



2015-2016 LONG-TERM PLANNING & COMMUNITY VISIONING SERIES

PROJECT REVIEW & SESSION #1 SUMMARY



THE PROJECT

To create a long-term plan for the future of our community based on the visions, ideas, and needs of our residents and local business owners.

PHASE 1: RESEARCH & PREPARATION

Completed: Winter / Summer 2015

- Researched community planning and visioning.
- Collected existing data on the demographics of our District.
- Planned a community engagement strategy.

PHASE 2: VISIONING SESSIONS

On-going: Fall 2015 / Winter 2016

Direct engagement with community members through educational events and discussion-based workshops to understand their local needs and formulate a vision for our District's future based on their ideas.

Session #1: Bronx River / Bruckner / Soundview North
September 2015

Session #2: Park Stratton / Parkchester / Unionport North
November 2015

Session #3: Unionport South / Castle Hill / Zerega
December 2015

Session #4: Soundview South / Clason Point / Harding Park
January 2016

PHASE 3: REFLECTION & DATA ORGANIZATION

Planned: Spring 2016

- Reviewing ideas collected during vision sessions.
- Conducting follow-up focus groups on specific issues with community members.
- Creating a consensus-based vision for the community.

PHASE 4: PROPOSALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Planned: Summer / Fall 2016

Directly applying the vision and priorities established to:

- Make recommendations for city and state budgeting and capital investment projects in the District.
- Suggest amendments and inform the Board's response to local development proposals.
- Collaborate with the Department of City Planning on Community-Based Planning initiatives.
- Update the District Needs Statement submitted to the Bronx Borough President's office every year.

PURPOSE

1. INFORMED DECISION MAKING

Collecting up-to-date information about the needs and desires of our constituents helps the Board:

- Better represent our constituents when we complete our annual District Needs Statement and budget recommendations for the Bronx Borough President's office.
- Keep city service agencies informed about deficits and improvements that need to be made in the District.
- Represent local interests accurately when working or collaborating with local elected officials, developers, or community-based organizations.

2. THINKING LONG TERM

While everyday issues often make up the Community Board's focus, it is also our responsibility to think about the future of our District. The Community Board wants to make sure plans being made by the city, other levels of government, or developers reflect our desires. By taking the time now to think about the future, we will be more prepared to participate when key decisions are being made about our community.

3. OUTREACH AND AWARENESS

A major benefit of engaging the community directly through the Visioning Series is that it helps people become aware of all the services and opportunities the Community Board can provide or connect people with. Bronx Community Board 9 represents almost 200,000 residents alone. It is a permanent mission of the Board to reach and engage as many of these constituents as possible. Creating new initiatives like the Visioning Series is key to reaching new people.

Want to get involved? We need volunteers for the next Visioning Session in November 2015! Please contact the Bronx Community Board 9 office at (718) 823 3034 or bx09@cb.nyc.gov for more information.

VISION SESSION #1: EVENT SUMMARY

Our first Visioning Session on the Bronx River / Bruckner / Soundview north neighborhoods was a huge success thanks to the **118 highly engaged Bronx Community Board 9 residents and business owners** who attended! We would also like to thank the Bronx-Manhattan North Association of Realtors for sponsoring this event, PS 93 for sharing their space with us, and Evo Cocktail Lounge & Restaurant for providing the refreshments.

This event provided attendees the opportunity to talk about our community with each other, as well as Community Board Members, local elected officials, and consultants currently studying different issues in the District. After a brief presentation on land use, zoning, and community-based planning, the attendees were asked to participate in a discussion-based activity about their desires for the future of our community.



DISCUSSION GROUPS

Attendees were asked to form groups to openly discuss what they want to create, preserve, and change in their community in relation to five topics, and then share their ideas with the whole group. Highlights from the discussion are found below!

WATERFRONT SPACES, OPEN SPACES, AND THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

What we want to create:

- More access to the Bronx River.
- A local boat launch and fishing pier.
- A marina by the proposed ferry terminal in Clason Point

What we want to preserve:

- Wildlife and natural areas in the parks and along the waterfront.

What we want to change:

- More seating capacity in the new amphitheater in Soundview Park.
- Improve the access point to Starlight Park.

TRANSPORTATION

What we want to create:

- More bus service (frequency, reliability, more capacity)
- Ferry access around Soundview Park that links to bus lines.

What we want to preserve:

- The scope of our existing public transportation options.

What we want to change:

- Bus routes to include express and select services.
- Extend all current bus routes to run 24 hours a day.

HOUSING

What we want to create:

- Homeownership opportunities.
- Good quality services (healthy restaurants, affordable grocery stores).

What we want to preserve:

- Existing housing.
- Affordable housing.
- Existing parking.

What we want to change:

- The lack of communication between developers and residents.

LOCAL BUSINESSES, COMMERCIAL SPACES, AND EMPLOYMENT

What we want to create:

- Local jobs and employment centers.
- More access to fresh foods and produce (better grocery stores, farmers market).
- Family-oriented restaurants and services.

What we want to preserve:

- Low-cost stores like Target.
- Local family-owned businesses.

What we want to change:

- The cost of food at local grocery stores.
- The lack of appealing job opportunities.

OUR COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE - "THE NEW BRONX"

What we want to create:

- Increased public safety and police presence.
- After-school and cultural programs.

What we want to preserve:

- Existing affordable housing.
- Adult education facilities.
- Small local businesses.

What we want to change:

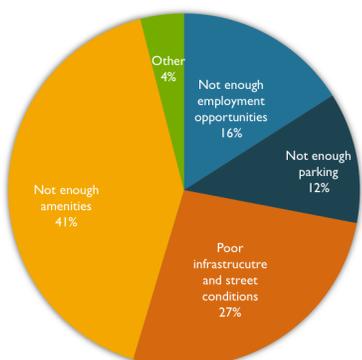
- Trends towards over-development.
- Any loss of open space.

VOTING BOARDS

Attendees asked some questions about the Board and our community. Selected results are found below!

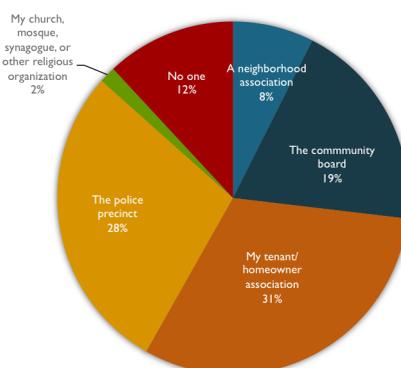
What is the top everyday challenge that you face in your neighborhood?

75 votes counted



Which neighborhood organization do you usually contact when you have a problem?

67 votes counted



Have you ever attended a BXCB9 event before?

70 votes counted

