC. These included book sales, fundraisers, and cultural gatherings.

*“Friends of the Library Book Sale, KLCC Brewfest, Itty Bitty Boutique”*

*“Lane County leadership Summit, A State of Oregon Transportation Public Meeting”*

*“Chef’s Night Out, Fundraisers, Asian Celebration, Fill Your Pantry, flea market”*

### Sports and Special Interest Events

Sports hobbyist events, and niche competitions were frequently cited. Many of the respondents identified volleyball games, home shows, and similar events hosted at the LEC.

*“We rode horses three times a week when the equestrian center was still open.”*

*“Webfoot Volleyball Club, Youth Volleyball Practice, Sports practice”*

## Recreational Use and Informal Gatherings

Respondents noted using the LEC grounds informally for personal and recreational purposes such as walking, biking, and dog-related activities.

*"I took my kids to the LEC parking lot on non-event mornings when they were learning bicycling and later when they were learning to drive"*

*"Dog walking on the grounds, a place to teach the kids to drive"*

*"Walking through frequently, I bike through the property"*

*"Plant sales, dog walks, biking"*

## Emergency Services and Community Support

Many respondents mentioned their participation in emergency-related services, including warming shelters and disaster response efforts.

*"Egan warming center volunteer"*

*"Worked the farm animal evacuation for the Holiday Farm fire"*

*"COVID vaccination site, emergency weather shelter volunteer"*

*"I would be counting on it in an emergency, just haven't had to yet"*

The survey collected demographic information from respondents, including how long they have lived in Lane County (Table 1). 66.50% of respondents indicated that they have lived in Lane County for 20+ years. Around 16% have lived in the County between 10-20 years and 11% between 5-10 years. Less than 7% have lived in the County for less than 5 years.

Years of living in Lane County	
<b>20+ years</b>	66.50%
<b>10-20 years</b>	15.93%
<b>5-10 years</b>	10.73%
<b>0-5 years</b>	6.83%

Table 1: Years respondents have lived in Lane County

587 respondents provided their zip codes to show where responses were coming from geographically.

- The majority of responses (66%) came from three primary Eugene ZIP codes:
  - **97405 (South Eugene)** - 29%
  - **97402 (West Eugene)** - 21%
  - **97401 (Central/North Eugene)** - 16%

- Additional Eugene-area ZIP codes included **97404 (North Eugene), 97403 (Southeast Eugene), 97408 (Coburg/Northeast Eugene), and 97477/97478 (Springfield)**, which collectively contributed about **25%** of responses.
- Responses from outside the Eugene-Springfield metro area (such as Cottage Grove, Veneta, Florence, and Creswell) made up approximately 9% of the total.
- A small number of responses (less than 1%) came from outside of Lane County, including some out-of-state ZIP codes.

Respondents were asked to identify their age (*Figure 4*). More than 40% identified with being 65 years or older. **45-54** age range and **55-64** were both close to 20%. **35-44** accounted for 14% of responses and less than 8% for **34 and under**.

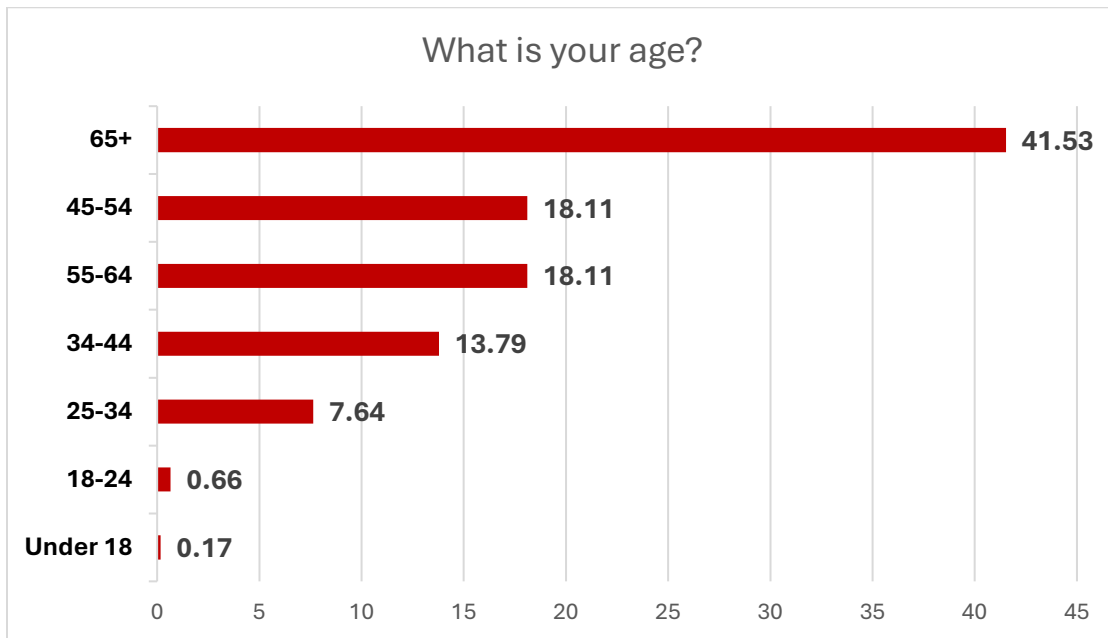


Figure 4: Age of respondents

Participants identified their gender with 58.47% identifying as **Female** and 33.55% identifying as **Male** (*Table 2*). Around 2% identified as either **Transgender** or **Another Gender**. Around 6.15% **Preferred Not to Answer**.

Participant's Gender	
<b>Female</b>	58.47%
<b>Male</b>	33.55%
<b>Transgender</b>	0.17%
<b>Another gender</b>	1.66%
<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	6.15%

Table 2: Gender of participants

Respondents were asked to identify their race and ethnicity. 81.17% identified as White. Around 15% preferred not to say. Hispanic or Latinos accounted for 1.67% of responses, followed by Asian (1.50%), Black or African American (0.33%), Middle Eastern or North African (0.33%), and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.17%).

## Key Themes and Highlights

Question 4 : The mission of the LEC is to enrich the lives of Lane County residents by providing programs that support family, youth, and community values; supporting the visitor and convention industry; encouraging local and small business opportunities; and providing a venue for community celebrations and events. Which pieces are the most important part of the mission for LEC to fulfill? (chose all that apply)

Respondents were asked to identify which elements are the most important for the LEC to fulfill regarding the mission (Figure 5). 80% of survey takers identified **Programs that support family, youth, and community values** as the most important. **Venue for community celebrations and events** followed with more than 75%. **Visitor and convention industry** and **Local and small business opportunities** were around 50-60. Around 20% of respondents (127) chose to specify other options.

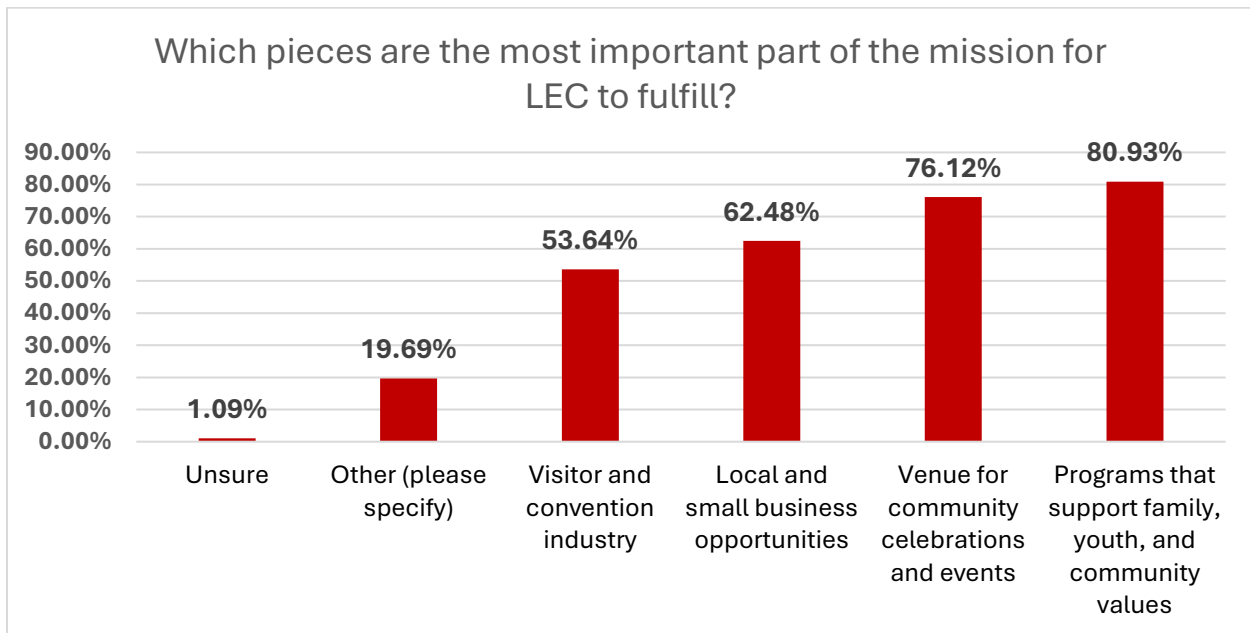


Figure 5: Most important of the LEC mission to be fulfilled

Three of the main themes from the “**Other**” responses are shown below:

### **Emergency Management and Community Resilience**

The responses emphasized the importance of maintaining LEC as a community asset for disaster response, sheltering, and emergency operations. Key concerns included ensuring space for wildfire evacuation, emergency weather shelters, and staging areas for disaster relief.

*“Preserving a large gathering area for disaster/emergency relief and recovery operations”*

*“Opportunity for it to be a place to go to in the event of an emergency and used as a shelter space in freezing weather”*

*“Community needs—shelter, vaccinations, emergencies, etc., are the most important”*

### **Expanding Sports Facilities and Opportunities**

Many respondents emphasized the need for more indoor and outdoor sports facilities to accommodate youth and adult leagues, as well as to position Eugene as a destination for sporting events.

*“Lane County is in desperate need of more youth indoor/outdoor sports fields and courts”*

*“Indoor space availability for sport events that both allow community/club use but can also host sporting events in the wintertime—prioritizing events that drive overnight visitors and a return for economic development”*

*“There should be venues to host youth sporting events that make Eugene a destination - especially during the summer - baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball, ice hockey all have a need for venues”*

### **Arts & Culture and Community Values**

This theme highlights the LEC as a vital community hub, hosting arts, cultural events, charitable gatherings, and social services. Many emphasized the need for affordable access for nonprofits and events that reflect Lane County’s diverse values.

*“This lane is a hub for community and learning... and I would love to see more connection to community events”*

*“Providing a fun, safe place for children and families is very important to me”*

*“Nonprofit organizations allowed reduced or free use for approved events”*

Question 5: Are there any areas that the mission does not capture that you feel are important?

Respondents were then asked if there were any areas that the mission does not capture that they felt were important. This included **206** responses across 11 identified categories. Four themes from the most common categories are shown below:

### **Expanding Sports Facilities and Youth Recreation Opportunities**

This theme highlights the strong demand for expanded sports and recreation facilities at the LEC, with a focus on youth sports, multi-use venues, and accessible recreation options. Many responses emphasized the need for more indoor and outdoor sports spaces, improved amenities, and facilities that support both local and regional sporting events.

*"It is time to build an indoor multi-use sports facility including an indoor track"*

*"Specifically, a venue for youth sports and activities, which is vital to youth in our community"*

*"Sports opportunities for locals and regional tournaments"*

### **Emergency Shelter and Disaster Response**

Respondents shared their priorities for the Lane Events Center's role in disaster response, including mass sheltering, extreme weather relief, and emergency coordination. Many respondents highlighted the need for dedicated emergency facilities, with a focus on warming and cooling centers, sheltering unhoused individuals, and public health support during crises.

*"Providing an accessible location for warming or cooling during extreme weather. Providing a location for mass sheltering and mobilization or coordination for disaster response"*

*"Lane County does not have an emergency shelter in Eugene, and this space is very important for these needs in the community"*

*"Yes, supporting community members in emergencies, such as cold weather, natural disasters, etc."*

### **Enhancing Art, Culture, and Local Heritage**

Respondents highlighted their desire for more arts, cultural programming, and historical preservation at the LEC. Many respondents emphasized the need for affordable creative spaces, expanded support for local artists, and better integration of the Lane County History Museum and agricultural heritage.

*"I think more inclusion of local performing arts would be good"*

*"Lack of rehearsal space for both arts organizations and individual artists is killing the local performing arts in this area. Can spaces at the LEC be used for these capacities?"*



*"I don't see Lane County History Museum included in the LEC description on your website or in your mission. It is a very important site, for its historical value as well as a destination for tourism"*

### Strengthening LEC's Role in Economic Growth and Regional Tourism

Respondents emphasized the LEC's potential to drive local and regional economic growth by attracting businesses, visitors, and investment. Many respondents pointed out the importance of better integration with downtown businesses, supporting small businesses, and maximizing tourism opportunities through conventions, markets, and year-round events.

*"Supporting a vibrant economy by welcoming visitors, conventions, and sports events"*

*"The space needs to support year-round travel and tourism"*

### Question 6: What are the most important elements the LEC offers our community?

Question 6 allowed respondents to identify their 3 most important elements that they believed the LEC offers to the community (Figure 6). **Emergency services (such as: sheltering in disasters, warming center)** and **Opportunities for residents from Lane County to gather** received around 50%. **Providing youth-focused programs, including sports and 4-H, The Lane County Fair, and Being centrally located in downtown Eugene** all received between 35-40 percent. The rest of the options were under 20 percent. The **"Other"** option received 10% (65 responses) which are summarized into 3 main themes.

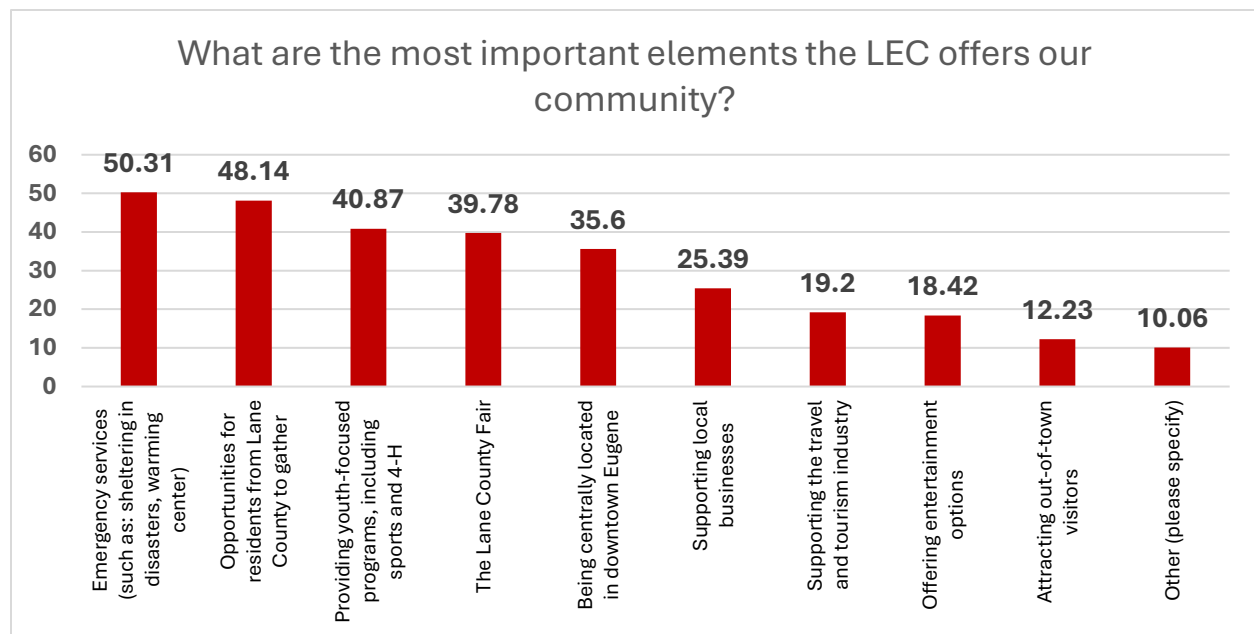


Figure 6: Most important elements the LEC offers the community

The “**Other**” option received 65 responses which are summarized into three main themes below:

### **Central Space for Cultural Inclusion and Community Gathering**

Respondents described the LEC’s role as an accessible and inclusive space that supports arts, culture, history, and diverse community gatherings. Many respondents noted the importance of representation, historical preservation, and serving as a neutral “third space” for all walks of life.

*“The LEC is a well-located and central gem in Eugene. It eases urban crowding while at the same time welcoming EVERY walk of life”*

*“Particularly important as a ‘third’ space (not work, not home, but other)”*

*“Being a place for Lane County citizens to gather for varying reasons- Piccadilly, 4H, quilt shows, concerts, vaccination site, HomeShow, but also attracting outsiders like the gem faire, the logging equipment, the gun show, the knife show.”*

### **Enhancing Sports Facilities and Diversifying Recreational Options**

Respondents highlighted the need for greater investment in sports and recreation facilities, particularly in lesser-known sports, the Ice Center, and underutilized areas. Respondents emphasized the importance of providing diverse athletic opportunities and ensuring that existing spaces are used effectively to serve the community.

*“Lane Ice Center—greater investment in the Ice Center would open the door to hosting skating events, including Ducks Hockey and skate competitions”*

*“Supporting lesser-known sports and clubs, from gymnastics to chess tournaments”*

### **Hub for Markets, Economic Activity, and Community Growth**

Responses suggested the LEC has a role in supporting local businesses, farmers, and regional economic activity. Respondents emphasized the importance of markets, trade shows, and events that connect local producers to consumers while drawing diverse visitors to Eugene.

*“Events like Fill Your Pantry, and Master Gardener Association Plant Sale—connecting local farms and producers to local consumers”*

*“Best thing is having the different trade shows, sales, markets every weekend that pull in different kinds of people from all over”*

*“Being an important asset that plays a critical role in boosting the economy”*

### Question 7: How important is each one to you personally?

Question 7 asked participants to rank the importance of various elements offered by the LEC using the options: *Not Important, Somewhat Important, Very Important, and Extremely Important* (Figure 7).

**Emergency services** was the element most frequently rated as *Extremely Important* by respondents.

Other elements that received an *Extremely Important* rating above 30% included:

- **Being centrally located in downtown Eugene**
- **Opportunities for Lane County residents to gather**
- **Providing youth-focused programs**

**Attracting out-of-town visitors** and **Supporting the travel and tourism industry** were ranked as less important. Conversely, **Supporting local businesses** was highly valued, with over 70% of respondents rating it as *Very Important* or *Extremely Important*.

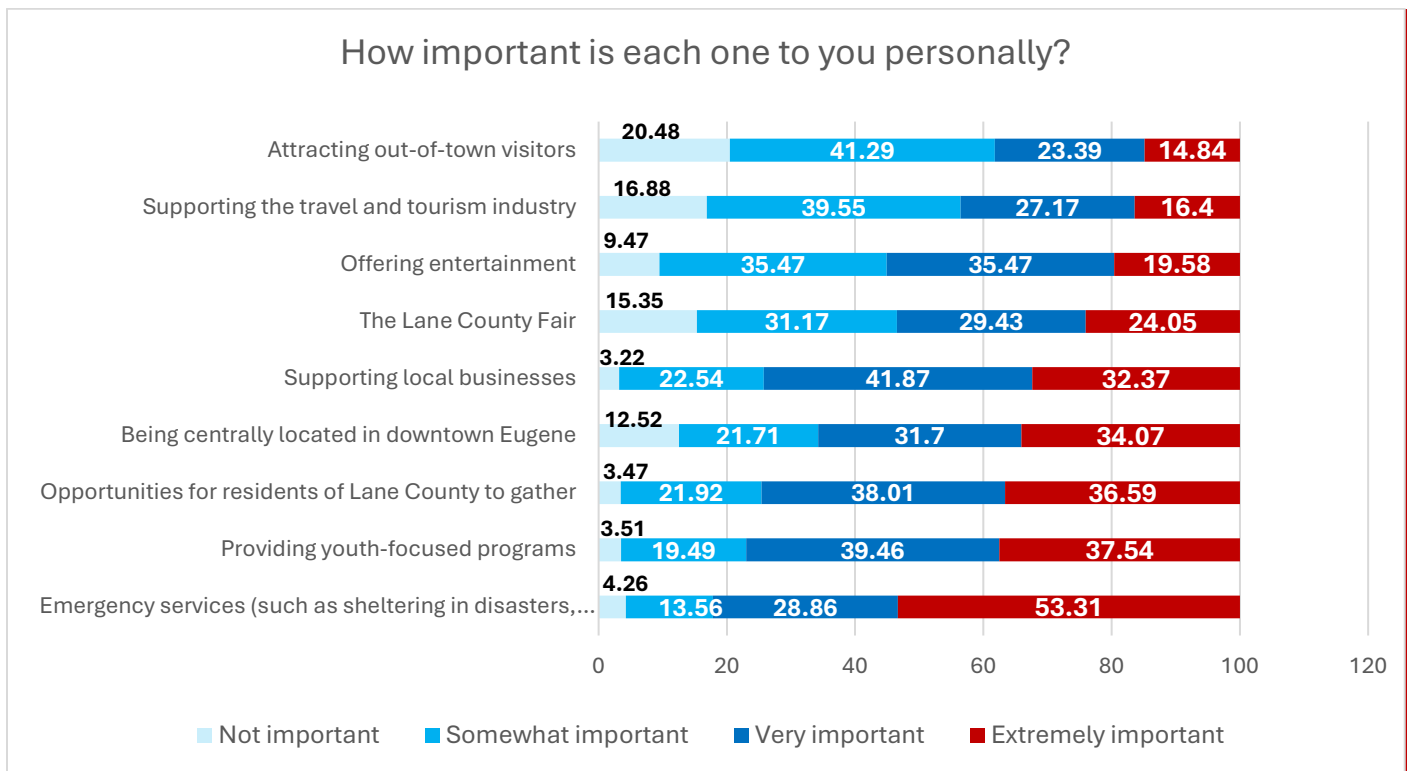


Figure 7: Level of importance for various elements of the LEC

**Question 8: How generally satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the LEC in providing the items below?**

Respondents were asked to rank their level of satisfaction with the elements that the LEC provides (Figure 8). The options included: *Satisfied, Somewhat Satisfied, Somewhat Dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, and Unsure.*

Respondents were most satisfied with the LEC **Being centrally located in downtown Eugene** (86% Satisfied and somewhat satisfied).

The options, **Opportunities for residents of Lane County to gather** and **The Lane County Fair** were the next highest ratings among satisfaction. Respondents were either *unsure* of their satisfaction or *dissatisfied* regarding **Offering entertainment options, Attracting out-of-town visitors, and Supporting the travel and tourism industry** (around 25-40% combined).

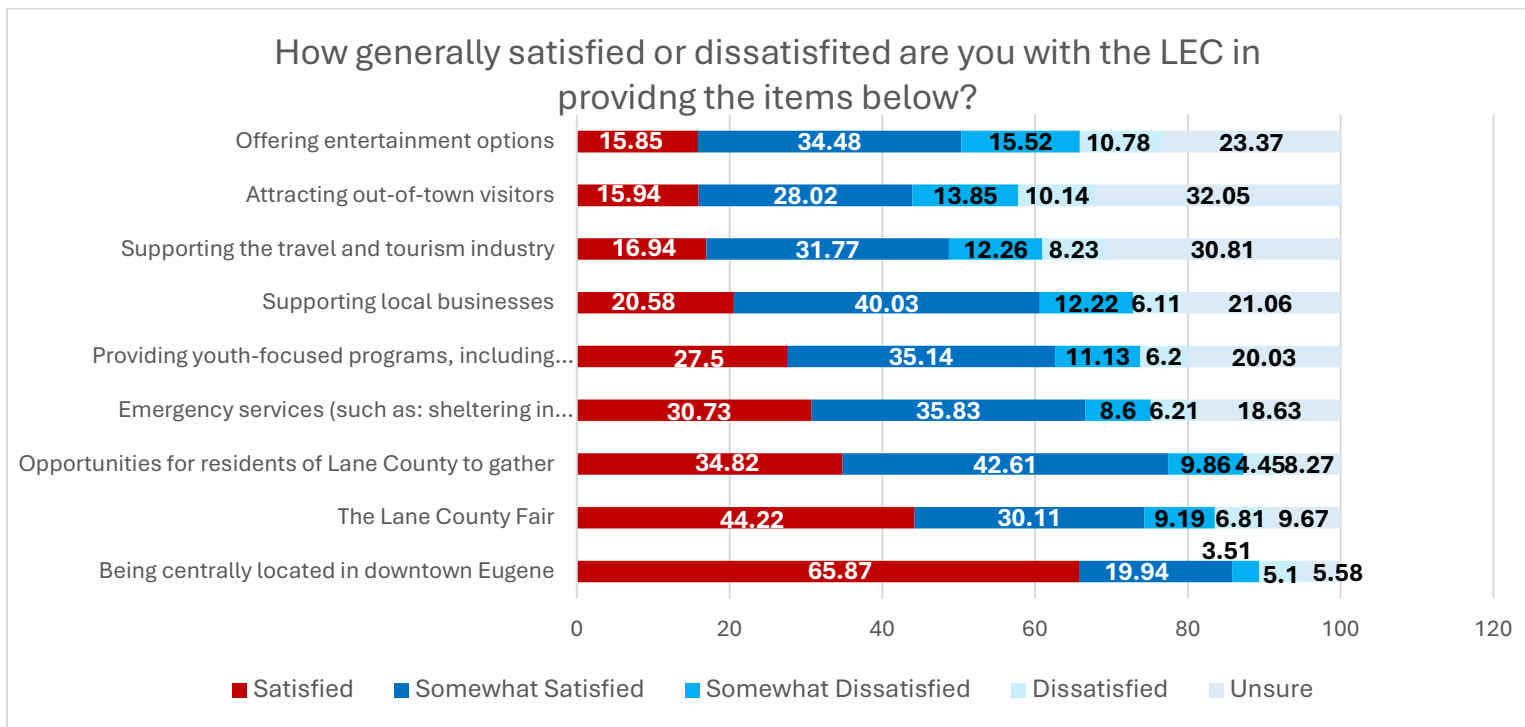


Figure 8: Level of satisfaction with elements provided by the LEC

Respondents also provided feedback in the “Other (please specify)” option with **64** responses. Three themes of the responses are highlighted below:

**Balancing Economic Growth with Community Impact**

Respondents highlighted the importance of attracting events and visitors to support local businesses and tourism, while also addressing concerns about event selection, noise, and

environmental impact. Respondents had mixed perspectives on what types of events should be prioritized for economic benefit.

*"Attracting out-of-town visitors does support the travel & tourism industry and support local businesses. It also supports the operations of the event center"*

*"Get Eugene on the Casino music circuit during the summer"*

### **Diversifying Events and Enhancing Accessibility and Community Appeal**

Respondents expressed their desire for a wider variety of entertainment options at the Lane Events Center, including concerts, seasonal festivals, and reimagined fair experiences. Additionally, some respondents emphasized the need for better accessibility and noise considerations given the center's location near residential areas.

*"Would love to see more concerts happen at the Lane Events Center other than just at the Lane County Fair"*

*"The Halloween scare show, the Cirque de Soleil type shows, the winter light festival are enjoyed by many—maybe more of this type of entertainment could be added (and advertised) more effectively"*

*"Having the Fairgrounds locked instead of providing walk and bikeways through has been deeply frustrating over the past 15 years"*

### **Best Use and Location of LEC**

Respondents shared opinions on whether the LEC should remain in its current location or be repurposed for other community needs. Some respondents suggested relocating the LEC or the Fair, while others felt the land could be used for housing or public services instead.

*"I think the Lane County Fair is important, but should be located somewhere else."*

*"The Lane Events Center having a central location is totally unimportant, and the land could be better utilized for more important critical needs, i.e. a hospital, housing, homeless assistance"*

**Question 9: How well do you feel the current events, programs and services at LEC aligns with the needs, priorities, and values of the community?**

Question 9 evaluates respondents' perceptions of how well the events, programs, and services at the LEC align with their community's needs, priorities, and values (*Figure 9*). The ranking options included: *Very Well, Somewhat Well, Neutral, Not Very Well, Not at All, and Unsure. Somewhat*

Well received the highest rating at 44.08% followed by *Neutral* (21.81%) and *Very Well* (16.04%). Around 14% rated either *Not Very Well* or *Not at All*.

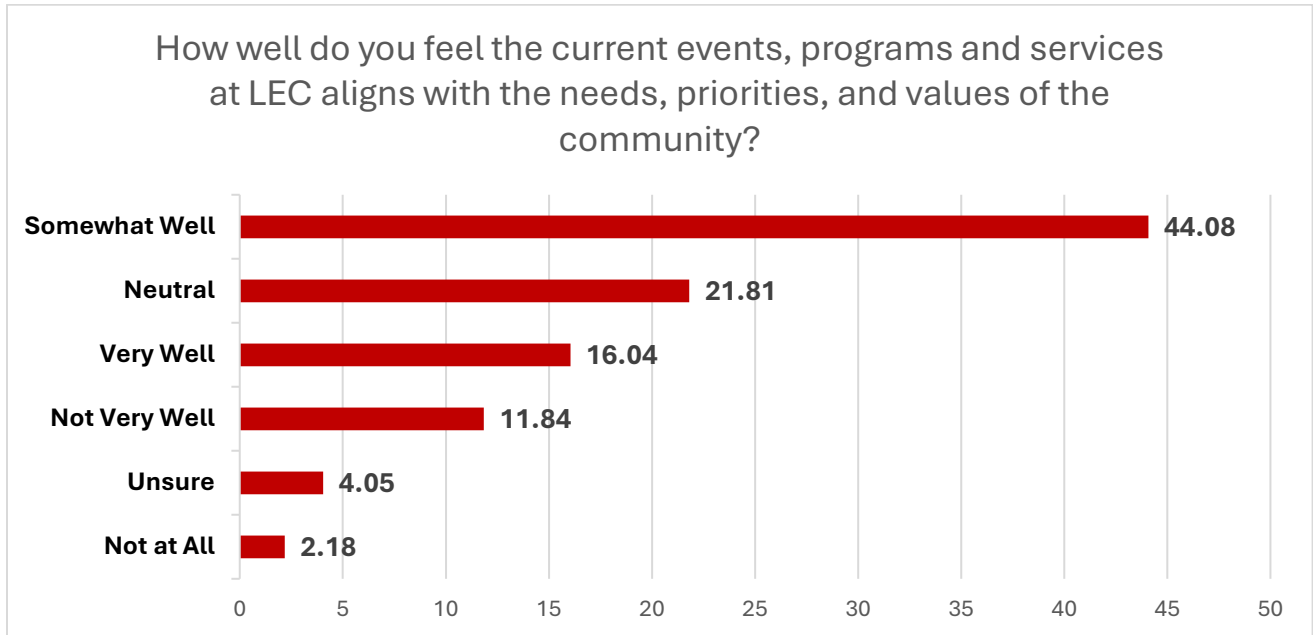


Figure 9: How respondents feel towards LEC offerings in relation to community needs, priorities, and values

Respondents provided **230** responses for additional feedback on Question 9. Below are four highlighted themes based on the responses.

**Community Engagement Through Inclusive and Relevant Programming**

Respondents expressed their desire for more inclusive, accessible, and community-centered events at the LEC. Respondents highlighted concerns about event selection, emergency shelter use, affordability, and the need for more diverse programming that reflects the evolving values of the community.

*“Need more youth-oriented events and activities”*

*“Would like to see smaller gatherings of artists, musicians, clubs, and tradespeople who would not have to put up massive insurance to partake of the congenial setting, perhaps on a rental basis”*

**Expanding Access to Arts and Cultural Events**

Respondents shared feedback on the need for more inclusive, community-centered arts and cultural programming at the LEC. Respondents emphasized better access for local residents, stronger promotion of events, and a focus on gatherings that reflect the diversity of Lane County.

*“There is a huge need for multicultural spaces and space where all can feel safe”*

*"I don't hear much about what's happening at LEC unless it's on a billboard. How about creating and promoting an easily accessed, searchable calendar of activities?"*

### **Improving and Expanding Sports and Recreation Facilities for Youth and Community**

Respondents highlighted the need for better sports and recreation facilities at the LEC, with a strong focus on youth sports, improved infrastructure, and more diverse recreation opportunities. Respondents emphasized that existing buildings are underutilized, outdated, or could be repurposed for community sports.

*"I don't feel like it's meeting the needs of our youth sports programs well enough. The buildings need a lot of improvement, especially the bathrooms"*

*"The vision of an indoor multiuse sports facility would serve local youth and adults and provide tournament space to drive year-round economic activity"*

### **Balancing Community Needs with Neighborhood Impact**

Respondents shared concerns about the underutilization of the LEC and the impact of certain events on surrounding neighborhoods. Respondents expressed a desire for more youth-focused and community-oriented programming while raising concerns about noise, air pollution, and the suitability of LEC's location.

*"The fair and holiday market are great, but the loud intrusive events like car races that impact the neighborhood by violating noise nuisance codes are not okay"*

*"Need more youth-focused programs and less business programs"*

*"LEC needs to be a better citizen—turn down the volume or get a better sound system, and no more auto sports roaring and stinking because, hello, climate change and air pollution already affect Eugene badly at certain times of the year"*

**Question 10:** Assuming that all the facilities and buildings at the LEC will be upgraded, what are your top three priorities for the future of the Lane Events Center?

Under the assumption that all facilities and buildings at the LEC were to be upgraded, respondents were asked to identify their top three priority areas (*Figure 10*).

**Offering emergency services** was a category that received the most responses with around 50%. **Opportunities for residents of County to gather** and **Programs and spaces dedicated to youth, sports, and 4-H** received around 40%.

**Supporting the travel and tourism industry** and **Attracting out-of-town visitors** received around 15% or less. The rest of the options were between 20-30 percent.

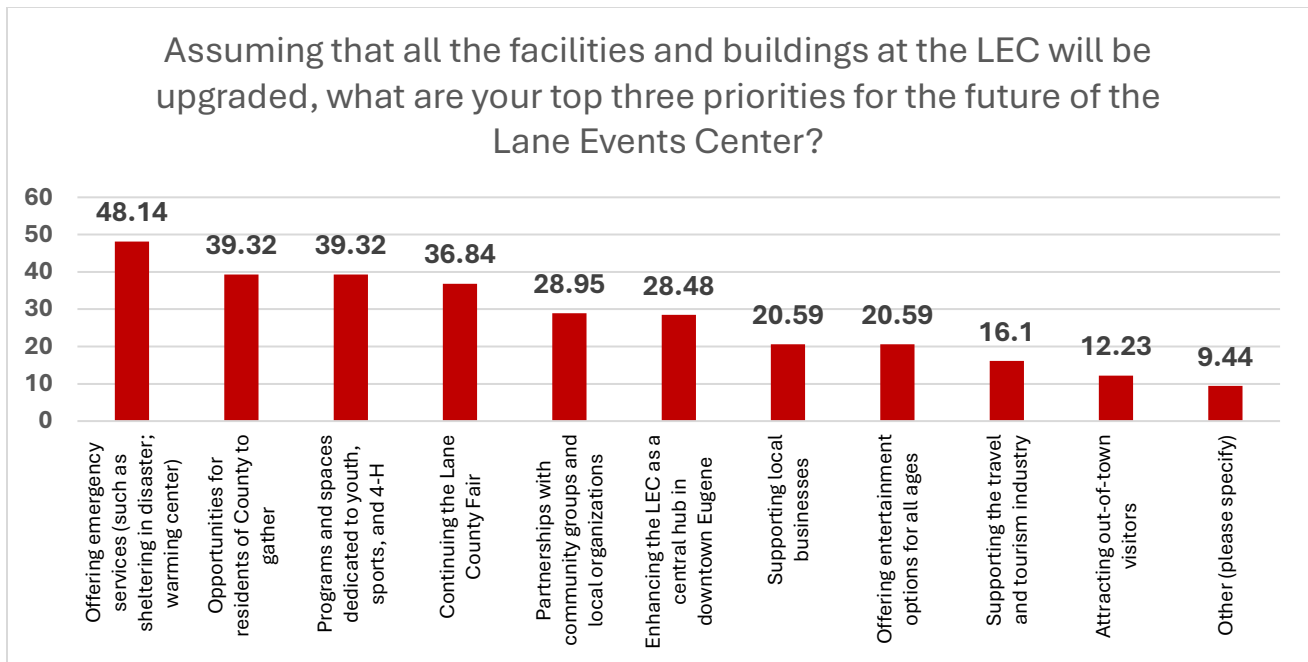


Figure 10: Respondent priorities or facilities and buildings at the LEC

The **“Other”** option received about 10% (61 responses) with open-ended feedback. Below are the 3 themes highlighted from the responses.

### Adding Cultural and Artistic Opportunities

Respondents desired to strengthen arts and cultural programming at the LEC, including expanding museum offerings, maintaining popular events like the Holiday Market, and providing dedicated spaces for local artists and performers.

*“Rehearsal and performance space for local performing arts organizations and individuals”*

*“Promoting Lane County History Museum”*

*“Events such as Clay Fest, flower and garden shows, etc.”*

### Investing in Modern Sports Facilities and Community Recreation

Respondents highlighted the need for improved and expanded sports infrastructure at the LEC including better tournament facilities, indoor multi-use spaces, and support for youth and adult recreational leagues.

*“Large indoor sports tournament space that is flexible and can support expo/trade show use and provide climate-controlled emergency services space when needed”*

*“Please add more recreation for the community. Additional skating or an aquatic center would be a huge support to the community and a money generator”*



## **Community Needs Vs. Redevelopment**

Respondents offer diverging opinions on how the LEC should be used moving forward. Some respondents see it as a key community resource that should expand its role in recreation, events, and social services, while some others believe the site should be repurposed for housing or relocated to better fit the city's needs.

*"Again, broken record here... There is a dire need for decent, multi-use, indoor sports venues in our community"*

*"Large (10,000+) outdoor concert venue, to attract more shows to Eugene"*

*"LEC site should partner to redevelop some of its parking lots into mixed-income housing and more indoor facilities."*

**Question 11: Beyond its current uses, do you see other community needs or priorities that the LEC property could fulfill?**

Question 11 was an open-ended prompt inviting participants to share their thoughts on additional community needs or priorities that the LEC property could address. A total of 276 responses were received, revealing four key themes, which are outlined below:

### **Need for a Multi-Use Indoor Sports Facility**

Many responses highlighted the necessity of a multi-use indoor sports facility to support both local and visiting athletes, provide year-round recreational opportunities, and contribute to the local economy.

*"An indoor sports facility for our local sports and to bring people to Eugene. Also still serves as an emergency shelter"*

*"A multi-use indoor sports facility would be available for youth sports events, could attract out-of-town visitors to support the economy and local jobs"*

*"We are underbuilt for indoor sports space, so let's invest in something that is proven to pay for itself while serving to meet the needs of local youth and adults who need practice and play space"*

### **Increase Arts and Cultural Events and Facilities**

Many responses highlighted the necessity of a multi-use indoor sports facility to support both local and visiting athletes, provide year-round recreational opportunities, and contribute to the local economy.

*"More frequent concerts and daytime community events that aren't focused on commerce. With the large inside space, this is especially salient in the wintertime"*

*"The LEC could serve as a cultural hub with value-added institutions placed on its campus to enhance its attraction to visitors and events"*

*"Outside of Cuthbert, there are not any outside venues for a concert on the lawn or picnic area. We have a lot of parks with walking trails but nothing like a bandshell or natural/casual music venue"*

### **Creating a More Accessible and Community Oriented environment**

Many responses highlight a desire for the LEC property to be more integrated with the surrounding neighborhood and serve as a community gathering space. This includes improving accessibility, adding green spaces, and supporting recreational activities. There is also an interest in reducing negative neighborhood impacts while ensuring the space remains beneficial to both residents and visitors.

*"An outdoor swap meet would be great, a roller skating rink would be amazing"*

*"The fairgrounds is a large centrally located piece of real estate. It should not be locked down. I remember when people could use the bridges and gates to pass through the fairgrounds"*

*\*There were also a significant among of responses referencing the baseball stadium and support for development of a local team.*

**Question 12.** Please share any other thoughts or comments about the vision and future of the LEC.

Question 12 was another open-ended question for respondents to share any thoughts or comments about the vision and the future of the LEC. The question received 220 responses. Below are 4 key themes based on the feedback from this question.

### **Balancing Neighborhood Impact and Accessibility at the LEC**

Many responses reflect concerns about how the LEC fits within its surrounding neighborhood, particularly in terms of noise, traffic, accessibility, and land use. Some residents advocate for keeping and improving the LEC in its current location, while others suggest relocating it to reduce neighborhood impacts.

*"The LEC should be developed and managed in a manner that does not overwhelm the surrounding neighborhood"*

*"Whatever is built should focus on the walkable and bikable nature of the space and support the local community"*

*"Any enhancement to the LEC should include a robust outreach to the surrounding community in regard to its changing character in the neighborhoods. It should contribute to the city and nearby neighborhoods, rather than be a big use that simply has to be tolerated"*

### **Building a Baseball Stadium**

The responses reveal a divide within the community over baseball stadium for the Eugene Emeralds (Ems). While some see the stadium as a missed opportunity for economic and entertainment growth, others believe it would have negatively impacted traffic, neighborhood livability, and the fairgrounds' existing uses.

*"Too bad that the voters couldn't see the opportunities a sports venue would bring to Eugene. It would have been much bigger than just the Emeralds baseball team"*

*"The multi-use stadium for the Emeralds was going to create traffic congestion and excess unwanted noise in the surrounding neighborhoods. Please be considerate of effects to the neighborhoods adjacent to the Fairgrounds"*

*"Please do not use the event center for a baseball stadium. The current facility offers a variety of events for all in Lane County, and the parking/traffic concerns are acceptable for the area."*

### **Multi-Use Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities**

Many responses emphasize the need for a modern, multi-use indoor sports and recreation facility at the. Some responses also highlight the importance of keeping existing recreational features, such as the ice rink, while making improvements to attract more users.

*"An indoor multi-use sports facility serves residents and visitors, brings in money, and can be used for meeting space and emergency services"*

*"Would love to see a large indoor/outdoor facility built for our youth sports programs. There is not enough gym space"*

*"Keeping the ice rink open and advertising more things there."*

### **Economic Growth and Balancing Community Needs**

The responses reflect a strong desire to revitalize the LEC to drive economic investment while ensuring it remains a space that benefits both local businesses and the community. Many see potential in public-private partnerships, hospitality development, and trade show support, while others emphasize the need to prioritize local businesses and community groups.

*"Focus more on our community. I love the tourism that we get, but I want to see locals thrive and have economic opportunities"*

*"The LEC is an enterprise fund. Generating more overnight stays is a benefit to the revenue for the center and the economic vitality of the community. Overnight stays in winter and recreation space for practice and tournaments is desperately needed."*

## Key Themes and Takeaways

The survey responses reflect strong support for the LEC to evolve as a **multifunctional space that supports the diverse needs of the community**. Respondents were interested in expanding youth sports and recreation facilities, developing an indoor multi-use sports facility, offering arts and cultural events, upgrading convention and meeting spaces and enhancing emergency preparedness resources. The respondents recognize and value the site's central location and see it as a crucial resource for enhancing community connection, recreation, and economic vitality. Several key priorities emerged from respondents, including:

### Emergency Services & Resilience

Many respondents emphasized the LEC's role as a disaster relief site, evacuation shelter, and warming/cooling center. There was strong support for maintaining and enhancing its emergency response capabilities.

### Community Gathering & Celebration Venue

Respondents highlighted the importance of the LEC being a space where Lane County residents can gather for events and celebrations, highlighting offering year-round activities, cultural celebrations, performances, and inclusive community gatherings.

### Youth Development, Sports, & 4-H Programs

Facilities and spaces for youth-focused activities, recreational sports, and 4-H programs were very important to survey respondents. Many called for creating indoor and outdoor multi-use areas to address shortages for youth sports venues and support for youth programming.

### Neighborhood Integration & Enhanced Placemaking

Respondents emphasize the importance of the LEC thoughtfully integrating into the surrounding neighborhoods, acting as a positive and accessible community amenity. Enhancing green spaces, limiting noise impacts, improving pedestrian connectivity, and fostering welcoming aesthetics were highlighted.

### Sports & Recreation Facilities

Many see the LEC as a potential regional sports hub with upgraded amenities offering youth sports programs; local and regional sporting events; and outdoor facilities and multi-use recreation.

## Arts & Culture

There was enthusiasm for expanding arts programming, preserving historical sites, and increasing multicultural events. Many called for affordable, accessible community spaces to support local artists and performers and enhancing LEC's role as a cultural hub.

## Economic Growth & Business Development

The LEC is seen as a key driver of local economic activity. Many respondents highlighted opportunities to better integrate with downtown businesses; supporting tourism; and expanding conventions and trade shows. However, many respondents were unsure about what "tourism and travel industry" specifically referred to in the context of the LEC and expressed uncertainty about its meaning.

## Land Use & Future Development

Some respondents shared that they supported repurposing portions for housing, health and human services, building a baseball stadium, or relocating the county fair.