

Working Group #1 - Physical Space

February 22, 2021 - 4-6pm

Notetaker: Patrice

Action Items + Next Steps

- Will revisit materials from today during WG #2
- All questions can be directed to Tamara Greenfield in between WG meetings (tgreenfield@cityhall.nyc.gov)

Summit Takeaways

- When we say we speak for residents, we really do because we ensure we prioritize getting their input (Carolyn - Brownsville)
- Enjoyed being able to engage with policy makers and figure out how to make the change we want to see (Alaire - Van Dyke)
- Enjoyed different residents and developments were able to come together to celebrate work being done and completed projects (Terry - Butler)
- constant engagement to keep more residents involved and informed
- Residents need more direct contact and engagement with policymakers
- Powerful examples of work envisioned by and completed by residents

Policy Event Analysis

- **Overview**
 - How charting our work can build power and confidence while making us realize we have the power to determine what happens in our communities.
 - We often think of policy as an act of Congress or City Council. So, when we imagine shaping policy it can seem overwhelming. However, policy is anything that determines how we live and can be the absence of legislation. Policy can be as simple as “you can’t put a community stage there because no one has done that before.”
 - It’s important to chart everything. Even something as simple as a phone call or conversation with a friend. Charting change and reflecting on how we have created power where power did not exist before allows us to not have to start from scratch in our work. Some questions to ask are:
 - Were the steps you took effective?
 - With reflection, was there a small action that really led to big change?
 - How do we build power with policy event analysis?
 - How do we celebrate and win?
 - How do we keep going?
 - It’s important to own your narrative and your story. Charting your work supports you in telling your own narrative.
- **Activity**
 - The way to feel the power of this activity is to do this in real time - ideally on a daily basis. This can be done on sticky notes.

WG #1 Impact + Effort

- Low effort + low impact = people make promises (low effort for them) and don’t deliver (low impact). And you can take a HIGH EFFORT one and break it down into smaller policy events which will help you get unstuck.

Envisioning Activity ([Jamboard](#))

- **We envision a future where public space is...**
 - Safe, clean, free of dog poop, accessible, well lit, green, healthy, fun, vibrant, inclusive
- **That is for...**
 - Your community, elders, teenagers, kids/youth, families, pets, friends
- **This is important because...**
 - We all benefit from it
 - We can connect
 - It's fair
 - Cleanliness reduces pests
 - We deserve it
 - Improves mental health
 - Creates pride of place
 - It improves our quality of life
 - It improves quality of life
 - It creates cultural celebration
 - It creates environmental justice
 - Creates place to protest, heal, remember and gather
 - Give us power to change what we see to what we want to see

Physical Space - New Strategies

- WG members will think of any new strategies we should consider as we continue our work together.

Creating an Action Agenda

- We will generate ideas for the action agenda throughout the working group meetings.
- Looking to find ways to get residents more engaged and providing funding to provide more compact waste and other sustainability/environmental stewardship programming opportunities (Ellen Zielinski)
- Grateful for the transferable skills we are learning and looking forward to this work. There's been a lot of neglect in Brownsville and there's a lot to do. (Alaire Chappell)