Flatbush African Burial Ground Remembrance and Redevelopment Task Force Meeting #5

April 14, 2021





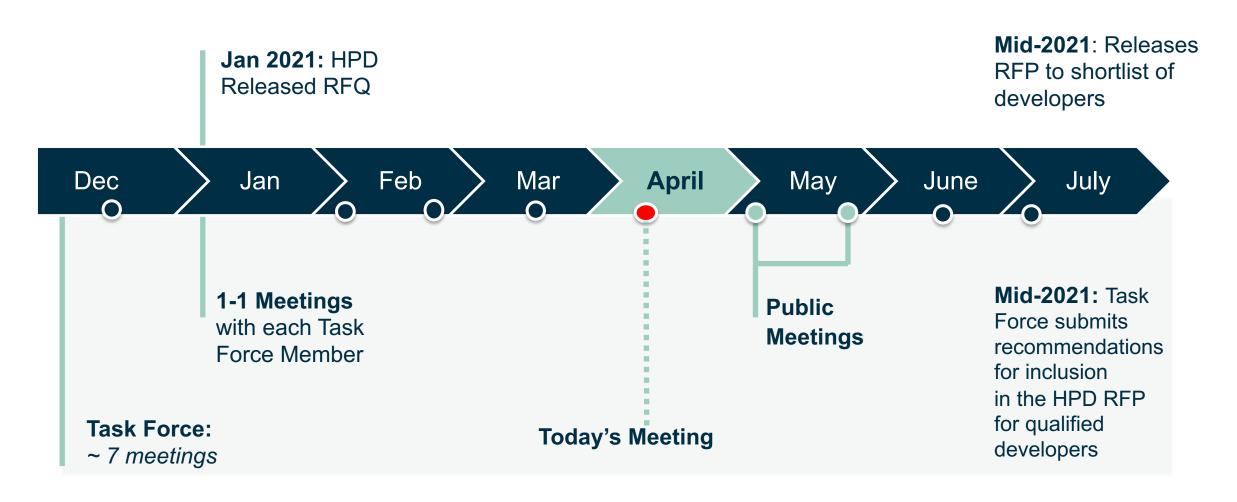


Welcome

Goals for today's session:

- To learn about the possibilities for planning and design of the site and building and holding meaningful discussions regarding site planning and urban design.
- To reflect on the topics discussed in the previous meetings (#1-4), including all the insights collected so far, and to gather feedback on the information we plan to share with the public during the workshops.
- To provide an update on the public engagement process and public outreach.
- To outline next steps.

Task Force Timeline





Zoom 101

Framing best practices for this platform.

- The chat box is a great tool! Use the chat box for questions, comments and thoughts.... This is a helpful space for discussion.
- Please stay on mute unless you are asking a question or in the breakout sessions. Trick: you can use the space-bar like a walkie-talkie.
- We love seeing you! If you are comfortable, please keep your video on. It helps me to see if you are nodding, confused... or looking to say something.

IN FULL TRANSPARENCY

- We are currently recording
- We are currently Livestreaming
- The recording, notes and presentations will be hosted on the FABGRR website after the meeting

Descendant Community Research Update

Historical Perspectives Inc. (HPI) – April Update

- **HPI continued online research** into any references to the Flatbush African Burial Ground. No new information about size of the burial ground and its dates of use has been found.
- HPI reviewed Kings County Records from the Municipal Archives online, which did not include additional information about the burial ground and those buried there.
 These records include:
 - Flatbush Town Meeting Minutes
 - Records of Flatbush School District No. 1
 - Records of the Overseer of the Pool
 - Road Records
 - Board of Health Records, including multiple references from before 1840
 - Flatbush Records of Slave Holders, Slave Births, Indentures, and Manumissions. These records are from the late 1790s and early 1800s and do not record deaths.



Task Force Members

Co-Chairs

- Ryan Lynch, Office of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams
- Mathieu Eugene, District 40 Council Member

Task Force Members

- Dr. Ben Talton, Author and Professor of African History from Temple University
- Carol Reneau, Community Board 17
- Chantal Eugene Desdunes, Erasmus Hall High School for Youth and Community Development
- Kathy De Meij, CAMBA
- Lauren Collins, Flatbush Ave. BID & Church Avenue BID
- Naima Oyo, Ifetayo Cultural Arts Academy

- Natiba Guy-Clement, Center for Brooklyn History at Brooklyn Public Library
- Robin Redmond, Executive Director of Flatbush Development Corp.
- Pastor De Lafayette Awkard, Reformed Dutch Church of Flatbush
- Rev Sheldon N.N. Hamblin, St. Paul's Church in the Village of Flatbush
- Ron Schweiger, Brooklyn Borough Historian
- Roslyn Joinvil, Office of District 40 Council Member
- Samantha Bernardine, Erasmus Hall High School for Youth and Community Development
- Shawn Campbell, Community Board 14
- Tyrone McDonald, Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn CDC Inc. (NHS Brooklyn)



City Team in Attendance



- Lena Ferguson, Senior Project Manager, Neighborhood Strategies, NYCEDC
- Eleni DeSiervo, Vice President, Government and Community Relations, NYCEDC



- Josh Saal, Deputy Director of Predevelopment, HPD
- Erin Buchanan, Deputy Director, Brooklyn Planning, HPD



- Jonah Rogoff, City Planner, DCP
- Jesse Hirakawa, Urban Designer, DCP



Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology, LPC





Past Meeting Resources

Staying up-to-date on this project

The recording, notes and presentations for Meetings #1-4 are currently hosted on the project website:

fabgtaskforce.nyc



- · Viewing livestreamed Task Force meetings To ensure an open and transparent process, all Task Force meetings will be livestreamed on here as well. This page will be updated as recordings and documents
- Completing a project questionnaire To maximize input, this spring. an online questionnaire will be shared across the community to solicit
- . Attending workshops Two virtual public workshops will take place this spring to gather input on how best to honor the past and identify opportunities for the new development to support the community.

Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) is seeking public insight to help uncover more of the site's history and more fully document the enslaved population of Flatbush. If you have information to share, please fill out this form to support this ongoing research effort.

Task Force Livestreams

Watch livestreamed Fiatbush African Burial Ground Remembrance and Redevelopment Task Force meetings below:



March 24, 2021 - Focus: Affordable housing, non-residential uses, including youth space and programming, and public engagement.

Contact the Project Team

Task Force Meeting Records





Guidelines for Productive Conversation

- Have empathy to, and awareness of, the unique perspectives in the virtual room.
- Being conscientious and acknowledging to the lens and perspective you speak of.
 Where possible, speak from the I. Acknowledge if you are speaking from your lived experience, the lens of your organization or an assumption.
- Assume the best intentions of your fellow group members. Be mindful not to make assumptions about others or their experiences.
- Be comfortable with discomfort as we together unlearn history related to slavery in this community, and be wary of oppressive, offensive or racialized language that may be triggering to others.

Site Planning Analysis Presentation

A presentation from DCP about the possibilities for planning and design of the site and building including a series of building explorations to support our breakout sessions.

2286 CHURCH AVENUE SITE PLANNING ANALYSIS DISCUSSION

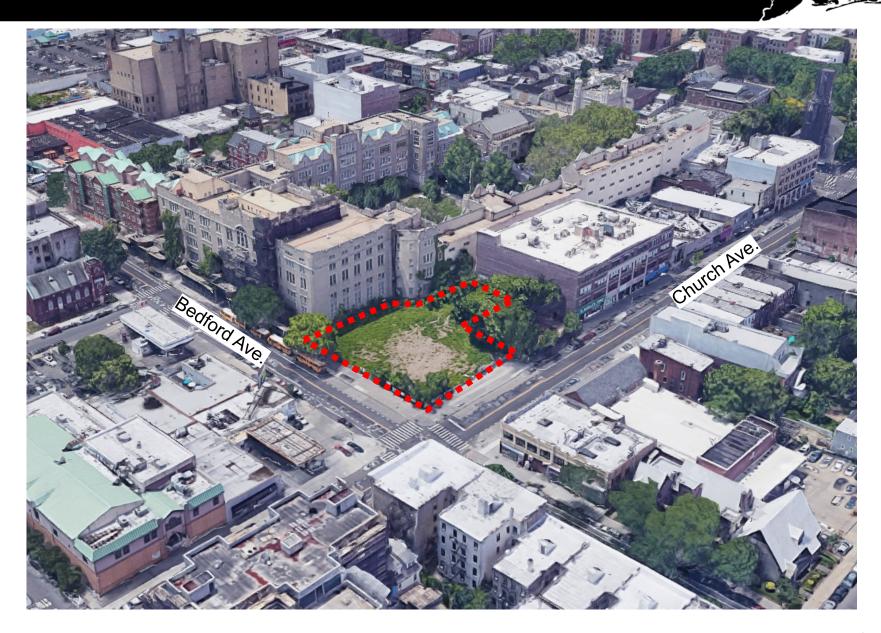
April 2021





Presentation Purpose and Goals

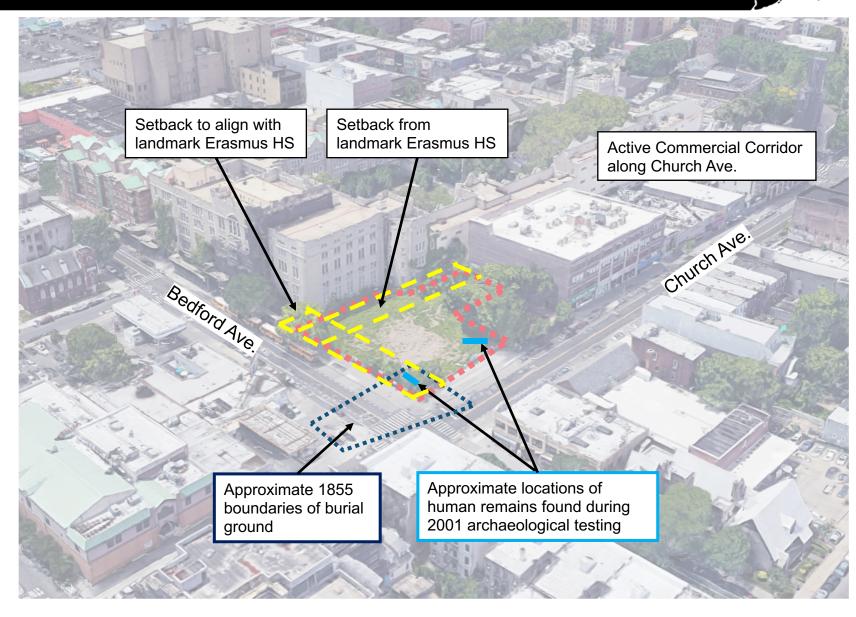
- Share potential site planning and building form options
- Discuss and gather feedback on key building considerations:
 - Memorial space location and configuration
 - Open space location and programming
 - Building height and setbacks





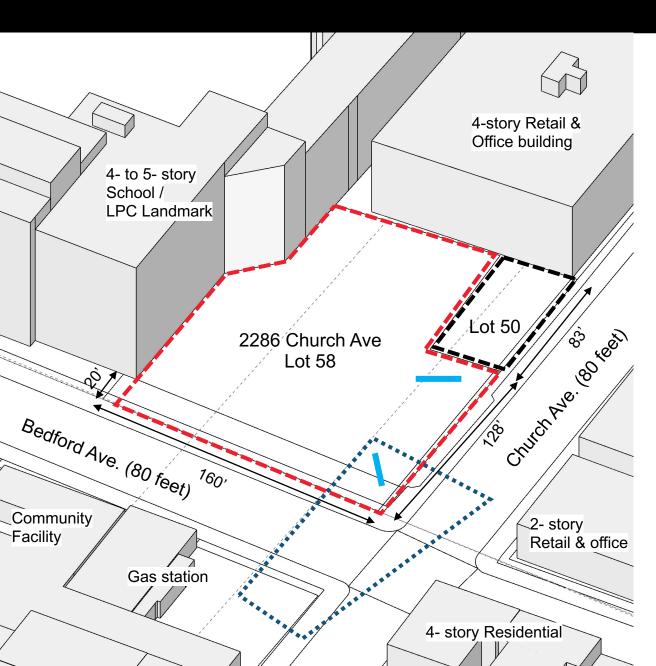
Site Planning Design Considerations

- Site conditions and context
 - Site dimensions
 - Burial ground location and history
 - Erasmus HS (LPC landmark)
 - Street and sidewalk width
 - Proximity to public transit and relationship to commercial corridors
- Development features
 - Building location and shape (e.g. envelope/massing)
 - Density
 - Uses





Site Conditions & Context



- 2286 Church Ave Site (Lot 58)
 - Dimensions and area (29,000 SF)
 - Site frontages and street width
- Adjacent private site (Lot 50)
 - Building Permit filed in May 2020 for new 4story commercial building
- Surrounding context
 - Erasmus High School Buildings
 - Church and Bedford Avenues



Approximate locations of human remains found during 2001 archaeological testing



Approximate 1855 boundaries of burial ground



2286 Church Ave

Site Analysis: Baseline with no ground floor setbacks or open space





Approximately 9 floors

101-111 Affordable Homes

- Interior Open Space ~ 5,300 sf
- Building footprint
- Tax Lot



Site Analysis Considerations

To the second se

1) Building Setbacks

What are some possible building locations in relation to the street, memorial space, open space, and the adjacent Erasmus Hall campus?

2) Outdoor Memorial & Open Space

What are potential site configurations for outdoor memorial and open space that can honor the historical burial ground and provide other programming opportunities?

3) Building height and massing

How does the size and location of an outdoor memorial and open space affect the building footprint, height and number of affordable homes?



Site Analysis Considerations



What are some possible building locations in relation to the street, memorial space, open space, and the adjacent Erasmus Hall campus?

2) Outdoor Memorial & Open Space

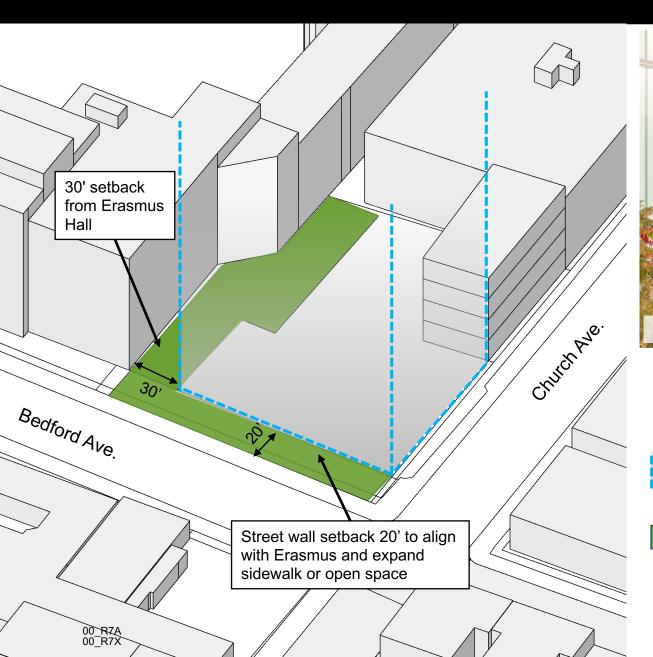
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Setback Analysis: Setbacks from Erasmus Hall and Bedford Ave

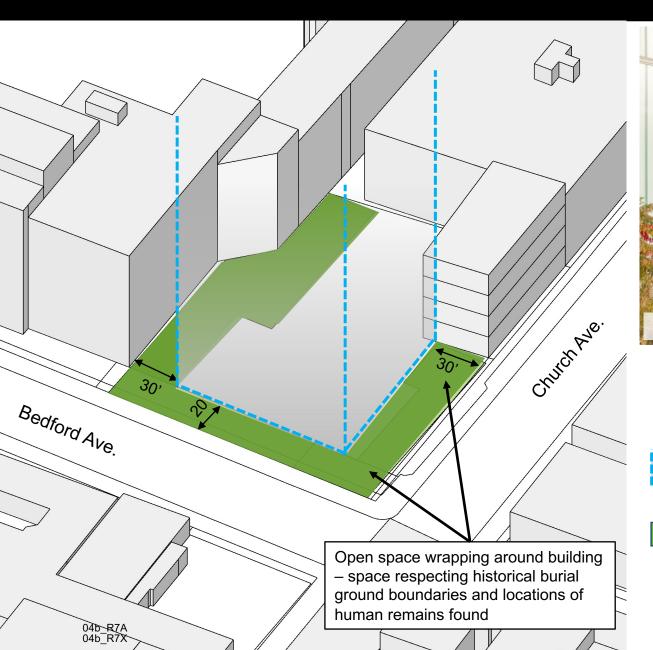




NOTE: This is a preliminary site analysis for discussion purposes.

- Possible Building Location
- Setback areas

Setback Analysis: Setbacks on both street frontages

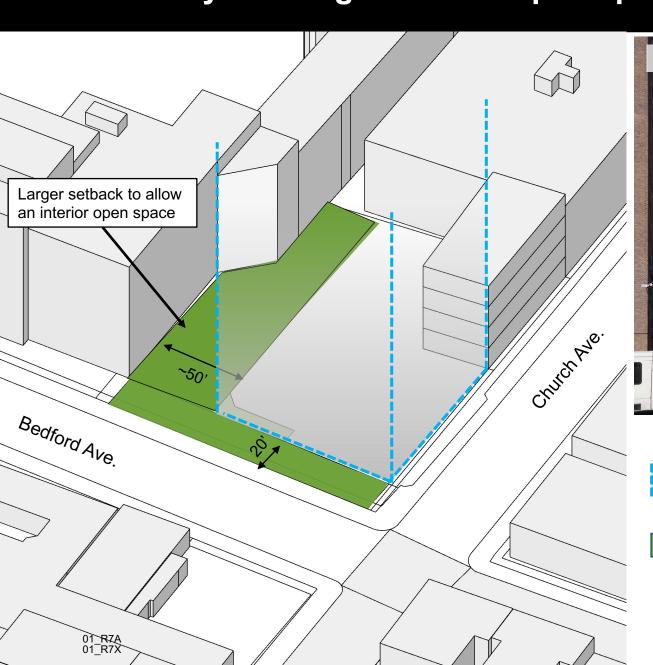




NOTE: This is a preliminary site analysis for discussion purposes.

- Possible Building Location
- Setback areas

Setback Analysis: Larger interior open space adjacent to Erasmus



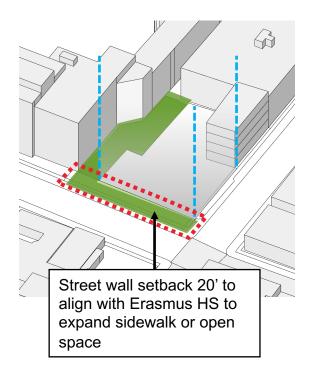


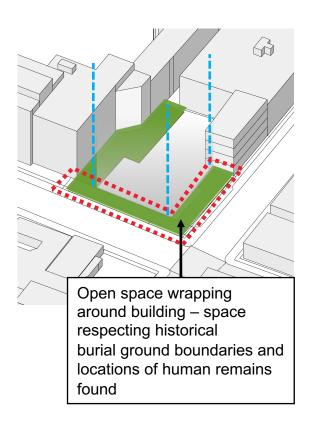
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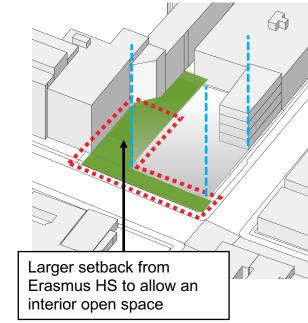
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Summary of Setback Options

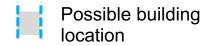
This will be a future break out room discussion

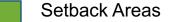






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Site Analysis Considerations



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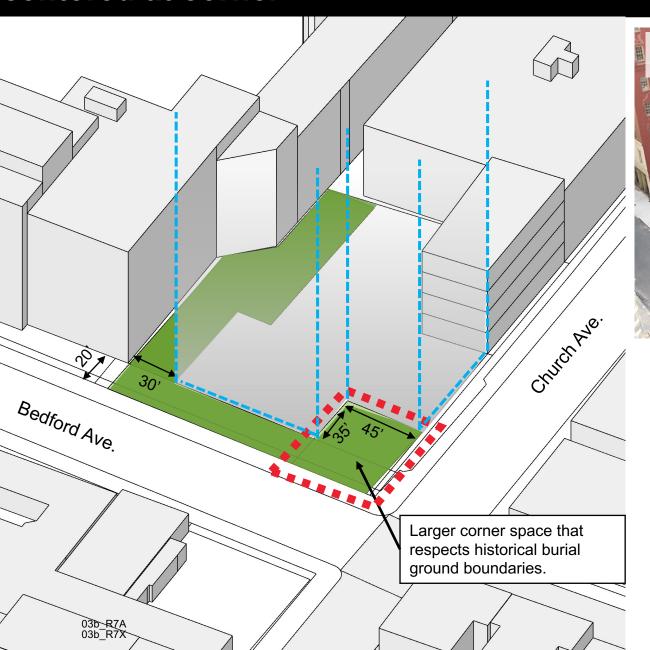
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Memorial & Open Space Options: Memorial and/or open space centered at corner



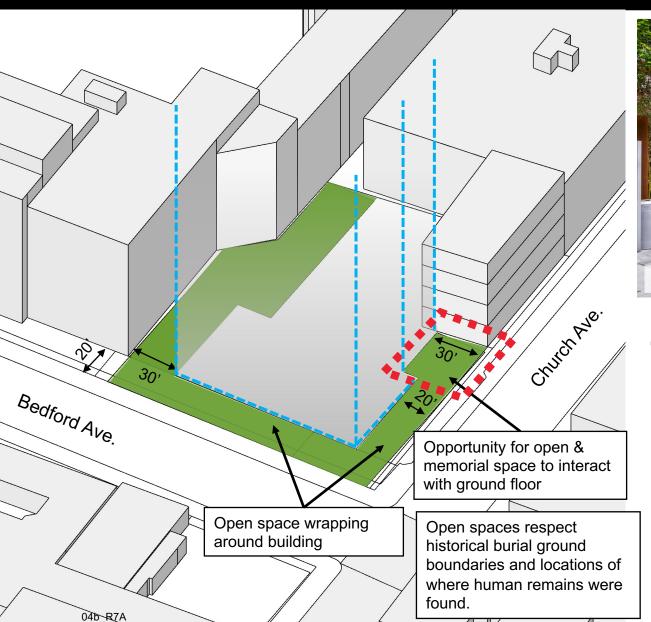


NOTE: This is a preliminary site analysis for discussion purposes.

39% Open Space & Memorial Space

- Memorial & Open Space Square footage ~ 11,200 sf
- Prominent Memorial Space Opportunity

Memorial & Open Space Options: Setbacks on both street frontages



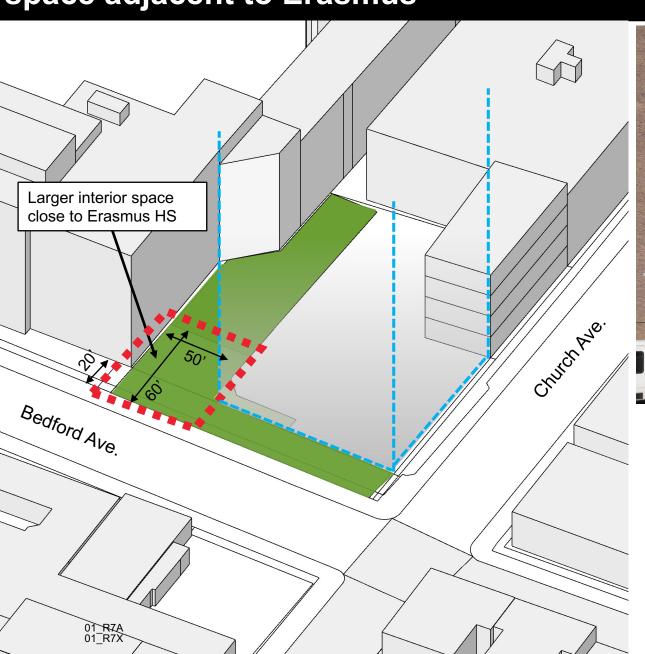


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41% Open Space & Memorial Space

- Memorial & Open Space Square footage ~ 12,000 sf
- Prominent Memorial Space
 Opportunity

Memorial & Open Space Options: Corner building with larger interior open space adjacent to Erasmus





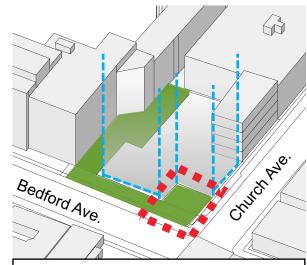
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 Opportunity

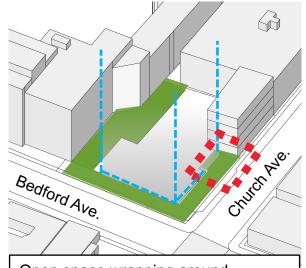
Summary of Memorial & Open Space Options

This will be a future break out room discussion

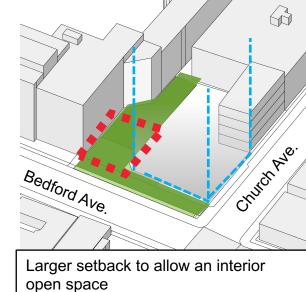


Opened corner space for prominent memorial space opportunity

Memorial & Open Space



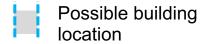
Open space wrapping around building, allowing for more open space

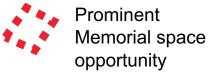


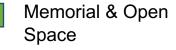
Memorial & Open Space 41%

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Site Analysis Considerations



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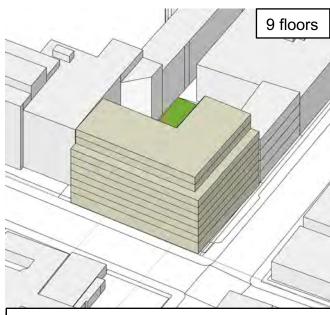
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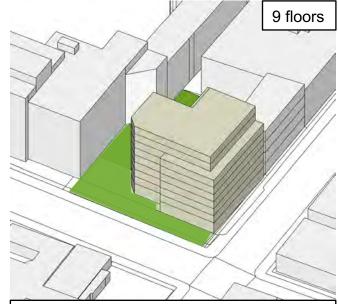


Building height and open space options

NOTE: This just a preliminary analysis and not a finalized or a design proposal.



1. Baseline building with no setbacks – under the existing zoning with no site considerations.



2. Prominent corner building with continuous street frontage on Church Avenue.



3. Additional few floors allows us to achieve more affordable homes, while maintaining a larger open space

100+ Affordable Homes

18% Open Space (behind the building)

65+ Affordable Homes

41% Memorial & Open Space

110+ Affordable Homes

41% Memorial & Open Space



Additional building height options

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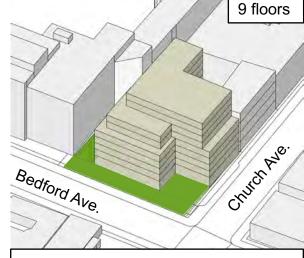
This will be a future break out room discussion



Prominent corner building with continuous street frontage on Church Avenue



More street frontage on Bedford Avenue and less separation from Erasmus



Street frontage on both Bedford and Church Avenues with prominent corner open space.

NOTE: This just a preliminary analysis and not a finalized or a design proposal.



Example: Caton Flats, BK

65+ Affordable Homes **110+** Affordable Homes

41% Memorial & Open Space

80+ Affordable Homes **125+** Affordable Homes

41% Memorial & Open Space

80+ Affordable Homes **140+** Affordable Homes

39% Memorial & Open Space

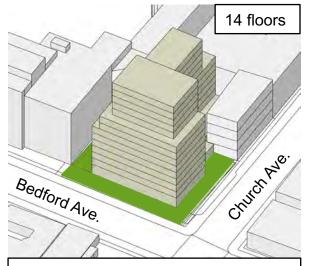


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Example: Caton Flats

65+ Affordable Homes **110+** Affordable Homes

41% Memorial & Open Space

80+ Affordable Homes **125+** Affordable Homes

41% Memorial & Open Space

80+ Affordable Homes **140+** Affordable Homes

39% Memorial & Open Space



Questions

How can we support your understanding of planning and design of the site and building?

Process Notes:

- As we are limited by time, we encourage you to use the CHAT box to share all your questions.
- Your questions will either be answered as part of a follow-up email or as part of an upcoming meeting.

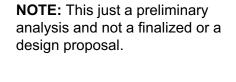
Breakout Room Discussions

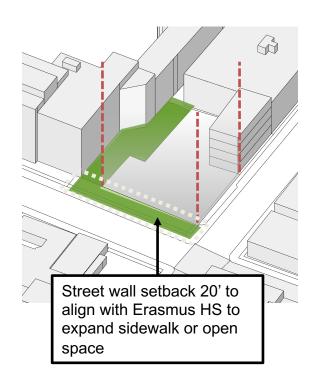
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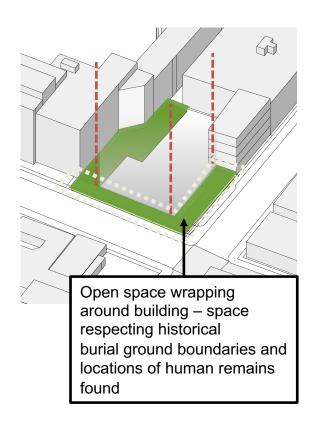
Breakout Sessions:

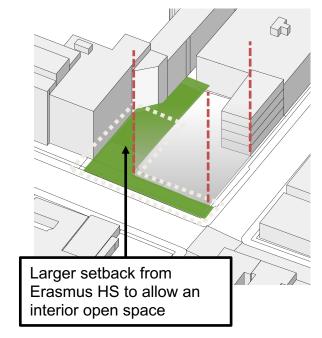
- Split into 2 different breakout rooms so that we can talk in more details about how this is an opportunity to honor the past and look toward the future.
- Each group with have time to discuss and then we will come back to reflect as a full group.

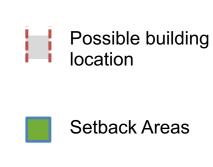
Summary of Setback Explorations







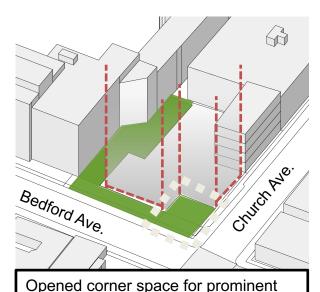






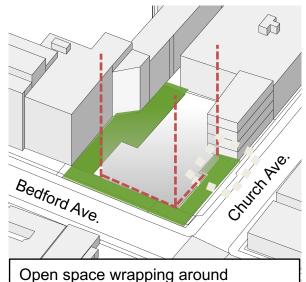
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Summary of Memorial & Open Space Explorations



memorial space opportunity

Memorial & Open Space



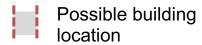
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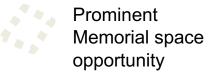
Child Ave. Bedford Ave. Larger setback to allow an interior open space

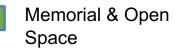
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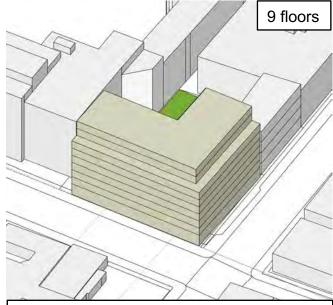




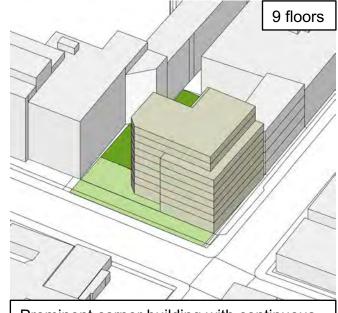
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Summary of Building Height Explorations

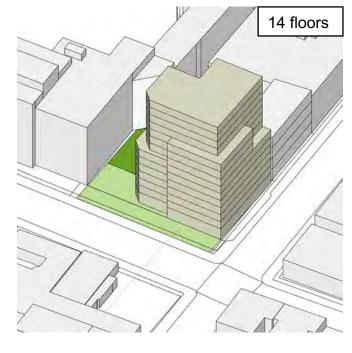
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Baseline building with no setbacks under the existing zoning with no site considerations.



Prominent corner building with continuous street frontage on Church Avenue.



~101-111 Affordable Homes

18% Memorial & Open Space

~65-75 Affordable Homes

41% Memorial & Open Space

~112-122 Affordable Homes

41% Memorial & Open Space



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Reflection

Breakout Room Sharing:

Each group will share **up to 3 prioritized aspects** of the building design that were discussed during your breakout room.

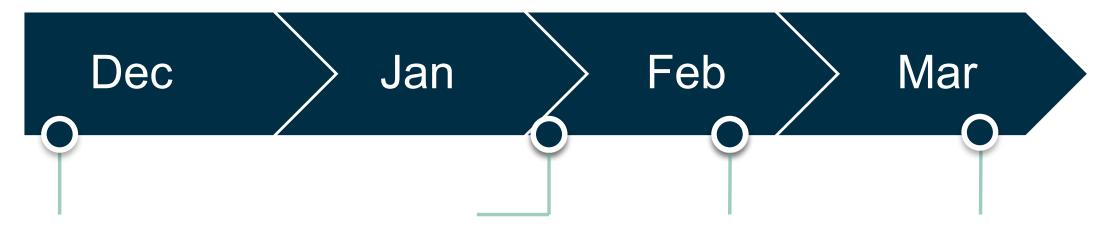
Order for the Discussion:

- Kris' Room
- Claudie's Room

Break

We will dive back into our discussion in 5 minutes.

Meeting Reflection and Refinement



Meeting #1:

Project Kickoff, Goal Setting for the Task Force and Site History

Meeting #2:

Honoring the Site and Sensitive Handling of Human Remains

Meeting #3:

Memorialization

Meeting #4:

Affordable Housing and Non-Residential **Amenities**





Breakout Room Discussions

We will take time to reflect on the topics discussed in the previous meetings and to gather feedback on the information we plan to share with the public during the workshops.

- Topic 1 Honoring the Site (memorialization & sensitive handling of human remains)
- Topic 2– Affordable Housing (populations served)
- Topic 3 Non-Residential Amenities (ground floor and youth programming/services)

Each Task Force member will have time to discussion 2 topics (about 10-12min each)

Please indicate in CHAT the two topics you would like to discuss.

Vision for Honoring the Site

Historical Acknowledgement There needs to be an acknowledgement of the historical significance and the current context.

Youth and Education Build awareness through the site because people may not know what is going on or its history. Bring youth and community in and together through education.

Shifting the Narrative Let youth and community know about the site's history by disrupting the narrative around enslaved Africans and shift it from a place of shame to a place of pride and resilience.

Respect

There needs to be respect for this particular site that has been plagued with years of disrespect. Show respect for the decedents and those who are here today.

Accessibility

To support visibility, there should be multiple layers of accessibility that support engagement with the site.

A Sacred Space

The site should be a sacred ground that serves as a space for the community to pay homage to the past.

Memorialization

VISION OF THE MEMORIAL SPACE:

- Location of the memorial to be both inside and outside
- A highly engaging and interactive space
- A sacred space that allows for reflection and honoring
- A place for education that includes programming and prompts discussion about the site's history

Memorialization

Physical Specifications

- Indoors and Outdoors

 The memorial should allow for public and open green space. Site design should include building setback. While outdoor features draw people to a reflective setbacks, indoor features can add context and highlight the site's history.
- Accessible to the Public
 The memorial should be built to meet high pedestrian traffic and multiple access points.
- Situated on the Historical Burial Ground
 Since it is a high traffic area. Overlap where the actual African Burial ground most likely stood.

Highly Engaging and Interactive

Inviting to the Public
 Foster engagement through digital features,
 website or interactive displays, audio and Wi-Fi features.

A space for reflection that is sacred and honoring

Reflection incorporated into design
 The memorialization should evoke sacredness and be a reflective space where people can sit in remembrance.

Memorialization

A place for education that prompts discussion about the site's history

- Education and Programming
 Opportunity for multifaceted approach that evokes historical education and arts and culture.
 Education on the site's history needs to be sustained for the long-term future.
- Authentic and Accurate History Rewrite the local history books and tie to other historical buildings and communities in Flatbush.

Sensitive Handling of Human Remains

Reinterment

- Reinterred On the Site
 As the human remains were found there, they should not be disturbed as a sign of respect.
- Repatriated to West Africa
 Return the human remains to where they were taken from.
- Reinterment at Dutch Reform Church
 These human remans should stay together with other discovered remains from the community.

DNA Testing

Yes to DNA Testing DNA is a powerful tool that can tell the story of those enslaved here. It can support the ongoing descendant research.

Community Involvement

- Include a Public Ceremony
 Consider local community traditions of the time.
- Create a Clergy Task Force

Populations Served – Affordable Housing

VISION OF POPULATIONS SERVED:

- Development should fill gaps in the neighborhood, meet mixed needs
- Support rent-burdened households
- Support families
- Support homeless populations
- Promote homeownership

Populations Served – Affordable Housing

Development Should Fill Gaps in the Neighborhood, Meet Mixed Needs

- Balance out the Neighborhood
 This development should benefit those currently being priced out of the neighborhood- those more disenfranchised.
- Prioritize 100% Affordability for neighborhood residents

Support Rent-Burden Households

- There is a high percentage of severely rent burdened households.
- There is severe overcrowding.
 Many families in the neighborhood are doubled up.

Populations Served – Affordable Housing

Homeless Populations

 There is a large street homeless population in this neighborhood, so affordable housing programs should benefit them.

Families

 Make sure there is adequate supply for large families, not just small families or singles who are out there looking for rentals or purchase.

Homeownership

- An Opportunity for Creating Wealth
 Homeownership would help us to be intentional in doing something that is sustainable and recognizes the inequities in our history. Very beneficial for first-time homebuyers.
- Prioritizing Seniors
 Make sure any homeownership plan includes senior populations.





Youth Programming and Facility Space

Robust Programming

- Youth Space
 Youth need multiple options for programming, specifically older youth.
- Arts and Culture
 This space should provide creative services and unity as the community shifts.
- Vocational and Job Training
 Bridge the gap between high school and career access and readiness.
- Summer Programing
- Conflict Resolution and Mediation

Memorialization

Youth programming should be directly tied to memorialization of the site's history, specifically this history of African burial grounds in Flatbush, NYC, and the country.

Open Space/Recreation

- This site could be used as an open and free space for youth sports and recreation.
- A recreation center could be used by the entire community, not just youth populations.

Non-Residential Amenities

Arts and Culture

- Flatbush is Rich in Culture
 There is a need for an arts and cultural planning
 space to represent and celebrate this rich
 culture. Neighborhood needs a Programming
 Space that celebrates the Caribbean and
 African diaspora
- Utilize Indoor and Outdoor Space for Cultural Programming

Memorialization

 The memorial is what makes this site unique and should be part of the ground floor experience.

Community-Based Amenities

- To include these non-residential amenities:
 - Community Center
 - Senior Center
 - Daycare Center
 - Hardware Store
 - Fitness Center



Breakout Room Discussions

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Each Task Force member will have time to discussion 2 topics (about 10-15min each)

Please indicate in CHAT the two topics you would like to discuss.

Reflection

Breakout Room Sharing:

 City Team share 2-3 key questions we want to uncover/explore with the public.

Order for the Discussion

- Topic 1 Honoring the Site
- Topic 2— Affordable Housing
- Topic 3 Non-Residential Amenities

Community Engagement Process

Goals of the Community Engagement Process:

- To gather input (new ideas and narrowing ideas for the Task Force) for the development of <u>all recommendations</u>:
 - To gather input on ways to respectfully memorialize the site's history as a former African Burial Ground.
 - To understand the existing housing and youth needs to ensure that this site is used in service of this community.
 - To draw in vast community expertise in the efforts to identify any potential descendent communities of the colonial enslaved and freed Africans of early Flatbush.

Community Engagement Outreach

Thank You!

We appreciate your ongoing support with outreach and getting this out across your networks.

Outreach Materials Provided next week:

- Updated Promotional Package (additional materials promoting the questionnaire and translations)
- Translated Flyers (Spanish and French Creole)
- Questionnaire

Community Engagement Outreach

How is it going?

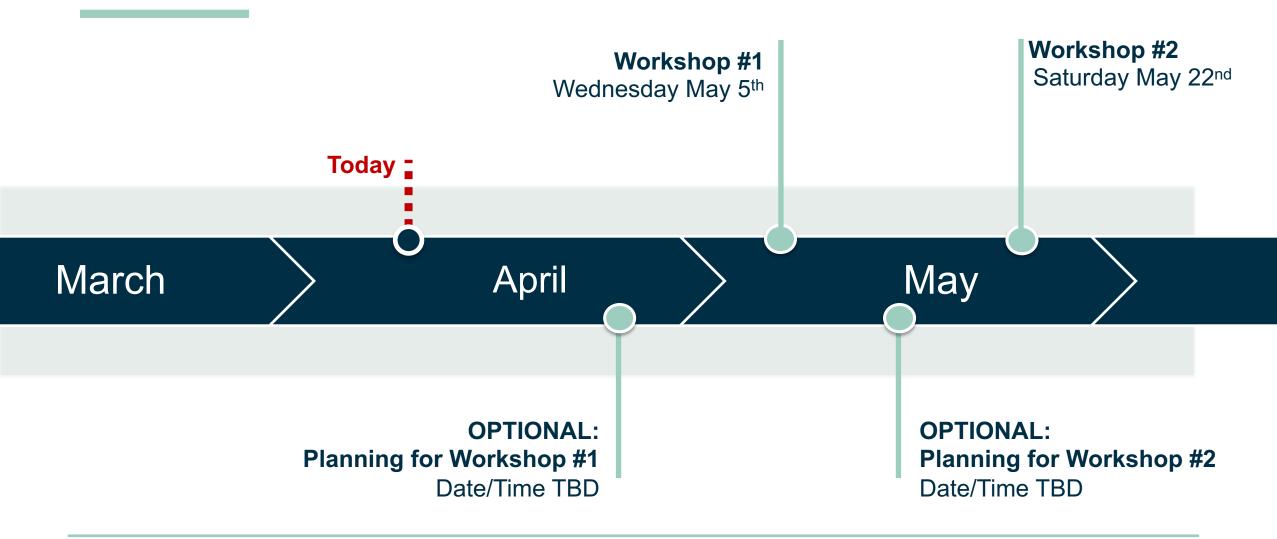
- Is there anything we can support you with?
- Do you need any additional materials?







Community Engagement Process



Planning the Public Workshops

Role for the Task Force Members in the Public Workshops:

- Share insights that support workshop planning (attend the planning meetings)
- Attending the workshops (one or both)
- Supporting notetaking at the workshops
- Helping to flyer the neighborhood

- May 5th Workshop #1
 Focus: Gather key insights from the public with focus on honoring the site's history and archaeological findings.
- May 22nd Workshop #2
 Focus: Gather key insights from the public with a focus on the affordable housing and youth programmed development.

Planning the Public Workshops

Role for the Task Force Members in the Public Workshops:

- Share insights that support workshop planning (attend the planning meetings)
- Attending the workshops (one or both)
- Supporting notetaking at the workshops
- Helping to flyer the neighborhood

Please indicate in CHAT if you have interest in supporting the public workshops.

Task Force members will be invited to the planning sessions for the public workshops. These will be during work hours.

These meetings will be optional but if you are interested in being a notetaker we would encourage attendance.

Next Steps

Request for information from Task Force:

 Complete the post-meeting survey (which will be shared through email) outlining your questions and comments.

What Happens Next on Our End:

- Notes from this meeting will be shared.
- Outreach materials will be shared next week, including the questionnaire.
- Invitations for the planning meetings will be shared.
- The goals for the next session and reading materials will be shared before the next meeting.

Next Session

Focus for Task Force Meeting #6:

- To review the insights collects as part of the public workshops and questionnaire.
- Participatory decision-making to support the finalization of RFP recommendations

Next Task Force meeting will be Wednesday, June 16th

Thank You!





