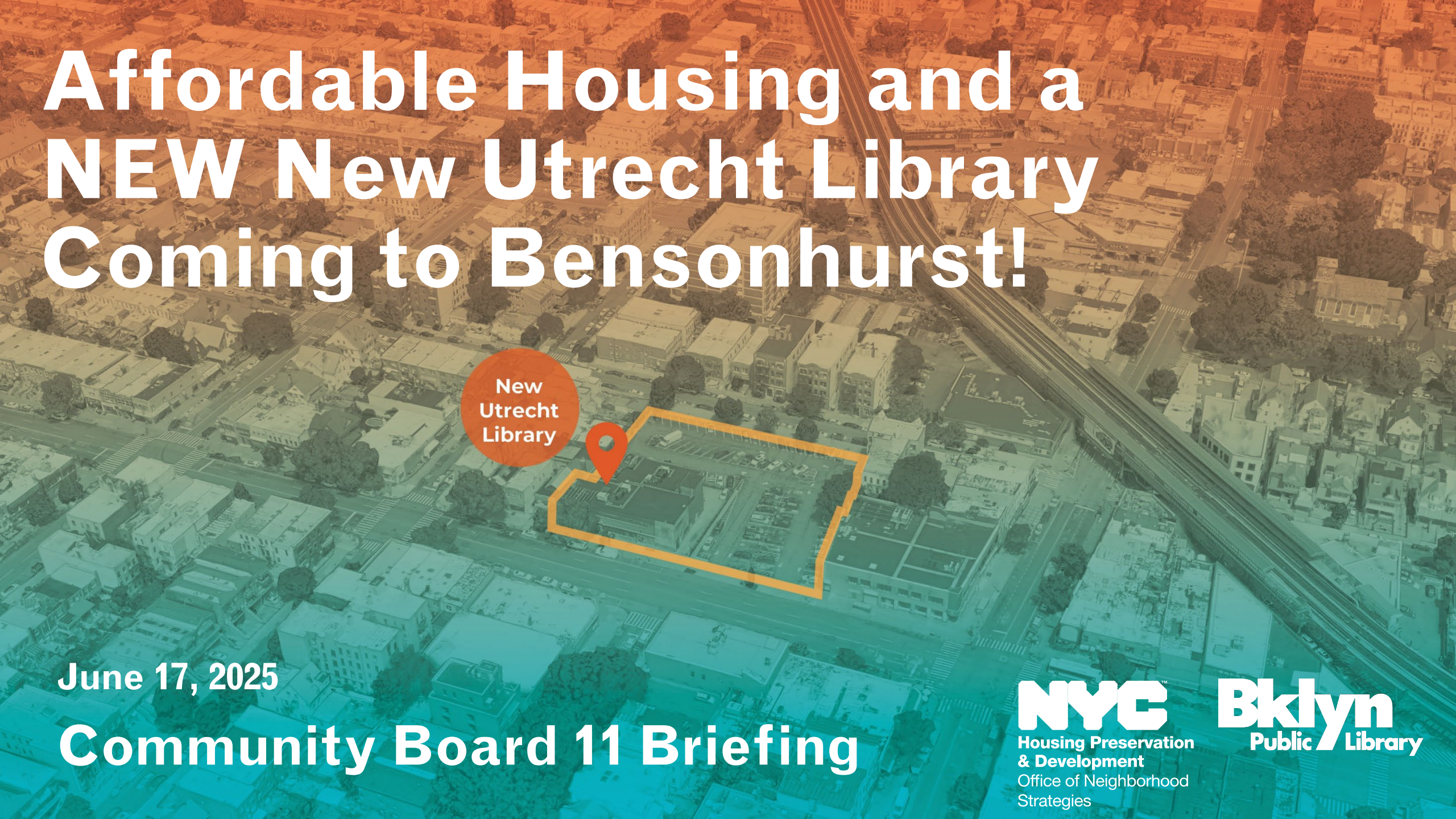


Affordable Housing and a **NEW New Utrecht Library** Coming to Bensonhurst!



New
Utrecht
Library

June 17, 2025

Community Board 11 Briefing

NYC
Housing Preservation
& Development
Office of Neighborhood
Strategies

Bklyn
Public Library

Agenda

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Library & Site Overview**
- 3. Precedents**
- 4. RFP and Community Visioning Process**
- 5. Discussion**

1. Introduction

Introduction

New Utrecht Library and Affordable Housing

The Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) are collaborating on the redevelopment of the New Utrecht Library and adjacent DOT muni lot with a new state-of-the-art library and affordable housing above.



ebrooklyn media/Photo by Paula Katinas

Introduction

HPD + BPL + DOT



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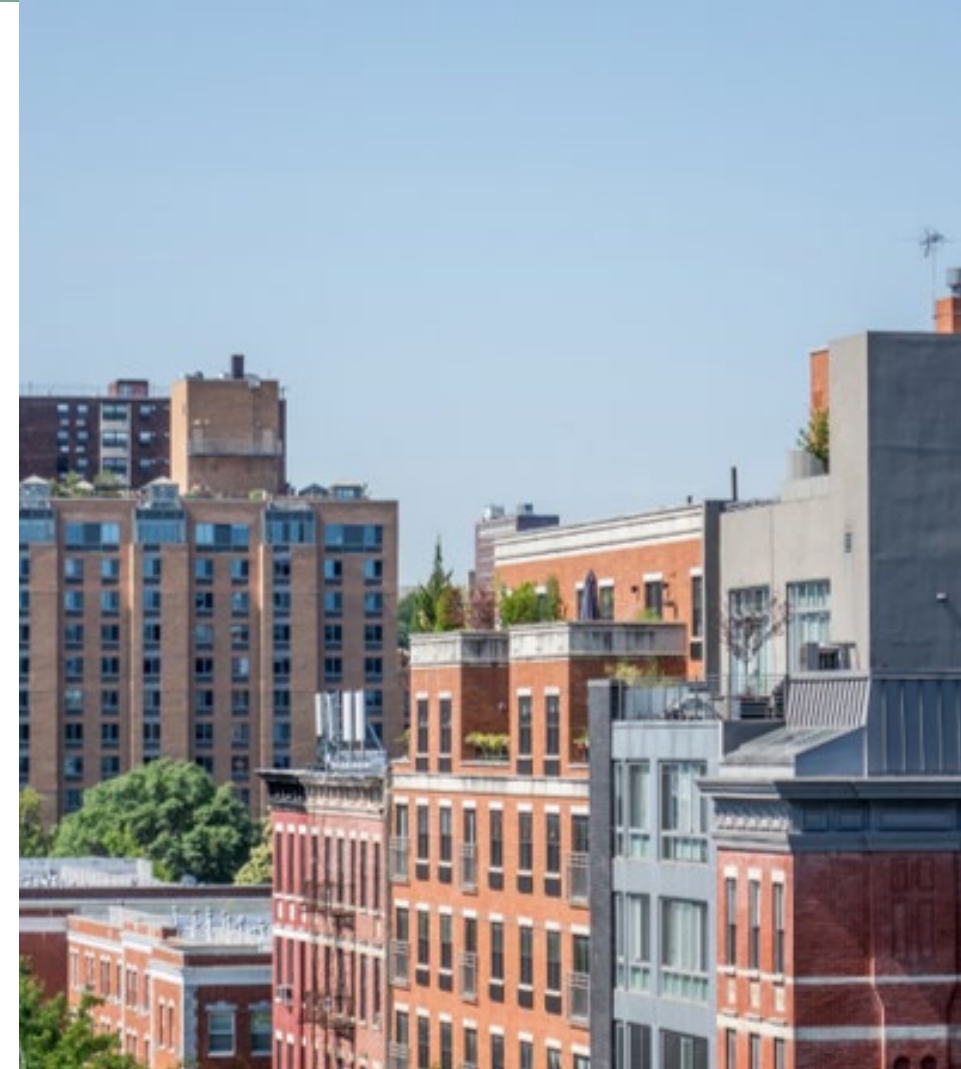
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Introduction

Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)

- 1. Ensure housing quality**
- 2. Preserve existing affordable housing and create new affordable housing**
- 3. Engage New Yorkers to build and sustain neighborhood strength and diversity**
 - Education and outreach about housing resources and rights.
 - Community engagement and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for affordable housing development on City-owned land!

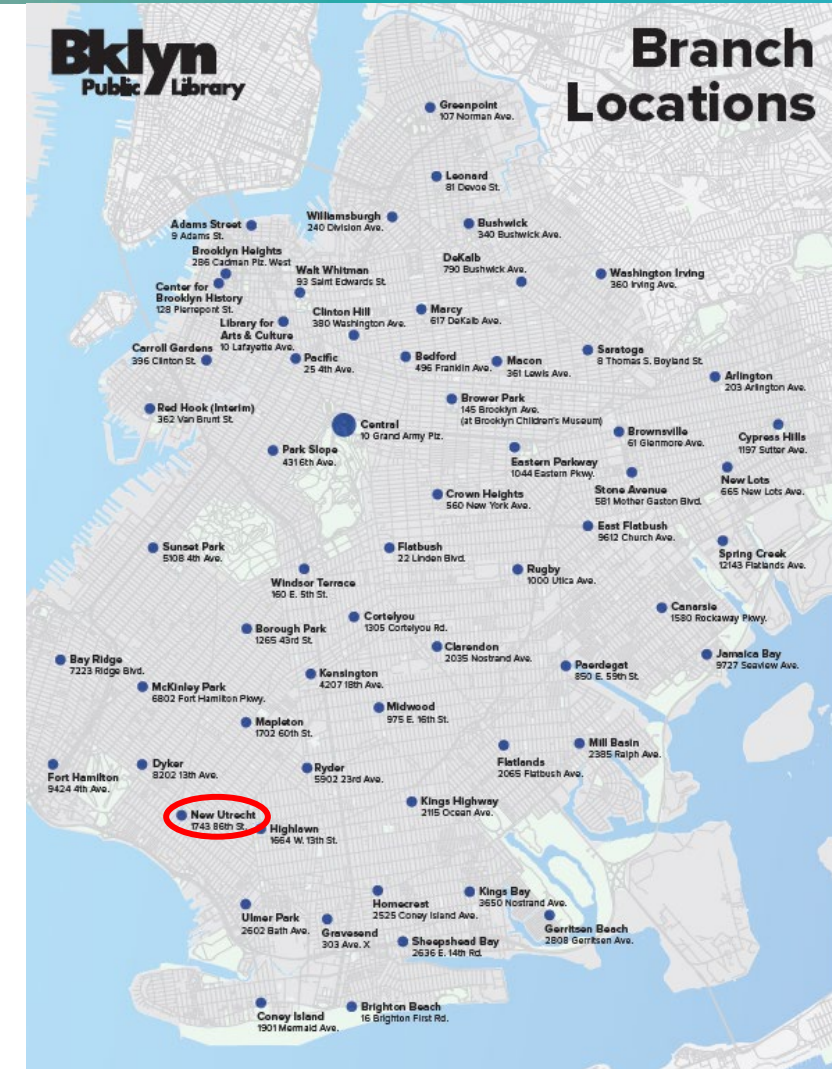


Introduction Brooklyn Public Library (BPL)

For more than 125 years, Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) has been among New York City's most democratic institutions offering essential educational, enrichment and economic advancement resources – all for free.

One of the largest library systems in the nation, BPL has 61 locations throughout the borough. Most of Brooklyn's 2.7 million residents live within a mile of a BPL branch. BPL's collection holds over 3.1 million physical items and digital materials.

In a borough where 18% of residents live in poverty, including one in four children, and where the costs of necessities often take priority over spending on cultural and educational opportunities, BPL's free resources and programs are critical to ensuring all people have the tools they need to become productive and self-sufficient citizens.

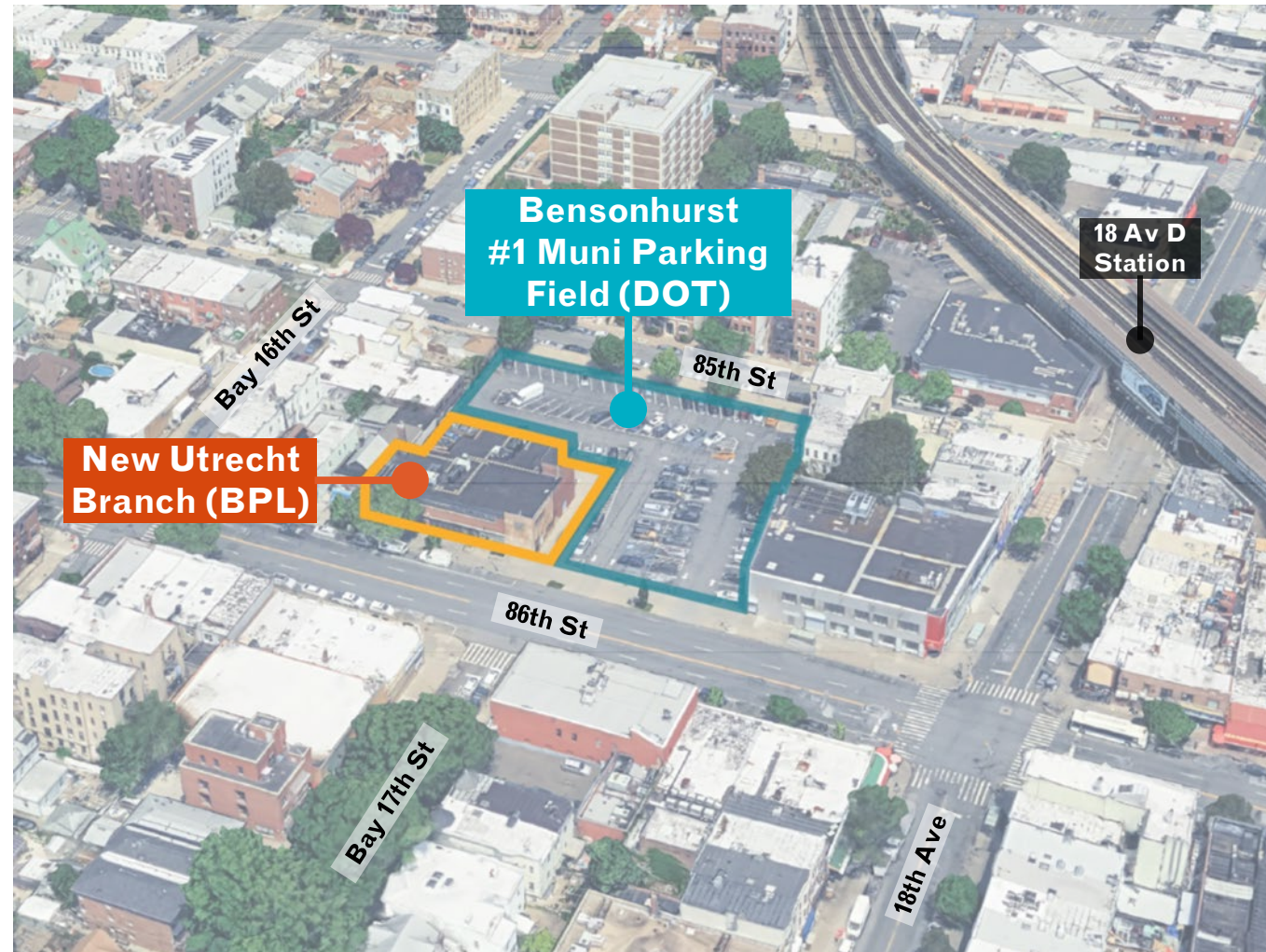


2. Library & Site Overview

Site Overview

Site Description

- 1743 86th Street, Brooklyn, Community District 11
- Council District 38: Council Member Avilés
- Lot Size: approx. 46,000 square feet
 - BPL lot (Block 6343, Lot 64): ~12,500 SF
 - DOT lot (Block 6343, Lot 31): ~33,500 SF
- Zoning Districts: R5 and R5/C1-2
- One block from 18 Av D Station



Site Overview

New Utrecht Library

- **Year Built:** 1957
- **Ownership:** City
- **Size:** ~23,000 SF
- **Branch Needs:**
 - \$23M allocated for DDC renovation of the library.
 - Façade, roof, HVAC & BMS, electrical & fire alarm upgrade, elevator, and ADA bathroom
 - Community engagement began in 2018.
 - Project was stalled in the pandemic and again in 2025.
 - Most recent scope was unable to include community's original vision for improved and redesigned interior.
 - HPD partnership presents opportunity to achieve the full vision.



Photos by
Gregg Richards, BPL

3. Precedents

Precedents

Sunset Park Library (BPL)

Construction Completed: Fall 2023

- New Sunset Park Library
- 49 deeply affordable homes atop the branch
- Community space and recording studio



Photos by Gregg Richards, BPL

Precedents

Inwood Library (NYPL)

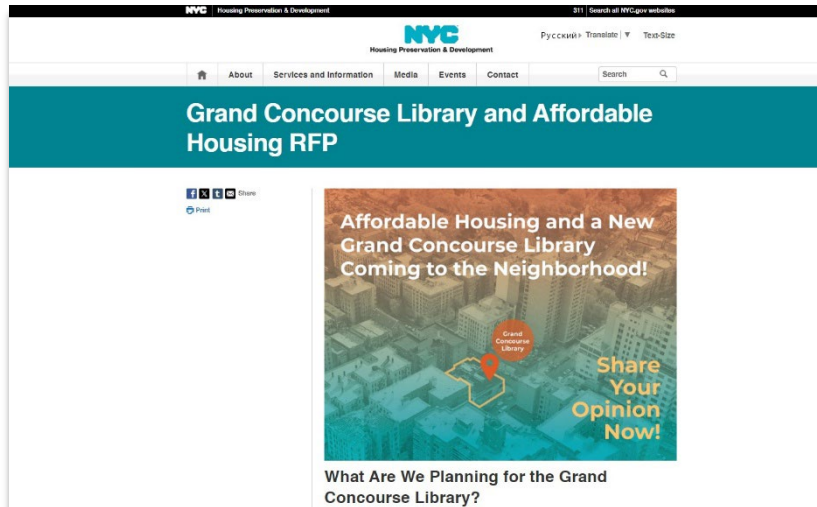
Construction Completed: Spring 2024

- New Inwood Library
- 174 deeply affordable homes
- Community center and Universal Pre-K



Precedents Grand Concourse Library (NYPL)

Project Website



Project Questionnaire

NYC Housing Preservation & Development
Office of Neighborhood Strategies

New York Public Library

Scan this QR code for the online questionnaire

Grand Concourse Library and Affordable Housing Questionnaire

This questionnaire is also available in Spanish. *Este cuestionario también está disponible en español.*
When you complete the questionnaire, please return it to the front desk at the Grand Concourse Library.

BACKGROUND

1. What is your ZIP Code? _____

2. What is your connection to the neighborhood around the Grand Concourse Library?
Select all that apply:

- ☐ I live here
- ☐ I work and/or go to school here
- ☐ I spend time with family and/or friends here
- ☐ I shop at businesses and/or use services here
- ☐ I'm not sure/I don't have one

Neighborhood tabling events

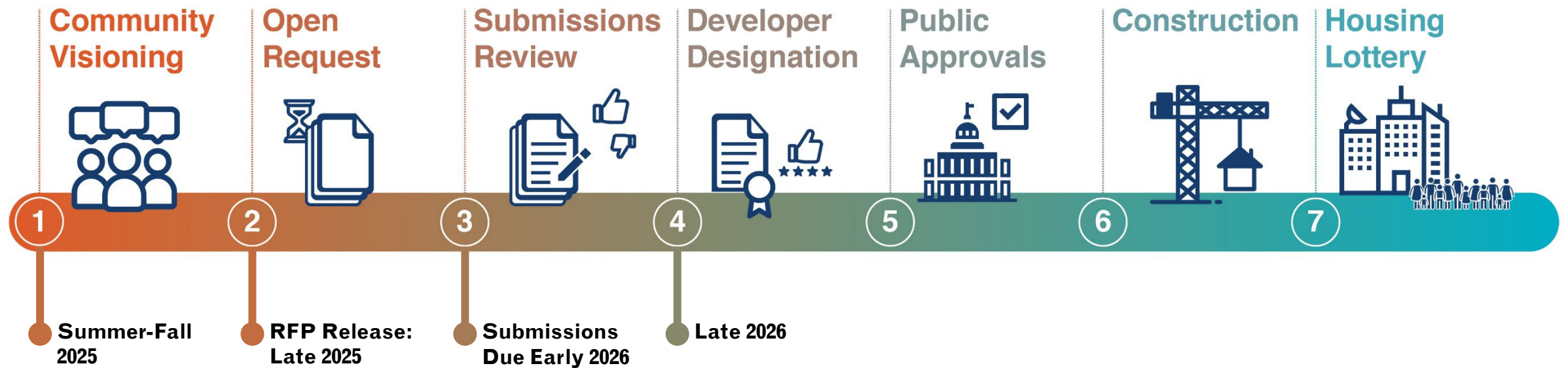


Visioning Workshop at the library



4. RFP and Community Visioning Process

RFP and Community Visioning Process Development Process

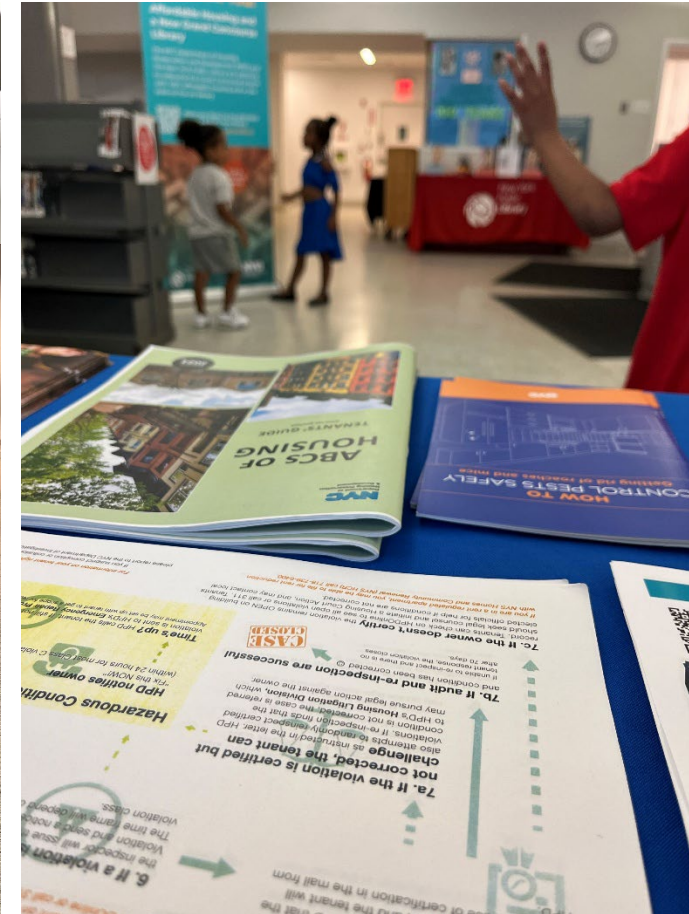


RFP and Community Visioning Process

Initial Community Conversations

Goal: Outreach to key stakeholders to get preliminary input on the site and engagement plan.

- Council Member Avilés
- Community Board 11
- Borough President Reynoso
- Stakeholder mapping



RFP and Community Visioning Process Engagement strategies

Goal: Spread the word about how to get involved and create ways for community members to participate outside of workshops.

- Public tabling events (information packet, questionnaire, housing resources)
- Online (project website, social media campaign, email blasts, online questionnaire)



RFP and Community Visioning Process

Community Visioning Workshop

Goal: Create the opportunity for the community to provide input and share their priorities.

Potential Topics:

1. Housing affordability levels
2. Library programming
3. Building design



RFP and Community Visioning Process Report Back Meeting

Goal: Report back to local stakeholders about community priorities identified during engagement.

- Summary of public input, which will be published in the Community Visioning Report (CVR)
- Open to the public
- CVR will be attached to the RFP



5. Discussion

Next Steps

Collaboration with CB 11

- 1. Key community stakeholders**
- 2. Engagement opportunities/events over the Summer**
- 3. Engagement strategies**
 - Languages spoken in the community, where to focus our efforts, how else would the board like to be involved?
- 4. Help spread the word**