Community Engagement Through Tabling

Kyle Natividad
Who Am I?

- Kyle Natividad
- Born and raised in Brooklyn
- Undergraduate student at CUNY Brooklyn College
- Majoring in Urban Sustainability with a concentration in Environmental Science
Interests

• City Boy at Heart
• I enjoy being outside and exploring the city (preferably solo)
• Not in a rush to get my driver’s license
• Biking, walking, taking public transit enthusiast
• Want to continue to live in cities and cares about the overall sustainability and condition of people and their surrounding environment
Internship Overview + Focus

Take as many opportunities as possible to be outside and on the streets of NYC
Get the opinions and feedback of people all over the city
Improve and sharpen skills related to public speaking and community connection
Outreach + Engagement

Tabling at various Open Street Events
Engaging in conversations people want to have about their relationship with public space
In total, I tabled at 15 Open Street events
Conversations about parking reform were frequent and I got multiple viewpoints
  • People were worried about losing their parking spaces, more concerned in outer boroughs like Queens and certain parts of Brooklyn,
    ○ One mother was concerned about not having the parking space to drive her kids to extracurricular activities and doctors appointments
    ○ We talked about how areas along the curb can be dynamic and can provide either parking or play areas during certain times of day to meet demand
  • Others welcomed the removal of parking mandates as not building the parking spaces could help keep rent costs low and provides more affordable housing
Standout Open Streets

34th Ave Open Streets, Queens
- Well-established within the community
- Regular Programming
- Long stretches of street in front of multiple schools
- Community resources such as eviction rights and immigration workshops, ESL classes
- Various activities for children
- Summer Youth Employment Program Provider
Standout Open Streets

La Salle Open Street, Manhattan

- Unique hill location
- Relatively new open street with potential
- Calm atmosphere
- Restaurant with outdoor seating
Standout Open Streets

West 111th Open Street, Manhattan

- A lot of garnered support for local businesses and the community
- Active residents
- Was able to speak to a lot of neighbors, especially about parking and reimagining of the crosswalk
- Lots of activities including sprinklers and mini mining
- Also ran into Columbia University students who were interested in my internship/coursework
Standout Open Streets

Newkirk Open Streets, Brooklyn

- Plenty of performances from community bands
- Other community organizations such as the Flatbush Development Organization
- Flatbush Food Coop
- Games and unique activities such as splatter paint
Children and Open Spaces

- The presence of children can be a great indicator of a healthy and ideal open street or other public space
- Children playing and enjoying public spaces have been shown to lift people’s spirits and attitudes
- Can be motivation for the community to discuss and bring up issues of public space and street safety
- Children are the future!