

**The Bronx Community Foundation
2023 Engagement Process**

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TOOLKIT



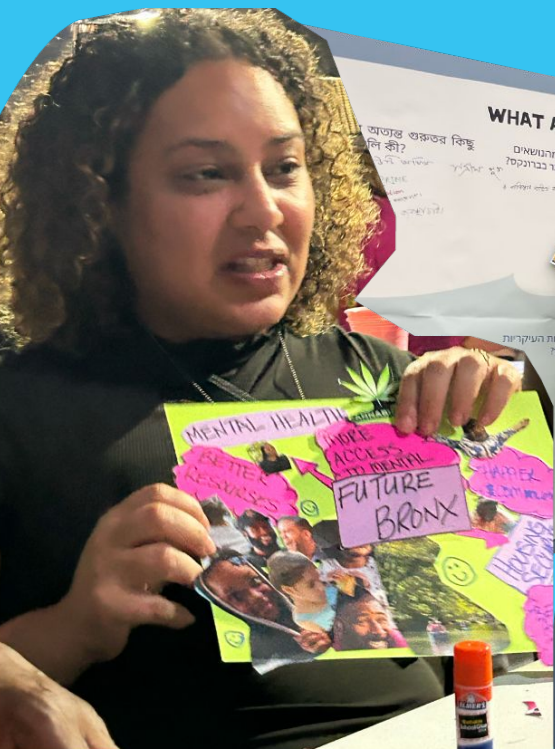
December 14, 2023

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Project overview



WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES IN THE BRONX?

আমাদের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কিছু
কি কী?
מה הם חלק מהנושאים
הדורשים ביותר בברוקלין?
布朗克斯最紧迫的问题
是哪些?
布朗克斯最紧迫的问题
是哪些?
Quelles sont les priorités
des problèmes les plus
urgents dans le Bronx?
Quali sono i temi
discussione più
presenti nel Bronx?



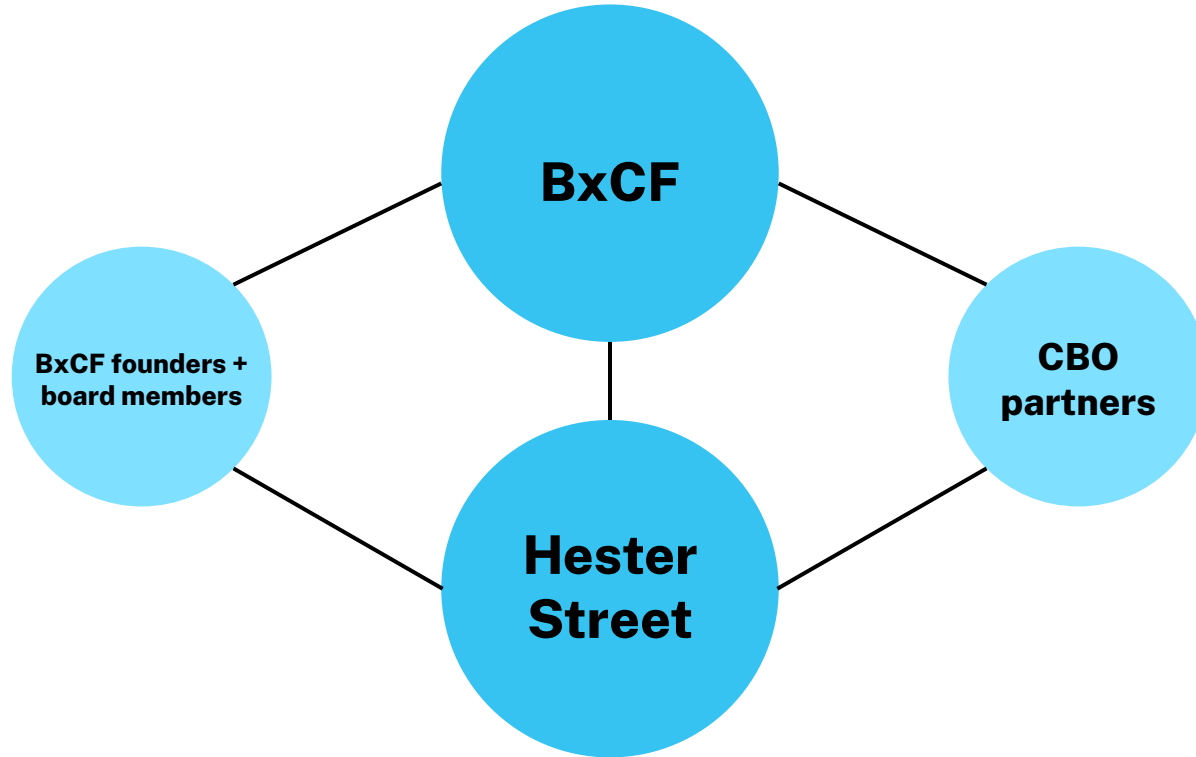
Project goal

Develop a **community-driven engagement process and recommendations to inform BxCF's strategic plan** to build a community foundation for, by, and all about The Bronx.

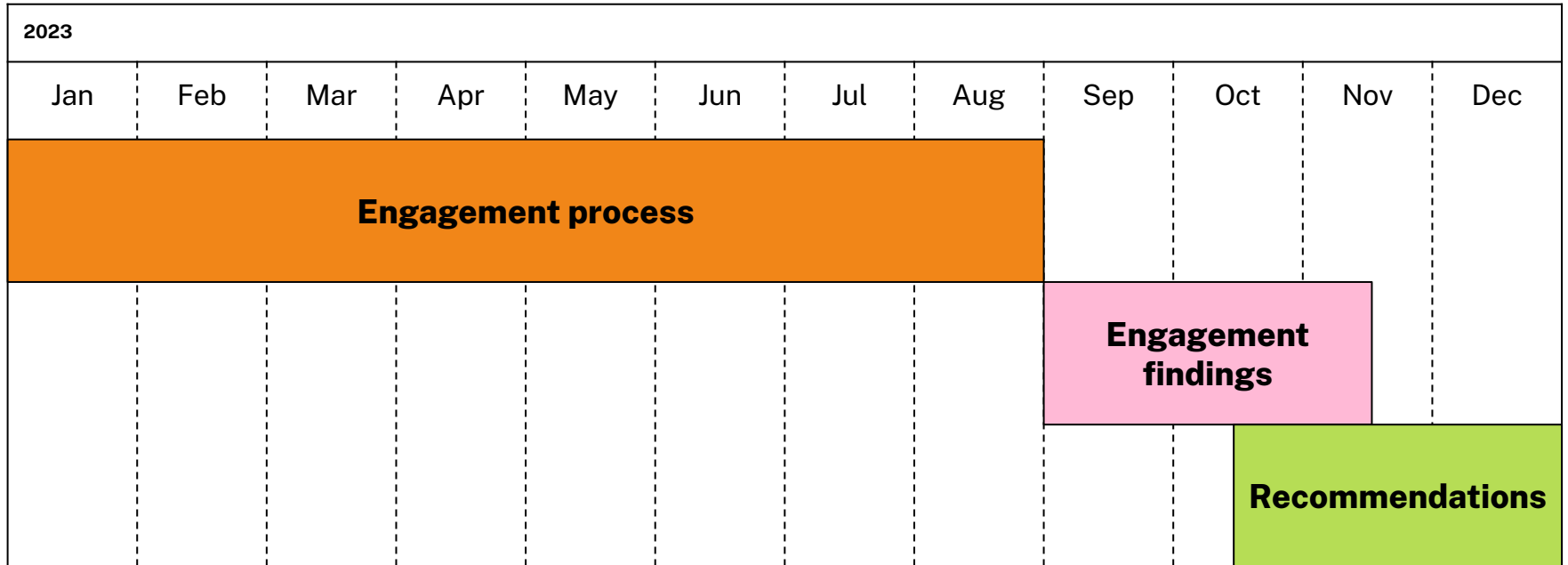
How did we achieve our goal?

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| <p>Worked with BxCF to design and implement a community engagement strategy that engaged Bronx community leaders, residents, and stakeholders as integral partners to the project</p> | <p>Used the engagement planning and implementation process to build trust and assess current conditions, needs, and opportunities for CBOs and residents throughout The Bronx</p> | <p>Synthesized feedback and insights shared throughout the engagement process to develop recommendations that inform BxCF's strategic planning process and priorities for future financial investments in The Bronx</p> |

Project team



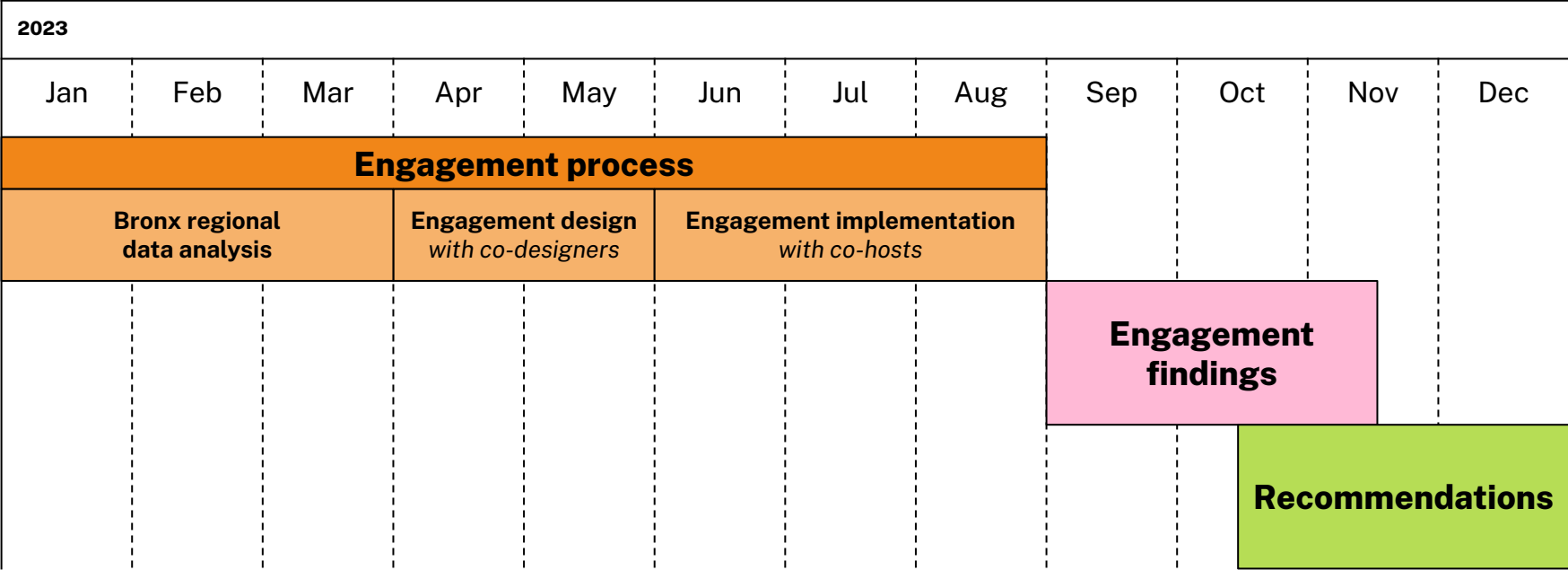
Project timeline



Engagement process



Engagement timeline



Engagement partners and roles



Co-designers

*Lead and inform engagement
and communications design*

+

Co-hosts

*Coordinate outreach and
host engagements*

Engagement partners and roles

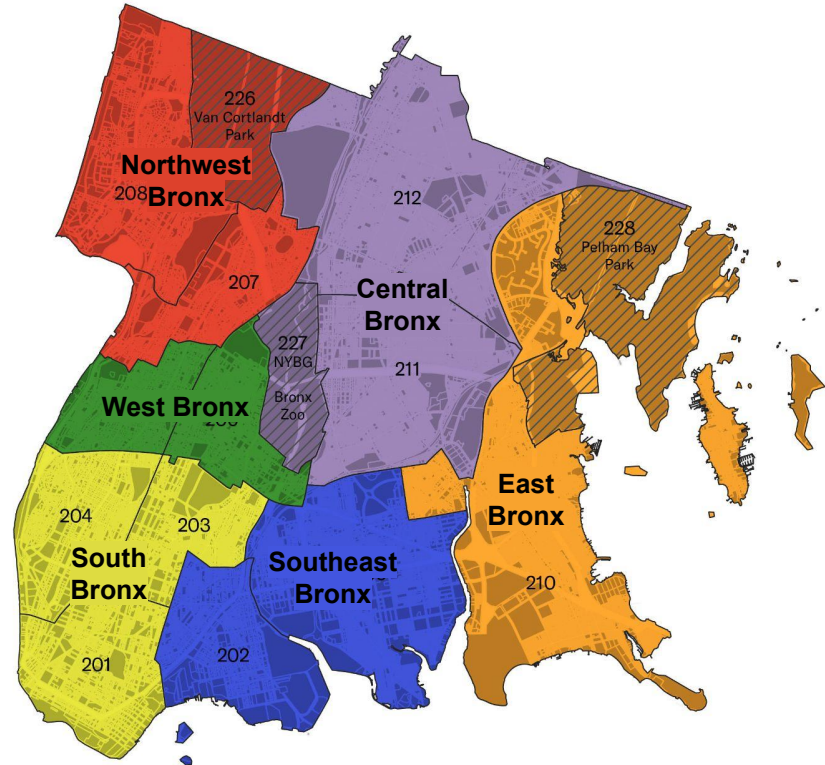
| Co-designers | Co-hosts | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ BronxWorks❖ Hostos Community Engagement Council❖ Mothers on the Move❖ New Settlement❖ Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC)❖ Nos Quedamos❖ Phipps Neighborhoods❖ Part of the Solution (POTS)❖ R.A.I.N. Inc.❖ WHEDco❖ YMPJ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Bronx Community Justice Center❖ CannaBronx❖ Center for Community Engaged Learning at Fordham University❖ DreamYard❖ The Knowledge House❖ Mary Mitchell Family & Youth Center❖ Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ NWBCCC❖ Phipps Neighborhoods❖ R.A.I.N. Inc.❖ Riverdale Y❖ Sapna NYC❖ SUNY Bronx Educational Opportunity Center❖ WHEDco❖ Word of Life International |

Bronx regional data analysis

A regional data analysis was conducted to **assess needs across a range of issue areas** in The Bronx.

Data indicators:

- ❖ Race and ethnicity
- ❖ Languages spoken at home
- ❖ Median household income (MHI)
- ❖ Unemployment rate
- ❖ Housing tenure
- ❖ Rent burden
- ❖ Internet access
- ❖ Educational attainment
- ❖ Air pollution
- ❖ Food access



Bronx regional data analysis

| Data by region | Race and ethnicity | Languages spoken at home (non-English) | MHI | Unemployment rate | Rent burden | Housing tenure | Internet access | Educational attainment (high school graduates) | Air pollution (PM 2.5) | Food access (supermarkets to bodegas ratio) |
|-----------------|----------------------|--|----------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|--|------------------------|---|
| Northwest Bronx | 80% POC (60% Latine) | Spanish (57%) | \$48,062 | 8.9% | 60% | 81% rent | 85% | 76% | 7.7 | 1:14 |
| West Bronx | 93% POC (66% Latine) | Spanish (60%) | \$30,812 | 13.8% | 64% | 95% rent | 79% | 67% | 8.2 | 1:29 |
| South Bronx | 94% POC (63% Latine) | Spanish (56%) | \$31,098 | 11.4% | 61% | 93% rent | 76% | 67% | 8.2 | 1:18 |
| Southeast Bronx | 94% POC (59% Latine) | Spanish (50%) | \$41,163 | 9.8% | 57% | 81% rent | 79% | 72% | 8.1 | 1:17 |
| East Bronx | 72% POC 25% White | Spanish (30%) | \$61,344 | 7.3% | 51% | 55% rent | 81% | 83% | 7.5 | 1:7 |
| Central Bronx | 83% POC (43% Black) | Spanish (27%) | \$56,804 | 8.3% | 59% | 65% rent | 81% | 80% | 7.5 | 1:17 |

Bronx regional data analysis

| Top indicators by region | Majority POC | Primary language spoken at home is not English | Lowest MHI (less than \$42K) | Highest unemployment (10%+) | Most rent burdened (60%+) | Most renters (80%+) | Least internet access (less than 80%) | Least high school graduates (less than 70%) | Highest air pollution (PM 2.5 at 7.8+) | Least access to supermarkets |
|--------------------------|--------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| Northwest Bronx | X | X | | | X | X | | | | |
| West Bronx | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| South Bronx | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Southeast Bronx | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X |
| East Bronx | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Central Bronx | X | | | | | | | | | X |

Bronx regional data analysis

| Partners by region | Co-designers | Co-hosts |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Northwest Bronx | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ NWBCCC ❖ POTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ NWBCCC ❖ Riverdale Y |
| West Bronx | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ BronxWorks ❖ Phipps Neighborhoods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Center for Community Engaged Learning ❖ Mary Mitchell Family & Youth Center ❖ Phipps Neighborhoods |
| South Bronx | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ DreamYard ❖ Hostos ❖ New Settlement ❖ Nos Quedamos ❖ WHEDco | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ WHEDco ❖ Bronx Community Justice Center ❖ The Knowledge House ❖ SUNY Bronx Educational Opportunity Center |
| Southeast Bronx | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mothers on the Move ❖ YMPJ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Word of Life International |
| Central Bronx | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ R.A.I.N. Inc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ R.A.I.N. Inc. ❖ Sapna NYC |
| Bronxwide | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ CannaBronx |

For more information about the regional findings that informed the engagement process, please review the following document:



Link: ["Bronx Regional Data Analysis" slide deck](#)

Engagement co-design process

Co-design session 1

Brainstorming engagement ideas

Part 1 - 5 mins

Setting up

What are the goals?

Create a community engagement that serve two main purposes:

| | |
|---|---|
| Generate a more nuanced understanding of current conditions, needs, opportunities | Build trust between BxCf and Bx residents |
|---|---|

Who are we designing for?

Through the experience of your past convenings, who usually shows up for such events?

Think age, profession, lifestyle, accessibility, profession, gender, etc.

- Older adults
- Caregivers
- Home Health Aids
- Children with disabilities and older adults with disabilities
- Diverse community
 - Ex: Dhakshetra (Bangladeshi community, Albanian, African communities)
 - Thinking about how the different communities learn and build
 - How they're the same and how their different when they come together

Part 2 - 20 mins

What does success look like?

Keeping this community in mind, what will be a successful engagement? What do we want the attendees to see, hear, do, and feel?

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>CE Goals</p> <p>Generate a more nuanced understanding of current conditions, needs, opportunities</p> <p>Set up</p> <p>Example: Bx people from varied backgrounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See people that look like them, behave like them - this translates into literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Should be sensitive to literacy levels (4th grade level) ◦ Supports inclusion • Materials that speak on a basic level • See themselves - data stories built together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Their contributions reflected in the notes and conversation ◦ People come out to be a part of something (not just be spoken to) | <p>Build trust between BxCf and Bx residents</p> <p>Example: See the process of archiving this engagement to build accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions are seen, felt / reflected • Long-term... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ On the first date, might feel butterflies but to build trust, there needs to be some kind of engaging presence and visibility ◦ Consistency ◦ People are trying to get to know people at the first meeting ◦ Dependability and follow-through ◦ Living up to your commitments |
|---|--|

Part 3 - 20 mins

Design an hour long facilitated conversation between attendees that generates a deeper understanding of the current conditions + needs



Set up:

- 5 participants around a table
- 1 facilitator
- Engagement materials

Material Ideas:

- Posters, worksheets,
- pens, sharpies, crayons,
- clay, building blocks,
- Photos

BxCf pillars:

- Equity + Justice
- Economic Security
- Housing + Community Development
- Education + Digital Literacy
- Health + Food Security

Own neighborhood walk of fame!

- Intergenerational experience,**
- At an Older Center, before lunch

Co-design session 2

Testing engagement activities



3-part virtual session

- Part 1:
Defining the audience
- Part 2:
Defining success metrics
- Part 3:
Designing a conversation



2-hour in-person session

- **Testing engagement activities** built on Session 1 ideas
- **Providing feedback on activities** using values generated in Session 1 as success metrics

Engagement format

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>PART ONE</p> | <p>PART TWO</p> |
| <p>Welcome and sign in</p> | <p>Ice breaker activity</p> |
| <p>Participants sign in, choose their theme stickers, pick up informational pieces, and settle in.</p>  | <p>Participants fill in the iceberg model or play games facilitated by the host.</p>  |
| <p>20 mins</p> | <p>20 mins</p> |

Engagement format

PART THREE

Build collective visions

In groups, participants build visions for their ideal Bronx using collage images and craft materials. They include key steps that will make their vision a reality.



45-50 mins

PART FOUR

Share back and collect visions

Volunteers from each group share their ideal vision with everyone. They then drop their visions in one of the nine themes.



10 mins

Engagement implementation process

Co-host applications

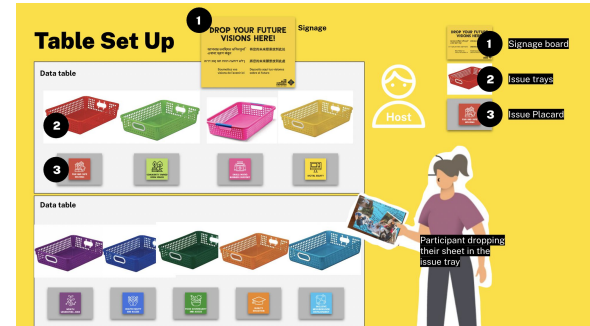
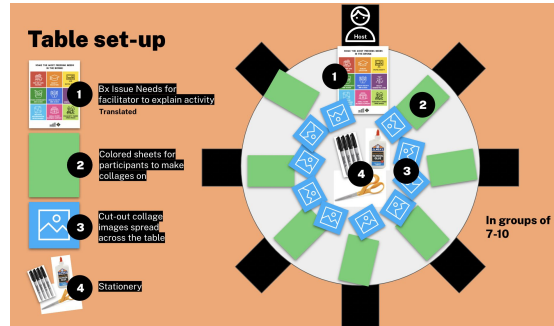
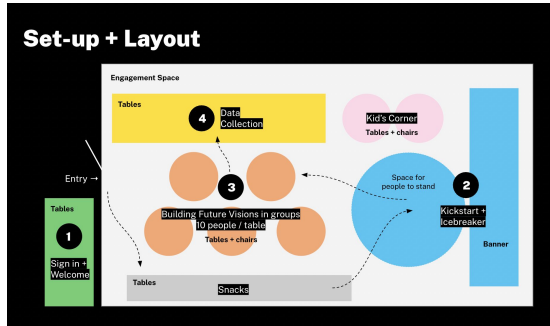
Community-based organizations and institutions (including all co-designers) were invited to apply to co-host a community engagement session with BxCF. There were **three options for engagement**, so organizations could choose based on the capacity of their staff and/or location and desired compensation.

| OPTION ONE | OPTION TWO | OPTION THREE |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Engage 20 participants | Engage 50 participants | Engage 100 participants |
| CO-HOST COMPENSATION | | |
| \$6,500 | \$9,000 | \$12,500 |

Engagement implementation process

Co-host training

All co-hosts attended **virtual, interacting training sessions** where they familiarized themselves with the workshop set up, activities, and materials, using detailed run-of-shows and guides.



Engagement implementation process

Outreach strategy

Co-hosts promoted their unique engagements with **customizable flyers and graphics available in seven languages**: English, Spanish, Chinese (traditional and simplified), Bangla, Hebrew, and French.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, BRONX?!
COME TO A COMMUNITY WORKSHOP AND SHARE YOUR VISION FOR THE BRONX!

SAVE THE DATE

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Weekday Month, Day, 2023 | 00:00- 00:00AM/PM | Street address Bronx, NY |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|

Type your organization's name here
is teaming up with The Bronx Community Foundation (BxCF), the first and only community foundation in the Bronx, to host a series of neighborhood conversations this summer to design a brighter future for all Bronxites!

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| We want to hear your thoughts, ideas, observations, and dreams. | Bring your family, friends, and neighbors! | Snacks and refreshments provided! |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|

Your input will directly shape BxCF's financial investments and program priorities as we work towards a united and thriving Bronx community.

Learn more about BxCF's mission by visiting their website at thebronx.org and check out the complete calendar of events happening throughout the summer here: bit.ly/bxctf2023.

Drag & drop your logo here, resize to fit this space as needed, then delete this text box.

LET'S BUILD A BETTER BRONX!

THE BRONX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
BUILDING A BETTER BRONX

**LE BRONX,
QU'AVEZ-VOUS
EN TÊTE ?**



**VENEZ À UN ATELIER COMMUNAUTAIRE
ET PARTAGEZ VOTRE VISION DU BRONX !**

AGÉNDALO

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Weekday Month, Day, 2023 | 00:00- 00:00 | Street Address Bronx, NY |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|

Type your organization's name here
se asocia con The Bronx Community Foundation (BxCF), la primera y única fundación comunitaria del Bronx, con el fin de organizar una serie de encuentros vecinales este verano que buscan diseñar un futuro mejor para todos los habitantes del Bronx.

Drag & drop your logo here, resize to fit this space as needed, then delete this text box.

THE BRONX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
BUILDING A BETTER BRONX

 我們想聽聽您的想法、意見、觀察結果和夢想。

 帶上您的親朋好友和鄰居一起參加吧!

 供應零食和點心

 請瀏覽網站 (thebronx.org) 詳細瞭解 BxCF 的使命, 並在此處查看整個夏季的完整活動日程表: bit.ly/bxctf2023.

Engagement schedule

| July | August |
|---|--|
| 7/6 Word of Life International | 8/1 DreamYard |
| 7/14 Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center | 8/2 R.A.I.N. Inc. |
| 7/18 WHEDco | 8/3 Bronx Community Justice Center |
| 7/20 Sapna NYC | 8/12 Mary Mitchell Family & Youth Center |
| 7/27 WHEDco Sapna NYC Phipps Neighborhoods | 8/16 Sapna NYC CannaBronx |
| 7/29 NWBCCC | 8/19 The Knowledge House 8/22 Center for Community Engaged Learning 8/23 Riverdale Y 8/24 SUNY Bronx Educational Opportunity Center |

Engagement findings



Outcomes



15 partnering
CBOs (Co-hosts)

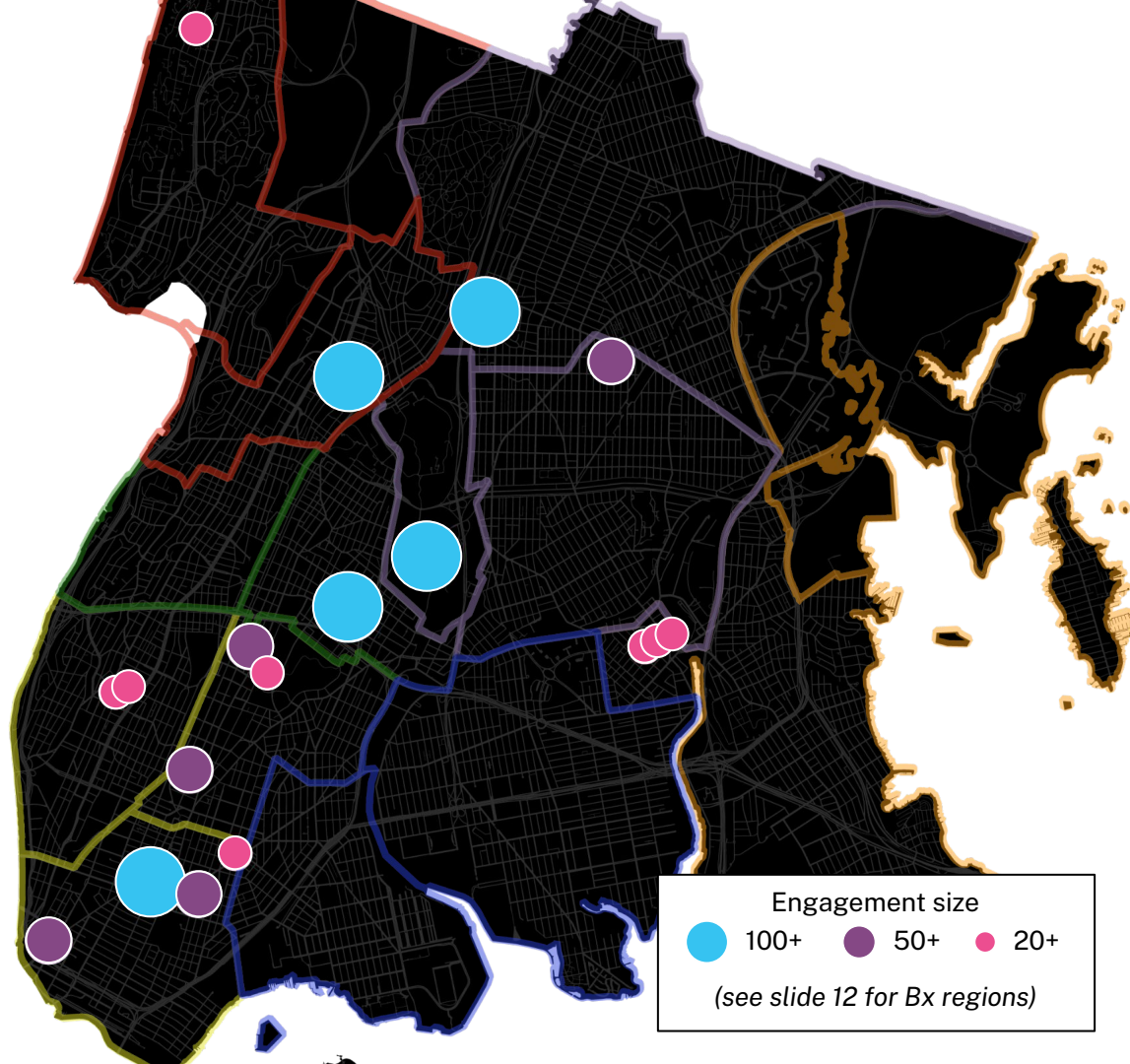


18 community
engagements



1,000+ participants

ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS



Vision themes

Most pressing issues in The Bronx



What we heard

Top needs, priorities, and ideas shared by Bronx residents

| Fair and safe housing | Quality education | Digital equity |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Affordable quality housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Shared ownership and lower rents❖ Quality living conditions with adequate heating❖ No discrimination <p>Vibrant and fairly resourced neighborhoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Access to education, healthcare and food❖ Multi-generational and safe community spaces❖ Green spaces, less traffic | <p>Accessible, affordable quality education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Updated curriculum, facilities, infrastructure❖ Equal access to financial resources❖ Support for continuing education <p>Interactive, creative, interdisciplinary education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Rounded education with interactive lessons❖ Special focus on arts, urban gardening, technology, and cultural education <p>Inclusive and safe spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Discrimination and violence-free spaces for all | <p>Equal access and distribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Wifi equity❖ High quality digital training for all <p>Build digital tools to support businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Tech hubs and online community programs |

What we heard

Top needs, priorities, and ideas shared by Bronx residents

| Food sovereignty and access | Health equity and access | Wealth generating jobs |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Equal access and distribution of healthy food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Better prices for raw and organic produce❖ More quality supermarkets <p>Build capacity to grow more local food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Community-owned gardens❖ Food education and programming | <p>Maintain healthy environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Maintain public gardens❖ Ensure public safety and cleanliness❖ Expand access to affordable, healthy food <p>Create high quality medical care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Affordable healthcare with benefits❖ More access to mental health services and specialists | <p>Ensure quality jobs with good salaries for locals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Talent retention❖ People > profits <p>Support cooperative economics and education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Shared resources, breaking silos❖ Shared community wealth |

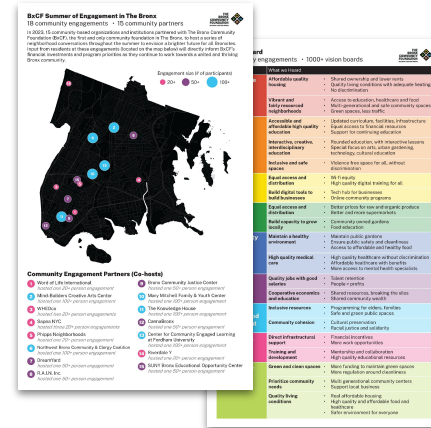
What we heard

Top needs, priorities, and ideas shared by Bronx residents

| Inclusive neighborhood development | Micro/small business support | Community-owned open spaces |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Create inclusive resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Programming for elders, families❖ Safe and green public spaces <p>Support community cohesion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Cultural preservation❖ Racial justice and solidarity | <p>Direct infrastructural support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Financial incentives❖ More work opportunities <p>Training and development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Mentorship and collaboration❖ Quality educational resources | <p>Green and clean spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ More funding to maintain green spaces❖ More regulation around cleanliness <p>Prioritize community needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Multigenerational community centers❖ Support local businesses <p>Quality living conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Quality affordable housing, food, and healthcare❖ Safer environment for everyone |

What we heard

For a deeper dive into all the public feedback and input received from Bronx residents during the BxCF Summer of Engagement, please review the following documents:



Link: [“What We Heard” slide deck](#)

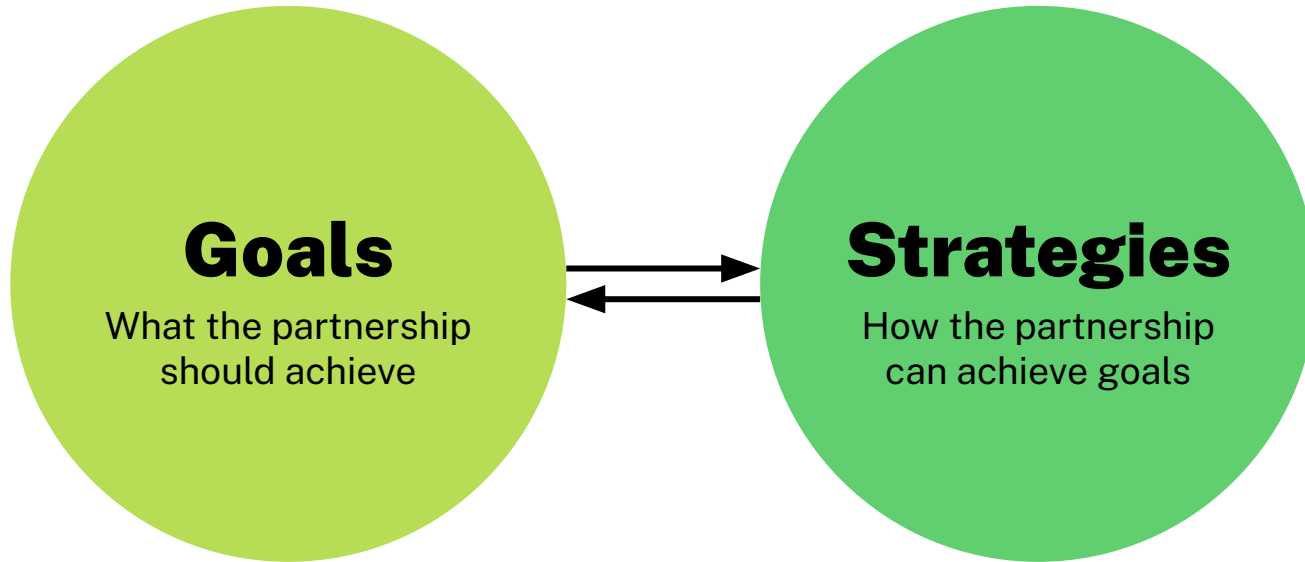
Link: [“What We Heard” 2-pager](#)

Recommendations



Partnership recommendations

Co-created with CBO partners (Co-designers + Co-hosts)



Partnership goals

| Goals | ONE | TWO | THREE |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | <p>Secure additional resources and funding for CBOs</p> | <p>Enhance CBOs credibility, leverage opportunities</p> | <p>Foster strategic alliances to support Bronx-wide initiatives</p> |
| <p>What this means</p> | <p>Position BxCF as a regrant entity, connecting mega foundations with the local work of Bronx CBOs.</p> <p>Advocate for increased resources and funding, tapping into opportunities that individual organizations may not access independently.</p> <p>Explore collaborative fundraising and regranting strategies to access government funds.</p> | <p>Expand the reach of Bronx CBOs to establish credibility on a broader scale – highlight the good work that has been done, but remains unrecognized.</p> <p>Emphasize the potential for The Bronx to thrive with proper funding, positioning BxCF as a convener and credible entity.</p> <p>Utilize credibility to access larger opportunities for Bronx CBOs working on the ground.</p> | <p>Identify cross-sector partners among CBOs and local colleges and universities to launch joint initiatives to reduce brain drain and build capacity in public educational institutions.</p> <p>Convene and fund CBOs to come up with intersectional solutions to mental health and wellness challenges, especially in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> |

Partnership goals

| Goals | FOUR | FIVE | SIX |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | <p>Facilitate collective action, break silos between CBOs</p> | <p>Be a thought partner, foster positive relationships</p> | <p>Support the smooth operation of CBOs</p> |
| <p>What this means</p> | <p>Unite organizations under a collective banner, working collaboratively to scale innovative ideas, fostering cross-collaboration.</p> <p>Promote transparency among organizations, bridging intersections and facilitating collaboration beyond individual domains.</p> <p>Leverage technology to enhance coordination of services and track interconnected initiatives.</p> | <p>Emphasize the value of thought partnerships, promoting fair collaborations and shared accountability.</p> <p>Position BxCF as a facilitator in driving relationships, avoiding a top-down philanthropic approach.</p> <p>Use BxCF as a convener to bring funders and experts together for collaborative discussions on critical issues.</p> | <p>Provide General Operating Support (GOS) to address gaps in government contracts and ensure fair compensation for staff.</p> <p>Recognize BxCF's role in filling organizational gaps, particularly during challenging periods like the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> |

Partnership strategies

| What | ONE | TWO | THREE |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
| | <p>Build trust, manage expectations with CBOs</p> | <p>Address tensions in power dynamics</p> | <p>Address conflicting positions and solutions</p> |
| <p>Why</p> | <p>Establishing trust is an important and time-consuming process. CBOs are pressed for time and resources which are essential to form lasting partnerships.</p> | <p>Power dynamics, especially concerning financial decisions, can lead to collaboration breakdowns. Mitigate ambiguity regarding who is in charge and the responsibilities of each partner.</p> | <p>There are conflicting perspectives on topics like cannabis entrepreneurial opportunities.</p> |
| <p>How</p> | <p>Facilitate genuine conversations about realistic expectations and capacities, holding all parties accountable.</p> <p>Acknowledge the importance of time investment in relationship-building and regularly create spaces for open and honest feedback.</p> | <p>Collectively define clear expectations, roles, and responsibilities to avoid misunderstandings and enhance collaboration.</p> <p>Define collaboration in a way that acknowledges the influence of both funding entities and grant seekers, emphasizing shared decision-making for impactful change.</p> | <p>Establish clear objectives and goals, providing a reference point during conflicts and emphasizing the importance of trust and collective vision.</p> |

Partnership strategies

| What | FOUR | FIVE | SIX |
|------|---|---|---|
| | <p>Give credit where it's due – put CBO work in the limelight</p> | <p>Avoid redundancy and maximize collaboration</p> | <p>Address financial challenges and budget cuts</p> |
| Why | <p>Smaller organizations may lack infrastructure and are often unrecognized even though they do most of the work.</p> | <p>There's a risk of duplicating efforts within The Bronx as many CBOs work in silos.</p> | <p>There are historical, systemic financial constraints and disinvestment in The Bronx.</p> |
| How | <p>Recognize and support CBOs, ensuring their contributions are acknowledged and shared with a wider audience.</p> | <p>Coordinate efforts with existing plans like The Bronx Wide Plan, leveraging collective knowledge and building on what is already in progress.</p> | <p>Explore creative funding strategies, collaborate with stakeholders, and advocate for sustained financial support, especially in the face of potential budget cuts.</p> |

Strategic planning priorities

| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
|--|---|--|---|
| Use the “Findings and Recommendations Toolkit” as documentation of the first phase of BxCF’s strategic planning process | Prioritize “Partnership Recommendations” and articulate BxCF’s role in the Bronx | Articulate a Theory of Change (TOC) and future vision | Create a 3-year Strategic Plan document that reflects BxCF’s key funding priorities and partnership strategy |

For more information about the BxCF’s strategic planning priorities, please review the following document:

Link: [“BxCF Strategic Planning Priorities”](#)



Thank you!