

# Updates from Fall Engagement

In June 2018, the City released Gowanus: A Framework, which identified goals and strategies around community priorities. The below outlines meetings and events that occurred during the Fall of 2018 between City agencies and community partners to tackle hard subjects and advance important priorities identified in the Framework.

## IBZ stakeholder and process planning meeting - October 26, 2018



- As a follow-up to the strategies outlined in the Gowanus framework, in the Fall of 2018 the City began engaging with businesses, local stakeholders and users in the IBZ to analyze their needs with respect to land use and other issues and develop a vision for the IBZ's future where businesses can grow and thrive.
- DCP, partnering agencies and other stakeholders held a kickoff meeting to discuss the goals and core issues to be address by a visioning study and how best to engage the local community. DCP gave a presentation on citywide industrial policy and economic trends, an overview of the IBZ's local land use and employment trends, existing zoning regulations, and what we've heard so far during the Gowanus study working groups and outreach efforts over the past few years.
- See the IBZ update board for more information.

## Fair Housing & School Diversity Meeting - December 4, 2018



- HPD and stakeholders held a public meeting on fair housing to facilitate a dialogue about the neighborhood's history and how ongoing planning processes – including Bridging Gowanus, the Gowanus Neighborhood Study, and the Community School District 15 Diversity Plan – can actively work to promote fair housing, inclusion, and access to opportunity for all residents.
- During the meeting, HPD presented on Where We Live NYC, the City's collaborative fair housing planning process, and provided historical background on how Gowanus has been shaped by fair housing issues. Members of the District 15 Diversity Plan Working Group presented the plan, which is now underway, to increase diversity in District 15's middle schools.
- After the presentation, stakeholders participated in facilitated discussions to (1) reflect on the history of Gowanus and how it connects to diversity in the neighborhood today; (2) share experiences around why they choose to live or work in Gowanus, and how the neighborhood impacts their access to quality schools, transportation, and other key opportunities; and (3) develop a vision for fair housing, more diverse schools, and other steps to ensure a more integrated future for the neighborhood.
- Many participants explained how housing choice – the choice to move into or stay in the Gowanus – has become more challenging due to the wave of development occurring on 4th Ave and changing perceptions of the neighborhood's desirability. In bringing a fair housing lens to the future of Gowanus, residents identified numerous key goals – including ensuring public spaces are equally accessible and feel inclusive to both new and existing residents; increasing investment in NYCHA campuses; making sure new schools represented the diversity of the community and promoting deeper levels of affordability in new developments.
- Many of the goals of neighborhood diversity and inclusion that underpin fair housing laws are interconnected with the goals of the Gowanus Neighborhood Study. In particular, the implementation of Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) would ensure that all new developments with a substantial amount of residential space include a minimum amount of affordable housing, equivalent to 25-30% of the residential floor area.

## Public Place Workshop - November 1, 2018



- HPD, in collaboration with the designated development team and other City agencies, held a public workshop to re-engage the community and to update the vision for development on Public Place.
- HPD, DCP, DPR, and representatives from the designated development team led workshop participants through a series of activities including: a visioning exercise where participants discussed their ideas for the site and how to achieve them through tangible goals; a site plan activity where participants learned about updated site conditions and provided feedback on a draft site plan; an interactive building massing activity where participants used wooden blocks to envision future buildings on the site; and an open space activity with images of existing open spaces throughout the city for participants to discuss how they might or might not be applied on Public Place