



The City of New York  
**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1**

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*Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose*



**VANESSA L. GIBSON**  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**ANTHONY R. JORDAN**  
DISTRICT MANAGER

**CLARISA M. ALAYETO**  
CHAIRPERSON

### **Young Adults Committee Minutes**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Stephanie Calzado, Chairperson**

**Young adults in the Bronx are eager to be involved in community decision-making processes and drive change. Speakers emphasized the need for comprehensive support and resources, including job training, criminal justice programs, education, and mental health resources, to help young people reach their full potential. They also stressed the importance of involving youth in local elections and educating them about the voting process. Speakers highlighted the need for fun and interactive events to engage young people and challenged elected officials on their work.**

#### **Outline**

##### **Improving youth involvement in civic engagement.**

- Stephanie Calzado shares personal experiences of violence and drug use in her Bronx neighborhood, leading to her joining the community board to make a change.
- Stephanie Calzado describes changes in their neighborhood, including increased crime and a lack of community engagement, and expresses frustration at feeling unsafe and unheard.
- Stephanie Calzado's sister had her phone stolen while paying with Apple Pay at a local store, leading to chase after the thief and retrieve the phone.
- Stephanie Calzado wants to engage with schools and young people to encourage voting and community involvement.
- Clarisa Alayeto suggests targeting the 18-26 age group for voter registration and outreach.

##### **Safety, violence, and voting in a NYC neighborhood.**

- Zion Baldwin describes feeling unsafe in their neighborhood due to violence and lack of resources, emphasizing the importance of community engagement and support.
- Participants discuss the importance of voting and making change through non-violent means.

### **Youth issues and potential solutions.**

- Michael Pimentel shares his experience mentoring local youth through baseball, hoping to provide positive outlets for self-expression and personal growth.
- Committee members discuss potential programs to address youth-related issues in their community.

### **Civic engagement and youth empowerment.**

- Argelia Ortiz shares personal story of overcoming obstacles to become successful, emphasizing the importance of civic engagement and youth involvement.

### **Engaging young adults.**

- Clarisa Alayeto, a NYCHA resident and community board chair, advocates for engaging young adults in decision-making processes to address local issues.
- Committee aims to engage with charter schools and target families for voter registration.

### **Community Board Young Adult Outreach**

- Committee members are eager to support each other and work together to achieve their goals.
- Committee members discuss ways to engage young adults in social justice issues in the Bronx.

### **Community leadership and youth involvement.**

- Clarisa Alayeto emphasizes the importance of growth and passing the baton to new leaders, rather than staying in one seat for a long time.
- Zion Baldwin agrees with this perspective and encourages everyone to think about how they can grow and pass on their knowledge to others.
- Clarisa Alayeto emphasizes the importance of involving young people in the political process and providing them with opportunities to learn and grow.
- Zion Baldwin expresses concern about the lack of engagement from young people in between presidential elections and suggests workshops or programs to address this issue.

### **Civil Engagement and community involvement.**

- Committee expanded to hold elected officials accountable for their legislative actions.
  - Argelia Ortiz emphasizes the importance of elected officials engaging with the community and listening to their concerns, rather than simply filming or holding town halls without meaningful dialogue.
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- Zion Baldwin agrees that elected officials should have one-on-one conversations with the public to better understand their needs and concerns, rather than relying solely on filming or town halls.
- Argelia Ortiz discusses the potential expansion of a juvenile detention center in the community, with concerns about its impact on young people and the need for alternative engagement opportunities.
- Clarisa Alayeto raises the issue of the long-term effects of young people, and the importance of considering their well-being in community decisions.

#### **Challenges faced by young adults transitioning to adulthood.**

- Member discusses challenges faced by young adults transitioning into adulthood, including mental health resources and affordable housing in New York City.
- Young people struggle to navigate life after high school without support.

#### **Career development and incentives for at-risk youth.**

- Stephanie Calzado discusses the challenges faced by young people, including dropping out of high school and lack of incentives for education.
- Member highlights the importance of providing young people with real-world experiences and incentives to stay in school and pursue legitimate careers.

#### **Outreach strategies for disengaged youth.**

- Michael Pimentel suggests focusing on messaging to reach distracted youth, leveraging social media and engaging parents.
- Committee members discuss strategies to engage 18-26 year olds in community development initiatives.

#### **Youth employment and technology in a community organization.**

- Argelia Ortiz highlights the importance of involving young people in technology, citing their familiarity with social media platforms and computer science skills.
- Argelia Ortiz suggests creating internship programs for young people to gain experience in the tech industry and learn how to work with multibillion-dollar companies.
- Argelia Ortiz shares their experience of being in class while also working and making money, highlighting the importance of providing opportunities for young people to gain work experience.
- Clarisa Alayeto discusses the need for data on the ages of participants in youth employment programs, with a focus on high schools, middle schools, and community organizations.

#### **Schools in a district with 24 charter schools.**

- Committee members discuss schools in district 7, including public and charter schools, with Superintendent being supportive and involved.

#### **Community outreach and violence intervention programs.**

- Committee members discuss sharing information on domestic violence with the mayor's office.
- Anthony Jordan suggests collaborating with violence intervention programs to reach young people.

#### **Action Items**

Gather data on number of schools (middle schools, high schools, charter schools) in the district to target for outreach.

Identify community organizations serving the target age group (18-26 years old) to bring to the table.

Hold a brainstorming session on how to best reach and engage the target age group.

For next meeting in March, decide which organizations/partners to invite.

Look into launching a project/event in the summer when weather is nice.

Share school contact info from district with committee members.

Ensure professional use of any shared contact info.

Invite Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence to present.

Invite gun violence intervention programs to present.

Connect with Education & Youth Committee chair Hakiem Yahmadi.

Identify community events to participate in with outreach.