



THE BROWNSVILLE PLAN

OUR HOME. OUR FUTURE

SECOND ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT - 2019

CONTENT BY

This progress report was prepared by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), with help from many City agency partners who are leading the implementation of these strategies:

Building Healthy Communities (BHC)
Department of City Planning (DCP)
Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA)
Department of Design and Construction (DDC)
Department of Education (DOE)
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)
Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks)
Department of Probation (DOP)
Department of Sanitation (DSNY)
Department of Small Business Services (SBS)
Department of Social Services (DSS)
Department of Transportation (DOT)
Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)
Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
Mayor's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (MOCTO)
Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ)
Mayor's Office of Workforce Development (WKDEV)
Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)
New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)
New York City Police Department (NYPD)

This plan would not have been possible without the dedication and wisdom of our community partners, who guided and advised the City partners on how to ensure a more inclusive, accountable, transparent, and effective planning process. Their continued collaboration during the implementation of this plan has been, and will continue to be, critical for its success.

Cover photo is of the groundbreaking of renovations at Betsy Head Park, courtesy of NYC Parks.

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Department of
Housing Preservation
& Development

Office of Neighborhood Strategies
nyc.gov/brownsville

PROLOGUE

When the Brownsville plan was released two years ago, it captured the Brownsville community's vision for the future and laid out a roadmap for how to get there. But this initiative is more than just a plan – it is a pact between the City and the community that we will do better for Brownsville. Today, we are excited to report on all the progress that has been made in the last year in achieving that vision.


The Brownsville Plan was created through a year-long planning process that brought together over 20 government agencies, 30 community-based organizations, and nearly 500 residents to identify neighborhood priorities, set goals, and agree upon strategies to achieve them. Building on the significant planning work already completed, we used HPD's Neighborhood Planning Playbook as a guide to ensure the process was inclusive and transparent.

The Brownsville Plan will result in the creation of over **2,500 new affordable homes** representing more than \$1 billion of investment. Almost 700 affordable apartments with new community spaces are already under construction or started construction this summer, including Ebenezer Plaza, Edwin's Place, 210-214 Hegeman Avenue, and Van Dyke III. Future development on vacant City-owned land will support community goals around health, economic opportunity, and the arts.

The Plan is also coordinating **over \$150 million in critical neighborhood investments**, including a transformative renovation of Betsy Head Park that began construction last year, renovation of an industrial building to spur jobs, improved access to fresh and healthy foods, pedestrian safety improvements, expanded activities for children and young adults, and so much more. All of this work is made possible through the dedicated efforts of organizations and individuals in Brownsville.

We are so proud of the tremendous work that has been accomplished these past two years, and we look forward to seeing Brownsville continue to thrive in the years and decades to come.




Louise Carroll, Commissioner
New York City Department
of Housing Preservation and
Development




Vicki Been, Deputy Mayor
Housing and Economic
Development for New York City



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INTRODUCTION



ABOUT THE PROCESS

In response to community requests for City investment and more coordinated programing in the neighborhood, HPD launched a year-long, community-based planning process in the summer of 2016 to develop a shared vision and plan for the future of Brownsville. The process started with a careful review of the significant amount of planning work already conducted by neighborhood residents and organizations, including plans released by Community Board 16, as well as the interagency efforts of [Brownsville 100 Days to Progress](#) in 2014.

Working with residents, elected officials, community-based organizations, and other government agencies, HPD hosted a series of public workshops, implemented an online engagement tool, and participated in community events. Through these efforts, the City engaged nearly 500 neighborhood residents in the development of this plan, across multiple meetings and events.

In order to accommodate residents who might not be able to attend in-person meetings,

HPD worked with coUrbanize, a digital engagement platform, to create an interactive website for community members to find information about the planning process and add their ideas. Community members were able to submit feedback by visiting the website or texting responses to questions posed on signs throughout the neighborhood. Combined, HPD received 246 comments through this platform.

The outreach and engagement conducted throughout the process is summarized below. Further details, including the comments provided by participants, can be found in the Brownsville Neighborhood Planning Progress Report, which was released halfway through the planning process on November 16, 2016. A full record of engagement can be found at [nyc.gov/brownsville](#).

The Brownsville Plan engagement process was guided by the City's Neighborhood Planning Playbook, a tool that enables City agencies to more effectively partner with communities to plan for the future.

01 Learn July - September 2016	02 Create October - December 2016	03 Finalize January - May 2017	04 Implement Ongoing
Research pressing needs and learn about residents' lived experiences. Develop a shared community-driven vision and set of guiding principles. Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop 1: Listen and Learn (Jul 19) • Workshop 2: Vision, Goals, and Guiding Principles (Sep 29) • Tabling/surveying at neighborhood events • Online and texting campaign via coUrbanize • Community Partners convening 	Brainstorm solutions and strategies with the community. Test viability, feasibility, and desirability of potential projects and policies. Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop 3: Test Strategies and Actions (Nov 16) • Topic-based meetings and roundtables • Tabling/surveying at neighborhood events • Online engagement: community mapping and housing survey • Community Partners meetings 	Create solutions that have consensus and potential to achieve community goals. Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop 4: Confirm and Prioritize (Mar 25) • Online engagement: review the draft Neighborhood Plan • Community Partners meetings 	Coordinate agency programs and capital budgets for implementation of key plan elements. Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release Party (Jun 1) • Continued engagement around neighborhood projects • Citywide budgeting processes • Land use review • Regular public tracking and reporting



NEIGHBORHOOD VISION AND GOALS

The Brownsville Plan lays out a framework for current and future City investments in Brownsville. A major component of HPD's investment in the neighborhood will be new affordable housing, integrated with neighborhood amenities, to be developed on vacant City-owned land. The strategies in this plan will ensure that redevelopment contributes to a more holistic investment framework for the neighborhood and its people. The following goals, addressed throughout the plan, build on previous neighborhood planning efforts and represent the major priorities of participants in the planning process. Visit nyc.gov/brownsville for more information from the process.

ACHIEVE EQUITABLE HEALTH OUTCOMES

Health is rooted in the circumstances of our daily lives and the environments in which we are born, raised, play, work, love, and age. Whether it is access to healthy foods and open space or the safety of surrounding streets, neighborhood conditions affect our physical and mental health. Bridging gaps in health outcomes requires implementing holistic interventions that recognize the root causes of these inequities—including historic and structural racism—and fostering the type of neighborhood conditions that support residents in living their healthiest lives.

IMPROVE NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Violence in neighborhoods does not exist in a vacuum: neighborhoods with high levels of violence and crime also tend to suffer from other problems such as poor health, low graduation rates, and low employment. Solutions to violence and crime, therefore, also need to address these root issues. Interventions to promote neighborhood safety in turn can also help to improve overall health and economic opportunity.

PROMOTE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic and social stability are key determinants of health, safety, and prosperity in a neighborhood. Achieving more equitable and sustainable economic outcomes for a community requires strategies that invest in the people to build economic and political power and strengthen the local economy.

FOSTER LOCAL ARTS AND IDENTITY

A strong cultural identity can foster and empower a community, influence one's perception of opportunities, and build social capital. Brownsville has a thriving community of artists, entrepreneurs, and creative thinkers that contribute to the life and culture of Brooklyn and the city as a whole. The neighborhood has the potential to be a major hub for arts and culture in East Brooklyn. Supporting the artistic energy of Brownsville and promoting local arts can bring people together, celebrate history and pride in the neighborhood and its residents, and create pathways for economic opportunities for youth and adults alike.



NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGIES

This plan is organized around a set of strategies to guide City agencies and local organizations as they design and implement work in the neighborhood. Any investment has the potential to accomplish multiple goals, and it is important that investments aim to achieve a common vision, consider holistic impacts, and identify opportunities for synergy. The following strategies emerged from the engagement process as the most desirable and achievable:

01 PROMOTE ACTIVE MIXED-USE CORRIDORS

Increase access to services and amenities that bring activity to Brownsville's streets

02 IMPROVE CONNECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Implement physical, design, and programmatic interventions that reduce social isolation and improve safety

03 CREATE ACTIVE AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES

Improve safety and health by creating high quality places for gathering, programming, and community building

04 PROVIDE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Expand City and community programming and create new policies to support healthy living, eating, gardening, and exercise to reduce health inequities

05 CONNECT BROWNSVILLE RESIDENTS TO JOBS AND JOB TRAINING

Pair City investments with opportunities for economic advancement

06 SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES AND ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS

Enable local businesses to grow and thrive

07 IMPROVE HOUSING STABILITY AND SUPPORT RESIDENTS AT RISK OF DISPLACEMENT

Ensure that residents have opportunities to stay in the neighborhood, including those facing foreclosure or homelessness, or those seeking to buy a home

08 PROVIDE SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

Prepare local organizations to continue the work of this plan into the future



DEVELOPING BROWNSVILLE'S VACANT LAND



At the core of the implementation of this plan is the Brownsville Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development of City-owned vacant land, which was issued in August 2017. An RFP is a competitive review process in which HPD calls for developers to submit project proposals that respond to a set of defined goals and guidelines that are informed by the community. Non-profit and for-profit teams were eligible to apply and seek City financing for their proposals. HPD works together with development teams to ensure that projects are designed and built in keeping with the agency's standards for quality construction and environmental sustainability.

The Brownsville RFP encouraged respondents to incorporate the goals and strategies outlined in this neighborhood plan, and featured three site themes: Arts and Culture; Innovation and Entrepreneurship; and Healthy Living and Food Systems.

Development teams were selected in July 2018 and are in the early pre-development phase. Each project will need to undergo environmental review; a public approval process called the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP); a financial closing; and a phased construction period. Projects are expected to be completed within the next five to eight years.

WHAT DOES THE RFP PROCESS LOOK LIKE?



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

HPD gathers community input and priorities to inform the development of the RFP. In Brownsville, this feedback was gathered throughout the neighborhood planning process.



RFP RELEASE

A pre-submission conference is held by HPD. Development teams prepare their proposals and submit them before the deadline. **(three months to prepare submissions)**



COMPETITIVE REVIEW

Proposals are evaluated on several criteria, including but not limited to:

- Response to community visions
- Affordability levels
- Financial feasibility
- Quality and creativity of design
- Development team experience and capacity
- Local hiring outreach plan

(minimum five months)



DEVELOPER SELECTION & PREDEVELOPMENT

The strongest proposal based on the Competitive Review is selected. Background checks to evaluate the integrity of the development team are also conducted. Pre-development work commences. **(one to two years)**



ENVIRONMENTAL & LAND USE REVIEW

Environmental impacts of the proposed development are studied, and the project goes through a public review process involving the Community Board, elected officials, and the City Planning Commission. These processes are commonly referred to as CEQR and ULURP. **(14-18 months)**



FINANCING & CONSTRUCTION

Projects continue to work with HPD's Development team on the financing of the project. Developers also undergo a sponsor review process, including background checks, to ensure the integrity of the entities doing business with the City. After closing financing, construction begins. For large projects, construction is typically done in multiple phases. When the affordable homes are ready, developers must use HPD/HDC marketing guidelines to find eligible tenants. Applicants can apply through Housing Connect and get help from a Housing Ambassador to prepare an application. **(about two to three years)**

SITE THEMES

CHRISTOPHER-GLENMORE: INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

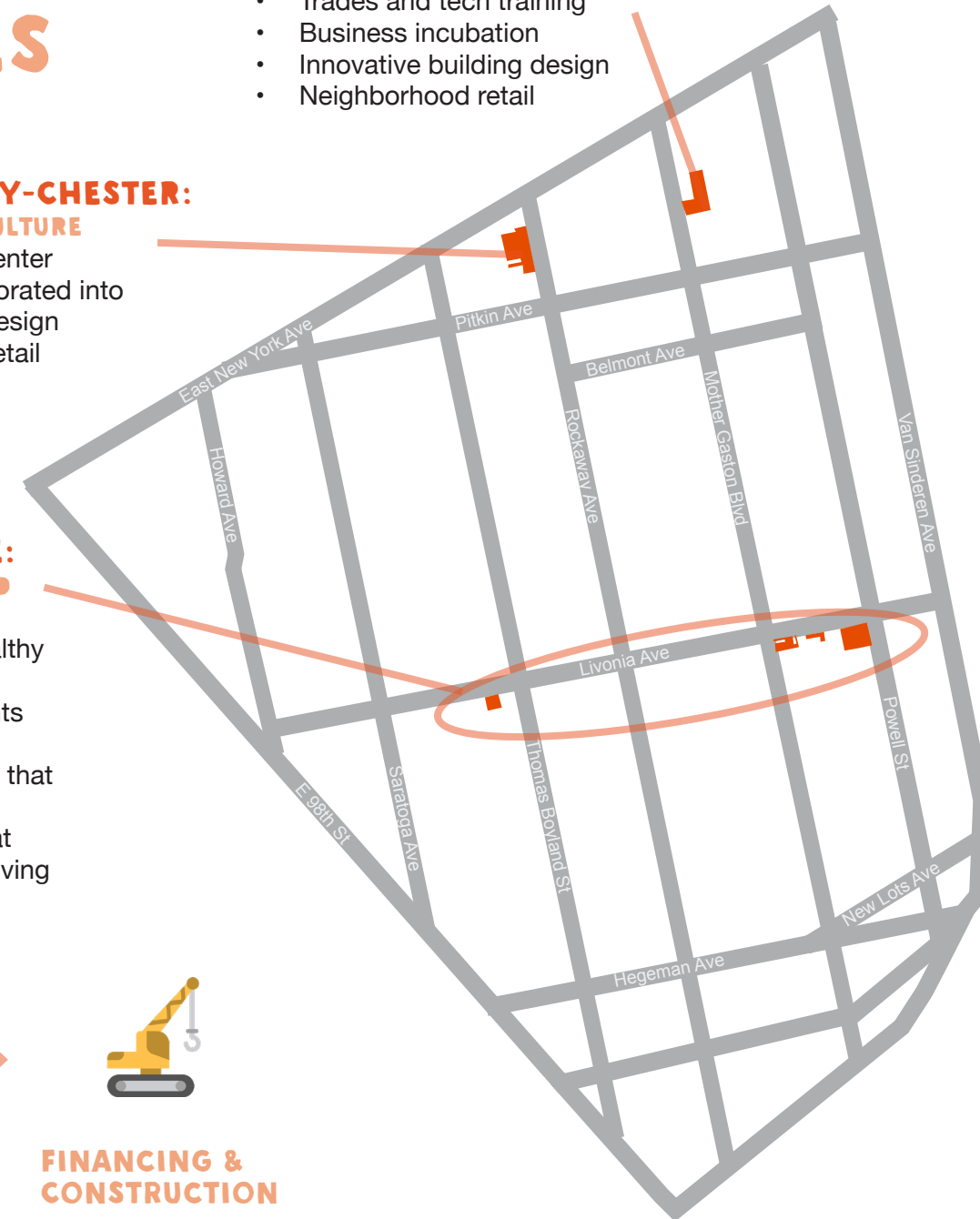
- Trades and tech training
- Business incubation
- Innovative building design
- Neighborhood retail

ROCKAWAY-CHESTER: ARTS AND CULTURE

- Cultural center
- Art incorporated into building design
- Creative retail

LIVONIA AVENUE: HEALTHY LIVING AND FOOD SYSTEMS

- Gardening and healthy food stores
- Sit-down restaurants
- Services and community spaces that promote health
- Building design that promotes healthy living



BROWNSVILLE RFP SELECTED PROPOSALS

SITE A: ARTS AND CULTURE

THE BROWNSVILLE ARTS CENTER AND APARTMENTS

The selected proposal for the site at Rockaway Avenue and Chester Street is called The Brownsville Arts Center and Apartments (BACA). This project will contain approximately 230 affordable homes that will serve a range of incomes, including extremely low-income and formerly homeless households. The ground-floor will feature an approximately 24,000-square-foot arts and cultural center that will be home to a dance and performing arts school (run by Purelements), the Brooklyn Music School, a media lab and contemporary arts center (run by BRIC), and an approximately 3,500-square-foot black box theater designed to accommodate a range of uses, including theater, dance, music and film. This site will be developed by a team led by Blue Sea Development Company, LLC, Gilbane Development Company, and the non-profit Artspace, who will also manage and operate the Brownsville Arts Center.



SITE C: HEALTHY LIVING AND FOOD SYSTEMS

LIVONIA 4

The selected proposal for the sites on Livonia Avenue is Livonia 4—a multi-site development that will include approximately 420 affordable homes serving a range of incomes and populations, including extremely low-income households, formerly homeless households, and low-income seniors. The largest site, between Sackman and Powell Streets, will include a new supermarket, café/ community kitchen, and 10,000-square-foot rooftop garden that will provide fresh produce

to building residents and the community through the supermarket and café. The remaining three sites will feature additional community gardens, social services, a new senior center, and a youth and family recreation facility. This project will be developed by a team led by Radson Development, Community Solutions Brownsville Partnership, and Catholic Charities.

SITE B: INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GLENMORE MANOR APARTMENTS



The selected proposal for the site at Christopher and Glenmore Avenues is the Glenmore Manor Apartments. This project will include approximately 230 affordable homes serving a range of incomes and populations, including extremely low-income households, formerly homeless households, and low-income seniors. The first and second floors will feature 20,000-square-feet of commercial and community facility space housing the Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union; a sit-down restaurant; a locally-owned salon and beauty products company; and the Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation (CBEDC), who in conjunction with Medgar Evers College and other partners, will expand its programming for young entrepreneurs and provide assistance to local small businesses and non-profits. This project will be led by a development team that includes the African American Planning Commission, Inc.; (AAPC), Brisa Builders Development, LLC (a certified Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprise); and Lemle & Wolff



STRATEGIES



01 PROMOTE ACTIVE MIXED-USE CORRIDORS

The Brownsville Plan seeks to fill gaps in the neighborhood with a broad range of uses to serve diverse needs and add street activity.

PROJECT UPDATES:

PROJECT 1.1 | IN PROGRESS

Develop a broad range of uses on City-owned sites to be developed through the Brownsville RFP

The Brownsville RFP called for submissions to include a mix of uses that will enliven key neighborhood corridors, and HPD has selected proposals that add vitality and activity to these streets and bring residents together. New development on City-owned sites along Livonia Avenue will feature a supermarket, café/kitchen, social services, senior center, and youth and family recreation facility. The development on Rockaway Avenue will feature the new Brownsville Arts Center, bringing arts and cultural activity to the site in the form of classes, rehearsals, performances, and more. The site will also include a public plaza connecting Rockaway Avenue to Chester Street with permanent seating for concerts and impromptu

performances. New development on the City-owned site at Mother Gaston Boulevard and Glenmore Avenue will feature an innovation and entrepreneurship hub, along with a credit union, restaurant and salon. A more detailed description of the sites in the RFP can be found on page 12-13.

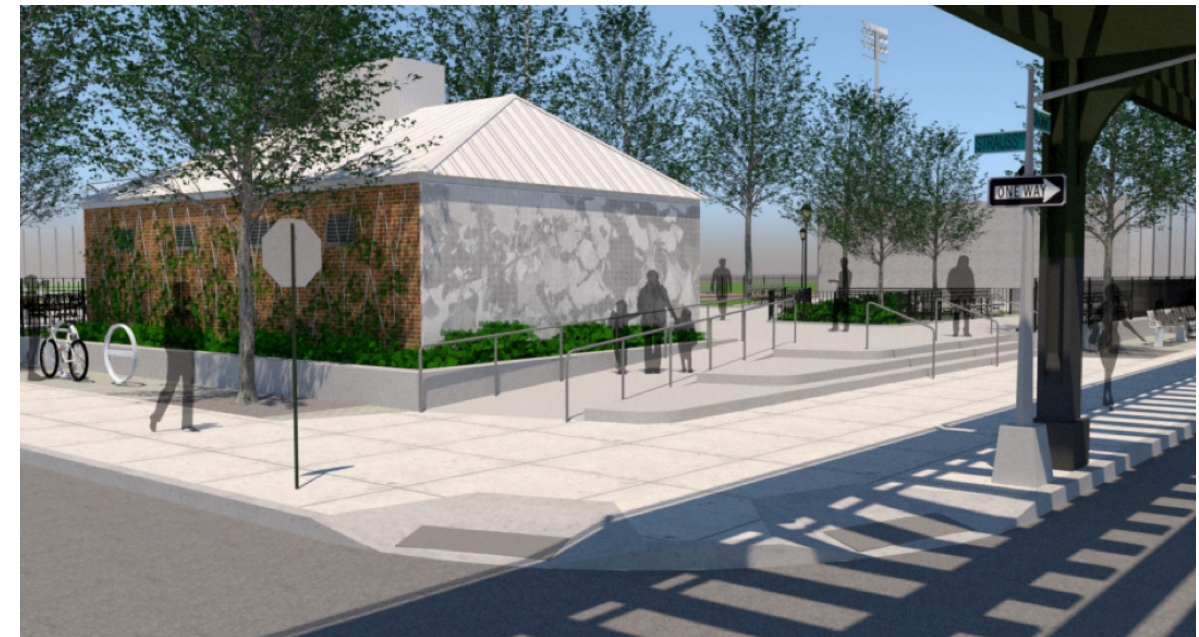
PROJECT 1.2 | IN PROGRESS

Activate New Lots and Hegeman Avenues with the Ebenezer Plaza development and small rental housing projects

The Ebenezer Plaza project, which began its first phase of construction in July 2018, is a mixed-use affordable housing development on New Lots Avenue between Christopher and Powell Streets. In partnership with a local church, this City-financed development will include approximately 500 affordable homes,



Above: Rendering of proposed mixed-use development, Ebenezer Plaza, bringing street activity. Photo courtesy of Brisa Builders.



Above: Rendering of proposed entrance to Betsy Head Park at Livonia Avenue, incorporating "Parks without Borders" design principles and creating a more welcoming entrance to the park. Photo courtesy of NYC Parks.

community facility space, and retail along New Lots Avenue. Additionally, HPD is facilitating the development of three new affordable apartment buildings along Hegeman Avenue on City-owned, vacant land. One project, 210-214 Hegeman Avenue, is currently under construction. For more information on these projects, see "Affordable Housing Development in Brownsville" on page 50-51.

PROJECT 1.3 | IN PROGRESS

Create a Livonia Avenue Streetscape Plan

DOT representatives gathered input on community members' experience with, and priorities for, improvements to Livonia Avenue at several public events throughout the Brownsville planning process. Recommendations have been compiled and organized into the draft Streetscape Plan that focuses on "EI-Space" tactics including: lighting, enhanced crossings, furniture, greening, and activation and identity.

This Streetscape Plan will ultimately provide the framework for a phased implementation by various City agencies, in conjunction

with private development. The draft is currently under review by partner agencies, elected officials, and external stakeholder groups that have been active in Brownsville planning efforts. However, in working with stakeholders, DOT is already prototyping several new ideas, including pedestrian lighting at the Rockaway Avenue MTA Station on Livonia Avenue. The full Streetscape Plan is expected to be released in late 2019.

PROJECT 1.4 | IN PROGRESS

Integrate parks with their surroundings

Parks Without Borders principles have been integrated into plans for the second phase of the Betsy Head Parks renovation, which will create a more welcoming entrance from the street. The proposed designs will create a new entry plaza at the corner of Livonia Avenue and Strauss Street. Additionally, the renovated park will include new active recreational uses along Livonia Avenue, such as renovated handball courts and a rock-climbing wall.

PROJECT FEATURE: LIVONIA AVENUE STREETScape PLAN

In September 2016, DOT spearheaded “Live! On Livonia,” a one-day crowd-funding event to gather community feedback and ideas for Livonia Avenue. Residents spoke clearly of the need for better lighting, new seating, and more green space. Based on the activities and community input, the creation of the Livonia Avenue Streetscape Plan became part of the Brownsville Plan.

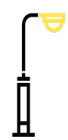
Spaces beneath and adjacent to elevated infrastructure such as those along Livonia Avenue have long been considered dark, uninviting, derelict, or underutilized. City agencies and community groups have increasingly taken notice of these sites as a potential asset and opportunity to address systemic social, environmental, economic, and racial inequities. In the coming years, DOT will continue developing an “EI-Space” program to comprehensively address these spaces citywide, and Livonia Avenue will be the first streetscape plan of its kind to improve pedestrian mobility and safety, foster environmental health, and reconnect the

Brownsville neighborhood along an “under-the-elevated” streetscape.

Livonia Avenue is a complex site with a number of unique streetscape challenges. To explore the breadth of opportunities available, DOT has compiled comments and ideas from its own staff and those of various City agencies. This has yielded a series of practical strategies or tactics that can be creatively applied to various sites throughout the corridor. See the adjacent page for potential short- and long-term project opportunities, that are beginning to emerge.

DOT anticipates releasing the Livonia Avenue Streetscape Plan after the completion of the Rockaway Avenue pilot light. The Streetscape Plan will serve as a resource for public agency staff, community groups, and developers to implement projects to address this unique and complex EI-Space streetscape.

TACTICS



LIGHTING

DOT is prototyping new pedestrian lights and fixtures to be installed at the Rockaway Avenue MTA station.



ENHANCED CROSSING

Enhanced crossings give pedestrians a safe place to cross the street where a traffic signal or stop sign is not warranted. This includes high-visibility markings, ADA-compliant pedestrian ramps, signage, and additional traffic calming treatments.



GREENING

The elevated train limits opportunities for trees but there are locations to install tree beds away from the curb line where buildings are set back or along the fence/property line of NYCHA and Park properties.



FURNITURE

The suite of standard DOT furniture is available, such as: CityBench, CityRacks, and Wayfinding signage. DOT is also prototyping a new “CityEI” furnishing that wraps around columns to provide seating and lighting.



ACTIVATION & IDENTITY

DOT Art partners with community-based organizations and artists to transform streetscapes, such as with the colorful murals and art kiosks already seen throughout Brownsville. EI-Box concession and other temporary interventions are also being explored.

PROJECTS

VAN SINDEREN AVENUE (SUTTER AVENUE)

Preliminary design began to address the substandard pedestrian conditions near the entrance to the L train station, as well as incorporate fencing, lighting, and other amenities.

JUNIUS STREET HUB

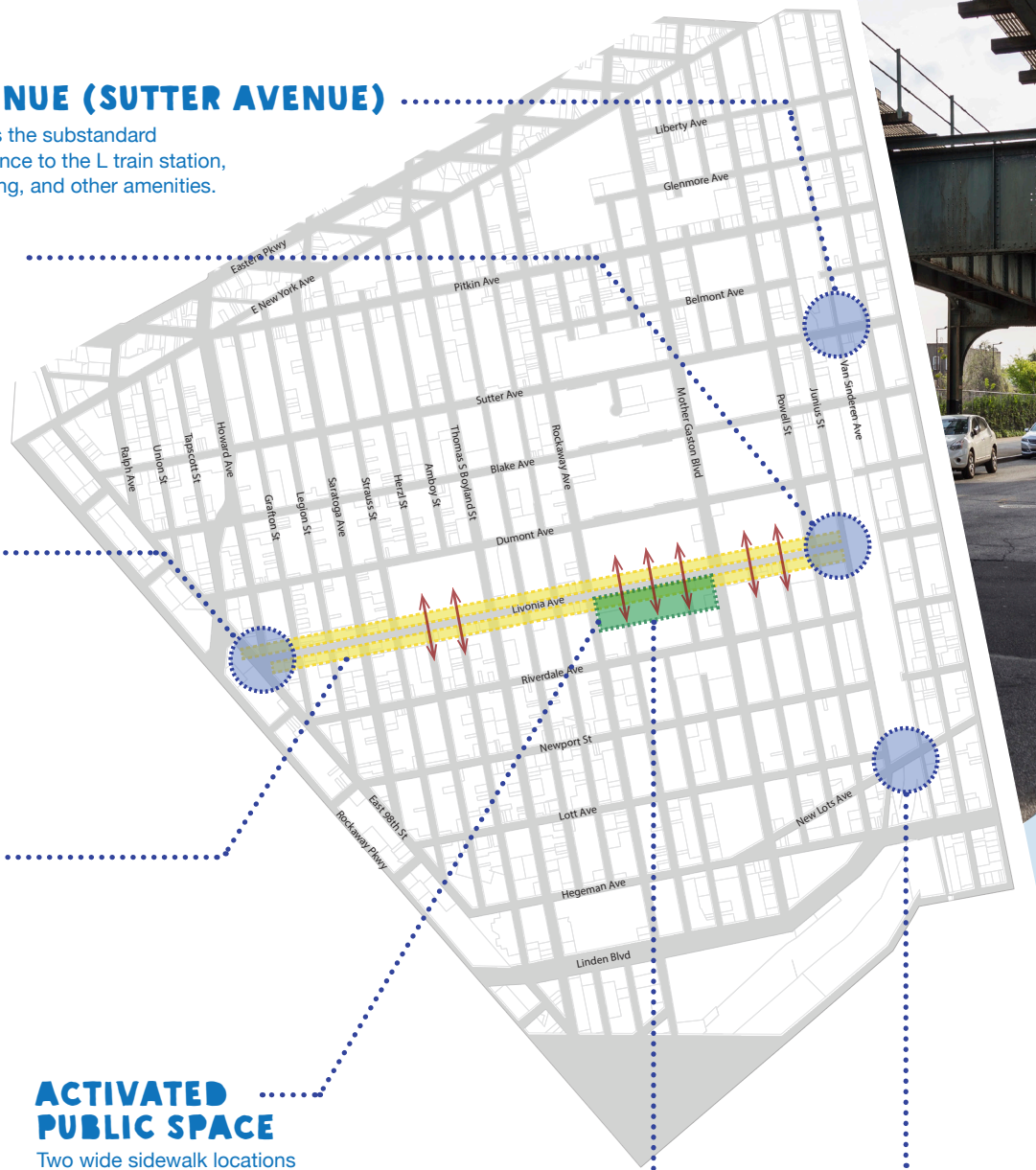
The T-junction at Junius Street plays an important role for transit and community activities. A temporary art installation is scheduled to be installed this fall, and permanent opportunities are being explored.

E98TH STREET GATEWAY

School safety improvements were recently installed, but additional tactics can be employed to activate the triangle and create a neighborhood gateway.

CONTINUOUS SIDEWALKS

A consistent use of materials will improve the experience of walking along Livonia Avenue, including: tree beds and plantings, pedestrian lighting, CityBenches, and CityRacks. These can be implemented over time by DOT and adjacent property owners.



ACTIVATED PUBLIC SPACE

Two wide sidewalk locations and a parking sliplane were used for the “Live! on Livonia” event and can host future short- and long-term activities.

CONNECTED GRIDS

There are long distances between crossings along the NYCHA and Parks properties. DOT is exploring locations for new signalized intersections and enhanced crossings.

NEW LOTS TUNNEL

This tunnel is an unfriendly and uninviting entrance into the neighborhood. Lighting, painting, and other improvements are being considered to improve conditions.

PROJECT 1.5 | IN PROGRESS

Work with private owners of vacant land and support redevelopment that meets community goals

HPD is committed to working with local property owners interested in developing affordable housing and neighborhood amenities. Along Livonia Avenue, HPD is working with L+M Development Partners on a transformative redevelopment of a series of parking lots at the Marcus Garvey Apartments. For more information on the Marcus Garvey Extension project, see “Affordable Housing Development in Brownsville” on page 50-51.

PROJECT 1.6 | IN PROGRESS

Ensure that housing development along Mother Gaston Boulevard enlivens the street and promotes safety

HPD and NYCHA are working together to promote an attractive commercial environment and welcoming streetscape through the development of new mixed-use affordable housing at Van Dyke Houses and the Brownsville RFP sites. On May 3, 2018, the agencies celebrated the opening of new

affordable housing at Van Dyke Houses, located at 603 Mother Gaston. For more information about this project, see “Affordable Housing Development in Brownsville” on page 50-51.

PROJECT 1.7 | COMPLETE

Design and implement a catalytic commercial revitalization pilot project on Belmont Avenue

SBS funded the Brownsville Community Justice Center (BCJC) and Hester Street Collaborative to design and implement a commercial revitalization pilot project that activated a vacant storefront at 50 Belmont Avenue. The event, a two day holiday market, “Be on Belmont,” was held in December 2017 and featured 18 emerging entrepreneurs; it attracted more than 200 neighborhood attendees. Not only were entrepreneurs able to connect with customers and test their business concepts, they were also able to gather feedback to inform their business plans, marketing, and brand strategies. BCJC now operates a center at 50 Belmont Avenue and continues to host annual “Be on Belmont” street festivals to drive pedestrian traffic to small businesses and independent vendors along the corridor, provide culturally relevant activities, and, support neighborhood pride.



Above: Entrepreneurs at the Be on Belmont Flea Market in December 2017, part of a commercial revitalization pilot project on Belmont Avenue. Photos courtesy of BCJC and SBS.

02 IMPROVE CONNECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The City is pursuing projects across Brownsville to encourage residents to walk and bike in their neighborhood by improving pedestrian safety; expanding the network of bike lanes; and making it easier, safer, and more pleasant to cross from Brownsville to surrounding neighborhoods such as East New York.

PROJECT UPDATES:



Above: The “B-Lit” event brought Dr. Green Park to life at night with a temporary interactive light installation and “silent” dance party. Photo courtesy of Center for Court Innovation.

PROJECT 2.1 | IN PROGRESS

Improve safety and access by exploring design interventions on NYCHA campuses and their immediate surroundings

AAs a starting point, the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) launched a new Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) initiative that engages residents and community leaders to audit

the public spaces of Brownsville and Van Dyke Houses to promote public safety and community connections. In spring 2018, MOCJ trained stakeholder teams at each development to conduct public realm audits, which were used to inform design and program strategies to improve crime “hot spots” on the NYCHA campuses.

The Brownsville Houses Action Plan focuses on community-driven revitalization, space activation, lighting, and social programming

at three neighborhood crime hotspots, including Dr. Green Playground. The team recently produced “B-Lit,” their first in a series of activation events, which brought Dr. Green Park to life at night with temporary, interactive lighting installations, youth light workshops, and a “silent” dance party. The Van Dyke Houses action plan focuses on activating three underutilized locations—Van Dyke Playground, “the Living Room,” and a vacant play area—via murals, signage, gardens and social programming focused on health, food and fitness. The Van Dyke stakeholder team presented a series of programs over the spring to bring neighbors together around “Food as Fuel and Healing.”

Another MOCJ initiative, Neighborhood Activation, coordinated a series of community meetings to plan design solutions to improve safety neighborhood-wide. MOCJ invited participants to submit project proposals for two grants totaling \$50,000. One winning proposal, led by Three Black Cats and partners, recruited young people to curate and produce a series of jazz and cultural programs on Belmont Avenue in summer 2018. The other, led by BMS Family Health and Wellness Center (BMS) and partners, launched a series of programs around Howard Houses, Howard Playground, and the Brownsville Library branch in spring 2019. MOCJ continues to work with consultants and community partners to produce “Safe Places, Active Spaces! A Community Guide to Transforming Public Spaces in Your Neighborhood,” which will be released publicly in summer 2019.

PROJECT 2.2 | IN PROGRESS

Study new street crossings and traffic signals by NYCHA superblocs and at park entrances

New street crossings can complement other proposed sidewalk amenities and path improvements, especially at NYCHA developments. For example, as part of the Livonia Avenue Streetscape Plan, DOT is evaluating the potential for new signals and multiple enhanced crossings along Livonia Avenue to improve safety and visibility under the elevated train. DOT plans to conduct additional outreach with stakeholders to determine the level of community interest in the various locations under study.

PROJECT 2.3 | IN PRELIMINARY DESIGN STAGE

Improve pedestrian safety at dangerous intersections

DOT will pursue targeted improvements to dangerous intersections in the area bounded by Dumont Avenue, Powell Street, Rockaway Avenue, and Sutter Avenue. A long-demanded all-way stop sign at the intersection of Dumont Avenue and Junius Street was approved and installed in October 2017. In the last year, DOT has expanded the area for targeted improvements and added a two-way protected bike lane on Powell Street to the scope of work. New markings, curb extensions, bus bulbs, reconstructed medians, a raised crosswalk, and other treatments are all being considered to improve visibility and shorten crossing distances for pedestrians around the neighborhood. This capital project and its expanded scope is anticipated to start construction in FY 2023.

PROJECT FEATURE: “CONNECTIONS” INSTALLATION



Above: One of the figures in the Connection installation, based on portraits of community members. Photo credit: Canarsie Courier.

In fall 2018, Arts East New York, together with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) submitted a winning application to the DOT “Arterventions” program for a mixed media installation by artist Michael Ochoa on the Livonia Avenue pedestrian bridge. The piece, titled “Connections,” aimed to encourage physical activity by enhancing public space. “Connections” was designed

with assistance and input from community members in both East New York and Brownsville. The intervention aims to reflect on the social implications of mental health through portraits of community members and braided EKG lines as symbols for emotion, thought, and cultural diversity. This piece is installed through September 2019.

PROJECT 2.4 | IN PLANNING STAGE

Expand Brownsville's network of bike lanes

In response to feedback at community events over the past year, DOT will install new bike lanes throughout Brownsville in the coming years, continuing work initiated in 2011. DOT plans to present a proposal for a two-way protected lane on Powell Street in fall 2019 to improve cyclist connections to and within Brownsville. DOT is also exploring possible one-way conversions on certain east/west streets in Brownsville as a way to add in pedestrian improvements, while expanding the protected bicycle network and making better connections to/from East New York.

PROJECT 2.5 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Promote use of the new Brownsville bike lanes through DOHMH-supported summer bike rides

In the last few years, DOHMH and partners have supported the Bike East! bike ride, as well as worked with "Live Light Live Right" and Bike New York in supporting their Saturday morning kids ride club. This year, DOHMH supported Bike New York to do a bike swap and giveaway at the Brownsville Block Party in June 2019, where they distributed 32 bikes to the community. They also hosted a mobile pop-up bike repair station and learn-to-ride workshop for youth at East New York Farms, as well as another



Above: Bike giveaway with Bike New York at the annual block party. Photo courtesy of DOHMH.

learn-to-ride workshop at the Dr. Green Playground on a weekend in July. DOHMH continues to support The Brown Bike Girl to host rides this summer in Brownsville and East New York.

PROJECT 2.6 | IN DESIGN STAGE

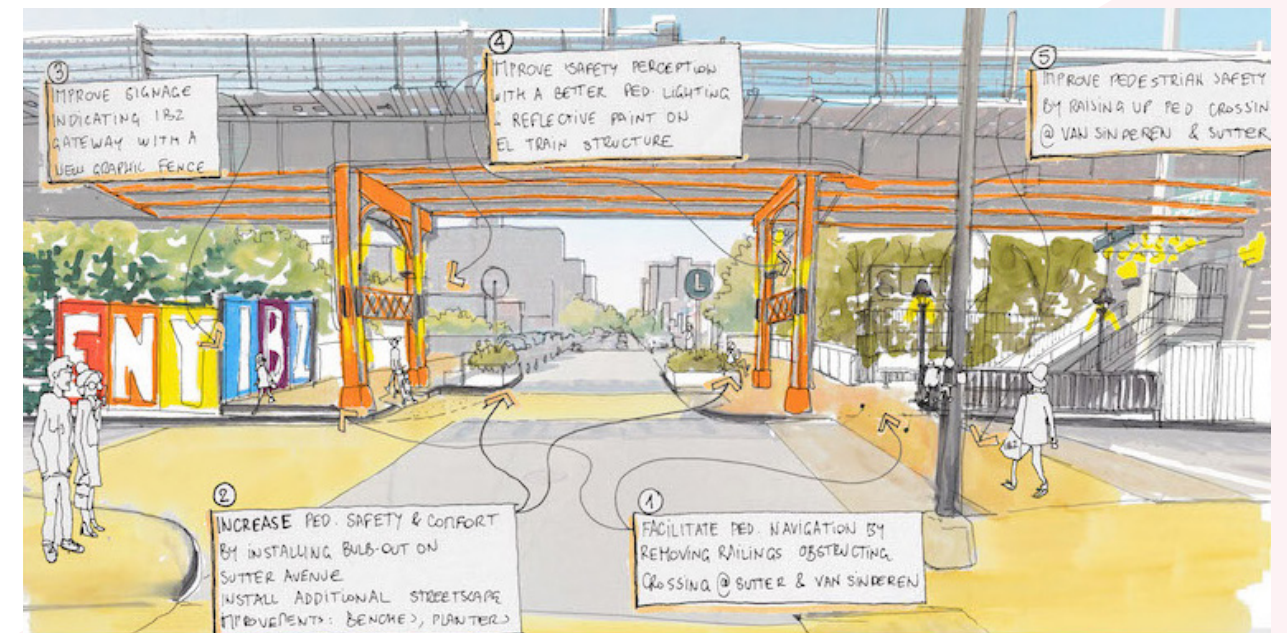
Improve pedestrian connections to East New York

As part of the East New York IBZ plan, which EDC released in 2016, the City is investing \$8.2 million for infrastructure improvements to the area around the intersection of Sutter and Van Sinderen Avenues. The scope of work may include new sidewalks, street repaving, new lighting, curb extensions, and other treatments to improve visibility and shorten crossing distances for pedestrians. Design work began in summer 2018, and community outreach on the design began in spring 2019. Construction is anticipated to start in FY 2021.

PROJECT 2.7 | IN PLANNING STAGE

Make accessibility improvements and create a free connection between the Livonia Avenue and Junius Street subway stations

The City of New York, as part of the MTA's Capital Program, plans to improve connectivity between the two stations, including a free transfer and a new elevator to ensure Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility. The first part of this project is to make the Livonia station ADA accessible. This project has faced some delays partly due to costs, but the City of New York has contributed funding to pay for this first phase to prioritize it. Future phases, to be included in the 2020-2024 MTA Capital Program, are expected to include a physical connection between the stations, as well as an elevator and ADA improvements at the Junius Street station. The connection between the 3 and the L train at this station is currently free while construction work takes place along the L train line.



Above: Sketch of potential improvements to pedestrian connections to East New York at Sutter and Van Sinderen Avenues. Photo courtesy of EDC.

03 CREATE ACTIVE AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES

The Brownsville Plan will facilitate the creation of vibrant parks and public spaces, made active by community programming.

PROJECT UPDATES:



Above: Community leaders, elected officials, and City representatives at the groundbreaking for the start of Betsy Head Park renovations. Photo courtesy of NYC Parks.

PROJECT 3.1 | IN PROGRESS

Make significant and impactful investments in Brownsville's parks and recreation spaces

NYC Parks is working to improve the quality and accessibility of important parks and recreation facilities in Brownsville, with over \$60 million in active capital projects underway as of spring 2017. These include the complete renovation of Betsy Head Park through the Anchor Parks program, which will be completed in two phases. The first phase includes the northern parcel, where everything north of the Imagination Playground will be renovated. Phase I design is complete, and construction began in December 2018. This project will construct a new skate park, basketball courts, an active fitness area, and multipurpose space in the northern parcel of

Betsy Head Park. The second phase includes the ballfield, track, and courts in the southern parcel, and construction begins summer 2019. This project will construct a synthetic turf field, rubberized track, sport courts, and adult fitness equipment area. Separately, responding to a coordinated request from parents in the community, NYC Parks will be renovating the comfort station in the northern parcel of Betsy Head Park. Construction is anticipated to start in fall 2019. In total, NYC Parks is also investing about \$9 million in Brownsville through the Community Parks Initiative. Newport Playground was renovated through the program and re-opened in summer 2019.



Above: Renovations at Newport Playground, which reopened in summer 2019. Photos courtesy of NYC Parks.

PROJECT 3.2 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Use parks and gardens as space for arts and culture

Parks and gardens can provide the backdrop for programs and art installations organized by artists, local groups, or neighbors. NYC Parks, in partnership with BMS Wellness Center and DOHMH, installed an exhibition of children’s works in Howard Playground in November 2017, which was on display until late 2018. NYC Parks GreenThumb continues to encourage public art in gardens and actively seeks proposals for public art in Brownsville. In the last few years, NYC Parks, together with City Parks Foundations and local partners, have brought a series of programming to Brownsville’s parks, including mobile movie events, PuppetMobile shows, Summerstage, and Kids in Motion. Betsy Head Park will continue to host programming events that bring music, dance, and other performing arts to Brownsville, both during and after the renovations.

PROJECT 3.3 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Activate Osborn Plaza as the Neighborhood Innovation Lab Anchor Site

In 2017, Brownsville was selected as the first neighborhood for NYCx Co-Labs, a program of the Mayor’s Office of the Chief Technology Officer (MOCTO). Since then, Osborn Plaza has been activated as the anchor site in Brownsville for activities and technology demonstrations related to NYCx Co-Labs. New public space technologies were introduced in 2017, and publicly-available wi-fi became available at Osborn Plaza through an investment by the Brooklyn Public Library, in partnership with MOCTO, the Brownsville Community Justice Center, and Made in Brownsville.

In 2018, the NYCx Co-Labs program worked with the Brownsville Community Tech Advisory Board and a collaborative of City agencies to launch two NYCx Co-Lab Challenges: Zero Waste in Shared Space and Safe and Thriving Nighttime Corridors. Each winner received \$20,000 to implement their projects, one of which, “Ville-luminate the Block,” installed on Osborn Plaza in summer 2019. Once the evening safety lights



Above: BCJC youth at B-Live setting up a light projection on Osborn Plaza. Photos courtesy of the Center for Court Innovation and MOCTO.

have been installed and tested, MOCTO and Brownsville youth will conduct interviews and collect data to determine the impact of the “Ville-luminate the Block” pilot project, with support from BCJC, DOT and MOCJ. This research will also inform the development of future interventions to increase the use of the public plaza.

PROJECT 3.4 | COMPLETE

Install new permanent light fixtures and cameras at Van Dyke and Brownsville Houses

The new infrastructure is part of a comprehensive security plan to enhance safety for NYCHA residents with more lighting, new doors and additional security cameras. Layered access, exterior lighting, and CCTV installations were completed at both campuses in summer 2018.

PROJECT 3.5 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Continue offering free programming and extended summer hours for teens and adults at Community Centers at Van Dyke, Marcus Garvey, Howard, Seth Low, Hughes, and Tilden Houses

When extended summer hours for teens and adults began as a pilot in 2014, it was the first time in a generation that NYCHA community centers were open past 6:00 PM. As a result, youth and adults have additional opportunities in the summer to participate in recreational and social activities, teen programming, and skills workshops. All Cornerstone centers will continue offering extended summer hours from 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM during the week, and 3:00 PM to 11:00 PM on weekends.

PROJECT 3.6 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Create safe spaces for youth to interact with peers and role models through recreational activities

The Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) works with the Police Athletic League (PAL) to offer sports leagues, Play Streets, and teen programming that facilitates interaction between police and youth. MOCJ renewed its contract with the Police Athletic League to offer year round sports leagues with local kids and precincts at the Brownsville Beacon and 218 Beacon Center. PAL is offering a Playstreet at Howard Houses and at Dr. Green Playground during summer 2019, giving youth, ages 9 to 14, structured sports clinics, tournaments, and free play. MOCJ also contracts with the Brownsville Community Justice Center to provide positive cultural and civic programming for older youth (ages 16-24) during summer 2019.

The Mayor’s Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP), which aims to reduce violent crime in the 15 public housing developments across the city with the highest crime rates, will also continue partnering with PAL and other partners in Brownsville. Activities include continuing the MAP Basketball League; offering a safe and engaging environment for MAP youth; connecting them to programs and services; and expanding the utilization of the current PAL sports league, conflict mediation services, and other MAP programs. Youth ages 14-18 are recruited from MAP developments and offered basketball drills and tournaments, paired with workshops on conflict mediation, job readiness, and healthy relationships. Coaches and mentors include staff from the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) community centers, Department of Probation (DOP) Next Steps credible messengers, NYPD’s Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs), United Recreation League, and local volunteers.

PROJECT FEATURE: NYCX CO-LAB CHALLENGE WINNERS



MOTHERS ON THE MOVE (MOM) is offering a door-to-door recycling pickup service and encouraging residents to recycle through peer-to-peer education. The proposed program was designed by a long-time MOM member and NYCHA resident. In addition, the proposal aims to test how the service can be scaled as a social entrepreneurship opportunity for NYCHA residents. Currently, MOCTO is also supporting MOM to apply for a grant from Closed Loop Partners and turn the pilot into a Department of Sanitation (DSNY) and NYCHA program.

ECORICH, LLC, a New Jersey-based manufacturer, implemented an onsite organics processing system using sealed, automated composters that odorlessly turn food scraps into compost in 24 hours. Removing food waste from landfill-bound garbage has the potential to reduce overall volume of trash by 23 percent. The resulting compost will be available for residents to use in local gardens and at the nearby Howard Houses Farm.



VILLE-LUMINATE THE BLOCK is a collaboration of the Brownsville Community Justice Center (BCJC), Brownsville Partnership, and People's Culture—is designing and implementing a creative lighting installation and 3D projection system at Osborn Plaza that responds to sensor-monitored pedestrian activity. When an individual walks within a certain proximity of the projection or when a certain number of individuals enter the plaza, the lighting installation will shift brightness, color, or imagery. The projections will be easily adaptable to serve the corridor's needs, showcasing community-created art and digital design projects.

ANYWAYS HERE'S THE THING, a design firm in Brooklyn, is augmenting a set of street lamp posts along the Belmont Avenue corridor with programmable, networked, decorative LED light strips that respond to passing pedestrians with fluctuating radiance. As pedestrians pass under the lamps the lights will shine brighter. The lighting animations, which can also be triggered by external data such as social media use on Belmont Avenue, aim to create an active, responsive atmosphere that indicates the presence of activity and subtly encourages greater use of Belmont Avenue at night.

CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN SAFETY

In August 2019, the City announced nearly \$9 million in direct funding to support the Brownsville community following the mass shooting on July 27.

The new funding reflects priorities identified by the community, and will bolster and expand community-driven initiatives supported by the Mayor's Office to Prevent Gun Violence and the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP), as well as provide much needed City resources in helping the community heal from recent violence. This includes \$5.2 million for the renovation of the Brownsville Houses Community Center, \$140,000 for new NYPD security cameras and public lighting around the Brownsville Playground, and other investments and programming.

These investments strengthen key aspects of the City's approach to making the public central to public safety, including youth, local organizations, and physical infrastructure in the Brownsville community.

04 PROVIDE RESOURCES TO PROMOTE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

The Brownsville Plan will improve access to healthy food, community gardens, quality healthcare, and places to exercise.

PROJECT UPDATES:



Above: Howard Harvest Fest at Howard Houses Farm, fall 2018. Photo courtesy of Green City Force.

PROJECT 4.1 | IN PROGRESS

Incorporate health into the goals of the Brownsville RFP

The Brownsville RFP for the Livonia Avenue sites encouraged proposals to feature design and programming to improve health for residents and the surrounding neighborhood, including healthy food options, opportunities to be physically active, and spaces for social gathering. The selected proposal will feature, in addition to over 420 new affordable homes, a supermarket, café/community kitchen, and 10,000-square-foot rooftop garden accessible

to residents and community members that will serve as a new local source of fresh produce (a proposed collaboration between Isabahlia Ladies of Elegance, Project Eats, and GrowNYC). The project will also include a senior center, a youth and family activity center, and social services. Proposals for each RFP site were also encouraged to incorporate best practices in sustainability and energy efficiency; the proposed development at the Rockaway Ave RFP site will pursue LEED Platinum certification. A more detailed description of the sites in the RFP can be found on page 12-13.

PROJECT 4.2 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Increase access to healthy food

As of June 2018, Shop Healthy NYC completed two years of programming in Brownsville and Ocean Hill. Of the 224 initial eligible open food retail stores identified in two zip codes, about 175 stores enrolled into the Shop Healthy NYC program and agreed to improve the placement, promotion, and availability of healthier foods, drinks, and snacks in their stores. 117 of them implemented at least six of the seven required criteria toward that goal. In order to support the sustainability of changes made and drive demand, over the past two years, Shop Healthy NYC hosted two stakeholder meetings to develop agendas around food retail/distribution activities and engaged over 100 community members.

Building Healthy Communities (BHC), a Mayoral initiative to improve health through investments in food access, physical activity and public spaces, has sponsored multiple Brownsville Youthmarkets (urban farm stands operated by neighborhood youth and supplied by farmers) together with Isabahlia Ladies of Elegance Foundation, Project Eats, Brownsville Partnership, and GrowNYC. The Brownsville Rockaway Youthmarket, Brownsville Pitkin Youthmarket, and Inner Force Tots Fresh Food Box open in Brownsville starting in July 2018, delivering tens of thousands of pounds of fresh produce. HealthBucks coupons are now

redeemable year round with SNAP for fresh fruit and vegetables at most sites. During the summer and fall of 2018, BHC supported Isabahlia Ladies of Elegance Foundation in the second year of their Food Bag program. In 2019, BHC is funding Isabahlia to offer a nutrition education program to Van Dyke residents. BHC and GreenThumb will also be issuing an RFP in fall 2019 to offer support for community gardens interested in expanding capacity to grow and distribute fresh produce.

PROJECT 4.3 | IN PROCUREMENT STAGE

Renovate the Brownsville Recreation Center

NYC Parks' recreation centers are home to New York City's most affordable and extensive network of recreational services and programs. Brownsville Recreation Center (BRC) has amenities ranging from an indoor pool to popular basketball courts, as well as meeting spaces and a computer resource center. NYC Parks is planning \$18.5 million in interior reconstruction of the BRC that will update many of the facilities. The project will revitalize the center by opening up spaces and providing a new entrance experience. Construction was originally expected to begin in summer 2018, but was delayed due to requested design changes and permitting approvals. Construction on the recreation center is now anticipated to begin in 2020, with anticipated completion in 2021.



Above: Rendering of the proposed entry improvements at the Brownsville Recreation Center. Photo courtesy of NYC Parks.



Above: Youth at the Brownsville Teen Lounge. Photo courtesy of MOCJ.

PROJECT 4.4 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Increase opportunities to garden and grow fresh produce in Brownsville

Through the Farms at NYCHA initiative, young NYCHA residents are building and maintaining farms on public housing properties across the city, and delivering thousands of pounds of fresh produce to residents. In partnership with Green City Force, NYCHA residents can access free produce at the Howard Houses Farm in exchange for volunteering. For Brownsville’s young people, Grow to Learn helps schools start and expand their gardens for school-based learning through grants and technical assistance. Over a dozen schools in Brownsville now have school gardens, with two schools – CS 792 and PS 368 – receiving grants last school year to support their continued development. Since 2016, BHC has awarded over \$135,000 in funding to support local efforts to increase food access and education, improve opportunities for physical fitness, and promote safe, vibrant public

spaces. BHC recently closed another grant opportunity totaling up to \$60,000 in funding, designed to support Brownsville-based groups interested in engaging community members in public space, and will announce the winners in fall 2019. A second annual grant for community gardens interested in expanding food growing and distribution is also being developed in partnership with NYC Parks GreenThumb.

PROJECT 4.5 | COMPLETE

Create a new Teen Center at Brownsville Houses

The Brownsville Teen Center, which opened in spring 2017, is a new community center for young people that occupies a newly renovated space in the Senior Center at the Brownsville Houses. The Teen Center features homework help, project-based learning opportunities, and recreational activities including dance, wrestling, boxing, soccer, basketball, and the arts.

PROJECT 4.6 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Bring composting pick-up to Brownsville to promote organics composting

In May 2017, the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) delivered over 8,000 free brown bins to residential buildings in Community District 16 with up to nine apartments and began curb collection of organics. Items such as food scraps, food-soiled paper, and leaf and yard waste are now collected to turn them into compost and clean energy. DSNY conducted educational outreach events in the past couple of years, reaching more than 3,000 residents, and DSNY continues to expand organics composting efforts. The EcoRich pilot with Mothers on the Move, as part of the NYCx Co-Lab Zero Waste in Shared Space challenge to reduce waste and increase recycling in Brownsville Houses completed in 2018. DSNY is now transitioning to enrolling high rise buildings in organics collection service and expanding the number of Food Scrap Drop Off Sites to provide more opportunities for more Brownsville residents living in high-rise apartments to compost their organics. Two additional sites were recruited for organics collection service,

including the Brownsville Community Justice Center and the Salvation Army Brooklyn Brownsville Corps. Based on feedback from Brownsville residents, DSNY is also working with the Brownsville Community Justice Center and the Mayor’s Office of the Chief Technology Officer to open a food scrap drop-off location with 24-hour accessibility.

PROJECT 4.7 | COMPLETE

Train 40 local ShapeUp NYC instructors to teach classes in Brownsville, East New York, and Canarsie

ShapeUp NYC offers free exercise classes in parks, gardens, and community centers. Working with community partners, NYC Parks conducted extensive outreach in 2017 to recruit 40 new instructors in Brownsville, East New York, and Canarsie. These new instructors were trained starting September 2017 and are now teaching free classes for a wide variety of ages and abilities, increasing access to free physical activity throughout the neighborhood. This neighborhood-based expansion of Shape Up NYC classes was funded by Building Healthy Communities.



Above: Intergenerational Zumba class in Brownsville. Photo courtesy of the Center for Court Innovation.

PROJECT 4.8 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Reduce racial disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes through the Wellness Suite at the Brownsville Neighborhood Health Action Center

The Family Wellness Suite is estimated to be complete in Summer 2019. In the meantime, Family Wellness Suite programming has commenced services, targeting the three main drivers for poor maternal and infant health outcomes: safe sleep, women’s health, and toxic stress and trauma. Offerings to date include crib and car seat distribution, infant safety courses, and fitness classes targeting women of reproductive age. Home visiting service providers have been convened in order to improve access and systems delivery. DOHMH is also working with local organizations and stakeholders to develop a coordinated placed-based strategy to

address maternal and infant health outcomes. Between January and May 2019, over 1,200 Brooklyn residents have participated in Family Wellness Suite programming and special events.

DOHMH is also working with local organizations and home visiting service providers to develop a coordinated placed-based strategy to address maternal and infant health outcomes. A Baby Café breastfeeding support group was launched in May 2018, serving approximately 15-20 parents that meet weekly for breast feeding support. Other events of note include YogaNoir Motherhood Edition, which encourages parents to consider yoga as an outlet for self-care; a Human Trafficking and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) forum; and a graduation for Baby Café participants who reached a one-year milestone breastfeeding their babies.



Top to bottom: Free yoga classes, infant safety and CPR training, and Brooklyn Daddy Iron Chef class at the Brownsville Neighborhood Health Action Center. Photos courtesy of DOHMH.

05 CONNECT BROWNSVILLE RESIDENTS TO JOBS AND JOB TRAINING

The Brownsville Plan will ensure that City investments in Brownsville's places are paired with access to jobs and educational resources for Brownsville's people.

PROJECT UPDATES:



Above: Rendering of proposed B'Ville Hub, bringing street activity at the RFP site at Christopher and Glenmore Avenues. Rendering courtesy of the development team.

PROJECT 5.1 | IN PROGRESS

Require Brownsville RFP respondents to implement a targeted hiring outreach plan

HPD required RFP respondents to demonstrate a plan for targeted employment outreach to residents of Brownsville and Ocean Hill related to the proposed projects. Each of the winning proposals includes a targeted hiring outreach plan that involves working closely with Community Board 16 (CB16), local organizations, and local elected officials. In spring 2019, HPD convened

a meeting with the selected teams to encourage coordination on workforce training, hiring plans, and MWBE procurement. The teams attended the June 2019 Economic Development Stakeholder Group, convened by CB16, to learn more about existing efforts and goals to improve quality and coordination of workforce services and resources in Brownsville. The development teams will continue to refine their targeted employment outreach plans together with community partners, and will be required to comply with their plans and report regularly on their outreach activities.

PROJECT 5.2 | IN PROGRESS

Promote coordination between City workforce development providers and other community-based organizations assisting job seekers

Building on Community Board 16's (CB16) initiative to convene economic development stakeholders in Brownsville, the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development and JobsFirstNYC strategized on an approach for strengthening community-led partnerships to address local workforce development challenges. As of June 2019, JobsFirstNYC successfully leveraged existing private funding to launch, in partnership with CB16, community asset mapping and stakeholder convening around the workforce needs of the community. This effort will commence in fall 2019.

PROJECT 5.3 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Require developers, general contractors, and subcontractors on major projects in Brownsville to use HireNYC

All firms working on HPD and other applicable City projects receiving more than \$1 million in City subsidy (\$2 million from HPD) are required to share job openings for entry- and mid-level construction positions with HireNYC and interview qualified candidates referred by the Workforce1 Center system.

PROJECT 5.4 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Create 3-K for All in School District 23

Starting in fall 2017, the City began providing free, full-day education for three-year-old children regardless of family income, starting in School District 23 (Brownsville). In the 2018-19 school year, the program served approximately 600 three-year-olds, including 460 new 3-K for all seats and 140 in existing Early Learn seats. 3-K is universally available in District 23. This is part of a broader effort to create a continuum of early care and education programs for New York City children from birth to five years old.

PROJECT 5.5 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Expand outreach for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and work with local businesses to host summer youth workers

Since 2016, Brownsville has seen increases in the number of applications and enrollment in the SYEP program, in large part due to increased outreach. In early 2018, the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and CB16 organized two SYEP workshops during school Winter Break, to encourage more Brownsville youth to apply to the 2018 program. DYCD promoted the workshops through local elected officials, CB16, Community Education Council 23, and community partners. Emails were also sent to Brownsville youth who



Above: Participant in the Summer Youth Employment Program. Photo courtesy of DYCD.

submitted a SYEP application during the past three years, to encourage them to re-apply for the 2018 program. In summer 2018, within Brooklyn Community District 16, over 6,000 youth applied, which is an increase of 400 over the previous year and 800 more than in 2016). DYCD enrolled about 2,900 Brownsville youth in the 2018 SYEP program, accounting for almost four percent of the total 75,000 SYEP slots available city-wide. This figure is about a 20 percent increase from 2016. About 398 Brownsville-based employers hired SYEP youth—an increase of about 40 worksites from the previous years. Some of the employers included Brookdale Hospital, NYPD, NYCHA, Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, and Assembly Member Latrice Walker, among others. Numbers from summer 2019 will be available in the fall.

Because of the important role of youth employment in improving community safety and well-being, the Mayor’s Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP) has partnered with the DYCD to ensure that MAP residents who are 14-24 years of age and successfully apply and enroll in SYEP receive secured summer positions rather than being entered into the general lottery system. MAP agency partners and residents engage Brownsville and Van Dyke Houses consistently through in-person activities and events, e-blasts, robo-calls, and peer-led outreach to make sure all households are aware of this opportunity. These efforts have resulted in over 2,300 applications and 1,791 enrollments to date since 2015 in just Brownsville and Van Dyke Houses alone. This year, MAP and DYCD piloted a new strategy of supporting specific providers to work with MAP residents and, in doing so, closed the gap between the number of initial applications and final enrolled SYEP participants for MAP developments.

PROJECT 5.6 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Pilot a Young Innovators Program

The Mayor’s Office of the Chief Technology Officers (MOCTO), The Mayor’s Fund, and The Brownsville Community Justice Center (BCJC) partnered to pilot a Young Innovators Program for young people from Brownsville to directly connect with the City’s NYCx Co-Labs initiative and provide a pathway to technology careers through exposure to new technologies, mentors, and skills development. In 2017, the partnership successfully secured a \$100,000 grant from BNY Mellon Grant to launch the program, and continued to secure additional funds for a total of three cohorts.

PROJECT 5.7 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Provide opportunities to bring computer science education to Brownsville schools

CS4All is a DOE initiative whose goal is to ensure that students receive meaningful, high quality computer science education at every grade level. CS4All is providing free training opportunities for teachers to implement computer science instruction during the

regular school day as a multi-year sequence, a semester-long course, or a unit integrated into other subjects. CS4All has Education Managers assigned to school districts that can help with professional development training, guidance for in-school computer science implementation, and best practices in computer science education.

Visit CS4all.nyc for more information and opportunities.

PROJECT 5.8 | IN PROGRESS

Create spaces for technology and innovation through the Brownsville RFP

HPD required applicants for the Christopher-Glenmore site to include opportunities for education, workforce development, or businesses incubation, with an emphasis on technology and innovation. The winning proposal, Glenmore Manor Apartments, will feature an innovation and entrepreneurship hub called “The B’Ville Hub,” run by the Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation (CBEDC), in conjunction with Medgar Evers College and other partners. The new facility will also be home to the Brooklyn



Above: Participants in the Young Innovators Program. Photo courtesy of MOCTO.

PROJECT FEATURE: YOUNG INNOVATORS PROGRAM

Cooperative Credit Union, which will enable local businesses and residents to access capital and receive assistance. There will also be a sit-down restaurant and a locally-owned salon and beauty products company, who are committed to hosting community events and working with CBEDC to support local economic and community development initiatives.

PROJECT 5.9 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Offer workforce training in green industries for young NYCHA residents

Through the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP), Green City Force recruits and trains a minimum of 50 young people (18 to 24) from select NYCHA developments, including Brownsville and Van Dyke Houses. The program reinforces

vocational skills utilized in the green energy field while also providing technical training and education. Each Corps Member receives technical training tied to building skills and education around community sustainability (energy efficiency, water systems, recycling, composting, etc.) in an effort to add value to the community, while offering young people marketable skills and positive mentorship.

The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice renewed another contract with Green City Force for the next fiscal year.



Above: Green City Force Youth in Brownsville. Photo courtesy of Green City Force.



Above: Brownsville youth feature their Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality (VR/AR) innovations. Photo courtesy of MOCTO.

Between summer 2017 and spring 2018, the Young Innovators Program trained 37 Brownsville youth with an intensive 16-week skills development and professional training program that used project-based learning to teach the foundations of technology application development in the context of neighborhood problem-solving. The cohorts developed the following products:

- The first cohort of 10 young people in the Young Innovators program created an augmented reality application, BCJC LIVE (recently published in the App Store), that uses Brownsville landmarks to open digital portals into youth-led creative marketplaces, where teens can sell photography, artwork, music, and creative craft.
- The second cohort designed a digital campaign including branding graphics and a website to support female empowerment in Brownsville while also designing and producing a clothing brand.
- The third cohort designed and built a mesh network to expand free wireless access on the Belmont Avenue corridor in partnership

with the Brooklyn Public Library and NYCx Co-Labs, while also learning about network security, data sharing, and safety.

Thanks to the renewal of the BNY Mellon grant in 2018, a total of 55 youth were engaged through the Young Innovators Academy, who developed:

- A virtual reality video game. Using GIS mapping data, the youth recreated their neighborhood — from barbershops to eateries to public housing complexes — and built them in 3-D using a software called Unity. They conducted more than a hundred interviews with residents and pulled themes from those interviews to write an overarching storyline. They scanned residents in front of a green screen to rebuild them digitally as characters and storytellers in the game.
- A projection mapping lighting installation for the Ville-luminate the Block NYCx Co-Lab Pilot on Osborn Plaza.
- Weekly workshops in collaboration with SAFELab at Columbia University, which focuses on leveraging technology and social media to reduce youth violence.

Young Innovators participants have presented at the Municipal Art Society Summit for NYC, the NYC Media Labs' annual VR/AR event Exploring Future Realities, the StemConnector Summit in Washington, D.C., and the Allied Media Conference in Detroit.

Upon completion of the program, interns enter one of multiple pathways. They may be connected to professional internships or training programs, invited to stay engaged with the Brownsville Community Justice Center Tech Lab as a collective member, or invited to connect to independently contracted and paid work while still receiving program support.

06 SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES AND ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS

The Brownsville Plan will support local businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs to grow their enterprises in Brownsville.

PROJECT UPDATES:



Above: Pitkin Avenue BID Director Daniel Murphy with Small Business Services' mobile van staff, bringing support on-the-go to small business owners and entrepreneurs. Photo courtesy of SBS.

PROJECT 6.1 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Connect entrepreneurs to resources to start, operate, and grow their businesses

Small Business Services (SBS) is committed to connecting Brownsville entrepreneurs and business owners with free resources to help them start, operate, and grow their businesses. Through three Chamber On-the-Go visits in 2018, SBS directly connected 79 businesses along Pitkin Avenue, Rockaway Avenue, and East 98th Street between Rutland Road and Dumont Avenue, with

small business specialists to provide free support and resources. These visits were held in November 2018, January 2019, and June 2019, where staff connected Brownsville entrepreneurs and businesses owners with information about Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) certification and workforce development services, information regarding the foam ban and DSNY's new organics waste rules, and free legal services on commercial leases. Businesses can continue accessing SBS's services through one-on-one counseling or classes.

Visit nyc.gov/sbs for more information.



Above: Before and after storefront improvements along Pitkin Avenue. Photos courtesy of Pitkin Avenue BID.

PROJECT 6.2 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Provide program support for storefront improvements throughout the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District

With technical assistance support from SBS and approximately \$230,000 in New York State Main Street grant funding, the Pitkin Avenue BID facilitated storefront improvements to six storefronts along Pitkin Avenue. Construction for all six storefronts was completed by spring 2019. In January 2019, the BID successfully reapplied for an additional \$250,000, which it will use to renovate at least six additional storefronts by December 2020.

PROJECT 6.3 | IN PROGRESS

Promote the design of flexible ground floor spaces that can accommodate a range of uses, including local businesses

The Brownsville RFP sites provide an opportunity to strengthen neighborhood corridors through the high-quality design of ground-floor spaces that promote local businesses, economic activity, and walkable streets. The Christopher-Glenmore RFP site



will feature a diverse mix of commercial uses that encourage street activity and provide community resources, including a sit-down restaurant, beauty salon, and credit union. It will also be home to the B'Ville Hub, run by the Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation and their partners to provide programming around entrepreneurship and business/non-profit incubation. The RFP sites on Livonia Ave will feature a mix of active community facility and commercial spaces, including a youth and family recreation facility near Betsy Head Park, supermarket, café, and community garden.



Above: Niambi, founder of Pholk Beauty, who will be a future small business tenant at the Christopher-Glenmore RFP site, giving away natural skincare product samples at the Brownsville Plan One-Year Anniversary celebration in September 2018. Photo credit: HPD.

PROJECT 6.4 | IN PROGRESS

Promote networking of local contractors, subcontractors, and developers in the neighborhood

EDC continues to work with the Local Development Corporation of East New York (LDCENY) on an ongoing basis to promote East New York Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) businesses that specialize in construction trades and materials. EDC worked with LDCENY to improve marketing material for “Meet the Developer” events. HPD will coordinate with EDC and local organizations to host a networking event with the Brownsville RFP development teams and other real estate projects in the neighborhood to encourage local subcontractor participation in the construction of affordable housing.

PROJECT 6.5 | COMPLETE

Launch a marketing campaign to promote diverse local businesses and local sourcing in the IBZ

An East New York Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) Marketing Campaign was launched in fall 2017 to coincide with National Manufacturer’s Day. The campaign was developed by EDC in partnership with the Local Development Corporation of East New York and the East Brooklyn Business Improvement District (BID). The campaign includes vibrant new street banners, a revamped website for the BID, and two new large format banners located at key intersections in the industrial park to improve the overall look and appearance of the IBZ and highlight the diversity of industries that currently call the IBZ home. The campaign also included the creation of unique pamphlets and promotional material for the BID to share with new businesses interested in relocating to the IBZ.

PROJECT 6.6 | IN PROGRESS

Renovate the EDC-owned industrial building on Powell Street

EDC is investing \$6 million to rehabilitate the East New York Industrial Building at 181 Powell Street. Construction began in summer 2019 on a series of building enhancements, including: grading and repaving the surface parking lot and loading areas; installing new exterior lighting; rehabilitation and abatement of the façade; and upgrading the building’s mechanical systems; and installing new windows, signage, and perimeter fencing. EDC anticipates construction completion around summer 2020. These improvements will modernize the building and create new job opportunities for local residents in targeted, high-growth industries.

07 IMPROVE HOUSING STABILITY AND SUPPORT RESIDENTS AT RISK OF DISPLACEMENT

In addition to creating new affordable housing in Brownsville, the City is working on multiple fronts to keep New Yorkers in their homes and maintain the housing stock in good financial and physical shape.

PROJECT UPDATES:



Above: HPD staff surveying vacant and abandoned homes in Brownsville for HPD’s Zombie Homes Initiative. Photo credit: HPD.

PROJECT 7.1 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Use the City’s financing programs to safeguard the affordability of existing homes

HPD will actively promote loan and tax benefit programs to building owners to help them improve the physical and financial stability of their properties while preserving affordability for existing tenants. Many owners are either not aware of HPD’s programs or do not have experience with a public agency, so HPD has made its programs more flexible

and responsive to property owners’ needs. HPD also hosts various events, such as property owner resource fairs and clinics, both at its office location at 100 Gold Street in Lower Manhattan, and in the neighborhood in partnership with elected officials and Community Board 16.

For more information on HPD’s financing programs, visit nyc.gov/letsinvest.

If you own property and want to know whether HPD’s programs might be a good fit, please contact letsinvest@hpd.nyc.gov.

PROJECT 7.2 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Promote safe and healthy housing through rigorous enforcement of the Housing Maintenance Code

HPD responds to 311 calls and Housing Court requests by sending inspectors to see if building conditions violate the City's Housing Maintenance Code. If owners do not correct violations, buildings may enter into one of HPD's enforcement programs, including emergency repair or litigation, as necessary. The agency also partners with community groups and elected officials to identify and survey buildings where poor housing conditions or harassment are putting tenants at risk of displacement.

If your landlord is neglecting repairs in your building or endangering the health and safety of you or your neighbors, please call 311.

PROJECT 7.3 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Protect tenants by continuing to provide free legal representation in Housing Court

The City is funding universal access to legal services for tenants facing eviction in Housing Court and NYCHA tenancy termination proceedings. While Universal Access is being implemented in phases across the city, Brownsville tenants earning up to roughly \$50,000 can access free legal services. Free legal counseling will be available to those earning more. Tenants can call 311 and ask to be connected to free legal services. The New York City Tenant Support Unit also conduct proactive outreach in Brownsville to assist tenants with accessing important City resources, including free legal assistance and home-related repairs.

For more information on free legal services, call 311.

PROJECT 7.4 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Continue offering homelessness prevention services through the Brownsville HomeBase Center

The Brownsville HomeBase Center at 145 East 98th Street, operated by the RiseBoro Community Partnership, aims to keep families from being evicted and entering the shelter system. Counselors are available to help families access emergency rent assistance, apply for public benefits, and obtain other important services.

The Brownsville HomeBase Center can be reached at (917) 819-3200.

PROJECT 7.5 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Support homeowners facing foreclosure or who need help financing repairs

HPD, in partnership with the Center for New York City Neighborhoods and local housing counselors, is implementing a coordinated outreach effort to ensure that homeowners, especially elderly homeowners, are aware of available resources, such as home repair loans and free financial and legal advice. Between April 2018 and March 2019, the Center's network partners assisted 750 Brownsville homeowners, saving 156 homes from foreclosure or other forms of displacement, and dozens of others cases still pending.

Homeowners in need of assistance can reach the Center by calling 311 or directly at (855) HOME-456 during business hours.



Above: The Center for New York City Neighborhoods (CNYCN) running a help desk at a homeowner resource fair. Photo courtesy of CNYCN.

PROJECT 7.6 | IN PROGRESS

Create new homeownership opportunities and provide resources for first-time home-buyers

HPD promotes the construction of new homeownership units for moderate- and middle-income households through its New Infill Homeownership Opportunities Program (NIHOP) and Open Door program, which enables affordable condos/co-ops. There are many affordable homes planned for development in Brownsville that will be available for sale over the next several years.

Additionally, HPD expanded its HomeFirst Down Payment Assistance Program, which now provides qualified first-time home-buyers with up to \$40,000 toward the down payment or closing costs on a one- to four-family home. The program also connects applicants with home-buyer education courses taught by HPD-approved counseling organizations.

For more information on homeownership for first time buyers, visit nyc.gov/homeownership.

PROJECT 7.7 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Help Brownsville residents understand, prepare for, and complete the affordable housing application process

HPD continues to take steps to help prepare residents to submit complete and accurate applications for new affordable housing opportunities. For example, HPD's Housing Ambassadors Program trains local community groups to provide free technical assistance and financial counseling to residents who wish to apply for affordable housing. Through the Brownsville Plan process, HPD has enrolled the Brownsville Partnership and BMS Family Health and Wellness Centers as Housing Ambassadors to serve the Brownsville community.

For more information on housing ambassadors or to find one near you, visit nyc.gov/housing-ambassadors or call 311.

PROJECT FEATURE: NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BROWNSVILLE

In addition to the new affordable housing and community amenities that will be developed on the Brownsville RFP sites (in orange on the map), other mixed-use, 100% affordable housing projects are in various stages of development in the neighborhood. These developments serve extremely low- to low-income households, including formerly homeless households. Some developments also offer homeownership opportunities for moderate-income households.



STONE HOUSE

Opened in summer 2018, the Stone House includes 150 new permanently affordable homes for formerly homeless, very low-, and low-income households. The building includes ground-floor retail and on-site social services. This project was developed by Women in Need (WIN).



EDWIN'S PLACE

Edwin's Place will include approximately 125 affordable homes for formerly homeless and low-income individuals and families. This project is a collaboration between Breaking Ground and the African American Planning Commission, who will be providing on-site supportive services. The ground-floor will include space for community facility or retail, which will contribute to developing the Livonia Avenue retail corridor. Construction is expected to be completed in 2020.

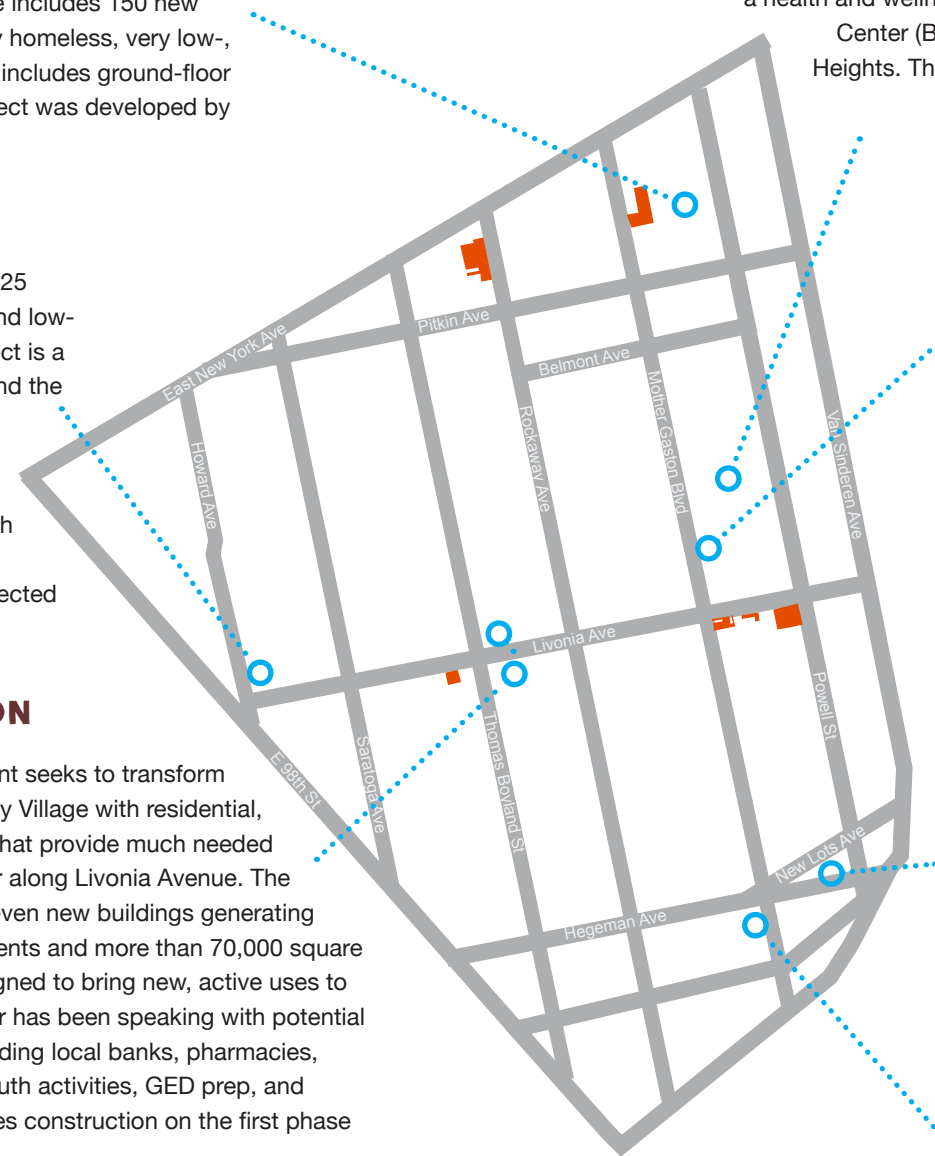


MARCUS GARVEY EXTENSION

The Marcus Garvey Extension Development seeks to transform underutilized parking lots in Marcus Garvey Village with residential, commercial, and community facility uses that provide much needed housing and create a vibrant retail corridor along Livonia Avenue. The phased development project will create seven new buildings generating approximately 675 new affordable apartments and more than 70,000 square feet of retail and community facilities designed to bring new, active uses to the Livonia Avenue corridor. The developer has been speaking with potential retail and community facility tenants, including local banks, pharmacies, grocery stores, tech computer centers, youth activities, GED prep, and daycare. The development team anticipates construction on the first phase can start around 2020/2021.

NCP/NIHOP SITES IN BROWNSVILLE (SCATTERED)

HPD is working with three separate development teams to build on small, scattered, City-owned vacant sites into approximately 56 affordable rentals and 49 affordable homeownership co-ops across eight new buildings in Community District 16. The co-ops will be permanently affordable as part of the Interboro Community Land Trust. These developments are part of three larger clusters, which have additional sites in surrounding neighborhoods. The three development teams are led by Fifth Avenue Committee, Habitat for Humanity, and JMR Residential Development together with Alembic Community Development. While one project began local land use approvals in May 2019, the other two are still in predevelopment stages and need to obtain local land use approvals.



*Orange lots indicate Brownsville RFP sites

VAN DYKE III

Van Dyke III is a new affordable housing development on what is currently a parking lot on the Van Dyke NYCHA campus along Dumont Avenue. The proposed 12-story, mixed-use building will include approximately 179 affordable homes for low-income families to be developed by Trinity Financial Inc. in partnership with Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corp. In addition, the building will include approximately 25,000 square feet of community facility space, including a health and wellness center operated by Brownsville Multi Service Family Health Center (BMS) and an early learning center operated by Friends of Crown Heights. The project began construction in early 2019 and is anticipated to be completed in spring 2021.



603 MOTHER GASTON BLVD

Also known as Affordable and Supportive Family Housing at Van Dyke, this development opened in spring 2018. The 12-story building includes 100 new affordable homes for formerly homeless and low-income families and individuals, some of whom are from the NYCHA waiting list. This project was developed by CAMBA, who is also providing on-site supportive services for tenants.



EBENEZER PLAZA

The Ebenezer Plaza project will provide approximately 532 affordable homes for extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income households, as well as formerly homeless households. The project will include ground-floor retail/community facility space and a new sanctuary separately owned and managed by the Church of God of East Flatbush. The project is being developed by Procida Companies in partnership with Brisa Builders Corp. and Evergreen City LLC. The first and second phases began construction in July 2018 and summer 2019, respectively, and the last phase is anticipated to begin in early 2020.



210-214 HEGEMAN AVE

Located on Hegeman Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Watkins Street, this new eight-story building will include approximately 70 studio apartments for formerly homeless and low-income individuals. This project will be developed by CAMBA, who will also provide on-site support services. Construction started in January 2018 and is anticipated to be completed in February 2020.



For open affordable housing lotteries, check nyc.gov/housingconnect. To find a Housing Ambassador near you to help with the application process, visit nyc.gov/housing-ambassadors.

08 PROVIDE SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

Providing local organizations with the tools needed to improve and expand their operations will allow them to more effectively fill the gaps between City programs and services.

PROJECT UPDATES:



Above: The proposed Brownsville Arts Center (BAC) on the Rockaway Avenue RFP site will be home to the Brooklyn Music School, BRIC, and Purelements: An Evolution in Dance. Photos courtesy of the BAC development team.

PROJECT 8.1 | IN PROGRESS

Implement the goals of the citywide Cultural Plan

HPD and the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) partnered on the release of the Rockaway-Chester site within the Brownsville RFP, requiring proposals to incorporate a new arts and cultural center. The winning proposal for this site includes the Brownsville Arts Center (BAC), which will feature an approximately 24,000-square-foot cultural

facility that will be home to Purelements, a local dance company and performing arts school; the Brooklyn Music School; and a media and contemporary arts center run by BRIC. The project will also include a new public plaza with permanent seating for concerts and impromptu performances; a gallery that will feature the work of local artists; and an approximately 3,500-square-foot black box theater, managed by Artspace, that will host a variety of performances open to the community.

PROJECT 8.2 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Pair local organizations with Capacity Fund grants from the Partnership for Parks to facilitate community projects in parks

The Partnerships for Parks' Capacity Fund Grant program, presented by TD Bank, provides grants of up to \$5,000 to strengthen the outreach, membership, and program planning capacity of community groups who care for their parks. The Capacity Fund Grant program prioritizes awards to Community Parks Initiative neighborhoods, including Brownsville. In the 2018 fiscal year, grants were provided to Friends of Brownsville Parks to assist with group development and fundraising events; BMS Family Health and Wellness Centers to implement an Art in the Park grant for Howard Playground; Isabahlia Ladies of Elegance for its Student Ambassador Program; and Brownsville Community Justice Center to conduct a five-week clean up at Dr. Green Playground. In 2019, City Parks Foundation did not award any Capacity Fund grants to Brownsville parks but continues to assist local park partnership groups with fundraising efforts.

PROJECT 8.3 | COMPLETE

Work with the East Brooklyn Arts and Culture Alliance (EBACA) to determine appropriate next steps to building the cultural capacity of Brownsville

DCLA's Building Community Capacity (BCC) unit is working with the East Brooklyn Arts and Culture Alliance (EBACA) Steering Committee to establish a strategic plan. The diverse coalition of cultural stakeholders is committed to creating greater awareness of local cultural activities through a multi-format communications strategy and identifying resources and establishing cross-sector relationships to help enhance local arts and cultural activities. With BCC funding, EBACA

hired a dedicated project manager to provide technical support in this process. This work concluded on June 30, 2018.

PROJECT 8.4 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Convene City agencies and residents in regular NeighborhoodStat meetings

The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) is leading NeighborhoodStat (NSTAT), a groundbreaking semi-annual convening that mobilizes residents, law enforcement, community groups, and other City agencies to reframe the concept of public safety by addressing the underlying drivers of crime at Brownsville Houses and Van Dyke Houses through collective problem solving and information sharing. Teams of local stakeholders meet regularly and help lead local versions of NeighborhoodStat for Brownsville and Van Dyke Houses. Their priorities include the activation of neighborhood "hot spots" like Dr. Green Playground and Mother Gaston Boulevard, positive opportunities for youth development, improved maintenance of NYCHA public spaces, and access to healthy food and fitness. Stakeholder teams continue to regularly meet with City agencies to address these issues.

PROJECT 8.5 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Launch the Brownsville Community Tech Advisory Board

The Brownsville Community Tech Advisory Board is a group of neighborhood leaders that are cultivating local knowledge of smart city approaches, urban data science, and technology prototyping. The group is tasked with drafting and refining a set of priorities and focus areas where new technologies can have the greatest impact in Brownsville. In 2017, the group completed a workshop series that initiated an agency engagement process resulting in the publication of two



Above: Fall 2018 Brownsville NeighborhoodStat (NSTAT) Meeting. Photo courtesy of MOCJ.

NYCx Co-Lab Challenges around increasing public safety and night time activity on Belmont Avenue, and reducing waste at Brownsville Houses. In early 2018, the Tech Advisory Board reviewed and advised on the selection of two proposed Challenges: “Safe and Thriving Nighttime Corridors” and “Zero Waste in Shared Space.” The pilot initiatives are currently taking place. MOCTO is also evaluating strategies to activate the Tech Advisory Board beyond the pilot demonstrations, including exploring fundraising strategies to support future work in the community.

PROJECT 8.5 | COMPLETE WITH ONGOING WORK

Provide opportunities for partnerships with local organizations through the Brownsville RFP

In September 2018, HPD hosted an informational and networking session for the Brownsville RFP to encourage collaborations between developers and

the community. Development proposals were evaluated based on both the quality of the proposed community programming and the track record of the organizations with whom they partnered. Each of the selected proposals for the RFP sites includes meaningful partnerships with local organizations, whether as core members of a development team or as ground-floor community facility and/or retail tenants. The Rockaway-Chester RFP site will provide a new home for Purelements, a local dance company and performance arts school, as well as opportunities for collaboration with additional local arts groups. The Christopher-Glenmore RFP site will serve as a new home for the local non-profit, Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, a local non-profit focused on community economic development. Lastly, the Livonia Avenue sites will be partly developed by Community Solutions, and feature collaborations with the Isabahlia Ladies of Elegance, Project Eats, and GrowNYC.

IMPLEMENTATION

As the projects and initiatives outlined in this plan are implemented over the coming years, the City is committed to full transparency and accountability. An updated Project Summary is included in the following pages, which outlines all of the projects in this plan with details on the responsible agency, estimated timeline, and status.

In addition, the Community Partners group, which has guided HPD on the planning process, has become an ongoing advisory group convened by Brooklyn Community Board 16. The group has reconvened every six months since the release plan to provide bi-annual progress updates. HPD posted all presentation materials online (visit nyc.gov/brownsville). Brownsville Plan Community Partners meetings will continue to occur twice a year and be open to the public. Community Partners meetings are an opportunity

for the City to report on progress and for community groups to inform the public and the community board about the work they are undertaking to advance the Brownsville Plan. In addition, HPD and its sister agencies will report on their activities to the relevant committees of the Community Board.

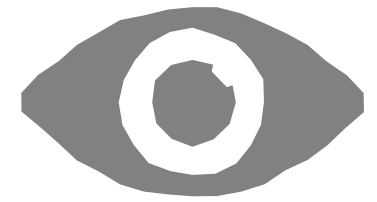
While the projects outlined in this plan can be understood as commitments from City agencies, this is a living document. The City will update the community on accomplishments and challenges along the way. This is to be a conversation: as the work unfolds and stronger partnerships evolve, we may find better ways to accomplish these goals, and we may have to adjust our approach. To this end, HPD and the City are committed to doing the hard work of collaboration, listening, and even stepping back as needed.

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR COMMUNITY BOARD!

Brooklyn Community Board 16, representing Ocean Hill and Brownsville, serves as a public forum for its members and the greater community to address items of concern in the neighborhood. The Community Board reviews matters pertaining to land use, evaluates the quality and quantity of service delivery, and makes recommendations for capital and expense budget priorities for the district. A section of every general monthly meeting is set aside for the board to hear from the public. Visit nyc.gov/bkcb16 or call (718) 385-0323 for more information.



APPRENDIX



PROJECT SUMMARY

STATUS AS OF: 7/30/2019

#	INITIATIVE	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	ESTIMATED TIMELINE	STATUS
01 PROMOTE ACTIVE MIXED-USE CORRIDORS					
1.1	Develop a broad range of uses on City-owned sites to be developed through the Brownsville RFP	HPD	DCLA	>5 yrs	In progress
1.2	Activate New Lots and Hegeman Avenues with the Ebenezer Plaza development and small rental housing projects	HPD	DCP	1-5 yrs	In progress
1.3	Create a Livonia Avenue Streetscape Plan	DOT		1-5 yrs	In progress
1.4	Integrate parks with their surroundings	Parks	DOT	1-5 yrs	In progress
1.5	Work with private owners of vacant land and support redevelopment that meets community goals	HPD	DCP	Ongoing	Ongoing
1.6	Ensure that housing development along Mother Gaston Boulevard enlivens the street and promotes safety	HPD	NYCHA	1-5 yrs	In progress
1.7	Design and implement a catalytic commercial revitalization pilot project on Belmont Avenue	SBS	BCJC, Made in Brownsville, Hester Street Collaborative	Complete	Complete
02 IMPROVE CONNECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD					
2.1A	Improve safety and access by exploring design interventions on NYCHA campuses and their immediate surroundings - <i>Public Realm Audits</i>	MOCJ	NYCHA	1-5 yrs	In progress
2.1B	Improve safety and access by exploring design interventions on NYCHA campuses and their immediate surroundings - <i>Neighborhood Activation</i>	MOCJ	NYCHA	1-5 yrs	In progress
2.2	Study new street crossings and traffic signals by NYCHA superblocks and at park entrances	DOT	Parks/NYCHA	1-5 yrs	In progress
2.3	Improve pedestrian safety at dangerous intersections	DOT		>5 yrs	In preliminary design stage
2.4	Expand Brownsville's network of bike lanes	DOT		1-5 yrs	In planning stage
2.5	Promote use of the new Brownsville bike lanes and encourage neighborhood gathering through DOHMH-supported summer bike rides	DOHMH	Parks, Purelements, Brookdale Medical Center	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
2.6	Improve pedestrian connections to East New York	DOT	EDC	1-5 yrs	In preliminary design stage
2.7	Make accessibility improvements and create a free connection between the Livonia Avenue and Junius Street subway stations	MTA		>5 yrs	In planning stage
03 CREATE ACTIVE AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES					
3.1A	Make significant and impactful investments in Brownsville's parks and recreation spaces - <i>Betsy Head Park</i>	Parks		1-5 yrs	Phase I under construction; Phase II preparing for construction
3.1B	Make significant and impactful investments in Brownsville's parks and recreation spaces - <i>Community Parks Initiative</i>	Parks		Complete	Complete
3.2A	Use parks and gardens as space for arts and culture - <i>GreenThumb</i>	Parks		Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
3.2B	Use parks and gardens as space for arts and culture - <i>SummerStage</i>	Parks	City Parks Foundation	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
3.2C	Use parks and gardens as space for arts and culture - <i>Mobile Movies</i>	Parks		Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work

Visit nyc.gov/brownsville

PROJECT SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

STATUS AS OF: 7/30/2019

#	INITIATIVE	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	ESTIMATED TIMELINE	STATUS
3.3	Activate Osborn Plaza as the Neighborhood Lab anchor site	MOTI	EDC, BCJC, NYU Center for Urban Science and Progress	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
3.4	Install new permanent light fixtures and cameras at Van Dyke and Brownsville Houses	NYCHA	MOCJ	Complete	Complete
3.5	Continue offering free programming and extended summer hours for teens and adults at Cornerstone Centers at Van Dyke, Marcus Garvey, Howard, Seth Low, Hughes, and Tilden Houses	DYCD	Cornerstone service providers	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
3.6A	Create safe spaces for youth to interact with peers and positive role models through productive recreational activities - <i>Police Athletic League</i>	MOCJ	NYPD	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
3.6B	Create safe spaces for youth to interact with peers and positive role models through productive recreational activities - <i>Kids in Motion</i>	Parks	MOCJ	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
04 PROVIDE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT HEALTHY LIFESTYLES					
4.1	Incorporate health into Brownsville RFP goals	HPD		>5 yrs	In progress
4.2A	Increase access to healthy food - <i>Shop Healthy NYC</i>	DOHMH	BHC	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
4.2B	Increase access to healthy food - <i>Youthmarkets & Farm stands</i>	BHC	GrowNYC, DOHMH, Project Eats	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
4.3	Renovate Brownsville Recreation Center	Parks		1-5 yrs	In procurement
4.4	Increase opportunities to garden and grow fresh produce in Brownsville	BHC	NYCHA, Fund for Public Health NYC, Parks, GrowNYC, GreenThumb, Isabahlia	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
4.5	Create a new Teen Center at Brownsville Houses	MOCJ	NYCHA, DYCD	Complete	Complete
4.6	Bring composting pick-up to Brownsville to promote organics composting	DSNY		Complete	Complete with ongoing work
4.7	Train 40 additional ShapeUp NYC instructors to teach classes in Brownsville, East New York, and Canarsie	Parks	BHC	Complete	Complete
4.8	Reduce racial disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes through the Wellness Suite at the Brownsville Neighborhood Health Action Center	DOHMH		Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
05 CONNECT BROWNSVILLE RESIDENTS TO JOBS AND JOB TRAINING					
5.1	Require Brownsville RFP respondents to implement a targeted hiring outreach plan	HPD		>5 yrs	In progress
5.2	Promote coordination between City workforce development providers and community based organizations assisting job seekers	WKDEV	SBS, NYCHA	1-5 yrs	In progress
5.3	Require developers, general contractors, and subcontractors on major projects in Brownsville to use HireNYC	WKDEV	HPD, EDC, DDC	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
5.4	Provide 3-K for all in School District 23	DOE	ACS	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
5.5	Expand outreach for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)	DYCD		Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
5.6	Pilot a Young Innovators Program	MOTI	BCJC, MOCJ	Complete	Complete
5.7	Provide opportunities to bring computer science education to Brownsville schools	DOE	CSNYC	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
5.8	Create spaces for technology and innovation through the Brownsville RFP	HPD		>5 yrs	In progress
5.9	Offer workforce training in green industries for young NYCHA residents	MOCJ	NYCHA	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work

PROJECT SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

STATUS AS OF: 7/30/2019

#	INITIATIVE	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	ESTIMATED TIMELINE	STATUS
06 SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES AND ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS					
6.1	Connect entrepreneurs to business resources to start, operate and grow their businesses	SBS		Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
6.2	Provide program support for Storefront Improvements throughout the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District	SBS	Pitkin Avenue BID	Complete	Complete with ongoing work
6.3	Promote the design of flexible ground-floor spaces that can accommodate a range of uses, including local businesses, especially on Livonia Avenue RFP sites	HPD		>5 yrs	In progress
6.4	Promote networking of local designers, contractors, subcontractors, and developers in the neighborhood	EDC	HPD	1-5 yrs	In progress
6.5	Launch a marketing campaign to promote diverse local businesses and local sourcing in the IBZ	EDC		Complete	Complete
6.6	Renovate the EDC-owned industrial building on Powell Street	EDC		1-5 yrs	Under construction
07 IMPROVE HOUSING STABILITY AND SUPPORT RESIDENTS AT RISK OF DISPLACEMENT					
7.1	Use the City's financing programs to safeguard affordability of existing homes	HPD		Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
7.2	Promote safe and healthy housing through rigorous enforcement of the Housing Maintenance Code	HPD		Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
7.3	Protect tenants by continuing to provide free legal representation	DSS		Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
7.4	Continue offering homelessness prevention services through the Brownsville HomeBase Center	DSS		Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
7.5	Support homeowners facing foreclosure or who need help financing repairs	HPD	Center for New York City Neighborhoods	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
7.6	Create new homeownership opportunities and provide resources for first-time home-buyers	HPD		>5 yrs	In progress
7.7	Help Brownsville residents understand, prepare for, and complete the affordable housing application process	HPD		Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
08 PROVIDE SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES					
8.1	Implement the goals of the citywide Cultural Plan - cultural center at Rockaway-Chester	HPD	DCLA	>5 yrs	In progress
8.2	Pair local organizations with Capacity Fund grants from the Partnership for Parks to facilitate community projects in parks	Parks	Partnership for Parks	Ongoing	Complete
8.3	Work with the East Brooklyn Arts and Culture Alliance (EBACA) to determine appropriate next steps to building the cultural capacity of Brownsville	DCLA		Complete	Complete
8.4	Convene City agencies and residents in regular NeighborhoodStat meetings	MOCJ	NYCHA, NYPD, DHS, DFTA, OCDB, HRA, DPR, DOP, DYCD, CEO, OCDV	Ongoing	Complete with ongoing work
8.5	Begin the Brownsville Community Tech Advisory Board	MOTI	EDC, BCJC, NYU Center for Urban Science and Progress	Complete	Complete with ongoing work
8.6	Provide opportunities for partnerships with local organizations through the Brownsville RFP	HPD		Complete	Complete with ongoing work

NYCTM

Department of
Housing Preservation
& Development

