

BxCF Summer of Engagement

What We Heard

July–August, 2023



HESTER ST

Engagement implementation

15 Co-hosts

18 Engagements

Engagement size



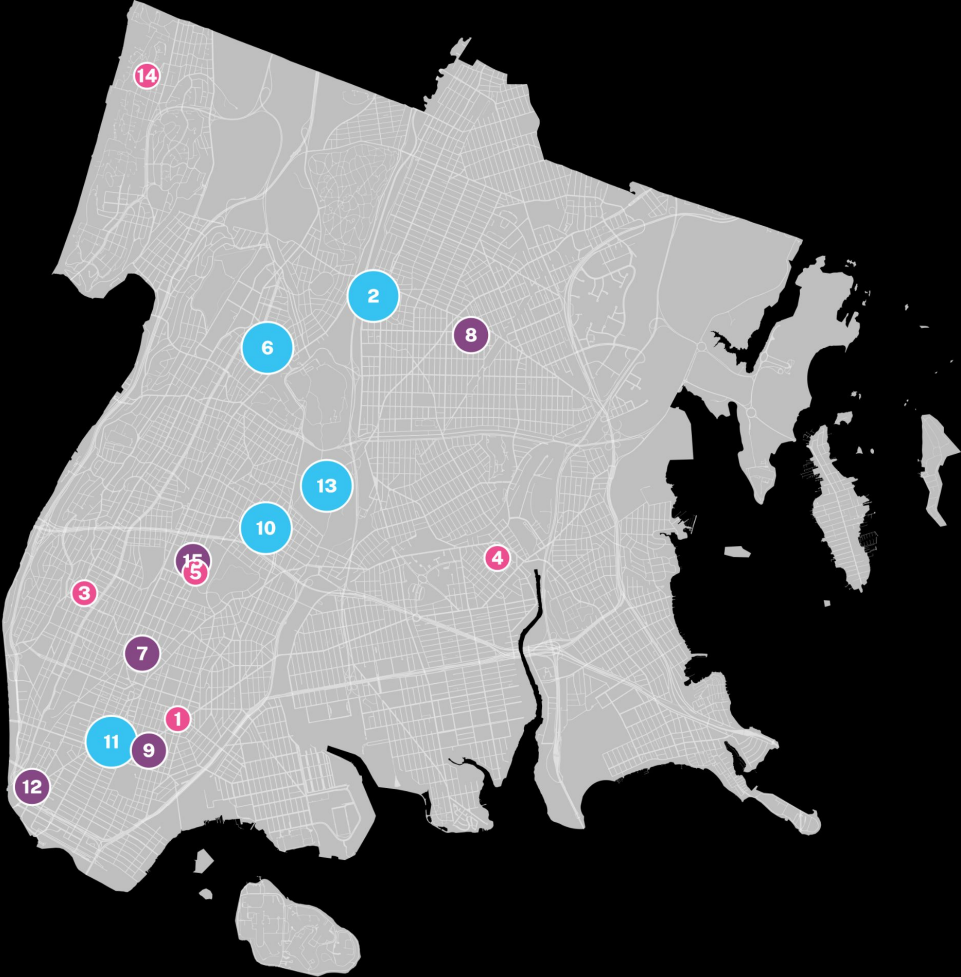
100+



50+



20+



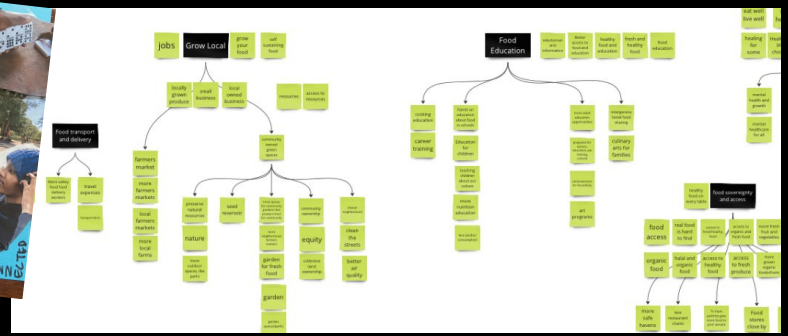
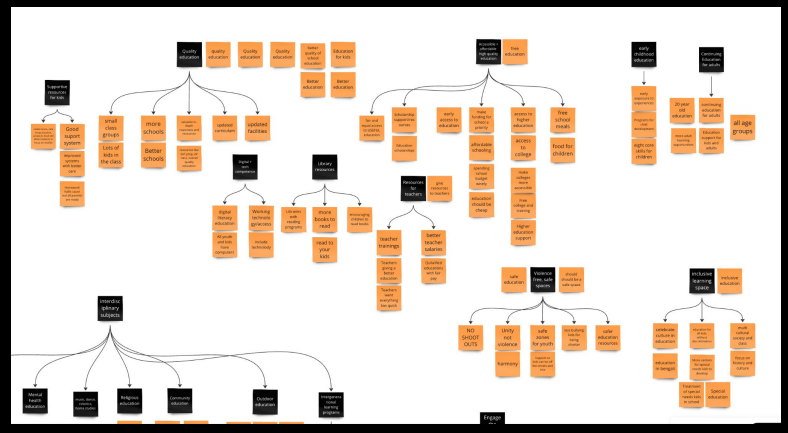


1,000+

**Bronxites created their vision
for The Bronx**



Synthesis + analysis



1

Transcribe everything we heard

2

Cluster + make categories based on community asks

3

Re-cluster + pull key insights

Issue themes



**FAIR AND SAFE
HOUSING**



**QUALITY
EDUCATION**



DIGITAL EQUITY



**FOOD SOVEREIGNTY
AND ACCESS**



**HEALTH EQUITY
AND ACCESS**



**WEALTH
GENERATING JOBS**



**INCLUSIVE
NEIGHBORHOOD
DEVELOPMENT**

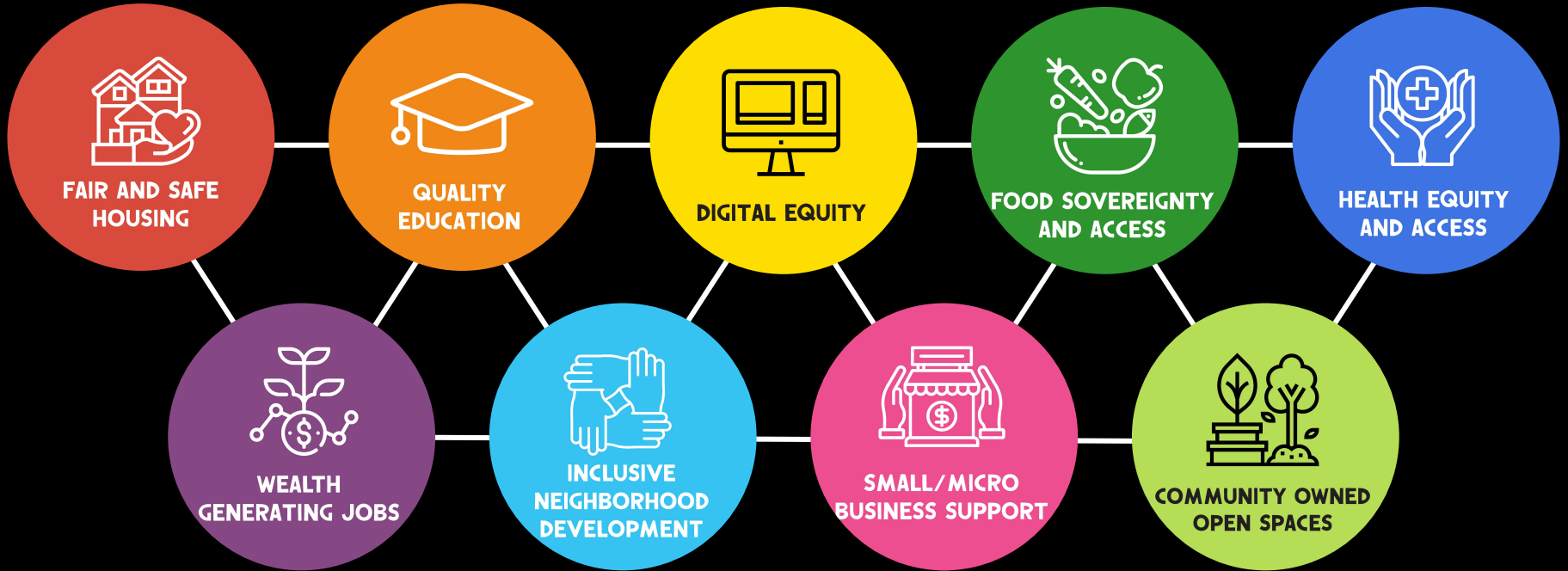


**SMALL/MICRO
BUSINESS SUPPORT**



**COMMUNITY OWNED
OPEN SPACES**

Issue themes



1.

Fair and safe housing





PARTICIPANT QUOTES

“Every resident deserves to have a roof over their head, where they can feel safe with their family and where rent can be according to their income.”

“I want to live in a good house with low rent.”

“Home is where the learning starts.”

Community asks are in two categories:

**Affordable
quality housing**

+

**Vibrant + fairly
resourced
neighborhoods**

COMMUNITY ASK 1

Affordable quality housing

What we heard:

Lower rents

- **Affordable housing** with low rent
 - **More housing fairs** with **rent stabilization**
- **Free shelter for the poor and homeless**
- **Resist gentrification**
 - Don't need empty lots

Shared ownership

- **No private house owning**
- Community property and **shared ownership**
- More **tenants unions**

No discrimination

- Houses for **single parents**
- Intergenerational **family-oriented** housing
- **Senior** housing
- Apartments for **immigrants**
- Apartments for **homeless**

Quality living conditions

- Adequate **heating**
- **Cleaner** buildings with proper sanitation
- **Maintenance** assistance

Safe housing

- Gun control
- Cameras in buildings
- Safe for kids and elderly
- Respect from landlords

COMMUNITY ASK 2

Vibrant + fairly resourced neighborhoods

What we heard:

Access to quality resources and systems

- Access to **quality and affordable healthcare**
- Affordable **quality education**
- Access to **cheap and good quality food**
- More **polling stations**

Multi-generational and safe community spaces

- Gathering **community and sharing resources**
- **Healthy communication** with neighbors
 - Safely interact and share ideas
- **Communal activities**
 - More events for all ages
 - Safe + inclusive quality programs
- **Hate and crime-free neighborhood**

Green spaces, regulated traffic and transportation

- **Parks** for community
 - Playgrounds for kids
 - Locally grown produce
- **Benches** in all outdoor spaces
- **Rooftop gardens** in buildings

- More **traffic lights**
- More **car bumps** to slow down the racing
- More **space for people to walk** and less cars
- **Elevators** on train stations

2. Quality education





PARTICIPANT QUOTES

“Children need to see themselves in the curriculum.”

“Aggressive cycles can only be broken by progressive education policies.”

“The perfect Bronx would be when we teach the upcoming generations to become the greatest versions of themselves.”

Community asks are in three categories:

**Accessible
+ affordable
high quality
education**

+

**Interactive
creative,
interdisciplinary
education**

+

**Inclusive + safe
spaces of
education**

COMMUNITY ASK 1

Accessible
+
affordable
high quality
education

What we heard:

Updated curriculums and resources

- Valuable **in-depth resources**
- **Small sizes** of class groups, more intimate learning spaces with focussed attention
- Resources like **SAT prep, AP class**
- **Train youth for future success**
 - Career counselling
 - Bring trades to high school
 - Business leadership opportunities
 - Training for higher education

Updated facilities and infrastructure

- **Digital and technology** education
 - Access to computers
 - Fast wifi
- **Library resources**
 - Readings programs
 - More and better books

Resources for teachers

- Regular **teacher trainings**
- Qualified educators with **fair salaries**

COMMUNITY ASK 1

Accessible
+
affordable
high quality
education

What we heard:

Equal access to financial resources

- **Free school meals for all**
- **Make funding for school a priority**
- **Education scholarships**
 - Scholarship support + training

Early and after-school education program

- **Early childhood education**
 - Eight core skills for children to master
- **After-school programs**
 - Summer youth programming
 - After school activities for kids

Support for continuing education

- **Adult learning opportunities** Adult and youth programming to help people learn across a range of fields and skills

Support for parents

- **Stable home, safe living situation, access to food will allow students to focus on studies**
- **Online engagement and activities for parents**
 - Help with homework
 - Programs for child development

COMMUNITY ASK 2

**Interactive
creative,
interdisciplinary
y education**

What we heard:

Interdisciplinary approach

- **Honor the different ways of learning**
- More **interactive** lessons
- **More games and incentives**
- **Rounded education, funding for arts**
- More opportunities for **kids to be creative**

Interdisciplinary subjects

- **Urban farming** education
- **Mental health** education
 - Recreation activities for mental health
- More funding for **arts, music, dance**
- **Robotics and technology** education
- **Outdoor** education
 - Environment education
 - More physical activities and sports
- **Cultural and religious education**
- **Intergenerational** education
 - Community education
 - Kids, youth, adults, older folks learning and teaching together

COMMUNITY ASK 3

Inclusive and safe spaces of education

What we heard:

Violence-free safe spaces

- **NO SHOOT-OUTS**
 - Safe zones for youth
 - On and off school
- **Less bullying** culture
- **Safer education resources**

Education for all kids, without discrimination

- **Celebrate culture** in education
 - **Multicultural** education
 - Focus on **different histories + cultures**
 - Education in **different languages**
- **Special focus for kids that have special needs**
 - Dedicated centers
 - Special treatments

3. Digital equity

A simple line-art icon of a computer monitor with a stand, positioned behind the word 'equity' in the main title.

PARTICIPANT QUOTES

“How do we create an infrastructure that can endure?”

“ The tech world is moving fast and individuals need assistance.”

“What are the barriers? We should prioritize to address them. ”

Community asks are in two categories:

**Receiving equal
access and
distribution of
resources**

+

**Leveraging the
digital world to
connect and grow**

COMMUNITY ASK 1

Receiving
equal access
+
distribution
of resources

What we heard:

Wifi Equity

- **Fair distribution** of wifi resources
- **High speed** internet
- **Faster services** and communication
- **Smart homes**

Building digital literacy

- Access to **high quality digital trainings**
 - Digital education about **.com and Ai**
- **Build capacity for all** with a focus on
 - Teach computers in schools to **kids**
 - Computer workshops for **adults**
 - Have available resource centers **training seniors** on digital technology
 - **Train women** to have better tech skills

COMMUNITY ASK 2

**Leveraging
the digital
world to
connect and
grow**

What we heard:

Online learning modules

- Digital libraries
- Online STEM education for children
- Digital certifications
- Increased interest in literacy and readings

Tech Hub for businesses

- Support businesses to go digital
- More digital opportunities for Bronxites
- Online networking seminars

Online community programs

- Online mental health facilities
- Online seminars for the community
 - Green innovation, environmental justice
 - Recreation opportunities for elders
 - Nutrition and food education
 - Seminars promoting culture

4. Food sovereignty and access





PARTICIPANT QUOTES

“Wellness is a domino effect.”

“Food insecurity impacts Bronx residents more than any other borough.”

“Everyone should have food stamp in the community because food is getting expensive.”

Community asks are in three categories:

**Equal access
and distribution**

+

**Building
capacity grown
our own food**

=

**Eat healthy
Live healthy**

COMMUNITY ASK 1

Equal access and distribution

What we heard:

Better prices for raw produce

- Better prices for **basic food**
- More affordable **organic food options**
- **Cheaper meat** and halal options
- No more **gouging prices**

More affordable meals

- **Free school meals**
- **Food in libraries and sports centers**
- **Affordable restaurants** with healthy, organic, nutritious food options

Better and more supermarkets

- **Food stores close by**
- **More fresh fruit and vegetables**
- **Halal ingredients in supermarkets**
- **Organic food pantries and soup kitchens**
- **Vitamin shops**

Better food distribution

- **More safety** food food delivery workers
- **Cheaper transportation costs**

COMMUNITY ASK 2

**Building
capacity
grown our
own food**

What we heard:

Grow local

- **Local farmers markets**
- **Community-owned gardens** that produce food for community
 - Seed reservoirs
- **Preserve natural resources**
- Support **black and brown, women-owned, LGBTQ+ businesses**

Food education

- **More education about nutrition**
 - Hands on education in **schools**
 - More **adult education** for healthy eating + less alcohol consumption
 - **Intergenerational food experiences**
 - Teaching youth about culture and food
 - Culinary arts for families
- **Culinary schools**
 - Career opportunities and training

COMMUNITY ASK 3

Eat healthy
Live
healthy

What we heard:

A cleaner Bronx

- **Better sanitation, reduced pollution**
- **Preserve natural resources**
 - Cleaner neighborhoods
 - Better air
 - More green spaces

Healthcare needs

- **Mental healthcare** for all
- Spaces for **physical activities**

A happier, healthier community

- **Inclusive** community
- **Healthier** life choices
- **Safer** community
- A community that **eats together, grows together, works together**

5. Health equity and access





PARTICIPANT QUOTES

**“Access is key.
Healthcare is a right.”**

**“No community is more
worthy of quality health
care.”**

**“Allowing for health
equality allows for a
fulfilling life.”**

Community asks are in two categories:

**Keeping people
healthy**

Thriving children, focused
youth, happy families

+

**Providing good
medical care**

Better quality and affordable
medical services

COMMUNITY ASK 1

Keeping people healthy

What we heard:

Maintain public gardens

- Green spaces for **mental well being**
- Green spaces for **better air quality**
- Green spaces for **exercise**
- **Open spaces**

Ensure public safety

- **Strengthen public safety** for better mental health
- **Safe schools**, safe streets

A cleaner Bronx

- **Better sanitation**, clean up the garbage
- Ensure human and animal **waste is cleaned up** and not on the streets
- More **public restrooms**
- **Pollution free air**
- **Noise pollution** reduction

Access to healthy and affordable food

- **Ability to buy groceries** for your family for <\$100
- Better access to **affordable healthy food**
- Urban gardening, **fresh produce**

COMMUNITY ASK 2

Providing good medical care

What we heard:

High quality healthcare

- More good and **safe doctors**
- **Speedier appointments**, more attention
- Regular **health checks**
- **Readily available care**
- **High quality medicines**
- Medicaid paid for **cannabis prescription**
- **Rapid ambulance** response
 - More and quicker ambulances

Healthcare without discrimination

- **Equal treatment** of all patients
- **Basic health care services** for all

Affordable Healthcare

- **Free healthcare** for all
 - Doctor services with benefits
 - Benefits for those without healthcare
- **Lower cost** of services
- **Affordable medication** for low income residents
- **Microgranting** for medical debt

COMMUNITY ASK 2

Providing good medical care

What we heard:

More access to mental health specialists

- **Places and activities** to help people with depression and loneliness
- **More conversations** about mental health
- **Quality resources** for mental health
- **Prioritize** mental health and growth

Provide focussed and dedicated care

- Trained practitioners for **elders**
- **Healthcare for women**
 - Reproductive rights
 - Safe accessible affordable care for elderly woman
- Good home care for **disabled elders**
- Special care for **kids**

Support for providers

- **Higher pay for first responders**
- Good **medical education**

Healthcare for pets

- Place to help **neuter pets**
- Places to **protect and help street animals** that are suffering and need help

6. Wealth generating jobs





PARTICIPANT QUOTES

“Working together to develop infrastructure for us and *for those after us.*”

“I want job assurance as prices are going up and so must salaries.”

“Jobs for EVERYONE.”

Community asks are in two categories:

Quality jobs with good salaries

Better jobs, higher wages, and
more growth opportunities

+

Cooperative economics + education

Resource sharing and job
training opportunities

COMMUNITY ASK 1

**Quality
jobs with
good
salaries**

What we heard:

Create more and better jobs

- **Talent retention**
- **More job resource fairs**
 - Help with job preparation
- **More jobs for immigrants**
- **More jobs for the elderly**
- **Local hiring, local placement**

People > profits

- **Better salaries**
 - Overtime pay
- **Opportunities to grow in leadership**
 - Communication to build and support
- **Work with justice and dignity**
 - More respect, no bullying
 - Good mental health and growth
- **Safer working spaces**
 - Safe streets, parks, working conditions

COMMUNITY ASK 2

**Cooperativ
e
economics
+ education**

What we heard:

**Shared resources,
breaking the silos**

- Sharing **physical and digital resources**
- More help and **resources for people to start their own business**
- **Co-working spaces** with other business owners

**Building shared wealth
in our community**

- **Collective governance**
- Wealth distribution + cooperative economics

**A strong base of
education**

- **Educate the children**
 - k-12 education
 - More schools
- **Training for jobs**
 - **Digital** training
 - More **tech** education
- Curriculum-based education
 - Financial literacy
- **Senior citizen** education
- **Youth** educations

7. Inclusive neighborhood development





PARTICIPANT QUOTES

**“Our Bronx! Our Lives!
Our Solutions!”**

**“Welcome to the Bronx
where you feel like family.”**

**“Bring a care system
into the neighborhood
instead of pushing them
aside.”**

Community asks are in two categories:

Inclusive resources

Programming for elders,
thriving families, safe
neighborhoods

+

Community cohesion

Community building, cultural
preservation, and racial justice

COMMUNITY ASK 1



**Inclusive
resources**

What we heard:

Resources and programming for elders

- **Prioritize elders**
 - More respect for seniors
 - More recreation centers, activities, and programs for seniors

Family support

- **Thriving families**
 - Safe and affordable **housing**
 - Access to **quality public spaces** and clean air
 - **Better education** (home economics) and **economic opportunities**

Safer public spaces

- **Reduce crime and violence**
 - More neighborhood security
- **Child safety initiatives**
 - Safer public spaces dedicated for kids (playgrounds)

COMMUNITY ASK 2



Community cohesion

What we heard:

Community building and cultural preservation

- **Community gathering spaces for all**
 - More spaces to learn about local programs, news, and build connections with neighbors (libraries)
- **Community projects** so people can build and improve their neighborhoods together
- **Free cultural events** related to food, art, and music

Racial justice and solidarity

- **Language access**
- Promote **multicultural diversity**
 - Respect for people of color
 - Less racial division, more equality
- **Community governance and collective self determination**

8. Micro/small business support



PARTICIPANT QUOTES

**“Reintroduce a
plethora of lost
resources back
into underserved
communities.”**

**“More safety and security
for small businesses”**

**“Leverage local
businesses to offer adult
program space for
learning and community.”**

Community asks are in two categories:

**Infrastructural
direct support**

+

**Training and
development** or
capacity building

COMMUNITY ASK 1

Infrastructural direct support

What we heard:

Financial incentives

- **Microgrants** to local business
- **Banking institution loans** and **local investors**
- **Charities** donations
- **More money** in the market

More work opportunities

- **Hire local** / Local procurement
- Ease in getting **vendor licenses**
- **Business leadership development**
- Job opportunities for **youth**
- **Cannabis entrepreneurial** opportunities

More women and black-owned businesses

- **Racial justice**
- **Safety** for black owned businesses
- More support for **women entrepreneurs**

Locals become shared owners

- **Shared profits**
- **Community-owned** spaces
 - Fine landlords for empty stores
- **Worker cooperatives**

COMMUNITY ASK 1

Infrastructural direct support

What we heard:

Social respect and acceptability

- **More respect and safety** for business owners
- Community cooperation and friendship
- **Shop local**

Basic necessities

- Help in businesses to **go digital**
 - **Faster internet**
- **Cleaner sidewalks** for vendors
- Affordable **housing, food and healthcare**

Some local businesses that community members want to see:

- **Farmers markets**
- **Safe creative spaces**
- **Outdoor dining + adult nightlife**
- **Cannabis** entrepreneurial opportunities
- Support for community + **community events**
 - **Senior** programs
 - **After hours** programming
 - **Family** planning/parent education
 - **Older adult** programs
 - **Mindfulness wellness** programs

COMMUNITY ASK 2

Training and development

What we heard:

Mentorship + collaboration

- **Peer education**
- **Resource sharing**
- **Online networking**

Educational resources

- **Training and programs**
 - **Culinary** education
 - **Creative** upskilling
 - Maximum exposure to **creative and cultural arts**
- **Business leadership and development**
 - Accessible, online **business courses**
 - **Entrepreneurial skills** for youth
 - Workshops on **entrepreneurship**

Mental health resources

- Access to **affordable mental health resources**

9. Community-owned open spaces





PARTICIPANT QUOTES

**“S.O.S:
SAVE OUR STREETS.
Keep them clean.”**

**“Community owned open spaces
are important so communities
can decide for themselves what
is valued and important for them
to have.”**

“Let’s keep the children busy.”

Community asks are in three categories:

**Green and
clean spaces**

+

**Prioritize the
community**

+

**Quality living
conditions**

COMMUNITY ASK 1

Green and clean spaces

What we heard:

Invest in more green spaces, combat effects of climate change

- **More investment** in parks and street trees in order to **deal with flooding** from stormwater runoff
- **More trees = lower temp**
- More **parks**
- More **street trees**
- More **water bodies**
- More **community gardens**

Need to maintain green space/ parks

- **Upkeep gardens/spaces**
 - **Hire local, create job opportunities**

Parks for leisure and recreation

- Make more parks for people to **stay physical**
- More parks with **programming for kids**
- More green spaces for **food and relaxation**
- More green spaces to **enjoy as a family**
- More parks and services **for the elderly**

COMMUNITY ASK 1

Green and clean spaces

What we heard:

Cleaner community spaces

- Cleaner **parks**
- Cleaner **pools**
- Cleaner **public spaces**
- Cleanliness of the **streets** is very important
 - Reduce **vandalism**
 - Clean and restrict **dog poop**
 - **Handle stray cats** through TNR

Proper disposal of waste

- Need more **trash cans**
- More **education** for people to dispose of waste and garbage properly
 - **Recycle, reduce, reuse**
- Clean spaces for kids can play without being **contaminated with trash**

Regulated use of drugs, less drugs in open spaces

- **Regulate the increase in marijuana**
- **Less weed smoking** in public spaces

COMMUNITY ASK 2

**Prioritize
the
community**

What we heard:

Community Centers

- More **community get-togethers** and improved community partnerships
 - **Community services**
- **Recreation activities** in open spaces
 - Green spaces to **exercise, walk around, meditate, relax**
 - Public spaces where **physical activities can be done safely**
 - **Performance spaces**
 - **Movie screenings**
 - **Community music opportunities**
 - **Visual art, community murals**
- **Multigenerational** access
 - No division between people
 - Prioritize **kids and growth**
 - Prioritize **older folks** and accessibility
- A beautiful space “**Bronx beautification**”

COMMUNITY ASK 2

Prioritize the community

What we heard:

Support small and local businesses

- Help each other with all resources
- Local hire
- Create jobs that **pay living wages**

Prioritize needs of older people

- **Benches for seniors** to wait for transportation and socialize
- **Free classes for parents and adults** as well
- Need **senior people's recreation center**
 - Spaces to **entertain** the elderly
- More **houses** for old people
- More **jobs** for old people

Prioritize the growth of children and youth

- **Safe playgrounds** to play in and grow
- More **free activities and games** for kids
- Get teenagers more involved in **volunteering**
- **Learning centers** for kids
 - More trade school in public school
 - Updated curriculums
- More **books and library access**

COMMUNITY ASK 3

Quality living conditions

What we heard:

Real affordable housing

- More low-income housing
- **Community Ownership**
 - Tenant Unions
 - Housing Cooperatives
- **Parking lots**

Empower through education

- **Free quality education**
- Education reform **through the arts**
 - **Music and arts** opportunities
 - **Rappers** can get fame at a young age
- Expand **urban gardening** programs for youth

Food sovereignty & access

- **Affordable organic** food, fewer bodegas
- **Low cost food**
- More **help for homeless**
- More food resources to **grow locally**

Safer environment for everyone

- **Security at night** for the community
- Safety for **kids and seniors in parks**
- **GUN CONTROL**

Comments, insights, feedback?



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