

HUNTS POINT FORWARD

A Vision for the Future

Final Report
June 2022

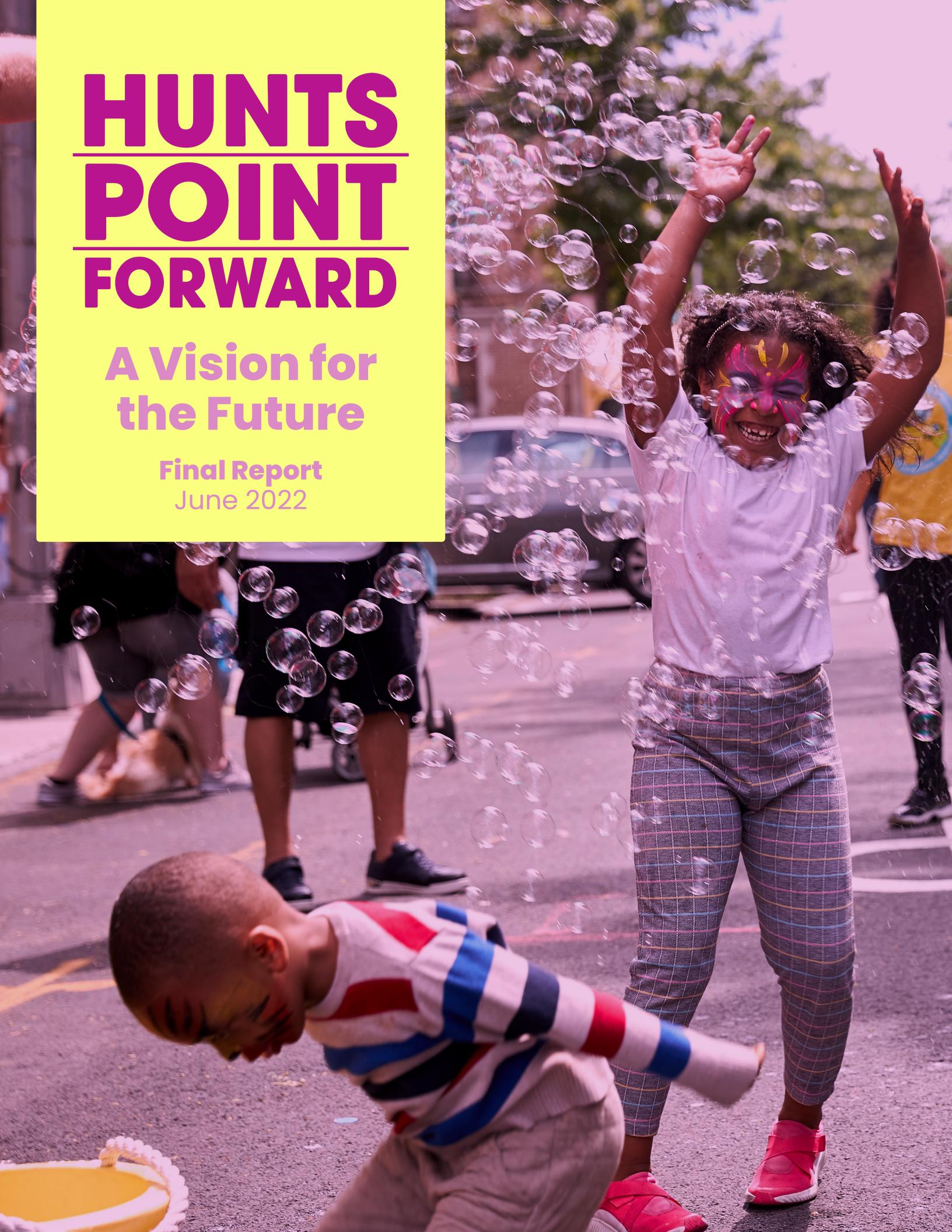




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Introductory Letters

I am excited to present *Hunts Point Forward*—a shared 15-year vision for the future of Hunts Point. Over the past year, residents, workers, business owners, elected officials, and City agencies worked together to create a plan that will bring real change in an often-overlooked part of New York City. This is a plan created by the community and for the community. It shows what we can achieve when the City and communities come together as true partners.

When I became mayor, I promised New Yorkers that this administration would “get stuff done.” *Hunts Point Forward* does just that with over 70 recommended projects and investments that will ensure Hunts Point is a safe, healthy, and thriving community for all.

To deliver on this shared vision, my administration has made a historic commitment to the people of Hunts Point. We have committed \$40 million to improve existing open space and make streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists. We have also made a \$100 million commitment towards developing a new, state-of-the-art Hunts Point Produce Market that will ensure that it remains an economic anchor for the community while modernizing the facility and reducing truck pollution in the area. Combined with our pledge to close the Vernon C. Bain Correctional Center as part of the Borough-Based Jails Plan, we are rewriting Hunts Points’ legacy of environmental injustice and building a healthier and more just neighborhood for everyone.

In the years ahead, I look forward to continuing the City’s partnership with the Hunts Point community to make this plan a reality.

Sincerely,



Eric Adams
Mayor

After a year of successful community engagement, the Hunts Point and Longwood Community Coalition (HPLCC), in partnership with the City of New York, the Pratt Center for Community Development, and Barretto Bay Strategies, are proud to release the *Hunts Point Forward* plan.

Hunts Point Forward is a 15-year vision for Hunts Point informed and driven by the community. It began within the community when local stakeholders urged their elected officials and the City to foster open communication and develop a guiding vision for the future of the neighborhood.

We have brought together our neighbors, business partners, elected officials, and the City, led by the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), in a transparent and inclusive process—all during one of the most challenging times in living memory. The planning process underscores the strength of Hunts Point’s community organizations. Even during a public health and economic crisis that kept us physically separated, all stakeholders stayed committed to the plan and the vision it represents for the future of Hunts Point.

Hunts Point Forward is about action as well as commitment. We believe this plan will bring change and ensure the community gets the attention and investment it deserves. This plan is more than projects and recommendations—it represents a partnership between the City and community. Throughout the planning process, we worked together every step of the way, determining the project scope, defining the vision, and creating the recommendations. *Hunts Point Forward* represents a commitment from the City to continue to work in partnership with residents and businesses to ensure a brighter future for Hunts Point.

We thank all of those who have given their time, effort, and insights to help ensure this plan reflects the hopes and needs of the Hunts Point community. Together we will move Hunts Point forward.

Sincerely,


Hunts Point & Longwood Community Coalition

The Hunts Point and Longwood Community Coalition



Andrew Kimball
President & CEO
New York City Economic Development Corporation



Hunts Point and Longwood Community Coalition

In 2017, two leaders in the Hunts Point community, Paloma Hernandez of Urban Health Plan and Haydee Morales of Casita Maria Center for Arts and Education founded the Hunts Point and Longwood Community Coalition (HPLCC). The HPLCC brought together social service, healthcare, education, social justice, and arts organizations that were either based in or serving Hunts Point and Longwood. The HPLCC builds trust, maximizes limited resources, and advocates for more funding and policy changes, all in order to improve services for residents with the overarching goal of improving the quality of life for the people of the South Bronx.

Members include:

- Bronx Community Board 2
- BronxWorks
- Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education
- Center for Bronx Nonprofits
- Center for Health Equity's Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center
- Graham-Windham's Family Enrichment Center
- Greater Hunts Point EDC
- Hunts Point Alliance for Children
- Hunts Point Workforce One Career Center
- La Peninsula Head Start
- Neighborhood SHOPP
- New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr
- New York City Economic Development Corporation
- New York City Fire Department—Safety Education Unit
- New York City Police Department—41st Precinct
- New York State Assembly Member Kenny Burgos
- New York State Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda
- THE POINT CDC
- St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction
- The Southern Boulevard BID
- United States Representative Ritchie Torres
- Urban Health Plan

What is Hunts Point Forward?

Hunts Point Forward was a yearlong process to create a shared vision of the priorities that will guide community efforts and drive future investments in Hunts Point for the next 15 years. This document, the *Hunts Point Forward* final report, establishes a path to implementation for concrete, near-term projects and defines long-term goals that City agencies and community organizations can commit to carrying forward.

Hunts Point Forward brought together residents, workers, businesses, elected officials, and City agencies to develop this shared vision for Hunts Point. Through transparent and inclusive engagement that elevated community voices, the process identified a clear set of projects and investments that will support the peninsula and its communities. *Hunts Point Forward* builds on the important long-term planning and advocacy efforts of community organizations, including Bronx Community Board 2 and the HPLCC.



A wholesale customer at the Hunts Point Produce Market



It's powerful that there is a document that exists that summarizes the vision for this community, and that it is informed by community stakeholders. Because there is a concrete plan, we can now make it actionable, and hold folks accountable, and advocate for what is in that plan."

Haydee Morales
Casita Maria

Why Now?

In 2019, the HPLCC looked at the many changes coming to Hunts Point—including the redevelopment of the former Spofford Juvenile Detention Center, a major highway reconstruction, a new commuter rail station, and a host of other projects—and felt that planning was fragmented and uncoordinated, with government agencies seemingly not working in concert with each other. The HPLCC felt that communication with the community was insufficient, and there was not enough community input guiding the changes. In response, New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr. and community leaders, including Bronx Community Board 2, called for a comprehensive new vision to guide the future of the Hunts Point Peninsula—both for its residents and its workers.

Responding to the HPLCC, Bronx Community Board 2, and Council Member Salamanca's advocacy, the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) took up the project and, working closely with lead consultant Pratt Center for Community Development (Pratt Center), Council Member Salamanca, and the HPLCC, moved forward with the public engagement process in early 2021 after a delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



We realized that we needed to take it a step further. We brought in NYCEDC and created a vision where communities from Longwood to Hunts Point can sit down and plan what we want to see moving forward in Hunts Point, in collaboration with the City agencies."

Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Council Member



Introducing Hunts Point

Located on a peninsula in the South Bronx, Hunts Point is separated from the rest of the Bronx by the elevated Bruckner Expressway and street-level Bruckner Boulevard and surrounded by the Bronx River and the East River. Commercial and industrial uses, anchored by the City-owned Hunts Point Food Distribution Center (FDC), take up about two-thirds of the neighborhood, and a residential area comprises the remaining third. These different pieces come together to serve as the foundation of this vibrant and diverse community of residents, workers, and thriving businesses.



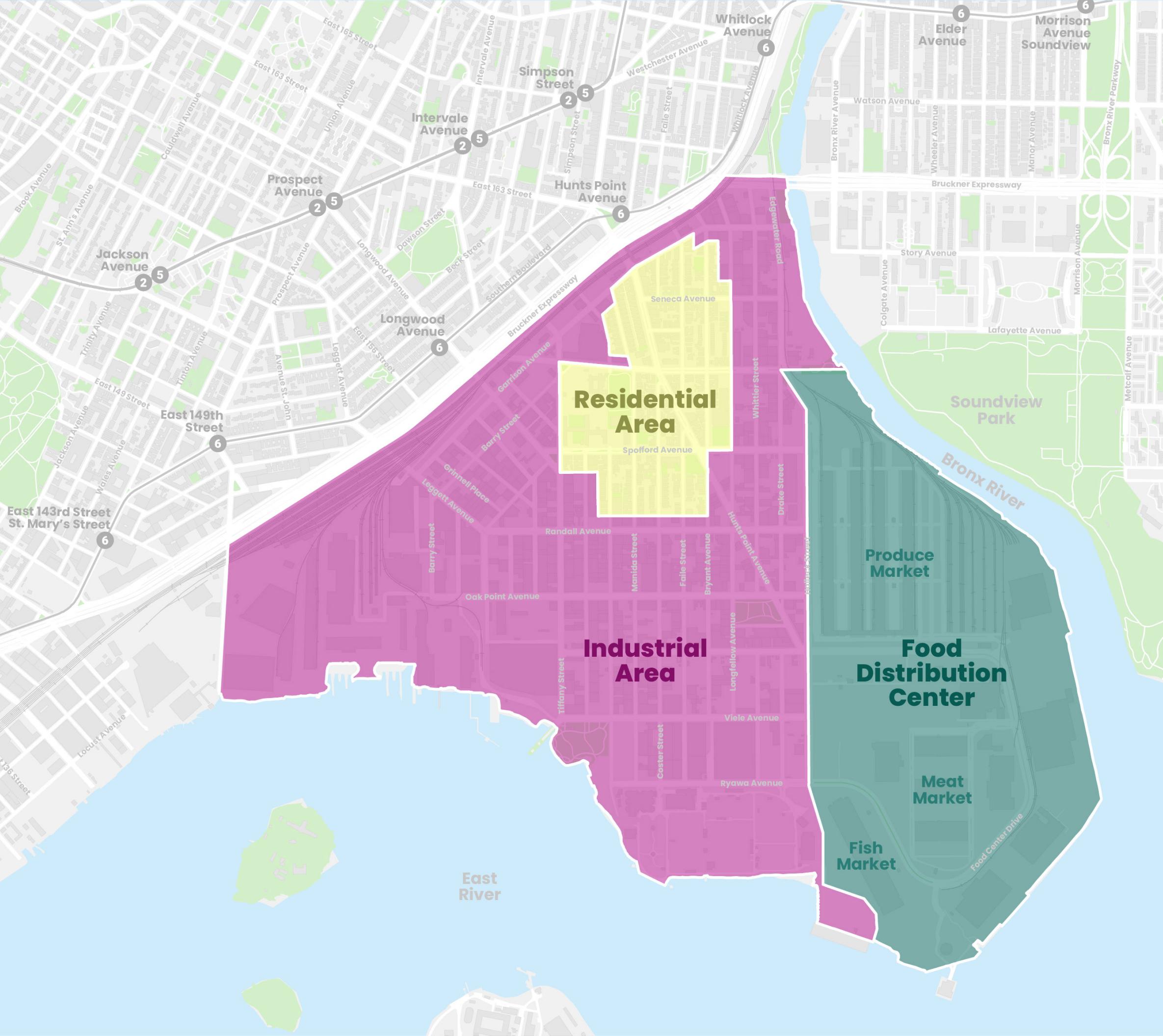
There's Bronx pride, and there is South Bronx pride, but the beating heart of the South Bronx universe is Hunts Point."

Dariella Rodriguez
THE POINT CDC



Hunts Point is at the center of food infrastructure, manufacturing, and distribution in the most culturally diverse place on the planet—New York City. It is also home to a very proud community—it is many things to many people."

Phillip Grant
Hunts Point
Produce Market



The History of Hunts Point

During the 18th and 19th centuries, Hunts Point was home to several wealthy land-holding families, including the Hunt family for which it is named. In the early 1900s, the area became a residential and largely middle-class neighborhood, as the opening of the Interborough Rapid Transit (IRT) subway in 1904 and the Pelham Bay line in 1920 connected the peninsula to the rest of New York City.

Following World War II, Hunts Point began to change considerably. White residents abandoned Hunts Point as part of the “white flight” to the suburbs. Puerto Rican and Black residents settled in Hunts Point and the rest of the South Bronx, transforming the neighborhood into a culturally rich hub of music, particularly Latin jazz.

Hunts Point also became a center of industrial businesses benefiting from close access to the Triborough Bridge (now the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge), a network of local and regional highways, and a system of freight rail lines that transported goods throughout the northeast corridor of the United States. The Hunts Point Produce Market opened in 1967, followed by the Hunts Point Cooperative Market in 1974. Completed in 1973, the construction of the Bruckner-Sheridan highway cut Hunts Point off from the rest of the Bronx, and the resulting pollution from cars and trucks caused elevated rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses among residents, which continue today.

In the 1970s and 1980s, disinvestment policies devastated Hunts Point and the South Bronx. In 1975, New York City’s fiscal crisis spurred “planned shrinkage” policies that diverted municipal resources away from so-called “dying” areas of the city, leaving residents to fend for themselves.

Early 1900s A Residential, Middle Class Neighborhood

- 1904 IRT subway opens
- 1920 Pelham Bay line opens
- 1940s-1950s Slum clearance drives black and Puerto Rican residents to the Bronx

1950s to 1970s Growth of Industry

- 1952 Board of Trade advances an industrial strategy for the area
- 1967 Produce Market opens
- 1974 Meat Market opens

1970s to 1980s Planned Shrinkage

- 1972 Bruckner Expressway & New Haven rail line built
- 1975 NYC Fiscal Crisis, spurring “planned shrinkage” policies that diverted municipal resources from “dying” areas of the city
- 1994 THE POINT is founded
- 1996 Rocking the Boat is launched
- 2001 Sustainable South Bronx is founded
- 2006 Opening of Barretto Point Park and Hunts Point Riverside Park

The South Bronx was considered one of these “dying” areas, land values plummeted, incentivizing arson and building neglect. At the same time as these “planned shrinkage” policies gutted the South Bronx, drug epidemics proliferated in the absence of jobs and economic support. The subsequent crackdown and mass incarceration of communities of color broke up families and stole an economic future away from adults and youth alike. Despite these challenges, Hunts Point, with its rich and diverse community, also became a center of the emerging hip-hop movement.

Beginning in the 1990s, residents joined together to organize and fight back against the decades of neglect and environmental hazards. This resurgence of local advocacy resulted in concrete progress, including new green space and the closure of wastewater treatment plants and other harmful facilities (see Past Victories for more details). The New Fulton Fish Market also opened in 2005, marking a substantial expansion of the FDC.



The experiences of community members have been a key part of *Hunts Point Forward*. The “My Hunts Point” profiles showcase the perspectives of several community members and local stakeholders.

MY HUNTS POINT

Its programming falls within three main headings all aimed at the comprehensive revitalization of the Hunts Point community: youth development, arts and culture, and community development.

Ms. Torres has been passionately invested in the revitalization of Hunts Point since 1990 and is proud of how far this community has come despite many challenges over the years.

“What I love about Hunts Point is that it’s a unique place. I don’t think there’s another place like it in the city or that has its story. And the way it’s rebuilt itself—it’s a resilient place. The people are resilient, and it’s just this kind of little piece of the Bronx that’s its own little village.”

THE POINT CDC has been actively fighting the gentrification of Hunts Point, which Ms. Torres sees as one of the biggest challenges facing the community. However, emerging from the pandemic she feels positive about the future of Hunts Point and the potential *Hunts Point Forward* has to positively impact the community.

“I think an inclusive and equitable economy is really important, especially when you have things like gentrification breathing down your neck in this community. And, you know, once it gets started, it’s almost impossible to stave off. And so, I think it is important for community residents to be able to stay here because a lot of these people who live here fought for this area when the Bronx burnt down, and they fought for that house and they fought to stay here. And so, I think it would be a very sad day for those people who fought to make this what it is to have to leave because of other things.”

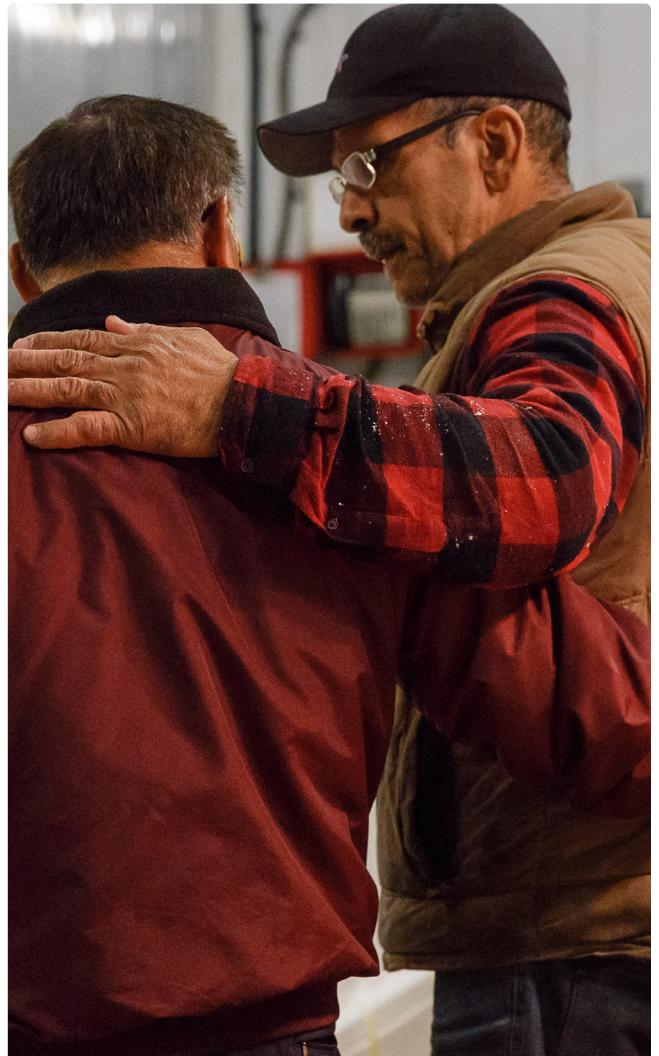


Maria Torres

Maria Torres is President and Chief Operating Officer of THE POINT CDC, a non-profit dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of Hunts Point. THE POINT CDC was founded in 1993 by Steven Sapp, Maria Torres, Paul Lipson, and Mildred Ruiz-Sapp. THE POINT CDC offers a multi-faceted approach to asset-based community development.

What Makes Hunts Point Special?

A tight knit community



Hunts Point is a community with many long-term residents and multigenerational families who stayed through the disinvestment of past decades. The endurance of the Hunts Point community is a testament to their strength and perseverance.

Rich cultural roots



The Boogie Down Bronx; the home of hip-hop. Hunts Point's creative energy overflowed in the birth of hip-hop in the 1970s, combining the energy of traditional Black and Afro-Latin beats with the creativity of youth.

Over the years, home grown institutions like THE POINT CDC, BAAD, and Tats Cru have transformed Hunts Point into a center of music, murals, dance, drama, photography, and graffiti art. This cultural tradition continues today, as shown by the plethora of murals throughout the neighborhood and artists living and creating within the community.

A strong industrial sector



Almost the entirety of Hunts Point is within an Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) with close to 650 businesses and 18,000 workers, 70 percent of whom live in the Bronx.

Within the IBZ, the FDC is made up of many food-related businesses, including cooperative produce, meat, and fish markets. The FDC has fed the region and anchored this industrial area since the late 1960s. It is owned by the City and leased to several different businesses, with the leases administered by NYCEDC. Beyond the FDC, there is a thriving mix of manufacturing, metal fabrication, recycling, concrete, building supply, and industrial product businesses. Many community members are proud that their neighborhood feeds so many and embrace the industrial identity as part of what makes Hunts Point special.

A history of activism



Hunts Point's advocates have a long history of fighting to ensure that inequitable practices that have harmed the community end, while developing community-based resources to reverse the damage of neglect, environmental injustices, and structural racism.

Advocates have spent decades fighting to transform Hunts Point's many waste facilities into more open spaces and green, sustaining uses. Although much remains to be done, activism has brought real results.

Past Victories



New York Organic Fertilizer Company (NYOFCO) Plant Closure

Beginning in 1992, this plant transformed wastewater into fertilizer, emitting noxious gases throughout Hunts Point. In 2010, the plant closed after years of community protest.



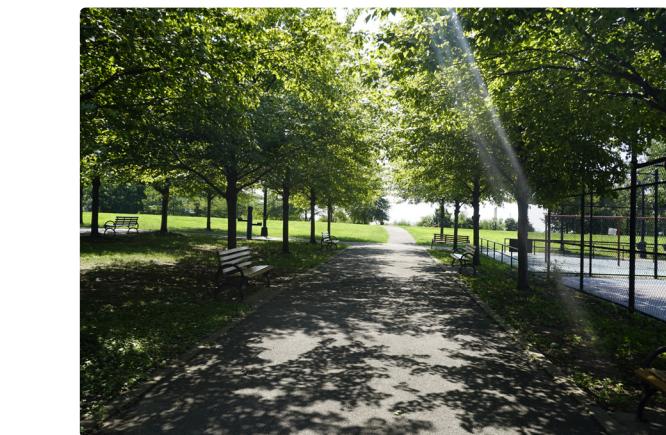
Floating Pool Lady

Dynamic advocacy, led by local teens, brought the Floating Pool Lady to the Hunts Point waterfront permanently in 2008, creating a free public pool on a floating barge moored off the tip of Hunts Point.



Hunts Point Riverside Park

Fierce advocacy led to the transformation of a formerly abandoned street and illegal dump site into a park in 2006. THE POINT CDC opened its adjacent Riverside Campus in 2006. The park is also a popular boat launch.



Barretto Point Park

After locals reclaimed a brownfield as "La Playita" for public gatherings in the early 2000s, the Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) worked with locals to design the new park, which opened in 2006.



Hunts Point Landing

This waterfront greenspace opened in 2011, creating a key piece of the South Bronx Greenway.



Hunts Point Food Distribution Center¹

The FDC is an integral part of Hunts Point and sustains all of New York City. It provides approximately **8,400 direct jobs** (many of which are unionized) and distributes **4.5 billion pounds of food annually**, serving about **22 million customers** in the greater metropolitan region. Within New York City, the FDC supplies **12 percent** of all of the city's food.

The Hunts Point Produce Market distributes **25 percent** of NYC's produce or 900 million pounds annually.

The Hunts Point Cooperative Market (the Meat Market) distributes **35 percent** of NYC's meat or 1.1 billion pounds annually.

The New Fulton Fish Market distributes **45 percent** of NYC's fish or 100 million pounds annually.



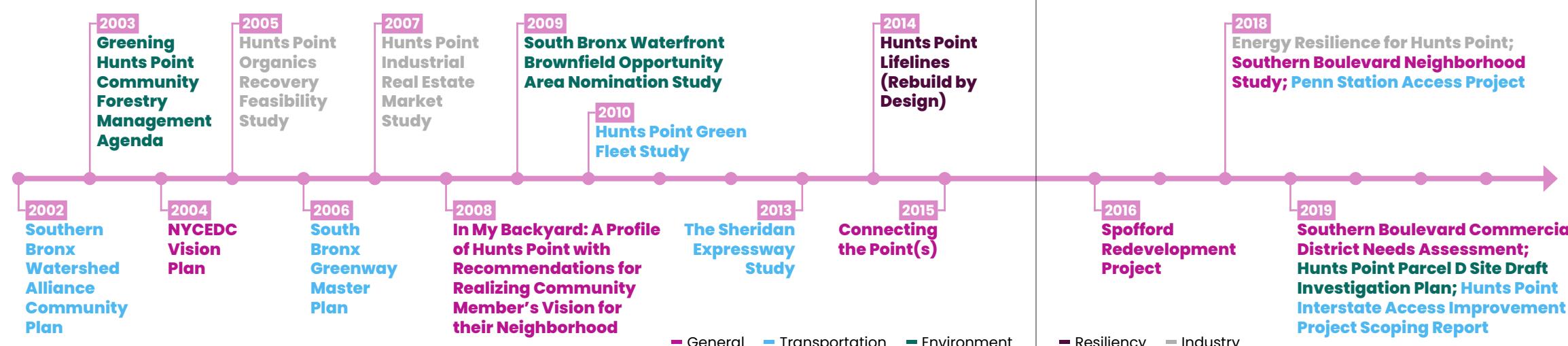
Past Plans

The HPLCC, Community Board 2, and Council Member Salamanca's call for a new vision for Hunts Point was inspired by previous planning efforts. In 2003, after Hunts Point advocates pushed the City to take a comprehensive look at the peninsula, the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding formed the Hunts Point Task Force, which was composed of local organizations and key City agencies. Following a year of community outreach, the Task Force released the Hunts Point Vision Plan in 2004. The Vision Plan included a series of short- and long-term goals and investments, all tailored toward helping Hunts Point "reach its fullest potential as a sustainable, healthy, and vibrant place to live and work."

After years of piecemeal plans and studies, the 2004 Vision Plan marked a major turning point by creating a comprehensive 20-year vision and setting the foundation for close collaboration between community advocates and the City, which continued for years past the plan release. The 2004 Vision Plan and the collaborative relationships it created resulted in real and lasting improvements for Hunts Point.

During the last 15 years, the Vision Plan served as a guiding document for how the City and local Hunts Point community could work together to advance a positive vision for Hunts Point, which has resulted in significant neighborhood improvements.

Timeline of Past Planning in Hunts Point



Optimizing Land Use

- Over 70 acres of land remediated
- 1 million-square-feet of new industrial space built
- Over 200,000-square-feet of new commercial/office space
- No new waste facilities added in the neighborhood

Creating Connections

- Over 14 acres of new waterfront parks
- Randall's Island Connector and Anheuser-Busch walkway
- New Bx46 bus route into the FDC

Improving Traffic Safety and Efficiency

- Improvements to 13 intersections
- Reductions in air pollutant PM2.5 through the Hunts Point Clean Trucks program
- New truck routes established

Implementing Workforce Solutions

- Over 1,000 new industrial jobs
- New Hunts Point Workforce Career Center
- Thousands of residents connected to employment opportunities through the Workforce system

Aside from the 2004 Vision Plan, Hunts Point has been included in over 20 vision plans, master plans, or neighborhood studies over the years.

Decades of planning efforts have resulted in a firm foundation for *Hunts Point Forward* but have also caused planning fatigue across the community. So, when community stakeholders pushed for a new plan, they advocated for a process that allowed community members to take a leading role and a plan that built on past plans to create one definitive guiding document the community could unite around.



It's really important that those people who fought and saw that beauty way back when, and fought to reclaim it—still have a stake in it as we continue to build it."

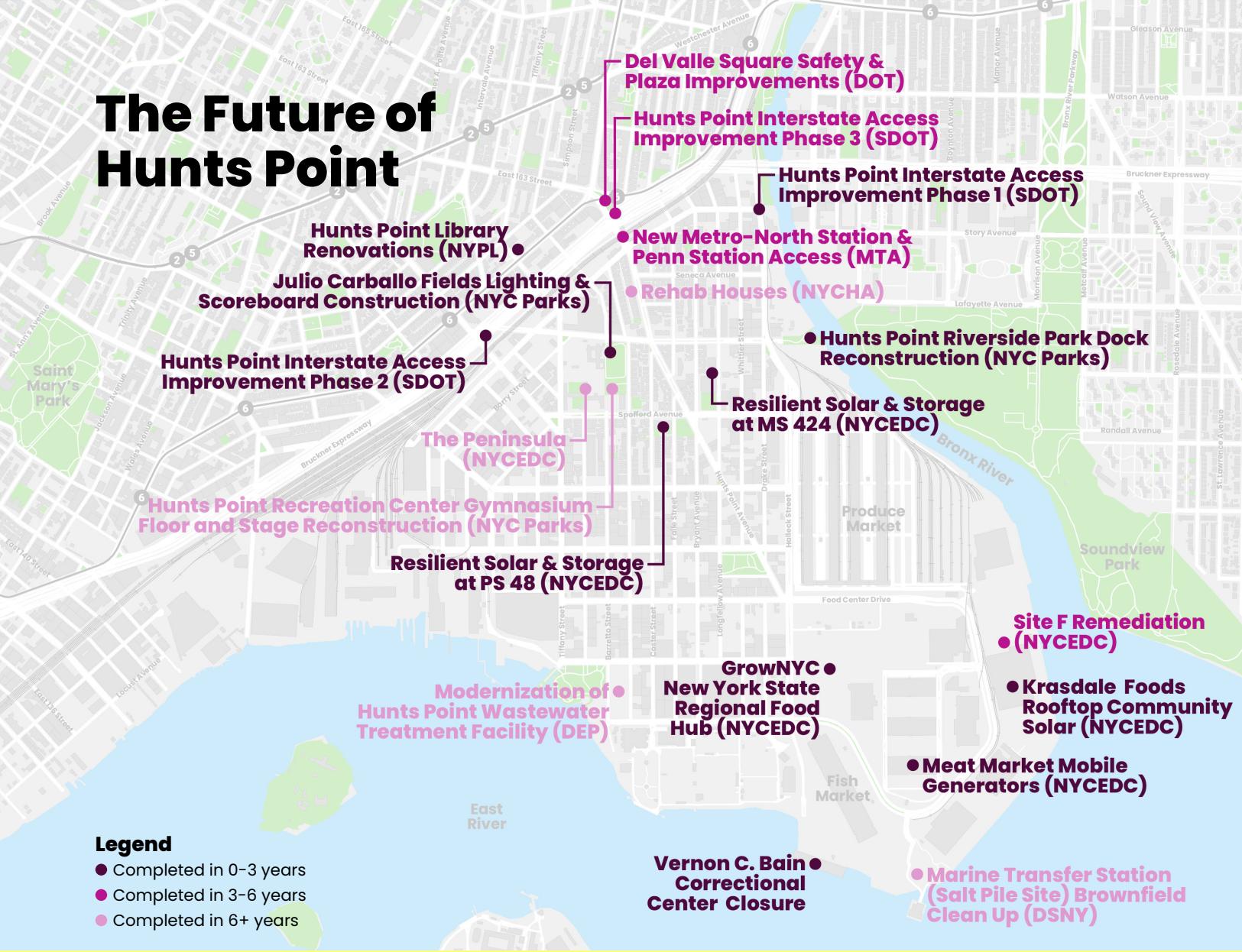
Maria Torres
THE POINT CDC

Project Team

As the leader on the City side, NYCEDC convened the various City agencies and hired a team of partners with deep roots in Hunts Point, including the Pratt Center, Barretto Bay Strategies, Somos Arte, and the HPLCC. Pratt Center led the consultant team and leveraged its nearly 60 years of community-based planning and advocacy experience, including partnering with communities in the South Bronx on the South Bronx Greenway and Bronx River Greenway Master Plans. Barretto Bay Strategies used its many longstanding relationships in Hunts Point to aid in the engagement and stakeholder identification. The HPLCC had a dual role as a key community stakeholder and a compensated member of the planning team. The HPLCC and its membership helped to define the planning process and engage community members. Design consultant Somos Arte led the creation of the dynamic final website, ensuring the community's voice was reflected.

NYCEDC's participation ensured that the City spoke with one voice and that the community developed a plan with actionable, fundable, and implementable projects. It also ensured that there was a central point of communication and accountability. NYCEDC was a natural choice to fill this role as it is deeply invested in Hunts Point as the lease administrator for the many businesses in the FDC. Moreover, as part of the 2004 Vision Plan, NYCEDC formed a strong partnership with the community to advance a shared vision for the neighborhood that would ensure residential and worker needs are prioritized along with the City's critical industrial infrastructure. Over the next 15 years, NYCEDC will bring its diverse expertise in resiliency, transportation, real estate development, job creation, and community engagement to continue to work hand in hand with the community and City agencies to refine the recommendations and deliver the projects.

The Future of Hunts Point



Significant changes are coming to Hunts Point. While these changes present new opportunities, community members are concerned about whether these projects will negatively impact traffic and transit, school capacity, parking, the local economy, and environmental conditions. Stakeholder relations that were developed during the 2004 Vision Plan process have weakened over time, which has left stakeholders with many unanswered questions. *Hunts Point Forward* aims to rebuild these connections and works to address community concerns with these projects and future planning efforts.



Modernization of DEP Hunts Point Wastewater Treatment Facility

DEP will modernize their facility with new waste processing digesters. After local community advocacy, DEP redesigned their plans to ensure that the new digesters will have minimal visual impact on adjacent parks.



The Peninsula

The former Spofford Juvenile Detention Center is being redeveloped into a new mixed use, 100 percent affordable housing development. Phase 1A, with light industrial uses, opened in late 2021. Phase 1B, with 183 affordable apartments, a theater, and artist spaces will be completed in 2022. Future phases, with over 500 additional apartments, a grocery store, open space, and a community health center will open over the rest of the decade.



New Metro-North Station & Penn Station Access

The MTA will construct four new Metro-North Railroad stations in the Bronx, including Hunts Point, which will provide convenient, direct access to Penn Station and improve access to regional job centers.

Hunts Point Interstate Access Improvement Project

After years of community advocacy to remove the elevated Sheridan Expressway and address truck traffic throughout the neighborhood, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has begun a three-phase project that will transform the elevated Sheridan Expressway into a boulevard and provide direct truck access into the FDC. When complete, the project will create pedestrian safety improvements and new bike and pedestrian paths along the Bronx River.

School Solar Energy & Storage

This project will provide sustainable energy at two neighborhood schools (P.S. 48 and M.S. 424) and allow them to serve as community shelters during times of emergency.

Krasdale Foods Rooftop Solar Project

In 2021, Krasdale Foods, an NYCEDC tenant in the FDC, began the installation of a 2.7-megawatt solar system on its roof—the largest rooftop solar project in the Bronx.

Expansion of Distribution

Since the late 2010s and early 2020s, large warehousing and distribution companies have significantly expanded their operations in the western portion of Hunts Point, providing more jobs, but also more truck traffic and pollution.

Vernon C. Bain Correctional Center

This 800-bed floating jail facility, built on top of a barge anchored in Hunts Point, opened in 1992 as a supposedly temporary solution to overcrowding in city jails and has remained in use ever since. As directed by the Borough-Based Jails Plan, and reaffirmed by Mayor Adams, it will close as part of New York City's efforts to create a safer, modern, and more humane jail system.

GrowNYC New York State Regional Food Hub

GrowNYC's NYS Regional Food Hub will be a 60,000-square-foot cold storage facility, bringing produce from local farms into New York City. There will also be a retail component.

Hunts Point Today

Hunts Point's Residents

About 12,000 residents call Hunts Point home and just over 18,000 people work on the peninsula.² There is little crossover between these two groups, as less than two percent of Hunts Point workers live in the neighborhood.

Hunts Point is predominately a community of color with 70 percent identifying as Hispanic and 26 percent identifying as Black. Of those residents who identify as Hispanic, the largest ethnic groups are Puerto Rican (40%) and Dominican (27%). Hunts Point has a large immigrant population, with 35 percent of residents identifying as foreign born and 25 percent of residents identifying as non-citizens. A majority (52%) of Hunts Point residents are Spanish speakers.³

Hunts Point is also a young and family-centric neighborhood—but decreasingly so. The median age of residents (31 years) is six years younger than the citywide median but has increased six years since 2000. Citywide, the median age has increased by only 2.5 years. Almost half of Hunts Point households have children under 18, but the share has declined by nine percent, which is slightly more than in the Bronx (-7%) and New York City (-5%).⁴ While the senior population remains small, the population aged 85 and above has more than doubled—growing 235 percent since 2000, compared to 25 percent growth across the Bronx—indicating that many Hunts Point residents are aging in their neighborhood.

Over a third (37%) of family households in Hunts Point with children under 18 are headed by a single parent—nearly 10 percent more than the share of Bronx families (28%) and over double the share of New York City families (15%) with children of that age.

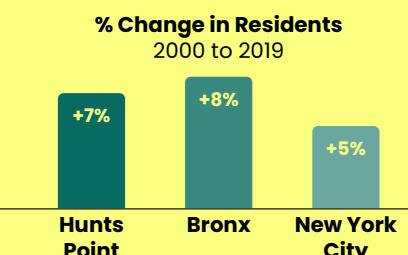


To be situated in Hunts Point, with all its Latino flavor, all its Latino glory, and beauty, and brilliance, is really a privilege.”

Haydee Morales
Casita Maria

Hunts Point Statistics

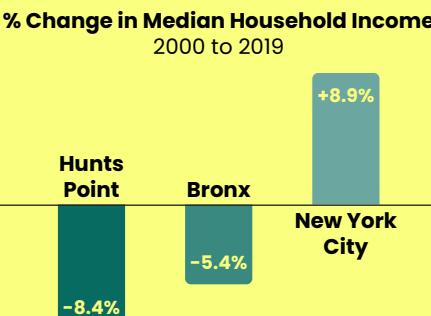
12K Residents



18K Workers



48% Poverty



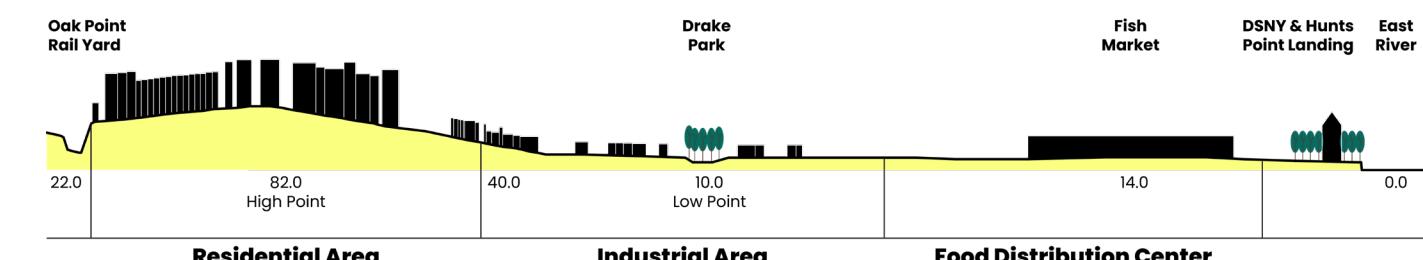
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019

Climate Risk and Vulnerability

The neighborhood's residential area is farther inland on the peninsula and surrounded by light and heavy industry closer to the rivers. Hunts Point is vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather, but different parts of the peninsula face different risks. The residential area is at a higher elevation and is, therefore, not at risk from coastal storm surge. The most acute risks in this area are power outages, extreme heat, and extreme rainfall. The low-lying industrial areas, including where the FDC is located, face risks from storm surge, extreme heat, extreme rainfall, and power outages (see the recommendations section for more details).



THE POINT CDC's Riverside Campus for Arts & Environment



Elevations Across Different Areas of Hunts Point

This graphic demonstrates the differences in elevation across the peninsula, highlighting that the residential area is at a higher elevation and therefore out of the floodplain, while the industrial area is at a lower elevation and faces risk from coastal storm surge. Elevations are in NAVD88 and section is vertically scaled 500%.

The Challenges Facing Hunts Point

After decades of advocacy, the Hunts Point community has made real strides in terms of access to opportunity and public health. Yet, many community members continue to struggle due to historical and existing inequities. Too many residents suffer from preventable illnesses and lack of opportunities. Residents want to live and raise their families in a safer, healthier community with more economic opportunities than they have today.

Discriminatory policies and urban planning decisions have resulted in health inequities within Hunts Point. Residents suffer disproportionately from poor health outcomes, including the highest asthma rates for public school children ages 5 to 14 (13%) of any neighborhood in New York City (see the recommendations section for more on the inequities that have harmed Hunts Point residents).⁵

Almost half of residents in Hunts Point, including two thirds of children, live in poverty. The real median household income (adjusted for inflation) has declined by eight percent since 2000. This seems to be part of a broader trend as the real median income decreased across the Bronx since 2000 (-5%), which is at odds with trends in New York City overall (+9%). While educational attainment is steadily improving (+19% since 2000), a third of residents (33%) lack a high school degree or GED compared to 27 percent in the Bronx and 18 percent in New York City.⁶ Further, 15 percent of youth aged 16 to 19 today are neither employed nor in school, which is more than double the rate in the borough (7%) and city (6%).

Pre-COVID, unemployment was estimated at 10 percent in Hunts Point—among the highest rates in the city (3% overall). At only 58 percent, labor force participation also remains low compared to New York City (77%) and the Bronx (73%). Of the 4,000 residents who are employed, most work near Hunts Point or in Midtown and Long Island City. About 58 percent use transit to commute, while 22 percent drive, and 13 percent walk to work. Industry of employment varies by gender, with nearly half of all employed women (46%) working in Health Care and Social

Assistance occupations and male employment more dispersed across industries. The top five industries for male employment are Retail Trade (15%), Construction (13%), Health Care and Social Assistance (13%), Transportation and Warehousing (8%), and Educational Services (8%). Health Care and Social Assistance also have the highest share of female employment across the Bronx (38%) and city (28%), but the concentration in those industries is more pronounced in Hunts Point.

The number of jobs in Hunts Point has increased by 85 percent since 2000, compared to 39 percent in New York City as a whole. Although they do not live in Hunts Point, the majority of those who work in Hunts Point live in the Bronx, with 70 percent living within 10 miles.⁷ Wholesale Trade makes up the highest share of employment in Hunts Point (37%, vs. 3% of NYC employment), and is growing (+79%, vs. -3% NYC). Manufacturing; Transportation and Warehousing; and Utilities are also disproportionately large and growing sectors, compared to the rest of the Bronx and New York City. Seventy-one percent of Hunts Point workers are male and 52 percent have some college education, compared to 37 percent of residents.



After years of historic neglect and disinvestment, our Hunts Point community is finally getting the community-centered facelift it deserves. Many of our residents and families are still reeling from the devastating impact COVID-19 had on our city, but initiatives like these ensure an equitable recovery for all New Yorkers.”

Vanessa L. Gibson
Bronx Borough President

COVID-19 Pandemic

Impacts on the Community

COVID-19 hit communities of color in New York City hardest.⁸ In Hunts Point,⁹ one out of every three residents has been diagnosed with COVID-19 since the pandemic began, which is higher than for New York City as a whole. Poor air and housing quality within Hunts Point has long contributed to high asthma rates and respiratory illness in the area, making many Hunts Point residents more vulnerable to severe health outcomes from COVID-19.¹⁰

As always, the neighborhood's community organizations stepped up, increasing their services, and often offering new services to meet their constituents where they were, from assistance in online schooling, assisting workers in switching from paper paychecks to direct deposit, or repurposing space and programming to provide food to those in need.

While the city continues to recover from the pandemic, Hunts Point continues to be impacted. Of employed residents, 22 percent (among the highest percentage in the city) are employed in the four sectors hit hardest by COVID-related layoffs: the restaurant industry, retail, hospitality, and personal care. During the pandemic, the unemployment rate peaked at 24 percent in 2020, as many of those employed in hard hit industries were laid off. As of May 2022, vaccinations continue to lag with about 71 percent of residents having received two doses, compared to roughly 75 percent of Bronx residents and 78 percent of New Yorkers overall.¹¹

Impacts on Hunts Point Forward

COVID-19 had a major impact on how the team designed and executed the *Hunts Point Forward* engagement process. The *Hunts Point Forward* plan is meant to be a shared document that residents, workers, and other stakeholders can unite behind. But, as the process kicked off in spring of 2021, traditional means of in-person meetings and events were not possible due to stay-at-home orders. To ensure that community members were engaged, the project team had to be flexible and willing to reach people through a mix of both online and in-person engagement.

Planning for the future in a time when community members are mourning loved ones, homeschooling children, working on the frontlines, and struggling to meet basic needs is challenging. But planning can also be an act of hope. The backdrop of the pandemic created an opportunity to confront renewed challenges and work toward a future where Hunts Point is stronger and more resilient against crisis.



COVID-19 hit Hunts Point hard. We already had a disproportionate share of health inequities and COVID highlighted that. Additionally, our housing stock, and the amount of people that live in houses together did not help, as well as people losing jobs.”

Paloma Hernandez
Urban Health Plan

The Engagement Process

Approach

The *Hunts Point Forward* engagement process aimed to create a shared vision among residents, workers, local stakeholders, elected officials, and City agencies that addresses both short- and long-term challenges. The project team worked to engage community members as partners in developing the vision and recommendations, rather than simply having them providing feedback on a plan.

The challenges of conducting a robust engagement process during the worst public health emergency in 100 years required creativity. The project team developed a multifaceted engagement strategy to reach different parts of the community in different ways, including both online and in-person tools.

Working Group and Sub-Groups

The Working Group formed the core guiding voice for *Hunts Point Forward*. It included 20 local community leaders, such as Hunts Point community groups, business owners, and residents that have been involved in Hunts Points for decades. They partnered with the project team to develop the engagement process, the resulting recommendations, and pathways to implementation. They ensured that a broad range of participants took part in the planning process, worked with the project team to facilitate open and transparent conversations with the community, and ensured that the resulting recommendations formed a cohesive strategy that will provide real solutions to neighborhood challenges.

The Working Group kicked off virtually in February 2021 and continued to meet throughout the process. (Please see the end of the report for more information on Working Group members.)

The Sub-Groups expanded on the Working Group to explore specific issue areas within Hunts Point, including:

- **Healthy People/Healthy Communities:** focused on public health and social resilience
- **Jobs and Financial Security:** focused on employment, workforce, and economic resilience
- **Moving People and Goods Around:** focused on access, mobility, and resiliency

The Sub-Groups included Working Group members, other community partners, and City agencies, who explored what the project team learned through public engagement and developed short- and long-term solutions to key issues that surfaced. The Sub-Groups allowed for more targeted, in depth, and regular engagement of these important constituencies. Each Sub-Group met three times.

Public Engagement

The robust public engagement process for *Hunts Point Forward* included a variety of strategies designed to reach as many stakeholders as possible during a difficult time. These included:

Virtual Kickoff

On March 11, 2021, the *Hunts Point Forward* process officially kicked off with a virtual meeting attended by 140 community members. The meeting's goal was to create awareness of the process, understand what community members love about Hunts Point, and start discussions about what they would like to see changed in the neighborhood.

Survey

Due to constraints in engaging the public in person, the project team used a short, comprehensive survey in both English and Spanish to gather community members' concerns and priorities for the future.



Community members learning more about *Hunts Point Forward* at the second Public Open House, held in Fall 2021

The survey was available through the website and social media, via physical copies distributed through the HPLCC partners, the Working Group, local childcare providers, and emergency service providers at vaccination events and food giveaways, and via English/Spanish flyers printed in large format and posted throughout heavily trafficked areas of Hunts Point such as the businesses on Hunts Point Avenue, pedestrian intersections, and the limited number of spaces still open and serving the community. By mixing online and in person engagement around the survey, the project team was able to reach many people that might otherwise have been left out, particularly workers and Spanish speakers. More than 400 people took the survey, over half of whom were Spanish speakers.

Events

Whenever possible, the project team used existing community networks to reach the community where they already were. For example, the HPLCC provided opportunities for the project team to attend events as pandemic protocols shifted due to increasing vaccination rates and the ability to hold events safely outdoors. This was critical as many residents do not have access to high-speed internet¹² and community-based organizations within Hunts Point had been working tirelessly throughout the pandemic, so it was important to minimize their labor as part of the engagement process. The project team used these opportunities to continue to build awareness of the process, distribute surveys, and have conversations with community members in English and Spanish. Events included:

- Community Board 2 briefings
- Biweekly survey distribution at vaccination clinics held by Urban Health Plan and THE POINT CDC in May and June of 2021
- The Hunts Point Fish Parade
- Casita Maria's South Bronx Cultural Festival Carnival Youth Parade
- Urban Health Plan and the Hunts Point Produce Market's fresh food distribution event
- Hunts Point Rec Center Summer event
- Floating Pool Lady Opening Weekend
- Oak Point Greenway Celebration

What is the Hunts Point Fish Parade?

Since 2004, the Hunts Point Fish Parade has been an annual celebration of the spirit, culture, and advocacy of Hunts Point. The parade is a mile-long procession through the streets of Hunts Point that brings together the residents of Hunts Point as they march to Barretto Point Park. The first Fish Parade was organized in protest against the incoming Fulton Fish Market and the additional truck traffic it would bring, which was relocated from Lower Manhattan to the peninsula. In the years since, the parade has become a family-oriented event that highlights different local dance and musical performances, while also fostering connections between the residential community and the businesses of the Food Distribution Center.

Focus Groups, Workshops, and Interviews

The project team paid special attention to engaging community members who are historically excluded from planning processes, such as seniors, property owners, parents, youth, immigrants, essential workers, and local businesses employees. To reach these important parts of the community, community partners organized virtual group conversations, workshops, and virtual and in-person one-on-one interviews. The goal of these sessions was to better understand what challenges these often left out groups see facing Hunts Point and what they want to see in the future.

Open Houses

By the fall of 2021, challenges and solutions began to emerge from the process. To ensure that the community shaped the emerging recommendations, the project team held two public open houses. Understanding that one of the major dividing lines in Hunts Point is between residents and workers at industrial businesses, the project team chose to hold one event focused on reaching residents and one focused on reaching representatives of industrial businesses and workers. Continuing the model of event partnership, the project team partnered with two HPLCC members: the Hunts Point Alliance for Children (HPAC) and the Greater Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation (GHPEDC) to hold open houses at two events:

- 14th Annual HPAC Back to School Fair:** Held on Julio Carballo Fields on September 18, 2021, and intended to engage area residents
- GHPEDC Lunch:** Held at the Anheuser-Busch walkway on September 30, 2021 and intended to engage industrial business representatives and neighborhood workers

Rafael Salamanca, Jr. (@Salamancajr80)

When I first met with @NYCEDC re: a follow up to the Hunts Point Vision Plan, I reiterated that HPVP 2.0 must involve an abundance of community feedback.

Today, we hosted an open house to hear directly from Bronxites. HPVP 2.0 will be a plan for the community, by the community.

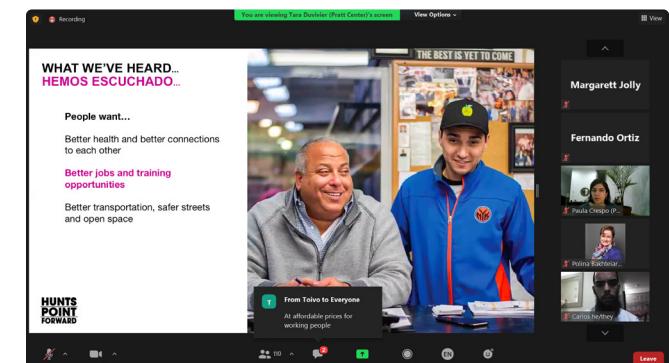
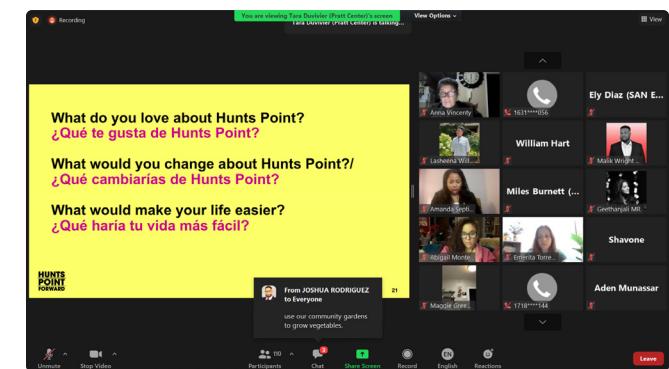
Ralph Acevedo and Bronx Community Board 2

Council Member Salamanca tweeting his experience at the second Open House

Digital Engagement

The project team partnered with the HPLCC member group THE POINT CDC and their existing community resource website huntspoint.nyc to access community members and other stakeholders already engaged in local community issues. This project website (in both English and Spanish) served as the main point of contact for community members and was a hub for official information distribution, including presentations, meeting details, and an opportunity for participants to submit questions and take the survey.

To better reach local youth and other hard-to-reach audiences, the project team supplemented the website with a new Facebook Page (facebook.com/huntspointnyc) and Twitter handle (@huntspointnyc). The project team also used THE POINT CDC's Instagram (@huntspointnyc) to encourage user-generated content and grow the project's network in both English and Spanish.



Community members and the project team sharing feedback about Hunts Point at the Kickoff, held virtually in Winter 2021

Key Takeaways

The process outlined above generated extensive feedback on what community members liked and disliked in Hunts Point, and importantly, what they want to see happen in the future. This feedback generally fell into seven categories:

Affordability

Community members expressed fears around gentrification and the increasing cost of housing. Solutions discussed included developing more affordable housing in the neighborhood and increasing access to job opportunities for residents.

Environmental Justice and Climate Resiliency

Community members were concerned about environmental hazards such as poor air quality, excessive heat, and vulnerability to flooding. Potential solutions included installing shading or cooling infrastructure in parks and public spaces; supporting green building retrofits; promoting programs that subsidize air conditioners; reducing idling trucks and decreasing emissions at the FDC; and improving stormwater management.

Economic Development

Community members wanted to see money circulate in the local economy and have better access to jobs. Suggested solutions included developing workforce training programs; improving working conditions; creating entrepreneurship opportunities; eliminating barriers to labor force participation; expanding job training programs for youth and adults; and partnering with existing businesses and industries to invest in the local economy.

Food Access

Community members raised the lack of access to affordable, fresh, and healthy food many times during the process. Suggested solutions included starting local youth-run farmers markets, helping bodegas stock fresh produce, and increasing the number of grocery stores in the neighborhood.

Public Safety

Community members said they would like to see drug use decrease, crime rates go down, and feel safer in the neighborhood. Suggested interventions included adding more street lighting, creating more opportunities for local youth, improving access to healthcare (especially mental healthcare), and developing more programming that would activate public spaces and bring the community together.

Public Space

Additionally, community members wanted to see improvements made to local parks and cleaner streets and sidewalks. In addition to public space upgrades, they suggested adding more trash cans and increasing the frequency of trash pickup.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Community members expressed frustration with unsafe intersections, traffic congestion, and the limited access to public transit. They wanted to see improvements to key intersections and streets for safety and accessibility, improved bicycle networks, more buses, and access to the new Metro-North station.



I think the most successful thing we've accomplished in the plan so far is engagement. We've been able to put all our minds together and understand that we're all in this together. There is no separate planning, there's joint planning, and when we come out of this, it will have been a collaborative joint effort that gets us to a different place."

Paloma Hernandez
Urban Health Plan



Vision Framework

The framework and recommendations outlined in the following sections represent a shared vision between the City and community that will guide future planning and investment in Hunts Point. Realizing the community's desires, as highlighted throughout the planning process, will require proactive and sustained dialogue between the City and the community, as well as ongoing collaboration and partnership.

To enable this dialogue, the City will attend monthly HPLCC meetings, using these meetings as an opportunity to learn about issues in the community and to keep the community apprised of the plan's implementation.

This plan's recommendations cover a range of issues and are a mix of concrete City or community-led commitments, suggestions for local stakeholders, and potential avenues for CBO-led advocacy (noted as **Advocacy** recommendations) to address citywide issues or goals that go beyond the purview of the City. Recommendations have been identified as achievable in the **Near Term (0-3 years)**, **Medium Term (3-6 years)**, or **Long Term (6+ years)**. Recommendations that are in process, but not complete, are labeled as **Ongoing**.

Through partnership between Hunts Point and the City of New York, our vision is for Hunts Point to be a safe, healthy, thriving community for all residents—especially youth and families—visitors, and businesses. Our goals include:

Goal 1. Healthy Bodies & Minds

Develop resources and programs that encourage healthy bodies and minds.

Goal 2. A Livable Environment

Create infrastructure that supports a safe, clean, and resilient neighborhood for everyone.

Goal 3. Connectivity

Ensure transportation across various modes is safe, efficient, convenient, and affordable.

Goal 4. Shared Prosperity

In coordination with local community-based organizations (CBOs), create an inclusive economy that fosters prosperity for workers and residents, supports local businesses, and prepares youth to participate in the local and regional economy.

Goal 5. Accountability

Support community work through better coordination and planning with the City and increasing the financial resilience and sustainability of community-based groups.

Although treated as distinct components of this document, it is difficult to fully separate the five goals within the Vision Framework. The challenges this plan seeks to address are inherently interrelated and solutions proposed, therefore, often cut across goals.



Priority Projects

Close the Vernon C. Bain Correctional Center and repurpose the parking lot

Constructed in 1992, the Vernon C. Bain Correctional Center is a 625-foot, 800-bed floating jail and roughly six-acre parking lot in Hunts Point, just outside the FDC. The facility's history began with the Jail Reconstruction Program of 1983, which offered barges as a quick solution to the rising headcount of inmates and overcrowding of jails due to the drug epidemic and subsequent crackdown known as the "War on Drugs."

The site at the end of Halleck Street was originally owned by the Department of Ports and Trade (P&T)—a predecessor entity to NYCEDC—but jurisdiction was transferred to the New York City Department of Correction (DOC) in agreements to bring the barge to Hunts Point. The site was chosen over proposals to dock the barge at Brooklyn Army Terminal or Gracie Mansion in the Upper East Side after protests from community groups located in those areas.¹³ Community groups in Greenwich Village and the Lower East Side similarly protested jail barges located in their neighborhoods that were eventually removed—continuing a legacy of environmental injustice that involves siting undesirable uses in Hunts Point.¹⁴



The Vernon C. Bain Prison Barge

Make Hunts Point safer for residents and workers

An overarching theme repeatedly voiced by community members was wanting to feel safer in their neighborhood. Adding more street lighting was one of the key interventions requested to improve public safety by making traveling at night safer for residents and workers. **The New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) will explore the potential for additional lighting and other visibility improvements on streets.**

Another important element of building a safer Hunts Point is creating safer streets and intersections for pedestrians. Street safety is of particular importance in Hunts Point because of the large number of streets and intersections that are heavily used by trucks. Trucks can be particularly dangerous to pedestrians due to their size and lack of maneuverability. Using crash data, **NYC DOT will redesign key intersections and streets to make them safer for and more accessible to pedestrians.**

Make Hunts Point a model of industrial resilience & sustainability

Hunts Point is the heart of the city's food system. As such, ensuring the peninsula is resilient to the impacts of climate change, now and in the future, will be critical to protecting the food supply. While the residential area is not in the flood plain, parts of the industrial area are vulnerable to coastal storm surge today, with these risks only increasing in the coming decades. Extreme weather, including heat, could also cause energy outages that debilitate the food supply chain, as well as impact public health. While progress toward a resilient Hunts Point has already begun, **the City will continue to invest in protecting Hunts Point's most vulnerable facilities and identify the next phase of resilience investments in the neighborhood.**

Given NYCEDC's role as the lease administrator of the FDC, there is also a unique opportunity for Hunts Point to set the standard for industrial sustainability. **The City, in partnership with the State, will study opportunities to develop the FDC's first comprehensive energy plan to create a state-of-the-art green, sustainable, and resilient industrial complex** on a timeline that supports the City's ambitious carbon neutrality goals. To support this effort, **the City will commence energy audits to identify opportunities to improve energy**

efficiency, facilitate truck electrification, and continue to advocate for funding to redevelop the Produce Market into a modern, efficient facility.

The redevelopment will facilitate drastic emissions reductions by eliminating the need for idling diesel refrigerated trailers that harm Hunts Point's residents.

Upgrade and expand open space

Barretto Point Park and the neighborhood's other open spaces provide many health and social benefits including combating the urban heat island effect, absorbing air pollution, encouraging exercise, and providing venues for community interaction. Decades of local activism have resulted in several major wins. However, Hunts Point still lacks adequate green space and existing green spaces need to be better maintained to provide community benefits. To ensure the green space that does exist is adequately maintained, **residents, CBOs, and businesses should form a parks alliance to advocate for maintenance funding.**

The City will expand and upgrade existing parks throughout the neighborhood. Barretto Point Park is the fruit of local advocacy and mobilization around environmental justice for the community. **The City will seek to enhance Barretto Point Park and explore building a comfort station at Hunts Point Riverside Park. The City will also explore potential street and wayfinding improvements to make it easier to reach existing parks and greenspace.**

Connect Hunts Point residents to local jobs

While there are a significant number of job opportunities in Hunts Point, its residents are unemployed at a higher rate than residents of most other neighborhoods. Less than two percent of the 18,000 people working in Hunts Point live on the peninsula. Better connecting residents to local job opportunities could help address employment challenges and ensure that there are regular job placement and preparation programs for residents. **NYCEDC and the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS) will work with Council Member Salamanca's office and local CBOs to organize consistent jobs fairs in the community and develop workforce programming that will focus on connecting Hunts Point residents to local jobs.**

SBS already has a Virtual Workforce website that jobseekers can use to find open positions, but many local jobs are not posted on the website. **SBS will partner with FDC tenants to post their open positions and screening opportunities on the Workforce website** and partner with other locally based workforce development programs.

Create a gateway to Hunts Point

The elevated Bruckner Expressway and the at-grade Bruckner Boulevard physically divide Hunts Point from the rest of the Bronx—the Boulevard is difficult to cross, while the elevated structure creates a dirty, loud, unsafe, and unlit environment. Together, they create a perceived barrier as residents feel cut off from vital resources on the other side of it. This inaccessibility, combined with Hunts Point's small population, disincentivizes potential business investment in the area.

To make it safer or more inviting to enter or exit Hunts Point, the City will develop a variety of strategies to create a “gateway” to Hunts Point. To make the Bruckner less of a physical barrier, **the City will explore strategies to improve conditions at Bruckner underpass crossings to improve drainage, provide seating, and lighting.** This strategy will involve close collaboration between NYC DOT and NYSDOT. To ensure that the gateways and access points to Hunts Point receive necessary upkeep, **the City will regularly maintain the green space on the medians of roads throughout the peninsula.**

In 2027, a Metro-North station will open on Hunts Point Avenue, creating a new connection to Manhattan, Westchester, and Connecticut. To ensure that the station is integrated into the neighborhood and acts as a gateway to Hunts Point, **MTA, NYC DOT, and the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) will improve wayfinding, lighting, and signage around the new Metro-North station.** To promote new and existing retail in the area surrounding the station, **NYCEDC and DCP will explore future zoning changes to encourage active uses on Garrison Avenue.** To pay tribute to Hunts Point’s deep cultural and historic legacy, **CBOs, supported by government resources, should seek opportunities to install public art that represents Hunts Point.**

Improve access to health care

Hunts Point residents are more likely to experience asthma, diabetes, and other health conditions than residents of most other neighborhoods in the Bronx and the city. Early detection and prevention are crucial to improving public health. In Hunts Point, a higher-than-average proportion of residents are uninsured,¹⁶ and many of those who work in local industries face unique occupational health hazards. In the short term, **NYCEDC and Urban Health Plan will work together to expand semi-annual mobile clinics, awareness campaigns, vaccinations, and screenings** to reach those who are less likely to visit a primary care provider due to lack of insurance or time.

In the long term, the City will work to bring additional health resources to Hunts Point that specialize in the community’s needs. **Urban Health Plan will open a new community health center in the third phase of The Peninsula development.** To ensure the clinic meets local needs, a health assessment should be conducted to determine the services it will offer. **The City and local partners will also explore the potential for an urgent care facility on the peninsula, particularly one that is open 24-hours that would serve workers who may experience workplace injuries or other emergency needs.**

Create economic opportunities and increase access to food through an Urban Agriculture Hub

Two of the central challenges facing Hunts Point are a lack of economic opportunity and access to affordable, fresh, healthy food. Both these challenges are rooted in the decades of isolation, disinvestment, and neglect the community has experienced. Urban agriculture can combat these challenges by creating economic opportunities, addressing food justice issues, and bringing affordable fresh food to residents.

Due to the recent legalization of cannabis in New York State, there is an opportunity to expand urban agriculture beyond food to include cannabis, thereby creating reparative economic opportunities that build community wealth in areas, like Hunts Point, that were adversely impacted by the “War on Drugs.” **The City will explore the potential for a “Hunts Point Agriculture & Food Justice Hub” to support urban agriculture, new opportunities around cannabis, and food entrepreneurship.**



Goal 1

Healthy Bodies & Minds





Access to Healthy Food

Hunts Point has twice the rate of obesity and diabetes as the rest of the city—these are chronic diseases that can stem from unhealthy diets.¹⁷ Despite growing awareness of the importance of eating healthy, with only one supermarket on the peninsula, Hunts Point lacks adequate access to fresh and healthy food. Hunts Point is considered a “food desert”—an injustice that is a particularly ironic designation for a neighborhood that distributes 4.5 billion pounds of food annually throughout the city and region.

Hunts Point is eligible for the City’s FRESH Program, which offers zoning and tax incentives to encourage stores selling fresh food to open and renovate in underserved neighborhoods. But Hunts Point’s residents have low purchasing power, due to higher rates of poverty, which dissuades food retailers from investing in the area. There are abundant bodegas and corner stores on the peninsula, but they generally lack the equipment and financial flexibility to stock healthy options, particularly produce.

Healthy food and fresh produce can also be expensive, meaning that lower-income residents may not be able to make healthy food choices even if the option is present. Nearly half of all Hunts Point households receive SNAP benefits and have limited means to purchase food.¹⁸ Ensuring access to healthy food means ensuring that it is both available and affordable to residents, while supporting healthy food habits.

Increase the availability of fresh produce and healthy food options by:

Bringing fresh food to the residential area with farm stands and markets.

In partnership with GrowNYC and local nonprofits, youth will be employed to sell affordable, fresh, and locally grown produce, ensuring that residents have access to the fresh food that flows through the neighborhood and young people gain important job skills and income.

Supporting bodega owners in stocking healthier options.

The City and local partners will build on past and recent efforts by City Harvest, the Bodega Association, and Urban Health Plan to help local bodegas stock and sell healthier food. The City will consider doing additional promotion of its ASTEP program, which provides tax exemptions for food retail businesses looking to renovate space in underserved communities.

Recommitting to food retail through City leases and projects.

The City has already begun to implement measures to this end. The third phase of The Peninsula development on the site of the former Spofford Juvenile Detention Center will include a grocery store. In addition, GrowNYC’s NYS Regional Food Hub will be a 60,000-square-foot cold storage facility with a retail component that will open in 2022. It will bring fresh produce straight from farms in the Northeast. The City will leverage leases and development to bring high-quality produce and grocery options to residents on the peninsula.

What is The Peninsula?

For 54 years, the Spofford Juvenile Detention Center (Spofford) was operated by the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice, housing hundreds of young people at a time, most of whom came from the same low-income neighborhoods, including from the South Bronx. Spofford was ultimately shut down in 2011 after the inhumane conditions of the facility and treatment of its residents were brought to light by Hunts Point community activists.¹⁹ The Spofford site has been reimaged, following community activism, into “The Peninsula.” The Peninsula is a mixed-use development with affordable housing, community facilities, artist studios, open space, and commercial space.²⁰ The third phase of the project will provide space for a grocery store and community health center.

Action Items

Near Term The City and CBOs will continue to work together to support efforts to help bodegas stock and sell a range of healthy foods.

Near Term NYCEDC will work with GrowNYC and local partners to support a youth-run farmstand that brings produce to the residential section of Hunts Point.

Long Term The third phase of The Peninsula development will include a grocery store.

Ensure healthy food is affordable to residents by:

Supporting volunteer emergency food providers with additional funding, food sources, and cold storage.

Emergency food providers play a critical role in Hunts Point's food ecosystem. This was particularly true at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when unemployment was rising, and grocery store shelves were emptying. The City will support these providers by connecting them to programs like the Emergency Food Assistance Program, particularly those—like Ms. Pat Watson and Pastor Reggie at Real Life Church—who volunteer their time to gather and distribute free meals to the community.

Supporting community gardens and urban agriculture to bring fresh food closer to home and create new economic and community development opportunities.

Community gardens have played an important role in communities that have had to rebuild after the planned shrinkage and arson of the 1970s. In recent years, there has been increasing movement in the neighborhoods surrounding Hunts Point toward food justice in the form of local agriculture. Places like Kelly Street Garden are sources for affordable, fresh food, community-building, and education.

The City will explore strategies to make Hunts Point a hub for urban agriculture and food justice that builds on and connects the local food ecosystem, and gives residents access to fresh, affordable produce. These will include ways to strengthen the food economy and incorporate legal cannabis opportunities that enable the local community to benefit from legalization. Elements of a "Hunts Point Agriculture & Food Justice Hub" could include indoor or outdoor space for food and cannabis production, connective infrastructure or programs that help residents access locally grown food, and programming that supports food entrepreneurship or culinary innovation.



Promoting access to good jobs, a robust social safety net, and a strong local economy.

Ensuring food is affordable goes hand in hand with increasing household income. Strategies to improve prosperity for neighborhood residents are covered further under Goal 5.

Action Items

Near Term The City will continue to support emergency food providers with City-funded emergency food, and assistance securing space for operation.

Medium Term In partnership with the Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture, NYCEDC will explore the potential for a "Hunts Point Agriculture & Food Justice Hub" to support urban agriculture, new opportunities around cannabis, and food entrepreneurship.

The experiences of community members have been a key part of *Hunts Point Forward*. The "My Hunts Point" profiles showcase the perspectives of several community members and local stakeholders.

MY HUNTS POINT

Using just her minivan and a crew of committed volunteers, Ms. Pat started out distributing fresh food at THE POINT CDC each week.

"There are so many people with jobs who can barely keep their head above water, meaning it's hard to make it through the month."

Ms. Pat receives food donated by wholesalers at the FDC. She wakes up at 3 am and, with volunteers and a donated truck, picks up the food and brings it to THE POINT CDC, where more volunteers unload and set up the food for the day. The distribution runs exactly like a farmers market, with beautifully arranged fruits and vegetables and other goods, such as flour or chocolate, set up for community members to select as they wish. Ms. Pat knows giving people options is best and reduces waste, which can occur with pre-packed food bags.

Over the years, Ms. Pat has served thousands of families, distributing more than 500,000 pounds of food. She has no grants or City contracts funding the food distribution; she funds Pat's Outreach Ministry through donations, volunteers, and a small amount of money she is able to raise by selling baked goods. Hunger and access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food continues to be a pressing issue within Hunts Point. Ms. Pat sometimes runs short on produce when her funds run out.

"The love of God and the love for people is what drives and motivates me to do what I do. Hunger has no age group, gender, or color."



Ms. Pat Watson

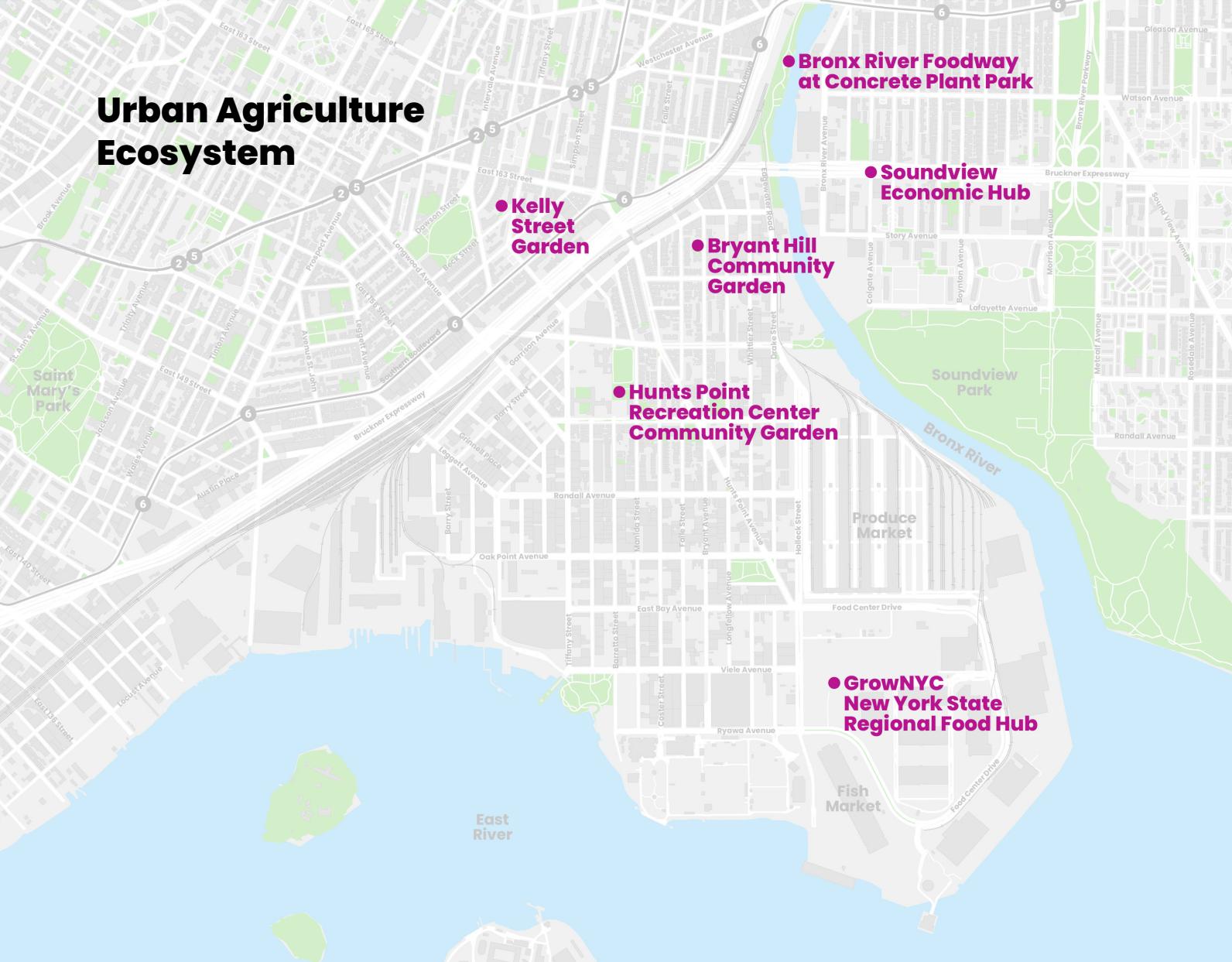
Pat's Outreach Ministry was created in 2015 by Pat Watson, affectionately known in Hunts Point as "Ms. Pat," when she received a vision to help her community by providing fresh fruits and vegetables to address hunger she saw in Hunts Point.

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years

Urban Agriculture Ecosystem



Hunts Point Recreation Center Community Garden

A small community garden behind the Recreation Center building and next to Julio Carballo Fields.



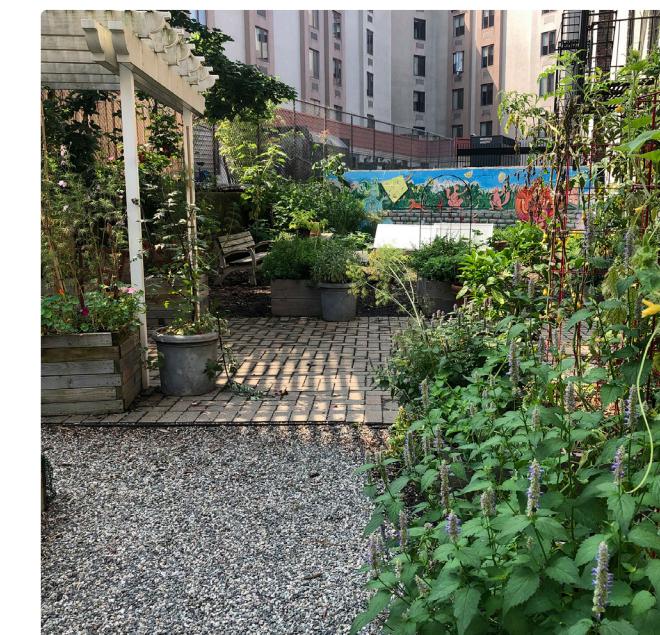
GrowNYC NYS Regional Food Hub

A 60,000-sf cold storage facility that will function as a wholesale farmers market, bringing in produce from regional farms upstate, with a component that will be accessible to the public.



Bronx River Foodway at Concrete Plant Park

"NYC's only edible forest" grows an array of edible & medicinal plants like native nuts and berries and is open to the public for learning and volunteering opportunities. The sustainable foodscape is a partnership between NYC Parks, Bronx River Alliance, and local CBOs.



Kelly Street Garden

Created in 2014 in partnership with Banana Kelly, the garden uses "food and urban agriculture as a way for people to reclaim their humanity"—providing healthy food to local residents free of charge and hands-on education about healthy food and growing.



Soundview Economic Hub

In response to long standing community needs, Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice has led a 10-year campaign to transform 30,000-sf of underutilized space under the Bruckner Expressway into the Soundview Economic Hub. Proposed uses for the space include an incubator space, greenhouse, classroom, and clean soil bank.



Bryant Hill Community Garden

A volunteer-run community garden that is part of NYC Park's Greenthumb Program, this community garden grows vegetables and herbs and offers respite from the urban surroundings.



Tiffany Street Pier

Access to Public Open Space

Open space is important for encouraging recreation and exercise, which support both mental and physical health. As the biggest green spaces in the neighborhood, parks are critical to combating the urban heat island effect and mitigating air pollution. Hunts Point has several beautiful and well-loved waterfront parks along with smaller community parks within the peninsula. Many of these parks are the result of decades of difficult and ongoing community organizing.

Despite this, Hunts Point still lacks adequate green space. Only seven percent of Hunts Point and Mott Haven is covered (or shaded) by trees. This is the smallest tree canopy cover in the city and one third of the citywide average.²¹ Greenery can cool down neighborhoods and provide shade. Hunts Point is a heat-vulnerable neighborhood in part because it is actually hotter than most other neighborhoods in the city, largely due to its industrial nature and high concentration of heat-absorbent materials like concrete.

Some parks are also underused. Community members lament that many parks are far from the residential area, separated by unpleasant and unsafe roads, high truck traffic, trash, and foul smells. While spaces like Hunts Point Landing and Anheuser-Busch Greenway are ideally located for workers in the FDC, business representatives note they are rarely used. Community groups seeking to program the parks with events and activities also find that some parks cannot accommodate stages or electrical equipment and are therefore limited in what events they can host.

Increase the number of parks and public spaces, particularly green spaces by:

Investing in maintaining local green space and trees.

Between 2007 and 2016, over 7,000 trees were planted in Hunts Point and Morrisania through NYC Parks' Million Trees NYC initiative.²² As a result, Hunts Point has an above average number of trees per mile of sidewalk, relative to other neighborhoods in the city. However, many are relatively young and not yet large enough to provide much shade. It is essential to properly maintain them to ensure they grow into large, shade-providing trees that also absorb more carbon and pollutants from the air. This is especially important in Hunts Point, due to the heavy truck traffic and other polluting uses that contribute to poor air quality in the neighborhood.

To ensure there is sufficient funding and capacity to keep up with maintenance needs, local stakeholders should explore forming a public-private parks alliance to advocate for sustainable maintenance funding for green spaces and explore opportunities to develop a workforce program that teaches and employs young people to steward Hunts Point's natural environment.

Expanding and improving existing parks.

The City will expand popular parks and create new recreational spaces for the community. Advocates have called to enhance Barretto Point Park by improving areas south of the current park boundaries. Community members have also called for improvements to open spaces such as Del Valle Square, where the Hunts Point Ave subway station is located. Through NYC DOT's Plaza Program, NYC DOT and the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) will reconstruct and upgrade the square. The redesign will include new benches, trees and planters, wayfinding, and trash receptacles. The new plaza will also accommodate markets and programmed events with mountable curbs that allow equipment to be moved on and off.

Action Items

Near Term CBOs and businesses should explore forming a parks alliance to advocate for maintenance funding for green spaces.

Near Term NYC DOT and DDC will redesign Del Valle Square through NYC DOT's Plaza Program, to facilitate activation and programming of the space.

Medium Term NYC Parks will seek capital funding to enhance Barretto Point Park and provide new public amenities in the area that was recently transferred from DEP to NYC Parks.

Long Term The third phase of The Peninsula development will include an expansion of Julio Carballo Fields.

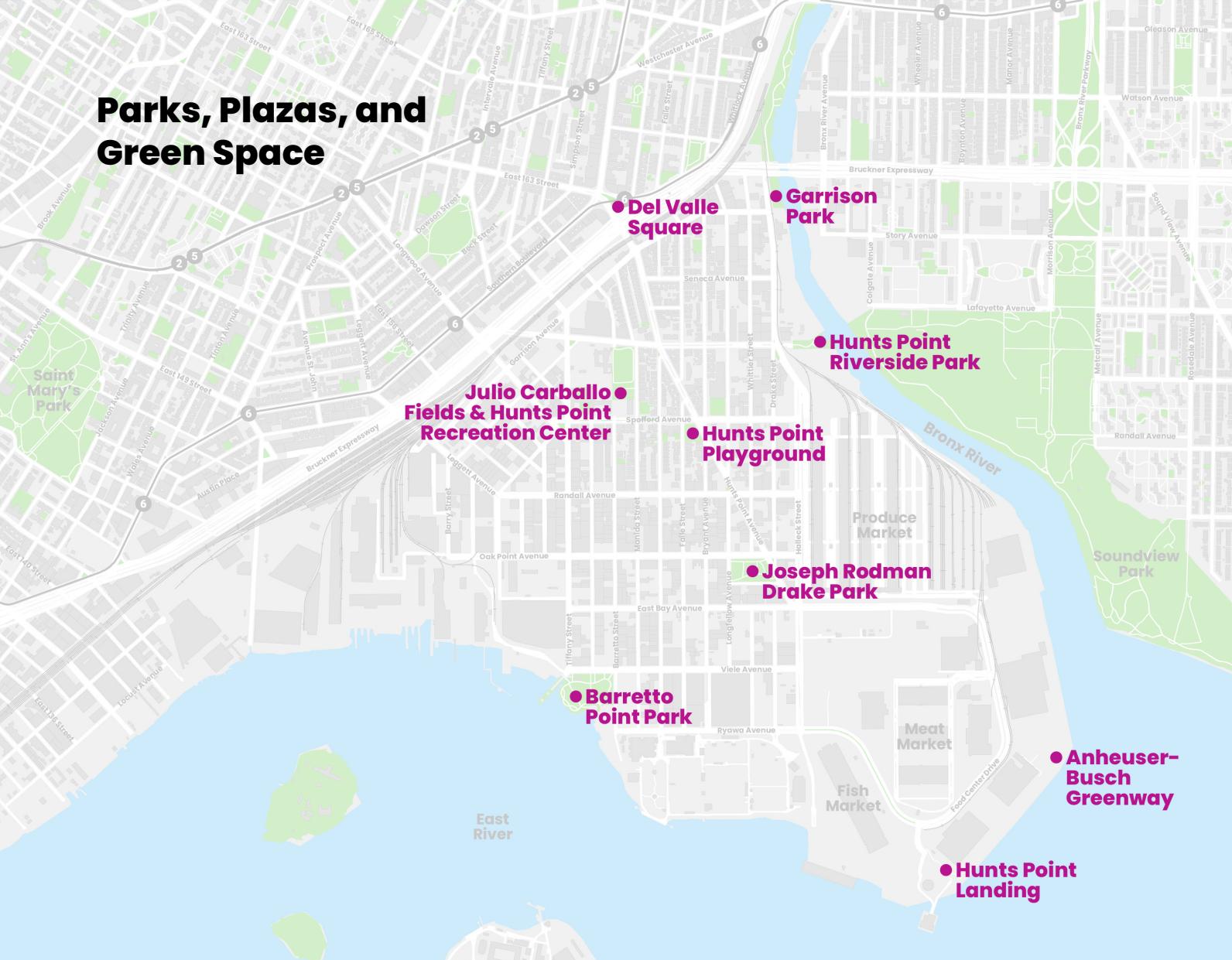
Advocacy CBOs should advocate for the allocation of one percent of the City budget to NYC Parks.

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years

Parks, Plazas, and Green Space



Barretto Point Park

A destination park for Bronxites, this waterfront gem hosts the Floating Pool Lady, an amphitheater, and La Playita.



Hunts Point Landing

A 1.5-acre waterfront park with a fishing dock, kayak launch, and a natural shoreline where fresh and tidal waters interact.



Del Valle Square

Newly minted into NYC DOT's Plaza Program, the square will be upgraded and maintained by NYC Parks and will feature new landscaping, garbage cans, curbs, and space for community programming.



Julio Carballo Fields & Hunts Point Recreation Center

Commonly called "Manida Ballfields," this park is in the heart of the residential area and features a full playground, spray fountain, baseball fields, and basketball courts. It is home to the Hunts Point Recreation Center, which offers fitness programming and equipment for public use.



Joseph Rodman Drake Park

Built around Drake Cemetery and a green oasis in the industrial area, Drake Park is also believed to be home to a burial ground for the enslaved.



Garrison Park

A new park being constructed by NYSDOT as part of the Hunts Point Interstate Access Improvement Project, it will link the peninsula to the Bronx River Greenway via Concrete Plant Park.



Hunts Point Riverside Park

A former illegal dumping ground transformed into an award-winning waterfront park with a fishing pier, kayak launch, and spray fountains for hot days.



Hunts Point Playground

Originally built in 1954, this playground was upgraded in 2015 as part of the Community Parks Initiative. Amenities include jungle gyms, spray fountains, basketball courts, and green infrastructure to manage stormwater.



Anheuser-Busch Greenway

Another point of access to the Bronx River waterfront, the Greenway is maintained by Anheuser-Busch and accessible to the public via Food Center Drive.

Increase usage of parks and public space by:

Making it safer and more pleasant to access waterfront parks.

Street improvements like lighting, trash-pickup, greening, and wayfinding can improve the pedestrian experience en route to neighborhood parks like Hunts Point Riverside and Barretto Point Park. Because it can be difficult to maintain pedestrian-friendly streets in the industrial areas between parks and the residential area, the City should focus their efforts on ensuring there are safe and pleasant routes to these critical neighborhood spaces. Bringing more residents to waterfront open spaces in the FDC will require better connectivity within the peninsula, which is discussed under Goal 5.

Activating public spaces with programming.

Events and activities like fitness programs, concerts, and cultural celebrations can encourage more frequent use and build awareness of less popular spaces. During the engagement process, the project team partnered with GHPEDC to host a public meeting alongside a luncheon for GHPEDC members at Anheuser-Busch's public greenway. Many of those who attended were not previously aware of the space and expressed interest in visiting again. Community organizations should continue to make use of public spaces for these types of events. In addition, the City and community partners will establish regular programming in the spring and summer to activate underused parks like the award-winning Hunts Point Riverside Park and Hunts Point Landing. The Hunts Point Recreation Center is an asset to the neighborhood in the heart of the residential area that can expand its impact by hosting more youth programming and community events.

Providing basic amenities that promote passive usage.

In addition to active programming and recreation, neighborhood parks should serve community members—residents and workers—as areas of respite for casual, day-to-day purposes. Adding benches and other seating, trees, misting features, restrooms, and water fountains will make parks more usable for a resident passing by or a worker on a lunch break. Adding a restroom in parks like Hunts Point Riverside Park will also be a useful public amenity. Drake Park is one of the few open spaces directly in between the residential and industrial areas, acting as a cool, green oasis amid heavy industry and trucks.

Commemorating the enslaved Africans buried in Drake Park.

Named after poet Joseph Rodman Drake—whose tomb is in the center of the park—Drake Park also has historic significance, as it is believed to be a burial ground for enslaved Africans.²³ Drake Park's significance as an African burial ground will be honored and memorialized to commemorate those buried, educate residents, and explore renaming the park.

Action Items

Near Term NYC Parks will install lighting at Julio Carballo Fields, which has been funded through the Council Member's discretionary budget.

Medium Term NYC DOT will study additional improvements on the streets residents use to access parks.

Long Term NYC Parks will investigate opportunities for expanding Hunts Point Riverside Park and providing year-round restrooms.

Long Term NYC Parks will explore opportunities to upgrade Drake Park with passive amenities and features to better acknowledge its history as a burial ground for enslaved people.

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years





Physical & Mental Healthcare

In addition to addressing underlying and environmental factors that affect public health, adequate care and resources must be accessible. Hunts Point's workers, for example, have unique healthcare needs. Most work in industries such as wholesale trade, transportation & warehousing, and manufacturing (particularly food manufacturing) that have a high potential for occupational injuries. Since many industrial businesses operate outside of typical business hours, or even around the clock, these injuries may happen when nearby urgent care facilities are closed.

In terms of the residential population, Hunts Point has the highest rates of childhood asthma in the city, triple the citywide rate of premature deaths due to drug use and HIV, and an above-average rate of psychiatric hospitalizations. The South Bronx as a whole has had among the highest rates of depression in the city (nearly 17% in 2017).²⁴

CBOs like Urban Health Plan have established community health centers that offer low-cost comprehensive healthcare—including to patients without health insurance, which is particularly important because Hunts Point residents are five percent less likely to be insured than the average New York City resident. The COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted many people's mental health due to social isolation, loss of income, and anxiety related to the virus. It has also made it harder to get care.²⁵ While acknowledging the increased need, community members also discussed barriers to accessing mental health support including cultural stigmas and lack of awareness.

Support access to primary and preventative care by:

NYCEDC will support Urban Health Plan in expanding semi-annual mobile clinics, awareness campaigns, vaccinations, and screenings for industrial workers and residents.

Increasing access to healthcare can tangibly improve health outcomes, as it is more likely that disease will be detected early. Mobile health clinics can reach those who are less likely to visit a primary care provider due to lack of insurance, lack of time, or distrust of health institutions. These can be especially beneficial for industrial workers who work long, irregular hours. Industrial workers are also 70 percent male. Gender impacts the likelihood that someone will visit a doctor—men are over 30 percent less likely to visit a doctor than women.²⁶

Bringing new health facilities that specialize in community needs.

The third phase of The Peninsula development will include space for a new Urban Health Plan health center. The specific use for that space should be determined after surveying health needs in the community relative to available resources. Stakeholders also expressed interest in an urgent care center on the peninsula that is open 24-hours in case of workplace injuries or other urgent needs.

Action Items

Near Term NYCEDC will support Urban Health Plan in expanding semi-annual mobile clinics, awareness campaigns, vaccinations, and screenings for industrial workers and residents.

Long Term Urban Health Plan will open a new community health center in the third phase of The Peninsula development. A health assessment will be conducted to determine what specific services should be offered.

Long Term The City and local partners will explore the potential for an urgent care facility on the peninsula.



If we can, through these recommendations, make Hunts Point such a well-rounded community for older adults to thrive, and for all people who reside in these communities to thrive—I think that's important."

Katherine Martinez
Neighborhood SHOPP

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years

Implement and expand resources for culturally sensitive mental healthcare and substance abuse support by:

Hosting regular, non-clinical, community-led discussion sessions where people can talk about mental health related issues and build a trusted support network.

These discussions can help community members cope with day-to-day stressors and anxiety without feeling stigmatized for seeking mental health support. They will build on the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DOHMH) COVID-19 Community Conversations model, which offered a safe discussion space to learn about mental health challenges, resources, and coping strategies. Community members who can direct people to appropriate resources should be present.

Increasing funding for school-based mental health providers.

Recent funding from the American Rescue Plan enabled New York City to hire 600 new mental health professionals for city schools.²⁷ While this enabled every public school in the city to have a full-time social worker, school-based mental health services should be expanded to ensure that schools have enough staffing to support need. Community groups in Hunts Point have noted that it is difficult to attract and retain social workers and teachers, perhaps due to location. Increasing pay for school-based service providers could enable students to receive the support they need and deserve.

Helping community groups, such as churches and youth organizations, hire or train on-staff social workers to provide on-demand support.

In addition to school-based mental health services, trusted community leaders and organizations play a key role. Organizations like Hunts Point Alliance for Children and Youth Ministries for Peace & Justice have mental health and wellbeing in their missions. Many people also turn to religious institutions to help cope with and get through distress, particularly in the face of stigma around mental healthcare. While staff within these institutions can typically refer community members who need support to the appropriate resources, having social workers on staff enables more flexible and responsive service provision that is dedicated to the community. Expanding mobile engagement teams can further improve responsiveness. The City will support organizations with funding or recruitment assistance.

Action Items

Near Term DOHMH and CBOs will continue and expand free community spaces to address mental health challenges and increase community resiliency.

Medium Term DOHMH will explore the potential to offer funding or recruitment assistance for CBOs to hire or train on-staff social workers.

Advocacy Call for additional funding for school-based mental health providers.



Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years

The experiences of community members have been a key part of *Hunts Point Forward*. The "My Hunts Point" profiles showcase the perspectives of several community members and local stakeholders.

MY HUNTS POINT

Ms. Hernandez comments that, "as an underserved community of color, Hunts Point already had a disproportionate share of health inequities. COVID just highlighted those."

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Hernandez and Urban Health Plan stepped up to provide critical services to the community. Urban Health Plan pivoted their services, turning towards telehealth to provide healthcare in a safe way. But beyond delivering healthcare, Ms. Hernandez realized that during this time, community members urgently needed access to food. Urban Health Plan partnered with other stakeholders, including the Hunts Point Produce Market, to distribute healthy foods to their neighbors. Throughout the pandemic, Urban Health Plan and its partners provided over 500,000 pounds of produce to the residents of Hunts Point.

"COVID has traumatized all of us and impacted our emotional health. But a strength of ours, if you will, is our resiliency—we're a resilient community. Whatever comes our way we're used to dealing with. And so it may take some time, but we will recover."



Paloma Hernandez

Raised in the Hunts Point-Longwood community, Paloma Hernandez is dedicated to reducing health disparities in the community. As President and CEO of Urban Health Plan, one of the largest health care providers in the South Bronx, Ms. Hernandez strives to always give back to her community. Urban Health Plan, founded by Dr. Richard Izquierdo, Ms. Hernandez's father, operates over twenty-five health centers across the South Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens, servicing close to 85,000 individuals.

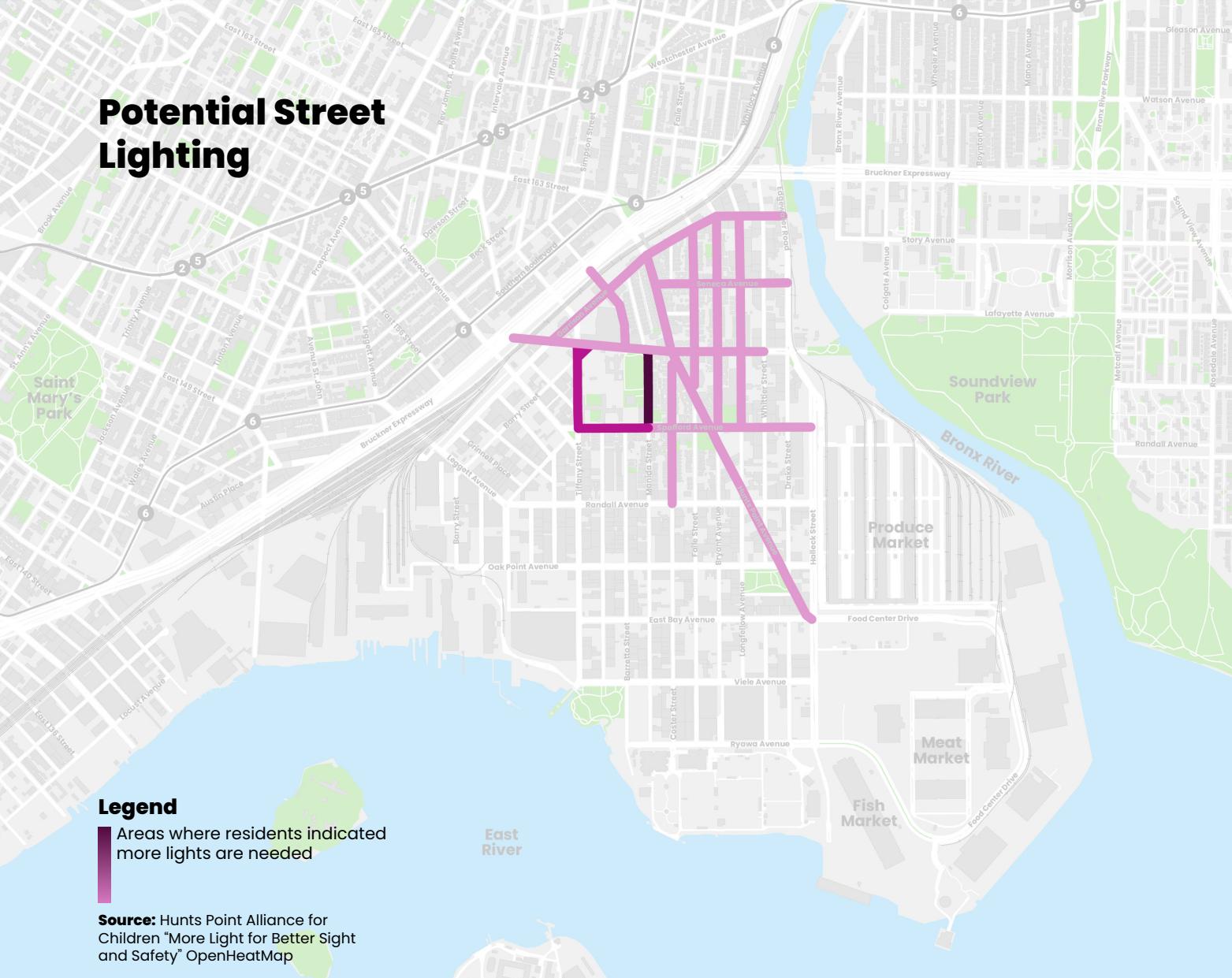
Ms. Hernandez's family has been deeply involved for decades in the neighborhood, providing healthcare and social services. Ms. Hernandez is dedicated to ensuring that Hunts Point is a place where people want to stay. Her work at Urban Health Plan, helping people feel secure and cared for, is an important part of this. Her vision for Hunts Point includes improving housing, employment, and opportunities overall—as she says, "building a community that has real staying power, where people want to live and make their lives."

"To me, Hunts Point is part of my life, I have been here all of my life. And I'm really committed to assuring the vibrancy of this community."

Goal 2 Livable Environment



Potential Street Lighting



Safe Community

Public safety was consistently a top priority for community members, who cited prevalent drug use, homelessness, mental illness, street safety, and crimes such as vehicle break-ins as primary concerns—particularly at night.

As of March 2022, the 41st precinct, which includes Hunts Point and Longwood, has experienced a 12 percent increase in felonies over the past two years. During community engagement, many community members noted a recent uptick in crime.²⁸

The local precinct should continue to partner closely with the community to monitor and respond to incidents through engagement with the precinct council. However, creating a safe neighborhood goes beyond a policing solution. Poverty and lack of job access make individuals more likely to engage in crime,²⁹ while secluded streets with low visibility can attract illicit activity. Hunts Point is also seen by those outside the neighborhood as a historically dangerous place, which can act as a self-fulfilling prophecy as perceptions become reality.

Interactions with individuals on the street who struggle with drug addiction or suffer from mental illness can also make people feel unsafe. Hunts Point residents enter the City's shelter system at the third highest rate of all neighborhoods, and drug use causes three times as many premature deaths in Hunts Point than in the city overall. There also remains a population of sex workers in Hunts Point, who may be dealing with severe drug addictions.³⁰ For those who are also homeless, or nearly homeless, service providers like BronxWorks and Real Life Church often find themselves unsuccessful at bringing them to shelters or offering other help, potentially due to fear of criminalization.

Ultimately, substance abuse, homelessness, and mental illness are complex issues that need to be addressed at their root—by breaking the cycles of poverty.

Reducing crime and making people feel safer on streets and in public spaces by:

Improving lighting and visibility.

Better lighting around the neighborhood will help residents, workers, and visitors feel safer traveling at night. While there are streetlights lining major streets, Hunts Point feels darker than many other neighborhoods because there is less supplementary lighting from storefronts and cars. Lighting improvements along commercial corridors, pathways to parks, and transit routes will be prioritized.

Getting more “eyes on the street.”

Activating spaces so that casual users act as monitors and deterrents of illicit activity is an important way to improve both the perception of safety and incidence of crime. More on activating street life can be found under Goal 4 and Goal 5.

Action Items

Medium Term NYC DOT will explore the potential for additional lighting and other visibility improvements on streets.

What is the Bronx People's Platform?

The Bronx People's Platform is born out of work started by the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, an organization founded in the early 1970s to empower Bronx Residents. The Bronx People's Platform is a vision that recommends tenant, intergenerational community, and youth organizing efforts across the borough of the Bronx and aims to retain permanently affordable housing in the Bronx while lifting up the voices and experiences of Bronx residents through leadership development. The Bronx People's Platform has built solidarity between different organizations and leaders across the Bronx to put together a Bronx-wide plan that the Bronx People's Platform organizers intend to use to hold future and current local elected officials accountable.³¹



I've seen Hunts Point at its worst, and right now we're doing such great things and it's so much better now."

Sandra

Hunts Point resident at March kick-off meeting

Support community members dealing with homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues by:

Providing shelter, basic amenities, and medical support to community members struggling with homelessness or substance use disorder.

This means providing homeless individuals and those struggling with addiction pathways out of their current situations, while encouraging harm reduction strategies, as outlined in the Bronx People's Platform. Street teams run by the City and community partners that assist and offer shelter to those sleeping on the streets will be expanded. More support will also be offered to the formerly incarcerated, who end up in the shelter system at a rate of up to 50 percent. Providing simple amenities, like mobile showers, can help sex workers, homeless individuals, and other marginalized members of society live more dignified lives.

Providing appropriate care and emergency response during mental health emergencies.

Individuals who need mental health or social support should receive the appropriate services without fear of criminalization. The City (MOCH,³² DOHMH,³³ NYPD,³⁴ FDNY,³⁵ and H&H³⁶) piloted the B-HEARD program in Harlem, where dispatch teams with a mental health professional were designated the default first responders to 911 calls for mental health emergencies. Data from the first six months of the pilot shows promising results, with more people assisted onsite and fewer people refused medical assistance.³⁷ Expansions of this program or similar programs will consider Hunts Point.

Expanding supportive housing to address homelessness and substance use disorder.

This means investing in housing, education, youth development, physical and mental healthcare, and many of the other focus areas highlighted in this plan, while reducing inequality citywide. Expanding supportive housing opportunities across the city for residents who would otherwise be homeless is critical. Creating and safeguarding permanent affordable housing for residents in need of mental health support would address homelessness, improve necessary access to mental health services, and decrease overall poverty and addiction. These investments would help to reform negative perceptions of the neighborhood and encourage community members to stay and invest in Hunts Point.

Action Items

Near Term The Mayor's Office will consider Hunts Point when expanding programs that reroute 911 calls to social workers and mental health professionals.

Advocacy Call to expand supportive housing across the city and state.

Advocacy Support the Bronx People's Platform's calls for harm reduction policies.

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years





Overflowing trash can
at Del Valle Square

Cleanliness

A cleaner neighborhood was another top priority for community members. Hunts Point has the fewest Department of Sanitation (DSNY) trash cans of any neighborhood in the city.³⁸ The lack of trash cans leads to excessive litter and overflow of the few trash cans that are there. This is seen regularly at Del Valle Square, a busy transit hub.

In addition, streets are frequently littered with trash either dumped by or overflowing from industrial businesses in the area. The conditions, often including unpleasant smells, can deter community members from walking down certain streets and ultimately make it more difficult to access neighborhood amenities that are farther from the residential area, such as Hunts Point Riverside Park.

Ensure streets and public spaces are free from trash by:

Adding more trash receptacles and ensuring they are regularly maintained.

Community members frequently mentioned during public engagement that it is common to see trash on the streets throughout the neighborhood. More regular maintenance and receptacles along commercial corridors and at key transit hubs will help prevent litter and keep streets clean.

Better enforcement of regulations against illegal commercial dumping.

While DSNY collects residential waste, businesses are required to work with commercial carters to dispose of trash and recycling. When businesses fail to do so and instead dump their trash onto public or private property, it is called illegal dumping. To combat this, DSNY will strengthen regulation and enforcement. This includes a reward for anyone who reports instances of illegal dumping.

Action Items

Near Term NYCEDC will continue to dispatch Clean-Up Corps to pick up trash.

Near Term NYC DOT and DDC will add trash and recycling receptacles to a redesigned Del Valle Square.

Near Term DSNY will add trash and recycling receptacles on commercial corridors.

Near Term DSNY will strengthen enforcement against illegal dumping of commercial trash.

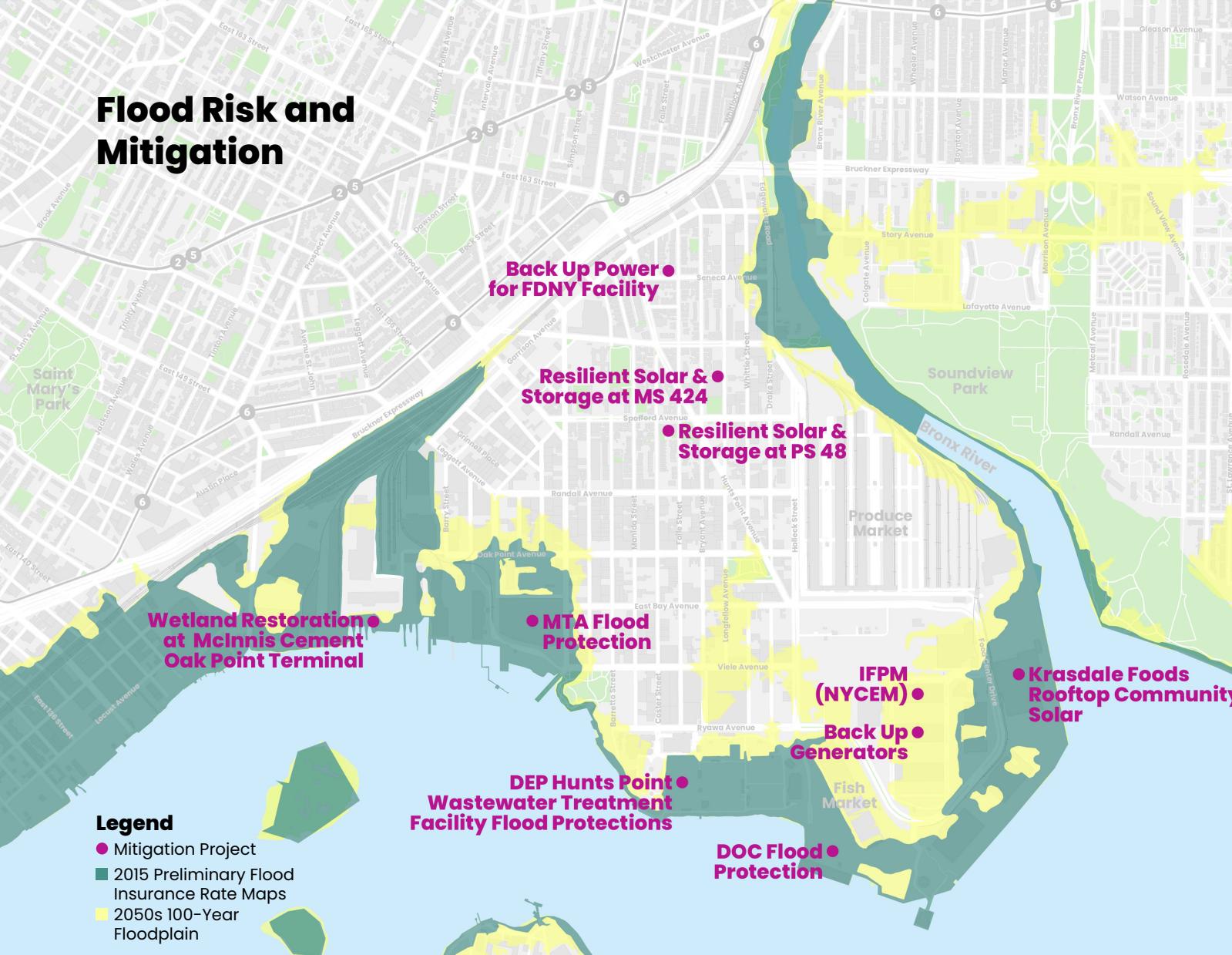
Near Term The City will regularly maintain the green space on the medians of roads throughout the peninsula.



Five years from now,
I would love to see
that the children in
this community and
their families have
an environment that
supports wellbeing
and joy and happiness
and growth and
development."

Haydee Morales
Casita Maria

Flood Risk and Mitigation



Climate Resilience & Sustainability

The 2018 Hunts Point Resiliency Study found that the peninsula is at risk from power outages due to existing vulnerabilities and increasingly extreme weather and temperatures due to climate change. While the residential area is elevated out of the floodplain, portions of the industrial area are at risk due to coastal flooding. New stormwater flooding analyses show that, by the 2080s, some parts of the industrial area may face flood risk due to extreme rainfall.³⁹

Residents are also concerned about storm surge bringing in toxic waste from the DEP Wastewater Treatment Plant along the water's edge.

DEP is actively addressing these concerns by hardening the facility and making it more resilient to coastal storm surge.

Power outages at the FDC could put critical parts of the city's food supply at risk by making cold storage impossible. Since the study was released, the City and FDC tenants have advanced projects that mitigate flood and energy risk, including installing new generators and interim flood protection barriers at the Meat Market, and back-up solar power and battery storage at local public schools that will double as emergency shelters.

Heat vulnerability is another peninsula-wide challenge. By the 2080s, the frequency of heat waves (3+ days at or above 90 degrees Fahrenheit) is expected to triple in New York City.⁴⁰ Hunts Point has the highest level of heat vulnerability on the City's Heat Vulnerability Index, which measures relative risk for heat-related deaths and illnesses by taking several factors into account, such as environment, demographics, and socioeconomic status. Hunts Point has an average daytime surface temperature that is over three degrees higher than the Bronx average. Hunts Point has a high proportion of Black residents and people living below the poverty line. Previous racist policies and systems have resulted in an inequitable distribution of social and economic resources that contributes to a higher prevalence of health conditions overall, and limits access to air-conditioning at home, which increases the risk of heat-related illness for Black and lower-income residents. More than 15 percent of households in Hunts Point do not have air conditioning, compared to less than five percent in the city's wealthier neighborhoods.

In addition to preparing for climate impacts, it is crucial to minimize emissions. Decreasing the carbon emissions of industrial areas like Hunts Point is a major task but a necessary one to meet the City's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. Since NYCEDC has an important role in Hunts Point as the lease administrator for the FDC, there is an opportunity to create a new and exciting model for industrial sustainability citywide and beyond. Major sources of emissions in the area include freight trucks—15,000 trucks enter the FDC everyday—building energy, and refrigeration. For example, refrigeration needs extend beyond the space available inside the Produce Market, requiring over 1,000 refrigerated diesel trailers as extra warehouse capacity, which spew emissions into the community.

Historic industrial uses in Hunts Point left acres of contaminated land and the Hunts Point waterfront became a default location for burdensome land uses like waste transfer stations and wastewater facilities. Much of the contaminated land has been remediated since 2004 and advocates, working with the City, have begun to win more equitable distribution of noxious uses across neighborhoods.

What is the Krasdale Solar Project?

The Krasdale Group (Krasdale) started as Krasdale Foods in 1908 as a wholesale grocery supplier. Since 1972, Krasdale has been operating in Hunts Point in the FDC,⁴¹ supplying supermarkets throughout the Northeast. Krasdale recently committed to building the largest solar rooftop project in the Bronx. The community solar project, consisting of over 6,500 solar panels, will create enough clean energy to offset 5.3 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions annually and will provide clean energy and a ~10 percent reduction in electricity bills to eligible area residents at no cost.⁴²

However, environmental injustices still exist in the form of disease-causing emissions on the peninsula and fumes from heavily polluting "peaker plants," which burn natural gas onsite to accommodate peak energy demand, upwind in Queens.

Make the FDC a model industrial campus for climate resilience & sustainability by:

Protecting vulnerable buildings from flooding due to coastal storms and sea-level rise.

The Hunts Point Resiliency Study recommended a building-level approach to make the industrial area more resilient. Because many of the industrial buildings that are located in the floodplain are elevated above the flood depths and, therefore, not at risk from damages, it is recommended to take a building-level approach to protect facilities that do face vulnerabilities from flooding from storm surge. This includes using deployable gates, reinforcing building structures, closing all openings, and elevating electrical equipment.

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years

The City will continue to seek funding to implement these measures at the Meat Market and 600 Food Center Drive, two of the most vulnerable facilities. In addition, the City will work with tenants and building owners to protect the at-risk buildings, such as the Produce Market, Fish Market, and Anheuser-Busch.

Moving to renewable energy sources at the FDC and improve energy efficiency.

Upgrading older equipment and making improvements like efficient light fixtures can have a significant impact on energy use. Cool Roofs, which are coated with a reflective white paint, can also help lower total energy need by reducing internal building temperatures and reducing the urban heat island effect overall. The City is working with industrial businesses to install Cool Roofs, including at the Produce Market. Finally, the sizable roofs of the industrial facilities provide opportunities for large-scale solar generation onsite. Community solar initiatives, like the Krasdale Solar Project, can provide utility cost reductions to local residents. The City will also seek to provide as much battery storage capacity as possible throughout the FDC, ensuring that there is clean backup power in times of emergency.

Eliminating the use of all stationary, diesel-fueled refrigerated trailers (TRUs) for auxiliary storage at the FDC.

Redeveloping the Produce Market will eliminate the need for TRU storage at that facility by creating more renewably powered, refrigerated storage space in the building. In-lieu of that project or until it can move forward, the City will work to facilitate the electrification of TRUs at the Produce Market in partnership with Con Edison and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

What is NYC CoolRoofs?

The NYC CoolRoofs program provides paid training and work experience, through a partnership between SBS, MOCEJ, and the HOPE Program, to New Yorkers as they paint roofs white to reflect sunlight and reduce energy usage. The white roofs can reduce roof temperatures, in turn reducing the internal temperature of the building while also reducing the Urban Heat Island Effect, which increases the temperature in areas with dark surfaces, such as roofs and roads, particularly in neighborhoods like Hunts Point that lack tree cover and other vegetation.⁴³ Thirty thousand square feet of the FDC's roof has already been painted white as part of the CoolRoofs program and it is anticipated that more of the roof will be painted in 2022, improving the environment for Hunts Point residents and providing jobs along the way.⁴⁴

Action Items

Ongoing NYCEDC and the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ) are installing solar panels for back-up power in local public schools that will serve as community hubs during emergencies.

Near Term NYCEDC and MOCEJ will continue to seek funding to support the Produce Market in completing the Produce Market Cool Roof.

Near Term MOCEJ will continue promoting Cool Roofs for industrial businesses throughout the FDC and industrial core.

Near Term NYCEDC will work with FDC tenants to improve building-level energy efficiency, starting with energy audits.

Medium Term NYCEDC will develop a comprehensive energy strategy for the FDC.

Medium Term NYCEDC will continue to seek funding for hardening projects to make 600 FCD and the Meat Market more flood resilient.

Long Term NYCEDC will redevelop the Produce Market.

Decarbonize freight by:

Promoting and incentivizing electric trucks.

The NYC Clean Trucks program has offered rebates of \$100,000–\$185,000 per truck to businesses, trucking companies, and independent operators to purchase new electric trucks. Since inception, the program has helped replace 627 heavy polluting diesel trucks in Hunts Point with newer, cleaner models—most recently helping Manhattan Beer purchase five new electric trucks. Additional incentives and electrical infrastructure on the peninsula will help make it more viable and desirable for businesses and operators to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles (EVs).

Through NYSERDA's Clean Transportation Prize Initiative, there are multiple conceptual proposals that contemplate installing electric truck charging hubs for both public access, and local fleet application in the FDC. A charging hub would encourage businesses in Hunts Point to continue electrifying their fleets and could help lower upfront costs to businesses, which would catalyze further investment in electric trucks and infrastructure. Additional infrastructure investments could include new curbside charging stations with grid connections in the FDC or along Halleck Street between Spofford and Oak Point, where inbound trucks typically queue to enter the Produce Market. Long dwell times to enter the markets result in significant emissions from queuing vehicles. Large scale battery deployment will enable the FDC to bank low-cost New York Power Authority (NYPA) power for vehicle charging, peak shaving, and back-up power.

Improving the viability of non-vehicular modes of transportation.

Reducing reliance on vehicular transport could also help decarbonize the freight system. The City's FreightNYC and Delivering Green plans layout strategies to shift freight from road to rails and water citywide. Today, goods also come to Hunts Point via rail at the Produce Market and Oak Point, but rail cargo is typically limited to non-perishable items, which limits the volume of goods transportable by this mode. Water-based transport will be another key part of a sustainable freight network. The City will continue to explore and support private interest in the potential for a marine freight terminal in Hunts Point to move goods between distribution hubs.

Planning and advocating to advance vehicular and infrastructure electrification.

In December 2021, the City released Delivering Green, which laid out a vision for rethinking the citywide freight system, including steps to promote truck electrification. NYC DOT and NYCEDC are developing a citywide freight decarbonization and truck electrification strategy to explore these barriers and identify interventions to address the challenges. The City will also consider state- and federal-level advocacy and collaboration that will help advance vehicular and infrastructure steps to promote electrification.

Action Items

Near Term NYSERDA and NYPA will lead an interagency team to develop solutions to transform the FDC into a Clean Distribution Hub that is quieter, cleaner, and healthier for the entire community.

Near Term NYCEDC will support all efforts to establish a publicly accessible multi-user charging hub throughout the FDC.

Long Term NYCEDC will pursue opportunities to establish a marine freight terminal in Hunts Point.

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years

Address heat vulnerability and air pollution in the residential core by:

Providing heat protection throughout the neighborhood.

Reducing emissions and greening play important roles in cooling the neighborhood, but community members also need to be able to find refuge from the heat. While the tree canopy grows, integrating more shade-providing structures into parks and the streetscape can provide relief. Water features, like the fountains at Hunts Point Riverside and misters near the entrance to the Floating Pool Lady in Barretto Point Park, can also be more frequently utilized. Last summer, DOHMH also partnered with THE POINT CDC, Interboro Partners, and SEBCO to pilot Community Hosted Outdoor Cooling Stations, which helped people stay cool while engaging with neighbors. This program will be continued and expanded.

Air Quality in Hunts Point

Air Pollution

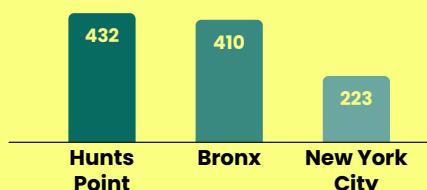
Micrograms of fine particulate matter per cubic meter



Though air quality is improving in NYC in general, it varies by community district. In Hunts Point and Longwood, levels of the most harmful air pollutant, fine particulate matter (PM2.5) are **8.5 micrograms per cubic meter**.

Child Asthma Emergency Department Visits

Per 10,000 children ages 5 to 17



The asthma emergency department visit rate among children ages 5-17 in Hunts Point and Longwood is **nearly double the citywide rate**.

Source: NYC DOHMH, Community Air Survey, 2016

What is the Clean Trucks Program?

The City's Clean Trucks program, which is led by NYC DOT, is a rebate incentive program that has already provided funding to replace and retrofit 657 diesel trucks in Hunts Point. This initiative started in 2012 and now incentivizes businesses in other industrial business zones across the city to transition their fleets to clean, advanced trucks.⁴⁵ NYC Clean Trucks supports the deployment of zero-emission battery electric trucks first, but also offers incentives for the deployment of diesel replacement and non-electric alternative fuel trucks. A battery electric truck uses an electric motor and stores energy in rechargeable batteries. These trucks do not have tailpipe emissions. Compressed natural gas (CNG) trucks, on the other hand, are powered by the combustion of compressed natural gas, as opposed to fossil fuels. CNG trucks emit significantly less carbon and particulates during truck operation, compared to diesel trucks. Other types of trucks that are supported by the NYC Clean Trucks program are hybrid diesel-electric trucks and plug-in hybrid electric trucks. This program improves air quality and, in turn, the health of the surrounding Hunts Point community.



I would like to see more solar projects. I'd like to see more green roofs, and for energy use and its infrastructure to be improved. We are a peninsula; climate change will affect this area."

Maria Torres
THE POINT CDC

Providing support in the event of emergencies.

It is important for community members to be prepared for emergencies. South Bronx CBO Mothers on the Move is working with NYC Emergency Management to develop an emergency preparedness plan for the neighborhood. Resources are also important during emergencies. Through the Be-A-Buddy program, a collaboration between THE POINT CDC, DOHMH, and MOCEJ, local volunteers reach out to those in need of assistance—such as seniors who live on their own and those with disabilities or chronic medical conditions—during climate-related emergencies. Expanding the network of volunteers and broadening the type of assistance offered will also improve emergency preparedness.

Upgrading and maintaining old housing stock.

In addition to indoor heat vulnerability, many Hunts Point residents struggle with poor housing conditions and indoor air quality. There have been over three times the rate of maintenance complaints for residential units in Hunts Point compared to citywide. Forty percent of surveyed households in Hunts Point and Longwood have reported cockroaches.⁴⁶ With 77 percent of residential buildings in Hunts Point built in the 1930s or earlier, and 79 percent never having been renovated, the housing stock needs an upgrade.⁴⁷ The City will work with CBOs and elected officials to identify and report buildings with poor conditions. The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) ensures residents live in safe and healthy homes by conducting buildings surveys and inspections. HPD monitors properties with severe maintenance issues through its code enforcement programs, undertakes emergency repairs, and takes building owners to court if they fail to make timely repairs. HPD also offers tax exemptions and loan programs—mostly low-interest or forgivable—to help multi-family building owners maintain and upgrade their properties. HPD and the City also partners with community organizations to educate residents about available resources, such as free legal representation for tenants facing eviction.

What is the Produce Market RFEI?

NYCEDC released a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for an opportunity to develop a new, more efficient and resilient facility that will serve as an archetype of 21st century food distribution in New York City. The existing facility was built in 1967, is beyond its useful life, and can no longer meet the needs of the Produce Market tenants. NYCEDC sought responses from developers who would prioritize accommodating the Produce Market's current operations while developing a site that would be able to adapt to serve the needs of the Produce Market tenants as their businesses expand in the future. The redevelopment will provide positive environmental impacts for the Hunts Point community, as the expanded cold storage capabilities will eliminate the need for the TRUs as extra storage. The selected RFEI respondent must prioritize resiliency in the design of the new Produce Market. The redevelopment will also preserve and create quality jobs in the Bronx—over 2,000 individuals are directly employed at the Produce Market. Funding from a variety of sources, including City capital, is necessary to complete the redevelopment.



Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years

Action Items

Ongoing The Be-A-Buddy program reaches out to vulnerable community members to offer support during emergencies.

Ongoing Mothers on the Move is creating emergency preparedness plans for the neighborhood.

Near Term The City and community partners will work together to paint a mural with Airlite paint, which absorbs pollutants from the air, at key locations in the neighborhood.

Near Term The City will offer training on heat health and continue to promote HEAP Cooling Assistance, which provides low-income households with free air conditioners, in the Spring of 2022.

Near Term NYCHA will bring comprehensive repairs to the Hunts Point Avenue Rehab Houses including to buildings, apartments, community spaces, grounds, and playgrounds.

Near Term HPD will work with CBOs, legal service providers, and elected officials to identify and report noncompliant buildings with poor conditions.

What is the Be-A-Buddy Program?

The Be-A-Buddy (BaB) program is a pilot program established by DOHMH and MOCEJ to build social resiliency in communities facing the greatest risks of death and illness due to current weather threats and climate change. Inequities in investments and policymaking have resulted in Hunts Point residents being more likely to die during a heat wave than those in other neighborhoods. In recognition of this risk, Hunts Point was chosen as one of the pilot BaB neighborhoods. THE POINT CDC'S BaB program, through frequent community-building activities, created a network of local volunteers trained in emergency preparedness, who are able to notify and share resources during both emergencies and non-emergencies. During the height of the pandemic, the BaB program was able to conduct over 5,000 wellness checks and ensure that 500 meals were distributed daily throughout the neighborhood at THE POINT CDC's emergency food center. BaB was one of the first programs in New York City to provide direct data to DOHMH at the onset of the pandemic on social resiliency and the number of people receiving food.



Be-A-Buddy community event

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years

The experiences of community members have been a key part of *Hunts Point Forward*. The "My Hunts Point" profiles showcase the perspectives of several community members and local stakeholders.

MY HUNTS POINT



State Assembly Member Amanda Septimo

The strong history of activism in Hunts Point has fostered a new generation dedicated to working within and fighting for their community. Assembly Member Septimo was raised in Hunts Point and began working with THE POINT CDC's teen activist program, A.C.T.I.O.N.

Through this group, Assembly Member Septimo worked on such issues as extending bus services to the community, bringing the Floating Pool Lady to Barretto Point Park, and successfully fighting the proposed jail in Oak Point in 2007.

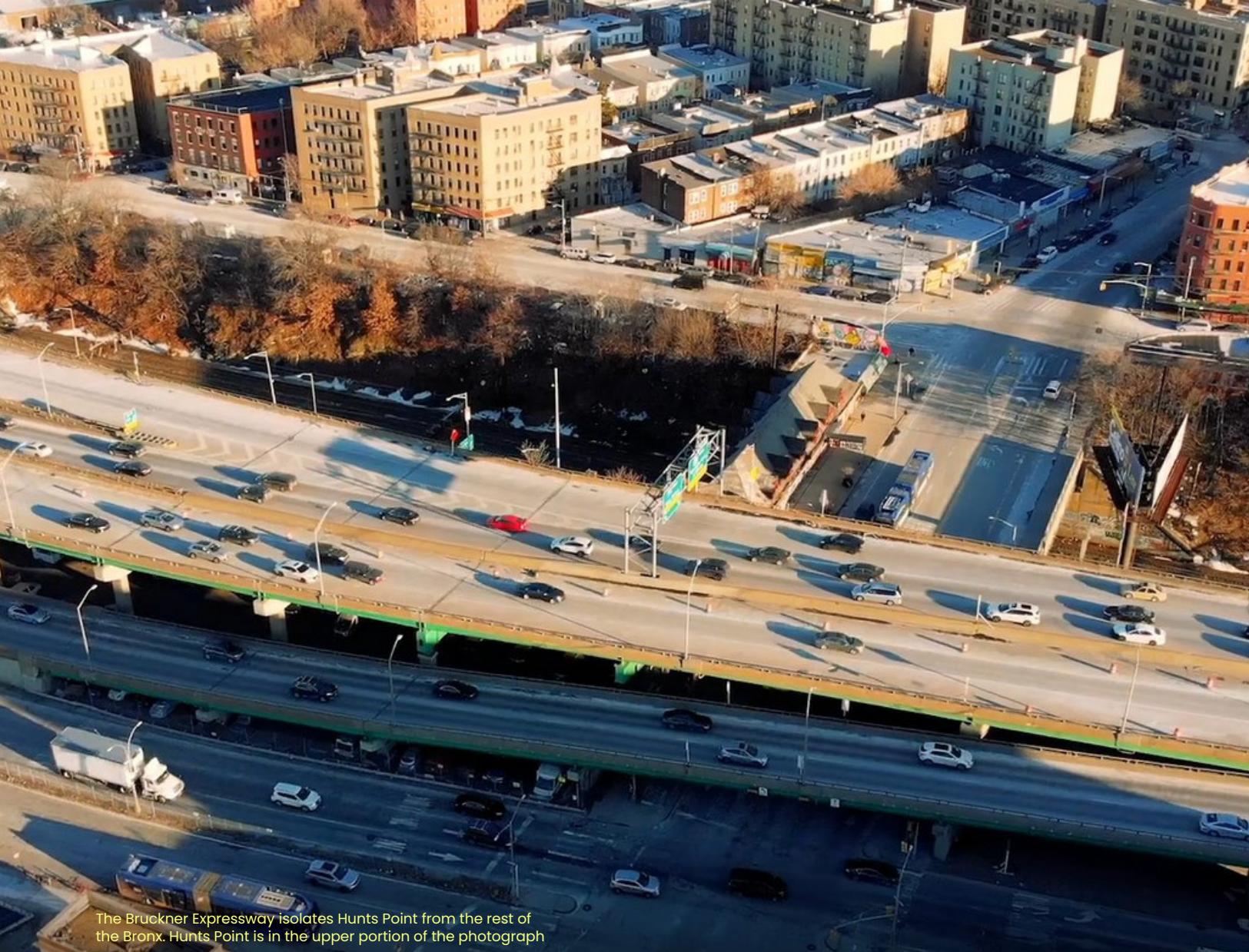
"When we were fighting the jail proposal at Oak Point, it was really eye opening how the City decides the value of a community—that people in charge don't care what you think, what you say, what you want. A.C.T.I.O.N., THE POINT CDC, and community organizations were giving us (youth) the opposite message—validating that we do have things to say that are important, and they matter... I was able to find confidence in my thoughts and my opinions because I had adults around me who were validating them."

These efforts fueled Assembly Member Septimo's activism and volunteerism throughout her high school and college years. She returned to the South Bronx after graduating to work in her community. As a representative of the 84th Assembly District of New York State, Assembly Member Septimo fights for true equity for the people of the South Bronx.

"The people inspire me to keep working for the community. There is a responsibility I feel to the community and to the people in it because they have given me so much, so many rich experiences that shape every part of who I am, including how I see the world and how I show up every day in it. It would be abdicating responsibility to not continue to show up and make sure other kids, other families, other people in the community have the same opportunities to thrive."

Goal 3 Connectivity





The Bruckner Expressway isolates Hunts Point from the rest of the Bronx. Hunts Point is in the upper portion of the photograph

Bruckner Divide

The elevated Bruckner Expressway divides the community in more ways than one. Most obviously, it is a physical barrier between the peninsula and the rest of the Bronx that is intimidating for pedestrians to cross beneath because it feels unsafe, and it is noisy, dark, and dirty. This physical barrier also creates a perceived barrier, where residents of the peninsula feel cut off from the amenities and resources on the other side, as noted by CBO partners on the Longwood side of the Bruckner Expressway.

Similarly, the difficulty of entering Hunts Point can deter new businesses from opening in the neighborhood, as those who live outside the peninsula are not likely to make the trip over, and the peninsula itself has a relatively small population with limited purchasing power. Both the perceived and physical divide contribute to reinforcing Hunt Point's poverty and perception as a "bad neighborhood."

Create a gateway to Hunts Point by:

Leveraging the new MTA Metro-North station to welcome people into the peninsula.

A new Metro-North station on Hunts Point Avenue is one of four new stations coming to the Bronx that will directly connect people to Penn Station and run all the way north to Connecticut, allowing residents to work in and visit other parts of the region. Not only will the new service make it easier for commuters and visitors to travel to and from Hunts Point, the new station will also create a visual gateway that encourages people to venture across Bruckner Boulevard. In line with DCP's recommendations as part of its Bronx Metro-North Station Area Study, wayfinding, signage, public art, and lighting should be used to ensure the new station is integrated into the neighborhood. Public art should represent Hunts Point's rich history. Although spearheaded by local CBOs, the City and State can help support the efforts of local CBOs through programs such as the MTA Percent for Arts, NYC DOT Art and Event programming, NYC Parks' Art in the Parks Program, and collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA).

Improving conditions under the elevated highway.

The City will explore opportunities to improve Bruckner Boulevard crossings by activating the space in a contextual way. Coordination and support from NYSDOT will be essential, as the highway is under New York State jurisdiction.

Activating the "edges" of the neighborhood by exploring future zoning changes that encourage active uses on Garrison Avenue.

Although Bruckner Boulevard is commonly considered the western edge of Hunts Point, Garrison Avenue can feel like the real neighborhood boundary with parking lots and underutilized spaces lining much of the west side of the road. Promoting retail or other community uses along this corridor will complement the new Metro-North station, which could bring more foot traffic to the area and create better connections across Bruckner Boulevard.

What is the Bronx Metro-North Station Area Study?

By 2027, Metro-North will add four new stations in the East Bronx, including a new station serving Hunts Point. In 2018, DCP launched the Bronx Metro-North Station Area Study to help ensure this new public transit resource supports Bronx residents with access to jobs, housing, amenities, and more. DCP held a series of public workshops and open houses to listen and learn from local stakeholders and residents about what is most important to them and help build a long-term vision for the station and the surrounding area. The final plan is anticipated later in 2022.

Action Items

Medium Term MTA, NYC DOT, and DCP will improve wayfinding, lighting, and signage to integrate the new Metro-North station into the neighborhood.

Medium Term NYCEDC, DCP, and NYC DOT will work with NYSDOT to evaluate strategies to improve the condition of Bruckner underpass crossings to improve drainage, provide seating, and improve lighting.

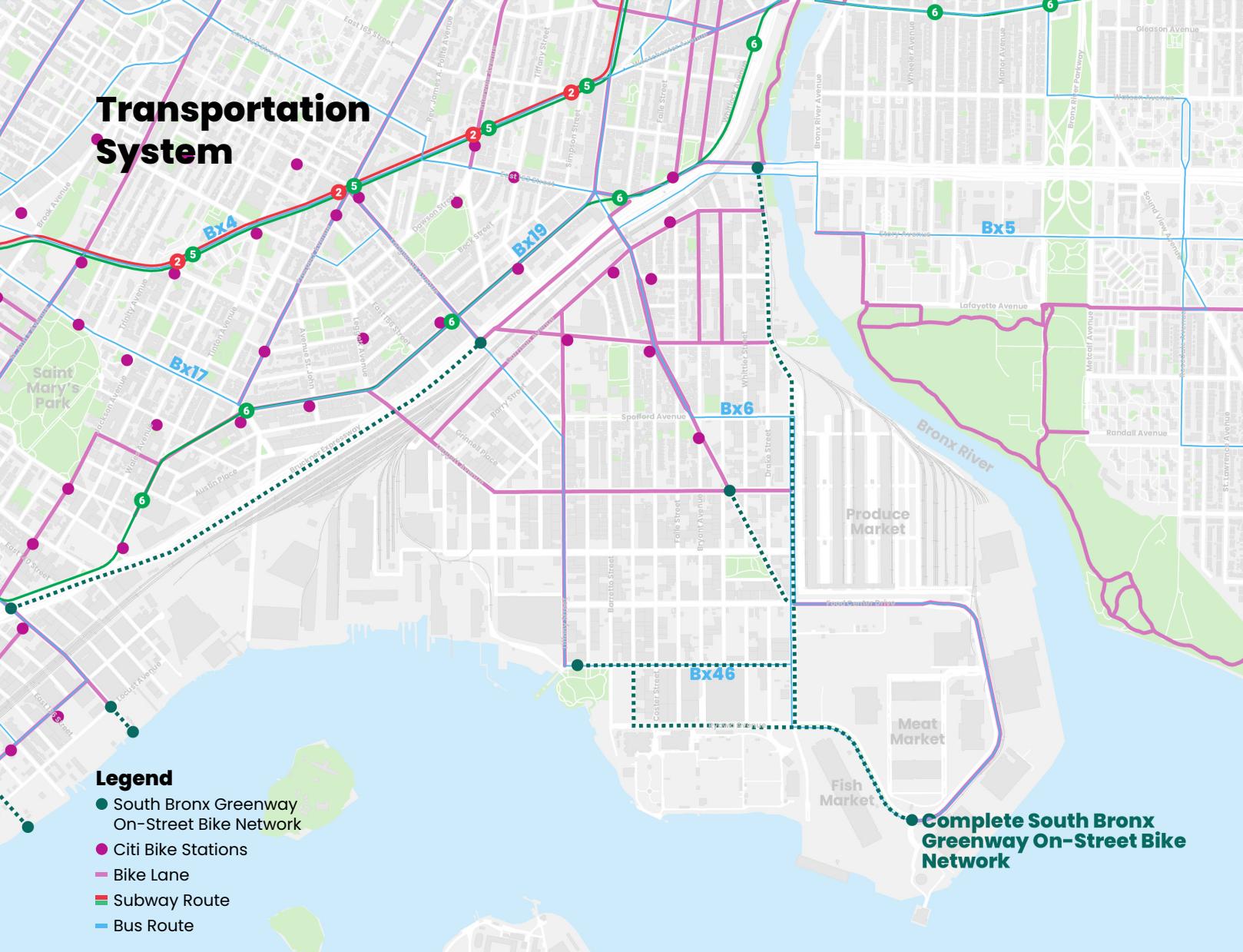
Medium Term NYCEDC and DCP will explore future zoning changes to encourage active uses on Garrison Avenue.

Medium Term CBOs, supported by government resources, should seek opportunities to install public art that represents Hunts Point.

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years



Transportation & Streets

The community identified safety, walkability, and connectivity within the peninsula as their key transportation related priorities. All of these issues are interrelated. Street safety is a challenge largely because of local truck traffic. Of the 407 documented traffic collisions in Hunts Point in 2021, 364 of them involved trucks.⁴⁸ Trucks are particularly dangerous to pedestrians due to their size, lack of maneuverability, and large blind spots. Heavily trafficked industrial streets can be more difficult to walk on due to poor maintenance and street design.

Improving the pedestrian experience on key corridors can make more distant parts of the neighborhood more accessible. Transit is crucial to every neighborhood. It can enable better mobility around the city and help drastically reduce users' carbon footprints.

Make streets safer and more pleasant for pedestrians and drivers by:

Redesigning unsafe intersections.

Priority should be given to intersections near schools and in the residential community. The intersection of Lafayette Street and Edgewater Road leads directly into Hunts Point Riverside Park and will be particularly important with the completion of the Hunts Point Interstate Access Improvement Project, a project that will create a ramp from the Bruckner-Sheridan Expressway directly onto Edgewater Road and into the FDC. While it will reduce truck traffic on local streets, safety measures on Edgewater Road will become more important. Redesigned intersections will be fully accessible and friendly to seniors and children.

Reconstructing key streets in the industrial area.

Priority streets include Hunts Point Avenue; Halleck Street between Food Center Drive and Ryawa Avenue; Seneca Avenue; and Tiffany Street. These priority streets were identified during the engagement process by residents, business representatives, and City agencies.

Exploring placemaking interventions to improve the pedestrian experience and promote street life.

Sixty-one percent of survey respondents wanted a more walkable neighborhood. In addition to improving street safety, that means improving the quality of streets and sidewalks to make them more pleasant to walk and linger on. Simple and low-cost interventions such as seating, paint, plantings, or art will all help improve the public realm for pedestrians. Community partners can leverage programs like NYC DOT's Plaza Program, DEP's Rain Gardens, and Open Streets once locations for placemaking interventions are identified.

What is the Hunts Point Interstate Access Improvement Project?

In 2017, New York State committed \$1.8 billion to reconstruct the Bruckner-Sheridan Interchange and to create the new Sheridan Boulevard, which would connect different neighborhoods of the South Bronx. The new Sheridan Boulevard is accessible to pedestrians and cyclists and makes it easier for residents to access the Bronx waterfront and Starlight Park. A third lane will be added to the Bruckner Expressway and the Sheridan ramps will be relocated to reduce traffic entering Hunts Point. The project aims to reduce noise and air pollution in the South Bronx while reducing truck traffic to Hunts Point along local streets.⁴⁹

Action Items

Near Term CBOs should identify a location and apply to create an Open Street through NYC DOT's program.

Long Term NYC DOT will redesign key intersections to make them safer for pedestrians.

Long Term NYC DOT will reconstruct key streets to make them safer for pedestrians and motorists.

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years

Improve transit options to, from and within the neighborhood by:

Completing the bicycle network in the area.

The South Bronx Greenway plan was unveiled in 2005 and proposed a route for a continuous bikeway along the waterfront that also integrated into commuter bike infrastructure. While much of the on-street bikeway has been implemented, the City will complete the full route to make Hunts Point streets safer for cyclists and to encourage more residents and workers to bike.

Extending micromobility options across the peninsula.

Micromobility typically refers to lightweight transportation modes like bikes and scooters. While there are several Citi Bike stations in the residential area, extending bike share service deeper into the peninsula will help residents access waterfront parks and jobs and make it easier for workers to access transit. Extending the service area of other micromobility options like e-scooters and mopeds will provide similar benefits.

Strengthening transit in the Bronx overall and ensuring affordability.

The MTA's Bronx Bus Network Redesign is a comprehensive plan to provide better and more efficient service in the borough. Efforts to improve bus speeds and reliability should continue. In addition, considering the higher cost of Metro-North compared to the subway and bus system, and the low median income of Hunts Point residents, expanding the CityTicket program can help ensure Hunts Point residents and workers can use the new service. The CityTicket program currently offers flat fares for off-peak trips within the city, but it should be expanded to apply at all times. Additional discounts for in-city trips on Metro-North should be considered.

Action Items

Ongoing MTA is planning for four new Metro-North stations in the Bronx, including one in Hunts Point at Bruckner Boulevard and Hunts Point Avenue.

Ongoing MTA is implementing the Bronx Bus Network Redesign, which improves routes to decrease travel times and reduce two-fare trips.

Medium Term NYC DOT will expand the bicycle network on the peninsula.

Advocacy Call for the expansion of CityTicket in conjunction with the new Metro-North station to ensure local benefits and use of regional investment.



We've made a lot of progress, pedestrian fatalities decreased significantly at the Bruckner and Hunts Point Avenue intersection. But traffic is still dangerous, and it feels dangerous to walk there as a pedestrian and not just at that intersection."

Amanda Septimo
State Assembly Member

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years



Beneath the Bruckner Expressway

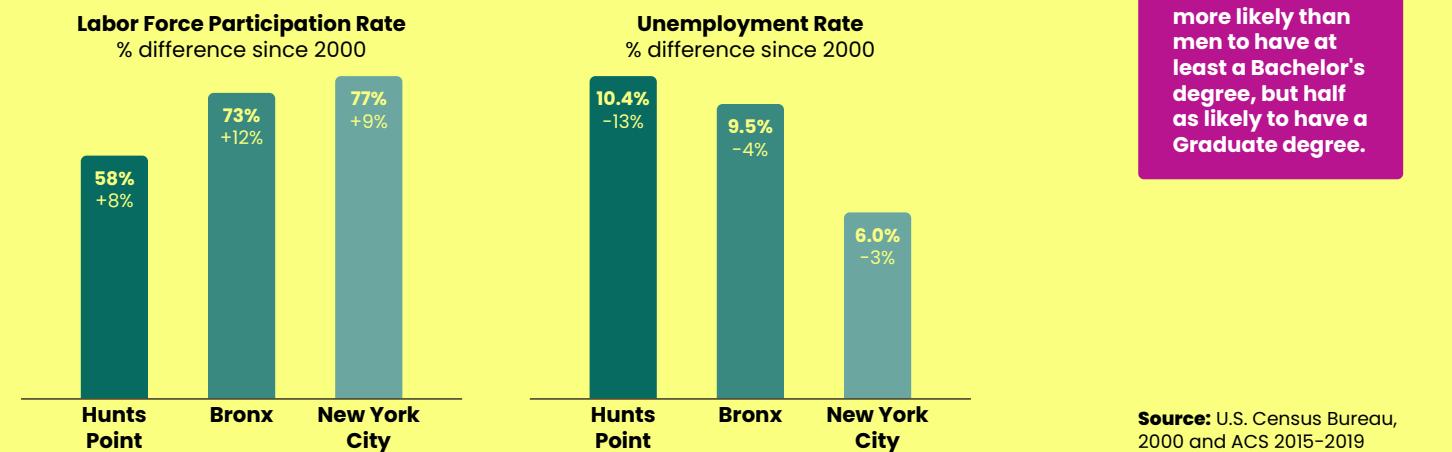
Goal 4 Shared Prosperity



Employment & Labor Force Participation

| Educational Attainment for population 25 years and over, 2000–2019 | Hunts Point | 2019 % | | 2010–2019 (% difference) | | |
|--|-------------|--------|---------------|--------------------------|-------|---------------|
| | | Bronx | New York City | Hunts Point | Bronx | New York City |
| Less than high school | 33% | 27% | 18% | -19% | -11% | -10% |
| High school or equivalent | 30% | 28% | 24% | 7% | 2% | -0.4% |
| Some college, no degree | 16% | 17% | 14% | 0.1% | 1% | -2% |
| Associate's degree | 7% | 7% | 6% | 3% | 2% | 1% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 13% | 20% | 38% | 9% | 6% | 11% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 3% | 7% | 16% | 3% | 1% | 4% |

Labor Force Participation and Unemployment rates for people aged 20–64, 2000–2019



Connecting Residents to Good Jobs

Low employment rates and low labor force participation play a major role in Hunts Point's struggle with poverty. Pre-COVID, over 10 percent of Hunts Point residents in the labor force were unemployed—a higher percentage than in nearly every other neighborhood in New York City. It is likely that COVID exacerbated barriers to employment. Further, 42 percent of residents were not in the labor force at all, meaning they did not have a job and were not looking for one. This is 20 percent higher than the citywide rate and 15 percent higher than the Bronx rate overall.⁵⁰ Labor force participation has improved over the past two decades.

This improvement can be largely attributed to more women entering the workforce. In Hunts Point, female labor force participation improved at twice the rate of women across New York City between 2000 and 2019, while male labor force participation decreased. The drop in male labor force participation is a citywide trend.

Challenges related to employment are particularly significant given the large job center right on the peninsula. Between 2000 and 2018, the number of people working in Hunts Point increased by 85 percent—nearly doubling. Of the roughly 18,000 workers in Hunts Point,

less than two percent also live on the peninsula. One challenge is the lack of visibility around job opportunities. Without a centralized platform to post listings, local businesses often hire through referrals or walk-ins. Limited local hiring is also a symptom of the disconnect between residential and industrial areas.

However, unemployment and labor force participation challenges go beyond access. Certain groups, such as the formerly incarcerated, those recovering from addiction, and veterans may find it challenging to re-enter the workforce due to screening questions on applications or simply not knowing where to look. In a community with a rapidly growing immigrant population (+14% since 2000), currently over 35 percent of residents, language may also be a barrier.

In other cases, barriers to employment may be intergenerational. While education is not a silver bullet for employment and economic mobility, it is an important lever—particularly at the high school level. Studies have shown that adults without high school degrees participate in the workforce at lower rates and for much less pay than adults with a high school or college degree.⁵¹ Hunts Point has made significant progress on education. The percentage of residents with at least a high school degree has increased at nearly twice the rate of the rest of the city or borough. Still, a third of residents do not have a high school degree or GED and nearly 15 percent of youth aged 16 to 19 are neither in school nor working—double the rate of kids in that age group city or borough-wide. To ensure that educational attainment continues to improve and accelerate from generation to generation, it is critical to help kids stay in school and thrive.

Create pipelines to local jobs by:

Improving connections to local jobs.

To enable jobseekers to more readily access employment opportunities in Hunts Point, the City will expand outreach and help FDC businesses list their job openings on SBS's Virtual Workforce website and partner with other local workforce development programs,

including encouraging community partners to link to the platform on their websites. As part of the Workforce service, SBS will support businesses owners with screening and recruitment services. NYCEDC will work with SBS to connect to businesses. The City and community partners will also ensure that residents have other ways to learn about local job opportunities. NYCEDC and SBS will host regular jobs fairs in the neighborhood where local employers are invited to promote opportunities and recruit candidates. In the medium term, the City will develop workforce programming, in partnership with local CBOs, that will focus on connecting Hunts Point residents to local jobs.

Cultivating relationships between stakeholders on the peninsula.

Stakeholders throughout the process, from business representatives to CBO leaders, expressed a desire to build relationships within the community, noting the impact of partnerships to deliver key services to community. Joint participation in community events, such as regular jobs fairs, and continued communication will help enable stronger relationships between businesses and community groups.

Action Items

Near Term NYCEDC, SBS, and CBOs—in partnership with Council Member Salamanca—will organize ongoing jobs fairs in the community that are open to participation for all Hunts Point businesses.

Near Term SBS will partner with FDC tenants and workforce development programs to post their open positions and screening opportunities on the Workforce website, which CBOs in the community should link to on their websites.

Medium Term NYCEDC and SBS will develop workforce programming, in partnership with local CBOs, that will focus on connecting Hunts Point residents to jobs in the FDC and IBZ.

Near Term
0–3 years

Medium Term
3–6 years

Long Term
6+ years

Improve labor force participation and access to jobs citywide by:

Expanding soft skills trainings.

Soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and time management are both fundamental and transferable across many different types of jobs. These skills can also help employees advance within a company. Local workforce development providers should expand their focus on soft skills trainings to help equip community members for success in the application process and on the job.

Bringing new workforce development and skill training programs to Hunts Point.

Higher education is not the only path to success. The City will work with community partners to bring workforce development opportunities directly to residents through regular jobs fairs and in coordination with local schools and youth organizations.

Improving re-entry services for the formerly incarcerated, rehabilitated, and veterans.

Hunts Point businesses like Downeast Seafood take pride in actively hiring and training community members who were formerly incarcerated and may be screened out of other job opportunities. The City and community partners will encourage local businesses to provide opportunities to community members re-entering the workforce and provide the necessary trainings and support to help them succeed.

Action Items

Near Term Local workforce development providers, as well as SBS, should create, expand, and/or promote soft skills trainings to jobseekers.

Near Term NYCEDC will continue to work with agency and community partners to identify citywide workforce development programs that can be promoted in Hunts Point.

Near Term NYCEDC and community partners will encourage more business leaders in Hunts Point to hire and train applicants who may be formerly incarcerated, rehabilitated, or veterans.

What is the Digital Steward Training Academy?

THE POINT CDC operates the Digital Steward Training Academy (DSTA), which is a hands-on program for residents and individuals interested in installing and maintaining their own resilient internet network. This program builds on the Hunts Point Community Network, which is the first and only mesh network in the South Bronx that provides free Wi-Fi before, during, and after a climate emergency. The mesh network is maintained and operated by local businesses and residents that are trained to install and maintain the network. The DSTA leverages this infrastructure to provide trainings that help demystify the internet for the program's participants and introduces them to Portable Network Kits and Community Governance Models that support local emergency communication planning. The program trains up to 75 individuals per year. Participants are paid a stipend for their participation.

The experiences of community members have been a key part of *Hunts Point Forward*. The "My Hunts Point" profiles showcase the perspectives of several community members and local stakeholders.

MY HUNTS POINT

D'Arrigo New York has been around since 1948 and has been in the FDC since 1967, distributing quality fresh produce to restaurants and stores throughout the Northeast region.

D'Arrigo New York employs roughly 300 people and is currently hiring for additional positions. They would like to partner with local workforce development organizations and have recently expanded their recruitment efforts to reach more people.

"People don't know we exist here. The commute is a challenge for attracting workers. We would like to hire more veterans."

D'Arrigo New York has donated over five million pounds of food between 2014 and 2019 to many community partners, including THE POINT CDC and Rocking the Boat right here in Hunts Point. They would like to expand their role in the community.

"We are looking to further our community involvement across the board. The Bronx is a diverse and ever-changing ecosystem, and we hope to not only continue to be an essential piece of that, but to help it thrive for generations to come."



Gabriela D'Arrigo

Ms. D'Arrigo is Vice President of Marketing and Communications at D'Arrigo New York, a family-run company located in the FDC.

Ralph Acevedo
Bronx Community Board 2

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years

Support youth development and education by:

Helping kids stay in school.

Afterschool and summer programs give students a safe space to go where they can explore their potential and stay away from destructive activities. The City and community groups will raise awareness about the exemplary existing youth programs offered by CBOs like Casita Maria, THE POINT CDC, and Hunts Point Alliance for Children, and continue to create new opportunities as necessary. Prioritizing support through mental health and social services over penalties for minor indiscretions will help.

Enabling students to gain exposure to workplace settings.

It is also important to enable students to gain meaningful experience outside the classroom, including in workplace settings. The City offers Summer Youth Employment for youth over the age of 14 and Career and Technical Education programs focused on career-readiness in specialized skills in high schools around the city. The City and community partners will raise awareness about these opportunities and consider expanding them to better serve communities like Hunts Point. In addition, community organizations and businesses can partner with local schools to establish internship programs that help students—particularly those who may be at risk of dropout or do not expect to pursue higher education—gain experience in the workplace.

Action Items

Near Term The City will partner with local schools, businesses, and workforce providers to create a high school internship program with local businesses, particularly for students at risk of dropout.

Near Term NYCEDC and the New York City Department of Education (DOE) will build awareness about Career & Technical Education programs that are specialized to help students pursue skilled career paths.

What is the Summer Youth Employment Program Expansion?

On March 1, 2022, Mayor Eric Adams announced a 50 percent expansion of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), a City-run program that helps young people ages 14 to 24 obtain summer jobs and work experience. The program connects youth to paid opportunities in fields that range from government agencies, retail, food service, and non-profit organizations. The expansion of the program will bring the total budget to \$236 million in baseline funding, allowing for 90,000 SYEP jobs. In addition to providing paid work experience to youth, SYEP also provides career, civic, and leadership skills. The goals of SYEP include both providing employment opportunities along with promoting public safety and helping connect youth to opportunities while combating social isolation caused by the pandemic.



In Hunts Point you have the fish market, the produce market, and the meat market and the industrial park. There's enough jobs in there for every resident in Hunts Point.”

Paloma Hernandez
Urban Health Plan

Near Term
0-3 years

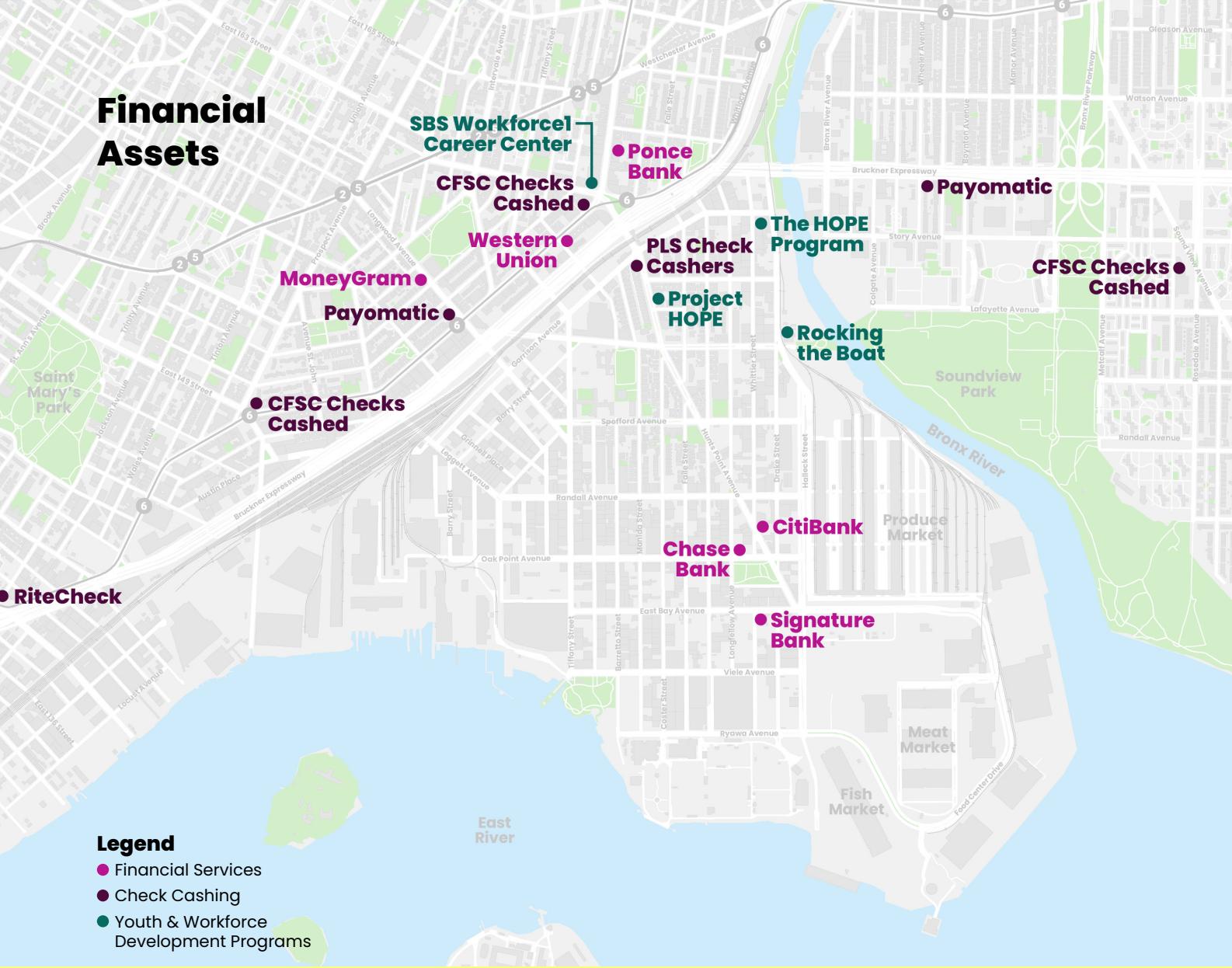
Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years



Children observing a horseshoe crab at Hunts Point Landing

Financial Assets



Financial Security & Community Wealth

Despite the tireless work of local CBOs, a large portion of Hunts Point remains financially insecure. Over 30 percent of residents in Hunts Point and Longwood do not have bank accounts, while another 30 percent are underbanked. These residents may be more vulnerable to predatory lending practices that further entrench economic precarity. While proximity to physical bank locations is not usually the primary reason for being unbanked, it does not help that there are no banks in the residential area and that some of the few banks nearby in Longwood are closing. Banks on the peninsula tend to cater to large business customers.

Economic mobility is also limited by barriers to building wealth. Hunts Point residents have among the highest rates of student loan debt delinquency and default in the city, while Bronx residents are also more likely to have payment delinquencies for all credit products. Forty-four percent of *Hunts Point Forward* survey respondents listed debt payments as a key concern for their families or neighbors. Relatedly, Hunts Point residents tend to have the lowest degree of access to credit, which can prevent access to loans or mortgages to purchase assets, start a business, and ultimately build wealth—particularly when starting from a place of debt.

Today, residents observe a transient community where those who do achieve economic success tend to move away, taking their spending elsewhere, which could otherwise support the local community. Community members cited negative perceptions of the neighborhood as part of the reason that people leave. Some residents also discussed seeking key services like doctors and grocery stores off the peninsula, and intentionally sending their children to school elsewhere.

Building community wealth in Hunts Point can counteract cycles of disinvestment by bringing economic opportunities and quality of life improvements—without sparking displacement. This means ensuring that resources and labor are not extracted, but rather circulate within the neighborhood to collectively uplift the community and improve quality of life.

Enable access to banking and financial services by

Supporting community-serving financial models, paired with financial literacy training.

There are a variety of reasons why some people do not have bank accounts, or have limited access to banking services, including high minimums for opening accounts, expensive bank fees, lack of identification, or lack of trust or understanding of the banking system, or the need for services not provided by commercial banks (e.g. remittances). Community based banking models, such as community development credit unions (CDCUs), provide services that are designed to serve low-income, often immigrant communities. CDCUs are cooperative models that reinvest in local communities. Whereas large commercial banks may prioritize the needs of larger accountholders, community banks can provide supportive day-to-day banking services and provide affordable loans to small business owners. Paired with financial literacy education and policy changes, such as removing asset limits on eligibility for public benefits, community serving financial services will help catalyze community wealth-building.

What is the Financial Inclusion Moonshot?

In 2021, the Mayor’s Office of the Chief Technology Officer—in partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Strategic Policy Initiatives, Department of Consumer & Workforce Protections, SBS, and Young Men’s Initiative—launched a Financial Inclusion Moonshot challenge to surface innovative financial inclusion technologies, models, and approaches to build community wealth and sustainable economic opportunities for communities across the city without or with limited access to banking—especially in the Bronx. The City sought both pilot-ready solutions that would be awarded up to \$20,000 to implement their solutions in a subset of selected neighborhoods, and idea-stage solutions that would be awarded up to \$5,000 to advance the solution further. Submissions ranged in focus from banking and credit to small business support and education. In December 2021, The City announced four winners and three honorable mentions. One of the winners was Lower East Side People’s Credit Union, which seeks to open a physical branch of their community development credit union in the South Bronx with van-based mobile branches in various neighborhoods including Hunts Point. Their goal is to provide culturally appropriate financial and digital services to underserved communities in the Bronx. Other winners included Mobility Capital Finance (MoCaFi), which offers mobile bank accounts and a Mastercard debit card with virtually no fees, finEQUITY, which offers microloans to “justice-impacted residents” to access small loans and build credit, and Proyecto Verde, a small business lending platform that uses alternative forms of credit risk assessment to expand access.

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years

Action Items

Medium Term NYCEDC will support a coalition working on bringing a CDCU to the South Bronx and, in coordination with Banana Kelly and the Banknote Building, help establish a CDCU mobile branch in Hunts Point.

Advocacy Call to eliminate or reform policies that limit public benefit eligibility based on asset ownership.

Overcome negative perception to bring new economic opportunities and amenities by:

Creating reparative economic opportunities that build on local food justice efforts and the recent legalization of cannabis in New York State.

In addition to opportunities for food production and entrepreneurship, a Hunts Point Agriculture and Food Justice Hub strategy will incorporate opportunities in legal cannabis such that the growth of the nascent industry helps to uplift the community. Enabling communities like Hunts Point who have been disproportionately impacted by the “War on Drugs” to get an early stake in legal cannabis will have reparative impacts that help build community wealth. Food and cannabis entrepreneurship interventions should support a healthy ecosystem and local economy.

Action Items

Medium Term In partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Urban Agriculture, NYCEDC will explore the potential for a “Hunts Point Agriculture & Food Justice Hub” to support urban agriculture, new opportunities around cannabis, and food entrepreneurship.

What is the Cannabis Legislation?

In April 2021, NYS enacted the Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA) setting the stage for a legalized recreational adult-use cannabis market in New York State, with licenses for businesses to cultivate (grow), process, distribute, or sell via retail/delivery expected to be issued in late 2022/2023. The MRTA has several ambitious equity components, including a goal that 50 percent of licensees be issued to “social and economic equity applicants” (“SEA”) and a requirement that 40 percent of state tax revenue goes to a Community Reinvestment Grant Fund to support communities disproportionately impacted by the “War on Drugs.” While details are still being defined at the state level, both New York State and New York City have committed to ensuring equity in this newly regulated market. Neighborhoods like Hunts Point can benefit directly and indirectly from new economic opportunities and community investments related to cannabis.



If we provide services to people, they will choose to stay in their communities, invest in them and improve their lives. This will have a chain reaction for the entire area, and we will be seen as an example for the rest of the state and the country.”

Luis R. Sepúlveda
State Senator

Strengthen the social safety net by:

Creating a centralized location to learn about and access resources.

Often, government and CBO-led programs are already available for community members who are struggling or need financial support. However, participants expressed that many residents are unaware of these services or may not know where to look for support. CBOs and the City should make it easier to learn about resources through neighborhood resource fairs, awareness campaigns, and organized resource packets that will enable more community members to benefit from programs and services.

Advocating and raising awareness about key state and federal policies.

The City and community partners should continually identify and advocate for state and federal level policies that advance economic, social, and environmental justice for the community. Policies that advance truly affordable housing, education that results in opportunity and not extreme debt, and universal benefit programs are critical to combating structural inequities that perpetuate cycles of poverty. The Bronx People’s Platform also identifies advocacy priorities that community members and organizations should consider organizing around.

Action Items

Ongoing The Peninsula development will bring new affordable units to the neighborhood.

Near Term The City, working in partnership with CBOs, will hold neighborhood resource fairs and awareness campaigns to enable more community members to benefit from existing programs and services.

Advocacy Call for improved public financial resources for food and housing, such as SNAP and Section 8 vouchers.

Advocacy Call to adjust AMI levels to ensure that affordable housing truly benefits those in need.

Advocacy Call for reinstatement of free public college through the CUNY system.

Advocacy Support the Bronx People’s Platform.



Decade after decade, Hunts Point continues to sit in the poorest congressional district in the United States, and that has to change.”

Haydee Morales
Casita Maria



Borough President Vanessa Gibson visiting The Peninsula development

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years

Goal 5 Accountability





Support for Community Based Organizations

CBOs have uplifted the neighborhood and made it resilient in the face of decades of disinvestment. They understand the issues and how to successfully address them. While groups like Urban Health Plan, Rocking the Boat, Hunts Point Alliance for Children, Casita Maria, Project HOPE, the POINT CDC, and so many more have created exemplary programs tailored to the community—they should not shoulder the responsibility of lifting up their community alone. It is government's job to ensure all people have the resources needed to live fulfilling and healthy lives.

Despite the efforts of many groups, the community still struggles with poverty, unemployment, addiction, and educational attainment—leading one subgroup participant to note that “something isn’t working.” CBOs need more capacity and support to do the work within their communities. Part of the City’s role will be to work with the community and ensure they have the resources to serve their neighbors. This includes financial resources and a policy environment that promotes economic mobility and social justice.

Increase the financial resilience & sustainability of CBOs by:

Providing flexible funding for CBOs.

CBOs know how to design programs and deliver emergency services for community-specific needs. Administrative barriers to funding, such as strict requirements in RFP and grant processes, make it harder for them to do that. Flexible funding sources that can support a wider variety of expenses will enable better service delivery and financial resilience for CBOs.

Ensuring on-time payment reliability.

CBOs are non-profit organizations that typically operate on slim margins. In order to sustain their work, they need to be paid on time so they can continue to pay staff and administer programs. Payments from the City take time to process due to bureaucratic and administrative requirements. The City will explore ways to make these processes more efficient and less resource-intensive for CBOs.

Action Items

Near Term The City will explore revising RFP processes to allow more flexibility in proposals.

Near Term The City will explore making contract approvals, funding payments, and reimbursements more efficient to ensure CBOs are stable.

What is the Better Contract for NYC Taskforce?

Addressing the challenges faced by non-profits working with the City, a Better Contract for New York City Taskforce seeks to improve contracting processes between the City and non-profits, with a specific focus on ensuring timely payment for services rendered.

Convened by then-incoming Mayor Eric Adams and Comptroller Brad Lander in late 2021, the taskforce brought together non-profit leaders, City agencies, oversight agencies, and funders to identify recommendations that the administration can implement. On February 14, 2022, the taskforce released their final report and recommendations—the culmination of three meetings, 12 focus groups, and conversations with 35 organizations over the course of two months. The report includes 19 recommendations around the following themes: accountability and transparency; efficiency and streamlining; equity and fairness; leadership and management practices; and capacity building.

Improve supportiveness of government services by:

Ensuring transparency around City projects and initiatives.

Transparency is fundamental to ensuring communities like Hunts Point benefit from government programs. Community leaders can also more effectively define their own priorities if they are aware of what the City is undertaking. The first step to ensuring transparency beyond *Hunts Point Forward* is regular and open communication about the progress on implementing this plan.

Streamlining access to resources.

Resource fairs are an effective way to raise awareness about support that is available for various groups. The City will continue to attend community events and host Borough Resource Fairs to amplify public resources and to deepen the relationship with the community. When necessary, the City and community partners will also conduct awareness campaigns about resources that would be useful to large portions of the community.

Action Items

Near Term NYCEDC will attend monthly HPLCC meetings and provide regular progress reports on plan implementation.

Advocacy Call to simplify administration requirements for CBOs, in particular, insurance coverage rules to receive grant funding.



Community-based organizations are put in a difficult position because once a project is in the budget pipeline it is done from a City point of view... then the City Council approves the funding... but it's not actually in real life for four years, the ones that hold the bag during those four years are the CBOs who are trying to continue to get the public to understand that the project is in the pipeline and that they should still trust the process."

Jill Roche Gomez
Hunts Point Alliance
for Children

Near Term
0-3 years

Medium Term
3-6 years

Long Term
6+ years



Summary of Action Items

Vernon C. Bain Center

- Near Term** Close the Vernon C. Bain Center and begin a process to determine the future of the site.
- Long Term** Repurpose the Vernon C. Bain Center parking lot site for other uses.

Goal 1 Healthy Bodies & Minds

Access to Healthy Food

- Near Term** The City and CBOs will continue to work together to support efforts to help bodegas stock and sell a range of healthy foods.
- Near Term** The City will continue to support emergency food providers with City-funded emergency food, and assistance securing space for operation.
- Near Term** NYCEDC will work with GrowNYC and local partners to support a youth-run farmstand that brings produce to the residential section of Hunts Point.
- Medium Term** In partnership with the Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture, NYCEDC will explore the potential for a "Hunts Point Agriculture & Food Justice Hub" to support urban agriculture, new opportunities around cannabis, and food entrepreneurship.
- Long Term** The third phase of The Peninsula development will include a grocery store.

Access to Public Open Space

- Near Term** CBOs and businesses should explore forming a parks alliance to advocate for maintenance funding for green spaces.
- Near Term** NYC DOT and DDC will redesign Del Valle Square through NYC DOT's Plaza Program, to facilitate activation and programming of the space.
- Near Term** NYC Parks will install lighting at Julio Carballo Fields, which has been funded through the Council Member's discretionary budget.
- Medium Term** NYC DOT will study additional improvements on the streets residents use to access parks.
- Medium Term** NYC Parks will seek capital funding to enhance Barretto Point Park and provide new public amenities in the area that was recently transferred from DEP to NYC Parks.
- Long Term** NYC Parks will investigate opportunities for expanding Hunts Point Riverside Park and providing year-round restrooms.
- Long Term** NYC Parks will explore opportunities to upgrade Drake Park with passive amenities and features to better acknowledge its history as a burial ground for enslaved people.
- Long Term** The third phase of The Peninsula development will include an expansion of Julio Carballo Fields.
- Advocacy** CBOs should advocate for the allocation of one percent of the City budget to NYC Parks.

Physical & Mental Healthcare

- Near Term** NYCEDC will support Urban Health Plan in expanding semi-annual mobile clinics, awareness campaigns, vaccinations, and screenings for industrial workers and residents.
- Near Term** DOHMH and CBOs will continue and expand free community spaces to address mental health challenges and increase community resiliency.
- Medium Term** DOHMH will explore the potential to offer funding or recruitment assistance for CBOs to hire or train on-staff social workers.
- Long Term** Urban Health Plan will open a new community health center in the third phase of The Peninsula development. A health assessment will be conducted to determine what specific services should be offered.
- Long Term** The City and local partners will explore the potential for an urgent care facility on the peninsula.
- Advocacy** Call for additional funding for school-based mental health providers.

Goal 2 Livable Environment

Safe Community

- Near Term** The Mayor's Office will consider Hunts Point when expanding programs that reroute 911 calls to social workers and mental health professionals.
- Medium Term** NYC DOT will explore the potential for additional lighting and other visibility improvements on streets.
- Advocacy** Call to expand supportive housing across the city and state.
- Advocacy** Support the Bronx People's Platform's calls for harm reduction policies.

Cleanliness

- Near Term** NYCEDC will continue to dispatch Clean-Up Corps to pick up trash.
- Near Term** NYC DOT and DDC will add trash and recycling receptacles to a redesigned Del Valle Square.
- Near Term** DSNY will add trash and recycling receptacles on commercial corridors.
- Near Term** DSNY will strengthen enforcement against illegal dumping of commercial trash.
- Near Term** The City will regularly maintain the green space on the medians of roads throughout the peninsula.

Climate Resilience & Sustainability

- Near Term** NYCEDC and MOCEJ will continue to seek funding to support the Produce Market in completing the Produce Market Cool Roof.
- Near Term** MOCEJ will continue promoting Cool Roofs for industrial businesses throughout the FDC and industrial core.
- Near Term** NYCEDC will work with FDC tenants to improve building-level energy efficiency, starting with energy audits.
- Near Term** NYSERDA and NYPA will lead an interagency team to develop solutions to transform the FDC into a Clean Distribution Hub that is quieter, cleaner, and healthier for the entire community.
- Near Term** NYCEDC will support all efforts to establish a publicly accessible multi-user charging hub throughout the FDC.
- Near Term** The City and community partners will work together to paint a mural with Airlite paint, which absorbs pollutants from the air, at key locations in the neighborhood.
- Near Term** The City will offer training on heat health and continue to promote HEAP Cooling Assistance, which provides low-income households with free air conditioners, in the Spring of 2022.

Climate Resilience & Sustainability

(continued)

39. **Near Term** NYCHA will bring comprehensive repairs to the Hunts Point Avenue Rehab Houses including to buildings, apartments, community spaces, grounds, and playgrounds.
40. **Near Term** HPD will work with CBOs, legal service providers, and elected officials to identify and report noncompliant buildings with poor conditions.
41. **Medium Term** NYCEDC will develop a comprehensive energy strategy for the FDC.
42. **Medium Term** NYCEDC will continue to seek funding for hardening projects to make 600 FCD and the Meat Market more flood resilient.
43. **Long Term** NYCEDC will pursue opportunities to establish a marine freight terminal in Hunts Point.
44. **Long Term** NYCEDC will redevelop the Produce Market.

Goal 3 Connectivity

Bruckner Divide

45. **Medium Term** MTA, NYC DOT, and DCP will improve wayfinding, lighting, and signage to integrate the new Metro-North station into the neighborhood.
46. **Medium Term** NYCEDC, DCP, and NYC DOT will work with NYSDOT to evaluate strategies to improve the condition of Bruckner underpass crossings to improve drainage, provide seating, and improve lighting.
47. **Medium Term** NYCEDC and DCP will explore future zoning changes to encourage active uses on Garrison Avenue.
48. **Medium Term** CBOs, supported by government resources, should seek opportunities to install public art that represents Hunts Point.

Transportation & Streets

49. **Near Term** CBOs should identify a location and apply to create an Open Street through NYC DOT's program.
50. **Medium Term** NYC DOT will expand the bicycle network on the peninsula.
51. **Long Term** NYC DOT will redesign key intersections to make them safer for pedestrians.
52. **Long Term** NYC DOT will reconstruct key streets to make them safer for pedestrians and motorists.
53. **Advocacy** Call for the expansion of CityTicket in conjunction with the new Metro-North station to ensure local benefits and use of regional investment.

Goal 4 Shared Prosperity

Connecting Residents to Good Jobs

54. **Near Term** NYCEDC, SBS, and CBOs—in partnership with Council Member Salamanca—will organize ongoing jobs fairs in the community that are open to participation for all Hunts Point businesses.
55. **Near Term** SBS will partner with FDC tenants and workforce development programs to post their open positions and screening opportunities on the Workforce1 website, which CBOs in the community should link to on their websites.
56. **Near Term** Local workforce development providers, as well as SBS, should create, expand, and/or promote soft skills trainings to jobseekers.
57. **Near Term** NYCEDC will continue to work with agency and community partners to identify citywide workforce development programs that can be promoted in Hunts Point.
58. **Near Term** NYCEDC and community partners will encourage more business leaders in Hunts Point to hire and train applicants who may be formerly incarcerated, rehabilitated, or veterans.

59. **Near Term** The City will partner with local schools, businesses, and workforce providers to create a high school internship program with local businesses, particularly for students at risk of dropout.

60. **Near Term** NYCEDC and the New York City Department of Education (DOE) will build awareness about Career & Technical Education programs that are specialized to help students pursue skilled career paths.

61. **Medium Term** NYCEDC and SBS will develop workforce programming, in partnership with local CBOs, that will focus on connecting Hunts Point residents to jobs in the FDC and IBZ.

Financial Security & Community Wealth

62. **Near Term** The City, working in partnership with CBOs, will hold neighborhood resource fairs and awareness campaigns to enable more community members to benefit from existing programs and services.

63. **Medium Term** NYCEDC will support a coalition working on bringing a CDCU to the South Bronx and, in coordination with Banana Kelly and the Banknote Building, help establish a CDCU mobile branch in Hunts Point.

64. **Medium Term** In partnership with the Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture, NYCEDC will explore the potential for a "Hunts Point Agriculture & Food Justice Hub" to support urban agriculture, new opportunities around cannabis, and food entrepreneurship.

65. **Advocacy** Call to eliminate or reform policies that limit public benefit eligibility based on asset ownership.

66. **Advocacy** Call for improved public financial resources for food and housing, such as SNAP and Section 8 vouchers.

67. **Advocacy** Call to adjust AMI levels to ensure that affordable housing truly benefits those in need.

68. **Advocacy** Call for reinstatement of free public college through the CUNY system.

69. **Advocacy** Support the Bronx People's Platform.

Goal 5 Accountability

Support Community Based Organizations

70. **Near Term** The City will explore revising RFP processes to allow more flexibility in proposals.

71. **Near Term** The City will explore making contract approvals, funding payments, and reimbursements more efficient to ensure CBOs are stable.

72. **Near Term** NYCEDC will attend monthly HPLCC meetings and provide regular progress reports on plan implementation.

73. **Advocacy** Call to simplify administration requirements for CBOs, in particular, insurance coverage rules to receive grant funding.

The Hunts Point Forward Working Group

Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association

Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association (Banana Kelly) was founded in 1978 to advocate for the maintenance of Hunts Point's affordable housing stock and to provide workforce development in the neighborhood. Now Banana Kelly offers a wide variety of services such as access to affordable housing, community organizing, rental assistance, youth engagement, teaching English as a second language, and more. Banana Kelly sponsors 1,240 housing units and has sponsored the redevelopment of more than 2,240 housing units, including 5 buildings with 188 units on the Hunts Point peninsula. Banana Kelly's internal and external decision-making process is informed by its Resident Council, a group of community members past and present, which is empowered to advocate for the needs and interests of South Bronx residents.⁵²

Bronx Community Board 2

Bronx Community Board 2 (CB 2) serves Hunts Point, Longwood, and parts of Morrisania. CB 2's motto is "Continuing to Triumph in the South Bronx," which is representative of CB 2's work past and present to ensure safety to its community members and to protect their health.⁵³ The Board's mission is to be "devoted to the public safety, health, and wellness of the entire community district." It has been a major partner to the HPLCC and several planning efforts throughout the district including the 2004 Hunts Point Vision Plan.

Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education

Founded in 1934, Casita Maria, a member organization of the HPLCC, was the first charitable organization in New York City dedicated to serving the city's Latino population. Although Casita Maria began its operations in East Harlem in the 1930s, the organization is now headquartered on Simpson Street in the Bronx where the organization continues to serve Latino youth and their families. The organization seeks to support and empower their community through experiences and programs that focus on culture, art, and education.⁵⁴

F&F Supply

F&F Supply (F&F) was founded in 1941 as a wholesale distributor of hardware and building maintenance equipment. F&F is a fifth-generation family business currently operating out of a 55,000 square-foot warehouse in Hunts Point.⁵⁵

Greater Hunts Point EDC

The Greater Hunts Point EDC (GHPEDC) was founded in 1988 to serve the Hunts Point industrial zone. The organization is also an HPLCC member. Since its founding, the GHPEDC has worked to "improve the quality of life for businesses and residents in Hunts Point" and adjacent neighborhoods "through advocacy, technical assistance and training." Recently, the GHPEDC became an affiliate of Urban Health Plan. The GHPEDC also provides workforce development to support the local industrial and food distribution sectors in partnership with Project HOPE.⁵⁶

GrowNYC

Founded in 1970, GrowNYC is an environmental organization dedicated to helping improve New Yorkers' quality of life. GrowNYC's programs include farmers markets, fresh food boxes, youth-run farmers markets, recycling resources, community and school garden support, and environmental education.⁵⁷ GrowNYC is currently undertaking the construction of a 60,000-square-foot cold-storage facility in Hunts Point, the New York State Regional Food Hub (The Hub), which will expand GrowNYC's wholesale distribution of food from local farms. The Hub will improve access to fresh affordable food in Hunts Point and in other low-income communities throughout the city, while providing another stream of income to regional farms. It is anticipated that The Hub will distribute 20 million pounds of food annually and that GrowNYC will be able to expand from accommodating 60 local farmers to 150 regional farmers. Construction on The Hub began in March 2021 and is projected to be completed within 18 months.

HOPE Program

The HOPE Program (HOPE) was founded in 1984 by a PhD student at Columbia University who sought to help the individuals she served at a soup kitchen with their resumes and interview skills. HOPE evolved to offer more support to acknowledge the ongoing and diverse needs of impoverished New Yorkers. HOPE's green jobs workforce development program, part of the Sustainable South Bronx initiative, is in Hunts Point. This job training program prepares individuals for careers in green infrastructure through a combination of classroom learning, hands-on experiences, and pursuit of industry-approved certificates.⁵⁸

Hunts Point Alliance for Children

Another HPLCC member, the Hunts Point Alliance for Children (HPAC), was founded in 2007 with the goal of improving educational attainment among Hunts Point youth. HPAC works with Hunts Point children and parents from birth all the way to the age of 24.⁵⁹ HPAC works to help parents gain stability, while implementing a "community-to-career" approach for their children. The program utilizes a multigenerational approach to foster pathways out of poverty for Hunts Point youth. HPAC participants have higher rates of school attendance, higher literacy scores and better chances of graduating from high school and continuing to college. HPAC is also known in the community for their Annual Back-to-School Fair, the Storefront Ensemble Program, and their Shakespeare Ensemble Program. HPAC also leads the Hunts Point Community Partnership (HPCP)—an alliance of Hunts Point schools and CBOs that directly support children in the community. In February 2020, HPCP released a strategic plan that identified (1) building social capital to improve families' access to and participation in programs and services and (2) increasing family and caregiver access to early child development services, particularly for mental health & behavioral issues as strategic goals.

The Hunts Point Cooperative Market

The Food Distribution Center's Hunts Point Cooperative Market (also known as the Meat Market) includes over 50 merchants who supply meat and meat products to the five boroughs, region, and nation. The Meat Market covers almost 40 acres of land and is composed of six refrigerated freezer buildings that encompass over 1 million-square-feet of cold storage. With over 2,500 employees on site, the Meat Market, which opened in 1972 in Hunts Point, plays an important role in the local community.

Hunts Point Produce Market

The Food Distribution Center's Produce Market (the Produce Market) occupies over 1 million square feet and is home to over 30 merchants, making it the largest wholesale produce market in the country. Two-hundred-and-ten million packages of produce are re-distributed through the Produce Market annually from near and far. The produce distributed through the Produce Market serves wholesalers, retailers, grocers, and restaurants. The Produce Market has already coated 30,000-square-feet of its facility's roof with white paint as part of the city's NYC Cool Roofs program, which will help reflect sunlight and reduce surface temperatures in Hunts Point during the warmer months.

Il Forno Bakery

Il Forno Bakery is a wholesale, family-owned bakery started in 2005 by Roman Eduardo, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic. Il Forno hires most of its employees from the surrounding Hunts Point community to produce its handmade European-style breads. It is anticipated that Il Forno will open a retail location in The Peninsula.

Jetro/ Restaurant Depot

Jetro Cash and Carry Enterprises (Jetro) was founded in 1976 as a wholesale grocery supplier. In 1990, Restaurant Depot was founded as a wholesale restaurant supplier, becoming a division of Jetro in 1994. Both Jetro and Restaurant Depot were founded in New York City but have since expanded regionally and nationally. Both Jetro and Restaurant Depot serve small businesses through their cash and carry model which allows businesses of all sizes to pick up the products they need with no order minimums. During Hurricane Sandy, Jetro lent its refrigerator space to the bodega-owner community who had lost power during the storm and stood to lose significant money without consistent refrigeration. More recently, Jetro funded the benches that line the greenway in Oak Point.

Krasdale Group

The Krasdale Group (Krasdale) started as Krasdale Foods in 1908 as a wholesale grocery supplier. Since 1972, Krasdale has been in Hunts Point. Krasdale supplies supermarkets throughout the Northeast and services over 2,500 independently owned supermarkets.⁶⁰ Krasdale recently committed to building the largest solar rooftop project in the Bronx. The community solar project will create enough clean energy to offset 5.3 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions annually and will provide clean energy to the surrounding community and at a reduced cost to eligible area residents.

La Peninsula Head Start

La Peninsula (La Pen) is a community-based organization that offers childcare and early childhood education to vulnerable children in the South Bronx.⁶¹ La Pen has long offered services through the federally funded Head Start program, which promotes school readiness to children between the ages of three and five years and their families. La Pen has four Head Start locations across the Bronx that focus on the physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of their students as well as educational processes, language development and general knowledge. La Pen's Hunts Point location is on Manida Street and Spofford Avenue.

Neighborhood SHOPP

Neighborhood Self Help by Older Persons Project (NSHOPP) is a Hunts Point based non-profit organization founded in 1980 that now serves over 10,000 older adults, caregivers, and other Bronx residents annually. NSHOPP empowers older adults by using a self-help philosophy to cope with financial, physical, emotional, and social challenges that arise as people age. NSHOPP has 35 locations across the Bronx.⁶² Beyond the guiding principles of self-help and mutual assistance, NSHOPP also strives to help older adults age comfortably in place.

Omni New York LLC

Omni New York LLC (Omni) is a real estate developer founded in 2004 working to provide affordable housing to historically underserved communities. Although Omni is headquartered in New York City, they manage and own 17,000 units of affordable housing across 11 states. In 2017, the New York Housing Conference named Omni the 2017 Developer of the Year. Omni acquired the OLR MM Apartments in 2010, which represented the addition of 143 affordable units in Hunts Point and Concourse Village to the Omni portfolio. In 2015, Omni acquired the Hunts Point Apartments, a Project Based Section 8, 168-unit property in Hunts Point.⁶³

THE POINT CDC

THE POINT CDC has been serving the Hunts Point community for over 25 years and is a member organization of the HPLCC. Since its founding, THE POINT CDC has prioritized community involvement in its work to drive investment into Hunts Point and revitalize the neighborhood. THE POINT CDC, which has won numerous awards for its work over the years, is dedicated to furthering environmental justice, arts, culture, and community development. THE POINT CDC's flagship programs include Be-A-Buddy, Village of Murals, Community Wi-Fi, Digital Stewards, and ACTION, a youth leadership program whose name stands for Activists Coming to Inform Our Neighborhood. THE POINT CDC also supports various campuses.

Real Life Church

Real Life Church is an Assemblies of God church located in Hunts Point that was founded and is still led by Pastors Reggie & Ibelsa Stutzman. In 2017, Pastors Reggie and Ibelsa also founded The Prodigal Center, a non-profit food pantry and provider of gently used clothing that serves as an outreach extension of Real Life. The Center, located in a former auto repair shop on Tiffany Street, offers fresh produce, canned goods and free clothes for men, women, and children, as well as other essentials that become available from time to time. The Prodigal Center's focus is to "do whatever we can for those in need."

Rocking the Boat

Rocking the Boat is a non-profit science education organization, founded in 1996, located in Hunts Point Riverside Park. The organization serves young people through hands-on experiences building and rowing wooden boats and through sailing and environmental restoration of the Bronx River. Rocking the Boat aims to help its participating young adults stay in high school, enroll in trade school or college, and develop technical and soft skills.

Teamsters Local 202

Teamsters Local 202 (Local 202) was originally chartered in 1916 in Lower Manhattan to represent the produce workers at Washington Market. Now Local 202 represents 4,500 workers primarily at the Hunts Point Cooperative Market, but also within other industries across the New York metropolitan area.⁶⁴ Local 202 offers scholarships to the children of Local 202 members for higher education.

Urban Health Plan

Urban Health Plan (UHP) is a member of the HPLCC and is a federally qualified community health center that was founded in 1974 by a local Bronx-based physician, Dr. Richard Izquierdo. Paloma Hernandez currently serves as its President and CEO. UHP has 12 health centers across New York City, two mental health centers, 12 health centers in schools and an additional three part-time clinics. While UHP's centers serve the South Bronx, Corona, Queens, and Central Harlem, most of their health centers are in the South Bronx, with a particular emphasis on serving the Hunts Point and Longwood community. UHP provides high-quality, affordable, primary and specialized care, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay, with a focus on immigrant and emerging communities.⁶⁵ The Bella Vista Community Health Center on Hunts Point Avenue specializes in dental, optometry services, and family practice medicine, while also offering other medical services, including but not limited to, psychology and podiatry. The Bella Vista sister location, also on Hunts Point Avenue, specializes in integrated health care and social services for patients identifying as LGBTQ. Just across the Bruckner Expressway, UHP offers medical care specifically for teens and young adults, which offers routine wellness care as well as reproductive healthcare and mental health screenings and referrals in the Longwood neighborhood.

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- Bronx Community Board 2
- Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education
- D'Arrigo Foods
- Delhen Trucking
- Downeast Seafood
- F&F Supply
- Gilbane Building Company
- Greater Hunts Point EDC
- GrowNYC
- HOPE Program
- Hudson Companies
- Hunts Point Alliance for Children
- Hunts Point Cooperative Market
- Hunts Point Produce Market
- Il Forno Bakery
- Jetro/Restaurant Depot
- The Krasdale Group
- La Peninsula Head Start
- Mutual Housing Association of New York
- Neighborhood SHOPP
- Oakpoint Property
- Omni New York LLC
- THE POINT CDC
- Project Hope
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- New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
- New York City Department of Sanitation
- New York City Department of Small Business Services
- New York City Department of Transportation
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