Hack-a-thon Community Partner Pre-questionnaire 2026

Neighborhood: Flushing, Queens

Community Partner: Rebecca Pryor

1. **Team Members + Affiliation**
    a. Rebecca Pryor (GoFB),
    b. Jaegi Lissade (GoFB)
    c. Rachel Wu (GoFB)
    d. Ryan Chen (GoFB)
    e. Emily Liang (GoFB)
    f. Vonne Davien Wilson (GoFB)
    g. Melissa Chow (thread collective)
    h. Gita Nandan (thread collective).

2. **What are major programs (existing or planned) in the neighborhood addressing climate change and adaptation? (Bullets with program / project name and 1-2 sentence description.**
    a. Resiliency for Flushing Meadows Corona Park report (Waterfront Alliance), calls forthe daylighting of Flushing Creek and the widening and deepening of Meadow Lake.
    b. The Center for Urban Future "A Parks Queens Deserves" report calls for scores of recommendations for FMCP, including a flood infrastructure fund, daylighting Flushing Creek, a bridge connecting Flushing and Willets Point, and berming the highway.
    c. The DEP has long planned a "blue belt" for Kissena Creek, a tributary of Flushing Creek. As well as a Cloudburst Hub for Corona (overlapping the historic Horse Brook, a tributary of Flushing Creek) and Kissena.
    d. The potential Renewable Rikers project, which includes closing 4 WWTP (including Bowery Bay WWTP and Tallman Island WWTP) and developing state of the art ones on Rikers Island (after the jail is successfully closed).
    e. The DEP CSO tunnel extending from BB-06 outfall to Bowery Bay WWTP, reducing CSO by 50%.
    f. DEP's plan to Chlorinating Flushing Creek, reducing CSO by 0%.
    g. There are ~1,700 rain gardens in the Flushing Bay and Flushing Creek watershed to address stormwater. GoFB is building a network of stewards, in part responding for the need for maintenance.
    h. Billion Oyster Project and GoFB are designing an oyster reef for Flushing Bay.

3. **What could be "problem statements" for hack-a-thon participants to consider? (As many as you like 2-3 sentence description, but aim for 3-5 problem statements.)**
    a. GoFB has 13+ years of environmental quality datasets (see Appendix A). How does our data sit within a larger climate model?
    b. What is the impact of approved developments (Special Willets Point District, Special Flushing Waterfront District, and the Metropolitan Park Casino) on water, transportation, air quality, sound pollution?
    c. What green infrastructure project (size, location, type) will have the greatest impact on improving air, water, etc health in our watershed in the context of the approved development projects?
    d. What green infrastructure project would have the greatest impact of social and ecological resilience?

4. **What communities in the neighborhood do these programs serve? (Bullets with 1-2 sentence description.)**
    a. Neighborhoods on the northern half of the park (Jackson Heights, Corona, Flushing, East Elmhurst, and Queensboro Hill) have the most overlapping EJ inequities (poor air quality, proximity to traffic) and some of the most consistent flooding (Corona and Flushing). These projects stand to significantly serve those communities.
    b. The projects will also serve FMCP park users.

5. **What challenges does the neighborhood face from climate change impacts? (Bullets including any recent events and / or specific locations 1-2 sentence description.)**
    a. Major inland flooding, demonstrated during Hurricane Ida where residences flooded in Jackson Heights, Corona, East Elmhurst, and Flushing.
    b. All of FMCP is in a 100 year floodplain and regularly floods
    c. Flushing Bay receives over 10% of combined sewer overflow in the city, with some of the city's largest combined sewer outfalls (TI-10 and BB-06)
    d. High heat index in neighborhoods surrounding FMCP

6. **How does your team use data in your programs? (100-200 words.)**
    a. We collect environmental data (water quality, rain garden health, and species data), which informs our advocacy and guides our stewardship. We have been collecting enterococcus (sewage indicating bacteria) data for the

last 13 years and general water health data (temp, salinity, DO, chlorophyll, etc) for the last 4 years. We are building a marine debris program for 2026, which will capture and track marine debris, using the resulting data to inform our stormwater and anti-plastics advocacy. GoFB is also developing a State of the Bay report, which analyzes and synthesizes our existing datasets. The report will lead to recommendations around advocacy (specific policies and projects to push) and stewardship (what key assets to steward and/or restore, what community science project to initiate).

7. **What are your data needs and what ideas do you have for how climate data could serve communities in your neighborhood? (100-200 words.)**
    a. We have not compared our data to a larger climate model outside of NYC. We are also curious about the ways in which data can help us to prioritize certain projects (i.e. what green infrastructure project would have the greatest impact).

8. **What challenges does your team face regarding accessing or sharing climate data? (100-200 words.)**
    a. The new administration took the EPA's EJ Screen offline. This was the key tool we used to show EJ impacts in our watershed. The other challenge is around synthesizing the data to show particular trends or storylines.

9. **What's your team's dream project? (100-200 words.)**
    a. To show the impact of approved developments (Special Willets Point District, Special Flushing Waterfront District, and the Metropolitan Park Casino) on water, transportation, air quality, sound pollution AND the green infrastructure projects (size, location, type) that would have the greatest impact on improving air, water, etc health in our watershed in the context of the approved development projects.
    b. Understand the impact of approved developments and climate resilience infrastructure projects in the context of a larger climate model.

10. **What are your team's expectations for the Hack-a-thon? (2-3 bullets, focus on key words with 1-2 sentence descriptions.)**
    a. Collaborate with data scientists to understand the the challenges impacting Flushing Waterways (getting everyone on same page + up to speed)
    b. Identify 1-2 key green infrastructure projects that would have a significant impact on our watershed (and quantifying that impact).

Appendix A

GoFB environmental quality datasets

- Water quality data testing for sewage-indicating bacteria. Flushing Bay data begins in 2012. The "Flushing Bay" sites are labeled in the following ways, depending on the year:
    - Flushing Bay Pier 1 East
    - Flushing Bay Pier 1 West
    - Flushing Bay Pier 1
    - Flushing Bay Boat Ramp
    - Big Rock Beach
    - Hermon MacNeil Park (outside of the Bay, but gives a sense of nearby LIS water)
    - Meadow Lake
    - Kissena Lake (tributary of Flushing Creek)
    - Flushing Creek
    - Note: we also coordinate samples at Bayside Marina in Little Neck Bay, but that may not be relevant for the State of the Bay report
- An iNaturalist dataset that GoFB and other volunteers have documented across Flushing Waterways.
- Four years of seasonal water quality data testing for a snapshot of the health of the water. The collection is conducted by GoFB and managed by Save the Sound as part of their Unified Water Study (UWS). Flushing Waterways data begins with the 2021 UWS Season
    - Download the datasets located under "Download Data" on the righthand column
        - Note: 2023 and 2024 data has not been uploaded yet by Save the Sound
    - Save the Sound's Water Quality Report Cards grading the health of the Long Island Sound based on data collected can be found here.
        - The 2025 report card based on 2024 data has not been released—estimated release date is Spring 2026
        - Flushing Waterways data begins with the 2022 Report Card
- A GoFB spreadsheet tracking the rain gardens we maintain in Flushing, Corona, and East Elmhurst.
- Here is the white paper GoFB and the NYC Urban Field Station's Social Assessment data, assessing thousands of people using the green and blue spaces along Flushing Waterways.

Neighborhood: Soundview, The Bronx

The Soundview area is clearly geographically defined. Soundview is a peninsula jutting into the Long Island Sound to its south and bounded by the Bronx River to its west and Westchester Creek to its east. The areas' northern border is East Tremont Avenue/the North East Corridor Right-of-Way. It comprises numerous smaller neighborhoods including: Bronx River, Soundview, Bruckner, Parkchester, Westchester Square, Unionport, Castle Hill, and Clason Point. It hosts numerous highways: the Cross Bronx Expressway, Bronx River Parkway, and Bruckner Expressway. It is also a bit of a transit desert in areas with the 6 train as the area's only subway connection running southwest to northeast opposite the diagonal created by the Cross Bronx Expressway. Leaving areas below the Bruckner Expressway largely disconnected without taking long bus trips up to the 6 train which follows Westchester Ave, one of the area's major commercial corridors. That said there is an amazing NYC Ferry connection in Clason Point Park at the Southern tip of the peninsula.

Community Partner: Reece Brosco (YMPJ)

1. **Team Members + Affiliation**
    a. LeShonda Belton (Sonia Sotomayor Houses Tenant Association Leader and Founder of T.H.A Godmother)

2. **What are major programs (existing or planned) in the neighborhood addressing climate change and adaptation? (Bullets with program / project name and 1-2 sentence description.**
    a. Brownfield Redevelopment along the Bronx River Waterfront: YMPJ is leading work to identify vacant, underutilized, and potentially contaminated properties (brownfield sites) along the Bronx River waterfront with the aim of cleaning up and transforming some of these blighted properties into new community assets (community centers, local small business hubs, new green spaces, etc). Much of the conversation around the redevelopment of these properties has included discussions about neighborhood climate resiliency, particularly in areas such as streetscape improvement, including the planting of additional trees in the pursuit of establishing "cool corridors," and improving stormwater management and runoff
    b. Creating additional green space and piloting nature-based climate resiliency solutions: YMPJ is leading work to create a new community garden at the intersection of Harrod Place and Westchester Avenue. As part of the implementation of this project, YMPJ intends to deploy and pilot a "green cooling structure" utilizing plant life on the roof and siding of the shade structure to create a microclimate that it is hoped will provide a greater cooling effect than traditional shade structures, providing respite for

community garden members and local residents in the context of increasing temperatures.

c. Advocacy against proposed highway expansions along the Cross Bronx Expressway: A neighborhood coalition has formed in opposition to the proposed expansion of the Cross Bronx Expressway (CBE). The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has a project to repair 5 bridges along a stretch of the Cross Bronx Expressway that crosses over the Bronx River and alongside Bronx River Houses. While the bridges do need to be repaired to ensure the safe operation of the CBE, NYSDOT is pursuing plans that would expand the width and surface area of the expressway, which have sparked concerns among community residents and advocates about water runoff and other related environmental impacts. It has been especially motivating for the coalition that has formed to oppose the expansion, as the project intends to extend the longevity of the CBE for the next ~70 years. This means that the impacted local communities will face the consequences of the planning decisions made today for decades to come.

d. Infrastructure improvements on NYCHA Campuses: Soundview has a high density of NYCHA campuses, each with its own building-specific and campus-specific conditions stemming from neglect and disinvestment in the campuses themselves, as well as compounded by the impacts of climate change.

3. **What could be "problem statements" for hack-a-thon participants to consider? (As many as you like 2-3 sentence description, but aim for 3-5 problem statements.)**
    a. How can we utilize existing climate data and temperature increase projections to model the potential positive impacts of creating new green spaces? This could help us identify and analyze different opportunities for creating new parks and green spaces versus their potential cooling benefits.
    b. How can we utilize existing climate data, particularly air pollution data and traffic data, to model the potential positive impacts of reducing traffic along the Cross Bronx Expressway? This could help us better understand the significance of certain traffic reduction actions or milestones for local air quality and community health.
    c. How can we utilize existing climate data and flood risk projections to gauge and communicate risks for homeowners? Could these projections be somehow connected to other data sets that indicate costs in terms of dollars? Perhaps increases in home insurance, etc.?

4. **What communities in the neighborhood do these programs serve? (Bullets with 1-2 sentence description.)**
    a. Low-income, working-class residents: the Soundview peninsula is a multiracial perdomentaly low-income and working-class area of the Bronx and New York City
    b. New arrivals/immigrant communities: the Soundview peninsula is home to a large and diverse immigrant population, including longtime immigrant communities as well as new arrivals
    c. Older adults: the Soundview peninsula is home to many older New Yorkers who have specific needs and considerations.
    d. Families: the Soundview peninsula is also home to many families with young children.
    e. Waterfront community: Surrounded on three sides by water, Soundview is unquestionably a waterfront community with many residents regularly taking advantage of beautiful waterfront parks while other areas remain separated from their nearest waterfront. Other residents work near waterfronts or on the water itself.
    f. Frontline environmental justice communities: Soundview is also composed of areas that are of mixed industrial/post industrial nature that have resulted in negative environmental and community/public health impacts.

5. **What challenges does the neighborhood face from climate change impacts? (Bullets including any recent events and / or specific locations 1-2 sentence description.)**
    a. Extreme Heat/Urban Heat Island Effect: Extreme heat puts many residents, especially older residents and outdoor workers at risk.
    b. Flooding: Increased flooding due to stormsurge/cloudburst events present numerous challenges for residents in the Soundview community. Especially in the southern tip of the Soundview peninsula (Clason Point neighborhood) where those impacts are compounded by low elevations and sea level rise.
    c. Extreme Weather Events: Aging housing stock and infrastructure increase the risks associated with extreme weather events. Extreme weather events compound flooding.
    d. Climate Education: Public education around climate change and drawing connections between the impacts of climate change in NYC to the everyday lived experience of residents remains a challenge and is a focus of the Soundview team.

6. **How does your team use data in your programs? (100-200 words.)**
    a. Data collection plays a role in many of the Soundview team's programs. Examples range from recording the amount of food distributed at local produce giveaways, number of immigration clients seen or referrals made, and/or other programmatic performance tracking applications to the regular sampling of the Bronx River to monitor, record, and assess its conditions. Climate data more specifically (temperature, rainfall, air quality, etc.) supports our research and advocacy decision making on multiple scales from regional and urban planning down to location specific infrastructure investment and design.

7. **What are your data needs and what ideas do you have for how climate data could serve communities in your neighborhood? (100-200 words.)**
    a. The Soundview team's greatest needs related to data utilization are likely connected to increasing our understanding of the available data at our disposal, where to find it, and its potential applications. What is out there already that we can take advantage of or adapt to support our work? Climate data could serve communities by helping visually support and facilitate climate education. How can we use climate data to teach people about climate change and connect it to their lived experience of climate impacts? Especially when those connections are not always as clear for residents as they might be for climate scientists and planning professionals. Climate data could also be leveraged to support organizational decision making around advocacy and implementation priorities. Many of our team member organizations/individuals have also had experience using citizen science data collection as means of engaging community residents in environmental justice issues, campaigns, etc.

8. **What challenges does your team face regarding accessing or sharing climate data? (100-200 words.)**
    a. The Soundview team's greatest challenges regarding accessing climate data are connected to a lack of knowledge of and exposure to what is available, where to find it, and how best to apply it. Temperature, rainfall, air quality are all types of measurements we are fairly familiar with. What are other relevant climate data measurements/categories? How could we better leverage

climate data to support arguments in favor of certain infrastructure interventions, policy recommendations/actions, etc?

9. **What's your team's dream project? (100-200 words.)**
    a. A dream project for the Soundview team would be the development of a tool that models the impacts of different land-use actions (such as the creation of a new high-rise or mid-rise building, a new park, or a new parking lot) on projected temperature increases/urban heat island effect versus existing temperature increase projections for a given area. This would be valuable for our team to understand how changing the landscape/streetscape/grey infrastructure into green spaces and green infrastructure impacts the local area/neighborhood. What, for example, would it mean if X parcel, currently being used as a parking lot, were transformed into a 3-story community center with a green roof? What are the potential cooling impacts? Then we can compare those impacts in relation to the idea of transforming parcel Y into a public park. Of course, some assumptions may need to be made or parameters established, but I can envision numerous applications for a tool like this far beyond the Soundview peninsula.

10. **What are your team's expectations for the Hack-a-thon? (2-3 bullets, focus on key words with 1-2 sentence descriptions.)**
    a. Learn: We expect to learn from the assembled experts! We're excited to learn about their expertise and work, discover best practices, and explore the available and relevant data.
    b. Generate: We expect to generate new creative ideas and applications for climate data in collaboration with the assembled experts.
    c. Share: We expect to share our local knowledge and community-facing perspective and insights.

Neighborhood: Brownsville, Brooklyn

Brownsville is a predominantly Black and Caribbean neighborhood in East Brooklyn with well established legacy of community organizing, cultural expression, and collective resilience. The neighborhood confronts long standing inequities connected to disinvestment, public health disparities, and aging housing and sewer infrastructure, placing residents on the frontlines of climate vulnerability. Brownsville experiences compounding climate risks including extreme heat, poor air quality, stormwater flooding, and energy insecurity, while also navigating housing instability and economic inequality. The community is anchored by multiple parks, community centers, gardens, plazas, and cooperative spaces. There are Systems of Care rooted in neighbors, churches, tenant associations, and local civic groups that provide mutual aid during emergencies and support environmental stewardship year round. Despite decades of unequal public investment and exposure to climate impacts, Brownsville remains home to active community based organizations, small businesses, and residents deeply committed to shaping healthier and more climate resilient future.

Community Partner: Dasia Jenkins (Pitkin Avenue BID)

1. **Team Members + Affiliation**
    a. Malko Pierre (Brownsville Community Economic Development Corporation)
    b. Kane Jacob (Brownsville Health Action Center NYC DOHMH)
    c. Sydone Thompson (CB16)
    d. Genese Morgan (Quality of Life Leader for Brownsville & Oceanhill)

2. **What are major programs (existing or planned) in the neighborhood addressing climate change and adaptation? (Bullets with program / project name and 1-2 sentence description.**
    a. Climate Strong Communities Brownsville Hub: MOCEJ initiative supporting community-led resilience planning and neighborhood organizing with goal to create local climate subcommittee.
    b. CBEDC Green Economy Institute: training pipeline preparing residents for offshore wind, building electrification, and sustainability careers.
    c. Brownsville Health Action Center: programs that address heat stress, asthma, food access, and chronic disease worsened by climate conditions.
    d. Pitkin Avenue BID Corridor Resilience: outdoor markets, streetscape greening, and small business climate resistance retrofits program

3. **What could be "problem statements" for hack-a-thon participants to consider? (As many as you like 2-3 sentence description, but aim for 3-5 problem statements.)**

a. Brownsville lacks a centralized, neighborhood wide climate coordination framework that aligns community based organizations, city agencies, and institutions, resulting in duplicated efforts, competition for limited resources, and fragmented implementation of similar resilience initiatives.
b. Climate investments often focus on pilot projects without sufficient planning for long-term maintenance, workforce capacity, or organizational training, leaving community partners without the tools needed to sustain city-implemented infrastructure and programs.
c. Persistent gaps in access to basic resources such as cooling, energy stability, housing quality, and health supports continue to increase climate vulnerability, indicating the need to address foundational systemic inequities before layering additional adaptation strategies.
d. Climate data, policy language, and planning processes are often inaccessible to residents and youth, limiting understanding of real impacts and pathways to solutions. Stronger integration with schools and youth programs is needed to prepare future leaders and ensure Brownsville is not overstudied and underdelivered.

4. **What communities in the neighborhood do these programs serve? (Bullets with 1-2 sentence description.)**
    a. NYCHA households with heightened exposure to heat, aging infrastructure, energy insecurity
    b. Small businesses and corridor workers along Pitkin Avenue
    c. Youth and young adults seeking green economy pathways
    d. Seniors and residents with chronic health conditions

5. **What challenges does the neighborhood face from climate change impacts? (Bullets including any recent events and / or specific locations 1-2 sentence description.)**
    a. Extreme heat is intensified by limited tree canopy and high-rise public housing, increasing health risks for seniors, children, and residents in upper-floor apartments during prolonged heat waves.
    b. Stormwater flooding from aging sewer infrastructure and heavy rainfall events causes street flooding, basement inundation, and disruptions to small businesses and housing conditions.
    c. Energy insecurity and power outages disproportionately affect low-income households and medically vulnerable residents

6. **How does your team use data in your programs? (100-200 words.)**
    a. Our team uses data to support real, on the ground engagement and program planning in Brownsville. We regularly draw from NYC Open Data, Health Department indicators, and Community Board 16 district needs statements to identify priority areas and advocate for infrastructure and resource investment. We intentionally pair data with lived experience, including resident insights about basement flooding, heat conditions in specific NYCHA buildings, and informal Systems of Care that emerge during emergencies. At the BID level, we also track business activity, and corridor conditions to understand how extreme weather affects operating hours and commercial vitality. Just as important, we rely on constant community engagement to ground data in reality and make sure our programs reflect what people are actually experiencing.

7. **What are your data needs and what ideas do you have for how climate data could serve communities in your neighborhood? (100-200 words.)**
    a. We need climate data that is more localized and better connected to daily life in Brownsville. Recent workshops showed that while adaptation efforts exist, there is still limited understanding of whether they are reaching the blocks and households facing the greatest risk. Useful data would include block-level heat conditions, drainage capacity around NYCHA campuses, and information that links climate impacts to health, housing, and economic outcomes. Climate data could be shared through accessible dashboards, multilingual materials, and story-based visuals that help residents understand both risks and options for action.

8. **What challenges does your team face regarding accessing or sharing climate data? (100-200 words.)**
    a. One of the main challenges is that climate data is fragmented across multiple agencies and presented at scales that do not align with how decisions are made in Brownsville. Many datasets require technical expertise to interpret, which creates barriers for community members and smaller organizations. Participants have noted that information is often shared too slowly, leaving residents uncertain during time-sensitive events like heat waves or heavy storms. Data tools also tend to lack narrative context, making charts and maps feel disconnected from lived experience. Limited

staff capacity, training, and visualization tools further constrain how data can be shared. There is also no single, trusted place where localized climate data lives or a clear entity responsible for managing it, which adds to confusion and burnout among civic partners trying to support their communities.

9. **What's your team's dream project? (100-200 words.)**
    a. Our team's dream project is to strengthen and connect the climate resilience work that community organizations in Brownsville are already doing, rather than creating a new standalone initiative. The project would focus on aligning existing programs across public health, workforce development, small business support, and civic engagement under a shared neighborhood resilience framework. This would help organizations coordinate efforts, reduce duplication, and plan collectively for long term maintenance of climate investments.
    b. The project would provide training, shared tools, and technical assistance to community partners so they can better use climate and health data in their everyday work, from heat response and wellness programming to business continuity planning and green jobs training. Schools and youth programs would be integrated to prepare the next generation of residents for climate-related careers and civic leadership. By investing in organizational capacity, communication, and coordination, the project would ensure that climate solutions are sustained over time and that Brownsville is supported with consistent resources, not just studied during moments of crisis.

10. **What are your team's expectations for the Hack-a-thon? (2-3 bullets, focus on key words with 1-2 sentence descriptions.)**
    a. Actionable tools and prototypes that translate complex climate data into practical, easy to use resources for residents, small businesses, and community organizations in Brownsville.
    b. Cross sector collaboration that meaningfully connects community knowledge with scientists, designers, technologists, and policymakers, ensuring solutions are grounded in real neighborhood priorities.
    c. Lasting capacity building for community partners, including skills, relationships, and tools that extend beyond the event and support ongoing climate resilience work.

Neighborhood: East Harlem, Manhattan

Community Partner: Jessica Elliot (Manhattan Community Board 11, VibraSynapse)

1. **Team Members + Affiliation**
    a. Anna Kemeny (Randall's Island Park Alliance)
    b. Russel Shuler (Manhattan Community Board 11, YES Inc.)
    c. Carey King (Uptown Grand Central)
    d. Maya Vilapana (East Harlem Community Organizations Active in Distasters)

2. **What are major programs (existing or planned) in the neighborhood addressing climate change and adaptation? (Bullets with program / project name and 1-2 sentence description.**
    a. Vision Plan for a Resilient East Harlem – A study completed by Starr Whitehouse to outline urban interventions for green infrastructure to address cloudburst inland flooding, coastal resilience, as well as heat, air quality and other climate impacts.
    b. Waterfront Resilience – There are funded projects along the East River Esplanade to elevate the shoreline to protect against sea-level rise, including Harlem Greenway Park (Richard Toussaint Park) and the 107th St. Pier.
    c. Metropolitan Hospital Project – A flood wall project to protect the infrastructure of Metropolitan Hospital
    d. East 125th Street BID and East 125th Street Community Visioning Action Plan
    e. Environmental Justice for All Report -an endeavor by NYC Environmental Justice Advisory Board to create a framework for environmental justice
    f. USACE New York and New Jersey Harbor & Tributaries work – federal and state studies ongoing impacting East Harlem and NYC.
    g. Randall's Island – Shoreline Reconstruction, Forestry Management projects and student/youth programming
    h. Studies and ongoing work in partnership with various organizations including WE ACT, Columbia Center for Smart Streetscapes, Million More Trees, PopUP Forest, and others.

3. **What could be "problem statements" for hack-a-thon participants to consider? (As many as you like 2-3 sentence description, but aim for 3-5 problem statements.)**
    a. How can small- and mid-scale urban interventions be implemented in various scenarios to allow for water catchment and storage inland during cloudburst events?

b. How can parks, playgrounds and green spaces play a deeper role in managing climate change impacts to health?
c. How can real time responses be made in the event of a heat wave, flood event or similar climate challenge to address residents' needs more urgently?
d. How can science, data and technology be used to advocate for funding for climate justice work that costs significant amounts of money?

4. **What communities in the neighborhood do these programs serve? (Bullets with 1-2 sentence description.)**
    a. East Harlem residents, Manhattan, and NYC generally.
    b. Vulnerable populations including those with asthma, youth, seniors, etc.

5. **What challenges does the neighborhood face from climate change impacts? (Bullets including any recent events and / or specific locations 1-2 sentence description.)**
    a. Extreme heat compared to surrounding neighborhoods
    b. Inland flooding
    c. Sea level rise
    d. Air pollution
    e. Equitable services (e.g. Sanitation)
    f. Access to green space

6. **How does your team use data in your programs? (100-200 words.)**
    a. We use data that is made available through federal, state and local government, through partnerships with organizations surrounding this work, and through the lived experiences of residents. The Community Board hosts an annual Earth Day conference for the sharing of resources. Randall's Island is using forestry and shoreline data to inform work and programing. EHCOAD uses public health data to inform its work. Uptown Grand Central helps to create data in planting new plantings, cleaning the streets, and creating reports for small businesses and maintaining a safe, clean and healthy 125th street.

7. **What are your data needs and what ideas do you have for how climate data could serve communities in your neighborhood? (100-200 words.)**
    Deeper data would be helpful in determining the various layers of impacts leading to different climate realities (e.g. is the storm sewer not draining due

to trash, general maintenance or is there a larger systems problem?). Data needs to be utilized to generate larger-scale action and funding.

8. **What challenges does your team face regarding accessing or sharing climate data? (100-200 words.)**
    a. Data is in some cases difficult to access, comprehend and use. Data may not be granular enough to get information specific to the district of East Harlem. Typically, it has been helpful to have technical assistance from outside groups to improve our access and understanding of the data available.

9. **What's your team's dream project? (100-200 words.)**
    a. Our dream project would seek to address the significant climate risks in East Harlem, understanding the interconnected challenges, and in partnership with the community. Beginning with the proposed solutions in the Vision Plan for a Resilient East Harlem, it would seek to create an urban greenway at E. 106th Street, tie in the Park Avenue corridor up to 125th street and beyond, and connect back through the ongoing Esplanade work and footbridge to Randall's Island. The project would have a large-scale long-term view, while also producing a kit of parts of small- to medium- scale interventions that could be employed strategically throughout the neighborhood, helping to activate local businesses, community assets, and green spaces.

10. **What are your team's expectations for the Hack-a-thon? (2-3 bullets, focus on key words with 1-2 sentence descriptions.)**
    a. Build a stronger coalition together to positively impact the work and investment in East Harlem for climate and environmental justice.
    b. Explore feasible solutions to improving the health and wellbeing of East Harlem residents.
    c. Promote small- to large-scale interventions and urban design work to equitably address climate concerns in East Harlem.

Neighborhood: Port Richmond and Stapleton, Staten Island

Community Partner: Saul Porter (Northfield LDC)

Team Members + Affiliation

a. Gloria Levine (Friends of Tomkinsville Park)
b. Jose Garofalo (Protectors of Pine Oak Woods)
c. Michelle Boscome (Staten Island Not For Profit)
d. Heather Butts (H.E.A.L.T.H. For Youths)

2. **What are major programs (existing or planned) in the neighborhood addressing climate change and adaptation? (Bullets with program / project name and 1-2 sentence description.**
    a. North Shore Sea Wall – fortifying the shoreline from Stapleton – Tompkinsville against future flooding events

3. **What could be "problem statements" for hack-a-thon participants to consider? (As many as you like 2-3 sentence description, but aim for 3-5 problem statements.)**
    a. Staten Island's North Shore shoreline is actively eroding, threatening coastal infrastructure, public access, and long-term neighborhood stability.
    b. Residents of Staten Island's North Shore experience higher asthma rates and worse overall health outcomes than other parts of the borough, reflecting disproportionate environmental exposure.
    c. Persistent flooding along Canal Street and Jewett Avenue disrupts daily life, damages property, and poses ongoing safety risks for nearby residents.
    d. During Hurricane Sandy, dozens of undocumented migrants on Staten Island's North Shore lost their lives, revealing deadly gaps in emergency preparedness and inclusive disaster response.
    e. An often unseen street-homeless population on Staten Island's North Shore faces heightened risk from flooding and extreme heat due to lack of safe shelter and climate-resilient services.
    f. Repeated losses of heat and cooling at Stapleton Houses have endangered residents, underscoring the vulnerability of aging public housing infrastructure during extreme weather.

4. **What communities in the neighborhood do these programs serve? (Bullets with 1-2 sentence description.)**
    a. The North Shore seawall serves residents and business owners closest to the Northeast shore, including residents of URBY, small business owners

along Bay and Canal Street, and people who receive services in the area such as low income seniors.

5. **What challenges does the neighborhood face from climate change impacts? (Bullets including any recent events and / or specific locations 1-2 sentence description.)**
    a. Severe flooding during heavy rain, causing substantial damage to homes and businesses (most recently during the summer storms that impacted Bay Street and Jewett Avenue).
    b. Increased urban heat island effect, amplifying the danger of heat waves, especially for Stapleton and Park Hill public housing residents who often lose AC during the summer.

6. **How does your team use data in your programs? (100-200 words.)**
    a. Our team uses data to guide new program creation and inform policy activism.

7. **What are your data needs and what ideas do you have for how climate data could serve communities in your neighborhood? (100-200 words.)**
    a. Data on airborne and soil pollutants around Richmond terrace, Staten island expressway, and Brownfield sites would contribute to research surrounding higher asthma rates and incidences of IEPs in the borough.
    b. Data on covered streams and culverts could inform targeted interventions around flash flooding that occurs on Jewett Avenue and Canal Street

8. **What challenges does your team face regarding accessing or sharing climate data? (100-200 words.)**
    a. Making the data accessible and understandable to laypeople, especially youth or ESL speakers.
    b. Connecting data with lived experiences of people in the community

9. **What's your team's dream project? (100-200 words.)**
    a. Flood diversion project to pipe stormwater to the ocean instead of overflowing the combined sewer system.
    b. HVAC upgrades at all NYCHA facilities to protect residents during extreme weather

10. **What are your team's expectations for the Hack-a-thon? (2-3 bullets, focus on key words with 1-2 sentence descriptions.)**