

What We Heard At Workshop #2

The Jewel Streets Neighborhood Plan

The second workshop for the Jewel Streets Neighborhood Plan was held on August 23, 2023, at the NYCHA Pink Houses Community Center (2702 Linden Blvd, Brooklyn, NY). Around 70 participants attended and discussed a range of neighborhood issues, including open space, economic development, health, and community services. Below is a summary of the feedback received from feedback boards and conversations with staff members about what neighborhood residents would like to see in the future:



Open Space

- Green spaces with passive recreation (e.g., places to sit, walk, read, gather) and active recreation (e.g., playgrounds, sports fields, running/biking paths. Currently, some residents go outside the neighborhood to access parks and playgrounds)
- Waterfront access in open spaces
- Expanded community garden visiting hours
- New and more accessible equipment for parks, including ADA friendly playground equipment for kids with sensory sensitivities
- Better sidewalks and lighting
- More programming for children and seniors in parks
- Dog owners held accountable for the abundance of dog waste in parks, which limits quality of life and opportunities to do outdoor activities
- More lighting, sidewalks, and stewardship in Gemini Fields
- “Friends of” groups for parks and playgrounds to increase maintenance oversight in existing open spaces
- Places to buy food in parks

Health

- Adequate sewage disposal is a huge quality of life concern for residents in the area
- Improved access to mental health resources (e.g., support for people suffering from PTSD)
- Better food access. Residents leave the neighborhood to access fresh, healthy foods – sometimes traveling to Long Island
- Improved coordination between existing urban agriculture programs. For example, the ENY farm could host a local farmers market run by youth and community members.
- The AFC Urgent Care (Howard Beach) is well utilized and accessible, but it is the only option in the area besides going to the hospital
- A primary care doctor in the area, specifically one focused on trauma
- Reduced stress – high rates of incarceration and single parenting increase stress
- Improved childcare access

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Economic Development & Education

- More training for construction, sanitation, and truck driving jobs
- Office job training for remote work opportunities
- Youth activities, educational opportunities, and internships
- Improved promotion and access to nearby job opportunities (e.g., JFK, the racetracks, including Resorts World, and Gateway Mall)
- A trade school in the area to increase awareness about career paths that do not require a college degree
- Small business services (e.g., business incubators, classes for business owners, technical and administrative support), especially to encourage local businesses ownership
- Financial capital and technical support for the many people who want to open businesses in the area
- The area's reputation as being dangerous discourages people from opening businesses in the area
- Access to reliable and faster internet; issues with current providers
- A 2-year public college in East New York
- More basic services, like banks, post office, laundromats, childcare, and grocery stores
- Opportunities for local entrepreneurs to collaborate with existing local economic development corporations (e.g., LDC of ENY)
- Residents want to see continuing education centers, schools, community colleges, youth programming, and immigrant services in the neighborhood.
- Gathering spaces and cultural centers, including performance and theater spaces for local arts groups, are also missing from the community.

Community Amenities & Services

- More community spaces for gathering and entertainment, a library, cultural centers, and other spaces for arts (e.g., performance arts)
- More programming for seniors, youth, women, and people with disabilities at community centers
- Improved connection between social services and workforce programs should be
- Art, dance, and acting classes
- Services and opportunities for artists to showcase their art
- Improved services for seniors, people with disabilities, unhoused residents, and unemployed residents
- Services to support migrants and help them access the job market
- Community amenities and services that plan to bring adjacent areas and communities together
- A school closer to the Jewel Streets as PS 232 is too far, and it is too dangerous to cross Conduit to get to PS 214