

Community Focus Statement B: Maintain the rural desert lifestyle and character.

Action Statement B.4: Combine a harmonious vibe of peace and spaciousness with community activities to bring Joshua Tree’s diverse population together.

B4

Benchmark: Community events are held that honor the desert lifestyle and character of Joshua Tree on a regular basis, and welcome residents of all ages and abilities.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: Variable depending on events held.



Community event in Joshua Tree. Photo source: Michael Baker International

To maintain the rural desert lifestyle and character of Joshua Tree, community events can be held on a regular basis to foster community pride, strengthen neighborhood relationships, and bring diverse people together. Visible and well-attended community events offer the opportunity to connect diverse resident groups within the community, and the events create the foundation for further connections and friendships. Events and activities could engage all walks of life in the community for people of all age groups and abilities.

Events or activities could take a variety of forms, including annual community festivals with a local focus, monthly neighborhood meetings with a specific focus (yoga, tai chi, sound healing, etc.), or weekly potlucks to gather and enjoy the company of friends and neighbors. Local businesses could serve as sponsors to help finance large events and in turn receive marketing and increased visibility in the community. Events could have a variety of focuses and highlight the talents of Joshua Tree’s musicians, artists, performers, chefs, and spiritual leaders.

Several groups in Joshua Tree hold community activities that create a harmonious vibe among members. The Heart and Soul Team of Transition Joshua Tree meets regularly to practice and share tools for personal and group transformation. The group hosts several events for Transition members, such as centering exercises, body energy work, conflict resolution, tai chi, group health assessments, om circles, and sound healing circles. Experts in the Transition Joshua Tree group could assist in engaging the community in spiritually healing activities.

By coming together to celebrate Joshua Tree’s harmonious vibe and honoring the community’s peace and spaciousness through community events, residents can find a sense of unity and belonging. Community connectedness would be strengthened, and Joshua Tree residents would have diverse opportunities for social interaction that honor the mind, body, and spirit.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact residents who would be interested in serving on a Joshua Tree events planning committee. Reach out to groups that already hold these types of events.	Champion with Transition Joshua Tree, Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce, Joshua Tree events planning committee	Years 1 – 3	Transition Joshua Tree, Heart and Soul Group http://transitionjoshuatree.org/get-involved/heart-and-soul-group/
2. Nominate a chair for the committee to serve as a liaison between other community groups and the event planning committee.	Joshua Tree events planning committee	Years 1 – 3	Joshua Tree Retreat Center http://joshuatreeretreatcenter.squarespace.com/
3. Identify needs/wants from the community for events to be held.	Joshua Tree events planning committee	Years 1 – 3	
4. Plan one large event annually and smaller low-cost events to be held on a neighborhood-wide scale on holidays, monthly, or biweekly.	Joshua Tree events planning committee	Years 1 – 3	
5. Publicize events through email, newsletters, Facebook, newspapers, etc., to attract a variety of community members.	Joshua Tree events planning committee	Annually	
6. After each event, solicit input from event attendees, volunteers, sponsors, etc., and adjust future events based on community feedback.	Joshua Tree events planning committee	On-going	