



# The Effects Arts-Based Initiatives have on Community Involvement in Affordable Multi-Family Housing

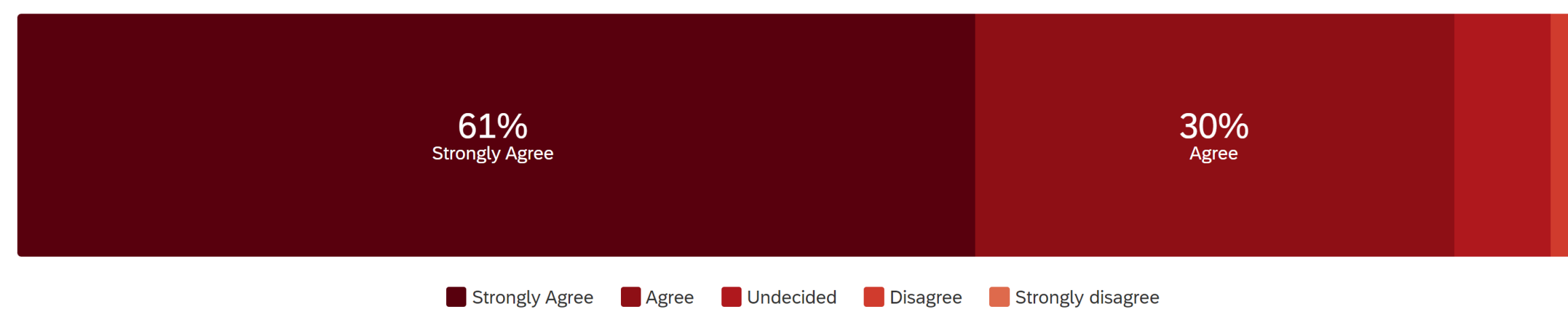
## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to understand what amenities and event spaces appealed to the individuals as well as what design applications promoted the selection of apartment complexes. Understanding how to develop spaces for artists to create work and connect with the local community was another top priority to understand when conducting this survey. The research method conducted was a quantitative survey consisting of 28 questions that included multiple choice, Likert scale, and demographics, regarding amenity spaces, cultural diversity, and community involvement in the development of the dwellings. After examination of the data, it was evident that the implementation of coworking spaces, art spaces, and event spaces positively affected the way in which participants select these types of living environments. Limiting this survey to the Fargo area further supported the implementation of this building due to the community's positive response regarding event spaces, local artists artwork, and community spaces.

## RESULTS

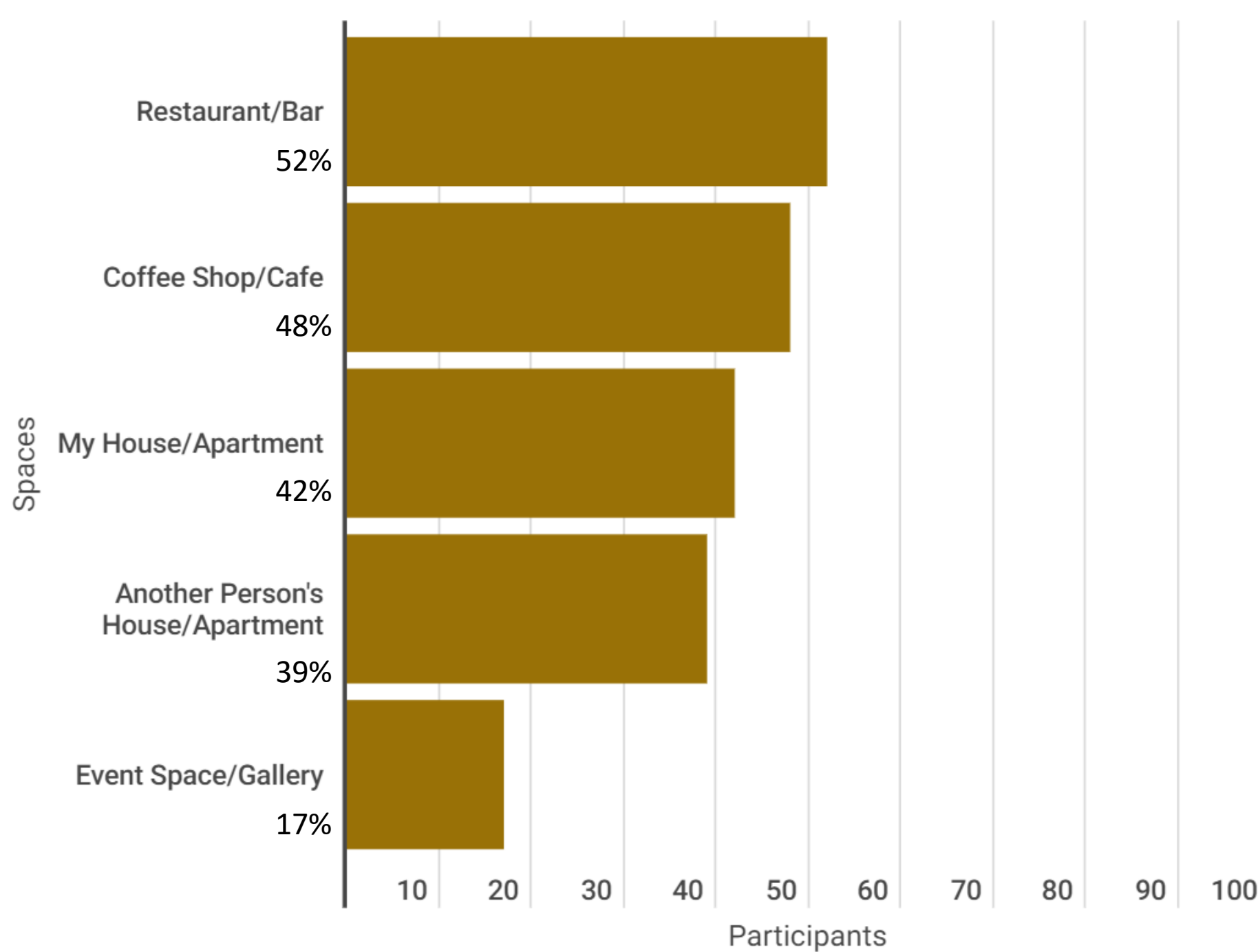
**Figure 1**

Importance of Community Members Opinions on New Building Developments

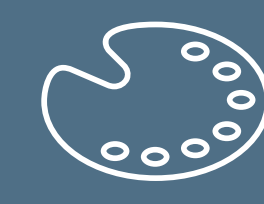


**Figure 2**

Desirable Spaces for Socialization



## REVIEW OF LITERATURE



### ARTS-BASED INITIATIVES

"Arts-based initiatives can provide a means of communication and appeals to local pride and solidarity. Such programs can also have more material benefits, creating educational and employment opportunities" (Strom, 2020, p. 478).



### CULTURAL DIVERSITY

"Arts and cultural activities have long been part of the urban fabric and have become increasingly central aspects of urban economic development, neighborhood revitalization and branding efforts in recent decades" (Strom, 2020, p. 476).



### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

"Creative tools for community engagement include innovative visual-art techniques, storytelling, social-networking technology, exhibits, music, performance, festivals, and community gatherings." (Hodgson, 2011, p. 1).



### AMENITIES

"Knowing which amenities appeal to different groups will be important in understanding the prospects for stable multiracial integration." (Bader, 2022, p. 22.).

## METHODOLOGY

### MEASURES

An online survey consisting of 28 questions was sent out through various social media platforms for participants to complete. Questions included demographics, Likert scale, and multiple choice pertaining to amenity spaces, affordable housing, arts-based initiatives, cultural diversity, and apartment layouts.

### PROCEDURES

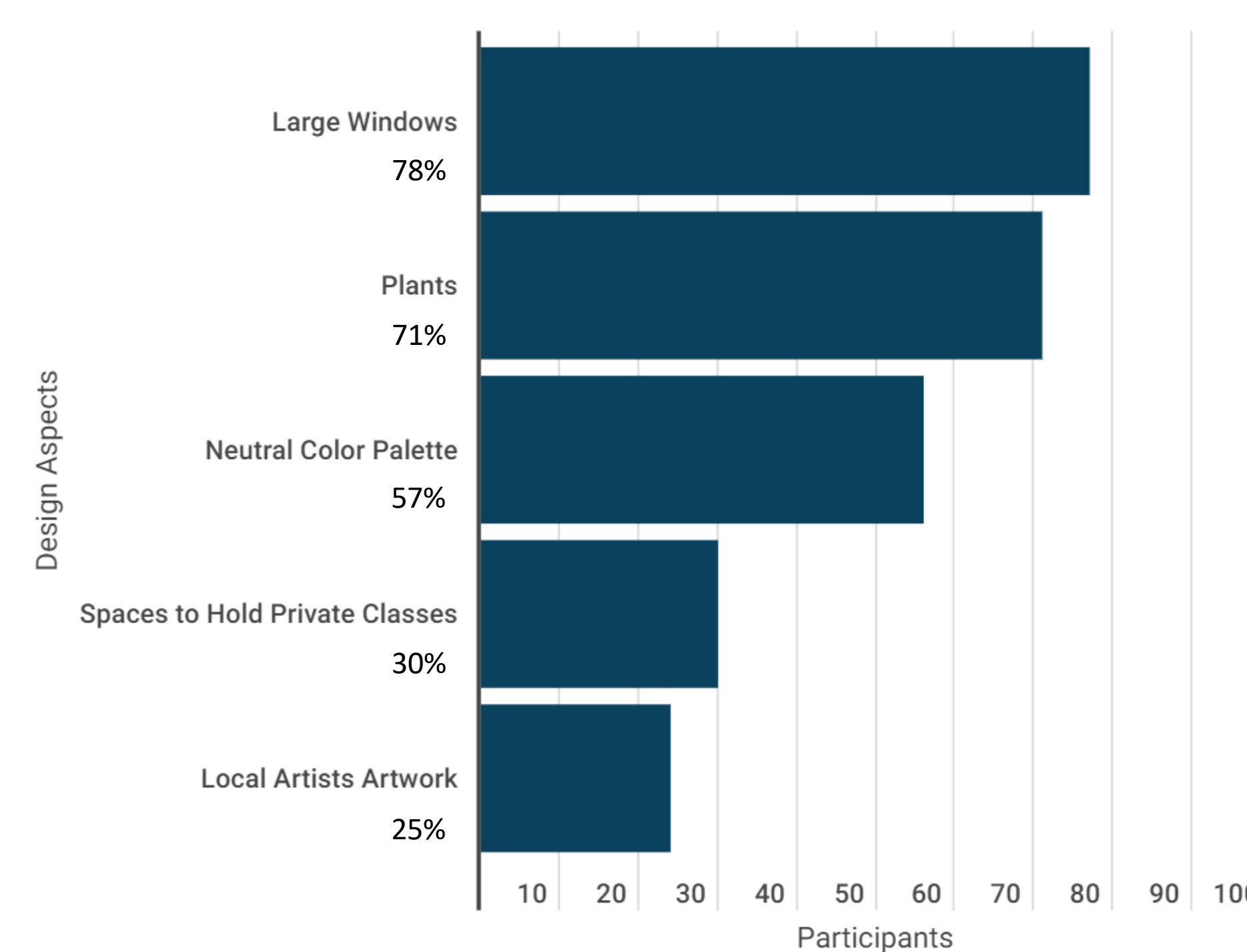
The purpose of the survey was to gather information regarding amenity spaces, interior design applications, and event areas located within apartment complexes and of those spaces which were the most desirable according to the participants' opinions. The survey was distributed through various media platforms and limited to those individuals that were 18 years of age or older. The survey was opened on November 19, 2022, and closed on December 10, 2022.

### SUBJECTS

There were 100 participants that completed this survey and were of ages 18 and older. This included students, community members, and professors.

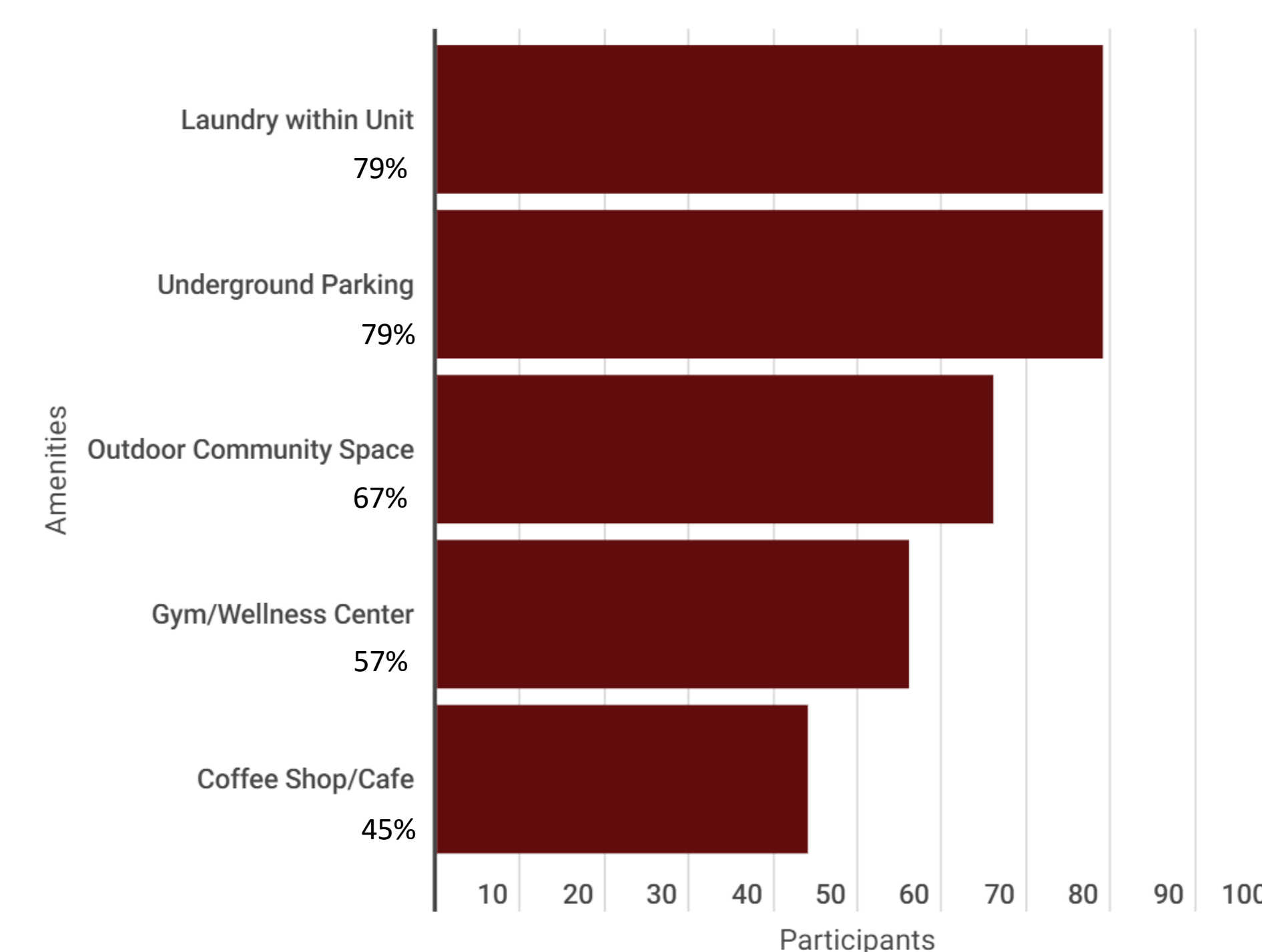
**Figure 3**

Desirable Design Aspects within Apartment Complexes



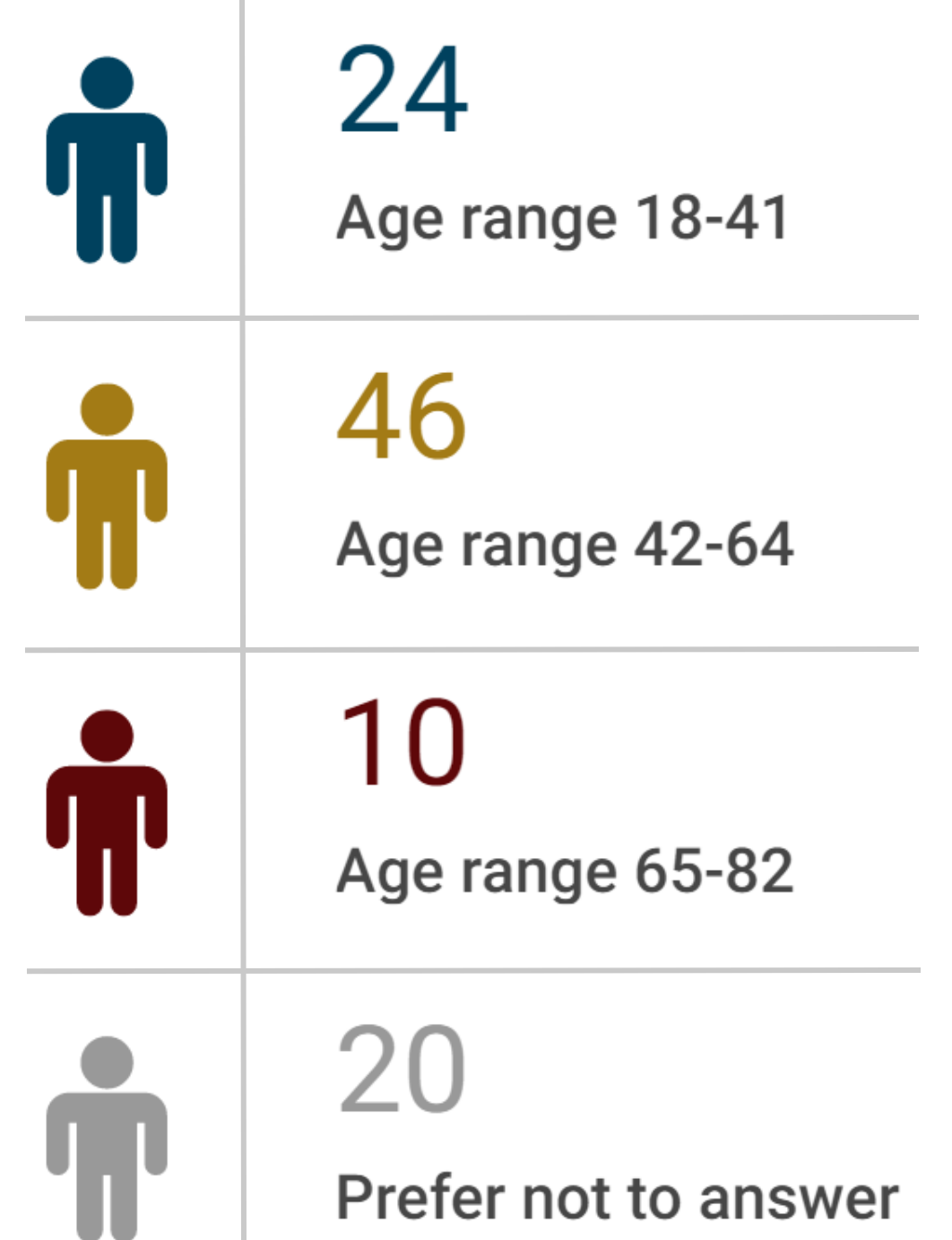
**Figure 4**

Desirable Amenities within Apartment Complexes



**Figure 5**

Study Participants



## CONCLUSION

The results of this study are an integral part of determining design solutions that can better enhance the design of an affordable multi-family housing complex. This research study determined participants' thoughts and relationships with affordable housing as well as design considerations that residents and community members felt most important to include. This data is essential when considering the interior layout of amenity spaces and private dwelling within an affordable multi-family housing complex. Upon examining the results gathered and reviewing the charts below design applications are to be applied where the highest popular votes are observed.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Figure 1):

61% of participants strongly agree that having opinions on the designs, amenities, locations, and layouts of new building complexes is very important while another 30% agree. Sending out a survey to gather the community members' opinions is vital to the design applications that will be implemented within new complexes to ensure individuals feel safe and secure within the space.

### SOCIALIZATION (Figure 2):

50% of participants identified the restaurant/bar venue as extremely-moderately desirable as a socialization space. This is closely followed by the coffee shop/cafe sitting at 48% as extremely-moderately desirable as a socialization space. From these results a bar area is to be designed and applied on the first floor of the complex allowing for both the public and tenants in the space. A coffee bar will be designed and placed within the coworking space to allow for socialization between the tenants.

### DESIGN APPLICATIONS (Figure 3):

78% of participants found large windows to be extremely-moderately desirable and from this result will be applied throughout the amenity spaces, apartment dwellings, and throughout the building as often as possible. Following closely behind came plants at 71% and are to be applied within the apartments as well as hanging elements showcased within the bar area.

### AMENITIES (Figure 4):

The results from the amenities resulted in 79% of individuals wanting the implementation of laundry within dwelling units. All apartments will have individual washers and dryers for the tenant's private use. Underground parking tied at 79% as extremely-moderately desirable. 67% found an outdoor community space would be extremely-moderately desirable. An outdoor courtyard will be made available for private tenant use.

### PARTICIPANTS (Figure 5):

46% of the participants were within the age range of 42-64 making this almost 50% of all respondents. This age range allows us to examine accessible routes from apartment layouts while also still considering the younger age groups that had a 24% participation in the survey. 10% were within the age range of 65-82 and were vital when considering the layout, amenities, and socialization spaces when considering accessibility and safety.

## References:

Hodgson, K. (2011). . *How arts and cultural strategies enhance community engagement and ... How arts and cultural strategies enhance community engagement and participation.* <https://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/How-Arts-Cultural-Strategies-Enhance-Community.pdf>  
 Strom, E. (2020). Revisiting the arts as a socially innovative urban development strategy. *European Planning Studies*, 28(3), 475-495. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2019.1639398>  
 Bader, M.D.M. (2022). Shared satisfaction among residents living in multiracial neighborhoods. *Social Problems*, 00, 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spac038>