



Community Space @ Short Street

Survey Report –
Feedback & Perspectives



Background & Objective



Situation

In June 2025, the Village launched the Community Space @ Short Street as a pilot project, temporarily closing the street to vehicles. The space offers seating, a shade tent, bike racks, and accessible amenities for gatherings, supporting local businesses and downtown activity.

Context

The Village wants to understand how the space is being used and experienced. The survey gathered input on participation, perceived benefits, and overall impressions.

Question

What are people's experiences and perceptions of the Community Space @ Short Street? Input was collected from anyone who has interacted with, observed, or formed an opinion about the space — whether they have used it or not.

About This Survey

- **Field Time:** September 19 – October 13, 2025.
- **Respondents:** 969 total.
- **Survey Type:** Online survey featuring both closed and open-ended questions.
- **Distribution Channels:** YSConnect app, flyers around town, Village website, Village Facebook page, YS News advertising.
- **Participation:** Open to all; no eligibility requirements.
- **Privacy:** No personal information collected unless voluntarily provided.
- **Analysis:** Statistical significance was assessed at $p = 0.05$, indicating that the observed differences in responses are unlikely to be due to chance.
- **Data Integrity:** The survey was conducted on SurveyMonkey, with cookies used to limit multiple submissions. IP addresses were reviewed for duplicates; none were removed, as multiple users can share an IP (e.g., households or businesses). The maximum from a single address was seven, from a large building housing several businesses, and no concerning patterns were found.

Understanding Statistical Significance



Statistical Significance

Statistical significance tells us whether observed differences reflect real patterns or just chance.

Confidence Level

95% confidence ($p = 0.05$) → We can be confident that the observed differences reflect real patterns in the surveyed population. This level of confidence is the industry standard, though some studies use slightly lower thresholds, such as 90%.

Representativeness

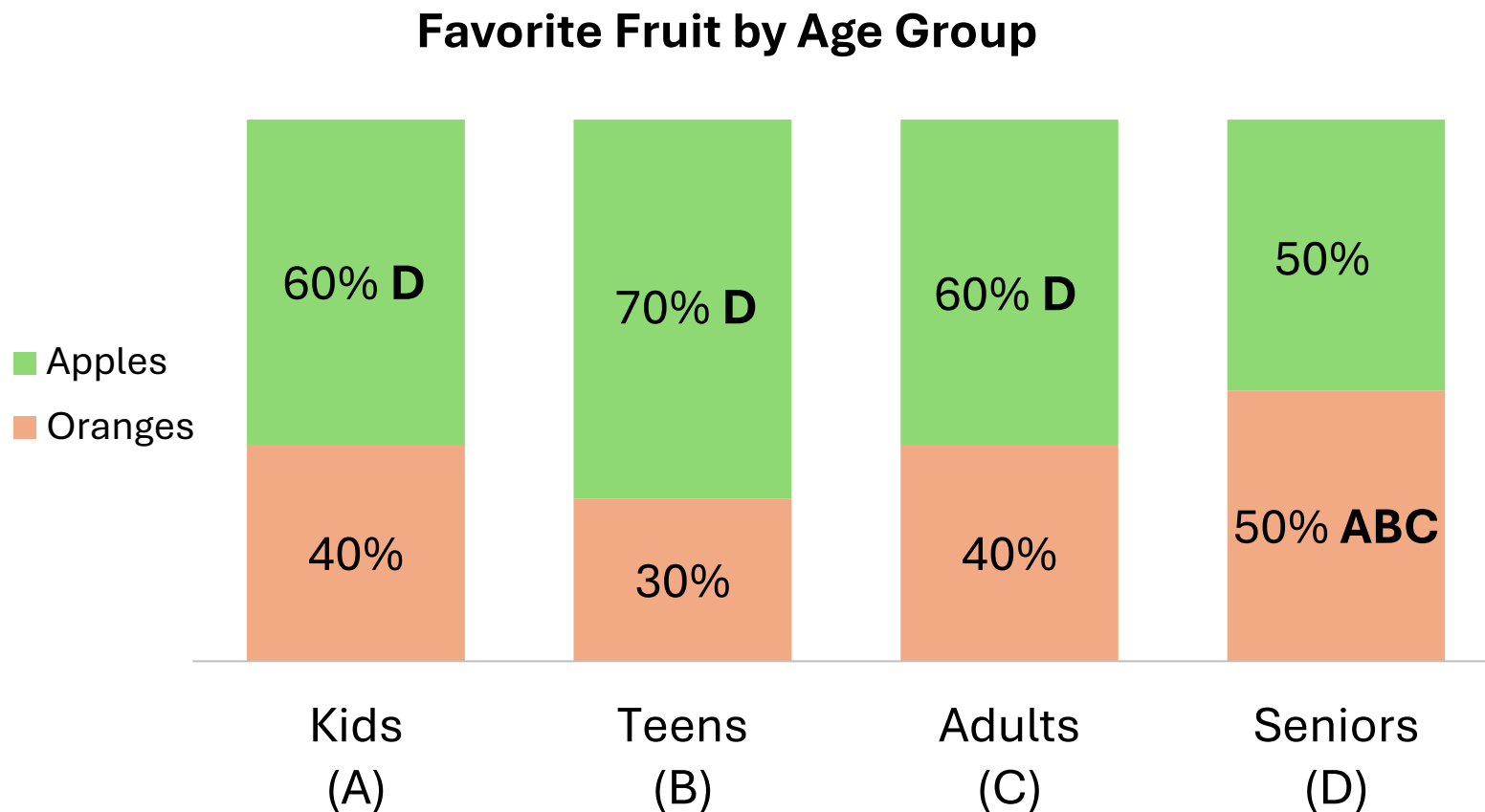
Survey reflects those who responded, not the full community. Respondent demographics broadly align with Village and surrounding populations, but some groups (like Gen Z) are underrepresented.

Base Sizes & Reliability

Most groups have large enough base sizes to produce statistically reliable results. Gen Z subgroup is small ($n=21$) – interpret trends for this group accordingly.

Interpreting Statistical Significance on Charts

- Statistical significance tells us whether differences between groups are likely real and not due to chance.
- Letters next to a bar segment indicate which other groups it is significantly higher than.
- **D** on Kids, Teens, Adults Apples → These groups like Apples significantly more than Seniors.
- **ABC** on Seniors Oranges → Seniors like Oranges significantly more than Kids, Teens, and Adults.



Survey Results

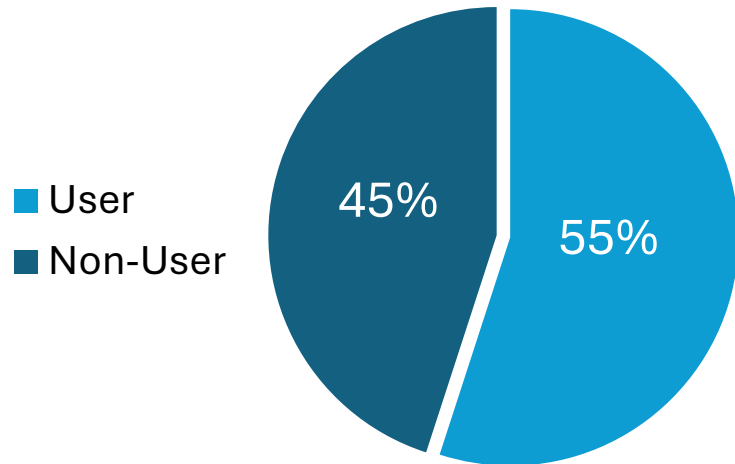


Key Findings

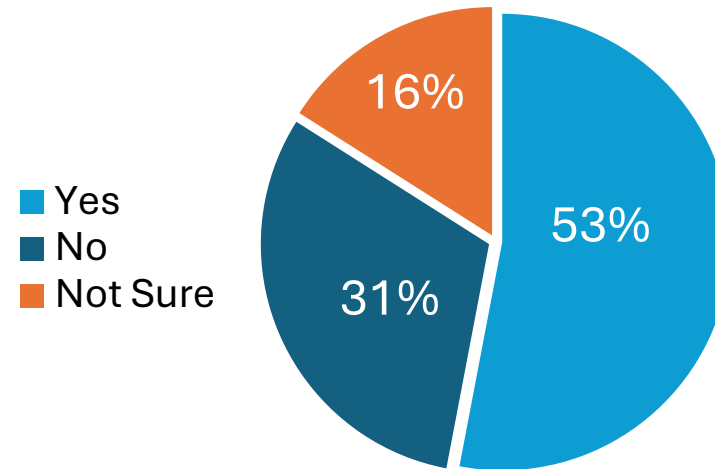
- 1 Use and Support Go Hand in Hand.** Respondents who have spent time in the space are more likely to see its benefits and support making it permanent, while non-users are less certain, highlighting the value of engagement and awareness.
- 2 Generational Differences Shape Perceptions.** Younger generations, including Gen Z, Millennials, and Gen X, tend to see the space as more beneficial and are more supportive of making it permanent, while Baby Boomers+ are more critical.
- 3 Balancing Benefits and Challenges.** Respondents value the space as a hub for gatherings, but perceived parking loss and traffic impacts, as well as the need for aesthetic improvements remain top concerns. Suggestions like seasonal or event-based use reflect a desire for compromise.
- 4 Perceptions Vary by Location.** Respondents living in Yellow Springs and Miami Township see the Community Space as beneficial, though they also consider its impacts on parking and traffic. Respondents living elsewhere are even more likely to view it positively and support making the space permanent.

Key Metrics

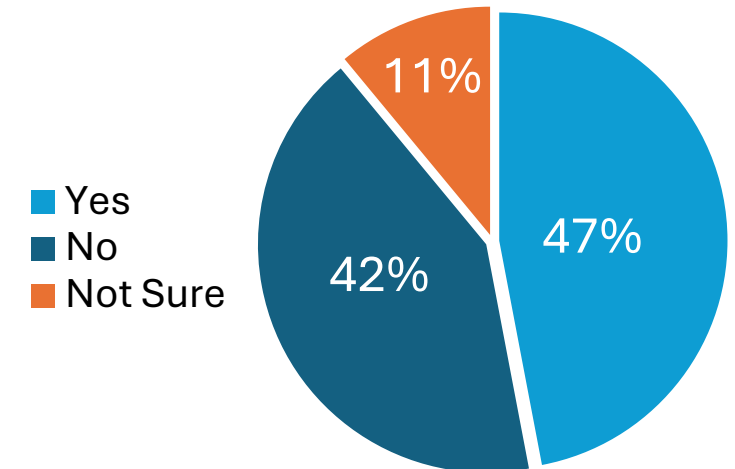
Used the Community Space?



Can the Space Be Beneficial?



Make Space Permanent?

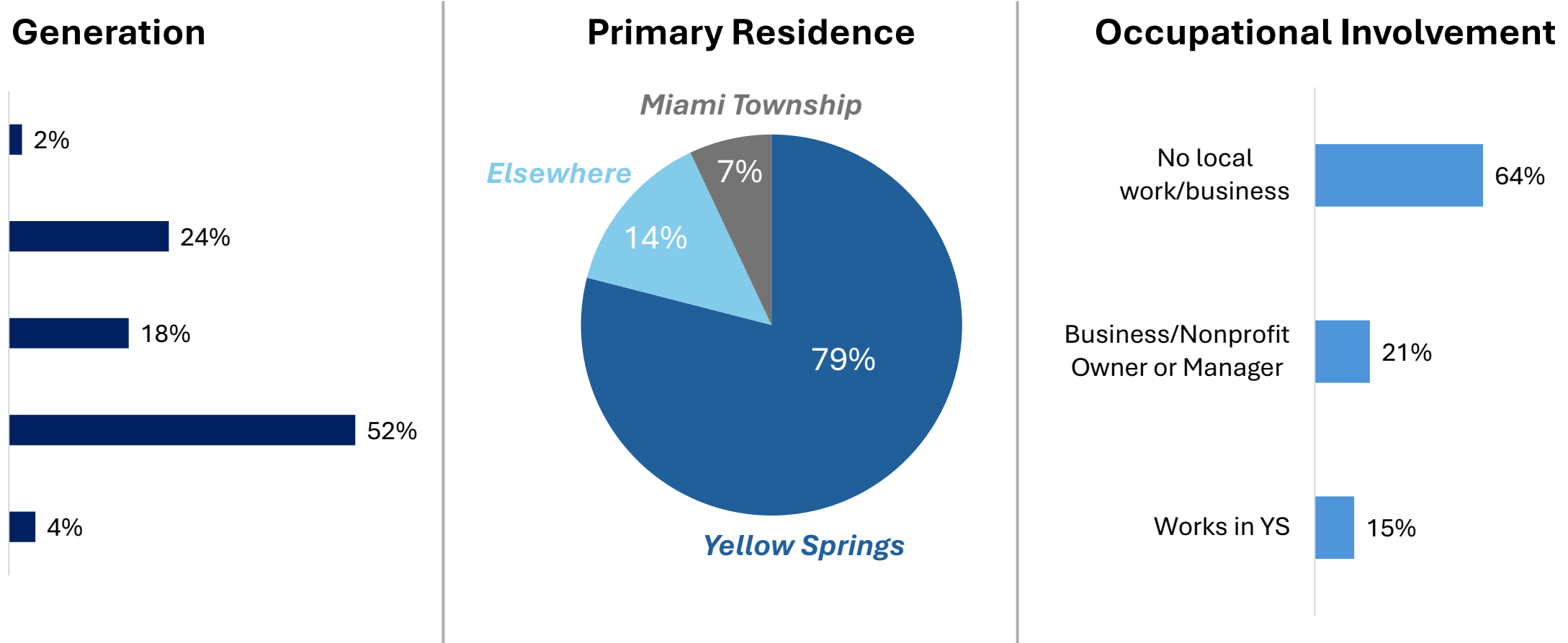




Quantitative Analysis



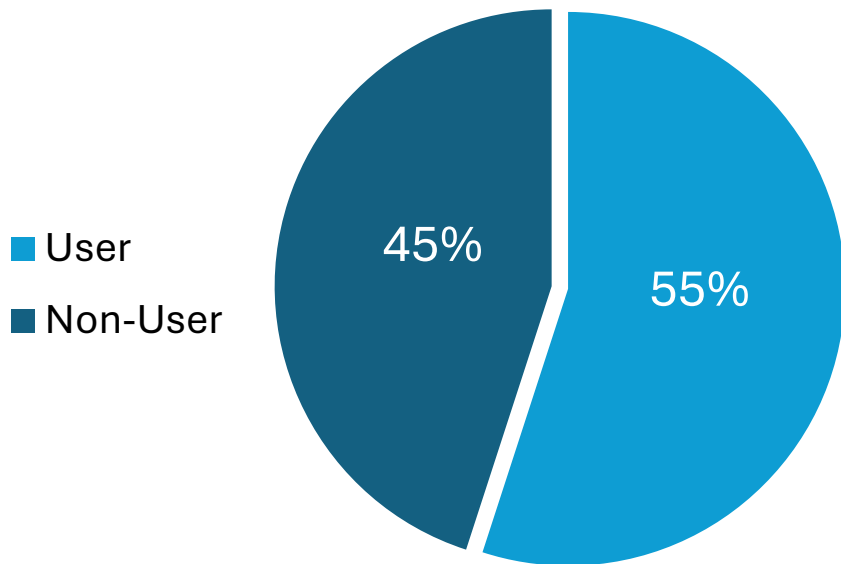
Most respondents are older Yellow Springs residents, with additional input from Miami Township and elsewhere. While most neither work nor own a business in Yellow Springs, some run a business or are locally employed.



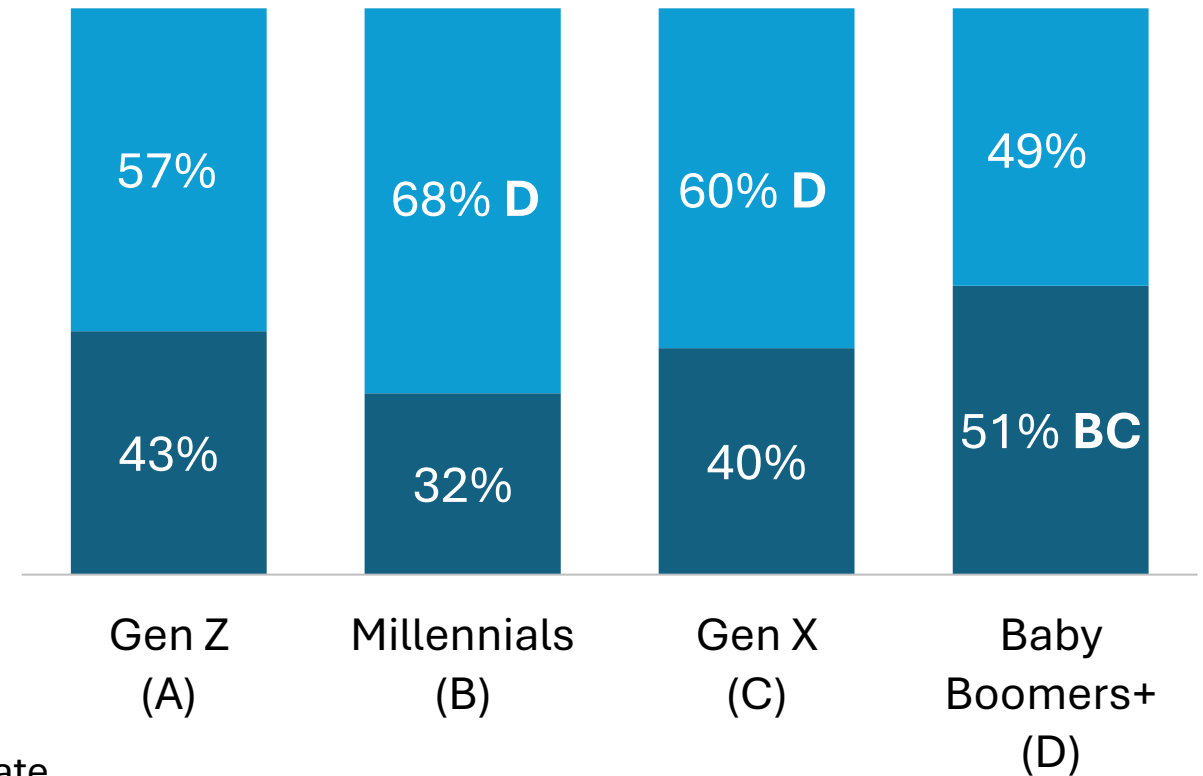
Source: Short Street Feedback, October 2025. Base: Total sample (n=969). Q1. What is your age? Gen Z (24 years and younger), Millennials (25–44 years old), Gen X (45–54 years old), Baby Boomers+ (55 years and older). Q2. Where is your primary residence? Q3. Which best describes your occupational involvement in Yellow Springs?

Just over half of respondents have used the space, with Millennials and Gen X more likely to do so than Baby Boomers+.

Used the Community Space?



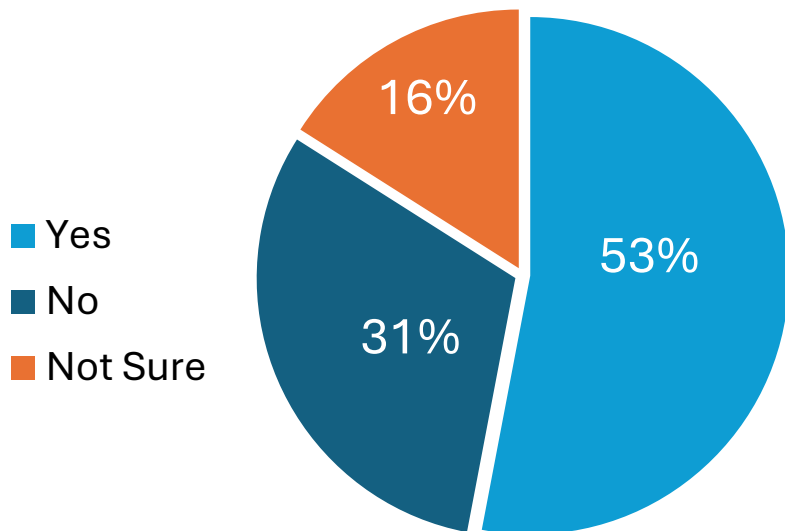
Use by Generation



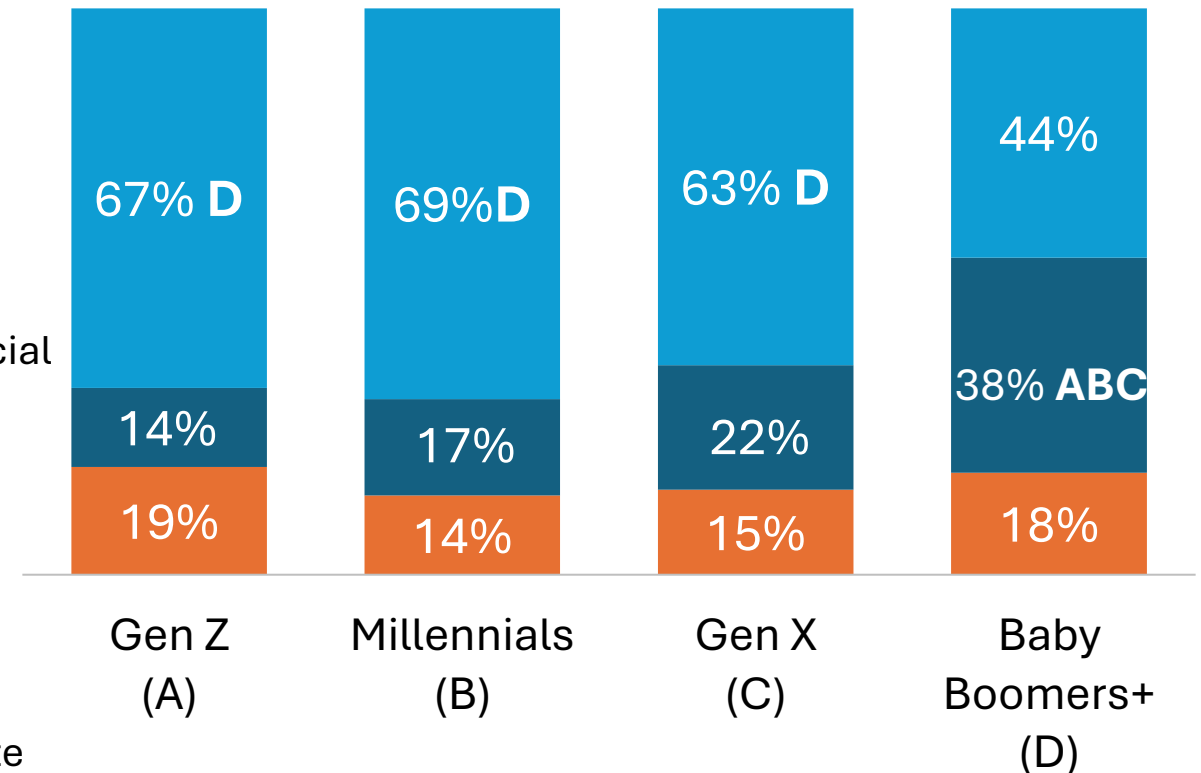
Uppercase letters indicate statistically significant

More than half of respondents feel the space can be beneficial, with Gen Z, Millennials, and Gen X seeing it as beneficial at higher rates than Baby Boomers+.

Can the Space Be Beneficial?



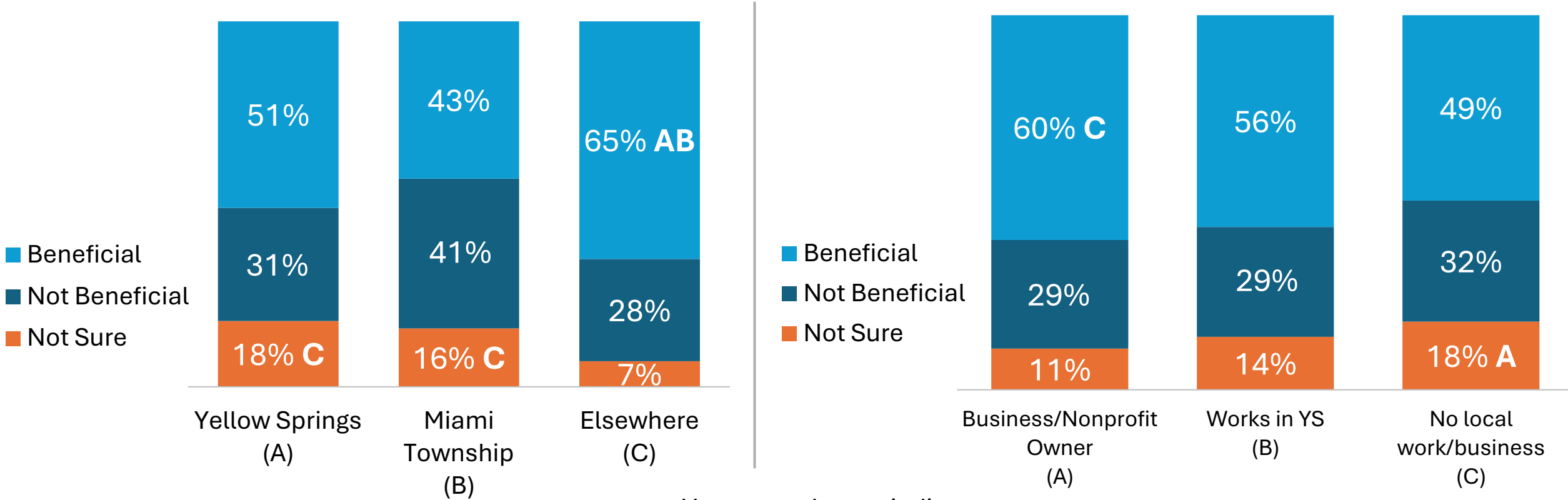
Perceived Benefit by Generation



Uppercase letters indicate statistically significant

More residents of Yellow Springs and Miami Township view the Community Space as beneficial than not, and non-residents are even more likely to see it positively. Business and nonprofit owners also tend to recognize greater benefits than non-local workers.

Perceived Benefit by Residence & Occupational Involvement

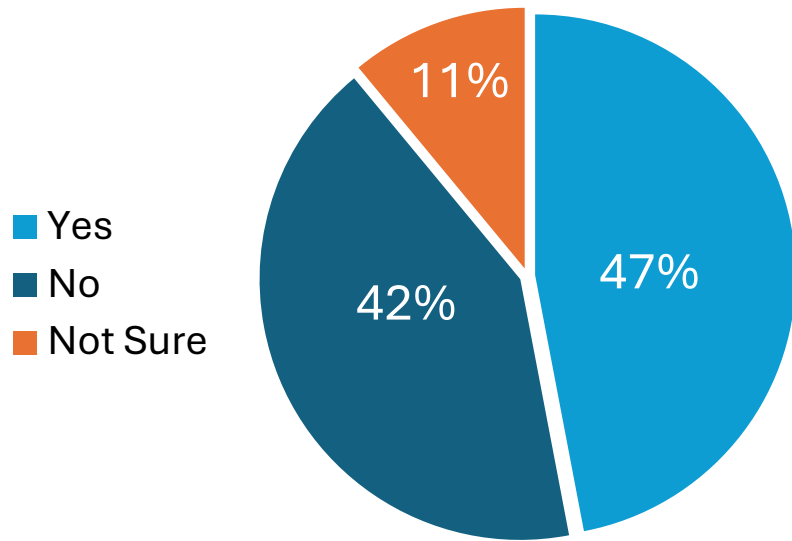


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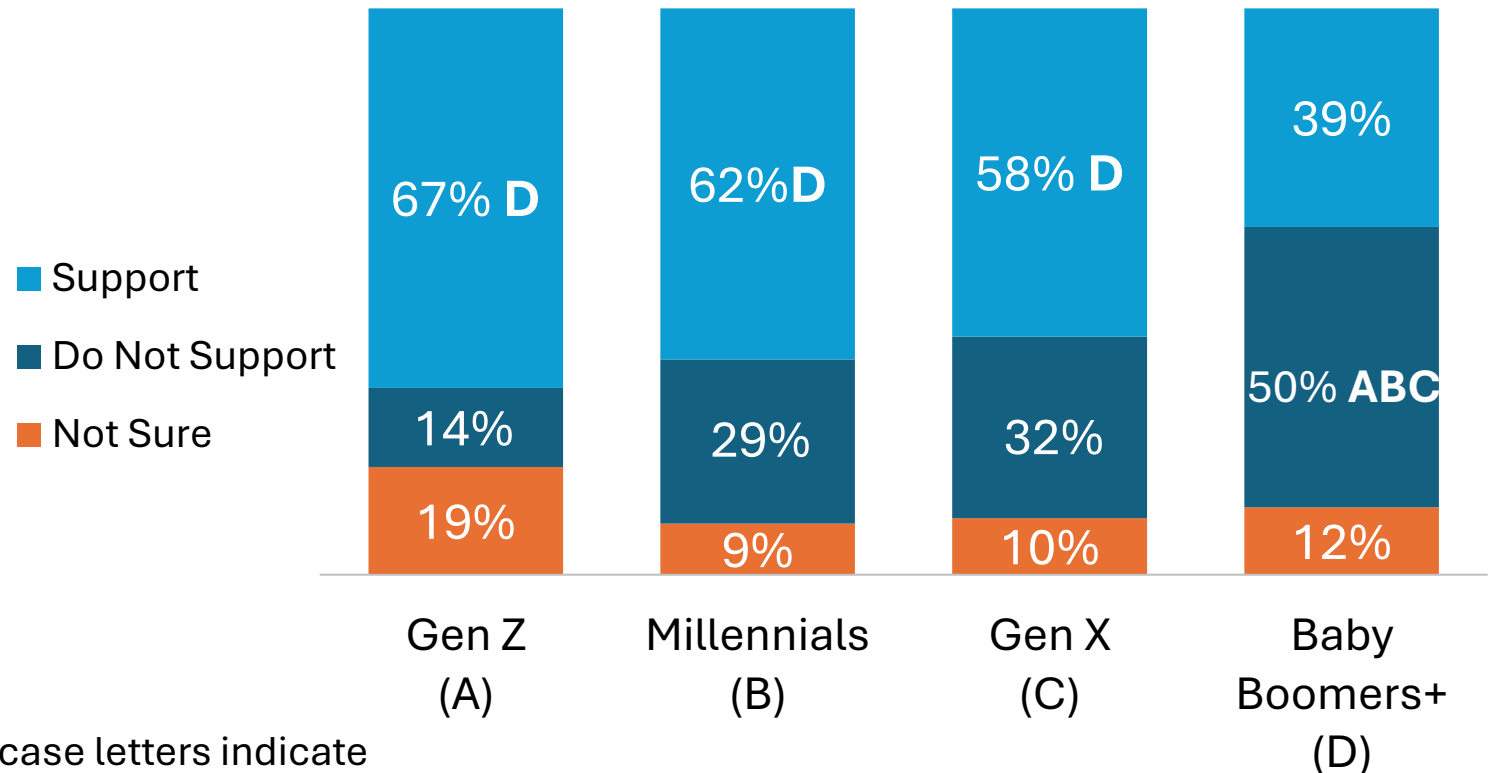
Short Street Feedback. October 2025. Base: 'Yellow Springs' at Q2 (n=769), 'Miami Township' at Q2 (n=68), 'Elsewhere' at Q2 (n=132) Q5. Overall, do you feel the Community Space @ Short Street can be beneficial to the community? Base: 'Business/Nonprofit Owner' at Q3 (n=203), 'Works in YS' at Q3 (n=147), 'No local work/business' at Q3 (n=619) Q5. Overall, do you feel the Community Space @ Short Street can be beneficial to the community?

A plurality support making the space permanent, with Gen Z, Millennials, and Gen X more supportive than Baby Boomers+.

Make Space Permanent?



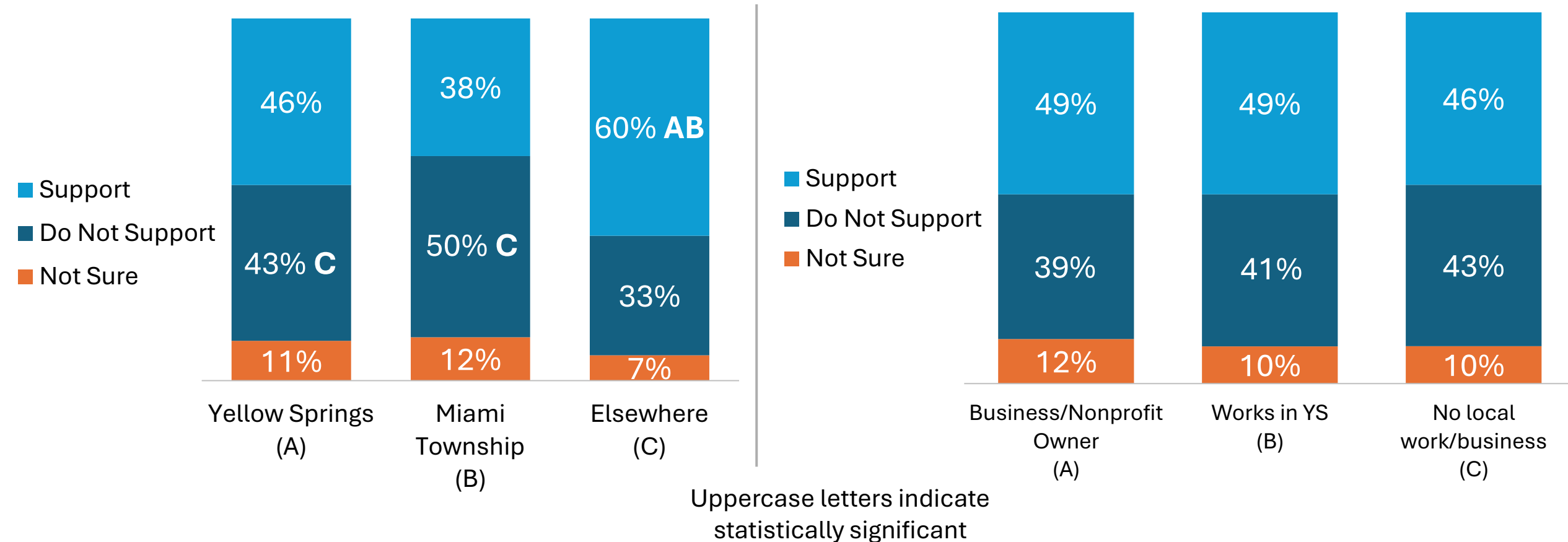
Support for Making Permanent by Generation



Uppercase letters indicate statistically significant

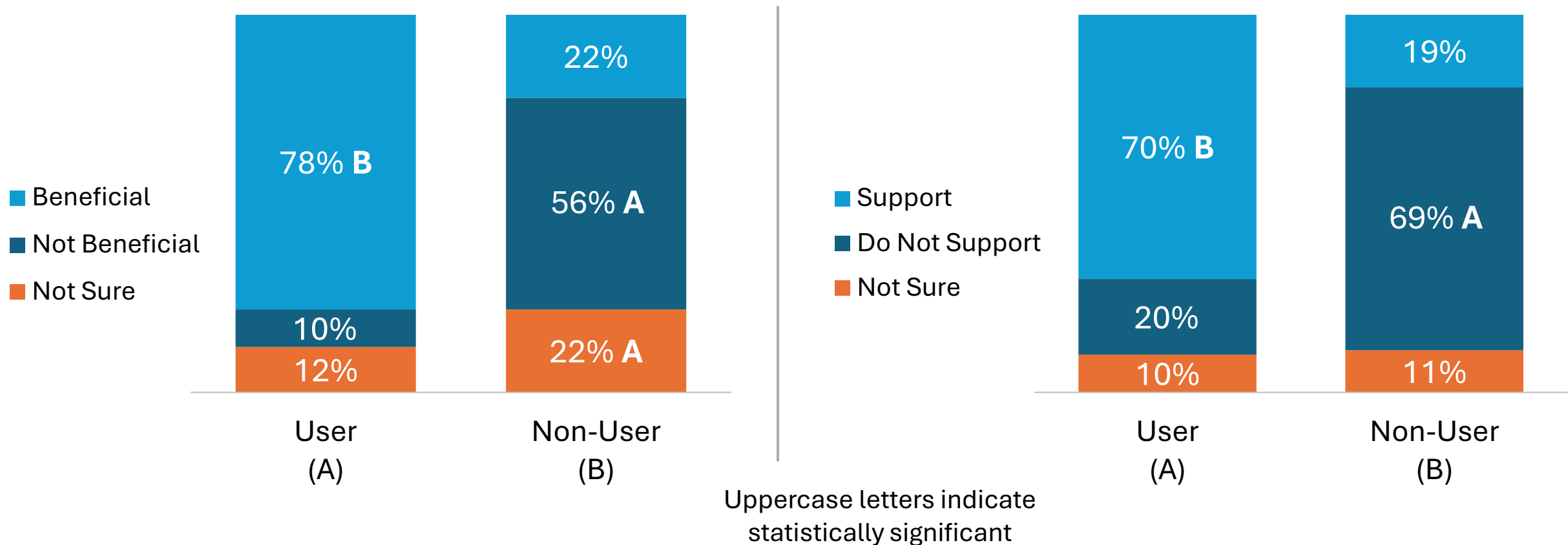
Respondents living elsewhere are more likely to support permanently closing the space than residents, while support is similar across different types of local workers and business owners.

Support for Making Permanent by Residence & Occupational Involvement



There's a clear connection between using the space and how respondents view it: users are more likely to see it as beneficial and support making it permanent, while non-users are less certain.

Perceived Benefit & Support for Permanence by Usage

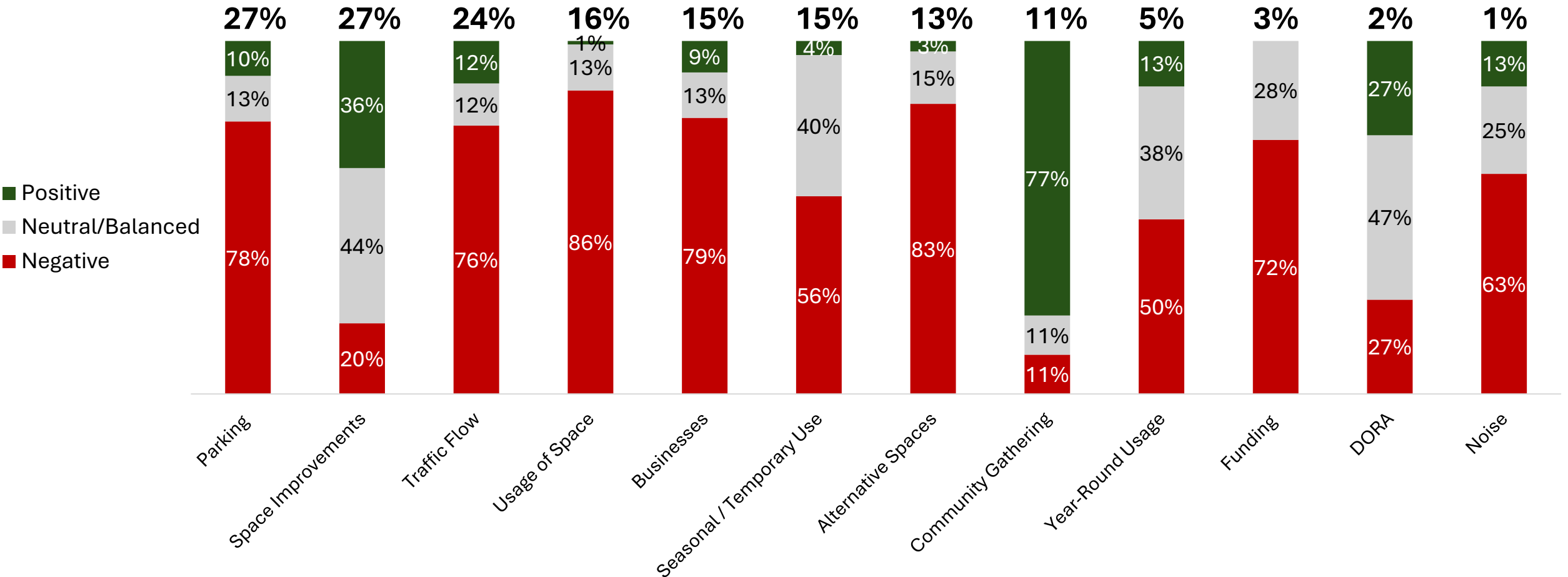


Qualitative Analysis



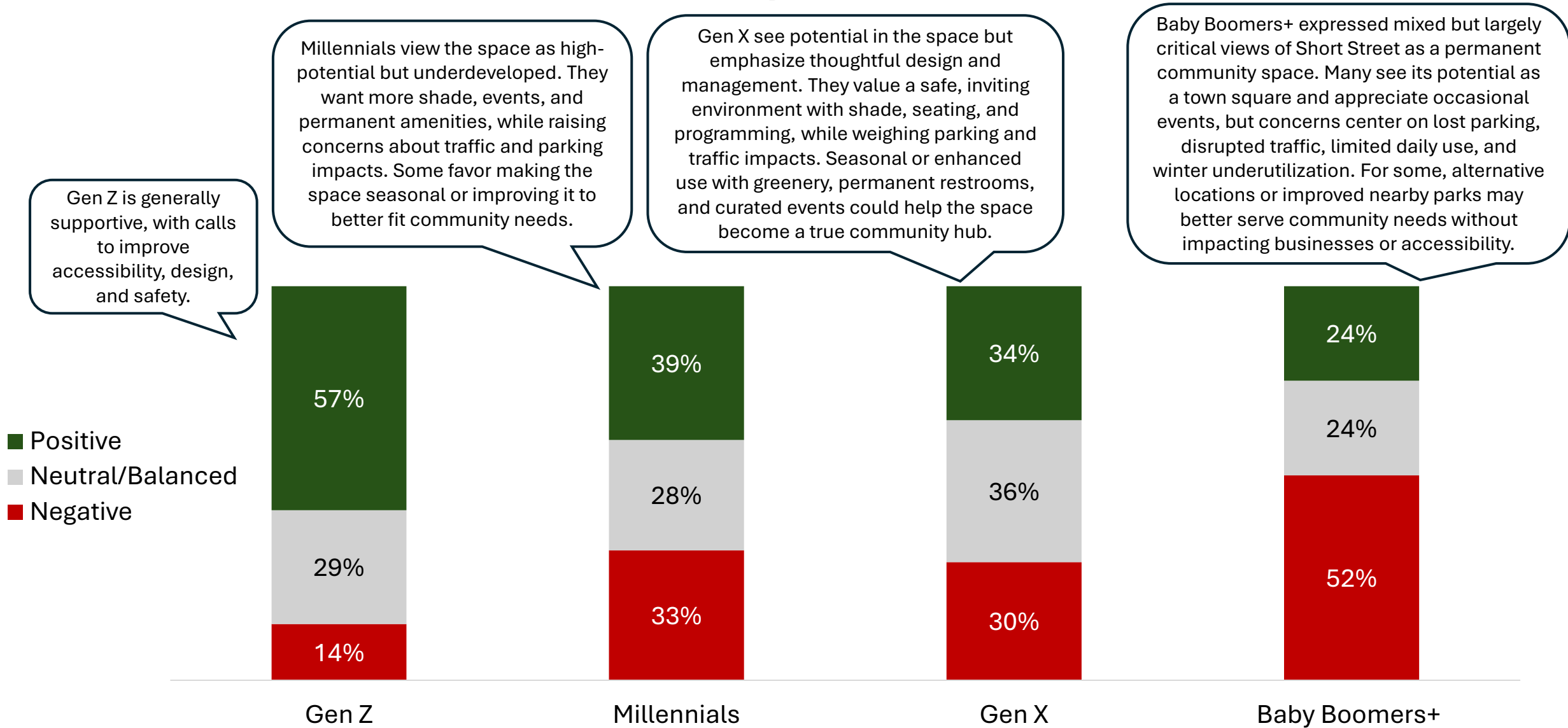
Respondents shared a range of perspectives in the open-end question. Parking is a major concern, with many noting lost spaces and traffic impacts. Respondents also called for improvements to make the space more inviting. On the positive side, people appreciated having a place for community gatherings.

Top Themes by Sentiment



Source: Short Street Feedback, October 2025. Base: Respondents who provided comments to Q7 (n=637). Q7. Please share any comments, concerns, or suggestions you would like Council and staff to know about the Community Space @ Short Street.

Sentiment by Generation



Appendix



Quotes by Top Themes

Parking

"I really like the Community Space @ Short Street! As a frequent driver and car-parker in downtown, I have not found the street closure to be inconvenient at all. [...]"

"The only argument against this would be parking spots, which is an ongoing issue downtown. Nose in parking at Mills lawn and or corry street would alleviate all concerns. [...]"

"A complication of the space is a reduction in already constrained parking, and a solution to that lack is needed. Of note, safety downtown is improved with the reduction of low-visibility turns from Short onto Xenia"

"The daily need for parking spaces is serious and it should be a priority to have the Short Street spaces available to give shoppers more access to shops without having a frustrating experience of nowhere to easily park and without overtaxing Tom's parking lot. [...]"

"YS needs parking before space is taken for other, non-necessary uses. YS keeps pushing for tourists yet doesn't provide adequate parking."

"We come into town multiple times a week to run errands. The closing of Short Street has made it very difficult to find a parking place. [...]"

Space Improvements

"I love it! I've lived in other places where there is dedicated community/pedestrian space and it feels inviting for everyone. I like that it is centrally located. It's a pain to not be able to cut through there yes but I think the benefits outweigh my minor inconvenience. Does the space need more work? Yes, but I understand it is a work in progress. [...]"

"I really like the Community Space @ Short Street! As a frequent driver and car-parker in downtown, I have not found the street closure to be inconvenient at all. I very much like the idea of the Community Space and expect that with more time and additional investment, it could flourish - similar to the pedestrian zones I have enjoyed other in other cities around the world. The outdoor programming that has been staged there has been very enjoyable. I'd love to see more of it."

"It's hard to judge it in it's current state. The pavement makes it too hot on hot days. If it were going to be a permanent space, then some work needs to go into actually planning & implementing a much more welcoming area. The pavillion that Peaches put up is a good example."

"The space is not attractive and welcoming enough with the concrete and porta-johns. Do people actually sit there when they visit YS? [...]"

Comments are presented verbatim, without edits to spelling or punctuation.

Quotes by Top Themes

Traffic Flow

“The community space has not affected my traffic pattern throughout the village. In fact, I found it made the community more walkable and safer. I believe that adding a plaza downtown will enhance the ambiance of our community, but I doubt that it would significantly affect visitor spending. So long as neighborhood compliance is upheld, I see nothing wrong in providing a space for the community to gather and rest while they are downtown.”

“I work at Mills Lawn. Having Short St closed has helped tremendously with traffic flow for morning drop off and made it safer. [...] has met friends at Short St several times since it was closed and they love it. It's a fun and safe place they can hang out and interact with other people. Please keep Short St closed permanently!”

“Totally disruptive takeover of space. It's an inconvenience to local residents for downtown access. Especially older residents. [...]”

“Not attractive, no one using, difficult to drive a round”

“There is more traffic than before, less parking, and it makes going to the bank, pharmacy, or anything else downtown frustrating. Short Street is a street for a reason. [...]”

Usage of Space

[...] I'm thrilled that you're doing it, and encourage you to stay the course. The roll-out seems to have been unfortunate, in that the space wasn't attractive, but it seems to have improved; concerts there were a great idea. (I now live out of state, so haven't been there yet). Give it time; I believe people will love having a community outdoor space.”

“I think it's a good idea but it seems underutilized. Not sure if upgrades would help. The porta potties seem gross, and make me want to avoid hanging out there. The DJ Battle was super fun. That's the only time I used the space. I live about a block away.”

“I think it is an eyesore and have never seen more than two people there and detrimental for our local businesses”

“I love living in a walkable town with a small and active downtown. I have not experienced or seen the new Short Street area add to the community experience in town and the vision seems unclear. Most of the time it is empty. [...]”

“It stays empty for the most part. It's ugly and also smelly due to portapottys. The concrete raises the temperature in the hot sun as well as the metal tables/seats which are scalding. [...]”

Comments are presented verbatim, without edits to spelling or punctuation.

Quotes by Top Themes

Businesses

“Short Street has created an exceptionally rare car free space right in downtown. The excess of traffic is one of the significant limitations to our downtown space and this is one step toward creating a more walkable community. My two year old has repeatedly asked to go spend time on Short Street. As a village resident, the project has only been positive for me and encourages me to spend time (and money) in town.”

“Please don't let the small loud minority doom this amazing, heartwarming project. It is helping my downtown business. My traffic was up this year.”

“I feel like the bank that is right there would be affected heavily. It makes sense if the hardware store is gone but before it was helpful parking area near that as well as the theatre.”

“Listen to your seniors - who already limit their trips to downtown because of long walk or no parking. Listen to your businesses. Get creative with that unused park!”

“Please deconstruct the closing of Short Street as fast as possible. Short Street functioned very well for neighborly shopping downtown. In its present form it is a tragic wasteland. Open the street!”

Seasonal / Temporary Use

“We love the space! But wonder about how much it would be used in the winter?”

“I live just north of the village and come to the village for the majority of my shopping, dining, and socializing. Having this space downtown is a great idea during summer months. But in the winter, it should be taken down and parking should be returned. [...]”

“Close Short St. for specific day/night events only. It's an inconvenient bearly used eyesore now. [...]”

“As someone who lives shops, banks, and works in Yellow Springs, the closing of Short Street has been a great inconvenience. I have never seen more than two people utilizing it. I think it is fine to close the street for special events such as Street Fair, but the downtown flow of traffic is impeded by its closure. Parking close to the bank has been difficult, and the cut-through to Walnut Street sorely missed. As I am in downtown Yellow Springs daily to grocery shop, bank, or run other errands, I have found the closure very aggravating.”

Comments are presented verbatim, without edits to spelling or punctuation.

Quotes by Top Themes

Alternative Spaces

“I think a community space is a wonderful idea; however, I don't think Short Street is the right location. Closing the street negatively impacts traffic and parking. I frequently see cars cutting through the bank going the wrong way. I fear this could eventually cause an accident. I would love to see a permanent community space, but think it would be best in a different location.”

“I like the thought of a central, intentional, and maintained space in town - I believe the intent for the Short Street Project. However, diverting those resources into enhancing accessibility & beautifying Beatty Hughes Park (along Cory and abutting Keith's Alley) would be a more suitable and less disruptive space to utilize for the intended activities. [...]”

“I think Betty Hughes Park should be developed into a more accessible and usable community space with more seating, walkways, solar powered phone charging stations, water fountains, bike racks, and a row of car parking along Corry St.”

“The grassy space in front of the Bryan Center or the old tennis courts/now parking area at the Bryan Center would be better options to not disrupt the flow and close parking in downtown.”

Community Gathering

“The short street closure is one of my favorite aspects to Yellow Springs lately. It gives space for the community to hang out without being too in the way anywhere. There's covering and shade. The lights look so cool at night. It's such a vibe!! I see SO MUCH potential for the short street to help Yellow Springs in many ways. My friends and I sit around with excitement planning how we can make it a more fun place!”

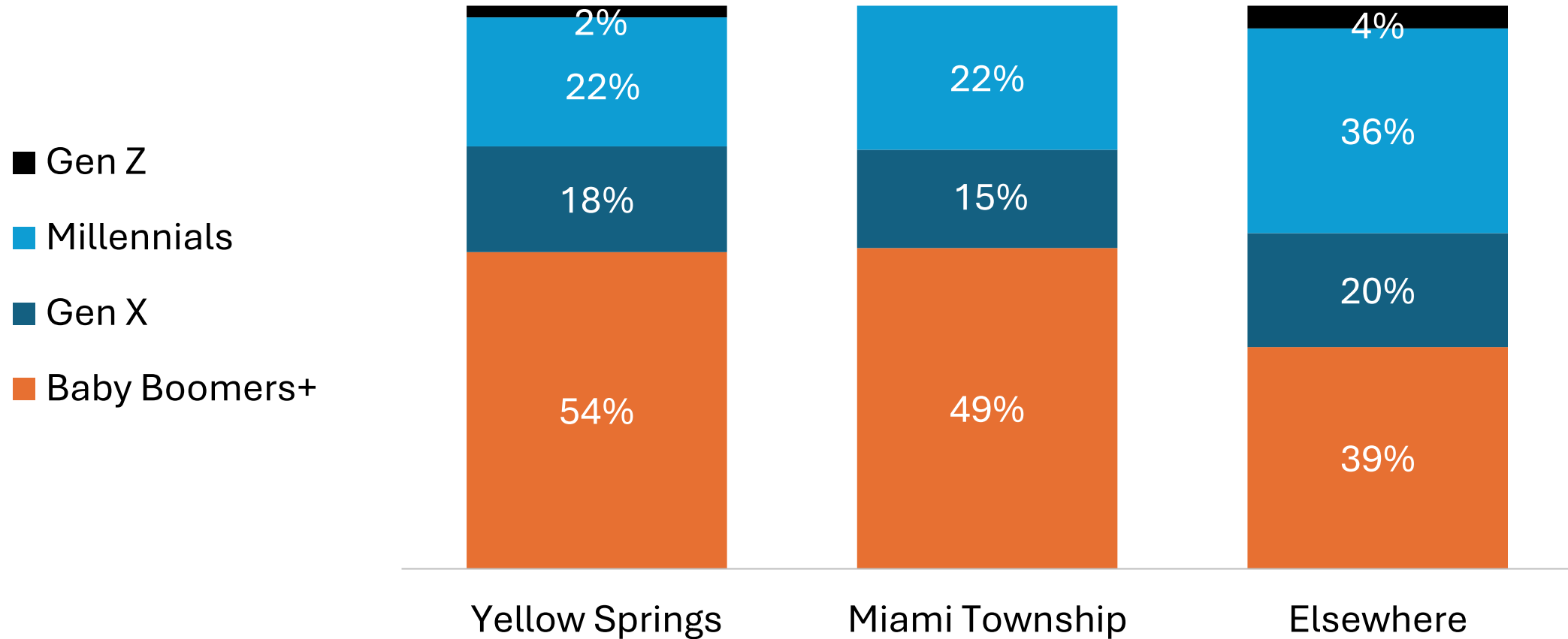
“It's a wonderful space that has the potential to reap a lot of benefits when it comes to community-building.”

“I LOVE the Community Space! It encourages everyone, residents and visitors alike, to spend time in the center of the village. It gives us a place to gather, sharing food or a cup of coffee. It offers a pleasant place to rest and relax, have a chat with friends, and listen to music. One of the best things about the village is how easy it is to walk or ride a bike. Driving downtown, parking a short distance away, and walking shouldn't be considered an inconvenience.”

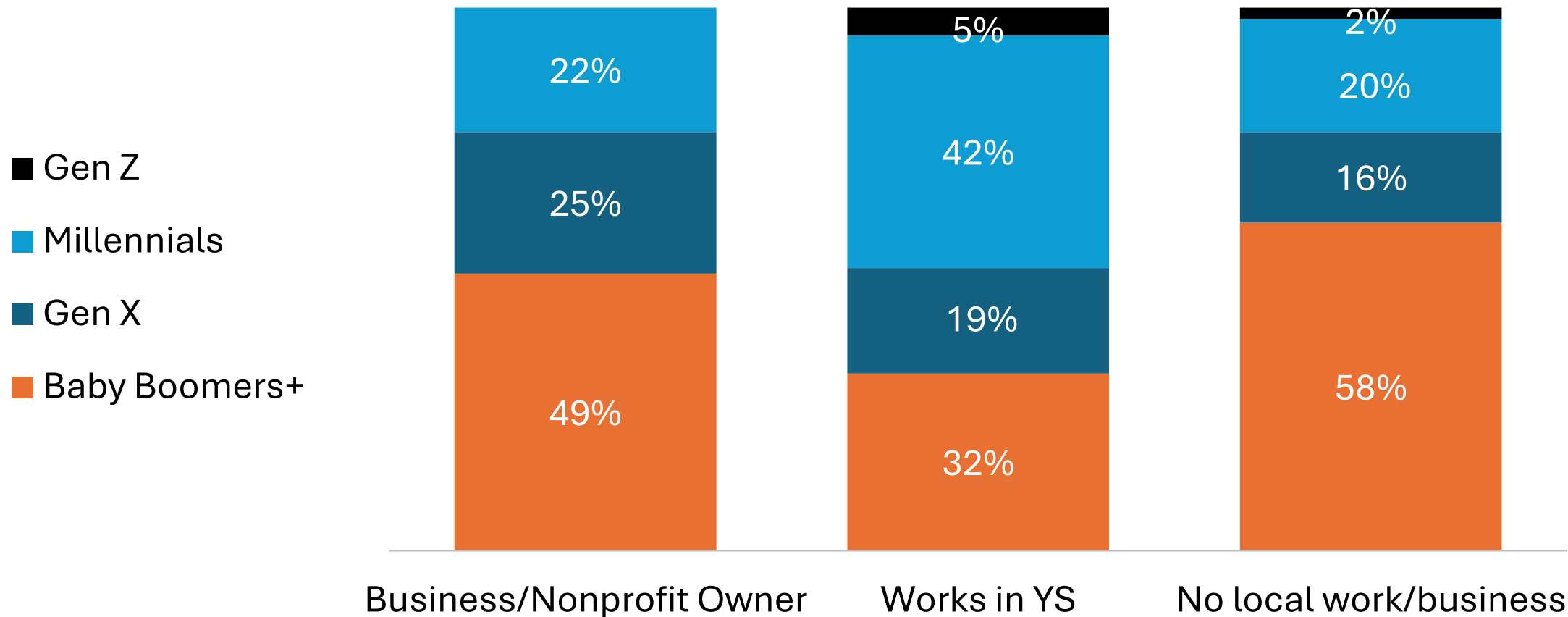
“It was amazing to have a space like this for the local community as well as visitors to use, there's nothing like it available in the village at the moment. Hopefully future iterations will be nicer, e.g. not having portable toilets right there. It would also be great to have a DORA for the area to enhance the nightlife of the village. I would like to see this project become permanent and be continuously improved on.”

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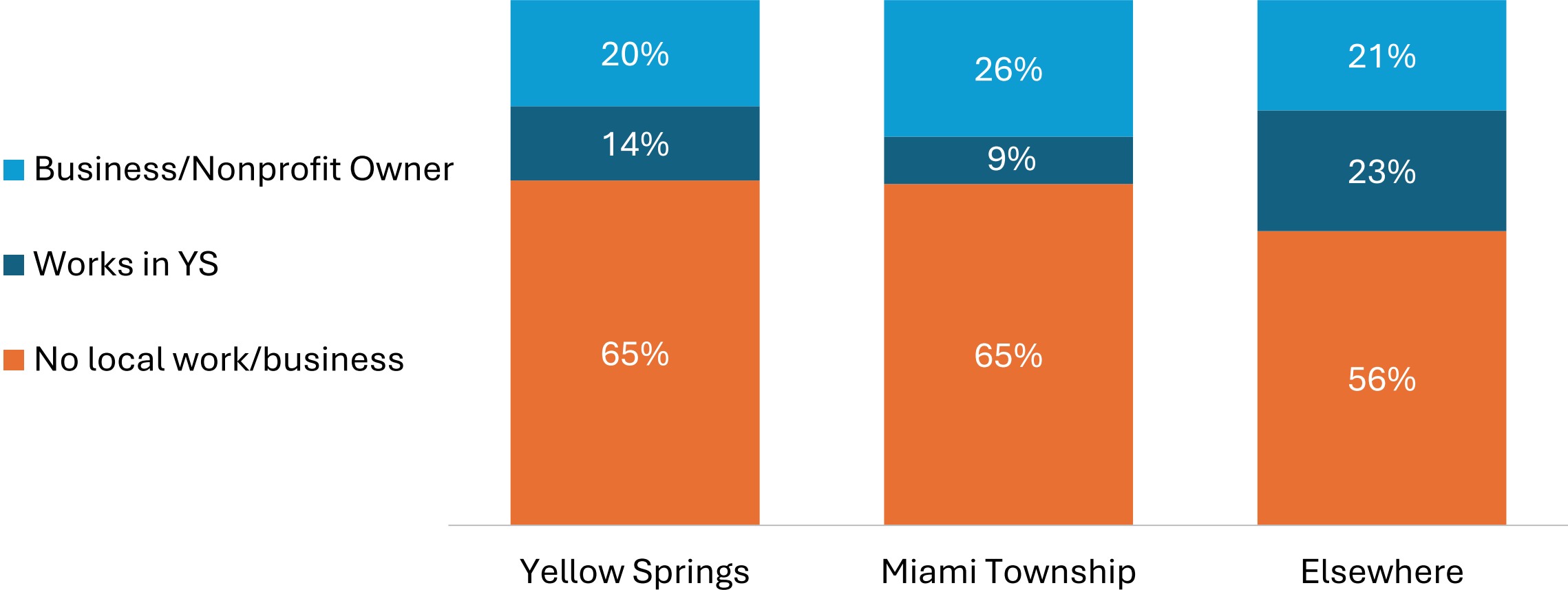
Age by Residence



Age by Occupational Involvement

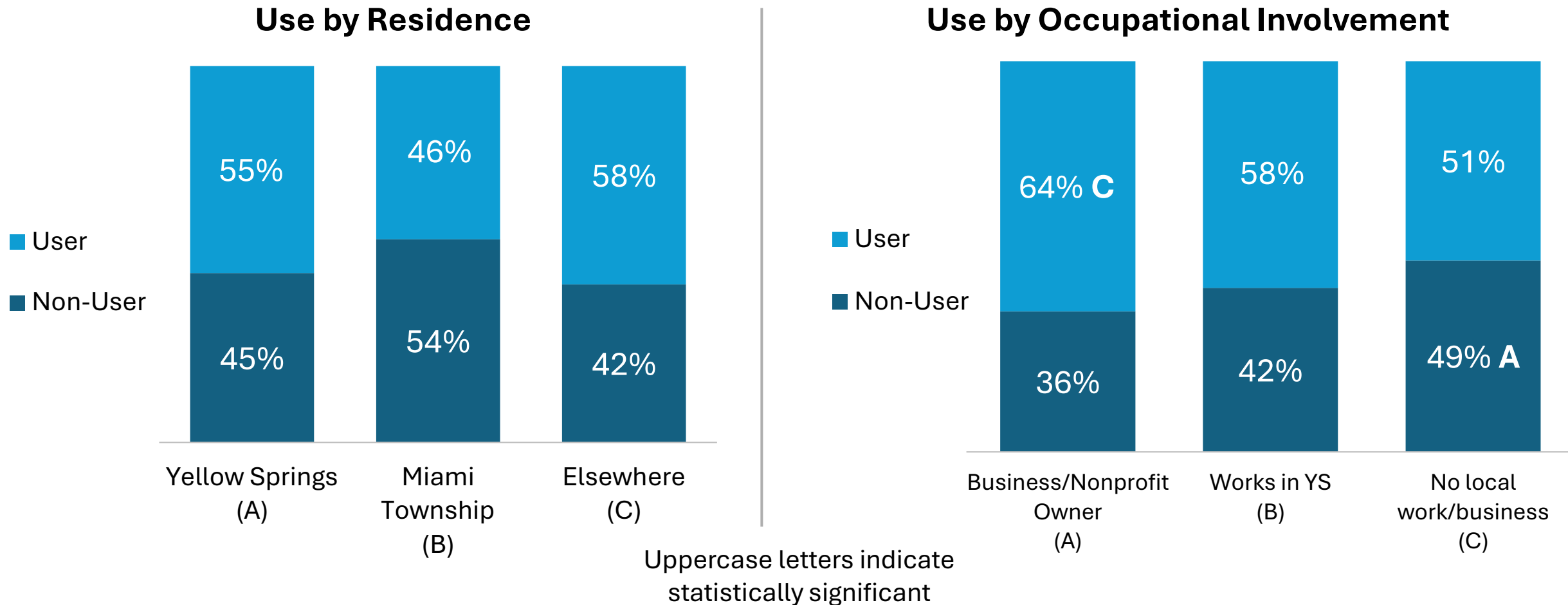


Occupational Involvement by Residence

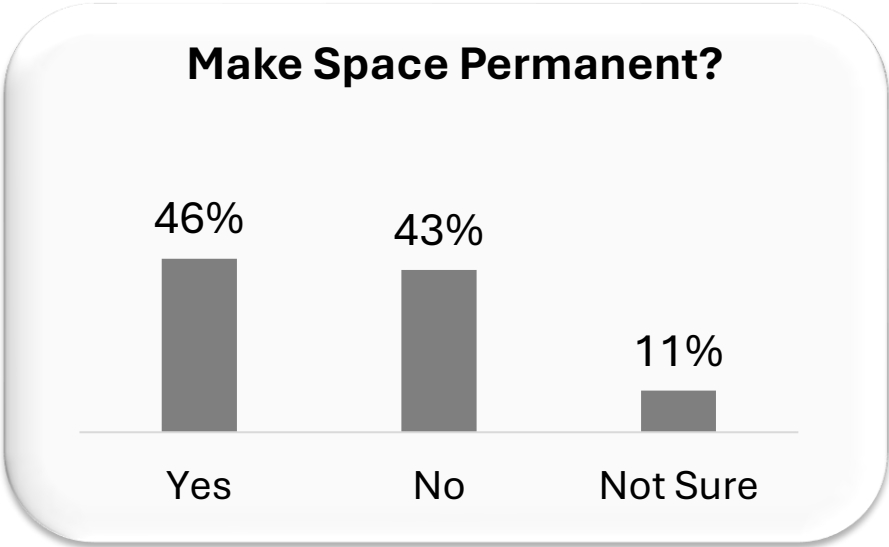
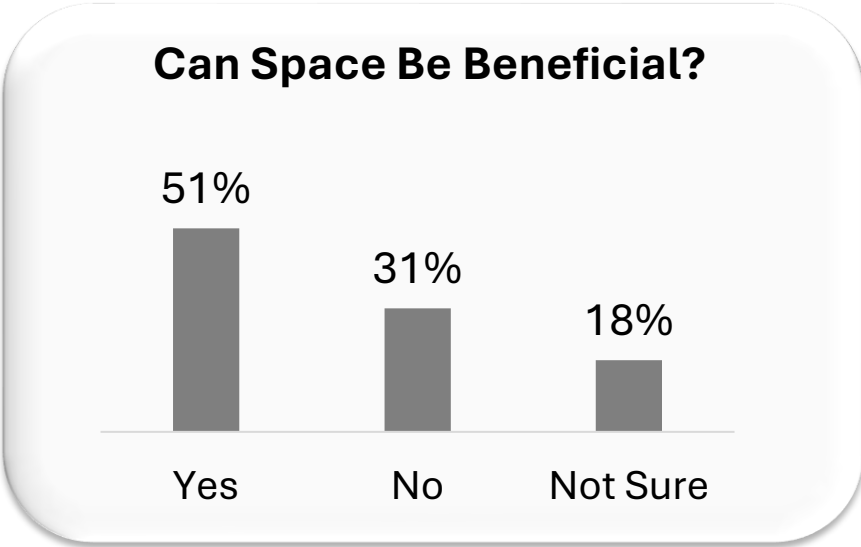
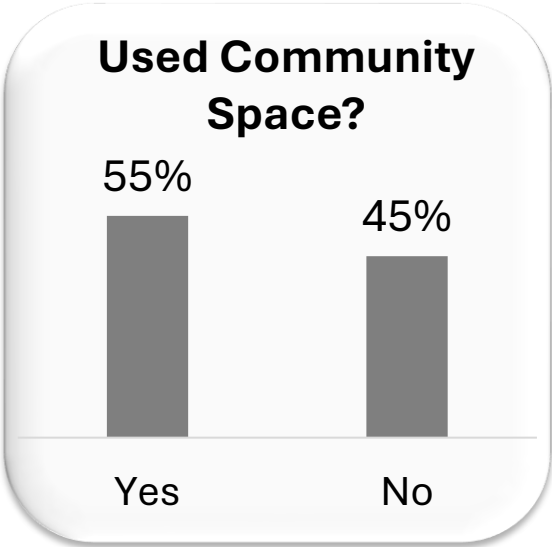
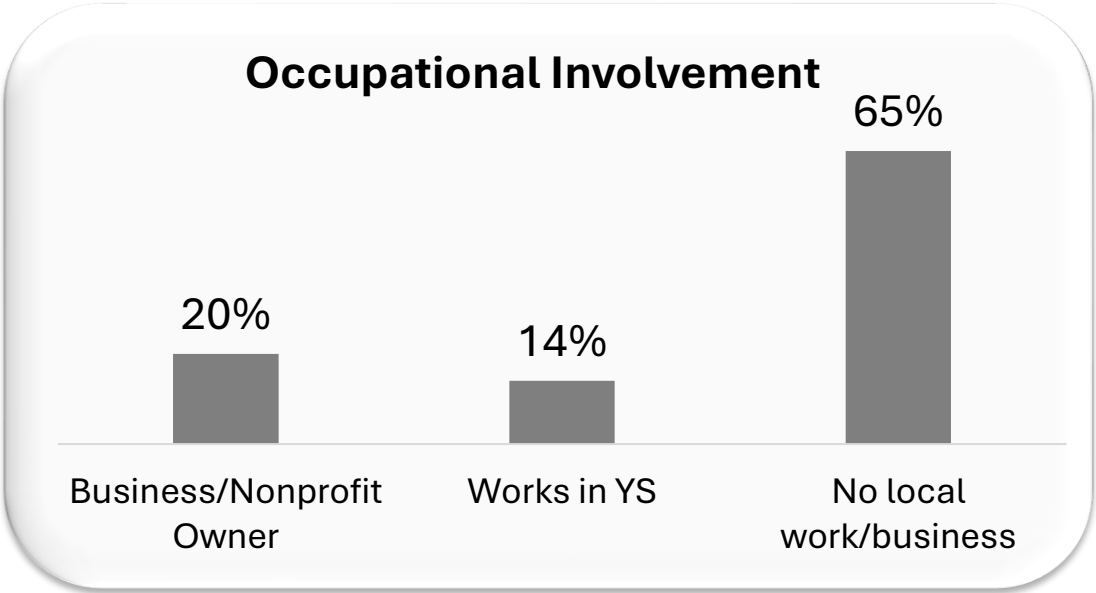
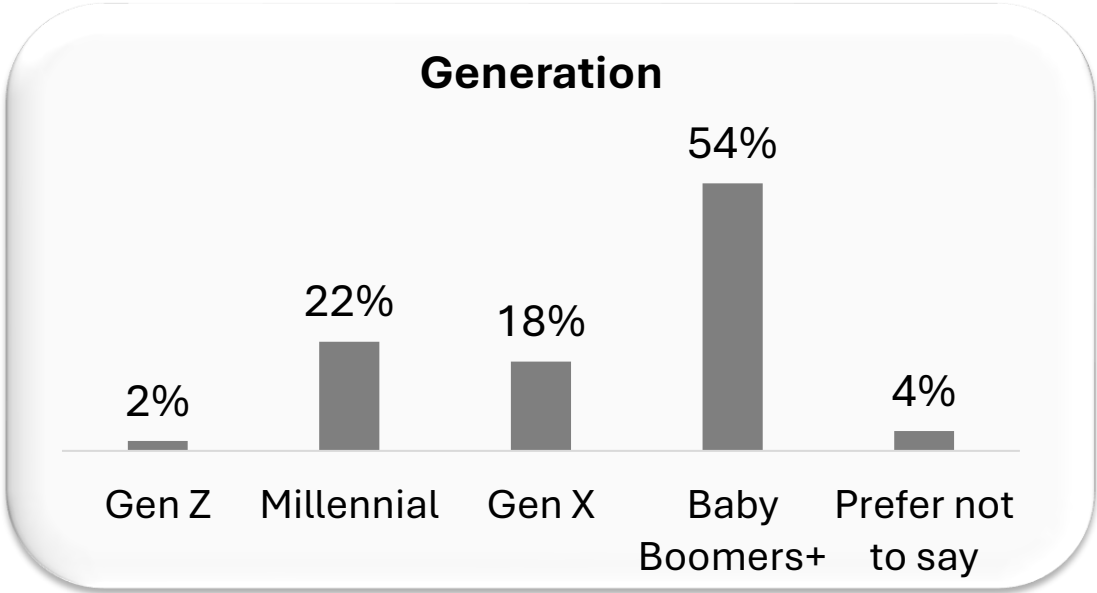


Source: Short Street Feedback, October 2025. Base: 'Yellow Springs' at Q2 (n=769), 'Miami Township' at Q2 (n=68), 'Elsewhere' at Q2 (n=132) Q3. Which best describes your occupational involvement in Yellow Springs?

Use of the space is similar among residents of Yellow Springs, Miami Township, and elsewhere, but business and nonprofit owners or managers are more likely to use it than those who don't work locally.

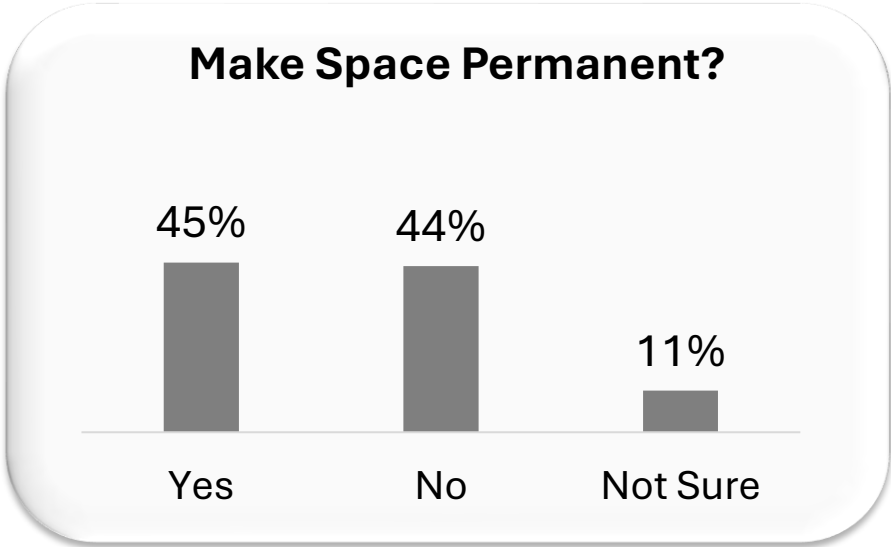
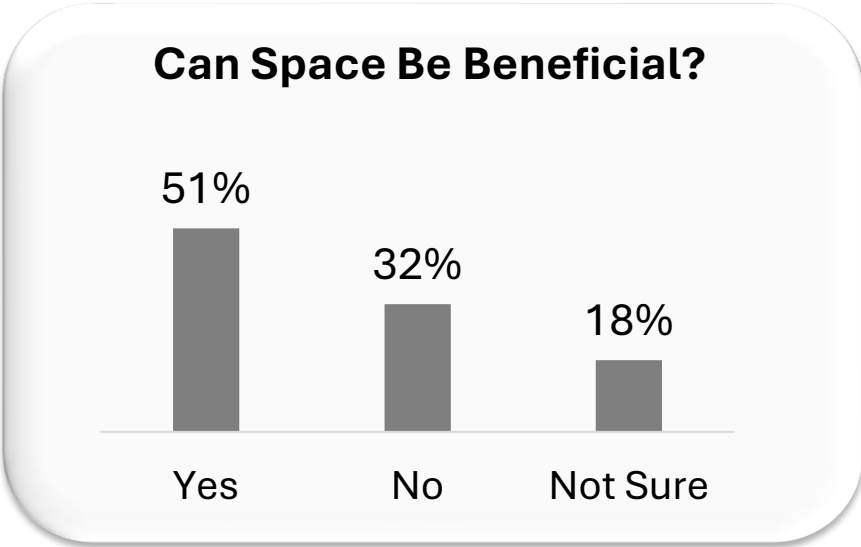
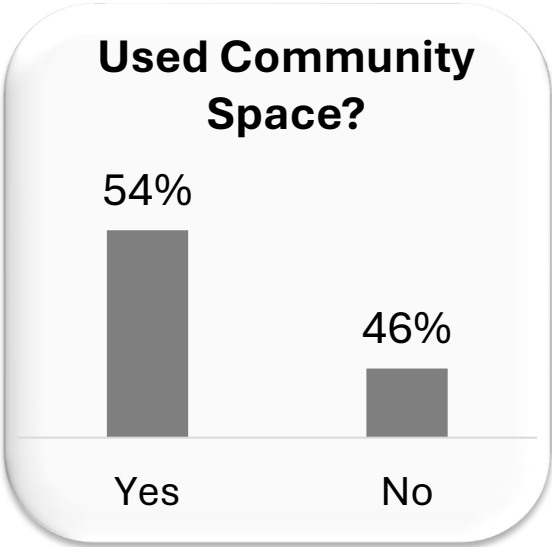
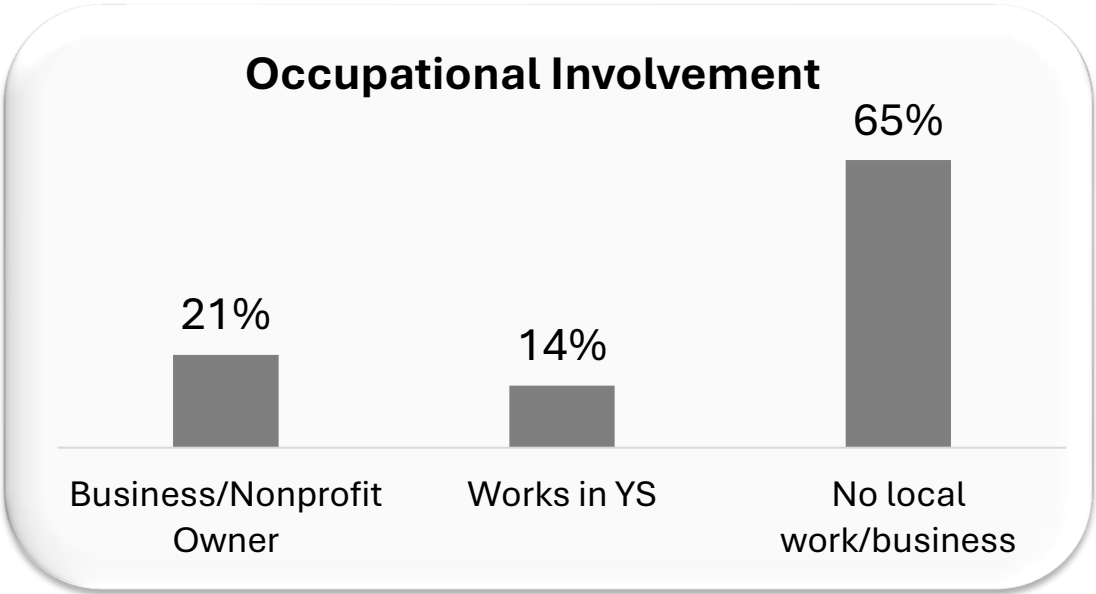
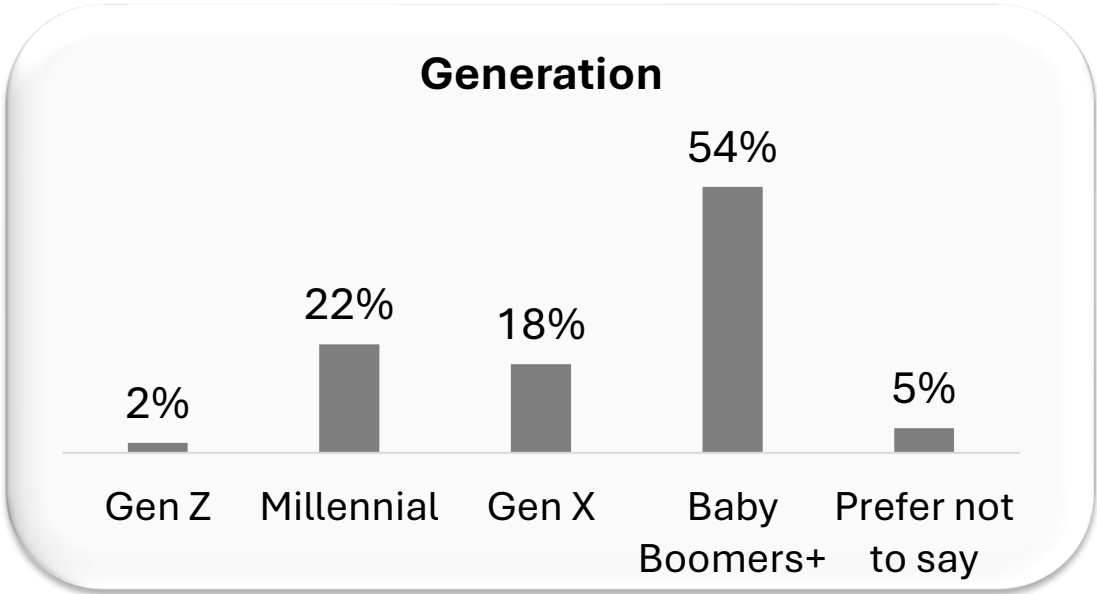


Responses from Yellow Springs Residents



Source: Short Street Feedback, October 2025. Base: 'Village of Yellow Springs' at Q2 (n=769) Q1. What is your age? Q3. Which best describes your occupational involvement in Yellow Springs? Q4. Have you utilized the Community Space @ Short Street since it opened? (This could include attending an event or simply spending time there) Q5. Overall, do you feel the Community Space @ Short Street can be beneficial to the community? Q6. Would you like to see the Community Space @ Short Street become a permanent community space, with upgrades to enhance its use?

Responses from Yellow Springs & Miami Township Residents



Source: Short Street Feedback, October 2025. Base: 'Village of Yellow Springs' or 'Miami Township' at Q2 (n=837) Q1. What is your age? Q3. Which best describes your occupational involvement in Yellow Springs? Q4. Have you utilized the Community Space @ Short Street since it opened? (This could include attending an event or simply spending time there) Q5. Overall, do you feel the Community Space @ Short Street can be beneficial to the community? Q6. Would you like to see the Community Space @ Short Street become a permanent community space, with upgrades to enhance its use?

Survey Questionnaire

[SINGLE CHOICE]

Q1. What is your age?

[ANSWERS]

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18–24
- ☐ 25–34
- ☐ 35–44
- ☐ 45–54
- ☐ 55–64
- ☐ 65 or older
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Generations:

Gen Z: Under 18 + 18–24

Millennials: 25–34 + 35–44

Gen X: 45–54

Baby Boomers+: 55–64 + 65 or older

[SINGLE CHOICE]

Q2. Where is your primary residence?

[ANSWERS]

- ☐ Village of Yellow Springs
- ☐ Miami Township
- ☐ Elsewhere

[SINGLE CHOICE]

Q3. Which best describes your occupational involvement in Yellow Springs?

[ANSWERS]

- ☐ I own or manage a business or nonprofit organization in Yellow Springs
- ☐ I work in Yellow Springs but do not own/manage a business or nonprofit
- ☐ I do not work for or own a business or nonprofit in Yellow Springs

[SINGLE CHOICE]

Q4. Have you used the Community Space @ Short Street since it opened? (This could include attending an event or simply spending time there)

[ANSWERS]

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

[SINGLE CHOICE]

Q5. Overall, do you feel the Community Space @ Short Street can be beneficial to the community?

[ANSWERS]

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

[SINGLE CHOICE]

Q6. Would you like to see the Community Space @ Short Street become a permanent community space, with upgrades to enhance its use?

[ANSWERS]

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

[OPEN END]

Q7. Please share any comments, concerns, or suggestions you would like Council and staff to know about the Community Space @ Short Street. *Please note: All survey comments may appear in a public report. Personal information will only be collected if you choose to include it in your response.*

Open response: _____



Report Prepared by The Village of Yellow Springs Elyse Giardullo, Assistant Village Manager

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