Local Issues and Insights From Our 2023 Neighborhood Listening Tour

February 1, 2024

BROOKLYN ORG
Agenda

1. About Brooklyn Org
2. Our Annual Listening Tours
3. About This Report
4. Neighborhoods Visited
5. Neighborhood Issues & Insights
6. Top 5 Themes Across Neighborhoods
7. Comparison To 2022 Listening Tour
8. Top Nonprofit Capacity Building Issues
9. Next Steps
Brooklyn Org is a champion for Brooklyn. We celebrate Brooklyn’s brilliance & resilience, its incomparable culture & uncompromising grit—and we demand more for our communities.

Over our 15 year history, we have reimagined the role of philanthropy & provided immeasurable support to communities & nonprofit partners that are leading transformational change for Brooklyn.

With a new model for community philanthropy, we are bringing together Brooklynites, Brooklyn backers, businesses, & broader believers in equity & justice to make Brooklyn a beacon for the world.
Our Annual Listening Tours

• Our annual Listening Tours help us build relationships with neighborhood leaders & grassroots organizations & stay informed on challenges & opportunities for investment across our borough.

• Led by our President & CEO Dr. Jocelynne Rainey & facilitated by BKO partner Lori Luis, we meet with community leaders across Brooklyn: businesses owners, educators, parent advocates, faith leaders, nonprofits, & more.
PLEASE NOTE:

• The issues and insights described in this report reflect observations made by the participants who took part in our community listening tour sessions.

• We acknowledge and understand that these insights present a snapshot of the neighborhoods we visited, and are not exhaustive of the diverse experiences of Brooklynites across our communities.

• Our support and grantmaking for Brooklyn nonprofits is informed by our commitment to listening to and engaging with communities at every level of our work — and our annual listening tours are one of many ways we engage with community voices.

• Learn more: brooklyn.org
Neighborhoods

IN 2023, BROOKLYN ORG MET WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS ACROSS 10 CONVENINGS:

- Carroll Gardens / Gowanus
- Cypress Hills / City Line
- East Flatbush / Wingate
- Fort Greene / Clinton Hill
- Greenpoint / North Williamsburg
- Kensington / Ditmas Park / Windsor Terrace
- Midwood / Borough Park
- Prospect Lefferts Gardens / Crown Heights South
- Red Hook
- Weeksville / Crown Heights North
Carroll Gardens / Gowanus

WORD ASSOCIATION: When asked to describe their neighborhoods with one word, session participants said:

Brave
Collaborative
Connected
Creative
Discerning
Diversity
Dynamic
Emerging
Inter-Disciplinary
Multi-Faceted
Possibilities
Ready
Scrappy
Talented
Threatened
Under-Funded
Carroll Gardens / Gowanus

SNAPSHOT: Gowanus is a rising community, but community members feel that new development is not for the existing residents

REZONING & CONSTRUCTION
• Increase in open spaces, affordable housing, & renovation of community centers
• Rising cost of living, community becoming over-priced
• Residents need to be informed on planning for green spaces near the Gowanus Canal

LIMITED COMMUNITY BASED MEETING SPACES
• Need meeting spaces to accommodate larger groups
• Desire for more open & green spaces
• Artists are being displaced & need support & training

FOOD INSECURITY
• A desire to connect pantries & share resources
• Residents must travel outside the neighborhood for “good deals” & better food selections
• Smaller food pantries don’t qualify for funding
• Compounded by the removal of COVID relief & SNAP Benefits
Carroll Gardens / Gowanus

CONTINUED

OLDER ADULTS PROGRAMMING

• Older residents are actively engaged social
• Elder serving groups need support — many have lost funding
• Despite proximity to Barclay’s Center, elders can’t access programs/events there due to high prices

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

• Smaller stores are closing, & new high-end supermarkets increase the cost of food
• Existing businesses need resources (Small Business Services, ELC credit)

EDUCATION

• Public school funding has been cut/diverted to Charter Schools
• Many students are enrolled outside the neighborhood
• Bilingual programming is in French, but this doesn’t reflect the community — Spanish & Arabic is spoken in the area
Cypress Hills / City Line
Cypress Hills / City Line

WORD ASSOCIATION: When asked to describe their neighborhoods with one word, session participants said:

- Bilingual
- Expanding
- Tradition
- Developing
- Faith
- Transforming
- Dirty
- Growing
- Underserved
- Discordant
- Justice
- Under-Threat
- Divided
- Stability
- Uneven
- Evolution
- Suffering
- Vibrant

BROOKLYN.ORG
Cypress Hills / City Line

SNAPSHOT: A community with rampant development, an influx of migrants & a lack of youth activities

DEVELOPMENT
- Developers should leave room for outdoor green spaces
- A desire for more community infrastructure for wider public benefit (FDNY/NYPD, parking, shops, community centers)
- Homeowners affected by rising taxes & housing costs

HOUSING ISSUES
- The takeover of public housing by private developers is resulting in the loss of regulations under public housing law Section 9 in the Affordable Housing Act.
- Public housing being replaced with a mix of expensive market-rate units — “unaffordable” for most working people
- The Community Land Act could let the community take more ownership

YOUTH
- Lack of indoor & outdoor spaces dedicated for children
- Schools overcrowded, no after-school programs/sports
- Young people don’t travel outside neighborhood due to safety concerns
- Need conversations in schools about anger & aggression to address crime & gun violence
- Increased amount of smoke shops, some close to public schools
Cypress Hills / City Line

Continued

Older Adults

- Impacted by loss of Section 8 vouchers, viable transport, & rising food costs
- Desire for housing support from advisors for affordable housing & rent issues
- Need inter-generational programs to bridge the gap between elders & youth

Additional Resources & Programs Needed

- Workforce development, jobs, literacy programs
- Housing, transportation
- Food pantries, diaper banks, maternal health
- Support for Green Cards, working papers, ESL
- Hotels are housing migrant families — nonprofits are stepping up (without funding) to connect people to resources

Challenges for Nonprofits

- Filling need gaps by providing resources & direct services
- Difficult to secure government funding

Prostitution

- Sex work is a growing concern
East Flatbush / Wingate

WORD ASSOCIATION: When asked to describe their neighborhoods with one word, session participants said:

Amazing  Committed  Elevated
Care     Desperately-needed  Frightened
Challenging Diverse  Influx
Changing  Resourceful
# East Flatbush / Wingate

## Snapshot
A diverse community plagued by development & a lack of services for those in need

### Development
- Rapid development without zoning changes — homeowners frightened by damage to homes
- Sanitation/safety issues — flooding, rats
- Residents noted that asylum seekers, the unhoused must resort to living in abandoned buildings
- “Partitioning” practice — investors approach people to buy a percentage of their buildings

### Youth
- Programs needed for arts, culture, tech, & training for emerging job opportunities
- Desire for expanded access to trade schools to connect with youth (ages 12 & up)
- Anti-gun violence programs offer positive engagement

### Education
- Local schools lack resources
- Few high schools in the area, can’t accommodate an increased population
- Desire for Community Board & City Council to assess under-performing, low-rating schools
East Flatbush / Wingate

CONTINUED

COMMERCIAL SPACES
- Spaces left vacant
- New businesses don’t meet the needs/wants of residents
- Residents noted that several smoke shops are close to schools, causing concern
- Desire to revitalize closed business corridors

INFRASTRUCTURE
- Impacted by an increasing population
- Changes in public transportation have impacted pedestrians — MTA bus re-routing, additional bike lanes, ADA-accessible options
- Bike racks & zip cars have replaced some parking spaces
- Lacking access to healthcare and hospitals

CHALLENGES FOR NONPROFITS
- Not enough incoming funding to meet community needs
- Diverse funding streams needed (beyond government funding)

FOOD INSECURITY
- On the rise
- Asylum seekers in the area are facing food insecurity

BROOKLYN.ORG
**Fort Greene / Clinton Hill**

**WORD ASSOCIATION:** When asked to describe their neighborhoods with one word, session participants said:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anxious</th>
<th>Diverse</th>
<th>Hungry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authentic</td>
<td>Dynamic</td>
<td>Rezoned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compassion</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Stratified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connections</td>
<td>Gentrified</td>
<td>Unity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative</td>
<td>Hopeful</td>
<td>Welcoming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SNAPSHOT: A residential area lacking space for programming, meetings, & events — communication & information sharing is needed to promote programs for youth, older adults, arts & culture, & food services

REZONING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Residents noted that new construction, rezoning & new housing limit open spaces
- As a landmarked Historic District, there are many NYC Agency restrictions
- Economic differences split the community along Ft. Greene Park

LACK OF AFFORDABLE MEETING SPACES

- Nonprofits, mom-and-pop shops, & local artists displaced by lack of affordable space
- Few available commercial spaces outside of BK Navy Yard
- Cultural & artistic programs wanted to bridge generation gaps & divides between new & existing residents

YOUTH

- The Boys & Girls Club (an outlet for local youth) is closing
- Residents noted an apparent decline in public school enrollment
- Few or no after-school programs available
- Partnerships with schools needed to incorporate arts programming into curriculum
Fort Greene / Clinton Hill

CONTINUED

COMMUNICATION

• Desire for improved communication among the community to amplify locally available resources

• Residents discussed reviving a past neighborhood-run “Monthly Newsletter” to keep people “in the know”

FOOD INSECURITY

• Food share programs & memberships have worked well to connect residents to locally-grown food

• Seeking creative ways to bring in more food share members who are low-income, NYCHA residents, youth

• Food pantries are feeling the impacts of rising food costs
ISSUES & INSIGHTS

Greenpoint / North Williamsburg
Greenpoint / North Williamsburg

WORD ASSOCIATION: When asked to describe their neighborhoods with one word, session participants said:

Active  Exciting  Resilient
Activism  Expanding  Resourceful
Dynamic  Hard Working  Rooted
Engaged  Overwhelmed  Transition
       Wounded  

BROOKLYN.ORG
Greenpoint / North Williamsburg

**SNAPSHOT:** A rapidly changing neighborhood demonstrates that gentrification does not stop food insecurity

**FOOD INSECURITY**

- Post-pandemic food lines are increasing, compounded by the influx of asylum seekers
- Greatest increase seen among elders, veterans, & young mothers (baby essentials)
- Pandemic benefits have ended & people struggle to get food from quality sources

**GENTRIFICATION AND HOUSING**

- Displacement — rising prices, new construction, & rezoning force many residents out
- Landlord harassment — older adults & low-income residents are denied services to get them to move out so that higher rents can be charged

**IMMIGRATION**

- Advocacy for immigrant workers is needed (domestic workers & day laborers)
- Many immigrants wait up to 3 years before they receive their working papers
Greenpoint / North Williamsburg

CONTINUED

ENVIRONMENT
• The most toxic issues of neighborhoods we visited
• Pollution and sanitation issues linked to history of land misuse, industrial activity, & the BQE
• Residents note that pollution & debris are everywhere

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
• A desire for community groups to partner to provide training
• Training focus on soft skills, job retention, & workforce norms

CHALLENGES FOR NONPROFITS
• Marketing support needed
• Many don’t have capacity to manage social media & technical side of the business
Kensington / Ditmas Park / Windsor Terrace

WORD ASSOCIATION: When asked to describe their neighborhoods with one word, session participants said:

Artful  Diverse  Housing
Bustling  Dynamic  Language-Barriers
Caring  Engaged  Threatened
Changing  Ever-Growing  Tight-Knit
Creative  Fun  Unity
Vibrant

BROOKLYN.ORG
**Kensington / Ditmas Park / Windsor Terrace**

**SNAPSHOT:** A small, close-knit community facing proposed rezoning that threatens to fragment the neighborhood & diminish its collective voice with neighboring communities

### FUNDRAISING & CAPACITY BUILDING
- City funding — delayed payments disrupt programs
- Existing wealth in the area — desire to engage neighbors to give back
- Collaboration needed to fundraise to support existing programs (like free public concerts)

### PROGRAMMING
- Programs are needed for all ages — space is available
- Programs that arose in the pandemic showed that many artists live in the community
- A desire for more cultural, arts, & music programs in various languages for kids & families
- A desire for more dedicated space & programs for youth after school & on weekends

### DIVERSITY
- Greater need for programs in languages other than English as demographics change
- Civic engagement programs could help engage residents who don’t speak English
- Children struggle with bullying, facing negative stereotypes (labeled as terrorists/Taliban)
Kensington / Ditmas Park / Windsor Terrace

CONTINUED

OLDER ADULTS

- Elders face housing issues & not being able to “age in place”
- Private sector developers target available homes by forcing older adults out
- A desire to allocate a % of housing units specifically for older adults to preserve the community’s legacy

ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMMING

- Training to interrupt violence & micro-aggressions is desired
- Comprehensive programs to combine violence interruption & de-escalation are wanted

SANITATION ISSUES

- Growing rat problem, especially in one community garden near a local subway station
- Need for City to innovate on approach to sanitation issues, waste, & recycling

FOOD INSECURITY

- Many local nonprofits operate food pantries, but the food supply is dwindling
- “Buy Nothing” Facebook groups have been a good way to exchange & recycle products
### Midwood / Borough Park

**WORD ASSOCIATION:** When asked to describe their neighborhoods with one word, session participants said:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complex</th>
<th>Family-Oriented</th>
<th>Inclusive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connected</td>
<td>Grit</td>
<td>Resilient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diverse</td>
<td>Growing</td>
<td>Robust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exciting</td>
<td>Idyllic</td>
<td>Vibrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Midwood / Borough Park

**SNAPSHOT:** Borough Park has historically been insular & is experiencing positive change & becoming more diverse - home to a rich tapestry of cultures

**FOOD INSECURITY**
- The Boro Park JCC & Masbia operate the largest food pantry in New York
- They provide hot meals to 70% of the community every night – not just the Jewish population

**EDUCATION**
- Jewish schools are privately funded & save the City approx. $34K per student
- Public schools & colleges have faced budget cuts & receive insufficient funding
- Advocacy needed for equitable funding to ensure every student has access to quality education

**WOMEN’S HEALTH & MORTALITY RATES**
- Advocacy needed for women’s issues, especially the New York State bill on perinatal care
- Resources needed for fertility treatments & perinatal loss
Older Adults

- Resources needed to improve quality of life
- Desire for older adults to be able to “age in place” at home with dignity
- Need more communal spaces for programs that offer diverse cultural experiences, & foster a sense of value & belonging

Youth

- “Hidden” group between the ages of 14 & 25
- High School dropout rate is high in the Jewish community – apparent impact of drugs, mental health & body image issues
- Many youth are unhoused
- Programs needed for teens who are unhoused, in addiction recovery (job readiness, counseling services)

Media Perception

- The Boro Park JCC has made significant contributions & invested substantial resources in the community
- Residents expressed that positive work often goes unnoticed, overshadowed by negative portrayals of the Jewish community
Prospect Lefferts Gardens / Crown Heights South
Prospect Lefferts Gardens / Crown Heights South

WORD ASSOCIATION: When asked to describe their neighborhoods with one word, session participants said:

Aging  Green  Resilient
Arts  Grit  Supportive
Aspiring  Hungry  Transitioning
Diverse  Immigrants  Vibrant
Family-oriented  Melting-Pot
## Prospect Lefferts Gardens / Crown Heights South

**SNAPSHOT:** A diverse & transitioning neighborhood with changing needs for housing, jobs, food, & social services for all ages

### FOOD INSECURITY
- Food pantries serve & offer social services to thousands of people of all ages
- Few supermarkets provide fresh produce, some pantries offer unhealthy options
- Residents feel there is a gap between what the government provides & what is really needed

### JOBS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- Many students are unhoused & rely on schools for resources
- Some students are abandoned by their families, living alone & experiencing trauma
- Some teen students work full-time jobs, some need paid internships to buy basic necessities (food & clothing)

### CHALLENGES FOR NONPROFITS
- Capacity building support needed for young entrepreneurs building small businesses
- Many nonprofits lack staff & volunteers, & limited space for free events makes it difficult to support the community
- Funding needed to train older adults how to use their devices & other technology
OLD AGE & DISABLED PEOPLE
- Training desired for tech devices to access services, recertifications for housing & other support
- Older adults feel isolated & need transportation for medical appointments, banking transactions, etc.

YOUTH
- Schools provide youth with social services, legal help, & clothing
- Schools need partnerships with other groups to address students experiencing trauma & abuse
- Desire to introduce young people to food pantries as a source of relief, without the stigma of poverty
- Lack of programming for young men — unclear who is working with this demographic locally

HOUSING
- More housing is needed for growing families to help them stay in the community
- With escalating housing prices, many young people are leaving the neighborhood

ARTS & CULTURE
- Desire to tap into space in unused storefronts
- Desire for schools to focus on the arts & support local artists
- Small arts groups need support
ISSUES & INSIGHTS

Red Hook
**Red Hook**

**WORD ASSOCIATION:** When asked to describe their neighborhood with one word, session participants said:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Model</th>
<th>Historic</th>
<th>Resilient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenging</td>
<td>Inaccessible</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative</td>
<td>Potential</td>
<td>Thriving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family-oriented</td>
<td>Remote</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Red Hook

SNAPSHOT: A remote area, inaccessible to many people who live in Red Hook – needing better communication

CONSTRUCTION AND NOISE

- Residents noted that ongoing construction destroys trees, increases pollution, attracts rats, & decreases available outdoor space
- Better communication is needed to let residents know what to expect
- A desire for the construction industry to make jobs available to local residents

LACK OF MEETING SPACES

- Need for free spaces for events, programs, capacity building, & business training
- Desire for partnerships with other groups & outside stakeholders to provide programs across groups & interests
- Free spaces include the MICIO Community Center, Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Community (BWAC), 404
- Many spaces difficult to access due to limited transportation

CHALLENGES FOR NONPROFITS

- Capacity building is needed
- Nonprofits have been carrying the weight for families with mutual aid & resources
- Many local nonprofits are run as a “one-person show”
- Nonprofits need help but it is challenging to get people to volunteer their time
Red Hook

CONTINUED

ENTREPRENEURS

• Support needed for young entrepreneurs (aged 16-24)
• Need access to funding & training to grow businesses
• Typical business classes don’t reflect the types of businesses opening here (the arts)

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

• Locals typically don’t travel outside of the neighborhood to participate in programs
• A desire to consider starting up the “Red Hook Shuttle” again
• Residents noted that the presence of classism is felt – it’s difficult to engage residents in programming when they are made to feel inferior

LACK OF COMMUNICATION & LOCAL MEDIA

• A desire for local news to write about positive happenings in the neighborhood and the work of nonprofits in the area
Weeksville / Crown Heights North

**WORD ASSOCIATION:** When asked to describe their neighborhoods with one word, session participants said:

- Caring
- Changing
- Collaborative
- Concerned
- Diverse
- Engaged
- Generous
- Gentrified
- Hopeful
- Legacy
- Potential
- Resilient
- Strong
- Warm

BROOKLYN ORG
Older adults in this community are respected & they need to feel valued as they age in Brooklyn

The Community Board 8 Senior Committee is very active throughout the neighborhood

Older adults want technology training for laptops, tablets, & smartphones

Black & women-owned businesses are thriving on the main avenues

Increasing number of requests for liquor & cannabis licenses

Many area small businesses in the without storefronts need support & access to space

An apparent increase in illegal smoke shops, & residents are urged to call & report them

Desire for new development to account for green, open spaces & community gardens

A concern that new structures block views & sunlight
Weeksville / Crown Heights North

CONTINUED

DIVISION BETWEEN CROWN HEIGHTS NORTH & SOUTH

• Crown Heights North residents feel ignored in the participatory budgeting process because their numbers are low
• Participatory budgeting requests (for Smart Boards, better equipment in schools, & a signage board in Brower Park) were rejected

SUCCESSION PLANNING

• Long-standing CBOs need help with strategic planning
• Residents expressed that some people hold onto power, but feel there is a need to explore new ideas & opportunities to engage new residents
• Partnering with younger organizations could help older CBOs innovate

EDUCATION

• Local schools lack resources that are available to schools in neighboring areas (such as Bedford-Stuyvesant)
• The Brower Park school has challenges with funding & lack of technology
# Top 5 Themes Across Neighborhoods

Issues & insights that were identified in multiple community listening sessions, & where they overlapped:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUES → NEIGHBORHOODS ↓</th>
<th>CAPACITY BUILDING &amp; AVAILABLE SPACE</th>
<th>OLDER ADULTS &amp; AGING</th>
<th>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</th>
<th>FOOD INSECURITY</th>
<th>YOUTH PROGRAMMING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carroll Gardens / Gowanus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypress Hills / City Line</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Flatbush / Wingate</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Greene / Clinton Hill</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenpoint / North Williamsburg</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kensington / Ditmas Park / Windsor Terrace</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwood / Borough Park</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospect Lefferts Gardens / Crown Heights South</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Hook</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeksville / Crown Heights North</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Nonprofits need assistance with strategic planning, budgeting, communications, marketing, social media, public relations, funding and technology

• Require affordable spaces to hold meetings, events and programs

• Artists are being displaced and need spaces to work (Ft. Greene, Red Hook)

• Nonprofits need volunteers (Red Hook, Borough Park, Cypress Hills)
Older adults are in need of socialization programs and many senior centers have closed.

Require technology training to access the resources and information for support services – especially for housing and medical recertifications (Prospect Lefferts, Weeksville / Crown Heights North).

Older adults require transportation for medical and banking transactions - many don’t have Access-A-Ride (Cypress, Prospect Lefferts).

Elders are being forced out of their homes by developers (Greenpoint, Kensington, Cypress).
• Development and rezoning bring rising costs for food, housing, supplies and property taxes (Carroll Gardens, Ft. Greene, Cypress Hills)

• Reduction in open green spaces and new structures blocking sunlight and views

• Construction brings noise, increased pollution, rodent infestations, and security concerns

• Developers should bring training and jobs to the community

• “Partitioning,” where investors approach people to buy a percentage of their buildings (E. Flatbush)

• New development is not addressing infrastructure needs for more FDNY, NYPD, supermarkets, schools, parking and community centers (Cypress)
Food Insecurity

- Connect pantries and share resources due to the increase in food lines with the influx of asylum-seekers
- Funding is needed, especially with the elimination of Covid relief and SNAP benefits
- Greatest need is seen for older adults, veterans, and baby essentials (Greenpoint)
- Few supermarkets provide fresh produce, and some pantries offer unhealthy eating options
Youth Programming

• Boys and Girls Club closing and no after-school programs (Ft. Greene)
• Partnerships with schools and other organizations to bring arts and cultural programming
• Youth entrepreneurs need funding and training (Red Hook)
• High school dropout rate is high resulting from drug use and mental health issues (Borough Park)
• Need programs to address homeless youth (Borough Park, Prospect Lefferts)
• Training and trade schools for job opportunities (E. Flatbush, Red Hook, Borough Park)
## Comparison To 2022 Listening Tour

### TOP THEMES IN 2022 VS. 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
<td>Capacity Building &amp; Available Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Programming</td>
<td>Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Insecurity</td>
<td>Food Insecurity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Programming</td>
<td>Youth Programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space</td>
<td>Older Adults &amp; Aging</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Families

TOP ISSUES ACROSS COMMUNITIES
BY POPULATION

• Food insecurity
• Affordable housing – young people can’t stay in the neighborhoods they grew up in
• Mom-and-pop shops cannot afford to stay open
• Concern about homes affected by surrounding development
• Need for jobs – families need more money to have basic necessities
TOP ISSUES ACROSS COMMUNITIES
BY POPULATION

- Not enough programming or mentorship programs
- Homelessness and lack of access to resources
- High School dropout rate and struggles with drugs and addiction
- Need for jobs and training
TOP ISSUES ACROSS COMMUNITIES
BY POPULATION

- In need of everything – housing, jobs, food, clothing, working papers, baby essentials, etc.
- Essential hygiene and laundry needs: availability of showers and laundry services
- Increase in immigrant youth leading to overcrowding in schools
- Waiting 3 years for working papers
Older Adults

TOP ISSUES ACROSS COMMUNITIES
BY POPULATION

• Lack of green spaces and community centers for socialization
• Transportation and accessibility in some areas
• Being forced out of their homes by developers
• Need city agencies to bring resources and information to the seniors
• Technical training for smartphones and tablets to easily access some of the online recertifications for housing and support
Top Nonprofit Capacity Building Issues

LACK OF SPACE
- A lack of affordable spaces available
- Spaces needed for meetings, programs & events

MARKETING SUPPORT
- Support needed for social media, PR, marketing, & general communications
- Strategic planning support needed

FUNDRAISING
- Difficult to secure government funding – when payments are delayed, programs are disrupted
- Available funding doesn’t match the growing number of people served
- Funding is sometimes restricted, a can’t meet needs

STAFFING SHORTAGE
- Need for volunteers
- Many nonprofits have limited staff & operate as “one person shows”
Next Steps

NEW FUNDING PROCESS: ROLLING APPLICATION

• Brooklyn Org’s new funding process launched earlier this month

• **No deadlines to apply**, funding will consider issues raised through our Listening Tours

• Brooklyn.org/Apply

NEIGHBORHOOD COLLECTIVE IMPACT PROJECT

• A new $25K funding opportunity for Listening Tour participants

BKO POLICY AGENDA

• Following the completion of our first 3-year Listening Tour cycle, Brooklyn Org will identify key issues & policies to guide our work

2024 LISTENING TOUR LOCATIONS

1. Bensonhurst / Mapleton
2. Downtown Brooklyn
3. Flatlands
4. Industrial Zones - Navy Yard, EBBID, Industry City
5. Dyker Heights / Ft. Hamilton
6. Mill Basin / Marine Park / Bergen Beach
7. New Lots
8. Park Slope
9. Sheepshead Bay / Gerritsen Beach
10. South Williamsburg / Broadway Triangle