

# SAFE PLACES, ACTIVE SPACES!

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

MINI

A Playbook for Transforming Public Spaces in Your Neighborhood

# ACTIVATING OPEN SPACES AT NYCHA



# THIS MINI PLAYBOOK IS A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR COMMUNITIES INTERESTED IN ACTIVATING PUBLIC SPACES WITH PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Every community deserves neighborhood public spaces that are safe, and this mini Playbook offers tools for one of the ways communities can directly shape change in these spaces using City resources and processes.

This mini-guide is an excerpt from **Safe Places, Active Spaces!** — available free online — where you will find information on a variety of ways to transform public spaces to improve your community's safety and well-being. In the full playbook, we focus on the agencies that manage public housing (NYCHA), streets and sidewalks (DOT and SAPO), and parks and gardens (NYC Parks).

No matter where you are in your journey towards resident-led neighborhood improvement, we hope you will find helpful tips and resources to assist you.

## **Public spaces:**

Outdoor spaces that are accessible to the public

## **Neighborhood activation:**

A coordinated effort from public entities working with communities to improve neighborhood safety and well-being through changes in the built environment, programs/events, and policy

**VIEW THE FULL COMMUNITY PLAYBOOK:**  
**[nyc.gov/safe-places-active-spaces](https://nyc.gov/safe-places-active-spaces)**

# HOW CAN AN ACTIVATION PROJECT ADDRESS MY COMMUNITY ISSUE?

## Programs and Events

### What are programs and events?

Programs and events are educational, social, cultural and/or artistic activities which bring people together, connect neighbors and support community building.

### How do programs and events address community issues and bring community benefits?



Engage Youth



Increase social interaction & build community

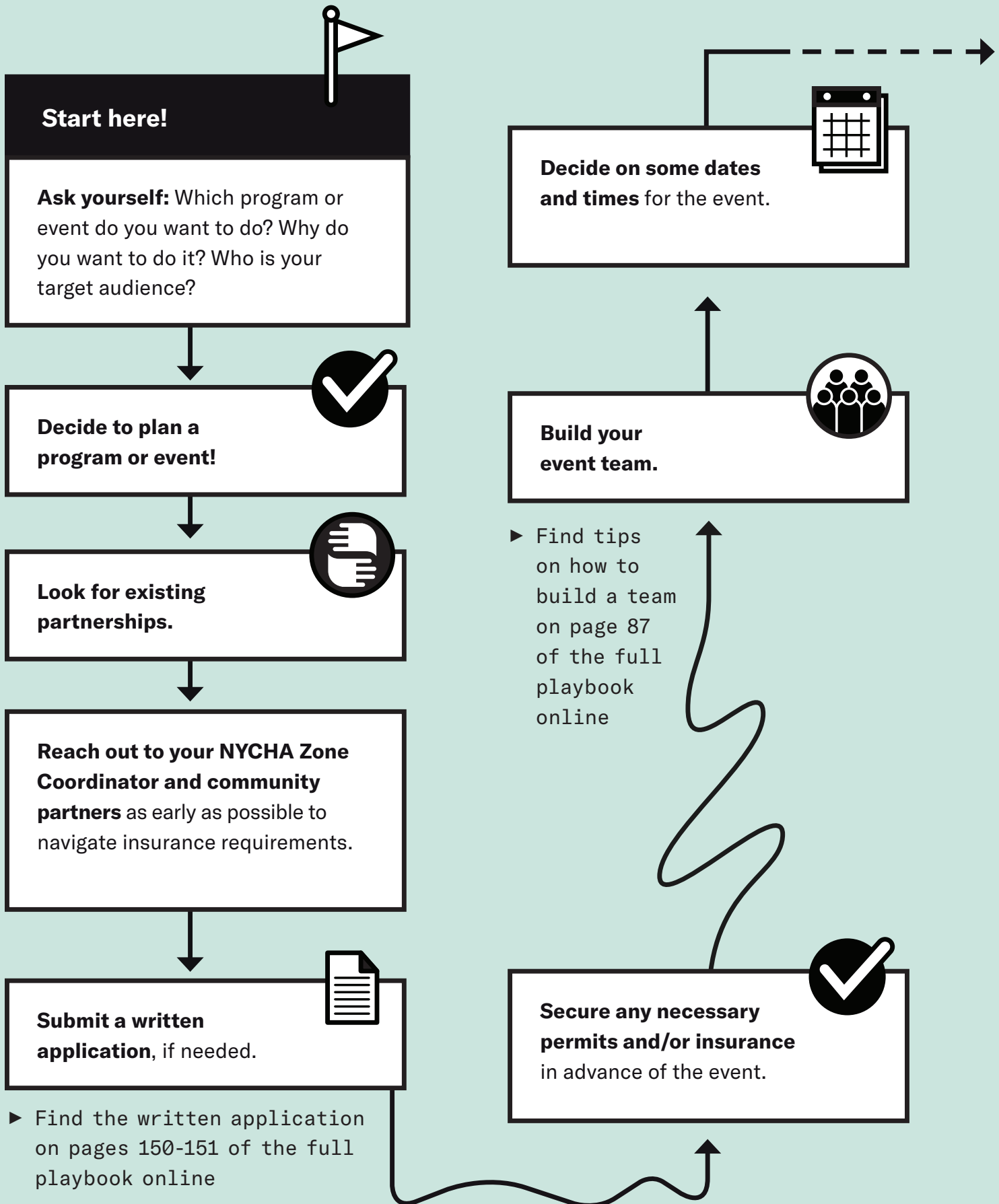


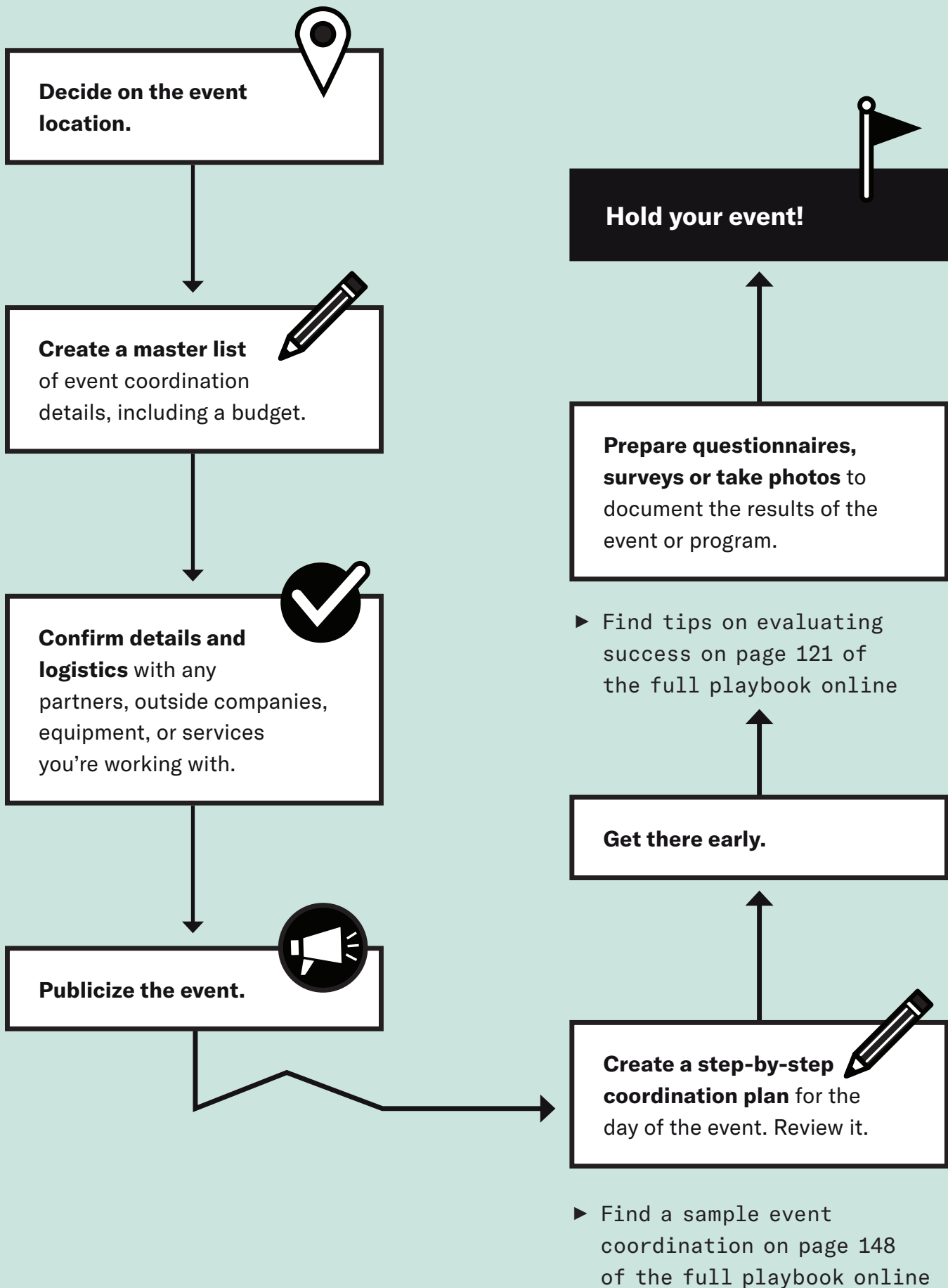
Celebrate culture, heritage, belonging and identity

**“A SPACE IS JUST A SPACE UNTIL WE TURN IT INTO A PLACE.”**

Kareem Whyte, Boulevard MAP Engagement Coordinator.

# Programs and Events at NYCHA





New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) provides housing for low- to moderate-income residents throughout the five boroughs of New York City.

## How Do I Activate Open Spaces at NYCHA?

You can activate open spaces at NYCHA through programs and events, public murals and art installations, and community gardens.

**Partner up.** NYCHA recommends that you connect with resident associations, youth councils and other approved partners to help guide and support you. Many approved partners are borough based and some are citywide.

### Reach out to NYCHA early.

To find approved partners, contact NYCHA Resident Engagement at

[resident.engagement@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:resident.engagement@nycha.nyc.gov)

and go to NYCHA's Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES) page

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/residents/rees.page>

for more information. You can find a list of approved partners linked at the bottom of the REES page under "A New Experience for Partners."

## Key Information

For more information on resident associations, youth councils, and how to get involved as a resident, visit NYCHA's Engagement page online:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/residents/getting-involved-as-a-resident.page>

You may be able to get money for certain NYCHA projects through Tenant Participation Activity (TPA) funding. TPA funding is provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to NYCHA

to support specific resident engagement and self-sufficiency activities. It is provided to Resident Associations for approved activities.

Some approved reasons for funding include skills training programs, Family Days, health programs, and supplies for resident associations.

For more information on TPA funding, visit NYCHA's Tenant Participation Activity page online:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/residents/nycha-tpa.page>





# Programs and Events at NYCHA

## What to Know Before You Start

While you can start this process yourself, we strongly recommend partnering with the Resident Association or a community organization from day one. This is because NYCHA requires insurance, which is often difficult for individuals to get.

Before you start to plan, check in with the property manager or Zone Coordinator to find out what programs and events already exist and who might be a good potential partner.

Outside of TPA funding, NYCHA does not provide funding for programs and events, such as resource fairs, workshops, or film screenings. Funding might be available through your Resident Association (if they are partnering on the event or program).

Certain programs/events are not allowed at NYCHA. These include political rallies, fundraising or solicitation of any kind, commercial activities, and outdoor markets.

Remember, all programs and events must be free and available to all!



### Resources

- Learn more about NYCHA resident engagement:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/residents/getting-involved-as-a-resident.page>
- Find your NYCHA Zone Coordinator:  
<http://opportunitynycha.org/what-is-rees/zone-model/>
- Learn more about programs near me offered by NYCHA partners:  
<http://opportunitynycha.org/programs-near-me/>
- Get ideas for fundraising at the Ideas Marketplace:  
<https://www.fundforpublichousing.org/ideas-marketplace/>

### Key Contacts

Have questions about who to partner with and how to put on an event or program? Contact NYCHA Resident Engagement:  
[resident.engagement@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:resident.engagement@nycha.nyc.gov)

**Stay Connected.** For updates on our criminal justice initiatives follow us on Twitter at **@CrimJusticeNYC** and visit **nyc.gov/criminaljustice**.



Above: NYCHA's South Bronx Youth Leadership Council (YLC), aims to address violence by fostering community connection. In May 2017, the South Bronx YLC coordinated a neighborhood Green Day, which involved beautification projects across 5 developments in the council's zone. The event included clean-ups, art projects, health screenings, and performances from DJs, dancers, poets and youth speakers.

Participants in first annual Green Day Event create new garden beds. Other partners included Green City Force, BronxWorks, New Yorkers for Parks, New York Botanical Garden, NYCHA, NYPD.

This is an excerpt.  
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