## SUNNYSIDE YARD PUBLIC WORKSHOP SUMMARY: SUSTAINABILITY

**Date**: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 | 6-8pm

Location: Jacob Riis Settlement Houses | Long Island City, Queens

Attendance: 30

This workshop focused on the sustainability and resilience as it relates to Sunnyside Yard. An opening presentation was led by Annemarie Gray of NYCEDC, Androniki Lagos of Urbane Development, and James Schrader of Carlo Ratti Associati. In addition to reviewing community engagement to date and the opportunities and challenges presented by a potential Sunnyside Yard development, the presentation discussed City efforts and policies to address sustainability citywide, resiliency challenges for Western Queens, sustainability & resiliency efforts that Sunnyside Yard could enhance or enable, and case studies of future technologies that could be piloted at the Yard.

After the presentation, attendees broke into small groups. Each participant brainstormed the question, "what is a sustainable and resilient community to you?" Each group then organized their collective ideas and identified key themes. Facilitators then led a discussion around roadblocks to sustainable and resilient communities, and how Sunnyside Yard could help overcome those roadblocks. A representative from each group shared a summary of the activity and discussion.

Key Findings from activities and small group discussions:

- 1. The following themes emerged as critical to sustainability and resilience efforts: nature, transportation, energy, community, industry/business, affordability, waste reduction, and buildings/construction.
- 2. The need for more opportunities to recycle, reuse, and compost emerged as opportunities to reduce waste.
- 3. There is a need to manage floods through stormwater management, upgrades to sewage, bioswales, and rainwater capture.
- 4. There is an opportunity to use Sunnyside Yard as a place to grow food for the local community through farms and gardens.
- 5. More existing buildings should be renovated and/or retrofitted with energy-saving materials and systems. More buildings should be LEED certified
- 6. Community resilience emerged as a popular theme with participants making a case for a range of initiatives that could help strengthen residents of Western Queens against climate change. For instance, investing in youth through education and public youth programs was said in nearly every small group. Ensuring the diversity and inclusion of different communities that reflect demographics and income also emerged.
- 7. Affordability is a component of sustainability and resilience.
- 8. Community ownership was of interest. Participants noted the need for community-owned housing, community-owned public space, and community-owned land through some type of Community Land Trust mechanism.
- 9. Desire for good quality jobs with upward mobility potential. Need to better equip the workforce, for example in green jobs or union jobs, as a way to strengthen the sustainability of communities.
- 10. Exploring ways for the private sector to pay for research & development into sustainability initiatives

## **Addressing Sustainability and Resilience**



## What is a Sustainable and Resilient Community?

Trees Community-based farming **Public transit** Increased walkability Local food Less reliance on car Pedestrian crosswalks Accessibility More open space Hydro power Community gardens Monorail/light rail Bike lanes Affordable Incentives for transportation development Carbon neutrality Wind power **Electric SSY shuttle** Solar panels Less reliance on fossil fuels **Public utilities ConEd Substitute** Diversity and integration Retrofit for efficiency Renewable energy Education (K-12) Minimal energy usage **Energy storage opportunities** Social capital Range of incomes Multi-generational Upgraded sewage Hospitals and clinics Public youth programs Cleaner neighborhoods Grocery delivery Zoning for a range of industries/occupations Cooling/heating centers Residents working alongside community **Emergency facilities** Range of wealth within community Rain water capture **Emergency evacuation plans** Waste Recycle Stormwater handling Sewage Bioswales Waste Repurpose Garbage disposals Less impervious surfaces Zero waste Drainage upgrades Composting **Durable infrastructure** Green materials LEED certifications Retrofit for efficiency LEED certifications Coastal resiliency Terracing onto Yard Downzoning to avoid more flood zone Community-owned housing Displacement prevention Modular housing Community-owned public spaces **Community land trusts** Public housing Better/deeper MIH Worker cooperatives More unions Artist housing Locally owned businesses

100% affordable housing

Training in green jobs

Skilled workforce

Green businesses