

# SOUTH BROOKLYN

# BROWNFIELD OPPORTUNITY AREA

## Community Meeting 1 September 26, 2023

The South Brooklyn Brownfield Opportunity Area study aims to build consensus on priorities for the future of communities living in a large area within Community Board 7, which includes Sunset Park, Greenwood, and Windsor Terrace in Brooklyn, NY. Initial outreach and engagement efforts yielded a project Steering Committee that includes local elected leaders, advocates, and business and property owners. In order to receive more input and bring the study into the public eye, a round of public meetings will be hosted, this event being the first. By opening up the study process in a public manner, local residents and workers can share their expertise on the area and guide the project towards outcomes that fit their needs and desires.



### PROJECT TEAM

The project is being led by Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC), and supported by a consultant team including HR&A Advisors, WXY Studio, Langan Engineering, and Grain Collective.



### 55+ Participants

The meeting was well-attended with the Community Board room full. Around a dozen people used the provided Spanish interpretation and left their written comments in Spanish. Interpretation was offered in three additional languages - Arabic, Mandarin, and Cantonese.



6:00 pm - 8:00pm  
Tuesday  
September 26, 2023



Community Board 7  
Meeting Room

### AGENDA

- 6:00pm Sign-in + Organize
- 6:15pm Interpretation Groups + Hand Out Materials
- 6:15pm Presentation to
- 6:45pm Introduce BOA project + objectives
- 6:45pm Q&A moderated by
- 7:00pm HR&A
- 7:00pm Open House Setup
- 7:45pm with Four Stations
- 7:45pm Next Steps, Q&A and
- 8:00pm Wrap-Up

### MEETING GOALS

- Share project goals and details to build public awareness on the project.
- Gather input on the community vision, priorities and desired development goals.
- Strengthen relationships among FAC, consultant team, steering committee, and public.

# Presentation

The meeting started with an introduction to the project team, and then lead consultant HR&A gave an overview of the progress made so far. Attendees learned about the Steering Committee structure, study zones, and how this work will interact with other concurrent planning efforts. In addition, HR&A provided an overview of demographic, housing, and employment trends in the study area. A series of project goals and legislative contexts were given, and the presentation concluded with next steps that community members can expect from the project team.

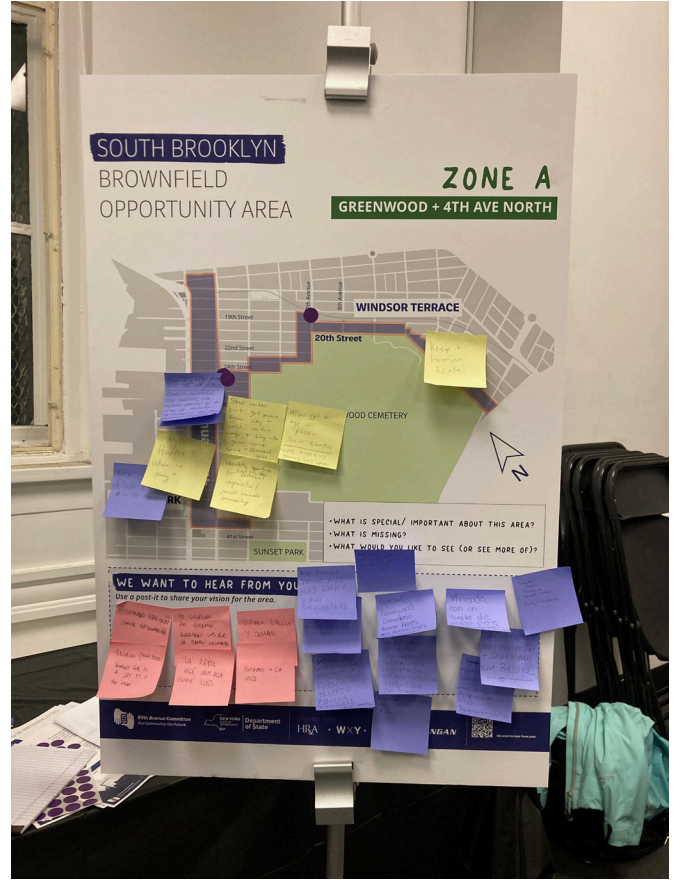
# Q&A

The presentation was followed by a lively Q&A session that deepened the project team's understanding of community priorities. Folks questioned how the project would prevent displacement while developing new housing units, and wanted to know how the study is engaging with grassroots organizations based in CB7. In addition, attendees asked how this work would interact with the GRID plan and other existing planning efforts. Other queries and concerns included preserving the spectacular views from Sunset Park and virtual accessibility for project materials and future meetings.

# Open House Stations

After the Q&A session, meeting attendees were invited to circulate between four stations with different focuses - Project Overview, Zone A, Zone B, and Zone C. Folks using Spanish interpretation moved together as a group with interpreters from the project team. These stations had board maps and specific information on their respective topics. Project team members at each station were able to give details and answer any questions, with visitors leaving feedback in the form of post-its and stickers affixed to the boards. Survey cards were also available to fill out in four languages - English, Spanish, Arabic, and Simplified Chinese.





# Top Themes



## Housing

Housing was the top theme throughout the workshop, with participants concerned about affordability and housing for marginalized groups. Many people explicitly asked for regulated options such as public or rent-controlled housing.

**“Affordable housing for undocumented people.”**

**“Rent controlled housing and environmentally-friendly buildings.”**



## Transportation

Many people expressed a desire for change in transportation services, including improvements to subway stations, pedestrian and bike infrastructure. This theme was also linked closely to safety, with participants wanting more stoplights and road safety.

**“Many things are missing (escalators, 36th only has an exit in the front).”**

**“Security in the street, 59th and 4th Ave pedestrian safety.”**

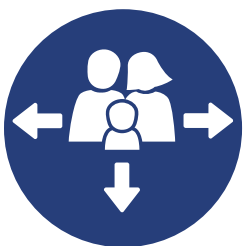


## Public + Green Spaces

Public areas and greenery were consistently mentioned across all zones, with folks desiring more trees and open park areas, especially for children and young people.

**“We are missing trees and plants in streets and public spaces.”**

**“Build more recreational, sports, and play spaces for young people and children”**



## Safety

This theme was reflected in number of ways, from pedestrian and bike safety, to feeling unsafe on the train, to a general sentiment for “more security.” Folks were concerned about the safety of children while going to and attending school as well.

**“Safety from the Prospect Expressway,”**

**“More security around the train station, more housing, security for children in school.”**

# Additional Themes

While these themes were not represented in a numerically significant way in written responses, they were brought up repeatedly during the Q+A session.



## Sunset Park View Corridors

While a couple folks mentioned Sunset Park's famous view corridors in written responses, many more were concerned with public spaces and streetscapes in general. However, there was a passionate discussion about potential impacts to the famous view corridors from Sunset Park to the New York harbor and Lower Manhattan. The project team will prepare materials for future public sessions to show what the impacts of any new development could be.



## Connections to Other Work

The South Brooklyn BOA project is working in an area with many other active organizations and planning efforts. Some people wanted to know how the BOA process would interact and collaborate with grassroots organizations, previous work such as the GRID plan, the development of the Interborough Express (IBX), and long-range planning around the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (BQE).





# Next Steps

- The project team will publicly post information about community engagement and project progress on FAC's website here - <https://fifthave.org/southbrooklynboa/>
- The next community meeting will be held in January 2024.
- We want to hear from you! Please email [sapna@graincollective.com](mailto:sapna@graincollective.com) with questions or comments about this project.
- Please reference the below project schedule for long-term scheduling.

