



# Innovations: Ideas to Make New York City Neighborhoods More Livable, Sustainable and Resilient



## ABOUT CCF

Change Capital Fund is a 22-member funder collaborative of New York City's leading foundations, financial institutions, the United Way of NYC, intermediaries and the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity. Our collaborative works to increase economic opportunity in our city's low-income neighborhoods by strengthening community-based development organizations. Through flexible grants and technical assistance funding, Change Capital Fund provides momentum to community organizations developing community assets for community benefit and ownership.

Over our 28 years, the donors behind the Change Capital Fund have invested over \$50 million in 100 community-based organizations. Our grantees have developed over 16,000 units of affordable housing, provided services benefiting tens of thousands of New Yorkers, and won neighborhood-friendly policies through community organizing. Change Capital Fund provides our funding in four-year cycles to enable our grantees to engage in multi-year projects.

In our current cycle, eight grantees are demonstrating the benefits of community ownership, development and stewardship of properties used for housing, community facilities and cooperatively owned businesses. In 2024, Change Capital Fund raised an aligned fund of \$525,000 to enable New York City's community-based organizations to compete for federal funding opportunities; their proposals are included in this report.

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# Executive Summary

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Change Capital Fund has found a treasure trove of forward-looking ideas to make New York City neighborhoods more livable, sustainable and resilient in the proposals submitted from New York City organizations and agencies to the federal government in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Community Change Notice of Funding Opportunity. The submissions tackle issues at the heart of the community development agenda—safe, healthy, and affordable housing; economic opportunity through job training and creation—while integrating features to enhance the livability of neighborhoods, from a public health, quality of life, and infrastructural resilience perspective. They represent innovative, forward-looking ideas to improve health, create jobs, and make housing more affordable, clean and efficient. If implemented, they would transform highly polluted, unused public spaces into accessible green space, create parks that protect residents against flooding, create safe and healthy housing in basement apartments, improve communication and transit. Proposed projects would create hundreds of jobs in composting, energy efficiency improvements, and community solar installations.

This report is meant to lift up these ideas. Change Capital Fund (CCF) is a 22-member funder collaborative of NYC's leading

The submissions tackle issues at the heart of the community development agenda—safe, healthy, and affordable housing; economic opportunity through job training and creation—while integrating features to enhance the livability of neighborhoods, from a public health, quality of life, and infrastructural resilience perspective.

foundations, financial institutions, the United Way of NYC, intermediaries and the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity. Our collaborative works to increase economic opportunity in NYC's low-income neighborhoods by strengthening community-based development organizations. In the hopes that a relatively small amount of local funding could generate big gains for NYC's neighborhoods, in 2024, CCF raised an aligned fund of \$525,000 to enable community-based organizations to compete for one-time federal funding opportunities.

With those funds, our grantees were able to initiate partnerships, engage their communities, strategize with experts,





Edgemere Resiliency Park (p 25) shade canopy, looking north (rendering)

develop plans and put together budgets for well-developed proposals. Working in partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice, CCF has been able to identify thirty proposals that were submitted from the NYC area, inclusive of but not limited to those of our grantees, to the EPA Community Change Program, requesting nearly \$400 million, submitted from across the city’s five boroughs. Four NYC proposals were awarded—three focused on Meaningful Engagement, which engages residents in planning and just one focused on Community-Driven Investments, which implements concrete solutions to neighborhood needs. These would bring New York \$18.2 million, less than 5% of the expressed need.

These plans and projects represent significant demand at the community and governmental levels to realize solutions that, in some cases, have been in development over many years. Almost every proposal is designed to support progress toward a strategic goal or mandate that local government has affirmed it is trying to pursue. This swath of proposals represents actionable initiatives that tangibly advance the city toward its stated goals, intelligently designed to align with the major priorities of the collective task we have at hand—to decarbonize our building stock, clean and cool our environment, mitigate flooding, and save lives by creating havens for community, information, and refuge. Community-level action and leadership are essential for making these goals a reality. These proposals flag where governmental efforts have an

## REPORT ARCHITECTURE

### Community Driven Capital Investment Projects



#### MULTI-FACETED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- // Catalyzing a Waterfront Renaissance
- // Electric Freight Charging Hub & Community Solar
- // Green Job Training for Economic Equity, Community Health and Climate Change Resilience
- // Edgemere Resiliency Park & Rockaway Solar
- // Coastal Resiliency for Affordable Homeownership
- // The Green Resilience Industrial District (GRID)
- // Resilient Nostrand Houses



#### AFFORDABLE, ENERGY-EFFICIENT, HEALTHY, RESILIENT HOUSING

- // Building a Resilient and Sustainable Bronx Future
- // New York City Public Housing Decarbonization Project
- // Healthy Homes in the Heights
- // Energy Fit: Bringing Equitable Clean Energy Access to Underserved Communities in Brooklyn, NY
- // NYC Plus One Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Program



#### NATURE-BASED AND INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS

- // Stewarding Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change in New York City
- // Expanding the Urban Forest for Community Health: Greening NYC's Most Heat Vulnerable and Pollution-Affected Communities
- // Revitalizing Brownsville: A Blueprint for Health, Environmental Justice, and Green Spaces
- // Project EMERGE: Engaging Marginalized-populations in Environmental Resilience Group-work and Education



#### COMMUNITY RESILIENCE HUBS

- // Cultivate from the Ground Up: Building Capacity for Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice and Resiliency in East Flatbush
- // Building a Network of Climate Resilience Hubs for New York City Public Housing Residents
- // East Harlem Resilience Hub



#### TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS FOR AIR QUALITY AND MOBILITY

- // Climate Corridors: A New "Green Standard" for NYC DOT Public Realm Programs
- // The SAFE + Accelerator Program (Sustainable, Affordable, Fire-Safe, E-Bike)

### Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance



#### POLICY FOCUSED

- // EJNYC: Community-Based Solutions for Environmental Justice
- // Connecting Climate Leaders NYC
- // Building Advocacy Capacity for Climate Justice within Disadvantaged Communities of NYS
- // Strengthen Health Advocacy for Climate Justice in New York State



#### PLANNING FOCUSED

- // Brooklyn Environmental Equity Movement (BEEM)
- // Uplifting Bronx Voices for Climate Change Resilience
- // El Puente Community Change

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opportunity to take the comprehensive view, and demand and innovate plausible ways to fill those gaps so that communities can benefit in tangible ways. Supporting the engagement outlined within these proposals could make billions of dollars of public and private investments more responsive to communities, and, therefore, more effective in reaching their goals.

The proposals are also a demonstration of the extraordinary local capacity to advance the projects proposed. Partnerships of academic institutions, city agencies, technical partners, and community-based organizations, represent a breadth and depth of capacity to implement the projects, which, to be eligible for consideration, had to be able to reach completion within three years.

The report divides the proposals into two broad tracks: one for capital improvements with the other for process-focused initiatives. While the capital proposals have bigger price tags, some of them might be broken into smaller projects if funding is constrained. We profile 21 capital-focused proposals and 8 engagement-focused proposals alongside others in their broad category, arranged by dominant topic area or mode, although all the proposals are interdisciplinary and employ multiple reinforcing strategies.

Beyond the architecture of the report that sequences the proposals in each category by major sub-topics, an [index at the end](#) makes it easy to identify neighborhood-level, borough, multi-borough, and citywide proposals, as well as dominant strategies and additional sub-topics that support a more granular exploration of the approaches employed. Contact information is included for each proposal to enable readers to reach out to applicants directly.

We see this compilation of proposals as a rich trove of actionable, smart ideas that could stoke New York's economy, make our city more livable and resilient, and advance our city of the future. This report is meant to draw attention to these plans as a call to action for partners in philanthropy, the banking sector, the city and the state to step up to and support them to fruition. They should not be left on the shelf. Together, these proposals are part of a vision for a healthier, more resilient future that could be realized, with sufficient support. In issuing this report, Change Capital Fund is urging the community development sector to keep looking toward that future.



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# Introduction

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## Why this report

Proposals submitted from New York City to the federal government in response to the EPA's Community Change Notice of Funding Opportunity represent innovative, forward looking ideas to improve health, create jobs, and make housing more affordable, clean and efficient. If implemented, they would transform polluted and unused public spaces into accessible green space, create parks that protect residents against flooding, create safe and healthy housing in basement apartments, improve communication and transit.

One proposal would create NYC's first urban forest plan, another would transform a brownfield site into a freight electric charging hub; yet another would transform sites around public schools into safe pedestrian havens. Proposed projects would create hundreds of jobs in composting, energy efficiency improvements, and community solar installations. According to a [recent report by Center for an Urban Future](#), "No part of New York city's economy has greater potential for long-term growth than the cluster of jobs, companies, and industries known as the green economy."<sup>1</sup>

1. New York City's Green Economy Opportunity: Realizing the Full Potential for Job Growth and Economic Mobility in the City's Emerging Green Economy, *Center for an Urban Future*, 2025, p.1

We see this compilation as a ready cache of thoughtful ideas that, if implemented, could contribute to New York's economy, make neighborhoods more livable and resilient, and advance our city of the future. This report is meant as a call to action to partners in philanthropy, the banking sector, the city and the state to help bring them to fruition. They should not be left on the shelf.

The organizations behind the proposals are partnerships of academic institutions, city agencies, technical partners, and community-based organizations representing a breadth and depth of capacity to implement the projects, which, to be eligible for consideration, had to be able to reach completion within three years.

In 2024, Change Capital Fund raised an aligned fund of \$525,000 to help community organizations bring new resources to New York City neighborhoods. With those funds, our grantees were able to initiate partnerships, engage their



communities, strategize with experts, develop plans and put together budgets for well-developed proposals. Nine CCF grantees submitted 10 proposals, and two were awarded a total of \$4 million; a third, which received Change Capital funding before this fund was created, leveraged \$4 million. We know of only two additional Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Community Change applicants from NYC which were awarded funding of \$14.2 million funding. Nationally, the EPA received 2,700 proposals totaling over \$40 billion, for their Community Change grant program alone. Ultimately, the EPA awarded \$1.6 billion Community Change grants nationally.

CCF has not evaluated the individual proposals in this report, rather, we see this compilation as a ready cache of

thoughtful ideas that, if implemented, could contribute to New York's economy, make neighborhoods more livable and resilient, and advance our city of the future. This report is meant as a call to action to partners in philanthropy, the banking sector, the city and the state to help bring them to fruition. They should not be left on the shelf.

This robust response from New York City to this Notice of Funding Opportunity is indicative of the significant demand at the community and governmental levels to realize solutions that, in some cases, have been in development over many years. It is also a demonstration of the extraordinary competency to advance the projects proposed. Communities have generated innovative, concrete, and powerful proposals for environmental improvement and economic development. Together,

these proposals are part of a vision for a healthier, more resilient future that could be realized, with sufficient support. In issuing this report, Change Capital Fund is urging the community development sector to keep looking toward that future.

## Juncture for NYC

Since the final round of awards was announced in late 2024, there has been a shift in the federal approach to climate funding and policy. What remains unchanged, is the promise of what these projects could bring, and more significantly, the needs that they address.

New York City has already been experiencing the impacts of climate change, which is advancing at a pace that cannot wait. Local action has never been more important, and State and City climate

mandates, adopted due to the tireless advocacy of those most impacted by the climate crisis, are still in effect, reflecting our local governments' acknowledgement of what is deemed necessary and achievable.

New York City's Climate Mobilization Act (CMA) is designed to achieve a 40% reduction in the city's emissions by 2030, driven in major part by decarbonization requirements on large buildings, while New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act ("Climate Act" or CLCPA) has as its central goals shifting to renewable energy sources as well as reducing air pollution in ways that tackle the current disproportionate burden on disadvantaged communities. Initial implementation dates are rapidly approaching for State and City commitments centered around reducing emissions, the major sources of which are







buildings, transportation uses, and energy generation. The proposals herein are vehicles to advance toward these goals.

Community-level action and leadership are essential for making these goals a reality. That's what this swath of proposals represent—clear, actionable initiatives that tangibly advance the city toward its stated goals. They are specifically and intelligently designed to align with the major priorities of the collective task we have at hand—to decarbonize our building stock, clean and cool our environment, mitigate flooding, and save lives by creating havens for community, information, and refuge.

Almost every proposal is designed to support progress toward a strategic goal or mandate that local government has affirmed it is trying to pursue. Two thirds

(14) of the capital-focused proposals take proactive steps to address the urban heat island effect in the areas where it is most intense, with the majority of these contributing directly toward reaching the goal of 30% canopy cover in the city. More than half (12) directly tackle emissions from the building stock, with two thirds of those (8) tackling the large buildings that are the initial focus of the CMA mandate.

Beyond this strategic alignment, the investment in projects led by and with substantial buy-in from local stakeholders often is the defining factor between a project's success or failure. Top-down initiatives that fail to incorporate local wisdom and priorities are rarely sufficiently connected with on-the-ground realities to accomplish their goal. An example of this is the notable Million Trees Initiative. While the



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ambitious planting metric of that vision has been met, the more meaningful underlying goals of cooling the areas with highest heat vulnerability and ensuring survival of trees in the areas where they are most needed still have a long way to go. This gap between the goals and intended impact is the impetus for local advocates who have called for and won a more targeted and evaluative process that more fully integrates and supports community participation, through Local Law 148 of 2023. The eight (8) Meaningful Engagement proposals reach out to the corners of the city to connect with where this wisdom is hidden, train neighborhood leaders to close even more of these gaps, intervene in major planning processes to elevate sustainability priorities, and innovate the very systems of decision-making themselves.

In calling for proposals that incorporate community engagement, the EPA recognized that the best planning is done by and with the communities impacted by the problems. Robust participation ensures that innovative ideas are supported and sustained over the long term.

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# Methodology

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## Obtaining and representing proposals

Working in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice, Change Capital Fund was able to identify thirty (30) proposals that were submitted from the NYC area. Together, we reached out to applicants asking if they would be willing to share information about their proposal for inclusion in this report, offering them the option to send a summary of their proposal and/or a larger portion of their full submission. Twenty-nine (29) applicants chose to participate, and most opted to share a summary. Our intention was to distill the major components of the proposals, including key context, in order to convey the basic details and inspire interest by those invested in supporting work at the intersection of community-led economic development and environmental improvements.

We know that the summarization process fails to represent the full strengths of each proposal, and we acknowledge there may be proposals we have missed. Further, we recognize that not every organization with a sound and implementable idea submitted a proposal to the EPA. This is certainly not a complete picture of the universe of ideas or organizations working

to make New York City healthier, safer or more resilient. Additionally, the original proposals required a detailed description of demographic information that has not been included in the summaries. Nevertheless, the content of this report reflects our best effort to convey the potential of the submitted proposals, based on the information that was shared with us. Each applicant who shared their materials with us has had the opportunity to review their summary and has approved the version included.

## Use of language

All the proposals that were submitted under EPA's Community Change Notice of Funds Opportunity (NOFO) were required to demonstrate that their efforts would take place in and serve disadvantaged communities, a technical geographical designation for eligibility based on the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) that was developed by the Council on Environmental Quality.

As was policy at the time the proposals were due, the purpose of the federal designation disadvantaged is to identify communities with significant economic, social, or environmental burdens, irrespective of

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race.<sup>2</sup> New York State also uses the term disadvantaged to designate areas that it deems eligible for focused attention under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), as identified through a different formula.<sup>3</sup>

While there is much overlap in the areas that New York State and the federal government have designated for the same term, in this report, use of the word disadvantaged refers to the federal definition, as was required for applicants to demonstrate.

2. The tool looked at eighteen indicators divided into eight categories: climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development. Areas qualify as disadvantaged and eligible for the program if the number of households with income less than twice the federal poverty level is in the 65th percentile and at least one of the 18 indicators is in the 90th percentile.
3. NYS calculates disadvantaged community areas differently from the federal CEJST, using a combination of 45 environmental, climate, social, and health indicators, including race, to determine the geographies, according to the Disadvantaged Communities Criteria and List Technical Documentation.

# Report Organization

The EPA solicited proposals along two broad tracks, each for a three-year term; one, Community-Driven Investments for Change, offered up to \$20 million of funding per proposal for capital improvements, and the other offered up to \$3 million of funding per proposal for process-focused initiatives called Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance. We were able to acquire information about 21 capital-focused proposals and 8 engagement-focused proposals, and we share the profiles alongside others in their broad category, arranged by dominant topic area or mode, although all the proposals are interdisciplinary and employ multiple reinforcing strategies. Similarly, many proposals span multiple neighborhoods and fully one third of the proposals reviewed for this report address issues in multiple boroughs.

## PROJECT AREAS

### Community Driven Capital Investments



Multi-faceted Community Development



Affordable Energy-Efficient, Healthy, Resilient Housing



Nature-based and Integrated Solutions



Community resilient hubs



Transportation Investments for Air Quality and Mobility

### Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance



Policy focused



Planning focused



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# How to Search

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Beyond the architecture of the report that sequences the proposals in each category by major sub-topics, an index at the end makes it easy to identify neighborhood-level, borough, multi-borough, and citywide proposals, as well as dominant strategies and additional sub-topics that support a more granular exploration of the approaches employed.

We hope that the enclosed profiles will be considered teasers to the powerful collaborations, detailed plans, and immense capacity that is held by community-based organizations in New York City. Contact information is included for each proposal to enable readers to reach out to applicants directly.

The need has never been greater to invest in and catalyze local leadership and implement projects, particularly in New York City's low-income neighborhoods, to make our city more environmentally healthy, sustainable, resilient and just.



# Community- Driven Capital Investment





**These proposals are capital-intensive, focusing on implementing physical projects.** Many of the proposed projects tackle issues at the heart of the community development agenda—safe, healthy, and affordable housing; economic opportunity through job training and creation—while integrating features to enhance the livability of neighborhoods, from a public health, quality of life, and infrastructural resilience perspective.

Community centers where New Yorkers gather in celebration and benefit from community programs, training, and resources, might save lives when resources for surviving extreme heat, power outages and flooding are added to their functions in newly created or upgraded Climate Resilience Hubs. Waterfront resiliency projects leverage unique industrial opportunities while mitigating heightened risk due to rising sea levels. Renewable energy sources, decreased diesel truck traffic, and energy retrofits reduce pollution. These enhancements to the suite of bread-and-butter community development initiatives account for the current reality neighborhoods face.

Two thirds (13) of the included proposals feature achievable, green solutions that offer breathing room in an increasingly dense New York City. Cool roofs, additional tree canopy and even better insulation can protect against the reverberating heat that bounces off concrete and turns warm days in the region into sweltering ones in the city, known as the urban heat island (UHI) effect. NYC experiences the greatest such temperature increase in the nation.

Proposed projects mitigate these impacts, which currently contribute to 350 heat-related deaths annually, a human toll that is only projected to increase with more extreme heat days in our future.

More than half (12) directly tackle emissions from the building stock, with two thirds of those (8) taking on the large buildings that are the initial focus of the CMA mandate. From income-restricted co-ops, dense multi-family rental units that include public housing, to large industrial, other commercial buildings, and community facilities, these proposals encompass the breadth of large building types that must reduce emissions for compliance, and that need methodologies for implementation that make it possible to achieve decarbonization while residential and commercial tenants remain in place. While smaller homes are not included in the mandate, they make up 863,000 of NYC's buildings, the overwhelming majority of which still burn fossil fuels, inhibiting the city's greenhouse gas reduction progress. Three (3) of the proposals approach the problem of demonstrating and scaling proven methodologies with this stock.

## Community Driven Capital Investment Projects



### MULTI-FACETED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

#### South Bronx

- // Catalyzing a Waterfront Renaissance
- // Electric Freight Charging Hub & Community Solar
- // Green Job Training for Economic Equity, Community Health and Climate Change Resilience

#### Edgemere and Rockaway, Brooklyn

- // Edgemere Resiliency Park & Rockaway Solar
- // Coastal Resiliency for Affordable Homeownership

#### Brooklyn

- // The Green Resilience Industrial District (GRID)
- // Resilient Nostrand Houses



### AFFORDABLE, ENERGY-EFFICIENT, HEALTHY, RESILIENT HOUSING

#### Multi Family

- // Building a Resilient and Sustainable Bronx Future
- // New York City Public Housing Decarbonization Project
- // Healthy Homes in the Heights

#### Small Homes, Supporting Tenants and Homeowners

- // Energy Fit: Bringing Equitable Clean Energy Access to Underserved Communities in Brooklyn, NY
- // NYC Plus One Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Program



### NATURE-BASED AND INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS

#### Citywide

- // Stewarding Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change in New York City
- // Expanding the Urban Forest for Community Health: Greening NYC's Most Heat Vulnerable and Pollution-Affected Communities

#### Neighborhood specific

- // Revitalizing Brownsville: A Blueprint for Health, Environmental Justice, and Green Spaces
- // Project EMERGE: Engaging Marginalized-populations in Environmental Resilience Group-work and Education



### COMMUNITY RESILIENCE HUBS

- // Cultivate from the Ground Up: Building Capacity for Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice and Resiliency in East Flatbush
- // Building a Network of Climate Resilience Hubs for New York City Public Housing Residents
- // East Harlem Resilience Hub



### TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS FOR AIR QUALITY AND MOBILITY

- // Climate Corridors: A New "Green Standard" for NYC DOT Public Realm Programs
- // The SAFE + Accelerator Program (Sustainable, Affordable, Fire-Safe, E-Bike)

As a coastal city, New York remains extraordinarily economically and socially vulnerable to climate change. We experience our vulnerability to heavy rains, storm surge and inland flooding through subways that flood on a regular basis and homeowners who experience property damage, while waterfront communities are all too familiar with the odors and ecosystem damage that comes after

heavy rains cause raw sewage overflows. Unaddressed flood damage compromises public health, through impacts of lingering mold on respiratory health, and constrains neighborhood potential, as we see in the empty lots and desolate areas of the Rockaways, more than a dozen years after Superstorm Sandy, for example. Half (10) of the proposals deal with some part of this cycle. Some restore shorelines





and maintain rain gardens to prevent flooding. Others demonstrate ways to make basement apartments safe or create havens to offer uninterrupted electricity from alternate sources during storms. Still others demonstrate how to rebuild and repair in resilient ways that anticipate future threats, an approach that is critical for the city's people, and economy. The value of properties in the city's floodplain was calculated at \$176 billion in 2022.<sup>4</sup>

A third (7) of the proposals have workforce development and job creation for residents of disadvantaged communities as a central component. Maintenance of trees, rain gardens, and natural areas feature prominently, followed by skills related to building weatherization and upgrades, maintenance of new alternative energy equipment, and broader economic development strategies that are aimed at preserving and creating green collar jobs.

A quarter (5) of the proposals aim to reduce emissions from transportation and to improve the way that people get around. The industrial areas of Sunset Park, Brooklyn, and Hunts Point, Bronx grapple with ways to reduce emissions from freight transport and will explore and implement solutions like electric truck charging stations and port rehabilitation. Another proposal takes on the intertwined challenges for communities where many people who earn a living through delivery apps live and work, advancing solutions for access to safe e-bikes. And, throughout 15 corridors in three boroughs, new standards and amenities for traffic calming, greening, and

place making will make it easier, safer, and healthier to get to school.

Finally, another quarter of the proposals feature bold community-led action to create resilient sources of alternative energy, with some employing strategies that directly lead to economic relief of high energy burdens. In the Bronx, Queens, Manhattan, and Brooklyn, plans to implement community and rooftop solar installations, as well as to explore and implement microgrids support communities to free themselves from energy delivery systems that have failed to keep them safe in the past.

The proposals that follow contain these solutions and more, combining strategies, technologies, and local context in strategic and feasible configurations that merit support. And many of them contain components that could be supported in and of themselves.

4. [As cited in City and State](#), "Rising costs from climate change is driving insurers out of New York," December 17, 2024.



# Multi-faceted Community Development

As an integrated practice, sustainability efforts, by definition, employ multiple strategies which cannot be reduced into single categories. In this batch of capital-focused proposals, all utilize at least two strategies, with some integrating six or seven.



# Catalyzing a Waterfront Renaissance in the South Bronx

The Bronx Economic Development Corporation and Mott Haven-Port Morris Community Land Stewards will transform two inaccessible, garbage-strewn and toxic waterfront sites in the South Bronx, cleaning the area of pollutants and providing green space for thousands of residents.

The project will restore waterfront access to two sites: 132nd Street overlooking the East River, and Lincoln Avenue overlooking the Harlem River. The locations anchor two ends of the broader Mott Haven-Port Morris Waterfront Plan and integrate with open space and street design improvements that the NYC Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) is currently planning. Because the sites are accessed by existing public streets, it will be possible to complete the project within a three-year timeline.

The project's design incorporates specific green infrastructure approaches that will provide immediate climate and air quality benefits to residents who now experience some of New York's most severe environmental burdens, while also overcoming the particular constraints of these historically industrial waterfront sites. Features include a "walking forest" of 882 trees planted in moveable four-foot containers (a technique deployed in Leeuwarden, Netherlands). At the 132nd Street site on the East River, the project will rebuild the 2,000 square foot pier, stabilize 17,000 square feet of shoreline, and install 2,000 square feet of oyster reefs. For the site overlooking the Harlem River at Lincoln Avenue, a feasibility study will develop future shoreline construction options including creation of a living shoreline, oyster reefs and an Eco Dock. This study will also result in design concepts for activating a NYC DOT-owned lot (adjacent

## PROJECT LOCATION

Mott Haven and Port Morris, The Bronx

## APPLICANT

Bronx Economic Development Corporation (BXEDC)

## PARTNERS

Mott Haven-Port Morris Community Land Stewards (The Land Stewards)

South Bronx Unite

NYC Department of Transportation (DOT)

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## TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST

**\$19.905 MILLION**



Walking Forest on Lincoln Avenue, one block from waterfront street end

to the Maria Sola Community Greenspace) near the waterfront. In addition, air purifier units will be installed in 1,000 public housing units in the project area and a follow-up study with Columbia University will document air quality improvements.

Implementation of this project will advance a community-led vision for a waterfront greenway network and catalyze the realization of additional elements of the plan.





## HUNTS POINT, SOUTH BRONX

The following two proposals address the unique set of opportunities and challenges facing Hunts Point, home to the nation's largest food distribution center, a locus of \$3 billion of annual economic activity, and part of the city's poorest Congressional District. Hunts Point is on a peninsula in the South Bronx and physically isolated from the rest of the Bronx by the highways that encircle the area. Heavy traffic related to the markets, nine waste-transfer facilities, numerous recycling yards, and last mile facilities combine to bring 15,000 truck trips through the neighborhood each day. These, along with emissions from a wastewater treatment plant, generate emissions that cause Hunts Point's 13,000 residents to suffer from some of the city's highest rates of asthma, lung cancer, and cardiac disease. Strategies to improve both air quality and high (29%) poverty rates (29%) and unemployment rates (12%) are offered in the following proposals, which engage and train residents in implementing solutions.

## Electric Freight Charging Hub & Community Solar

On a brownfield site owned by the NYC Economic Development Corporation, located within the Hunts Point Food Distribution Center, The POINT CDC, in partnership with the City College of New York, will develop an electric freight charging hub, install a 800kW solar canopy for community-shared solar, including mobile storage units to provide peak load support, store excess solar energy and enhance grid resiliency. These innovations, including job training and creation, will improve both economic and health outcomes for residents.

The charging hub will reduce the number of fossil fuel-powered trucks that traverse the neighborhood and hasten fleet conversion, resulting in a projected substantial 18% reduction in particulate matter over time, according to analyses using the Argonne National Laboratory's AFLEET tool. Hunts Point is a strategic location for a hub because of high truck volumes and is well-positioned to be a vital part of a growing network that will inspire and facilitate fleet owners' conversion to electric vehicles.



Rendering of the aerial view of the proposed charging hub.



The community-shared solar element, with free subscribership, will provide credits on the monthly energy bill for more than 800 households at or below 80% of AMI in the area, resulting in aggregate annual savings of almost \$120,000 to low-income subscribers annually, or more than \$2.8 million over the lifetime of the project. Each household is projected to see a 20% reduction in their electricity bill. The collaboration will train, hire, and retain local residents to install, operate, and maintain electric vehicle/truck chargers, battery energy storage systems, and solar photovoltaic systems. Together, these investments are projected to add 189 jobs to the neighborhood.

An additional community-wide benefit to shared solar and the mobile Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is that during infrequent high-impact weather events, the system will be designed to support the resilient operation of critical facility loads and a portfolio of electric vehicle chargers (EVC) as needed. In the event of a power outage. Stored energy will be able to support up to 0.5 - 1 MW loads for 6-12 hours. Key locations in the neighborhood that will be connected to the shared solar system and, therefore, benefit from this initiative, include drop-in centers for adults, family shelters, and DHS homeless shelters, all located less than two miles away.

#### APPLICANT

THE POINT Community Development Corporation (THE POINT CDC)

#### PARTNERS

The City College of New York (CCNY)

#### CONTACT

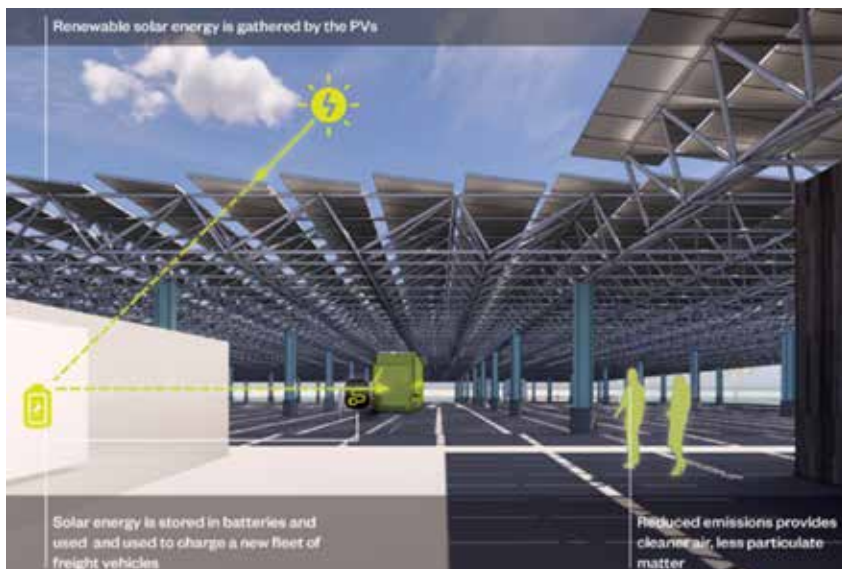
**Maria Torres**

President/COO, THE POINT CDC

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#### TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST

**\$20 MILLION**



Rendering of how community solar and battery energy storage systems will generate energy to enable microgrid functionality and enhance community energy resilience.



# Green Job Training for Economic Equity, Community Health and Climate Change Resilience

The HOPE Program and Solar One will implement a comprehensive Green Job training program to train 836 people for jobs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other types of air pollution, maintain green spaces, increase resilience to climate change, and mitigate current and future climate risks. HOPE will ensure job placement for at least 80% of these participants. In the process, a cluster of commercial energy efficiency and alternative energy improvements will generate compounded cumulative benefit in the heavily polluted neighborhood.

Through commercial and other partnerships, HOPE will concentrate additional projects for participants and graduates in the Cool Roofs, Solar and HVAC/R, and Building Performance/Weatherization programs. This project will train and employ community members to install a large-scale, 150,000 square foot Cool Roofs Project at the Hunts Point Produce Market. With advisors from the Mayor's

## APPLICANT

The HOPE Program

## PARTNERS

SolarOne

## CONTACT

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$17.815 MILLION**



Participants in HOPE's green infrastructure and horticulture program



Office of Climate Justice and Hunter College, HOPE will identify low-income housing developments that would benefit one or more retrofit strategies, including coating roofs, solar, weatherization and HVAC/R improvements.

HOPE will expand their job training and transitional work opportunities to neighborhood residents. These include Solar One's Solar Panel Installation and CUNY's Building Science & Energy Engineering "Performance Lab" which connects to opportunities for advancement through linkage to additional certifications. A complementary training opportunity in the neighborhood is a partnership with NYC Parks and Bronx River Alliance providing stewardship and maintenance for Garrison Park, a new park asset that is heavily used and requires attention to ensure that its new plantings take hold and offer their intended benefits. Services there will include needed horticulture maintenance such as pruning, mulching, weeding/invasive plant removal, planting and/or transplanting, and litter abatement.

Through this expanded program HOPE will increase the number of total green program participants by 50% over three years, place a minimum of 80% of graduates in jobs, and provide ongoing career development and support to 500 South Bronx residents. An intentional effort will be made to recruit public housing residents in Hunts Point and surrounding areas for access to training and employment opportunities. The combined elements will increase financial empowerment and career advancement opportunities for participants while improving environmental conditions in the neighborhood. HOPE will measure the impact of individual and combined programs on GHG emissions and air pollution.



Workforce training participants installing a Cool Roof





## EDGEMERE, QUEENS

Approximately 15,000 people live in Edgemere, a low-lying community on the eastern side of the Rockaway peninsula. The neighborhood experienced destructive flooding due to Hurricane Sandy and, unlike some wealthier communities in the Rockaways, has not yet recovered. While Edgemere has a rich history as a bungalow community, today, most of the neighborhood's tenants live in NYCHA developments. Based on extensive community engagement and planning, many aspire to be homeowners. Meanwhile, vacant lots that could be used for housing have remained untouched for decades. Flood and tidal surge climate events and insufficient investment in infrastructure compromise Edgemere residents' quality of life and create barriers to opportunity. The median annual household income is \$30,700 for a family of four, the population is disproportionately young (40% under 18 years old) and the community's unemployment rate is 13%, double NYC's overall rate.

The two proposals summarized below offer complementary, multifaceted strategies that demonstrate the unrealized potential for this area. A third proposal centering on shoreline protection and restoration was submitted and awarded by EPA but not shared with CCF.

# Edgemere Resiliency Park & Rockaway Solar

ReAL Edgemere CLT was chosen as the sole finalist by the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development to redevelop 62 vacant lots as two-family homes, one commercial space and open space. Their EPA proposal focuses on using the public space to directly address community priorities for lowered electric costs, increased access to open space, and protections against flooding. At the center is a new park that will provide shade for high heat days. Anchored at the park would be an innovative flood warning system. The proposal would also establish a community solar system and expand a workforce development program with a myriad of benefits for the community's health, economic development, sustainability and resiliency.

- Edgemere Resiliency Park will provide residents with access to open space, including an open-air shade structure for extreme heat days. The park will add 208,706 gallons of water storage capacity during tidal flooding and heavy rainfall events, alleviating pressure on the storm sewer system and reducing combined sewage overflows, a primary contributor of pollutants to the Jamaica Bay watershed.
- A Flood Forecasting and Warning System will notify residents when the streets nearby the park (and elsewhere in the Project Area) are likely to experience flooding, empowering them to mitigate harm. This technology is currently used to enhance the resilience of New York City's airports. Edgemere will be the first residential pilot.
- The Rockaway Solar Project will bring renewable energy generation and battery storage to add grid resilience and give Edgemere residents, who pay among the highest electric rates in the city, the opportunity to purchase clean energy at a 10% discount through a Long Island Power Authority community solar program. It is estimated to generate \$4 million in revenue over 20 years that would sustain the public space and other aspects of the project.



- A workforce development program run by the Jamaica Bay Rockaway Parks Conservancy will provide training to youth in maintaining a resilient infrastructure, paving the way for living wage work maintaining Edgemere Resiliency Park's stormwater management elements.

## Projected Outcomes

The project will provide an array of short- and long-term economic, health and environmental benefits to residents of Edgemere:

- Mitigation of flood risk in real time due to the flood notification system
- Relief from extreme heat provided by Resiliency Park's shade structure and under Rockaway Solar Project's solar panels at community gardens.
- Increase access to open space, providing a park within a ten-minute walk for every resident for the first time ever.
- Reduce electricity costs for 100-150 beneficiaries of Rockaway Solar.
- Improve the resiliency of the electric grid during peak energy demand as a result of battery storage.
- Reduce stormwater pollutants flowing into Jamaica Bay helping to preserve wetlands and wildlife.

### APPLICANT

Residents Acquiring Land Edgemere  
Community Land Trust, Inc  
(ReAL Edgemere CLT)

### PARTNERS

The Garden by The Bay, Inc.

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$18.910 MILLION**



Edgemere Resiliency Park Plaza, looking south (rendering)

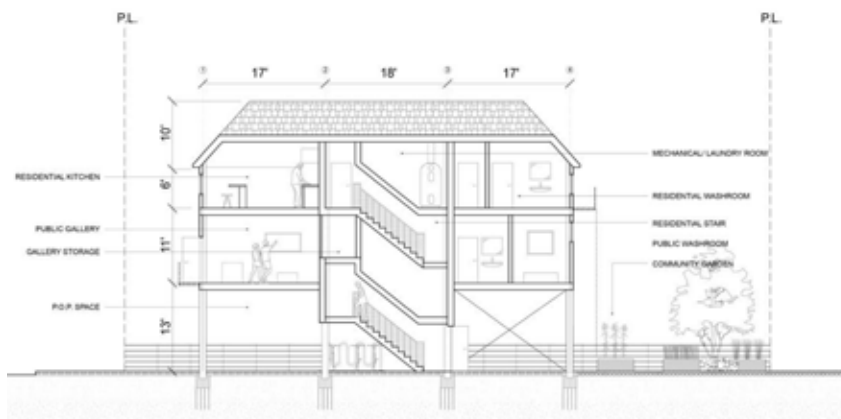




# Coastal Resiliency for Affordable Homeownership

To withstand future risk of flooding, activate empty lots, and provide opportunities for growing families to live and comfortably stay in their communities, Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) will build a prototype of an affordable home based on tsunami-resilient homes in Japan. The prototype, to be built in Edgemere, will inform a pipeline of more than 40 additional affordable homeownership developments in that community and other coastal communities of New York, based on design studies already performed by Pratt Institute and the architecture firm SO-IL.

AAFE is already in pre-development of an 80-unit rental development in Edgemere and, because the organization already owns another lot nearby that development, they have the opportunity to develop and demonstrate a resilient 2-family home prototype. The demonstration would improve the current context of homes resting upon six-foot high cement blocks. Working with Pratt Institute's Center for Climate Adaptation and the architecture design firm Solid Objectives (SO-IL), AAFE and Ocean Bay CDC will create a pragmatic, economical, aesthetically tasteful, flood resilient, energy-saving, and, importantly, scalable model home.



Prototype Proposal, longitudinal section

## APPLICANT

Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE)

## PARTNERS

Pratt Institute's Center for Climate Adaptation

Solid Objectives (SO-IL) Architecture

Ocean Bay CDC

NYC Housing Preservation and Development (NYCHA)

NYC City Planning

NYC Office of Environmental Remediation

NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

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The development will move the community closer to its vision of affordable and resilient homeownership.

AAFE and Ocean Bay CDC intend to work with the City of New York to enshrine affordability in the deed covenants, so that homes built will remain accessible to low-to-moderate income buyers. The use of organic, non-toxic building materials, emphasis on quality air ventilation, daylight maximization, and low energy footprint design will create a more sustainable neighborhood not only in terms of storm resilience, but also in energy efficiency and long-term positive health impacts for the residents.

**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$20 MILLION**



# The Green Resilience Industrial District (GRID)—A Community Just Transition Strategy in Brooklyn, New York

This project leverages nearly a decade of community-based planning and strong governmental partnerships to operationalize Sunset Park’s community-led Just Transition plan, the Green Resilience Industrial District (GRID) 2.0. Through multifaceted support, it advances the green economy to reduce the community’s carbon emissions while protecting Sunset Park’s maritime, industrial and working-class character. The plan includes energy audits and retrofits of community facilities and small businesses, a microgrid feasibility study and key environmental analyses that will lead to the implementation of a Special Purpose District, formalizing the zoning and programs necessary to fully implement GRID 2.0’s goals. NYLPI will provide legal and regulatory counsel for each project area. These strategies are designed to be implemented comprehensively over three years, focusing on both immediate and long-term outcomes.

In partnership with NYSERDA, UPROSE’s Senior Center and Small Business Decarbonization projects target important neighborhood institutions for building-wide audits and unit-specific assessments, implementing selected interventions and producing more detailed plans to arrive at net zero emissions. Small businesses in auto repair, food service, and building contractor sectors, rarely engaged in energy efficiency efforts, will receive targeted outreach by UPROSE to support their access to low-cost energy audits and options for electrification and clean energy solutions. To advance toward reliable and sustainable energy tailored to the neighborhood’s specific needs, UPROSE and a procured contractor will conduct a feasibility study for various area-wide resilience measures, including microgrid systems, assessing implementation aspects and creating a financial model to demonstrate economic sustainability.

t

To advance the Special Purpose District, zoning and associated implementation incentives must be developed and fully assessed for environmental and legal considerations. UPROSE will work

## PROJECT LOCATION

Sunset Park, Brooklyn

## APPLICANT

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
(NYLPI)

## PARTNERS

UPROSE

NYC Economic Development  
Corporation (NYCEDC)

New York State Energy Research and  
Development Authority (NYSERDA)

## CONTACT

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$19.345 MILLION**



with the Department of City Planning to develop and review the full Special District proposal, including conducting the procedural assessments necessary for formally introducing a new zoning proposal. UPROSE will craft and conduct the engagement strategy for a GRID Transportation Study that it will lead and design, focused on supporting green re-industrialization while reducing street-level emissions and improving safety. It will examine potential interventions for port rehabilitation, climate adaptation, pedestrian safety, and alternative transportation options.

Sunset Park is a location of strategic importance as NYC's largest Significant Maritime Industrial Area (SMIA), a designation earned by its working waterfront and deep port access, and the city's second-largest Industrial Business Zone (IBZ). This has placed Sunset Park at the forefront of NYCEDC's job creation and business attraction plan—the Green Economy Action Plan—and also positions the implementation of the Special District as a national model for community-driven green economic development. Through community organizing, detailed planning, and strategic partnerships, UPROSE has been able to prevent plans that it deemed inconsistent with green economy goals, and win public sector commitments to revitalize Sunset Park's port.

Sunset Park's historic environmental burdens, multiple direct exposure pathways of harmful pollutants and localized pollution have severe implications for the health and well-being of Sunset Park's population of 113,657. More than a third of the community is limited English speaking, and more than a third have less than a high school education. Residents and local manufacturers are subject to displacement pressure even as they contend with an intense concentration of waste facilities, truck traffic, and susceptibility to flooding.



Community members participate in the Climate Justice Lives Here UPROSE event September 2024



# Resilient Nostrand Houses

Nostrand Houses, a 23-acre, 16-building public housing complex, is the first beneficiary of the NYC Public Housing Preservation Trust's commitment to invest \$500 million to address outdated plumbing, electrical, and heating systems at New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) properties where residents vote to participate. Resilient Nostrand Houses leverages this investment through Green City Force's workforce training and placement program, which will create pathways to jobs for residents, both in implementing the desperately needed building upgrades and through the installation of a multi-purpose Eco-Resiliency hub.

Driven by resident priorities, the Eco-Resiliency hub will be anchored by a large-scale urban farm that will provide ready access to healthy food. It will be a home base for information campaigns about environmental health and safety and emergency preparedness for extreme weather events. Other resiliency measures will enhance resident gardens, incorporating rain gardens and nature-based solutions throughout the development. Finally, it will establish a comprehensive composting initiative to reach all of its 2,200 residents, reducing pollution and the threat of vermin.

Currently, deferred maintenance and environmental hazards, such as mold, lead, and asbestos, are causing unhealthy living conditions for the residents of Nostrand Houses. Residents lack sufficient access to public transportation and healthy food. They do not receive city composting services and lack access to planning and information about what to do during extreme weather events such as heat and flooding. This project will address these issues.

## PROJECT LOCATION

Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn

## APPLICANT

Green City Force (GCF)

## PARTNER

New York City Public Housing  
Preservation Trust (the Trust)

## CONTACT

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$11.354 MILLION**





Nostrand Houses from overhead

Nostrand Houses is an extremely diverse and highly multigenerational community. Together, young adults and seniors make up 55% of the resident population. The primary languages spoken are English, Russian, Mandarin and Spanish, with additional speakers of Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Polish, and Ukrainian. The average household income is \$22,000 a year.





# Affordable Energy-Efficient Resilient Housing



*Building a Resilient and Sustainable Bronx Future: A Weatherization Assistance Program contractor installs new rooftop fans and conducts ventilation system balancing and shaft and register cleaning at a building in the Bronx.*



## MULTI FAMILY

# Building a Resilient and Sustainable Bronx Future

Building a Resilient and Sustainable Bronx Future brings together a collaborative of community, faith, labor, and educational partners to retrofit Bronx buildings and create jobs for Bronx residents. Renters and workers in the most marginalized areas of the borough will benefit from the project, which will:

- Directly invest in the Bronx's severely undercapitalized and aging building stock, retrofitting 1200 units and benefiting residents facing the highest energy cost burden through NWBCCC's 41-year old Weatherization Assistance Program;
- Address hazardous housing code violations and reducing carbon emissions and energy consumption;
- Scale up green workforce training programs currently offered by Bronx Community College, training 160 low-income New Yorkers for family sustaining jobs within in-demand sectors of the green economy; and,
- Address community health by improving indoor air quality and reducing triggers that lead to emergency department visits and hospitalizations for asthma and other respiratory conditions and providing a safer and more comfortable home environment for families.

Ten non-profit building owners/managers agreed to partner on the project and have identified buildings in their portfolio that would benefit from retrofits. These include: Nos Quedamos, WHEDco, University Neighborhood Housing Program, Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation, Belmont Arthur Avenue Local Development Corporation, Beck Street HDFC, and Hillcrest HDFC.

The median age of Bronx residential buildings is 87 years; their deterioration reflects decades of disinvestment. Bronxites bear New York City's skyrocketing housing costs despite having the lowest incomes of any county in New York State; they also suffer the highest rates of environment-related health issues.

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The Bronx, NY

**APPLICANT**

Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC)

**PARTNERS****Bronx-wide Coalition of 10 groups:**

The Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative, THE POINT CDC, Mothers on the Move, Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene, the Women's Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco), Laborers Local 79, Mekong NYC, Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, Nos Quedamos (NQ), and NWBCCC

Bronx Community College

Lehman College

NYC Department of Small Business Services

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$20 MILLION**



## MULTI FAMILY

# New York City Public Housing Decarbonization Project

This project would set an innovative and transformative precedent for decarbonization within New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) by retrofitting a public housing building in the Upper West Side, WSUR (Site A), while keeping residents in place and in their homes. NYCHA and its partners would implement a demonstration project to retrofit a NYCHA building using a new modular cladding system with integrated heating, cooling, and ventilation, by working with selected finalists from NYSERDA's Empire Technology Prize, a competition of global service providers designed to advance building technologies for low carbon heating system retrofits in tall commercial and multifamily buildings. The project site has 70 apartments and houses 140 people where 25 percent of the families in the building are on a fixed income. Engagement with NYCHA residents regarding housing quality improvements has demonstrated that a comprehensive solution to heating, cooling, and indoor air quality challenges is a top priority.

Solutions to retrofitting tall multifamily buildings with residents-in-place have been identified as an urgent need in New York City, where the Climate Mobilization Act and other legally binding commitments to reduce building emissions pose challenges for resource-constrained affordable housing providers. The project seeks to improve air quality within the physical building, provide critical infrastructure upgrades to lessen the site's reliance on fossil fuels, reduce building operating costs, and strengthen the involvement and social infrastructure of residents within the site.

NYCHA intends to leverage Façade Integrated Mechanical Systems exterior retrofitting to upgrade heating and cooling systems which maximize energy benefits and greatly reduce any resident impact from construction. The installation of central electric heat pump heating and cooling systems with individual control for each room would ensure consistent and comfortable indoor temperatures, while advanced ventilation systems providing filtered and dehumidified

**PROJECT LOCATION**

WSUR (Site A)  
120 West 94th Street  
Upper West Side, Manhattan

**APPLICANT**

New York City Housing Authority  
(NYCHA)

**PARTNERS**

Community Service Society of New York  
(CSSNY)  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice  
(WE ACT)

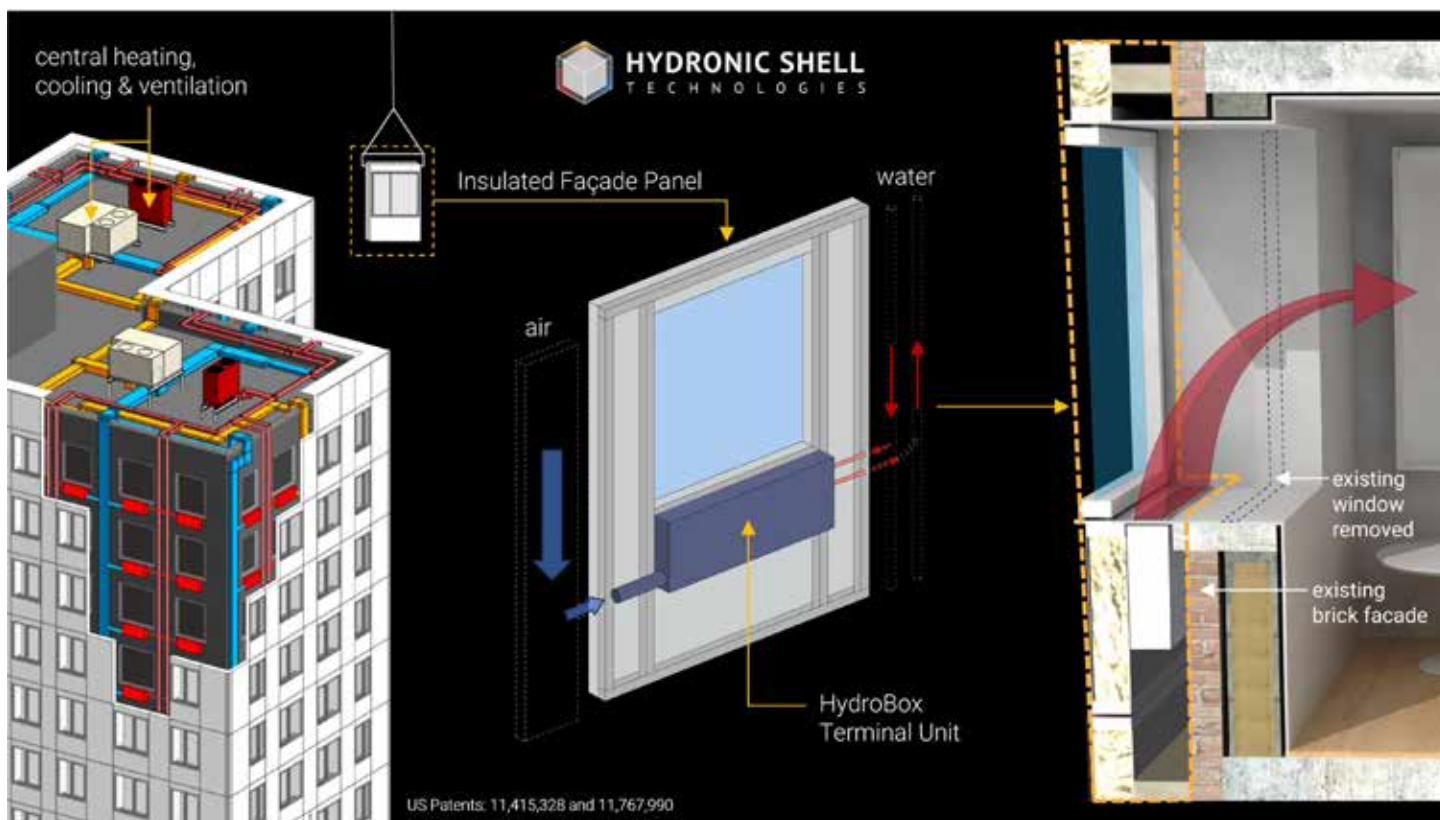
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[nyclimate@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:nyclimate@cityhall.nyc.gov)

Please include 'CCF Report' in the subject line of any inquiry email

**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$20 MILLION**





Rendering of the modular overclad façade technology developed by Empire Technology Prize finalist, Hydronic Shell Technologies Source: Hydronic Shell

outside air to each apartment would improve indoor air quality significantly. The work would obviate the need for a fossil-fuel steam boiler, which would in turn reduce on-site exposure to boiler exhaust. Additionally, the project would enhance building resiliency and ensure continuous operation during emergencies.

The Community Service Society of New York (CSSNY) would lead a fully integrated resident partnership along with WE ACT, which has already developed relationships at the complex through extensive engagement. NYCHA residents are, by and large, more vulnerable to issues related to pollution and changes in air quality, shifts in high heat or extended cold temperatures, and disruption of outages due to climate emergencies. The project would significantly enhance tenant's quality of life and comfort levels.





## MULTI-FAMILY

# Healthy Homes in the Heights

UHAB and AEA will fully electrify seven large multi-family affordable housing cooperative buildings, incorporated as Housing Development Fund Corporations (HDFCs) and clustered within a few blocks. All the buildings in the project portfolio currently burn fossil fuels and are greater than 25,000 square feet, with some still burning heavily polluting No. 4 grade oil, making them subject to new environmental standards. 305 low-income households—many of whom are among the original residents from their co-op conversions in the 1970s—will directly benefit from the upgrades in their homes as well as their common spaces and building systems, including heating, domestic hot water, and building envelope. Electrification will reduce emissions and improve air quality for the neighborhood, while a supported conversion will help preserve the equity of this low-income community's homeownership and investment in their housing.

Healthy Homes in the Heights addresses specific barriers to decarbonization that income-limited housing cooperatives face across the city. For buildings of the size in this project, clean energy conversions can easily cost \$2 million for electrification, which is typically far beyond what the coop boards can afford. High heating costs leave them with little net income from which to finance major upgrades, so many have instead fallen into a cycle of making only essential emergency repairs, at the cost of their long-term viability and their residents' quality of life. A typical decision in lieu of full electrification is for many HDFCs to convert from No. 4 grade oil to the slightly cleaner No. 2 oil, or to convert to natural gas.

UHAB and AEA will partner with WE ACT to engage low-income residents through focus groups, surveys, and site visits to prioritize health and safety upgrades (lead paint, gas shut-offs, roof repairs) alongside electrification. This will help them make informed decisions about their clean energy upgrades such as clean heating and cooling, solar, induction stoves, and electrification so they can

**PROJECT LOCATION**

Hamilton Heights, Upper Manhattan

**APPLICANT**

Urban Homesteading Assistance, Inc.  
(UHAB)

**PARTNERS**

Association for Energy Affordability  
(AEA)

WE ACT for Environmental Justice  
(WE ACT)

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$20 MILLION**



Heat pumps for a multifamily building Source: AEA

both access cost savings and achieve healthier homes, ensuring that energy improvements are coupled with necessary quality-of-life enhancements, and maximizing resident benefits.

As one of the very few affordable pathways to homeownership in NYC, HDFCs are an irreplaceable resource for preserving neighborhoods' economic and cultural diversity. This project will serve residents predominantly at the lower end of the HDFC income spectrum, with incomes ranging from 50% to 80% of area median income (AMI), preserving affordable homeownership in an area where the rapid pace of gentrification has caused prices of residential properties to increase 40% in the area over the last 15 years.



## SMALL HOMES: SUPPORTING TENANTS AND HOMEOWNERS

# Energy Fit: Bringing Equitable Clean Energy Access to Underserved Communities in Brooklyn, NY

Pratt Center and CHLDC propose to provide comprehensive energy-efficiency and electrification upgrades to 150 two- to three-family buildings owned by low-income homeowners in the Brooklyn neighborhoods of East New York and Cypress Hills. Through an expansion of the ongoing demonstration project, [EnergyFit NYC](#), Pratt Center and CHLDC will leverage a robust pipeline of 297 retrofit-ready households located within target neighborhoods and provide individualized technical support and a suite of upgrades they have demonstrated to be cost effective. These include health and safety modifications, heating system repairs, mold remediation, comprehensive air sealing, lead paint and radon testing, gas spillage/leakage remediation, weatherization and insulation, electrical upgrades, gas to induction stove swap-outs, electrified domestic hot water heaters, installation of backflow preventers, and solar panel installation/connection to the energy grid. The interventions will benefit the 300-450 households/units within the buildings.

An infusion of funding will expand EnergyFit, which, through streamlined processes and comprehensive support, alleviates the logistical burdens associated with navigating multiple clean energy programs. Interventions reduce utility costs by 50% per household, decrease CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by 6,027 kg per building, and reduce indoor air pollution by up to 90%, thereby reducing related respiratory health issues. Pratt Center will track and disseminate findings, relevant to the over 800,000 small, multi-family buildings in New York City and to meeting the city's emissions reductions goals.

**PROJECT LOCATION**

East New York, Cypress Hills, Brooklyn

**APPLICANT**

Pratt Center for Community Development  
([Pratt Center](#))

**PARTNERS**

Cypress Hills Local Development  
Corporation ([CHLDC](#))  
IMPACCT Brooklyn  
KC3

Dr. Diana Hernandez, Columbia  
University, Mailman School of Public  
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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$18.211 MILLION**



Energy Fit Contractors performing retrofitting



## SMALL HOMES: SUPPORTING TENANTS AND HOMEOWNERS

# NYC Plus One Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Program

HPD, Restored Homes and Chhaya will work together to create up to 35 new Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) of affordable rental housing, each on the property of a low-to-moderate income, single-family homeowner, facilitated by the NYC Plus One ADU Program. The result of more than two decades of community-based advocacy, this project expands the ongoing Plus One ADU pilot program to incorporate green infrastructure measures, along with programmatic standards for energy efficiency and pollution reduction. The selected resiliency measures will make the units safer and healthier, especially for some of the city's most vulnerable populations.

Many low-and-moderate income homeowners have a space within their home or on their property that they would like to use to convert or construct a new safe and healthy legal rental, to sustain their ability to make mortgage payments, stay in their communities, and build wealth. Existing accessory spaces may have unsafe indoor air quality and/or lack resiliency features to withstand climate-related extreme weather events. ADUs can be a critical source of affordable rental housing, but converting or constructing a living space to comply with current code requirements is often too costly for many low-and-moderate income homeowners in NYC. This program will provide financing and technical assistance for homeowners to convert or construct an ADU from the design phase through to construction completion.

The Project Area is home to more than 1.5 million people, 60% of whom have an income that is at or below 80% AMI and 70% of whom identify as people of color. Furthermore, 65% of the housing units in the Project Area were built prior to 1960 meaning much of the housing stock is likely to contain harmful pollutants and is

**PROJECT LOCATION**

A 50-mile square area of 14,000 properties across the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island

**APPLICANT**

Restored Homes Housing Development Fund Corporation (Restored Homes)

**PARTNERS**

Chhaya Community Development Corporation (Chhaya)  
NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)

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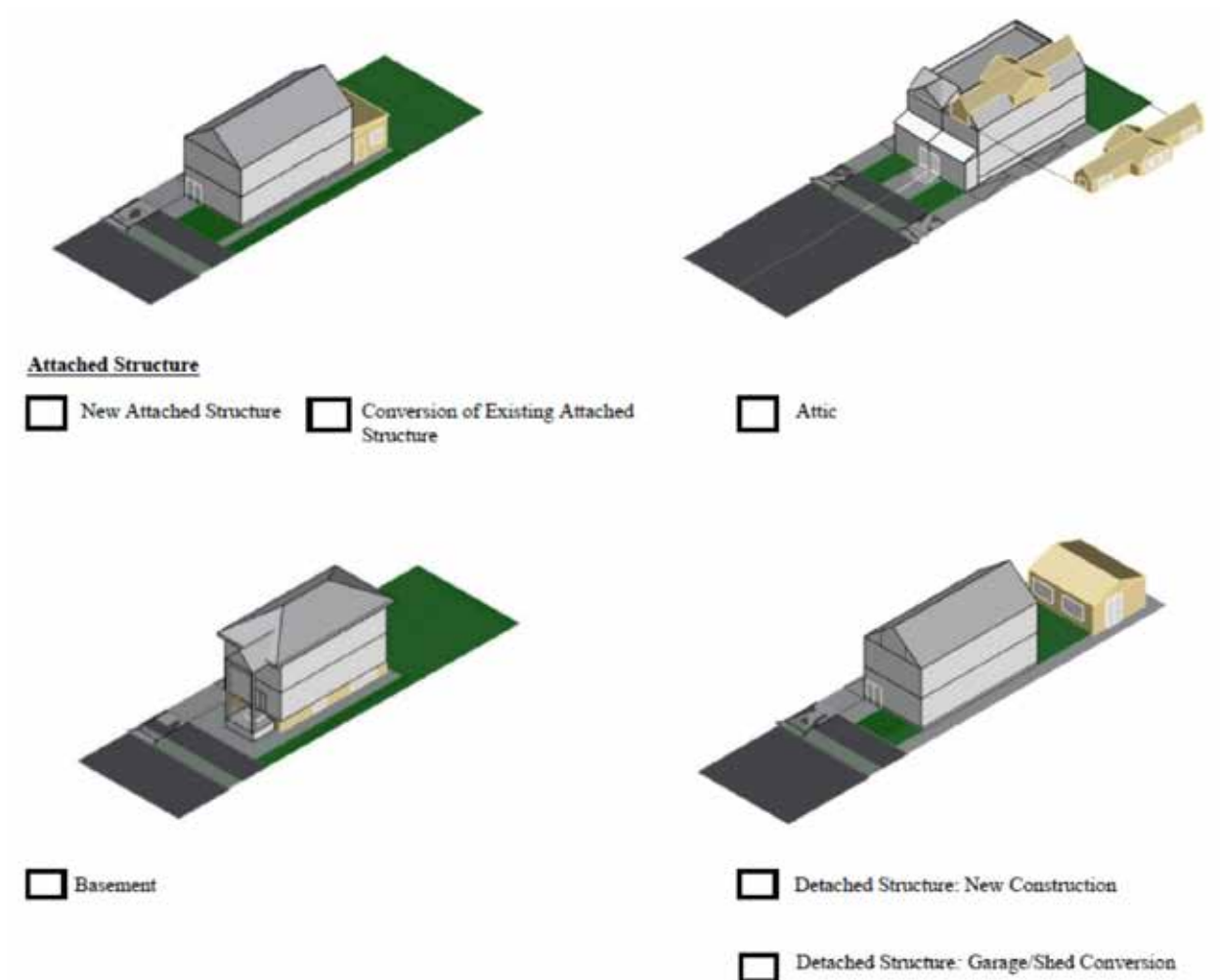
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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$20 MILLION**





Types of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) that would be created, improved, and legalized

less resilient against weather extremes. Through this program, homeowners and tenants must both have an income at or below 80% AMI. Given New York's ongoing affordability crisis, strategies that preserve and upgrade homes like those this program will assist, are essential to expand access to safe and affordable homes.



# Nature-Based and Integrated Solutions



JAJUAN GIBSON

RAIN Coalition member organization maintains a rain garden in Starlight Park with high school students as part of their paid summer youth program, BOBCATs.



## CITYWIDE

# Stewarding Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change in New York City

Rain gardens are nature-based infrastructure designed and located to prevent stormwater runoff into the sewer system, the leading source of new water pollution in the NYC area. As part of NYC DEP's mandated plan to meet water quality standards, more than 13,000 right-of-way rain gardens have been constructed to date, with plans to construct thousands more over the coming decade, a total investment of \$3 billion in green and grey infrastructure. Yet the maintenance of these assets—essential for this substantial capital investment to realize its goals—has not been planned or funded. This project bridges that gap by providing maintenance of rain garden assets for three years, while developing the workforce model for local stewardship with DEP and building skills and capacity and increasing employment opportunities for residents of waterfront communities.

Each of the communities in the four watersheds that drain into the most polluted waterways in NYC experiences a combination of public health issues, including exposure to air pollution, combined sewer overflows (CSOs), flooding, extreme heat, and lack of accessible green space. This project addresses these issues in the four watersheds. It will maintain the rain gardens and increase care for street trees, wetlands and forests, which all contribute to reducing runoff, but have distinct labor and logistical requirements. With support from two citywide workforce development organizations, this project will deploy four existing community-based organizations to provide the precise and detailed stewardship and investment required in targeted zones within each watershed, including appropriate native plants. Wetland and Forested Natural Area Stewardship will be led by NYC Parks, with stewardship support from Partner organizations.

Through the execution of these activities, partners will steward 433 rain gardens, covering 3.4 acres of green infrastructure, maintain 900 Street trees and 41.2 acres of wetlands and natural forests

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The Bronx, Flushing Bay and Flushing Creek, Queens, Newtown Creek and Gowanus Canal, Brooklyn

**APPLICANT**

Hudson River Foundation/NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program

**PARTNERS**

Rain Garden Action in Neighborhoods (RAIN) Coalition with six members: The HOPE Program, Bronx River Alliance, Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Green City Force, Guardians of Flushing Bay, and Newtown Creek Alliance; NYC Department of Environmental Protection, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

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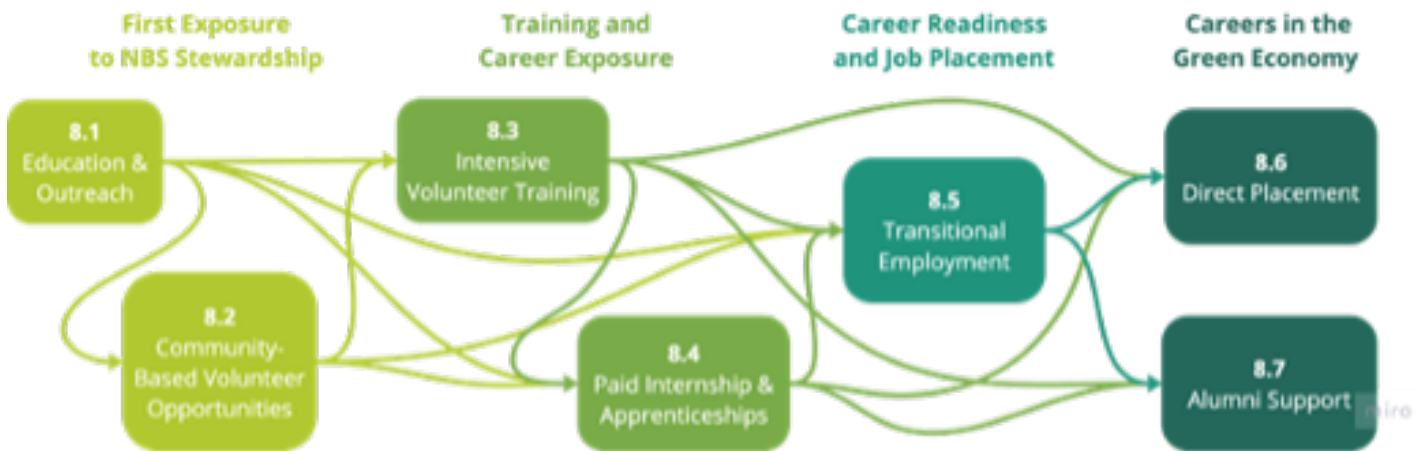
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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$20 MILLION**





## WORKFORCE PIPELINE PROCESS



for a three year period. They will engage a workforce pipeline of nearly 700 people recruited from watershed communities who receive transitional employment and paid training for stewardship of nature-based solutions, including wrap-around services that directly support participants in addressing their childcare, housing, legal, food, and physical health needs. 75% of transitional employees will be placed into living-wage jobs. The partnership will document their learnings to support the design of future RFPs for rain garden maintenance from DEP and other job-creating entities. Twelve new jobs will be created inhouse at four stewardship organizations and more than 10,000 people will be engaged in stewardship activities. This process, including formal evaluation, will be coordinated by Hudson River Foundation through its Harbor Estuary Program, who is uniquely qualified to contextualize the benefits for the larger region, and has the reach to share them out.



## CITYWIDE

# Expanding the Urban Forest for Community Health: Greening NYC's Most Heat Vulnerable and Pollution-Affected Communities

City Parks Foundation and Department of Parks and Recreation will engage stakeholders to create and support the implementation of New York City's first comprehensive, Urban Forest Plan. The plan will identify priorities and, ultimately plant and maintain a more plentiful tree canopy. Tree species will be selected to support increased pollution absorption, sequestration, and interception, reducing exposure. Its realization is essential to meeting the City's goal of 30% canopy cover citywide and ensuring that implementation addresses needs in the hottest and most underserved neighborhoods. Community-driven volunteer stewardship and public awareness of the value of trees will support resiliency at the neighborhood level.

Annually, about 350 New Yorkers die because of heat, more than any other extreme weather event. Project Area residents, especially children and older people are at higher risk of heat-related death. Low tree canopy coverage, high levels of particulate matter and ozone pollution and frequent emergency room visits reflect the environmental stresses of the targeted project areas.

Project partners will facilitate public input and develop and support implementation of the Urban Forest Plan—itsself the result of community-based advocacy that led the New York City Council to mandate a process that would equitably protect, care for, and expand the forest on public and private land. The climate resilience and pollution reduction benefits of trees are well known, but investment in the resources and community-based partnerships required to sustain and enhance canopy cover is chronically lacking. This collaboration will restore woodland natural areas, plant and maintain trees on public housing campuses, and build on NYC's tradition of local environment stewardship.

## PROJECT LOCATION

Citywide, with concentrations of areas in the Bronx, Harlem in Manhattan, central and southeastern Brooklyn, and central and southern Queens, as well as additional census tracts that meet disadvantaged criteria and have a high heat vulnerability rating.

## APPLICANT

City Parks Foundation, Inc

## PARTNERS

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$20 MILLION**





A local volunteer cares for NYC's trees by removing unwanted, competing plants

The Project Area consists of all NYC census tracts considered disadvantaged by federal measures and considered highly vulnerable to heat by NYC. Woodland natural areas served by this project are within or immediately adjacent to disadvantaged areas.



## NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIFIC

# Revitalizing Brownsville: A Blueprint for Health, Environmental Justice, and Green Spaces

United for Brownsville (UB), with its partners, proposes to tackle vulnerability to extreme heat and create economic opportunity through a multipronged approach: 1) cooling residential and commercial sections of the neighborhood by caring for 700 trees and installing 500,000 square feet of energy-saving reflective rooftops 2) improving the health and safety of 2,100 units for low-income renters, 3) providing residents with pathways into green jobs through the recruitment, training and implementation of these initiatives and 4) engaging in detailed data collection and analysis to demonstrate impact, led by NYU.

In nine corridors, traversing both the Pitkin Avenue BID area and the neighborhood's public housing complexes, UB will actively steward 700 existing trees and install an equal number of tree guards. A Resident Green Corps tree stewardship program, established with the support of the NYC Parks, will engage 15 adult residents and work with local participants in the Summer Youth Employment Program to carry this out.

Through a collaboration between The HOPE Program and NYC Cool Roofs, a program that offers paid training and work experience installing energy-saving reflective rooftops, 120 workforce development participants, recruited from the neighborhood, will receive training at UB's Greg Jackson Center. They will install up to 500,000 square feet of reflective roofing for up to 190 local businesses in the Pitkin Avenue BID geography and surrounding areas.

Moreover, through UB's Community Action for Healthy Homes (CAHH) service, 2,100 apartments for low-income residents will receive rapidly administered free repairs and 20 new community members will be trained and hired as part of the implementation

**PROJECT LOCATION**

Brownsville, Brooklyn

**APPLICANT**

New York University

**PARTNERS**

Brownsville Partnership (dba United for Brownsville)

Pitkin Avenue BID

The HOPE Program

NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

NYC Department of Small Business Services

Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice

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United for Brownsville Family Advisory Board

team. Established in 2021, CAHH's model is based on an Australian initiative shown to improve health outcomes in marginalized communities by providing maintenance services that address indoor air quality. Interventions include HVAC repairs and upgrades to address poorly functioning heat and water systems and fix holes and cracks that trigger pest infestations and contribute to energy inefficiency. Participants receive prompt attention, and repairs are completed within two weeks of survey dates. Notably, the cost of one apartment repair is far lower than the costs of emergency room visits or family relocations in an expensive and overcrowded city. Brownsville has the highest rate of asthma in NYC, largely due to poor indoor air quality and lack of green space resulting from dense development and historic underinvestment in natural infrastructure. Together, these integrated strategies will improve health, reduce energy consumption and costs, lower emissions, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and expand economic opportunity.



## NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIFIC

# Project EMERGE: Engaging Marginalized Populations in Environmental Resilience Group-work and Education

Project EMERGE will mobilize Community Health Workers (CHWs), a workforce that is trusted by and intimately familiar with Staten Island communities to create interconnected initiatives that invest in green infrastructure, improve public health outcomes, and build local capacity for climate and environmental resilience on Staten Island's North Shore. They will use community-driven decision-making, action, and advocacy to develop initiatives that reduce air pollution and flood risk and contribute to mental and physical health. New initiatives would include a new bike share program to improve community health and mobility; community gardening and composting to enable residents to grow and cook healthy food and reduce waste; and collaboration with NYC Parks will support the planting and maintenance of native species.

The CHW's local knowledge and trust are essential to the project's success. Staten Island's North Shore communities face unique environmental and health challenges including air pollution from industrial and maritime activities, land uses that amplify urban heat island effects, flood risk, and increasing risk of vector-driven diseases such as West Nile and Lyme Disease. Residents also face language, cultural, and other barriers to civic engagement.

CHWs will undergo state-certified training, supplemented by cutting-edge climate change and environmental justice training developed by the Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA). They will also recruit community members interested in becoming Staten Island Green Stewards (SIGS), helping them develop skills and knowledge to advocate for environmental changes to support healthier, more resilient communities, and to foster a sense of community ownership and agency.

**PROJECT LOCATION**

Port Richmond, Mariners Harbor, Stapleton, Staten Island

**APPLICANT**

Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

**PARTNERS**

Staten Island Performing Provider System (SIPPS)

College of Staten Island

Northfield Community LDC (NCLDC);  
H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths, Inc.

Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA)

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$20 MILLION**



A community garden on Staten Island's North Shore

Project EMERGE's interdisciplinary Community Health Worker training approach will create pathways to green jobs and economic, and opportunities, and build a network of CHWs who will connect residents and environmental health resources. Residents will actively co-create community-driven solutions and be empowered with knowledge of environmental hazards and climate change so they can better protect their own and their neighbors' health.





# Community Resilient Hubs



Rendering of the future Climate Resilience Hub, by Flatbush Workshop Design



# Cultivate from the Ground Up: Building Capacity for Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice and Resiliency in East Flatbush

A cross-sector partnership of community, governmental agencies, industry, and academia will create a Community Resilience Hub to offer residents of East Flatbush employment training in stormwater management, agroforestry, and renewable energy for community economic empowerment. Rooted in the principles of community ownership, the effort aims to drive economic development that builds wealth in the community through reducing environmental harm.

The Hub will offer mentorship programs, workshops, and seminars to equip community members with the skills to start and grow green businesses, actively participate in the green economy, as well as to advocate for their rights more broadly. The project will nurture a workforce skilled in sustainable practices and technologies, from agroforestry and stormwater gardens to renewable energy solutions, as a means to directly address under- and unemployment in the community. The hub is an integrated strategy to build capacity to strengthen the local economy, activate and empower civic engagement, heal the environment, and rebuild community connections.

The project area is home to 160,000 residents. It has the highest heat vulnerability rating in New York City, and just two cooling centers for its entire population. The heat risk especially impacts seniors, who make up about 30% of the community. Additionally, the neighborhood endures a dearth of open space and natural cooling canopy, and has soil with high lead content, posing a risk to children who make up about 20% of the community.

## PROJECT LOCATION

East Flatbush, Brooklyn

## APPLICANT

Brooklyn College Center for the Study of Brooklyn

## PARTNERS

Brooklyn Level Up  
Flatbush Workshop Design (FWD)

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$20 MILLION**



# Building a Network of Climate Resilience Hubs for New York City Public Housing Residents

Building a Network of Climate Resilience Hubs for New York City Public Housing Residents would establish climate resilience hubs at five existing community and older adult centers on NYCHA properties, advancing a vision for a network of climate resilience hubs developed collaboratively with NYCHA residents through a series of community workshops. The project proposal includes two key components meant to advance this long-term vision.

First, NYCHA would design and construct capital upgrades at one of the proposed climate resilience hubs: the William Hodson Older Adult Center in the South Bronx. Capital upgrades would reduce indoor and outdoor air pollution and mitigate current and future climate risks by introducing new green infrastructure and nature-based solutions, improving the building's energy efficiency performance and decarbonizing its energy sources, installing a solar and battery storage system, and enhancing interior and exterior facets to enhance its functionality as a community space.

Second, program staff and community stakeholders would collaborate to design and implement a robust schedule of programming at all five proposed resilience hub locations that respond to community needs and mitigate the impact of climate change by addressing environmental justice, emergency planning and readiness, financial literacy, mental and physical health, and workforce development. Programming would be designed to activate the physical space of the climate resilience hubs and promote their use as trusted spaces in emergency events to build social connections and cohesion between residents and bolster community members' personal resilience—including their economic conditions—so that they can better withstand and recover from climate-related risks and emergencies.

## PROJECT LOCATION

Central Harlem, Manhattan; South Bronx, the Bronx; South Jamaica, Queens, Brownsville, and Canarsie, Brooklyn and Canarsie

## APPLICANT

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

## PARTNERS

Fund for Public Housing (DBA Public Housing Community Fund)

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

NYC Department of Youth and Community Development

NYC Department for the Aging

NYC Emergency Management

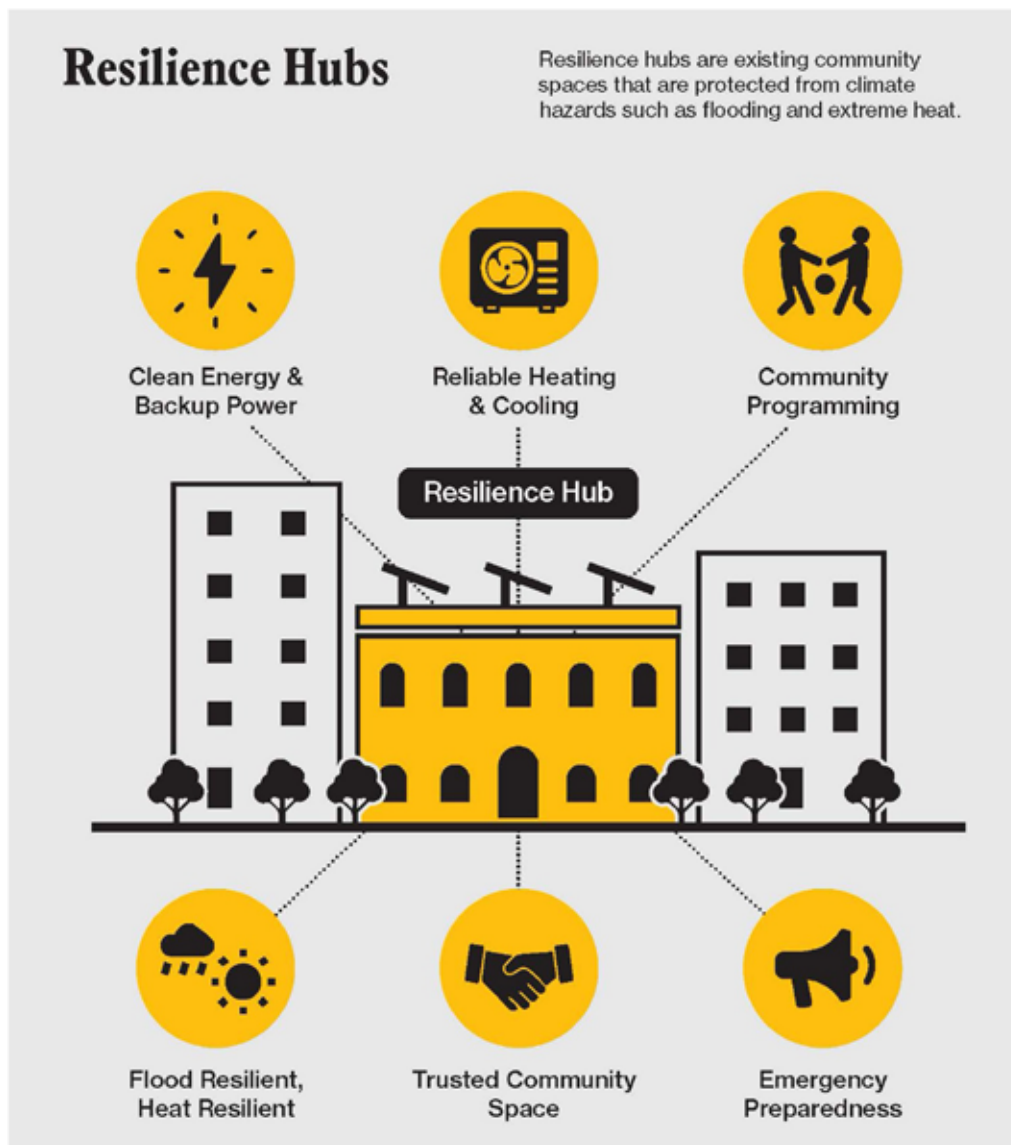
Nonprofit community center and older adult center operators

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*please include 'CCF Report' in the subject line of any inquiry email*

**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$19.9 MILLION**



Resilience hubs conceptual overview diagram SOURCE: PLANYC 2023

Together, these five climate resilience hubs and Project Areas would serve a population of more than 193,000 residents, or 68,000 households. The proposed project would also expand economic opportunity for NYCHA residents by supporting them in accessing job training and placement services by NYCHA's Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability Zone Model, prioritizing hiring of NYCHA residents for new positions in community outreach and program delivery, providing stipends to individuals who participate in efforts to shape programming, and hosting weekly Youth Farmers' Markets within each Project Area that would employ younger residents.





# East Harlem Resilience Hub

This proposal is for a series of implementation-ready capital improvements and community-led programming efforts to transform the East Harlem Neighborhood Health Action Center into a community resilience hub. An established and trusted community facility that serves over 15,000 residents every year, the Health Action Center is ideally situated to serve as a local hub during emergencies and as a model of design and construction strategies that enhance local environmental conditions.

Capital improvements would equip the facility with rooftop solar, a portable backup generator, and an upgraded heat pump system paired with ventilation to provide reliable heating and cooling, improve indoor air quality, and increase heat resilience. Green infrastructure, such as street trees, planting strips, rain gardens, or an exterior green wall, would also be deployed outside the facility to create additional green space and address climate risks such as flooding and extreme heat.

These improvements would be complemented by robust, community-driven programming and engagement. At the core of these activities would be a new Command Center co-led by EH COAD and DOHMH. The Command Center would serve as EH COAD's central hub for coordinating hyperlocal response efforts during disasters and emergencies, as well as pre- and post-disaster planning and training. Additionally, EH COAD and DOHMH, along with WE ACT and PRI, would co-develop impactful trainings, workshops, and events for community residents, service provider organizations, and small business owners centered around emergency preparedness and disaster recovery. This combination of active uses would empower community members and allow for a quicker recovery and return to normalcy following a disaster.

## PROJECT LOCATION

Project location: East Harlem, Manhattan

## APPLICANT

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)

## PARTNERS

East Harlem Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD)

We Act for Environmental Justice, Inc. (WE ACT)

NYC Pandemic Response Institute (PRI)

NYC Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice (MOCEJ)

NYC Emergency Management Department (NYCEM)

NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)

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(please include 'CCF Report' in the subject line of any inquiry email)

**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$19.8 MILLION**



SOURCE: NYC CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS



Staff outside the East Harlem Neighborhood Health Action Center

The East Harlem Resilience Hub project would increase resilience to climate-induced hazards, build social equity and cohesion, and reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions for the neighborhood of East Harlem. East Harlem—home to approximately 118,000 residents—is significantly impacted by stormwater flooding and inadequate drainage and is vulnerable to extreme heat, poor air quality, and coastal flooding.



# Transportation Investments for Air Quality and Mobility



SOURCE: THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NY

The HORT Public Plazas & Open Streets Program staff



# A New “Green Standard” for NYC DOT Public Realm Programs

Climate Corridors would transform open space and streets around 15 New York City public schools into green, resilient havens serving 6,000 students and surrounding communities across three neighborhoods. The governmental-community partnership integrates The Hort’s workforce development and educational programming, NYC DOT’s Public Realm Programming, and new extreme heat mitigation measures from NYC DOT’s Resiliency Planning and Management unit. Through multi-faceted, targeted investments, the project will address intersecting challenges of extreme heat, stormwater flooding, poor air quality, and a lack of safe active spaces for students. Maximizing tree density and vegetative plantings would benefit air quality throughout the growing season, mitigate heat during the summer, and help manage stormwater runoff that can contribute to flooding during extreme wet weather events. Features like shade structures, misting elements, pollinator gardens, and pop-up water fountains would be tailored to meet the particular needs of each community. Additionally, public realm improvements and programming such as plazas, Open Streets, and Street Seats can expand pedestrian and bike space in roadways, encouraging shifts to more sustainable and active transportation modes.

In parallel to the infrastructural elements of the project, The Hort would leverage its existing workforce development model to hire 40 people to work in a variety of roles on the project, collaborating with community partners to ensure that at least 50% of new hires come from Project Area communities. Through participatory programming led by The Hort, the project will leverage the new outdoor learning spaces for students and community members to expand environmental health and climate education and to promote environmental stewardship of natural spaces. NYC DOT, The Hort,

## PROJECT LOCATION

Fifteen sites across three neighborhoods in three boroughs: Morrisania in the Bronx, Brownsville/East New York in Brooklyn, and Washington Heights in Manhattan

## APPLICANT

NYC Department of Transportation (DOT)

## PARTNERS

The Horticultural Society of New York (The Hort)

NYC Public Schools

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*please include ‘CCF Report’ in the subject line of any inquiry email*

**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$19.1 MILLION**





and NYC Public Schools would work closely to coordinate with school leaders, local community-based organizations, businesses, and elected officials to finalize designs for each school, so that they reflect needs and priorities as defined by those who rely on the area the most. Approximately 50,000 community members who reside within the three Project Areas would benefit from these enhanced green spaces and a respite from heat in their neighborhoods.



# The SAFE + Accelerator Program (Sustainable, Affordable, Fire-Safe, E-Bike)

The Sustainable, Affordable, Fire-Safe E-Bike (SAFE) + Accelerator Program will make e-bikes available to delivery workers and interested lower-income NYC residents, expanding access to zero-emission mobility, and fighting the lithium-ion battery fires that have plagued New York City over the past several years. An estimated 65,000 people in NYC make a living as independent contractors working for app delivery companies. Many of those are using micro-mobility vehicles with no safety standards. These have caused more than 450 fires across NYC since 2022, killing 24 people and injuring hundreds more. New laws and bans don't always translate into getting those bikes off the street as delivery workers rely on them for a living. In some cases, the bans have pushed workers onto gas-powered mopeds, many of which are unlicensed and unregistered, and pump carbon and other pollutants into the local environment.

TA and ECP will exchange up to 8,220 existing but unsafe and uncertified delivery electric bikes (e-bikes) and gas-powered mopeds and add an additional 3,000 UL-certified e-bikes, for new, lower-income riders, to NYC streets. Complementary components of these two programs include community engagement informed by partners with deep membership in the impacted communities, such as Los Deliveristas Unidos; community-led programming and education; and strategic research and communications to spread learnings, scale, and replicate impact. This project builds off a successful pilot effort that has removed almost 250 hazardous bikes and batteries off the streets. E-bikes represent an equitable climate solution, and this project is an essential accelerant of ongoing efforts to encourage safe micro-mobility, open economic access to opportunity, drastically cut carbon and particulate emissions, reduce the risk of battery fires, create clear pathways for lithium-ion battery recycling, and establish effective outreach and public education tools that can be adopted by other communities throughout New York and across the country.

## PROJECT LOCATION

Six neighborhoods in Queens: Long Island City (LIC), Dutch Kills, Astoria, Corona, Ridgewood, and Elmhurst, plus a delivery worker hub located in East Williamsburg, Brooklyn; citywide

## APPLICANT

Transportation Alternatives, Inc. (TA)

## PARTNER

Equitable Commute Project, Inc. (ECP)

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$20 MILLION**



Delivery workers at a pilot e-bike trade-in event

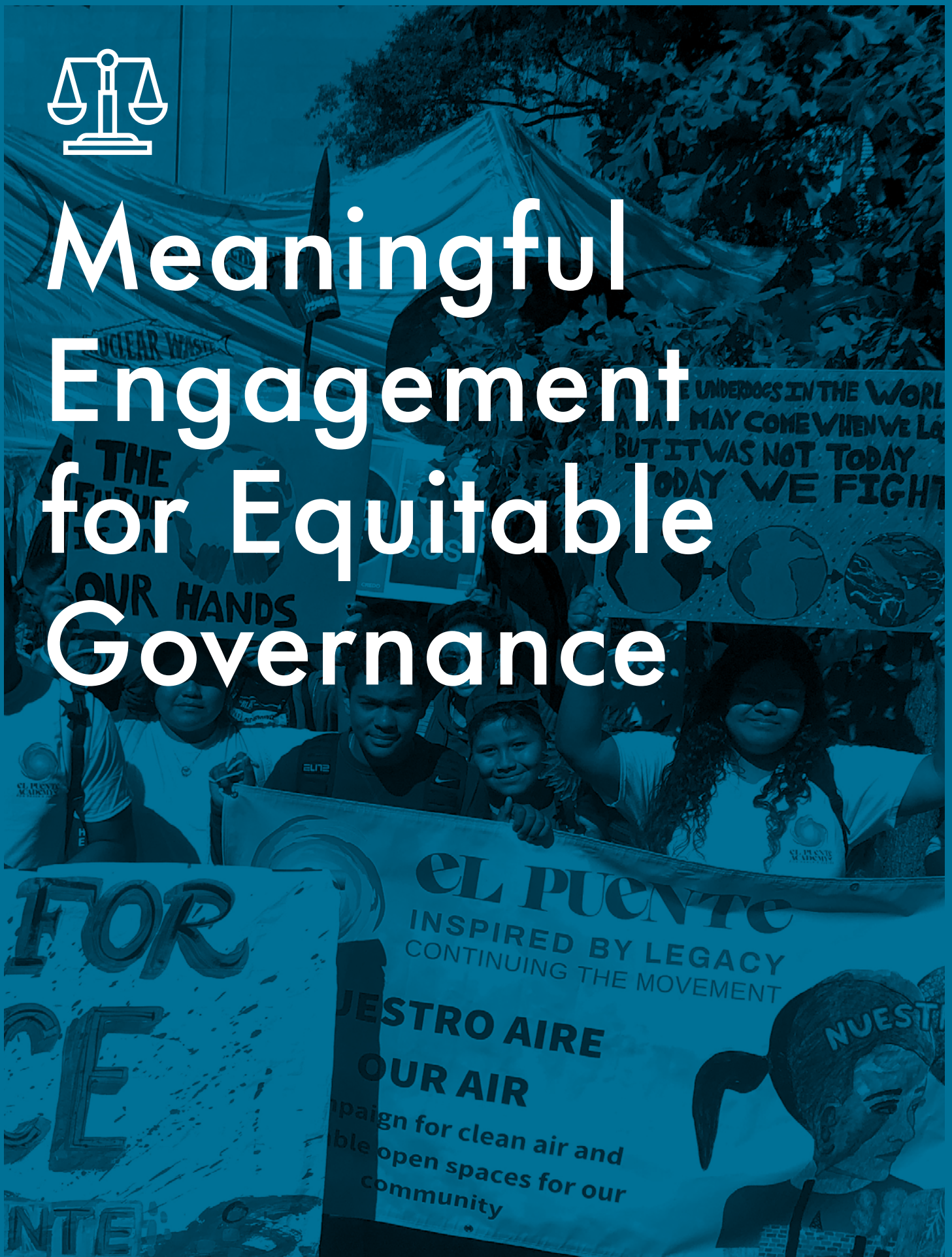
The e-bike trade-in and new-rider subsidy program will operate across NYC in neighborhoods with large concentrations of gig workers, including through a worker hub operated by Los Deliveristas Unidos and located in East Williamsburg. The trade-in program will serve working cyclists, while the new-rider program will serve other lower-income New Yorkers. Neighborhoods of focus will be where strong support exists from community groups and elected officials for the expansion of micro-mobility, as demonstrated initiatives to improve bike infrastructure and micro-mobility access, as well as the recent expansion of micro-mobility charging infrastructure in the area.

Residents and workers in the project area face numerous challenges including elevated air and noise pollution, underinvestment in transportation infrastructure, a housing affordability crisis, and a road safety crisis. The worker population of the SAFE program generally has very limited English proficiency, earns an average of \$1,274 per month, and relies on delivery work as their main source of income. Workers suffer adverse health effects from exposure to extreme weather, and face one of the highest injury rates and fatality of any occupation in NYC. To understand these interconnected challenges, the team will study the project's impact on individual riders, community and public health, carbon emissions, and air and noise quality.





# Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance







Recognizing the essential role of local wisdom and leadership in the development of policies and projects with environmental impacts, these proposals seek to facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes to achieve better environmental and climate outcomes.

## EJNYC INITIATIVE PROCESS AND TIMELINE



### PHASE 1 PRIORITIZING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- » New York City Council passed **Local Laws 60** and **64** of 2017, requiring the City to convene the Interagency Working Group and Environmental Justice Advisory Board and conduct a comprehensive study of environmental justice
- » **Public scoping process** to develop the scope of the EJNYC Report



### PHASE 2 STUDYING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Development of the **EJNYC Report and Mapping Tool**, informed by:
- » **Research and discovery**
    - Literature review
    - Focus groups with residents of EJ communities
    - Interviews with EJ advocates
    - Survey about environmental processes and decision-making
  - » **Review and input from IWG and EJAB**



### PHASE 3 ACTING ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Looking ahead, the City will use the findings from the EJNYC Report to **lead a public engagement process and develop the EJNYC Plan**, which will identify strategies and initiatives to address New York City's environmental justice disparities

Image courtesy of the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice



The City is at a pivotal moment for implementation of the Environmental Justice planning efforts mandated by local laws 60 and 64 of 2017. In January 2024, it released its EJNYC report, an extensive document akin to an “existing conditions” or “needs statement” in a planning process. Importantly, the report also assesses the extent to which City processes meaningfully involve and take direction from New Yorkers, indicating barriers and best practices.

The next step is to develop the full-fledged EJNYC Plan, which will identify and commit to the strategies and activities necessary to eradicate disparities across communities, which will require robust participation to result in the appropriate recommendations. Presumably, those strategies will include how to increase access to participation—the very question that the proposals in this section innovate around. In many ways, the thoughtfully crafted ideas contained within these seven proposals serve as a ready-to-go roadmap to address this question, and, with the proper resources, can be advanced before and alongside the creation of the EJNYC plan.

Two of the proposals in this section take on the EJNYC planning process and the challenge of bridging the gap between those who a governmental engagement process can typically reach and impacted community members. One of these is through a network of citywide umbrella and neighborhood member-based organizations with the potential to reach residents and workers in all the city’s disadvantaged communities, and the other is through a network of hyperlocal, often volunteer associations in Northern

Manhattan, the South Bronx, Southeastern Queens, Central Brooklyn, Northern Staten Island.

While the imminent EJNYC process, of course, involves coordinating the development and implementation of recommendations across all city agencies, it is not the only city process at stake at this moment. As is indicated by the proposals in the previous section, there are a dizzying number of public processes that are underway or are set to begin that could have a major bearing on the city’s ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Many are being carried out by different agencies within NYC government alone; others involve major state and federal entities such as the Department of Environmental Conservation, Metropolitan Transportation Authority and NYC Housing Authority, EPA, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to name only a few. At least nine different initiatives led by different City entities have been identified in these proposals.

The following seven proposals underscore the need to reimagine and deeply resource community engagement with the most marginalized communities, including the most vulnerable within those communities, and, complementing the capital-focused proposals, highlight what’s at stake for local communities and citywide.

Spanning the five boroughs in different geographical configurations, the proposals contain capacity-building plans tailored to the social ecosystems in which they originate and reflect the realities of engaging with community members in each of their particular contexts.



## Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance



### POLICY FOCUSED

- // EJNYC: Community-Based Solutions for Environmental Justice
- // Connecting Climate Leaders NYC
- // Building Advocacy Capacity for Climate Justice within Disadvantaged Communities of NYS
- // Strengthen Health Advocacy for Climate Justice in New York State



### PLANNING FOCUSED

- // Brooklyn Environmental Equity Movement (BEEEM)
- // Uplifting Bronx Voices for Climate Change Resilience
- // El Puente Community Change

They innovate co-governance models that will alter the land-use review process and the nature of community boards; create their own planning and prioritization processes when interagency efforts fail to coordinate or take a comprehensive look; utilize networks of community health workers and tenant committees to spark a process for issue identification and policy generation deeply rooted in emerging needs; and extensively invest in the education and leadership development of community members and activists at all levels, from the most hyperlocal to staff of community organizations. Many of them, in their recognition that participation requires substantial time and energy, commodities that routinely privilege the participation of financially secure New Yorkers, provide methods for compensating leaders from low-income communities who commit to undertaking the work on behalf of and in partnership with their neighbors.

Through the development of these proposals, communities are speaking from lived experiences on the ground, which, undoubtedly get at the stark issues facing low-income people: whether parents can

earn a living that provides for their family, whether they can breathe the air without getting sick, and whether their homes will survive the next storm, for example. These proposals flag where governmental efforts have an opportunity to take the comprehensive view, and demand and innovate plausible ways to fill those gaps so that communities can benefit in tangible ways.

Supporting the engagement outlined within these proposals could make billions of dollars of public and private investments more responsive to communities, and, therefore, more effective in reaching their goals. In changing mayoral and federal contexts, the specific level of investment is uncertain. It appears that some commitments will stall in the new federal context, and New York's upcoming mayoral election could change the trajectory of the current MOCEJ's commitments, either by policy choice or due to changes in federal funding streams. Still, many substantial investments are too far along in the process to be halted or are derived from non-federal sources.



Community action, led by engaged and informed citizens, has served as a north star through political changes in the past, and will be needed now more than ever. As described in these proposals, community participation will be able to shape reinvestment commitments for public housing and redevelopment decisions for affordable housing, open spaces, and large public sites; hold cleanup efforts accountable to public health; align transportation and highway projects with climate goals and community needs; and prioritize the coastal adaptation and other infrastructure projects that create the greatest impact for communities. Supporting their leadership would strengthen and support them to be more able to engage with whatever unforeseen challenges may arise in the climate uncertain future.

### City processes include, but are not limited to:

- Multiple initiatives coordinated by **MOCEJ**, including Climate Strong Communities;
- **Department of Parks and Recreation's** citywide Urban Forest Plan
- **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's** efforts around social cohesion and education
- **Department of Environmental Protection's** Long-term Control Plan to manage stormwater and prevent sewer overflows
- **Office of Emergency Management's** focus efforts on mitigating risks to people and property from extreme heat
- **Department of City Planning's** focused efforts in areas of extreme heat vulnerability and coastal resilience
- **Housing Preservation and Development's** role in creating Accessory Dwelling Units
- **Civic Engagement Commission** efforts to imbue Participatory Budgeting options with climate projects
- Role of **Community Boards** in most of these processes





# Policy Focused



Community members collaborate on resiliency planning at a WE ACT workshop



# EJNYC: Community-Based Solutions for Environmental Justice

**\$3 MILLION  
AWARDED**

WE ACT for Environmental Justice and a coalition of partners will carry out a citywide community engagement initiative in response to the Environmental Justice NYC Report, released in early 2024. The next major milestone of the EJNYC Initiative is the development of a comprehensive citywide environmental justice action plan, the EJNYC Plan. The plan will provide guidance on incorporating environmental justice priorities into City decision-making, identify possible citywide initiatives to promote them, and provide recommendations for City agencies.

This project will ensure that community perspectives, priorities, and solutions are significantly represented in NYC's environmental justice planning. WE ACT and its partners will:

- Conduct a series of facilitated community conversations throughout environmental justice neighborhoods across the five boroughs, using the findings of the recently released EJNYC Report to set the stage for collecting community input and supporting community-led projects on environmental justice solutions and priorities.
- Synthesize community input into a set of recommendations highlighting both citywide and neighborhood-level priorities and solutions. Identify areas to integrate planning recommendations across City-led initiatives.
- Carry out a citywide communications effort in conjunction with the finalization of the community-driven recommendations, in order to raise communities' awareness of the proposed solutions and create strategies to co-develop implementation pathways with stakeholders.

## PROJECT LOCATION

Citywide

## APPLICANT

We Act for Environmental Justice, Inc.  
(WE ACT)

## PARTNERS

Pratt Center for Community Development  
(Pratt Center)

Association for Neighborhood and  
Housing Development

South Bronx Unite, Eastern Queens  
Alliance

Red Hook Initiative

Neighborhoods for a Sustainable Future  
Neighborhood Housing Services of  
Brooklyn

Make the Road New York

Mayor's Office of Climate and  
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# Connecting Climate Leaders NYC

Recognizing the necessity for those who are closest to climate risks to inform the planning, policies, and programs designed to mitigate and adapt to those risks, CitizensNYC would leverage its strong relationships with neighborhood and grassroots groups to connect 100 hyper-local leaders to governmental processes that do just that. CitizensNYC has identified major opportunities where meaningful input from communities impacted by extreme heat will be essential. Examples include MOCEJ's Climate Strong Communities, a launching pad for resiliency projects, and the EJNYC planning process along with NYCEM's effort to receive community feedback on proposed heat mitigation activities, such as creation of cooling stations and safety education.

To facilitate the success of these efforts, as well as to build upon and strengthen existing local capacity, this proposal would identify 100 neighborhood-based and grassroots leaders from selected communities experiencing both high poverty and high climate change risk and support them with a stipend to receive training as skilled subject matter experts prepared to engage government partners in planning, policy, and investment at the local level. CitizensNYC would then connect these leaders to existing planning and implementation efforts with government partners and continue to support their participation in associated time-intensive activities to inform and improve climate resilience in high need areas.

To implement this, CitizensNYC would build a leadership training program for hyper-local leaders to (a) extend their subject matter expertise, with a focus on flooding, air quality, and extreme heat; (b) strengthen their competencies in engaging with public sector planning, budgeting, and compliance on relevant environmental practices; and (c) develop their skills as participants, conveners and facilitators. All these skills will be designed to support these leaders in more effectively engaging government partners or organizing community members to do so.

## PROJECT LOCATION

Select areas of the five boroughs: Northern Manhattan, the South Bronx, Southeastern Queens, Central Brooklyn, Northern Staten Island.

## APPLICANT

Citizens Committee for New York City, Inc. (CitizensNYC)

## PARTNERS

New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM)

Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ)

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$3 MILLION**



The program will be formally evaluated and is expected to result in new investments, policies and/or new regulations created in partnership with elected officials and agency leaders, greater engagement of the broader community, and the development of new community leaders. It is also projected to increase trust and communication with elected officials, agency leaders and other local institutional partners.



A community garden whose leaders are supported by CitizensNYC, the type of organization from which hyperlocal leaders would be recruited in the proposed process



# Building Advocacy Capacity for Climate Justice within Disadvantaged Communities of NYS

Make the Road New York and its partners will cultivate a corps of leaders informed about climate challenges and the city and state mitigation programs in their neighborhoods. The corps will be supported to share their knowledge with their communities and to advocate together for policies and programs that will improve rental housing and neighborhood conditions.

MRNY's membership lives in neighborhoods that are in the 97th percentile of housing costs relative to income, and the 97th percentile for lacking green space. Mostly renters, they often live in poorly maintained buildings that are particularly at risk of the impacts of climate change; their landlords may not be willing to invest in climate preparedness if they do not even ensure basic upkeep.



MRNY members strategizing community solutions at their Queens office



The cadre will form a Community Advisory Board of Community Climate Messengers (CCMs), leaders who live in the communities where they advocate and have a track record of community involvement, including robust neighborhood connections and contacts. After receiving supplemental training from the Action Lab, CCMs will be responsible for collecting stories from the people they reach about the environmental and climate justice challenges they experience and share what they have learned with city and state environmental groups or local and state advisory group meetings. To sustain the effort, CCMs will also recruit community members they engage with to become CCMs themselves.

For over 25 years, MRNY has built deep trust in the communities in which they work and is well equipped to mobilize members to address environmental challenges associated with climate change.

#### PROJECT LOCATION

Bushwick, Brooklyn, Jackson Heights, Queens, Port Richmond, Staten Island, White Plains, Westchester, Brentwood, Long Island

#### APPLICANT

Make the Road New York (MRNY)

#### PARTNERS

The Action Lab (TAL)

Community Voices Heard (CVH)

Voices of Community Activists and Leaders (VOCAL-NY)

Public Policy and Education Fund (PPEF)

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$3 MILLION**



# Strengthening Health Advocacy for Climate Justice in New York State

Make the Road New York's members are working class New Yorkers who are at the front lines of climate catastrophe. This partnership will expand the scope and reach of MRNY's Community Health Worker (CHW) program to include new education, information, and resources about the health impacts of climate change, both in the short and long term, and to share steps community members can take to protect themselves and their loved ones. The findings from a comprehensive report that will be informed by this outreach will be shared with government agencies and allies to shape our health outreach practices and train future health workers, but also to advocate for government programs and policies at the local state and federal levels that support climate resilience among the communities that MRNY serves.

The CHW program, active since 2014, employs community members who are experts on their communities' health needs to work with their neighbors on assessing and addressing key common health conditions, such as asthma and heart disease. This project will make it possible for MRNY and its partners the Chinese American Planning Council, AIRnyc, and Riseboro to incorporate climate-related health checks into community health worker programming. Topics will include responding to poor air quality, managing asthma exacerbated by environmental conditions and flood mitigation techniques. Community health workers will conduct street outreach and home visits to maximize the project's reach, ensuring engagement with residents who face the greatest barriers to accessing services. NYAM will support the CBOs to collect climate resilience data from participants and lead the research phases of

## PROJECT LOCATION

Bushwick, Brooklyn, Jackson Heights, Queens, Port Richmond, Staten Island

## APPLICANT

Make the Road New York (MRNY)

## PARTNERS

New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM)

Chinese American Planning Council

AIRnyc

Riseboro

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$3 MILLION**



MRNY Health staff conduct outreach at an outdoor fair

the project, convening focus groups and producing a comprehensive report based on the findings by MRNY and our partner CBOs about climate's effects on health.

MRNY's members live in working class immigrant dense neighborhoods of New York City, which are located in areas that are experiencing the brunt of climate-related disasters and have limited resources and access to services like health care. Recent weather events has heightened members' interest in climate change and its health impacts. Many of MRNY's members were severely impacted by superstorm Ida in 2021, experiencing flooding in their basement apartments and disruption of city services. Many are still living with the consequences, such as air hazards like molded buildup from damp surfaces or invasive pests related to flooding. These communities are in the 97th percentile for those lacking green space, 78th percentile of projected flood risk, and 35th percentile of asthma.





# Planning Focus



Community members at the groundbreaking of a combined sewer overflow tank in Gowanus, Brooklyn



# Brooklyn Environmental Equity Movement (BEEM)

The South Brooklyn neighborhoods of Gowanus, Red Hook, and Sunset Park face a once in a generation opportunity for redevelopment due to major investments in rezoning, transportation, and infrastructure that have already been committed by city, state and federal authorities. Brooklyn Environmental Equity Movement (BEEM), a partnership between FAC and the Pratt Center, is designed to uplift the power of public housing residents and other low-income community members to participate in local, state, and federal decision-making processes to influence large-scale development projects, involving billions of dollars of public and private investment, shaping a more sustainable future for tens of thousands of families. BEEM will run multiple initiatives with its partners to support residents to participate in major government-led and other processes, influencing decisions on cleanup and redevelopment.

New York City has committed more than \$450 million to area-wide rezoning and development projects, including approximately \$200 million to renovate 1,139 public housing units in Gowanus Houses and Wyckoff Gardens to address indoor environmental issues including mold, lead, and asbestos. At the same time, two major transportation investments will shape these communities for decades to come. The Interborough Express (IBX) is a new, transformative rapid transit project that will connect 14 miles of Brooklyn and Queens, including Sunset Park, and is expected to serve more than a million residents and workers. The Brooklyn Queens Expressway (BQE) Corridor Vision is a major initiative to fix and upgrade Brooklyn's only interstate highway and its major freight corridor, used by 130,000 vehicles daily. These are complex projects involving multiple government agencies\* and of vital interest to stakeholders in the industrial, real estate and other business communities.

## PROJECT LOCATION

Gowanus, Red Hook, and Sunset Park, South Brooklyn

## APPLICANT

Fifth Avenue Committee, Inc (FAC)

## PARTNER

Pratt Center for Community Development (Pratt Center)

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**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST**  
**\$3 MILLION**



BEEEM involvement in all these initiatives will ensure that community residents shape the quality of their living conditions and evolution of their housing and public spaces, address health, air quality and economic concerns in planning and implementation. Engagement will take the form of educational forums and meetings between community residents and government officials, and the creation of Project Toolkits to explain government processes from an accessible, community perspective. It will facilitate the participation of at least 250 Sunset Park, Red Hook, Gowanus and/or IBX corridor disadvantaged community members in community-based planning meetings and at least 150 NYCHA residents in activities to inform NYCHA's Renovation and Relocation Plan as well as environmental remediation of the Gowanus Canal and upland brownfield sites. In addition to informing investment processes and priorities, the effort is expected to lead to more sustainable and equitable outcomes, increase the percentage of government funding allocated to environmental and community projects that are prioritized by community members, and enhance capacity to participate in governmental environmental and other public processes.

The result of this engagement process will benefit 293,000 low-income and public housing residents in South Brooklyn and along the corridor of the planned Interborough Express project, areas long burdened by industrial contamination, transportation pollution, coastal vulnerability, and economic redlining.

**BEEEM would educate and influence multiple federal, state and local agencies and officials including:**

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)

New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT)

New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT)

Offices of the Brooklyn and Queens Borough Presidents and other local elected officials

New York City Parks Department (DPR)

New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC)

Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) Trustees

US Department of the Interior (DOI)

US Department of Commerce (DOC)

US EPA and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)



# Uplifting Bronx Voices for Climate Change Resilience

**\$1.408  
MILLION  
AWARDED**

Uplifting Bronx Voices for Climate Change Resilience will convene a Bronx Climate Justice Task Force to enable disadvantaged Bronx communities to fully participate in decisions about coastal adaptation and other infrastructure projects being advanced by federal, state, and local agencies. Through the Task Force at least 10 community organizations will be engaged to synthesize community input, prioritize climate resilience projects, and engage with government agencies on a plethora of plans that could affect the Bronx's 1.4 million residents and major economic assets.

The Task Force will produce materials, visualizations aids, and interactive activities to educate and engage the general public to provide communities with information about issues that directly impact them and create mechanisms to ensure community needs inform decision-making and are integrated into government processes and policies. Thus informed and empowered, communities will participate directly in the developing and implementing solutions, policies, and programs, and move climate resilience and coastal habitat restoration projects toward implementation.

The Bronx is the subject of numerous studies, plans and projects, including: US Army Corps of Engineers NY-NJ Harbor and Tributaries Study (USACE NY-NJ HATS), NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the NYS Climate Action Council, the Climate Justice Working Group, NYC Long Term Control Plans, NOAA's Coastal Inundation Community of Practice, and engagement with the Climate Smart Communities Program and the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (NYC MOCEJ). Meanwhile, the people living and working in the Bronx continue to bear a disproportionate burden of the region's highways and other harmful infrastructure and polluting land uses, leading to public health consequences. Asthma affects 17% of Bronx children.

## PROJECT LOCATION

Bronx River watershed communities,  
The Bronx

## APPLICANT

Bronx River Alliance

## PARTNERS

Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice  
Council on Environmental Quality  
Harlem River Working Group  
The POINT CDC  
Rocking the Boat  
Bronx Children's Museum  
South Bronx Unite  
SUNY Maritime  
Governmental engagement partners

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Bronx Community Members participate in a “Paddle and Pick-up” event to remove debris from the Bronx River

The Bronx Task Climate Justice Task Force provides a means to residents to advocate for the policies and projects that advance address their needs and build toward their vision.



# El Puente Community Change

**\$3 MILLION  
AWARDED**

El Puente Community Change (EPCC) will infuse democratic practice into existing engagement structures, add specialized environmental expertise, and align environmental justice goals with broader community development goals for holistic and sustainable impact through community-led efforts. To accomplish this, El Puente and its partners will train community members on environmental justice issues and how to address them via government processes and policy change. Trained community members will shape and create Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs) that integrate into existing Community Board structures to take on a direct role in governmental policy and processes.

This proposal will alter a long history of environmental harm and disinvestment in North Brooklyn neighborhoods, particularly South Williamsburg and Bushwick by creating clear pathways for residents to participate in governmental decision making affecting these communities.

The three core elements of the program are:

1. The Leadership Development Training program is designed to equip community members with skills to effectively communicate and advocate for environmental justice.
2. The formation of Environmental Advisory Boards which bridge the gap between disadvantaged communities and governmental entities. Trained community members become informed and impactful advocates on the advisory boards to bring community perspectives into decision making. They will be compensated for their participation.
3. The active and direct participation of community members in governmental policy and process through collaborative governance initiatives, such as the development of Special Purpose zoning districts, Community Benefits Agreements, and governance bodies for remediating source pollution.

## PROJECT LOCATION

South Williamsburg and Bushwick,  
Brooklyn

## APPLICANT

El Puente de Williamsburg

## PARTNERS

Newtown Creek Alliance

Sane Energy Project

The New School

Tishman Environment and Design Center  
("Tishman")

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The training program will include content on areas of top concern for residents such as air quality, heat, flooding, water protection, highway and transit infrastructure, toxic waste transfer, utilities and wastewater treatment, pipeline infrastructure hazards, climate mitigation, and more. Training and education events will also cover topics of governmental process, environmental policy, local decision-makers and methods, and capacity-building for influencing public law.

After the initial three-year startup period the advisory boards are designed to be self-sustaining. Researchers from Tishman will inform community members as they design a model that makes the most sense for the community and offer technical assistance in the form of toolkits and facilitated training. They will also document the process to produce a robust, case study of community-led action and mechanisms for collaborative governance that can be adapted at other scales city- and nationwide.



El Puente youth being presente for a healthy planet and clean air



# Designing an Equitable Water Future for New York City

The Design Trust will launch a public call for projects around the theme of water equity, selecting five projects to participate in a multi-year guided process. Projects will form a cohort, sharing practices and ideas across agencies and sectors that don't normally collaborate. Selected projects will address a systemic issue impacting disadvantaged New Yorkers. For example, projects might expand community Bluebelts, new models of land stewardship in vulnerable coastal neighborhoods, activate public pools with creative programming and activity, monitor flooding in storm-impacted areas, devise resident-driven water quality monitoring in buildings, or increase waterfront access.

A supporting component of this proposal includes a demonstration project led by Design Trust and NYCDEP that will advance long-term, community-focused guidelines for cloudburst infrastructure, to address the increased frequency of sudden, heavy downpours. This initiative would leverage a \$375 million demonstration program currently being led by DEP and partially funded by a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant. Specifically, the project will ensure that disadvantaged communities, who disproportionately suffer from extreme flooding, have a voice in these long-term plans.

Macaulay Honors College, part of CUNY, will lead a Workforce Program Area, providing a breadth of training and educational experiences, while also providing in-depth resources for the future leaders of the city. Finally, project partners will hold a public conference and exhibition.

The call for projects, and development of those project ideas, is based on the Design Trust's 30-year history of executing public calls to make demonstrable change in public policy. Basement

## PROJECT LOCATION

Citywide

## APPLICANT

Design Trust for Public Space

## PARTNERS

City University of New York's (CUNY)

Macaulay Honors College

New York City Department of

Environmental Protection (NYCDEP)

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## TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST

**\$2.881 MILLION**





Staten Island Bluebelt

NYC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

flooding from extreme weather has caused loss of life and property damage, while standing water has increased health risks such as disease transmission. This project will ensure that disadvantaged communities, who disproportionately suffer from the impacts of extreme flooding, have a voice in these long-term plans.

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# Conclusion

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The twenty-nine projects featured in this report, partnerships between community-based organizations, academic institutions, private entities, and government collaborators, encompass an astounding array of tangible, vital improvements that have the potential to propel our city forward to a more stable, sustainable, and equitable future. They provide pathways to implement the best aspirations of hard-fought environmental policy victories, meet mandates, and support the civic infrastructure that transcends and withstands political changes and bureaucratic constraints. If implemented, they will tangibly improve the lives of those in our city—through greater health and safety and access to employment and financial stability—that our systems have failed the most. We hope that they inspire cross-sector support to ensure that their promise is realized.

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# Acknowledgements

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We hope that this effort honors the vision, ingenuity, and persistence of the staff of the intrepid groups on the ground which do this work every day with scarce resources. Thank you for lighting the way and for your leadership.

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