

Brownsville Planning Process: What we heard at Workshop 4

On March 25, 2017, the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and its agency partners hosted the fourth public workshop for the Brownsville Neighborhood Planning Process at Tilden Community Center. The workshop aimed to share the draft strategies of the Brownsville Plan and gather community feedback. The workshop featured an open house where residents provided feedback through post-its and conversations with agency representatives, a panel discussion with neighborhood leaders about the future of Brownsville, and opportunities for themed small group discussions. HPD continued to gather feedback on the draft plan after the workshop through the phone and email. This document summarizes common themes that emerged from the feedback on the draft strategies. The boards from workshop 4 are also available online at courbanize.com/brownsville.



Participants confirmed and prioritized:

- o High quality arts and cultural space
- o More jobs and afterschool programs for young people
- o Affordable housing for a range of incomes, especially extremely low to low incomes
- o Homeownership opportunities
- o Affordable, organic, and healthy food options
- o Neighborhood retail such as laundromats, medical offices, groceries, sit-down restaurants, and outdoor cafes
- o Safety improvements at dangerous intersections
- o Improved lighting and other safety design improvements
- o Accessibility improvements and free transfer between Livonia Avenue and Junius Street subway stations
- o Job training programs in trade and emerging fields, such as tech for youth and adults
- o Improvements to parks and programming to bring people together
- o More community gardens and community gathering spaces
- o Programs to support first-time business owners
- o Local Housing Ambassadors to support affordable housing applicants



Participants raised the need for more:

- o Information on affordable housing options and how they are advertised
- o Community spaces for seniors
- o Greater variety of stores on Pitkin Avenue
- o Collaboration between workforce development groups to advertise job opportunities
- o More information on businesses in the IBZ so residents can support them
- o Development of the M/WBE pool in Brownsville
- o Parking
- o Improved relationships between young people and the police
- o Programs for young children that are low cost or free
- o Support and resources for homeowners/landlords
- o Highlighting of community initiatives in the final plan

Participants also suggested additional ideas for future projects that could be implemented by community members:

- o Non-profit radio station where kids in the neighborhood can DJ and make announcements on neighborhood resources
- o Adopt green streets
- o Competition for young people like Mr. and Mrs. Brownsville for giving back to the community
- o Land-marking murals like the Brownsville Moving Forward mural
- o A network of block-by-block local information distribution

Thank you to all those who provided feedback on the draft strategies. Your comments have been heard and shared with sister agencies, and will inform HPD's revisions to the final Brownsville Plan to be issued this Spring 2017.