

Gowanus Create NYC Neighborhood Workshop 3/18

Masoom Notes

Participants

Nathan- Factory worker, planner, developer, supports artists' studios, education

Teresa-Community leader, artist, Interested in the education of diversity to people

George-Interested in community centers and preserving their right to serve their communities & resident

Connie-DCP-interested in interagency collaborations

Ben-Consultant, urban planner, resident

Sandra-VP of tenant association and resident

Catherine-Kensington resident cares about libraries and collaborations to use them more effectively

ISSUES AND IDEAS BROUGHT UP

- Gathering spaces are cherished locations-not enough of them
- Public housing residents are often forgotten- all public housing needs community centers
- We need arts and crafts events for all ages-Manhattan has all the resources-redistribute these resources more evenly.
- There are no official spaces where people can come together and create.
- No official galleries where streetscape art is presented-people are more likely to connect to the art work they see on daily bases than obscure art activities in other art institutions.
- Create a map where locations on where people gather are located.
 - Map out community assets
- Look at unconventional spaces for where people can gather-whole foods
 - Make small investments to make these space locations as real gathering spaces
 - These meeting locations can be pop-up locations
- More collaboration with local artists- gowanus needs to be recognized
- Combat the displacement of our residents- artists-hard to make a living are one of the first to be pushed out.-rent is ridiculous.
 - Mandate inclusivity housing
 - Mandate inclusivity in Jobs
 - Mandate the limitation of removing community centers in neighborhoods-especially ones that serve public housing residents.
- Create ways that can provide better platforms for how new and old residents communicate
 - Leadership, stewardship, diversity of individuals, coalitions and activists
- There should be a more active community board when new projects are being created in the neighborhood
 - Where is the participatory design??
- Money for community centers exists-the major just needs to push it
- Increase funding to organizations who have proved to be supporting/ uplifting the community
- Call for proposals (DCLA)-to community centers providing for neighborhood-give criteria for taking ownership
- There should be a tax vacancy on real state spaces that have been vacant for 3 months-either activate through cultural activities or rent out.
- Utilizing old and unconventional spaces model- without having to create new organizations
 - Look at purpose, availability, needs for the new space
 - Broaden organizations scope of how spaces can be utilized especially unconventional spaces.
- Apprenticeships for large organizations to recognize small organizations-increase their voice, resources, assets.
- Apprenticeships to educate youth, provide opportunity for growth-get involved in administrative work

- Neighborhood plaza partnerships. Trying to strike balance between new organizations like mobile studio with many spaces available like parks and community events.
- Community centers need stewardship
 - These community centers don't only need to serve local community-invest in them for all of NYC
- Warren Street does not have a community center- lack of activities that involve: bingo night for seniors, movie day, and underutilized spaces like school.
 - Many residents complain about these lack of activities in this area
- Queens Museum is good at community engagement- can the queen's museum come to you? How can we make these well-established art organizations become mobile, in a way.
- Create events where artists can come together for info gathering.
- Creating leadership in communities-this requires a lot of work-these leadership positions should be paid-get organizations to fund these positions-fellowships etc..
 - Memberships with cultural institutions can provide leadership opportunities-training
- It's important to notice that all neighborhood are different therefore different neighborhood need different kinds of treatment, resources etc..
- DCLA and grants-make the process more user friendly and simpler
- The neighborhood gym affordability is expensive-cultural plan should combine general health of a community into the plan-subsidize membership, offer rebates.
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PRESERVE, INCREASE FUNDING-ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE APPRECIATED

- Brooklyn Borough Hall- their events bring people together-shared values
- Brooklyn Art Exchange-community based art centers
- Chashama organization- underutilized- creates spaces in unconventional locations.