



MANDARIN AREA PRESERVATION PROJECT

Community Engagement Recap

What We Heard and What Comes Next



Community Workshop | September 10, 2026

Mandarin Senior Citizen Center | Jacksonville, Florida

Thank you to everyone who shared ideas for Mandarin's future.

This recap highlights the strongest themes from the workshop and follow-up survey in a short, community-friendly format.

Engagement at a Glance

Community members shared a clear message: Mandarin's future should protect the natural beauty, history, and sense of community that make the area distinct. Participants also want a trusted local voice that can keep people informed and bring residents, organizations, businesses, and government together.

Engagement source	Records received	How to read the number
Workshop sign-in records	17	Attendance records
Participant worksheets	16	Individual workshop response records
Table scribe forms	6	Table-level records; several forms were incomplete
Online survey submissions	16	Seven completed the future-vision section; nine were partial

How to read the findings

These counts describe different types of engagement information. They should not be added together as a total number of participants because one person may appear in more than one source. Workshop findings and online survey findings are presented separately in this recap.

What the engagement consistently emphasized

- Protect the tree canopy, live oaks, parks, waterways, and natural areas.
- Preserve historic places, stories, and the Old Florida character of Mandarin.
- Maintain river access and improve safe, walkable connections.
- Build a credible community organization that listens, communicates clearly, and follows through.

Workshop Findings

The workshop findings below come from 16 individual worksheets and six table scribe forms. Several scribe forms were incomplete, so they are used to describe ideas raised at the tables rather than to estimate how many people supported each idea.

Finding level	What we heard
Strong agreement	Tree canopy, natural areas, historic character, river access, and a credible community voice are central to Mandarin's identity.
Emerging ideas	A recognizable community hub, safer walkability, gateway improvements, resource inventories, public education, and development monitoring.
Questions for continued discussion	The organization's boundary, authority, permanent structure, relationship to existing groups, and the best words for its name and mission.

What Mandarin means to participants

Participants described Mandarin through live oaks and shaded roads, the St. Johns River, historic places, rural character, parks, citrus, frogs, and strong community ties. The tree canopy was the most repeated image and was often connected to history, beauty, walkability, and a sense of place.

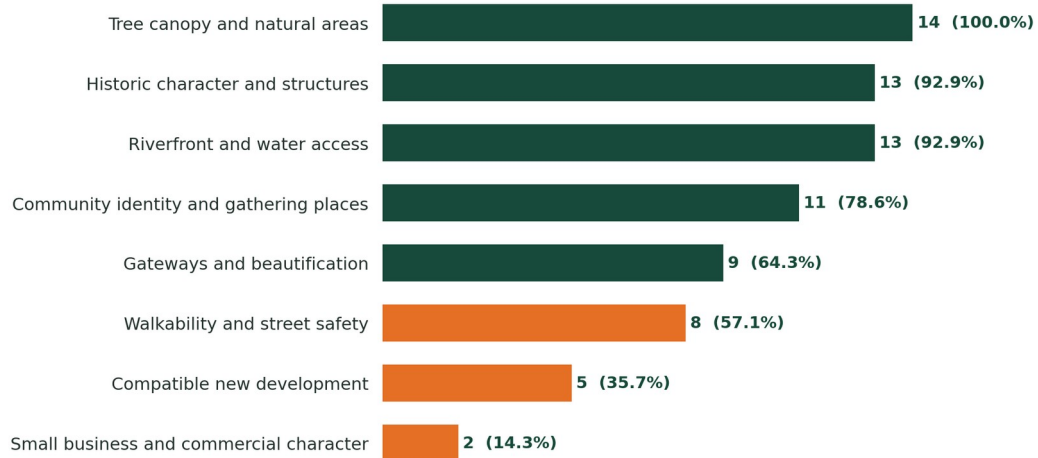
Places people want to protect

- Mandarin Road, the Historic Mile, Walter Jones Historical Park, and river access
- Mandarin Park, Lasco Park, County Dock, and other open spaces
- The General Store, Church of Our Savior, St. Joseph Historic Church, historic homes, and cemeteries
- The St. Johns River, Goodby's Creek, Scott Mill, and other waterways

Workshop Priority Pillars

Priority pillars selected by participants

Valid pillar selections (n=14); participants could select more than one answer



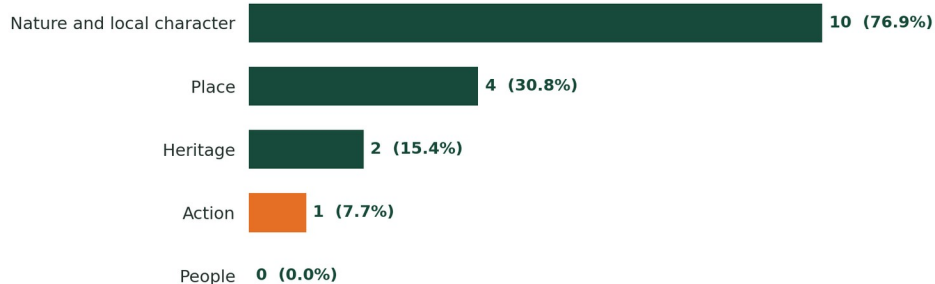
Fourteen participants provided valid pillar selections, and participants could select more than one answer. The individual priorities were combined into four working pillars to create a simpler framework for continued discussion.

Working pillar	Individual priorities combined
Natural character and tree canopy	Tree canopy and natural areas
Historic character and stories	Historic character and structures
Riverfront access and connected places	Riverfront and water access; gateways and beautification; walkability and street safety
Community voice and identity	Community identity and gathering places; compatible new development; small business and commercial character

Workshop Naming and Identity

Preferred naming directions

Valid naming selections (n=13); participants could select more than one answer



Thirteen participants provided valid naming-direction selections, and participants could select more than one answer. Nature and local character was the strongest direction. One worksheet that selected every direction was not used in the preference chart because it did not indicate a directional choice.

Where Rooted in Mandarin appeared

Source	Records using the phrase	Where it appeared
Participant worksheets	4	Worksheets 1, 7, 10, and 14
Table scribe forms	3	Forms 2, 5, and 6
Complete online survey responses	1	One of the seven completed future-vision responses

Participants connected the phrase to live-oak roots, community ties, local history, people, place, and a commitment to Mandarin's future. Other ideas included Mandarin Preservation Society, Mandarin Preservation Association, MAPS, MAP+, MPAC, and Greater Mandarin Organization.

Questions still to resolve

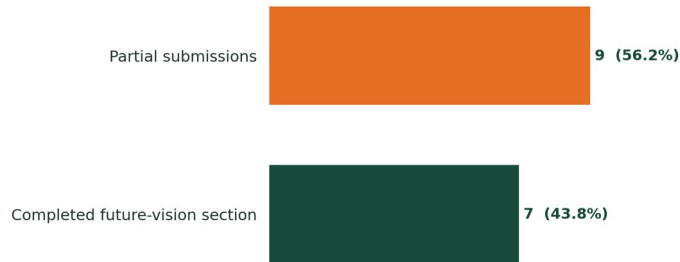
Participants had different views about project, neighborhood, heritage, and District 6. Continued discussion is needed about whether the effort will become a permanent organization, what area it will serve, and which name can welcome the broader community while honoring Mandarin's history and natural character.

Online Survey Findings

The online survey received 16 submissions. Seven respondents completed the future-vision section, while nine submitted only part of the survey. Percentages about the future organization use the seven complete responses as the denominator.

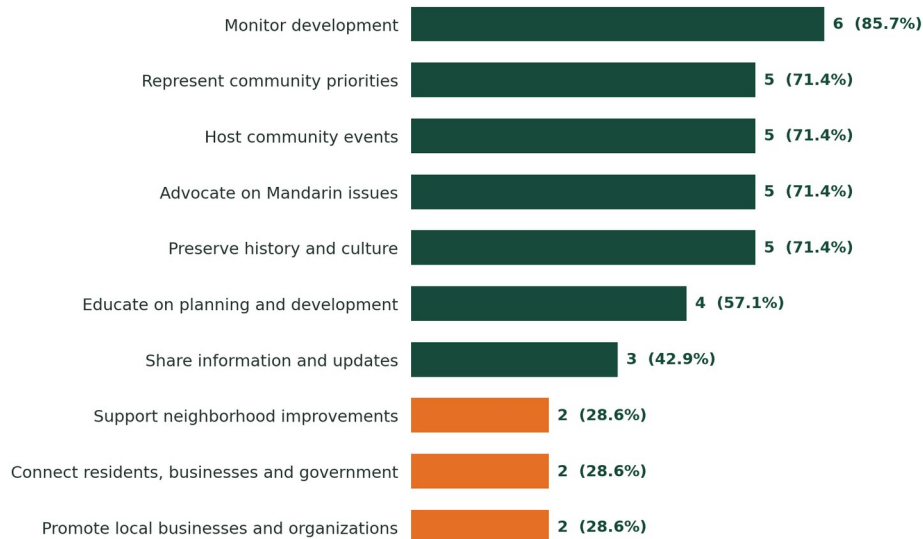
Online survey response status

All online survey submissions (n=16)



Roles requested for the future organization

Complete future-vision survey responses (n=7); multiple selections were allowed



Survey quality review

One complete response was automatically flagged for speeding. The response was retained because it recorded 47 minutes of activity and contained detailed, coherent answers. The survey results remain directional because only seven people completed the future-vision section.

What Success Could Look Like

- More mature trees protected and more native trees planted.
- Historic places, stories, river access, and Mandarin's recognizable character remain visible.
- Residents receive clear, timely information about planning and development proposals.
- The community has safe walking routes, active gathering places, and events that bring people together.
- A community-led organization earns trust through open participation, balanced leadership, and consistent follow-through.

Next community workshop

The next workshop will connect these priorities to practical information about zoning, development review, public input, property rights, and the ways a future organization could participate in City processes.

Date and time	Location	Focus
October 7, 2026 6:00 to 7:30 PM	Mandarin Senior Citizen Center 3848 Hartley Road Jacksonville, FL 32257	Understand the Process Planning 101: Navigating Land Development & City Processes

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who attended, completed a worksheet, joined a table conversation, or responded online. Your ideas are helping shape a community organization that reflects Mandarin's identity and priorities.