

# What is the Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study?

## The Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study

seeks to foster a thriving neighborhood by reinforcing and encouraging a robust local economy anchored by a mix of uses and businesses, while creating opportunities for new housing with affordable housing in appropriate locations.

## Study Goals

The study will examine ways to balance the range of issues and needs in Gowanus by seeking to:

- support existing and future resiliency and sustainability efforts
- encourage and expand neighborhood services and amenities
- improve streetscapes and pedestrian safety
- explore incentives to preserve and develop space for job-generating uses, including arts, cultural and creative sectors
- promote opportunities for new housing with affordable housing and protect residential tenants against harassment and displacement
- coordinate necessary infrastructure improvements throughout the area to support the continued cleanup of the Gowanus Canal and to accommodate existing and future needs



1. NYCHA Wyckoff Gardens Development



2. Homes and businesses on Union Street



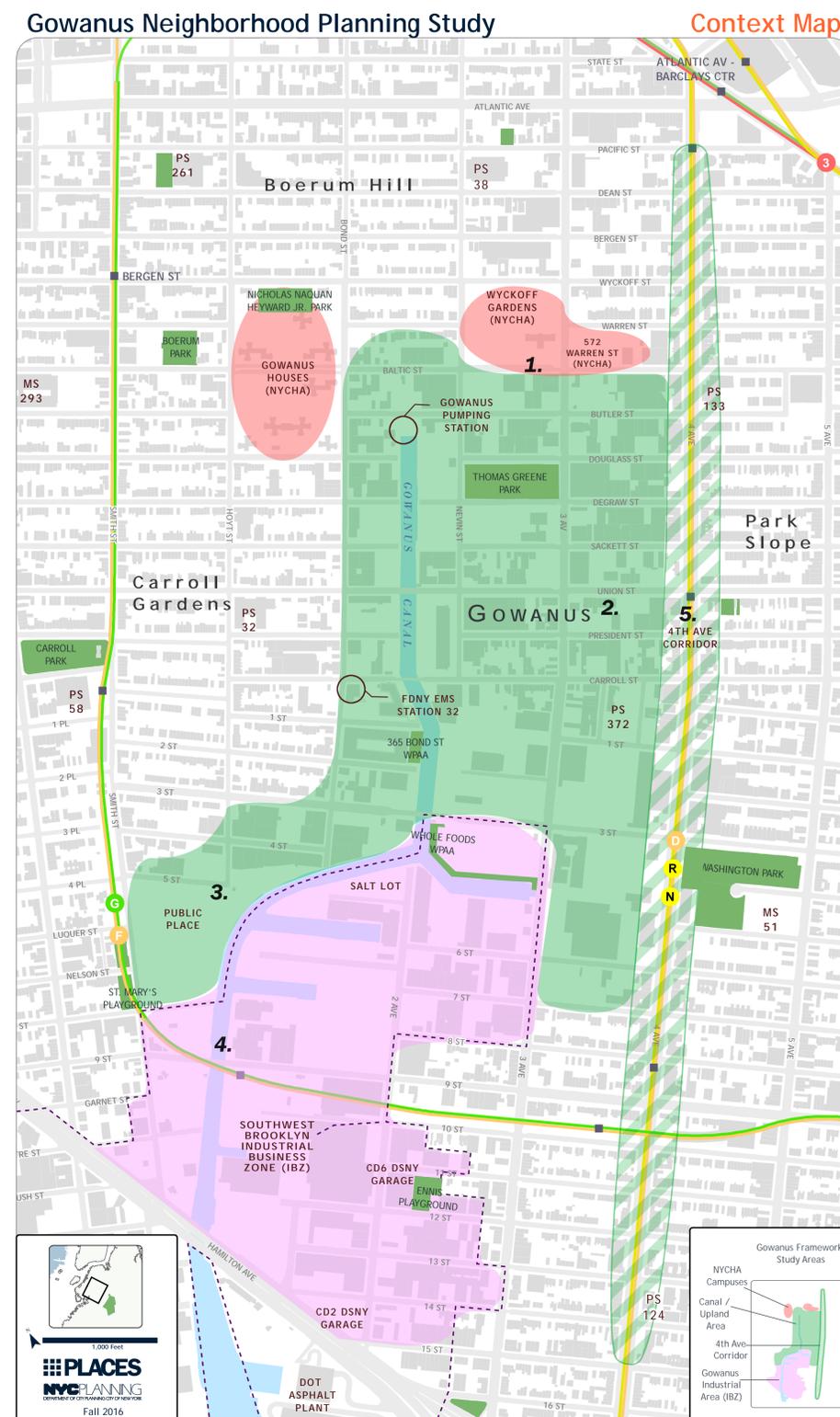
3. City-Owned Public Place



4. Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Business Zone



5. 4th Avenue



## Stay in Touch!



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## About the Department of City Planning

The Department of City Planning (DCP) is New York City's primary land use agency and is instrumental in designing the City's physical and socioeconomic framework. DCP's ambition is to make all of New York a better place to live, to maintain what works and improve what doesn't.

# Recap of Oct. 27 Kick-Off Meeting

## Overview

On October 27, 2016, the Department of City Planning (DCP) and partnering agencies hosted a kickoff meeting for the Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study at PS 32 in Carroll Gardens.

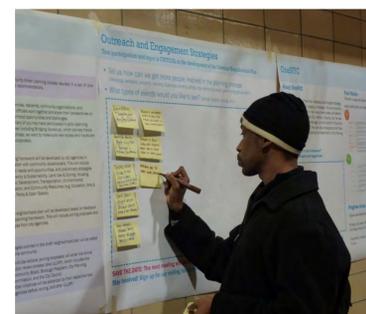
The event began with an open house where attendees had an opportunity to walk around, speak with agency staff and provide feedback on specific topics related to the study. The second half of the event included a presentation from DCP that summarized the study's process, approach and broad-based goals. Electronic copies of the presentation, boards, handouts and other materials can be accessed at [nyc.gov/gowanus](http://nyc.gov/gowanus).



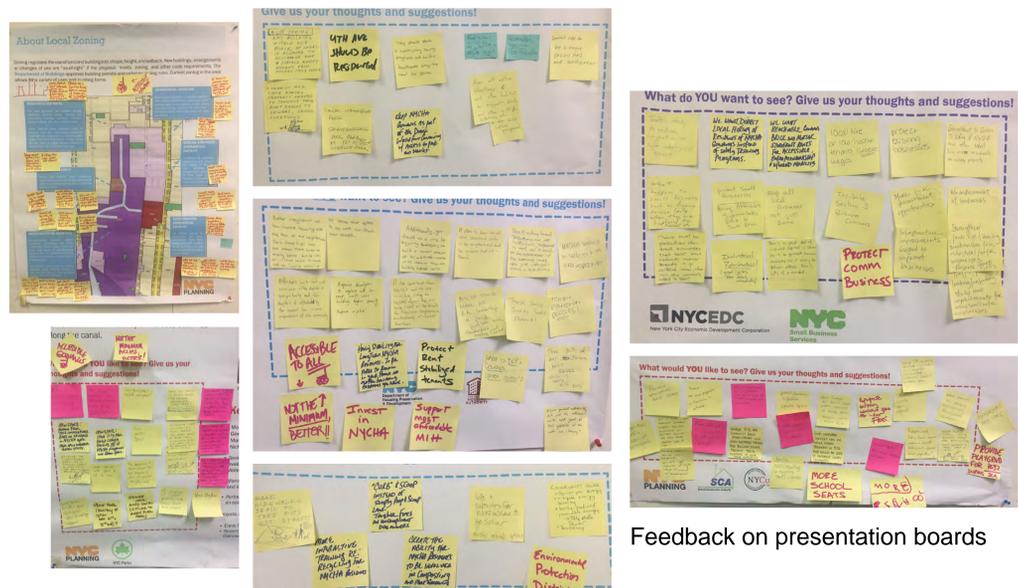
View of presentation



"Where do you live, work and play" board



Outreach and engagement board



Feedback on presentation boards



Introduction and study background board

## What we heard!

During the kick-off event, we collected feedback and heard a lot of ideas and suggestions from attendees.

### Outreach & Engagement

- Come to NYCHA to support the participation of residents
- Ensure that local expertise (community leaders, CBOs) are engaged

### Zoning & Land Use

- Create plan to support existing uses and built context
- Align zoning tools for schools, waterfront access and transit improvements

### Resiliency, Sustainability & Environmental Remediation

- Ensure development is sustainable and ecologically friendly
- Soft and hard infrastructure programs in parks and along the canal

### Housing

- Protection for existing tenants
- Integration of affordable housing within the neighborhood

### Jobs & Economic Development

- Support local jobs, workforce development and entrepreneurship of local residents
- Retention of local industrial jobs
- Affordable supermarkets

### Transportation

- Improved transportation network with multi-modal options throughout the neighborhood

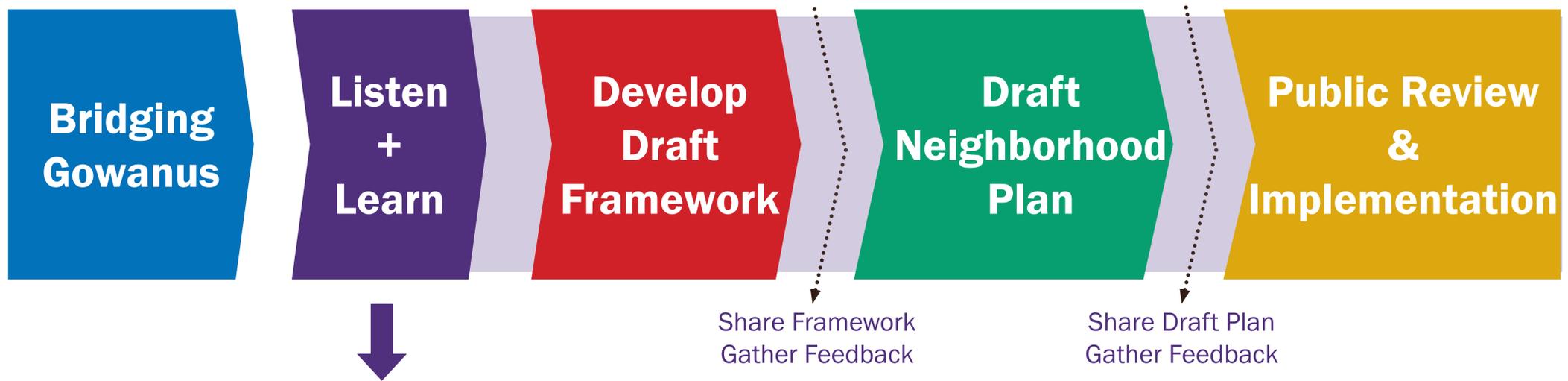
### Parks & Open Space

- Waterfront public access for different users and improvements to existing open spaces

### Schools, Arts & Culture

- Provide school seats and sites to meet future needs
- Protect studios and other art spaces, while assisting arts community

# Gowanus Neighborhood Study Engagement Approach



## Working Groups

### 1. Working Group Meetings

The Department of City Planning and relevant City agencies work with residents and community stakeholders to develop specific recommendations that meet Study goals in five Working Groups:

#### RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Support existing and future resiliency and sustainability efforts
- Coordinate necessary improvements to support clean up of the Canal

#### HOUSING

- Promote new housing, with affordable housing, and protect existing residences
- Encourage and expand services and amenities

#### ARTS & CULTURE

- Explore ways to support art and cultural uses

#### INDUSTRY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Explore ways to support job generating uses, including industrial uses
- Encourage and expand services and amenities

#### PUBLIC REALM

- Improve streetscapes, pedestrian safety, and access along the Canal
- Encourage and expand neighborhood services and amenities

### 2. Working Group Summit

Working Groups will present their proposals to other working groups and the broader public to solicit feedback.

### 3. Working Group Proposal Revision

Based on Summit discussions, Working Groups will revise their proposals, reflecting compromises and trade-offs within and between the different Working Group proposals.

### Targeted Outreach With Community

City agencies will engage residents and community stakeholders on targeted areas / topics in order to share information, solicit feedback, inform ongoing planning efforts, and develop recommendations. For instance:

**NYCHA**

**SCHOOLS**

**TRANSPORTATION**

### Land Use/Urban Design Charrettes



With Working Group proposals and recommendations from targeted outreach as key inputs, land use and design charrettes will be held, focusing on different sites throughout the study area in order to:

- Illustrate how different uses can be accommodated at different densities
- Highlight key urban design challenges and opportunities

# Tell us where you live and work!

## Instructions:

Place a  sticker near where you work

Place a  sticker near where you live

Place a  sticker near where you play

This will let us know a little bit about the people attending this event and where additional outreach may be needed!

If you live, work or play outside the Gowanus area, please use this map to indicate the general location of those activities.



# Ideas & Recommendations

Your participation and input is **CRITICAL** to the development of the Gowanus Neighborhood Plan

- Please share ideas, recommendations or issues the study should explore

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed blue border, intended for users to provide their ideas, recommendations, or issues for the study.

**Stay Involved! Sign up for our mailing list at [www.nyc.gov/gowanus](http://www.nyc.gov/gowanus)**

# Why hold a meeting on Sustainability & Resiliency?

...Because creating a sustainable and resilient community is fundamental to the future of Gowanus due to:

- Climate change and flood risks
- Contaminated land within the neighborhood
- Community expressed goals

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to allow this community to:

- get an overview of on-going work related to sustainability and resiliency,
- ask questions of subject area experts and staff working on these issues and projects,
- make suggestions, and
- share local knowledge

## How do sustainability and resiliency relate to the Gowanus study?

There are two goals for the Gowanus PLACES study that relate directly to New York City's goals for sustainability and resiliency, as well as to the local community's goal for a sustainable community with adequate infrastructure:

- **Support existing and future resiliency and sustainability efforts**
- **Coordinate necessary improvements to support cleanup of the Canal and accommodate existing & future needs (e.g. schools, parks, transportation)**

These goals for this neighborhood can be addressed through a variety of regulatory changes and planned investments. Some projects are already in progress by the City, State, and Federal government, as well as work being done at the local level!

## Who is here tonight?

The following agencies and groups are present and available to answer questions:



# What are the City's goals for Sustainability & Resiliency?

## Vision 3

### Our Sustainable City

New York City will be the most sustainable big city in the world and a global leader in the fight against climate change

#### Goals:

-  **80 x 50** By 2050, New York City's greenhouse gas emissions will be 80% lower than in 2005
-  **Zero Waste** New York City will be sending zero waste to landfills by 2030
-  **Air Quality** New York City will have the best air quality of all large U.S. cities by 2030
-  **Brownfields** New York City's land remediation practices support the use of its entire stock of land to its full potential
-  **Water Management** New York City mitigates neighborhood flooding and offers every neighborhood high-quality water services, and more water fountains
-  **Parks & Natural Resources** New York City's useful, accessible, and beautiful outdoor or spaces benefit all New Yorkers

#### Progress:

- Quadrupled solar since 2013 and increased the City's target for solar capacity to 1,000 MW by 2030
- Set NYC's first energy storage deployment target of 100 megawatt hours by 2020
- Purchased more than 500 electric vehicles
- Assisted with retrofits across 3,800 buildings
- Released private carting study

## Vision 4

### Our Resilient City

Our neighborhoods, economy, and public services will be ready to withstand and emerge stronger from the impacts of climate change and other 21st century threats

#### Goals:

-  **Neighborhoods** Every city neighborhood will be safer by strengthening community, social, and economic resiliency
-  **Buildings** The city's buildings will be upgraded against changing climate impacts
-  **Infrastructure** Infrastructure systems across the region will adapt to enable continue services
-  **Coastal Defense** New York City's coastal defenses will be strengthened against flooding and sea level rise

#### Progress:

- Created more than 6,000 new jobs since April - over 8,300 jobs in total and hiring 4,700 New Yorkers to date
- Achieved agreement to revise city flood maps with FEMA, saving coastal households tens of millions of dollars per year and leading to new, climate smart flood maps
- Met key project milestones on coastal resiliency projects citywide, including Red Hook's IFP study

### Where did these goals come from?



In April 2015, the City of New York released a new long-term strategic plan, **OneNYC**, to address our most pressing challenges through a set of goals grouped by four strategic visions: 1) **growth**, 2) **equity**, 3) **sustainability**, and 4) **resiliency**. The last two are most relevant to this meeting.

The plan envisions how we want our City to look in ten years, twenty years, and beyond. It also helps ground and focus other Planning initiatives including the Department of City Planning PLACES studies. OneNYC connects with other City efforts, including the Ten-year Capital Strategy, the Executive Budget, and the Center for Economic Opportunity's Poverty Report.

# What is happening locally?

Many relevant and impactful changes that help make Gowanus sustainable and resilient are being done by local residents and community organizations. This local community stands out as being very actively engaged in making the City and Gowanus more sustainable. Here is some of the great work just a few groups have been doing:

## Community Board 6

### Solarize CB 6:

Friends of CB 6, CUNY, and *Here Comes Solar* (using a NYSERDA grant) are working to promote:



1. neighbors to purchase solar arrays from one contractor to achieve economies of scale
2. the building of a “community shared solar” array where renters and others can purchase solar power

Current incentives allow you to recoup up to 75% of your investment. Using Solar1’s *Here Comes Solar* model, American Solar Partners is gathering a cluster of households and businesses to install solar at a lower price based on economies of scale.

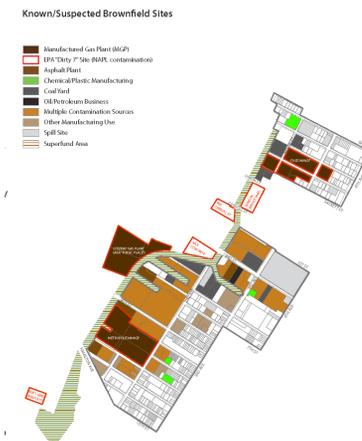
**The final day to join the purchasing group is February 2, 2017.**

This program is open to all Brooklyn residents. Your building does not need to be in Brooklyn CB6 to participate.

Find out more at: <http://www.fcb6.org/>

### Gowanus BOA :

The New York State Department of State’s Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Program assists communities with creation of redevelopment strategies for neighborhoods with properties that are unused due to economic decline or environmental contamination. Friends of Brooklyn Community Board 6 received a grant to complete a Nomination Study for two areas in Gowanus.



In addition to the Superfund-designated canal, 82 upland tax lots have known histories of contaminating uses. The overwhelming stench and stigma of the canal suppressed investment and development in the entire upland neighborhood.

The study identified strategic sites for redevelopment and other independent recommendations which could drive reinvestment in the study area and advance the BOA’s three goals:

1. Support and grow industrial business presence in Gowanus
2. Preserve a navigable canal for all users
3. Integrate evolving interests in Gowanus (cultural, environmental, recreational) with existing industrial and business interests to foster a multi-faceted, productive, creative economy.

## Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC)



FAC is a community organization in South Brooklyn that advances economic and social justice by building vibrant, diverse communities where residents have genuine opportunities to achieve their goals, as well as the power to shape the community’s future. FAC is a nationally recognized not-for-profit community development corporation formed in 1978 that works to transform the lives of over 5,500 low and moderate-income New Yorkers annually so that all can live and work with dignity and respect while making our communities more equitable, sustainable, inclusive and just. FAC is leading two collaborations with local nonprofit partners focused on improving the lives of public housing residents in Gowanus and Red Hook by promoting climate and economic justice.



**Stronger Together:** Creating Opportunities for Public Housing Residents in Red Hook & Gowanus (ST) is an integrated service model that

prepares working age adult public housing residents in Red Hook and Gowanus to succeed in their education and in gaining and sustaining employment.



**Turning the Tide:** A Community-Based Collaboration for Public Housing Residents to Thrive in a Changing Climate (T3) is designed to promote climate justice, equitable land use and economic opportunity and to educate, engage and empower residents to influence the millions of dollars in resilience and sustainability investments at the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and in the Gowanus and Red Hook neighborhoods more broadly. T3 is a vehicle for building grassroots public housing leadership to shape local resiliency and sustainability efforts so that they have the maximum benefit to communities that have endured decades of environmental racism. Through ST, T3 and our broader anti-eviction organizing and advocacy, FAC affirms that promoting neighborhood resiliency and sustainability also means defending our community from the displacement pressures associated with gentrification and real estate speculation.



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## Gowanus Canal Conservancy

The Gowanus Canal Conservancy is a community-based non-profit organization that serves as the environmental steward for the Gowanus Canal Watershed. We:

- Organize regular Clean & Green events to engage community volunteers in street tree and open space stewardship around the Canal.
- Grow native plants that are well adapted to Gowanus conditions to plant, sell and give to community orgs and schools throughout the Watershed.
- Built, maintain and monitor the 6th Street Green Corridor, 11 high performance bioswales on 6th Street and 2nd Avenue.
- Train volunteer bioswale stewards to advocate for and maintain green infrastructure in the Gowanus Watershed.
- Are launching a green jobs program this Spring to train youth to steward street trees and bioswales, a growing NYC job sector.
- Work with local teachers to use the Gowanus as an outdoor classroom through STEMGowanus, a middle school urban ecology curriculum.
- Organize EXPO Gowanus, a yearly showcase of student, organization and agency Gowanus design and investigation projects.
- Train and equip community members to install their own rainwater harvesting systems.
- Are kicking off the Gowanus Blue Initiative to organize students, residents and businesses to bring CSO reduction closer to 100% in the Gowanus Canal by 2030.
- Are working with agencies, property owners and the community to develop a comprehensive and resilient vision for the Gowanus Greenscape, the emerging network of parks and open spaces centered on the Canal.

