

RED HOOK COASTAL RESILIENCY

Kick-Off Meeting, January 29, 2020

Introduction

The Red Hook Coastal Resiliency Project (RHCR) is an integrated coastal protection system that will reduce the risk of coastal flooding, maintain access to the waterfront, and improve the public realm. Through the FEMA-funded Integrated Flood Protection System (IFPS) study, the feasibility of various flood protection concepts for Red Hook have already been studied. Building on that feasibility study, the current project, RHCR, is aimed at reducing flood risks due to coastal storm surge and sea level rise along Red Hook's waterfront, while also integrating with the community fabric, and improving long-term resiliency.



PROJECT TEAM

The project is led by the New York City Mayor's Office of Resiliency (MOR) and the Department of Design and Construction (DDC). The project team also includes the Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) and New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCDEC). The City has hired a consultation team led by NV5 to conduct the design and environmental review. This team includes experts in coastal and waterfront engineering, urban design, landscape architecture, stormwater management and community engagement.



6.00 pm - 8.00pm
Wednesday
January 29, 2020



P.S. 676, Red Hook
Neighborhood School



80+ Participants

- Participants represented residents, business owners, property owners, Spanish speakers, elected officials and members of the press
- P.S. 676 elementary school students participated to share their views on resiliency
- Participants were split equally between those that had been involved in resiliency projects in the past and those that were new to resiliency

MEETING GOALS

- Use this kick-off meeting to make all stakeholders (those that are resiliency-aware as well as those that are new to the subject) aware of this project, its key details and the changes coming to the neighborhood.
- Acknowledge and share past resiliency projects in Red Hook and community feedback gathered through them. Connect the RHCR process with the IFPS Study. Check if the feedback gathered from past processes still holds true.
- Clearly delineate the parameters for actionable community input in the process by being transparent about constraints and opportunities for feedback

AGENDA

- 6.00pm Sign-in + Warm-Up
- 6.15pm Activities Refreshments + Exhibition at 5 stations (Q&A and handouts)
- 6.15pm Presentation: DDC, MOR,
- 7.15pm EM, NV5, Grain Collective, PS 676 Students
- 7.15pm Closing remarks and Q&A
- 7.45pm
- 7.45pm Exhibition at 5 stations
- 8.00pm (Q&A and handouts)

Warm-up Activity and Exhibition

As a warm-up activity, feedback cards with the four prompting questions, listed below, were shared with stakeholders. The prompting questions were also shared with students from P.S. 676, two weeks prior and their responses that included evocative drawings and words were then displayed at the event. The students also attended the event to mingle during the course of the evening to both inspire and request stakeholders to share their responses as well.

Prompting questions

1. *What does Resiliency mean to you?*
2. *What do you love about living in Red Hook? Why?*
3. *If you could change/make Red Hook safer, what would you do?*
4. *If you were a superhero protecting Red Hook, What would your powers be? How could it help in stopping a Flood?*

Exhibition boards were also displayed for stakeholders to learn details on the following, both at the start and the end of the event

- Key details of the IFPS Study
- Summary of community feedback, to date
- Concepts and strategies on climate risk and hazard mitigation

Presentation

1. **Introduction:** Kiumars Q. Amiri from DDC started the meeting with introducing the project and thanking PS 676 for hosting the meeting
 - Councilman Carlos Menchaca addressed the community and introduced the six students from PS 676. The students then each shared their thoughts on Resiliency and their hopes for Red Hook.
2. **Community Engagement:** Sapna Advani from Grain Collective shared an overview of the community engagement approach for the project. She also acknowledged the community partners: RETI, Aesthetic Soul Community and SBIDC for their collaboration
3. **Climate Risks and Hazards:** Adam Parris from MOR shared a short overview to explain climate risks and hazards and how conditions are changing
4. **Interim Flood Protection Measures (IFPM):** Heather Roiter from NYCEM shared an overview and an update on the IFPM and its application in Red Hook
5. **Integrated Flood Protection Feasibility System (IFPS) Study:** Jessica Colon from MOR shared an overview of the IFPS feasibility study including the following:
 - FEMA restrictions
 - Flooding risks in Red Hook
 - Background, design thinking, community engagement and concluding results of the IFPS study
6. **Project Design Phase (RHCR):** Joe Menzer from NV5 shared the project parameters and constraints for the RHCR project. He also shared a summary of the stakeholder feedback gathered through past engagements
7. **Conclusion:** Kiumars Q. Amiri from DDC concluded the presentation by sharing a project timeline, next steps and ways that stakeholders could stay informed
8. **Questions:** After the presentation, stakeholders had an opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns. Several members from various city agencies were in attendance to answer questions.



Angela - gr 3



I Love
home
because
home is
fun

WHAT IS YOUR
FAVORITE PART
OF RED HOOK?

Resiliency means never
Giving up. Keep on trying!!!

YMCA

WHAT DOES
RESILIENCY
MEAN TO YOU?

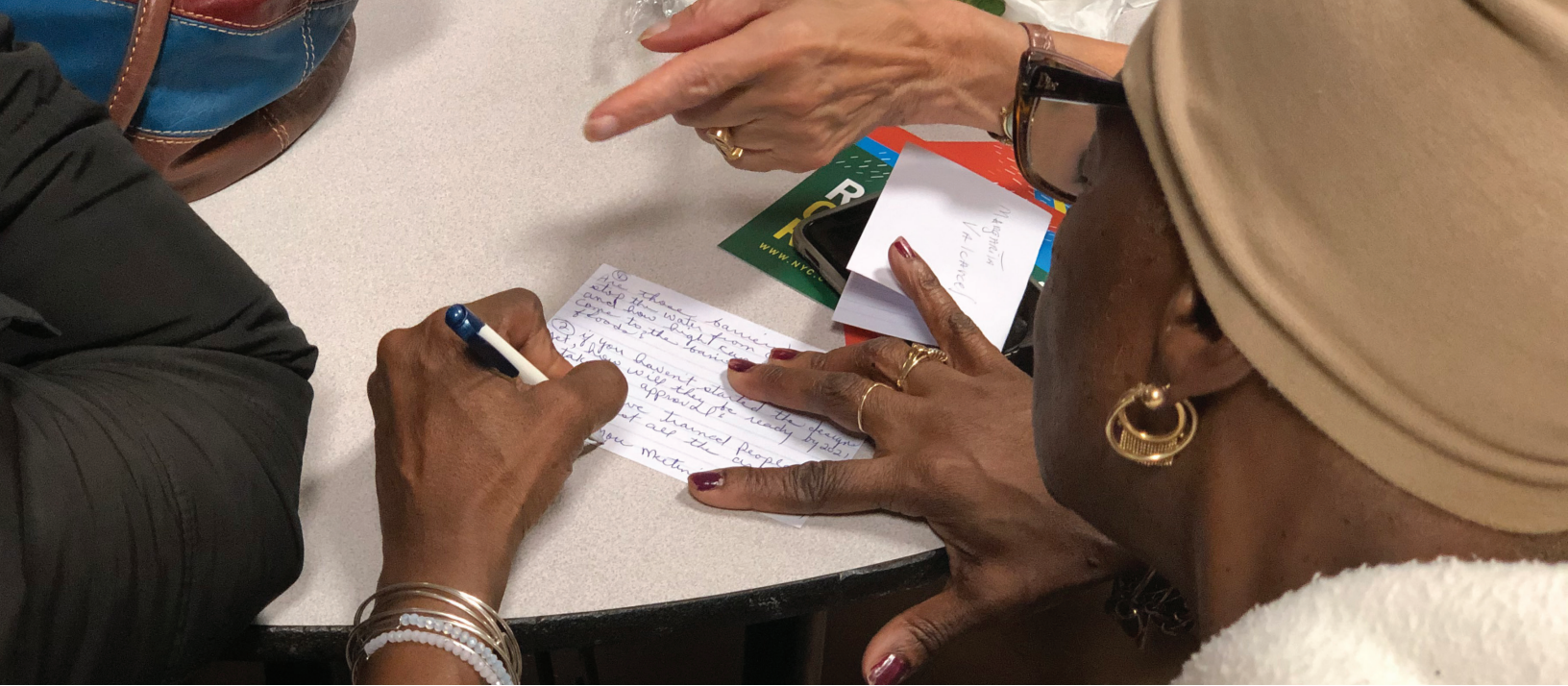
IF YOU WERE A SUPERHERO PROTECTING RED
HOOK, WHAT WOULD YOUR POWERS BE? HOW
COULD IT HELP IN STOPPING A FLOOD?

Name: Moonchi



Super powers: Control the
Ebb & Flow of the waters

Stopping floods
using her sister
the moon ☾



Participant Feedback



WATERFRONT ACCESS AND NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

- Red Hook needs more buses, better protected bike lanes, manufacturing buildings to be saved, investment in youth, schools, local job growth, solar street lights, electric buses, safe pedestrian crossings, green posts
- Design for an overall clean and safe environment with parks, a shored up waterfront, so that streets are not flooded.
- Democratically design and implement floor protection such that it isn't just a seawall, but something that improves everyday life, does not accelerate gentrification and reduces inequality.
- What is the process for de-mapping streets? Can we look at different traffic patterns to allow for wider flood protection so it can have bike lanes?
- Incorporate art into the project



FLOOD PROTECTION

- Consider other areas beside Beard St and Atlantic Basin
- The greenway will create a big wall which may not be the best for Red Hook
- Consider alternative and passive landscape strategies for flood protection in addition to the engineering solutions
- Design for long term solutions that are proactive and not reactive
- Considering buying the large development sites like the Thor+UPS to build retention ponds or restore the wet lands.
- Who decides when the gates will be deployed?



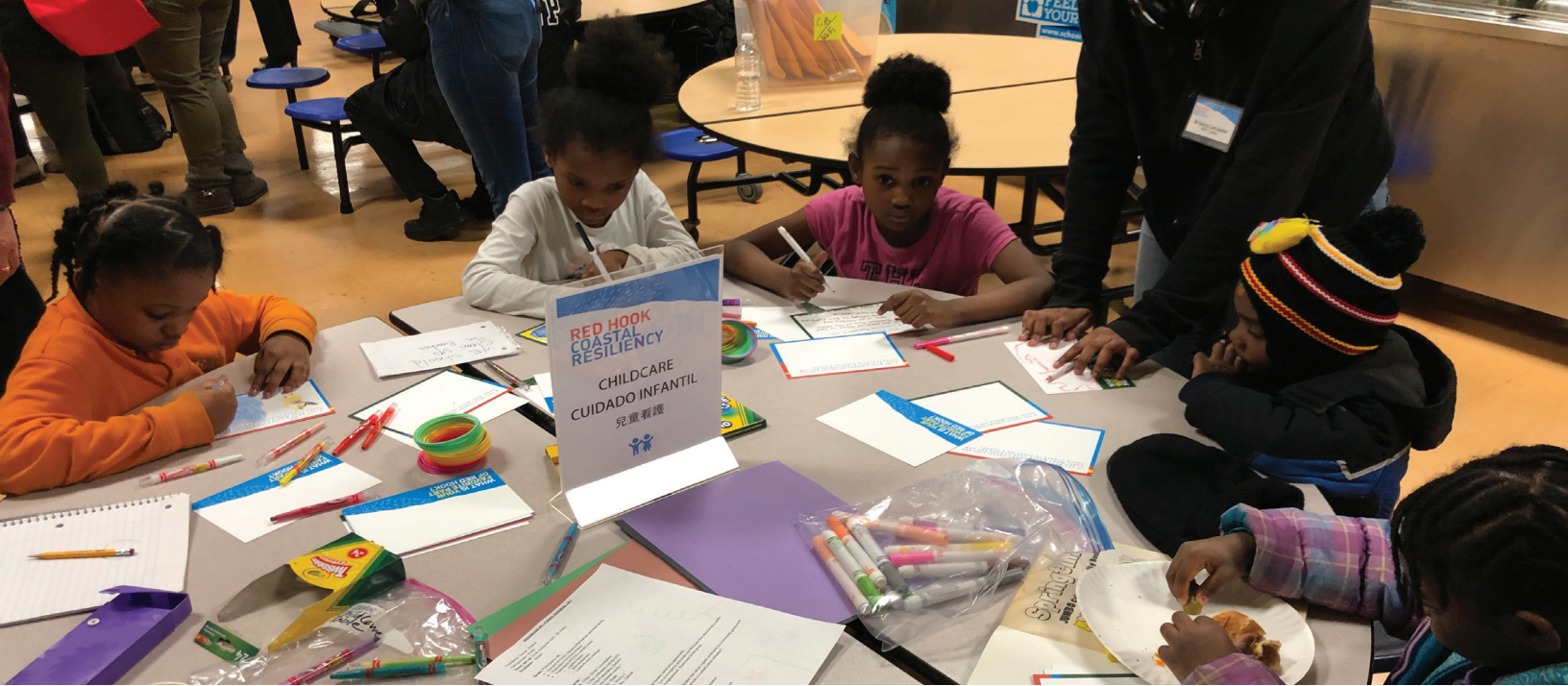
COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROJECTS

- We need a neighborhood team that oversees coordination between projects
- Consider the impacts of Gowanus Rezoning on Red Hook since the 7" main sewer line goes through Red Hook. If 8000 more units are built in Gowanus, there will be severe impacts on the drainage system.
- Increase investment in Red Hook NYCHA development



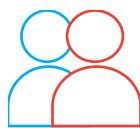
PROJECT PARAMETERS

- The project requires more funding, in order to do it right
- What is the construction timeline?



DRAINAGE

- Do a neighborhood wide drainage study for Red Hook before you start this project
- Can we create an independent sewer system for low lying areas with pumps to handle ground water and breach of temporary walls?



COMMUNITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Create better education, with more books, better educators and a curriculum based off actual work.
- We have ideas. Incorporate our suggestions into the design!



PREPAREDNESS

- Make sure RH has a plan to serve seniors and other lesser privileged communities

Next Steps

Here are the next steps on the project:

- As depicted in the timeline below, the RHCR team will be back with a community engagement and design update in Spring 2020
- Between now and the next big engagement, the RHCR team will be holding individual stakeholder interviews and some small group sessions/ target focus group meetings
- A copy of the materials and the presentation shared at this kick-off meeting will be posted on the RHCR website below: www.nyc.gov/RHCR

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - DESIGN PHASE TIMELINE 2020

*Schedule as per January 2020



RED HOOK COASTAL RESILIENCY

WWW.NYC.GOV/RHCR

email: rhcr@ddc.nyc.gov

I can fly around
the world to let
everyone know
that a flood is
coming.

Mason.

