

# 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
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5. Neighborhood Issues & Insights
6. Top 5 Themes Across Neighborhoods
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9. Next Steps

**BROOKLYN ORG**



# About Brooklyn Org

## WHO WE ARE

- 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.

**BROOKLYN ORG**



# Our Annual Listening Tours



**Dr. Jocelynn Rainey**

President & CEO  
Brooklyn Org



**Lori Luis**

CEO & President  
LoriLu Consulting

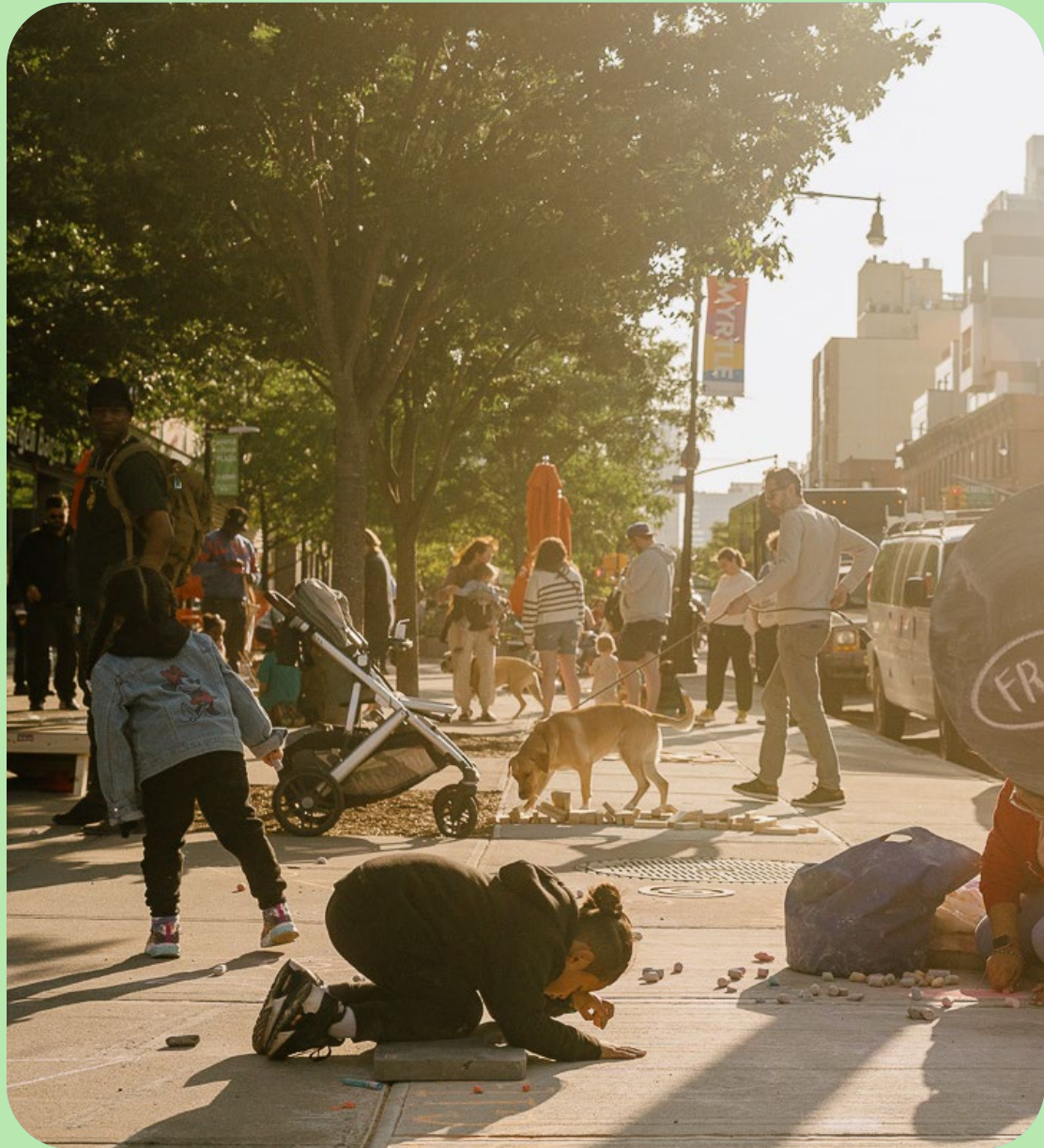
- Our annual Listening Tours help us build relationships with neighborhood leaders & grassroots organizations & stay informed on challenges & opportunities for investment across our borough.
- Led by our President & CEO Dr. Jocelynn Rainey & facilitated by BKO partner Lori Luis, we meet with community leaders across Brooklyn: businesses owners, educators, parent advocates, faith leaders, nonprofits, & more.



# About This Report

## 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](https://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

**BROOKLYN ORG**





**ISSUES & INSIGHTS**

# **Carroll Gardens / Gowanus**





# 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



ISSUES & INSIGHTS

# Cypress Hills / City Line









# Cypress Hills / City Line

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

**Bilingual**

**Developing**

**Dirty**

**Discordant**

**Divided**

**Evolution**

**Expanding**

**Faith**

**Growing**

**Justice**

**Stability**

**Suffering**

**Tradition**

**Transforming**

**Underserved**

**Under-Threat**

**Uneven**

**Vibrant**

# 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



ISSUES & INSIGHTS

# East Flatbush / Wingate









# East Flatbush / Wingate

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

**Amazing**

**Care**

**Challenging**

**Changing**

**Committed**

**Desperately-  
needed**

**Diverse**

**Elevated**

**Frightened**

**Influx**

**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



A photograph of the Fort Greene monument, a tall, white, cylindrical tower with a green cupola on top. The monument is partially obscured by the bare, brown branches of trees in the foreground. The background is a clear blue sky. The scene is set on a grassy hillside with some evergreen trees in the lower right.

ISSUES & INSIGHTS

# Fort Greene / Clinton Hill





# Fort Greene / Clinton Hill

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

**Anxious**

**Authentic**

**Compassion**

**Connections**

**Creative**

**Diverse**

**Dynamic**

**Family**

**Gentrified**

**Hopeful**

**Hungry**

**Rezoned**

**Stratified**

**Unity**

**Welcoming**



# Fort Greene / Clinton Hill

**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**

**CUP** Coffee Espresso Tea







# Greenpoint / North Williamsburg

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

**Active**

**Activism**

**Dynamic**

**Engaged**

**Exciting**

**Expanding**

**Hard Working**

**Overwhelmed**

**Resilient**

**Resourceful**

**Rooted**

**Transition**

**Wounded**

# 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





ISSUES & INSIGHTS

# Kensington / Ditmas Park / Windsor Terrace







# Kensington / Ditmas Park / Windsor Terrace

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

**Artful**

**Bustling**

**Caring**

**Changing**

**Creative**

**Diverse**

**Dynamic**

**Engaged**

**Ever-Growing**

**Fun**

**Housing**

**Language-Barriers**

**Threatened**

**Tight-Knit**

**Unity**

**Vibrant**



# 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



**ISSUES & INSIGHTS**

# **Midwood / Borough Park**









# Midwood / Borough Park

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

**Complex**

**Connected**

**Diverse**

**Exciting**

**Family-Oriented**

**Grit**

**Growing**

**Idyllic**

**Inclusive**

**Resilient**

**Robust**

**Vibrant**

**Women**

# 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



# Midwood / Borough Park

## CONTINUED

### 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)

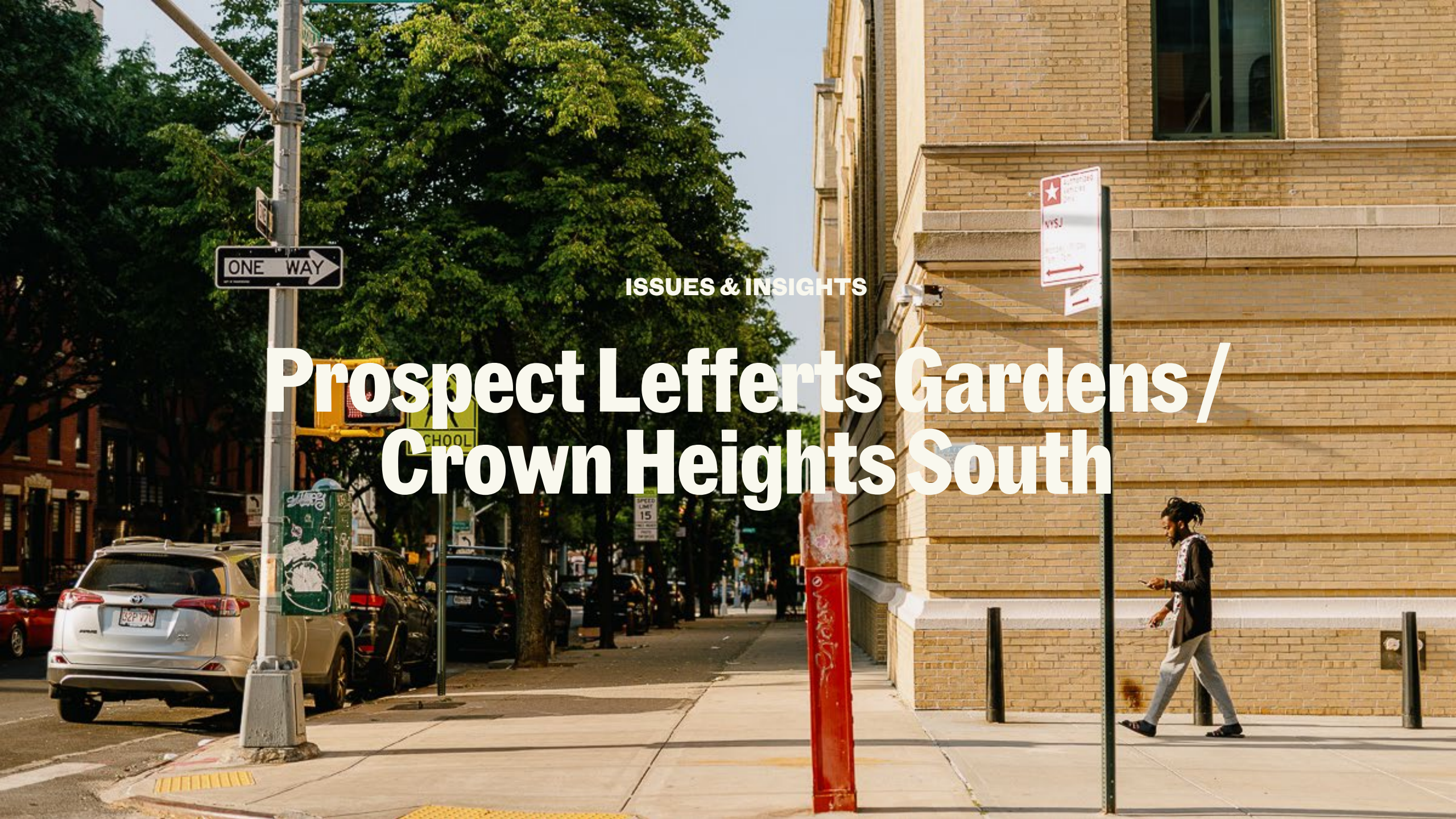
### MEDIA PERCEPTION

- 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



ISSUES & INSIGHTS

# 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**

**Arts**

**Aspiring**

**Diverse**

**Family-oriented**

**Green**

**Grit**

**Hungry**

**Immigrants**

**Melting-Pot**

**Resilient**

**Supportive**

**Transitioning**

**Vibrant**



# 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

# Prospect Lefferts Gardens / Crown Heights South

## CONTINUED

### OLDER ADULTS & 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:

**A Model**

**Challenging**

**Creative**

**Family-oriented**

**Historic**

**Inaccessible**

**Potential**

**Remote**

**Resilient**

**Small**

**Thriving**

**Vulnerable**

# 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

**ISSUES & INSIGHTS**

# **Weeksville / Crown Heights North**









# 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**



# Weeksville / Crown Heights North

**SNAPSHOT:** A small community often overlooked by elected officials because they don't have the numbers to make a difference

## **OLDER ADULTS**

- 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

## **SMALL BUSINESS OWNERSHIP**

- 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

## **DEVELOPMENT**

- 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

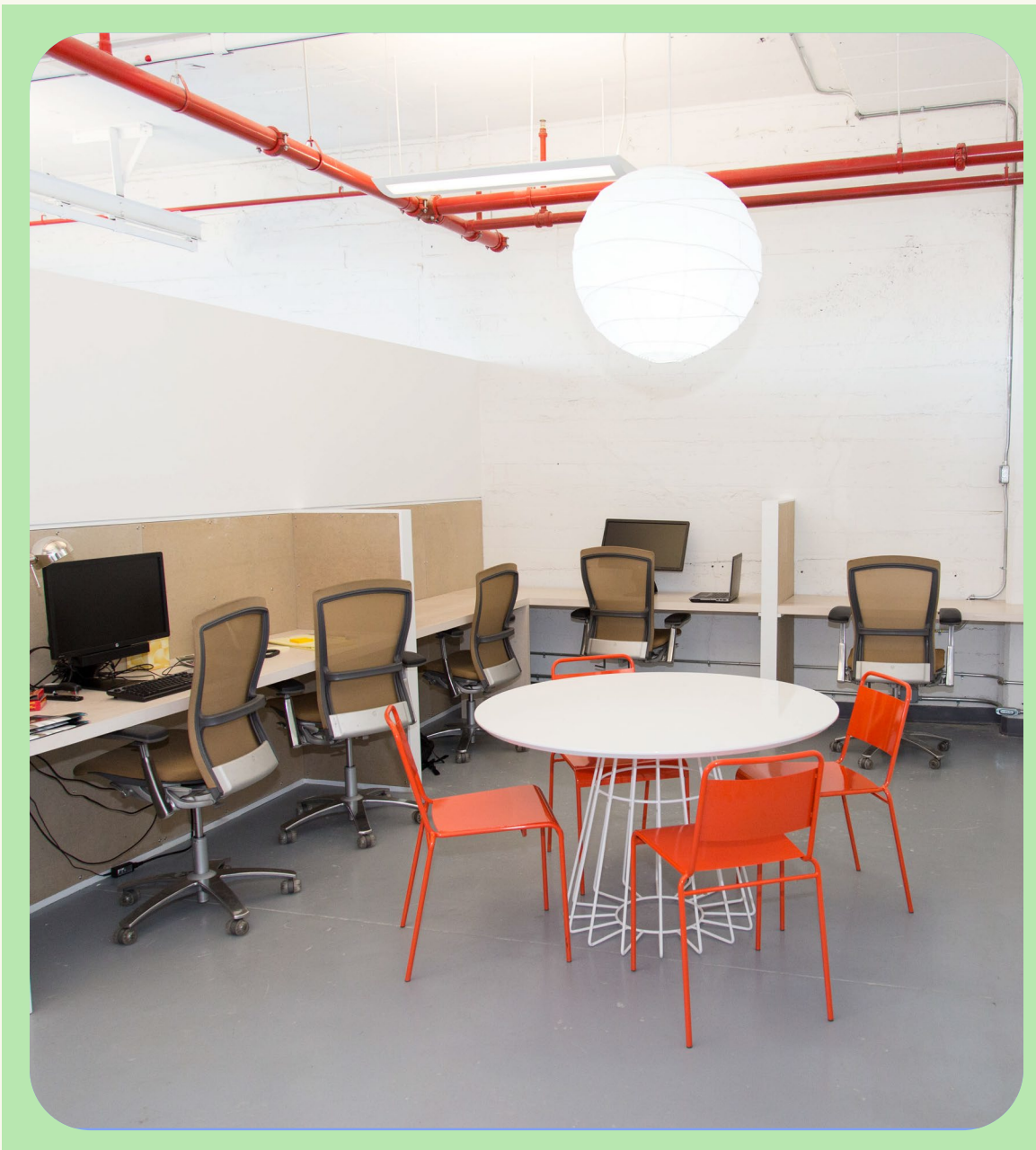
- Local schools lack resources that are available to schools in neighboring areas (such as Bedford-Stuyvesant)
- The Brower Park school has challenges with funding & lack of technology



# Top 5 Themes Across Neighborhoods

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

ISSUES → NEIGHBORHOODS ↓	CAPACITY BUILDING & AVAILABLE SPACE	OLDER ADULTS & AGING	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	FOOD INSECURITY	YOUTH PROGRAMMING
Carroll Gardens / Gowanus		X	X	X	
Cypress Hills / City Line		X	X	X	X
East Flatbush / Wingate	X	X	X	X	X
Fort Greene / Clinton Hill	X	X	X	X	X
Greenpoint / North Williamsburg	X	X	X	X	
Kensington / Ditmas Park / Windsor Terrace	X	X	X	X	X
Midwood / Borough Park	X			X	X
Prospect Lefferts Gardens / Crown Heights South	X			X	X
Red Hook	X	X	X		X
Weeksville / Crown Heights North	X	X	X		



# Capacity Building & Available Space

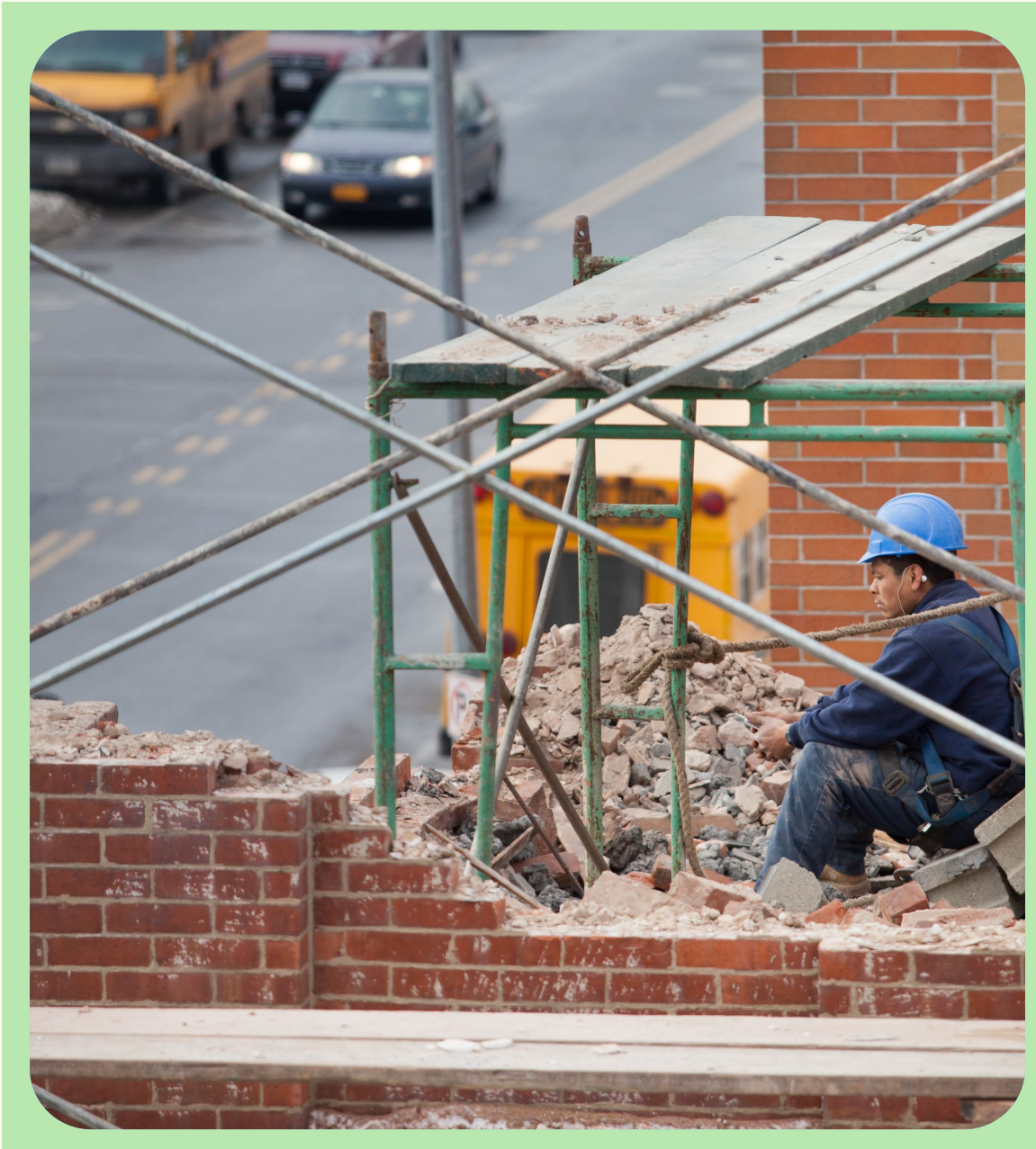
- Nonprofits need assistance with strategic planning, budgeting, communications, marketing, social media, public relations, funding and technology
- Require affordable spaces to hold meetings, events and programs
- Artists are being displaced and need spaces to work (Ft. Greene, Red Hook)
- Nonprofits need volunteers (Red Hook, Borough Park, Cypress Hills)





# Older Adults & Aging

- 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)



# Community Development

- 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

**2022**

**2023**

Capacity Building

Capacity Building &  
Available Space

Community **Programming**

Community **Development**

Food Insecurity

Food Insecurity

Youth Programming

Youth Programming

Space

**Older Adults & Aging**

**INSIGHTS**

# **Top Issues By Population**







# 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



# Youth

## 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



# Immigrants

## 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





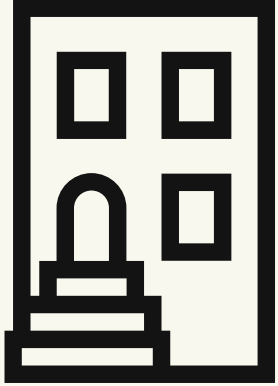
# Older Adults

## 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

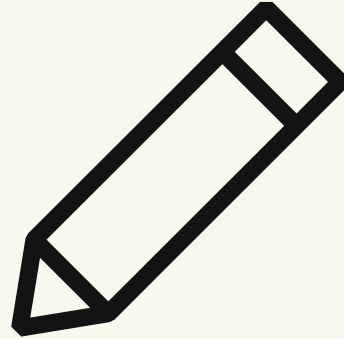


# Top Nonprofit Capacity Building Issues



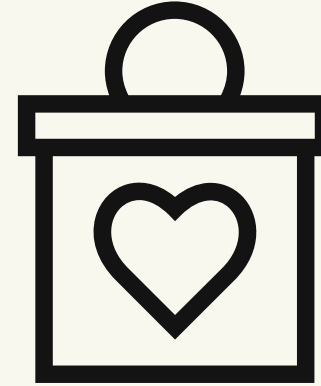
## LACK OF SPACE

- 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](https://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



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