

FEBRUARY 2016

# EAST HARLEM *Neighborhood* PLAN

## APPENDIX C – VISIONING SESSIONS MATERIALS

Office of City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Manhattan Community Board 11  
Community Voices Heard  
Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer

[EASTHARLEMPPLAN.NYC](http://EASTHARLEMPPLAN.NYC)

**PREPARED FOR**

The East Harlem Neighborhood

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

Office of City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Manhattan Community Board 11  
Community Voices Heard  
Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer

**STEERING COMMITTEE**

32BJ Service Employees International Union  
Artimus Construction  
CIVITAS  
Community Voices Heard  
Construction & General Building Laborers Local 79  
Councilmember Inez Dickens  
El Barrio's Operation Fightback  
Elmendorf Reformed Church  
El Museo del Barrio  
Harlem RBI  
Johnson Houses Tenant Association  
Lott Community Development Corporation  
Manhattan Community Board 11  
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer  
New York Academy of Medicine  
New York Restoration Project  
Office of City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation  
Union Settlement Association  
Union Settlement Business Development Center  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice

**FACILITATORS**

Hester Street Collaborative  
WXY

**REPORT PREPARED BY**

WXY with Hester Street Collaborative

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Yeju Choi / Nowhere Office

This report was produced with funds provided by the City of New York and the Neighborhoods First Fund for Community-Based Planning.

**Appendix C** contains materials from each of the eight Community Visioning Workshops held as part of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan, as well as materials from the Final Community Forum held in January 2016. Each workshop usually had 10–15 breakout tables that each had 8–12 participants. Each table also had a facilitator that helped focus the discussion on the workshop topics, and (most often) a designated note taker. The table facilitators were sometimes a representative from one of the Project Partners, the Steering Committee, or the project Facilitators. The following materials are included from each Visioning Workshop:

- Fliers used to advertise the event, in English and Spanish
- Maps that were printed in large format and used during the breakout table discussions
- A copy of the facilitator guide, which gives an overview of discussions and activities at the breakout tables
- Copies of activity worksheets and activity results, where applicable
- Long and short format meeting notes, where the intent was to capture everything that was said at each workshop. The notes include what was said during the table discussions, as well as what was written on the chart paper that was shared with the larger group at the end of the workshop. These notes are organized by table. Some of the workshops have short versions or “summaries” of the notes.

At the end of most of the workshops, each participant was asked to place three stickers next to the ideas that came up at their table that were most important to them. You will probably notice reference to these stickers in the notes and summaries. The ideas with the most stickers were prioritized in the summaries and subsequent subgroup deliberations. These notes served as one of the foundations for the recommendations that were developed by the subgroups.

# APPENDIX C – COMMUNITY VISIONING SESSIONS MATERIALS

- C4 COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #1
  - ARTS & CULTURE
  - OPEN SPACE & RECREATION
- C34 COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #2
  - SCHOOLS & EDUCATION
  - PRE-K, DAYCARE & AFTERSCHOOL
- C60 COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #3
  - NYCHA
  - HOUSING PRESERVATION
- C95 COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #4
  - SMALL BUSINESSES, WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- C132 COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #5
  - AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
  - ZONING & LAND USE
- C199 COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #6
  - TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY
  - SAFETY
  - HEALTH & SENIORS
- C262 FINAL COMMUNITY FORUM

## COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #1 - FLIERS

### NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING & REZONING

COME, JOIN AND PARTICIPATE

### PUBLIC COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP: ON OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND CULTURE



**Thursday, June 4, 2015 • 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Silberman School of Social Work  
at Hunter College**

2180 Third Avenue (East 119th Street)

**Train: 6 to 116th Street • Bus: M101, M103 to 118th Street and 3rd Avenue**

[www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Community Board 11: (212) 831-8929

Community Voices Heard: (212) 860-6001

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito: (212) 788-9121

**CHILDCARE AVAILABLE • SPANISH TRANSLATION**

**PLANIFICACION Y REZONIFICACION  
DEL VECINDARIO  
VENGA, ÚNASE Y PARTICIPE  
TALLER VISIONARIO PÚBLICO COMUNAL:  
ESPACIO ABIERTO,  
RECREACIÓN Y CULTURA**



**Foro  
Comunal**

**jueves, 4 de junio 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Silberman School of Social Work  
at Hunter College**

2180 Tercera Avenida y la calle 119

**Transporte: Tren 6 hasta la calle 116**

**Autobus: M101, M103 hasta la calle 118 3 Avenida**

[www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/)

**PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN, LLAME:**

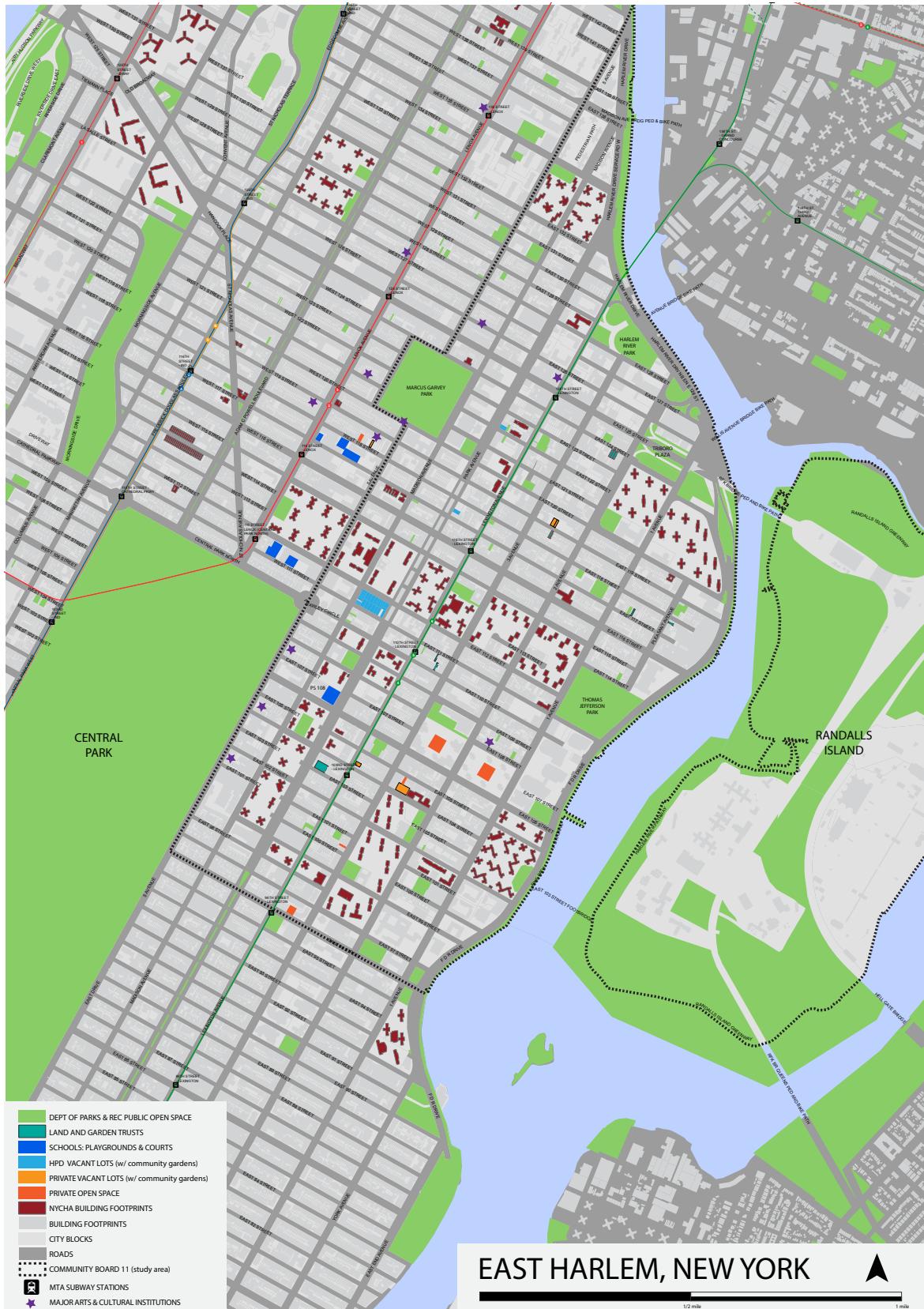
Community Board 11: (212) 831-8929

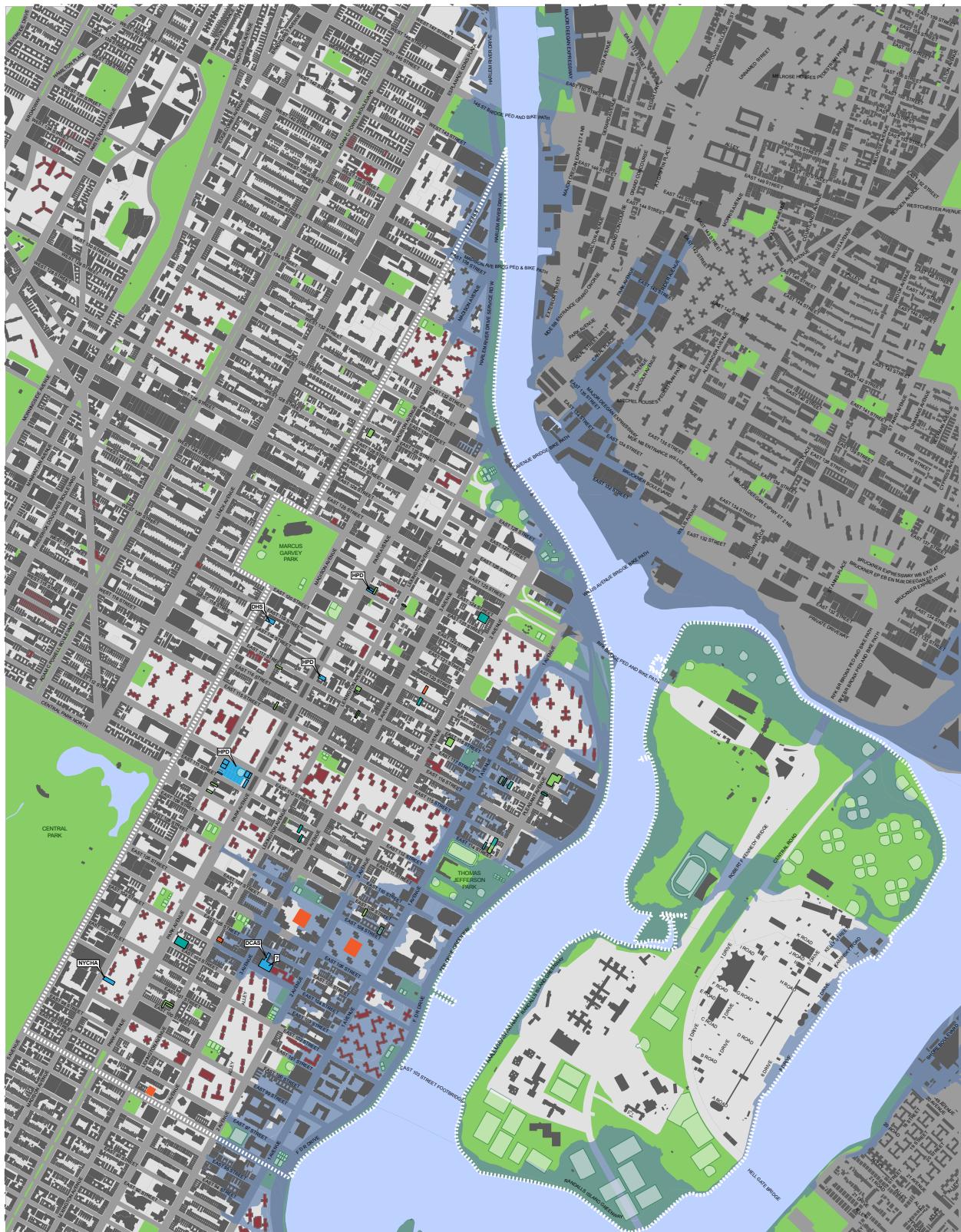
Community Voices Heard: (212) 860-6001

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito: (212) 788-9121

**CUIDO PARA LOS NIÑOS DISPONIBLE • INTERPRETACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL**

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #1 - TABLE ACTIVITY MAPS





## EAST HARLEM, NEW YORK

1/2 mile



1 mile

SOURCES:  
NYC DEPT. OF PARKS AND RECREATION 2015, GROWNYC 2015, PLUTO 2014, NYC MAYOR'S OFFICE OF LONG TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY 2014, NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY 2014, NYC DEPT. OF BUILDINGS 2014, NYC DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION 2014, NYC DEPT. OF CITY PLANNING 2014

\*Community Gardens are outlined in black and may be Privately-owned, City-owned, or owned by a Land or Garden Trust.

\*\* An area of high flood risk subject to inundation by the 1% annual-chance flood event.

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #1 - FACILITATOR GUIDE

**East Harlem Neighborhood Plan: Visioning Session 1 – June 4, 2015 6:30 -8:30pm**

## **Small Group Discussion Facilitator Guide**

### **PARKS , OPEN SPACE, & RECREATION and ARTS & CULTURE**

#### **ROLES NEEDED FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Facilitator
- Note-taker/Facilitator support
- Interpreter/Translator (if needed), Should have separate Spanish Language tables

#### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Focus group guide (for the facilitator)
- A notepad and pens or laptop for note-taking (*for the Notetaker*)
- A flip chart and markers to write down key points from discussions
- Dot Stickers
- East Harlem Map - *with parks and cultural institutions clearly labeled/color coded. Also includes NYCHA properties and subway lines*
- Timeline Handout - *East Harlem Neighborhood Plan Process with Visioning Session Dates*
- FAQ Sheet

#### **DIRECTIONS AND TIPS FOR FACILITATORS**

- ✓ *This guide is for people that are facilitating small group discussions.*
- ✓ *The visioning session will start with a large group welcome and background presentation, followed by the small group discussions*
- ✓ *There will be multiple small groups happening at the same time.*
- ✓ *You do not need to read the script verbatim, feel free to use your own words and be natural and conversational.*

#### **Facilitator Tips:**

- Let people talk about their experiences or concerns but be firm if they are disrupting the activities for all the other participants. Everyone has taken time out of their busy schedules to be here and deserves to have their opinions to be heard.
- Step down and Stand up – encourage people who are quiet to talk, and for people who are talking too much to make room for everyone to participate.
- If someone is becoming very disruptive, please signal one of the “helpers” who can have a one on one conversation with that person.
- If people have questions that are not specific to this principle and small group, please wait until the end.
- Please remember that we are not here to hear about the facilitator’s personal opinions. Our role as facilitators is to gather the ideas, opinions and concerns of the participants.
- If questions come up that you are unable to answer, please write them down in a “Parking Lot” on chart paper. Then try to direct the questioner to one of the session organizers at the end of the small group discussion

### **Small Group Discussion Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Overview (5 minutes)** – *Introduce how the group will work and reiterate the context of the neighborhood planning process*
  2. **Ground Rules (2-3 minutes)** – Rules for discussion
  3. **Participant Introductions (5-10 minutes)** – *Participants each introduce themselves, their relation to East Harlem and one thing they're excited to discuss*
  4. **Neighborhood Map Overview (10 minutes)** – *Orient the group to the map. The map can be used throughout discussion to locate and identify things as they come up.*
  5. **Discussion (1 hour)** - *The group will discuss Several broad questions that have sub-questions/prompting questions to spur conversation*
    - **Part 1: Parks, Open Space, and Recreation**
    - **Part 2: Arts and Culture**
  6. **Summary and Wrap-up (10 minutes)** – *The group will prioritize key points to report back*
  7. **Report Back (10-15 minutes)** – *Designate a participant to give the report back of key points to the larger group*
- 

### **1. Welcome and Overview (5 minutes)**

*Hello everyone. Thank you for coming out today. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I work with \_\_\_\_\_. You're here today to contribute to the development of a Community-Based Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem (CB11). As you heard earlier, as part of Mayor de Blasio's Housing plan to create and preserve 200,000 units of affordable housing over the next 10 years across the five boroughs, East Harlem has been identified as one of many neighborhoods across the city that will be rezoned in order to achieve that goal. In order to ensure that the residents who have a stake in this neighborhood have a voice in this process, CB11, Community Voices Heard, and the Speaker's Office are leading this effort to create a vision for the future of East Harlem, and this is an early step in the process.*

*Over the next several months, we will convene many more meetings on a variety of topics to develop an end product in November, which will be a Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem created by and for this community. [Show Timeline Handout] Do not think of this process as a reaction to the proposed rezoning, but rather a proactive effort to engage different community stakeholders in a solid plan that will guide future development in East Harlem for generations to come. The ideas generated here today should go beyond plans for the built environment to address the overall quality of life for residents of this neighborhood.*

*First I will go over some ground rules for this session, then go around and do introductions, talk about this map, and I will ask you some specific questions relating to this topic. Then we will recap some of the ideas generated here and report back to the group.*

### **2. Ground Rules (10 minutes)**

*Our Small Group Discussion today will last about 1 hour.*

*Our first topic is **Parks, Open Space and Recreation** in East Harlem, we will then move on to talk about **Arts and Culture** in East Harlem. I will be leading the discussion and will be asking specific questions that we need to answer today. I know that there is a lot of other stuff to talk about besides the questions I ask today, but for this discussion we will need to focus on answering these questions. For other questions and issues that come up, we can talk about it after we are done with small group discussion.*

***Please respect everyone's point of view and let each person finish speaking before offering your own opinions. We're not looking for a "right or wrong" answer, only everyone's different experience and opinions. I would like to hear from everyone in the group, and would like for everyone to feel comfortable in speaking. So please respect each other and this discussion, no matter what you may hear. We are not here to judge anyone.***

***I will be facilitating this discussion with a set of questions. Please answer these questions directly. If people are going off topic or talking for too long, I may need to cut you off for sake of time and so that everyone gets a chance to speak.***

- Respect everyone's opinions. We are not here to debate with anyone.
- All of your answers, ideas, feelings and opinions are important.
- If you are talking too much, step back.
- If you are not talking enough, speak up.
- ONE MIC: Please do not interrupt anyone. Wait until someone is done speaking before offering your opinion.
- If you have questions that are not specific to the focus group, please wait until the end.

### **3. Introductions and Opening (5 minutes)**

*Let's start with a round of introductions. We'll go around the table and everyone can say very quickly (1 minute or less – please keep this very brief, you will definitely have plenty of time to form your opinion):*

- Your name?
- What is your connection to East Harlem?
- What is one thing you are excited to talk about today?

### **4. Mapping Orientation (5-10 minutes)**

*We have a map of East Harlem Parks, Playgrounds and Open Spaces, they're green. There are also cultural institutions and resources on the map. Point out major landmarks (Central Park,*

*Randal's Island, subway lines, NYCHA campuses, etc) and where the location of this session is. We will use the map throughout the discussion to label, identify and locate things we talk about.*

- *If you live or work in the neighborhood place a sticker where that is to help orient yourself.*
- *Are we missing a park / open space / or related resource on the map? Label it with a marker.*

## **5. Discussion Questions Part 1: Parks, Open Space and Recreation**

*I just want to reiterate that it is important that we respect everyone's time and focus on answering these specific questions. First we're going to talk about Parks, Open Space, and Recreation.*

- **BIG IDEAS - What is one thing that could improve open space in East Harlem?**
- **USAGE - How are parks being used right now?**
  - Are there parks that are over-utilized, or over crowded? (Make a list and/or mark them on the map)
    - What types of groups are using these parks? Are there groups that aren't able to use these parks, ie: youth, seniors, etc?
  - Are there parks that aren't being used very much or are underutilized? (Make a list and/or mark them on the map)
    - How could we make these parks more usable for different groups of people.
  - What types of programs or facilities do our parks and playgrounds need?
- **RECREATION - How should our parks and recreational opportunities be promoted in the community?**
  - How can recreation and open space solve public health issues?
- **DENSITY - As the neighborhood population grows how can our parks accommodate that growth?**
- **RESILIENCY - How can open spaces make East Harlem more resilient to flooding and climate change?**
  - What should the waterfront look like?
  - Could there be green infrastructure elements along streets, and in other neighborhood spaces? What about street trees?
- **COMMUNITY GARDENS - How can community gardens and vacant lots better serve the community as a whole?**
  - Can gardens be resources for young people, seniors? Partnerships with schools and educational programs? A place for art?
  - Can gardens and vacant lots be used for growing food, urban agriculture?

- **CONNECTIONS - How can connections to Central Park and Randall's Island be strengthened?**
  - Do you go to these large parks, how do you access them?
  - Are there ways that east/west access to Central Park or Randall's Island can be strengthened?
- **NYCHA - How can NYCHA's open spaces be better utilized?**
  - a. There is a lot of open space around public housing buildings that is currently inaccessible, could this be used for community programming, community gardening, public art, other activities?

## 6. Discussion Questions Part 2: Arts and Culture

*Now we're going to shift our conversation a bit to talk about Arts and Culture. Let's go back to the map, did you notice any cultural institutions, resources or groups that are missing from the map?*

- **BIG IDEAS - What is one thing that could improve access to arts and culture in East Harlem?**
  - What programming and community connections are missing that could be established?
  - What types of arts programs or events are you already participating in?
  - Who should programs serve? Youth? Seniors? Residents? Visitors?
  - What quality of life initiatives would the community like to see?
  - How can we engage with the Department of Education?
- **PROGRAMMING - What types of arts programming is the community interested in?**
  - What programming and community connections are missing that could be established?
  - What types of arts programs or events are you already participating in?
  - Who should programs serve? Youth? Seniors? Residents? Visitors?
  - What quality of life initiatives would the community like to see?
  - How can we engage with the Department of Education?
- **RESOURCES - What types of resources do we need more of in East Harlem?**
  - How do we create better awareness of the cultural production that already exists in East Harlem?
  - How can we better support smaller organizations and independent artists?
  - What types of investments can the City (i.e. Government) make in East Harlem?
- **SPACE - What are the cultural space needs of East Harlem?**
  - How would you like to see public/city owned land used as it relates to the arts?
  - How can arts and culture play a role in public spaces?
  - How can placemaking through arts and culture help prevent neighborhood displacement?
  - How can we increase cultural components in new developments?

## 7. Summary and Wrap Up (10 minutes)

Give a 2-3 minute summary of what has been said (make sure the main ideas are clearly written on butcher paper). Select a spokesperson to report back to the larger group. Participants will then sticker vote on their top three most important statements

- ***Did I accurately sum up what was said?***
  - *Is there anything else you'd like to say? Did we miss anything?*
- ***Place three stickers next to your top three items on this list, we will report back on the the ideas and themes with the most votes. All of the suggestions and information will be collected and utilized in our plan.***

*Thank you all for participating in this focus group and for expressing your opinions here today. This is incredibly valuable information that will be used to develop the Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem. We will be holding additional focus groups on different topics, Please look at the timeline I handed out for the future meetings. Please make sure that you have signed in so that you can stay up to date on any news we have for you as we go through this process.*

*Thank you so much for your time!*

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #1 - TIMELINE & INFO SHEET

## East Harlem Neighborhood Study – Meeting Schedule

Meeting Type	Topic	Meeting Date/Time
Community Visioning Workshop (Public Meeting)	Open Space, Recreation, Culture	Jun 4 6:30-8:30
Community Visioning Workshop (Public Meeting)	Afterschool, Daycare, Pre-K, Schools/Education	July 1 6:30-8:30
Community Visioning Workshop (Public Meeting)	Housing Preservation, NYCHA, Environment, Transportation, Safety	July 29 6:30-8:30
Community Visioning Workshop (Public Meeting)	Small Business, Economic Development, Workforce Development, Health, Seniors	Sept 10 6:30-8:30
Community Visioning Workshop (Public Meeting)	Zoning/Land Use, Affordable Housing Development	Oct 22 6:30-8:30
<i>Large Public Meeting - Report Back</i>		Nov 19 6:30-8:30

## East Harlem Steering Committee Members

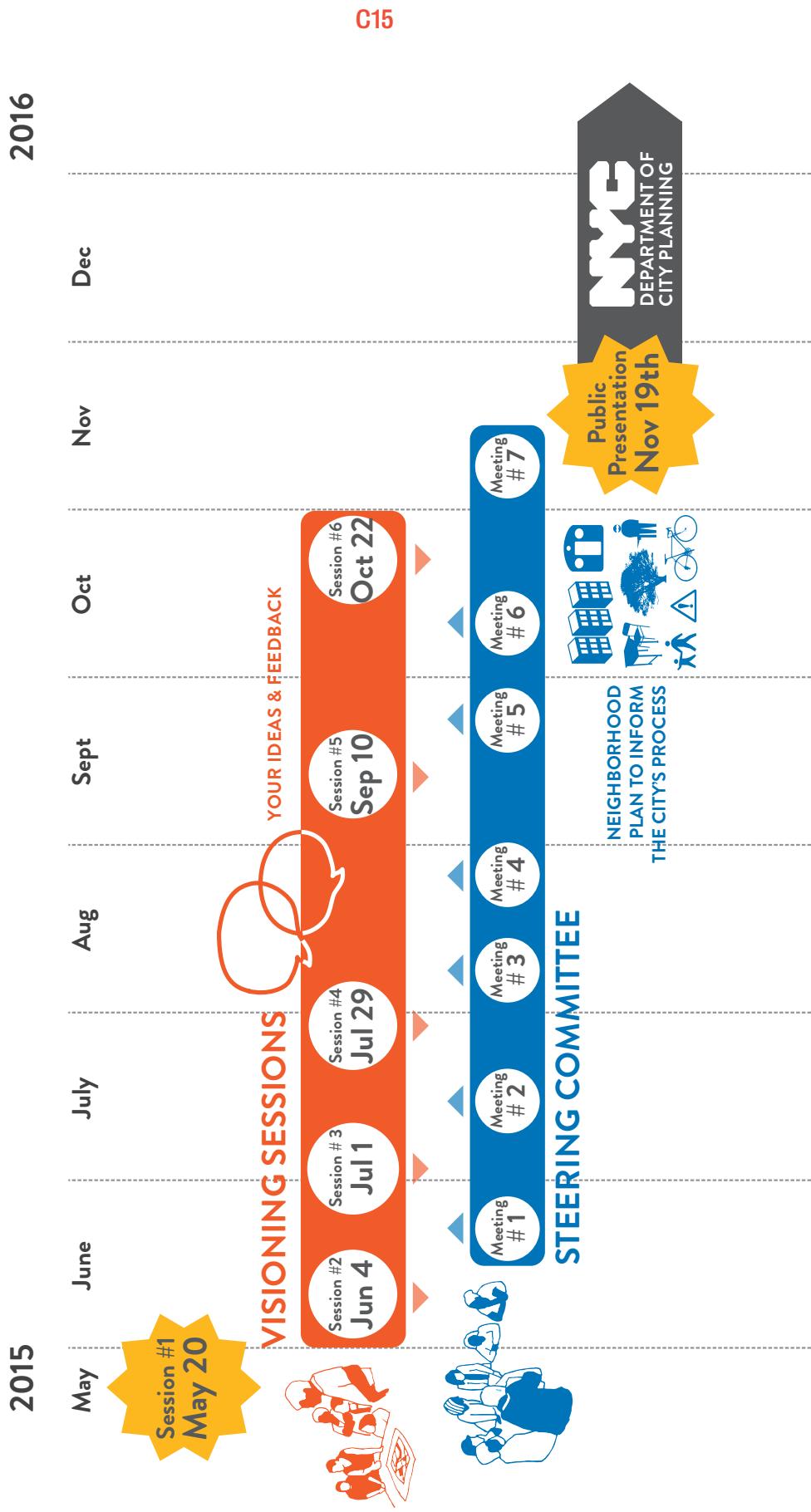
- Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito
- Councilwoman Inez Dickens
- Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
- Community Board 11
- El Barrio's Operation Fightback
- Lott Community Development Corporation
- Artimus Construction
- Community Voices Heard
- CIVITAS
- Union Settlement – David Nocenti
- Harlem RBI
- Business Development Center – Union Settlement
- Rev. Patricia Singletary, Elmendorf Reformed Church
- New York Academy of Medicine
- El Museo Del Barrio
- Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation
- WEACT
- Johnson Houses Tenant Association – Ethel Velez
- New York Restoration Project
- 32BJ
- Local 79

## For more information, please contact:

- Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito - 212-788-9121
- Community Board 11 - 212-831-8929
- Community Voices Heard - 212-860-6001

**[www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/)**

# East Harlem Study Process Timeline



# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #1 - FAQ FOR FACILITATORS

## FAQ for Small Group Facilitators

### **Who is this process being developed by?**

*The East Harlem Neighborhood study is being conducted by a Steering Committee comprised of local leaders, community based organizations, advocacy organizations, elected officials, and the community board. The Process is being coordinated by Community Voices Heard, Community Board 11, and Speaker Mark Viverito's Office*

### **Can I join the steering committee, how were the steering committee members selected?**

*The Steering Committee is not open to the public, but is tasked with organizing public visioning sessions like this one, so we can hear from as many East Harlem voices as possible. The Steering Committee is also tasked with compiling and analyzing the information gathered at these sessions to help develop the neighborhood plan.*

*The Steering Committee has been convened by Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito's office to include a broad and diverse array of representatives experienced in the following topics: Open Space & Recreation; Arts & Culture; Education, Schools and Afterschool programs; Youth, Seniors, and Public Health; Housing Preservation, Public Housing, Transportation, Safety, & Environment; Small Businesses, Workforce Development, and Economic Development, Zoning, Land Use, and Affordable Housing Development.*

### **How is my input going to be used?**

*Your input will be used to help inform the neighborhood plan that the Steering Committee develops. Input around topics like Open Space will be used to develop principles for neighborhood development and zoning, and specific recommendations for city government. The plan will ultimately be used as a basis for the Department of City Planning's rezoning plan for East Harlem.*

### **How are you doing outreach? I don't see X group here, why is that?**

*Each Steering Committee Member has also been tasked with conducting outreach to their memberships, networks and peer organizations. Outreach is also conducted through e-blasts, and online through social media. We are conducting 5 public visioning sessions over the summer and fall, and then a final presentation of the report for additional feedback in November. All of these sessions will be hosted at different sites throughout the neighborhood so as to achieve a geographic diversity as well.*

*We want to reach people that aren't able to come, or don't know about these sessions as well. If you know someone or a group of people that would like to be involved please let us know and we can add them to our outreach list, or help us spread the word to more people!*

**What are the dates/topics for the next sessions?**

*Dates for the next sessions can be found on the timeline with topics on the back.*

**What if I can't attend the future sessions is there a way for me to give input outside of meetings?**

*You can reach out to Community Voices Heard, CB 11, or the Speaker's office here:*

*Or on social media at:*

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #1 - SUMMARY OF NOTES

## East Harlem Visioning Session 1 – Summary of Priorities

### PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION

#### **Reflective of Community**

- Ethnic arts and culture festival in parks – 5 STICKERS

#### **Safety and Maintenance**

- Train along Park Ave is unsafe, dark in the day and night, more lighting would be better for east-west connections – 2 STICKERS
- Improving safety with youth programs, community, presence, input and awareness – 3 stickers
- Lighting east side well lit, west side needs more – 5 STICKERS
- Better lighting / safety /sanitation in open spaces
- Equipment and facilities in public spaces need to be maintained and repaired (benches, tables, etc) – 2 stickers
- Parks need better Lighting / safety – 2 stickers

#### **More green Space**

- Not Enough Green Space – Too much concrete – 5 STICKERS

#### **Programming / Youth Development**

- Summer jobs; recreational need more internships – 6 STICKERS
- Youthful activities – safe but open – stickball games, movie screenings in open spaces, street festivals – 5 STICKERS
- Community centers, programs, computers – 2 STICKERS
- Young people involved – plant seeds/gardening – 4 STICKERS

#### **RI / Central Park Accessibility**

- Better access to Roosevelt Island / Central Park – 2 STICKERS
- Better access to transportation to Randall's Island (direct bus service) – increased frequency / more stops – 3 STICKERS
- Greater access and awareness of Randall's Island
- Better connections between open spaces and better connections between the community and open spaces
- Water Taxi to Randall's Island – 2 stickers

#### **Increase Accessibility**

- Less Restrictions on group gatherings – 3 STICKERS
- Open Space and grilling in parks – 4 STICKERS
- Open community garden gates – 2 STICKERS
- Use school gyms and playgrounds for community recreation – 5 STICKERS
- More access to recreational space in parks – staffing to allow for public access – 3 STICKERS
- Handicap accessibility for parks (smoother pavement) – 4 STICKERS

#### **Food Access**

- Get residents involved in gardening – Selling fresh produce – 4 STICKERS
- Make and sell what people grow and make in parks – 4 STICKERS

#### **Capital Improvements**

- Free up construction space on waterfront from 131<sup>st</sup> street to 123<sup>rd</sup> street – allow public access – 4 STICKERS
- High vs. low fences – keeping people out or in – 2 STICKERS
- Free WIFI Access – 4 STICKERS
- Activate NYCHA's open spaces for recreation and enjoyment
- Transform unused properties and assemble one large piece of real estate (Trade and barter) – 2 stickers
- Pier at 107<sup>th</sup> Street

#### **Previous Planning Process**

- Civitas esplanade plan – 2 stickers

### **ARTS AND CULTURE**

#### **Neighborhood / Community Connections**

- Create link between lower and upper East Harlem – more cultural production in Upper East Harlem – 2 STICKERS
- Create more awareness of neighborhood events to residents -2 STICKERS
- Programs that find common ground between cultures – 2 STICKERS
- Better collaboration among organizations and cultural groups
- Artists need linkages to schools – 3 STICKERS

#### **Reflect local culture**

- Lots of Activities in Central Park but not culturally relevant – 3 STICKERS
- Murals Music Festivals and Puerto Rican Festival – 3 STICKERS
- Talent search in the neighborhood / showcase neighborhood artists – 3 STICKERS
- No diversity in arts – open mic, poetry, rap – 3 STICKERS

#### **Resources for local arts**

- Resources needed to sustain local arts , there has been a vacuum since the Association for Hispanic Arts folded – 3 STICKERS
- Branch of Harlem Arts, form an East Harlem Arts Alliance – 3 STICKERS
- Need for support and resources to sustain Latino Arts -4 STICKERS

#### **Bring Arts to Open Spaces**

- Need more outdoor stages in the neighborhood – 2 STICKERS
- More film screenings in open spaces – 2 STICKERS
- Music venues and stages – 2 Stickers
- Performances on streets of El Barrio are an asset! – 2 STICKERS
- Need more public art – 2 STICKERS
- Community Gardens need various programs, public art – 2 STICKERS
- Art in Parks – Public art by artists in the neighborhood open air art gallery – 3 STICKERS

#### **Incorporate into Development / Facilities**

- Hold any developer or big business accountable for preserving / giving back to open space in the area – 3 STICKER
- Cultural programs in NYCHA Centers – 2 STICKERS
- If new buildings in NYCHA – Create community theater spaces on ground floor – 3 stickers

### **Workforce Development**

- Educational programs, professional development, job skills/workforce programs to become more successful could exist within neighborhood facilities – 2 STICKERS
- Artists need more training – 3 STICKERS

**Preserve Local Arts**

- Preserve existing art spaces and artists
- Better marketing of culture both inside and outside of the community through institutions (Chamber of commerce, arts advocacy groups)
- African-American museum set aside funding to finish it! – *4 stickers*
- Don't allow murals to be painted over– *2 stickers*

**GENERAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

- NYCHA Underutilized space – stipulate that develops need to make public spaces on ground floors for general community uses – *2 stickers*
- At least 20-30% of developments for “extreme low income” – 6 STICKERS
- Businesses are affordable for extreme low income residents – 3 STICKERS
- Hold developers accountable – 6 STICKERS
- Reinvestment required into the community – Schools open spaces, housing playgrounds etc. – 4 STICKERS

**GENERAL ABOUT PROCESS**

- Want to Learn and assist with rezoning – 3 STICKERS

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #1 - NOTES

## East Harlem Visioning Session 1 – Parks / Open Space / Recreation and Arts / Culture Notes

### **TABLE 1**

There were about 14 participants, about 10 of them were born and raised in East Harlem.

#### **PARKS**

Randalls Island! – Disconnectivity. Residents felt that the programming on Randalls Island was designed for people outside of the community, not those in East Harlem. They talked a lot about the history of Randalls Island: It used to be a place for EH residents to go, but after urban renewal it became very unsafe – and most people from EH would not venture there for recreation. Now that it has experienced investment from the City, EH residents feel that Randalls Island is not a place that was designed for them.

103<sup>rd</sup> Street Community Garden & Thomas Jefferson Park – examples of good public open spaces that feel like they are for EH residents

Pier on 107<sup>th</sup> street – an opportunity for a good public open space that is connected to the waterfront. Needs repair. Promote fishing and biking, and stabilize the roof structure.

Mt. Morris Park – needs investment. Needs to be ADA compliant (currently difficult for wheelchairs and strollers).

- Randall's Island
  - Accessibility
  - Free use
  - Security
  - Community preferences
- **River Esplanade – 4 STICKER**
- Investment in security
- **Pier 107 – 4 STICKERS**
- Events and investment in rehabilitation
- **Better multi-lingual information to community– 2 Stickers**
- **Young people involvement in developments – 2 stickers**
- No building on 111<sup>th</sup> street between Park and Madison – 1 sticker
- Amphitheater
- Less pavement, more grass -1 STICKER
- Recharge stations and wifi – 1 STICKER
- Track, outdoor gym, workout equipment – 4 STICKERS
- Access to theaters - 1 STICKER
- Housing for artists – 1 STICKER
- Better use of cultural spaces – 1 STICKER
- Street Performances -3 STICKERS
- Free Randall's Island events
- Handicap accessibility for parks (smoother pavement) – 4 STICKERS
- Big Ideas
  - Developers need to be held accountable and put money back into the community
  - EH needs more investment in public space
  - Increase access of information (availability of community gardens, Spanish translation, field access on Randalls Island, more regulation signage)
  - More grass, less pavement

- Need Youth & Teen engagement (they need a place to go be young and need better playgrounds)
- Usage
  - Parks are too often used for partying (flat open spaces encourage this)
  - Parks (esp. on Randalls Island) require reservations, and are usually not reserved by East Harlem groups
  - Jogging on the tracks, when available
  - Gardening (many times by people outside the neighborhood)
  - Need more WIFI stations
- Recreation
  - Need another soft track and outdoor rec equipment
  - Need fields dedicated to pick-up games
- Community Gardens
  - Need more outreach to East Harlem residents
  - Need to save the gardens on HPD lots
- Connections – Central Park / Randalls Island
  - Stop the requirement to always reserve fields!
  - Designated space/time for pick-up games
  - Better outreach to East Harlem Residents early in the season so groups from the community can reserve fields
  - East Harlem Community preference (foster partnerships with EH schools and Senior Centers)
  - Less large scale music festivals
  - More free events for that are geared towards EH residents
  - More security

#### **ARTS AND CULTURE**

- Types of art and culture there should be more of or that are missing:
  - Free concerts (soul and latin music)
  - Block parties and music in the streets
  - Youth engagement
- Needs of artists and arts groups:
  - Public amphitheater for performing artists
- Incorporate arts into existing facilities / new development:
  - There are four theaters in EH not used to their potential – provide discount rates to EH performance artists to perform in these spaces
  - African museum was never opened
- Overall Themes From Discussion:
  - Keep local artists living and working in the neighborhood

#### **DEVELOPMENT**

- Hold developers accountable – 6 STICKERS
- Reinvestment required into the community – Schools open spaces, housing playgrounds etc. – 4 STICKERS
- Community Approval of Selling Air Rights – 1 STICKER
- At least 20-30% of developments for “extreme low income” – 6 STICKERS
- Businesses are affordable for extreme low income residents – 3 STICKERS

#### **Parking Lot:**

- When landowners sell their air rights to a developer, the community is left out of the process. There needs to be a way to vocalize EH residents' concerns in these situations.

## TABLE 2

### PARKS

- Better Accessibility / Safety – 1 sticker
- Overutilized parks – Thomas Jefferson
- Underutilized parks – Wager, PS 146, 103 / East River – 1 sticker
- Seniors, Accessibility - 1 sticker
- Park Needs
  - Comfort Stations
  - Park employees – 1 sticker
  - **Lighting / safety – 2 stickers**
- Community Gardens
  - need to be open (hours\_
  - connect them to schools
  - **various programs, public art – 2 STICKERS**
- Central Park
  - Outreach to community
  - Police harassment
  - Don't feel connected
- Randalls Island
  - Bus / Transit isn't good
  - Need a physical link, foot bridge
- No NYCHA Infill – density

### ARTS AND CULTURE

- Need more
  - **public art – 2 STICKERS**
  - local artists connected to local venues
  - use underutilized spaces (theaters) – 1 STICKER
- Needs of artists/orgs
  - funding
  - open up venues
  - **linkages to schools – 3 STICKERS**
  - need more exposure
  - **training – 3 STICKERS**
  - Arts advocacy orgs
  - grants / workshops – 1 STICKER

## TABLE 3

### EXCITED TO DISCUSS

- Theater district
- Waterfront promenade – upkeep
- Bus Depot decommissioning 126<sup>th</sup> Street – Asthma on African Burial Ground – 1 STICKER
- East Harlem = genesis of harlem
- **Learn and assist with rezoning – 3 STICKERS**
- Connections to existing open space
- Residents have no access to NYCHA Open Space

- Grow vegetables
- Plant trees
- **High vs. low fences – keeping people out or in – 2 STICKERS**
  - No Fences
  - Lower Fences
- **Youthful activities – safe but open – stickball games, movie screenings in open spaces, street festivals – 5 STICKERS**
- **Make and sell what people grow and make in parks – 4 STICKERS**

#### PARKS

- **Young people involved – plant seeds – 4 STICKERS**
- Green soothing and peaceful – live in a concrete jungle we need open space!
- Thomas Jefferson Park / Poor Richard's – Nothing about the people that they're named after
- Art Park – no art, just drugs
- **Art in Parks – Public art by artists in the neighborhood open air art gallery – 3 STICKERS**
- Great Parks – Franklin Park – roses
- Marcus Garvey – Could be better maintained
- Randall's Island Problems – transportation, programming
- Parks as Economic Development and Youth Development Engines
- Marina along FDR Drive
- Bridge to Randall's Island

#### ARTS AND CULTURE

- Fairs and community functions – tremendous response
- Alive with culture – we have everything we need in the village
- Theaters in East Harlem = rich underused resource
- **Youth incarceration – huge problem / community based solutions – 4 STICKERS**
- **No diversity in arts – open mic, poetry, rap – 3 STICKERS**
- Lighting – problem it's too dark – 1 STICKER
- Jobs in arts for young people
- Bring street traffic to local small businesses – 1 STICKER
- **Amphitheaters need programming – 2 STICKERS**
- Programming resources and funding are needed
- Increase cultural affairs budget
- **Talent search in the neighborhood / showcase neighborhood artists – 3 STICKERS**
- **Performances on streets of El Barrio are an asset! – 2 STICKERS**
- Performance spaces are not community oriented or are too expensive or not interesting
- Need community Oriented Performance and arts space

#### TABLE 4

**Group consisted of:**

- a CVH leader
- 2 Community Board Members
- a Faith In New York member
- a dancer / creative person
- a local parks activist

One person was quite adamant about previous plans and needs being ignored in processes. Others were more engaged in the process and wanting to influence it.

**Mapping:**

- Randall's Island was mentioned as being disconnected from the rest of the district, problematically
- It was mentioned that there used to be a water taxi that connected the two areas...and that it ought to be reinstated

#### **Ideas around Development:**

There was agreement that the community should figure out how to get more out of developers than communities have in times past. Setting standards for what's expected of developers and using leverage to get these things was echoed a few times.

#### **Excited to Discuss**

- How inclusionary zoning with green space
- How people here (latino) can be heard and preserve existing social systems
- Recreation for teens
- Infrastructure repair; getting people to hang out
- Shut down of auto body shops; develop of green thumb gardens
- Why "Harlem" excluded from conversation – esplanade issues/ Harlem River
- Arts and Culture – Community theater & programs to build life

#### **PARKS**

- To improve space – access! / disabled access ramps need to be cleaned
- Infrastructure – fix broken walkways / sidewalks
- Fix esplanade
- We need more open space
- Bike lane at 125<sup>th</sup> street extension going north
- Set up rules – dedicate housing to community / set aside – **1 sticker**
- Keeping public space public!
- **Equipment and facilities in public spaces need to be maintained and repaired (benches, tables, etc) – 2 stickers**
- Lighting in developments / parks /etc
- **Transform unused properties and assemble one large piece of real estate (Trade and barter) – 2 stickers**
- Farmers markets in public housing footprints – **1 Sticker**
- Build [develop] on Green Thumb Gardens not being used as gardens
- Community Gardens as 1 lot not 10 lots
- No Autobody shops near schools
- **Civitas esplanade plan – 2 stickers**
- More programming in gardens
- Walking groups in parks
- Work on getting people into garden spaces – **1 sticker**
- School activities in parks (get kids outdoors) – **1 sticker**
- Concerts in parks
- Access to Randall's Island
- **Water Taxi to Randall's Island – 2 stickers**
- Ways to take care of trees – city paid horticulture stewards! – **1 sticker**

#### **Arts and Culture**

- Murals on sides of buildings (more! Showcasing history and culture)
- **Don't allow murals to be painted over before original funder / artist permits (ie Greenthumb) – 2 stickers**
- Allow children and young people to do art in community gardens and along the esplanade

- Cultural space for freestyle dance (for youth)
- Performing arts center with workshops and productions (visual, physical, etc) – *1 sticker*
- Bring productions into open spaces – *1 sticker*
- More murals around community
- Arts in the parks!
- Financial support for artists to do free public programming – *1 sticker*
- Open up museums to community artists and young people
- **African-American museum set aside funding to finish it! – *4 stickers***
- Theater in parks and gardens ( pop-up theater) ie: NYRP –Midsummers Nights Dream
- **If new buildings in NYCHA – Create community theater spaces on ground floor – *3 stickers***
- Redevelop vacant spaces into arts and cultural spaces
- **NYCHA Underutilized space – stipulate that develops need to make public spaces on ground floors for general community uses – *2 stickers***
- Guarantee permanence of any affordable housing, public spaces, arts spaces that are created, set aside dedicated funding sources to maintain those
- Artists and art spaces need more resources could get money from developers

## TABLE 5

### PARKS TOP 4

- Better connections between open spaces and better connections between the community and open spaces
- Greater access and awareness of Randall's Island
- Better lighting / safety /sanitation in open spaces
- Activate NYCHA's open spaces for recreation and enjoyment

### PARKS

- Improve open space
- Cleaner
- More garbage cans
- More bag dispensers for dog poop
- Safety- lighting around and in parks esp Marcus Garvey
- Vacant lots/comm gardens- need to be better maintained (some are very well maintained and some are not)
- If people own something do something with it- don't just lock it up or sit on it for development
- Smell/environment could be improved
- Safety improvements on the underpass- better lighting, it's dirty and "creepy"
- Roosevelt Island
  - More connections to Randalls Island- can utilize some of RI but some is private
  - Can walk around on RI but you have to know where you're going, it's easy to get lost
  - Un-programmed space on RI- does it exist?
  - School kids go to the urban farm- good
  - Don't think of RI as part of the EH community-- difference btw 1st avenue residents and those further west- eastern people use it more-- same with Central Park and the more western residents
  - Add another bridge and ferry to RI to increase access
- Are parks and rec promoted in community?
  - Lack of advertising/promotion for activities/ programs on RI
  - Depends on the park, Lots of information about Marcus Garvey and amphitheater, lots about Tom Jeff Park
  - Things not marketed in community to residents or outside the community

- Know about track on RI (one person) but nothing else on RI
- How can our open spaces be more resilient?
  - Build up shorelines
  - Bulkheads
  - RI
  - Softening shoreline- absorb water- protect NYCHA developments (some didn't get flooded during Sandy bc TJ park blocked water)
- How can community gardens/vacant lots better serve the community?
  - More volunteer registration
  - Engage the community- block party
  - More obvious signage
  - Complaints- Treated like a museum instead of an active space
  - Gates locked, uninviting spaces
  - Need people to "babysit" gardens bc of drugs, homeless etc
  - One comm member was looked at strangely when she went into a garden by people sitting there
  - Comm gardens should be open to the community and you should feel comfortable
  - "They feel like private clubs"
- How could NYCHAs open space be better utilized?
  - Comm programming for youth and seniors
  - But safety concerns at night in open spaces
  - Need to be well lit and well protected to do programming
  - Lots of PSA cops- could be friendlier, act dumb when you ask them questions
- How could connections to Central Park be strengthened?
  - Past 97th st it's hard to get to the west side
  - Beautify the underpass
- Recreation
- Movie theater, community center

#### **ARTS AND CULTURE TOP 3**

- Preserve existing art spaces and artists
- Better marketing of culture both inside and outside of the community through institutions (Chamber of commerce, arts advocacy groups)
- Better collaboration among organizations and cultural groups

#### **ARTS AND CULTURE**

- How do you experience arts and culture in EH?
  - Tailier Boricqua, museums, murals, mosaics
  - Issues with marketing
  - La Marqueta- how to maximize in terms of both history and resurgence?
  - Need more money for culture
- Needs?
  - Museo del Barrio open on Sunday's- funding issue
  - Rent/ cost of living is too high for artists
  - PS 109- perpetuity affordable- good
  - Is there an EH film festival?
  - Marketing- people just don't know what's going on

- How to incorporate arts into existing spaces/ new developments?
  - Comm facility requirement-- make it a cultural requirement- look into Uptown NY development
  - Percent for art model for cultural spaces
  - Could have a children's museum of Manhattan here
  - Incentive for new buildings to use art from EH in lobbies, offices etc
  - Local artist directory- example- BX200 in Bronx
  - Need an arts advocacy group, they could do the directory
  - Increase public art- depends on landlords and property owners
  - Is there a portal for culture and tourism in EH?
  - Tourist buses need to stop in EH
  - Need a structure for telling the narrative of EH- have EH Preservation and Visit El Barrio but small/limited scope
  - Need more collaboration between orgs
  - Better chamber of commerce
  - Tourism booth/ kiosk
- Arts and culture strengths?
  - Museum of the city of NY, Julia de Burgos Center, national black theater, red carpet theater, poets den
  - Institutions are great but naturally occurring stuff needs to be strengthened/ protected
  - City giving property to developers, but they should give it to artists/artist housing
  - Murals- some starting to deteriorate- way to preserve? EH Preservation is working to preserve some and fixed vandalized murals
  - Murals in gates by Franco- going to east river plaza- how displayed?

## Table 6

### PARKS

- **Density /Population Growth**
  - Improve access to Randalls Island
    - Bus, Trolley, Pedestrian Bridge
    - Free Shuttle
  - **Free WIFI Access – 4 STICKERS**
  - Safety, increased relationship building with police department
  - Work with Churches
  - Keep parks and community gardens open longer
- NYCHA Open Space
  - **Community centers, programs, computers – 2 STICKERS**
  - Safety, cameras – 1 STICKER
  - Relationship building with police
- **General Improvements**
  - Rooftop gardens
  - Congestion in open spaces
  - Pests and insects
  - Cleanliness – 1 sticker
  - **Lighting east side well lit, west side needs more – 5 STICKERS**
  - Park Ave tunnels need lights
  - Jefferson Park; Pool and gym improvements
  - Spiked fences are dangerous
  - Clean energy ; solar panels
- **Programs**

- **Summer jobs; recreational need more internships – 6 STICKERS**
- Tournaments/ competitions – Basketball and baseball
- Day care centers
- Entertainment (110<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> by boathouse) youth and seniors – 1 STICKER

#### **Arts and Culture**

- **Programs**
- Outdoor movie screenings – 1 sticker
- Incorporate El Barrio history – 1 sticker
- Mobile music venue
- **Music venues and stages – 2 Stickers**
- Free museum programs and events
- Music classes; workshops – 1 sticker
- Dance classes – 1 sticker
- **Educational programs, professional development, job skills/workforce programs to become more successful could exist within neighborhood facilities – 2 STICKERS**
- INCORPORATE INTO NEW DEVELOPMENTS
- Artist housing
- Installations
- Murals/graffiti
  
- Needs
- Sculpture
- More notice for events

#### **TABLE 7**

##### **PARKS**

- Better access to transportation to Randall's Island (direct bus service) – increased frequency / more stops – 3 STICKERS
- More access to recreational space in parks – staffing to allow for public access – 3 STICKERS
  - Board games and fishing rods
- Invest in community gardens grow fresh produce, preserve open spaces – 1 STICKER
- Free up construction space on riverfront from 131<sup>st</sup> street to 123<sup>rd</sup> street – allow public access – 4 STICKERS
- La Marqueta – use open spaces for young people, playground, family events – 2 STICKERS
- NYCHA
  - Add lighting
  - More family days – 1 STICKER
  - Rethink and upgrade green spaces to include dog runs, recreational activities
- Zipline to Randalls Island
- **Open Space and grilling in parks – 4 STICKERS**

##### **ART AND CULTURE**

- **More film screenings in open spaces – 2 STICKERS**
- **Use school gyms and playgrounds for community recreation – 5 STICKERS**
- Exercise, culture (Salsa), and movement workshops in open spaces -1 STICKER
- Open Access / Julia de Burgos
- **Create more awareness of neighborhood events to residents -2 STICKERS**
- Create link between lower and upper East Harlem – more cultural production in Upper East Harlem – 2 STICKERS
- Increase ethnic festivals and events
- More theatrical performances in parks outside of Central Park – 1 STICKER

- Work with organizations and businesses to promote events in store fronts

## TABLE 8

The group was made up of about 12 people, the majority of which were East Harlem Residents.

### Parks

- Parks can preserve diverse cultural legacy – landmarks – 1 sticker
- Broadband wifi access – 1 sticker
- **Improving safety with youth programs, community, presence, input and awareness – 3 stickers**
- Local programs in central park
- Access to randall's Island – 1 sticker
  - More cultural public programs for east Harlem residents –make it free, and welcome
  - RI has been privatized by schools and groups
- Boating waterfront access at 107 st pier – make it a landmark – 1 sticker
- Improvements to rec centers
- Don't privatize NYCHA property – 1 sticker
  - upgrade NYCHA Play equipment

### Arts and Culture

- **Cultural Skill-based programs – 2 STICKERS**
- Culture not valued but it's what makes E Harlem what it is – 1 STICKER
- Playwriting / play production – 1 STICKER
- vibrancy in the people here and the food
- **Programs that find common ground between cultures – 2 STICKERS**
- Program for residents to experience free/reduced-price programs – muni ID – 1 sticker
- Culture begins in the home – reinforce in schools and museums, no barriers to entry – 1 sticker
- Committee for cultural landmarks funding – 1 STICKER
- **Cultural programs in NYCHA Centers – 2 STICKERS**
- Multi generational, multi cultural programs
- Outdoor movies

### On Open Space and Recreation

#### **BIG IDEA – One topic they were most interested in discussing**

- The need for more playgrounds for children within the community in general
- The need for more space to play sports – track, baseball, etc.
- More community gardens – increased youth participation
- Cultural education programs – food, language, etc
- Need for parking lots

#### **Usage – Who uses the space? Any underutilized? Any crowded? How can parks be made more inclusive?**

- The residents of E. Harlem believe that Jefferson Park is crowded particularly throughout the holidays.
- Half of the group was seniors and they believed that parks need accommodation to make them more accessible for senior citizens (particularly those disabled) to relax comfortably.
- There should be more benches closer to fields to watch (sports) games during leisure time
- The parks should be used as educational centers of culture – this can be done through the dedication of parks to a certain culture, (a Puerto Rican themed, Italian themed, etc).
- Removal of barriers to have more events in the parks.
  - By barriers the residents meant making access to permits to make musical events and other performances easier to host in the neighborhood

### Programs

- More programs are needed for young people to “keep them off the streets” (arts, cultural education, etc)
- Bring technology into the parks (wifi)

#### **How to Secure Public Spaces?**

- The table as a whole put a large emphasis on the need for increased community group involvement, particularly through community education
  - There was a short discussion regarding police activity in East Harlem. Initially the community suggested a larger police presence in the neighborhood, but the group backtracked from the idea, favoring larger community group involvement
- Increase use of cameras

#### **Central Park, Randall's Island, and NYCHA**

- Central Park is felt as separate from East Harlem, a tourist attraction rather than a local park
- Most residents do not use Central Park
- Suggested way to make the park more inclusive would be to host free local programs for the community in the park
- Randall's Island – As a whole the group does not use Randall's Island, there were even some long time E. Harlem residents that have never visited.
- The residents considered Randall's Island a privatized park in which them and their children did not have access to the fields (due to school permits over the fields)
- NYCHA recreational information should be advertised more prominently to the residents of East Harlem.
- Don't privatize NYCHA open spaces
- Allow children of E. Harlem access to playgrounds.

#### **On Art and Culture**

##### **How do residents experience art in their neighborhood?**

- The group believes that E. Harlem lacks accessibility to art forms (music, paintings, films, plays etc)
- The group believed there was a need for cultural programs and skill based programs (to help develop local talent)

#### **Art Spaces**

- The museums should be used for cultural education
- There should be greater advertisement of already free activities
- The residents felt a sense of “not belonging” exist in the city’s museums, particularly because the suggested donations have been seen as mandatory. The price has excluded many residents from visiting the museums, but the IDNYC program has given many residents the opportunity to go to the museum.
- The residents feel the local cultural institutions are not being funded (but did not specify, which institutions).

#### **Synopsis of Table 8 Discussion**

The group placed a large emphasis on E. Harlem’s cultural heritage and the importance of its preservation, particularly through the use of the parks to host cultural and ethnic festivals.

The majority of the group believed that E. Harlem was lacking a strong art culture. By art culture, I am referring to the conventional forms of art; film, theatre, even the museums seemed inaccessible due to a “sense of not belonging.” The residents did appreciate the ‘unconventional’ forms of art in the neighborhood particularly the murals.

The development of E. Harlem needs to be done in a more inclusive fashion in which already existing open spaces and free events are better promoted throughout the neighborhood. Central Park and

Randall's Island in particular should be more accessible to the residents of E. Harlem through free programs that are targeted to the residents of the community.

Security was also an important concern for the group. Security did not imply more police as the communities' trust in the police is very fragile. Members of the group suggested the police needed to build a relationship with the community as opposed to simply patrolling them.

#### **TABLE 9**

##### **PARKS**

- More trees – 1 STICKER
- More accessibility- 1 STICKER
- **Open community garden gates – 2 STICKERS**
- Better maintenance
  - Security is very hit or miss
- Greening education (dog waste) – 1 sticker
- Trash pick up and accountability
- CPI is great but there should be investment in Marcus Garvey and Thomas Jefferson Parks
- Civilian patrol/ auxiliary police
- Preventive security
- Creative pop-up parks to maximize space
- Rooftop gardens for better air quality – 1 STICKER
- **Better access to Roosevelt Island / Central Park – 2 STICKERS**
  - Bus, trolley
- Encourage people to take pride in the neighborhood
- Playground at Thomas Jefferson needs repair
- Add more open space on waterfront

##### **ARTS AND CULTURE**

- More block parties, pop-up concerts (70's jams) – 1 STICKER
- Food festivals that highlight diversity
- Hard to navigate security at street festivals
- Concert to draw more people and neighborhood families to the esplanade
- Create space for local merchants at cultural events
- Diversify local businesses to include less 99cent stores more spaces for arts and cultural institutions
- Advocating for more city money to preserve local arts
- Make sure vendors ad performers are local
- **Hold any developer or big business accountable for preserving / giving back to open space in the area – 3 STICKER**
- Demanding civic responsibility from any developer that builds or gets tax breaks in East Harlem
- More information about street murals, through social media/apps
- More community / union involvement in this neighborhood planning process
- Promote graffiti/street art hall of fame
- Use local school yards for community events

##### **PARKING LOT**

How do we preserve / maintain new spaces

How do we engage young people in maintenance and responsibility of local open space

#### **TABLE 10**

##### **PARKS Not Enough Green Space – Too much concrete – 5 STICKERS**

- Develop gardens around housing – 1 STICKER

- **Get residents involved in gardening – Selling fresh produce – 4 STICKERS**
- Get word out about park activities
  - better advertising
  - hours about gardens
  - signage
- **Less Restrictions on group gatherings – 3 STICKERS**
- More places for BBQ
- Jefferson Park is overcrowded
- Waterfront is small - Doesn't have enough space for different types of activities or programs
- Rebuild spaces so programs can happen at 107<sup>th</sup> St Pier
- Getting to the waterfront doesn't feel safe. Improve this add more access points
- **Train along Park Ave is unsafe, dark in the day and night, more lighting would be better for east-west connections – 2 STICKERS**
- More and Better comfort stations
- **Ethnic arts and culture festival in parks – 5 STICKERS**

#### **ARTS AND CULTURE**

**Resources needed to sustain local arts , there has been a vacuum since the Association for Hispanic Arts folded – 3 STICKERS**

**Branch of Harlem Arts, form an East Harlem Arts Alliance – 3 STICKERS**

**Lots of Activities in Central Park but not culturally relevant – 3 STICKERS**

Hard for artists to sustain their work and continue to develop

**Need for support and resources to sustain Latino Arts -4 STICKERS**

Gathering of Artists to discuss envision and implement

**Murals Music Festivals and Puerto Rican Festival – 3 STICKERS**

**Need more outdoor stages in the neighborhood – 2 STICKERS**

## COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #2 - FLIERS

# EAST HARLEM NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING & REZONING

**DEFINING THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY!**



*Join Us and Participate in a  
Community Visioning Workshop on*

## YOUTH, SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

INCLUDING AFTERSCHOOL, PRE-K, AND DAYCARE PROGRAMS

**WHEN**

**Wednesday,  
July 1st, 2015  
6:30 - 8:30pm**

**WHERE**

Silberman School of  
Social Work  
at Hunter College  
2180 Third Ave  
at 119th Street

**TRAIN/BUS**

**6** to 116 Street  
M101 or M103  
to 118th Street  
and 3rd Ave

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
Spanish Translation  
Snacks & Refreshments

Childcare Available - if needed please  
RSVP to 646-398-4886 by 6/29  
Sign Language Interpretation Available -  
if needed please RSVP to 212-788-9121 by 6/29

**INVITE A  
YOUNG  
PERSON!**

### **Get Involved in Future Public Meetings!**



**Wed, July 29 - Visioning Workshop, 6:30 - 8:30pm, Silberman School of Social Work**  
Topic: Housing Preservation, NYCHA, Environment, Transportation, and Safety



**Thursday, Sept 10 - Visioning Workshop, 6:30 - 8:30pm, Location TBD**  
Topic: Economic & Workforce Development, Small Businesses, Health, and Seniors



**Thursday, Oct 22 - Visioning Workshop, 6:30 - 8:30pm, Location TBD**  
Topic: Affordable Housing, Zoning & Land Use

**Thursday, Nov 19 - Public Presentation of Draft Report, 6:30-8:30pm, Location TBD**

**For more information, contact:**

Community Voices Heard: 212-860-6001  
Community Board 11: 212-831-8929  
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito: 212-788-9121

**Follow us on Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/)

# EAST HARLEM (EL BARRIO)

## PLANIFICACION Y REZONIFICACION DEL VECINDARIO

### DEFINIENDO EL FUTURO DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD



*Únase a nosotros y participe en un taller de visualización Comunitario taller sobre*

## JÓVENES, ESCUELAS Y EDUCACIÓN:

INCLUYENDO PROGRAMAS DE DESPUÉS DE LA ESCUELA, PRE-K Y  
PROGRAMAS DE GUARDERÍAS INFANTILES

### CUANDO

**Miércoles,  
1 de Julio  
6:30 - 8:30pm**

### DONDE

Silberman Escuela de  
Trabajo Social  
En Hunter College  
2180 Tercera Avenida  
(Esquina con la calle 119)

### TRENE / AUTOBÚS

**6** hasta la calle 116  
M101 or M103  
hasta la calle 118  
3 Avenida

### **TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS!**

Interpretación en Español  
Meriendas & Refrescos

Cuidado de niños disponible – si lo necesita  
favor llamar al 646-398-4886 en 6/29

Interpretación de lenguaje de señas disponible –  
si lo necesita favor llamar al 212-788-9121 en 6/29

**TRAE  
UNA  
PERSONA  
JOVEN!**

### **Participa en las próximas reuniones públicas!**



Miércoles 29 de Julio – Taller de Visualización, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Silberman Escuela de Trabajo Social Tema: Preservación de Viviendas, NYCHA, Medio Ambiente, Transporte y Seguridad



Jueves 10 de Septiembre - Taller de Visualización, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, ubicación por determinar Tema: Economía + Desarrollo Laboral, Pequeñas Empresas, salud y Personas de Edad Adulta



Jueves 22 de Octubre - Taller de Visualización, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, ubicación por determinar Tema: Vivienda Asequibles, Zonificación y Uso de Suelo

Jueves 19 de Noviembre - Presentación Pública del Reporte Inicial, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, ubicación por determinar

### **Para más información, llame:**

Community Voices Heard: 212-860-6001

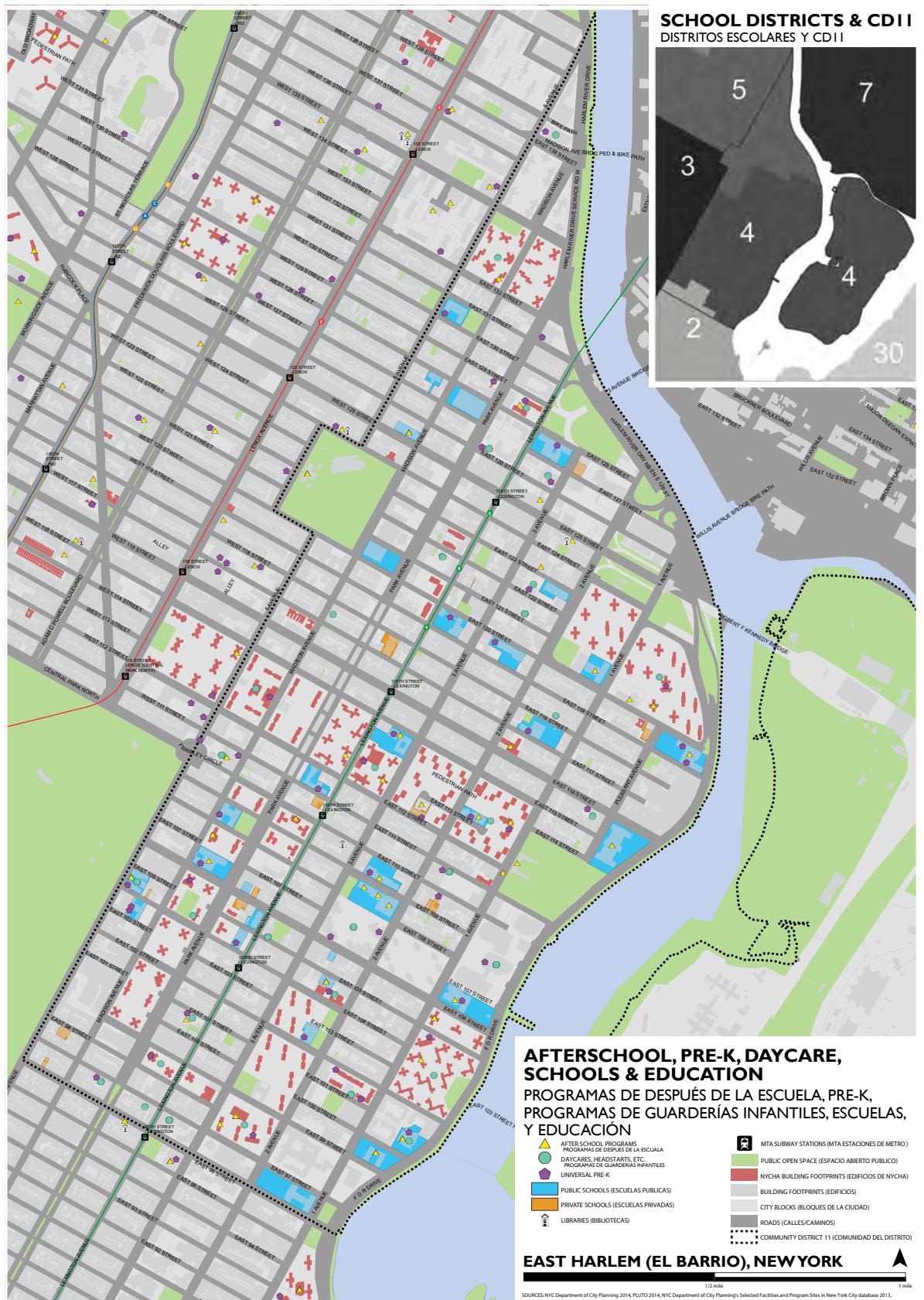
Community Board 11: 212-831-8929

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito: 212-788-9121

### **Síguenos en Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/)

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #2 - WORKSHOP MAP



# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #2 – FACILITATOR GUIDE

**East Harlem Neighborhood Plan: Visioning Session 2 – July 1, 2015 6:30 -8:30pm**

## **Small Group Discussion Facilitator Guide**

### **EDUCATION / SCHOOLS and PRE-K / DAY CARE / AFTERSCHOOL**

#### **ROLES NEEDED FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Facilitator
- Note-taker/Facilitator support
- Interpreter/Translator (if needed), Should have separate Spanish Language tables

#### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Focus group guide (for the facilitator)
- Notetaker guide pens or laptop for note-taking (*for the Notetaker*)
- A flip chart and markers to write down key points from discussions
- Dot Stickers
- East Harlem Map – *with locations of schools and sites for day care, pre-k, and afterschool programs*
- Reference Lists of Schools/Youth Programs in East Harlem
- Timeline Handout - *East Harlem Neighborhood Plan Process with Visioning Session Dates*

#### **DIRECTIONS AND TIPS FOR FACILITATORS**

- ✓ *This guide is for people that are facilitating small group discussions.*
- ✓ *The visioning session will start with a large group welcome and background presentation, followed by the small group discussions*
- ✓ *There will be multiple small groups happening at the same time.*
- ✓ *You do not need to read the script verbatim, feel free to use your own words and be natural and conversational.*

#### **Facilitator Tips:**

- Let people talk about their experiences or concerns but be firm if they are disrupting the activities for all the other participants. Everyone has taken time out of their busy schedules to be here and deserves to have their opinions to be heard.
- Step down and Stand up – encourage people who are quiet to talk, and for people who are talking too much to make room for everyone to participate.
- If someone is becoming very disruptive, please signal one of the “helpers” who can have a one on one conversation with that person.
- If people have questions that are not specific to this principle and small group, please wait until the end.
- Please remember that we are not here to hear about the facilitator’s personal opinions. Our role as facilitators is to gather the ideas, opinions and concerns of the participants.
- If questions come up that you are unable to answer, please write them down in a **“Parking Lot”** on chart paper. Then try to direct the questioner to one of the session organizers at the end of the small group discussion

## **Activities before the presentation begins**

There are two activities while people are settling in and waiting for the presentation to begin that they can do. Please introduce yourself as your table's facilitator and help them get started on these activities

- **Concerns / Excited about Post-Its** – *this is to capture thoughts and feelings about the rezoning and neighborhood planning process in general.*
  - *On a green post it, write one thing that excites you about the neighborhood planning process*
  - *On a pink post it, write one thing that concerns you about the neighborhood planning process*
  - *Facilitator will collect and will post all the cards on the wall for everyone to be able to see.*
- **Surveys**
  - *Participants will get this at the sign in table and will be able to fill out during the course of the evening.*

## **Small Group Discussion Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Overview (2-3 minutes)** – *Introduce how the group will work and reiterate the context of the neighborhood planning process*
2. **Ground Rules (2 minutes)** – Rules for discussion
3. **Participant Introductions (5-10 minutes)** – *Participants each introduce themselves, their relation to East Harlem and one thing they're excited to discuss*
4. **Neighborhood Map Overview (5-10 minutes)** – *Orient the group to the map. The map can be used throughout discussion to locate and identify things as they come up.*
5. **Discussion (50 minutes)** - *The group will discuss Several broad questions that have sub-questions/prompting questions to spur conversation*
6. **Summary and Wrap-up (10 minutes)** – *The group will prioritize key points to report back*
7. **Report Back (20 minutes)** – *Designate a participant to give the report back of key points to the larger group*

## **1. Welcome and Overview (2-3 minutes)**

- *Introduce yourself as the facilitator, introduce the notetaker but explain their role is to just listen and take notes but not to participate.*

### ***Process Talking Points***

- *You're here today to contribute to the development of a Community-Based Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem (CB11).*
- *As you heard earlier, as part of Mayor de Blasio's Housing plan to create and preserve 200,000 units of affordable housing over the next 10 years across the five boroughs, East Harlem has been identified as one of many neighborhoods across the city that will be rezoned in order to achieve that goal.*

- In order to ensure that the residents who have a stake in this neighborhood have a voice in this process, CB11, Community Voices Heard, and the Speaker's Office are leading this effort to create a vision for the future of East Harlem, and this is an early step in the process.
- Over the next several months, there will be many meetings on a variety of topics to develop an end product in November, which will be a Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem created by and for this community. [Show Timeline Handout]
- Do not think of this process as a reaction to the proposed rezoning, but rather a proactive effort to engage different community stakeholders in a solid plan that will guide future development in East Harlem. The ideas generated here today should go beyond plans for the built environment to address the overall quality of life for residents of this neighborhood.

*First I will go over some ground rules for this session, then go around and do introductions. We'll do a mapping activity, and the bulk of our discussion will be around some specific questions relating to this topic. Finally, we'll recap some of the ideas generated here and report back to the group.*

## **2. Ground Rules (2 minutes)**

- Respect everyone's opinions. We are not here to debate with anyone.
- All of your answers, ideas, feelings and opinions are important.
- If you are talking too much, step back.
- If you are not talking enough, speak up.
- ONE MIC: Please do not interrupt anyone. Wait until someone is done speaking before offering your opinion.
- If you have questions that are not specific to the focus group, please wait until the end.

## **3. Participant Introductions (5-10 minutes)**

*Let's start with a round of introductions. We'll go around the table and everyone can say very quickly (1 minute or less – please keep this very brief, you will definitely have plenty of time to form your opinion):*

- Your name?
- Relationship to youth/education in East Harlem (ie: are they a parent/guardian, school administrator?)
- What is one thing you are excited to talk about today?

*Did anyone come to one of the previous sessions, The Community Forum on May 20<sup>th</sup> or the Parks and Arts Visioning session on June 4<sup>th</sup>, can you raise your hands?*

## **4. Mapping Activity (5-10 minutes)**

*We have a map of East Harlem that includes the locations of schools and sites of day care, afterschool, and Pre-K programs. Point out major landmarks (Central Park, subway lines, NYCHA*

*(campuses, etc) and where the location of this session is. We will use the map throughout the discussion to label, identify and locate things we talk about.*

- Please place a sticker on the map where you live (or work). We want to learn where everyone is coming from so we can make sure we aren't missing people in our outreach from different parts of the neighborhood. (use one color for this)
- If you have a connection to a school or youth program site, please place a sticker on that, feel free to write in the name, or what the relationship is (ie child's school)

## 5. Discussion (50 minutes)

*Begin the conversation by identifying Strengths and challenges. Start to create lists of the big takeaways for schools and youth programs on the chart paper at each table, notetaker should capture specific details*

- **Strengths and Challenges** – Go around the table and ask each participant to talk about the school or youth program they have a connection to describing one big strength, something positive, and then a challenge or something can be improved about that school/program
- **Big Themes** – The steering committee members have identified some major themes as opportunities to improve schools and youth programs in the neighborhood. They are on the posters on the wall.
- We'll go through the themes for each topic Youth Programs and Schools. We want to make sure we're not missing something important, and then we'll talk about the themes that are most important to you. What should we add to this list? Lets talk about each one

### Pre- K, Afterschool, Daycare

- **Facilities** - There are some amazing youth facilities in the neighborhood, but some are outmoded and inadequate.
- What do ideal facilities for Daycare / Pre K / After School look like?
- **Leverage Current Community Based Organizations** – One of the strengths of East Harlem is that there are many great providers of services, but we want to make sure we're taking advantage of that and that the services that young people need are what are offered.
- What services are most important for our community? i.e. Multicultural, Multilingual, Wrap-Around Services, etc.)
- **More Toddler / Infant Programs** There is a gap in services provided in this age group
- How would we like our children to be served from birth through graduation?

**Schools / Education**

- **Aligning specialized programs/services with the needs of the District – East Harlem has a lot of needs including for English Language Learners and people with ability issues.**
- **Which support programs should our schools have to meet the need of the East Harlem population?**
- **Creating more diverse pathways to Careers and College -** Rates for young people going on to College are very low in East Harlem
- **How can we improve and diversify opportunities for students moving onto careers and college, are there opportunities for other pathways through technical and vocational training?**
- **Integrating Technology into schools**
- **How do you envision technology being used in the schools?**
- **Developing external partnerships and pulling partnerships into schools**
- **What sort of partnerships do you feel schools across the District could benefit from?**

**7. Summary and Wrap Up (10 minutes)**

Give a 2-3 minute summary of what has been said (make sure the main ideas are clearly written on butcher paper). Select a spokesperson to report back to the larger group. Participants will then sticker vote on their top three most important statements

- **Did I accurately sum up what was said?**
  - Is there anything else you'd like to say? Did we miss anything?
- **Place three stickers next to your top three items**
  - **On Strengths and Challenges**
  - **On the Themes list,**
  - **On ideas that have been brainstormed**

*we will report back on the the ideas and themes with the most votes. All of the suggestions and information will be collected and utilized in our plan.*

*Thank you all for participating in this focus group and for expressing your opinions here today. This is incredibly valuable information that will be used to develop the Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem. We will be holding additional focus groups on different topics, Please look at the timeline I handed out for the future meetings. Please make sure that you have signed in so that you can stay up to date on any news we have for you as we go through this process.*

***Thank you so much for your time!***

## COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #2 - NOTE TAKER TEMPLATE

**Template for East Harlem Visioning Session 2 Notes  
Schools/Education and Pre-K / Daycare / Afterschool - 7/1/15**

Note taker Name:

Table Number:

Facilitator Name:

# of Participants:

**Detailed Notes (*please note: you can add bolded headings if other relevant questions come up and are discussed in your group*):**

### Table Participants

First Name

Relationship youth/education

Excited About

## **Strengths and Challenges of Schools and Youth Programs in East Harlem**

Schools / Education- **Strengths**

Schools / Education- **Challenges**

Youth Programs – Day Care / Pre-K / Afterschool - **Strengths**

Youth Programs – Day Care / Pre-K / Afterschool - **Challenges**

## Major Themes – Youth Programs – Pre-K / Day Care / Afterschool

Of the Themes on this list are there important topics that are missing?

- **Facilities** - *What do ideal facilities for Daycare / Pre K / After School look like?*
- **Leverage Current Community Based Organizations** – *What services are most important for our community? i.e. Multicultural, Multilingual, Wrap-Around Services, etc.)*
- **More Toddler / Infant Programs** - How would we like our children to be served from birth through graduation?

## Major Themes - Schools

Of the Themes on this list are there important topics that are missing?

- **Aligning specialized programs/services with the needs of the District** - Which support programs should our schools have to meet the need of the East Harlem population?
- **Creating more diverse pathways to Careers and College** - How can we improve and diversify opportunities for students moving onto careers and college, are there opportunities for other pathways through technical and vocational training?
- **Integrating Technology into schools** - How do you envision technology being used in the schools?
- **Developing external partnerships and pulling partnerships into schools** - What sort of partnerships do you feel schools across the District could benefit from?

**Other Notes / Overall summary of the conversation:**

**Questions that Came Up:**

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #2 – SUMMARY OF NOTES

## Strengths and Challenges of Schools and Youth Programs in East Harlem

1 Vote 2 Votes 3 Votes 4 Votes 5 Votes 6 Votes

### Schools / Education- Strengths

- Curriculum:
  - Student role models at certain schools
  - Shift towards more community based
  - Ability to take local history and include it in the classrooms
  - **Self-worth of children**
    - Nurturing
    - Teaching manners, sense of purpose
- Teachers:
  - Teachers stay late
  - Teachers having better professional development to teach/ teach not only for testing but for the whole child's mind, body and soul
- Community/ Neighborhood:
  - Number of schools/real estate dedicated to education
  - Proximity and geographic distribution
  - **Diversity of options – kind of schools and grade levels**
  - Harbor number of institutions with history of rich work
  - Choice
  - Hunter College: higher education presence in the community – engagement and mentoring
  - Good intermediaries that bridge communities, schools, community based organizations
    - How do we tap/ activate resources?
    - Community has rich history of activism.
  - **Cultural organizations and landscape (rich history)**
  - Strong sense of community
  - Jefferson park: health, wellness for entire community
  - **Harlem success academy: promise neighborhood model**
- Programs/ Services:
  - More parent engagement
  - Trips to college: starting early kindergarten showing that this is an attainable goal – this is something real
  - **Exposure to career and jobs**
  - Volunteerism: give a sense of purpose and things to do
  - Community member ideas and programing
  - Youth themselves and ambitions
  - Service organizations
  - Cultural institutions: lots of talented youth could be supported by cultural institutions

- Exposure to careers and the world (colleges, sightseeing)

## Schools / Education- Challenges

- Funding:
  - Lack and misuse of funding
  - Diminished funds
  - Integrating organizations: Fighting over funding
  - Creation of numerous charter schools but lack of investment in public schools
- Family education:
  - No reinforcement of what students are taught/ resources needed to create opportunities for adult learning
  - Young people are having and raising kids without resources/ support for their own education
  - Families do not understand their rights
  - Gentrification and its effect on families
  - Families are not educated so they do not feel vested in their children's education
  - Families feel they do not need to be involved because school is responsible
- Additional Challenges:
  - Children are not treated equally
  - Stress of being waitlisted for schools
- Curriculum/ students:
  - Number driven, competition driven, quantity vs. quality
  - Disconnect between nurturing environment of early child education to middle/high school
  - No social and emotional curriculum, it exists in IEP's and in special education programs.
  - Not sufficient vocational training
  - Not sufficient sexual health education
  - Not enough STEM, arts and culture
  - Too specialized
  - How can the youth be engaged if they do not see cultural institutions around them?
  - How to make youth understand history?
  - Financial literacy programs (Harlem RBI model)
  - Need for long term thinking: School enrolment projections – future development and internet
  - Need for having thematic spaces that engage the children
  - Forced to be academically focused
  - Charter school limitations in special education
  - Expand focus that has historically been on Math and English
  - More holistic approach to youth (0-12) development – college – career
- Faculty:
  - Teachers do not represent the community

- Principals need to work together
- Need faculty review
- Programs/ services:
  - Lack of opportunities for high-performing students
  - Not enough services for youth/ families with disabilities
  - Needed: higher quality of services/ programs – accountability and training
  - Programs do not reinforce discipline for self-respect
  - Youth leave neighborhood for high school
  - Transition to middle school – preparation for challenges
  - Lose children in middle school – no engagement
  - Workforce development programs: How can existing resources contribute to youth development?
  - Summer jobs and opportunities
  - Database of programs
  - Limited special education across the board: Special needs can get out of school – autistic, accommodations
- Outreach:
  - Lack of knowledge/ awareness about programs/ opportunities
  - You have to seek out and search for programs
  - Better outreach to people who need it most
  - Information of community needs and organizations – non-internet based
- Environment/ Community:
  - Co-location/ overcrowding: different ages, courses, too much mixed together
  - Overcrowded schools
- Parent involvement/ support:
  - Keeping parents engaged
  - Family not receiving family support when coming to school – difficulty to get help in communicating
  - Lack of parents support – need resources and information
  - School/ program affordability
- Language:
  - Language barrier
  - Failure to communicate with the school personnel leads to feeling unwelcomed in school
- Collaborations:
  - Collaboration/ cleaning house
  - More collaboration between programs and organizations
  - Think about collaboration and response to community needs
- Safety:
  - The area between 125<sup>th</sup> St. and Lexington is unsafe for children having to walk through homeless, panhandlers, people smoking and drinking (frightens children who have to walk through that area)
  - Inside buildings, hallways are unsafe and dirty

- Schools are not safe – Schools do not notify family instead tried to cover-up several incidents kids bringing weapons to school
- Concerns with legal background

### Youth Programs – Day Care / Pre-K / Afterschool – **Strengths**

- After school
  - Employment programs:
    - SYEP programs (summer youth employment programs)
    - Youth employment
  - Activities/ services:
    - Mentorship, diversity of activities (sports, arts, homework)
    - **Trips**
    - Many programs
    - **Diversity of programming**
    - Perception of many offerings
  - Partnerships:
    - Partnerships with institutions: museums, mixing students throughout city-exposure
    - Resilient agencies
  - Community/ Neighborhood:
    - Listen, no judgment, family environment
  - Growing elderly community
  - Student summer employment
  - Summer programs
  - PAL: Peer Assistance Leadership
- Day Care/ Pre-K:
  - Curriculum:
    - Increase academic content
    -
  - Community/ Neighborhood
    - Lots of capacity in the community
    - Family participation is high – engagement
    - Lots of parks and playground
    - Daycares providing an environment that nurtures self-worth and teaches children to have a **sense of purpose**
  - Organizations:
    - Cassidy's place (ABC Association): ABC community early childhood including Saturday classes serving the whole family (very important to family)

### Youth Programs – Day Care / Pre-K / Afterschool – **Challenges**

- After school

- School students create challenges to attendance – consistency
- Not enough after-school programs 5-21 years old
- Employment programs
- Funding:
  - Funding is inadequate
  - Contract funding is not aligned with programming
- Activities:
  - Cultural activities in dance, music, art
  - Not enough forward programs to prepare for future technology, codifying in community
- Facilities:
  - Lack of facilities with natural spaces
  - Quality
  - Need for spaces that are developmentally appropriate and flexible
  - Need technology and gyms
  - Funding for facilities sharing spaces
  - Need for spaces that are developmentally appropriate and flexible
- Partnerships
- Parents:
  - Keeping parents engaged
- Concern for safety for middle-school children to walk home from school
- Day Care/ Pre-K
  - Schools:
    - Need more charter schools
    - Facilities: 9000 brand new
    - NYCHA childcare facilities not good quality – need much more funding – structural – AC
    - PS50 needs to be more advanced
    - Need more broadband access
  - Funding:
    - More funding for daycare
    - Renovations and more funding
    - ACS funding programs haven't been raised to staff in 9 years (labor earners – cares???) 36% eligible for food stamps
  - Quality:
    - Annual review for daycare, pre-k and after school (report card)
    - More access to playground, healthy food and nutrition
  - Parents:
    - School ends too early for working parents
    - Parents too young to care properly for kids
  - Curriculum:
    - Continuity in 0-5 education
    - Daycare are not regulated, not preparing for the next steps
    - Quality universal, pre-k, teachers, Programs

- Teaching language and culture
- Books and curriculum reflective of community
- Reading, writing and basic skill development
- Pipeline to scholarships and private schools

## **Major Themes – Youth Programs – Pre-K / Day Care / Afterschool**

**Of the Themes on this list are there important topics that are missing**

### **Healthy Eating:**

- Community:
  - Organizing for young adults
  - Members of the community to help make food choices of get feedback on choices
- Economic Situation/ Access:
  - Access/ economic issue: if available not affordable
  - Access to farmers markets/ Parents' economic issue
- Education:
  - Food literacy programs: understanding overall needs of community and integrate them in educational programs
  - Education around healthy eating at an early age
  - No judgment about obesity
  - Showing results from community based organizations – testimonials
  - Cooking classes for parents and kids
- Schools initiatives:
  - Schools can incorporate healthy food more
  - Schools should offer advice on food selection reflecting of their culture and healthy choices
  - Lack of healthy for kids
- **Facilities - What do ideal facilities for Daycare / Pre K / After School look like?**
  - Hours:
    - Extended hours – weekends – 6pm
    - Scheduling: timing not great for youth/ family involvement
  - Quality:
    - How is the facility chosen – coordination within the facility
    - Need routines and structure
    - More bright and airy – how can we transform spaced so they are not only in basements? Color! Bright!
    - Less “institutional” facilities
    - Lighting
    - Modern!!
    - Cleanliness
    - Food
    - education programs,

- screening for special needs
- Activities/ Services:
  - Need reinforced learning
  - Incentives to the outside community as a motivator
  - Increase current tech access and hardware
  - Physical activities: outdoor and indoor sports
  - College readiness: counseling, guidance counselors, start young
  - Adults who want to change careers
  - Music, dance, electives for all ages
  - Facilities (doctors, etc.) in schools – comprehensive services in schools
  - Resources in public schools
- Spaces:
  - Classrooms need different lots or room to have different center of learning
  - Labels, color coding
  - Spaces that are developmentally appropriate
  - Natural spaces: Green spaces, gardens, indoor gardens in the classroom or on the roof
  - Flexible spaces that can accommodate arts/ creative activities setup around engagement
  - Recreation spaces
  - Thematic spaces – labs, libraries, media: Provoke/ motivate activity
  - Park and play included with facilities (athletic fields)
  - Performing arts (auditorium) stage
  - Specialized space for arts
  - Food and nutrition facilities
  - Library
  - Facilities designed for special needs children
- Parents:
  - Parents need access to space for activities and social gathering with young 0-3 year olds.
  - Partnership to allow public access to private facilities like pools
- **Leverage Current Community Based Organizations** – *What services are most important for our community? I.e. Multicultural, Multilingual, Wrap-Around Services, etc.)*
  - Outreach for current services and programs:
    - Increased outreach
    - Outreach/ reach students:
    - Free programs but hard to reach schools
    - Newsletters, via schools, flyers, need resources and staffing
    - Educational institutes get more involved in the community (Columbia, Hunter College, etc.)
  - Job Readiness Programs/ Mentoring:
    - Role modeling/ mentoring

- Mentoring: local mentors
- Services/ Skills needed:
  - Special needs services
  - Collaborative
  - Community schools and coordination of services
  - More programs
  - Trips/ exposure
  - More personal involvement
  - Diversified student programs to promote career goals and exploration
  - Specified training: utilize a central facility and bring in business owners and youth to expose them
  - Connect with other community based organizations/ services for parents' services – EH "resource Guide being" developed
- Language:
  - Multilingual/ multicultural
  - Want more bilingual programs (aspira was great)
  - Want multicultural programs
- Adjustment for immigrants is difficult so need more parent involvement to be mandatory
- Community involvement is important so programs should be community led or volunteer led
- **More Toddler / Infant Programs - How would we like our children to be served from birth through graduation?**
  - Services/ Health:
    - Health services
    - Behavioral management
    - Special need assessment
    - Many schools only have one nurse so no medical attention for children if they age out of the program.
  - Programs:
    - Education curriculum – "K Perp"
    - Head-start for Age 3
    - Music programs for toddlers
    - Level of services should follow infants and kids should not be aging out of programs
    - More "Read to Your Scholar Day"(s)
    - Need recurring after-school programs
  - Need services in multiple languages
  - Programs should begin with pregnant mothers and when the infant is born they enter the program. This is how other programs work. Program at Northside includes prenatal care and a program for kids 0-5.
  - Staff:
    - Trained personnel

- Parents/ Family:
  - Family engagement
  - Parents involvement
  - Exposure to socialization
  - Parent education – “baby college”
  - Hard for working mom to find childcare/ home provider can’t get sick
    - Job security
    - Female workers have to choose between child and career – hard (especially if needs special/extra services)
  - Parents too young – rep. health (health representative)
    - Kid in program gets pregnant, lose to another program: all college plans are lost, hard to get back on track
  - Educate parents on importance of infant/toddler care/ education
  - Not enough parental program: 2 are not enough
- Outreach:
  - Parents are unaware of programs

## **Major Themes - Schools**

- Aligning specialized programs/services with the needs of the District - *Which support programs, should our schools have to meet the need of the East Harlem population?*
  - Activities/ Programs:
    - Fine arts: music, arts, dance,
    - Services uniform at all schools
    - Programs to teach heritage are needed
    - Not enough civics
    - Foundation in STEM
    - Programs and special needs schools (teach skills)
    - Constant evaluation
    - Teach skills and not to the test
    - Inter-generational programing
    - Special needs programs
  - Vocational Training:
    - Vocational education and opportunity
    - Pipeline to career and college
    - College career pathways
    - Startups and entrepreneurship
    - Public speaking/ advocacy
    - Vocational training
    - Support for kids not following traditional path or college
    - More programs in school for vocational training, arts (an early version in this in the 70s failed)
    - Mentors and counselors
  - Health & Safety (including violence + drugs):
    - Anti-violence program

- Drug prevention
- How to address violence?
- Mental health services
- Garden attached to every school and have nutritional programs
- Integrating healthy living
- Language/ Home:
  - Tech in homes
  - Language barriers
  - Multi-language programs for everyone – bilingual classrooms – other languages besides Spanish on IEP??
  - Don't stigmatize kids – lack of security – better school culture
  - School psychologist vary in time and quality
  - Need services for those that don't speak English, work with West African population
  - Bilingual and bicultural problems; kids must be educated in their heritage
- College:
  - Project-based credit
- Family/ Parents/ Adults:
  - programs for adults – night programs at schools
  - **Adult education is missing support**
  - Cultural educational center for whole family and FREE!
  - Lack of activities for youth and young adults (community center)
  - Offer services to support whole family: mind, body and soul education-wise not just testing prep.
  - Programs to help families transition from various institutions: elementary school to middle school to high school to college
- Staff:
  - Better staff and training
  - Staff funding for better education
  - Not enough space for adult education programs
  - Trained professionals and after school programs (therapeutic services)
- Outreach:
  - How to engage out-of-school youth – lessons from Ferguson
  - Free WiFi but no one knows – need more WiFi and advertise
  - Resource center for parents to get information of all community orgs
- Facilities:
  - Funding
  - Access to school yards
  - Better lighting in school yards
  - Need equal funding for schools across districts
  - **Having places for young people to go after school**

- **Creating more diverse pathways to Careers and College - How can we improve and diversify opportunities for students moving onto careers and college, are there opportunities for other pathways through technical and vocational training?**
  - Training:
    - Early exposure and awareness
    - Soft skills development
    - Facility (vocational school)
    - More opportunities available but formed as a pathway to success
    - Internships/ externships to see career opportunities/ hands on experience/ apprenticeships
    - Alternatives to college
    - Job readiness/ career focus: use local business to help train and offer internships – poets, filmmakers, etc.
    - Need street tree pruning and training; need to have kids address passions and say “I wonder”
    - Different levels of confidence in kids; and different resources
    - Give kids an option and an opportunity to choose; Kids don’t know what they want when they are young but give them options.
    - Because of technology, things have changed and kids should get trained in things like technology and its connection to nursing or getting a PHD, but they need to be available at different schools through vocational schools
    - Nursing preparation would be a great vocational training
  - College:
    - Reengaging the disengaged: drop-outs, juvenile justice
    - College + trade
    - College work integrated into curriculum
    - Courses in line with what is needed for college
    - Early college
    - College readiness through CUNY/ SONY
    - Exposure to the world
    - Test-prep for a spectrum of tests
    - Schools should have different vocational programs within each school not separate schools to learn a trade
    - In 1954 schools gave kids two options: academic or commercial
    - There is a stigma about not going to college but it is not for everyone
    - “Street Academy”: link with career development info in community.
      - Bring together resources in one setting and self-directing youth can choose their own path
      - Look for ground-level communication structures like Espida
      - Used to have vocational schools but the militancy of the 60’s caused them to disappear (wanted kids to go to college)

- Mentoring:
  - Mentorship and support
  - Teach responsibility
- Outreach:
  - La Marquette just got internet access but it is not advertised and underutilized
- **Integrating Technology into schools - How do you envision technology being used in the schools?**
  - Technology services needed at School:
    - Not enough equipment/ resources
    - Computers in schools
    - **More technology in schools**
    - Libraries can replace technology: no excuses
    - Public schools need to update their labs like charter schools (reinvent – cannot throw money at everything)
    - **Online resources**
    - the community center at Marcus Garvey is not used and they have technology classes
    - Good example: PS 171 computer lab
  - Technology services needed at Home:
    - Lack of internet at home
    - Technology in homes including printing
    - Prioritize purchasing technology equipment at home
    - Programs to help families buy technology equipment at home
  - Outreach:
    - **Free use of computers not well advertised**
    - Better advertising of technology related classes should be available for adults and youth and the technology related classes at the community centers
  - Training:
    - **Understand the value of tech knowledge**
    - Coding – software development
    - Partnering with corporate sector
    - Use technology kids have: phones, tablets
    - Need experienced teachers that can teach technology
    - Focus on how to use technology than what to buy
    - Updated technology training (windows 8)
    - Education for parents
    - Teachers need to use it and have the vocabulary and skills for it
- **Developing external partnerships and pulling partnerships into schools - What sort of partnerships do you feel schools across the District could benefit from?**

- Preparatory partnerships to invest in kids for their educational future
- Early childhood/infancy success preparation programs, schools, and organizations
  - Ex: The Storefront
- Partnerships between Hunter College and public schools
- Partnerships between Corporations and public schools
- Stronger connections with schools/ youth and museums/ culture
- More arts programming: have lots of galleries connect with students
- **Partnerships in schools – adult resources**
- Use local business to help train and offer internships – poets, filmmakers, etc.
- Aligning programs and services: get DOE + DOH on same page
- CB11 has a list of orgs to reach out to
- Copy proposals of schools downtown that are successful with resources. Borrow RFP
- District leadership of schools present proposals. After schools should be doing this too. Copy what is done in private schools.

### **Other Notes / Overall summary of the conversation:**

- Rezoning:
  - Rezoning will bring more people: will East Harlem have enough space?
  - What does this mean? Particularly for residents
  - What does this change do for the community
  - Esthetics – I am concerned about crowd control: how many people can fit in one community?
  - What is rezoning? How will it improve? What does it mean to my community
- Gentrification
- Affordable apartments/
  - Cleaning up the area and building affordable housing

### **Questions that Came Up:**

## COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #3 - FLIERS

# EAST HARLEM NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING & REZONING

---

## *DEFINING THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY!*

*Join Us and Participate in a  
Community Visioning Workshop on*



## HOUSING PRESERVATION & NYCHA

### WHEN

**Wednesday,  
July 29th, 2015  
6:30 - 8:30pm**

### WHERE

**Johnson Houses  
Community Center  
1833 Lexington Ave  
between 113th and  
114th Streets**

### TRAIN/BUS

**6 to 110th or 116th  
Street  
M101, M102, M103  
to 113th Street**

*Spanish Translation*

*Snacks & Refreshments*

*Childcare Available -  
if needed please RSVP to 212-788-9121 by 7/27*

*Sign Language Interpretation Available -  
if needed please RSVP to 212-788-9121 by 7/27*

### Get Involved in Future Visioning Workshops!

**Thursday, Sept 10 - 6:30 - 8:30pm, Location TBD**

**Thursday, Oct 22 - 6:30 - 8:30pm, Location TBD**

**Thursday, Nov 19 - 6:30-8:30pm, Location TBD**

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME!**

### For more information, contact:

Community Voices Heard: 212-860-6001

Community Board 11: 212-831-8929

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito: 212-788-9121

### Follow us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/)

# EAST HARLEM / EL BARRIO

## PLANIFICACION Y REZONIFICACION DEL VECINDARIO

**DEFINIENDO EL FUTURO DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD**

*Únase a nosotros y participe en un taller de visualización Comunitario taller sobre*

## PRESERVACIÓN DE VIVIENDAS Y NYCHA



### CUANDO

**Miércoles, 29  
de Julio  
6:30 - 8:30pm**

### DONDE

Johnson Houses  
Community Center  
1833 Lexington Avenue  
entre las calles 113 y 114

### TRENE / AUTOBÚS

**6** hasta la calle 110  
o 116  
M101, M102, M103  
hasta la calle 113

Interpretación en Español

Cuidado de niños disponible –  
si lo necesita favor llamar al 212-788-9121 en 7/27

Meriendas & Refrigerios

Interpretación de lenguaje de señas disponible –  
si lo necesita favor llamar al 212-788-9121 en 7/27

**TODOS SON  
BIENVENIDOS!**

**Participa en las próximas reuniones públicas!**

**Jueves 10 de Septiembre** - 6:30 - 8:30 PM, ubicación por determinar

**Jueves 22 de Octubre** - 6:30 - 8:30 PM, ubicación por determinar

**Jueves 19 de Noviembre** - 6:30 - 8:30 PM, ubicación por determinar

### Para más información, llame:

Community Voices Heard: 212-860-6001

Community Board 11: 212-831-8929

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito: 212-788-9121

### Síguenos en Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EastHarlemForum/)

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #3 – WORKSHOP MAP



# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #3 – FACILITATOR GUIDE

**East Harlem Neighborhood Plan: Visioning Session 3 – July 1, 2015 6:30 -8:30pm**

## **Small Group Discussion Facilitator Guide**

### **Housing Preservation**

#### **ROLES NEEDED FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Facilitator
- Note-taker/Facilitator support
- Interpreter/Translator (if needed), Should have separate Spanish Language tables

#### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Facilitator Guide
- Notetaker guide, pens or laptop for note-taking
- Chart Paper and markers to write down key points from discussions
- Dot Stickers
- East Harlem Map – *with locations of Public Housing Campuses*
- Tenant Harassment handout
- HPD Programs handout
- East Harlem Neighborhood Plan handout

#### **DIRECTIONS AND TIPS FOR FACILITATORS**

- ✓ *This guide is for people that are facilitating small group discussions.*
- ✓ *The visioning session will start with a large group welcome and background presentation, followed by the small group discussions*
- ✓ *There will be multiple small groups happening at the same time.*
- ✓ *You do not need to read the script verbatim, feel free to use your own words and be natural and conversational.*

#### **Facilitator Tips:**

- Let people talk about their experiences or concerns but be firm if they are disrupting the activities for all the other participants. Everyone has taken time out of their busy schedules to be here and deserves to have their opinions to be heard.
- Step down and Stand up – encourage people who are quiet to talk, and for people who are talking too much to make room for everyone to participate.
- If someone is becoming very disruptive, please signal one of the “helpers” who can have a one on one conversation with that person.
- If people have questions that are not specific to this principle and small group, please wait until the end.
- Please remember that we are not here to hear about the facilitator’s personal opinions. Our role as facilitators is to gather the ideas, opinions and concerns of the participants.
- If questions come up that you are unable to answer, please write them down in a **“Parking Lot”** on chart paper. Then try to direct the questioner to one of the session organizers at the end of the small group discussion

## **Activities before the presentation begins**

There are three activities while people are settling in and waiting for the presentation to begin that they can do. Please introduce yourself as your table's facilitator and help them get started on these activities

- **Mapping** – As people enter the room they will be asked to place a sticker on where they live on a large neighborhood map. This information is important for our outreach efforts and to understand what type of housing people live in.
- **Concerns / Excited about Post-Its** – *this is to capture thoughts and feelings about the rezoning and neighborhood planning process in general. It is a good way to get people thinking about what they will say as well.*
  - *On a green post it, write one thing that excites you about the neighborhood planning process or housing in East Harlem*
  - *On a pink post it, write one thing that concerns you about the neighborhood planning process or housing in East Harlem*
  - *Facilitator will collect and will post all the cards on the wall for everyone to be able to see.*
- **Surveys**
  - *Participants will get this at the sign in table and will be able to fill out during the course of the evening.*
- **Legal Aid Table**
  - *Please direct anyone here if they have an immediate issue regarding their housing that requires legal assistance, let people know that if they want to talk to someone about legal help around housing issues that they can go up to the legal aid table at any time, and/or get their information for a later conversation*

## **Small Group Discussion Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Overview (2-3 minutes)** – *Introduce how the group will work and reiterate the context of the neighborhood planning process*
2. **Ground Rules (2 minutes)** – Rules for discussion
3. **Participant Introductions (5-10 minutes)** – *Participants each introduce themselves, their relation to East Harlem, and one thing they're excited to discuss*
4. **Neighborhood Map / Additional Materials Overview (1-minute)** – *Orient the group to the map. Point out other reference materials*
5. **Discussion (50 minutes)** - *The group will discuss Several broad questions that have sub-questions/prompting questions to spur conversation*
6. **Summary and Wrap-up (10 minutes)** – *The group will prioritize key points to report back*
7. **Report Back (20 minutes)** – *Designate a participant to give the report back of key points to the larger group*

### **1. Welcome and Overview (2-3 minutes)**

- *Introduce yourself as the facilitator, introduce the notetaker but explain their role is to just listen and take notes but not to participate.*

### **Process Talking Points**

- You're here today to contribute to the development of a Community-Based Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem (CB11).
- As you heard earlier, as part of Mayor de Blasio's Housing plan to create and preserve 200,000 units of affordable housing over the next 10 years across the five boroughs, East Harlem has been identified as one of many neighborhoods across the city that will be rezoned in order to achieve that goal.
- In order to ensure that the residents who have a stake in this neighborhood have a voice in this process, CB11, Community Voices Heard, and the Speaker's Office are leading this effort to create a vision for the future of East Harlem.
- Over the Summer and Fall, there will be many meetings on a variety of topics to develop an end product in at the end of the year, which will be a Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem created by and for this community. **[Show Timeline Handout]**
- This process is not a reaction to the proposed rezoning, but rather a proactive effort to engage different community stakeholders in a solid plan that will guide future development in East Harlem. The ideas generated here today should go beyond plans for the built environment to address the overall quality of life for residents of this neighborhood.

*First I will go over some ground rules for this session, then go around and do introductions. The bulk of our discussion will be around some specific questions relating to this topic. Finally, we'll recap and prioritize some of the ideas generated here to report back to the group.*

### **2. Ground Rules (2 minutes)**

- Respect everyone's opinions. We are not here to debate with anyone.
- All of your answers, ideas, feelings and opinions are important.
- If you are talking too much, step back.
- If you are not talking enough, speak up.
- ONE MIC: Please do not interrupt anyone. Wait until someone is done speaking before offering your opinion.
- If you have questions that are not specific to the focus group, please wait until the end.

### **3. Participant Introductions (5-10 minutes)**

*Let's start with a round of introductions. We'll go around the table and everyone can say very quickly (1 minute or less – please keep this very brief)*

- Your name?
- Relationship to East Harlem, (ie Do you live or work here? How long have you lived here?)
- What type of housing do you live in?
- What is one thing you are excited to talk about today?

*Did anyone come to one of the previous sessions, The Community Forum on May 20<sup>th</sup> the Parks and Arts Visioning session on June 4<sup>th</sup>, or the Youth / Education session on July 1<sup>st</sup>? Can you raise your hands?*

### **4. Map and other materials (1 minute)**

*We have a map of East Harlem that includes the locations of Public Housing Campuses and individual building footprints.. We will use this map if any specific locations come up in our discussion, please refer to it at any time and feel free to write or label directly onto the map.*

## 5. HOUSING PRESERVATION Discussion (50 minutes)

*Begin the conversation by identifying Strengths and challenges. Facilitators should start to create lists of the big takeaways from the conversation on the chart paper at each table, we will have pre labeled chart paper to make this more organized. Notetaker should capture specific details*

- **Strengths and Challenges** – Go around the table and ask each participant to talk about housing in East Harlem ask them to describing one big strength, something positive, and then a challenge or concern
- **Big Themes** – The steering committee members have identified some major themes that we need to understand neighborhood concerns & experiences around and to brainstorm ideas to improve housing in the neighborhood.
- We'll go through the themes. We want to make sure we're not missing something important, and then we'll talk about each of the themes that are most important to you. What should we add to this list? Lets talk about each one

### A. Physical conditions

- Does your building have major problems that the landlord doesn't fix or repair? For example: no heat or hot water, leaks, mold, rodents or insects, etc.?
- Are there long standing vacancies in your buildings? For how long have they been vacant? Are there vacant buildings in your neighborhood? Where and for how long have they been vacant?

### B. Harassment: Read definition of harassment from handout

- Do you ever feel like you are being threatened or harassed by your landlord? What type of experiences are you having?
- Have you or people you know in the neighborhood been pushed out because of harassment or your building being sold? What was your experience?
- Do you feel safe in your building? Do your doors lock or is there drug use that makes you feel unsafe?
- Is your landlord charging fees on top of your rent and utilities every month? For what and for how long now? Examples: Fees on appliances (air conditioner, washing machine, dryer, and dishwasher), legal fees, damage fees, Major Capital Improvement (MCI) rent increases

### C. Affordability and Displacement

- Are rents increasing up to the point where you are having difficulty paying? What about for your family and friends?
- Have you or people you know in the neighborhood been pushed out?

- Do you live in a rent-regulated unit? Is it no longer rent-regulated?

**D. Neighborhood Change**

- Is your neighborhood no longer affordable anymore? What does that mean for you?
- Do you feel you still have access to cheap food, medicine, etc?
- If any, what are the changes you have seen on your street or block in the last five years?

**E. Opportunities/ Possible Solutions**

- What type of housing is needed and for who?
- Is there a need for senior housing, more accessible housing, supportive housing, or housing for homeless people in the neighborhood?
- What type of information/ programs would help you stay in your home or improve your living conditions?
- Should there be outreach and Incentives for landlords to maintain their properties as affordable housing.
- Should the government establish other forms of property ownership such as not for profit ownership, a community land trust, or mutual housing associations.

## 7. Summary and Wrap Up (10 minutes)

Give a 2-3 minute summary of what has been said (make sure the main ideas are clearly written on butcher paper). Select a spokesperson to report back to the larger group. Participants will then sticker vote on their top three most important statements

- ***Did I accurately sum up what was said?***
  - *Is there anything else you'd like to say? Did we miss anything?*
- ***Place three stickers next to your top three items***
  - ***On Strengths and Challenges***
  - ***On the Themes list***

*we will report back on the the ideas and themes with the most votes. All of the suggestions and information will be collected and utilized in our plan.*

*Thank you all for participating in this focus group and for expressing your opinions here today. This is incredibly valuable information that will be used to develop the Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem. We will be holding additional focus groups on different topics, Please look at the timeline I handed out for the future meetings. Please make sure that you have signed in so that you can stay up to date on any news we have for you as we go through this process.*

***Thank you so much for your time!***

## **East Harlem Neighborhood Plan: Visioning Session 3 – July 1, 2015 6:30 -8:30pm**

### **Small Group Discussion Facilitator Guide**

**NYCHA**

#### **ROLES NEEDED FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Facilitator
- Note-taker/Facilitator support
- Interpreter/Translator (if needed), Should have separate Spanish Language tables

#### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Facilitator Guide
- Notetaker guide, pens or laptop for note-taking
- Chart Paper and markers to write down key points from discussions
- Dot Stickers
- East Harlem Map – *with locations of Public Housing Campuses*
- Tenant Harassment handout
- HPD Programs handout
- East Harlem Neighborhood Plan handout

#### **DIRECTIONS AND TIPS FOR FACILITATORS**

- ✓ *This guide is for people that are facilitating small group discussions.*
- ✓ *The visioning session will start with a large group welcome and background presentation, followed by the small group discussions*
- ✓ *There will be multiple small groups happening at the same time.*
- ✓ *You do not need to read the script verbatim, feel free to use your own words and be natural and conversational.*

#### **Facilitator Tips:**

- Let people talk about their experiences or concerns but be firm if they are disrupting the activities for all the other participants. Everyone has taken time out of their busy schedules to be here and deserves to have their opinions to be heard.
- Step down and Stand up – encourage people who are quiet to talk, and for people who are talking too much to make room for everyone to participate.
- If someone is becoming very disruptive, please signal one of the “helpers” who can have a one on one conversation with that person.
- If people have questions that are not specific to this principle and small group, please wait until the end.
- Please remember that we are not here to hear about the facilitator’s personal opinions. Our role as facilitators is to gather the ideas, opinions and concerns of the participants.
- If questions come up that you are unable to answer, please write them down in a **“Parking Lot”** on chart paper. Then try to direct the questioner to one of the session organizers at the end of the small group discussion

## **Activities before the presentation begins**

There are three activities while people are settling in and waiting for the presentation to begin that they can do. Please introduce yourself as your table's facilitator and help them get started on these activities

- **Mapping** – As people enter the room they will be asked to place a sticker on where they live on a large neighborhood map. This information is important for our outreach efforts and to understand what type of housing people live in.
- **Concerns / Excited about Post-Its** – *this is to capture thoughts and feelings about the rezoning and neighborhood planning process in general. It is a good way to get people thinking about what they will say as well.*
  - *On a green post it, write one thing that excites you about the neighborhood planning process or housing in East Harlem*
  - *On a pink post it, write one thing that concerns you about the neighborhood planning process or housing in East Harlem*
  - *Facilitator will collect and will post all the cards on the wall for everyone to be able to see.*
- **Surveys**
  - *Participants will get this at the sign in table and will be able to fill out during the course of the evening.*
- **Legal Aid Table**
  - *Please direct anyone here if they have an immediate issue regarding their housing that requires legal assistance, let people know that if they want to talk to someone about legal help around housing issues that they can go up to the legal aid table at any time, and/or get their information for a later conversation*

## **Small Group Discussion Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Overview (2-3 minutes)** – *Introduce how the group will work and reiterate the context of the neighborhood planning process*
2. **Ground Rules (2 minutes)** – Rules for discussion
3. **Participant Introductions (5-10 minutes)** – *Participants each introduce themselves, their relation to East Harlem, and one thing they're excited to discuss*
4. **Neighborhood Map / Additional Materials Overview (1-minute)** – *Orient the group to the map. Point out other reference materials*
5. **Discussion (50 minutes)** - *The group will discuss Several broad questions that have sub-questions/prompting questions to spur conversation*
6. **Summary and Wrap-up (10 minutes)** – *The group will prioritize key points to report back*
7. **Report Back (20 minutes)** – *Designate a participant to give the report back of key points to the larger group*

### **1. Welcome and Overview (2-3 minutes)**

- *Introduce yourself as the facilitator, introduce the notetaker but explain their role is to just listen and take notes but not to participate.*

### **Process Talking Points**

- You're here today to contribute to the development of a Community-Based Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem (CB11).
- As you heard earlier, as part of Mayor de Blasio's Housing plan to create and preserve 200,000 units of affordable housing over the next 10 years across the five boroughs, East Harlem has been identified as one of many neighborhoods across the city that will be rezoned in order to achieve that goal.
- In order to ensure that the residents who have a stake in this neighborhood have a voice in this process, CB11, Community Voices Heard, and the Speaker's Office are leading this effort to create a vision for the future of East Harlem.
- Over the Summer and Fall, there will be many meetings on a variety of topics to develop an end product in at the end of the year, which will be a Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem created by and for this community. **[Show Timeline Handout]**
- This process is not a reaction to the proposed rezoning, but rather a proactive effort to engage different community stakeholders in a solid plan that will guide future development in East Harlem. The ideas generated here today should go beyond plans for the built environment to address the overall quality of life for residents of this neighborhood.

*First I will go over some ground rules for this session, then go around and do introductions. The bulk of our discussion will be around some specific questions relating to this topic. Finally, we'll recap and prioritize some of the ideas generated here to report back to the group.*

## **2. Ground Rules (2 minutes)**

- Respect everyone's opinions. We are not here to debate with anyone.
- All of your answers, ideas, feelings and opinions are important.
- If you are talking too much, step back.
- If you are not talking enough, speak up.
- ONE MIC: Please do not interrupt anyone. Wait until someone is done speaking before offering your opinion.
- If you have questions that are not specific to the focus group, please wait until the end.

## **3. Participant Introductions (5-10 minutes)**

*Let's start with a round of introductions. We'll go around the table and everyone can say very quickly (1 minute or less – please keep this very brief)*

- Your name?
- Relationship to East Harlem, (ie Do you live or work here? How long have you lived here?)
- What type of housing do you live in?
- What is one thing you are excited to talk about today?

*Did anyone come to one of the previous sessions, The Community Forum on May 20<sup>th</sup> the Parks and Arts Visioning session on June 4<sup>th</sup>, or the Youth / Education session on July 1<sup>st</sup>? Can you raise your hands?*

## **4. Map and other materials (1 minute)**

*We have a map of East Harlem that includes the locations of Public Housing Campuses and individual building footprints.. We will use this map if any specific locations come up in our discussion, please refer to it at any time and feel free to write or label directly onto the map.*

## 5. NYCHA Discussion (50 minutes)

*Begin the conversation by identifying Strengths and challenges. Facilitators should start to create lists of the big takeaways from the conversation on the chart paper at each table, we will have pre labeled chart paper to make this more organized. Notetaker should capture specific details*

- **Strengths and Challenges** – Go around the table and ask each participant to talk about Public Housing / NYCHA in East Harlem ask them to describing one big strength, something positive, and then a challenge or concern
- **Big Themes** – The steering committee members have identified some major themes that we need to understand neighborhood concerns & experiences around and to brainstorm ideas to improve housing in the neighborhood.
- We'll go through the themes. We want to make sure we're not missing something important, and then we'll talk about each of the themes that are most important to you. What should we add to this list? Lets talk about each one

### A. Repairs and Maintenance

- What has been your experience with repair / maintenance delays
- What are some ways that NYCHA could be held more accountable around repairs and maintenance?

### B. Safety

- What are your concerns around safety in NYCHA
- What would make you feel safer?
- What does Community Policing look like to you?

### C. Economic Empowerment

- How could NYCHA spaces be better used to encourage entrepreneurs
- What types of programs do we need to help to help build jobs skills
- What programs do youth need to develop more pathways to careers

### D. Open Space

- How can open and communal space better serve NYCHA residents? How should communal spaces be used?
- What are your concerns with development on NYCHA land?
- If development on NYCHA land does happen, how can it most benefit NYCHA residents and the East Harlem Community? Ie if housing, is it affordable, does development occur with community partners, are there community facilities created, does the development fund other improvements within the NYCHA campus it is located

### E. Community Engagement

- What does meaningful community engagement look like around decision making in NYCHA

- How can resident leadership be supported and encouraged?

## 7. Summary and Wrap Up (10 minutes)

Give a 2-3 minute summary of what has been said (make sure the main ideas are clearly written on butcher paper). Select a spokesperson to report back to the larger group. Participants will then sticker vote on their top three most important statements

- ***Did I accurately sum up what was said?***
  - *Is there anything else you'd like to say? Did we miss anything?*
- ***Place three stickers next to your top three items***
  - *On Strengths and Challenges*
  - *On the Themes list*

*we will report back on the the ideas and themes with the most votes. All of the suggestions and information will be collected and utilized in our plan.*

*Thank you all for participating in this focus group and for expressing your opinions here today. This is incredibly valuable information that will be used to develop the Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem. We will be holding additional focus groups on different topics, Please look at the timeline I handed out for the future meetings. Please make sure that you have signed in so that you can stay up to date on any news we have for you as we go through this process.*

***Thank you so much for your time!***

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #3 – NOTE TAKER TEMPLATE

Template for East Harlem Visioning Session 3 Notes - 7/29/15

## HOUSING PRESERVATION

Note taker Name:

Table Number:

Facilitator Name:

# of Participants:

Detailed Notes (*please note: you can add bolded headings if other relevant questions come up and are discussed in your group*):

### Table Participants

First Name / Relationship to EH / Type of Housing / Excited About /  
have they come to one of the visioning sessions?

**Strengths and Concerns about Housing in East Harlem**

**Strengths**

**Concerns**

**Major Themes**

**Physical Conditions**

**General**

**Harassment**

**Affordability**

**Neighborhood Change**

**Opportunities / Possible Solutions**

- **What types of housing are needed in East Harlem, and for who?**
  
- **What kind of Information/Programs would help you stay in your home?**

**Other Notes / Overall summary of the conversation:**

**Questions that Came Up:**

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #3 – SUMMARY OF NOTES

East Harlem Neighborhood Plan

Community Visioning Workshop 3: Housing Preservation & NYCHA

Johnson Community Center

July 29, 2015; 6:30 PM

## Introductory Presentation

See attached.

## Summary of Key Points/Takeaways – Housing Preservation

### Housing Preservation

1. Physical Conditions
  - a. Prevalence of longstanding vacant and abandoned buildings
  - b. Buildings with commercial tenants on ground floor but vacant above (Lexington & Third)
  - c. Insufficient code enforcement; lack of follow-up on building violations
  - d. Observed structural deficiencies
  - e. Poor maintenance; building damage is not repaired
  - f. Landlords lack sufficient funds to make repairs
  - g. Old buildings with lead paint: City doesn't make inspections proactively and unresponsive to complaints
  - h. Unlicensed companies hired to undertake renovations
  - i. Need training for building superintendents on what to repair and what to escalate to landlords
2. Harassment
  - a. Sources of harassment include landlords, drug dealers, and neighbors
  - b. Landlords failing to make repairs or perform maintenance, except for market-rate units
  - c. Landlords deliberately degrade housing (e.g. taking out stairs, breaking windows, etc.)
  - d. Landlords using immigration status as threat to keep tenants silent
  - e. Seniors pushed out or denied maintenance; lack someone to advocate for them
  - f. 311 calls ignored or avoided as tenants fear landlord's retaliation
  - g. Landlords make illegal renovations
  - h. Renovations used to push units out of stabilization
  - i. Excessive levying of fees (e.g. air conditioner fee, refrigerator fee, repair fees)
  - j. Owners also harassed / taken advantage of by tenants
3. Affordability and Displacement
  - a. Residents generally fear being priced out; most have friends or neighbors who have moved because of rent increases
  - b. Unaffordable, rapid increases in rents lead to evictions: 53% from 2000-2013
  - c. Rents continue to increase while apartment conditions degrade
  - d. Concern that "affordable" rents are not based on neighborhood AMI
  - e. Ensure residents have housing options in place before rezoning happens
  - f. Mom and pop shops can no longer compete on commercial rents
  - g. Help small business owners sustain their businesses – provide loan assistance
  - h. Need to demand developers to include affordable housing
4. Neighborhood Change
  - a. Preserve residential feel and scale of neighborhood
  - b. Need to maintain neighborhood character – create a sense of place

- c. Planned change is still an unwanted form of change
  - d. Need more affordable and higher quality grocery stores
  - e. Food is becoming more expensive and harder for families to get
  - f. Need more youth and senior development
5. Opportunities/Possible Solutions
- a. Better housing for low-income and senior residents; the homeless
  - b. More community education about the planning and rezoning process
  - c. Multi-lingual harassment info
  - d. Need systematic policy changes to address what affordable means
  - e. Create spaces for youths and seniors in their own buildings or immediate surroundings
  - f. Incorporate technology into the discussion (wifi; new media)
  - g. Grant vacant land to community members for land trusts
  - h. Make small loans and subsidies available for small building owners
  - i. Incentivize landlords to provide and maintain affordable housing
  - j. Fine owners who warehouse rent-stabilized units
  - k. Train superintendents on code enforcement

## **Small group discussions**

At each table, a discussion was facilitated around issues of either NYCHA or Housing Preservation. Each group then elected one representative to create a poster and present their ideas to the larger group. Notes and ideas from each table are shared below.

### **Initial Excitements and Concerns**

Participants of the meeting were asked to write down something they were excited about and something they were concerned about at the beginning of the small group sessions. Overall, the following ideas were shared.

Excited about:

1. Leveraging community participation and action to affect the direction of change
2. Improving poor conditions and encouraging better landlords
3. Learning what rezoning is all about
4. Keeping families together and preventing them from being forced out
5. Diverse cultures coming together and merging in the neighborhood
6. The Jobs Plus program, which helps youths finish their education and residents get jobs.

Concerned about:

1. Poor condition of housing and the lack of repairs and maintenance that leads to unsanitary living conditions
2. Rising rents, and how rezoning and new development will affect low-income residents and make the neighborhood unaffordable, leading to eviction and homelessness
3. Housing options for large families
4. Housing options for the lowest-income members of the community
5. Resources for seniors struggling in affordable housing or becoming displaced from their housing
6. Concentration of vacant buildings along Lexington and 3<sup>rd</sup> Aves
7. Safety, in the neighborhood, in landlord interactions, and due to degraded housing stock
8. Community empowerment and if there really is the voice and capacity to affect change.

## Table 2: Housing Preservation

Participant Summary (7 total):

- 3 NYCHA residents; 2 local residents

### Strengths

- Preserving low-income housing stocks
- Help keep current tenants in their apartments

### Concerns

- More affordable housing
  - o ‘low-income’ is not really low-income, more options for people who make (0-25,000)
- More options for large families

### PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

- Buildings are not being fixed, a lot of abandoned buildings
- Elevators in poor and broken condition
- Request for repairs never happen

### HARASSMENT

- Harassed by drug dealers, landlords, and neighbors

### AFFORDABILITY

- Rent in east Harlem increased 53% from 2000-2013
- People pay 30-50% on rent
- Desire for housing of low-income
- Make sure people have a safe place to live in when rezoning happens

### NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGE

- planned change is not what the people of this community want
- there are no supermarkets
- CHANGE – keep East Harlem to look residential, not midtown!

### OPPORTUNITIES/ POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

*What types of housing are needed in east Harlem, and for whom?*

- Better conditions for housing, for low-income residents.
- Housing for seniors and the homeless.
- New developments should be required to include extremely low-income housing for (0-25,000).

*What kind of information/ programs would help you stay in your home?*

- Multi-lingual information for harassment
- 311

*Other*

- The new developments need to benefit the people in this community.

**Table 4: Housing Preservation [& NYCHA]**

Participant Summary:

- 5 NYCHA residents; 1 resident who previously lived in homeless shelters
- 2 staff members from Picture the Homeless; 1 staff member from DOHMH

Concerns

- Autonomy of community process
- Repair and maintenance of housing
- Access to adequate health care
- Transportation options

**PHYSICAL CONDITIONS**

- Poor living conditions are leading to health issues
- Not enough money for adequate repairs
- Significant numbers of vacant buildings

**AFFORDABILITY**

- Rent is increasing rapidly and tenants are being forced out
- Mom and pop shops are being pushed out; residents need to go to other neighborhoods to find affordable housing
- Current “affordable” rents are not truly affordable because the true neighborhood median income is not used properly

**EMPOWERMENT**

- Jobs Plus program is helping the community with youth and adult education and job placement
- Changes need to happen at the policy level because the problems are systemic
- Specialized advocacy groups in East Harlem need to work together
- Free wifi for the neighborhood is important
- Need to create a system that allows community members to start and maintain businesses
- Vacant land should be turned over for a community land trust

**OPEN SPACE**

- Spaces for youth and elderly needed in the community; kids need spaces to study and play
- After school programs are needed

**SENIOR LIVING**

- Many seniors are being pushed out of their housing because of rising rent

**COMMUNITY**

- Large amount of vacancy in the neighborhood that could be used for housing, but owners are instead keeping it empty to sell and make a profit in the future

**OPPORTUNITIES/ POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

- Systemic policy change – more permanent affordability

- Address what affordable housing means – and for whom
  - o Seniors on fixed incomes
- Spaces for youth and elderly, in their own buildings/neighborhood
  - o Funding dedicated to youth centers, afterschool programs, places to study and play
- Incorporate technology into the discussion
  - o Free Wifi
  - o New media
- Grant vacant land to community members for land trusts
  - o Prioritize the homeless – getting them housing

### **Table 8: Housing Preservation**

Participant Summary (9 total):

- 7 residents; 1 NYCHA resident; 1 who works in neighborhood

Concerns:

- Foreclosures
- Longstanding vacancies
- Who will the buildings be sold to? The landlords who have neglected the buildings for so long?
- Extremely long wait time to get an apartment (especially for low-income single mothers)

#### **SAFETY**

- Cameras need to be strategically placed (i.e. elevators, lobbies, hallways)

#### **HARASSMENT**

- Landlords don't maintain buildings, and deliberately make things worse (e.g. taking out stairs, breaking windows, etc.)
- Landlord needs to make repairs for damages they've caused or decrease the rent
- Landlord threatens tenants with calling immigration so they will not report living conditions
- Pushing elderly out of their apartment of 30-40 year and/or moving them into studios because they are living alone
- Elderly have no one to speak up for them so they are not getting the repairs they need
- Landlords only fix the apartments going for market price and let the rest of them fall apart.

#### **AFFORDABILITY**

- Rent continues to increase even when apartment conditions aren't improving
- People have to leave their apartments because they cannot afford the rent

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGE**

- If we wanted to have affordable housing in EH rent should be 10-15% of AMI.
- Gentrification, new buildings
- Restaurants- the types of food that are available
- Food is more expensive, harder to get food for families

## OPPORTUNITIES/ POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

*What types of housing are needed in EH, and for whom?*

- Mutual Housing Association- For families with children and elderly associations
- Mobility to appropriate housing

*What kind of information/programs would help you stay in your home?*

- The community needs to be educated on these issues
- People need to learn what it is that is happening in the neighborhood
- Poor people need to know that they don't have to be satisfied with less. They deserve good housing conditions.

## Table 10: Housing Preservation

Participant Summary (11 total):

- 10 residents; 4 work in neighborhood; 1 architect with affordable housing focus

### [Strengths] / Concerns

- People should be able to afford to live where they grew up
- All of the new "affordable" housing is too expensive – need deeper affordability
- Concerned that the owners of the vacant buildings (on Lex and 3<sup>rd</sup> Aves) are waiting for the rezoning and when they develop those buildings – they won't be for EH residents

### PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

- Buildings along Lexington & Third only have commercial space in the bottom (otherwise vacant)
- Landlord participant wants to fix her inherited brownstone and rent vacant apartments, but doesn't have the money to pay for renovation

### HARASSMENT

- Entire family pushed out of EH to other parts of the City (BX, Jersey, Yonkers)
- Tenants are being harassed
- Owners also harassed / taken advantage of by tenants

### AFFORDABILITY

- Help small business owners sustain their businesses – provide loan assistance for owners
- Need to demand developers to include affordable housing

### NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGE

- Need more affordable and higher quality grocery stores
- Need more youth and senior development
- Need to maintain neighborhood character – create a sense of place
- If land values are market rate, then apartments will be market rate

## OPPORTUNITIES / POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

*What types of housing are needed in East Harlem, and for who?*

- Owners of rent-stabilized units should be fined for warehousing units.
- Fine owners of vacant / abandoned buildings; rehabilitate these as affordable housing
- Training should be provided for building superintendents on code enforcement.

*What kind of Information/Programs would help you stay in your home?*

- Affordable rents should be pegged to net income rather than gross

OTHER / OVERALL SUMMARY:

- Participants were excited about giving their input on the neighborhood plan.

QUESTIONS

1. What, if anything, is the City doing to address the general safety issues at East 125<sup>th</sup> Street and Lexington Avenue? There seems to be a concentration of the homeless population coupled with out-patient services.
2. What, if anything, is being done to revive La Marqueta?

East Harlem Neighborhood Plan  
 Community Visioning Workshop 3: Housing Preservation & NYCHA  
 Johnson Community Center  
 July 29, 2015; 6:30 PM

## Introductory Presentation

### Summary of Key Points/Takeaways – NYCHA

1. Repairs, Maintenance, and Management
  - a. Repairs are done slowly, irregularly, and poorly. Repair work is usually incomplete, poor quality or incorrect and becomes undone very quickly.
  - b. All infrastructures are crumbling, but plumbing issues are particularly bad and cause mold, leaky floors/walls/ceilings, and no hot water.
  - c. Very poor communication with tenants and lack of respect when interacting.
  - d. NYCHA is mismanaged, understaffed, communicating ineffectively between offices, and using budget and resources poorly. More transparency in management is needed.
  - e. Apartments and campuses are filthy, unsanitary, and full of trash. Cleaning is inadequate and infrequent.
2. Safety
  - a. Cameras have helped but only in areas where they are installed. Now crime has moved to areas without cameras.
  - b. Many elevators do not have cameras, making them unsafe, vandalized, and unsanitary.
  - c. Drugs are a huge issue in the community.
  - d. NYCHA building doors are often left unlocked by management and contractors, and there is no controlling who is entering the buildings.
  - e. Campuses are poorly lit at night, making it unsafe to be outside.
  - f. Police presence is inconsistent.
3. Economic Empowerment
  - a. More programs and centers are needed for elders.
  - b. More programs are needed for youth: afterschool, job training and placement.
4. Communal/Open Space
  - a. Community Center has been one of the best things in the neighborhood
  - b. Kids need a place to play so they are not in the streets. Playgrounds need to be maintained/renovated.
  - c. Many concerns about new developments going up and taking away open space within NYCHA land and within neighborhood at large.
5. Community Engagement
  - a. Generally, participants seemed excited about community participation in this process and good turnout at Visioning Meeting.
  - b. Residents wish to be more informed about decisions made in their neighborhood and want an opportunity to have input.
  - c. Tenant associations or representatives must be organized to act as a voice to NYCHA management.

## Small group discussions

### Small Group Discussions

At each table, a discussion was facilitated around issues of either NYCHA or Housing Preservation. Each group then elected one representative to create a poster and present their ideas to the larger group. Notes and ideas from each table are shared below.

#### Initial Excitements and Concerns

Participants of the meeting were asked to write down something they were excited about and something they were concerned about at the beginning of the small group sessions. Overall, the following ideas were shared.

Excited about:

1. Community participation, empowerment, and involvement in their housing situation, as seen partially through the large turnout at the meeting and an opportunity to voice their thoughts and to affect the direction of change.
2. Potential for growth and development of recreational areas, cultural/community spaces and programming, and entrepreneurial opportunities for the East Harlem community.
3. Potential for more affordable housing and affordable rent for existing housing.
4. Potential for increased safety in the neighborhood, both indoors and outdoors.

Concerned about:

1. Poor condition of affordable housing, lack of repairs and maintenance that leads to unsanitary living conditions.
2. Safety, both indoor and outdoor.
3. Need for resources/living spaces for seniors struggling in affordable housing or becoming displaced from their housing.
4. Income-targeted rent being accurately calculated and truly affordable for East Harlem families.
5. New development, infill and privatization of city-owned property in the neighborhood that will make the neighborhood unaffordable, leading to eviction and homelessness.
6. NYCHA operations – staffing, budget decisions, effectiveness and efficiency of work, communication and treatment of tenants, lack of transparency in operations.
7. Community empowerment and if there really is the voice and capacity to affect change.

**Table 1: NYCHA**

Participant Summary:

- 6 NYCHA residents (Carver, Washington, Wagner, and Johnson Houses)

**REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**

- Filthy, littered, and unsanitary NYCHA apartments and campuses
- Faulty plumbing that causes mold, flooding
- Lacking hot water
- Elevators are often broken

**NYCHA MANAGEMENT**

- Poor management
- Lack of respect for tenants and their time
- Not enough communication with tenants; transparency needed in spending and operations
- A committee or resident's association is needed to oversee NYCHA's management

**SAFETY**

- Needs to be more monitoring and control over who is allowed in NYCHA buildings
- Construction scaffolding blocks cameras and facilitates crime
- During construction, contractors often leave building entries unlocked / unguarded
- Drugs and drug-pushers are a major source of violence

**EMPOWERMENT**

- Space needed for senior and youth job training
- Better schools with better teachers needed
- Protection needed for mom and pop shops
- Tenants should participate in building on NYCHA land
- Residents should be employed as NYCHA staff

**OPEN SPACE**

- Parking space is needed and building new towers in the lots would be a problem
- Resident-only parking is needed in the streets

**AFFORDABILITY**

- Current affordability is OK; however, concern over an influx of wealthier residents, who could potentially drive up the AMI and FMR (for and make rent unaffordable)

**SENIOR LIVING**

- Need for senior housing in the community

### Table 3: NYCHA

Participant Summary:

- 9 NYCHA residents, 2 of whom are members of CB11
- 1 resident of Mitchell-Lama housing co-op
- 1 member of a New York community garden agency

#### REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

- Burden is falling on residents because repairs and maintenance are not done by management,
- There is a need to maintain existing NYCHA housing before it becomes unusable
- Plumbing is especially bad, leading to issues of mold, leaks, and no hot water
- Tradespeople sent to do repairs are late, incompetent, careless, show up drunk, and therefore repairs are done poorly or incorrectly

#### NYCHA MANAGEMENT

- No transparency as to how funds are allocated
- Poor communication between offices
- More respect needed when talking to tenants
- Resources perceived to be poorly used
- New leadership needed

#### SAFETY

- Incomplete camera coverage doesn't decrease crime, but instead moves it to areas without cameras (e.g.: elevators are unsafe and unsanitary because there are no cameras in them)

#### EMPOWERMENT

- Sharing enthusiasm for better conditions with neighbors will be the only way for any change to happen, because without the residents' initiative nothing will happen
- A building advocate involved in a process for change would help living conditions

#### OPEN SPACE

- Disappearing because of new development around the neighborhood
- Infill plan with create housing that will take away open space and is not affordable to low and middle income families

#### AFFORDABILITY

- Rent is increasing and becoming unaffordable for families
- Rent is already not unaffordable because AMI is not calculated accurately
- Fear that federal funding will be taken away and rent will be too high for all, leading to eviction and homelessness

#### SENIOR LIVING

- Seniors are treated very poorly by NYCHA and are particularly vulnerable to eviction. Senior living facilities are needed.

## INFORMATION SHARING

- Decisions are made about the neighborhood without any information shared with residents
- No opportunity for input as to how money is spent and what decisions are made
- Lack of trust in the ability to affect change, based on previous experience
- Flyers and information for resources such as GED classes or skills training are seen in the NYCHA office but never distributed to residents

## Table 5: NYCHA

Participant Summary:

- 9 NYCHA residents

## REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- Too much paperwork involved in the repair process
- Delayed and deferred, fixes are done poorly and become undone quickly
- Elevators are often in disrepair
- Cleaning is infrequent and inadequate
- No number or resource for emergencies

## NYCHA MANAGEMENT

- Maintenance is inadequate because NYCHA is short-staffed
- Lack of information/transparency, due to centralized office
- Lack of accountability

## SAFETY

- Doors left unlocked, leading to fear of people entering the buildings
- More aggressive screening process needed for new residents
- Aggressive dogs on NYCHA campuses
- Cameras were not installed and elevators are unsafe; elevators used to have escorts, which could be reintroduced
- Police presence is inconsistent, patrolling is ineffective
- Not enough lighting on the grounds at night time
- Drugs and violence are an issue in the community

## EMPOWERMENT

- More programs needed for teens, especially high-school drop outs
- After school programs were cut and kids have nowhere to go
- Tenants need more input in the decision making process
- Tenant associations must be empowered so that involvement is effective

## OPEN SPACE

- Community Center described as best thing to happen to community in years
- Need more spaces for children to play

- Concern about high-rises developed on NYCHA land and other new developments proposed for neighborhood open spaces
- Playgrounds are corroded and need to be repaired

#### AFFORDABILITY

- It is good that 20% of housing is priced affordably
- Reduced funding for public housing is a major problem
- Rent is increasing and becoming unaffordable for many

#### SENIOR LIVING

- Need for more senior centers and senior programs
- Seniors are being evicted

#### COMMUNITY

- Concern about community deterioration
- Positive attributes of East Harlem make it attractive to outsiders

### **Table 7: NYCHA**

Participant Summary:

- 7 East Harlem residents (2 left to join the Spanish-speaking table)

#### Strengths

- The Johnson Community Center has had a positive impact on the community.
- Have a place for kids that are in the street that will help them and guide them to a right path.
- Back in the day, everyone wanted to live in public housing.
- Back in the day, when you needed something in your apartment to be fixed, they fixed it immediately.
- Also had a lot of free programs.

#### Challenges

- Too many pit bulls – afraid of aggressive dogs
- A lot of the elderly people do not come out
- Lots of cockroaches
- Teenagers stay up all night and are fighting.
- Teens stay up until 3-4 am
- Kill infill plan (air quality in East Harlem is the worst)
- Do not move old people to lower apartments
- Urine on the floor in common spaces (come from dogs and humans)
- A lot of poop around the building
- City is not funding the projects
- Leaks / water damage
- Construction- harmful to people. No public notification in advance.

- Security
- Politicians and NYCHA staff perceive you as garbage. Stigma towards people who live in NYCHA

#### REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- NYCHA does not comply with HUD regulation. (If something is damaged in an apartment they are supposed to be removed and relocated within 24 hours)
- They classify it as a general ticket. Should be removed within 24 hours. This is not happening.
- Rent Increases
- Have to protect NYCHA. If they get rid of NYCHA then they get rid of all the people living in public housing.
- Maintenance code must be modernized.
- Make emergency teams
- Quality of workers (how well they do their jobs)
- Train the ones that are not equipped.
- Federal Government is not funding NYCHA
- Should hold NYCHA accountable.
- Tenant receives work order system.

#### SAFETY

- Camera in elevator, staircase, and hallways,
- Have someone monitor these cameras. Preferably someone living in the building. (Create a job)

#### ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- Wants a science class
- Vocational training
- Trade

#### OPEN SPACE

- Create more buildings like the Johnson Community Center
- Something to engage the youth and elderly.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Programs in the community to bring their programs INTO the community. ex: Harlem RBI, etc.

### **Table 9: NYCHA**

#### Participant Summary:

- 5 NYCHA residents
- 1 East Harlem resident who works in neighborhood
- 1 advocate / listener

#### Strengths

- Affordable Rent
- Community

- Diversity
- Open Space
- Challenges about NYCHA Housing in East Harlem
- Repairs: They fix the outside instead of fixing the inside
- Way it is structured
- Lack of transparency
- Too Much Authority: treated like second class citizens, downgrade them, treat them like children.
- Do Not Engage with Residents: Need to communicate with them more.
- Do not use funds residents want

#### REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- Take too long to repair things: eight months to repaint kitchen and only painted two walls out of the four walls.
- Money that should go towards repairs don't.
- We should place fine on NYCHA, so they won't hesitate to do repairs.
- Rent Abatement to tenant
- Need to reorganize, they are not organized. Give you a number then say they never gave you anything

#### Safety

- Need to take the sheds down.
- Should provide better lighting in homes, to see what is happening and get it better on surveillance.
- Need better elevators, stairways, and windows.
- Need to hire people they actually do their jobs not just sit or play around: place GPS on them so you know they are in their post.
- Two officers should be permanently assigned to an area, so they could know the residents better. They shouldn't have guns, be trained to defend themselves without guns.

#### Economic Empowerment

- Stop offering low end jobs at training programs.
- Offer adult education for people and get college credits/certificate.
- Trained to be equal.
- Catch people at a young age, change their mindset.

#### Open Space

- We need it
- Flea Market
- Rats in Community
- Fresh Air
- More Community Gardens

**Table 11: NYCHA**

Participant Summary:

- 8 participants
- 2 from Jefferson Houses; 1 from Washington Houses; 1 from Coney Island (NYCHA)
- 1 from CB11; 1 from CICA; 1 Community Services; 1 Project Partner

Strengths:

- Affordable for all
- The community
- Transportation
- Schools are close

Challenges

- NYCHA is no longer affordable; increasing rents
- Lack of maintenance and bad repairs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Subway
- Higher crime and drug dealing
- Lack of **services and programs**
- Lack of disabilities programs; children with mental health reach adulthood with support (autism)
- Lack of local employment
- Lack of investment is keeping the buildings up to date
- Need for security cameras
- Lack of training for the employees
- Safety for children
- Parks need upgrading (the seal should be renewed)
- Lack of community centers

**REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE**

- It has been too long since repairs (almost 15 years)
- The 718 number needs to be revamped, it takes too long for any repairs
- No follow up after failed repair effort
- Request for repair re-dated from 2010 to 2012
- Lack of information about where something is stuck in the system
- No heat repairs in winter

Ways to hold NYCHA more accountable?

- Credit back on rent when problems are not solved and tenants cover the cost (with paper trail)
- Add time stamps on Repair Tickets; if incomplete by a certain date, should be escalated
- Other City Agencies should be able to perform inspections (health, FDNY)
- If a ticket is not yours, you should not sign it.
- If maintenance did not do good job, you should be allowed not to sign the ticket.

**SAFETY**

- Non-residents/employees loiter around buildings; they are rude and cause fights.

- People come into the development even if they are not residents: lack of police presence and engagement
- Police should know the tenants
- No locks on doors; in need of better doors
- Lights are on timers but they do not work properly and the timers are not adjusted
- Seniors are not made aware of the nuances in the building
- Traffic inside the buildings
- Parents need to be held accountable for their children's actions
- Buildings are not clean: people can slip and fall
- Camera cannot see what is happening it is covered or pointed to another direction
- Dog poop in public spaces
- Delivery bikes go through the development between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues

What would make you feel safer?

- Cameras
- Lighting
- Get rid of dogs
- Police engagement
- Police to be friendly (they are nice to the seniors but they should be nice to the youth as well)
- More eyes on the streets: shops
- Signs for people to leave the public spaces at certain hours

What does Community Policing look like to you?

- NYCHA is used as training for police – it should stop!
- Policing should be nice and familiar, and engage with the youth
- Tenant control
- Paid security
- As a community we should know each other and say hello to each other like the old days
- Know the tenants
- Suggestion and complaint box that reaches management and is placed in a neutral location

#### ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- NYCHA is closing down community centers; need these spaces for job training
- Resident empowerment
- Youth programs that lead to successful high paying jobs
- More options

#### OPEN SPACES

- They don't now
- Change the seal on the parks
- Play areas are needed
- Skating rink
- Lacrosse
- Water culture and education
- Community gardens

**Table 13: NYCHA**

Participant Summary:

- 10 participants
- 4 from Wilson Houses; 2 East River Houses; 1 Lincoln Houses; 1 part of CVH

Strengths

- Families

Challenges

- Open spaces
- Loss of public schools, ceiling, flat, and rent, maintenance repairs, attitude of workers, wants to know what happens to NYCHA, violence and crime, affordability, park space, eviction, homelessness, plumbing, availability of staff, dirty water, dirty mops, hallways

**REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE**

- Toxic paint
- Flooding
- Floors are leaking water
- Broken intercom and mailboxes
- Elevator problems
- Plumbing
- Equipment
- Not a lack of staff, but nothing gets fixed

**SAFETY**

- Ignored by landlord
- Landlord is rude/ disrespectful

**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

- Community land trust
- Extremely low income
- Landlords charging fees
- NYCHA has electrical added to bill
- Difficulty in rent (increasing)
- More units rent regulated (solution)
- Neighborhood no longer available[?]; rent going up dividing families

**OPEN SPACE**

- Would only make it beautiful for new tenants
- Renovations
- Offering low income ownership

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Don't feel as though their time is being valued and their voices heard

## COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #4 - FLIERS

**EAST  
HARLEM  
Neighborhood  
PLAN**

Join Us and Participate  
in a Community Visioning  
Workshop on

# Small Businesses, Economic and Workforce Development

### WHEN

**Thursday  
Sept. 10th  
6:30–8:30pm**

### WHERE

**Children's Aid  
Society**  
130 East 101st Street  
between Lexington Ave  
and Park Ave

### TRAIN/BUS

**6** uptown to 103rd St.  
downtown to 96th St.

M101, M102, M103  
to 102nd Street

→ Snacks & Refreshments

→ Childcare Available  
if needed please RSVP to 212-788-9121 by 9/8

→ Spanish Translation Available

→ Sign Language Interpretation Available  
if needed please RSVP to 212-788-9121 by 9/8

Get Involved  
in Future  
Visioning  
Workshops!

**Thursday, Oct 22**  
6:30 – 8:30pm, Location TBD

**Thursday, Nov 19**  
6:30–8:30pm, Location TBD

**EASTHARLEMPPLAN.NYC**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito: 212-788-9121

Community Board 11: 212-831-8929

Community Voices Heard: 212-860-6001

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer:  
212-669-8300

Help Define  
the Future of Our  
Community!

**PLAN  
Comunitario  
PARA EL  
BARRIO**

Únase a nosotros y participe en un taller de visualización Comunitario taller sobre

## Pequeñas

# Empresas, Economía y Desarrollo Laboral

**CUANDO**

Jueves 10 de Septiembre  
6:30-8:30pm

- Meriendas & Refrigerios
- Cuidado de niños disponible si lo necesita favor llamar al 212-788-9121 en 9/8

**DONDE**

**Children's Aid Society**  
130 East 101st Street  
entre las avenidas Lexington y Park

**TRENE / AUTOBÚS**

6 hasta la calle 103 o 96  
M101, M102, M103  
hasta la calle 102

- Interpretación en Español
- Interpretación de lenguaje de señas disponible si lo necesita favor llamar al 212-788-9121 en 9/8

Participa en las próximas reuniones públicas!

Jueves 22 de Octubre  
6:30 - 8:30pm, ubicación por determinar

Jueves 19 de Noviembre  
6:30-8:30pm, ubicación por determinar

**EASTHARLEMPPLAN.NYC**

## PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN, LLAME:

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito: 212-788-9121

Community Board 11: 212-831-8929

Community Voices Heard: 212-860-6001

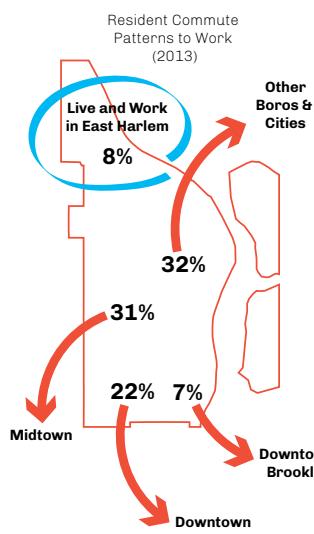
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer:  
212-669-8300

*¡Ayude a Definir  
el Futuro de Nuestra  
Comunidad!*

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #4 - WORKSHOP MAP

## EAST HARLEM Neighborhood PLAN

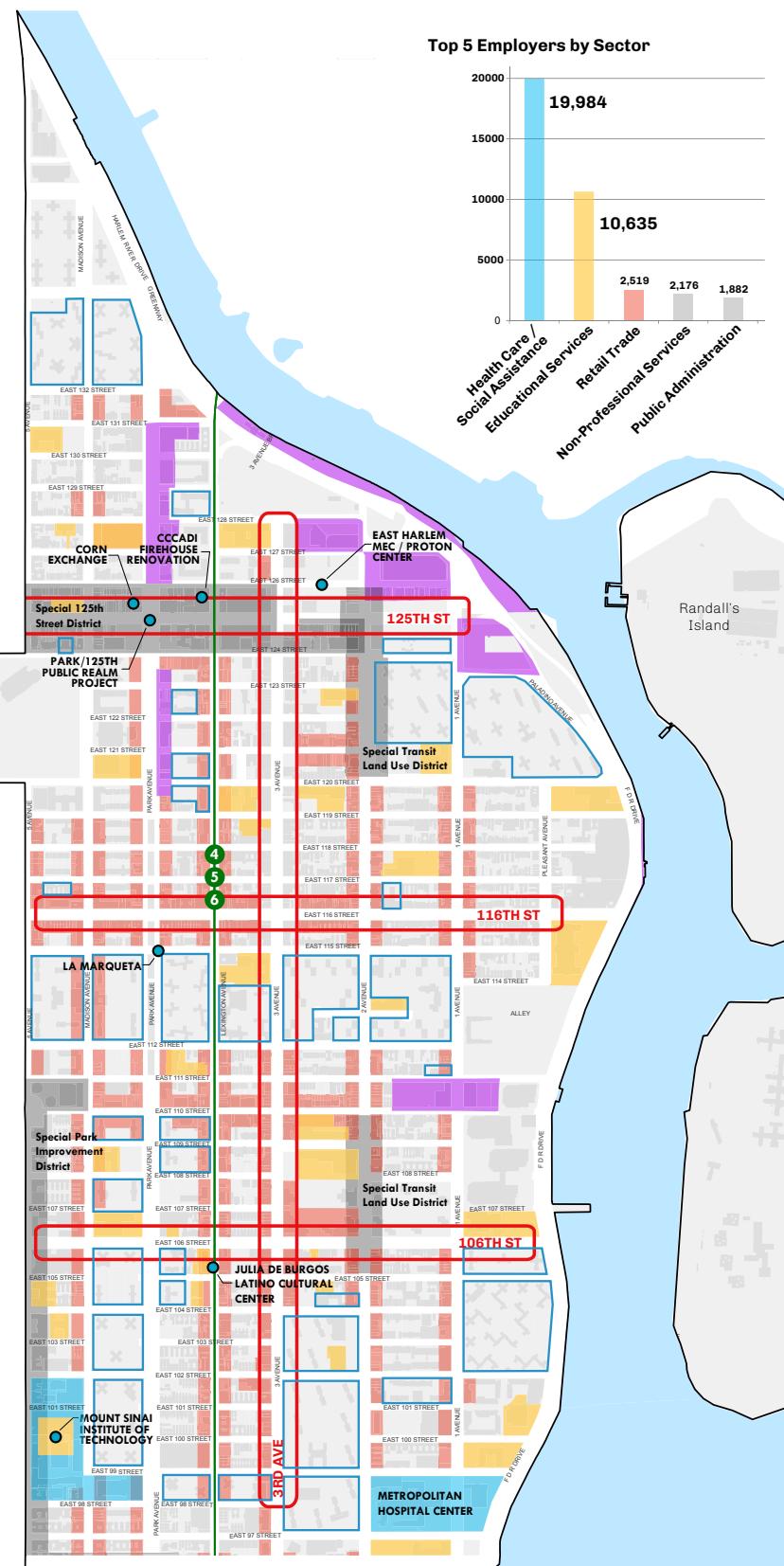
### SMALL BUSINESSES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



- Schools (K-12) and Colleges
- Special Purpose Districts
- Industrial Zoning
- Healthcare Institutions
- Commercial Overlay
- NYCHA Campuses
- CB11 Retail Analysis Commercial Corridors
- CB 11
- NYC EDC Projects

0 1/4 mi

Sources: NYC DCP, NYC SBS, NYC EDC, U.S.Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies (2013)



# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #4 – FACILITATOR GUIDE

**East Harlem Neighborhood Plan: Visioning Workshop 4 –  
Sept 10, 2015 6:30-8:30pm**

## **Small Group Discussion Facilitator Guide**

### **Small Businesses, Workforce and Economic Development**

#### **WORKSHOP AGENDA**

1. Presentation – 15 minutes
2. Small Group Activities – 1 hour 20 minutes – *Outlined within this guide*
3. Report Back – 15 minutes
4. Next Steps – 5 minutes

#### **ROLES NEEDED FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Facilitator
- Note-taker/Facilitator support

#### **ROOM SET UP**

- Sign in tables with process hand-outs and Spanish translation equipment
- Additional mapping activity set up as people enter capturing where people live
- Small group tables numbered and set up with materials
- Designated Spanish table

#### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Facilitator Guide
- Notetaker guide, pens or laptop for note-taking
- Chart Paper and markers to write down key points from discussions
- Dot Stickers
- East Harlem Map – *with commercial corridors, and other key landmarks identified*
- EH Neighborhood Plan Process handout

#### **DIRECTIONS AND TIPS FOR FACILITATORS**

- ✓ *This guide is for people that are facilitating small group discussions.*
- ✓ *The visioning session will start with a large group welcome and background presentation, followed by the small group discussions*
- ✓ *There will be multiple small groups happening at the same time.*
- ✓ *You do not need to read the script verbatim, feel free to use your own words and be natural and conversational.*

#### **Activities before the presentation begins**

There are three activities while people are settling in and waiting for the presentation to begin that they can do. Please introduce yourself as your table's facilitator and help them get started on these activities

- **Mapping and Preservation boards**
  - *There will be three display boards in the front of the room that ask people to sticker where they live or work on a map, and write something they think should be preserved about the neighborhood in general. Participants can do these as they enter.*

- **Surveys**
    - *Participants will get this at the sign in table and will be able to fill out during the course of the evening.*
- 

### **Small Group Discussion Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Overview (2 minutes)** – *Introduce how the group will work and reiterate the context of the neighborhood planning process*
  2. **Ground Rules (2 minutes)** – *Rules for discussion*
  3. **Participant Introductions (5 minutes)** – *Participants each introduce themselves, their relation to East Harlem, and one thing they're excited to discuss*
  4. **Strengths and Challenges (10 minutes)**
  5. **Topic Discussion (50 minutes)** - *The group will discuss and answer questions around three topic areas; Physical Space (using a neighborhood map), Workforce Development, and Small businesses*
  6. **Summary and Wrap-up (10 minutes)** – *The group will prioritize key points to report back*
  7. **Report Back (20 minutes)** – *Designate a participant to give the report back of key points to the larger group*
- 

### **1. Welcome and Overview (2 minutes)**

*Introduce yourself as the facilitator, introduce the notetaker but explain their role is to just listen and take notes but not to participate.*

*First I will go over some ground rules for this session, then go around and do introductions. The bulk of our discussion will be around some specific questions relating to this topic. Finally, we'll recap and prioritize some of the ideas generated here to report back to the group.*

### **2. Ground Rules (2 minutes)**

- *Respect everyone's opinions. We are not here to debate with anyone.*
- *All of your answers, ideas, feelings and opinions are important.*
- *If you are talking too much, step back.*
- *If you are not talking enough, speak up.*
- *ONE MIC: Please do not interrupt anyone. Wait until someone is done speaking before offering your opinion.*
- *If you have questions that are not specific to the focus group, please wait until the end.*

### **3. Introductions (5 minutes)**

*Introductions - Let's start with a round of introductions. We'll go around the table and everyone can say very quickly (1 minute or less – please keep this very brief)*

- *Your name?*
- *Relationship to East Harlem,(ie Do you live or work here? How long have you lived here?)*
- *Are you a small business owner?*
- *What is one thing you are excited to talk about today?*

*Did anyone come to one of the previous three visioning workshops? Can you raise your hands? Point out the process hand out that has upcoming dates listed.*

## 4. Strengths and Challenges (10 minutes)

*Go around the table and identify a strength and a challenge around jobs and small businesses in the neighborhood. Start with Strengths and keep a running list of the answers a large chart paper. Under challenges refer back to relevant issues that could be addressed under the discussion topics – Physical Space, Small Businesses, and Workforce Development*

## 5. Topic Discussion Questions (50 minutes)

*Under each topic either use the map where indicated or write down running lists of ideas on chart paper. You should spend about 15 minutes on each topic.*

- **Physical Space - Mapping Activity** – Map will include commercial corridors, NYCHA campuses, subway & transit. Please point out the major landmarks to help orient people. Use the map to locate and discuss the following questions, write, draw and label directly on the map.
  - Where do you go shopping / what types of businesses do you go to?
    - When do you go shopping, Which commercial corridors are active in the evening?
  - Where are spaces that are underutilized in the neighborhood?
  - Where should development occur? Where do we need more commercial activity?
  - Where should heights be limited, where could it be more dense?
- **Small Businesses**
  - What types of businesses are missing from the neighborhood?
  - What mixture of businesses should there be in new development?
  - How will increased density and development impact small businesses?
  - How can adverse impacts be alleviated or eliminated?
  - Additional Questions if applicable for the group
    - How can we increase funding for small business assistance programs?
    - Should we encourage the development of a BID or other mechanism to improve the climate for small businesses?
- **Workforce Development**
  - How would you define a good career or good job?
  - What type of jobs should be created in the neighborhood?
  - How can we ensure that EH residents have access those jobs?
  - What type of training do you think the neighborhood needs?
  - How can we increase funding for job training programs?
  - How can we ensure that these become “career track” opportunities?
  - Have you participated in a job training program in the neighborhood? Do you think it prepared you well?

## 6. Summary and Wrap Up (10 minutes)

Give a 2-3 minute summary of what has been said (make sure the main ideas are clearly written on butcher paper). Select a spokesperson to report back to the larger group. Participants will then sticker vote on their top three most important statements

- ***Did I accurately sum up what was said?***
  - *Is there anything else you'd like to say? Did we miss anything?*
- ***Place three stickers next to your top three items under the workforce and small businesses categories combined.***
- ***Report back should include a brief summary of the top things said about each category, Workforce Development, and Small Businesses, and should briefly summarize what was said about Physical Space in the neighborhood (utilizing the map).***

*we will report back on the ideas and themes with the most votes. All of the suggestions and information will be collected and utilized in our plan.*

## 7. Report Back (20 minutes)

*Designate a participant to give the report back of key points to the larger group. The MC will call each group to present by table number.*

*Thank you all for participating in this focus group and for expressing your opinions here today. This is incredibly valuable information that will be used to develop the Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem. We will be holding additional focus groups on different topics. Please look at the timeline I handed out for the future meetings. Please make sure that you have signed in so that you can stay up to date on any news we have for you as we go through this process.*

***Thank you so much for your time!***

**FACILITATOR TIPS:**

- Let people talk about their experiences or concerns but be firm if they are disrupting the activities for all the other participants. Everyone has taken time out of their busy schedules to be here and deserves to have their opinions to be heard.
- Step down and Stand up – encourage people who are quiet to talk, and for people who are talking too much to make room for everyone to participate.
- If someone is becoming very disruptive, please signal one of the “helpers” who can have a one on one conversation with that person.
- If people have questions that are not specific to this principle and small group, please wait until the end.
- Please remember that we are not here to hear about the facilitator’s personal opinions. Our role as facilitators is to gather the ideas, opinions and concerns of the participants.
- If questions come up that you are unable to answer, please write them down in a **“Parking Lot”** on chart paper. Then try to direct the questioner to one of the session organizers at the end of the small group discussion

**Additional Process Talking Points**

- *You’re here today to contribute to the development of a Community-Based Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem (CB11).*
- *As you heard earlier, as part of Mayor de Blasio’s Housing plan to create and preserve 200,000 units of affordable housing over the next 10 years across the five boroughs, East Harlem has been identified as one of many neighborhoods across the city that will be rezoned in order to achieve that goal.*
- *In order to ensure that the residents who have a stake in this neighborhood have a voice in this process, CB11, Community Voices Heard, and the Speaker’s Office are leading this effort to create a vision for the future of East Harlem.*
- *Over the Summer and Fall, there will be many meetings on a variety of topics to develop an end product in at the end of the year, which will be a Neighborhood Plan for East Harlem created by and for this community.*
- *This process is not a reaction to the proposed rezoning, but rather a proactive effort to engage different community stakeholders in a solid plan that will guide future development in East Harlem. The ideas generated here today should go beyond plans for the built environment to address the overall quality of life for residents of this neighborhood.*

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #4 - NOTE TAKER TEMPLATE

Template for East Harlem Visioning Session 4 Notes - 9/10/15  
**Small Businesses, Workforce and Economic Development**

Note taker Name:

Table Number:

Facilitator Name:

# of Participants:

Detailed Notes (*please note: you can add bolded headings if other relevant questions come up and are discussed in your group*):

## Table Participants

First Name / Relationship to EH / Are they a Small business owner? / Excited About / Have they come to a previous workshop?

**Strengths and Challenges about Jobs/Small Businesses in East Harlem**

**Strengths**

**Challenges**

**Topic Discussions**

**Physical Space**

**Small Businesses**

**Workforce Development**

**Other Notes / Overall summary of the conversation:**

**Questions that Came Up:**

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #4 - NOTES



East Harlem Neighborhood Plan

Community Visioning Workshop 4: Small Businesses, Workforce and Economic Development

Children's Aid Society

September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 6:30-8:30pm

## **Summary of Notes**

### **Strengths**

- Small businesses: entrepreneurial spirit, many established stores (despite rising rents)
- Cultural heritage and ethnic diversity
- Eager, available workforce
- Many non-profits, including those that serve businesses and job-seekers

### **Challenges**

- Rising commercial (and residential) rents
- High unmet need for good jobs
- Inadequate workforce development programs: not geared toward sustainable jobs; not accessible to all, including those not on a lease
- Community members & business owners are uninformed about what helpful services and programs *do* exist
- Weak /inadequate internet infrastructure

### **Physical Space**

- Room for growth / underutilized spaces, e.g., "vacant land on NYCHA along the avenues," waterfront,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (vacant land + vacant upper floors), warehouses
- Development should occur at: 125<sup>th</sup> Street, waterfront, Madison

### **Small Businesses**

- Commercial rent control is needed
- Business types that are lacking: clothing stores, cooperative/incubator start-ups

### **Workforce Development**

- Mismatch between new jobs (local and beyond) and current residents
- Local residents should get local construction jobs, especially more than they do now
- Businesses should be incentivized (e.g., via tax breaks) to hire locally
- Job training should be geared towards stable, well-paying careers

---

**Table 2**

**Number of Participants:** 9, all live or work in EH, have

Challenges

- Rezoning in 2003-too large space for small businesses.
- The Rezoning program (2000-2003) brought lots of pressure of development. We don't know the commercial density of EH. We need to re-evaluate the density.
- People prefer walk to 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, because there is more commercial activities and more support. More development should occur at Park Ave, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

**3. Topic Discussions**

Physical Space

- The width of the street
- E116th St., E115th St. & E112nd St. are wide streets. more commercial opportunity.

- New Subway Station

Want more subway stations at 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

The participants thought that the new stations might bring more opportunity for small businesses.

- The Lighting

Park Ave: Dark place, nobody wants to shop at there.

However, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave are light and wide.

- Dinning Options

Some restaurants are missing.

At the 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., people could sit down and have lunch or afternoon tea at anytime they want. The food price at 1<sup>st</sup> Ave is more reasonable. Some people rather walk to 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. than eat at Park Ave. However, at the Park Ave. you could only see the people have lunch at noon.

People don't need large space to eat: they could share table. All they need are: Public space, nice walk condition, flexible use of sidewalk at peak times, etc.

More open space—more people—more local job opportunity

Small Businesses

- Big-name malls/ restaurants come in
- The big challenges caused by those big-name shops come in the small place, and probably push out the little store.
- The big-name mall could be cheaper than small store, so people might prefer go to the other neighbors to shopping.
- Meanwhile, the big-name mall could bring more commercial opportunity, so some small businesses leave from the local neighbor to another neighbor that might have more potential development.
- Bolster culture
- We should know that the opportunity is for everyone.

- The participants don't want the development take away what they already planned in the future.
- The small business need more long term affordability for their product.
- They need to protect Non-profit Organizations, so the NPO could protect and serve small businesses.
- How to mitigate problem potentials?

Incubator spaces

(To attract consumers through work opportunities)

More commercial space for local businesses

The city should make the place more inviting!(tax)

Workforce Development

- What is a good job?
- Work/ living environment
- Secure
- Fair and equal
- Good benefits
- Mobility
- Advancement
  
- How to make good jobs become great jobs?
- Not just job training, but focus on civil service!
- The role of industry and vocation.

#### 4. Other Notes/ Overall summary of the conversation

- What the physical condition will bring more potential opportunity.
- (Like the wide street/ light)
- How to support local businesses
- How to attract more people
- (New station? Public space? Light and air? Etc.)

#### 5. Questions that Came up

- Does the new station certainly bring more people/ more opportunity?
- Could we make sure that the change will development is good?
- Do we clearly know what we have now?
- Does the good job certainly mean good environment/ benefit?

### **Table 3**

#### Five priorities

1. Get local residents in construction union jobs

2. Use any leverage to get local hiring commitment from developers
3. Farmers market
4. Incubator space for local residents to do retail support Mom and Pop not big chains
5. Light manufacturing to get better paying jobs and path for local residents to get trained for those jobs.

### Strengths

- Room for growth
- 4,5,6 trains
- Workforce Development providers
- Neighborhood feel, family oriented people know each other
- Cultural history, La Marqueta and small businesses reflect this
- Trilingual community-Spanish, English and Chinese

### Challenges

- Lack of employment opportunities and not a match jobs and residents
- Unemployment high and income low-deterring to customers
- Rents are giving up residents and businesses
- People being displaced
- Businesses coming in are very different, more expensive
- Current residents cannot afford
- Workforce Training not meeting new job
- Local community stores being priced out
- Large immigrant population hard to reach across the languages not as trusting of services
- Opportunities for light manufacturing
- Media coverage of K-2 on 125<sup>th</sup> St, loitering
- Section 8 in NYCHA does not collect outcomes; we don't know where the money is going

### Physical Space

- Where do we shop?
- 125<sup>th</sup> and 116<sup>th</sup> St
- E River Plaza
- Costco more affordable
- Grocery stores, laundromats, bodegas,

### Underutilized spaces

- Businesses in public Housing
- **Storefronts that have empty apartments above**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and 103<sup>rd</sup> and 119-All 99 cents store
- Brownstones on E 111<sup>th</sup> could build taller

### Where should tall buildings be placed?

- Hudson, FDR-Yes and no
- Tall buildings-where they already are-
- Transit oriented near Metro North

### Small businesses

- More reasonably priced healthy food stores
- Geographic diversity of grocery stores
- Shoe repair shops
- Diner
- More mom and pop places
- No more Dunkin Donuts, subways, McDs, 7-11
- How can stores keep prices down
- How to protect small businesses that move overnight to a different spot
- No malls
- Need diversity of businesses because there are too many bodegas, smoke shops, and liquor stores
- Give residents opportunities to open small businesses
- Need commercial rent control

Positive of density

- More density is more customers
- Incubator space
- New retail space

Negative of density

- Attract big chain stores-change character of neighborhood
- SBS can offer info on commercial lease rights
- Proton Center had leverage 50,000 retail space for the neighborhood residents or business owners.
- Farmers market
- In Oakland concept of Pop up stores that offer short term low rent lease
- Upper West Side limited to small storefront so big chain stores not welcome
- 125<sup>th</sup> St limited banks on corners
- More street vendors
- Can we have better rates on loans for long time residents
- UMEZ small loans
- Large businesses in residential areas and the neighborhood is not prepared to deal with the foot traffic

Good job=Living wage

- Most common jobs in neighborhood Home Health Aide and Retail also low wage work
- HHA needed but how to make it with advancement
- No more waivers of the living wage ordinance
- Maybe worker coop model
- Local residents should get the construction job opportunities
- Community oversight of implementation of local hiring
- Low industrial maybe for better skilled jobs with better pay
- Health care institutions hiring more local residents-how to get access
- Local hire and apprenticeships
- Food culture and Food entrepreneurs
- Some incubation programs
- Need Diverse opportunities Entry level and higher skills

- Need Advancement opportunities
  - Seniors-sharing skill building-cross generation
  - Employment for seniors
- 

## TABLE 4

Table Participants

7 Participants – 5 EH residents + 2 students

Jaques: Works in EH / Attorney / Community developer for EH, works with EH Co-ops

Antti : Urban Planning student (Finnish)

Oria : Urban Planning student (French)

George : Senior EH resident, lived his entire life in EH

Mahfuz : EH resident and member of the Community Board, High School student

Nick : Works in EH, in a store / Urban Planning student

Sandra: Grew up in EH (El Barrio) / Hispanic / Lives in West Harlem / Artist Dancer and educational worker.

Strengths and Challenges about Jobs/Small Businesses in East Harlem

Strengths

- The area used to have SMALL BUSINESSES (shops, stores, restaurants,...) They are still some of them left.
- The workforce of Latino and Black neighbors. (Related to the Manufacturing jobs)
- Tourism: EH the Hispanic tradition attractive for NYC visitors.
- Cultural: El Barrio powerful cultural background.
- The waterfront: Relation neighborhood / water

Challenges

- Higher rents with same salaries.
- Small businesses, specialization in products.
- The relation to water (waterfront)
- 2nd Avenue new subway line. The access to Queens and Downtown.
- The occupations of manufacturing areas by residential/commercial uses.

Topic Discussions

Physical Space

- Where do you go shopping?
- Lexington Ave
- 116th St
- 124th St with Lexington Ave
- 3rd Ave, around Julia de Burgos center

- 125th St
- Waterfront of 125th St (Challenging area)

Where development should happen?

- 125th St and its waterfront
- E 132nd St area (Manufacturing area)
- The whole waterfront as a challenging area
- Height regulation areas
- The central areas of the blocks should be regulated in height

Small businesses

- What types of businesses are missing in EH?
- Manufacturing
- Farmer's market
- Job assistance programs
- There is no help to the daylabor workforce (Informal jobs not registered)
- Need more opportunities to learn SKILLS
- Jobs provided by the UNIONS should be for people from EH, LOCAL JOBS
- ... Additional notes
- Need to improve the image of EH so people will come more often. The image of the businesses (shops, cafes, restaurants, manufacturing).

Workforce Development

- What is a good job? Is the one who allows you to live in the place you were born.
- Food industry, manufacturing of foods for NYC (small business owners) La Marqueta's concept in more areas of the neighborhood.
- Tourism manufacturing for NYC
- Entrepreneurial attraction: programs and incentives should be implemented so entrepreneurs from other parts of the town will come to develop his idea in EH.
- Long-term careers: Stability.

Other Notes / Overall summary of the conversation:

- MANUFACTURING DEVELOPMENT: for tourism and food
- JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS
- TOURISM AND CULTURAL ATTRACTION: The Hispanic attraction
- TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES AND IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED
- RENTS: affecting neighbors and businesses
- UNIONS should do LOCAL HIRING
- PERCEPCION OF BUSINESSES security, marketing towards the rest of NYC.

**Table 5**

Table number: 5

# of participants: 7

Table Participants:

Edward — lifelong resident of EH; not a small business owner; excited about entrepreneurial training for EH residents and bringing secure, well-paying jobs into the neighborhood; has attended past meetings

Chris — resident of EH and church minister with local church; not a small business owner; excited about opportunities for pop-up businesses in the neighborhood, and concerned about the number of teachers in EH who are not local residents; has attended past meetings

María — non-resident, Hunter College (planning?) student working on a project related to EH; not a small business owner; excited about learning more about the neighborhood; has not attended past meetings

Frances — lifelong resident of EH; not a small business owner; excited about jobs pertaining to education and care for the elderly, as well as engaging the youth workforce in the neighborhood; has not attended past meetings

Joseph — longtime resident of EH; not a small business owner; excited about gaining entrepreneurial skills in order to eventually open a small laundry business in the neighborhood; has not attended past meetings

Maya — new EH resident and community organizer; not a small business owner; excited about job training and encouraging growth of small business in the area, and concerned about rising rents and gentrification; has not attended past meetings

Monica — non-resident working for a non-profit organization that does work in EH relating to community land trusts; not a small business owner; excited about encouraging formation of community land trusts and worker-owned cooperatives in the neighborhood; has attended past meetings

Strengths and Challenges about Jobs/Small Businesses in East Harlem*Strengths:*

- an available, eager workforce in the area
- a number of underutilized spaces in the area that have great potential as sites of local, small business development
- NYCHA residents interested in equitable economic development
- the 125th Street Library as a community resource
- the potential for EH as a tourist destination, specifically relating to the rich cultural heritage of the area
- strong, communal ties amongst residents

*Challenges:*

- a lack of job training opportunities
- a lack of entrepreneurial/business start-up training opportunities
- a lack of information about financial management, tenant rights, and home ownership
- prohibitively high property taxes and other financial barriers that keep residents from opening up small businesses in the area
- rising commercial and residential rents in the neighborhood

Topic Discussions*Physical Space:*

Participants discussed at length the types of businesses that are used in the neighborhood, and where those businesses tend to be located; namely markets, big-box stores (such as Target and Costco), restaurants, bakeries, pharmacies, and liquor stores clustered around three main commercial corridors: 3rd Avenue, 116th Street, and 106th Street. Participants also identified 3rd Avenue, 116th Street, and 125th Street as corridors that are lively and active during evening and late-night hours. Specific areas of underutilized space were identified along 3rd Avenue between 104th Street and 108th Street (vacant buildings) and 3rd Avenue between 115th Street and 119th Street (vacant lots). In general, participants agreed that much of 3rd Avenue contained an abundance of underutilized space. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, the facilitator decided it would be best to skip talking about building heights in the area in order to move on to other categories of discussion.

*Small Businesses:*

Participants identified certain types of businesses that they felt were lacking in the neighborhood, such as clothing/shoe stores, shops selling consumer electronics, and businesses capable of collecting and sorting recyclable goods. Almost every participant in the group agreed that not enough newer businesses in the area were actively catering to longtime residents, and the group as a whole made note of the number of new restaurants in the area that seem to be geared toward attracting only newer, more affluent residents. Many participants also identified one type of business they would like to see less of: large, corporate, big-box stores. The primary concern of the group regarding the proliferation of big-box stores in the eastern part of the neighborhood was that these jobs tend to only offer low-wage positions. Participants also noted that increased density in the neighborhood had the potential to have the positive impact of increasing the number of businesses in EH, while also expressing concern that densification may accelerate gentrification and displacement in the neighborhood.

*Workforce Development:*

Participants defined a “good job” as a job that can provide a living wage — specifically, a minimum of \$15 or \$16 per hour — and offer job-related and entrepreneurial training. As a way of creating, attracting and retaining good jobs in EH, participants explored potential business incentives. Specifically, participants discussed how tax credits could incentivize local residents to start small businesses capable of offering good jobs, and attract entrepreneurs from outside the neighborhood to open up small businesses within EH — with the stipulation that this latter category would provide good jobs as defined by the participants. Also, participants discussed how tax credits could be offered to businesses

(particularly corporate chains) willing to meet local hiring quotas, and the need for some kind of monitoring system to keep businesses accountable in regards to these quotas.

Other Notes/Overall summary of the conversation:

Participants, as a group, emphasized the following points as the most important takeaways from the visioning exercise:

- the need for good, secure, local jobs providing living wages
- the need to generate and attract businesses in EH willing to provide living-wage jobs and meet local hiring quotas
- the need for provision of job training, either by local businesses or other community-based organizations
- the need for entrepreneurial training programs aimed at giving local residents the skills needed to start their own small businesses

Participants also identified other major points that had been discussed during the workshop:

- the desire on part of long-time residents to see newer businesses catering to *all* residents, as opposed to just more affluent, white residents — a point addressed in context of the ethnic and cultural diversity of the neighborhood
- the need to take advantage of underutilized spaces as sites for creating locally-owned small businesses
- the need for some form of commercial rent control in EH

**Table Number: 6**

**Number of Participants: 9**

**Table Participants:**

Brad – Works in the neighborhood in community and government affairs

Cynthia – Works in EH in health

Alida – Lives in NYCHA building in EH

Juanita – works and lives in the neighborhood

Matt – Works in EH, runs a real estate development firm

Famio – Student at Columbia, lives in Harlem

Cecilia – Lives in EH, runs a non-profit for domestic violence intervention

Maria – Resident in EH for all her life; worked in EH; retired

Julia – Urban Planning student; doing her studio in EH

Strengths and Challenges about Jobs/Small Businesses in East Harlem:

**Strengths:**

- many social service organizations in the neighborhood; there are many overlaps; they need to collaborate more
- large bilingual population; people tend to belittle foreign languages, but this is really a chance for the neighborhood (skills)
- **strong culture in community that is not appreciated (is being depicted negatively as lazy, uneducated, foreign etc.) but, as language, is really an asset that could be used**
- **dynamic and vibrant neighborhood with a rich culture**

**Challenges:**

- the new businesses (smoke shops) are not doing anything good for the neighborhood
- lack of education related and life skills in the population; there is a lack of skills that would allow the residents to find long-term employment
- funding for training is needed; the residents don't have means for these trainings themselves
- workforce development as is now doesn't get people jobs that are paid well; workforce development needs to be reoriented (toward better paid and more sustainable jobs)
- gentrification
- **everyone should be able to get training (not just people that are on a lease; a lot of people are not on a lease and can therefore not participate in job trainings)**
- **neighborhood would need a larger employer to drive employment and the local economy; there should be incentives for larger businesses to move here (e.g. free land)**
- modern technology is needed (internet provider is running on an antiquated system)
- community needs to be informed about opportunities

**Topic Discussions****Physical Space****Where and at what kind of businesses are you shopping at?**

- businesses along 116<sup>th</sup> St (e.g. East River Plaza)
- along 125<sup>th</sup> St

**Vacant Land:**

- what is happening at the site of East Harlem MEC? Land is underutilized there
- 108<sup>th</sup> St between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, many vacancies
- no space for community in the neighborhood
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave is generally underutilized; only shops on ground level but nothing above
- five boarded buildings on Lexington Ave betw 106<sup>th</sup> and 107<sup>th</sup> St
- vacant lots on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave between 109<sup>th</sup> and 110<sup>th</sup> St → should become Green Thumb garden (example of such a garden on 117<sup>th</sup> St and Lexington Ave); there should be more of those

**Small Businesses****What's missing? Which kind of businesses would you like to have in the neighborhood?**

- more clothing stores, especially for women

- there need to more dry-cleaning businesses + shoe repair stores
- lack of healthy and affordable lunch places
- co-operative businesses, especially for women
- the city should try to develop EH as a technology or industrial HUB (e.g. some kind of new cutting-edge technology; a NY Silicon Valley); something that's being developed in EH, that creates local jobs;
- EH needs more businesses related to art and culture in the neighborhood (art galleries, book stores, cultural spaces)
- there needs to be a better connection between small businesses and infrastructure, especially better internet access (the internet runs on an antiquated system in EH); the city should step up for the community (accountability)**
- EH is a desert when it comes to certain types of infrastructure (especially internet as well as electricity, but also cellphone reception) and the city needs to invest more in that

#### **Workforce Development:**

- workforce development needs to be changed and reoriented
- “connecting the dots” → getting kids into college and into jobs for which there is a high demand; job training needs to orient towards well paid, long-term jobs; pairing training programs with business needs**
- there needs to be long-term rent control for businesses so that they can stay in the neighborhood

#### **How could this be achieved?**

- more funding for workforce training
  - there should be a higher tax on tickets for concerts on Randall’s Island (part of East Harlem); this money should go to the community and be invested in the infrastructure; jobs on Randall’s Island (e.g. cleaning after concerts) should be given to people in EH
  - jobs in EH should in general be given to the people living there
- 

#### **Table Number: 7**

# of Participants: 5

#### Table Participants

1. **Magda (M):** She has offices in East Harlem and works with public housing and small businesses in the area.
2. **Evelyn (E):** PS109 resident. Recently employed. She has already been in three workshops regarding East Harlem.
3. **Nancy (N):** PS109 resident. New to neighborhood, wants to see it preserved.
4. **Government representative (G):** Said she worked with local government and wanted to listen and take notes (she left early).
5. **Matthew (Ma):** Joined for a few minutes, involved in community work.

Even though there was some order regarding the questions, the discussion was a little disperse. There were still a lot of important points that were recurrent throughout the discussion, this is an account of what points each of the participants made. At the end you will find some bullet points that highlight the most important ones.

G: Government representative.  
 M: Magda  
 E: Evelyn  
 N: Nancy  
 Ma: Matthew

Challenges and Strengths on Small Businesses / Workforce Development:

There was a lot of discussion regarding the quality of the products in the area, they pointed that as a challenge for small businesses already there. Likewise, there was discussion about the needs of the people and the lack of options available to them. Key discussion: commercial rent control.

E: There is not enough choices for women when shopping here, the only way to get high quality options is to leave the area and probably spend more than they thought they would.

M: Small businesses must represent the needs of the people living there. If that does not happen, the things that these shops will carry will be too expensive for the people living there.

E: Businesses are being pushed out because of lack of rent control.

N: In order to maintain business by and for local residents we need good paying jobs and education.

G: There are organizations that are developing training programs and there is an initiative for healthier better quality food.

M: Small businesses cannot afford space. Once development starts, what are we going to put in place to protect businesses already there and allow new ones.

N: There must be commercial rent control.

E: There is also a lack in organic options and some people need it for health reasons. No entertainment options, less movie theaters. No good gym classes. Everything is low quality and there are not tailoring anything for seniors.

M: There are long term residents committed to stay there. This is a strength, there are generations living in East Harlem.

E: Agrees with that, this a strength for stabilizing businesses.

M: Shops are still opening in East Harlem because there is still *some* affordable space (not along the main corridor though). The main corridor is too expensive; opportunity arises off the main corridor.

E: East Harlem does not have a business development center.

M: Businesses are not getting together because they are constantly changing (because of rent).

E: More educational and workforce development programs are needed in East Harlem.

N: Idea: offer internships at local businesses for the residents of East Harlem.

M: There are also a number of resources available in East Harlem but people do not know about them, there has to be more advertisement for that.

N: They should offer teenagers and families as a whole about these resources. Maybe assemblies on schools.

G: Job fairs? That could work.

M: More information on available jobs and internships for people in the area.

Regarding shopping in the area:

M: I shop along 100 and 110st on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

E: Mall on Pleasant Avenue.

N: Lexington Ave, along 100-103st.

Corridor:

E: Many stores open late but outside of corridor.

M: Only food and liqueur is opening late.

E: We have to leave the neighborhood for more options late.

Misused spaces:

N: A lot of warehouses buildings are being misused. Empty space on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floor of these warehouses.

M: They are all on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

E: They are along 106<sup>th</sup> to 109<sup>th</sup> on 3<sup>rd</sup>, there are around 14 buildings that are warehouses.

N: Unused for more than 30 years! There could be new stores, startups, fashion workshops, etc.

G: There is a lot of misused space because of insecurity.

Health care institutions:

M: They should create jobs for people that live in East Harlem. There should be more local hiring.

Proposition: New businesses must include local hiring, even if some people do not have the proper education.

Where should development occur:

G: Along Park Ave.

N: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

Businesses that should be in the area:

M: Organic food/gyms/better clothing.

N: Please stop more mall stores.

E: Not more Duane Reads, 7/11s, we have enough.

N: There should be regulations on width of frontage of businesses to avoid big stores. Something similar to what the UWS did.

Ma: Encourage opening boutiques for women.

E: There should be new development in La Marqueta area (it is underutilized).

Ma: Establish program that helps women build their own businesses on the areas that are underused.

M: Create incubator spaces.

Ma: Shared workplace, larger spaces that let startups work there and grow/create jobs and stay in the area. Access to capital is also a challenge to the community. Find ways to create opportunity and low interest/generous paybacks. Access to tech and internet.

M: Those new developments must offer technology, interest, assistance and options to access to capital.

Workforce:

N: We should ask the people what they need. We need more trade schools.

Ma: Technical schools are needed in the area.

G: There are not colleges in the area.

E: Prepare people to work, give them basic office skills besides technology. Skills needed for nursing, homecare, etc. Once these people have a foot on the door, it will be easier to move into something better.

M: We could demand the new development and construction to hire local people (even though there is the question of what will happen to these people once construction ends).

E: We need to see work options and for that we need to know what skills are needed for the jobs available in the area.

#### **KEY POINTS THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION:**

- Underutilized space above warehouses located on commercial corridor.
  - They need commercial rent control to keep small businesses and to attract new ones.
  - Lack of quality in products available.
  - They need businesses that match the current needs of the area.
  - Regulation with the size of commercial space to control big box retails.
  - More programs to incubate businesses.
  - Promote and make accessible the resources available (job fairs, expos).
  - Mandatory percentage of workforce to be local.
- 

#### **Table 8**

##### **TABLE PARTICIPANTS**

7 Participants – all EH residents, 1 small business owner

##### **STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES ABOUT JOBS/SMALL BUSINESSES IN EAST HARLEM**

###### **STRENGTHS:**

1. Cultural Diversity
2. Location - Everything is here
3. Good community to start a business
4. Lots of free services for those starting a business
5. Business diversity – lots of small businesses
6. Unique employment services + job training
7. Unique cultural feeling
8. Lots of potential to expand + create business + jobs

###### **CHALLENGES:**

1. Difficult for businesses to access assistance + information
2. Gentrification
3. Job training needs to be tied to jobs in the neighborhood
4. How do we create new businesses without adversely affecting the fabric of the community
5. Hard for residents to get access to construction jobs (even though they are tons of developments happening at the moment)
6. Lack of affordable housing (high rents)
7. High commercial rents
8. Difficulty hiring people with required certifications
9. Need local hiring references
10. Lack of educational services

## TOPIC DISCUSSIONS

### PHYSICAL SPACE

#### WHERE DO YOU SHOP/ WHAT TYPES OF BUSINESSES DO YOU GO TO?

- East 116<sup>th</sup> st: including small businesses and the Mall at 116<sup>th</sup> st and Pleasant ave (Costco, Target, Old Navy, Marshal's)
- East 125<sup>th</sup> st: Big businesses including Mac Donald's, Marshal's, some others
- 3rd Ave small businesses (including bakery)
  - In daily bases they shop at the small business, but for certain necessities they go to big businesses.
  - The group did not talk about the temporality of the corridors

#### WHERE ARE THE SPACES UNDERUTILIZED?

- Pleasant ave there are a lot of parking lots but probably there are going to become different developments
  - Sergio talked about a bunch of old business (including his favorite one (?) ) that are disappearing, and in those lots there will appear NYCHA Projects

#### WHERE SHOULD DEVELOPMENT OCCUR? WHERE DO WE NEED MORE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY?

- Madison Ave between 124<sup>th</sup> st and 115<sup>th</sup> st
- 3rd Ave and 106<sup>th</sup> st
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave and 125<sup>th</sup> st

#### WHERE SHOULD DEVELOPMENT NOT OCCUR?

- Lexington Ave and 115<sup>th</sup> st
- Around the mall 116<sup>th</sup> st and Pleasant ave
  - The group did not talk about the limitations of height nor density

### SMALL BUSINESSES

#### WHAT TYPE OF BUSINESSES ARE MISSING FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

- Clothing stores, men's and women's business clothing, shoes stores
- Diner – restaurants
- Jewelry
- Arts and entertainment (small theater)

#### HOW DO NEW DEVELOPMENTS AFFECT THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

- Developments have great impact in the fabric of the community. New projects have heavy policies with people who are not resident, nor visitors. As a neighbor you feel you do not belong, and your friends and families could be caught as trespassers.
- The foot print and the amount of people exceeds the capacity of the neighborhood. Excess of traffic in Lexington and 125<sup>th</sup> St

#### HOW CAN ADVERSE IMPACTS BE ALLEVIATED OR ELIMINATED?

- Advertising for small businesses – 3 stickers
- Create BID
- More information about services offered by NYC
- Subsidies for small services
- Commercial rent control-rent stabilized for small business – 2 stickers

- Job training + skills training for small business employees. How to income funds for sub training
- Agreements with developer where residents have options to work in new business and developments
  - The group talked about how when new business arrive to the community usually they bring their people for the high rank jobs and only the low ranks go to the people of the community
  - The group talked how during the construction of the mall the community agreed with the developers that for some jobs the people from the neighborhood was going to get interviewed first (benefits). Even though this was a good deal, it is only a short term solution.\*

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE GOOD CAREER OR GOOD JOB?

- Livable wages
- **Long term retention**
- Ladder to develop skills
- Benefits (health, pension, vacation, etc)

WHAT TYPE OF JOBS SHOULD BE CREATED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

- Construction
- Technical jobs
- Green building jobs
- Food services
- **Financial industry**

HOW CAN WE ENSURE THAT EH RESIDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO THIS JOBS?

- Open workforce – Satellite center
- **Job training**
- **Local hiring**
- Local hiring preference – Interview EH residents first. \*related

TYPES PF TRAINING NEEDED

- **IT**
- CNA/HHA
- Medical technology + record
- HVAC
- **Union apprentice program**
- High school degree
- English language classes

FOUNDING FOR JOB TRAINING (Ophelia talked about different alternatives - informative)

- Federal programs/city budget
- Training grants students
- Several programs, not massive programs though
- Grand's for non profits that would work as an extensions of NYSBS
  - The group talked about how commissioner from outside the city and the community got the contracts. The group discussed how the community could not compete with the *big boys* and how the appearance of this big companies lead to bigger competitions within the community. Thus, they can't help each other; rather they fight for the jobs.

## PARTICIPANT'S VOTES (STICKERS)

- 3 stickers
  - 2 sticker
  - 1 sticker
- 

Table Number: 9

# of Participants: 8

**TABLE PARTICIPANTS:**

Jason: East Harlem resident, works for non-profit in East Harlem.

Colin: East Harlem resident of 7 months, works in Midtown, interested in employment.

Luis: Govt employee (recent hire), first workshop

Jose': East Harlem Pastor and resident of 15yrs, originally from LES. Concerned that indigenous businesses remain in the community and retain community identity.

Daniel: Retired, longtime resident of East Harlem. Curious to see WHAT can happen, and what WILL happen.

Michelle: Born and raised in East Harlem, owns a small business, excited to be part of positive change.

**STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES ABOUT JOBS/SMALL BUSINESSES IN EAST HARLEM:**

**STRENGTHS:**

- Immigrant town: Italians, Jews, Puerto Ricans, Asians, etc. As a result indigenous restaurants, food, Latin bookstore "La Casa Azul". Unique cultural heritage.
- Diversity, cultural character
- Informal community support
- "Supply chain"businesses can buy food from a local supplier.
- Neighborhood: local barber shops, shops and services
- Convenience
- Affordability
- Locally owned
- Synergy
- Working class

**CHALLENGES:**

- Existence of 4 pharmacies in close proximity to each other (3 local, 1 Duane Reade)
- 103rd station closed going downtown, affecting businesses
- Structurally no support
- Can be challenging to new small businesses if they don't know anyone, not as supported.
- Affordability
- Rising rents
- Growing local businesses, they can't afford to stay open
- New businesses not affordable to long term residents
- Lack of support organizations (Formerly the EAST HARLEM ALLIANCE Restaurant and Bar Association, it was funded by SBS, offered peer support, helped with supply, had a trolley and events as well as a concierge downtown. Ended 4 years ago.)

- 

#### WHAT'S MISSING?

- Hotels
- quality event spaces for social events (i.e. weddings, catering)
- tourism
- fashion establishments
- restaurants (especially upscale ones)
- gyms
- larger grocery stores (for one stop shopping).

DANIEL: No fashion, people have to go to East River Mall: Marshall, Target, Best Buy, Costco.

#### THINGS THAT KEEP PEOPLE FROM COMING TO EAST HARLEM:

- Lack of lighting, people "don't clean up" on 3rd Ave.

#### QUESTIONS TO GET ANSWERED :

- What percentage of businesses are locally owned? Do they hire local?
- How do you develop a consciousness, get people to shop locally?

Ideas: Shop local day, local businesses get a discount

Visit El Barrio.com, have a business week, restaurant week.

#### JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE:

- Mount Sinai, Metropolitan, hospitality industry. Do they have paid internships?
- How can they integrate young people, when there are challenges with the way they come dressed, etc.?
- STRIVE: A program that tries to hire local, needs a hospitality program.
- EXODUS: Hires former offenders looking for work. Need to create a bridge to teach things like barbering, tattooing. (ex/HOMEBODY Industries) . How do you link services?

#### WHAT ARE POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES WITH MORE DENSITY?

- Positive= more foot traffic, Negative=affordability
- Need affordable housing and commercial development doesn't help. Interested in workforce development.

#### WHAT ABOUT SMALL BUSINESSES?

- Barbershops in a cluster around 107th
- Restaurant cluster on 1st Ave & 111th, not upscale
- Nociallo is more upscale, 3rd/116th has a restaurant cluster. A laddered system for small business is a concept that helps and could help create a niche for business owners.
- An idea would be to turn 116th in a walking street for a few of the warmer months, street vendors.
- La Marqueta used to have more variety, has declined and not come back. Vendors knew customers, etc. Need a onestop grocery store.

#### OTHER AREAS THAT COULD BE MORE VIBRANT:

- 106TH btwn. 2nd and Lex. Dead zone businesses not thriving.
- 126th/127th and 3rd. Dead zone but building a walkin clinic there.
- Need a food court in East River Mall, no cinema, no destination there.
- 116th is a connection to the area that is completely covered, good for weather.

#### SUMMARY:

#### STRENGTHS:

- Diversity (food, books, cultural)
- Connections between businesses and communities
- Convenience and affordability

**CHALLENGES:**

- Include affordability, rising rents
  - Could use more event spaces, hotels, attract tourism
  - HOSPITALITY came up quite often, could use more trainings to get people in the field
  - Lack of a support organization like the defunct East Harlem Alliance.
- 

**TABLE 11**

# Of Participants – 8

**Table Participants**

**First Name / Relationship to EH / Are they a Small business owner? / Excited About / Have they come to a previous workshop?**

- Carey – Lives on E 126<sup>th</sup> St. Project Director for local organization
- Halley – 118 and Lexington, works in Govt, but here tonight as a resident of the neighborhood. Lots of change has happened
- David – Grew up in East Harlem in the Washington Projects originally. Now works on youth development since the 1970s. How do we make EH work really well? Make People invest more in the neighborhood?
- Francisco – Born and raised in EH, was very involved in local govt., participated in a neighborhood planning process like this in 1987
- Matt –planning student
- Sophia –planning student, grew up in Corona, Queens. Sees so many similarities between the neighborhood and the changes they are going through
- Lucy –planning student, did work with local non-profit for a while, interested in Economic development and worker cooperatives
- Dantre Connolly – E Harlem – lives on 119<sup>th</sup> st, writing for a local paper, doesn't want to participate

**Strengths**

- Businesses have come together to clean streets, working together on 125<sup>th</sup> St
- Lot of Entrepreneurial Spirit
- Lots of established stores. People are willing to take risks and become part of the community – 2 votes

- Small businesses they give the neighborhood character. They are perseverant, they also make both the neighborhood and NYC unique. – 2 votes
- Potential to use vacant land on NYCHA along the avenues. 1-2 story buildings for small businesses – 4 votes
- Supermarkets have a diversity of food reflecting the diversity of residents. There are lots of opportunities for business incubation
- Barrier for entry to open a business is not as high fiscally than in other neighborhoods because of retail rents.
- Small businesses are very visible and it's the first thing you see. SBS initiatives should be brought to these businesses
- La Marqueta – Hot Bread Kitchen are examples of innovative activities in the area
- Demographics of Latino population have shifted to include more Mexican and South American communities
- The non-profit sector is very strong in the community, one of the largest employers, and provides an economic stability.

### **Challenges**

- It's difficult to have a business along 125<sup>th</sup> Street because of drug use. Methadone clinics and bus route contribute to this and is ultimately a safety concern
- When we've hosted a job fair we had 1000 people show up, demand for decent jobs is so high you can feel it
- There is a mismatch of skills between what jobs are being offered and what skills people have
- Block parties neighborhood associations and tenant associations were bedrocks of the community and helped support youth development, but we have lost some of that
- East Harlem is oversaturated with Special Needs housing therefore resources are stretched thin
- Lack of capital for local small businesses

### **Topic Discussions**

#### **Physical Space**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue corridor has a mix of all kinds of businesses but no restaurants/night life, it's dark at night and doesn't feel safe
- Prioritize Mixed Use developments
- There are not enough supermarkets for the density of the neighborhood
- Pathmark on 125<sup>th</sup> Street was sold and is shutting down, not really good alternatives
- 125<sup>th</sup> corridor has a lot of vacant lots / warehoused buildings
- 116<sup>th</sup> has lots of opportunities for good food and new restaurants
- Madison Ave has great potential for commercial development along NYCHA campuses, need to partner with NYCHA
- Warehoused buildings along 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue between 115 and 120<sup>th</sup> are a major issue, there needs to be a mechanism to encourage their development like a special tax

#### **Workforce development**

- This is a structural situation too where jobs require more and more skills and young people have less and less
- Local institutions want to hire locally but people don't have the skills in the neighborhood
- Need for training education – especially soft skills – 3 votes

- Should be structured into schools and community institutions like churches
  - Mentoring programs – education and respect are important need intergenerational collaboration
- 

**TABLE 10****Table Participants:**

Dennis: Resident of East Harlem/ Self employed website developer

Alfredo: Homeowner in East Harlem

Amelia Barnes: Grew up in East Harlem/ Concerned about the community

Lauren: Small business advisor in New York/ Wanted to learn more about community and how to help

Sharon: Resident of East Harlem

Penelope: New Resident of East Harlem, wants to learn more about the community and how to help

**Strengths:**

Small businesses are affordable. Diversity is positive. East Harlem is family friendly with lots of people but never uncomfortable. Feels like a "neighborhood".

**Weaknesses:**

There are establishments in East Harlem that have been around the community for decades and are losing business due to more expensive businesses and commercial industries taking away profits, specifically from family owned businesses. The group felt that new business coming into the East Harlem changes the community and its "flavor". Grocery stores are also a concern to the citizens of East Harlem. Local grocery stores are changing and even being demolished. Path Mark , the most affordable chain grocery store is closing in Harlem. This store was built to provide affordable and accessible food for the community. Businesses that people grew up with are no longer apart of East Harlem. Street Entrepreneurs and local owned stores are losing customers and profits to stores such as Whole Foods. The smaller stores need protection because they are just as reputable. Hiking of rents is a concern of residents in East Harlem. Because the rent is becoming more expensive citizens are losing their home and forced out of their neighborhood due to economics of the city. There is also a question of what is a good job? There are businesses like Target offers 10/hr but this wage isn't reputable for cost of living. Citizens would like work programs not only for money but for growth. They feel people are only focused about a job that helps them survive paycheck to paycheck but not actually sustain a career.

Residents are concerned about the children in East Harlem. Some kids in East Harlem do not value education and are not willing to go back to school. Residents feel it is difficult to change what is in existence for the youth of East Harlem with no opportunities or mentorships for real world jobs for a life long career. Residents are unaware of programs like Cristal Raye Highschool which offers internship programs for students where jobs pay schools to let students intern and in return students are given financial assistance with tuition. Residents are not informed about opportunities like these. College fair and job training opportunities need to be highlighted. Awareness of education in the community is a challenge. People are unaware of the opportunities in the community. Needs to be a connection with community and programs offered. Libraries are outdated in the community. Books and technology are outdated. Community centers are not being utilized are also not being utilized and after school programs need to be implemented for East Harlem. Business that prey on the poor such as pawn shops and rent a centers are an issue for residents for the area. Community members feel businesses that invest in uplifting the poor should be implemented in the East Harlem neighborhood not those that add to their discrepancy. Unions are also not helpful for citizens of Harlem. Unions do not oversee issues for the youth, elderly, and workers of East Harlem. The elderly is also a concern for citizens. The elderly are neglected in East Harlem and travel for them is difficult. There are a lack of jobs for teens, adults, and grads. Adults are competing for jobs that are aimed for youth. Citizens also feel that big businesses such as Mt Sinai should offer jobs within the community. There is an urge to change the mind set of the community. Also welfare is highlighted. Citizens of East Harlem are taught that living on welfare is ideal instead of attaining a career that will provide them a better living opportunity. Information about being a homeowner is not provided. No discussion on how to establish yourself.

**Physical Space:**

Park Ave along train tracks has empty space for business possibly homes. Along second and 110th there empty business land that can be utilized. Space can be used is now vacant and boarded up. This property can be used for office space and self employed citizens to rent out. This space can also be used for training centers for kids. Can also use vacant spaces to build another affordable grocery stores. Need more business that employ teenagers. Youth in Harlem work younger ages but have poorer education, a lot of growth but have dead end jobs. Need businesses that will not only provide jobs but train them for a career and be to become a business owner. Need to influence teens to not just value money for themselves but wealth building for the community and generations. Need more health care workers, could also assist elderly in the neighborhood. Health career are union and allow for education.

**Small Business:**

Funding and incentives are available for business that qualify. Different incentives are available to help. Different programs are available. Although it is difficult because of profit making in the community small business need to be aware of resources that can help sustain their business.

A space needs to be created where citizens can come together to learn about resources, specifically the youth. Young people need to learn about resources so they can understand owning a business and how they can sustain in a community overtime. There are places where business can come in so residents don't have to leave the communities such as courts, hospitals, etc.

**Workforce Development:**

Community Gardens are beneficial to East Harlem and should sustain in the area and not used to build new establishments . Citizens feel land that is unoccupied should be utilized instead of building new establishments . Citizens want to ensure that other buildings are occupied before building more.

More density could allow more funds for business owners. Density allows more eyes on the street and protection of resources and business.

Citizens feel that different types of housing can displace residents. For example luxury buildings bring luxury businesses which is not suitable for the income of the Harlem Community. Costco is an example of a business coming to the area and could improve the community but transit will be provided directly from the store to the subway so people not from Harlem will not walk through Harlem and not support or be aware of the local owned businesses.

There needs to be a medium amongst building taller and wider.

**Worksheet: In order from most important**

- Access to information for Youth and business owners. There should be centers or spaces where people can come together to share information on being more established in career, education, etc.
- More "Wealth Building" business and jobs not just for youth but entire community.
- Work with local business to offer programs for youth and set good training for a career. Need to work with large businesses such as Mt. Sinai to hire locally.
- Develop unused spaces before building new. Should focus on keeping community gardens.
- Should honor and support small businesses that are special to East Harlem like street entrepreneurs.

There was no information written on the map.

---

### **Additional CVH Group of Poll workers who could not attend the Visioning Workshop**

19 attendants

#### **Concerns/Problems**

- Large businesses in residential areas; the neighborhood is not prepared to deal with the foot traffic
- For programs like Section 3 in public housing, we need to have access to outcomes; we need to know where the money is going
- We do not want anymore malls
- We do not want any more chains
- No more smoke shops and liquor stores; we need dry cleaning spaces and shoe repairs
- Need a variety of businesses
- No tourism here like in Times Square

#### **Ideas and Solutions**

- Kiosks for advertising for small businesses through community means
- Local hire
- Apprenticeships
- Small business commercial rent control
- Training
- Worker cooperatives
- Resident owned businesses within public housing
- Need a variety of businesses
- Summer youth employment lottery
- Consider residents for businesses; need to get info to residents about these opportunities
- Change the living wage ordinance to \$15 per hour and do not give waivers to developers to get local hire
- Community residents should have oversight over local hiring
- Direct entry into unions for a percentage of the workforce and close union loopholes
- Funding specifically to get local residents trained to get jobs
- Data on what current trainings are working

#### **Underutilized**

- 120<sup>th</sup> behind the court house between Lex and 3<sup>rd</sup>

## COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #5 – FLIERS



Join us for a Community Visioning Workshop about

### ZONING, LAND USE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

#### WHEN

**Thursday, October 22nd  
6:30–8:30pm**

- Sign Language Interpretation Available  
if needed please RSVP to 212-788-9121 by 10/20
- Spanish Translation Available
- Childcare Available  
if needed please RSVP to 212-788-9121 by 10/20
- Snacks and Refreshments

#### WHERE

**Dream Charter School  
1991 2nd Ave at 102nd St.**

**6** to 103rd Street  
M101, M102, M103 to 102nd Street  
M15-SBS to 100th Street

#### NEXT VISIONING WORKSHOP:

Transportation & Safety, Environment,  
Health and Seniors

**Thursday, Nov 19, 6:30-8:30pm**  
Bethel Gospel Assembly  
2 East 120th Street  
(between Fifth Ave. and Madison)

**Make Your Voice Heard!**  
Be a Part of Shaping the East  
Harlem Neighborhood Plan and the  
Future of Your Community!

**EASTHARLEMPPLAN.NYC**

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito:  
212-788-9121

Community Board 11:  
212-831-8929

Community Voices Heard:  
212-860-6001

Manhattan Borough President  
Gale Brewer: 212-669-8300

**PLAN  
Comunitario  
PARA EL  
BARRIO**

Únase a Nosotros para  
un Taller de Visualización  
Comunitario sobre

**VIVIENDA ASEQUIIBLES,  
ZONIFICACIÓN Y  
USO DE SUELO**

**¿CUÁNDO?**

Jueves, 22 de Octubre  
6:30–8:30pm

- Interpretación de lenguaje de señas disponible, si lo necesita favor llamar al 212-788-9121 en 10/20
- Interpretación en Español
- Cuidado de niños disponible, si lo necesita favor llamar al 212-788-9121 en 10/20
- Meriendas & Refrigerios

**PRÓXIMA REUNIÓN PÚBLICA:**

Transporte y Medio-ambiente Saludable,  
Salud y Ancianos

Jueves, 19 de Noviembre, 6:30-8:30pm  
Bethel Gospel Assembly  
2 East 120th Street  
(between Fifth Ave. and Madison)

Haga Oír Su Voz!  
Sea parte en la conformación del Plan  
Comunitario del Este de Harlem y en el  
futuro de su comunidad!

**EASTHARLEMPPLAN.NYC**

**¿DÓNDE?**

Dream Charter School  
1991 2nd Ave at 102nd St.

- 6 hasta la calle 103
- M101, M102, M103 hasta la calle 102
- M15-SBS hasta la calle 100

**PARA MÁS  
INFORMACIÓN,  
LLAME:**

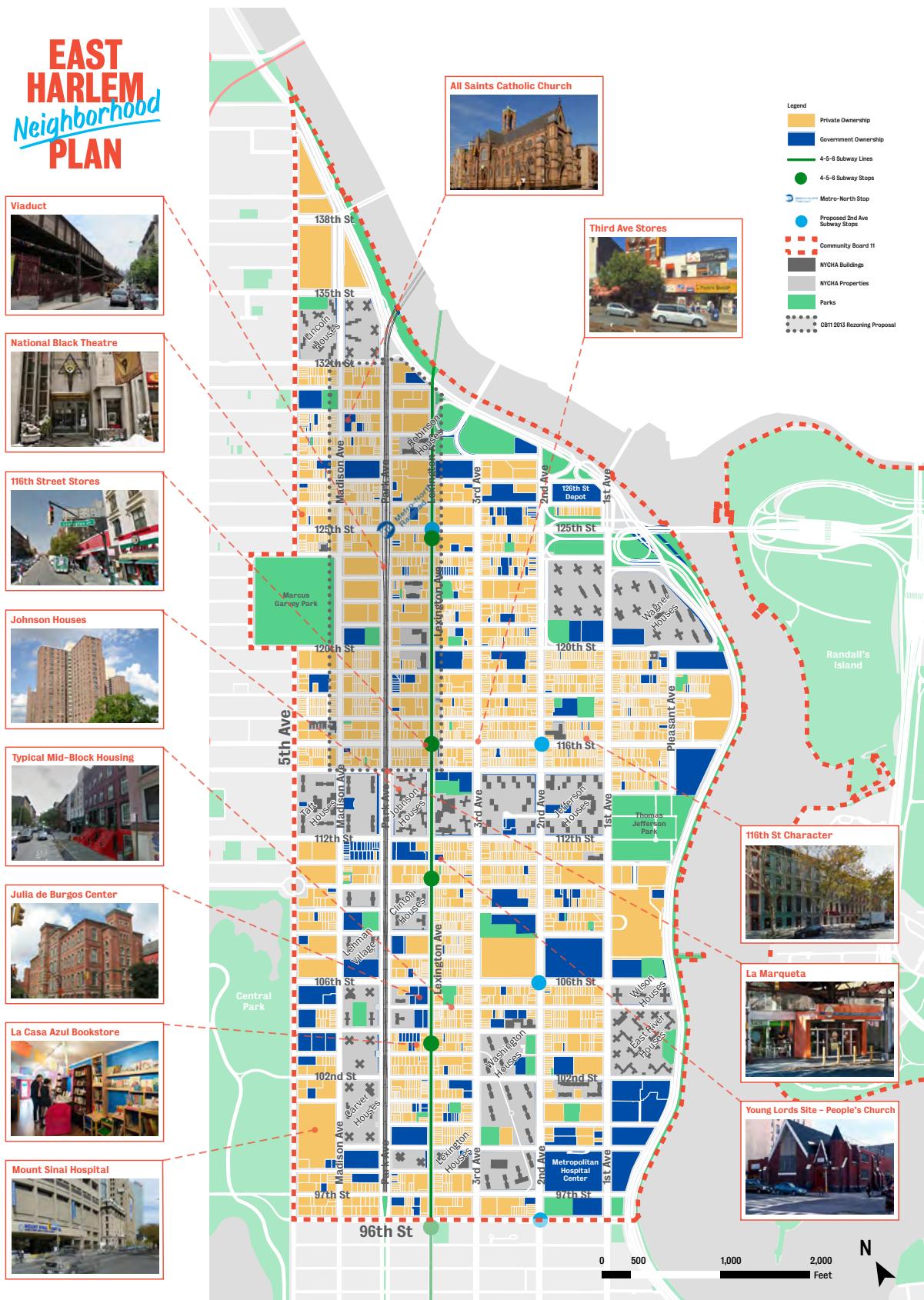
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito:  
212-788-9121

Community Board 11:  
212-831-8929

Community Voices Heard:  
212-860-6001

Manhattan Borough President  
Gale Brewer: 212-669-8300

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #5 – WORKSHOP MAP



# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #5 – FACILITATOR GUIDE

## East Harlem Neighborhood Plan

### Visioning Workshop 5

#### ZONING/LAND USE + AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

October 22, 2015 6:30-8:30pm

#### Small Group Discussion Facilitator Guide - DRAFT

#### WORKSHOP AGENDA

1. Presentation – 20 minutes
2. Small Group Activities – 1 hour 15 minutes – *Outlined within this guide*
3. Report Back – 20 minutes
4. Next Steps – 5 minutes

#### ROOM SET UP

- Sign in tables with flyers and Spanish translation equipment
- Small group tables set up with materials
- Designated Spanish table
- Posted around the room:
  - Precedent affordable housing project examples
  - Community Land Trust information poster
  - Information gathered from previous sessions
  - The Power of Zoning poster

#### EACH TABLE SHOULD HAVE:

Facilitator and Note-taker – at least one of each

Complete set of Materials –

- Facilitator Guide
- Notetaker guide, pens or laptop for note-taking
- 1 Big Neighborhood Map (w/photos)
- Activity #1 and #2 worksheets for each seat
- Red + Green dot stickers
- Multi-colored post-its
- Markers, pens
- Zoning info sheet + MIH hearing dates
- EH Neighborhood Plan Process handout

#### **Before the presentation begins**

Make sure your table has a complete set of materials listed above. If not, find Betsy or Dylan or Yakima and they will make sure you have everything you need. Please welcome folks as they sit down at your table and introduce yourself as your table's facilitator.

#### **Power Point Presentation (20 minutes)**

**Shift from large group to small group discussion**

**SMALL GROUP SUMMARY**

1. **Welcome and Ground Rules (2 minutes)** – Introduce yourself (again). Run down the small group agenda – Welcome and Introductions, 3 Activities, Wrap-up, and Report Back. Establish the ground rules for discussion.
  - *Respect everyone's opinions. We are not here to debate with anyone.*
  - *All of your answers, ideas, feelings and opinions are important.*
  - *If you are talking too much, step back.*
  - *If you are not talking enough, speak up.*
  - *ONE MIC: Please do not interrupt anyone. Wait until someone is done speaking before offering your opinion.*
  - *If you have questions that are not specific to the focus group, please wait until the end.*
2. **Participant Introductions (3 minutes)** – Participants each introduce themselves, their relation to East Harlem, and one thing they love about their neighborhood.
3. **Activity #1 – What Makes a Great Neighborhood? (25 minutes)**

*Introduction:* Facilitator will talk about all the different components that make a great neighborhood – housing, schools, stores, health clinics, parks, art, transportation, etc.

*Activity:* Participants will use stickers on a large table map to point out those areas in East Harlem that “work” for them, and those that don’t work. The facilitator will ask a series of guiding questions that ask participants to identify what they love, what they hate, what is missing and where it is all located. All participants will work on the same map – facilitators will be responsible to ensure all participate.

Sample questions:

- Where do you live, shop, study, play, pray, eat, etc.?
- Where are your favorite/least favorite parts of the neighborhood? Why?
- Where is there great stuff happening (music, food, dance, art, etc.)?
- Point out any special buildings you love, your favorite block/s to walk down, etc.
- Where are the places you feel safe/unsafe? Why?
- What do you miss that used to be here?
- What’s missing – what do you wish the neighborhood had?

*Outcome:* Participants’ lived experience in the neighborhood captured on a map – specific locations/areas identified as good and bad; ideas about what is missing and where it should go will be catalogued.

4. **Activity #2 – Building East Harlem (20 minutes)**

*Introduction:* Facilitator will talk about AMI levels and their relation to affordable housing development: that HPD subsidies and other financing tools are tied to affordability levels; that AMIs are pegged to city-wide median incomes, not local incomes (show the infographic which captures the difference between NYC AMI levels

and East Harlem levels); and that Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH – introduced in the presentation) will require a percentage of affordable units to be developed in every new development in re-zoned neighborhoods.

*Activity:* Each participant will “construct” their ideal apartment building – based on HPD underwriting assumptions – using color-coded post-it notes to signify different rent levels (pegged at AMI levels). Participants can choose how tall or short their buildings are. Everyone will share their construction with the rest of the group and describe why they built what they built.

The following are the affordability levels participants will choose from and the number of market units that must accompany them. Facilitators will make it clear that the AMIs listed are for families of 4 in NYC – the same AMIs that HPD uses for their subsidy programs. They do not reflect local income levels.

1 apartment @ 100% AMI (\$86,300/year) = 1 market unit  
 1 apartment @ 80% AMI (\$69,050/year) = 2 market units  
 1 apartment @ 60% AMI (\$51,780/year) = 3 market units  
 1 apartment @ 40% AMI (\$34,520/year) = 4 market units  
 1 apartment @ 20% AMI (\$17,260/year) = 5 market units  
 \*Market = 135% AMI or \$112,190/year

*Outcome:* Participants will grapple with the mismatch between City-wide AMI levels and available subsidies and local AMIs; the trade offs between depth of affordability, density, and building height, and; register their preferences/priorities.

##### 5. **Activity #3 – Development – What Kind and Where Will it Go? (20 minutes)**

*Introduction:* The facilitator will talk about the loss of affordable units over the last 15 years, as affordable units age out of subsidy programs or are deregulated. S/he will talk number of currently affordable units that are at risk of aging out or deregulation over the next 10 years. Re-zoning and affordable housing development together offer one way to make up for that loss.

*Activity:* Participants will be introduced to three types of development sites – NYCHA-owned, City-Owned, and Private. They will also be introduced to development types – Residential: 25% Affordable, 30% Affordable, 50% and 100% Affordable, Open Space, Community Facilities, and Nothing. Each site can only accommodate a specific combination of development types (ex. You can only build 50% affordable, 100% affordable or nothing on a NYCHA-owned site). Using worksheets and markers, participants will identify what they would like to see on each development site type and then share their work with the group.

*Outcome:* Participants will register their priorities for development types and match development types with sites – or register their preference for no development at all on particular and/or all sites.

6. **Report Back + Next Steps (20 minutes)** – Each facilitator will designate a participant or 2 participants to report back key discussion points and/or priorities from your table to the larger group. All small groups return their focus to the large group to hear from one representative or representatives from each table.
-

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #5 – SURVEY



## Zoning, Land-Use + Affordable Housing Development Survey

### 1. Choose the additional retail businesses that you think are most needed in East Harlem. Choose your top three:

- Grocery Store
- Hardware Store
- Pharmacy
- Sit-down Restaurant
- Bank
- Clothing Store
- Book Store
- Café
- Barbershop

Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Choose the additional Community Facilities that you think are most needed in East Harlem. Choose your top three:

- School
- Library
- Health Clinic
- Day Care Center
- Recreation Center
- Art Gallery/Studio/Performance Space
- Small Business Incubator
- Job Training Center
- Senior Center

Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Do you think some affordable housing should be set aside for particular groups?

If so, which ones? Choose your top two

- Homeless
- Seniors
- Differently Abled / Disabled
- Veterans
- Grandparents taking care of grandchildren

Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Density is the concentration of people and buildings in a particular area. How do you feel about the density of East Harlem? Choose the sentence that best represents your thoughts:

- I think we're already overcrowded; East Harlem can't take any more buildings/people!
- I'd take more buildings/ people if the infrastructure and services (schools, transit, sanitation, etc.) are improved!
- I'd take more buildings if those apartments are affordable for local residents!

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Increasing density in a neighborhood can result in a number of community benefits. Which of these benefits are most important to you? Choose your top two choices:

- More affordable housing
- Jobs for local residents
- Increased City Services – transportation, sanitation, etc.
- More community facilities – schools, clinics, senior centers, etc.
- Protection for small businesses
- More retail businesses – barbershops, bookstores, restaurants, etc.
- More/better parks and open space

**PLAN  
Comunitario  
PARA  
EL BARRIO**

**Zonificación, Uso de Suelo + Desarrollo de Viviendas Asequibles Encuesta**

**1. Elegir los comercios adicionales que usted piensa que son más necesarios en el Este de Harlem. Encierre en un círculo sus tres principales opciones:**

- Supermercados
- Ferreterías
- Farmacias
- Restaurantes con lugar para sentarse
- Bancos
- Tienda de ropa
- Librerías
- Cafés
- Barberías

Otros: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Elija instalaciones comunitarias adicionales que usted piensa que son las más necesarias en el Este de Harlem. Encierre en un círculo sus tres principales opciones:**

- Escuelas
- Bibliotecas
- Clínicas de salud
- Centros de Cuidado de Niños
- Centros de recreación
- Galerías de Arte/estudios/Espacios para presentaciones
- Incubadoras para pequeñas empresas
- Centro de capacitación de trabajo
- Centros para personas de edad avanzada

Otros: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. ¿Crees que algunas viviendas se deben apartar para determinados grupos? Si es así, ¿cuáles? Encierre en un círculo sus dos opciones principales**

- Personas sin hogar
- Personas mayores
- Discapacitados
- Veteranos
- Abuelos responsables de cuidar los nietos

Otros: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Densidad es la concentración de personas y edificios en un área en particular. ¿Qué piensas acerca de la densidad en el Este de Harlem? Elija la frase que mejor representa su pensamiento :**

- ! Creo que ya estamos atestados; el Este de Harlem no puede tener más edificios / personas!
- ! Se puede tener más edificios / personas si se mejoran las infraestructuras y servicios (escuelas, transporte, saneamiento, etc.).
- ! Se podría tener más edificios si los apartamentos son accesibles para los residentes locales!

Otros: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Aumentar la densidad en un vecindario puede resultar en numerosos beneficios para la comunidad. ¿Cuáles de estos beneficios son más importantes para usted? Encierre en un círculo sus dos principales opciones:**

- Más viviendas asequibles
- Trabajos para los residentes locales
- Incrementar los servicios que la ciudad provee: transporte, saneamiento, etc.
- Más instalaciones comunitarias: escuelas, clínicas, centros de ancianos, etc.
- Protección para pequeñas empresas
- Más pequeños negocios: peluquerías, librerías, restaurantes, etc.
- Más/mejores parques y espacios abiertos
- Medidas en contra del acoso y otro tipo de protección para los residentes

Otros: \_\_\_\_\_

# BUILDING IN EAST HARLEM

## TRADE-OFFS: AFFORDABILITY, HEIGHT + DENSITY

### Privately-Owned Land

**INTRO:** The City has limited power to mandate the amount of affordable housing that can be built on private land. It typically takes a mix of affordable and market rate units to make building projects work. In general, the lower the rents, the more market rate units will be built. Within these limitations, we want to know what levels of affordability, height and density are most important.

You must build some of  
**THIS** to build **THESE**



<b>MARKET RATE APARTMENT</b> \$3,560+ monthly rent \$142,365+ Annual Income	<b>+</b>	<b>100% AMI</b>
<b>INCOME = \$66,000/yr</b> <b>RENT = \$2,100/month</b>		
<b>INCOME = \$70,000/yr</b> <b>RENT = \$1700/month</b>		

- Each post-it represents 3 building stories, and 15 apartments.
- The AMIs indicated here are rounded off and for a family of four.

### 1st CHOICE

1. Use post-it notes to "build" a building in these rectangles. Choose the mix of post-its that best reflects your preferences regarding rent levels/affordability. Follow the rules marked on each post-it. You do not have to use the whole rectangle - remember that you are also weighing in on height.
2. Now, forget the rules in this rectangle, build your dream building, like whatever combination of post-its you think is best. Remember, height matters!

### 2nd CHOICE

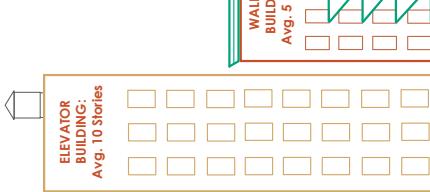
### DREAM BUILDING!

1. Use post-it notes to "build" a building in these rectangles. Choose the mix of post-its that best reflects your preferences regarding rent levels/affordability. Follow the rules marked on each post-it. You do not have to use the whole rectangle - remember that you are also weighing in on height.
2. Now, forget the rules in this rectangle, build your dream building, like whatever combination of post-its you think is best. Remember, height matters!

### AFFORDABLE FOR WHOM?

NYCHA  
BUILDING:  
Avg. 15 Stories

25% earn 100% of AMI and above  
10% earn 80% of AMI  
10% earn 60% of AMI  
55% earn 50% of AMI and below



ELEVATOR  
BUILDING:  
Avg. 10 Stories

underwriting standards based on

What are the trade-offs to consider when developing affordable housing?

# PLACE POSSIBILITIES



## COMMUNITY PRIORITIES Who Owns Land in East Harlem?



As we saw in the last activity, options for development on privately-owned land are limited. There are more possibilities on city-owned land. The are also more, but different, possibilities on NYCHA-owned land—including no development at all. Community Land Trusts offer yet another set of possibilities. Even with more possibilities, there are still trade-offs.

The columns below outline the types of buildings that could go on the four different types of land. For each column, choose what you would most like to see in your neighborhood.

What  
can be  
built  
where?

C142

## COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #5 – WORKSHEET ACTIVITY 3

NYCHA-OWNED LAND:	CITY-OWNED LAND:	COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (CLT):	PUBLICLY-OWNED LAND:
<b>NYCHA-OWNED LAND:</b>  NYCHA-owned land is where public housing is. NYCHA has proposed to build affordable housing and/or community facilities on open space in certain developments. Any profits made from the buildings will go back into existing NYCHA developments for improved maintenance and needed repairs. Currently, there are 2 available programs - 100% affordable and 50% affordable. The more affordable housing, the fewer dollars go back into existing developments.	<b>CITY-OWNED LAND:</b>  This is land owned by various City agencies. In terms of housing, the City can mandate whatever levels of affordability and total numbers of affordable apartments are built; as long as it also provides the subsidy dollars to make the development possible. The City can also mandate the development of schools, community centers or other community facilities and/or parks and open space on their land.	<b>CLT leverages city-investment and resources to create permanently affordable housing, at below-market rents that are affordable to long-term East Harlem residents. By holding non-residential land and properties in trust, the land trust can preserve affordable commercial spaces, parks and local businesses.</b>	<b>PUBLICLY-OWNED LAND:</b>  The City is limited as to both the total amount and depth of affordability it can mandate on privately-owned land. That being said, zoning is a powerful tool that can mandate a wide variety of community benefits in exchange for additional density.
<b>Choose TWO:</b> <input type="radio"/> Nothing <input type="radio"/> 100 % Affordable Housing <input type="radio"/> 50% Affordable Housing + Improved Maintenance and Needed Repairs <input type="radio"/> Community Facility <input type="radio"/> Commercial Space	<b>Choose TWO:</b> <input type="radio"/> Open Space <input type="radio"/> Affordable Housing <input type="radio"/> Community Facility <input type="radio"/> Commercial Space	<b>Choose TWO:</b> <input type="radio"/> Open Space <input type="radio"/> Affordable Housing <input type="radio"/> Community Facility <input type="radio"/> Commercial Space	<b>Choose TWO:</b> <input type="radio"/> School <input type="radio"/> Grocery Store <input type="radio"/> Transit Improvements <input type="radio"/> Other Community Facility or Commercial Space

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #5 – SURVEY & ACTIVITY RESULTS

## EAST HARLEM NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, ZONING + LAND USE SURVEY RESULTS

**Choose the additional retail businesses that you think are most needed in East Harlem. Choose your top three:**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Book Store	53.4%	39
Grocery Store	50.7%	37
Sit-down Restaurant	38.4%	28
Other (please specify)	26.0%	19
Cafe	23.3%	17
Clothing Store	21.9%	16
Hardware Store	16.4%	12
Pharmacy	16.4%	12
Bank	13.7%	10
Barbershop	1.4%	1
<i>answered question</i>		73
<i>skipped question</i>		4

**Choose the additional Community Facilities that you think are most needed in East Harlem. Choose your top three:**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Job Training Center	56.6%	43
Library	39.5%	30
Recreation Center	38.2%	29
School	35.5%	27
Senior Center	32.9%	25
Art Gallery/Studio/Performance Space	28.9%	22
Small Business Incubator	27.6%	21
Day Care Center	21.1%	16
Health Clinic	17.1%	13
Other (please specify)	9.2%	7
<i>answered question</i>		76
<i>skipped question</i>		1

**Do you think some affordable housing should be set aside for particular groups? If so, which ones? Choose your top two:**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Homeless	63.5%	47
Seniors	62.2%	46
Differently Abled/Disabled	39.2%	29
Grandparents taking care of grandchildren	35.1%	26
Veterans	27.0%	20
Other (please specify)	12.2%	9
<i>answered question</i>		74
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Density is the concentration of people and buildings in a particular area. How do you feel about the density of East Harlem? Choose the sentence that best represents your thoughts:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I'd take more buildings if those apartments are affordable for local residents!	54.1%	40
I'd take more buildings/people if the infrastructure and services (schools, transit, sanitation, etc.) are improved!	36.5%	27
I think we're already overcrowded; East Harlem can't take any more buildings/people!	17.6%	13
Other (please specify)	8.1%	6
	<i>answered question</i>	74
	<i>skipped question</i>	3

Increasing density in a neighborhood can result in a number of community benefits. Which of these benefits are most important to you? Choose your top two choices:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
More affordable housing	66.2%	49
Jobs for local residents	43.2%	32
More community facilities - schools, clinics, senior centers, etc.	31.1%	23
More/better parks and open space	28.4%	21
Increased City Services - transportation, sanitation, etc.	25.7%	19
Protection for small businesses	20.3%	15
More retail businesses - barbershops, bookstores, restaurants, etc.	12.2%	9
Tenant protection against harassment	2.7%	2
	<i>answered question</i>	74
	<i>skipped question</i>	3

## East Harlem Neighborhood Plan

### Community Visioning Workshop #5 - **Zoning/Land Use + Affordable Housing Development**

#### *ACTIVITY RESULTS*

##### ACTIVITY #1 – My East Harlem (mapping)

###### **Places that Work**

- 116<sup>th</sup> Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues
- La Marqueta
- Marcus Garvey, Jefferson Park, Central Park and Waterfront
- Schools
- Cultural Institutions: Libraries, Museums, Old Post Offices, National Black Theater
- St. Celia
- Metropolitan Hospital
- Baseball fields

###### **Places that don't work**

- 125<sup>th</sup> Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> and Lex
- NYCHA projects at night (bad lighting)
- Under Metro North bridge
- Empty lots/brownfields on Park Avenue

###### **What do you want to protect?**

- La Marqueta
- Architecture and scale on Pleasant Avenue
- Baseball fields
- National Black Theater
- Mom + Pop stores
- Waterfront access

###### **What's missing?**

- Support services for low-income, homeless, sick and seniors
- Cultural amenities
- Recreational facilities
- Movie theaters
- Sit down restaurants, grocery stores and gyms
- Hotels and hospitality use

##### ACTIVITY #2 – Trade-Offs (affordable housing development on privately-owned land)

###### **Affordability**

- AMI levels are too high (*very recurrent theme*)
- 20% requirement of affordable housing (in voluntary inclusionary program – 80/20) is too low and requires too much market rate housing for too few affordable units.
- Buildings should be more mixed income and affordability should be higher than 20% AMI
- Influx of market rate housing will cause gentrification and displacement

###### **Height**

- Mixed thoughts, some people were ok with heights going as high as the NYCHA housing (14 to 18 stories)
- Higher buildings should be on the Avenues and not the cross streets

###### **Density**

- Increased density should be coupled with increase in services such as schools, libraries, community facilities etc.

**ACTIVITY #3 – Development and Community Priorities**

**Choose what you would most like to see in your neighborhood on NYCHA-owned Land. Choose two:**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
50% Affordable Housing + Improved Maintenance and Needed Repairs	70.2%	66
Community Facility	56.4%	53
100% Affordable Housing	33.0%	31
Nothing	16.0%	15
Commercial Space	12.8%	12
<i>answered question</i>		94
<i>skipped question</i>		3

**Choose what you would most like to see in your neighborhood on City-owned Land. Choose two:**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Affordable Housing	76.3%	74
Open Space	49.5%	48
Community Facility	44.3%	43
Commercial Space	17.5%	17
<i>answered question</i>		97
<i>skipped question</i>		0

**Choose what you would most like to see in your neighborhood on Community Land Trust (CLT). Choose two:**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Affordable Housing	86.5%	83
Community Facility	51.0%	49
Open Space	28.1%	27
Commercial Space	25.0%	24
<i>answered question</i>		96
<i>skipped question</i>		1

**Choose what you would most like to see in your neighborhood on privately-owned Land. Choose two:**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Other Community Facility or Commercial Space	56.4%	53
School	55.3%	52
Transit Improvements	47.9%	45
Grocery Store	29.8%	28
<i>answered question</i>		94
<i>skipped question</i>		3

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #5 – NOTES

East Harlem Neighborhood Plan  
 Visioning Workshop #5 Notes- 10/22/15  
 Affordable Housing Developing and Zoning

Note taker: Michaela  
 Facilitator: Gowri  
 Table: 1  
 # of participants: 6

Table Participants		
Name	Relationship to EH	One thing they love about EH?
Edward	Has lived in EH for 59 years, born and raised	People who care, a community that has the power to change
Evelio	Has lived in EH for 39 years	Friends and family
Lydia	Born, raised and work in EH	The people, especially during a community events
Quisquella	Works as a legal aid in EH	-Food, small restaurants
Alida	Has lived in EH for 40 years	-People and culture
Juanita	Has lived in EH for 39 years	-Mix of people, happy people

## Activity #1— My East Harlem

### Places that work

- 116<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (Little Mexico): good, small restaurants, businesses who get help from the community
- 99<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>: PS109 is a great new development
- 116<sup>th</sup> and Park: La Marqueta, but it used to be better
- 116<sup>th</sup> and Park Ave: it's home!

### Places that don't work

- 125<sup>th</sup> between Lexington and 2<sup>nd</sup>: rehab centers, homeless, mentally ill, recovering addicts, the area is unsafe, can't have businesses there
- Jefferson Park recreation field, Central Park recreation field: they go first to companies and private schools and not used by community
- 125<sup>th</sup> between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>: underdeveloped, could become housing
- The Projects: feel unsafe, they've too concentrated and they don't have enough services, lack of community space and jobs

### What do you want to protect?

- La Marqueta

### What is missing?

- More police
- No more police
- More education and opportunities for low-income people
- Recreation center, cultural school

## Activity #2— Trade-Offs: Affordability, Height and Density

What choices did people make?

### Affordability

- Deeply affordable

### Height

- Smaller buildings, a mix of buildings

### How do people feel about development in the neighborhood?

- Why is the “dream” building called that, why not a possible reality?
- Why should developers be able to build high for only small portion of 20% affordability?

## Activity #3— Development and Community Priorities

### What choices did you make and why?

- 100% affordable: to mitigate the incoming market rate development in EH, community facility: to support people in community so that they have a place to go
- 50% affordability
- Commercial space: for local businesses, people from NYCHA community
- Maintenance: conditions are terrible
- Facility: to foster community interaction
- City owned affordable housing, open space, community facility: create cultural activities
- Community Land Trust: open space: ball parks, picnic areas, cultural/arts programs e.g. music, activities for youth
- Commercial space: for local businesses, variety in business types that benefit the community’s need
- Transit improvements: improve bus frequency
- Schools

### Are you hopeful/fearful about future development?

- Change is happening now; products in the market are more expensive
- Rent is high
- Rest of Manhattan is moving uptown
- Want small, locally-owned businesses
- Real estate not even owned by New Yorkers
- New comers are defining EH
- Government doesn’t have community interest at heart, evidenced by the long history of government disinvestment

### Other notes/overall summary of the conversation

- Need for community facilities
- Small, locally-owned businesses, owned by community
- Affordable housing
- Focus on rezoning city-owned building instead of private ones

### Questions that came up

- How many affordable housing units will go to EH residents by law?
- How many new commercial spaces will go to EH residents by law?

Map:



EAST HARLEM NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN  
 Visioning Workshop #5 Notes-10/22/15  
 Affordable Housing Development+ Zoning

Note taker: Heming

Table number: #2

Facilitator: Sandra

# of participants: 8

Table Participants:

FIRST NAME/ RELATIONSHIP TO EH/ ONE THING THEY LOVE ABOUT EH

Beverly/ resident/ her family is here, her history is here

Ingrid/ resident / Friendly neighborhood, affordable at here.

Raymond/ resident and work for CVH/ grow up here, like the environment

Jason/ resident and working at here/ diversity

Johmmy/ resident and work for CVH/ diversity

Vanessa/ working at here/ love the culture, have the sense of home

Sandra(Facilitator)/ working at here/ love the people here

Activity#1- My East Harlem

Places that work

1. Museums (104nd St, 5 Ave.); 2.Baseball Field (111st St, Park Ave.); 3.Marcus Garvey Park& Thomas Jefferson Park; 4. Where Ray live (1985 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave); 5.La Marqueta; 6.HPD Bldg (2E 127); 7.Commercial space at 3Ave.; 8.Library (110St. 4Ave); 9.mom& pop store (105St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave) 10.Metropolita Hospital Center.

Place that don't work

1. school open later; 2. Feel unsafe at 106 St., Park Ave. need more light and camera; 3.need job training center at 105st, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave; 4.need more public housing/ affordable housing; 5.need more La Marqueta; 6.need more art stores and museums at 110st close to river; 7.Jefferson Houses need more lighting on NYCHA bevels.

Activity #2-Trade-Offs: Affordability, Height and Density

Beverly: "Why there is just a little affordable money? I was born here, but don't want to stay here."

Ray: "AMI is too high for people who live in here, and will be higher."

Vanessa: "Government should give more concentrates to affordable housing. They should give more subsidies to build affordable housing, even the buildings are higher."

Ingrid: "The density in North part of EH is lower than South part of EH. I think higher building is OK. We want more affordable housing."

Jason: "We need deeper affordability."

Activity #3- Development+ Community Priorities

For NYCHA

1. Chose 50% affordable housing and Community Facility.

50% affordable housing and 50% rental housing could have extra money to run the building. And chose Community Facility, give more space for people and communities.

2. Commercial Space and 50% affordable housing

People could run their small business and have extra money.

3. 100% affordable housing and 50% affordable housing

No more Community Facility, cause they already have enough.

For City-Owned Land

(most of them chose #2& #3)

affordable housing and Community Facility is important

and someone think the open space is needed, they need more sunshine,

For Community Land Trusts

Commercial space is important. It's could help people build their own businesses, and give more service to people, then the money could support the building.

For Private land

1. depend on the size of building and land;

2. need more commercial space;
3. more school. Cause if there are some new developments, the number of children will increasing. They don't want schools too crowded.

What is missing:

1. affordable home-ownership;
2. How the building could be built? (who is the developer? what is the quality?)
3. Create continue-job. (If the buildings are finished, the workers will lose their jobs.)

Overall summary of the converstion

1. deeper affordable
2. more green space, more public space
3. expanding Community Facility, especially for seniors
4. support small businesses
5. more funding from government

## East Harlem Neighborhood Plan Visioning Workshop #5 Notes 10/22/15 Affordable Housing Development and Zoning

Note Taker Name: Kevin

Facilitator Name: Ahmed

Table #: 3

Number of Participants: 7

### **Participants**

Burnette – New East Harlem Resident; 2 ½ years. From Georgia

Evelyn – Lives in East Harlem, Artist in Residence at PS 109

Peter – Lives on the West Side, Works with Community Voices Heard (CVH) to create affordable housing

Pilar – Has lived in EH all her life, CVH member

Sandra – Works in East Harlem, Dance Artist

Jesus – Works with Man. BP's Office

Selia – Lives in East Harlem

### **Activity 1 – My East Harlem:**

Places that work

- Grocery Stores
  - Fine Fare on 105<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Superfy on 103<sup>th</sup> and Lex
  - Greencarts on 116<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 116<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Farmers Markets
  - Aldi, wants more like this
- Post Office, Library, and Garden on 110<sup>th</sup> between 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lex
- St.Celias on 106<sup>th</sup> and Lex
- Restaurants on 121<sup>st</sup> and Lex

Places that don't work

- Bodegas that are uniform w/ products that sell all the same sugary stuff. We need a variety of products.
- Grocery stores with a disconnect between what residents want. They're not providing quality and quantity of fresh foods. The distance to travel for quality fresh foods is too far.
- Intersection of 125<sup>th</sup> and Lex
- 103<sup>rd</sup> between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Activity 2 – Trade Offs: Affordability, Height and Density**

What choices did people make?

1:4 Ratio; 40% AMI with Market Rate

1:1:4 Ratio; 80% AMI, 60%, Market Rate

**Activity 3 – Development + Community Priorities**

Are you hopeful/ fearful about future development? Why/ Why not?

- Displacement
- Curious if there can be residency requirements for affordable housing
- Wants more speed bumps on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> avenues, 4 children killed
- More community centers/ job training facilities on site of new developments

**Other Notes / Overall summary of conversation:**

- More affordable housing that represents the actual AMI of the neighborhood and not the 86K figure of the city
- The trade offs for affordable housing are difficult and might be too great a cost in market units
- Affordable for the people who live here
- Define affordable

**Table: 4****Participants: 7****Note taker: Nadine****Facilitator: Jon****Name – Relationship to EH – One thing they love about East Harlem?**

Shakira - Lives in EH - Diversity/ infrastructure/ trees/ open space/ nature

Bailey - We Act, community organizer – All of Harlem

Connie – Marcus Garvey Park Alliance, live on 5<sup>th</sup> ave and Marcus Park – All of Harlem/ cultural and economic diversity.

Carlos – Born and raised in Harlem – Community diversity / Transportation

Nick – Graduate in Urban Planning – Parks – open space

Ben – West side but wants to move to EH – community/ Active position within the community

Lin – Writer Artists/ lives next to Marcus Garvey Park – History in Harlem

**Activity #1 – My East Harlem****1- Places that Work**

The small businesses on 116<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave

Central Park

Marcus Garvey Park

National Black Theater

Thomas Jefferson Park

Farmers Market on 106<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave

New Corn exchange 125<sup>th</sup> and Park Ave

Gardens by baseball on 111<sup>th</sup> and Madison Ave

Transportation 4/5/6 on 125<sup>th</sup> and Lexington Ave

**2- Places that Don't work**

On the entire map we need small business spaces, we end up with generic stores that sell junk:  
where is all this building going on Park Ave. (include small businesses there)

Super Market on on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Park Ave needs upgrading

Losing options – losing Pathmark

Congregation under the elevated train – 125<sup>th</sup> and park

Park avenue has many empty lots

Space under the elevated train is not activated – you can get a supermarket there

Needed accessibility on subway local stops especially on 116<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave

Brownfield on 125<sup>th</sup> and Park

**3- What do you want to protect?**

Architecture on pleasant and 117<sup>th</sup>

**4- What is missing?**

**Activity #2 – Trade-offs: affordability, height and density****Choices people made:**

To feasibly sustain a building you should have median (mixed) income in order for services to be better

Having predominantly high income housing is wrong

Bring 3 levels of income small business have the capacity to sustain themselves

People should have 40% middle and low income in a high income building for diversity

There is one building should be high income next to the We Act is, and people are moving out from the neighborhood

**Diversity:**

Yes!

Diversity helps in thinking about services/ you want to maximize the possibilities (mixed income buildings)

**Activity #3 Development + Community Priorities**

If the Pathmark building is gone they will not build affordable housing

Private:

Need for grocery store

Open space is important to have spaces for people to meet + Transportation – bus system is bad

Transit + Schools

Transit improvements (if we are building up we need to improve the transportation)

Transit + common spaces

Commercial and grocery - we need healthy and affordable food

City owned land

Land and open space remains for the community

Affordable and commercial space (flowershop – hardware store – what you see in Middle income communities)

Open spaces for entertainments such as amphitheater (Johnson housing projects movies on the outside building walls) + affordable housing

Open space + park and library initiatives

Community centers + affordable housing

Community Land Trusts

Affordable housing only

Affordable housing + community centers

Affordable housing + Open space: park and library initiatives

Community centers + affordable housing

Community centers + affordable housing

NYCHA

50% affordable housing and community spaces

100% affordable

Stays the same (people are disenfranchised - 50% and nothing)

50% affordable because they need the money to improve the buildings and improve the quality of life + small businesses so people have a place to go in some businesses

Nothing: with all the money they received they did nothing

50% affordable housing + Open space and community centers because it is very dead we have to look at ways to elevate people so they don't focus on hierarchy of human needs

**Other Notes (take aways)**

1 – we are willing to build up as long as we can accommodate more needs - include more folks - keep high buildings on main 2 lane streets not on the smaller ones

2 – We did not mention any religious institutions / we have a lot of diversity – this falls under community facilities

3 – Celebrate the diversity of the community

4 – Diversity of businesses and small businesses

Template for East Harlem Visioning Session 5 Notes - 10/22/15

## **Affordable Housing Development + Zoning**

**Note taker Name:** Fernando **Table Number:** 5

**Facilitator Name:** Emily **# of Participants:** 8

### **Table Participants**

First Name / Relationship to EH / One thing they love about East Harlem?

1. Eva: Lives in EH / Loves the people from EH
2. Luz: Lives in EH since 1975 / Loves her building
3. Graciela: Lives in EH since 1968 / Loves La Marqueta
4. Ova: Resident, representative for NYCHA restauration / Loves his family who still live here.
5. Judith: Born and raised in 2<sup>nd</sup> ave (EH)
6. Perry: Has been living in EH for 8 years / Loves the artistic murals

### **Activity #1 - My East Harlem**

#### **Places that work**

- La Marqueta
- Thomas Jefferson Park
- Julia de Burgos Center
- Central Park Entrance
- Markus Garvey Park
- Saint Cecilia Church
- Your Lords Site
- **Metropolitan Hospital Center (Outlined 4 times)**
- Franklin Plaza
- Pleasant Ave (**Saint Gennaro Festival**)
- 116<sup>th</sup> St. Stores
- 110<sup>th</sup> St. between Lexington and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. (Postal Office Area)
- Manhattan Neighbor Network (Movies, activities...)

#### **Places that Don't Work:**

- Playgrounds between NYCHA housing buildings.

- 112<sup>th</sup> St. with Madison (insecurity)
- 111<sup>th</sup> St. with Madison (lighting)
- Lincoln Houses (Dangerous)
- The 110<sup>th</sup> St. Postal Office (too crowded)

**What do you want to Protect?**

- Playgrounds between NYCHA housing buildings.

**What is missing?**

- Movie Theaters
- 106 Fisherman's waterfront

**Activity #2 - Trade-Offs: Affordability, Height and Density**

**What choices did people make?**

**Affordability**

The most affordable choice is the one they like (lowest income) They didn't understand very well their worksheet.

**Height**

Maximum 12 floors for some participants.

**Density**

Medium density.

**Why?**

**How do people feel about development in the neighborhood?**

(didn't arrive to this question)

**Activity #3 - Development + Community Priorities**

**What choices did you make + Why?**

NYCHA Land: 50% affordable housing/ 50% existing renovation (the choice most people did) and most of them supported more Community Facilities and a few of them more Commercial Spaces.

City-Owned Land: Most of them supported more Affordable Housing and Community Facilities. Some of them also mark more commercial areas.

Community Trust Land: Most of them supported more Affordable Housing and Community Facilities. Some of them also mark more commercial areas.

Private Land: Most of them mark School and Transportation. Some of them mark more Community Facilities.

**What does this tell you about development in East Harlem?**

- Affordable housing
- Elevators and facilities needed
- Maintenance and reparations are needed.
- NYCHA blocks are overwhelmed

**Are you hopeful/fearful about future development?**

**Why/Why not?**

(Didn't arrive to this question)

**Are there things you feel like community members can do to influence what is built and where?**

(Didn't arrive to this question)

**Other Notes / Overall summary of the conversation:**

- **PRIORITIZE AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** For seniors and other vulnerable groups
- **COMMUNITY FACILITES:** Especially for leisure and entertainment. (Movies)

**Questions that Came Up:**



itize affordable housing  
- especially for Seniors  
- but also serve other people  
~~etc.~~ (ex: single parents)  
Community Facilities - especially  
entertainment + recreation  
spaces  
Ex. Theater.

## East Harlem Visioning Session 4 Notes / 9/10/15

### Small Businesses, Workforce and Economic Development

**Table Number: 6**

**Facilitator: Renae**

**Note Taker: Jakob**

**Number of Participants: 9**

#### **Table Participants:**

Brad – Works in the neighborhood in community and government affairs

Cynthia – Works in EH in health

Alida – Lives in NYCHA building in EH

Juanita – works and lives in the neighborhood

Matt – Works in EH, runs a real estate development firm

Famio – Student at Columbia, lives in Harlem

Cecilia – Lives in EH, runs a non-profit for domestic violence intervention

Maria – Resident in EH for all her life; worked in EH; retired

Julia – Urban Planning student; doing her studio in EH

#### **Strengths and Challenges about Jobs/Small Businesses in East Harlem:**

##### **Strengths:**

- many social service organizations in the neighborhood; there are many overlaps; they need to collaborate more
- large bilingual population; people tend to belittle foreign languages, but this is really a chance for the neighborhood (skills)
- **strong culture in community that is not appreciated (is being depicted negatively as lazy, uneducated, foreign etc.) but, as language, is really an asset that could be used**
- **dynamic and vibrant neighborhood with a rich culture**

##### **Challenges:**

- the new businesses (smoke shops) are not doing anything good for the neighborhood
- lack of education related and life skills in the population; there is a lack of skills that would allow the residents to find long-term employment
- funding for training is needed; the residents don't have means for these trainings themselves
- workforce development as is now doesn't get people jobs that are paid well; workforce development needs to be reoriented (toward better paid and more sustainable jobs)
- gentrification
- **everyone should be able to get training (not just people that are on a lease; a lot of people are not on a lease and can therefore not participate in job trainings)**
- **neighborhood would need a larger employer to drive employment and**

**the local economy; there should be incentives for larger businesses to move here (e.g. free land)**

- modern technology is needed (internet provider is running on an antiquated system)
- community needs to be informed about opportunities

## **Topic Discussions**

### **Physical Space**

**Where and at what kind of businesses are you shopping at?**

- businesses along 116<sup>th</sup> St (e.g. East River Plaza)
- along 125<sup>th</sup> St

### **Vacant Land:**

- what is happening at the site of East Harlem MEC? Land is underutilized there
- 108<sup>th</sup> St between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, many vacancies
- no space for community in the neighborhood
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave is generally underutilized; only shops on ground level but nothing above
- five boarded buildings on Lexington Ave betw 106<sup>th</sup> and 107<sup>th</sup> St
- vacant lots on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave between 109<sup>th</sup> and 110<sup>th</sup> St → should become Green Thumb garden (example of such a garden on 117<sup>th</sup> St and Lexington Ave); there should be more of those

### **Small Businesses**

**What's missing? Which kind of businesses would you like to have in the neighborhood?**

- more clothing stores, especially for women
- there need to more dry-cleaning businesses + shoe repair stores
- lack of healthy and affordable lunch places
- co-operative businesses, especially for women
- the city should try to develop EH as a technology or industrial HUB (e.g. some kind of new cutting-edge technology; a NY Silicon Valley); something that's being developed in EH, that creates local jobs;
- EH needs more businesses related to art and culture in the neighborhood (art galleries, book stores, cultural spaces)
- **there needs to be a better connection between small businesses and infrastructure, especially better internet access (the internet runs on an antiquated system in EH); the city should step up for the community (accountability)**
- EH is a desert when it comes to certain types of infrastructure (especially internet as well as electricity, but also cellphone reception) and the city needs to invest more in that

**Workforce Development:**

- workforce development needs to be changed and reoriented
- “**connecting the dots**” → **getting kinds into college and into jobs for which there is a high demand; job training needs to orient towards well paid, long-term jobs; pairing training programs with business needs**
- there needs to be long-term rent control for businesses so that they can stay in the neighborhood

**How could this be achieved?**

- more funding for workforce training
  - there should be a higher tax on tickets for concerts on Randall's Island (part of East Harlem); this money should go to the community and be invested in the infrastructure; jobs on Randall's Island (e.g. cleaning after concerts) should be given to people in EH
  - jobs in EH should in general be given to the people living there
- 

**Group 6 - Transcript of posters****Weaknesses/Challenges:**

- EH is technological dessert
- antiquated communication technology
- unskilled labor force → need job/life skill training
- current job training for low-wage jobs only
- current system makes accessing training difficult/discouraging
- not enough money for training
- EH needs large employers

**Strengths:**

- lots of social services in the neighborhood
- bilingual/multilingual population
- historical gateway to the city → hardworking immigrant community
- dynamic, vibrant, artistic community strengths

**Small Business:**

- lacking dry cleaning
- lacking shoe repair
- not enough healthy restaurants (that are affordable)
- more cooperative businesses
- more employment (living wage) for women

**Workforce Development:**

- workforce development needs improvement → train for living wages
- employers invest in workforce development
- funding for “positive workforce”
- small business need controlled rent
- **pair training programs to businesses' needs (pipeline to jobs)**
- **more funding for training**
- tax on Randall's Island concert tickets for EH → all concert jobs from EH (CB11)

# East Harlem Neighborhood Plan

Visioning workshop #5 Notes - 10/22/2015  
Affordable Housing Development + Zoning

Note taker: Ruchika

Facilitator: Renae

Number of Participants: 5

Table number: 7

Participants:

First Name	Relationship to EH	Notes
Millie	lived here for 60 years	has seen many changes in the neighborhood, likes living here, good connectivity to the rest of the city
Lashannda	lived here 3 years, lived in WH before	culture shock when moved, like it a lot, should not get crowded
Sokhna	lived here 18 years in a private rental	landlord is a nightmare, wants to evict
Patricia	lived here for 2.5 years	like it, happy
Emrald	lived here 40 years	lots of changes, some for the better, some not, but she is hopeful

## ACTIVITY 1: MY EAST HARLEM

Places that work:

- The school is great, good opportunity for the kids, gathering like these (for the workshop)
- Cultural center at 115th street and Park Av is good
- Thomas Jefferson Park
- Marcus Garvey Park- pool
- Baseball court for kids at 112th street and Park Av
- 116th street between 3rd and 1st av- restaurants, nice walk, shopping area-mini mall- target
- Central park north- lots of events in the summer

Places that don't work:

- Private developers trying to evict long term tenants
- 125th and Lexington subway stop has a lot of homeless, 'scary' people
- Buses do not run enough (on Pleasant, 1st, 3rd, 5th Av) wait time- 30-40 minutes

What do you want to protect:

- Baseball court on 112th between Park and Madison Av
- Markets, grocery stores
- What is missing:
- Regular, sit down restaurants
- Transportation, frequency M1(5th Av), M16(Pleasant Av)
- Movie houses, theaters

#### **ACTIVITY 2: TRADE-OFFS: AFFORDABILITY, HEIGHT AND DENSITY**

What choices did people make?

- wanted really affordable housing
- preferred if private developer houses would be elsewhere in the city
- affordable with respect to EH income

Heights:

- between 18-25

Density:

- Do not want overcrowding
- mixed incomes

How do people feel about development in the neighborhood?

- Some of the existing buildings are very tall (Johnson houses)
- landlords give money to move, but everything in the neighborhood is too expensive to rent or buy
- EH has majority low income housing, why can't private/luxury/high income housing be built elsewhere in the city where people can afford it
- developer wants 100% market, they also get tax benefits, they get a good deal; 20% affordable does not help anyone

#### **ACTIVITY 3: DEVELOPMENT + COMMUNITY PRIORITIES**

What choices did you make + why?

- 100% affordable
- 50% affordable + use the rest for maintenance / up keep of buildings - required
- community facilities, open spaces, parks, commercial spaces required
- transit important too

Are you hopeful/fearful about development? Why/Why not?

- Exciting- good for future generations
- appreciate the workshops where there inputs are taken before the plan is made by the city for them

#### **OTHER NOTES/OVERALL SUMMARY OF THE CONVERSATION:**

- affordable housing needed for EH, low income, not according to AMI
- community facilities appreciated, but more needed, the ones already there should be maintained, protected
- transportation is required
- jobs in the neighborhood required
- sanitation is required (trash cans)
- facilities for kids and community is good

**QUESTIONS THAT CAME UP:**

- developers get a lot of benefit (tax + market rate) but how does that help people?
- how is AMI adjusted to one person household?
- why is transit/transport a part of private development housing in Exercise-3?  
Because it is expensive
- why can't they build all the market rate in manhattan or in a neighborhood where people can afford it?

'Event was helpful. I missed the symphony, but it was worth it!'

-Patricia

## Affordable Housing Development + zoning

Note taker name: Leonore  
 Facilitator name: Rebekah  
 Table Number: 6  
 Number of participants: 6

### Table Participants

Maria: Lived in EH since she moved from Puerto Rico at the age of 7, has lived in the neighborhood her whole life, has her family and home there. „wouldn't leave for anything in the world”

Mohfuz: Lives in EH and is a member of Board 11 (17yrs old), Loves EA because of the culture and the community

Joy: works in the neighborhood but lives in Brooklyn, takes her children to the museums in EA. Loves EH because of the culture

Luz: Lives in EH since she was 17, also from Puerto Rico, has lived in EH her whole life and has her home and family there. She loves EH because this is where she grew up and is very happy with her home.

Felix: Has been in 1955 in EH and is Luz's husband. He loves EH because he really likes the neighborhood.

Cynthia: has been in EH since 26 years, and has her family here. „wouldn't change for the world”, EH has a little bit of everything and a distinct culture.

### Activity #1

#### Places that work

Waterside and promenade  
 TAFT Houses: accessible  
 Lexington & 119/120th St: a lot of amenities grouped together  
 Marquette: redeveloped in a good way  
 Library  
 Marcus Garvey Park: „has everything you need”  
 Museums on 105th street: „great kids programming”  
 Target: „best thing to happen to the shopping center”  
 2nd Av and 116th street: „great restaurants”  
 Harlem Court house: „has an historic character”  
 East River Houses: secure and quiet

#### Places that don't work

2nd Av & 126th: Bus Depot = empty and unpolluted „a waste of space”  
 125th and Lexington = „scary” / „don't go up there”, scary people that are dropped off from the homeless shelters and from prison  
 135th and the waterfront: Bridge is depleted, not safe for pedestrians

128th and up to the Bronx: the park is unsafe  
 The unused buildings above store fronts, all over 3rd Av. Should be utilized

### **What do you want to protect**

The culture, the museums, the bookstore (La Casa Azul), schools, Marquette, informing youth about the rich history of EA and Puerto Rico, the waterside and the promenade

### **What is missing**

The Marquette has less shops and more service industry now, it's too small, used to run for blocks.

Decrease of small business while deli's and food places are increasing (fast food, while obesity is a problem)

### **Activity #2**

All participants chose to build high rises as a trade off for affordable house (40 and 60% AMI)

Some feel frustrated because of the structure of the game.

Also express frustration about the AMI, „majority of people in EA don't make more than \$35 000”

Participants talk about hearing about \$3000 rents in EA which they feel is outrageous.

Participants don't mind high-rises because they live in high rises themselves and think they are good and safe (Luz and Felix).

Joy feels that the game might be too optimistic and feels that to built affordable housing even more market rate apartments are needed.

Mohfuz and Maria note that the exercise does nothing for the homeless, and talk about the fact that building on NYCHA land is not desirable because it is supposed to be public land.

### **Activity #3**

Cynthia is shocked by the amount of land that is privately owned.

The participants do not really follow the rules of the activity but primarily choose more affordability and community facilities. They feel that the community needs more affordability and good maintenance of those buildings is very important.

Also they feel that schools and public transport in the form of busses (for the elderly) are important.

Mohfuz and Maria both again express that NYCHA land shouldn't be developed because it is public land.

East Harlem Neighborhood Plan  
Visioning Workshop #5 Notes - 10/22/2015  
Affordable Housing Development + Zoning

Note taker Name: Josh  
Facilitator Name: Lucy  
Table Number: 10  
# of Participants: 6

#### Table Participants

- Barbara: lifelong resident of EH; loves being close to family and friends, food, culture, and the energy of EH
- Andy: resident; loves his housing co-op in EH
- Hally: resident; loves her neighbors and the sense of community in EH
- Tawkiyah: non-resident, works for City Planning; loves the neighborhood's unique history and consistency over time
- Antigua: former resident; loves how EH has retained its unique character over time
- Lindsay: works at a non-profit in EH; loves the energy, resources, and community in EH

#### Activity #1 — My East Harlem

##### **Places that Work:**

The group identified Marcus Garvey Park, Jefferson Park, Ward's Island Bridge, and Lexington Ave. between 106th St. and 110th St. as places in the neighborhood that they considered to be great assets to the community; though participants did admit that the latter two locations could use attention, specifically mentioning bike accessibility at the entrance to the pedestrian pathway along Ward's Island Bridge, and commercial development along Lexington Ave. as potential priorities for investment.

##### **Places that Don't Work:**

Participants identified three places as being problematic: the viaduct along Park Ave., the Willis Ave. Bridge and FDR drive interchange, and the 125th St. corridor. The group touched upon problems with pedestrian access to the Esplanade around the interchange, and overall unsafe conditions for pedestrians and bicycles along the viaduct. Much of the conversation, however, focused on the concentration of homeless people on 125th St. Participants agreed that social and mental health services should be de-concentrated around 125th St. and within the neighborhood generally so as to decrease the number of people living on the streets of East Harlem.

##### **What do you want to Protect?**

Participants agreed that Jefferson Park and the concentration of NYCHA residences were assets that need to be protected.

### **What's missing?**

The group agreed that supportive housing for the homeless and mentally ill, along with affordable housing in general, is lacking, and that development of supportive housing, along with de-concentration of social and mental health services, could help decrease the concentration of homelessness in East Harlem.

### Activity #2 — Trade-offs: Affordability, Height and Density

#### **What choices did people make?**

All participants felt that the lowest possible income housing units, despite greater market rate housing trade-offs, along with taller building heights and high densities to accommodate as many lowest income earners as possible was the best strategy for developing affordable housing under existing conditions as described by the exercise. Also, there was a general consensus that a “dream building” would include a variety of mixed-income units.

A note: the table did not get very far along in discussion regarding this activity because most of the participants found the worksheet to be confusing and difficult to navigate. The facilitator spent much of our allotted time helping participants understand the mechanics of the exercise.

### Activity #3 — Development + Community Priorities

#### **What choices did you make + Why?**

For use of NYCHA-owned land, participants were evenly split between 100% and 50% affordable housing, and commercial space. For use of community land trusts, participants unanimously chose affordable housing and commercial space as the best uses. Due to time constraints, the group was unable to discuss their choices for city-owned and privately-owned properties, though a quick glance at people’s worksheets that affordable housing and open space were popular choices for use of city-owned land.

#### **Are you hopeful/fearful about future development? Why/Why not?**

Participants were generally fearful that development would bring increased population density, culture change, gentrification, and would have deleterious effects on the senior population in East Harlem. However, the group was hopeful that increased development

could lead to more opportunities for affordable housing, increased services and facilities in the neighborhood.

**Are there things you feel like community members can do to influence what is built and where?**

Participants had strong reactions to this question. Most of the group was skeptical as to how much the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan could accomplish, and felt that the community, as a whole, had too little knowledge about the plan. A few participants identified lack of community outreach as a problem, specifically citing the marketing of the plan as not connecting to the community's values. With the exception of the participant who lives in a co-op building, the group felt that only EH residents who were already "plugged in" to the social, cultural and political life of the community were largely aware of the plan, and that more flyers and street outreach was necessary in order to attract a wider representation of the community to visioning workshops.

**Other Notes/Overall summary of the conversation:**

One of the recurring points of discussion throughout the workshop was the notion that New York City's AMI is totally unrepresentative of economic conditions in East Harlem. Participants felt that affordable housing development could not be fully addressed without challenging the standards by which such development is currently defined. Also, there was a strong undercurrent of procedural critique coming from participants in regards to the workshop itself. The group generally felt they did not have enough time to adequately address issues, and that some of the guided activities were confusing and did not add much to participants' understanding of the political and economic dimensions of affordable housing development in New York City.

**Note taker Name: Julia Table Number: 11**  
**Facilitator Name: Xiomara # of Participants: 8**

**TABLE PARTICIPANTS:**

Myshelle'	New to the neighborhood, becoming more active, lives in NYCHA housing
Carol:	3 sons, from Honduras, concerned about special needs kids, housing ,safe places, parks
Nina:	Born in Puerto Rico, been since she was 7, love the neighborhood but has changed, TOWERS are scary. Section 8.
William S.	Pre-gentrified
Keith M.	130/ Madison, Community Board/Community voices, grew up in public housing.
Ms. Pearl	Resident of East Harlem
Pearl	Longtime East Harlem resident.
Estevan	Dykeman resident

**ACTIVITY # 1 My East Harlem**

**PLACES THAT WORK:**

Richard	P.S. 109
Xiomara	Central Park East School
Carol	125&Lex, trying to clean up, used to be afraid
Myshelle'	" "
Pearl	P.S. 102
Ms. Pearl	Mt. Sinai, providing services, buses, trains and access. 116, 125th has a health food store
Nina Plaza	116th St. stores, green sticker, 97th and 2nd Metropolitain/ 106th& Franklin

**PLACES THAT DON'T WORK:**

Carol & Nina	125th school zone and drug problems, never took kids to play in the neighborhood, took them to Central Park.
Pearl	125th & Lex, nobody on street
Nina	(problems in the neighborhood) criminals, violence, safety

**WHAT TO YOU WANT TO PROTECT?**

Myshelle'	National Black Theatre
Nina	Young Lords Church
Pearl	All public housing

**WHAT IS MISSING?**

Good health food store	computer labs	fun activities for families	tea shop
bookstore library	movie theatre	bowling	better supermarkets
affordable healthy food	park for special needs kids	schools for speech impaired kids	

## **ACTIVITY #2 Trade-Offs: Affordability, Height and Density**

(the answers to this are more comments than responses)

Building condos in the neighborhood that say affordable but not affordable

“My dream building is not a building it’s a house.” Carol

“It’s not for us so why are we even talking about it.” Pearl

### **Building height:**

Mychelle’: 20 story buildings are too high

Building more public housing, housing for seniors and disabled, Veterans.

People are tired of children moving back home

You can’t house foster kids in NYCHA

Need higher wages

Need to build housing on NYCHA land

## **ACTIVITY # 3--Development + Community Priorities**

### **What choices did you make and why?**

Ms. Pearl and Pearl: Build schools on land, why can’t they?

need public school land trust, open space and affordable housing

Need centers and more community space and afterschool program

### **What does this tell you about development in East Harlem?**

Share the buildings: seniors and afterschool programs, need wifi, books

Make more people aware, educate people, let people know it’s real

BOYCOTT

### **Are you hopeful/fearful about future developments?**

Carol, Pearl: “Not for us”

NYCHA should address old developments that are falling apart

De Blasio needs to come up with something else, revamp the whole plan

“We don’t make that kind of money, you’re not talking to me”

### **Are there things you feel like community members can do to influence what is built and where?**

Petition, write letters

Change the balance of power

warehouses in Brooklyn

Tall houses not getting light, can’t breathe with tall housing

Need senior housing

go to Gracie Mansion

slumlords should live in the buildings and see what it’s like

### **Other notes:**

Public safety

Get rid of the criminal element

vocational classes--cook, sew, type, drive, etc.

Job training, vocational

Career pathways

Work Centers

Higher wage

Get rid of the drugs

Education

### **WHAT'S MISSING?**

- Hotels
- quality event spaces for social events (i.e. weddings, catering)
- tourism
- fashion establishments
- restaurants (especially upscale ones)
- gyms
- larger grocery stores (for one stop shopping).

DANIEL: No fashion, people have to go to East River Mall: Marshall, Target, Best Buy, Costco.

### **THINGS THAT KEEP PEOPLE FROM COMING TO EAST HARLEM:**

- Lack of lighting, people “don’t clean up” on 3rd Ave.

### **QUESTIONS TO GET ANSWERED:**

- What percentage of businesses are locally owned? Do they hire local?
- How do you develop a consciousness, get people to shop locally?

Ideas: Shop local day, local businesses get a discount

Visit El Barrio.com, have a business week, restaurant week.

### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE:**

- Mount Sinai, Metropolitan, hospitality industry.
- Do they have paid internships?
- How can they integrate young people, when there are challenges with the way they come dressed, etc.?
- STRIVE: A program that tries to hire local, needs a hospitality program.
- EXODUS: Hires former offenders looking for work. Need to create a bridge to teach things like barbering, tattooing. (ex/HOMEBODY Industries) . How do you link services?

## **WHAT ARE POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES WITH MORE DENSITY?**

Michelle: Positive= more foot traffic, Negative=affordability

Jason: Need affordable housing and commercial development doesn't help. Interested in workforce development.

## **WHAT ABOUT SMALL BUSINESSES?**

Jose': Barbershops in a cluster around 107th

Daniel: Restaurant cluster on 1st Ave & 111th, not upscale

Michelle: Nociallo is more upscale, 3rd/116th has a restaurant cluster. A laddered system for small business is a concept that helps and could help create a niche for business owners.

Colin: An idea would be to turn 116th in a walking street for a few of the warmer months, street vendors.

Daniel: La Marqueta used to have more variety, has declined and not come back. Vendors knew customers, etc. Need a one-stop grocery store.

## **OTHER AREAS THAT COULD BE MORE VIBRANT:**

- 106TH btwn. 2nd and Lex. Dead zone businesses not thriving.
- 126th/127th and 3rd. Dead zone but building a walk-in clinic there.
- Need a food court in East River Mall, no cinema, no destination there. 116th is a connection to the area that is completely covered, good for weather.

○

## **SUMMARY:**

### **STRENGTHS:**

- Diversity (food, books, cultural)
- Connections between businesses and communities
- Convenience and affordability

### **CHALLENGES:**

- Include affordability, rising rents
- Could use more event spaces, hotels, attract tourism
- HOSPITALITY came up quite often, could use more trainings to get people in the field
- Lack of a support organization like the defunct East Harlem Alliance.

East Harlem Neighborhood Plan  
 Visioning Workshop #5 Notes 10/22/2015  
 Affordable Housing Development + Zoning

Note Taker: Paul

Facilitator: Kay

Table 12

4 Participants

Maribel	Grew up in EH	Loves everything, neighborhood is my life
Ricardo	Works for RPA	Here because he's interested in the process
John	Lived in EH for 15 years works for an affordable housing developer	Loves the Architecture, the brownstones
Rosa	Lived in EH 45 years	Loves the old structures, history

Activity #1 - My East Harlem

Places that work

- Julia de Burgos Center
- La Marqueta
- Mount Sinai Hospital
- Food carts on 116th street that sell chicken
- Harlem Art Park
- 120th & 2nd Avenue
- Harlem Esplanade
- Ron McNair Park

Places that don't work

- Mount Sinai - Too much development
- Tunnels under viaduct - Need to be lit
- Harlem Esplanade - Needs to be cleaned up, too much drugs and prostitution
- 125th & Lex - Worst intersection in NYC
- Harlem Art Park 120th & 3rd - Drugs in park
- Stanley Isaacs Park - Under utilized
- Too many empty Spaces on Park Avenue & 123rd - Too much prostitution

What do you want to protect?

- 120th Street & 2nd Avenue - Track needs to be activated and open for residents
- 107th Street Pier - Could be used a cultural space

### What is Missing?

- Access to Randalls Island - EH needs to own it
- Stores on 3rd Avenue - Groceries, clothing, art shops
- Too many chains, not enough local stores
- Comfort Stations in McNair Park

### Activity #2 - Trade-Offs: Affordability, Height, and Density

#### What Choices did people make?

##### Affordability

- People's income isn't the same, rents have to be flexible
- Some people picked affordability mix
- Long term residents wanted as much of the 20% AMI housing available

##### Height

- Height is ok if it allows for more affordable house
- People don't want height next to the brownstones/tenement buildings
- Avenues its OK, not on cross streets

##### Density

- Not afraid of Density
- Doesn't seem real when it's super dense

##### Why?

- As much affordable housing as possible
- More affordable than market rate
- Trade-offs are not worth it
- Want a mix of all kinds of housing

### Activity #3- Development + Community Priorities

#### What Choices did you make + Why?

- Tricky to make choices- Too much crime, unsafe to make any choices
- Affordable housing & Commercial space to allow more affordable housing
- 50% affordable with community space, would be most beneficial to the neighborhood
- Open Space for land trusts- They have a good structure for holding open space
- Commercial Space needed for Grocery Stores

#### What does this tell you about development in East Harlem?

*Question not answered by table*

Are you hopeful/fearful about future development?

Why/why not?

- Fearful for store owners & workers, disrespectful - violence against them
- Don't believe that people paying different rents can live in harmony in the same building- Won't work, people will be jealous
- Hopefully but the community needs to work together to make the development better
- Neighborhood needs to get safety under control
- Protecting people's investment (home) in the community is important
- The community will keep getting better. It's a good place.

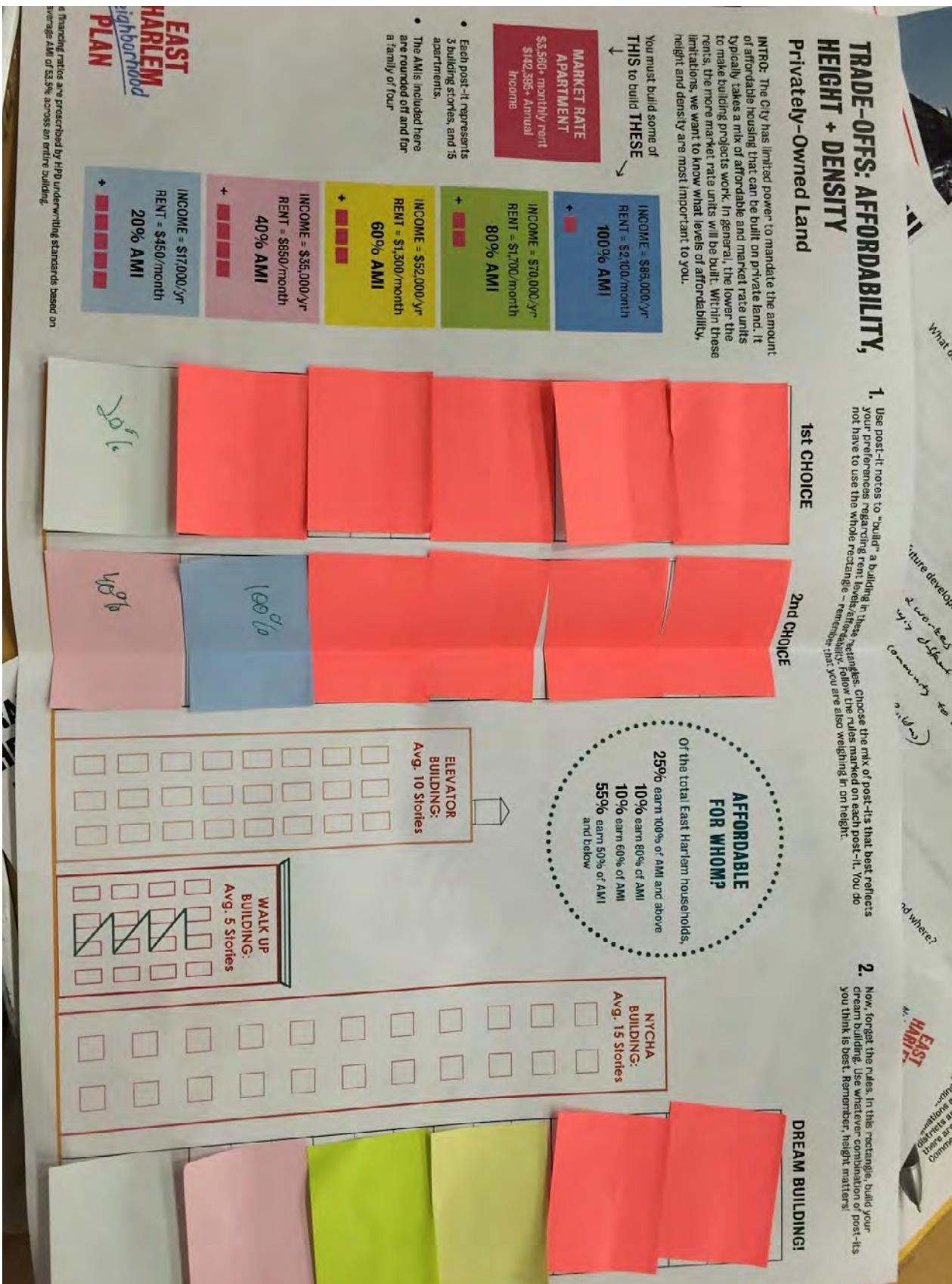
Are there things you feel like community members can do to influence what is built and where?

- Be informed about what is happening
- More community input, more forums needed
- Assemblyman & community leaders need to be present and involved at meetings
- Councilmen need to stay in touch with the community. They don't have direct involvement anymore, no open houses, no barbecues

Summary

Main Ideas

- Crime
- Violence/safety
- More housing
- More affordable housing
- More community involvement



**TRADE-OFFS: AFFORDABILITY, HEIGHT + DENSITY**

**Privately-Owned Land**

**INTRO:** The City has limited power to mandate the amount of affordable housing that can be built on private land. It typically takes a mix of affordable and market rate units to make building projects work. In general, the lower the rents, the more market rate units will be built. Within these limitations, we want to know what levels of affordability, height, and density are most important to you.

You must build some of **THIS** to build **THESE**

**MARKET RATE APARTMENT**  
\$3,500+ monthly rent  
\$142,500+ Annual Income

**INCOME = \$86,000/yr**  
**RENT = \$2,100/month**  
**100% AMI**

+ ■■■■■

**INCOME = \$70,000/yr**  
**RENT = \$1,700/month**  
**80% AMI**

+ ■■■■■

- Each post-it represents 3 building stories, and 15 apartments.
- The AMIs included here are rounded off and for a family of four

**1st CHOICE**

**2nd CHOICE**

**AFFORDABLE FOR WHOM?**

Or the total East Harlem households,

- 25% earn 100% of AMI and above
- 10% earn 80% of AMI
- 10% earn 60% of AMI
- 55% earn 50% of AMI and below

**ELEVATOR BUILDING:**  
Avg. 10 Stories

**NYCHA BUILDING:**  
Avg. 15 Stories

**WALK UP BUILDING:**  
Avg. 5 Stories

**DREAM BUILDING!**

**What does this tell you about development?**

**1.** Use post-it notes to "build" a building in these rectangles. Choose the mix of post-its that best reflects your preferences regarding rent levels/affordability. Follow the rules marked on each post-it. You do not have to use the whole rectangle – remember that you are also weighing in on height.

**2.** Now forget the rules in this rectangle, build your dream building. Use whatever combination of post-its you think is best. Remember, height matters!

**EAST HARLEM Neighborhood PLAN**

\*The financing rates are proscribed by HPD underwriting standards based on an average AMI of \$5.5k across an entire building.

## COMI

### TRADE-OFFS: AFFORDABILITY, HEIGHT + DENSITY

#### Privately-Owned Land

**INTRO:** The City has limited power to mandate the amount of affordable housing that can be built on private land. It typically takes a mix of affordable and market rate units to make building projects work. In general, the lower the rents, the more market rate units will be built. Within these limitations, we want to know what levels of affordability, height and density are most important to you.

You must build some of **THIS** to build **THESE**

**MARKET RATE APARTMENT**  
\$3,560+ monthly rent  
\$742,395+ Annual Income

**100% AMI**  
INCOME = \$86,000/yr  
RENT = \$2,100/month

**80% AMI**  
INCOME = \$70,000/yr  
RENT = \$1,700/month

**60% AMI**  
INCOME = \$52,000/yr  
RENT = \$1,300/month

Each post-it represents 3 building stories, and 15 apartments.  
The AMIs included here are rounded off and for a family of four

**1st CHOICE**

**2nd CHOICE**

**AFFORDABLE FOR WHOM?**

Of the total East Harlem households, 25% earn 100% of AMI and above, 10% earn 80% of AMI, 10% earn 60% of AMI, and 55% earn 50% or less than AMI.

**DREAM BUILDING!**

**ELEVATOR BUILDING:**  
Avg. 10 Stories

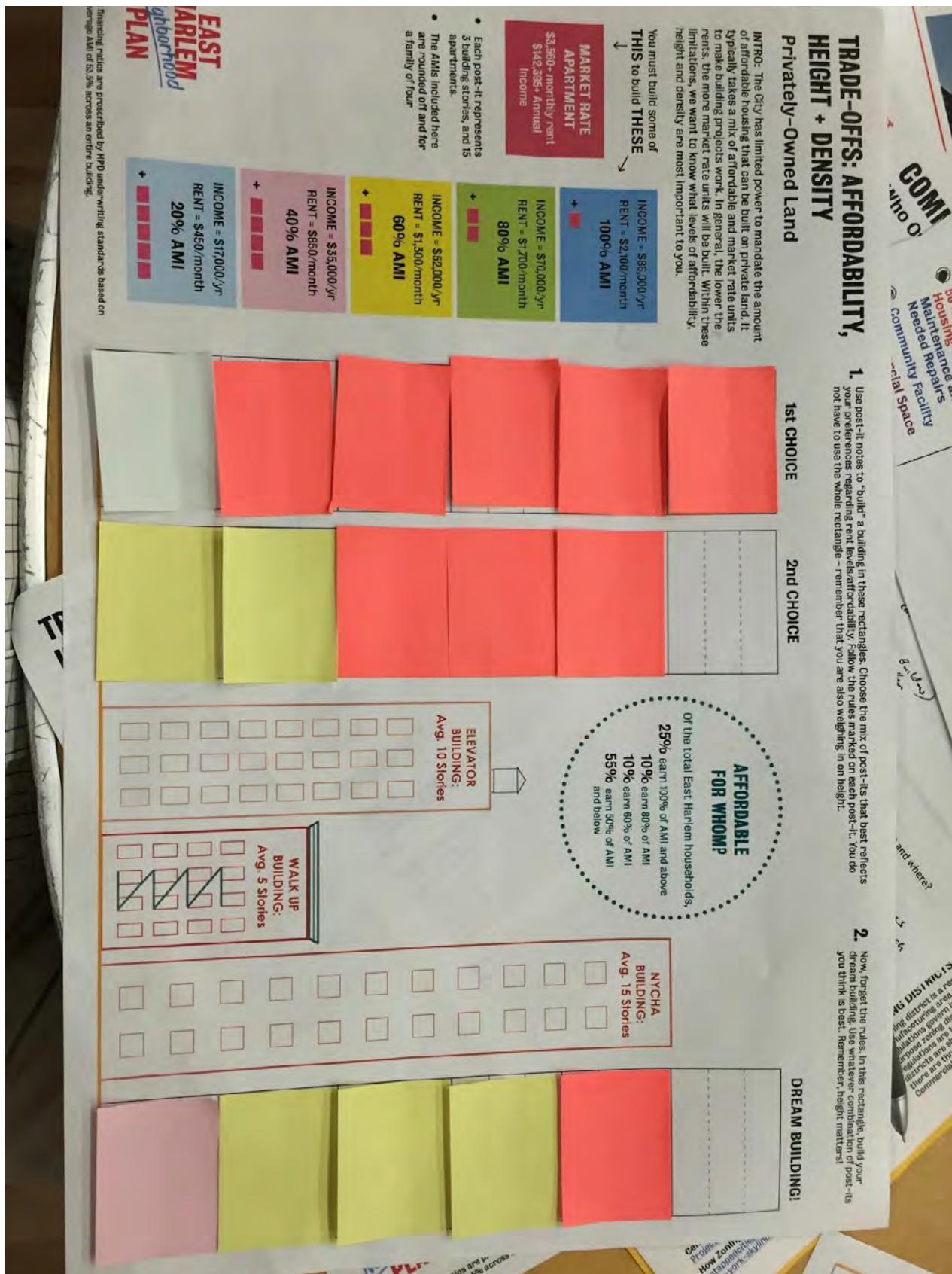
**WALK UP BUILDING:**  
Avg. 5 Stories

**NYCHA BUILDING:**  
Avg. 15 Stories

**What's new about future development? What's worked? What's failing? What's changing? And where? S. 16**

**REG DISTRICTS**  
A zoning district is a residential or business area of the city. Regulations on how land and buildings may be used are tailored to different districts. There are three types: Commercial and Industrial, Residential, and Mixed Use.

Financing ratios are prescribed by HFC underwriting standards based on average AMI of 33.3% across an entire building.





## EAST HARLEM NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN: COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP

# East Harlem Neighborhood Plan

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT + ZONING

NOTE TAKER: ISABEL

FACILITATOR: SADRA

TABLE: # 13

# PARTICIPANTS: 7

### TABLE PARTICIPANTS

#### **#1**

**FIRST NAME:**

ELIZABETH

**RELATIONSHIP TO EH:**

DOHM: Urban planner for the Health department – works in East Harlem

**SOME THING THEY LOBE ABOUT HARLEM:**

The murals – expression of identity

#### **#2**

**FIRST NAME:**

Reynaldo

**RELATIONSHIP TO EH:**

Grew up in Harlem, does not anymore, but his family does.

**SOME THING THEY LOBE ABOUT HARLEM:**

Cultural Richness and diversity

#### **#3**

**FIRST NAME:**

Shaun

**RELATIONSHIP TO EH:**

Works and lives in East Harlem.

**SOME THING THEY LOBE ABOUT HARLEM:**

Central park

## 2 | EAST HARLEM NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN: COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP

**#4****FIRST NAME:**

Monica

**RELATIONSHIP TO EH:**

Works in CLT providing affordability for people that are no addressed in MIH (20-40% AMI)

**SOME THING THEY LOBE ABOUT HARLEM:**

Community's engagement

**#5****FIRST NAME:**

Shanequa

**RELATIONSHIP TO EH:**

Works in East Harlem.

**SOME THING THEY LOBE ABOUT HARLEM:**

Deep passion and pride of the community

**#6****FIRST NAME:**

Lisa

**RELATIONSHIP TO EH:**

Lives and works in East Harlem

**SOME THING THEY LOBE ABOUT HARLEM:**

Close community / sense of family

**#7****FIRST NAME:**

Carlos

**RELATIONSHIP TO EH:**

Long term residence. Works in New York Communities for Change. Baseball coach

**SOME THING THEY LOBE ABOUT HARLEM:**

Cultural Richness and diversity

**#8****FIRST NAME:**

Stephanie

**RELATIONSHIP TO EH:**

Works in Affordable housing + grants

**SOME THING THEY LOBE ABOUT HARLEM:**

Community's engagement

## EAST HARLEM NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN: COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP

### ACTIVITY # 1

#### #1

##### PLACES THAT WORK:

1. Central Park
2. Jefferson's Park

#### #2

##### PLACES THAT DO NOT WORK:

1. Empty building Park + 106 st. First floor occupied, but the others vacant
2. Meth clinic. Park + 123 st. Breaks hearts seen people in trouble. This area is a very important transit and commercial HUB, but physically it is not working.

#### #3

##### WHAT DO YOU WANT TO PROTECT:

1. LAS marquetas
2. Parks (Specially Jefferson park – upgrade facilities)
3. Historical buildings

#### #4

##### WHAT IS MISSING:

1. MON AND POPS'S STORES ARE DISSAPEARING
2. Care facilities – Transitional medical care
3. Community's amenities – gather places for socializing (Seniors + Youth)

### ACTIVITY # 2

#### #1

##### AFFORDABILITY:

- Trade offs: Mixture of AFFORDABILITY, IN GENERAL people understood the necessity of affordable housing for low and very low income, even though it meant compromising with market rate units.
- Dreamed: mixture addressing of very low and low income (taking in account East Harlem's AMI)

#### #2

##### HEIGHT:

- Consensus
  - a. Historical Landmark: the table discussed that the neighborhood has a low rise identity, which fosters community's bonds and closeness.
  - b. Only high building where is appropriated

#### #3

##### DENSITY:

- Density is not the problem itself, the problem is to have enough services and resources. It is important to take in account that schools are already overcrowded, thus if there is more housing it has to include other uses to answer the demand of education and health.

## 4 | EAST HARLEM NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN: COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP

**ACTIVITY # 3**

For detail please revise each individuals activity sheet (there was not time to discuss as a group). Never the less, some note about what I heard.

**#1****CHOICES:**

- NYCHAP: Discussion about Redevelops and how this is taking away the existing open area. Concerns about the debt. Discussion about mix use in NYCHAP buildings.
- CITY owned land: Open space and affordability
- CLT: Monica explained how the model works

**#2****HOPEFUL/FEARFUL ABOUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT:**

- a. 50% – 50 % There are concerns about affordability, gentrification and displacement; but there is hope in community's power. If people are educated and work together it can lead to a real change (good example this workshop)

**#3****COMMUNITY MEMBERS INFLUENCING WHAT IS BUILT:**

- Through pedagogical organization and works (like the workshop) people feel they can influence their environment. What is important is to work together.

Table 16

Facilitator: Kellan Note-taker: Anna

### Table Participants

- Amelia:
  - Relationship to East Harlem: born and raised in the neighborhood, member of Faithful New York, involved in Community Voices Heard.
  - One thing she loves about East Harlem: Loves the neighborhood and community, and as such is somewhat concerned about the changes she's seeing in the area.
- Valda:
  - Relationship to East Harlem: attends church on 109th street between Madison and Fifth.
  - One thing she loves about East Harlem: Appreciation for the affordable housing available for low-income residents.
- Roseanna:
  - Relationship to East Harlem: Grew up in area.
  - One thing she loves about East Harlem: The Latino presence.
- Eileen:
  - Relationship to East Harlem: Born in the area, a NYCHA resident and resident leader, involved in Community Voices Heard and Harlem Solidarity.
  - One thing she loves about East Harlem: Loves the community and maintains an active presence in community and NYCHA-resident organizations and activities.
- Mo:
  - Relationship to East Harlem: Works at Community Voices Heard out of their Harlem offices, she also fellowshiped in East Harlem in her youth.
  - One thing she loves about East Harlem: The local, rich Latino culture - feels that it is important to preserve and retain respect for this long time local culture especially as the neighborhood begins to change and gentrify.
- Anna (*participant, not note-taker*):
  - Relationship to East Harlem: Pastor who practices in the area of Harlem, sometimes in East Harlem.
  - One thing she loves about East Harlem: The good people she knows and loves in the neighborhood.
- Paul:
  - Relationship to East Harlem: Neighborhood resident.
  - One thing she loves about East Harlem: The affordable housing, but especially the affordable apartment that he owns.

### Activity 1

- Places that work:
  - Pleasant Avenue and waterfront area
  - Thomas Jefferson Park, although it needs maintenance/preservation
  - The small park on 123rd between Madison and Fifth
  - The area where kids play football on 111th and Madison

- The existing grocery stores
- The Farmers Market on 3rd Ave between 110th and 111th Streets
- La Marketa
- The public library on 110th and Lexington
- The library on 124th and Marcus Garvey
- The library on 125th between 2nd and 3rd Avenues.
- Places that don't work:
  - Empty buildings and lots on 115th between Park and Lexington
  - 3rd Avenue between 103rd and 113th Streets have stores on ground floor with what looks like vacant apartments and lots of unused/blocked off space on floors above the ground floor --> should be transformed into affordable housing
  - Empty space around Pleasant Avenue
  - Jefferson Park needs investment
  - Need more local retain/discount stores
  - Need more *supermarkets* (as opposed to "grocery" stores - in the neighborhood, "supermarkets" refer to full service large scale fresh food stores with all departments, delis, fresh products, good variety, bulk purchasing options, etc., whereas "groceries" are more like corner stores/bodegas)
  - Family clinic on 115th between Lenox and 5th
  - Noise from fire station on 5th between 112th and 113th (Paul)
  - Empty lot on Madison and 112th (near Paul's apartment)
- What do you want to protect?
  - Libraries
  - Waterfront park
  - Stable middle-income community base for local spending (comment from Paul)
  - Existing zoning height (Paul - wants to maintain view, etc.)
- What is missing?
  - Fresh food - desert above 120th street
  - Court House - the nearest one is in the Bronx. Perhaps could be co-located with DMV on 125th?

Activity 2 (there was a lot of confusion around this activity, but major trends from the conversation are reflected below)

- Affordability:
  - Strong emphasis on low-income housing, especially for poor families - make sure that the "affordable" housing is designed for these types of local families making under \$30k/year
  - Who is in the building is more important than the height
  - Should be about 50/50 between low-income and middle-income/closer to market-rate housing options
  - Don't price out the disabled and the elderly who rely on this community and see this place as their home
- Height:
  - NYCHA height is good
  - No higher than NYCHA buildings - participants like local air access
- Density:

- Maintain current levels - participants don't want overcrowding
- Concerns about maintaining privacy - if building density greatly increases, everyone will be looking from their apartment window into the apartments' of neighbors. Not interested in that.
- How do people feel about development in the neighborhood?
  - Don't take away the playgrounds and other public space in order to develop the area.
  - Protect local public land.
  - Remember that this is home for lots of old people - don't forget them in this process.
  - Concern about how there used to be a senior center on Madison, and how that was replaced with a church, and now that church is gone - don't want to lose these community resources.
  - Don't take away recreation spaces - concerns about youth engagement - benefits of recreation spaces in terms of keeping kids occupied and off the streets.

Activity 3 (this activity was very rushed, so the question of what this told participants about development in East Harlem was not covered)

- What choices did you make and why?
  - Most popular selections were as follows:
    - NYCHA land: affordable housing, community facilities
    - City land: affordable housing, commercial space
    - CLT land: affordable housing, commercial space
    - Private land: groceries, community facilities/commercial space
  - Alternative selections:
    - City land: open space (2 participants)
    - CLT land: affordable housing, community facility (1 participant)
    - Private land: school, other community facility/commercial space (1 participant)
- Are you hopeful/fearful about future development?
  - Amelia:
    - Fear: taking away space, added congestion
    - Need: places to play, walk around, sit comfortably
  - Eileen:
    - Fear: gentrification
  - Mo:
    - Fear: Melissa Mark-Viverito's last term in office - who will replace her? How can we ensure that future electeds will listen to residents?
  - Paul:
    - Hope: participants are all making an effort to engage in this process, and people are listening to the process. Preserve local culture and when introducing new community members, make sure that they respect the local culture (as in the development of West Harlem).
  - Anna:
- Fear: affordable housing is presented as a trade-off requiring very high income housing, when it's important to remember that there are different kinds of "affordable".

## East Harlem Neighborhood Plan

Visioning Workshop #5 Notes – 10/22/15

Affordable Housing Development and Zoning

Note taker name: Chelsea

Facilitator Name: Daisy

Table Number: 17

# of Participants: 11

(note: I couldn't get names, all participants live in EH. The Report Back notes are not included here, but are on the chart paper from our table. Also want to note that all activities felt very rushed.)

Table Participants:

First name	Relationship to EH	One thing they love about EH
	Resident	Low income housing
John	Resident – 5yrs – affordable coop, CB11 member	
	Resident – affordable coop	Afraid of gentrification
	Resident – affordable coop	
	Resident	Afraid of Community Changing
	Resident – life-long	Need more affordable housing
	Resident – 1 year	Need more affordable housing

Activity # 1 – My East Harlem

**Places that don't work:**

- Abandoned buildings (on third ave) – seem like they want to keep them that way – what's going to happen to them?
- Vacant lots on the corner of 111<sup>th</sup> and park (refer to map from our table)
- Ballfield on 111<sup>th</sup> street b/w Park and Madison is in good shape but is not used enough and it's a shame. There are also empty lots around the ballfield that are not working.
- Park ave has potential but is underutilized – needs more going on
- 1<sup>st</sup> ave and 125<sup>th</sup> – need lighting

**What do you want to protect?**

- African burial ground under the 126<sup>th</sup> street bus depot
- Mom and pop stores
- Mixed feelings about the 111<sup>th</sup> street ballfield – some felt it should remain recreational space, some felt it would be better to develop it into affordable housing. Consensus that some recreational use should be maintained for the public on that block.
- La Marqueta – but spruce it up
- Jefferson soccer field
- Open Space

### **What is missing?**

- We need low income housing on the 111<sup>th</sup> street ballfield – there are enough ballfields
- Lighting along Park Avenue
- Livelier uses under the viaduct – maybe a Duane Reade
- Parks at 120<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>
- Active/better waterfront (a continuous park like on the west side)
- Water taxi

### **Activity #2 – Trade-Offs: Affordability, Height and Density**

#### **What choices did people make?**

##### **Affordability**

Overall, people wanted a mix of affordability. Some wanted only low-income.

##### **Height**

People at the table did not mind mid-high rise buildings in general. Especially if they are accommodating lower-incomes.

##### **Why?**

- See value in accommodating a range of income levels
- With moderate incomes, you get better quality of life without over-gentrifying
- Need diversity – allows for more for everyone
- Need to discontinue the big income divide we have now

#### **How do people feel about development in the neighborhood?**

- More market rate apartments will change the neighborhood too much
- We need some form of government subsidy to maintain a mix of incomes

- No one will be happy if buildings are majority market rate
- Need mix-use buildings
- Mexicans and other immigrants are being pushed out
- Colleges and universities are pushing people out (references to Columbia and NYU)

### **Activity #3 – Development and Community Priorities**

#### **What choices did you make and why?**

- Nothing should be built on NYCHA – they have enough problems maintaining their buildings.
- Open Space on City-owned land – so you can make more affordable housing (taller buildings with more open space)

#### **What does this tell you about development in East Harlem?**

- It is different here because it is in NYC – investors from other countries. Low-middle income individuals cannot compete.

#### **Are there things you feel like community members can do to influence what is built and where?**

(note: people seemed confused by this question...)

- This exercise
- So few people that makes the decisions, we need more workshops like this to get feedback from everyone.
- Need more outreach
- Need more people voting
- More meetings like this so people know what's going on in the community
- Let people know when things are happening

#### **Other notes/Overall summary of conversation:**

- Public needs to be informed more about what is coming up
- Stop pushing people out
- Affordability should reflect the existing neighborhood

# East Harlem Visioning Session 5 –

## 10/22/15

Note taker: Francisco

Table Number: 19

Facilitator Name: Yakima

# of Participants: 7

### Table Participants

1. Rosa: Living in the neighborhood for over 10 years.
2. María: Living in the neighborhood for 4 years.
3. Luis: Living in the neighborhood for over 30 years.
4. Any: Living in the neighborhood for a year.
5. Lourdes: Living in the neighborhood for over 10 years.
6. Marisol: Living in the neighborhood for over 10 years.
7. Judy: Living in the neighborhood for over 20 years.

I was part of the discussion for the Spanish-speaking table. Even though all the exercises were completed, this was a hard table to tackle, there was more time needed to explain how the exercises work and help them through each of the tasks. Even though the discussion was planned to be about Affordable Housing, there were a lot of other themes in the discussion; mainly security.

### Activity 1: My East Harlem

Regarding the places that don't work there was some early discussion about traffic in some areas and mainly a lot of conversation about criminal activity, affordable rent and tenant harassment.

Places that work:

- 104<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> (shopping businesses).
- 116<sup>th</sup> and Pleasant Ave. They enjoy the mall.

Places that don't work:

- Thomas Jefferson Park. Some of them enjoyed the park but believe it is dangerous on the evenings.
- 104<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> is insecure.
- 102<sup>nd</sup> to 105<sup>th</sup> on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> is also an area of insecurity.
- 96<sup>th</sup> to 106<sup>th</sup> has heavy traffic along 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 124<sup>th</sup> to 125<sup>th</sup> on Lexington usually has gangs and a lot of insecurity.
- 123<sup>rd</sup> to 124<sup>th</sup> on Lexington needs sidewalk fixing.

### Activity 2: Trade-Offs

This was particularly hard activity to handle and explain for the group. Then there wasn't much time for them to complete the task but some conclusions could be the following:

- There was much more floor in buildings assigned for 20% / 40% AMI.
- The height of buildings was in between 10-12 floors and 18 floors.

Most of them thought that affordable housing for the poorest was of the upmost importance; even if it was hard to get to an intermediate point with private construction companies.

### Activity 3: Development + Community Priorities

For the NYCHA land, everyone agreed that there was a need of 50% affordable housing. They also thought 100% affordable housing is not necessarily good. 90% of them decided also on community facilities.

For the city owned land, most of them agreed on affordable housing and community facilities.

For the CLT (Community Trust) land, most of them also agreed on affordable housing and community facility.

For the privately owned land, most of them agreed on the need for schools and transit improvement.

About future development; they are hopeful, they believe some change has already been introduced and more will probably come. They still were clear in saying they do need help for affordable rent and housing.

## COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #6 - FLIERS



Join us for a Community Visioning Workshop about

### TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & SENIORS

#### WHEN

Saturday, November 21st  
10:00am-1:00pm

- Sign Language Interpretation Available – if needed please RSVP to 212-788-9121 by 11/19
- Spanish Translation Available
- Childcare Available – if needed please RSVP to 212-788-9121 by 11/19
- Snacks and Refreshments

#### WHERE

New York Academy  
of Medicine  
1216 5th Ave at 102nd St.

6 to 103rd Street  
M1, M2, M3, M106 to 102nd Street

*Help Define the Future  
of Our Community!*

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito: 212-788-9121  
Community Board 11: 212-831-8929  
Community Voices Heard: 212-860-6001  
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer: 212-669-8300

**EASTHARLEMPPLAN.NYC**

**PLAN  
Comunitario  
PARA EL  
BARRIO**

Únase a Nosotros para un Taller de Visualización Comunitario sobre

**TRANSPORTE Y MEDIO-AMBIENTE  
SALUDABLE, SALUD Y ANCIANOS**

**¿CUÁNDO?**

Sabado, 21 de Noviembre  
10:00am-1:00pm

- Interpretación de lenguaje de señas disponible, si lo necesita favor llamar al 212-788-9121 en 11/19
- Interpretación en Español
- Cuidado de niños disponible, si lo necesita favor llamar al 212-788-9121 en 11/19
- Meriendas & Refrigerios

**¿DÓNDE?**

New York Academy  
of Medicine  
1216 5th Ave a calle 102

6 hasta la calle 103

M1, M2, M3, M106 hasta la calle 102

*¡Ayude a Definir  
el Futuro de Nuestra  
Comunidad!*

**PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN, LLAME:**

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito: 212-788-9121

Community Board 11: 212-831-8929

Community Voices Heard: 212-860-6001

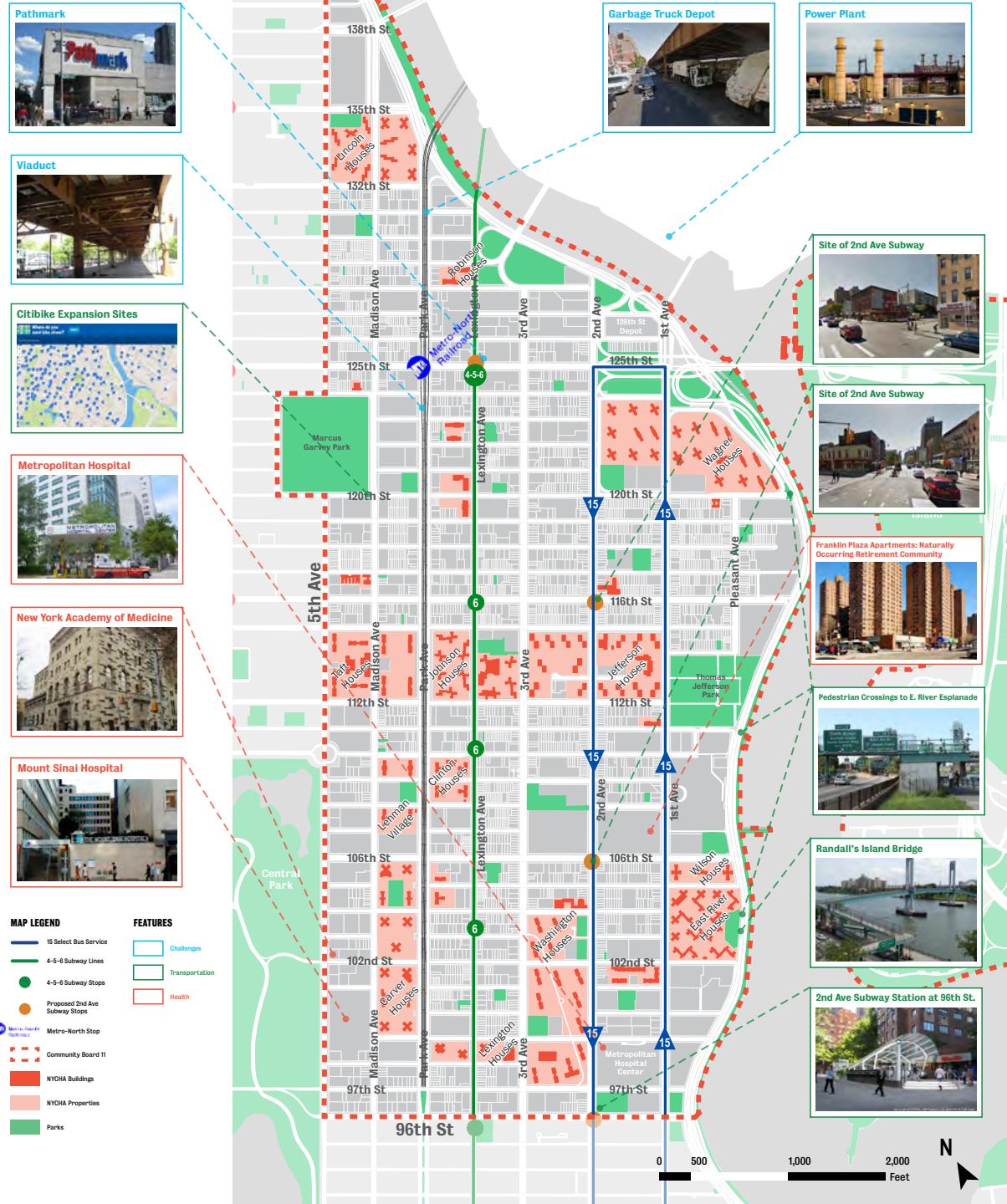
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer: 212-669-8300

**EASTHARLEMPPLAN.NYC**

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #6 – WORKSHOP MAP

## EAST HARLEM Neighborhood PLAN

## TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY, HEALTH & SENIORS



# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #6 - FACILITATOR GUIDE

**East Harlem Neighborhood Plan - Visioning Workshop 5**

**Health & Seniors**

**Safety**

**Transportation Environment & Energy**

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am-1pm at the New York Academy of Medicine

**Small Group Discussion Facilitator Guide - DRAFT**

## **WORKSHOP AGENDA**

1. Presentation – *25 minutes*
2. Small Group Activities Part 1 – *1 hour 15 minutes*
3. Lunch break – Facilitators switch tables, Note takers remain - *10 minutes*
4. Small Group Activities Part 2 – *50 minutes*
5. Report Back – *15 minutes*
6. Next Steps – *5 minutes*

## **ROOM SET UP**

- Sign in tables with flyers and Spanish translation equipment
- Small group tables set up with materials
- Designated Spanish table

## **EACH TABLE SHOULD HAVE:**

Facilitator and Note-taker – at least one of each

Complete set of Materials –

- Facilitator Guide
- Notetaker guide, pens or laptop for note-taking
- 1 Big Neighborhood Map (w/photos)
- Health Activities – Health Tree Poster, Healthy Neighborhood Poster, Checklist
- Chart Paper
- Post-it notes
- Pens, Markers

## **Note about the facilitators**

Facilitators will be split into two groups. Half of the facilitators will be leading the Health activities and half of the facilitators will be leading the Environment/Transportation and Safety Discussions. During the lunch break Facilitators will switch tables. Notetakers will remain at their original table to have a consistent presence.

## **Before the presentation begins**

Make sure your table has a complete set of materials listed above. If not, find Dylan, Anna, or Betsy, and they will make sure you have everything you need. Please welcome folks as they sit down at your table and introduce yourself as your table's facilitator.

**Power Point Presentation (25 minutes)**  
**Shift from large group to small group discussion**

**SMALL GROUP SUMMARY**

1. **Welcome and Ground Rules (2 minutes)** – Introduce yourself (again). Run down the small group agenda – Welcome and Introductions, Mapping Activity, Topic activities, Lunch and Facilitator Switch, Wrap-up, and Report Back. Establish the ground rules for discussion.
  - *Respect everyone's opinions. We are not here to debate with anyone.*
  - *All of your answers, ideas, feelings and opinions are important.*
  - *Step back, Speak Up: If you are talking too much, step back If you are not talking enough, speak up.*
  - *ONE MIC: Please do not interrupt anyone. Wait until someone is done speaking before offering your opinion.*
  - *If you have questions that are not specific to the focus group, please wait until the end.*
2. **Participant Introductions (5 minutes)** – Participants each introduce themselves, their relation to East Harlem, and one thing they love about their neighborhood.
3. **Mapping Activity - Covering all topics (20 minutes)**  
*Activity:* Participants will have a discussion around a large table map to discuss physical environment issues related to Safety, Health/Seniors, and Environment/Transportation/Energy. The facilitator will ask a series of guiding questions around each of the three activities that ask participants to identify different locations on the map. Please encourage participants to write on the map with sharpies, Facilitators should also record everything on the map as people are pointing things out. Notetakers will be recording discussion points. All participants will work on the same map – facilitators will be responsible to ensure all participate.

**Safety Questions**

- Are there places where you feel unsafe? Why do you feel unsafe?
- Where specifically is better lighting needed?
- Are there intersections that are challenging to cross? That feel unsafe? Where are there dangerous intersections?

**Health & Seniors Questions**

- What aspects of the neighborhood promote health? What aspects of the neighborhood create barriers to health?
- Where do you go for healthcare? Are there healthcare services not available in East Harlem for which you have to leave the neighborhood? Are there mental health services available in East Harlem?
- Where do older adults hang out in the community? What additional spaces or facilities are needed for that population?

- Are there challenges to getting around the neighborhood for seniors?
- What supermarkets do you shop at in East Harlem?
- Where in East Harlem do you think supermarkets/grocery stores are needed?
- Where do you go to exercise? Blow off steam?
- What CBOs or social service providers do you visit?
- Where do you worship?
- If you have children or grandchildren, where do you take them to play?
- Where would you add playground or sports facilities? What kind?

#### **Transportation, Environment & Energy**

- Are you able to access the places you need to in the neighborhood? What about outside of the neighborhood?
- Is public transit accessible to you? Where are the transportation connections that are missing?
- What is your primary mode of transportation?
- Is bus service in East Harlem adequate? Where do you think there should be bus stops or a new bus line?
- How often do you commute outside of the neighborhood?
- What kind of development around the Second Ave Subway stops do you think makes sense? How can we ensure that development around transit is equitable?
- Where would you like to see more bike lanes?

*Outcome:* Participants' lived experience in the neighborhood captured on a map – specific locations/areas identified that need improvement; ideas about what is missing and where it should go will be catalogued.

#### **NOTE:**

After the Mapping Activity the small group will either transition into the set of activities around Health & Seniors or the Transportation/Environment and Safety Discussions depending upon which facilitator is at the table. Reminder: the facilitators will switch during the lunch break

#### **4. Or 5. Health & Seniors Activity Set (50 minutes)**

**-LUNCH BREAK / FACILITATOR SWITCH –**

#### **5. Or 4. Environment/Transportation and Safety Discussions (50 minutes)**

#### **6. Report Back + Next Steps (20 minutes)** – Each facilitator will designate a participant or 2 participants to report back key discussion points and/or priorities from your table to the larger group. All small groups return their focus to the large group to hear from one representative or representatives from each table.

**HEALTH & SENIORS ACTIVITY SET****Activity #1: Strengths and Challenges – 5 minutes**

Participants will generate a list of strengths and challenges they perceive around health in East Harlem. Facilitator will capture lists on chart paper.

**Activity #2: East Harlem Tree of Health – 20 minutes**

This activity provides a framework to discuss how health outcomes are a product of social determinants.

- Ask participants to list several disease outcomes prevalent in their community. These may include asthma, diabetes, obesity, injury, heart attacks, and depression. List these diseases as the leaves on the tree.
- Next, ask people to list behaviors that contribute to the disease outcomes they identified. These may include overeating, lack of physical activity, and substance abuse. List these on the trunk of the tree.
- Finally, ask people to list social, economic, and political determinants that influence the behaviors they described. These may include poverty, racism, unaffordable housing, lack of public transportation and grocery stores, and air pollution. List these determinants at the roots of the tree.
- These determinants represent the “root causes of disease.” Describe how some of the root causes impact health outcomes through behaviors (e.g., lack of a grocery store impacts diet and therefore diabetes) and others impact health outcomes directly (e.g., air pollution leads to respiratory disease).
- Very often, people begin by listing either behaviors or root causes when initially asked about disease outcomes. The facilitator must write these things in the correct part of the tree to clearly illustrate antecedents to poor health. At the end, state that this is a tool that works with a Neighborhood Plan is seeking to have impacts on the roots of the tree, and through those determinants, the disease outcomes listed on the branches.

**Activity #3: Design your Healthy Neighborhood – 20 minutes**

This activity is twofold, speaking to the design and accessibility of grocery stores and food in East Harlem and what makes a healthy public space.

**Design your Supermarket**

- Scientific studies show that East Harlem has some of the highest density of grocery stores in NYC – but residents report challenges with food access. Additionally the neighborhoods full service supermarket, Pathmark on 125<sup>th</sup> St. is closing because of redevelopment.
- Talk through the different components that go into a grocery store and ask participants to write an idea for each of the prompting questions on a post-it note. Prompting questions include:

- What would be the food sold there?
- What would the prices be?
- What would make a supermarket feel more accessible to you? What are the challenges of supermarket layouts?
- Who would work there, what would they be paid?

Additional questions include:

- Would there be a pharmacy?
- Would you want a nutritionist to give tours? Any other kind of education or programming?
- What types of items should be placed around the check-out lines?
- Would there be delivery service?

### **Design your Town Square**

Participants again write their ideas to each of the questions on post-it notes for the following questions:

- What makes a healthy public space, and what is most important to you in a healthy public space?
- How can it serve all the different populations in the community?
- What are the activities that would bring you there? Brainstorm for the different categories

Additional questions include:

- What kinds of seating would be there?
- Would it be a place to learn about what is going on in the community? To access services?
- Would you want to see signage? If so of what? Would it be in multiple languages?

### **Activity #4: Healthy and Safe Community Checklist - 5 minutes**

This last activity will be done independently by participants and is meant to dig a little deeper and touch upon the overlaps between all the different workshop topics today.

If there is time, the facilitator can jot down key discussion points from the activities to help summarize during this time.

## Safety Discussion and Transportation/Environment/Energy Discussions

### **Discussion 1: Safety – 25 minutes**

- Strengths and Challenges – 5 minutes  
Participants will generate a list of strengths and challenges they perceive around safety and what are the issues that make them feel unsafe in East Harlem. Facilitator will capture lists on chart paper.
- Safety as it relates to the Person – Discussions and Solution Brainstorm related to the following themes
  - Policing
    - What does a safe neighborhood look like to you?
    - What does community policing mean to you?
    - How can we foster better relationships with community and the NYPD?
    - Are there other enforcement issues that can be resolved without police involvement?
    - What does police accountability look like to you?
  - Youth Engagement
    - What are ways that we can develop youth leadership around safety?
    - How can youth play more of a civic leadership role in East Harlem?
  - Vulnerable Populations – mental health, domestic violence, seniors
    - How can we ensure that services are accessible to people that may be vulnerable?
    - How do we raise awareness about services that are offered?

### **Discussion 2: Transportation / Environment / Energy**

- Strengths and challenges around the natural and built Envrionments in East Harlem – 5 minutes  
Participants will generate a list of strengths and challenges they perceive around Transportation / Environment / Energy in East Harlem. Facilitator will capture lists on chart paper.
- Creating a more Equitable Built Environment – Discussion and Solution Brainstorm
  - What does community control of energy mean to you?
  - How can we improve Air Quality
  - How can we create a more resilient neighborhood
    - How should the waterfront be designed to be more accessible and as a way to protect the neighborhood?

Additional Questions to be added

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #6 – MAPPING ACTIVITY RESULTS

East Harlem Neighborhood Plan

Visioning Workshop 6

Health, Seniors, Safety, Transportation, Environment, and Energy

## Mapping Activity Results – Health & Seniors Summary

- Food Access
  - Affordability
    - Deli/bodegas expensive “never seen cheese \$ so high”
    - Residents travel to the Bronx to get food at the 141<sup>st</sup> St Western Beef
    - Need a supermarket, nothing in the area around Madison 125<sup>th</sup>-135<sup>th</sup>, stores are unaffordable
    - Need a supermarket on Madison near the Carver Houses
  - Accessibility
    - Farmers markets close for winter
    - Go to the Bronx for Fresh food
  - Diversity of choice/Reflection of Culture
    - Need more diverse food- cater to different cultures, groups, affordability
    - Stuck with corporations like Dunkin Donuts “becoming a starbucks community” – not healthy, pushes out local businesses/small stores, too many banks
  - Fresh Food
    - Promote more fresh food outside – no green carts
    - NORC [Franklin Plaza] had food box program but it stopped
  - Pathmark
    - Need to have a new big affordable supermarket
    - Replace pathmark site with a new supermarket
    - Bring Fresh food to the vacant Pathmark space or new space
- Seniors
  - Need more meeting places both indoors and outdoors
    - Seniors go to Target café to socialize – “Not enough places to go”
    - Seniors don’t have designated open space/ conflict with playgrounds
  - Need better access to health care
    - Providers overloaded, bot enough patience
    - Seniors “being taken advantage of”
  - Aging in Place
    - Need more access - Culture deteriorates if seniors are not part of community
    - Seniors are pillars
    - Need intergenerational programming with youth and seniors
    - Franklin Plaza Neighbors take care of eachother

- Senior Centers
  - Closing too often
  - Too spread out, need more sites
  - Need a senior center at East River Houses
  - Older East Harlem residents hang out at Community / Senior centers. Some centers have difficulty attracting different nationalities
- Places for LGBT Seniors are missing
- Mobility
  - Seniors use Access-A-Ride and they say it is flawed, poor service
- Seating
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave along the Washington Houses needs benches for seniors
  - fewer seating areas across NYCHA campuses
  - Franklin Plaza benches for seniors
  - Need more rest areas for seniors along 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave between 102<sup>nd</sup>-106<sup>th</sup>
- Healthcare Facilities
  - Emergency rooms are full of people
  - Local Hospitals don't take all insurances / Medicaid
  - Metropolitan hospital – only lgbt clinic in neighborhood, dialysis unit, geriatric, k2 emergencies
- Indoor Environmental Health Issues
  - Washington Houses
  - Jefferson
  - Wagner
  - East River

East Harlem Neighborhood Plan  
 Visioning Workshop 6  
 Health, Seniors, Safety, Transportation, Environment, and Energy

**Mapping Activity Results – TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND ENERGY SUMMARY**

**Connectivity**

- Access to East River Esplanade 135<sup>TH</sup> st - access to waterfront park not good, very difficult to get there
- - Better signage – wayfinding for footbridges
- Need better connections to museums
- Better Access to Randall's Island
- No East to West Green corridors
- Need more walkable connections to the Bronx

**Busses**

- Unreliability in the bus system, busses have inequity in services
- M1 is used by many seniors, maybe there could be a special bus for seniors?
- M15 and M103 are bad – bus frequency is poor, express out of service, local service is bad
- Limited bus shelters, need more benches at bus stops

**Subways and Second Ave Subway**

- Elevators, well lit, sidewalks need to be wider around entrances
- 2<sup>ND</sup> Ave Subway Should connect to the 125<sup>th</sup> and Park Metro-North station
- Subway construction air quality – we need to ensure there is protection of nearby residents
- Token booths are closed (no person) feels unsafe.

**Sanitation**

- Garbage and litter creates pest infestation
- There is one on Park Ave and 131<sup>st</sup> St that is serving CB10, this should be relocated to CB10 Proper
- Marcus Garvey Park need more trash bins
- Need bins on every corner
- Garbage bin location interval and pick-ups are interrupted by public housing campuses, need more regularly placed bins and pick-ups

**Bikes**

- Cause congestion – take away space for parking
- Bike riders would feel safer with more bike lanes
- Along 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave the bike lane isn't safe because of construction
- Protected bike lanes/turn lanes on 1<sup>st</sup> ave between 106<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> sts are good
- Seniors and Bikes can be in conflict
- Bikers don't respect rules and it is unsafe for pedestrian
- Bike lane would be nice along Lexington

**Waterfront / Esplanade**

- is beautiful but is disconnected, stops at 120<sup>th</sup>.
- Sea wall and green infrastructure need to be built

- Vulnerable to flooding
- Need for increased infrastructure and connectivity, especially along Harlem River between Lexington ave and 125<sup>th</sup> street
- Access points and bridges unsafe and dark
- Connection to park and access is challenging
- Unsafe
- Need more equity in decision making with greenway along east side
- Need more discussion around preparedness and resilience given the flood map
  - No evacuation center in east harlem

### **Pedestrian Safety, Sidewalks and Crossings**

- Important issue for seniors, need slope at corners and water drainage when it rains
- Dangerous Intersections
  - 106<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> is a dangerous intersection for seniors
  - 125<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and 102<sup>nd</sup> St
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave near Jefferson Houses
  - East River Plaza
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> ave is very difficult to cross for pedestrians / difficult to walk because of the subway construction
  - 106<sup>th</sup> st has too much traffic and it is unsafe for pedestrians
  - 125<sup>th</sup> St Bridge/Interchange
    - Safety issue, air quality issue
    - 125<sup>th</sup> St need lines/markings on the road for pedestrian safety coming off bridge at 2nd Ave
  - Schools / Crossing Guards
    - 114<sup>TH</sup> dangerous when school is in – students in big groups
    - 120<sup>th</sup> St and 1<sup>st</sup> ave school – need grossing guards
    - need more crossing guards on 120<sup>th</sup> Street near Pleasant Ave

### **Streets**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave is very wide, cars go very fast
- 96<sup>TH</sup> St and 106<sup>th</sup> St cross town traffic is always congested
- Lexington Ave
  - Heavy traffic in the morning
  - Lots of foot traffic because of the 4,5,6
  - Make Lexington and 3rd two way again for safety
- Park Ave Viaduct
  - Park Avenue has heavy traffic, Needs longer signals
  - Visual Barrier,
  - Barrier to safety and access to green spaces
  - Needs lighting along entire corridor

### **Traffic Safety and Sign Improvements**

- Area around Metropolitan Hospital, 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> A
- Road Improvements along FDR from Harlem River Drive to 105<sup>th</sup> St
- More traffic lights are needed

East Harlem Neighborhood Plan  
 Visioning Workshop 6  
 Health, Seniors, Safety, Transportation, Environment, and Energy

**Mapping Activity Results – SAFETY SUMMARY**

- Safety Concerns / Places that feel unsafe
  - Drug Use
    - K2/Drugs along Lexington at 125<sup>th</sup> St.
    - 103<sup>rd</sup> between Lexington and Park – lots of drug traffic
    - Marcus Garvey Park
  - Gang activity / Violent Crime
    - Gang activity at Wagner Houses
    - Fighting, shooting, drugs along Madison Ave near Lincoln Houses
    - Lexington and 110th
  - East River Houses
    - Feel Unsafe
    - Need more youth programming
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Ave
    - Safety issues, lack of human activity
    - Delinquency activities
  - 111<sup>th</sup> street between 5<sup>th</sup> and Park feels unsafe
  - Lexington Ave 105<sup>th</sup>-110<sup>th</sup> needs more NYPD presence
  - More school crossing guards are needed, seniors can benefit too
- Lighting
  - Park Ave Viaduct
    - More lighting along entire corridor
    - Visual Barrier
    - Barrier to safety and access to green spaces
  - Marcus Garvey Park
  - Thomas Jefferson Park very dark at night, unsafe
  - Wagner Houses
  - 125<sup>TH</sup> at Lexington and Park
  - Along 2nd Ave Corridor
  - Along 1<sup>st</sup> Ave between 116<sup>th</sup> and 120<sup>th</sup>
  - Lexington between 10<sup>th</sup> and Clinton Houses
  - Brighter lights needed in the neighborhood for seniors. They are afraid to come out at night
  - Brighter LEDs
- Open Spaces
  - Many Open spaces need repairs, better enforcement needed for smoking and drug activity
  - Bridges that access Waterfront Esplanade and Randalls Island are and dirty
- Policing
  - Police presence doesn't make young people of color feel safe

- Pedestrian Safety, Sidewalks and Crossings
  - Important issue for seniors, need slope at corners and water drainage when it rains
  - Scaffolding needs more lighting
  - Dangerous Intersections
    - Walkways on Park Ave are unsafe
    - 106<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> is a dangerous intersection for seniors
    - 125<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and 102<sup>nd</sup> St
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave near Jefferson Houses
    - East River Plaza
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> ave is very difficult to cross for pedestrians / difficult to walk because of the subway construction
    - 106<sup>th</sup> st has too much traffic and it is unsafe for pedestrians
    - 125<sup>th</sup> St Bridge/Interchange
      - Safety issue, air quality issue
    - Schools / Crossing Guards
      - 114<sup>TH</sup> dangerous when school is in – students in big groups
      - 120<sup>th</sup> St and 1<sup>st</sup> ave school– need grossing guards
      - need more crossing guards on 120<sup>th</sup> Street near Pleasant Ave
  - Carver Houses / Madison Ave, cracks, can't see at night
  - Seniors and Bikes can be in conflict
  - Bikers don't respect rules and it is unsafe for pedestrian

**East Harlem Neighborhood Plan**  
**Visioning Workshop 6**  
**Health, Seniors, Safety, Transportation, Environment, and Energy**

**Mapping Activity Results**

**Table 1:**

- Seniors
  - Seniors don't have designated open space/ conflict with playgrounds
- Unreliability in the bus system
- Garbage and litter creates pest infestation
- Emergency rooms are full of people
- Language isolation at the health facilities
- Lexington Ave between 120<sup>th</sup> and 125<sup>th</sup> are unsafe because drug dealing
- Safety
  - Bridges that access to randalls island is unsafe and dirty
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Ave
    - Safety issues, lack of human activity
    - Delinquency activities
- Pedestrian Safety
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> ave is very difficult to cross for pedestrians
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> ave is difficult to walk because of the subway construction
  - 106<sup>th</sup> st has too much traffic and it is unsafe for pedestrians
  - Bikers don't respect rules and it is unsafe for pedestrian
- Park Ave viaduct has safety issues –lack of lighting
- Open spaces need repairs, adult users smoke and there is drug dealing



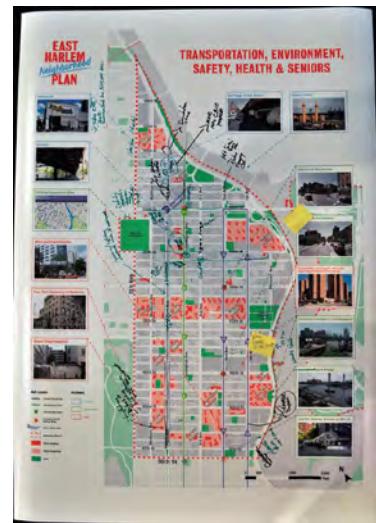
**Table 2:**

- 135<sup>th</sup> St and Madison Ave needs to be cleaned up
- 125<sup>th</sup> dangerous after drug problem
- Marcus Garvey Park is a good place for exercise – watch tower walking trail, swimming pool
- Carver Houses – problems with roofs – when it rains apartments get wet
- Problems with elevators, make it difficult for seniors
- Pedestrian Safety
- Problem that 111<sup>th</sup> Street ball fields and community gardens are going to be redeveloped
- Metropolitan hospital – only lgbt clinic in neighborhood, dialysis unit, geriatric, k2 emergencies
- Many people come to EH to shop at the Target
- Pedestrian Safety
  - 114<sup>th</sup> dangerous when school is in – students in big groups
  - East River Plaza needs a traffic study
  - 120<sup>th</sup> St and 1<sup>st</sup> ave school– need crossing guards
  - need more crossing guards on 120<sup>th</sup> Street near Pleasant Ave
  - Walkways on Park Ave are unsafe
  - Double parking on 116<sup>th</sup> street is a problem
  - Bikes and lanes along 1<sup>st</sup> ave Bike delivery problems
  - 
  -



**Table 3:**

- Park Ave between 97<sup>th</sup> and 106<sup>th</sup>
  - Need better lighting
  - Flooding
  - Not conducive to small business development
  
- Access-a-Ride won't come to 1<sup>st</sup> ave near Metropolitan Hospital
- Garbage Depots
  - There is one on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave near 100<sup>th</sup> St serving CB11.
  - There is one on Park Ave and 131<sup>st</sup> St that is serving CB10, this should be relocated to CB10 Proper
- Access to East River Esplanade
  - Better signage – wayfinding for footbridges
- Viaduct
  - Need lighting / Structure makes it problematic
- Marcus Garvey Park
  - Safety Concern
  - Homelessness/mental illness
  - Drugs

**Table 4:**

- Carver Houses has programs with Casita Maria, but they are exclusive - only for one ethnicity
- Viaduct
  - Park Avenue has heavy traffic
  - Unsafe
  - Needs lighting
  - Needs longer signals
- Lexington Ave
  - Heavy traffic in the morning
  - Bike lane would be nice along Lexington
  - Lots of foot traffic because of the 4,5,6
- Pathmark
  - Bring Fresh food to the vacant space or new space
- 135<sup>th</sup> st - access to waterfront park not good, very difficult to get there
- Bike Lanes
  - Cause congestion – take away space for parking
  - 1 person bikes would feel safer with more bike lanes
  - Along 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave the bike lane isn't safe because of construction
- Subways
  - Elevators, well lit, sidewalks need to be wider around entrances
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Subway
  - Subway construction air quality – we need to ensure there is protection of nearby residents
  - The subway will bring more people to East Harlem, may mean more congestion
- 96<sup>th</sup> St and 106<sup>th</sup> St cross town traffic is always congested
- Supermarket needs
  - Need a supermarket on Madison near the Carver Houses
- Community Gardens
  - Field of Dreams at the Taft Houses – need more places like this
- Busses
  - M1 is used by many seniors, maybe there could be a special bus for seniors?



- Seating
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave along the Washington Houses needs benches for seniors
  - fewer seating areas across NYCHA campuses
  - Franklin Plaza benches for seniors

**Table 5:**

- Transportation
  - Connectivity
    - Need better connections to museums
    - Walk to the Bronx
    - Better Access to Randall's Island
  - Traffic Safety and Sign Improvements
    - Area around Metropolitan Hospital, 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> A
    - Road Improvements along FDR from Harlem River Drive to 105<sup>th</sup> St
    - More traffic lights are needed
  - Pedestrian Safety
    - Unsafe Intersection at 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and 102<sup>nd</sup> St
    - Seniors and Bikes can be in conflict
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Subway
    - Connect SAS and 4,5,6, to the Metro-North station
- Safety
  - Police presence doesn't make young people of color feel safe
  - Lighting
    - Improvements needed along the viaduct
    - La Marqueta
    - 125<sup>th</sup> St
- Seating
  - Need more rest areas for seniors along 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave between 102<sup>nd</sup>-106<sup>th</sup>
- Waterfront
  - Unsafe for people with disabilities, especially visually impaired
  - Area between Lexington and 125<sup>th</sup> St needs to be connected to East River Esplanade and Harlem River Park.
  - Pedestrian and Biking Improvements
  - Harlem River Park needs better and more recreational activities
- Food Access
  - Residents travel to the Bronx to get food at the 141<sup>st</sup> St Western Beef
  - Fresh Food box program at 110<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Green Market near Washington Houses

**Table 6:**

- Safety
  - Drug Use
    - K2/Drugs along Lexington at 125<sup>th</sup> St.
    - 103<sup>rd</sup> between Lexington and Park – lots of drug traffic
  - Park Ave Viaduct
    - More lighting along entire corridor
    - Visual Barrier
    - Barrier to safety and access to green spaces
- Transportation
  - Traffic
    - 116<sup>th</sup> St – huge vehicles, cabs



- Busses
  - Local bus very slow
- Pedestrian Safety
  - 125<sup>th</sup> St Bridge/Interchange
    - Safety issue, air quality issue
- 116<sup>TH</sup> and Lexington Snow – dangerous floods
- Garbage
  - Wagner Houses
  - Thomas Jefferson Park
- Thomas Jefferson Park
  - Great Park, senior Swimming facilities, Dogs
  - Very dark at night, unsafe
- Marcus Garvey Park
  - Promotion of services and amenities are needed
- Seniors
  - Franklin Plaza Neighbors take care of eachother

**Table 7:**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| □ Safety                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 111<sup>th</sup> street between 5<sup>th</sup> and Park feels unsafe</li> <li>○ Lighting           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Wagner Houses</li> <li>■ 125<sup>TH</sup> at Lexington and Park</li> <li>■ Along 2nd Ave Corridor</li> <li>■ Along 1<sup>st</sup> Ave between 116<sup>th</sup> and 120<sup>th</sup></li> <li>■ Lexington between 10<sup>th</sup> and Clinton Houses</li> <li>■ Marcus Garvey Park</li> <li>■ Brighter lights needed in the neighborhood for seniors.</li> <li>They are afraid to come out at night</li> <li>■ Brighter LEDs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| □ Sidewalks             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Carver Houses / Madison Ave, cracks, can't see at night</li> <li>○ 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave near Jefferson Houses</li> </ul>   |
| □ 125 <sup>TH</sup> St  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ City and State need to coordinate for plaza stairs construction</li> </ul>   |
| □ Second Ave Subway     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Should connect to the 125<sup>th</sup> and Park Metro-North station</li> </ul>   |
| □ Seniors               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Older East Harlem residents hang out at Community / Senior centers. Some centers have difficulty attracting different nationalities</li> <li>○ Seniors use Access-A-Ride and they say it is flawed, poor service</li> </ul>  |
| □ Health                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local Hospitals don't take all insurances / Medicaid</li> </ul>  |
| □ Transportation        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ½ fare for families with kids. Parents keep kids in neighborhood, can't afford to expand their horizons</li> </ul>   |
| □ Connectivity          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need more walkable connections to the Bronx</li> </ul>   |
| □ Thomas Jefferson Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recreation Ctr needs better equipment</li> <li>○ Adult jungle gym is great, need more places like this</li> </ul>  |
| □ Supermarkets          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In general food is pretty good, but vegetables could be better</li> </ul>  |



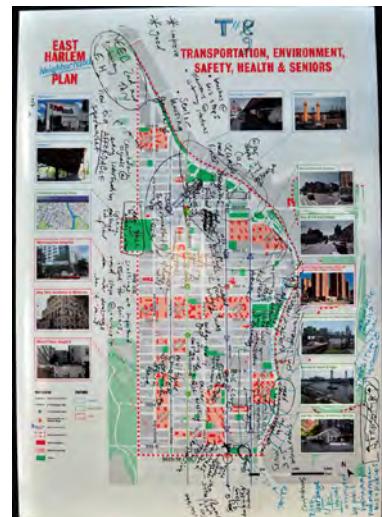
**Table 8:**

- Food Access
  - Deli/bodegas expensive “never seen cheese \$ so high”
  - Stuck with corporations like Dunkin Donuts “becoming a starbucks community” – not healthy, pushes out local businesses/small stores, too many banks
  - Farmers markets close for winter
  - Need more diverse food- cater to different cultures, groups, affordability
  - Promote more fresh food outside – no green carts
  - Go to the Bronx for Fresh food
  - Need a supermarket, nothing in the area around Madison 125<sup>th</sup>-135<sup>th</sup>, stores are unaffordable
  - Go to Costco / east river plaza for fresh food
  - NORC [Franklin Plaza] had food box program but it stopped
- Safety
  - Speed tracker/meter that can see
  - More info on pedestrian crossings / right of way
  - More school crossing guards are needed, seniors can benefit too
  - Lexington Ave 105<sup>th</sup>-110<sup>th</sup> needs more NYPD presence
- Seniors
  - Need more meeting places both indoors and outdoors
    - Seniors go to Target café to socialize – “Not enough places to go”
  - Need better access to health care
    - Providers overloaded, but enough patience
    - Seniors “being taken advantage of”
  - Aging in Place
    - Need more access - Culture deteriorates if seniors are not part of community
    - Seniors are pillars
    - Need intergenerational programming with youth and seniors
  - Senior Centers
    - Closing too often
    - Too spread out, need more sites
- Promote health
  - More Tree plantings
- Mental Health
- East River Houses
  - Unsafe “wild wild west”
  - Need more youth programming
- Pedestrian Safety
  - Park Ave corridor needs lighting
  - Scaffolding needs more lighting
  - Need cameras above lights
  - Dangerous Intersections
    - 106<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> is a dangerous intersection for seniors
    - 125<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Table 9:**

- Supermarket
  - Need to have a new big affordable supermarket
  - Replace pathmark site with a new supermarket

- Benches at bus stops and
- Elevators at subway stations
- Sidewalks and Crossings
  - o Important issue for seniors, need slope at corners and water drainage when it rains
- Trash
  - o Marcus Garvey Park need more trash bins
  - o Need bins on every corner
  - o Garbage bin location interval and pick-ups are interrupted by public housing campuses, need more regularly placed bins and pick-ups
- Avenues
  - o Make Lexington and 3rd two way again for safety
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave is very wide, cars go very fast
- Farmers markets are too expensive
- 125<sup>th</sup> St need lines/markings on the road for pedestrian safety coming off bridge at 2nd Ave
- Esplanade
  - o is beautiful but is disconnected, stops at 120<sup>th</sup>.
  - o Sea wall and green infrastructure need to be built
- Seniors
  - o Need a senior center at East River Houses
- Bikes
  - o protected bike lanes/turn lanes on 1<sup>st</sup> ave between 106<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> sts are good

**Table 10:**

- Seniors
  - o Places for LGBT Seniors are missing
- Sidewalks
  - o Curb Cuts, potholes very unsafe for wheel chairs and mobility impaired
- Busses
  - o Limited bus shelters
  - o Busses are late and unreliable
- Access-a-Ride is bad
- Safety
- Viaduct
  - o Needs lighting, tunnels need lighting on all of Park Ave
  - o Desolate, no activity between 125<sup>th</sup> St and 132<sup>nd</sup> St.
- Gang activity / Violent Crime
  - o Gang activity at Wagner Houses
  - o Fighting, shooting, drugs along Madison Ave near Lincoln Houses
  - o Lexington and 110th
- Lighting
  - o Marcus Garvey pARK
- 125<sup>th</sup> St and Park Ave – Opportunity for farmers market
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Subway
  - o Construction is a concern both for safety and displacement



**Table 13**

- Senior hangout Spots
- Entire Neighborhood has IE and HQ issues
- Housing Quality
  - Washington Houses
  - Lincoln
  - Wagner
- Indoor Environmental Health Issues
  - Washington Houses
  - Jefferson
  - Wagner
  - East River
- No East to West Green corridors
- Promote health through recreation in parks
- Viaduct – needs more lighting along entire corridor
- Subway
  - Token booths are closed (no person) feels unsafe. Also shuttered
- Busses
  - M15 and M103 are bad – bus frequency is poor, express out of service, local service is bad
  - Busses have inequity in services
- Waterfront
  - Vulnerable to flooding
  - Need for increased infrastructure and connectivity, especially along Harlem River between Lexington ave and 125<sup>th</sup> street
  - Access points and bridges unsafe and dark
  - Connection to park and access is challenging
  - Unsafe
  - Need more equity in decision making with greenway along east side
  - Need more discussion around preparedness and resilience given the flood map
    - No evacuation center in east harlem
- No lack of facilities but lack of access to services



# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #6 – SURVEY



## HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITY CHECKLIST

**1. My number one health concern – for me or my family members – is:**

- Safety – violence/crime
- Obesity or diabetes
- Asthma
- Mental health

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**2. I want more options to help me get outside and be more active. Let's work toward more:**

- Sidewalks
- Bike Lanes
- Parks/playgrounds
- Safe streets

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**3. I want to have healthier and more affordable food choices. Let's work toward more:**

- Full-service grocery stores
- Healthy food choices in bodegas
- Community gardens
- Farmers' markets
- Fewer liquor/fast food stores

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**4. I want to get around in my community more easily. Let's work toward more:**

- Better access to public transportation
- Safer streets – traffic
- Safer streets – violence/crime
- Bike lanes

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Relationships and social connections are important for a healthy life. How would you describe your relationship with your neighbors?**

- I know everyone in my neighborhood really well – my neighbors, store owners, sanitation workers, etc.
- I know one or two of my neighbors really well
- I am friendly with people in my building
- I don't know anyone in my building

**6. In my community, I:**

- Feel safe at all times
- Only feel safe during the day
- Never feel safe



**7. I want to feel safer in my community. Let's work toward more:**

- More and better street lighting
- Well-marked crosswalks and bike lanes
- Reduced vehicle speeding on residential streets
- Cleaner and safer parks and playgrounds
- More "eyes on the street" day and night
- More police presence
- Less police presence

**8. I want my community to be a good place for all people to live regardless of age, abilities, or income. Let's work toward more:**

- Housing for all income levels and types of households
- Stores and services for all income levels
- Easy for people to get around regardless of age or abilities
- Affordable opportunities for arts and culture

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**9. I want to live in a clean and resilient environment. Let's work toward more:**

- Less truck traffic
- Reduced noise pollution
- Less trash
- Reduced flooding after rain
- Disaster preparedness in the event of an emergency

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. I want improved access to health care and services for all. Let's work toward more:**

- Outreach and education to the underserved and marginalized
- Promoting comprehensive approaches
- Translation services
- Healthcare options in addition to the hospital emergency room

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Survey adapted from CDC Healthy Communities Checklist

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #6 - SURVEY RESULTS

zadea650@newschool.edu ▾

[Edit this form](#)

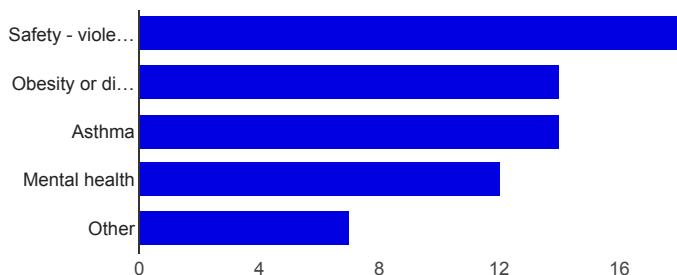
## 40 responses

[View all responses](#)


---

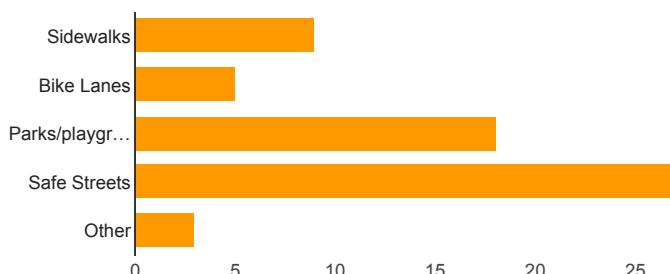
### Summary

#### 1.) My Number One Health Concern - for me or for my family members



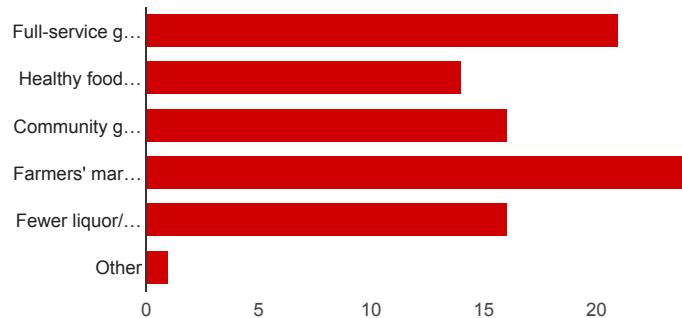
Safety - violence/crime	<b>18</b>	45%
Obesity or diabetes	<b>14</b>	35%
Asthma	<b>14</b>	35%
Mental health	<b>12</b>	30%
Other	<b>7</b>	17.5%

#### 2.) I want more options to help me get outside and be more active. Let's work toward more:



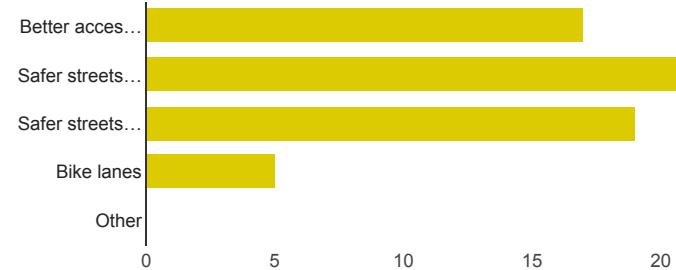
Sidewalks	<b>9</b>	22.5%
Bike Lanes	<b>5</b>	12.5%
Parks/playgr...	<b>18</b>	45%
Safe Streets	<b>27</b>	67.5%
Other	<b>3</b>	7.5%

**3.) I want to have healthier and more affordable food choices. Let's work toward more:**



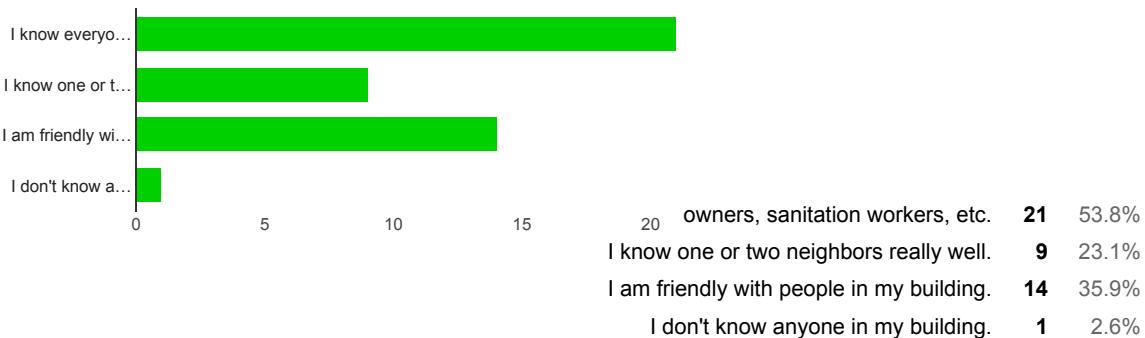
Full-service grocery stores	<b>21</b>	53.8%
Healthy food choices and bodegas	<b>14</b>	35.9%
Community gardens	<b>16</b>	41%
Farmers' markets	<b>24</b>	61.5%
Fewer liquor/fast food stores	<b>16</b>	41%
Other	<b>1</b>	2.6%

**4.) I want to get around my community more easily. Let's work toward more:**

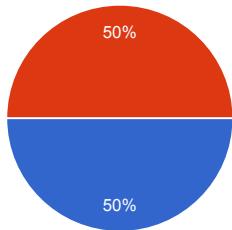


Better access to public transportation	<b>17</b>	42.5%
Safer streets - traffic	<b>21</b>	52.5%
Safer streets - violence/crime	<b>19</b>	47.5%
Bike lanes	<b>5</b>	12.5%
Other	<b>0</b>	0%

**5.) Relationships and social connections are important for a healthy life. How would you describe your relationship with your neighbors?**

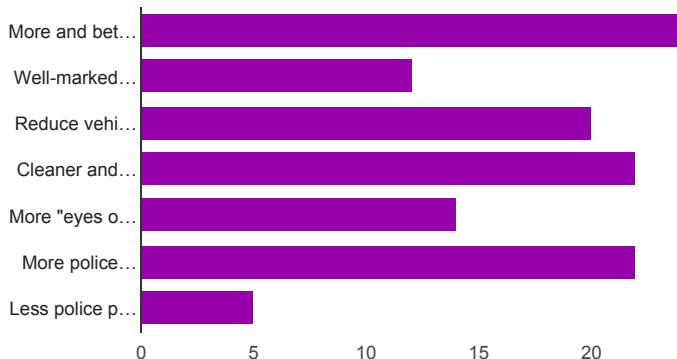


#### 6.) In my community, I:



Feel safe at all times.	<b>20</b>	50%
Only feel safe during the day.	<b>20</b>	50%
Never feel safe.	<b>0</b>	0%

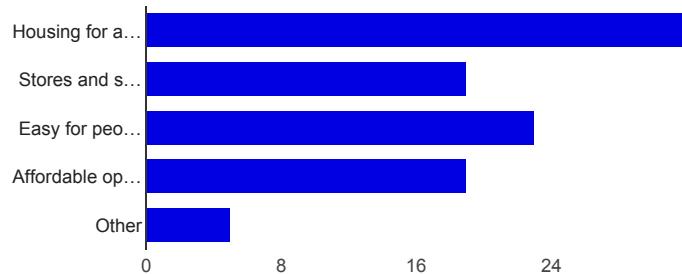
#### 7.) I want to feel safer in my community. Let's work toward more:



More and better street lighting.	<b>24</b>	61.5%
Well-marked crosswalks and bike lanes.	<b>12</b>	30.8%
Reduce vehicle speeding on residential streets	<b>20</b>	51.3%
Cleaner and safer parks and playgrounds.	<b>22</b>	56.4%

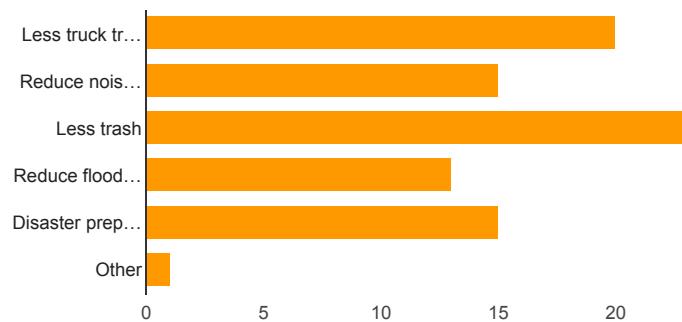
More "eyes on the street" day and night	<b>14</b>	35.9%
More police presence	<b>22</b>	56.4%
Less police presence	<b>5</b>	12.8%

**8.) I want my community to be a good place for all people to live regardless of age, abilities, or income. Let's work toward more:**



Housing for all income levels and household types	<b>32</b>	80%
Stores and services for all income levels	<b>19</b>	47.5%
Easy for people to get around regardless age or abilities	<b>23</b>	57.5%
Affordable opportunities for arts and culture	<b>19</b>	47.5%
Other	<b>5</b>	12.5%

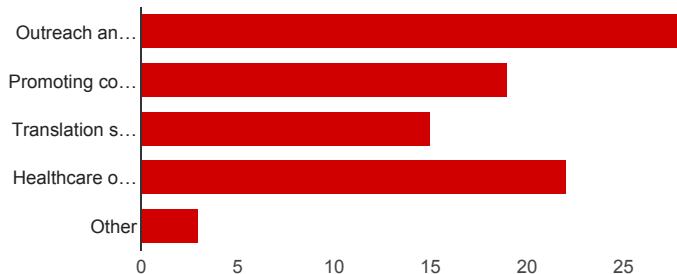
**9.) I want to live in a clean and resilient environment. Let's work toward more:**



Less truck traffic	<b>20</b>	50%
Reduce noise pollution	<b>15</b>	37.5%
Less trash	<b>23</b>	57.5%
Reduce flooding after rain	<b>13</b>	32.5%
Disaster preparedness in the event of an emergency	<b>15</b>	37.5%
Other	<b>1</b>	2.5%

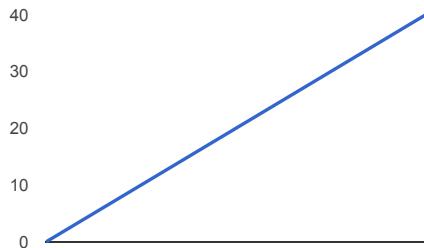
**10.) I want improved access to health care and services for all. Let's work toward**

**more:**



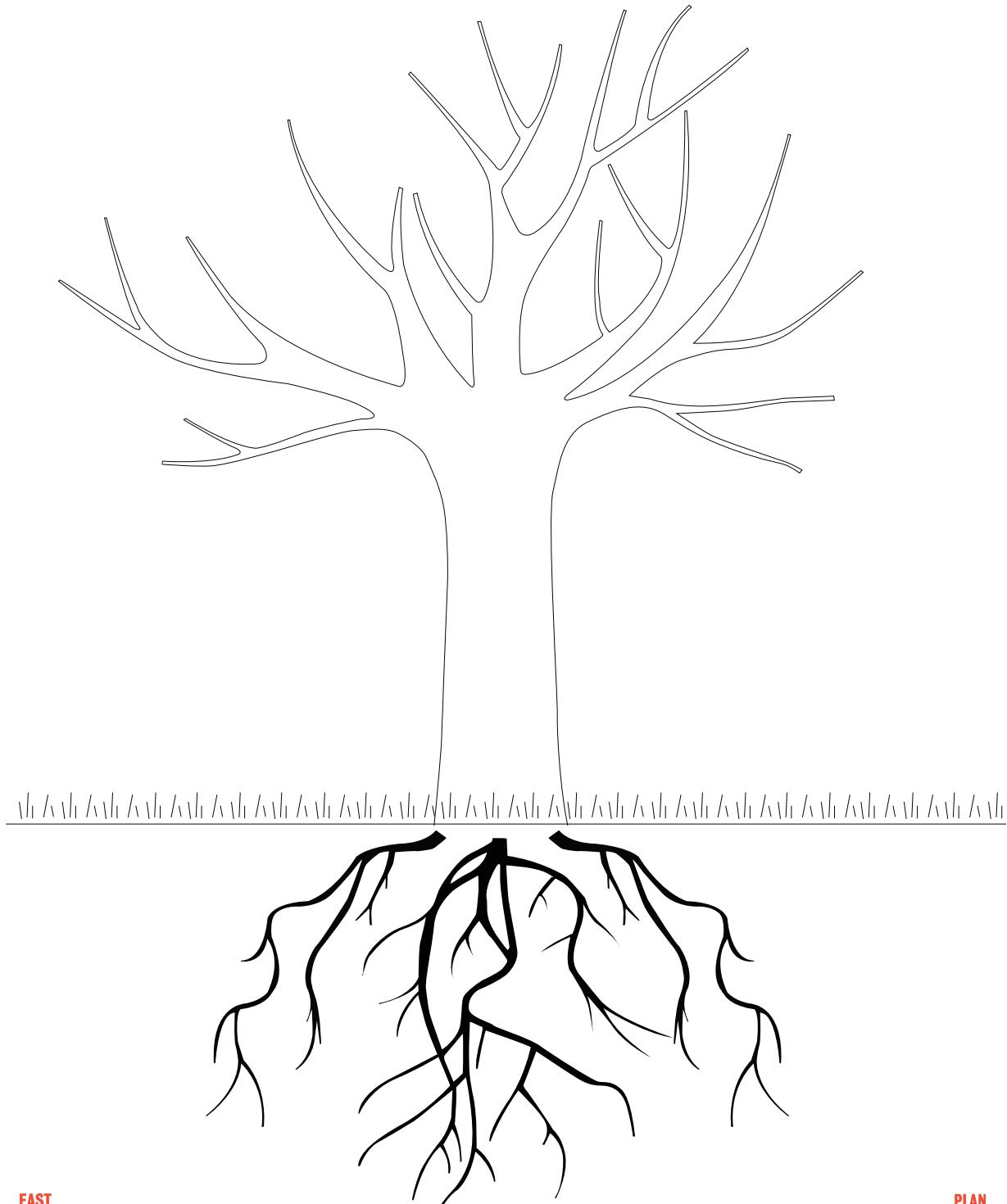
Outreach and education to the underserved and marginalized	<b>28</b>	71.8%
Promoting comprehensive approaches	<b>19</b>	48.7%
Translation services	<b>15</b>	38.5%
Healthcare options in addition to the hospital emergency room	<b>22</b>	56.4%
Other	<b>3</b>	7.7%

## Number of daily responses



# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #6 – HEALTH TREE ACTIVITY

## EAST HARLEM TREE OF HEALTH

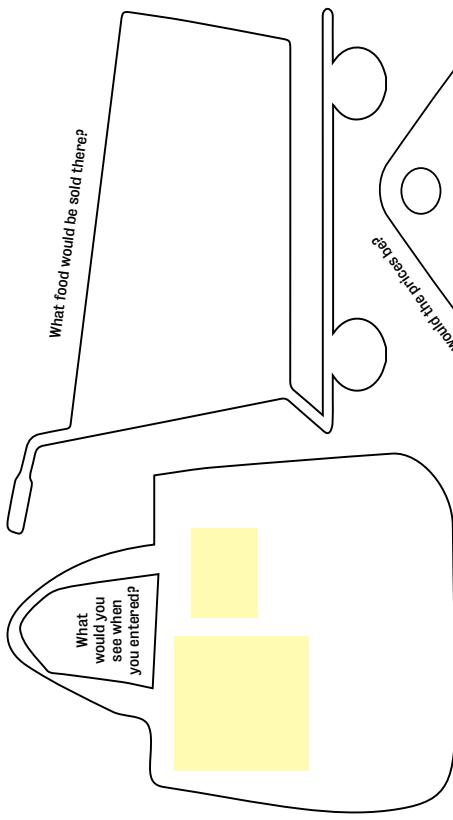


# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #6 - DESIGN ACTIVITY

PLAN  
Comunitario  
PARA  
EL BARRO

## DESIGN YOUR HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD

### 1. DESIGN YOUR SUPERMARKET

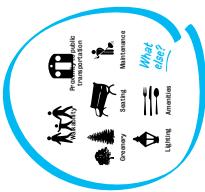


Who would work there, and what would they be paid?

HELLO, My name is _____	WHAT ELSE?
----------------------------	------------

### 2. DESIGN YOUR TOWN SQUARE

A. What is most important to you in a healthy public space?



B. How can it serve all the different populations in the community?

C. What are the activities that would bring you there?

FOOD	FAMILIAR LOCAL BUSINESSES

SHOPPING

ARTS & CULTURE

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT ELSE?

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #6 – NOTES SUMMARY

**EHNP Nov 21 Visioning Workshop – Environment, Transportation, Safety, Health, Seniors**

## Summary

Strengths:

- More benches for seniors have been added
- 110th & Lex / 3rd - asthma center
- 120th/1st Ave – Intersection of Puerto Rican/Hispanic elderly (5 senior centers)
- Some community gardens exist
- Opportunities for health promotion at local institutions (churches, senior centers, schools, health centers)
- Good parks for recreational use
- Historical and cultural identity (3)
  - o Museo del Barrio
  - o Museum Mile - art programs
- La Marqueta - music, gathering, health, seniors, free
- Unity
- Cultural diversity
- Good CB representation
- NYCHA - multi-income community
- Opportunities to preserve public housing
- Family health center
- Better access to healthy food
  - o Better choices at stores
  - o Farmer's market
  - o Vegetable and fruit cart
- Increased awareness of nutrition
- Senior activism
- Seniors have culture, history and knowledge to share with rest of community
- Beat cops' improved connections to community & MBPO/DA forums with NYPD and community
- Johnson Houses community policing program is good, police presence helpful
- Close relationships, neighbors and families live here, lots of cultures mixing

Challenges:

- Seniors
  - o High costs for medications, food
  - o Lack of services:
    - For LGBTQ seniors
    - Elder abuse / domestic abuse
    - Lack of services/gathering spaces for seniors (2)
    - Senior services need to go to their homes
  - o Include senior units in mixed MIZ buildings
  - o Need to maintain units for seniors even after a senior vacates

- Senior isolation from residents
- Health
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Need more physical activity opportunities, year-round, free or low cost
- Safety
  - Bike lanes: design mistakes, elderly population have been hit
- Transportation
  - Difficulty crossing:
    - 120th St
    - 125th St.
    - All Aves
  - Elders need buses from senior centers to grocery stores
  - Buying in bulk at places like Pathmark allowed families and seniors to buy in bulk and avoid many trips to the store
- Lack of awareness / advertising for senior and health services is low, not enough outreach (3)
  - Use mailers, flyers, post in buildings
- Youth
  - Lack of funding for youth activities
  - Lack of jobs and local skills training for youth
  - Need more physical activity opportunities, year-round, free or low cost
- Health, general
  - Asthma rates and connection to a lot of traffic (2)
  - Imbalance / inequity in accessing health services
  - Fast food, candy, beverages still rampant
  - Population is very dense
  - Need adequate mental health services
  - Housing quality issues
  - Indoor environmental health, poorly maintained buildings (2)
  - Food access / choices
- Park Ave. corridor
- Consolidate garbage depot (3) - move away from residential areas, bad smell
- Hospital access
  - Hard to access Metropolitan Hospital due to 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave construction
  - N of 125th Harlem Hospital access
  - S of 125th Borenqueen health center
  - 117th St Settlement Health
  - Limited health access btw Mt. Sinai and Metropolitan
  - Safe pedestrian access to medical centers for seniors, parents, kids
- Drug use (3)
  - Youths
  - Dealers on the street
- Concentration of rehab centers, homelessness and mental health at 125th St.
- Apathy
- Access to parks (Harlem River Park, Randall's Island)
- Not enough green spaces, and green spaces not evenly distributed

- Mental health and treating underlying conditions - substance abuse, homeless with mental health problems
- NYCHA (2)
  - o Needs security equipment installed
  - o Needs basic maintenance of staircases with lighting
  - o Increase foot patrol
  - o Community outreach is low (2)
    - Need to have cops attend TA meetings
  - o Train all staff to handle security issues
  - o Method to report anonymously
  - o NYCHA housing police used to be on site, used to have tenant patrols, used to have sign-ins
- More education and training needed around rights
- Lack of awareness and access to institutions
- Access, safety, and lighting in waterfront parks
- Access, safety, and lighting needed in places used for bike and pedestrian access to parks on Randall's Island
- Emergency preparedness (flooding, evacuation center, community resilience)
- Police issues:
  - o Community policing is needed. Community policing needs
    - More even distribution
    - Coordination between community meeting and officers
  - o Community is over-policed
  - o Funding has been cut for outreach programs
  - o Police treats youth poorly
  - o Cops' attitudes should be better (2)
  - o More police on street - foot patrol needed (4+)
  - o Probation system quality in question
  - o Police need to know their community members by name and have a positive presence (4+)
  - o Local hiring of policy, like construction
  - o Reallocate policy funding for youth programs instead of more police presence (same with homelessness)
  - o Police sometimes not willing to help residents who are undocumented / civil liberties not enforced by police in these situations
- Gale Brewer safety report has good recommendations
- Safety of delivery workers
- Don't rely on websites on internet for outreach
  - o Use physical signage where people are: grocery stores, hospitals, CBOs, schools, clinics, libraries, churches, supermarkets, asthma centers
  - o Need translation services - CB has no translation services
  - o In-person outreach is needed
  - o Intergenerational outreach is needed
- Violent crime:
  - o Gun violence/shooting (2)
  - o Not in the news, media attention low
  - o Gang violence (4+)

- Domestic violence
- Robbery on the street
- Juvenile crime outside of school
- 
- Viaduct
  - Lighting along
  - Icicles in winter, flooding due to rain
  - 132nd to 125th - no street lighting
  - 125th to 108th - no lighting at night
  - Public safety crossing street
  - Mostly residential, not many businesses
- 120th btw 5th (or 1st?) - 4 schools, safety for school children
- Marcus Garvey Park - homeless, drug use
- Older adult street crossing difficult
  - 120th St
  - 125th St.
  - All Aves
- Concentration of rehab centers, homelessness and mental health at 125th St.

# COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP #6 – NOTES

**EHNP Nov 21 Visioning Workshop – Environment, Transportation, Safety, Health, Seniors**

**Note taker:** Moises

**Facilitator Name:** Yakima

**Table number:** 1

**Participants:** 5

## Table Participants

### First name / Relationship to EH / Excited about

1. Esperanza / Bronx / children go to school in EH
2. Joanna / living in EH for over 10 years / likes the transportation and accessibility; parks for the kids
3. Ofelia / living in EH for over 10 years /
4. Araceli / lives and works in EH / likes to stay informed about developments

## Mapping Activity

### Safety

- 1<sup>st</sup> avenue is unsafe (100<sup>th</sup>-125<sup>th</sup> and 119<sup>th</sup>-126<sup>th</sup>)
  - o traffic accidents
  - o not enough regulation
- Lexington avenue is unsafe – homeless people and drug dealers
- 125<sup>th</sup> street and 1<sup>st</sup> avenue – cop killed recently; there are shootouts there; lots of gang violence
- lack of lighting on Park avenue – especially dangerous between 1-2 am
- construction sites make sidewalks unwalkable and unsafe for pedestrians – especially from 96<sup>th</sup> to 102<sup>nd</sup>
- dangerous intersections (cars turn and don't yield for pedestrians):
  - o 110<sup>th</sup> st and 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue
  - o 106<sup>th</sup> st and 1<sup>st</sup> avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue

### Health and Seniors

- Litter – trash taken out by schools bring vermon
- Need more clinics and doctors / participant went to doctor at 9pm and didn't get out until 1pm
- Need more Spanish translation at health facilities
- Design, housing, and open space for seniors is sometimes in conflict with playgrounds

## Transportation, Environment, and Energy

- There should be another bridge to Randall's Island
- Are facilities really accessible? The majority of times they are
- Is transportation easy in EH?
  - o Transportation is accessible to extremities between train stations and bus routes for elderly and disabled
  - o Bus drivers must stop, have sensitivity to bus routes, train them or discipline – they drive people too often.
  - o It is difficult to make connections between public transportation lines
  - o There should be more electronic notifications of when transit is coming
  - o No more bike lanes
  - o Express bus route on 109<sup>th</sup> street.

## Safety

### Strengths and Challenges

Challenges:

- Police do not ask for ID
- Lack of following police procedures
- Police brutality
- 108<sup>th</sup> street and 1<sup>st</sup> avenue

## Crime

- older folk or youth have been robbed at gun-point and with other weapons by younger people.

## Policing

- racist police – don't help, they just want to take reports and discriminate based on language
- not reliable

## Youth Engagement

- the parks exist but their conditions are poor – they should be made better
- misguided youth smoke at the park and the homeless live there
- there should be civic engagement classes in the schools
- there should be a campaign to inform youth about the risks of drugs

## Vulnerable Populations

- not enough public spaces for the elderly
- lack of transportation for the disabled

- not enough engagement and outreach
- not enough services for domestic violence and information for immigration services and how to develop their lives in the city

### **Transportation, Environment, Energy**

- subway system is very connected
- information services challenges

### **Community Control of Energy**

- need more funding to provide community energy

### **Air Quality**

- air is bad and contaminated

### **Other Notes / Overall summary of the conversation:**

- Need more enforcement of laws to protect pedestrians from traffic and bikes
- More vigilance - clean up streets, drug addicts, crime between juveniles
- Better community, police relations – police must follow procedures and respect civil liberties
- Create clinics and provide more Spanish translations at doctors'
- Need another bridge to Randall's Island
- People need to be better informed of their civil rights and liberties
- Drug dealing – Lexington & 125<sup>th</sup> street
- Juvenile crime
- Police – community relations – civil liberties violated by certain police

### **Questions that came up:**

- How do immigrant information services actually reach the intended group? If not, establish these means.

**Note taker:** Bo

**Facilitator Name:** Anze

**Table number:** 2

**Participants:** 5

## Table Participants

### First name / Relationship to EH / Excited about

Les / CVH member

Millie / CVH member and EH resident

Jeam / EH resident / fixing apartment

Robin / live and work in EH; CB11member

Frances / lives and owns home in EH; CB11 member / community gardens and community board

## Mapping Activity

### Safety

- 125<sup>th</sup> and Park Ave – drug problem
- 116<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave; 120<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave – teenagers, bicycles, running, double/triple parking
- 114<sup>th</sup> and Park Ave – dark walkways; dangerous
- 120<sup>th</sup>, Paradino, Wagner Houses – dangerous, poor lighting

### Health and Seniors

- 120<sup>th</sup> and 1str Ave – school kids running, bicycles
- 114<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave – school kids
- Lincoln Houses – needs to be cleaned up; dog waste
- Mount Sinai for health care – Madison and 100<sup>th</sup>
- Park and Lexington Ave community (111<sup>th</sup> and 112<sup>th</sup>) – fresh fruits, love Marcus Garvey Park, community gardens, watchtower

### Transportation, Environment, and Energy

- Pleasant Ave and 117<sup>th</sup> – trucks, dangerous, need a transportation study
- Marcus Garvey Garden for walking
- Jefferson Park
- Walk as main transportation
- M1 bus is the worst
- Need regular swimming hours at Jefferson Park
- Walk to Central Park – recreation
- No more bike lanes! People get knocked over by cyclists

## Health and Seniors Activities

### Strengths and Challenges

- Parking, street parking is an issue
- Accessibility is an issue. Especially for the visually -impaired
- Need better public transportation
- NYCHA – poor management (call to report something and no one comes)
- NYCHA buildings are below standard for health
- Difficult for people to get to the doctors
- Politicians – nepotism

### Tree of Health

- Accidents
- Safety
- Asthma
- Traffic is a health problem
- Lack of jobs
- Isolated seniors > community gardens > communication
- Depression
- Mental health
- Drug abuse
- Financial instability

### Design your Healthy Neighborhood Supermarket

- Health food section
- Non-meat/vegan section
- Locally-grown food
- Green market vendors
  
- Hire locally and pay \$13-15 per hour
- Buy local
- EH market prices

### Town Square

- Garden for the community
- Movie theater
- Historical info on neighborhood
- More activities in parks
- Place for dogs

- Intergenerational activities
- Activities everyone is welcome to

**Note taker: Heming**

**Facilitator Name: Bailey**

**Table Number: #3**

**# of Participants: 8**

### **Table Participants**

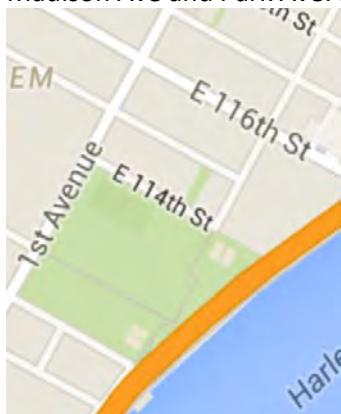
#### **First Name/ Relationship to EH/ Excited About**

1. Magda Work in EH
2. Theresa Live in EH
3. Euline Live and work in EH
4. Frances Live in EH
5. Johmmy Community board member
6. Avrash
7. Bailey Work in EH (Facilitator)
8. Heming Note taker

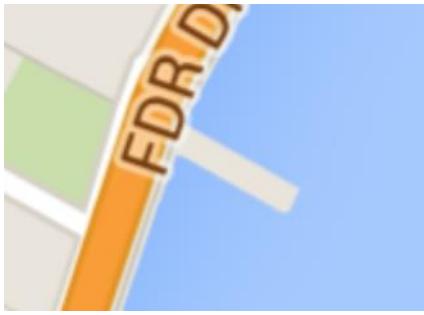
### **Mapping Activity**

#### **Safety**

1. Viaduct: a lot of garbage, unsafe
2. Madison Ave and Park Ave: lacking light, dark, unsafe



3. From 116<sup>th</sup> St to E 114 St is dangerous(dark, rats)
4. 2 Ave(whole): dangerous, transportation problem, construction problem  
some part of the sidewalk is too narrow



5. Private developer occupied this area, which should be open to public



6. this area (1<sup>st</sup> ave) seems like abandoned, it's bad for people who live round this place.
7. The whole east side of EH should be developed like the west side.

### **Health and Senior**

1. Expand farmers' market, and make it affordable for small businesses (The cost is too expensive now). And more supermarkets/ food markets are needed at north part of EH.
2. Need more café to gather people
3. Hard to get appointment in hospital. There are some language problem in hospital. Need more community health clinics, especially for seniors.
4. If Spanish senior have any problem, they will come to library. In library's office there is someone could speak Spanish. (language problem)
5. Seniors with wheelchair can't access to hospital. Expand the accessibility (MTA).
6. Need doctors go to people's home. The service should be more flexible. Need more home medicine service.
7. Not enough clinic for mental health
8. Need more place for people to get health/ nutrition information. Need more senior centers. Guarantee senior's accessibility to health clinics/senior centers. Need more workshop for nutrition information.
9. Black people's health rights be ignored, so they have to stay at home.
10. Senior centers' service or strategy is too old. They need to update!
11. Make all health centers comfortable; make all people satisfied.
12. Park Ave is lacking medicine clinics

13. 102st Madison Ave, there was a supermarket, but was taken now. Madison Ave have no supermarket now.

### **Transportation, Environment and Energy**

1. Need more bus shelters and benches.
2. Many barriers on the streets. Like construction/ cleaning activities. Sidewalk is unsafe. People have to make the detour.
3. 102st Madison Ave, there was a supermarket, but was taken now. Madison Ave have no supermarket now.
4. facilitation for people travel from east to west/ west to east.
5. expand bus service in weekend and late night.
6. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave's bus service is horrible, and buses are less than Park Ave's
7. If transportation condition is getting better in the future, how to avoid negative effort in EH neighborhood? How to anti gentrification?
8. How to guarantee there is more affordable housing? And affordable housing is not completely equal to low-income housing. We should depend more on CLT, community owned land/building. And create more business opportunity.
9. Need more food store. Support small food business.

### **Health & seniors activities**

- A lot of seniors like to gather in Thomas Jefferson Park.  
**(other topic didn't discuss)**

### **Safety**

#### **Challenges**

People don't want to be  
Abandoned/ empty space is dangerous;  
Isolation from friends and family.

#### **Crime:**

Gun violence! (need to be clear the gun violence from police or public)

What safe neighborhood look like?

- people could open their doors or windows.
- People know each other very well. Familiar with each other.
- Good social condition
- Lighting

### **Policing**

1. Police should familiar with residents and community members.
2. They should site their office in community.

Ebergy

Need to build more micro-grids. Energy will be spent a lot from north part going down. Create energy network (micro-grids and public housing), like schools and hospital could share energy with neighborhood. Need rezoning to design. Reduce air pollution.

**Note taker:** Fernando

**Facilitator Name:** Judy

**Table number:** 4

**Participants:** 9

### **Table Participants**

#### **First name / Relationship to EH / Excited about**

1. Paul / Works at NYU Medical Center / the people
2. Louis / Born and raised in EH / loves the community
3. Pauline / lives in EH / likes the community
4. Christine / worked in EH for 12 years; in school / families
5. Lisa / lived in EH for 30 years / people
6. Pearl / raised in EH / there's no place like EH
7. Barbara / lifelong resident of EH / interested in what goes on here

### **Mapping Activity**

## Safety

- Access to parks on the shore
- Northern Park Ave = desert
- Park Ave train viaduct needs lighting and is unsafe
- Lexington and 116<sup>th</sup> street is unsafe
- 106<sup>th</sup> and viaduct > winter icicles
- 125<sup>th</sup> and Lexington has traffic issues
- 106<sup>th</sup> and Lexington has traffic issues
- 116<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue has traffic issues
- Lincoln Houses has lighting issues

## Health and Seniors

- 103<sup>rd</sup> and Park playground
- Thomas Jefferson Park
- Marcus Garvey Park
- 112<sup>th</sup> and Madison needs to be preserved park
- 106<sup>th</sup> and Lexington park – nice project going on
- Park > 122<sup>nd</sup> and Lexington > homeless park
- Not many places for the elderly to go – most places are for kids
- All of the public housing and Franklin Plaza used to have more benches and green areas that were good for old people.
- No more fast food stores
- Jefferson Center = cooking classes, gym for seniors
- Marcus Garvey Center for health
- Where people go for health care:
  - Metropolitan
  - Mount Sinai
  - 115<sup>th</sup> and Lexington > NYC Health
  - 123<sup>rd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave clinic

## Transportation, Environment and Energy

- Primary form of transit = 4,5,6 lines
- Walking for free
- M1 bus
- The bus service is okay
- No elevators in subway stations is an issue
- 96 bus crosstown is always packed
- M1 – too many seniors and wheelchair access makes bus slow
- Traffic is very congested
- 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue subway will bring more people to the neighborhood
  - Will it ever be finished?

- Too many people for the neighborhood?
- 2nd avenue sidewalk space > too narrow > many rats
- No more buses, more bike lanes
- Subway construction is problematic

## **Health and Seniors Activities**

### **Strengths and Challenges**

- Strengths:
  - Salad – better food choices
  - Fruit smoothies and juice bars
  - Vegetable and fruit carts
  - Farmer's markets
  - Increased awareness of nutrition
  - Community involvement
  - Apathy > hope
  - Exercise program for seniors > information for them in the community
  - More physical activity opportunities
  - Increased awareness of healthy diets
- Challenges:
  - Fast food
  - Bodegas/candy stores close to children
  - Asthma > air quality
  - Sewage smell
  - Auto-pollution
  - Mental health services
  - Drugs
  - Concentration of rehab centers

## **Tree of Health**

### **Top**

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Mental Illness
- Hypertension

### **Middle (contributors)**

- Lack of physical activity
- Poor nutrition

- Pollution
- Stress

**Roots**

- Oppression
- Housing conditions
- Sewage
- Poverty
- Economics
- Education lacking
- Lack of mobility
- Transportation

**Design Your Healthy Neighborhood Supermarket**

- Young bag packers to learn self-sufficiency (2)
- What used to be Pathmark prices (1)
- People from the community (2)
- Low prices for smaller products (1)
- Clean (3)
- Open access to wheelchairs (3)
- Fresh fruits and veggies (4)
- Prices at eye-level (3)
- Two entrances (3)
- Healthy food (4)
- Ethnic variety (4)

**LEGEND**

prices (1); who should work here (2); accessibility (3); what kinds of foods (4)

**Note taker:** Francisco

**Facilitator Name:** Sadre

**Table number:** 5

**Participants:** 6

**Table Participants**

**First name / Relationship to EH / Excited about**

1. Brodie / EH resident; CB11 member / family business in area – barber shop (4<sup>th</sup> generation)
2. David / works in the community / community
3. Javier / family is from EH / health equity
4. Nathalie / moved recently / cultural diversity
5. Peter / CVH member; wife lived in EH for 30 years
6. Elizabeth / / people and food

### **Mapping activity**

#### **Safety**

- Police presence does not make young people of color feel safe
- Nowhere is safe for people with disabilities – especially for the visually impaired
- Dark areas around Park Ave / 101<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave – unsafe intersection – a lot of youth encounters at these intersections
- 1<sup>st</sup> ave and 125<sup>th</sup> street - impossible to bike because it is dangerous
- 2<sup>nd</sup> ave and 125<sup>th</sup> street – could be improved for pedestrians and bikes
- Franklin Plaza – hard for seniors to cross street because of bicycles

#### **Health and Seniors**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue from 96<sup>th</sup> and 103<sup>rd</sup> – traffic and construction; sign improvement; difficult to cross streets
- Lighting around 125<sup>th</sup> street – especially for workers (Metro North Station)
- Uptown is pretty dark in general
- Crossing time is too short for youth and seniors
- 106<sup>th</sup> street – it's a wide street, hard to cross.
- Waterfront has sink holes and needs road and sidewalk improvements
- Need a better way to make Jefferson Park come alive – no connectivity
- There is a lot of walking in the area – promotes health
- Lack of supermarkets / need to makes a healthier shift in food options
- No urgent care facilities
- There are a lot of health care facilities, but not enough specialty doctors
- Fresh food box program for seniors
- A lot of people hang out at fast food restaurants for hours
- Fresh program – need healthier food options in EH
- Importance of cultural food

#### **Transportation, Environment and Energy**

- Issue with access to Randall's Island, especially for kids and seniors
- Two huge amenities (Central Park and Randall's Island) but they are difficult to access – no access north of 111<sup>th</sup> street
- Bus stations need better support for seniors (2<sup>nd</sup> ave, southern area)
- Pedestrian safety is a major issue
- Seniors travel on buses – main mode of transportation
- Not easy to get to museums that offer a lot for seniors
- A lot of people walk and ride
- Need better connections to 5<sup>th</sup> avenue and the museums.
- Good bus service in EH but hard to move East to West (narrow streets)
- 4, 5, 6 trains to Metro North needs better connections
- Hard to put bike lanes in – concern about how to make this happen
- Need train connection from future 2<sup>nd</sup> ave stop to Metro North RR
- Unsafe feeling on 125<sup>th</sup>
- 2<sup>nd</sup> ave subway will stop at 96<sup>th</sup> – there should be buses in the short term that will take you further north
- Need clearer signage for bike lanes; appears and disappears.
- Reconsider use of sidewalk in some areas to share safety between bikes/peds (like Brooklyn bridge)

#### Playgrounds/sports

- Northern area along 132<sup>nd</sup> and 138<sup>th</sup> streets need more facilities; Harlem River Plaza
- 120<sup>th</sup> and Lexington: vacant land and open space that should be developed and needs more safety measures incorporated
- There are no fields/sport facilities in the north part of the district – along 125<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> avenue
- Develop Lexington an d3rd – better utilize that area for sports; develop fields
- Connect green area near the waterfront

#### Strengths and Challenges

#### Environment

- Challenges:
  - Access to esplanade (Harlem River Park) and Randall's Island
  - Poor lighting at transportation hubs
  - Slow change – why does it take so long to get something done?
  - People can't move easily east to west – streets are too narrow
  - Still no availability of alternative energy options – landlords need to pass savings on to tenants
  - Mold in buildings is a major issue
- Strengths:
  - Some issues are being addressed
  - Access to the water – strength and challenge

- Zoning could make it possible for renewable energy cooperatives

## Safety

- Over-policed sometimes > kids being arrested for just being kids
- Community policing > improve relationship between community and NYPD
- NYPD and community are not on the same page when looking at how to take care of the community
- Trying to get NYPD to end stop and frisk
- Community needs to come together to change how comfortable people feel
- NYCHA needs more surveillance equipment and to better maintain what already exists
- NYCHA needs to be better at maintenance in general (lights, elevators)
- A lot of people do not know their rights and can't defend themselves

**Note taker:** Leticia

**Table number:** 8

## Table Participants

### First name / Relationship to EH / Excited about

Sandra / zoning > Land use [residential, commercial, industrial] building size, shape, density / limited public input on planning for land use

## Mapping Activity

## Safety

- Victims of domestic violence
- Park Ave. viaduct tunnel – needs to be safer to protect from speeding cars

## Health and Seniors

- 42% of seniors live in poverty / 40% live alone / 35% don't speak English
- lead death for seniors > heart disease; HIV/AIDS – 6<sup>th</sup> leading death
- How can we create an environment for better foods?

## **Transportation, Environment, & Energy**

- Developments:
  - NYEDC Plaza project at 125<sup>th</sup> and Park
  - 96<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue subway station opening in 2016
  - Citibike expansion to 125<sup>th</sup> -2017
- 125<sup>th</sup> street is the only express station in East Harlem – limits the mobility for those especially living beyond 125<sup>th</sup> street
- need safer street design and more additional pedestrian space
- the bus needs to be more accessible, how can we make the bus come on time?

## **Health and Seniors Activities**

### **Strengths and Challenges**

- No patience for the elderly in hospitals
- Diabetes/high blood pressure should be more promoted such as “health fair”
- Mental health – should be in East Harlem
- Single Parent / Family issues

### **Where do you exercise?**

- Thomas Jefferson Park could be better maintained
- Viaduct can be a space for physical health
- More walks

### **Where do you go for healthcare?**

- Mount Sinai – monthly round tables
- Health clinics around 3<sup>rd</sup> ave

### **Tree of Health**

#### **What promotes health in our neighborhood?**

- 116<sup>th</sup> street promotes health
- culture should be put more out there / enhance because it has to do with our health
- water way around Central Park – promotes health
- is rezoning going to create our mobility? How high? What's going to happen?
- Worried about affordable housing and rent going crazy (this messes with mental health)

## Social/Economic/Political issues that lead us to the Tree of Health

- Poverty
- Availability of social programs (social services)
- Access to information and internet
- Lack of technology
- Housing
- Violence/Safety
- Food access
- Pollution and sanitation issues
- More libraries

## Design Your Healthy Neighborhood Supermarket

- Promote more healthy food – need better outreach about healthy food options that already exist
- Fine Fare supermarket
- New Keyfood on 110<sup>th</sup>
- Small business markets
- Need more diversified food > Price range always counts
- There are no supermarkets around Madison
- There are not enough greenmarkets.
- Commutes to grocery stores are too long (some participants living on 132<sup>nd</sup> street go to 75<sup>th</sup> street to shop)
- BK, QNS, and BX have more green markets than Manhattan “becoming a Starbucks” community

## Town Square

### Senior Space

- Senior citizen spaces are being closed – not much access.
  - Lake view – senior carters
- Land lord abuse
- Elders can't sit for long at the dr's office
- Our culture deteriorates if the elders are not part of that culture. Very essential.

## Safety

### Strengths and Challenges

Where do you feel unsafe?

- Park avenue at 96<sup>th</sup> street (need more sidewalks, feels like it's a blind space)
  - Bumps that cause major injuries
  - Not enough police presence around Lexington avenue
  - East River Houses = "wild wild west"
  - Issues with lights and traffic around Park Avenue
  - Big streets should have cameras
  - Need more lights around the scaffolding as well as more cameras, especially at 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue and 125<sup>th</sup> street (one participant was the victim of a hit and run here)
  - Double parking on Lexington is a problem
  - Need cameras at 106<sup>th</sup> and Madison
- 
- there should be crossing guards for after hours
  - there should be something that states how fast one is driving

**Note taker:** Leonore

**Facilitator Name:** Lucy

**Table number:** 9

**Participants:** 6

#### **Table Participants**

#### **First name / Relationship to EH / Excited about**

1. Lydia / born and raised in EH; CVH member / likes community engagement
2. Jessica / lives in EH for just over a year / process, space, environment, accessibility, creating a more welcoming area, small and open community
3. Beatrice / born and raised in EH / difference between growing up here and now
4. Jasan / Legal Aid Society; lives and works in EH / voices the concerns of the community and likes the economic and racial diversity of EH
5. Jose / CB11 for 35 years; car service business / likes community engagement
6. Elizia / WEACT member; worked in EH / has seen many changes in this community; sidewalks need major upgrades

#### **Mapping Activity**

#### **Safety**

- 126<sup>th</sup> street bus depot: 2 tracks and automobiles; the intersection is a mess
  - Very dangerous
  - Triple parking – cars that come from the highway
  - Need a police officer
  - Streets are very wide
- Methadone clinics at 125<sup>th</sup> street need to be inspected
- Need more affordable/accessible/spread out supermarkets – especially in the North part of the district (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> aves)
- McDonald's = biggest drug point
- 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue crosswalks
  - Need clearer signage
  - Cars speed a lot
  - Need to make crossing the street easier; the streets are very wide; crosswalk wait times are too long
- Possible separated bike lane along 1<sup>st</sup> avenue
- 102<sup>nd</sup> street is clear

### **Health and Seniors**

- How do we address isolation issues among our seniors?; senior center at East River Houses closed
- Crossings for seniors
  - not marked
  - many corners are too steep for wheelchairs
  - draining issues along the streets make it difficult to cross
- Walking bridge along 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue
- Construction on 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue makes traversing impossible
- Need count down lights for ped crossings
- Need more senior housing throughout the district
- Need more food resources for seniors – lines are always too long for seniors
- Cosco at 116<sup>th</sup> street is not accessible for everyone
- Now that Pathmark on 125<sup>th</sup> closed, there is no big supermarket that is affordable
- Farmers markets are too expensive

### **Transportation, Environment and Energy**

- Elevators needed at future 96<sup>th</sup> street and 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue station
- Need the second avenue subway line to go up to 125<sup>th</sup> street – subway tunnel connectivity
- Need benches and protected bus stops
- Continuation of bus lines
- Need to support the increase in population
- Finish pavement! During construction – torn apart not fixed.
- Connection! 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue and 125<sup>th</sup> street
- 1256<sup>th</sup> street - N 43<sup>rd</sup> bus drops all shelter people at the corner and it affects the businesses around there

- We already have commercial zoning – this does not require a rezoning to promote small businesses

## Safety

- What is community policing to you?
  - Police used to be very involved and know the community members' names and faces
  - Police should just be there without being threatening
  - Going into schools
  - Police need to be connected to the community and preferably be from the community
  - Some officers see the community members as criminals because they are not from here.
  - Need more permanent officers designated to this community
  - Need more intergenerational centers to connect youth and seniors
  - Stop replacing senior centers with youth centers
  - Need more money for police and spent in positive ways to engage youth
  - Stop providing money for the police to harass the homeless
  - Child services are rarely punitive
  - Parents shouldn't be policed for discipline techniques

## Other notes / overall summary

- Community hosts two garbage depots – this is unjust – also, one is in close proximity to a medical facility
- Need greener paths to connect to the waterfront
- Water connection is an opportunity
- Water came up to 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue during Sandy – we need a more natural approach to infrastructure replacement
- Elevate all NYCHA buildings in the flood plain

**Note taker:** Adam

**Facilitator Name:** Nisha

**Table number:** 10

**Participants:** 4

## Table Participants

### First name / Relationship to EH / Excited about

1. Candy / CB11 member and long time community resident / input on change in EH
2. Judith / CB11 member and long-time EH resident / Improvements to EH
3. Jewell / CB11 member and long-time EH resident / input in EH

4. Diane / CB11 member and lifelong EH resident / input in EH
5. Nilsa / Lifelong EH resident / housing for seniors; zoning changes; local violence

## **Mapping Activity**

### **Safety**

- #1 priority on surveys
- Lighting – Marcus Garvey, Viaduct
- Dangerous intersections and unsafe spots:
  - Park Ave viaduct
  - 102<sup>nd</sup> – 106<sup>th</sup> on 1<sup>st</sup> avenue
  - Lexington avenue between 116<sup>th</sup> and 125<sup>th</sup> (at East River Houses) (gangs/violence)
  - Wagner Houses (gangs/violence)
  - Jefferson Houses (gangs/violence)
  - Taino Towers (gangs/violence)
  - 110<sup>th</sup> and Lexington (gangs/violence)
  - Marcus Garvey Park (bad lighting and drug use)
  - 125<sup>th</sup> and Lexington (drug use)
  - 103<sup>rd</sup> street station (bottlenecks)

### **Health and Seniors**

- Family health 119<sup>th</sup> and 106<sup>th</sup> street
- Independent living seniors (are there places to go?)
- Missing gathering spaces although some exist within NYCHA (yoga, bingo, salsa, dancing, movies)
- There used to be activities in churches (bingo was eliminated because of lottery laws registration)
- Supermarket accessibility is an issue
  - Pathmark on 125<sup>th</sup> just closed
  - Cityfresh at 119<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ave
  - Metropolitan Supermarket (106<sup>th</sup> and 110<sup>th</sup> and Lexington)
  - Few stores above 116<sup>th</sup>
- Viaduct:
  - 132<sup>nd</sup>-125<sup>th</sup> > desolate
  - 125<sup>th</sup>-116<sup>th</sup> > need lighting
  - 116<sup>th</sup>-110<sup>th</sup> (La Marqueta) > need lighting
  - 110<sup>th</sup>-96<sup>th</sup> Stone pedestrian tunnels > flooding issues, need lighting

### **Transportation, Environment and Energy**

- Access-o-ride buses are totally ineffective for seniors
  - No GPS, buses don't show up

- MTA operated?
- Call a day in advance
- Fare payment
- Used for seniors going to doctor's appointments
- Lack of bus shelters (115<sup>th</sup> and 116<sup>th</sup> on Madison by Church)
- 116<sup>th</sup> street > sidewalk irregularities / corner curbs are not properly accessible (Gale Brewer report)

## **Health and Seniors Activities**

### **Strengths and Challenges**

- Intergenerational
- Age-friendly improvements > benches
- Lack of spots for seniors
- Closed down place for breakfast for seniors
- Waterfront needs fixing
- Gardens are not open for all > would be great spot for seniors
- No wintertime spots
- No services for LGBT

## **Tree of Health**

- Seniors with HIV
- People living with AIDS
- Domestic Abuse > Victim services
- Elder vulnerability
- Lack of youth activities (capture grades 7-10)
- Lack of funding and outreach

## **Safety**

### **Strengths and Challenges**

- Community Policing
  - NYCHA housing police are gone (used to be stationed at the developments)
  - Tenant Patrol with sign-in (police and tenants were together and police backed-up tenants)
  - Funding has been cut for these good programs
- Community council outreach is not strong enough
- Johnson Houses is a model for community policing
  - Center requires a sign-in (where you're going, who you're seeing)

- Police presence up and down the stairs
- Service delivery people are being robbed and need protection

### **Crime**

- Relationship with police depends on your age
- The police can be arrogant

### **Youth Engagement**

- Outreach needs to be better!
  - Determine how this is being done (social media?)
  - Needs to be complimented by posting physical signage
  - Need information in multiple languages!
  - Paper, not just email

### **Transportation, Environment and Energy**

#### **Strengths and Challenges**

- Concerns/Challenges are:
  - Displacement from 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue subway (residents and businesses)
  - DSNY blocks traffic
  - Stop idling cars
  - Not enough quality bus shelters
  - Uneven sidewalks
  - Accessoride
  - M1 bus is terrible
  - Metro North Noise
  - Schools buses double parking
  - Air Quality
- Opportunities/Strengths are:
  - Transit hub at 125<sup>th</sup> street to help deal with desolation there
  - Mobile kitchen for HIV women
  - Asthma Center
  - Take Care NY 2020
  - Healthcare facilities
  - Transit/bus
  -

**Note taker:** Anna

**Facilitator Name:** Ogonaya

**Table number:** 13

### Table Participants

#### First name / Relationship to EH / Excited about

1. Ogonaya / Works at WEACT / Mexican Food: Proper Mole
2. Ray / live/worked in EH for 38 years (Mt. Sinai) + founding member of EH health committee
3. Basia / outreach coordinator PFP working in South Bronx and EH / shocked by disconnect to Harlem River Park
4. Pansy / lived in EH 50 years
5. Chika / community health student at Hunter

### Mapping Activity

### Safety

- Unsafe:
  - Around Taft Houses
  - 110<sup>th</sup> and 125<sup>th</sup> off Lexington
  - 128<sup>th</sup> between Madison and Park – Dense, dark, drugs; gas stations that don't sell gas
  - Empty subway booths should be staffed
  - Shuttered businesses become sites for dangerous activity
- All of the Park Avenue viaduct needs lighting
- All pedestrian bridges need clearer definition between pedestrian/bike/auto traffic at access points
- Bus traffic from Randall's Island let people out from the shelters and is at times overwhelming > need to coordinate more drivers at these times
- 125<sup>th</sup> street corridor is “messy” for pedestrians (we should look at historical studies and proposals for this corridor)
- Pedestrian bridges need consistent opening/closing times

### Health and Seniors

- Need better healthy food access for both residents and students
- Promote recreation in parks; promote existing facilities: pools/fields
- Give community health centers more visibility

- Union Settlement; Institute for Family Health; Metropolitan Hospital
- Focus on prevention services
- No lack of facilities, but lack of access: insurance, awareness
- Mold is biggest asthma trigger and is most prevalent in NYCHA housing
- Brownstones have infrastructure issues (like mold) but it's harder to tell the owners to fix them

### **Transportation, Environment, Energy**

- Harlem River Park: disconnected from residents by Highway (both South and North)
  - Needs access points and signage
  - If better connected, could provide bike/walking opportunities for residents
  - Could be an area to bolster resiliency in flooding
  - Should receive the same attention as Eastern Esplanade study
- Need better connectivity to Randall's Island
- Biking up and down is easy, biking across is difficult
  - Need green corridors east and west that connect to the waterfront
- Poor local bus service: M102, 103, and 101 > always express or out of service; bus inequity
- Good bus service: 5<sup>th</sup> avenue/museum mile

### **Health and Seniors Activity**

#### **Strengths and Challenges**

- **HEALTH EDUCATION INEQUITY:** Health services in public schools range from great (state grants and connected to institutions) to none at all
- Institutions can only provide services to a limited number of schools and DOH takes everything else
  - Institutions operate by state grants and take everything else based on location, not need or size of schools
  - Example: Metropolitan hospital didn't submit grant on time, so many schools lost out
  - Schools served also do not take into account individual school facilities and whether or not school has guidance counselors
- No evacuation center for East Harlem (?)
- Metropolitan Hospital in food plain

---

#### **Design Your Healthy Neighborhood (4 tables)**

##### **Design Your Supermarket**

- What would the prices be?
  - Comparable to quality
  - Prices would be reasonable to East Harlem market / our income (5)
  - What used to be Pathmark prices!

- What would make a supermarket feel more accessible to you? What are the challenges of supermarket layouts?
  - More price transparency - watch your scanner!
  - Clean
  - Access to shopping carts
  - All high prices are at eye level - sale prices should be closer
  - Open access for wheelchairs and walkers
  - Entranceways should be for exit and entrance (2-way)
  - Reusable produce bags
- What else?
  - Small stores
    - Butcher
    - Bakery
    - Cheese store
    - Specialty stores
    - Farmer's market (Weds and Fri market)
    - La Marqueta
    - Green market vendor
  - More service east of 3rd Ave
  - Supermarket needed at 102nd and Madison
  - Traffic enforcement and pedestrian safety
  - Entire Park Ave. viaduct, including viaduct sanitation
  - Overall construction along 2nd Ave.
- What food would be sold there?
  - Grains
  - Health food (2)
  - Access to vegetarian options
  - Access to alternative medications / herbs
  - More vegetables (4)
  - Fresh food (2)
  - Fresh seafood
  - Ethnic food and a large variety
  - Fresh meats
  - Non-GMO foods
- Who would work there and what would they be paid?
  - \$13/hr
  - Young people packing to learn self-sufficiency
  - Living wage (3)
  - Ensure hiring in the community (4)

#### Design Your Town Square

- What is most important to you in a healthy public space?
  - Inclusive art and cultural programming
  - Human chess board
  - Dog park
  - Parks for youth (e.g. skate park)
  - History of the neighborhood
  - Garden

- Movie theatre
- How can it serve all the different populations in the community?
  - ADA compliant
  - Children's activities
  - Exercises
  - Different minorities
  - Different generations
- What are the activities that would bring you there?
  - Farmer's market
  - Senior center capacity of services
  - Accessibility
  - Lighting
  - Snow removal
  - Access-a-ride to seniors
  - 107th St. pier - picnics
  - Biking
  - Cooling off from heat
  - Senior center
  - Cultural activities
  - Development along river
  - La AgUILA library services
  - M98 needs more wheelchair service
  - Sidewalk safety and mobility
  - Mental health
  - 125th St. construction area
  - Dangerous (lighting / vacant land)

### **Health Trees (4 tables)**

Branches:

- Obesity (3)
- HIV (2)
- Sinus
- High blood pressure (2)
- Heart disease
- Diabetes (4)
- Cholesterol
- Hyper tension (2)
- Allergies
- Asthma (4)
- Eye disease
- Sleep apnea
- Toxic stress

- Arthritis
- Teen pregnancy (2)
- Dental
- Accident morbidity
- Substance abuse (2)
- Mental health (3)
- Lots of mobility issues / wheelchairs
- Depression (2)
- Cancer
- Domestic violence
- Injury
- Smoking
- Infant mortality
- Neglect of elderly
- Lack of medical assistance
- Street safety of all ages

Trunk:

- Lifestyle behaviors
- Eating / poor nutrition
- Exercise / lack of physical activity
- Pollution
- Housing condition (3)
- Availability of drugs and alcohol
- Cleanliness / littering
- Genetics
- Poor air quality (2)
- Stress
- Health education
- Health insurance
- Infestation (rodents)
- No working structure to improve conditions in NYCHA
- Depression from lack of jobs and isolation
- Transportation
- Homelessness

Roots:

- Food access / insecurity (2)

- Housing (2)
- Violence / safety
- Sanitation (local waste from businesses)
- Sewage
- Transportation / bus depot / lack of mobility
- Access to internet
- Lack of technology
- Access to information (like at Aguilar library-everyone goes there)
- Availability of services (social services)
- Pest issue (rats/roaches)
- Poverty (2)
- Pollution (2)
- Environment
- Economics
- Historically oppressed population
- Lack of education / awareness / knowledge
- Culture
- Lack of access to insurance (children and families)
- Financial instability
- Nepotism / greed / lust
- Corruption
- Favoritism
- Lack of jobs
- Bad management at NYCHA

General recs:

- More ShapeUp NY exercise classes
- No synthetic marijuana
- More clinics, primary care accessibility
- Expanding farmer's markets, make them affordable
- Thomas Jefferson Park arts / exercise classes

# FINAL COMMUNITY FORUM – PRESENTATION BOARDS



# COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



East Harlem residents, workers, organizations, small businesses, and institutions have invested many years into the safe and healthy growth and development of the neighborhood. Thousands have come out to participate in, provide input to and quite literally shape the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan (EHNP).

The Community Action Plan identifies **WHAT** needs to be done, **BY WHOM** and **HOW** in order to ensure government accountability to community residents as the City develops and implements an East Harlem re-zoning plan.

## GOALS

- Ensure that the development of any City rezoning plan for East Harlem aligns with the community-driven East Harlem Neighborhood Plan (EHNP).
- Ensure that EHNP recommendations are realized in a timely and equitable way.
- Watch for and respond to negative impacts of a re-zoning.
- Guarantee regular and ongoing engagement with the East Harlem community.
- Advocate for the EHNP before, during and after the ULURP process.
- Ensure that contractors and developers meet the objectives laid out in the Plan...and are held accountable if they don't.

## STRATEGIES

### MONITOR + EVALUATE

Establish an oversight body to ensure government accountability to the East Harlem community.

### ADVOCATE + ORGANIZE

Disseminate EHNP goals, priorities and recommendations throughout East Harlem.

Make clear pathways between EHNP recommendations and community action to ensure their adoption and implementation.

### IMPLEMENT + EVOLVE

The EHNP lays out a comprehensive roadmap for equitable neighborhood development. It is essential that recommendations across topic areas are adopted and implemented.

East Harlem community members must remain involved throughout the life of any City re-zoning plan to ensure the plan addresses community-defined priorities.

The Plan must remain a living document, flexible and adaptable to reality on the ground.



# UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW PROCEDURE

## WHAT IS ULURP?

ULURP is the **Uniform Land Use Review Procedure**—it's the process New York City uses to make sure most big land-use proposals get reviewed by the city's elected official and the public. Here's how it works...and how to get involved!



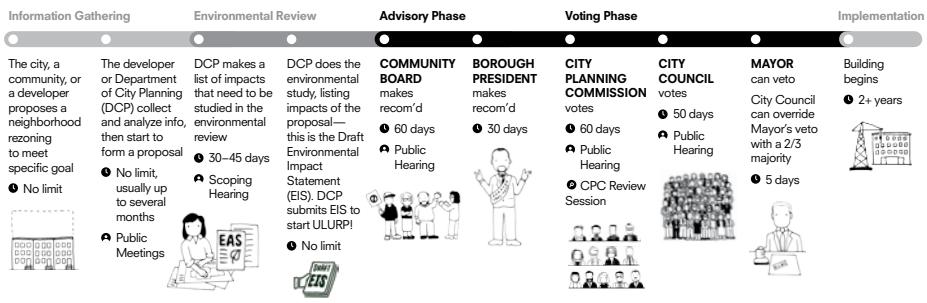
The best time for communities to get involved in a rezoning is **before ULURP starts**. That's when proposals are still being shaped, and communities can have more say in shaping them.

● Total duration: Months–years



This is the official process where the public and different local government representatives, from the neighborhood level to the citywide level, weigh in on the proposal.

● Total duration: 200–215 days



### Get Involved: Information Gathering

Go to the Community Board and City Council members so they know your community's concerns.

Conduct studies of important issues and share existing studies with city agencies.

Get community members ready to participate in hearings.

### Get Involved: Environmental Review

Go to the Scoping Hearing and make sure the impacts your community cares about are included in the Environmental Review!

Most of the big decisions about what's in the proposal will be made at this time, so it's important to get involved early.

### Get Involved: During ULURP

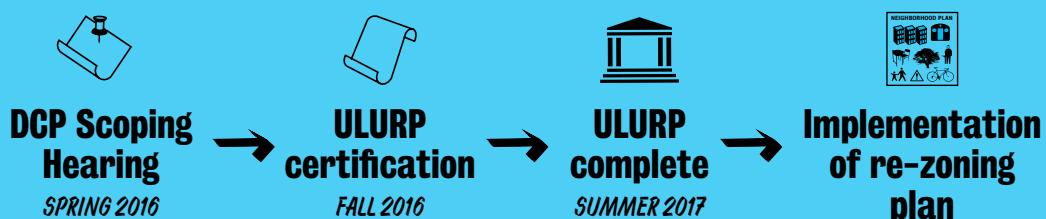
Odds are that some form of the proposal will be approved. To make sure that proposal responds to community needs:

1. Testify at hearings and submit statements.
2. Make your comments specific... talk about the issues and impacts. Don't just say that you like or don't like a proposal.
3. Bring lots of people to the meetings and show that you are unified.
4. Focus on land use when making comments to City Planning Commission.
5. Once the proposal is approved, future development will take place without additional public review!

© The Center for Urban Pedagogy, 2015



## EAST HARLEM ESTIMATED TIMELINE



**STAY INVOLVED!**

CHECK IN FOR REGULAR PROJECT UPDATES:  
[WWW.EASTHARLEMPLAN.NYC](http://WWW.EASTHARLEMPLAN.NYC)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
COMMUNITY VOICES HEARD, COMMUNITY BOARD 11, THE CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER'S OFFICE, MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

## Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

A document prepared by the NYC Department of City Planning to describe the possible effects of a rezoning on the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment.

## City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR)

The process by which New York City agencies determine what effect an action they approve may have upon the environment.

## An East Harlem rezoning EIS should include:

### SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Displacement, warehousing, informal market rents; construction workforce job quality, living wages, local hiring, availability of apprenticeship programs.

### NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

Informed by community input, including information collected during EHNP Community Visioning Workshops, and expanded to include cultural and demographic identities, and mitigation measures should be created with consultation with the community.

### HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

As defined by the East Harlem community.

### CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Pay particular attention to sites near schools, senior care, or daycare centers., and existing violations and concerns.

### LAND USE & PUBLIC POLICY

Ensure implementation of target affordability levels, and other key EHNP recommendations now and into the future.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Local smoking rates, activity level, availability of health care, perceptions regarding availability of health care, active design, general well-being, acceptance and treatment of those with mental health concerns, the elderly, and members of the GLBTQ community.

### WATER & SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Community surveys on existing water pressure conditions, frequency of sewage problems, sidewalk and/or street flooding.

## PRECEDENTS

### WHAT?

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING IMPACT STATEMENT:

An analysis of how new development might affect the availability of housing for low-income families.

#### HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA):

A combination of procedures, methods, and tools by which a policy, program, or project may be evaluated as to its potential effects on the health of a population. An HIA looks at health from a broad perspective that considers social, economic and environmental influences, puts health concerns in the context of other important factors, and considers whether certain impacts may affect vulnerable groups of people in different ways.

### WHERE?

- New Orleans, LA
- Atlanta, GA
- Austin, TX

- Brownsville, Brooklyn
- Baltimore, MD
- Oakland, CA

### LEARN MORE:

[http://www.housingfinance.com/newsletter/the-growing-trend-of-affordable-housing-impact-statements\\_c](http://www.housingfinance.com/newsletter/the-growing-trend-of-affordable-housing-impact-statements_c)

<http://www.who.int/hia/en/>



New Orleans, LA, photo courtesy of flickr



Oakland HIA of low-income senior housing, photo courtesy of [humaneimpact.org](http://humaneimpact.org)



Meeting on Brownsville HIA, photo courtesy of [madeinbrownsville.org](http://madeinbrownsville.org)



Baltimore's HIA report, photo courtesy of [activelivingresearch.org](http://activelivingresearch.org)

# PARKS & OPEN SPACE

## OBJECTIVES / OBJECTIVOS

*Tell us which objectives are your highest priority by placing tokens in the jars below*

*Díganos cuales objetivos son su prioridad colocando una ficha en los recipientes ubicados abajo*



- 1 Ensure public open space meets the needs of East Harlem residents now and in the future.**

Asegurar que los espacios abiertos para el público satisfacen las necesidades de los residentes actuales y mantienen el ritmo de una población creciente.

- 2 Leverage public site development to create sufficient park space for East Harlem residents now and in the future.**

Apalancamiento de sitios que son propiedad de la ciudad y los recursos públicos para el desarrollo de viviendas asequibles para crear suficiente espacio en parques a los residentes existentes y futuros del Este de Harlem.

- 3 Integrate stormwater management strategies into open space design.**

Integrar las estrategias del manejo de aguas pluviales en el diseño de espacios abiertos.



- 4 Remove cultural and psychological barriers to using parks in and around East Harlem.**

Eliminar las barreras culturales y psicológicas para el uso de los parques (especialmente Central Park, Isla de Randall y el Parque del Río Harlem).

- 5 Remove physical barriers to parks and open space throughout East Harlem.**

Eliminar las barreras físicas a los parques y espacios abiertos en todo el Este de Harlem.

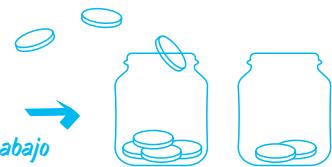
\* Please note that these posters reflected partially abbreviated language for the objectives of each subgroup of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan.

# ARTS & CULTURE

## OBJECTIVES / OBJECTIVOS

*Tell us which objectives are your highest priority by placing tokens in the jars below*

*Díganos cuales objetivos son su prioridad colocando una ficha en los recipientes ubicados abajo*



### 1 Support local artists and arts and culture organizations.

Asegurar que los recursos financieros y los servicios de asistencia estén disponibles para sostener el arte local y organizaciones culturales y los artistas locales.

### 2 Develop affordable artist housing and cultural community space.

Crear una vivienda asequible para artistas y también nuevos espacios para organizaciones comunales y programación.

### 3 Expand opportunities for local artists in East Harlem.

Ampliar las oportunidades para los artistas locales en producir obras comisionadas en East Harlem.



### 4 Preserve the unique cultural history of East Harlem.

Preservar la única historia cultural del Este de Harlem mediante el aprovechamiento de monumentos históricos y representando la narrativa de El Barrio a través de la esfera pública.

### 5 Increase awareness about East Harlem arts and culture.

Crear mayor conciencia tanto interna como externa sobre las producciones culturales que están tomando lugar en todo el Este de Harlem.

### 6 Develop arts programming that meets local needs and attracts visitors to East Harlem.

Desarrollar programas de arte que satisfacen las necesidades de la comunidad local y al mismo tiempo atraer visitantes al Este de Harlem.

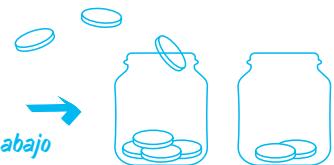
\* Please note that these posters reflected partially abbreviated language for the objectives of each subgroup of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan.

# SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

## OBJECTIVES / OBJECTIVOS

*Tell us which objectives are your highest priority by placing tokens in the jars below*

*Díganos cuales objetivos son su prioridad colocando una ficha en los recipientes ubicados abajo*



Engaging Institutions	Expanded Learning Opportunities	Health and Social Progress
Community Engagement	College and Career Ready	Early Childhood Development
Family Engagement	Health Department Activities	Latitude Alignment



**1** Support the needs of East Harlem schools with specialized programs and services.

Alinear los programas y servicios especializados con las necesidades de las escuelas del este de Harlem, y aumentar los fondos para apoyarlos.

**2** Create more diverse pathways to careers and college.

Crear más diversas vías para acceder a carreras y la universidad.

**3** Develop partnerships to support schools and expand programming.

Desarrollar alianzas externas y traer las alianzas a las escuelas.



**4** Address significant capital and capacity needs facing East Harlem schools.

Atender a las necesidades de capital y de capacidad significativas que enfrentan las escuelas del Este de Harlem.

**5** Expand professional development opportunities for East Harlem educators.

Ampliar las oportunidades de desarrollo profesional para los educadores en el Este de Harlem.

\* Please note that these posters reflected partially abbreviated language for the objectives of each subgroup of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan.

# AFTERSCHOOL, PRE-K & DAYCARE

## OBJECTIVES / OBJECTIVOS

Tell us which objectives are your highest priority by placing tokens in the jars below

Díganos cuales objetivos son su prioridad colocando una ficha en los recipientes ubicados abajo



- 1 Improve existing and develop new Daycare, Pre-K and Afterschool facilities.**

**Mejorar y crear nuevas Guardería, Pre-K e instalaciones para programas Después de la escuela.**



- 2 Create more center-based programs for 0-3 year olds.**

**Crear más programas en centros para niños de 0-3 años.**



- 3 Ensure that programming is high quality, consistent, and well-funded.**

**Asegurar que la programación es de alta calidad, consistente y bien financiado.**

- 4 Create greater awareness of existing educational programming.**

**Crear una mayor conciencia sobre la programación actual.**

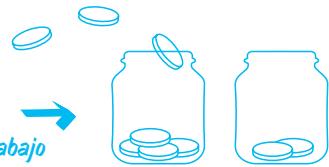
\* Please note that these posters reflected partially abbreviated language for the objectives of each subgroup of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan.

# NYCHA

## OBJECTIVES / OBJECTIVOS

Tell us which objectives are your highest priority by placing tokens in the jars below

Díganos cuales objetivos son su prioridad colocando una ficha en los recipientes ubicados abajo



### 1 Ensure efficient, high quality repairs on NYCHA developments.

Asegurar que las reparaciones en las residencias de NYCHA sean hechas de manera eficiente y que utilicen mano de obra de alta calidad.

### 2 Improve safety and security on NYCHA developments.

Mejorar la protección y la seguridad en los residenciales de NYCHA.

### 3 Improve NYCHA administrative transitions and diminish impacts on NYCHA developments.

Mejorar en NYCHA transiciones administrativas y sus efectos en el nivel de residenciales.



### 4 Improve engagement & communication with NYCHA residents.

Mejorar la participación, la comunicación y el suministro de información a los residentes de NYCHA.

### 5 Ensure effective resident involvement in NYCHA land development decision-making.

Crear mecanismos para la participación de los residentes en la toma de decisiones en torno a los terrenos en las residencias de NYCHA.

### 6 Create opportunities for economic empowerment for NYCHA residents.

Crear oportunidades para el empoderamiento económico para los residentes de NYCHA.

### 7 Improve NYCHA open spaces.

Mejorar los espacios de NYCHA.

\* Please note that these posters reflected partially abbreviated language for the objectives of each subgroup of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan.

# HOUSING PRESERVATION

## OBJECTIVES / OBJETIVOS

Tell us which objectives are your highest priority by placing tokens in the jars below  
Díganos cuales objetivos son su prioridad colocando una ficha en los recipientes ubicados abajo

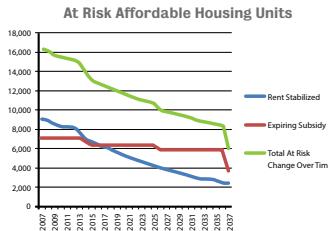
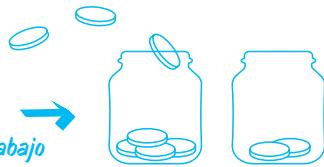


photo: P.S. 109 Brightspace

### 1 Prevent harassment. Enforce tenant rights.

Asegurar la aplicación adecuada de los derechos de los inquilinos para prevenir el acoso.

### 2 Protect rent stabilized units. Prevent de-stabilization.

Preservar la asequibilidad de las unidades de alquiler estabilizado actuales y prevenir la destabilización de las unidades.

### 3 Ensure accessibility and legibility of affordable housing lotteries.

Preparar mejor a los residentes del Este de Harlem para las loterías de viviendas asequibles.



"Construction is only good if it is done wisely and doesn't displace the people who live here and make it harder for them to survive"

\*From EHNP survey respondents



photo: Editha Milled

### 4 Improve information sharing to identify tenant harassment.

Mejorar información de Agencia-intercambio de información para identificar el acoso inquilino.

### 5 Preserve vacant, underutilized and distressed properties for affordable housing development.

Preservar el uso de tierras/propiedades vacantes, subutilizados, y en dificultades para vivienda asequible.

### 6 Ensure that housing is safe, clean and functional.

Asegurar la vivienda se encuentra en un buen estado de conservación y mejorara el cumplimiento con los requisitos de la orden de habitabilidad.

### 7 Preserve affordable neighborhood amenities.

Preservar asequibles amenidades del barrio.

\* Please note that these posters reflected partially abbreviated language for the objectives of each subgroup of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan.

# SMALL BUSINESSES, ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## OBJECTIVES / OBJECTIVOS

*Tell us which objectives are your highest priority by placing tokens in the jars below*

*Díganos cuales objetivos son su prioridad colocando una ficha en los recipientes ubicados abajo*



photo: Union Settlement



photo: Union Settlement



photo: New York City Council

**1 Increase quality employment opportunities for East Harlem residents.**

**Aumentar la calidad de las oportunidades de empleo para los residentes del Este de Harlem.**

**2 Ensure the success of East Harlem residents - increase workforce development opportunities.**

**Mejorar las habilidades de los residentes de East Harlem, que les permitan tener éxito en la fuerza laboral.**

**3 Protect and enhance the viability of East Harlem's small businesses.**

**Proteger y mejorar la viabilidad de las pequeñas empresas del Este de Harlem.**



photo: © Kate Millard



photo: © Kate Millard

**4 Increase economic activity in East Harlem.**

**Aumentar en general la actividad económica en el Este de Harlem.**

**5 Attract more tourists and other visitors to East Harlem.**

**Atraer a más turistas y otros visitantes a East Harlem.**

\* Please note that these posters reflected partially abbreviated language for the objectives of each subgroup of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan.

# ZONING & LAND USE

## OBJECTIVES / OBJECTIVOS

Tell us which objectives are your highest priority by placing tokens in the jars below

Díganos cuáles objetivos son su prioridad colocando una ficha en los recipientes ubicados abajo

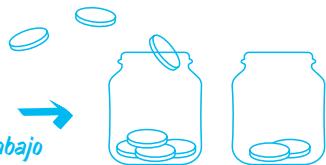


photo: RJ Paul/Bureau Courtesy Perkins Eastman for Burton EBI

- 1** Preserve important East Harlem buildings and reinforce neighborhood character.

Preservar importantes edificios en East Harlem y reforzar el carácter de barrio.

- 2** Allow for increased density in select places to create more affordable housing and spaces for jobs.

Permitir una mayor densidad en algunos lugares para crear viviendas más asequibles y espacios para puestos de trabajo.

- 3** Improve and create more services and amenities for the East Harlem community in any new development on private and public sites.

Mejorar y crear más servicios y comodidades para la comunidad de East Harlem a través de cualquier nuevo desarrollo en sitios públicos y privados.

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Of 508 East Harlem survey Respondants



- 1** Increase the amount of affordable housing with deep and varied levels of affordability in any new development.

Aumentar la cantidad de viviendas asequibles con niveles de variedad y profundidad en la asequibilidad de cualquier desarrollo de vivienda.

- 2** Expand affordable housing tools and resources to increase affordable housing in new development.

Ampliar las herramientas y recursos de la vivienda asequible para aumentar la vivienda asequible en los nuevos desarrollos de vivienda.

- 3** Implement tools to address displacement of both residents and business owners.

Implementar herramientas para hacer frente a los desplazamientos de los residentes y dueños de negocios.

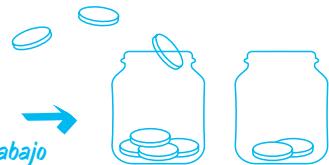
\* Please note that these posters reflected partially abbreviated language for the objectives of each subgroup of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan.

# HEALTH & SENIORS

## OBJECTIVES / OBJECTIVOS

*Tell us which objectives are your highest priority by placing tokens in the jars below*

*Díganos cuales objetivos son su prioridad colocando una ficha en los recipientes ubicados abajo*



- 1** Improve access to healthy, affordable, quality food.

**Crear un sistema alimentario local en el Este de Harlem para mejorar el acceso a alimentos sanos, asequibles y de calidad.**

- 2** Improve health service coordination and access.

**Mejorar la coordinación y el acceso de servicios de salud.**

- 3** Allow for East Harlem seniors to age in place.

**Crear un ambiente comunal que permite a las personas mayores de edad permanecer en su lugar cómodamente.**



- 4** Enhance the built environment to promote health.

**Mejorar el entorno construido para promover la salud.**

- 5** Foster safe and healthy living environments.

**Fomentar condiciones ambientales de vida segura y saludable.**

\* Please note that these posters reflected partially abbreviated language for the objectives of each subgroup of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan.

# TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND ENERGY

## OBJECTIVES / OBJETIVOS

Tell us which objectives are your highest priority by placing tokens in the jars below

Díganos cuales objetivos son su prioridad colocando una ficha en los recipientes ubicados abajo



**1** Improve access to jobs, services, cultural and educational opportunities for East Harlem public transit users.

Aumentar la calidad de las oportunidades de empleo para los residentes del Este de Harlem.

**2** Improve the mobility of seniors and other vulnerable populations.

Mejorar las habilidades de los residentes de East Harlem, que les permitan tener éxito en la fuerza laboral.

**3** Increase pedestrian safety in East Harlem.

Proteger y mejorar la viabilidad de las pequeñas empresas del Este de Harlem.



**4** Improve East Harlem air quality - reduce congestion and mitigate vehicle emissions.

Aumentar en general la actividad económica en el Este de Harlem.

**5** Improve East Harlem's energy resiliency and independence. Increase access to renewable energy.

Atraer a más turistas y otros visitantes a East Harlem.

**6** Reduce waste and improve sanitation in East Harlem.

Reducir los desechos de basura y mejorar el saneamiento en East Harlem.

\* Please note that these posters reflected partially abbreviated language for the objectives of each subgroup of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan.

# SAFETY

## OBJECTIVES / OBJECTIVOS

*Tell us which objectives are your highest priority by placing tokens in the jars below*

*Díganos cuales objetivos son su prioridad colocando una ficha en los recipientes ubicados abajo*

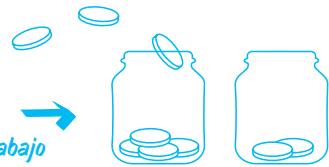


photo: The New York Times



photo: New York City Council

### 1 Improve emergency preparedness in East Harlem.

**Mejorar la preparación para emergencias en todo el distrito y asegurar que los residentes y dueños de negocios sepan cómo acceder a los recursos en caso de un desastre.**

*"I am concerned with the amount of violence, gangs and having more productive programs for young teens, increasing mentoring programs and finding jobs for those that come out of jail."*

\*From EHNP survey respondent

### 2 Reduce violence and invest in youth empowerment in East Harlem.

**Invertir en el empoderamiento de la juventud del Este de Harlem como la herramienta principal en la reducción de la violencia en el distrito.**



### 3 Ensure alternative approaches to quality of life issues, in addition to policing.

**Asegurar de haber enfoques alternativos para abordar la calidad de vida que afectan a las poblaciones vulnerables, además de los esfuerzos policiales.**

### 4 Make physical improvements to increase safety in East Harlem.

**Hacer mejoras físicas para aumentar la seguridad de los residentes en lugares públicos.**

\* Please note that these posters reflected partially abbreviated language for the objectives of each subgroup of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan.

# OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### OBJECTIVE 1 – ENSURE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE MEETS THE NEEDS OF EXISTING RESIDENTS AND KEEPS PACE WITH AN INCREASING POPULATION.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.1** – Strategically preserve and create open space that strives for 2.5 acres/1,000 residents for existing and future East Harlem residents.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2** – As density increases, ensure that open space is created with new developments as part of a zoning special district. Work with developers to create a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) that funds a program to train and hire East Harlem residents for maintenance and stewardship of these open spaces.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.3** – Work constructively with City agencies and private land managers including conservancies, land trusts, ‘friends of’ groups, and non-profits to ensure open space maintenance and staffing in parks and community gardens is proportional to the number of people using the space, especially during peak season. Increase staffing during the summer season.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.4** – Conduct a needs assessment for comfort stations, recreation centers, and ballfields in East Harlem.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.5** – Build a comfort station at Harlem River Park.



111th Street Ballfield



Streetend at 118th Street

### OBJECTIVE 2 – LEVERAGE CITY-OWNED SITES AND PUBLIC AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES TO CREATE ENOUGH PARK SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE EXISTING AND FUTURE EAST HARLEM RESIDENTS.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.1** – Seek opportunities on City-owned land for open space creation. With increased density comes the likelihood that land values will rise, leaving agencies unable to afford private property for new parkland.



Pier 107

**RECOMMENDATION 2.2** – Conduct a feasibility study of the potential for ferry access along entire East River waterfront, with Pier 107 as a potential access point.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.3** – Restore Pier 107 as a public open space.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.4** – Conduct a study of where streetends can be developed to add more open space to the East Harlem community. Areas of consideration can include 117th, 118th and 119th Streets and the small streets around Thomas Jefferson Park. Pilot the SummerStreets program at these locations to test the street closure in a temporary way.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.5** – Open more school playgrounds during off-hours for community recreation, and explore opportunities to incorporate stormwater management infrastructure in playground renovations.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.6** – Leverage city and private sector programs and resources to support open space development: Neighborhood Plaza Program, GreenThumb Garden Coalitions initiative, Garden Coalitions initiative.

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# OPEN SPACE & RECREATION



Park Ave. Viaduct



Harlem River Park



96th Street and FDR



Marcus Garvey Park

## OBJECTIVE 3 – INTEGRATE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES THROUGH OPEN SPACE DESIGN TO BETTER PREPARE EAST HARLEM FOR THREATS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.1** - Require developers to manage 1" of stormwater runoff from all impervious surface area on their site.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.2** - Ensure all Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Tributary Areas that overlap with the boundaries of CB11 become Priority CSO Tributary Areas for DEP in FY17.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.3** - As part of a Priority CSO Tributary Area, DEP should identify and study existing underground streambeds along East Harlem streets and through large properties working with other agencies like NYCHA to prioritize green infrastructure at these locations.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.4** - Take a comprehensive planning approach to waterfront resiliency, incorporating prior and ongoing planning efforts to create green/natural buffers along the water's edge in East Harlem and achieve overlapping benefits to the public from flood and storm surge protection.

## OBJECTIVE 4 – REMOVE CULTURAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS TO USING PARKS.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.1** - Create new and leverage existing funds and partnerships to expand open space programming in East Harlem.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.2** - Improve outreach and communications for park programming by developing an inventory, shared calendar, and outreach strategy for East Harlem programs and permitting.

## OBJECTIVE 5 – REMOVE PHYSICAL BARRIERS TO PARKS AND OPEN SPACE THROUGHOUT EAST HARLEM.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.1** - Provide increased lighting and tree pruning around light sources throughout East Harlem public open spaces, prioritizing spaces along the Park Ave. viaduct (particularly 11th Street), Marcus Garvey Park, and NYCHA developments. Lighting options should include LED, solar and pavement.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.2** - Make sidewalks, parks, and other open spaces ADA compliant and convenient for seniors and caregivers with young children. Prioritize Park Ave. viaduct, Harlem River Park, 96th Street and FDR, and Marcus Garvey Park.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.3** - Improve neighborhood wayfinding and create unified open space signage that includes parks, GreenThumb gardens and NYCHA properties.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.4** - Improve the structural conditions of the East River Esplanade.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.5** - Improve accessibility to existing connections to Randall's Island, and study additional ways to improve access (footbridges, bus routes, ferry service).



Wayfinding Examples: NYC Beaches, Avenue of the Immigrants

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# ARTS & CULTURE

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### OBJECTIVE 1 – ENSURE THAT FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUSTAIN LOCAL ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL ARTISTS.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.1** – Work closely with the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) to create a central arts advocacy entity to serve as a resource for East Harlem arts and culture organizations and individuals. This entity will serve as an arts and culture coalition, and should share common goals and objectives. Include a diversity of coalition partners including Local Development Corporations, local business leadership and non-arts oriented community institutions and organizations.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2** – Study the feasibility of and funding needs to expand the use of existing underutilized and non-traditional spaces in East Harlem for community arts and cultural programs.

Reach out to organizations where this underutilized space exists, i.e. Heckscher Theater at El Museo, Theater at Poets Den, Red Roof Theater. Discuss providing these spaces to dancers and artists for a nominal fee when not in use.

### OBJECTIVE 2 – CREATE AFFORDABLE ARTIST HOUSING, AS WELL AS NEW SPACES FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMING.\*

**RECOMMENDATION 2.1** – Give first priority usage of artists spaces in newly developed and existing spaces to local artists living within or who have a history of working within CB11.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.2** – Create a new dance hall and movie theater. Engage with theater companies that may be interested in opening a new location in East Harlem.

\* A joint recommendation for increasing affordable artist live/work spaces in East Harlem is located in the Affordable Housing Development chapter, Recommendation 2.4.

### OBJECTIVE 3 – EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL ARTISTS TO PRODUCE COMMISSIONED WORK IN EAST HARLEM.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.1** – Advocate for the Percent for Art program in private projects.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.2** – Advocate for more use of local artists in the Percent for Art program.

### OBJECTIVE 4 – PRESERVE THE UNIQUE CULTURAL HISTORY OF EAST HARLEM BY HARNESSING HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND REPRESENTING EL BARRIO'S NARRATIVE THROUGH THE PUBLIC REALM.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.1** – Establish a process to identify culturally significant structures in East Harlem and a method to preserve and celebrate them. Establish a landmarking process that does not impede the development of affordable housing. Some key locations are identified on the map on page 26 in the EHNP report.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.2** – Develop a unified signage and multimedia program for East Harlem, branding it as a key destination in the city. Establish a cultural wayfinding walk or El Barrio hall of fame that pays homage to the past and present artistic and historic influences of the neighborhood.

### OBJECTIVE 5 – CREATE GREATER AWARENESS BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY OF THE CULTURAL PRODUCTION CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IN ALL OF EAST HARLEM.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.1** – Host a comprehensive community events calendar that advertises all arts and cultural programming in East Harlem. Utilize an outdoor kiosk bulletin board to promote programming and events.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.2** – Work more closely with the following organizations and initiatives to streamline promotion of East Harlem arts and cultural programs: East Harlem Community Alliance, Visit El Barrio, NYC & Co.

### OBJECTIVE 6 – DEVELOP ARTS PROGRAMMING THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WHILE ALSO ATTRACTING VISITORS TO EAST HARLEM.

**RECOMMENDATION 6.1** – Create an East Harlem Theater District for off-Broadway performances.

**RECOMMENDATION 6.2** – Continue to expand East Harlem arts and culture into existing programming at NYC Parks, DOE, NYCHA, small businesses and other cultural institutions (ex—film screenings, open mics, music festivals, poetry readings).

**RECOMMENDATION 6.3** – Identify resources to further support increased arts and cultural programming at the La Marqueta site and leverage East Harlem cultural festivals and large events to increase tourism (ex. ethnic pride events, food festivals and fairs, coordinated late/free nights at local museums, establishment of an East Harlem Latin Jazz Festival connected to programming at the National Jazz Museum in Harlem).

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### OBJECTIVE 1 - ALIGN SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES WITH THE NEEDS OF EAST HARLEM SCHOOLS, AND INCREASE FUNDING TO SUPPORT THEM.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.1** - As part of the planning process, a survey was released to all public school principals in District 4, which encompasses a majority of the public schools in East Harlem. We asked principals to prioritize specialized programs by level of importance to their students and the needs of the district. Based on the results of this survey, resources and funding should be prioritized for the following programs in the district (in order of importance):

- Social & emotional services
- Academic remediation
- Literacy programs
- Mobile computer labs
- Funding for social workers & psychologists
- Restorative justice practices

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2** - Create more Community Schools in East Harlem school districts. Ensure that any new school built as a result of the rezoning is structured as a Community School.

### OBJECTIVE 2 - CREATE MORE DIVERSE PATHWAYS TO CAREERS AND COLLEGE.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.1** - Increase the number of schools that offer Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in East Harlem. Work with the Office of Postsecondary Readiness (OPSR) at the Department of Education to provide adequate guidance to East Harlem schools as they seek to fulfill the necessary elements for a new CTE program, including identifying adequate classroom and shop space, resources for equipment, materials and consumable supplies, and a teaching core able to teach the necessary amount of students.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.2** - Expand programs for early exposure to college by ensuring that the Mayor's "College Access for All" initiative reaches all East Harlem schools. This program will include expanded exposure to college for middle school students. All middle schools will begin to create college visit programs for all students and expanded curriculum at middle and high school will provide students with opportunity to gain exposure and support to plan for post high school college and careers.

### OBJECTIVE 3 - DEVELOP EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS AND PULL PARTNERSHIPS INTO SCHOOLS.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.1** - Develop an East Harlem resource guide

that schools can use to establish partnerships with CBOs and service providers, and that CBOs and service providers can use to find schools.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.2** - Enlist the resources of the NYC Office of Postsecondary Readiness and the Center for Youth Employment in the Office of Workforce Development to actively link interested high schools to East Harlem Workforce Development organizations and CBOs that can provide services to schools.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.3** - As the the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development Summer Youth Employment Program is expanded to the school year, ensure that the 2016 - 2017 pilot is expanded to at least one East Harlem program

### OBJECTIVE 4 - ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL AND CAPACITY NEEDS FACING EAST HARLEM SCHOOLS.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.1** - Increase the number of high schools that have open non-competitive admissions policies in East Harlem.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.2** - Perform electrical work to sustain current and future technology in East Harlem school buildings, such as computer labs, broadband internet, phone service, and air conditioners. Begin with an initial allocation to PS108, located along the Park Ave. viaduct. The school lacks the electrical capacity to run A/C's in the summer, nor can they open their windows due to the noise from the viaduct.

### OBJECTIVE 5 - EXPAND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATORS IN EAST HARLEM.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.1** - Increase funding for teacher training in East Harlem schools.



P.S.108

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# PRE-K, DAYCARE & AFTERSCHOOL

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### OBJECTIVE 1 - IMPROVE EXISTING PRE-K, DAYCARE AND AFTERSCHOOL FACILITIES, AND ENSURE THAT QUALITY SPACES ARE CREATED WITHIN NEW BUILDINGS.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.1** - Prioritize pre-K, daycare and afterschool facilities for repairs or relocation based on a comprehensive inventory and prioritization study of these facilities in East Harlem.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2** - Encourage expanded shared-use agreements between pre-K, afterschool and daycare programs and schools, institutions of higher learning and hospitals to access facilities after hours and during off hours (computer labs, media centers, gyms, libraries, playgrounds, indoor pools, etc.). Additionally, these spaces should be affordable to rent so as to not prohibit programs from taking advantage of these joint agreements.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.3** - Improve Internet and phone infrastructure in East Harlem pre-K, daycare and afterschool facilities.

### OBJECTIVE 2 - CREATE MORE CENTER-BASED PROGRAMS FOR 0-3 YEAR OLDS.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.1** - Expand Universal Pre-K initiatives to include 0-3 year old programming.

### OBJECTIVE 3 - ENSURE THAT PROGRAMMING IS HIGH QUALITY, CONSISTENT, AND WELL-FUNDED.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.1** - Support the following three initiatives from the Campaign for Children policy platform: (a) Implement universal access to full-year, full-day early childhood education; (b) Ensure salary parity for equally credentialed staff in the public school system and early care system; (c) Provide a sufficient per-child rate to ensure quality standards are met.

### OBJECTIVE 4 - CREATE GREATER AWARENESS OF EXISTING PROGRAMMING.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.1** - Increase the amount of afterschool program seats in East Harlem.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.2** - Document existing available afterschool programming and share this information with the community, both online and in hard copy. Ensure this information is available in multiple languages including Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish and French.



Existing Afterschool Programming



Example of 0-3 year old programming

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# NYCHA

---

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### OBJECTIVE 1 - ENSURE THAT REPAIRS ARE MADE ON NYCHA DEVELOPMENTS EFFICIENTLY AND USING HIGH QUALITY WORKMANSHIP.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.1** - Create a more effective and transparent Optimal Property Management Operating Model (OPMOM) program if and when it is expanded to East Harlem developments. Improve training of managers to listen to the needs of their residents. Improve relations between managers and central NYCHA divisions. Allow for weekend and overnight repairs. Provide managers more flexibility in whom they may call for repairs.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2** - Establish an East Harlem pilot where unions agree to a trial shift system for after hours and weekend repairs in East Harlem NYCHA developments.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.3** - Bring the NYCHA One Call program (where NYCHA repair task times and employees are digitally tracked) to all East Harlem NYCHA developments.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.4** - Return to previous system of district-wide annual budgeting sessions with NYCHA staff and resident leaders twice a year.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.5** - Conduct annual inspections of units in East Harlem NYCHA developments in order to (a) anticipate a timeline for future repair needs, and (b) conduct repairs on the spot during those inspections whenever feasible. Ensure that annual inspections are decoupled from identifying violations.

### OBJECTIVE 2 - IMPROVE SAFETY AND SECURITY ON NYCHA DEVELOPMENTS.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.1** - Make another round of investment to enhance security at targeted East Harlem developments, modeled after the \$101 million fund allocated in December 2014 by the Mayor and the District Attorney to the 15 most violent developments in NYC. With input from residents, focus the funds on infrastructure improvements (lighting, cameras and layered access), and violence reduction programming.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.2** - Reintroduce the Safety and Security Task Force in NYCHA and ensure meaningful partnerships with NYPD, DA, CBO's, City Hall, Law Dept., resident watch supervisors and NYCHA residents.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.3** - Formalize the community policing engagement approach being undertaken at Johnson Houses across East Harlem developments. There should be a joint effort between NYPD and residents to initiate this program/process.

### OBJECTIVE 3 - IMPROVE NYCHA ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSITIONS AND THEIR EFFECTS AT THE DEVELOPMENT LEVEL.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.1** - Formalize a communication protocol between former and newly appointed leadership and resident associations when there is a transition. Inform district chairs as soon as any major administrative changes at NYCHA are made. Ensure that projects and programs already allocated or underway from a prior administration are retained whenever possible.

### OBJECTIVE 4 - IMPROVE ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION, AND INFORMATION PROVISION TO NYCHA RESIDENTS.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.1** - Work with TA leaders to develop a resident and community engagement strategy around major decision making, including returning to the model of monthly meetings with superintendents and managers. Include District Managers in an effort to pass information to the District Manager's supervisor at NYCHA's main office.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.2** - Inform individual residents if their home has been identified through the NextGen Plan as (a) one of the 6,380 public housing units in scattered-site developments that could be converted to project-based Section 8, or (b) one of 8,313 public housing units in properties where the cost of rehabilitation exceeds the cost of new construction ("obsolete units") and where these could be converted to project-based Section 8 through a combination of RAD and HUD Tenant Protection Vouchers.

### OBJECTIVE 5 - CREATE MECHANISMS FOR RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING AROUND DEVELOPMENT ON NYCHA LAND.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.1** - Allow residents in public housing developments in East Harlem to decide, after a robust and authentic community engagement process, whether or not they want to permit new residential construction on their development sites.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.2** - If infill does go forward in a development:

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# NYCHA

## 5.2.1 \*

Ensure that revenues generated by development are funneled into on-site development improvements, with the development directly impacted being the first recipient of those revenues.

## 5.2.2 \*

Create a governance structure (comprised of a combination of NYCHA residents, TA's and community organizations) to advise on and monitor the spending of revenues generated by infill development.

## 5.2.3 \*

Provide for NYCHA resident input into levels of affordability for development, as well as siting, design, density, unit types and parking.

## 5.2.4 \*

Prioritize a percentage for homeless placement in newly created units.

## 5.2.5 \*

Prioritize a percentage for senior placement in newly created units.

\* Oppose: Community Voices Heard

## OBJECTIVE 6 – CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR NYCHA RESIDENTS.

**RECOMMENDATION 6.1** - Provide workforce training opportunities for NYCHA residents and ensure that information about opportunities and courses are distributed in a timely manner (at least 6 months in advance).

**RECOMMENDATION 6.2** - Provide opportunities and spaces to support resident entrepreneurship (e.g. an incubator program in East Harlem NYCHA spaces; expanded links with SBS for additional business development support).

**RECOMMENDATION 6.3** -Provide job training for NYCHA residents interested in seeking employment opportunities within their own or nearby developments and give preference to NYCHA development residents when hiring.

**RECOMMENDATION 6.4** -Bring broadband and wifi access to all East Harlem NYCHA developments. One potential model is the Red Hook Houses initiative where the Open Technology Institute helped set up a wireless mesh throughout the development

## OBJECTIVE 7 – IMPROVE NYCHA OPEN SPACES.

**RECOMMENDATION 7.1** - Improve and activate NYCHA open spaces where feasible (set away from the buildings) and build stronger connections to other green spaces within the neighborhood through wayfinding. Consider passive recreation (e.g. seating

and benches), active recreation (playgrounds or ball courts), and urban agriculture (e.g. community gardens, Concrete Safaris). Build a stewardship plan into any improved open spaces that encourages participation and leadership of residents, particularly youth.



NYCHA community garden

photo: New York City Council



NYCHA mobile computer lab

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# HOUSING PRESERVATION

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### OBJECTIVE 1 – ENSURE APPROPRIATE ENFORCEMENT OF TENANT RIGHTS TO PREVENT HARASSMENT.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.1** - Ensure that legal aid funding is extended following the 3-year program currently in place.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2** - Expand sharing of information among Tenant Support Unit/HRA/Legal Services and East Harlem CBOs through a standing task force meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.3** - Provide additional funding and training to CBOs that engage in tenant protection issues in East Harlem.

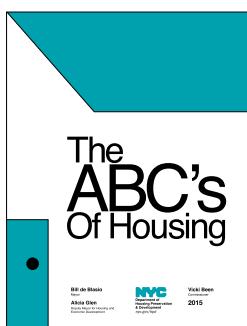
**RECOMMENDATION 1.4** - Expand the distribution of HPD's ABC's Of Housing, including more thorough distribution to new tenants and existing tenants renewing their leases.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.5** - Lobby at the State level to change illegal and legal rent fee structure. Raise awareness of what fees are and are not legal. Increase the number of audits and personnel in East Harlem looking into illegal non-rent fees and fraudulently applied rent fees.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.6** - Work with the newly-established Civil Justice Coordinator to coordinate the use of local resources, with the eventual goal of providing counsel to all New Yorkers in certain civil matters

**RECOMMENDATION 1.7** - Create an East Harlem anti-harassment / anti-eviction district, modeled after the Special Clinton District. Include funding for CBOs organizing along with the designation, as CBOs are often assisting and reporting on behalf of tenants in harassment incidents.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.8** - Improve the mechanism by which rezonings are announced in a neighborhood, and by which communities can prepare themselves against harassment before a rezoning takes place, such as through required additional community forums and workshops. Include funding for CBOs and developers to host these forums and workshops.



HPD's "The ABC's of Housing"

### OBJECTIVE 2 – PRESERVE AFFORDABILITY OF CURRENT RENT STABILIZED UNITS AND PREVENT UNIT DESTABILIZATION.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.1** - Expand the resources available to East Harlem building owners and developers to preserve affordable units by creating a neighborhood-wide HPD funding set aside.

#### 2.1.1 \*

Focus the uses of these funds on privately-owned stabilized buildings in major distress and needing repairs.

#### 2.1.2

Focus the uses of these funds on affordable units within public financing programs set to expire over a set number of years.

#### 2.1.3

Focus the uses of these funds on unregulated 1-5 unit buildings that could be brought into a preservation program.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.2** - Clearly define illegal Airbnb activity, and improve the enforcement of regulations by proactively utilizing data to protect the community's existing stock of rent regulated housing from being used illegally.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.3** - Remove barriers to not-for-profit affordable housing developers to protect (and create) affordable housing in East Harlem, such as through: (a) Lowering HPD RFP equity requirements for not-for-profit organizations; (b) Providing a discount on water and sewage charges if the developer is providing units at income bands at or below 50% of AMI.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.4** - Create greater incentives for private sector investment in not-for-profit affordable housing development, such as by increasing tax incentives made available to investors and, in return, ensuring the provision of additional community benefit services by the developer.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.5** - Consider the location of existing affordable units (both regulated and unregulated) as a central decision factor in establishing a rezoning area boundary.

### OBJECTIVE 3 – BETTER PREPARE EAST HARLEM RESIDENTS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOTTERIES.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.1** - Provide resources that enable individuals applying for housing lotteries to pull together required documentation. Simplify documentation that is needed and expand the forms of documentation that are acceptable.

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# HOUSING PRESERVATION

---

**RECOMMENDATION 3.2** – Require private developers to hire a local third party organization to conduct lottery counseling and marketing, and require proper compensation for these services.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.3** – Mandate that housing lotteries have detailed information made available at the construction site, including a nearby location of where to pick up a lottery application.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.4** – Establish a neighborhood-wide housing preparedness clinic that holds regularly scheduled sessions, so that tenants are well-prepared for lotteries.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.5** – Create a community input process for establishing criteria for housing lotteries for special populations (senior, artist, homeless, etc.), and ensure that HPD requires and properly funds selected developers to adhere to the criteria.

## OBJECTIVE 4 - IMPROVE AGENCY INFORMATION-SHARING TO IDENTIFY TENANT HARASSMENT.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.1** – Create an information-sharing agreement between CBOs and HPD/DOB to share tailored data sets on affordable housing, building violations, and harassment. Use CASA/HPD information-sharing in the Bronx as a precedent.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.2** – Train East Harlem CBOs to synthesize the tailored data sets they are obtaining from HPD/DOB.

## OBJECTIVE 5 - PRESERVE THE USE OF VACANT, UNDERUTILIZED, AND DISTRESSED LAND/PROPERTIES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.1** – Pilot the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board's recommendations for the City's tax liens policy in East Harlem. For rental housing where there is outstanding tax debt, pursue one of the following policies: (a) City enters into a payment plan with existing owner that includes rent regulation of exiting units, or (b) for owners that continue to not pay outstanding tax debt, the City initiates foreclosure and uses the existing Third Party Transfer program to transfer the buildings to an affordable housing provider. Ensure that the City continues to withhold tax debt on low income cooperatives from the lien sale in favor of working with the cooperators on a plan to stabilize those units.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.2** – Support the growth of a community land trust (CLT) in East Harlem by recommending that the City commit to transferring a small list of City-owned buildings, at-risk HDFCs, vacant/distressed properties, and underutilized public land in East Harlem to CLT stewardship, and provide up-front financing to support the preservation of low-cost housing, in partnership with proven nonprofit affordable housing developers. Experienced, locally-based

nonprofit affordable housing developers should also have representation on the CLT board.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.3** – Create a city-wide unused/underutilized property registry. Pilot the registry in East Harlem. Include information about expiring stabilization programs.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.4** – Use EDC/HPD acquisition funds to purchase warehoused properties that would be conveyed to an affordable housing developer through an RFP process.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.5** – Study the establishment of a special district for fee capture on the transaction of air rights to preserve existing affordable housing.

## OBJECTIVE 6 - ENSURE HOUSING IS IN A GOOD STATE OF REPAIR AND BETTER ENFORCE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WARRANT OF HABITABILITY.

**RECOMMENDATION 6.1** – Pilot the following specific initiatives in East Harlem:

- Have HPD initiate housing court actions on any building where over a certain number of violations exist (the typical definition for statutory distress is 4 or more B&C housing code violations per unit).
- Have HPD refuse to forgive fines when a building meets a certain threshold based on the number of violations, their severity, and how long they've existed.  
[Exempt HDFC's and non-profit owner groups from these initiatives.]

**RECOMMENDATION 6.2** – Endorse the Stand for Tenant Safety Coalition Legislative Platform to Reform the Department of Buildings. The Stand for Tenant Safety Coalition Legislative Platform is included in Appendix C of this report.

\* Abstain: Office of City Council Speaker Mark-Viverito

**RECOMMENDATION 6.3** – Require DOB and HPD to coordinate prior to any DOB vacate order; and refer tenants to legal aid in these circumstances.

**RECOMMENDATION 6.4** – Support the oversight work of the Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force by including more representation on the task force of East Harlem community CBOs. In addition, seek that the Task Force place additional focus on and enforcement resources into the neighborhoods undergoing rezoning.

## OBJECTIVE 7 - MAINTAIN AFFORDABILITY OF NEIGHBORHOOD AMENITIES.

**RECOMMENDATION 7.1** – Preserve retail affordability for local small businesses by making additional loans and grants available, and through studying the potential for a retail rent stabilization program.

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# SMALL BUSINESSES, ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### OBJECTIVE 1 - INCREASE QUALITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR EAST HARLEM RESIDENTS.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.1** - Require developers to set goals for hiring East Harlem residents, and giving East Harlem residents the first opportunity to interview for positions. The Community Board, Borough President and Council Members can advocate for these actions on projects they review.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2** - Create a better mechanism for overseeing developer performance on their agreements to hire East Harlem workers (e.g. requiring developers seeking public approval to provide quarterly reports on local hiring to the Community Board, Borough President and Council Members, as well as to the local workforce development provider network, which can track and post those reports). Add community and union oversight to assure quality hires. Make quarterly reports public.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.3** - Encourage local employers, including building management companies, to hire local residents. This can be accomplished by providing funding to a local workforce development provider network that facilitates local hiring by identifying, screening and referring local residents to employers seeking to hire locally, as well as to developers looking to build in East Harlem. Ensure local workforce development providers have good track records for connecting people to jobs and ensuring that they are quality jobs.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.4** - Work with labor unions to build pre-apprenticeship programs for East Harlem residents and workforce development partnerships with pathways to union jobs.

### OBJECTIVE 2 - ENHANCE THE SKILLS OF EAST HARLEM RESIDENTS, WHICH WILL ALLOW THEM TO SUCCEED IN THE WORKFORCE.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.1** - Provide more funding to workforce development programs in East Harlem, with a focus on career training, not just entry-level jobs, and encourage connections to actual jobs being created.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.2** - For all public projects (with a threshold to be established for when this requirement is triggered), other than affordable housing projects already benefiting from subsidies, there should be a 1% set-aside for local job training programs, modeled on the "Percent for Art" requirement.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.3** - SBS should open a satellite Workforce 1 center in East Harlem and should build connections between

that center and major East Harlem employers. Workforce 1 should also coordinate with local community-based organizations and trades unions to ensure good connections to employers. Secure additional funding for programming and staffing at this center in order to provide career training and job placement services specifically for youth in East Harlem aged 16-24.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.4** - Work to ensure that HRA's job readiness and placement efforts are coordinated and integrated with other job training programs in East Harlem.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.5** - Increase funding for programs that help local residents learn English, obtain their high school equivalency degree, become citizens or prepare for college.

### OBJECTIVE 3 - PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE VIABILITY EAST HARLEM'S SMALL BUSINESSES.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.1** - Amend existing zoning to permit additional commercial spaces on the second floor, provided that such commercial spaces do not displace rent controlled or rent stabilized apartments.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.2** - Amend existing zoning to limit the width of certain commercial spaces, which will preclude "big box" stores from moving into those locations in order to encourage small businesses.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.3** - Provide multi-year funding to establish and sustain merchants' associations on East 116th Street and East 125th Street, with the ultimate goal of establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) if found to be warranted.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.4** - Increase funding for programs that provide assistance to local small businesses in consultation with the small businesses themselves.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.5** - Have SBS conduct a Commercial District Needs Assessment (CDNA) along the main commercial corridors in East Harlem.

### OBJECTIVE 4 - INCREASE OVERALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN EAST HARLEM.



Target



East Harlem small business

photo by Kate Billard

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# SMALL BUSINESSES, ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Johnson Houses



photo by Chelsea Foley

Park Ave at 102nd Street



photo by Kate McFerran

**RECOMMENDATION 4.1** - Utilize zoning to encourage further development to bring in more businesses and business activity. Potential locations for development include East 125th Street, the NYCHA “superblocks” along the existing commercial corridors, Park Avenue, Madison Avenue and the Harlem River waterfront. Ensure that any waterfront development retains public access to the waterfront.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.2** - Bring NYCHA and NYCHA residents to the table and make sure that NYCHA’s “NextGen” plans proceed only in a manner that is consistent with the priorities of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.3** - Create incentives such as the Department of Finance’s Relocation and Employment Assistance (REAP) program and use organizations such as a merchant’s association or BID if warranted to attract new types of businesses to open in East Harlem (e.g., hotels, movie theaters, cultural venues, bowling alley, business clothing stores).

**RECOMMENDATION 4.4** - Provide funding for a local group to encourage local businesses, non-profits and other organizations to purchase goods and services within East Harlem.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.5** - Take steps to enhance the safety and cleanliness of the commercial corridors by including better lighting, more waste receptacles and more frequent sanitation pick-ups.

## OBJECTIVE 5 – ATTRACT MORE TOURISTS AND OTHER VISITORS TO EAST HARLEM.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.1** - Add wayfinding signs to better assist visitors.

Additional tourism-related recommendation can be found in the Arts & Culture subgroup recommendations.

## ADDITIONAL WORKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS \*

**RECOMMENDATION 6.1** - Improve job standards: Require recipients of public subsidies and city-owned property and properties requiring land use processes to commit to ensuring that all contractors and subcontractors working in East Harlem be participants in state or federally approved apprenticeship programs for the trades in which they perform work.

**RECOMMENDATION 6.2** - Improve job standards: Require building owners who receive public subsidies or whose buildings are constructed on city-owned property or property disposed by the city to pay prevailing wage for building service workers and living wages for other permanent workers.

**RECOMMENDATION 6.3** - Good quality job creation: Encourage developers and commercial tenants to commit to paying prevailing wage or living wage, whichever is the industry standard, for the permanent jobs and respecting workers’ right to organize

**RECOMMENDATION 6.4 \*\*** - Facilitated hiring: Create a local hire intake center, run by a qualified community-based organization, to facilitate a city-wide local hire goal for rezoned communities. This would allow East Harlem residents to work in other rezoning areas and have residents of those areas work in East Harlem, thus drastically widening the long-term career employment opportunities rather than incentivizing short-term jobs.

\* These four recommendations were not proposed or reviewed by the Small Businesses, Workforce & Economic Development subgroup, and instead came before the Steering Committee directly.

\*\* Oppose: Union Settlement Association

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# HEALTH & SENIORS

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### OBJECTIVE 1 - CREATE A LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM IN EAST HARLEM TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE AND QUALITY FOOD.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.1** - Amend the Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) program to allow for a variance for food cooperatives and nonprofit grocers to be eligible for zoning and tax incentives under the program.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2** - Establish a year round comprehensive farmer's market in La Marqueta that is affordable to residents and businesses.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.3** - Increase funding and expansion of food box programs. Ensure that new pick-up sites are evenly distributed throughout East Harlem utilizing Grow NYC's 6 block radius threshold.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.4** - Increase food production/manufacturing and commercial kitchen spaces through light industrial zoning in East Harlem (see zoning rec 2.2). This would include establishing wash, chop & bag facilities that can cater to schools, senior centers, and other places that regularly prepare large quantities of food as part of their programs.



### OBJECTIVE 2 - IMPROVE HEALTH SERVICE COORDINATION AND ACCESS.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.1** - Identify capital support for the Neighborhood Health Action Center, including assisting community organizations with building out the spaces that they will operate.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.2** - Increase funding for HIV prevention programming & services in East Harlem. Increase the number of supportive housing units for those living with HIV/AIDS and/or make this cohort the primary set aside for supportive housing units in East Harlem.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.3** - Conduct feasibility study to determine the placement and number of new Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's) and Primary Care Clinics in East Harlem with a focus on the geographic middle of district boundaries.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.4** - Designate East Harlem as a priority community for the rollout of Direct Access NYC to ensure that East Harlem residents who are immigrants have access to the myriad of services, programs and initiatives under Direct Access NYC , including more translation services at neighborhood health facilities for Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish and French speakers.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.5** - Decrease the number of uninsured residents through equitable distribution of health insurance navigator programs.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.6** - Select East Harlem as a priority neighborhood for the rollout of Thrive NYC Initiatives including: Mental Health First Aid Training, NYC Mental Health Corps, Youth Mental Health First Aid..

### OBJECTIVE 3 - CREATE A NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENT THAT ALLOWS FOR SENIORS TO AGE IN PLACE COMFORTABLY.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.1** - Create an Aging Improvement District boundary designation building off the Neighborhood NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities) designation definition. The density and number of persons over age 50 in a given area is to be considered. Businesses, development projects, etc would be encouraged through use of existing incentives to make physical plants, services, goods age-friendly. Example: businesses in an age-friendly district would be allowed to use SBS storefront improvement funds to make age-friendly physical improvements. Note: The Mayor's Age-friendly NYC Commission should do this.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.2** - Prioritize built environment improvements called for in the East Harlem Age-friendly Neighborhood Action Plan, including ensuring the pedestrian plaza at 125th St. and Park Ave. is inclusive of older adults in its design and on-going programming.

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# HEALTH & SENIORS

**RECOMMENDATION 3.3** - For affordable units created on privately owned sites through MIH, ensure that they are built with accessibility features that cater to seniors, and that preference for some percentage of units is given to seniors.

## OBJECTIVE 4 – ENHANCE THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT TO PROMOTE HEALTH.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.1** - Work with NYCHA to ensure that proper connections are made through its waterfront developments leading to the Randall's Island footbridge at 103rd Street. Wayfinding, markings, and signage are required to identify routes from First Avenue, as well as dedicated bicycle and pedestrian routes and pavement and sidewalk improvements. While NYCHA must provide these on its property, DOT can provide technical assistance and design guidelines for greenway connections. Coordination is also needed with NYCHA to ensure that scaffolding does not obscure route across 102nd St.



Randall's Island Footbridge at 103rd Street

**RECOMMENDATION 4.2** - Establish a Health District in East Harlem centered around the Neighborhood Health Action Center. Health districts are places where healthy choices are the easiest ones to make. They are places to heal, work, and live where new ideas on improving healthcare and public health can be developed, tested, and disseminated. A health district holistically connects the community to hospitals, health department offices, healthy food and commercial options, health-related incubators and technology, and career training.



Wayfinding signage in Berkley, CA

**RECOMMENDATION 4.3** - Establish a multi-generational playground in East Harlem that has options for seniors and adults. Explore solutions to current DPR regulations preventing seniors from using seating near playgrounds.



Multigenerational playground on Lower East Side waterfront

## OBJECTIVE 5 – FOSTER SAFE AND HEALTHY LIVING ENVIRONMENTS.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.1** - Encourage the adoption of the Active Design Guidelines: Affordable designs for Affordable Housing as an industry standard in East Harlem.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.2** - To the greatest extent possible, renovation and new construction should implement health-promoting practices including building envelope restoration; new heating, electrical, and ventilation systems; air sealing; new insulation and exterior cladding; window replacement; Energy-Star fixtures and appliances; asbestos and mold abatement; apartment gut retrofits; low volatile organic chemical and moisture-resistant materials; exercise enhancements; and indoor no-smoking policy.

The EHNP Steering Committee has recommended that a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) be conducted on subsequent ULURP processes, transportation plans, and NYCHA infill projects in East Harlem. More details on the HIA recommendation are outlined on pages 126-127 of this report.

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND ENERGY

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**OBJECTIVE 1 - CAPITALIZE ON THE PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND AVENUE SUBWAY AND IMPROVE THE ABILITY OF EAST HARLEM PUBLIC TRANSIT USERS TO ACCESS JOBS, SERVICES, CULTURAL FACILITIES AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.**

**RECOMMENDATION 1.1** - Create a multi-modal transit hub that connects between the Second Ave Subway (SAS), the 125th Street MetroNorth Station and the Lexington Ave Line, which also considers buses and taxis. Incorporate this hub and connection as part of the SAS Phase 2 Design Process through a dedicated community engagement session that leads to design guidelines for the physical connections.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2** - Ensure that there is engagement with business owners who will be impacted by future Second Ave Subway (SAS) construction to limit displacement and loss of business.



Citybench Program

**OBJECTIVE 2 - IMPROVE THE MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED WITH INCREASED AND DEDICATED PUBLIC TRANSIT OPTIONS AND STREETSCAPE INFRASTRUCTURE.**

**RECOMMENDATION 2.1** - Conduct a service assessment and survey of Access-A-Ride to identify issues and develop solutions to improve wait times and provide on-time service. Potential solutions for improving service may extend beyond more funding, such as to resolving issues around how MTA contracts its vehicles, an improved voucher system, and ride-sharing.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.2** - Identify funding to install bus shelters on 5th Avenue along its entire length in the district, prioritizing the installation of shelters along Central Park. (This may require working with residents and the Central Park Conservancy around issues of historic character and appropriate design.)

**RECOMMENDATION 2.3** - Locate CityBench program installations in areas that provide respite for seniors, along NYCHA developments, commercial and cross-town corridors, and near Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities like Franklin Plaza. Coordinate locations with the DPHO's proposed walking trail and other cultural wayfinding initiatives.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.4** - Address safe access for the visually impaired via the piloting of the Vision Enhancement Community Project (VECOMP) in key areas including 125th St, 116th St, 5th Ave and Madison Ave; adjacent to Mount Sinai and Metropolitan Hospitals; and areas around senior center locations throughout CB11.

**OBJECTIVE 3 - INCREASE OVERALL PEDESTRIAN SAFETY WITHIN CB11.**

**RECOMMENDATION 3.1** - Require DOT and MTA to jointly conduct a comprehensive study of the Park Avenue Viaduct running from 102nd Street to the Harlem River Drive, with a primary focus on pedestrian safety.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.2** - Fund a study of DOT's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program at all school sites in East Harlem, and implement where possible.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.3** - Improve connectivity of bike paths in the northeast corner of the district (between 124th and 127th, along both 2nd and 1st Avenues).

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND ENERGY



Truck traffic along 125th Street

## OBJECTIVE 4 – IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN EAST HARLEM BY REDUCING CONGESTION AND MITIGATING VEHICULAR EMISSIONS

**RECOMMENDATION 4.1** – Institute a pilot enforcement program to reduce congestion at key intersections and along key commercial corridors. Reduce vehicular idling (school buses, trash trucks, taxis, double-parkers).

**RECOMMENDATION 4.2** – Modify parking and loading/unloading regulations (such as via implementing rush hour regulations) along 125th St. between 1st Avenue and 5th Avenue, with the purpose of speeding up cross town bus times and improving air quality. Establish a similar set of recommendations for commercial deliveries to improve the efficiency of commercial truck traffic along East Harlem's other primary commercial corridors (116th Street, 106th Street, Lexington Avenue, and 3rd Avenue).

**RECOMMENDATION 4.3** – When bus or sanitation depots are redeveloped within East Harlem, require that new buildings meet or exceed LEED Gold standards.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.4** – Encourage passive building design standards in the rezoning area and develop incentives for developers to pursue passive building construction.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.5** – Relocate the M10 Sanitation Garage at 110 East 131st St. (at the intersection of Lexington & Park Ave) to a more suitable location within Community Board 10. The M10 Garage only serves residents of CB10, but is located within CB11.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.6** – Relocate the existing M11 Sanitation Garage from 343 East 99th St. (between 1st & 2nd Ave, where it is adjacent to both healthcare and residential uses), to a more suitable location.



M10 Sanitation Garage



M11 Sanitation Garage

## OBJECTIVE 5 – IMPROVE THE ENERGY RESILIENCY AND INDEPENDENCE OF EAST HARLEM RESIDENTS BY INCREASING ACCESS TO NON-FOSSIL FUEL BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.1** – Explore the possibility of incorporating a special zoning district to allow for the generation of non-fossil fuel renewable power for community use and sale back to the grid as a revenue generator, to facilitate the development of a microgrid.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.2** – Pilot a microgrid initiative at NYCHA's East River Houses and Metro North Plaza, Metropolitan Hospital, and several schools in the southeast part of the district.

**RECOMMENDATION 5.3** – Working in consultation with both NYCHA and NYCHA residents, develop and install energy storage infrastructure on NYCHA property (within a microgrid pilot area) to facilitate the following objectives: 1) greater resiliency and reliability in the event of a blackout; 2) the reduction of the need for dirty peaker plant energy; and 3) generate revenue for NYCHA. The batteries can be used to store energy from off-shore wind facilities, with power purchased through the NYC Bulk Transmission System. Study the feasibility of siting enough storage infrastructure to reach 30MW of energy storage capacity.



East River Houses



Metro North Plaza

## OBJECTIVE 6 – REDUCE WASTE GENERATED IN EAST HARLEM AND IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SANITATION OPERATIONS IN COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS IN EAST HARLEM.

**RECOMMENDATION 6.1** – Improve sanitation along commercial corridors in East Harlem by installing more waste receptacles and providing more frequent sanitation pick-ups.

**RECOMMENDATION 6.2** – Set up a demonstration project in East Harlem NYCHA developments to evaluate NYCHA Recycles! Program and NYCHA resident-driven recycling initiatives.

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# SAFETY

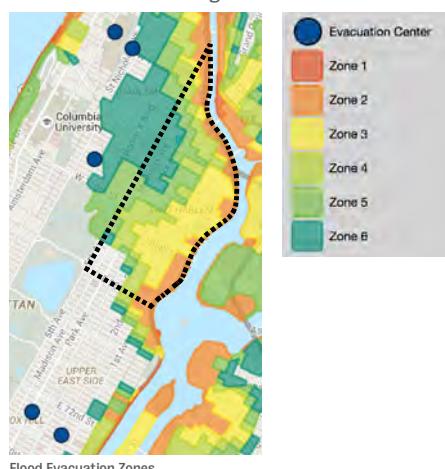
## RECOMMENDATIONS

### OBJECTIVE 1 - IMPROVE DISTRICT-WIDE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND ENSURE THAT RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS KNOW HOW TO ACCESS RESOURCES IN THE EVENT OF A DISASTER.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.1** - Provide guidelines in multiple languages for sheltering in place and for evacuation procedures for vulnerable populations. Target senior centers, public housing developments, community centers, schools, and other public buildings for posting these guidelines. Give priority to buildings located in the flood zone.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2** - Create a Long Term Recovery Group in East Harlem. Ensure that the Long Term Recovery Group has funding to conduct the following tasks in preparation for a potential future disaster/event: establish information/resource hubs within the district, develop a strategy for information dissemination, identify protocols for residents, create a transportation plan for evacuation.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.3** - Explore the possibility of creating an evacuation center that can better serve CD11 at PS 198/PS 77, which is located just south of the district on 98th Street between 3rd and Lexington Aves.



### OBJECTIVE 2 - INVEST IN THE EMPOWERMENT OF EAST HARLEM YOUTH AS A PRIMARY TOOL OF VIOLENCE REDUCTION IN THE DISTRICT.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.1** - Expand programming for high-risk youth and their families to other areas in the district, and ensure that after-hours programming is made available. Consider starting with expanding and diversifying programming at Corsi Houses and the Thomas Jefferson Recreation Center.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.2** - Invest in deepened, positive police engagement in NYCHA by funding more community-based police training initiatives.

### OBJECTIVE 3 - ENSURE THAT THERE ARE ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES THAT AFFECT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN ADDITION TO POLICING EFFORTS.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.1** - Identify a location for a Diversion Center, a facility that, instead of incarcerating individuals with low-level offenses, will connect them to mental health, shelter, or other social services. Ensure that police officers have training to respond to these cases. mental health, shelter, or other social services. Ensure that police officers have training to respond to these cases.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.2** - Assess East Harlem mental health and drug rehabilitation center services. Identify quality of services, extent of utilization, and opportunities for improvement.

### OBJECTIVE 4 - MAKE PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS TO INCREASE RESIDENT SAFETY WITHIN PUBLIC PLACES.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.1** - Develop specifications for improving the quality of lighting in key areas of East Harlem. Consider more careful siting of lighting, and relocate lighting that is currently obscured by street trees.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.2** - Provide strengthened protections for East Harlem cyclists and pedestrians interfacing with construction sites. Ensure that DOT works closely with its sister City agencies (Department of Design and Construction, Department of Buildings, Department of Environmental Protection, and Parks) to coordinate enforcement and ensure compliance with safety. For particularly large or complex construction sites, consider placing trained pedestrian traffic managers in the field, who will focus on bicycle and pedestrian safety in and around major construction projects.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.3** - Improve lighting within Marcus Garvey Park, Thomas Jefferson Park, and along the East River Esplanade.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.4** - Increase Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) within Harlem River Park, Marcus Garvey Park and Thomas Jefferson Park.

**RECOMMENDATION 4.6** - Take steps to enhance the safety of East Harlem commercial corridors. Potential initiatives include (a) increasing the quality of lighting along commercial avenues and (b) relocating the M35 bus stop from the corner of Lexington Avenue and 125th Street.

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### OBJECTIVE 1 - INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING WITH DEEP AND VARIED LEVELS OF AFFORDABILITY IN ANY NEW DEVELOPMENT.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.1** - The community's goal is to build off of the affordability that will be required on private rezoned sites under the MIH policy (proposed at 25% affordable housing at 60% AMI, or 30% at 80% AMI) with a recommendation of 100% affordable on public sites. These efforts combined will enable at least 50% of the new housing on private rezoned and public sites to be affordable at a variety of low- and moderate-income levels.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2** - For the 50% affordable housing, establish targets of low and moderate AMI bands that relate to the neighborhood medians and establish a target that at least 20% of the affordable units are at or below 30% of AMI. Households in East Harlem earn a median income of about \$33,500/year, or about 43% of AMI.

- 37% make 0-30% AMI (< \$23,350)
- 16% make 31-50% AMI (\$23,351-\$38,450)
- 17% make 51-80% AMI (\$38,450- \$62,150)
- 7% make 81-100% of AMI (\$62,151- \$77,700)
- 23% make 101%+ AMI (> \$77,700)

**RECOMMENDATION 1.3** - Ensure the enforcement of regulatory agreements that outline affordability requirements. Empower tenants and CBOs to be involved in such enforcement. Work with HPD to make regulatory agreements more accessible to the public, and provide annual reports to Community Board 11, City Council and the Manhattan Borough President's Office.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.4** - Assure permanent affordability in the units created through Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and developed on public sites.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.5** - Aim to achieve total new development of affordable housing that exceeds the estimated current loss of rent regulated housing (which projects forward to an approximate loss of 280 units per year for the next 15 years) and addresses a significant portion of the severe housing need documented in East Harlem, which includes the percent of the local population that is homeless, overcrowded, and severely rent burdened.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.6** - Establish a special district along portions of 3rd, 2nd and 1st Avenues that allows for a voluntary density bonus on top of (and in conjunction with) a potential rezoning with Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) so that greater levels of affordability can be reached. [This recommendation assumes a potential rezoning with MIH to R9 and a "bump-up" for the voluntary density bonus.] Consider application of this special district concept to portions of Madison, Lexington and Park Avenues. Additional study is needed to establish how much additional affordability can be built in and retain financial viability.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.7** - Study the establishment of a linkage between a potential voluntary density bonus and a policy on construction workforce that requires living wages, local hiring and certified apprenticeship programs.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.8** - Ensure that construction jobs for affordable housing production pay living wages, advance local hiring, and provide certified apprenticeship programs so that East Harlem residents can be ensured well-paying and safe work environments, with long-term career opportunities.

### OBJECTIVE 2 - EXPAND AFFORDABLE HOUSING TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN NEW DEVELOPMENT.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.1** - Exclusively public sites that can be redeveloped, with or without a change in zoning designation, should be built with 100% affordable units, and these units should be required to reach deep

and varied levels of affordability up to 130% of AMI, and to establish a target of at least 20% of the units at or below 30% of AMI.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.2** - If residents decide that new infill development is appropriate for their NYCHA development, create additional affordable housing on available NYCHA sites in conjunction with active engagement with the development residents. (This recommendation relates to NYCHA Recommendation 5.1.)

**RECOMMENDATION 2.3** - Explore the potential for adaptive re-use, co-location and development of underutilized buildings for affordable housing and other community uses.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.4** - HPD should provide more affordable artist live/work spaces through its programs in East Harlem. Locate these spaces in appropriate areas as part of potential rezoning, such as along the Park Avenue viaduct (allow artist live/work housing to use commercial FAR should the area be rezoned).

**RECOMMENDATION 2.5** - Encourage HPD to work with the community to identify sites and funding to create more affordable housing for seniors.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.6** - Seek to create more supportive housing, and ensure that it is built in conjunction with experienced non-profit supportive housing providers for those groups most in need in the district, as identified by the Community Board.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.7** - Increase the amount of City subsidy available to reach deep levels of affordability.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.8** - For Requests for Proposals for public sites:

- 2.8.1 Require maximum and deep affordability.
- 2.8.2 Require permanent affordability strategies.
- 2.8.3 Require that developments meet community-defined program and design requirements, including those for open space and community facilities, and housing for the homeless.
- 2.8.4 Encourage that HPD require involvement of locally-based non-profit developers/owners.
- 2.8.5 Explore the potential for the conveyance of vacant and underutilized City-owned land to a community land trust.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.9** - Encourage private developers to work with the East Harlem community (non-profit developers, community-based organizations, service providers, the Community Board, et al) to ensure that all new developments meet community needs and priorities.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.10** - Make community preference in affordable housing a requirement of development in East Harlem.

### OBJECTIVE 3 - IMPLEMENT TOOLS TO ADDRESS DISPLACEMENT OF RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.1** - Adopt anti-harassment measures to discourage the displacement of East Harlem residents.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.2** - Discourage speculation and encourage community-centric development with an anti-warehousing policy, and an investor/purchaser transfer tax.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.3** - Encourage the leasing of ground-floor commercial space to local small business owners through coordinated outreach to landowners and landlords. Ensure that DCP, HPD, EDC and SBS coordinate efforts and resources to strengthen strategies for small business creation and retention along commercial corridors in East Harlem.

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# ZONING & LAND USE

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### OBJECTIVE 1 - PRESERVE IMPORTANT EAST HARLEM BUILDINGS AND REINFORCE NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.1** - Preserve areas with unique East Harlem neighborhood characteristics through rezoning, such as 116th Street east of 3rd Avenue, Madison Avenue between 126th and 132nd Streets, and midblock areas. The subgroup discussed indicators of significant neighborhood character, such as particular façade treatments/colors, architectural style, design of midblocks including building entries, neighborhood gardens, ground floor activities and storefronts, skyline, and locations where important historical and cultural events took place.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2** - Protect buildings and sites with significant local and cultural heritage by considering landmark status or ensuring they are rezoned into preservation districts. This will depend on context and neighboring zoning. Buildings and sites for consideration for local heritage or landmark status include the Cosmo Theater (116th Street), the building featuring the Zapatista mural (117th Street), the building featuring De La Vega's homage to Picasso (111th Street), the Casa Latina Music Store (116th Street), the 1st Spanish Methodist Church (111th Street), La Marqueta, Harlem's Colonial African Burial Ground Sacred Site, Public Housing, and others.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.3** - Study the creation of historic districts in areas such as Pleasant Avenue, 116th Street east of Park Ave., the corner of 106th and Lexington Avenue, and Pleasant Village (along E. 119th Street between 1st Avenue and Pleasant Avenue).

**RECOMMENDATION 1.4** - Redefine the Transit Land Use Special District, which was mapped in 1973 along 2nd Avenue and has remained unchanged since. In addition to adjusting their current locations to reflect the current Second Avenue Subway station plan, the Special District itself should be rewritten to include the following:

1.4.1. Urban design guidelines to ensure that sidewalks are unobstructed for larger pedestrian flows and that built form enhances local character.

1.4.2. Incentivize connectivity to help manage future pedestrian flows. Encourage new buildings to connect directly to new subway stations where possible, promote seamless underground connections between existing and new subway lines and between subways and MNR lines, and address connections to express buses.

1.4.3. Evaluate the potential for creating a mechanism around the 125th Street intermodal hub that would capture value from significantly greater density to be used for improvements to the historic station, station plaza, and public space, street, and under-viaduct areas within close proximity to the hub.

1.4.4. Incentivize opportunities for mixed-use development along 125th Street that incorporates requisite 2nd Avenue Subway infrastructure, including vent shafts, entrances, exits, passageways, etc.

### OBJECTIVE 2 - ALLOW FOR INCREASED DENSITY IN SELECT PLACES TO CREATE MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SPACES FOR JOBS.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.1** - A rezoning to create more affordable housing should consider the widest avenues (3rd, 2nd and 1st Avenues) for increased density. Potential zoning districts discussed through this planning process include the commercial equivalents to R9 or R9A to trigger MIH.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.2** - A rezoning to create more commercial and/or light industrial space should consider Park Avenue between 115th and 132nd Streets due to the street's proximity to the rail viaduct. One potential zoning designation discussed through this planning process is an option that considers a 7.2 FAR non-residential district paired with an R7-2 MIH district of 4.6 FAR, which would leave 2.6 FAR for non-residential uses at the base of a building.\* Another option discussed considers an M1-6 district (10 FAR) with an R8 MIH district (7.2 FAR), which keeps total FAR limited to 10 and would keep the difference between non-residential and residential FAR below 3 FAR.

(This option acknowledges that the 7.2 FAR non-residential zone does not currently exist and either a new district or the language of the special district would need to be designed to accommodate this pairing of FARs.)

**RECOMMENDATION 2.3** - A rezoning should consider higher density commercial districts around the Metro-North Station, the 125th Street Lexington Avenue line express stop, and future 2nd Avenue subway terminus in the area outside the 125th Street Special district. Specifically:

2.3.1. Park Avenue from 122nd Street to 124th Street, and from 126th Street to 128th Street, currently zoned as C8-3, M1-2, M1-4, and R7-2. The potential zoning districts discussed during the planning process were C6-2 and C6-3D, which are commercial equivalents of R8 and R9D.

2.3.2. Lexington from 122nd Street to 124th Street. R7D was discussed for most of the length of Lexington Ave. south of 124th Street, but C4-4D (R8A equivalent) was discussed as an option for the portion from 122nd Street to 124th Street.

2.3.3.\* 3rd Avenue from 122nd Street to 124th Street, excluding the Taino Towers portion of that area, is currently zoned as C4-4, but considering transit access and the existing large-scale Taino Towers, this area was discussed for C6-3 or C6-4, the residential equivalents of which are R9 and R10.

2.3.4.\* 2nd Avenue from 123rd Street to 124th Street, west side of street, currently zoned as R7-2 was also discussed for C6-3 and C6-4 due to its proximity to Taino Towers and transportation access.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.4 \*** - A rezoning should target the west side of Madison Ave. between 107th and 110th Streets, 102nd and 106th Streets and 96th to 98th Streets. Much of lower Madison Avenue is currently lined with large institutional or height factor buildings. The targeted areas are generally the portions of lower Madison with less intense uses, which can accommodate more intense uses than the current R7-2 allows. The zoning

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# ZONING & LAND USE

districts discussed through this planning process were R8 or R8A. This portion of Madison Ave. is about 80 feet wide and large enough to accommodate 7.2 FAR.

\* Oppose: Community Voices Heard

**RECOMMENDATION 2.5** - A rezoning should target Lexington Ave. between 115th and 124th Streets, and 98th and 112th Streets. At only 75 feet wide, Lexington is not an appropriate location for much more intense uses than the current R7-2 zoning allows. With an intact and vibrant commercial character along portions of the Avenue, an R7D mapped with a commercial overlay would require commercial uses in the base of new buildings, reinforcing Lexington Avenue's character. Along with R7D, other zoning districts discussed through this planning process were R8 or R8A. R7D allows an FAR of 5.6. R8 or R8A allow FARs of 7.2.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.6** - A rezoning should target the midblocks of 116th Street from Madison to 3rd Avenue, which at 100 feet wide is an appropriate place for increased density. Currently zoned R7-2 and R7A with commercial overlays, an upzoning that would better suit its current character is an R7D district with a commercial overlay that would require ground floor commercial uses and allow buildings at 5.6 FAR. This district should protect the character of the street with a height limit, and ensure active ground-floor uses in keeping with the existing character of the street. The eastern portion of 116th was remapped in 2003 as a preservation district (R7B), and no changes should be considered in that area.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.7** - Further study is required for the potential for zoning alterations along lower Park Avenue south of 112th Street, where the stone viaduct presents a unique urban design condition.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.8** - Further study is required for the potential for a contextual zoning designation along 5th Avenue north of 111th Street to 142nd Street, with consideration for both sides of the avenue.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.9** - Existing height factor housing developments have been excluded from most zoning recommendations. This exclusion is not an endorsement of the existing "tower-in-the-park" zoning. As with lower Park Avenue and upper Fifth Avenue, further study is required for these areas.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.10** - Other city-owned public sites that are potential redevelopment sites for affordable housing should be developed at higher densities, such as R8A on narrower streets and R10 on wider streets.

**RECOMMENDATION 2.11** - Any potential rezoning should eliminate minimum parking requirements.

## OBJECTIVE 3 – IMPROVE AND CREATE MORE SERVICES AND AMENITIES FOR THE EAST HARLEM COMMUNITY THROUGH ANY NEW DEVELOPMENT ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SITES.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.1** - Create an Enhanced Commercial District on portions of 3rd, 2nd and 1st Avenues which would require: that the first 30 feet of ground floor frontage in new development be for commercial or community uses; that at least 50% of the ground floor frontage be occupied by retail uses; that residential lobbies be limited to 25-foot frontage widths; that curb cuts would be limited to side streets to maintain safe and vibrant sidewalks; and that 50% of the frontage on the avenues be transparent.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.2** - Require the Department of City Planning, the Department of Education, ACS and School Construction Authority to adequately project the impacts of new development on school seat requirements and establish opportunities for new early childhood education and school facilities to be built in the base of new developments. Approaches for making student projections should include detailed analysis, such as the clear definition of school building capacities based on current surveys. Require coordination around and appropriate timing of development of school facilities as units are developed.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.3** - Leverage any potential rezoning to replace aging and inadequate school facilities with new facilities developed at the base of new developments and the redevelopment of the aging school sites for new affordable housing and financing of the new school facility.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.4** - Require that community facilities, including early childhood education, afterschool, community space, artist space, and workforce training centers do not count towards FAR in order to encourage the creation of these spaces, such as through a special district mechanism.

- Institute a height cap, FAR limit or discretionary permit requirement to ensure community facility spaces do not exceed a certain size.

- Require developers to create a plan that establishes the link between community needs and community facilities created through a combination of analysis and community-based feedback (including a recent district needs assessment and community surveys)

- Require that these community facilities be built in advance of the construction of a majority of the associated units.

**RECOMMENDATION 3.5** - Establish an East Harlem Garden District that would create public and programmed community gardens that would support youth and senior activities as part of a potential rezoning and approach to open space. [A potential subdistrict area could cover the area between Park and Pleasant Avenues, between 111th and 120th Streets where there is already a significant density of community gardens.]

**RECOMMENDATION 3.6** - Require that East Harlem infrastructure—including power, telephone, sewer, and water—be upgraded to improve the basic functioning and connectivity of the existing community and for any future population increase.

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final objectives and recommendations language used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# OPEN SPACE & RECREATION, ARTS & CULTURE

## VISIONING WORKSHOP

Thursday, June 4, 2015  
Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work

## REPORT BACK



**PARTICIPANTS: 125**

**SUBGROUP LEADS:**

NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT  
EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

**SUBGROUP MEMBERS:**

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION:  
596 Acres  
CB11  
Children's Aid Society  
Community Board 11  
Crack Is Whack Playground  
East Harlem Community Alliance  
East Harlem Community Improvement  
East Harlem Community Alliance  
Elong Society  
El Barrio Operation Fight Back  
El Museo del Barrio  
Friends of the East River Esplanade  
Girls Inc.  
Greeley Square  
Harlem RBI  
Harlem River Park Task Force  
LES Ecology Center/NYC Compost Project  
Living Lots NYC  
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's Office  
Marcus Garvey Park Alliance  
New York Academy of Medicine  
New York City Economic Development Project  
New York State of Mind  
New York State Parks  
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
NYC Department of Sanitation  
Open Sewer Atlas NYC  
Partnership for Parks  
Parks Conservancy  
Spanish Manhattan Church Youth Dept.  
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's Office

Union Settlement  
Urban Garden Center  
We Act for Environmental Justice  
Art for Change  
Artists for Democracy  
Artspace 393  
Center for Cultural Center African Diaspora  
CB11  
Center for Sustainable Cities at Hunter College  
Council of the Bronx  
Coquilo Masters  
East River Esplanade  
Friends of Art Park  
Hope Community

La Casa Azul Bookstore  
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's Office  
Manhattan Neighborhood Network  
Museum of the City of NY  
New York City Economic Development Project  
NY Academy of Music  
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs  
NYT  
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's Office  
El Barrio Operation Fight Back  
Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of Taller Boricua  
Young Back Sports

## MAJOR THEMES



of EHNP survey  
respondents  
say they are  
concerned with:

Losing **CULTURAL  
CONNECTIONS** and  
**DIVERSITY**

## STRENGTHS

### PARKS & OPEN SPACE

- Two prominent anchor parks along East Harlem's eastern and western edge (Central Park, Randall's Island)
- Two key neighborhood parks (Marcus Garvey and Thomas Jefferson)
- Strong history and collection of community gardens
- Waterfront esplanade
- 107th St. Pier an existing historic resource

### ARTS & CULTURE

- First major Latino immigrant neighborhood in New York, starting with Puerto Rican community in the 1920s
- Continuous multi-ethnic immigrant community for the last 150 years
- Strong arts/cultural traditions and landmarks
- Strong cadre of artists and cultural makers in the community
- Multiple arts and cultural organizations, representing many needs and interests, at different scales

## CHALLENGES

### PARKS & OPEN SPACE

- Inadequate open space ratio and walk-to-a-park measure when Central Park and Randall's Island are not included
- Community gardens under threat of development
- Climate change and resiliency concerns
- Inadequate parks maintenance and staffing
- Continued physical and psychological barriers to park usage

### ARTS & CULTURE

- Lacking a unified East Harlem arts (funding) advocacy entity
- Lack of coalitions across arts and cultural (and other types) of organizations
- Increasingly unaffordable artist spaces (live/work/display)
- Risk of losing representations of artistic and cultural heritage as neighborhood gentrifies
- Need for expanded arts/cultural resources/opportunities for local communities and an expansion of opportunities to attract visitors to East Harlem

# SCHOOLS & EDUCATION, PRE-K, DAYCARE & AFTERSCHOOL

## VISIONING WORKSHOP

*Wednesday, July 1, 2015  
Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work*

## REPORT BACK



**PARTICIPANTS: 85**

**SUBGROUP LEADS:**

HARLEM RBI  
THE RENAISSANCE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR INNOVATION

**SUBGROUP MEMBERS:**

SCHOOLS & EDUCATION:  
District 4 Superintendent  
NYC Department of Education  
Innovation High School  
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's Office  
School Construction Authority  
Harlem RBI

PRE-K, DAYCARE & AFTERSCHOOL:  
ABC  
NYC Administration for Children's Services  
Boys & Girls Harbor  
Boys Club of New York  
CB11  
Children's Aid Society  
NYC Department of Education

Dream Charter School  
East Harlem Tutorial Program  
Harlem RBI  
Isaacs Center  
LSA Family Health Service  
Northside Center for Child Development  
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's Office  
Union Settlement

## STRENGTHS

### SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

- Strong sense of community
- Ambitious and talented youth
- Multiple cultural and service organizations. Those are good intermediaries to engage with the youth and bridge between communities, schools, and community based organizations.
- There are opportunities to expose the youth to possible careers (inside and outside East Harlem) through colleges and tours.
- East Harlem has a rich history: there are opportunities to improve the curriculum in schools by teaching students about their local history.

### PRE-K & DAYCARE

- Many programs for 4 and 5 year olds
- Presence of Bilingual, Multicultural, Wrap Around services
- Programs foster self worth and family involvement
- Outreach to families

### AFTERSCHOOL

- Diversity of Community Offerings
- Grassroots, longstanding programs
- Opportunities to partner with cultural institutions

## CHALLENGES

### SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

- Family education/literacy is a big issue: there is a lack of opportunities and resources for adult learning. This is affecting the education because:
  - There is no reinforcement at home of what the students are learning at school.
  - Families do not feel invested in their children's education.
  - Families do not understand their rights
- School curriculum needs to be revised to be more diverse and less traditional (academic focusing on Math and English) by focusing more on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and including sexual education, arts, music, culture, local history, special education programs, financial education and vocational training with exposure to career options.
- A need to provide students with a nurturing environment and give them a sense of self-worth and purpose.

### PRE-K & DAYCARE

- 0-3 year old center based programs
- Facilities are in disrepair and are not adequate learning environments for young children
- Lack of funding for high quality staff/programs
- Difference in DOE/ACS program calendar: end too early for working parents/families

### AFTERSCHOOL

- Poor facilities
- Don't do enough to preserve safety and health
- Fragmented and competing programming
- Limited resources for quality programming
- Few pools, fields, and difficulty in accessing
- Lack of diversity of programming
- Lack of programming for gifted & talented

*"I am concerned with the amount of violence, gangs and having more productive programs for young teens, increasing mentoring programs and finding jobs for those that come out of jail."*

\*From EHNPP survey respondent

# NYCHA AND HOUSING PRESERVATION

## VISIONING WORKSHOP

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015  
Johnson Houses Community Center*

## REPORT BACK



**PARTICIPANTS: 150**

**SUBGROUP LEADS:**

EL BARrio'S OPERATION FIGHTBACK  
JOHNSON HOUSES TENANT ASSOCIATION

**SUBGROUP MEMBERS:**

NYCHA:  
Community Service Society  
Community Voices Heard  
Johnson Houses TA  
CB11 Housing Committee  
West Harlem Houses TA  
Clinton Houses TA  
East River Houses TA  
Metra North Houses TA  
NYCHA

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's Office  
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's Office  
Urban Justice Center's Community Development Project  
  
HOUSING PRESERVATION:  
Association for Neighborhood Housing Development  
CB11

Community Voices Heard  
El Barrio Operation Fightback  
NYC Housing and Preservation Department  
Legal Aid Society  
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's Office  
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's Office  
Picture the Homeless  
Tenants & Neighbors  
Urban Homesteading Assistance Board

## MAJOR THEMES

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT  
PHYSICAL BUILDING CONDITIONS

HARRASSMENT  
AFFORDABILITY  
DISPLACEMENT



of EHNP survey respondents say they are concerned with:  
**DISPLACEMENT** of poor, working class & seniors



of EHNP survey respondents say they are concerned with:  
**Rising cost of HOUSING**

## STRENGTHS

### NYCHA

- Affordable rents and potential for more affordable housing
- Diverse community
- Family lives nearby
- Public and cultural opportunities (festivals, block parties)
- Opportunity to be involved in the conversation with NYCHA
- Potential for growth and development of recreational areas, cultural/community spaces and programming
- Potential for entrepreneurial opportunities

### HOUSING PRESERVATION

- Ability to leverage community participation and action to affect the direction of change
- Diverse cultures coming together and merging in the neighborhood
- Community action to improve living conditions and empower tenants
- Commitment to preserving low-income housing and keeping families together



29% of East Harlem Residents live in NYCHA:  
**34,240 PEOPLE**

## CHALLENGES

### NYCHA

- NYCHA operations: staffing, budget decisions, effectiveness and efficiency of work, communication and treatment of tenants, lack of transparency in operations
- Poor conditions of housing and/or delayed maintenance
- Safety, both indoors and outdoors
- Overcrowding in housing
- Need resources and living spaces for seniors

### HOUSING PRESERVATION

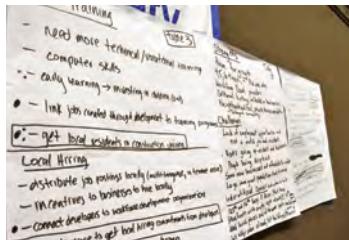
- Poor housing condition and a lack of repairs and maintenance
- Concentration of vacant buildings along Lexington Ave and 3rd Ave
- Rising rents and potential of rezoning could make neighborhood unaffordable
- Few housing options for large families and lowest-income members of the community
- Resources for seniors struggling in affordable housing or becoming displaced from their housing
- Safety, both indoors and outdoors
- Ensuring that income-targeted rents are affordable for East Harlem families
- Concern that new development will make the neighborhood unaffordable, leading to eviction and homelessness
- Community empowerment: ensuring that residents really have a voice and capacity to affect change

# SMALL BUSINESSES, ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## VISIONING WORKSHOP

*Thursday, September 10, 2015  
Children's Aid Society*

## REPORT BACK



**PARTICIPANTS: 120**

**SUBGROUP LEADS:  
UNION SETTLEMENT**

## SUBGROUP MEMBERS:

Artimus Construction  
Blumenfeld Development Group  
CB11  
Community Voices Heard  
East Harlem Chamber  
East Harlem Restaurant & Bar Association  
NYC Economic Development Corporation  
El Barrio Operation Fightback  
Faith in New York  
Fierce Nail Spa

Harlem RBI  
Hostos College  
Hot Bread Kitchen  
Hunter College  
Local 78  
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's Office  
Mt. Sinai  
New York Academy of Medicine  
NYC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

NYCC  
Plumbers Local 1  
Popular Community Bank  
SBS  
SEIU 32BJ  
STRIVE  
Union Settlement  
UPPER MANHATTAN EMPOWERMENT ZONE  
Urbar Garden Center

## MAJOR THEMES

### PHYSICAL SPACE

- Room for growth / underutilized spaces, e.g., “vacant land on NYCHA along the avenues,” and waterfront,
- 3rd Avenue (vacant land + vacant upper floors), warehoused buildings
- Development should occur at: 125th Street, waterfront, Madison

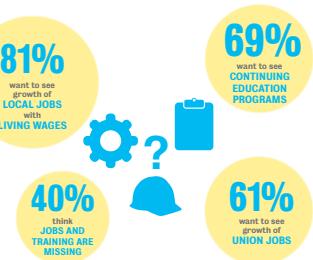
### SMALL BUSINESSES

- Commercial rent control is needed
- Business types that are lacking: clothing stores, cooperative/ incubator start-ups

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Mismatch between new jobs (local and beyond) and current residents' skills
- Local residents should get local construction jobs, especially more than they do now
- Businesses should be incentivized (e.g., via tax breaks) to hire locally
- Job training should be geared towards stable, well-paying careers

**EHNP survey respondents were asked:  
What kind of WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
would you like to see in East Harlem?**



## STRENGTHS

- Small businesses: entrepreneurial spirit, many established stores (despite rising rents)
- Cultural heritage and ethnic diversity
- Eager, available workforce
- Many non-profits, including those that serve businesses and job-seekers

## CHALLENGES

- Rising commercial (and residential) rents
- High unmet need for good jobs
- Inadequate workforce development programs: not geared toward sustainable jobs; not accessible to all, including those not on a lease
- Community members & business owners are uninformed about what support services and programs do exist
- Weak /inadequate internet infrastructure

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, ZONING & LAND USE

## VISIONING WORKSHOP

*Thursday, October 22, 2015  
DREAM Charter School*

## REPORT BACK



**PARTICIPANTS: 175**

**SUBGROUP LEADS:**

CIVITAS  
LOTT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP.

**SUBGROUP MEMBERS:**

ANHD Artimus Construction Buro Happold CB11 CIVITAS Community Voices Heard NYC Department of City Planning DDM Development & Services El Barrio Operation Fightback	Enterprise Community Partners Faith in New York HOPE Community Inc. NYC Housing and Preservation Department Lettuce Construction Corporation Loft Community Development Corporation Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's Office Mutual Housing Association of New York	New Economy Project New York Academy of Medicine NY Communities for Change NYU Picture the Homeless Pratt Center for Community Development Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's Office Urban Homesteading Assistance Board Youth Action YouthBuild
---	---	---

## MAJOR THEMES

### AFFORDABILITY

- MIH affordability levels are too high.
- MIH requirement of total amount of affordable housing is too low and requires too much market rate housing for too few affordable units.
- Buildings should be more mixed income and affordability should be higher than 25% of total units.
- Influx of market rate housing will cause gentrification and displacement.

### HEIGHT

- Mixed feelings, but many okay with significant density and height as a trade-off to more and deeper affordability.
- Higher buildings should be on the Avenues and not the cross streets

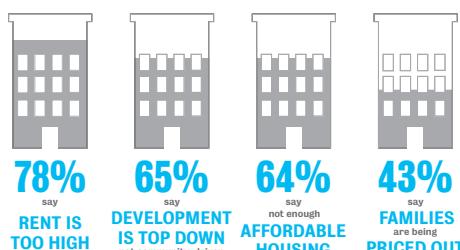
### DENSITY

- Increased density should be coupled with increase in services such as schools, libraries, community facilities.

### WHAT KINDS OF DEVELOPMENT DID PARTICIPANTS MOST WANT TO SEE?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| NYCHA-OWNED LAND   | 1. 50% Affordable Housing + Improved Maintenance & Needed Repairs - 70% |
|  | 2. Community Facility - 56%   |
| CITY-OWNED LAND  | 1. Affordable Housing - 76%   |
|  | 2. Open Space - 50%   |
| COMMUNITY LAND TRUST   | 1. Affordable Housing - 87%   |
|  | 2. Community Facility - 51%   |
| PRIVATELY-OWNED LAND<br>(community benefits derived from zoning) | 1. Other Community Facility or Commercial Space - 58%                   |
|  | 2. School - 55%   |

**55%** of EHNP survey respondents think changes in East Harlem over the past 5 years have been bad.  
Here's why:



When EHNP survey respondents were asked asked how they feel about the density of East Harlem:



# HEALTH & SENIORS, TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & SAFETY

## VISIONING WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 21, 2015  
New York Academy of Medicine

## REPORT BACK



### PARTICIPANTS: 83

### SUBGROUP LEADS:

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE  
SPEAKER MELISSA MARK VIVERITO  
WEACT

### SUBGROUP MEMBERS:

<b>HEALTH &amp; SENIORS:</b>	Lott CDC LSS Family Health Service Mt. Sinai Hospital New York Academy of Medicine New York City Health and Mental Hygiene - NYC Department for the Aging NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation Plaistown St. Vincent's Hospital-Polanco St. Vincent's Hospital-South Bronx Union Settlement Transportation, Environment & Energy	Civitas Community Voices Heard Deep Water Wind Environmental Protection NYC Department of Environmental Protection NYC Department of Sanitation NYC Department of Transportation Grid Alternatives Harlem Community Development Corporation Little Sisters of the Assumption Lott Community Development Corporation Macy's Office New York Academy of Medicine New York City Climate Project NYC Climate Panel People's Voice Tri-State Transportation CB11	Union Settlement WEACT
<b>SAFETY:</b>	MAB CB11 Parks & Rec Dept CB11 - Public Safety & Transportation Committee CB11 - Parks Manhattan North Management Co., Inc. NYPD - 23rd Precinct NYPD - 23rd Precinct NYC Office of Emergency Management NYC Climate Panel People's Voice Partnerships for Parks Speaker's Office Washington Houses TA		

## STRENGTHS

### HEALTH & SENIORS

- District Public Health Office located in East Harlem
- Strong network of CBOs invested in health outcomes for all
- Local presence of institutions committed to public health (hospitals and universities)
- 3 Federally qualified healthcare centers nearby that rarely turn people away and take undocumented individuals
- Diverse community in terms of age, income and race
- Plenty of grocery stores
- Rich in cultural traditions and arts
- Relative political power and influence

### TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

- Well-connected by multiple modes
- Major access hub at 125th Street
- Metro-North station and future connection to 2nd Avenue subway
- Multiple transportation improvements underway:
  - Citibike expansion to 125th St
  - 2nd Avenue subway
  - NYCEDC plaza at 125th St.
- DOT pedestrian safety toolbox
- Interest and focus on community controlled energy and micro-grids in Northern Manhattan

### SAFETY

- Well organized institutions, tenants and CBOs
- Good emerging ties with community affairs officers in some NYCHA developments
- Positive improvements as a result of 125th Street Task Force
- Some recent lighting and pedestrian upgrades in district
- If improvements are made, the large concentration of public housing in East Harlem can be an opportunity to have a large impact on safety and security in the district

## CHALLENGES

### HEALTH & SENIORS

- Comparatively low life expectancy
- Extremely high hospitalization rates
- Epicenter of mental health and psychiatric conditions
- Substance abuse
- Some of the worst chronic disease outcomes in the City
- Food insecurity
- Senior poverty
- Pedestrian safety and mobility (ex - 125th St, under viaduct, etc.)
- Availability of resources for growing diversity (ex - Chinese population)
- Threat of loss of culture
- Social isolation among seniors and other vulnerable populations

"I am concerned that many EH residents will no longer be able to afford fruits/veg/healthy foods when high income families and expensive stores move into the neighborhood."

\*From EHNPs survey respondents

### TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

- Vehicular congestion (ex - along avenues and 125th St)
- Poor connectivity with Randall's Island
- Slow and inefficient buses
- Pedestrian and bike safety
- Need for better crosstown connectivity for non-commuters
- Two sanitation depots in CB11, one servicing CB10
- Commercial corridor sanitization
- CB11 not in a priority sewershed
- Some of the worst air quality in the City

### SAFETY

- Violent crime
- Overpolicing and lack of proper representation of vulnerable groups in local police force (minorities, youth, immigrants)
- Poverty, inequality + lack of jobs as deep seated causes of safety concerns
- Pedestrian safety, especially for the visually impaired and seniors
- Lack of lighting and safe passage (viaduct, wide aves, waterfront)
- 125th St and K2 epidemic
- Safety of vulnerable populations (homeless, mentally ill, suffering from substance abuse)

# ZONING & LAND USE PRESENTATION BOARDS

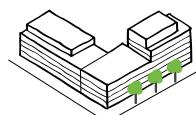
## EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD DENSITIES

**A**

### LOW DENSITY



116th and Pleasant Ave.



### ZONING DESIGNATIONS

R = Residential Use

# = Scale of the allowable height and bulk of the building

**R6A****R7 + R7A / 7B / 7X / 7.2**

### MEDIUM DENSITY



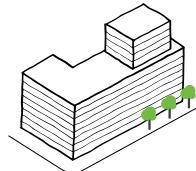
1st Ave and 102nd St.



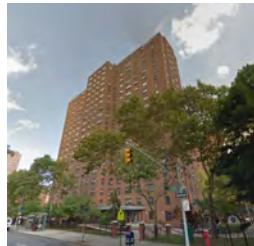
Lexington Ave and 111th St.



2nd Ave and 108th St.

**R8 + R8A**

### HIGH DENSITY



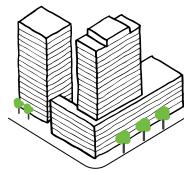
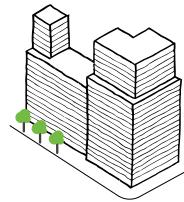
Lehman Village, Madison Ave and 107th St.



Taino Towers from 3rd Ave



Madison Ave and 108th St.

**R9****R10 + R10A**

## IF WE DO NOTHING - WHAT CURRENT ZONING ALLOWS

**B**

### SOFT SITE ANALYSIS

This analysis looked at sites in East Harlem with a high likelihood of redevelopment in the current real estate market.

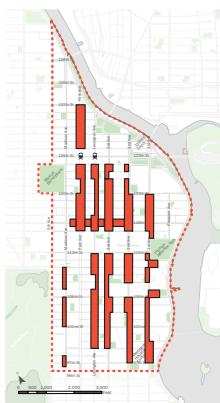
The analysis took into account

- Underbuilt Lots
- Low-Use Lots: Parking, Vacant lots
- Underbuilt or obsolete non-residential lots
- Sites with at least 50'-wide street frontage

The analysis avoided including

- Sites with existing residential units
- Playgrounds in schools
- Community Gardens

### AREAS OF STUDY



### WHAT COULD BE BUILT

Most private development in New York City occurs "as-of-right." This means that if the development complies with all zoning regulations and Department of Buildings permits there is no opportunity for the public to have a say in what gets built.

In the absence of Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH), current zoning would allow R8A buildings with zero affordability requirements.

This would result in a total possible construction of:

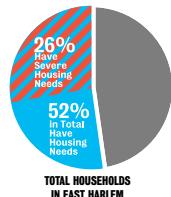
**5,000 MARKET RATE UNITS**



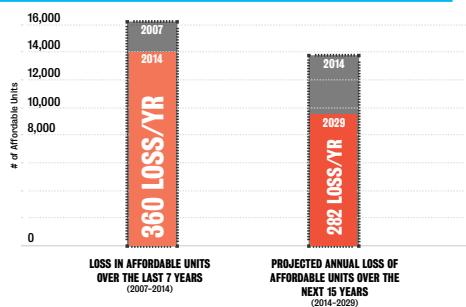
### HOUSING NEED IN EAST HARLEM

Of the 46,048 Households in East Harlem,

AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEED	
IN ADDITION TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOSS, OUR PROCESS LOOKED AT TOTAL SEVERE HOUSING NEED IN EAST HARLEM. WE DEFINED THIS NEED AS:	
+ ENTERING HOMELESS SHELTERS	826
+ HOUSEHOLDS SEVERELY BURDENED BY HOUSING COSTS (RENT + OWN)	10,616
+ 1/2 OF SEVERELY OVERCROWDED HOUSEHOLDS (>1.5 PERSONS PER ROOM)	758
= <b>12,000 Households</b>	



### CURRENT LOSS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you are CONCERNED about as-of-right development that can currently allowable, or the current loss of affordable housing, place a sticker here.

If you SUPPORT taking no action, place a sticker here:

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final graphics and diagrams used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

## PRESERVATION DISTRICT

**C**



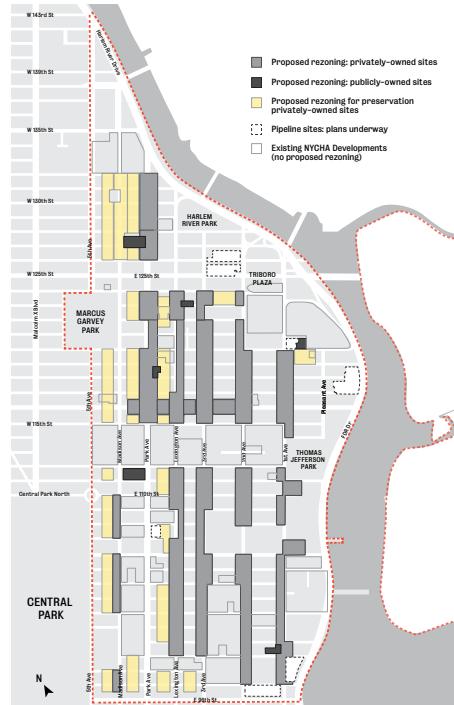
MADISON AND 129TH



116TH STREET



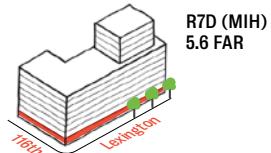
MIDBLOCKS



### PRESERVATION ZONING

Contextual zoning preserves areas with unique local character, such as building heights, facades and ground floor activities.

The EHNP recommends that previously designated contextual areas are maintained, and new ones are created. New buildings within those areas could be built, but they would be required to reflect the size and shape of neighboring buildings.



Low density zoning designations R7A or R7B are recommended for mid-blocks between:

- Lexington and Park
- Park and Madison
- Madison and Fifth
- First and Pleasant
- 119th and 120th
- 116th between Second and Third
- Madison between 126th and 132nd

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you are CONCERNED about preserving the density of these areas, place a sticker here:

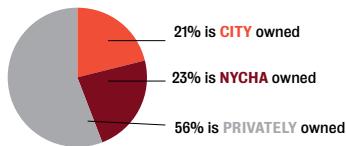
If you SUPPORT the preservation of the density of these areas, place a sticker here:

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final graphics and diagrams used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

## PUBLIC SITE DEVELOPMENT

D

### LAND OWNERSHIP IN EAST HARLEM:



### THE NEED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN EAST HARLEM IS GREAT.

No single tool can produce all of the affordable housing that is needed in East Harlem. Many tools must work together; they include:

#### MANDATORY INCLUSIONARY HOUSING (MIH)

#### DENSITY BONUS

#### SUBSIDY

#### PUBLICLY-OWNED SITES

### PUBLICLY-OWNED SITES

Building on publicly-owned sites can dramatically reduce the cost of developing affordable housing by reducing or eliminating the cost of land. The resulting reduced total development cost makes it possible for the project to include a greater total amount of affordable units and deeper levels of affordability.

- + 100% affordability = possible
- + Neighborhood-wide re-zoning not required to maximize development potential
- + City can mandate mix of uses, total affordable units and affordability levels



## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you are CONCERNED about development on public sites place a sticker here:

If you SUPPORT development on public sites place a sticker here:

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final graphics and diagrams used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

## PUBLIC SITE CASE STUDY

Sanitation Parking Lot



### SANITATION PARKING LOT 123RD STREET + LEXINGTON AVE

This site is owned by the City of New York and is currently being used by the Department of Sanitation to park their trucks. We are using this site as a case study – to illustrate what might be possible on any City-owned site. As far as we know, there are no development plans for this particular site. The diagrams are meant to represent possible building configurations on the site – they are not meant to reflect any particular design.



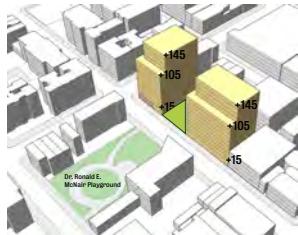
### SCENARIO MASSINGS

Option A: R7-2 | As-of-right



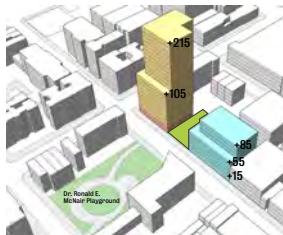
# of Apartments: 85  
Commercial SF: 0  
Community Facility SF: 7,750  
Open Space SF: 4,040

Option B - R8A MIH | Max. Affordable Housing



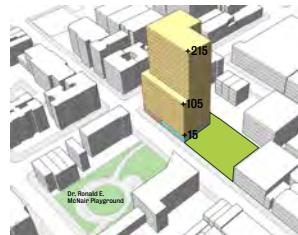
# of Apartments: 195  
Commercial SF: 4,500  
Community Facility SF: 0  
Open Space SF: 7,300

Option C: R8 MIH | Max. Community Facility



# of Apartments: 140  
Commercial SF: 5,500  
Community Facility SF: 54,100  
Open Space SF: 6,400

Option D: R8 MIH | Max. Open Space



# of Apartments: 189  
Commercial SF: 5,500  
Community Facility SF: 5,500  
Open Space SF: 15,400

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

COMMUNITY FACILITY

OPEN SPACE

92%

0%

8%

18%

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

COMMUNITY FACILITY

OPEN SPACE

98%

2%

0%

27%

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

COMMUNITY FACILITY

OPEN SPACE

70%

3%

27%

24%

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

COMMUNITY FACILITY

OPEN SPACE

94%

3%

3%

58%

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Place a sticker under the diagram that best reflects your preference for public site development.

Option A

Option B

Option C

Option D

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final graphics and diagrams used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

## E

**MINIMUM UPZONING TO TRIGGER PERMANENT****MANDATORY INCLUSIONARY HOUSING (MIH)**

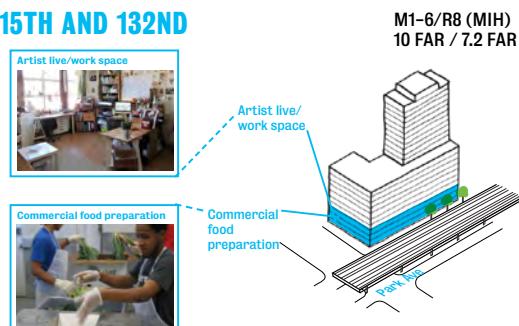
Currently, there is no way to guarantee the development of a land in East Harlem is privately owned. The City has introduced that a percentage of units in every development on private si

- 25% of total units affordable at three (60% of AMI), OR
- 30% of total units affordable at three (80% of AMI).

The EHNP proposes that the City the increase in density is minimized: affordable units on any new as-of-right MIH.

**PARK AVENUE BETWEEN 115TH AND 132ND**

Make better use of space next to the viaduct by upzoning to include light industrial and commercial spaces on at least the first three stories and to trigger Mandatory Inclusionary Housing for the residential stories above. This would allow uses that are less likely to be disturbed by the viaduct noise, like commercial food preparation facilities, and artist live/work spaces.

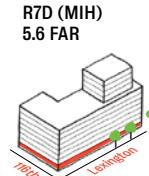
**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

If you are CONCERNED about rezoning along the Park Ave viaduct, place a sticker here:

If you SUPPORT rezoning along the Park Ave viaduct place a sticker here:

**PORTIONS OF LEXINGTON + MADISON AVENUES AND 116TH STREET**

On portions of Lexington Ave. and portions of 116th St., the recommendation is to rezone to the minimum upzoning required to trigger MIH, which is from R7-2 to R7D. This designation would require ground floor commercial uses.



On portions of Madison Ave., the recommendation is to upzone from R7-2 to R8 or R8A

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

If you are CONCERNED about rezoning on portions of Lexington, Madison, and 116th St. place a sticker here:

If you SUPPORT rezoning on portions of Lexington, Madison, and 116th St. place a sticker here:



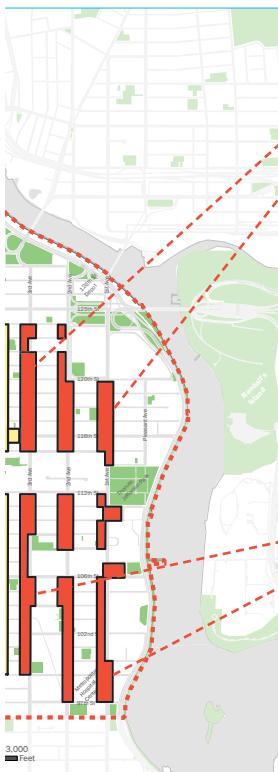
\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final graphics and diagrams used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

## T AFFORDABILITY ON PRIVATELY OWNED SITES

If affordable units on privately owned sites. More than half (56%) of the used a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) policy that would require sites are affordable at designated income levels:

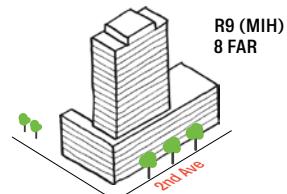
- at an average of \$46,620/year for a family of
- at an average of \$62,150/year for a family of

ity upzone the areas listed here such that nized, and the development of permanently s-of-right development is guaranteed vis-à-vis



### PORTIONS OF 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD AVENUES NORTH OF 114TH ST.

On 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Avenues, the widest commercial avenues in the neighborhood, upzone the minimum to trigger MIH from R8A to R9A or R9.



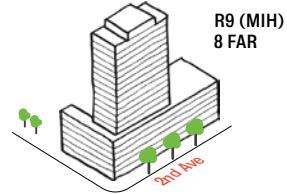
#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you are CONCERNED about rezoning along the northern portion of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Aves place a sticker here:

If you SUPPORT rezoning along the northern portion of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Aves place a sticker here:

### PORTIONS OF 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD AVENUES SOUTH OF 112TH ST.

On 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Avenues, the widest commercial avenues in the neighborhood, the recommendation is to rezone to the minimum upzoning required to trigger MIH, which is from R8A to R9A or R9.



#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you are CONCERNED about rezoning along the southern portion of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Aves place a sticker here:

If you SUPPORT rezoning along the southern portion of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Aves place a sticker here:

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final graphics and diagrams used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

## HOW IT ALL WORKS TOGETHER

**G**

### ZONING RECOMMENDATIONS

Below are the recommended upzoning and contextual zoning areas.



### POTENTIAL UNITS

Below are projections of the total number of units and the number of affordable units built annually over a 15 year period.

	POTENTIAL TOTAL ANNUAL UNITS BUILT	POTENTIAL TOTAL ANNUAL AFFORDABLE UNITS BUILT
<b>1ST AVE (R9)</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>2ND AVE (R9)</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>3RD AVE (R9)</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>PARK AVE (MX/R7-2 &amp; C6-2) (MX/R8 &amp; C6-3D)</b>	<b>87 (129)</b>	<b>22 (32)</b>
<b>LEXINGTON AVE (R7D)</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>MADISON AVE (R8 OR R8A)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>116TH ST (R7D)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PUBLIC SITES (R8A &amp; R10)</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>PIPELINE PROJECTS</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>TOTAL EACH YEAR FOR 15 YEARS</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>489</b>

### AFFORDABILITY

These different strategies work together to achieve an overall average number of affordable units created across East Harlem.

The community's goal is to build off of the affordability that will be required on private rezoned sites under the pending MIH policy currently before the City Council (presently requiring unit set asides at 25% affordable housing at 60% AMI, or 30% at 80% AMI.) Per the community response, the Plan also recommends 100% of units to be affordable on public sites.

**These efforts combined will enable at least 50% of the new housing on private rezoned and public sites to be affordable**

at a variety of low- and moderate-income levels.

If approved by NYCHA residents of that development, infill on NYCHA properties would contribute to the 50% affordability target.

\* Please note that these posters have been modified to reflect the final graphics and diagrams used in the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan report.

# FINAL COMMUNITY FORUM – COMMENT BOARD FEEDBACK

## EHNP Final Community Forum

January 27, 2016

### Comment Boards

#### Arts & Culture

- Do not touch the marqueta
- More cultural program other than Harlem RBI for all! Dance, music, sports, writing, science, etc.
- Recommendations: 1.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2, 6.2, 6.4 and Objectives 1, 3, 4, 5, 6
- East Harlem culture trail?
- Research underutilized spaces for artists to create work and as important identify artist who desire to contribute, serve the population of these spaces
- What happened to the cultural corridor?
- What DID happen to the cultural corridor?
- Redesign the Puerto Rican day festival held on the Saturday before the parade to include more arts and history of El Barrio instead of the carnival-like event.. like it was years back when it was more art & family oriented
- Affordable theatre art & dance workshops & ongoing production
- Free and inexpensive visual and performance arts geared towards children and youth
- Make sure our expansive arts community doesn't get taken over by outsiders and gentrification!! Support local artists!!
- Bring art supplies stores and rehearsal space
- Our artists always have to scramble for small fees and grants. We should treat them like professionals, especially if we want to preserve culture
- We need affordable rehearsal space for dance artists

#### Open Space & Recreation

- Create outdoor performance spaces
- Tae kwon do classes for seniors
- "Adopt-a-park" local community volunteer groupd help maintain and beautify parks
- 5.1 – prioritize lighting on the esplanade as well
- 1.1, 1.2 – preserve community gardens! I agree!!
- WIFI!!!
- Ensure park rangers do check parks to ensure tracks are used for walking and running
- Please CONNECT harlem river park to east river esplanade and also to seward cove
- Do not touch the marqueta Sat + Sun – mucho fun!
- Garden on 111<sup>th</sup> and 112<sup>th</sup> street can be used as farlm land to grow vegetables and workforce development for the community
- 2.1 – open space is essential to our community
- Some gardens are beautiful – do not touch
- Bring Randall Island Back
- Ensure that Jefferson park is not permitted out for the private schools that are not in the community
- Do not run seniors out of the parks
- Senior/youth park area to exercise.. intergenerational use of space
- Important that tracks are well preserved for running not for dogs or lawn chairs ever! Especially at Jefferson park. Also, creatively make other running tracks at different locations such as marcus garvey park

#### NYCHA

- No more cops

- No to rec. 2.3 – less cops
- NYPD out of NYCHA
- NYCHA owns condemned buildings and other properties they can build on
- Educational programs
- Install cameras in the hallways and entrances and stairwells
- No to rec 2.3 - no more pigs
- They can cut costs by laying off the people they have employed at 250 Bway and 90 church street that do nothing
- Remove the use of large police lights – they make the housing ground look like a prison camp
- Rec 2.3 - NO! no more police
- 5.2.1 – 5.2.5 – Prioritize the personality of public housing – from infill on public land must.. (illegible).. NYCHA public housing is the only true affordable housing for most of the east harlem community
- NO MORE police

#### **Housing Preservation**

- We have to make the residents be more participants in what's going on
- We DON'T want objective 2!!
- Expedite mold removal please! Use quality repairs
- Properly assess tax on potential utilization to discourage underutilization and land speculation
- Need preservation strategies/ideas for persons with disabilities
- We need community land trusts ie our community and schools
- Assess property tax value on potential use to discourage land utilization and speculation
- More support & inclusion of home grown housing groups
- Pet friendly animal shelters need more of them throughout east harlem
- Reduce annual rent increase
- 5.2 – community land trusts are essential to end homelessness
- Community to housing applications – an information saturation strategy
- 3 – we have to be more aggressive about linking sons and daughters of this
- Create NYCHA apartment complexes for people with disabilities - Kim
- Pest control – Jefferson houses rats are out of control

#### **Small Businesses, Economic & Workforce Development**

- This is great – the way all elected should conduct business! ☺
- Establish educational opportunity programs – SUNY/CUNY connections
- Offer financial literacy classes in schools and for adults
- Include black owned and operated manufacturing businesses: access to resources, cut through red tape, no “minority” the word is used as a loophole to service other groups and not blacks and latinos
- Recommendations 1.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.3, 3.4, 4.2, 4.4 ☺, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 ☺
- Providing low income and low median income family with job training, high school education, job opportunities, higher college degrees and help the businesses in East Harlem to keep low cost is a given for families to move forward with good paying jobs – no need to negotiate or recommend this. It is necessary so they may “affordable housing”
- More youth programs toward careers in STEAM
- We must preserve some of the small culturally & gender specific non-profits
- No building on NYCHA land
- NYCHA should not be allowed to build on NYCHA property without residents' approval
- Trainings, employment, educational program, seniors program, affordable housing for extremely low rents people on SSI and low income

- Create for training centers for skill building and trades – partnership with industry and masters seminars
- Organize local micro-financing for small business start ups
- More work program for youths as well as other ages
- Increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities
- Businesses that move to community should commit to internships opportunities for local employees and community school students

**Pre-K, Daycare & Afterschool**

- Look to Harlem RBI for suggestions!!
- Funding for E Harlem schools based on need not on arbitrary funding by DOE
- Where is arts in education programming? Arts exposure and access is a must!!
- Day care, afterschool and pre-k need to be paid a living wage for community based programs
- Education, training (including for adults and seniors) afterschool, pre-k and daycare is a given – all these needs to be created in every community no need to recommend or negotiate. Lots of families the problem is no one uncluding the committees are passing the information along. The libraries are great sources of information.
- Recommendation 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 ☺ ☺ including 17-21

**Schools & Education**

- Tuition for young men assistance in the community to gain teaching jobs in the community
- Ran out of tokens but education = key to health of neighborhood & reducing crime, more \$\$\$ in education!
- Early college awareness programs & college readiness programs for students
- Invest more money into public schools
- Support public education for teens, adults and seniors
- Children tend to slip through the cracks in middle school, so interventions here are critical
- Resume development and interviewing workshops for young adults
- Support public education for teens, youth AND adults
- #2 because too many young people disconnected
- I agree! Support education for teens, youth AND adults!
- A community high school is needed in East Harlem. District 4 CEC supports it and wants it.
- Mental health issues need to be able to be addressed as they present – must also look to prevent
- Policy change for vocational training, skill building and trades in high schools
- Education system that stops lying to our youth
- Increase funding for cultural arts programs in public school – sports gets all the funding
- Culturally relevant and socially consious education: re: social justice issues, black studies, latin & hispanic education, students need to know their history beyond a white-washed textbook
- We need affordable “public” housing too many homeless waiting for shelter!!
- We need affordable HOUSING
- Cultural arts programming is a must!
- Support teaching artist who serve the cultural needs of EH students (too many times they are art institutions who are about their product)

**Zoning/Land-Use & Affordable Housing**

- Stop the rezoning
- Greater density provide more homes for the people, its good
- Thank you for this democratic process
- Perpetuity
- 70% - 30 – low, 30 – middle, 30 – full, 10 – artists

- 2 – the sons and daughters of this community should be able to stay and have families here!
- Lets preserve our landscapes. We don't want building too tall, thank you for hearing us
- Affordable housing for seniors
- No homelessness in east harlem
- 2.6 makes sense
- In perpetuity!
- 1.2 – break down how much 10-20% of AMI is required
- I record that in perpetuity 2
- 2.8!!
- Need separate categories for low income housing
- Thank you for putting the community first, we now have a voice, thank you so much for listening
- 3.2 & 3.4 – yes! Schools seats and facilities not factored in enough, approach has to be holistic
- Community land trusts AND mutual housing associations
- Yes! 2.3 is very on point!
- Rec 2.3 is ON POINT
- Lower the AMI rate
- Improve primary education in EH
- Community land trusts in EH and all over NYC! To prevent speculation displacement; ensure permanently affordable housing
- Community land trusts
- Affordable housing needs to reflect what affordability means in EH. Too many new developments offer "affordable" options that are outside of residents of this community's budgets
- No density without EXTREMELY low income housing
- "Affordable housing" and public housing are two different housing. Too much talk about "affordable housing, no talk about development of public housing. Totally agree that affordable options are outside of resident budgets. Other actions like going after private owners for unused space and property should have been considered first! Because of them – income money is coming in this community
- Stop tearing down older stores and buildings, rehabilitate them instead of using these new cardboard boxes. Invest in CLTs!
- No density without 75% real low income housing
- Black and latino ownership of buildings and businesses occupying the lands
- Easy for folks to criticize – bring constructive comments to the table!
- Attn: rec 1.8: local hiring should include black/latino owned and operated construction companies contracted for the projects
- Make sure the new developments are forever. Thirty years of affordable housing is not good enough
- Public sites should be under community control through the CLT!
- 1.1 50% absolutely!
- Tax land at usage potential to encourage development and discourage speculation
- More businesses for low and middle income people as well as affordable housing
- Be specific when defining "local" and "residents" these works include people who didn't build the community, they include gentrifiers. At least 3 generations are needed to build a community. 1970 and prior
- Regardless of the federal speculation, the AMI is TOO HIGH needs to consider residents with incomes below \$23,000.. like the increasing population of seniors who are on Soc. Security
- Stop rezoning: create CLTS and rent regulations
- Home ownership for low income families – reemploy tenant interim lease program
- Making housing for people who make under \$25k, no employed person should live in a homeless shelter

## C300

- 2.4 – gentrification starts with bringing in creative people. Specify artists whom are of the black and latino community and have lived in harlem for more than 5 years.
- Upzoning park ave corridor to 10X would allow residential use up above tracks
- We need housing for people at 10%, 20% and under 30% of AMI
- Community land trusts are needed to ensure permanent affordability
- One of the most important issues in rezoning – keep EH low-rise!!!
- Increase MIH to no less than 40%-20% which should be for extremely low income residents
- Don't price residents out of EH! Don't destroy existing housing!
- More affordable housing for people with disabilities

### Health & Seniors

- 4.1 – those improvements to help EH's aging and disabled populations
- Give a weekly, ongoing nutrition class at all the senior centers just like the Thursday AM class at the covello center
- Provide free meals to seniors in the area
- Equilt and quality. Eliminate quality disparity of farmers markets whos produce is better, bc worse than other farmers markets
- #3 yes yes yes yes seniors are the <3 of our community
- 3.3 yes a dearth in senior housing is affordable it is a big issue and fully resolvable

### Safety

- Objective 3 is important especially 3.1 and 3.2
- Re objective 3 – I would like an objective that explicitly addresses police harassment in Harlem in the form of stop and frisk, for instance that it disproportionately impacts people of color
- Youth empowerment in EH
- Police out of east harlem
- No more killer cops
- Incentivize programs for community members to become police IN community
- 5 extra votes for recommendations 2 and 3
- Less polic funding, more community funds
- Alternative to jail program like form paid
- No more money for police
- Make sure that there are abundant services for all youth don't wait for youth to become at risk
- No more police! Pigs out of EH
- No homeless in El Barrio
- Empower our with no violence
- No more funding for police
- Reduce sentencing and increase reentry support
- Access to crime stats in our community via email, website or postal mailign
- Need community policing
- Lets invest all the money on youth and zero on cops
- Develop alternatives to bad policing!
- Weekend youth programs!!
- Improve signage and ease for reading Randall's Island, improve quality of M35 bus service for all who take it
- Demand language access from the NYPD
- I do not agree with rec 2.2
- Stop policing and criminalizing the homeless
- Share crime stats with the community

- Create alternatives to incarceration for our youth
- Bring back P.A.L.
- Evacuation plans for above 125<sup>th</sup> st
- Stop investing in police! 2.1 – yes! 2.2 – no!
- Police tactics are not a solution to homelessness
- No more police
- Remove and prosecute racist and corrupt police
- I do not agree with rec. 2.2 do not invest more in police at all
- More police FROM this community
- No pigs/NYPD in NYCHA
- Make sure our police live IN THE COMMUNITY
- Police come after us young people enough! Invest 100% in youth programs and other life resources no more investing in cops, they have enough!!
- Engage youth in creating any policies and/or procedures that involve them
- Police need more training in non-lethal approaches to their work – deescalating situations nicely
- No more police in the hood
- Educational programs and carer training for youth
- No more extra \$\$ for police, more \$\$ to other community resources! ☺
- Giving the police additional training for people with mental health issues. More money should go to rehabilitating people with mental health issues

**Transportation, Environment & Energy**

- Get rid of on-street parking on 125<sup>th</sup> st altogether
- Asthma is a huge problem in our neighborhood. YES to renewable energy and decreased congestion!
- Congestion on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> avenues due to increased lanes because of bike lanes being added
- No more HIV and AIDS
- Improve Street lighting
- Better bus service
- Make safer streets!
- Remove 3 bus stops on 106-108 and 2<sup>nd</sup> ave
- Develop much more affordable senior day care for SS-medicaid eligible seniors especially those with alzheimers and dementia
- Remove the signs of No Parking on 107<sup>th</sup> st
- The terrible traffic jams on 5<sup>th</sup> ave from 104<sup>th</sup> st to 98<sup>th</sup> st Monday through Friday 8:30-5:30 could be eliminated just by changing the direction of 102<sup>nd</sup> street from westward to eastward
- Enforcing residents pick up of pet feces! Especially in the projects!
- No homelessness in east harlem!
- Clean up hell gate area 107<sup>th</sup> pier and put oysters in the water to promote clean water and fishing
- Put alternate parking on 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue btw 107<sup>th</sup> and 108<sup>th</sup> west side of the street
- Get back 1B. funding for 2<sup>nd</sup> ave subway line!
- M1 line the worst in the city
- Enforce pick up after your dog policies! Put up signs! Give summonses to offenders! Especially in NYCHA 112<sup>th</sup>-115<sup>th</sup> and park ave
- Bubble over the FDR ☺ fresh air pumped into the parks on the FDR
- Increase green energy and green jobs

# FINAL COMMUNITY FORUM – PLANNING PROCESS EVALUATION

## East Harlem Neighborhood Planning Process Evaluation Data Summary

This summary is based on 64 evaluations largely collected at the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan Final Community Forum, as well as a few from online responses. This summary is split into 4 sections:

- I. Connection to East Harlem
- II. Connection to the East Harlem Neighborhood Planning Process
- III. Degree of Involvement in the EHNPP
- IV. Evaluation of the East Harlem Neighborhood Planning Process<sup>1</sup>
  - a. What worked well
  - b. What could have been improved
  - c. Input into the process
  - d. Most important things learned
  - e. Comments on the final community forum

### I. Connection to East Harlem

When asked about their connection to East Harlem, 69% of respondents report that they live in East Harlem, and 45% report that they work in East Harlem. 71% report that they rent their home, while 17% own their home.

### II. Connection to the East Harlem Neighborhood Planning Process

The most common way that respondents heard about the EHNPP was through email (60%), while the second most common method was word of mouth (38%). Over half (57%) of respondents heard about the EHNPP through a Community Organization, while 41% of respondents heard about the process through the Speaker's office. Of the respondents who heard about the process through a community organization, Community Voices Heard and Picture the Homeless were the most cited organizations.

Top 3 Responses:

How did you hear about the East Harlem Neighborhood Planning Process? (n = 63)	N	%
Email	38	60%
Word of mouth	24	38%
Flyer	21	33%

From whom did you hear about the East Harlem Neighborhood Planning Process? (n = 61)	N	%
Community Organization	35	57%
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito	25	41%
Community Board 11	24	40%

If you heard about the East Harlem Neighborhood planning process through one or more community	N	%

<sup>1</sup> Some respondents evaluated the individual event they attended rather than the whole neighborhood planning process itself; this has been separated in Section IV.

<b>organization(s), please tell us the name of the organization(s): (n = 34)</b>		
Community Voices Heard	21	54%
Picture the Homeless	4	10%
Faith in New York	2	5%

Respondents were somewhat evenly split on whether they had visited the website EastHarlemPlan.nyc: 54% of respondents have visited the website, while 46% have not visited the website. The majority (83%) of respondents have not joined the “East Harlem Community Planning Forums” group on Facebook.

### **III. Degree of Involvement in the EHNPP**

On average, respondents attended about 5 events or meetings related to the East Harlem Neighborhood Planning process. A fifth of respondents attended one meeting, while 23% attended 10 or more events. Over three quarters (76%) of respondents have attended visioning workshops, 59% have attended subgroup meetings, and about a quarter (24%) have attended steering committee meetings.

### **IV. Evaluation of the East Harlem Neighborhood Planning Process**

Over half of respondents (53%, n = 32) reported having overall a “good” experience participating in the East Harlem Neighborhood Planning Process meetings and events, while 31% (n = 19) reported having a “great” experience with the meetings and events. 94% of respondents report that they would like to continue to fight to ensure that the East Harlem plan is implemented.

#### *A. What worked well:*

Respondents report that community residents were able to voice their thoughts and ideas. Respondents also felt that the format of the meetings worked well, as they encouraged participation, and allowed for “hearing community feedback in an open forum.” Respondents also cited collaboration between multiple organizations and bringing together diverse participants as well as information that was disseminated. Some comments include:

- *“Multiple opportunities utilizing multiple CBOs to help and steer process.”*
- *“I participated through CVH and so had access to as much information/explanation as I wanted and could be involved as a community member.”*
- *“Giving an opportunity to meet other neighbors in the community. Informed speakers and representatives to help guide conversations.”*
- *“I think all the organizations worked together.”*
- *“Bringing many people of many backgrounds together.”*

#### *B. What could have been improved:*

When asked about what could be improved, some respondents were concerned about the selection of the Steering Committee, reporting, “the Steering Committee selection should have been individuals who

resided in East Harlem.” Some also thought that outreach regarding the meetings could have been improved, as well as having “broader diversity of attendees.” Some specific suggestions were to improve translation accessibility, because “Recommendation boards sometimes have incorrect (mismatched) translations. And video should have been in Spanish with English subtitles.”

#### C. Input in the process

Overall, most respondents report that they were able to give input to the EHNPP, though some respondents specified that they gave input during the smaller subgroup meetings. One of the respondents reported, “Yes, in all the exercises and questionnaires. And there were offers at all points to communicate more, if I or others had additional thoughts.” Some other comments were:

- *“Yes, it showed me that the community is speaking in one voice for the preservation of the character of the community.”*
- *“Yes the format of the meetings allowed participation. The small table discussions were quite helpful.”*
- *“Yes. I feel we as a community have a voice & that our voices are being heard and respected.”*
- *“It was a better method of input than a town hall meeting.”*

One concern about giving input was that “input was limited and relevance was decided upon by others to some extent.” One respondent reported, “Yes, but you wondered about how facilitators of meeting were selected.” Of those respondents who did not feel that they were able to give input, some comments were:

- *“Not really, but hope the “voting” is really considered.”*
- *“I regret that despite many meetings, my recommendations were not included in the objectives. Why were recommendations specific to the community gardens not the general term of “open space” and parks?”*
- *“I’m writing this however I don’t know if it will ever be read or heard.”*

#### D. Most important things learned

Respondents cited a variety of things that they learned including [information about] affordable housing; Community Land Trusts; “height limits for development;” “processes for decision-making” and building union; “complexity of zoning and planning.” Some respondents had positive takeaways from the process and one respondent reported that, “Though it’s impossible to please everyone, you can address the needs of most,” and another respondent reported that they learned that “many of my neighbors share the same views as I.” One respondent with a negative takeaway from the process reported, “Everything is a process yet still nothing gets done.” A few comments spoke to learning about the rezoning process itself: “the many implications of rezoning & its lasting impact - the unfairness of how AMI is currently calculated.” Some other important things that were learned were:

- *“I MAY have a voice, but that remains to be seen. Lots of enthusiasm by participants. Incredible [dis]interest by most people in E. Harlem.”*

- “We must ALL work together to advocate for the community planning & visions, plus the needs various groups have.”
- “I learned that we the people from East Harlem are worried about losing our neighborhood and culture & [apartments].”
- “The city's focus is on profit & not human needs. It's clear that people's lives are not considered especially if they're in a low income status.”

E. *Comments on the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan Final Community Forum*

Some of the suggestions for improvement related to the Final Community Forum event itself:

- “Not having the food and music so close to an area where people were voting (crowded, distracting).”
- “Would've been great to have Speaker of the City Council on the panel”

**EAST**  
**HARLEM**  
*Neighborhood*  
**PLAN**