

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. The event began with an open house where local business owners, workers, residents and property owners met with city agencies around relevant topic areas and discussed the study's process, approach and goals for the framework study areas. The second half of the event included a presentation from DCP that summarized the study's process, approach and broad-based goals, which was then followed by a question and answer period.

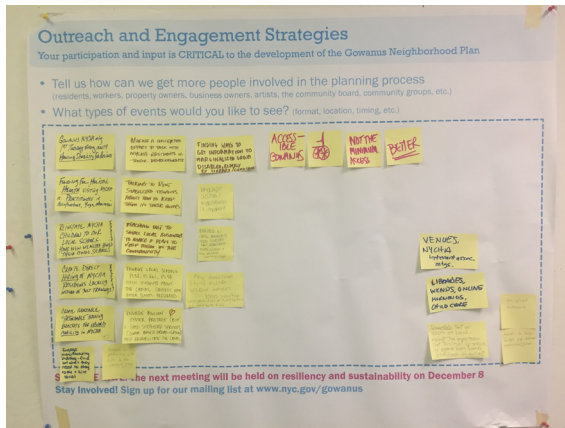
During the event, DCP shared a "one-pager" handout with key info about the study and a feedback form on individual topic areas. As part of the open house portion of the event, presentation boards were set-up in the school's gymnasium where attendees had an opportunity to walk around, speak with agency staff and provide feedback on specific topics related to the study. Topic areas included: study summary, process and approach; sustainability and resiliency; zoning and land use; housing, jobs and economic development; parks and open space, schools, arts and culture, transportation, and other community resources.

The "open house" format during the first half of event was organized to encourage attendees to take part at their own pace and allow people to speak directly with agency staff. At every table or station area, representatives from city agencies shared information about programs and services and collected ideas and suggestions for the study's process and approach. Partnering agencies included the Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP), Housing Preservation & Development (HPD), Small Business Services (SBS), Parks and Recreation (DPR), Transportation (DOT), and Arts and Cultural Affairs (DCLA), along with the the NYC Economic

Development Corporation (EDC), School Construction Authority (SCA), the Mayor's Office of Sustainability (MOS), and the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). The following pages include a summary of the feedback from each topic area.

In total, more than 250 people attended the event. Strong community engagement and participation is critical to a successful plan. As an immediate next step, DCP announced an upcoming meeting on resiliency and sustainability. Electronic copies of the presentation, boards, handouts and other materials can be accessed at nyc.gov/gowanus.



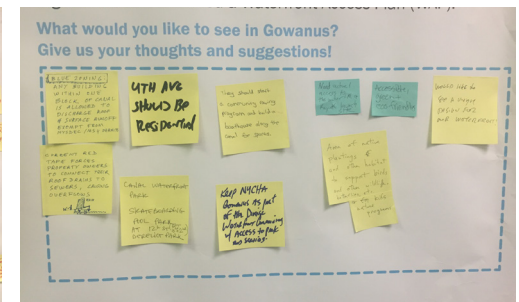
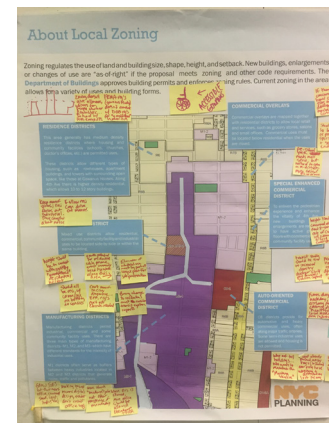


Outreach and Engagement

- "Attend Gowanus NYCHA monthly meetings"
- "Engage manufacturing industry and find what they need to stay and hire local residents"
- "Engage with NYCHA residents in their developments"
- "Talk with rent-stabilized tenants about how to avoid harassment"
- "Reach out to small local businesses to help keep them in the community"
- "Engage local schools to teach students about the canal and connect with after school programs"
- "Engage billion oyster project, Good Shepard Services and other community-based organizations"
- "Find ways to get information to marginalized groups, like the disabled and elderly (e.g. through libraries and community centers)"
- "Provide access to language translation services"
- "Partner with CBO's, nonprofits and local leaders that represent vulnerable and low-income populations"
- "Find ways to engage with the homeless"
- "Use a variety of outreach methods, such as NYCHA tenant association meetings and child care providers, and hold weekend meetings"
- "Demonstrative that voices are being heard, not just lip service"
- "Conduct on-street outreach and events that bridge gaps between the community and CBOs"

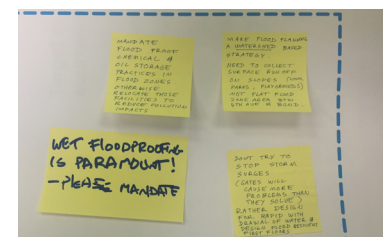
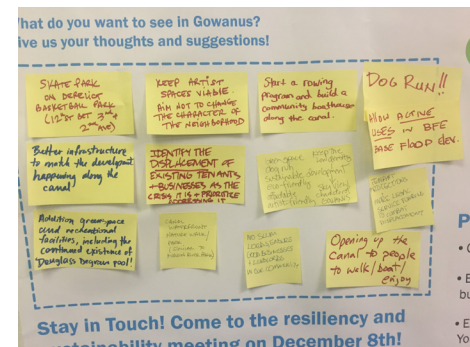
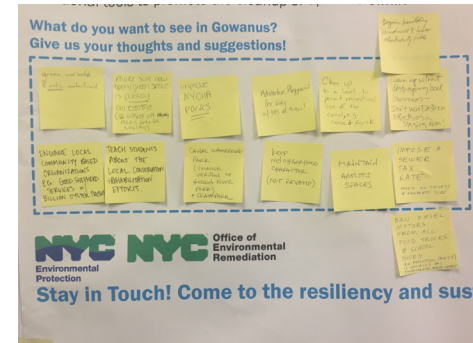
Zoning and Land Uses

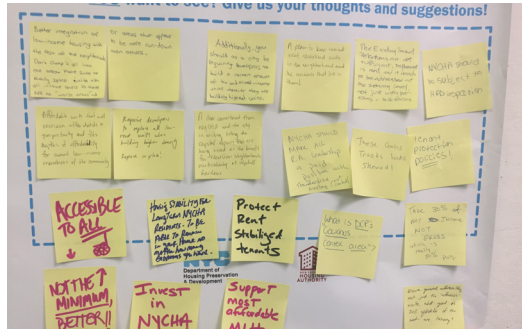
- "Use zoning to give allowances and waivers for people with disabilities"
- "Coordinate FEMA regulations with DOB regulations for existing 'grandfathered' homes"
- "Use a certification process to address concerns over certain sites"
- "Landmark or preserve special buildings through tax credits"
- "Ensure there is space for pre-k and elementary schools and make it easier for schools to open in M1 districts"
- "Keep manufacturing jobs, avoid residential uses from driving out manufacturing, and address complaints from residents about noise from such uses"
- "Buildings should be in context with existing residential heights"
- "Allow potential for residential growth while preserving space for artists and people who work in the area"
- "Changes to industrial use should be part of a larger plan for job preservation"
- "Align zoning changes and new density with transit-related improvements"
- "New uses should improve air quality and promote public health"
- "Support job growth with offices, coworking spaces, and small, light manufacturing space"
- "Explore 'blue zoning' along the canal to prevent stormwater runoff"
- "Prevent red tape for property owners that want to install drainage systems"
- "Develop a waterfront park that's accessible, connects to NYCHA and has recreational activities (e.g. community rowing program) with a natural habitat"



Resiliency, Sustainability and Environmental Radiation

- "Develop better infrastructure for the development along the canal"
- "Create new green space and recreational facilities, including remediating the pool at Thomas Greene Playground"
- "Design nature walk or park along the canal waterfront similar to Hudson River Park"
- "Start a rowing program and build a community boathouse along the canal"
- "Open up the canal for people to walk, row and enjoy; make sure space is publically accessible"
- "Allow active uses in the flood zone"
- "Ensure development is sustainable, ecologically friendly, affordable and artist-friendly"
- "Prevent mistreatment of tenants by bad landlords"
- "Install more bioswales and tree pits to improve drainage along sidewalks"
- "More interactive workforce training (e.g. recycling program for NYCHA residents)"
- "Toughen fines for dogowners that don't clean up after their dogs"
- "Give information and subsidies for residences to build solar panels"
- "Create opportunities for NYCHA residents to compost and garden"
- "Develop community solar program with locally-produced renewable energy sources"
- "Establish an 'environmental protection district'"
- "Engage local community-based organizations on sustainability and resiliency work"
- "Teach local students about the local conservation and rehabilitation efforts"
- "Improve park space at Gowanus Houses and Wyckoff Gardens NYCHA campuses"
- "Prevent air pollution by reducing fumes from local trucks and school buses"
- "Impose sewer tax rate for large users users of water"
- "Clean up area without harming local businesses"



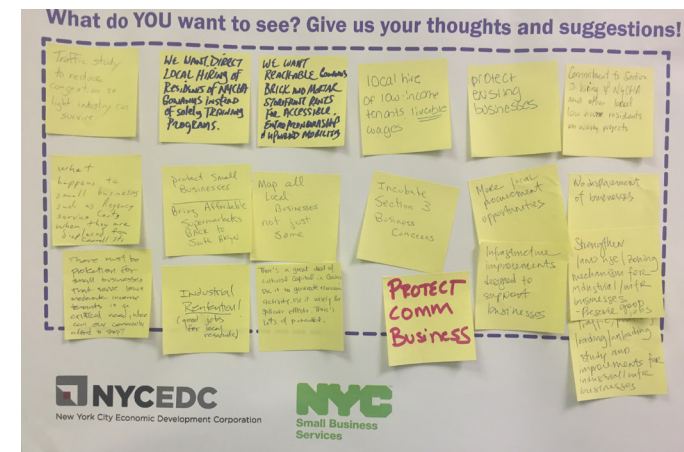


Housing

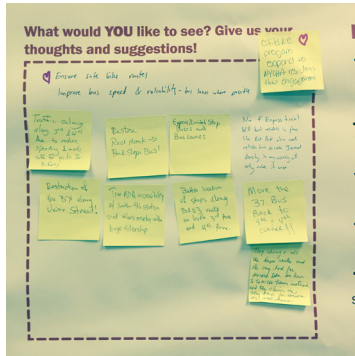
- Participants asked for permanently affordable housing. For instance, one attendee called for "affordable units that will remain affordable in perpetuity," and requiring developers to "build a certain amount of low- and middle-income units whenever they are building high-end units." Some attendees asked for "better integration of low-income housing with the rest of the neighborhood" instead of concentrating the housing in one area.
- Some attendees had questions and comments about the process of qualifying for affordable housing. In particular, one participant would like the definition of affordable to be changed to 30% of net income, not gross.
- Many attendees asked for tenant protection for existing residents. One participant requested to "protect rent stabilized tenants," and asked for a "plan to keep current rent stabilized units in the neighborhood and the residents that live in them!" Another participant stated that "the existing tenant protections are not sufficient, displacement is real and it needs to be addressed at the zoning level, not just with programs and task forces."
- Regarding NYCHA, participants were concerned about "housing stability for long term NYCHA residents," and wanted "to be able to remain in your home no matter how many bedrooms you have."
- Wyckoff Gardens is participating in NYCHA's NextGen Neighborhoods program, and participants asked for "a clear commitment from NYCHA and the city in writing listing the capital repairs that are being listed as the benefit ... at Wyckoff Gardens."
- Participants asked to "invest in NYCHA." Other NYCHA comments were that "NYCHA should be subject to HPD inspection," and that "NYCHA should make all Resident Association leadership a paid position."

Jobs and Economic Development

- "Study traffic to reduce congestion for light industrial uses"
- "Protect small businesses that serve low to moderate income residents so they can afford places to shop"
- "Support existing and new affordable supermarkets"
- "Local hiring of NYCHA residents with living wages, instead of solely training programs"
- "Prioritize industrial retention and the jobs they provide for local residents"
- "Support entrepreneurship and upward mobility of current residents"
- "Catalyze the cultural capital in Gowanus to generate economic activity and create partnerships for spillover effects"
- "Develop local procurement opportunities"
- "Commitment to Section 3 hiring of NYCHA residents"
- "Infrastructure improvements designed to help businesses"
- "Protect businesses from displacement"
- "Strengthen land use or zoning mechanism for industrial/manufacturing businesses that preserves jobs"
- "Study parking, loading/unloading and traffic as it relates to businesses"



Community Resources

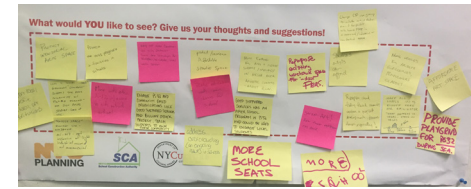
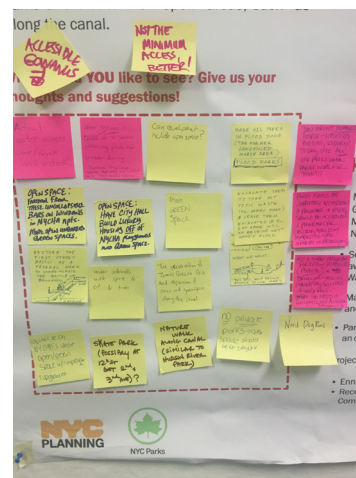


Transportation

- "Ensure safe bike routes"
- "Improve bus speed and reliability"
- "Calm traffic along 3rd and 4th Avenues to reduce speeding and make streets safer for pedestrians"
- "Restore the B71 bus along Union Street"
- "Restore bus service between Red Hook and Park Slope"
- "Make subway stations with a large ridership ADA accessible"
- "Improve bus stop locations"
- "Expand Citibike program to NYCHA campuses"
- "Understand impacts of F Express Train service and how new density will affect train service"
- "Improve bus service and routes, particularly for seniors in wheelchairs and other disabled residents"

Parks and Open Space

- "Waterfront public access to the canal with recreational options (e.g. canoe/kayaks)"
- "Treat parks as gathering spaces for children with special features for the summer months"
- "Restore the First Street Basin as a federal park to commemorate the Battle of Brooklyn"
- "Capitalize on NYCHA's open space for improvements and upgrades"
- "Build a skatepark"
- "Make sure parks in the flood zone are resilient and help absorb runoff"
- "Excavate Thomas Greene Playground to remove contamination, while elevating parks above base flood elevation to act as a flood barrier"
- "Preserve Thomas Greene Playground"
- "All parks should be public, not private"
- "Plan parks for all people, including adults, children, the disabled, elderly and teenagers"



Schools, Arts and Culture

- "Provide more school seats to meet future population needs"
- "Protect industrial arts spaces"
- "Support local nonprofit, cultural arts institutions"
- "Arts is what makes Gowanus 'Gowanus'"
- "Support the arts community with flexible zoning, not just arts spaces"
- "Use zoning to allow artist spaces to be better mixed with industrial and commercial"
- "Engage PS 32, nearby schools and community-based organizations"
- "Protect and increase the availability of affordable studio spaces"
- "Increase funding for arts and cultural programs in the NYCHA campuses"
- "Repurpose existing warehouse spaces for indoor flea markets"
- "More street art from local residents"
- "Incentivize community facility uses in zoning (e.g. artist studios) with bonus floor area"
- "Reopen NYCHA community centers"
- "Assist local artists, galleries and performers"

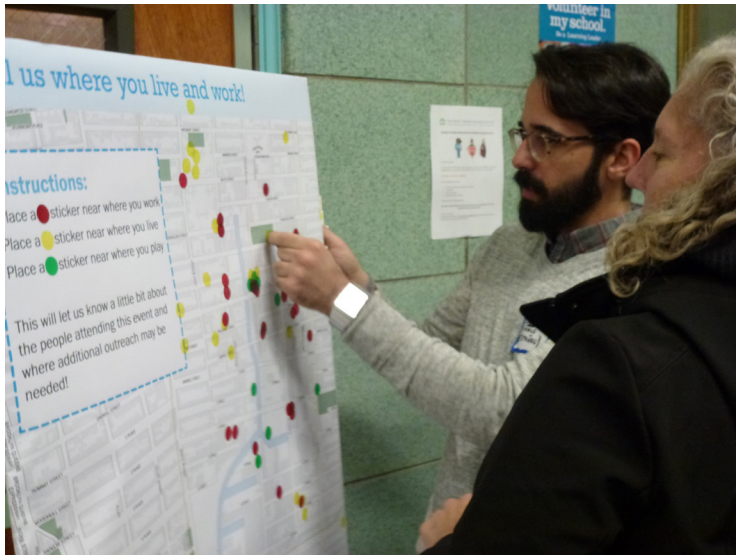
Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study Kick-Off Event, October 27, 2016



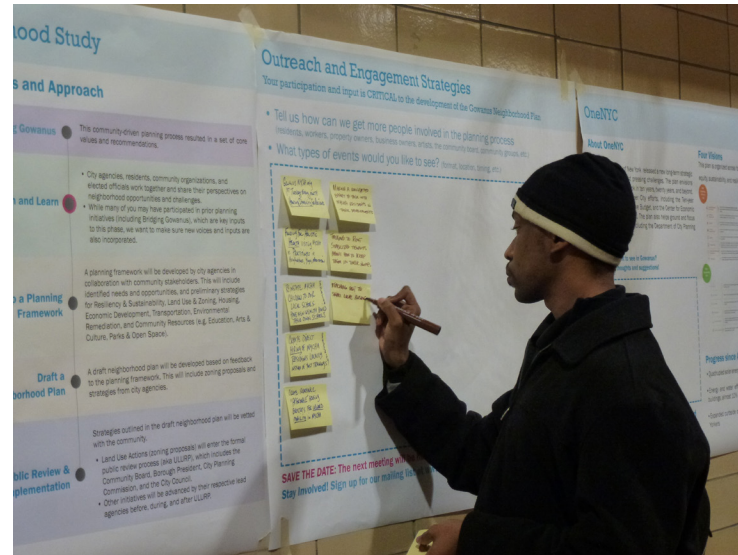
View of open house attendees



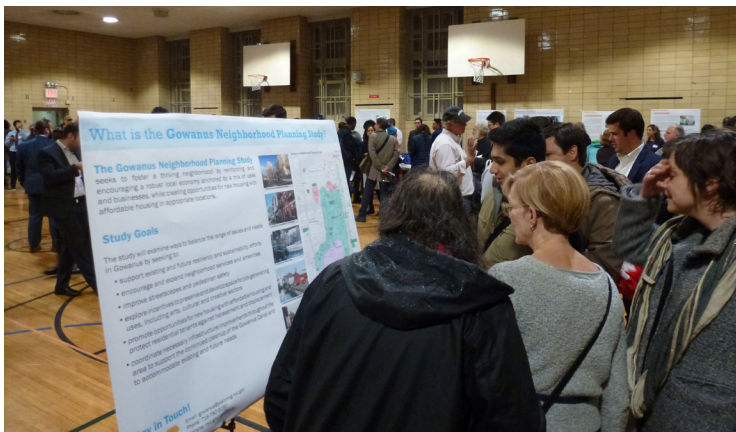
View of presentation



"Where do you live, work and play" board



Outreach and engagement board



Introduction board



Agency presentation boards