

Healthy Neighborhoods Learning Collaborative Meeting

Brownsville Partnership

POWERED BY COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Brownsville, Brooklyn

April 2015

**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES
ENDING HOMELESSNESS**

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Brownsville, Brooklyn: A Priority Neighborhood

Demographics

78% African American

17 % Hispanic

5 %White, Asian, other

84.3 % Renter occupied housing

Transportation: No. 3, A and L trains

THE DOMINANT NARRATIVE

- **48%** of Brownsville residents receive income supports
- **36%** of Brownsville families live below the poverty line
- Has the **highest** concentration of public housing in North America, with 18 NYC Housing developments.
- **79%** of Brownsville children are born into poor families
- Violent crime rate is **over 3 times** the city average
- **One out of every 12 youth** ages 16-24 are imprisoned or jailed: The highest rate in New York City

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Food System Improvements

Accomplishments by the end of November 2017 include:

- A Brownsville based organization will manage the coordination of our 2 Youth Markets in Brownsville.
- There will be 3 Bodegas actively participating in a functioning Brownsville based food system; in which a combination of locally grown and commercial bought fruits and vegetables will be sold in these Bodegas. We will work with local urban farmers and commercial food retailers to provide fresh, healthy and AFFORDABLE fruits and vegetables to residents.
- We will feed over 2,000 families fresh food by way of cooking demonstrations and raw food prep demonstrations through partnering with GrowNYC, Just Food, House of Juice and other partners.



Open Space and Built Environment Accomplishments



1. Crosswalks will be installed on old Osborn St. with accompanying crossing guards.
1. Healthy Banner Program will be extended from Dumont Ave to Belmont Ave highlighting a walking trail that leads to a revitalized historic commercial corridor.



1. A safe and healthy corridor within the span of 4 Brownsville Public Housing Developments will be activated with seasonal placemaking activities.
1. There will be a formalized alliance working to bring capital support to Betsy Head Park.



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Cross Sector Partners and Collaborators



We CANNOT do our work without our partners!



These are most of the partners that we currently work with to support our work around Healthy Eating, Active Living, Placemaking/Physical Transformation and Economic Development.



NYC Parks



ASSETS

- Experience working in other communities
- Curriculums and programming
- Personnel capacity and trainers
- Evaluation Instruments
- Financial Resources
- Power Brokers-- The ability to officiate change
- Services
- Access to space and visibility

Who/What is Missing?

- Sustained Collaboration and Commitment (not a one time project) from city agencies and citywide organizations.
- Affordable Food Retailer
- Local Urban Gardeners





Greatest Challenges



- Organization Capacity-- leveraging our partners capacity to support our work
- Sustaining established Programming-- Collective Impact Approach to work as a Backbone organization
- Food Access-- Supporting our Bodegas and Deli's in the provision of healthy and affordable fresh fruits and vegetables. What programs and examples are successful in other neighborhoods?
- Ensuring that a crosswalk is laid throughout the Slow Zone area in Brownsville on Old Osborn St. Need a commitment from DOT to make this happen.
- Brownsville deserves citywide financial support and commitments around capital improvements for Betsy Head Park, a historic Brooklyn Park.
- Keeping the momentum up to keep residents engaged in the work and hopeful for change!

