RECENT EVENTS

August Steering Committee Meeting – Thursday, August 17th

The Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee overviewed their recommendations with the full steering committee. Recommendations from the Open Space Subcommittee were supposed to come for a vote, but quorum was not met, so there was no vote (16.5 voting members were present but 24 is needed for a vote). Voting for whether or not to open meetings to the public was also delayed because of failure to meet quorum. The SC did end up discussing the Open Space recommendations, so feedback will go back to subcommittee and language will be revised accordingly. The Executive Committee will revise the full SC member list to reflect only active SC members, so that quorum will be based on active membership. After the meeting, quorum was met via online polls and all open Space recommendations were passed as well as the motion to make future SC meetings public, taking effect in October.

July Steering Committee Meeting – Tuesday, July 11th

At this steering committee meeting, members reviewed recommendations from the Open Space Subcommittee and gave feedback. The subcommittee will revise and present recommendations to SC members for a vote at the next meeting. SC members voted on recommendations presented to them by the Housing Subcommittee and gave feedback. The SC also discussed opening future steering committee meetings to the public, which will be voted on at an upcoming SC meeting. For full notes from SC meetings, please contact Gabo at Hester Street, Gabriel@hesterstreet.org

Historic Preservation Meetings

On July 10th and September 6th, Bushwick residents and stakeholders met to discuss the potential for new historic districts and landmarks in the neighborhood. Historic districts offer a powerful tool to preserve the architectural character of historically significant areas. We are currently focusing on two potential areas: Bushwick Avenue between Kossuth Place and Hancock St, including some side streets directly to the north and south, and the section of northeast Bushwick between Woodbine St and Halsey St, Wyckoff Ave and Knickerbocker Ave. In both of these areas, many residents and homeowners are concerned about maintaining the historic character in the face of development pressures. Join the conversation about historic preservation recommendations for the Bushwick Community Plan at our next meeting.

Arts and Culture Focus Group – August 23, 2017

The Community Health and Resources subcommittee hosted a focus group of local artist, organizations and city agencies to better understand the wants and needs of Bushwick’s artistic community. The feedback will help influence their recommendations for the Bushwick Community Plan. There were 19 representing a wide range of ages: residents, CB4 representatives (including the Arts and Culture Committee Chair), Hope Gardens Community Center, el Puente, 2 local artists, representatives from Mayday Space/Bushwick Starr. The focus group was facilitated by DCLA, el Puente, and Hester Street Collaborative.
DRAFT TIMELINE: THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

LAND USE + ZONING

SUBCOMMITTEE CONTACT: SARIT PLATKIN (DCP) SPLATKIN@PLANNING.NYC.GOV

MEMBER ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION

Instead of sub-committee meetings, we held a series of interactive zoning working sessions this summer, which typically attracted around 20-30 people. We were trying to reach a more geographically diverse group and several new eastern Bushwick residents attended the last few working sessions.

Active members: Jose Lopez, Alex Fennell, Edwin Delgado, Anne Guiney, Brigette Blood, Jackie Reyes

Technical Assistance: Betsy Mclean, Isella Ramirez, Gabriel Halili, Chris Walters, Paula Crespo, Brian Paul, Lacey Tauber

RECOMMENDATION REVIEW + DRAFTING

We held eight working sessions over the last three months to discuss trade-offs and community priorities related to different zoning options and to get more geographically specific feedback on the planning framework. Our working sessions included:

- 2 Transit Corridor Sessions
- 1 Neighborhood + Mixed Use Corridor Session
- 1 Midblock Session
- 4 Industrial Areas Sessions

Through block-by-block discussions about the trade-offs related to density, land use, affordability, soft sites, and the preservation of neighborhood character, we received extensive feedback during the interactive breakout group component of the working sessions and have been compiling and reviewing that information so that we can revise the planning framework accordingly.
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Our public engagement consisted of the eight working sessions discussed above which were open to the public.

NEXT STEPS

There are no more land use sub-committee meetings scheduled at this time. The focus now is on digesting all the information collected at the working sessions. The Executive Committee will present a summary of the Zoning and Land Use priorities heard at the workshops to the Steering Committee on 9/28. The Dept. of City Planning will then create a revised framework based on the Steering Committee’s priorities this fall.

HOUSING

SUBCOMMITTEE CONTACT: Lacey Tauber (CM Reynoso) LTauber@council.nyc.gov

MEMBER ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION

Regular attendance: approx. 10 members + Council, Assembly, HPD, DCP, and NYCHA reps + Hester Street + ANHD

Orgs represented: MRNY, CUFFH, RBSCC, BKA, CB4, as well as a few unaffiliated residents

RECOMMENDATION REVIEW + DRAFTING

The Committee met on Thursday, September 7. We received a presentation from HPD regarding their analysis of rent stabilized units in Bushwick. Unfortunately due to legal constraints, there are limitations on the level of detail that they can share. However, they could share some top-level information. Here are some of the main data points:

• About 70% of the rent stabilized units in Bushwick are located in the “Mid-Block Preservation” areas, which means they are slated for downzoning.
• The highest concentration of units is in the Northwest quadrant (west of Myrtle, primarily in the area surrounding Maria Hernandez Park).
• Of particular concern are the approx. 8% of rent stabilized units that are located on underbuilt, aka “soft” sites, throughout the neighborhood. (This analysis assumes the highest density zoning option that has been discussed thus far at zoning workshops to illustrate the worst case scenario. Zoning recommendations are still a work in progress.). Each typology – Preservation areas, Neighborhood Corridors, and Transit Corridors, contain about 2% each of these units, based on DCP’s most recent Framework.
• However, all large, underbuilt sites (30 units or more) are currently regulated through HPD financing or other government assistance, so not immediately threatened, and DCP and HPD are working together to identify potential solutions to protect other sites located on soft sites.)
• HPD is also analyzing sites with potential for assemblage, as this could threaten lots that are not currently underbuilt.
• Next steps are coordination between HPD and DCP, as well as the Mayor’s Tenant Protection Unit. Additionally, Chelsea is going to share analysis that City Council has done on rent stabilization units count estimates, so they can compare our data with theirs. The Subcommittee can use City Council’s data to conduct a more thorough analysis of our own.

We also discussed next steps for drafting the Housing chapter of the report. Hester Street Collaborative and Lacey are working on a draft, with the goal of completing it by our next meeting.

● PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

We have not done any public engagement since the Feb. Summit.

● NEXT STEPS

Next meeting is Thursday, 10/5 from 10am-noon at MRNY, 449 Troutman St., Bushwick.

$ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE CONTACT: Isella Ramirez (Hester Street Collaborative) isella@hesterstreet.org

● MEMBER ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION

The subcommittee usually has about 7-10 consistent members in attendance. The present members are residents, CB4 members, a business owner, organizational reps, chamber of commerce representative, and agency representatives from DCP, SBS, and EDC.

Active Members: Karen Nieves, Kevin Worthington, Edwin Delgado, Egaudy Gomez, Deborah Collingwood

Notetaker: apivak@planning.nyc.gov

● RECOMMENDATION REVIEW + DRAFTING

The subcommittee has begun meeting without agency presence in September to finalize recommendation language before providing it to select agencies for formal responses/comments and to preview + vote in the October/Nov steering committee meetings.

The subcommittee met on 9/6 to review and edit recommendation language on objectives 3-5. They are scheduled to speak again on 9/19 to finalize language on recommendations + make a plan to present to SC in October.

● NEXT STEPS

1. Finalize recommendations
2. Share recommendations with agencies (SBS, EDC + DCP)
3. Preview recommendations at SC in October
COMMUNITY HEALTH + RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE CONTACT: Isella Ramirez (Hester Street Collaborative) isella@hesterstreet.org

- MEMBER ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION

Usual attendance 7-13 participants

Community organizations, CB 4, residents, and service providers + agency representatives.

Most active members: El Puente, BKA, RBSCC, CB 4, Catholic Migration Services, NYPCC

Newest member: Hudythe Wiley of Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow

Agencies: DOHMH, DCA, and DCP

- RECOMMENDATION REVIEW + DRAFTING

The subcommittee has reviewed preliminary recommendations, and is now conducting interviews with "expert" Community Health + Resources is working to finalize their recommendations before presenting to Steering Committee in October 2017; they sent recommendation language to DOHMH and are awaiting comments/responses

Following the Art + Culture focus group, subcommittee had a meeting on 9/7 to draft recommendations that would focus on art + culture

- PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The subcommittee hosted an Art + Culture Focus Group on 8/23 that brought 19 participants (local artists, art + culture venues, residents, art + culture program staff from local orgs) to El Puente’s Leadership Center at 311 Central Ave.

- NEXT STEPS

Regroup (by phone) in last week of September (potentially 9/26) to finalize art + culture recommendation language; discuss DOHMH’s comments/responses to health/seniors/mental health/food recommendations and plan for October SC meeting recommendations preview presentation

OPEN SPACE

SUBCOMMITTEE CONTACT: Celeste Leon (CB4) celeon@cb.nyc.gov + Gabo Halili (Hester Street Collaborative) Gabriel@hesterstreet.org

- MEMBER ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION

The subcommittee usually has about 10-12 consistent members in attendance typically including residents, CB4 members, and representatives from NYC Parks.

- RECOMMENDATION REVIEW + DRAFTING

bushwickcommunityplan.org
The subcommittee is planning a meeting to discuss how the Steering Committee voted on their Open Space recommendations including comments and suggested edits.

- **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

We have used the activities from the April 8th Open Space Summit at the May 9th Youth Summit and with a focus group of Bushwick parents. Additionally there is an effort to organize Bushwick community gardeners as an offshoot of the subcommittee to inform recommendations specifically around community gardens.

- **NEXT STEPS**

The subcommittee will meet in October.

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**TRANSPORTATION + INFRASTRUCTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEE CONTACT: Amy Pivak (DCP) APivak@planning.nyc.gov

- **MEMBER ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION**

A core group of sub-committee members continues to be involved, though we would like to see additional community representation.

- **RECOMMENDATION REVIEW + DRAFTING**

Preliminary recommendations were presented and discussed at the August Steering Committee meeting. The sub-committee has incorporated feedback, and recommendations will be voted on and discussed at the Steering Committee meeting in October.

Draft Objectives:

1. Create a safer environment for cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers in Bushwick
2. Enhance traffic circulation and mobility for drivers and cyclists
3. Make public space in Bushwick more welcoming to pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users
4. Improve connections, access, and wayfinding, especially for pedestrians and cyclists, to open space in and around Bushwick, including Highland Park
5. Enhance local transit access, connections, and service
6. Increase opportunities for sustainable energy and green infrastructure
7. Increase equity for transportation and infrastructure improvements

- **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

No additional public engagement has been undertaken since April’s summit.

- **NEXT STEPS**

The sub-committee’s recommendations will be voted on and discussed at the Steering Committee meeting in October.