CHAIR'S REPORT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JUNE 11, 2009

CONGRATULATIONS TO FORMER BOARD MEMBER MAGGIE JACOBS – NEW SON, KALIB, BORN APRIL 16, 2009

Elections

- Thursday, June 18th
- Elections placed on Agenda after Reports

ULURP – West 129th Street Realty

- CB9 ULURP Clock – June 10 to August 10, 2009
- Calendar and previous correspondence attached

Committee Recommendations

- Refer to attached Resos

Committee Summer Schedule

- July Meetings – Executive, Landmarks, ULURP, Land Use, Special Board
- August Meetings – Executive

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL
800 North Pearl Street, 2nd Floor
Albany, New York 12204
(518) 473-3782

DAVID A. PATERSON
GOVERNOR

JAMES G. SHEEHAN
MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL

Fax: (518) 474-6773

RECEIVED
JUN 05 2009
By

June 3, 2009

Patricia A. Jones, Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 9
16-18 Old Broadway
New York, New York 10027

Re: Manhattanville Pharmacy

Dear Mrs. Jones,

Your letter to Medicaid Inspector General James Sheehan regarding Manhattanville Pharmacy has been referred to me for a response. We are mindful of the concerns raised in your letter and we wish to assure you that service to the Medicaid patient community in West Harlem is of the utmost importance to us.

In discharging our responsibilities in regard to adding additional pharmacies as enrollees in the Medicaid provider billing program, a number of factors must be considered including density and the ability of the pharmacy to be self-sustaining.

The Manhattanville Pharmacy was recently denied enrollment based on their inability to demonstrate fiscal viability. This has also been reviewed by an appeals committee and the enrollment denial has been upheld.

This is a decision which was not taken lightly, and a thorough review of all the facts was engaged in prior to the final determination. A review of the demographics of the area shows that there are fifteen actively enrolled pharmacies within the zip code in question. We believe those pharmacies can adequately meet the needs of the community and the region.

Thank you for your expression of concern. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please feel free to give me a call at (518) 408-0916.

Very truly yours,

John T. Sullivan, Jr.
Deputy Medicaid Inspector General
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

cc: James Sheehan, Medicaid Inspector General

JTS:adc

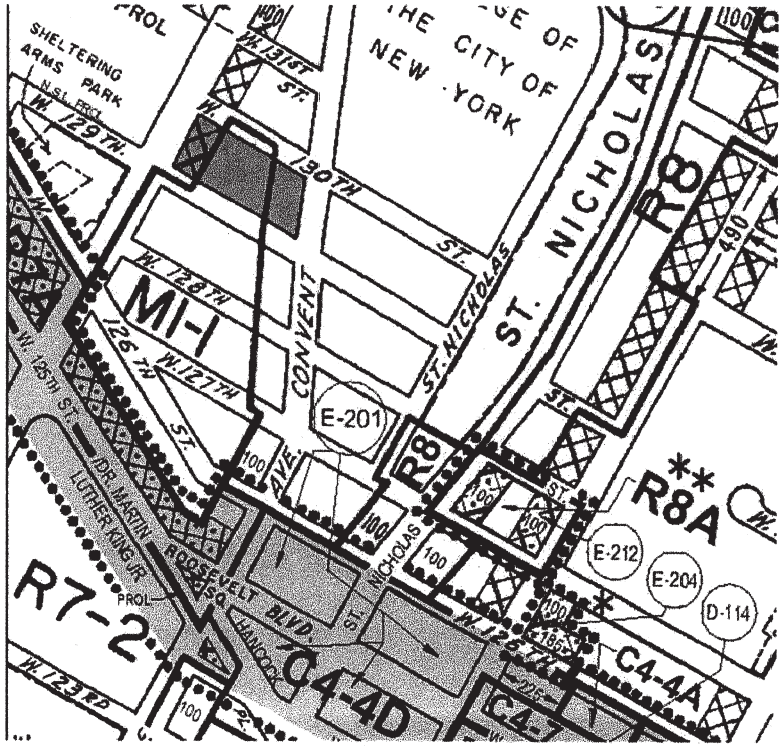
DRAFT

UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW PROCESS (ULURP)

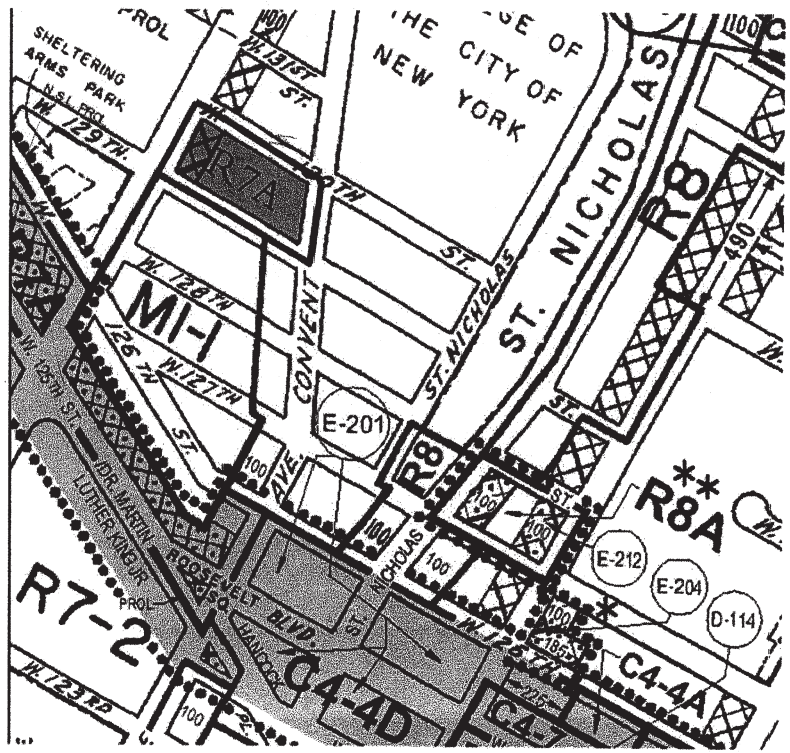
APPLICANT	West 129th Street Realty LLC (Michael and Jonathan Feigenbaum)
SITE DATA	Block bounded by West 129th and West 130th Streets between Amsterdam and Convent Avenues
PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE	From R7-2 TO R7A (Bounded by West 130th Street, a line 100 feet easterly of Amsterdam Avenue, West 129th Street and Amsterdam Avenue; AND West 130th Street, Convent Avenue, West 129th Street, a line 100 feet westerly of Convent Avenue) From M1-1 TO R7A (Bounded by West 130th Street, a line 100 feet westerly of Convent Avenue, West 129th Street; and a line 100 feet easterly of Amsterdam Avenue)
CERTIFIED BY DCP	June 1, 2009
CB9 REVIEW (ULURP) BEGINS	June 10, 2009
APPLICANT:	
• **TO ULURP CMTE**	June 16, 2009
• **TO FULL BOARD**	June 18, 2009
• **TO ULURP CMTE**	July 21, 2009
CB9 PUBLIC HEARING	July 28, 2009
CB9 VOTE	July 28, 2009
CB9 REVIEW (ULURP) ENDS	August 10, 2009

An overview of the ULURP process can be found at the NYC Department of City Planning website. Click on Land Use Process and then Land Use Review Procedures.

H. THOMAS O'HARA
ARCHITECT, PLLC
www.hto-architect.com
185 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10016
212 695 1117 212 695 3818 fax



Existing Zoning Map



Proposed Zoning Map

129th Street, LLC
November 10, 2008

These drawings are an instrument of service and are the property of the architect. Infringements will be prosecuted.

The City of New York

CB9M
565 West 125 Street
New York, New York 10027
(212) 864-6200/Fax # 662-7396

COMMUNITY BOARD #9, MANHATTAN

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President, Borough of Manhattan

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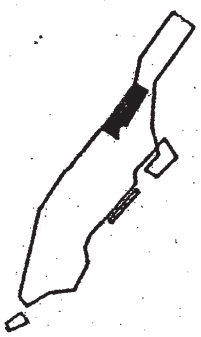

November 21, 2008

Hon. Amanda Burden
Chairperson
City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, New York

Re: 129th Realty, LLC Metropolitan Opera Storage

Dear Commissioner Burden:

The Executive Committee at their regularly scheduled meeting held on Thursday, November 13, 2008, adopted the following letter regarding: **129th Realty, LLC Metropolitan Opera Storage** by a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. Such letter has been provided to the Full Board and on Thursday, November 20, 2008, the Full Board agreed that the Executive Committee should act on its behalf regarding this matter.

At the request of Edwin Marshall, the following letter sets forth Manhattan Community Board No. 9's position with respect to a rezoning application submitted by 129th Realty, LLC Metropolitan Opera Storage.

We appreciate the efforts that the Department is making to move forward the West Harlem Special District concept to an ultimate rezoning and look forward to the continuation of our partnership to bring these efforts to fruition in the near term.

Notwithstanding, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 does not object to the certification of this individual application ahead of the completion of the broader West Harlem project. Please note that it is the expectation of this Community Board that the applicant achieve meaningful housing targets affordable to the residents of Community Board No.9. Further, the developers are to stay in consultation with Community Board No. 9 throughout the development of this site. These expectations have been communicated to the developers.

In the event that you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (212) 864-6200.

Best regards,

Patricia Jones
Chair

cc: Edith Hsu-Chen, Director, Manhattan Borough Office, Department of City Planning
Edwin Marshall, Senior Planner, Department of City Planning
Luther Smith, Bill Lynch Associates
Michael Feigenbaum, Metropolitan Opera Storage

The City of New York

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, New York 11373

Anne Canty
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Communications & Intergovernmental Affairs

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Debra Pucci
Director
Community Partnerships
Bureau of Communications & Intergovernmental Affairs

Te. .8) 595-6523
Fax (718) 595-3481
dpucci@dep.nyc.gov

May 15, 2009

RECEIVED
JUN 01 2009
By

Dear Sir/Madam:

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) is writing to you about an Environmental Benefit Project (EBP) to benefit the geographic area of Manhattan Community Board 9 in West Harlem. The NYCDEP has committed to providing $1.1 million in environmental benefit projects to the West Harlem community as part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) 1992 Consent Order pertaining to issues at the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

On June 28, 2008, the NYCDEP and the West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project Committee (WHEBPC) hosted a community workshop for the West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project. The attached report details the feedback and ideas received from the community workshop and will be circulated to the attendees of the workshop, as well as a wider group of stakeholders.

The NYCDEP welcomes your feedback on this report and requests any other project proposals that will meet the criteria of the NYSDEC EBP requirements listed below. The NYCDEP seeks to identify environmental project proposals which will benefit the community at large and meet the following NYSDEC requirements:

The proposal must be based around a capital project (an environmentally sustainable project or an education project);
The proposal must be located within Manhattan Community Board 9; and
The proposal must benefit air or water quality.

The NYCDEP and the NYSDEC will be reviewing comments on the report and additional proposals for the EBP. Proposals should be limited to 2 pages, and must include name, address, email, telephone number, and name of community affiliation.

Correspondence on this matter should be submitted to my attention either by email to debrap@dep.nyc.gov or mail to NYC Department of Environmental Protection, 59-17 Junction Blvd. 19th Floor, Flushing, NY 11373-5108. All comments and proposals should be submitted no later than July 1, 2009.

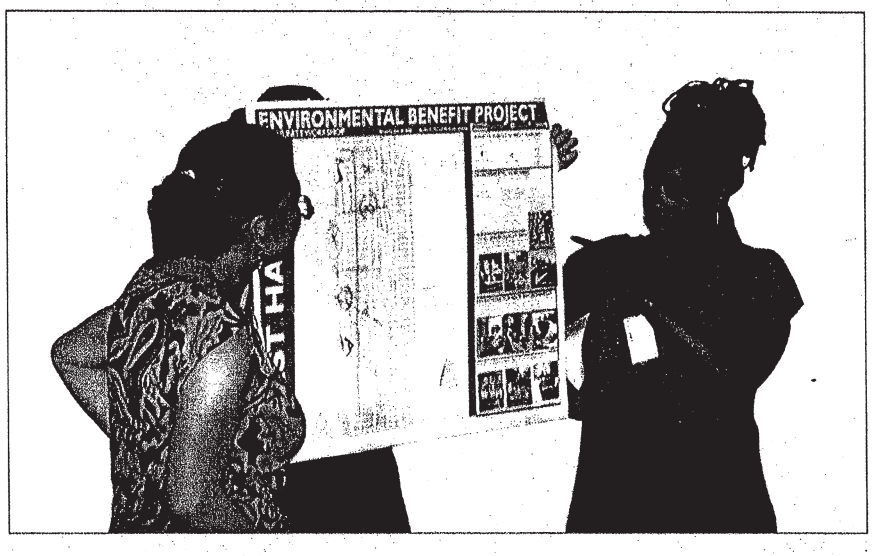
Thank you for your interest in this matter. We look forward to your input.

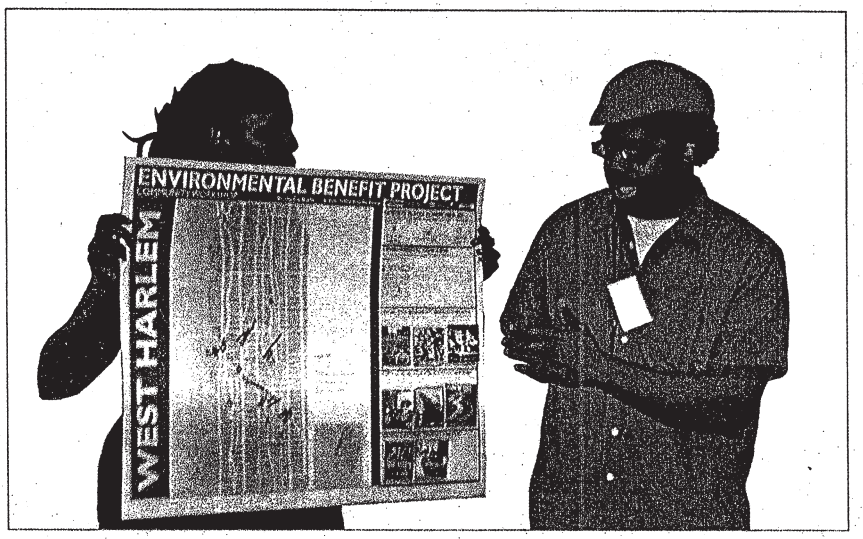
Sincerely,

Debra Pucci
Director
Community Partnerships

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DEP
www.nyc.gov/dep
DIAL 311 Government Information and Services for NYC

The West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project
Community Outreach Process





CONSULTATION REPORT | NOVEMBER 2008

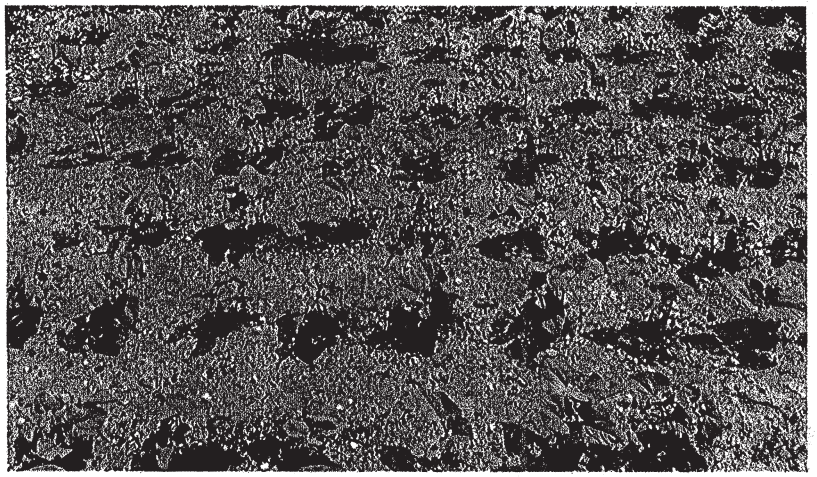
DEP West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project Committee

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

practitioners

SNOW ROUTE
NO STANDING
ONE WAY

Contents



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For all information relating to this document, please contact:

Debra Pucci
Director of Community Partnerships
NYC Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 19th Floor
Elmhurst, New York 11373-5108
DPucci@dep.nyc.gov

This report was prepared by Urban Practitioners.

Image above courtesy of Green Guerrillas

Image courtesy of Green Guerrillas

1. Executive summary

This report is the culmination of the consultation for the West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project (EBP), a process undertaken by Urban Practitioners advised by the West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project Committee. This session is part of an ongoing solicitation process with the community.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is committed to providing $1.1 million in environmental benefits projects to West Harlem as part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's 1992 consent order R2-3669-91-05 pertaining to issues at the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

This process seeks to identify community environmental benefit opportunities which have widespread community support. The parameters for the project must meet the criteria set out by the New York State Department of Conservation requirements, which includes:

- The EBP must be based around a capital project or an educational project;
- The EBP must be located within Manhattan Community Board 9; and
- The EBP must benefit air or water quality issues.

West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project Committee (WHEBPC)

WHEBPC is a group comprising two community organization representatives, two agency representatives and a Community Board 9 representative and was established to oversee the project. The organizations and agencies all have a previous connection to the original consent order.

The committee representatives are:

- L. Ann Rocker, North River Community Environment Review Board
- Peggy Shepard, WE-ACT for Environmental Justice
- Debra Pucci, NYC Department of Environmental Protection
- Michelle Moore, NYC Department of Environmental Conservation
- Carmen Perez, Community Board 9

The WHEBPC set out a consultation process for the project which would engage local community groups to identify an EBP to be funded. Urban Practitioners was commissioned to undertake detailed consultation in support of the process.

Workshop consultation

The consultation process involved three stages. The first stage kicked off with a project inception meeting on April 29, 2008 at Riverbank State Park when members of the WHEBPC agreed on project parameters, potential EBP options to be considered by community stakeholders and groups to be invited to the community workshop. The EBP options were narrowed down during the course of an additional meeting and further communications.

The second stage was the community workshop held on Saturday, June 28, 2008, which was attended by 24 people with 9 community organisations represented. The workshop used a series of exercises to draw out discussion about the stakeholders' aspirations for the Community Board 9 environment, their greatest environmental concerns and their thoughts on how to improve their local environment. The stakeholders were then divided into three groups to discuss and decide on their preferred EBP options.

The final stage has been the creation of this report, which represents the compilation of the workshop results and additional research into the recommended preferred Environmental Benefit Project. The consultation program that was undertaken is outlined in the report, and the results of the process are analyzed. Finally, the preferred options and a sample implementation plan are put forward based on this analysis.

Preferred options

The compilation of results from the workshop has shown two preferred options of the stakeholder meeting. This initial community consensus focused on the development of school gardens as the most preferred EBP option and green roofs as the second most preferred EBP option.

Section 6 details how the consultation results showed these two options as the preferred choices, and section 7 sets out a sample implementation plan for how the most preferred option could potentially be implemented.

Next steps

This report will be circulated to the attendees of the workshop as well as the wider group of stakeholders (including those shown in the appendix) for feedback on the results of the consultation process. Please let us know if you support the preferred options presented here.

This report will also welcome additional EBP proposals which could be funded and must meet the DEC EBP criteria. Any such proposals would need to be submitted to DEP. These proposals would be reviewed by DEC and DEP.

Please note that the funding for this community consultation process has been provided by NYC DEP and not from the committed EBP funds. Please email Debra Pucci at DPucci@dep.nyc.gov for further information. This report can also be found online by following links from www.nyc.gov/dep.

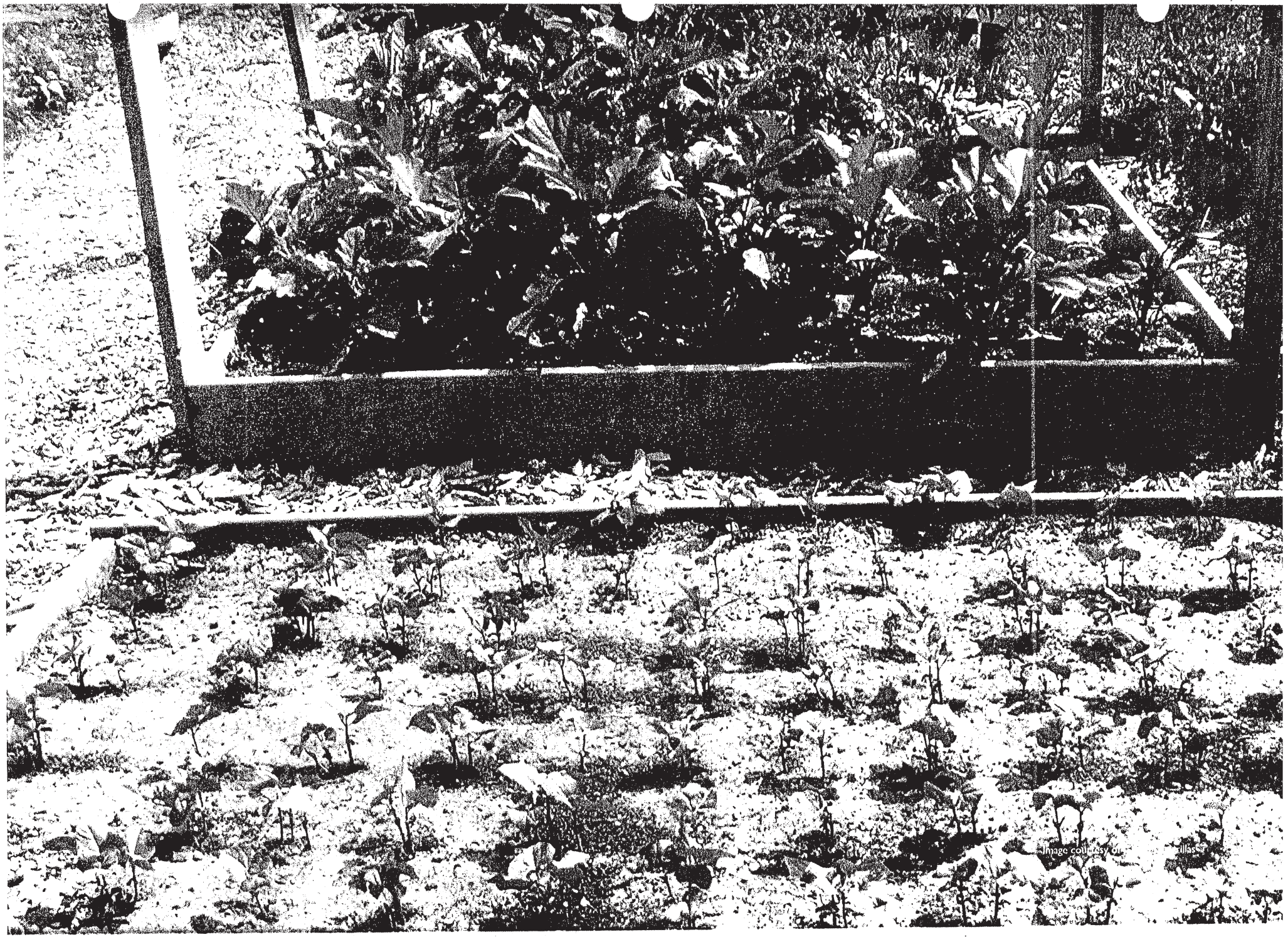


Image courtesy of

2. Consultation process context

The consultation process has occurred following several years of efforts by community stakeholders to develop appropriate EBPs for Community Board 9. This report acknowledges these ideas and efforts.

Key stakeholders involved over these years have been invited to participate in the workshop, and both L. Ann Rocker and Peggy Shepard have been included as members of the WHEBPC.

Previous proposals for EBPs

In 1993, a year after the consent order was issued, the North-River West Harlem Environmental Benefits Program Advisory Committee submitted a proposal with a range of proposal options. These proposals included:

- *An Environmental Impact Assessment*
  This proposed assessment included a traffic and emissions impact, a noise assessment, surveys on air quality and an assessment of the impact of contaminants.

- *A Health Risk Assessment Study*
  This proposed study called for data collection on a range of diseases, including respiratory ailments.

- *A Pollution Prevention Program*
  This proposal suggested coordinating with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection pollution prevention program.

- *A Community and School-based Environmental Education Program*
  This proposal called for an increase of awareness of environmental impacts on the community residents through classroom instruction and local media.

- *A Career and Job Development Program*
  This proposed program suggested the creation of a training facility for job placement, employment advice and the encouragement of partnerships between businesses and job programs.

- *A Green Business Economics Program*
  This proposed program called for the development of a neighborhood green market, a recycling center and a diaper service business which would develop local jobs.

- *An Open Spaces Program*
  This proposed program called for the establishment of an environment and learning center with outdoor gardening space.

Work completed on these EBPs

These programs and studies were each assigned a budget, and plans were made to implement the proposals. A report sent in June 2000 details that there was some level of activity and implementation in the fiscal years 1995 - 2000 in many of the programs.

The status report details the contracts that were let out and the work achieved to-date, including over $100,000 in total spending. According to this report, the final status of the EBPs were as follows:

- *A Health Risk Assessment Study*
  A contract was let to develop scopes of work. None of the health institutions that were identified met with the approval of the executive committee.

- *Pollution Prevention Programs*
  A contract was let to develop a scope of work and a vendor, the Industrial Technical Assistance Corporation (ITAC) was procured to to implement a program of voluntary pollution prevention with industrial facilities. ITAC began an outreach process and then withdrew stating that they would be unable to complete the project. The Cornell Cooperative Extension had entered into a contract to provide technical assistance to commercial businesses on pollution prevention.

- *A Community and School-based Environmental Education Program*
  A contract was let to develop scopes of work and approval was given to move forward for the solicitation of possible vendors.

- *A Green Business Economics Program*
  Scopes for these projects were not developed. There had been initial interest in consolidating the funds for delivery for another community-based organization, but this approach was not deemed compliant with New York City procurement policies.

- *An Open Spaces Program*
  A contract was let to develop a scope of work and the the CUNY City College Architectural Center was procured to develop the North River West Harlem EBP Open Space Conservancy Development Program. This program included an expenditure of $75,000 in 1997 and 1998.

The status report concludes that the Executive Committee was unable to submit a schedule for moving forward due to a lack of consensus. As noted by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, there were additional concerns over the implementability of some programs which also caused the original Environmental Benefit Program to stall.

Current approach to the EBPs

In 2007, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation met with the NYC Department of Environment Protection to require the execution of the EBPs. The agencies agreed that a community consultation process would be conducted by a consultant to solicit additional options for EBPs and to reach community consensus over these options. These project options were agreed beforehand by the WHEBPC, and preliminary research was conducted on them to assess their implementability.

Image courtesy of Green Guerrillas

3. Project options

The West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project Committee agreed on a set of parameters for potential community projects and established a list of project options to be presented to the local community.

This section of the report sets out these parameters, along with descriptions of the project options and potential locations. The parameters were set to ensure that any chosen project provides benefit to the air and water quality in the West Harlem area and to the local community. Each of the eligible 5 project options were suggested by the WHEBPC.

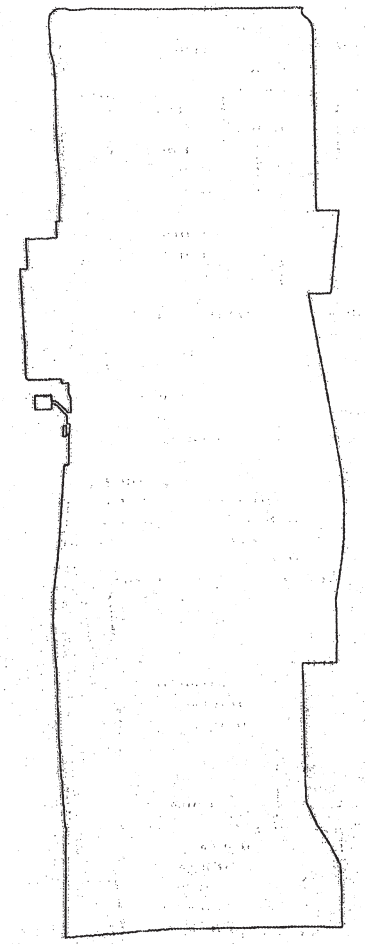
NYC Department of Environmental Protection described to the WHEBPC their intention to fund a project or projects valued at $1.1 million.

The list of options is as follows:

- School gardens
- Tree planting
- Green roofs
- Broadway Malls improvements
- Waterfront access

Preliminary research was conducted on these options to assess the potential costs associated with the projects and the challenges of implementation, including such issues as agency engagement and responsibility and maintenance.

Details of the project options are set out over the following pages. Many of the images used are best practice and sample images.



Community Board 9 location plan

1. School gardens

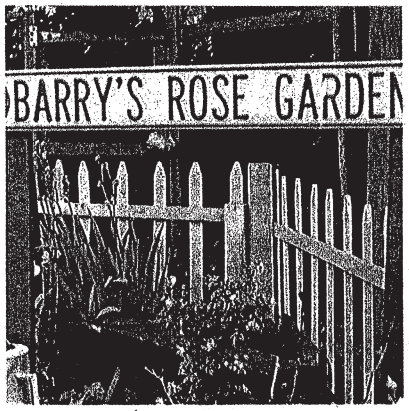
The first option involved the creation of school gardens in selected elementary schools across Community Board 9. There are seventeen elementary schools within the Community Board 9. This option would enhance individual school yards, creating outdoor stimulating environments for local children as well as providing additional greenery for the local area. Key project details are as follows:

Project:	School yard enhancement
Use:	Educational classroom Neighborhood greening
Location:	Community Board 9 elementary schools
Time frame:	Short term
Delivery:	Approvals required from the Department of Education

Research on implementation issues

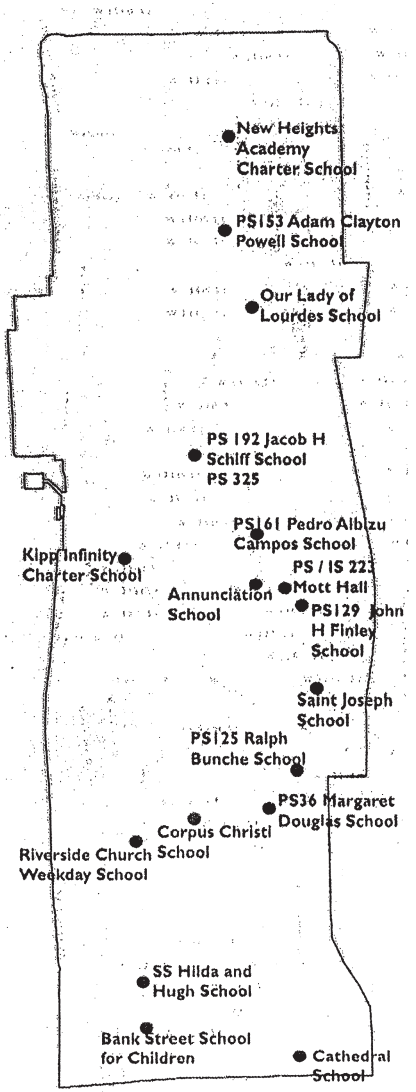
- Schools must be capable of maintaining and implementing school gardens
- The Department of Education would need to be consulted, particularly with regards to clarifying land ownership vis-a-vis the Department of Parks and Recreation
- There would be a potential requirement to create a year-long partnership between a school and a gardening organization to ensure the maintenance of the garden during the summer months
- Based on interviews with potential vendors, initial cost estimate of approximately $100,000 per garden with a year-long partnership
- Potential vendors stated that they would likely create new planting beds with soil brought from outside the school to place on top of existing surfaces in order to avoid any demolition or soil contamination issues

Sunflowers (image courtesy of Green Guerrillas)



Rose Garden (image courtesy of Green Guerrillas)

Tomato growing (image courtesy of Green Guerrillas)



Elementary schools within Community Board 9

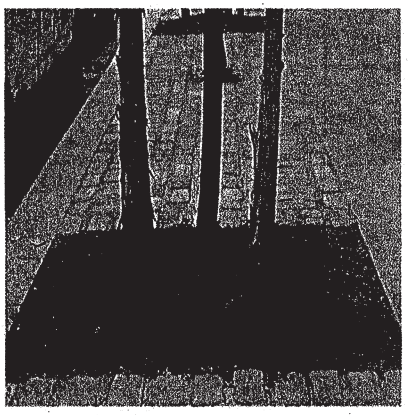
2. Tree planting

The second option comprised tree planting along some of the key streets within Community Board 9. This option would help to improve air quality while the permeable paving that would lie over the trenches would enhance natural drainage and storm water run-off. Key project details are as follows:

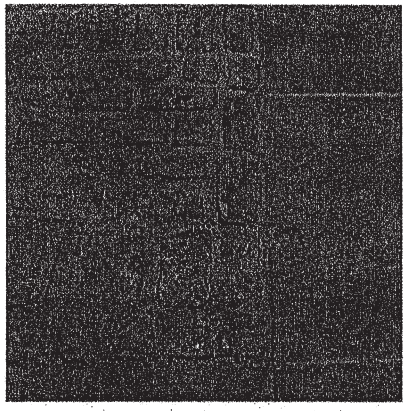
Project:	Streetscape improvement
Use:	Enhanced public realm
Location:	145th Street 135th Street (from Riverside Drive to Amsterdam Avenue) Amsterdam Avenue 135th to 145th Streets)
Timeframe:	Short to medium term
Delivery:	Approvals required from Department of Transportation and Department of Parks and Recreation

Research on implementation issues

- Both the Department of Transportation and Department of Parks and Recreation would need to approve any street planting
- Based on interviews with landscape architects who have worked for the Department of Parks and Recreation, the standard approach to tree planting would likely result in 10-12 blocks of new trees for $1.1 million
- Based on interviews with landscape architects, an innovative approach which would further decrease stormwater runoff would include a tree trench, permeable pavers, proper soil depths and guards
- This innovative approach to tree planting could result in approximately 6-8 blocks of new trees for $1.1 million (including costs)

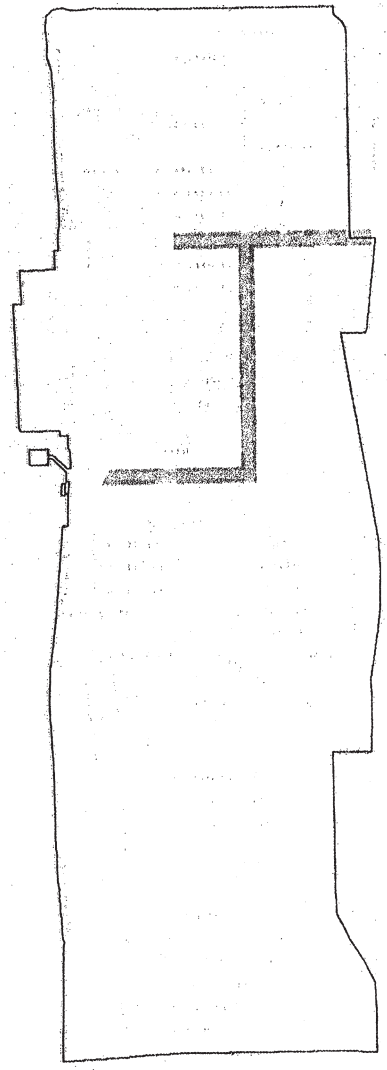


An example of an innovative approach to tree planting (image courtesy of MNLA)



Innovative tree trenches are layered with permeable paving (image courtesy of MNLA)

An image of typical street tree planting in Harlem



WHEBPC suggested locations for tree planting

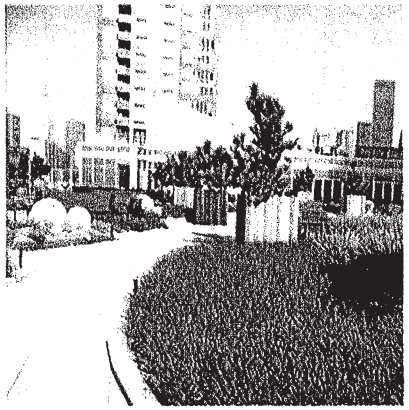
3. Green roofs

The third project option is the construction of green roofs on selected Community Board 9 municipal buildings. Green roofs have many environmental benefits including helping to improve air quality and aiding absorption of storm water whilst in some cases providing amenity space for the building's residents and / or the public. Some key project details are as follows:

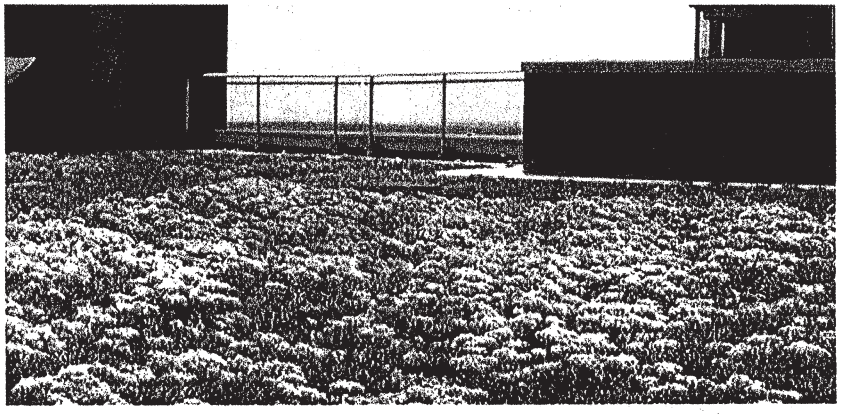
Project:	Green roof corridor
Use:	Environmental benefit
Location:	125th Street corridor municipal buildings and other CB9 municipal buildings
Timeframe:	Short to medium term
Delivery:	Approvals required

Research on implementation issues

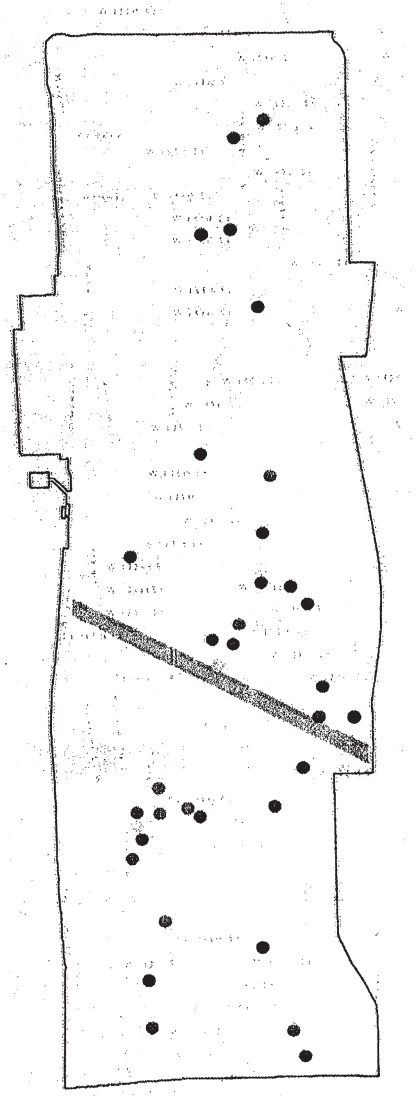
- Based on interviews with landscape architects who have built green roofs, the general costs of a green roof are $150 per square foot including roof structure
- There is a need to assess landowner interest in building green roofs, particularly given concern for maintenance costs
- The new building for West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. will be the first building in the area to have a green roof
- Potential buildings to be augmented with green roofs could include municipally-owned buildings such as schools, police stations, libraries and healthcare buildings
- Based on general cost estimates provided by landscape architects, there would be a potential to create six green roofs of 1,000 square foot in size



Green roof (image courtesy of MNLA)



Green roof (image courtesy of MNLA)



Potential locations for green roof installation

4. Broadway Malls improvements

The fourth option was to improve the quality of the Broadway Malls through additional planting and street furniture which could combine to make the Malls more attractive and more usable as a series of public spaces. Key option details are as follows:

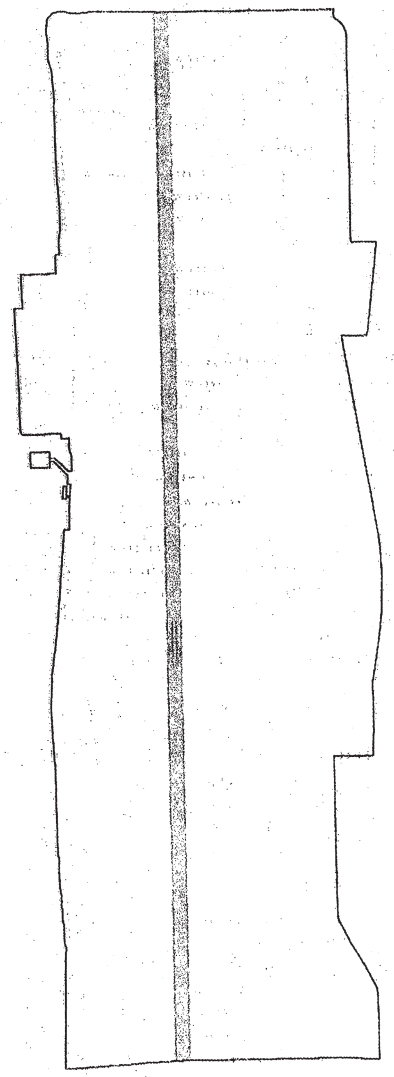
Project: Streetscape improvement
Use: Enhanced public space
Location: Broadway
Timeframe: Medium term
Delivery: Approvals required

Research on implementation issues

- A maintenance program would have to be supported by the Department of Parks and Recreation
- Approval would be required from the Department of Transport
- The Department of Parks and Recreation will not support the maintenance of any street furniture on green spaces within street boulevards
- There are special planting requirements based on the existing placement of subway vents along the Broadway Malls

Subway vents running through the Malls

Additional planting and street furniture could increase the public use of the space



Broadway within the CB9 boundary

5. Waterfront access

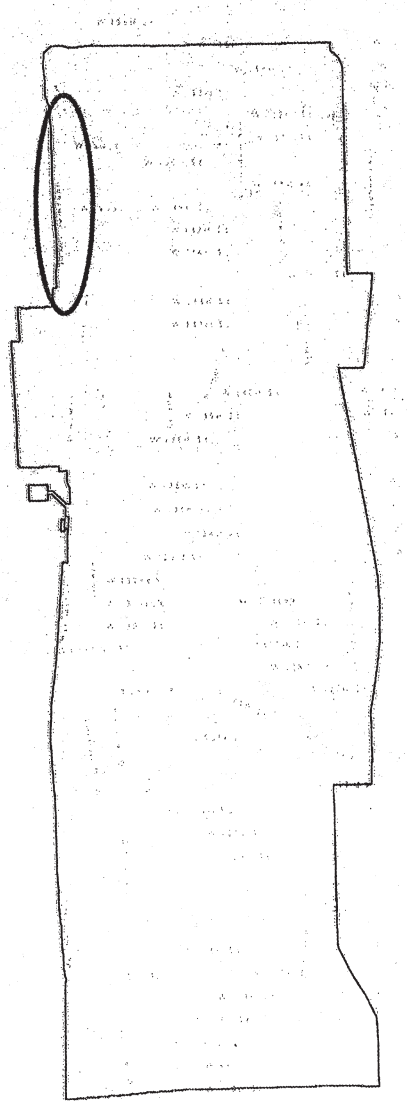
The final project option was to provide access to the Hudson river at a site north of Riverbank State Park. Wide steps would provide easy access for people of all ages to the waterfront. The project would include planting to enhance the aesthetics of the new public area and also to help improve air quality. Key project features are as follows:

Project:	Pedestrian waterfront access
Use:	New public space
Location:	West Harlem waterfront in particular the area to the north of Riverbank State Park Harlem piers
Timeframe:	Medium term
Delivery:	Approvals required

Research on implementation issues

- The creation of waterfront access would need to be approved by city and state agencies, particularly the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- Any access to the waterfront which created harm to the waterfront habitat would not be permissible
- There is a project currently under development in conjunction with the Metropolitan Waterfront Association which seeks to create steps down to the Harlem River
- Any project would need to incorporate planting to facilitate air quality improvements and stormwater runoff mitigation

A British example of stepped access to the riverfront



WHEBPC suggested location for waterfront access

4. Community workshop

A community workshop for the West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project, took place on Saturday, June 28, 2008 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 55 Edgecombe Avenue. Nine community organizations were represented by the stakeholders in the workshop. The stakeholders were encouraged to review and select their preferred options for the EBPs through consensus-based discussions.

The program for the workshop ran from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm, and included an educational presentation and a visioning workshop.

Participants were welcomed by Debra Pucci of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection. Following the introduction, Adam Lubinsky of Urban Practitioners outlined the project context before setting out the potential project options to be discussed in the workshop.

Attendees formed groups to review which potential project options they would most value in West Harlem. This process included a review of environmental issues confronting West Harlem before the potential EBP options were discussed.

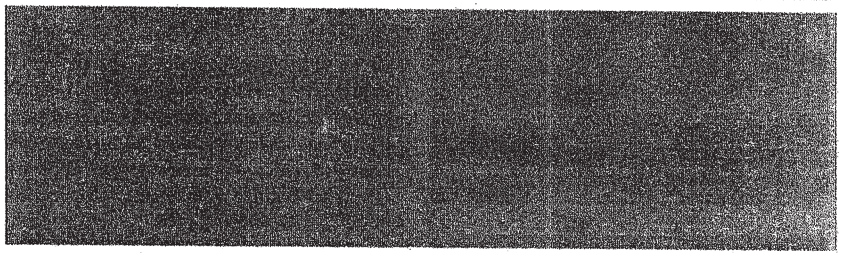
Program

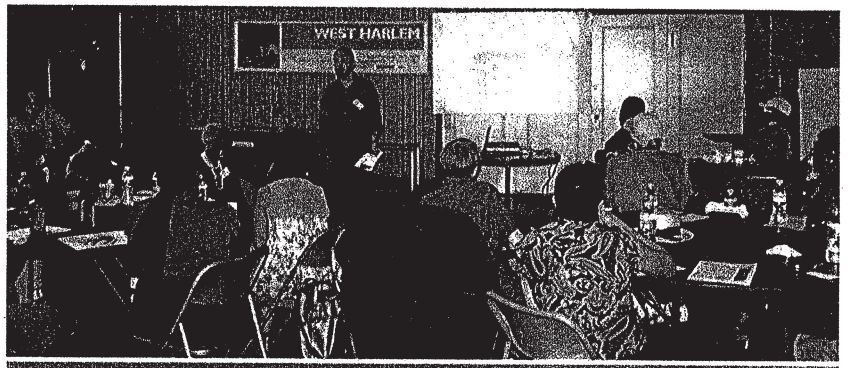
The program for the event ran as follows:

2:00 pm Welcome and registration
2:10 pm Introduction
2:25 pm West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project Context
2:35 pm Presentation of potential environmental benefit projects
3:10 pm Refreshments
3:30 pm Project options visioning workshop
4:30 pm Workshop report back
4:50 pm Next steps
5:00 pm Close

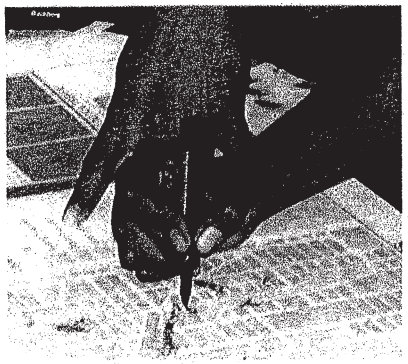
The attendance list for the workshop is attached in the appendix of this report.

Introduction by Debra Pucci of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection

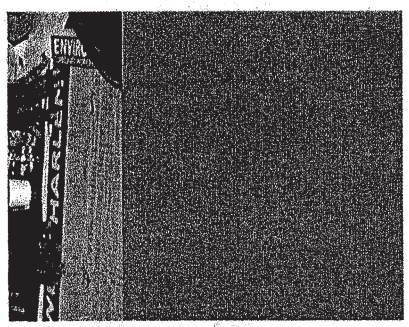




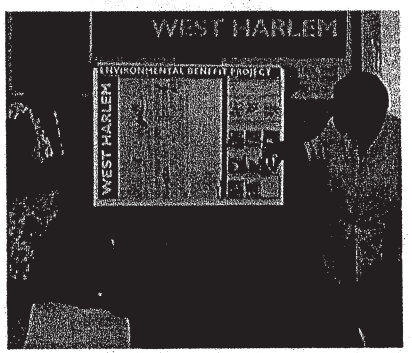
Presentation by Adam Lubinsky of Urban Practitioners



Workshop group discussing locations



Workshop group discussing images



Feedback to the group

Presentation

Adam Lubinsky began the presentation by focusing on the context and details of the West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project.

The five identified potential community project options were then set out and the presentation covered details of each project including:

- Likely locations;
- Possible benefits;
- Sections of the community that would be involved in developing the project; and
- Any practical issues that would need to be considered.

Each of the project options is set out, including the details outlined above, in section3 of this report.

Workshop

Following a break for lunch, attendees divided themselves into three groups in order to provide their views on how best to improve West Harlem and to discuss which of the project options they considered to be most beneficial to the area. Each group was provided with a worksheet, shown opposite, which set out five main areas of discussion.

Activity 1: Favorite places

Groups were first asked to note on the plan their favorite places in West Harlem. These included a favorite place on the waterfront; a favorite view or vista; and a favorite meeting place.

Activity 2: Environmental concerns

Groups were then asked to consider three environmental concerns they believe present the biggest threat to the local community. These were discussed and written in the spaces provided.

Activity 3: Local environmental improvements

Groups were then asked to select three image cards they most value from a selection representing local environmental improvements.

The chosen cards were stuck to the allocated boxes on the worksheet and the group's favored locations noted on the worksheet plan.

Activity 4: Aspirations for your environment

Groups then selected three more image cards from a selection representing aspirations to strengthen West Harlem's identity. These cards were chosen for the image and identity they conveyed, rather than because they were specific initiatives to replicate. Again, the chosen cards were stuck to the allocated boxes though locations were not generally noted for these.

Activity 5: Project options

Lastly, groups were asked to select three of the potential project options from a set of five orange cards. As with the other sections, the chosen cards were stuck to the allocated boxes on the worksheet and the group's favored locations noted on the worksheet plan.

Each group then chose a representative to report back their decisions to the main group, running through the group discussion which informed these decisions.

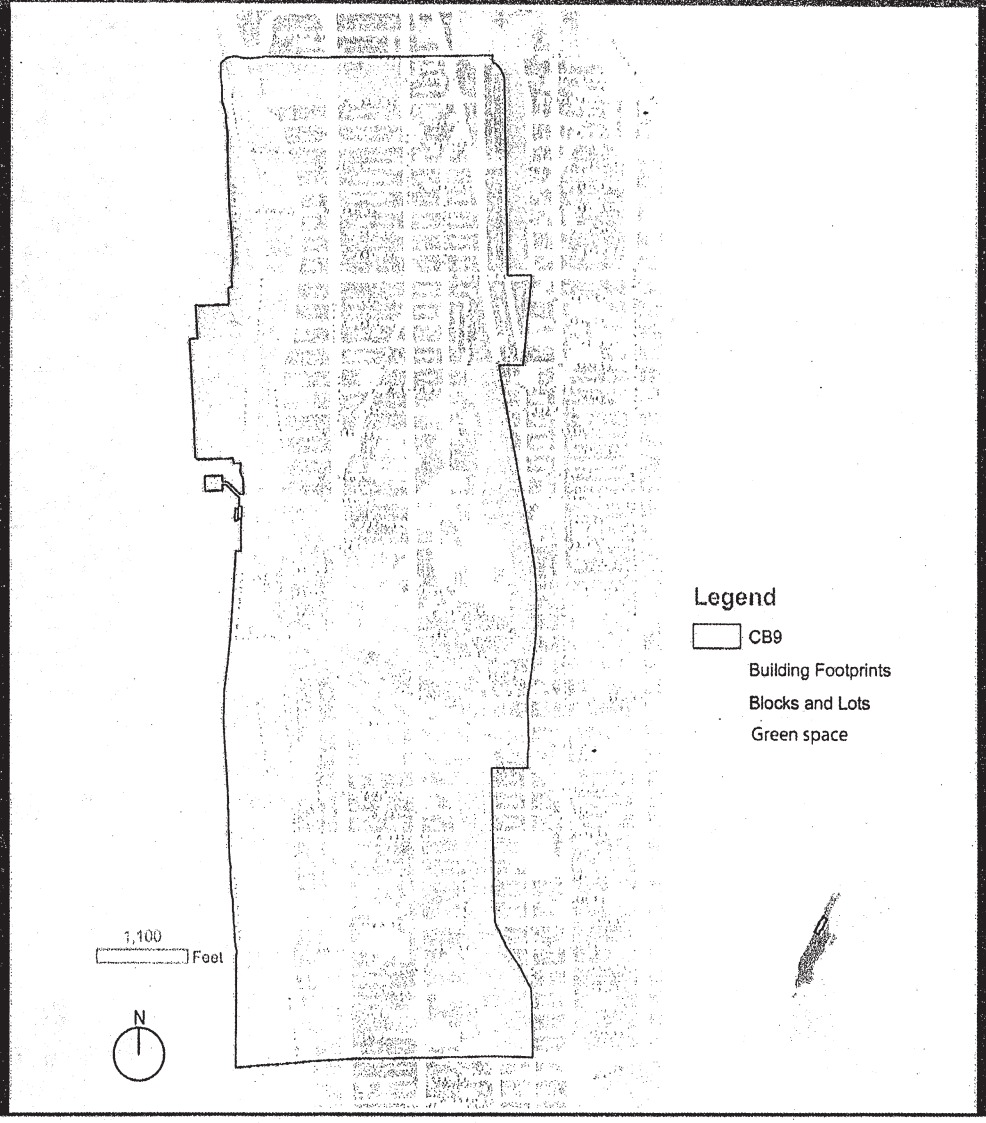
The group discussions were based on consensus decision-making, and each group was asked to agree to their top three EBP options without calling for a vote.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT PROJECT

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 28, 2008 St. Mark's United Methodist Church

WEST HARLEM



FAVORITE PLACES IN WEST HARLEM

We want to know what your favorite places are. Please mark on them on the map using these three symbols:

- ✳ place on the waterfront
- < view or vista
- ○ places to meet

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Please describe the three biggest environmental concerns you believe present the largest threat to the local community.

1 2 3

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENTS

Choose the three image cards that best represent the improvements that you think would effectively improve the local environment in West Harlem. Put them in the squares below. On the map indicate where these improvements should be focused (with a green pen).

A B C

ASPIRATIONS FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Select three image cards to show the additions you think would best strengthen the unique character and personality of West Harlem while improving your environment. On the map indicate where these "ideas" would be located (with a pink pen).

A B C

WHICH OPTIONS DO YOU PREFER?

Which two project options would you most like to see in West Harlem?

A B

EST HARLE

5. Workshop results

Over the following pages, the results of the visioning workshop are set out, based on the identification of favorite locations in West Harlem; the selection of preferences for each discussion category; the preferred Environmental Benefit Project options and any additional comments from each of the work groups.

The results of the visioning workshop have been consolidated in order to most clearly identify the key messages arising from the workshop. The following pages therefore set out a summary of results for each of the five topics of discussion:

- Favorite views, waterfront locations and meeting places;
- Environmental concerns;
- Preferred local environmental improvement measures;
- Aspirations for the environment; and
- Preferred potential project options.

For activity 1, relating to attendees' favorite locations in West Harlem, selections have been highlighted on the plan.

The area's parks featured highly among attendees' favorite places in West Harlem

Preferred locations

Attendees' favorite waterfront locations in West Harlem were:

- Riverbank State Park
- Riverside Park
- Riverside Drive Park / 147 Street play area
- The pier at the end of 125 Street
- Grant's Tomb in Riverside Park

Favorite meeting spots were:

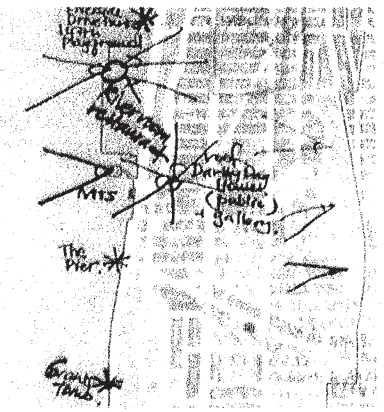
- Riverbank State Park
- Riverside Park
- Morningside Park
- St Nicholas Park

Favorite vistas were considered to be:

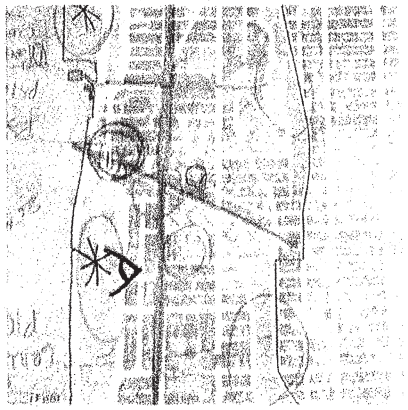
- From Trinity Park to George Washington Bridge
- From Riverside Park over the Hudson
- Sculpture Garden Park
- From the roof of 409 Edgecombe Avenue
- Senior Citizen's Community Garden
- From St Nicholas Terrace
- From River Room restaurant in Riverbank State Park
- From the Marine Transfer Station
- From Columbia Hotel

Locations

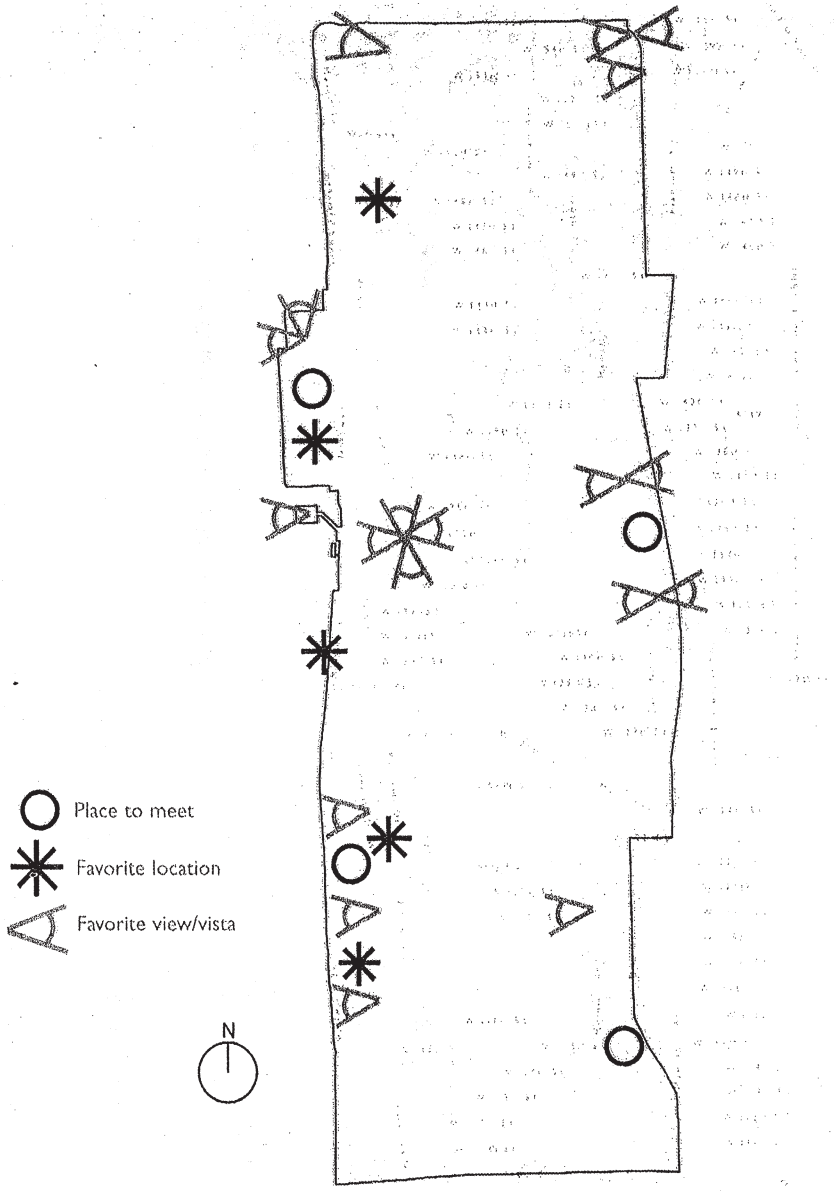
The locations of each of the group's favorite places are mapped out on the diagram.



Detail of the group's favorite views



Detail of the group's favorite locations



Workshop attendees' favorite waterfront locations, views and meeting places

Environmental concerns

Each group was asked to list three environmental concerns they believed presented the most significant threat to West Harlem. This process helped to raise awareness of local issues among the attendees and to promote discussion about their concerns in order to determine the most appropriate option.

The main environmental concerns that arose during the workshop sessions are as follows:

- Air quality and asthma - the bus depot across from the school on 130th Street was highlighted as a major contributing factor to air pollution in the area.
- Traffic congestion - trucks and buses on Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue were seen as a key concern.
- Sanitation and garbage disposal on 131st Street and Convent Avenue and garbage left in Riverside Park were noted.
- Lack of greenery and trees out with parks and community gardens especially on 130th, 139th and 140th Streets.
- Ponding - storm water run-off.

Local environmental improvements

Nine image cards were presented to the workshop groups each representing a local environment improvement that could potentially be implemented in the area. The cards were:

- Park space
- Permeable paving
- School gardens
- Green roofs
- Public space
- Water quality improvement
- Green walls
- Traffic mitigation
- Street trees

The local environmental improvement considered most beneficial for West Harlem was green roofs.

Following green roofs, school gardens were identified as the second most important environmental improvement. Also considered important were traffic mitigation, water quality, permeable paving and public space (or community gardens as suggested by one group).

Aspirations for your environment

Another nine image cards were presented to the groups, this time representing more imaginative potential additions to the West Harlem area. The cards were unlabelled, leaving the groups to decide for themselves what each represented. The nine cards contained images of the following:

- Various parks
- Farmers market
- Contemporary architecture
- Public seating / street furniture
- Waterfront areas
- Green roof / green walls
- Active streetscene

The most popular aspirations for the environment proved to be the farmers market, closely followed by the waterfront area and green roof cards.

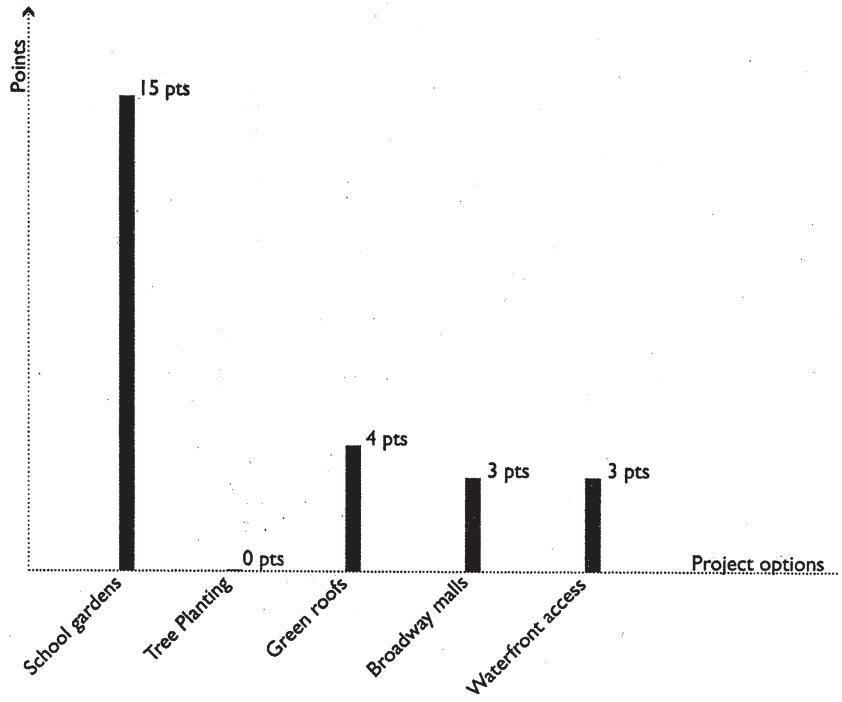
Project options

The most popular project option was the development of the school gardens within Community Board 9. This was selected by all the workshop groups.

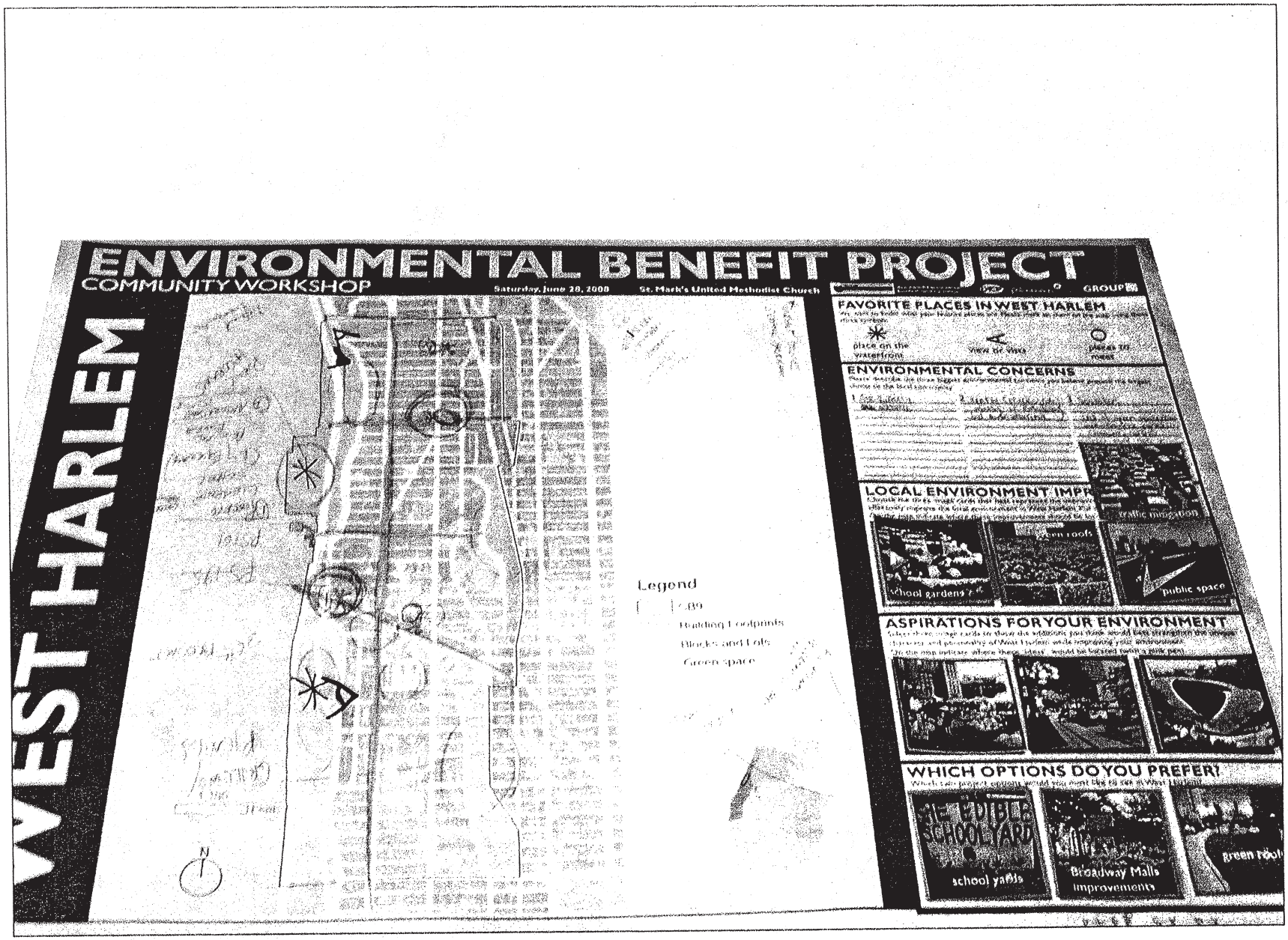
Green roofs was scored as the second most popular EBP option. Other votes included improvements to Broadway malls and waterfront access.

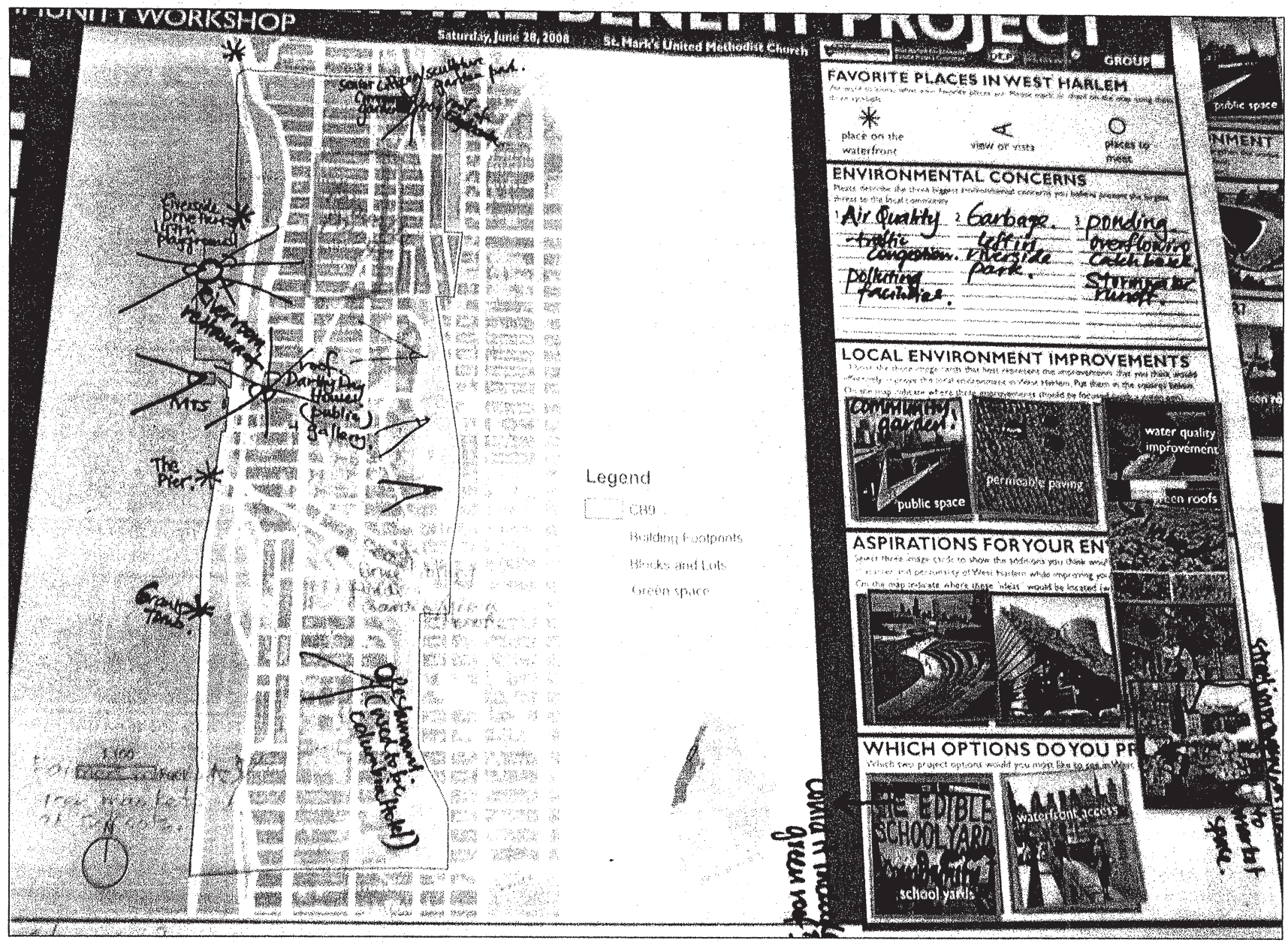
The results are displayed on the bar chart below (scored on the basis of 5 points/1st choice, 3 points/2nd choice and 1 point/3rd choice).

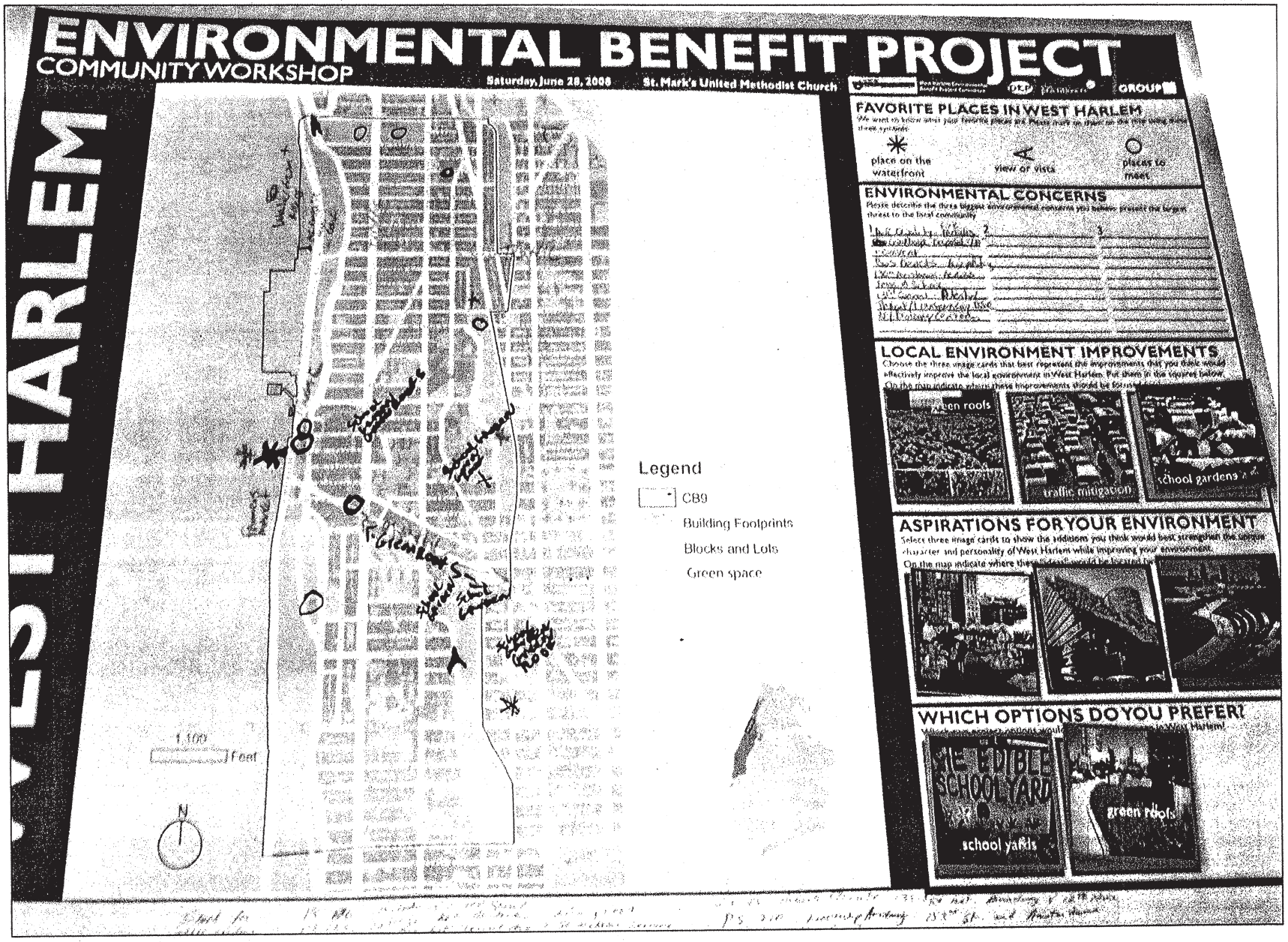
The following pages show the worksheet exercises, including the final exercise to select the preferred options.



A chart representing the results of the favorite project options


ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT PROJECT
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
Saturday, June 28, 2008
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
WEST HARLEM
FAVORITE PLACES IN WEST HARLEM
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS
LOCAL ENVIRONMENT IMPR
ASPIRATIONS FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT
WHICH OPTIONS DO YOU PREFER?
Legend
Building Footprints
Blocks and Lots
Green space
school gardens
public space
school yards
Broadway Malls Improvements


WORKSHOP
Saturday, June 28, 2008
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
GROUP
FAVORITE PLACES IN WEST HARLEM
place on the waterfront
view or vista
places to meet
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS
1 Air Quality
2 Garbage
3 ponding
LOCAL ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENTS
public space
permeable paving
water quality improvement
green roofs
ASPIRATIONS FOR YOUR EN
WHICH OPTIONS DO YOU PR
THE EDIBLE SCHOOL YARD
school yards
waterfront access
Legend
CB9
Building Footprints
Blocks and Lots
Green space
The Pier
MTS


ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT PROJECT
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
Saturday, June 28, 2008
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
WEST HARLEM
FAVORITE PLACES IN WEST HARLEM
place on the waterfront
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ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS
LOCAL ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENTS
green roofs
traffic mitigation
school gardens
ASPIRATIONS FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT
WHICH OPTIONS DO YOU PREFER?
THE EDIBLE SCHOOL YARD
school yards
green roofs
Legend
CB9
Building Footprints
Blocks and Lots
Green space
1,000 Feet
N

6. Preferred options

Our analysis of the consultation process has allowed us to create two preferred options for the West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project Committee, the New York State Department of Conservation and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection for an Environmental Benefit Project to be taken forward.

While the workshop attendees expressed enthusiasm for the different project options throughout the workshop, there was a clear consensus among the three workshop groups for developing school gardens as the preferred option and green roofs as the second preferred option.

Consultation justification

- The development of school gardens was the top choice among all three workshop groups.
- Green roofs had the second highest score among the workshop groups.
- School gardens were cited as the second most important environmental improvement for the area.
- All three groups cited green roofs as key local environmental improvements and aspirations for the area.
- Lack of green space was cited as one of the major environmental concerns in the area.

Feasibility

The selection of school gardens and green roofs as preferred environmental benefit projects represent exciting options which could bring tremendous environmental and social improvements to West Harlem. There are several challenges and issues to be resolved in order to successfully develop these options. The stakeholders voiced a range of concerns that they felt should be addressed in order to achieve success.

Stakeholder concerns and issues

The following list compiles the concerns expressed by stakeholders at the community workshop:

- Hiring local people

Stakeholders expressed concerns that the construction of school gardens and green roofs could occur without the input of local people and without benefiting the local community through employment and training.

- Integrating children and curriculum into the construction of the school gardens

While it was recognized that the EBP is focused on capital projects, it was made clear that simply paying for garden construction could lead to ill-maintained green space and a missed opportunity to introduce children to ecological issues.

- Utilising the local knowledge of community gardeners

A stakeholder described the active community gardening network in West Harlem and expressed concern that the community gardeners might not play a role in developing the school gardens or green roofs.

- Working to include the existing community gardens

A stakeholder emphasized that there may be a way to both improve the existing community gardens and to bring some of these gardens into a collaborative relationship with adjacent schools.

- Documenting the Environmental Benefit Project process

A stakeholder requested that the EBP process be documented, as a way of tracking the community efforts from the original consent order through to the final implementation of the consent order funds.

- Focusing on elementary, intermediate or secondary schools

Stakeholders generally agreed that the focus of the school gardens should be on younger students at elementary, and potentially, intermediate schools.

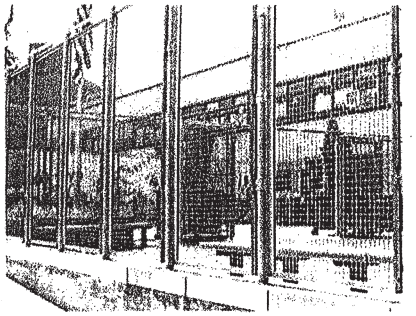
- Potential to combine the two options

Stakeholders raised the possibility that school gardens could potential be created on school rooftops depending on the nature of the school buildings.

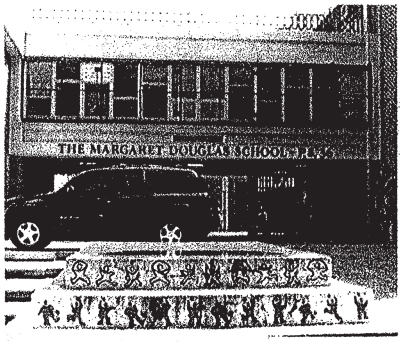
PS 125 Ralph Buncho School

PS 129 John H Finley School

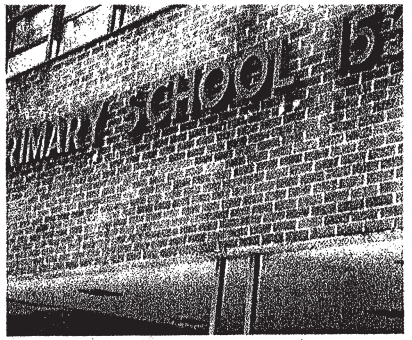
PS 36 Margaret Douglas School



PS 161 Pedro Albizu Campus School



PS 36 Margaret Douglas School



PS 153 Adam Clayton Powell School

7. Sample implementation plan

New York City has a short history of school gardens. While some examples of organized, large-scale programs to develop school gardens exist, such as California Department of Education 'A Garden in Every School Program', the Department of Education has not developed an agency-wide systematic approach to developing gardens at every school. They do have a 'Garden to Cafeteria' as part of the School Food department to bring locally-grown produce – some of which comes from community gardens or school gardens - into school kitchens.

Currently, there are a handful of gardens and greenhouses connected with New York City public schools – some of which are on Department of Education land and some of which are a part of existing community gardens or playgrounds. These projects have been developed through the efforts of a range of organizations, including Council on the Environment of New York City and the Trust for Public Land.

This program could serve as a building block for developing school gardens in West Harlem.

Challenges and issues

In addition to the concerns raised by local stakeholders, the following list of challenges and issues have been identified as part of Urban Practitioners' research and consultation into school gardens development. This research has included:

- Interview with Tom Goodridge, community gardener who has led projects in West Harlem
- Interview with and information sent by Pamela Ito, Director of Children's Education at the New York Horticultural Society
- Interview with Mary Ellen Lewis, founder of Project Grow and PhD student at City University of New York's Environmental Psychology program
- Interview with Rasheed Hislop, outreach coordinator for Council on the Environment of New York City
- Interview with Len Librizzi, Executive Director of Council on the Environment in New York City
- Interview with and information sent by Steve Frillman, Executive Director of Green Guerrillas
- Email exchange with Mary Alice Lee, Director, NYC Playground Program at Trust for Public Land

Organizational capacity to develop the school gardens

The organizational capacity to develop a series of school gardens is a central concern for the implementation plan. This capacity would include such issues as:

- Assessment of a school's ability to manage and maintain a garden
- Management of funds
- Construction of the gardens
- Training the school staff
- Coordination with community gardeners
- Working with the school children

Space availability at schools for implementation

It is possible that some or many schools may not have space available to create a garden.

Infrastructure capacity at school to maintain gardens

Schools will need to have infrastructure, such as access to water, to enable the school garden maintenance.

Community and local capacity to maintain gardens

Schools will need to have committed staff, including the school principal, a key teacher and the school custodian.

Summertime access and management of gardens

A plan would need to be developed which clarified who would maintain the gardens over the summertime and how access would be managed.

Department of Education approval

Based on discussions with Green Thumb and Green Guerrillas, the Department of Education would require approval for school gardens to be constructed on the Department of Education land.

Registration of gardens with GreenThumb (NYC Department of Parks and Recreation's urban gardening program)

While not necessarily required, registration with GreenThumb could provide school gardens with supplies and equipment which would facilitate assistance after the garden construction process. The assistance from GreenThumb could avoid the necessity for schools to create small annual budgets for their gardens.

Implementation plan stages

Given these concerns and issues described above, we have recommended the following implementation plan for the development of school gardens in the Bronx.

Stage 1: Procurement of an organization to manage the school gardens development

It is our recommendation that a coordinating organization, which is recognized as a not-for-profit or city agency and has extensive project management experience should facilitate the school gardens development. It is suggested here that this project management approach

would be more effective than providing schools with funding on a school-by-school basis. The requirements are described in the following stages. Potential organizations could include:

- New York Horticultural Society (Pamela Ito, Director of Children's Education)
- Green Guerrillas (Steve Frillman, Executive Director)
- GreenThumb (Edie Stone, Executive Director)
- Trust for Public Land (Andy Stone, Director of New York City Programs)
- Council on the Environment of New York City (Len Librizzi, Executive Director)
- Local Community Board 9 gardeners

Stage 2: Assessment of the Community Board 9 elementary and intermediate schools.

An assessment process of the schools, would include the following information on:

- Where school gardens could be constructed
- If nearby community gardens could collaborate or integrate with schools
- How much space is available for gardens at schools (or in community gardens)
- If the infrastructure capacity is available at each school
- What the staff capacity and interest levels are at each school

The assessment process would require interviews, site visit and an assessment report with recommendations for which schools should receive school gardens and at what size they should be constructed.

Stage 3: Garden design preparation and administrative coordination

Once the school assessment has been completed, the project management organization should proceed and undertake the following tasks:

- Engage with a landscape architect to receive basic design guidance and suggestions for the school garden construction
- Based on the previous efforts in relation to fulfilling the consent order, it may be worthwhile to engage Elizabeth Kennedy Landscape Architects, who produced an initial scope of work with the local community for a conservancy in West Harlem.
- Seek approvals of the school gardens from the Department of Education
- Prepare registration of the school gardens with GreenThumb, which would enable the schools to receive supplies once the school gardens have been completed.

Stage 4a: Phase I - Year-long partnership with schools to build school gardens

The partnership approach between an organization and a school would allow the organization to:

- Facilitate and monitor the garden construction
- Train staff in the planting and maintenance of the garden
- Teach children about ecological issue

This approach would involve regular visits from the organization to support the partnership. The project management organization could be required to hire some local people as part of the partnership approach and could coordinate the summertime maintenance and access with local community gardeners. The organization could facilitate the supply of plants and gardening equipment to community gardeners in exchange for their contributions to the school gardens. In this first year, 2 – 4 school gardens could be developed as part of this partnership approach. The gardens would likely be raised planted beds and could include both flower beds and vegetable plants. The use of raised beds would allow for flexibility in the case that gardens needed to be moved around, and they would also save on the costs of breaking ground for gardens. There may be opportunities to explore roof gardens, depending on space availability and the existing school buildings.

Stage 4b: Phase II – Year-long partnership with schools to build school gardens

It is suggested that all gardens are not created in the first year, so that lessons can be learned from the first year and capacity can be built for a second phase of school gardens completed in a successive year.

Stage 5: Celebration and documentation of the EBP

Based on the concerns raised by the stakeholders, it may be important to integrate A culminating event, such as a school harvest fair, could be held at the end of the first and second phases. This event could involve a green market with harvested produce for sale and prizes awarded to, for example, the school growing the largest tomatoes or best cucumbers. This event could be documented, and other parts of the EBP process, such as the yearlong partnership, the stakeholder workshop, and the history of the consent order process could be incorporated as well. The documentation could be produced as a video by groups such as:

- Bread and Roses Integrated Arts High School (located in Community Board 9 and has produced videos before)

- The Educational Video Center
- The Center for Urban Pedagogy
- An independent filmmaker

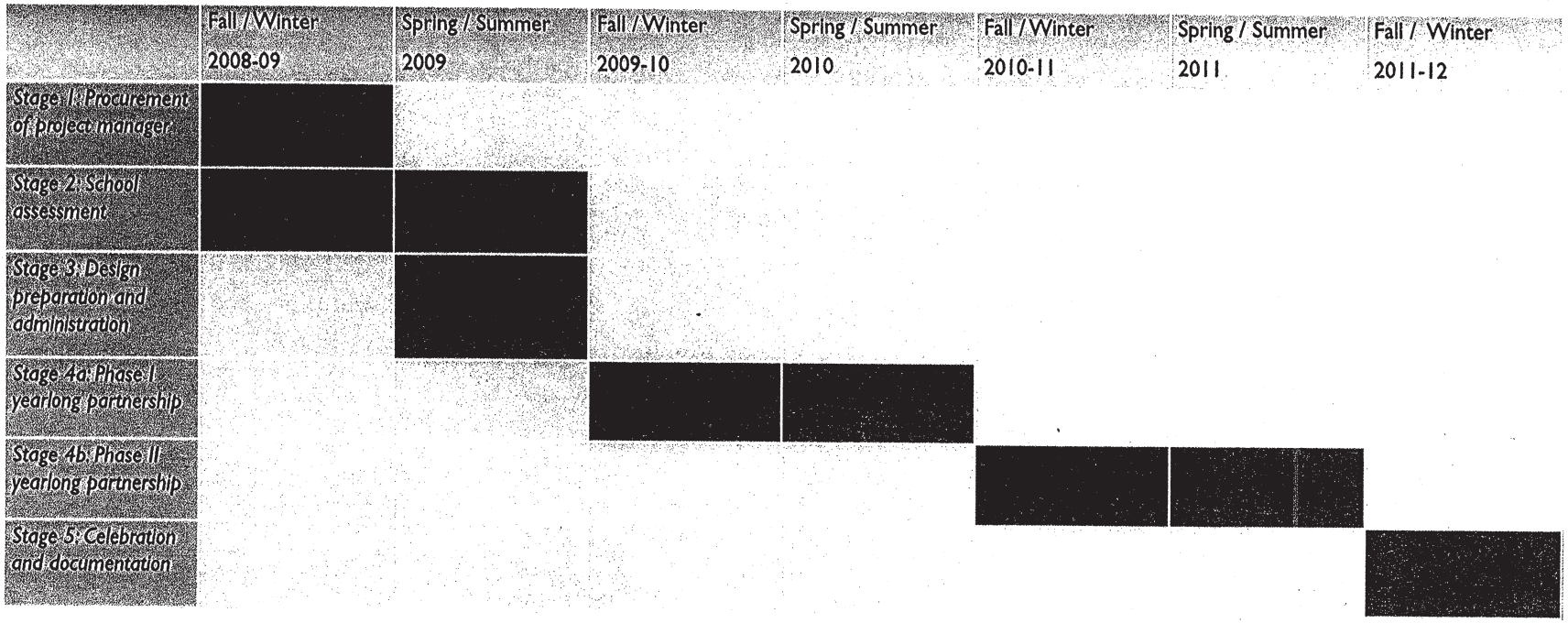
Potential funding allocations

As recommended earlier, the preferred approach to funding would be to procure a not-for-profit organization or city agency to manage the school gardens project. Based on basic research interviews with the groups described above and basic assumptions, budget allocations could potentially be as follows:

Stage 1:	*Procurement*	
	To be managed by DEP/DEC	
Stage 2:	*School assessment*	$25,000
Stage 3:	*Design preparation and administration*	
	Landscape architect	$30,000
	Administration	$25,000
Stage 4a:	*Yearlong partnership/garden construction*	
	Partnership management	$30,000 per school (x4) = $120,000
	Garden construction	$70,000 per school (x4) = $280,000
	Supplies for community gardens	$40,000 in total
Stage 4b:	*Yearlong partnership/garden construction*	
	Partnership management	$30,000 per school (x4) = $120,000
	Garden construction	$70,000 per school (x4) = $280,000
	Supplies for community gardens	$40,000 in total
Stage 5:	*Celebration and documentation*	$40,000
Contingency (at 10%)		$100,000
TOTAL		$1,100,000

These estimates would need to be verified and agreed to by any party engaging in the development of school gardens. They are also based on the assumption that eight of the seventeen public elementary and intermediate schools in Community Board 9 would be deemed appropriate for school garden development or could utilize adjacent community gardens.

Potential timeframe



EDDIE
MURPHY
VISTA MEDIA

Appendix: Attendance list

Name	Organisation
Gloria Allen	The Morning Heights / West Harlem Sanitation Coalition
Marilyn Alexander	North River - West Harlem Environment Benefit Program
Yolande Cadore	WE-ACT for Environmental Justice
Ywein Chin	Hamilton Heights - West Harlem Community Preservation Organization
Cecil Corbin-Mark	WE-ACT for Environmental Justice
Caitlin Franzmann	Urban Practitioners
Vickie Gholson	DEEL Communications
Claire Hamilton	Urban Practitioners
Asantewaa Harris	DEEL Communications
Litizen Jeanne	DEEL Communications
Joan Levine	The Morning Heights / West Harlem Sanitation Coalition
Adam Lubinsky	Urban Practitioners
Sarah Martin	The Morning Heights / West Harlem Sanitation Coalition
Ogonnaya Newman	WE-ACT for Environmental Justice
Rosa Paul	John H. Finley Campus School-PS 129M
Carmen Perez	Community Board 9
Debra Pucci	NYC Department of Environmental Protection
Yoruba Richen	Urban Practitioners
L. Ann Rocker	North River Community Environmental Review
Gwendolyn Rowell	John H. Finley Campus School-PS 129M
Peggy Shepard	WE-ACT for Environmental Justice

Appendix: Invitation list

Name	Position	Organization and Address
Sir/Madam		Friends of Riverbank State Park, 679 Riverside Drive, New York, NY, 10031
Sir/Madam		Hamilton Heights West Harlem Community Preservation Organization, P.O. Box 1092, New York, NY, 10185
Sir/Madam		St Mary's Church, 521 West 126th Street, New York, NY, 10027
Sir/Madam		Our Lady of Lourdes, 472 West 142nd Street, New York, NY, 10031
Sir/Madam		Jackie Robinson Senior Center, 1301 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY, 10027-4282
Sir/Madam		Convent Avenue Baptist Church (Hamilton Grange Senior Center), 420 West 145th Street, New York, NY, 10031
Peter L. McFarlane	Principal	PS180 Hugo Newman School, 370 W 120th St, New York, NY, 10027
Tonya Upton	President and CEO	Harlem School of the Arts, 645 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, NY, 10030 212
Sir/Madam		Friends of St Nicholas Park, PO Box 195, New York, NY, 10030
Sir/Madam		Heritage Health and Housing Inc., 416 West 127th Street, New York, NY, 10027
Angela Williams	Center Director	Police Athletic League, 441 Manhattan Avenue (corner of 119th Street), New York, NY, 10026
Marline A. Martin	Executive Director	Children's Art Carnival, 62 Hamilton Terrace, New York, NY, 10031
Ellen Baxter	Founder and Executive Director	Broadway Housing Communities Inc., Executive Offices, 583 Riverside Drive, New York, NY, 10031
Sir/Madam		IS90 Mirabell Sisters School, 21 Jumel Place, New York, NY, 10032-4316
Vicky Gholson	Executive Director	DEEL Communications, 16-18 Old Broadway, New York, NY, 10027
Debra Pucci	Director Community Partnerships	New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Communications & Intergovernmental Affairs, NYC Department of Environment, 59-17 Junction Boulevard, Flushing, NY, 11373
Michelle Moore	Environmental Analyst	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Permits, One Hunter's Point Plaza 47-40 21st Street, Long Island City, New York, NY, 11101-5
Carmen Perez	Community Board Member	Community Board 9, District Liaison, NYS Assemblyman Keith L.T Wright, 163 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027
Peggy Shepard	Executive Director	WE-ACT for Environmental Justice, Suite 308, 271 West 125th Street, New York, 10027
L. Anne Rocker	President	North River Community Environment Review, 626 Riverview Towers, 1st Floor, New York, NY, 10031
Sir/Madam		West Harlem Coalition, PO Box 660, New York, NY, 10027
Sir/Madam		Concerned Tenants Union & Association Inc., 3333 Broadway, D#16-C, New York, NY, 10031
Sir/Madam		Riverside Edgecombe Neighborhood Association, 544 West 157th Street, New York, NY 10031
Sir/Madam		Morningside Area Alliance, 90 Morningside Drive, Suite 1-A, New York, NY, 10027
Sir/Madam		Mirabal Sisters "United to Build a Better Future", 618 West 142nd Street, New York, NY 10031
Sir/Madam		Community League of the Heights, 500 West 159th Street, New York, NY, 10032
Sir/Madam		Westside Sanitation Coalition, 100 LaSalle Street, Suite 19F, New York, NY, 10027
Sir/Madam		West Harlem Group Assistance, 1652 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY, 10031
Sir/Madam		Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement HCCI, 2854 Frederick Doublass Boulevard, New York, NY, 10039

(List continues on the following page)

Sir/Madam		Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership, 127 West 127th Street, New York, NY, 10027
Sir/Madam		Manhattan Valley Youth Outreach, Cathedral St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY, 10025
Karen Witherspoon	Director	City College of NY, Office of Urban & Governmental Affairs, Convent Avenue by 138th Street, Administration Building, Room 205, New York, NY, 10031
Sir/Madam		Minisink Town House, 646 West 142nd Street, New York, NY, 10031
Sir/Madam		Our Children's Foundation, 527 West 125th Street, New York, NY, 10027
Sir/Madam		Friend's of St. Nicolas Park, 231 West 138th Street, New York, NY, 10030
Sir/Madam		Frank White Community Center, 459 West 152nd Street, New York, NY, 10031
Sir/Madam		Antioch Baptist Church, 515 West 125th Street, New York, NY, 10027
Sir/Madam		North River Community Environment Review Board Inc., NRCERB, PO Box 605, New York, NY, 10031
Sir/Madam		Centro Civico Cultural Dominicano Inc., 619 West 145 Street, Suite 1, New York, NY, 10031
Tony Fernandez		Centro Juvenil, 504 West 139th Street, New York, NY, 10031
Cynthia Arndt	Principal	PS / IS 223 Mott Hall, 71-111 Convent Avenue, New York, NY, 10027
Joseph Negron	Principal	Kipp Infinity Charter School, 625 West 133rd Street, New York, NY, 10027
Stacy Winitt	Principal	New Heights Academy Charter School, 1818 Amstersam Avenue, New York, NY, 10031
Cynthia Mullins-Simm	Principal	PS 36 Margaret Douglas School, 123 Morningside Drive, New York, NY, 10027
Claudette Lustin	Principal	PS 125 Ralph Bunche School, 425 West 123rd Street, New York, NY, 10027
Odelphia Pierre	Principal	PS 129 John H Finley School, 425 West 130th Street, New York, NY, 10027
Monica George-Field	Principal	PS 153 Adam Clayton Powell School, 1750 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY, 10031
Barbara D Brown	Principal	PS 161 Pedro Albizu Campus School, 499 West 133rd Street, New York, NY, 10027
Elizabeth Pacheco	Principal	PS 192 Jacob H Schiff School, 500 West 138th Street, New York, NY, 10031
Gary H Cruz	Principal	PS 325, 500 West 138th Street, New York, NY, 10031
Aura Rivera	Principal	IS 195 Roberto Clemente School, 625 West 133rd Street, New York, NY, 10027
Qadir Ben Dixon	Principal	IS 286 Renaissance Military and Leadership Academy, 509 West 129th Street, New York, NY, 10027
Maggie Runyan-Shefa	Principal	Kipp Success Through Teamwork Achievement, 433 West 123rd Street, New York, NY, 10027
Curtis Andrews	Principal	Powell Middle Schoolfor Law and Social Justice, 509 West 129th Street, New York, NY, 10027
David Smithers	Principal	Annunciation School, 461 West 131st Street, New York, NY, 10027
Maria Benejan	Principal	Bank Street School for Children, 610 West 112th Street, New York, NY, 10025
Marsha K Nelson	Principal	Cathedral School, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY, 10025
John Balbi Corpus	Principal	Corpus Christi School, 535 West 121st Street, New York, NY, 10027
Cathy Hufnagel	Principal	Our Lady of Lourdes School, 468 West 143rd Street, New York, NY, 10031
Sir/Madam	Principal	Riverside Church Weekday School, 490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY, 10027
Agnes Sayaman	Principal	Saint Joseph School, 168 Morningside Avenue, New York, NY, 10027
Sir/Madam	Principal	Shabak Christian School / Daly Day School, 459 West 152nd Street, New York, NY, 10031
Virginia Connor	Principal	SS Hilda and Hugh School, 619 West 114th Street, New York, NY, 10025-7906

Appendix: Invitation letter

Address

May 28, 2008

Dear

WEST HARLEM ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT PROJECT
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 28, 2008 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 55 Edgecombe Avenue at West 137th Street, New York, NY 10030

I am writing to invite you to an exciting event which will help to support a project to benefit the West Harlem environment. A community workshop will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2008 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 55 Edgecombe Avenue at West 137th Street.

The purpose of the event is to discuss options for amenity projects to be funded by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. Participants at the event will have the opportunity to comment on potential projects they would most value in the neighborhood. The results of the event will be used to help build a comprehensive picture of community aspirations for the area and will inform the development of an environmental benefit project for West Harlem. Your input in this process is crucial.

The West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project Committee is sponsoring this event and has commissioned Urban Practitioners to carry out this consultation process to inform the project. Urban Practitioners will be facilitating the event, which will begin with a presentation about the potential amenity projects. This presentation will be followed by lunch and then workshop sessions where each group will contribute ideas toward the investment projects to be funded by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. The funding has been made available as a result of a Consent Order based on a settlement from the 1990s related to the operation of North River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The West Harlem Environmental Benefit Project Committee includes Community Board 9, West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (WE ACT); Design, Environmental, Experiential Learning (DEEL); New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC); and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The committee has assembled a shortlist of project options which will form the basis of the workshop. The criteria for the projects include:

- capital projects with environmental benefits;
- educational projects with environmental benefits; and
- geographical limitations to Community Board 9.

Following the event, a detailed report will be prepared which records the feedback and ideas from the workshop.

I enclose a reply form and a program for the event, which I very much hope you will be able to attend. I would be very grateful if you could confirm your attendance either by mailing the reply form to:

Debra Pucci
Director of Community Partnerships
NYC Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 19th Floor
Elmhurst, New York 11373-5108

We would expect no more than three people to attend from each organization invited. Places may be limited and will be allocated on a first-come-first served basis, so please reply promptly to attend, and by Friday, June 20 at the latest. Lunch will be provided to all participants.

If you have any questions about the event, please do not hesitate to contact Debra Pucci
I look forward to seeing you at this important event for West Harlem.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Lloyd
Commissioner
New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Subj: **Community Board Budget Rally**
Date: 6/10/2009 12:30:43 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: SKhan@manhattanbp.org
CC: RPierre-Louis@manhattanbp.org, SRieara@manhattanbp.org, JSilver@manhattanbp.org, wgarcia@manhattanbp.org, TLUCANIA@bronxbp.nyc.gov, kkoslowitz@queensbp.org, jrazefsky@statenislandusa.com, astraker@brooklynbp.nyc.gov, cb12cla@optonline.net

Hi Everyone,

Congratulations on a successful rally and press conference yesterday! Grey skies and morning thunder storms weren't enough to dissuade the nearly 200 CB members, advocates and civic groups that showed up. Our message was clear: *save our community boards!* Several council members joined us to let us know they are listening. This support was greatly appreciated.

Additionally, we had a strong turnout from citywide and local press. Here are a few of the articles that have already been written:

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/06/10/2009-06-10_rally_at_city_hall_rips_community_board_cuts.html

http://www.gothamgazette.com/blogs/wonkster/2009/06/09/community-boards-get-the-steps/

http://www.bronxnewsnetwork.org/2009/06/new-york-city-community-boards-and-bps.html

Thank you to everyone for your hard work and organizing over the past few weeks. I would like to especially recognize Andrea Crawford, John Fratta, Doris Ortiz, Helen Rosenthal and Penny Ryan for their tremendous leadership as Borough Captains over the past few weeks.

Yesterday's rally was a sampling of what we can do if we stick together. At our May 19 meeting, many people expressed an interest in convening regular citywide CB meetings to discuss the larger issues facing our boards. We are interested in working with you to realize that goal and will follow-up with you in the coming weeks regarding next steps.

Of course, our work isn't done until the budget is passed so I encourage you all to stay in regular communication with your councilmembers. We will continue to push the Borough President op-ed to the papers and the 5 BP letter will go out this week.

It's been a pleasure working with and getting to know many of you over the past few weeks so please keep in touch. There is still much work to be done!

Shaan Khan
Director of Community Affairs and Constituent Services
Office of Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer
One Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Phone: (212) 669-4416
Fax: (212) 669-4306
E-mail: skhan@manhattanbp.org

At City Hall rally, Borough leaders rip citywide community board budget cuts

BY FRANK LOMBARDI
DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU

Wednesday, June 10th 2009, 4:00 AM

The neighborhood City Halls" came to the actual City Hall Tuesday with a message for Mayor Bloomberg: "Back off!"

More than 300 fired-up representatives and supporters of the city's 59 community boards rallied on the City Hall steps to try to ward off a major whacking of their shoestring budgets by the mayor.

Vowing their determination to block the cuts were four of the five borough presidents: Scott Stringer of Manhattan, Helen Marshall of Queens, Ruben Diaz Jr. of the Bronx and Marty Markowitz of Brooklyn, all Democrats. Missing was Republican James Molinaro of Staten Island.

Also on hand was a bevy of City Council members and city Controller William Thompson, a Democratic mayoral challenger who gave a political touch to the rally.

Thompson drew cheers when he charged that the mayor has reduced the role of community boards "over the years" with the intention of eventually saying, "Let's get rid of community boards."

And Diaz, who was to endorse Thompson last night, said the proposed cuts "assault the very people who make up our communities."

Asked about Thompson's charge, mayoral spokesman Marc Lavorgna said it was "absolutely untrue."

"Tax revenues are down $5 billion," Lavorgna said. "We have to continue to rein in expenses. From the police and fire departments to education and social services, every taxpayer-funded entity has had to reduce expenses, find ways to be more efficient and do more with less resources. The community boards are no different."

The advisory boards - with small paid staffs and unpaid board members appointed by local Council members and borough presidents - review proposed developments and zoning actions, monitor government services and problems and process requests for street fairs and other activities.

Stringer said the boards, which haven't gotten a budget hike in 19 years, are slated to each get $169,709 in the proposed new city budget, due by July 1. That's down from $189,895 in the prior executive budget - a cut of $20,186, or 11%.

Actually, the boards got some restorations and money for contract raises during the present budget year, raising their average budgets to about $205,000. City Hall budget negotiations are likely to lead to similar restorations this time around.

Councilwoman Letitia James (D/WFP-Brooklyn) said Council budget negotiators have "laid a line in the sand that you will not touch the budgets of the community [boards]."

flombardi@nydailynews.com

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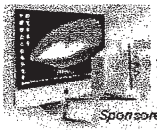
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At City Hall rally, Borough leaders rip citywide community board budget cuts

BY FRANK LOMBARDI
DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU

Wednesday, June 10th 2009, 4:00 AM

Bronx Beep Ruben Diaz Jr. (c.) joins Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer (back l.) and Queens Borough President Helen Marshall (right) in vowing to fight proposed budget cuts.

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flombardi@nydailynews.com

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HARLEM COMMUNITY TOWNHALL MEETING

Wednesday, June 17, 6pm
Oberia Dempsey Center
127 W 127th St., New York

Visit us on the web and sign our online petition:
www.haarlemvictoria.com

Find Out How Economic Development is a Part of a Community Solution and What We Need to Do to Make It Happen.

Now is the time to voice our support for and participation in projects that will help us as a community. Topics to be addressed are: education/ youth gangs, jobs, training programs, economic development, tourism and how the stimulus package will benefit the residents of Harlem.

This town hall meeting is a continuation of efforts to make the Harlem Economic Development Renaissance a reality. Through economic development, we will be able to own a part of our community.

Confirmed panel members are; Ethel Bates of the Haarlem Victoria Restoration Group, Mason Mallory, CPA, Barry Simmons, Entrepreneur, Eric D. Treworgy, CEO of STRIVE, Rev. Vernon Williams, Harlem Clergy and Community Leaders Coalition and other unconfirmed panel members covering tourism etc.

"We Must Own a Part of Our Community"
THE SLEEPING GIANT IS AWAKE!

West Harlem Group assistance, inc.

Harlem Clergy and Community HCCLC Leaders Coalition

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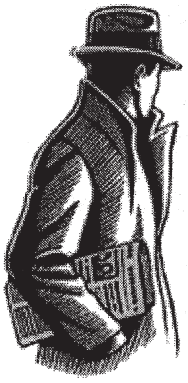

THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

"Nothing Sacred But the Truth"

HEY STUDENTS,

Marisa Lago, Paterson's Development Chief, Quits

By Eliot Brown
June 5, 2009 | 5:39 p.m

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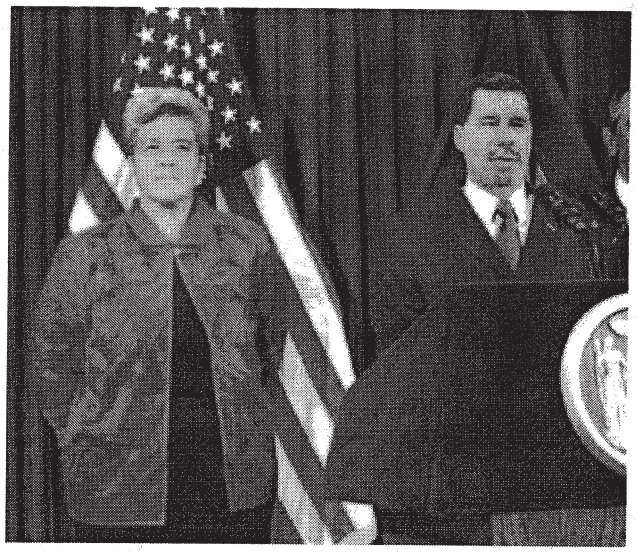
Marisa Lago, the state's top economic development official since August 2008, is resigning from her post, according to multiple people informed of the decision, adding to a growing number of top aides to leave the Paterson administration.



Governor Paterson announcing Ms. Lago's appointment to the ESDC in August 2008.

ny.gov.

+Enlarge

As CEO of the Empire State Development Corporation, her departure adds to the turmoil at an agency that has seen its fair share in recent years. The agency, which oversees incentive programs statewide and large-scale development projects in New York City, has been rocked by infighting, both between Ms. Lago and ESDC chairman Bob Wilmers, and among top Spitzer

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administration officials as well. (Much more on the disorder at ESDC in **an article I wrote a few weeks back**).

According to multiple people who have talked with Ms. Lago directly, she has expressed unhappiness in the position, perhaps in part because she did not have as strong a connection with the governor or his top aides as did previous officials in that post.

Her resignation comes after numerous other top officials have left: Eric Dinallo, insurance superintendent just left, as did budget director Laura Anglin.

ebrown@observer.com

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The Discussion

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Submitted by topwatchbrand.com on Sat, 06/06/2009 - 23:51.

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دليل

Submitted by drb-alaim.com on Sun, 06/07/2009 - 06:23.

‘

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‘

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‘

البرامج والتطبيقات
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Seventeenth Annual New York State ReLeaf Conference

New York ReLeaf

GREENING THE BIG APPLE:
FORESTRY FROM THE STREETS

July 16—18, 2009
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: All those involved in the field of urban and community forestry; educators, volunteers, tree commissions, arborists, horticulturists, landscape architects, planners, nursery professionals, community/state/utility foresters, local government officials; public works and parks departments, and researchers.

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***Keynote Speaker*:** Rohit Aggarwala, Ph.D.
NYC Mayor's Office of Sustainability

This year's **Picnic** will be held at the **Empire Fulton Ferry State Park,** a location having a *"beautiful oasis of trees, flowers and pastoral scenes"*.

Tours will include visiting the Clinton Hill Neighborhood, Greenwood Cemetery Arboretum, Prospect Park, Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Newtown Creek.

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