

# GOWANUS NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING STUDY

SUSTAINABILITY, REMEDIATION, RESILIENCY

PUBLIC MEETING #2



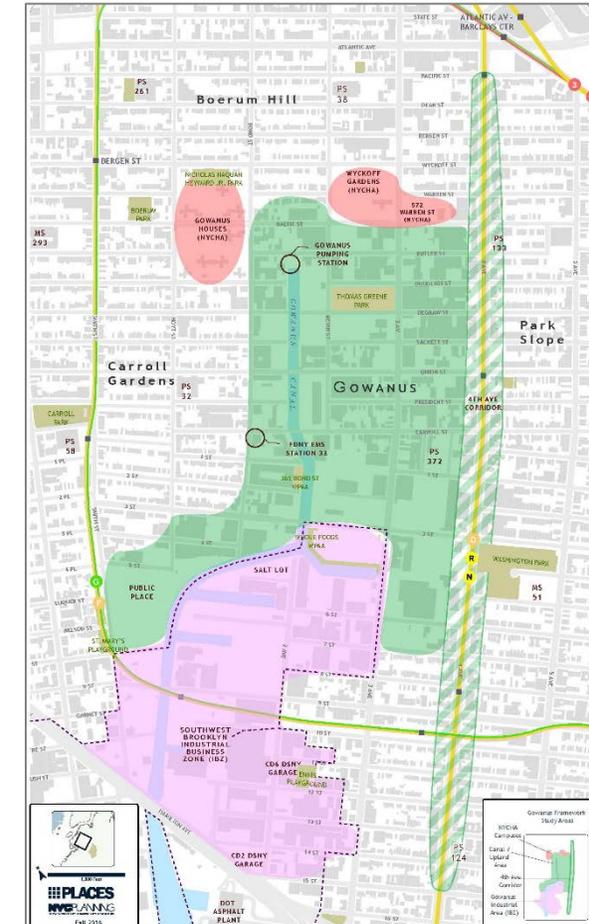
DECEMBER 8, 2016



1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. Recap of Oct 27 Kickoff & Process & Engagement**
- 3. Process & Engagement Proposal**
- 4. Presentation on Sustainability, Remediation, & Resiliency**
5. Open House
  - To learn about the sustainability and resiliency planning context in Gowanus

## What was discussed?

- Neighborhood Approach is zoning *and* broad look at current and future needs
- Study Goals and Framework Study Areas
- Path to a Neighborhood Plan includes development of a draft planning & land use framework



# Recap: Gowanus PLACES study kickoff (Oct 27)



## What we heard?



*“...outreach [...] that bridge gaps between community and CBO”*

*“Protect rent stabilized tenants”*

*“Affordable units that will remain affordable in perpetuity”*

*“Protect businesses from displacement.”*

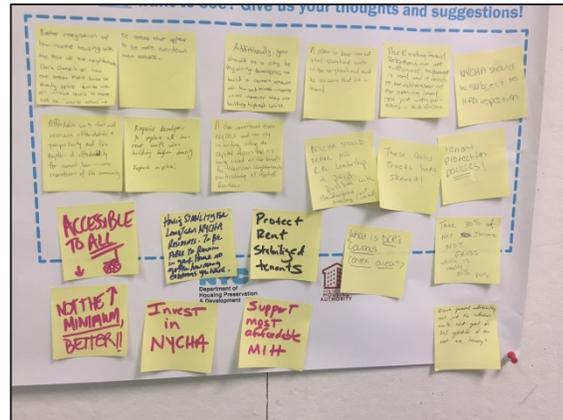
*“Support...supermarkets.”*

*“Provide more school seats to meet future...needs.”*

*“Plan parks for all people...”*

*“Give info and subsidies for residences to build solar...”*

*“Attend Gowanus NYCHA monthly meetings.”*



**Presentation and feedback documentation  
available on [nyc.gov/gowanus](https://nyc.gov/gowanus)**

## What were the outcomes?

- Received feedback and ideas on a broad array of topics
- Confirmed and clarified broad based goals distilled from Bridging Gowanus
- Received ideas and input for tonight's event and community engagement strategy going forward

### Public Realm

- Improve streetscapes, pedestrian safety, and access along Canal for all people
- Encourage and expand neighborhood services and amenities, like supermarkets

### Appropriate Mix of Uses

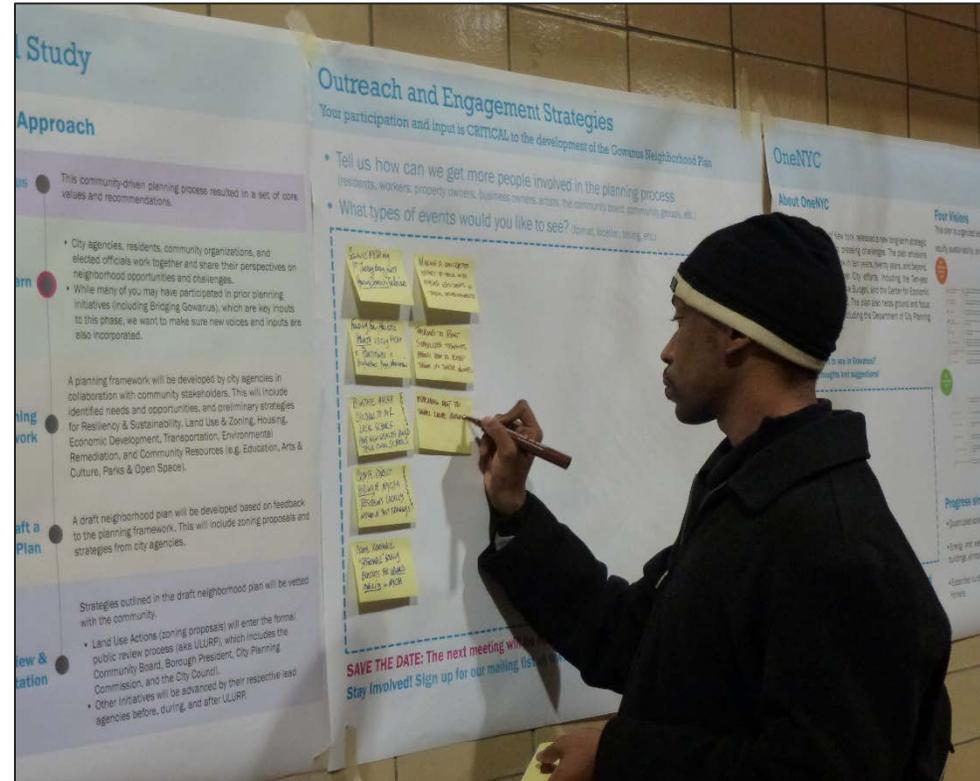
- Explore ways to support and develop job-generating uses, including industrial, arts and cultural uses
- Promote new housing, with affordable housing, and protect and support existing residences and residents

### Coordinate 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)

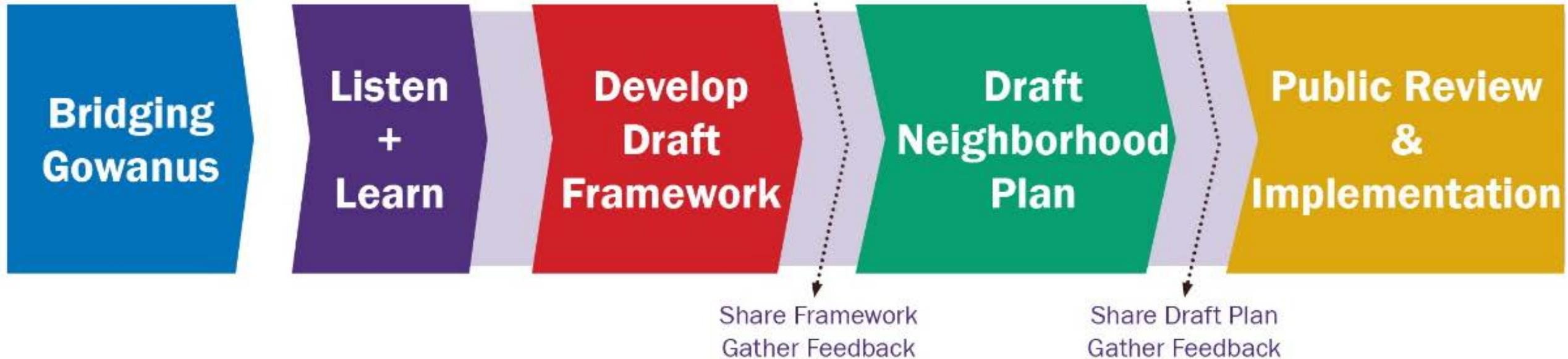
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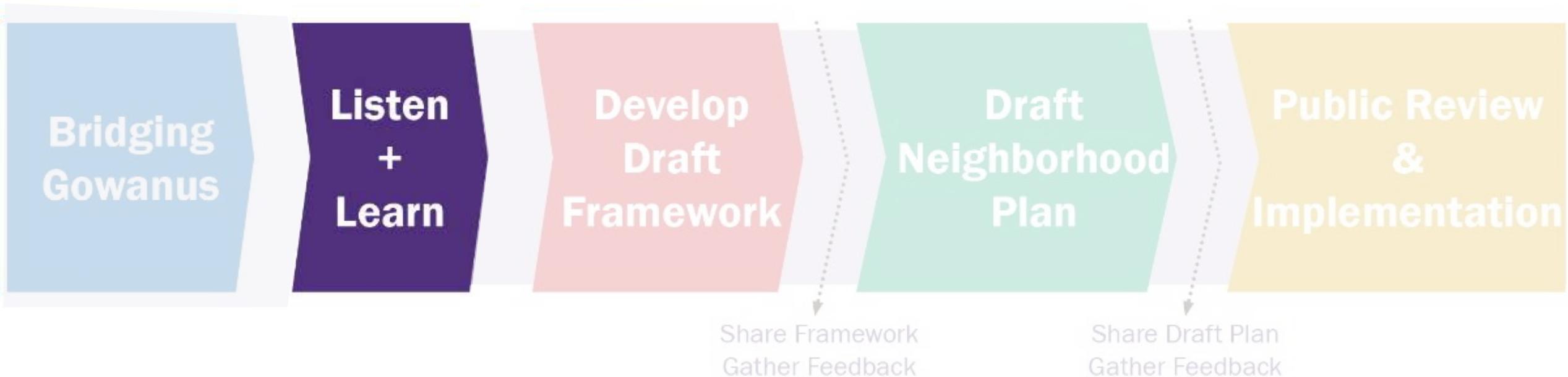


# Recap: Gowanus PLACES study kickoff (Oct 27)

We are here



## How Do We Get From Today to a Draft Framework?



# Process and Engagement Proposal

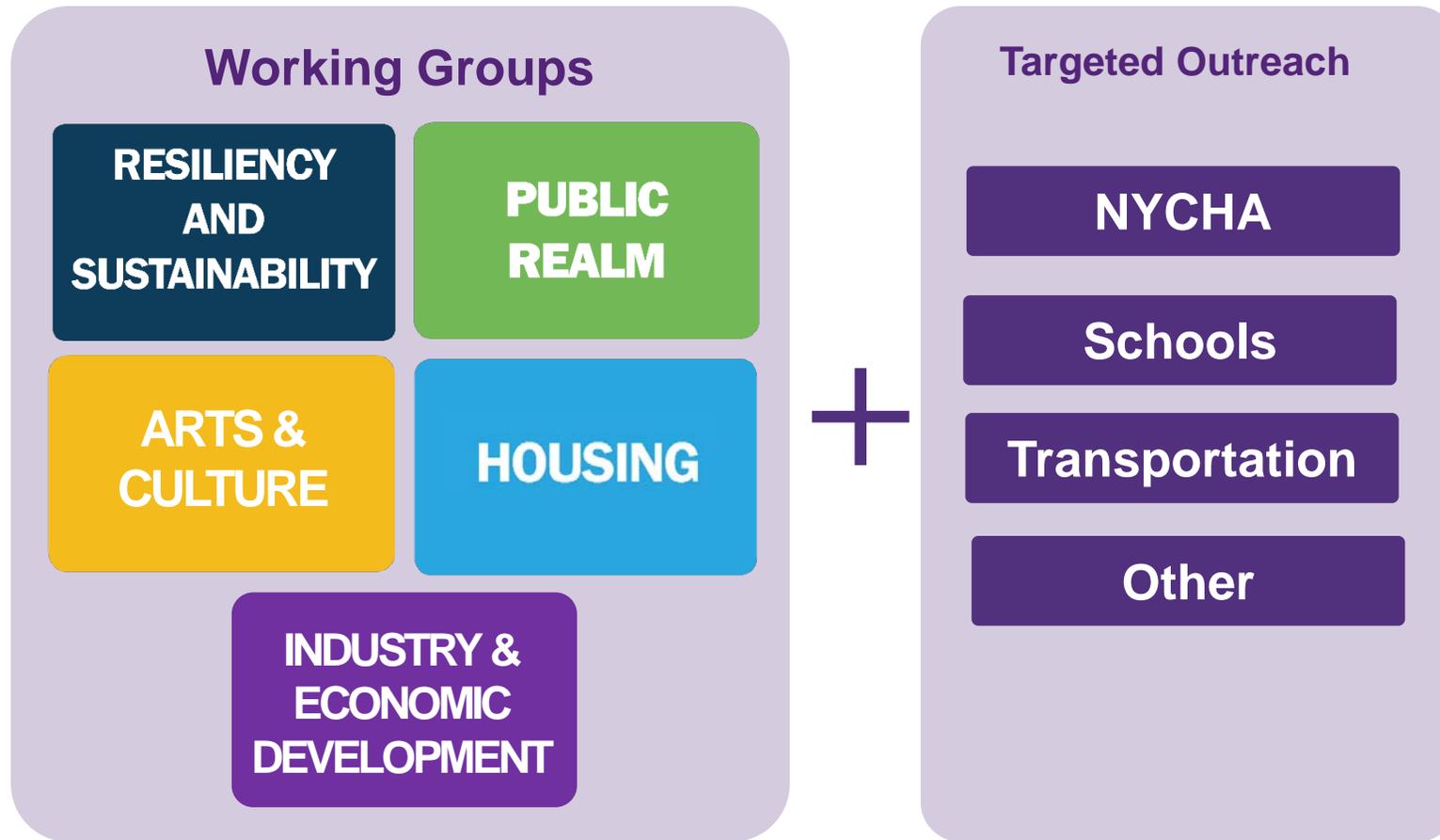
How Do We Get From Today to a Draft Framework?



Learn + Listen

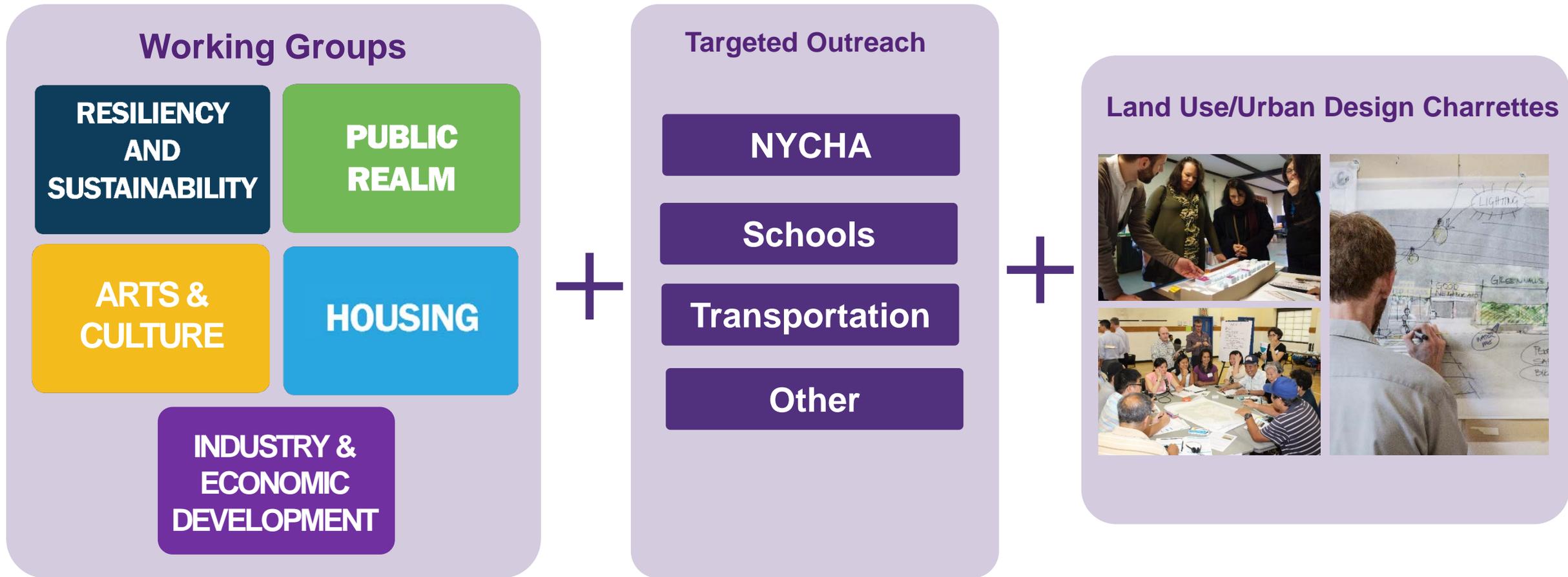
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How Do We Get From Today to a Draft Framework?



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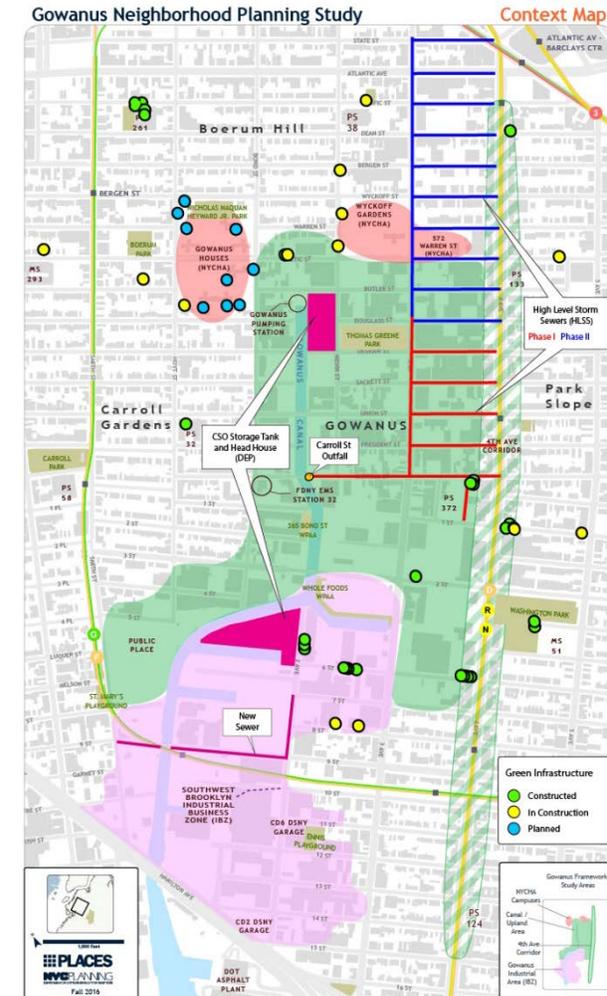
# Q & A



Cities are our greatest tool in fighting climate change because mixed-use growth in walkable, transit-accessible areas supports a low-carbon lifestyle

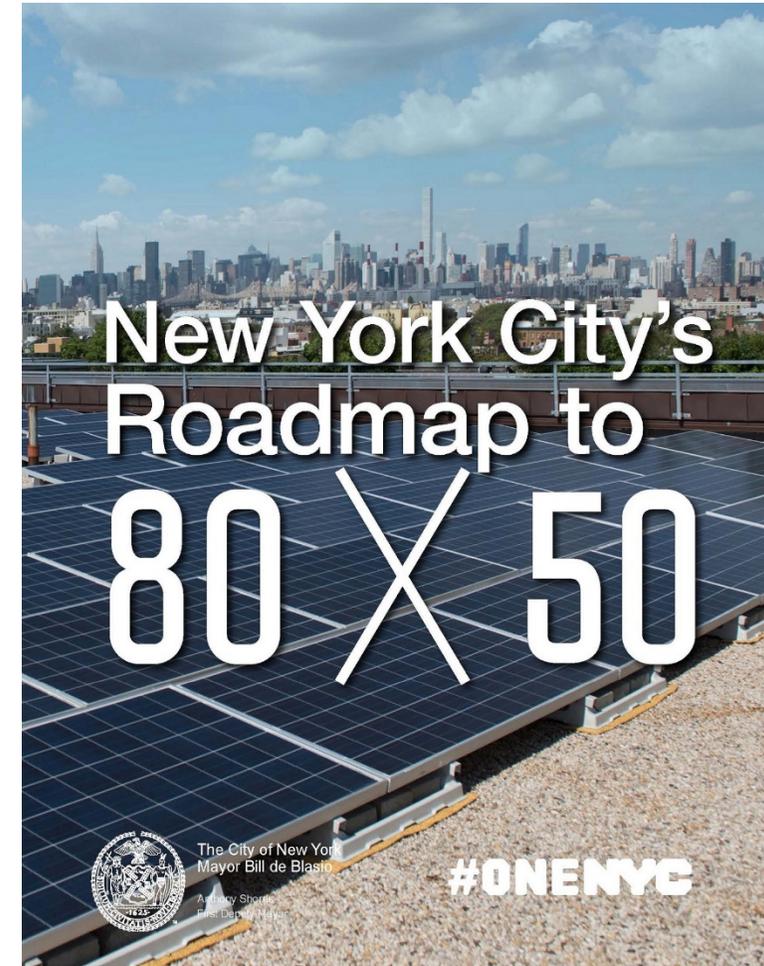
## What is sustainability?

- Not compromising present or future generations' ability to meet needs
- Reducing human impact on climate change
- All levels of society tackling physical, regulatory, institutional, financial and social challenges



## What are some recent City initiatives?

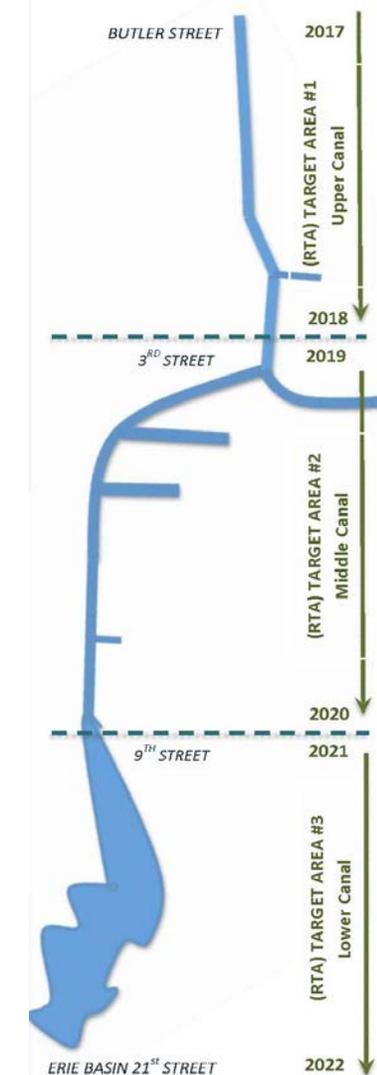
- Roadmap to 80 x 50
- Zero Waste x 2030
- NYC Clean Fleet
- Net Zero Energy Wastewater Treatment Plants
- DOT: Strategic Plan



Contamination generally occurred from coal gasification plants, storm and combined sewer overflows, and other industrial wastes

## What needs to be remediated?

- Pollutants in the Canal (EPA)
- Former MGP Sites (DEC)
- Various properties throughout area



Source: <http://gowanusca.org>

## City, State and Federal agencies are working on the cleanup of the Gowanus Canal and surrounding environs

### What needs to be remediated?

- Pollutants in the Canal (EPA)
- Former MGP Sites (DEC)
- Various properties throughout area



Fulton Municipal Gas Works MGP  
Gowanus, 1924

## Dr. Daniel Walsh, Director, NYC Office of Environmental Remediation

### Frequently Asked Questions

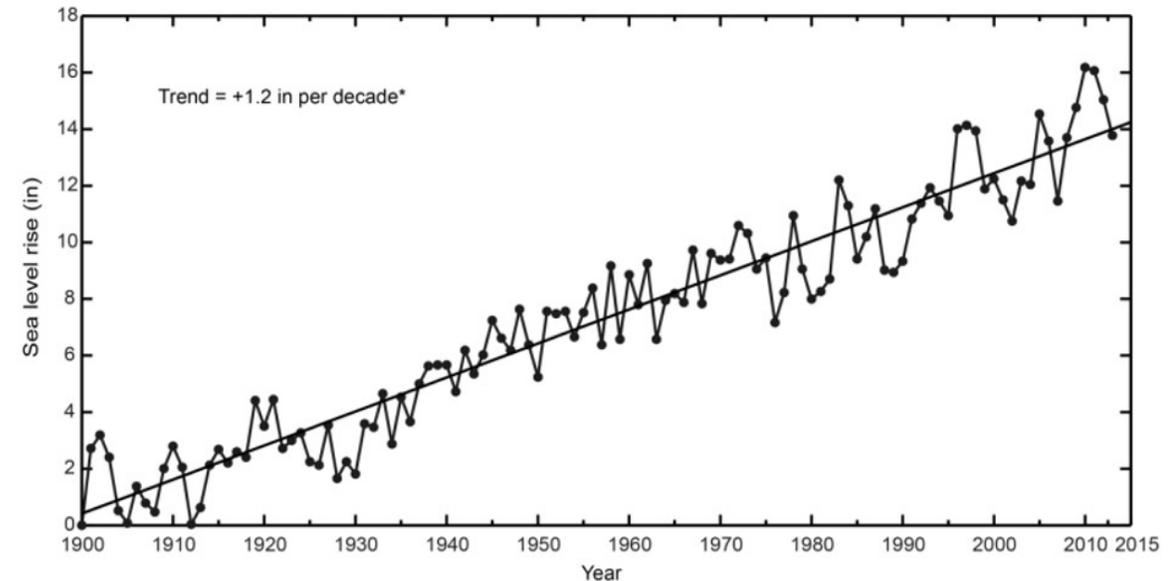
- What is environmental remediation?
- How does government regulate environmental remediation?
- What government cleanup programs are active in the Gowanus area?
- What process is followed to remediate a property?



Climate change means that resiliency is key to a more sustainable Gowanus.

**We are already seeing our climate change.**

- Mean temperatures have risen by 3.4°F
- Mean annual precipitation has increased a total of 8 inches per year
- Sea level has risen a total of 1.1 feet, nearly twice the global average



\*Observed Climate Trends (1900-2013)

## How has climate change affected Gowanus already?

- Superstorm Sandy (2012)
  - Storm Surge
  - Damages to Bridges
- Sewer Backups
- Street Flooding



Inundation from Superstorm Sandy

## How can we make Gowanus resilient?



### Neighborhood

Strengthening community, social, and economic resiliency



### Buildings

Upgraded and retrofitted existing buildings along with new buildings built to modern resilient building and zoning codes



### Infrastructure

Infrastructure systems across the region and in Gowanus will need to adapt



### Coastal Defense

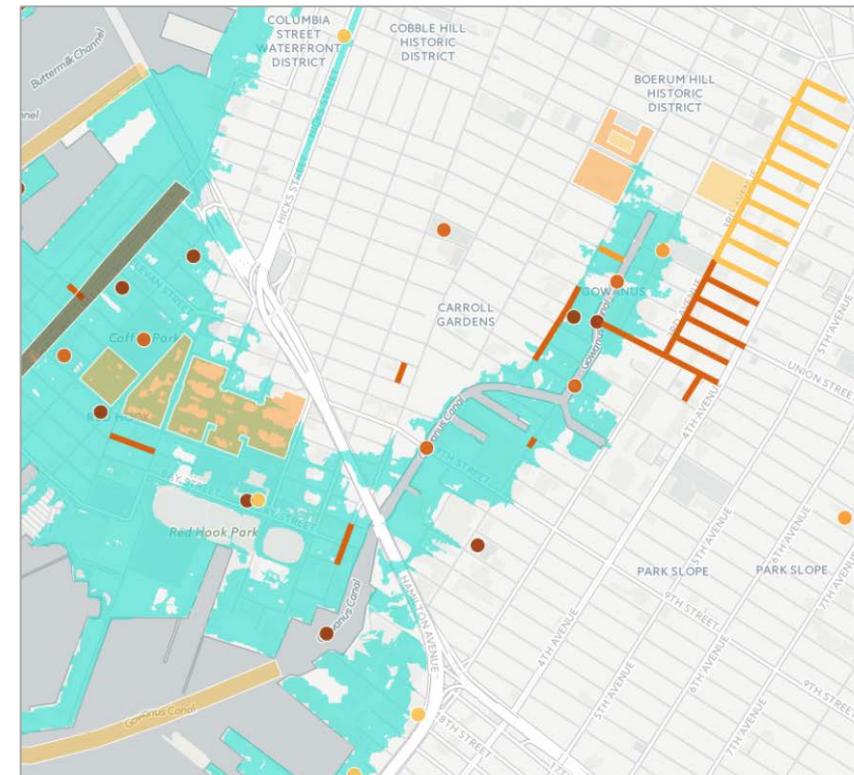
New York City's coastal defenses will be strengthened against flooding and sea level rise

## Infrastructure

Infrastructure systems across the region and in Gowanus will need to adapt

### Some of what has happened already?

- Pumping Station
- Flushing Tunnel
- High Level Storm Sewers Phase I

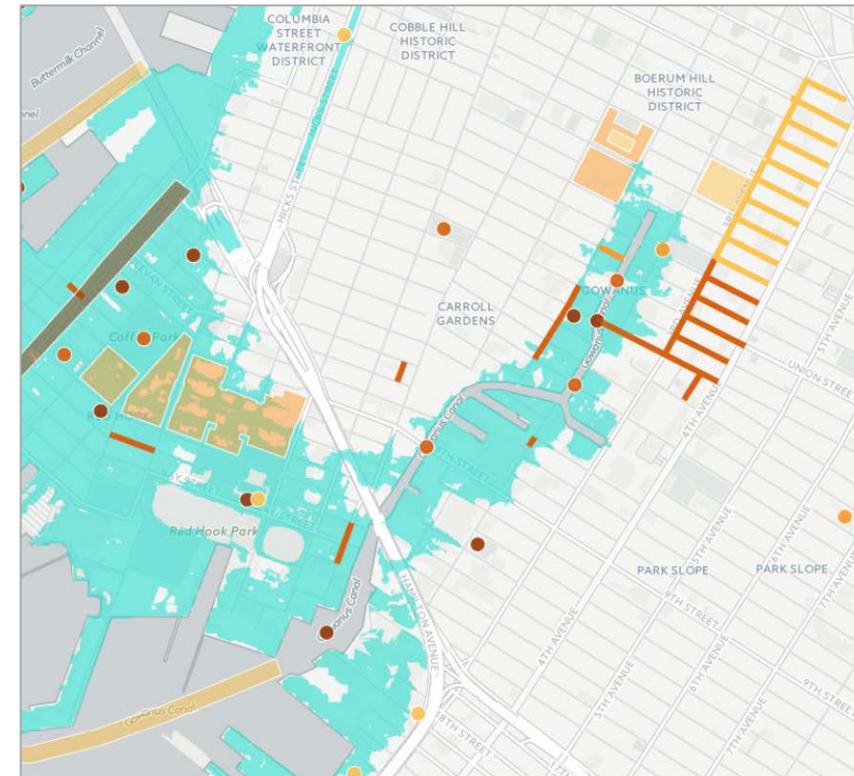


## Infrastructure

Infrastructure systems across the region and in Gowanus will need to adapt

### Ongoing/Upcoming work

- 9<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Sewer
- Union Street Bridge
- High Level Storm Sewers Phase I
- NYCHA Gowanus Houses Sandy Repairs



## Coastal Defense

Citywide coastal defenses will be analyzed and where feasible strengthened against flooding and sea level rise

### NYC Gowanus Surge Barrier Study

- Identified 3 potential options of varying feasibility
  - Hamilton Avenue most feasible
- Was conducted for the City to advocate for Gowanus to be a Focus Area for additional study in the Army Corps NY-NJ Harbor and Tributaries Study



## Buildings & Neighborhoods

- Most buildings in Gowanus were built before any flood resilient codes were in place
- Current Base Flood Elevations in Gowanus range from 2 to over 12 feet
- Building and Zoning codes update needed to address retrofits
- Flood insurance for non-resilient homes can be expensive

### What has happened already?

- Building Code Appendix G
- Flood Resilient Zoning Code Text I

### Ongoing Initiatives

- FEMA NFIP Map Appeal
- NFIP Policy Reform: partial mitigation
- Citywide Flood Resilience Zoning Code Text II
- Resilient Neighborhood, Retail, and Industry Studies

