

Goals & Priorities and Visioning Workshop Summary



9.29.18
10.20.18

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Executive Summary

The Southern Boulevard Neighborhood Study is an opportunity for the community, City agencies, and elected officials to envision the future for communities along the corridor and create a comprehensive neighborhood plan. Once completed, the neighborhood plan will guide investments by City agencies, as well as policies and programs, to achieve the plan’s vision and goals.

Community input is key to the successful development and implementation of a neighborhood plan. In the fall of 2018, community members came together in two public workshops to begin building the foundation of the neighborhood plan by creating a vision for the future of the neighborhood and setting broad goals of how to get there.

Through a range of activities and robust conversations, a series of recurring themes emerged including the importance of culture and history in the area as well as the strength of the community. Both of these related to the need to support affordable housing, local businesses, employment opportunities, programs for youth and seniors, access to parks, issues that affect health, and so much more.



The content and key takeaways from the workshops along with the ongoing community input throughout the multiple years of the study's public engagement has led to the formation of the following **draft vision**, which describes how community stakeholders imagine the ideal future that the implementation of the plan could achieve. The vision will continue to be shaped throughout the next phases of the planning process.

The neighborhoods along Southern Boulevard are made up of strong, culturally-rich communities with people of all ages and backgrounds. All enjoy equitable access to resources and opportunities that maximize a high quality of life. The neighborhoods' history and cultural roots are alive and thriving, and the community is healthy, safe, and connected.

This process also led to the formation of draft **high-level goals** for the study, which describe the specific ways that the plan will help achieve the vision:

- *Preserve and invest in existing community assets*
- *Address longstanding health and economic inequities in the community by focusing on root causes*
- *Ensure that this is a great place for young people to grow up and for seniors to age in place*
- *Connect people to each other, resources, opportunities, and assets*

With the input we received, we will build on these themes with the community to craft specific strategies and to guide discussions throughout the process. In the following pages, we have summarized the exercises and discussions from both events along with some of the output itself.

A huge thank you to all who have participated in the process so far and we ask that you continue to be involved (and invite your neighbors) as the planning process continues.

This process is hosted by the Department of City Planning (DCP) in partnership with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), with support from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Small Business Services (SBS), and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), and many more. Both events on Sept 29th and Oct 20th were cosponsored by Councilmember Rafael Salamanca, Assembly member Marcus Crespo, and Bronx Community Boards 2 & 3.



Study Process & Timeline

The Process: How Do We Build a Plan?

A neighborhood study is a way to bring city investments, services, and improvements to meet current and future needs of an area that the community, city agencies, and elected officials have identified together through a public process. A study results in a broad plan for a defined area such as a corridor, neighborhood or series of neighborhoods. The plan identifies strategies to meet needs for things like schools, parks, streets, sidewalks, lighting, transit, services, programs, safety, job training, affordable housing, and growth.

The planning process consists of three broad phases: Listen + Learn, Vision + Plan, and Implement.

1. The **Listen + Learn Phase**, is largely about information collection, learning as much about the area and what the community thinks about it as possible. It's also an opportunity to introduce the community to the planning process and show them how they can plug into the process. Even though this phase does end, listening, learning, and ensuring as many people know about the study as possible, are ongoing through each phase of the process.
2. The **Vision + Plan** phase is really about building the plan from top to bottom: laying out a broad vision or visions of what we all want to achieve, setting goals of how we want to get there, and then crafting specific strategies and recommendations to achieve those goals.
3. In the last and final phase, **Implement**, the various aspects of the plan are put into motion, such as: funding for capital improvements, designing of programs and services, land use actions taken through the City approval process known as ULURP, and creating implementation plans for long-term recommendations.

Where We've Been

DCP started discussions with the community about a planning process in the fall of 2016. This kicked off the "Listen and Learn" phase of the study where both the City began to understand the existing issues, assets, and opportunities that community members identified and also the community began to engage in the study process and learn about how a plan would benefit their neighborhood. During this phase, we conducted a community survey, met with community organizations in small group settings, and tabled at streets fairs and festivals, all in an effort to meet people where they are and hear about what they love about their neighborhood and what they want to see improved.

In early 2018, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in partnership with Urban Health Plan and the Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center, hosted a series of “What Creates Health?” workshops for agency and community partners, diving into topics like, “Health in all Policies,” “Health and the Built Environment,” “Building Just Communities,” and “Un-Design the Redline.” The Department of Housing, Preservation and Development together with Council Member Salamanca and Community Boards 2 and 3 held Tenant Resource Fairs to connect area residents with resources on how to apply for affordable housing, get credit score assistance, and seek help in the event of landlord harassment.

From 2017-2018, the Department of Small Business Services worked in partnership with local community-based organizations WHEDco, Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice (YMPJ) and the Southern Boulevard BID to complete a Commercial District Needs Assessment that examines the retail and commercial corridors in the study area and outlines opportunities to address identified challenges. The CDNA report can be found online at nyc.gov/sbs

In June 2018, the Southern Blvd Neighborhood Study had its first large public meeting to summarize all of the information that was collected during its Listen and Learn Phase. The Open House was held on June 14th at Children’s Aid College Prep Charter School. The event was an opportunity for the community and City agencies to interact and for us to present all that we had heard through community outreach to date and ask, “Is this right? Are we on the right track?” Many city agencies were there as well to talk about how they will be involved throughout the planning process, what tools they have in their toolboxes, and to answer any questions about the work that they do.

Where We Are

In Fall 2018, we moved into the **Vision + Plan** phase of the planning process where city agencies, elected officials, and the community are developing goals, visions, strategies, and recommendations to create a plan for the future of the communities around Southern Boulevard. In September 29, 2018, we hosted the Goals and Priorities Workshop at Casita Maria and on October 20, 2018, the Visioning Workshop at Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School. Together, these two events were an opportunity for the community to think about what they envisioned the future of their communities to be and think about high level goals of how to get there.

Based on the Goals and Visioning outcomes, in early 2019, there will be a series of public deep dive conversations and workshops around various topics for the study, such as housing, retail, public space, parks, and streets, health, and the waterfront. The purpose of these meetings will be to develop and refine strategies and recommendations for the plan as well as to share out information and have in-depth discussions amongst community members, city agency staff, and elected officials. Stay tuned for an announcement of these meetings’ dates, location, and topics.

Then in Spring 2019, there will be a Strategies Workshop/Open House to share and collect input and feedback on the status of the plan’s strategies.

We are committed to public process that is:

- *Transparent, open, and responsive to community needs*
- *Accessible and available to the community using a variety and range of methods, including online and in person in order to reach the community where they are most comfortable*
- *Outcome-oriented: the input received through the public engagement process directly influences the Plan*

How you can continue to participate and voice your opinion

Your participation is important so please sign up for regular updates and to learn about upcoming public events at nyc.gov/southern. The planning process will include a wide range of public events, public workshops, surveys, focus groups, small-group discussions, and online engagement tools. Outreach will be conducted in English and Spanish.



Listen + Learn

Stakeholder Building & Existing Conditions

Goal Setting, Vision



Community Input Booklet
Released: May, 2018
nyc.gov/southern



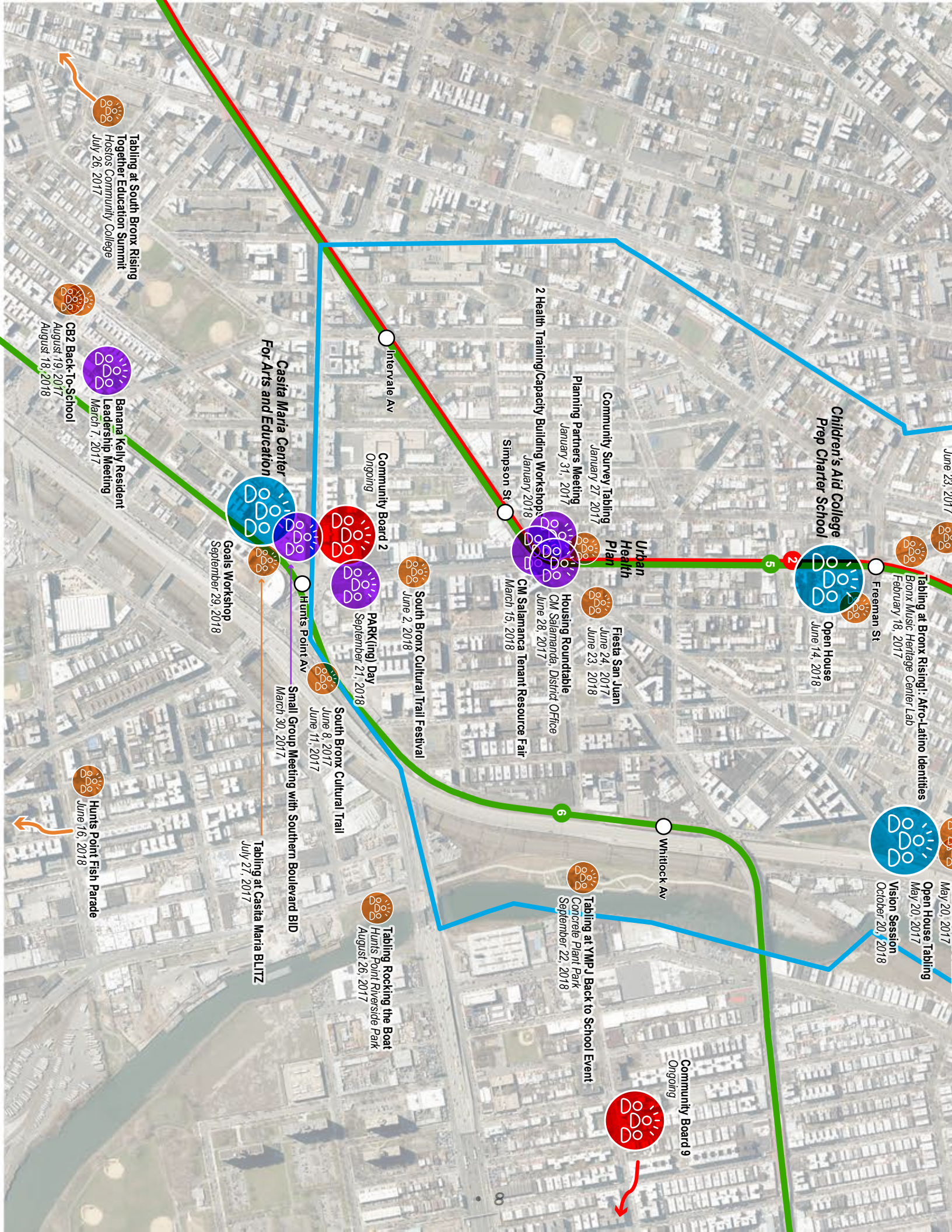
Open House Summary
Released: July, 2018
nyc.gov/southern




Vision & Goals Summary
 Released: February, 2019
nyc.gov/southern


Draft Neighborhood Plan
 Release Goal: Fall 2019

- Capital Improvements
- Program Development
- ULURP
- Long-Term Strategies



June 23, 2017

Tabling at Bronx Rising! Afro-Latino Identities
Bronx Music Heritage Center Lab
February 18, 2017

May 20, 2017
Open House Tabling
May 20, 2017
Vision Session
October 20, 2018

Children's Aid College
Prep Charter School

Open House
June 14, 2018

5

2

Urban Health
Fiesta San Juan
June 24, 2017
June 23, 2018

Housing Roundtable
CM Salamanca, District Office
June 28, 2017

CM Salamanca Tenant Resource Fair
March 15, 2018

2 Health Training/Capacity Building Workshops
January 2018

Community Survey Tabling
January 27, 2017

Planning Partners Meeting
January 31, 2017

Community Board 2
Ongoing

South Bronx Cultural Trail Festival
June 2, 2018

PARKING Day
September 21, 2018

South Bronx Cultural Trail
June 8, 2017
June 11, 2017

Small Group Meeting with Southern Boulevard BID
March 30, 2017

Goals Workshop
September 29, 2018

Tabling at Casita Maria BLITZ
July 27, 2017

Tabling Rocking the Boat
Hunts Point Riverside Park
August 26, 2017

Tabling at YMPJ Back to School Event
Concrete Plant Park
September 22, 2018

Hunts Point Fish Parade
June 16, 2018

Tabling at South Bronx Rising
Together Education Summit
Hostos Community College
July 26, 2017

CB2 Back-To-School
August 19, 2017
August 18, 2018

Banana Kelly Resident
Leadership Meeting
March 7, 2017

Community Board 9
Ongoing

Intervale Av

Simpson St

6

Whitlock Av


Hunts Point Av

Community Board 9
Ongoing

Southern Boulevard Neighborhood Study Outreach & Events to Date




 **Tabling at Annual Fall Festival**
Tremont Park
September 22, 2018


 **Health Training/Capacity Building Workshop**
Neighborhood Health Action Center
January, 2018

 **Tabling at Clinton East Block Party/Community Day**
Crotona Park
August 19, 2017

 **Community Board 3**
Ongoing


 **Tabling at Community Fair**
Casa Boricua Senior Center
August 11, 2017

 **Small Group Meeting**
Casa Boricua Senior Center
March 16, 2017

 **Planning Partner Meetings**
East Bronx Academy
October 6, 2017
December 3, 2017

174th Street

**Fannie Lou Hamer
Freedom High School**

 **Tabling at PTA Meeting**
May 20, 2017

 **Tabling at Bronx River Alliance:
5K Caroe Challenge**
Stamright Park
July 15, 2017

 **Sheridan Teen Summit**
May 20, 2017

Goals Workshop



The **Goals & Priorities Workshop** was held on Saturday, September 29, 2018, at Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. After a brief introduction, community participants gathered in small groups with facilitators and notetakers from various City agencies at each table. One table was entirely Spanish-speaking and all directions throughout the day were given in both English and Spanish. During the lunch break, Councilmember Salamanca addressed attendees, thanking them for their participation.

Participants were asked to work through a series of exercises as a group to answer the following questions:

1. What are our shared values?

Story Circle: In this first exercise, each participant told a story about a time that they felt proud of their neighborhood. After everyone had told their story, participants discussed common themes and the group discussed shared values.

2. What are the most important issues in the community today?

Four Corners: For this exercise, the small groups got up and moved around the room. There were five stations based on common issues heard through previous community engagement and past planning efforts: (1) Affordability (2) Lack of connections (3) Safety (4) Lack of opportunity and (5) Health inequities. Participants were asked to move to the station that they felt was the most important. At each station, facilitators asked why that group chose that issue station and what that issue meant to them. Then, there was a second round where participants could choose another issue that they found important.



3. What is your vision for the future of the communities around Southern Blvd?

For the rest of the activities, participants completed a large worksheet together as a group. First, they were asked to complete the sentence, “The future of the communities around Southern Blvd is...” Participants wrote their vision statements and discussed them all as a group.

4. What goals do we have for the study?

For this section of the worksheet, facilitators discussed some draft goals that the Southern Blvd Study Team had come up with based on all of the engagement and past planning work in the area. Those draft goals were:

- *Preserve existing community assets*
- *Address longstanding health inequities in the community by focusing on root causes*
- *Ensure this is a great place for young people to grow up and thrive*

Facilitators asked participants to choose from stock photos to visualize what those goals meant to them. At any point during the workshop, the group could edit an existing goal or add new goals.

5. What ideas can help us accomplish our goals and achieve our vision?

In the last activity, using ideas across topic areas of Housing, Community Resources, Jobs & Businesses, Parks & Open Space, & Streets and Transportation, participants were asked to line up ideas under goals that they could help to achieve. Just like the draft goals, these tools were created based on the past public engagement and past planning work.

At the end of the workshop, each group reported out the main points that their group discussed.

WHAT WE HEARD:

1. Values

The most common theme that came out of the values exercise across all groups was the sense and power of community, including the pride and ownership that many feel about their community. Another common theme of shared values discussed was the generosity, friendliness, and compassion of people. Culture and history also was discussed at multiple tables as well as other assets including parks and transportation. Take a look at the graphic on the next page to see more examples of what community members said!

2. Issues

The most popular issue that participants chose to discuss during the exercise was **affordability**. This included not just the cost of housing, but also the costs of goods and services in the area including transportation.

The other four issues were also discussed during the exercise.

At the **“Lack of connections”** station, participants thought about physical barriers such as blocked sidewalks, inaccessible subway stations, street reconstruction, and hard to get to public spaces. They also thought about barriers to jobs, social networks, affordable housing, affordable business rent, services and more.

At the **“Safety”** station, participants discussed issues of safety in buildings and in the community, related to lighting, truck traffic, poor street crossings, and social cohesion.

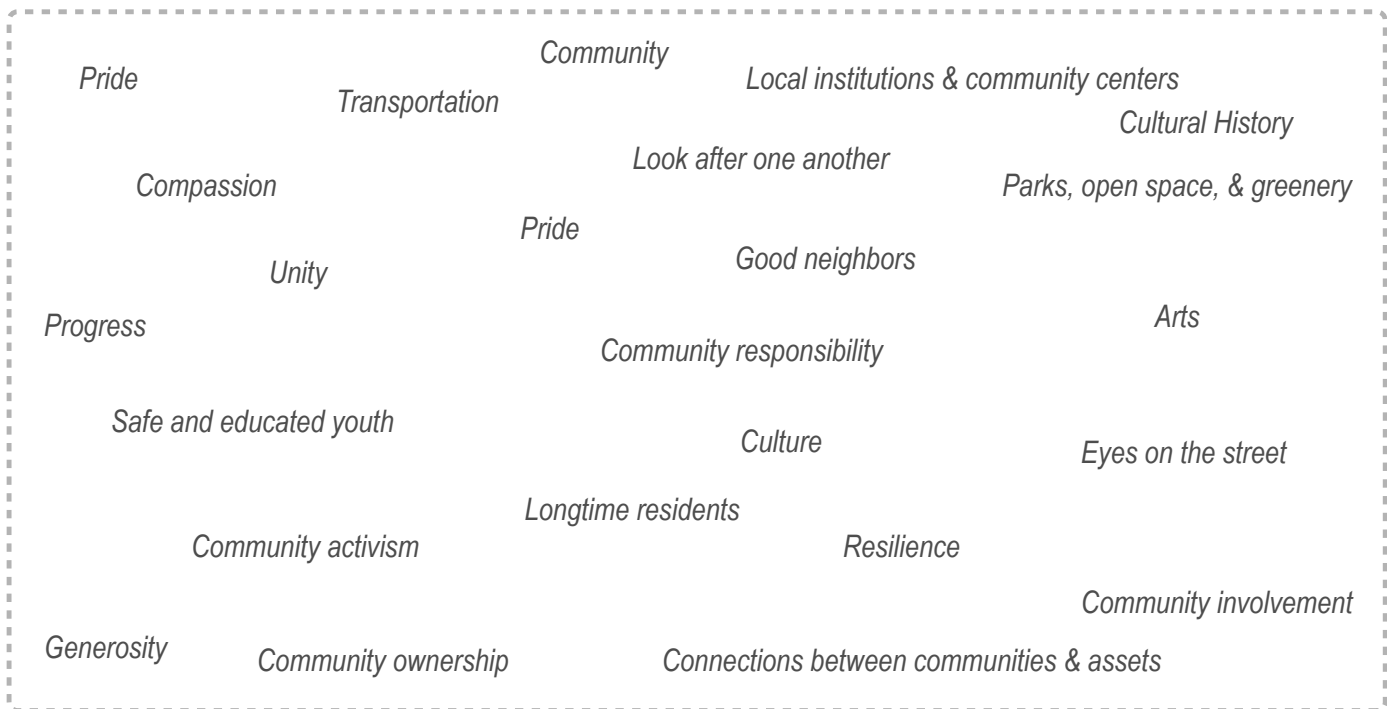
Participants at the **“Lack of opportunity”** station discussed the lack of educational spaces for all ages, career pathways, space for vendors, open space, middle income housing, well-funded schools, and more.

The **“Health inequities”** station talked about all the ways that health can be affected including physical health, healthcare access, mental health, sexual health, poor housing conditions, access to jobs and employment, pollution, air quality, and more.

On the next page is a summary of how all groups responded during the Values and Issues exercises.

VALUES

What is important to you and your community?



ISSUES

Challenges facing the community: past, present, and future

Issue Priorities

What do these issues mean?

14	Affordability	Affordable housing; residential and commercial rent too high; rents should match median incomes; higher quality stores; ability to build wealth; access to financial services; rent stabilization; affordability of goods and services; transportation costs; services for people with mobility disabilities
7	Lack of connections	Clean, clear sidewalks; jobs, social connections; languages; affordable housing; physical connections to the neighborhood; affordable business rent; connections to the market; service organizations; networking; subway elevators; police & community; history and pride of the area; constant construction as a barrier; Bronx River; communication about public spaces; lack of community input in planning; business services
9	Safety	In buildings and in community; lighting; truck traffic; poor street crossings; social cohesion; unsafe pedestrian bridge over Bruckner; mental health issues
7	Lack of opportunity	Educational spaces for seniors, adults and youth; career paths and networks; social cohesion; economic development; licensed vendors; open space; middle income housing; overcrowded, underfunded schools; access to libraries; WIFI and internet; better food options
6	Health inequities	Improve health determinants (diabetes and asthma); healthcare access; mental health, sexual health, places for exercise and self care; housing conditions (lead, plumbing, broken elevators); jobs and employment (OSHA, BronxWorks programs), involve hospitals more in the community; streets and transportation (pollution, air quality, litter, potholes, dangerous to walk in construction areas, hard for seniors to shop)

Vision, Goals, & Ideas Summary (see opposite page)

3. Vision

When asked to complete the sentence, “The future of the communities around Southern Blvd is...” participants envisioned how they see the future, shown in the following graphic. Some common themes include a future that is safe, healthy, cohesive, and happy with culture, connections to the parks and the Bronx River, and affordability for all residents and local businesses.

4. Goals

When asked what the draft goals meant to them, here are some common themes of what we heard.

- For “Preserve existing community assets,” many thought that meant preserving culture, parks, access to transportation, housing, youth programming, and small businesses.
- For “Addressing longstanding health and economic inequities by focusing on root causes,” many discussed how that would mean active open and recreational spaces, cleaner air, better police relations, healthier food options, bike options, addressing drug issues, and quality housing.
- For “Ensure this is a great place for young people to grow and thrive,” participants felt that would mean providing more educational and job training opportunities to young people, more and better youth programming, better safety and police relations, intergenerational opportunities, places for youth to hang out, quality childcare, reliable transportation, improving schools, and more.

Some groups added onto existing goals and added additional goals as well. One group suggested adding a goal to ensure this is a place where people can age in place. Another suggested adding, “to create safe and improved/modern infrastructure” as a goal.

5. Ideas

During this exercise, participants thought about a range of ideas or tools and how they might start to address the draft goals. Ideas across topic areas of housing, parks and open space, jobs and businesses, community resources, and streets and transportation were discussed and participants found that all of them could achieve various goals. For instance, participants found that the idea to make all street crossings safe could work toward achieving all three goals. The aim of this exercise was to get participants to think about how goals might be accomplished; in the following Visioning Workshop, these ideas or tools were used once again to think about where they might be applied in the study area.

THE FUTURE OF THE SOUTHERN BOULEVARD COMMUNITIES IS:

Examples of what we've heard

VISION

Our aspiration for the future of the neighborhoods along Southern Boulevard

“Diverse” “Allow residents to create lives and families that are happy, connected and prosperous” “Safe, enriched with culture and united” “Self-sufficient”

“Healthier” “Keeping our communities in tact” “Quality and affordable housing”

“Empowered” “Good schools” “A place that allows residents to create lives and families that are happy, connected and prosperous” “Strong small business community”

“modernized and safe” “A place where every kid grows up health, educated, safe, goes to college and gets a good job” “Safe: pedestrian, bike and car friendly” “Access to the Bronx River and get around easily”

“Live a long and healthy life” “Inclusive” “Quality stores, variety of businesses, and entertainment”

“A community that maintains their culture and diversity and that offers better security and quality of life for people of all ages” “Dependent upon the needs of the people who live in the communities”

WHAT GOALS HELP TO ACHIEVE THIS VISION?

Examples of what we've heard

GOALS

How we want to think strategically to achieve our visions

Preserve existing community assets

“Preserve and INVEST in...”

“and make them better”

“Create safe and improved, modern infrastructure”

Address longstanding health inequities in the community by focusing on root causes

“and Economic inequities”

“Make sure this is a place where people can age in place”

Ensure this is a great place for young people to grow up and thrive

“... as well as to stay in, and return to”

WHAT IDEAS DO WE HAVE TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS?

Any idea -big or small - to help achieve the goals above

IDEAS



HOUSING

Make sure existing affordable housing stays affordable

Build affordable housing that is affordable for a range of people, including those with the lowest incomes

Build both affordable rental housing and affordable homeownership opportunities

Rehabilitate aging buildings in need of repair

Provide better service to tenants with housing quality issues

Make it easier to apply for affordable housing

Protect tenants from landlord harassment

Research new affordable housing policies and programs, such as community land trusts, to see how they can be implemented



Jobs and Businesses

Create new opportunities for jobs

Provide job training and placement services

Create paid youth internships/employment opportunities

Create opportunities for vending and concessions

Strengthen and preserve local businesses

Encourage different kinds of retail such as more sit-down restaurants, better grocery options, entertainment options, etc.



PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Make it easier to get to parks and the Bronx River

Maintain and upgrade existing parks and facilities

Create more programming for all ages and abilities in our open spaces and parks

Parks and public spaces should have more lighting and safety measures

Plant more street trees to buffer noise and pollution

Improve Bronx River water quality



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Ensure there is youth programming for all ages

Increase and improve health care and social services

Provide healthy food options

Promote health and fitness

Make the area safer and discourage crime

Highlight local history, the arts, and culture



STREETS & TRANSPORTATION

Make streets and sidewalks better lit at night

Maintain streets and sidewalks better

Build safe bike routes

Make it easier and safer to walk, bike, take transit, and drive around the area

Make street crossings safe, especially as they connect to schools, parks and the Bronx River

Ensure that subway and elevated rail stations are clean, safe, accessible and attractive

Think strategically about issues related to parking, now and looking into the future

Examples of what we've heard

“Energy-efficient solar power”

“Supportive housing”

“Address noise”

“Housing that is safe and secure”

“Provide better services”

“Connect people with local employers”

“Provide healthy food”

“Monitor and improve air quality”

“Need more East/West connections in the Bronx”

“Community recreation center where people can swim”

VISIONING WORKSHOP



The **Visioning Workshop** was held on Saturday, October 20, 2018, at Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. After a brief introduction and welcome from Assemblymember Marcus Crespo, community participants gathered in small groups with facilitators, notetakers, and urban designers from various city agencies at each table. One table was entirely Spanish-speaking and all directions throughout the day were given in both English and Spanish. The study area was broken into 4 subareas: Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, and Northwest and participants were asked to select a subarea of their choosing. Throughout the day, the urban designer sketched what participants at each table were saying and produced illustrated notes that created a mural by the end of the workshop (see opposite page).

Participants were asked to work through a series of exercises as a group to answer the following questions:

1. What is important about your neighborhood and where does that happen?

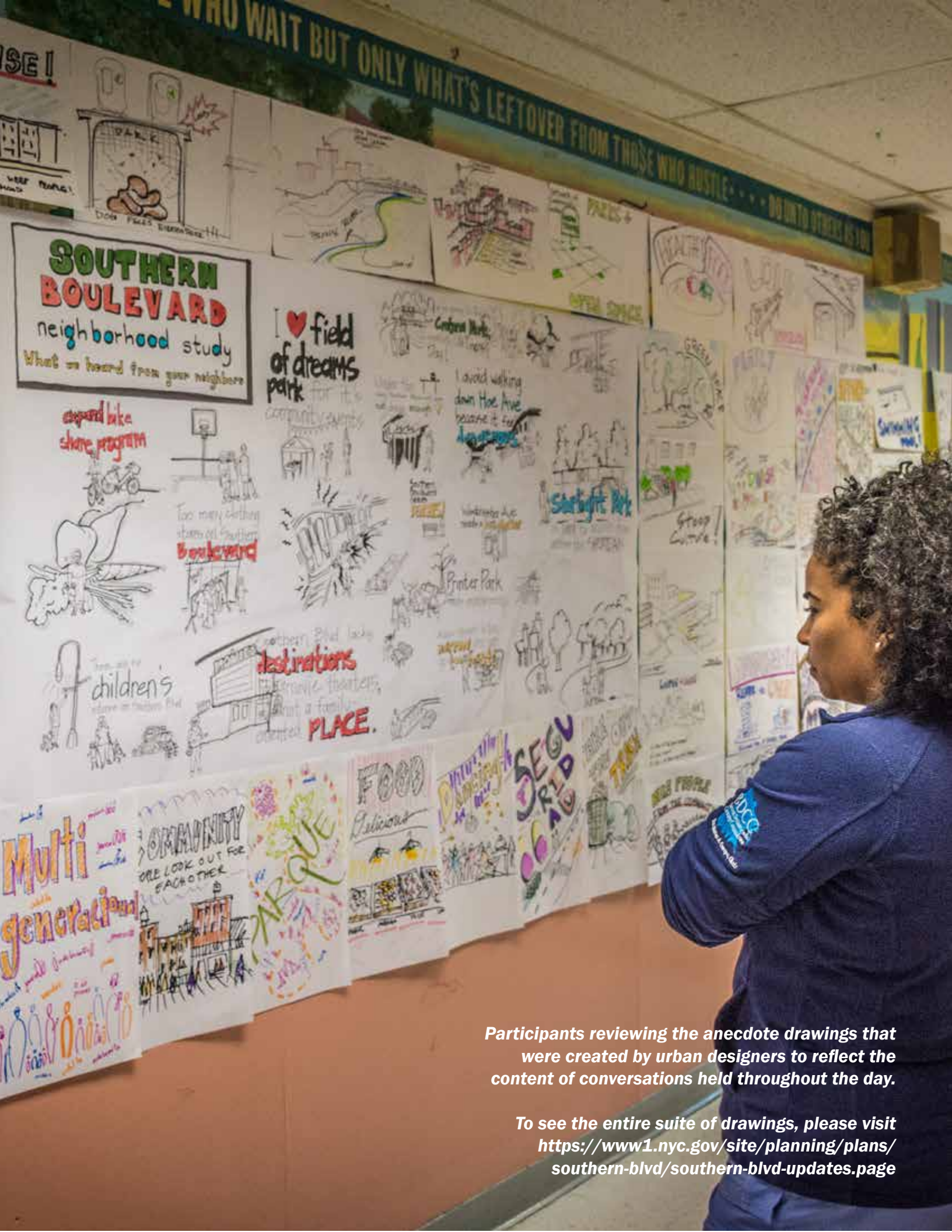
In this first exercise, participants at six different tables were asked to think about, “if you were to write a story about the neighborhoods around Southern Boulevard now, what words would you use?” After a discussion, common themes were identified. Then using a map of the entire study area, participants talked about where those stories or themes occur. The goal of this exercise was to introduce the geography of the study area and have participants place themselves within it.

2. What do the study goals, discussed in the last workshop, mean to you?

This exercise was interactive and similar to the Four Corners exercise from the Goals Workshop. Participants rotated between three stations in three rounds, one for each draft goal. At each station, they were asked to identify themes based on what we heard about the goals in the last workshop and then choose an icon to describe each goal. This activity allowed participants even if they had not been at the previous workshop to familiarize themselves with the goals before thinking about them in the next activity.

3. Where could different tools be applied in the study area to achieve our goals?

In the last activity, participants worked together to choose tools that would achieve each of the goals. The tools were the same as the ideas from the Goals Workshop. After working together to choose which tools they thought best achieved a goal, they would place them on the map for their subarea quadrant. Through this activity, participants thought about where various tools could be applied within each quadrant of the study area. Throughout this activity, the urban designer, sketched the ideas that participants



SOUTHERN BOULEVARD neighborhood study

What we heard from your neighbors

I ♥ field of dreams park

expand bike share program

I avoid walking down Hoe Ave because it's too long

too many walking streets on Southern Boulevard

other kid like destinations
recreative features,
want a family oriented PLACE.

children's

FOOD
Delicious

SECU
CRIB

Multi generational

COMMUNITY
ONE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

ARGUE

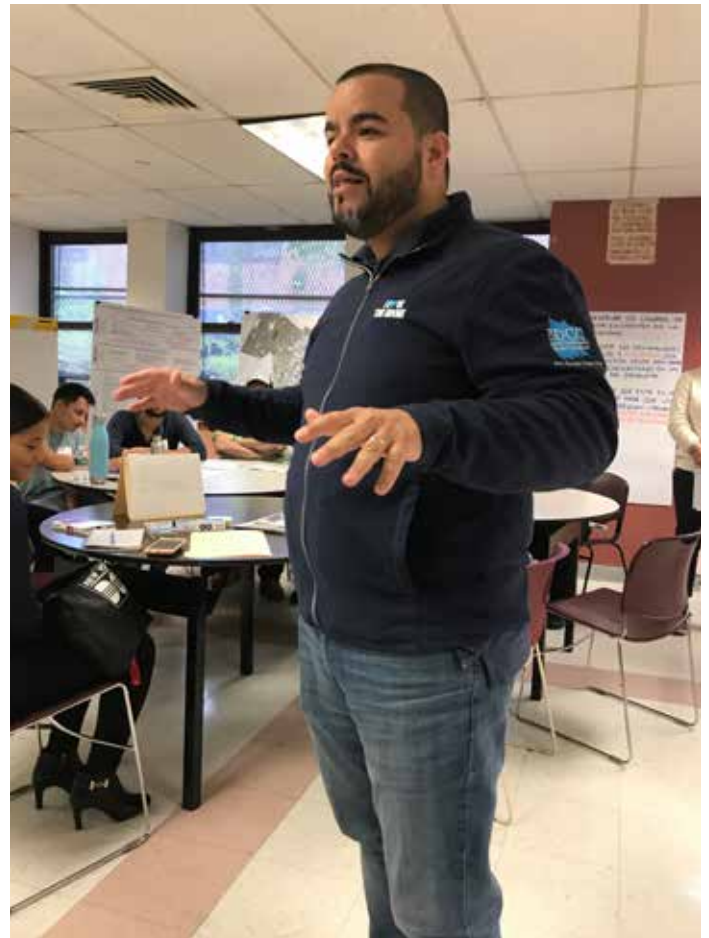
To see the entire suite of drawings, please visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/southern-blvd/southern-blvd-updates.page>

Participants reviewing the anecdote drawings that were created by urban designers to reflect the content of conversations held throughout the day.

were discussing. The following map shows the all tables work on one map (see below). There were many ideas of how to improve the Southern Blvd and Westchester Avenue under the elevated corridor, both physically with lighting and safety improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicular drivers, and programmatically with more neighborhood serving retail like sit-down restaurants while preserving local businesses. There were also ideas of how to improve Crotona Park and many of the parks in the area, especially to make them safer and better lit. Groups identified low-scale areas off the major corridors for areas to preserve existing affordable housing while pointing out areas that are either vacant or do not allow for residential today as areas of opportunity to build new affordable housing. Throughout the entire area, many groups discussed the need for more job training and resources, including for the youth population; highlighting local history, arts, and culture; addressing crime and safety issues; and having better connections to parks.

At the end of the workshop, participants could look at each other's subarea maps and sketches and see how all the groups' work fit together in the large mural.

Some of the common threads that we heard in the "Story of My Neighborhood" exercise include a sense of community, improvements needed for quality of life, affordability of the area, culture, and access to the area's access.



Consolidated and combined sections of the Southern Boulevard Study Area, sketched at the October 20th Vision Session (above) To see original images, please visit:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/southern-blvd/southern-blvd-updates.page>

Assemblymember Marcus Crespo (above) addressing workshop participants during the event's introduction

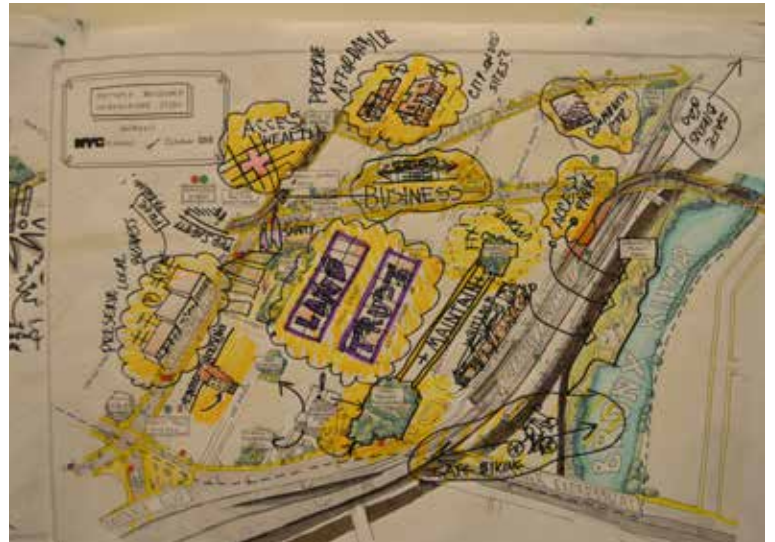
Northeast Quadrant

Each table conversed at its own pace and explored some topics more than others. Participants at the Northeast Quadrant table chose to engage in a robust discussion about the study process and how to ensure community participation in the plan.



Southeast Quadrant

The Southeast quadrant table discussed the goal to preserve existing community assets and chose the following tools to apply in the area. The table conversed about the need for more affordable housing in the area that would serve all income levels, suggesting that city-owned and vacant lots be prioritized for new construction. They also discussed the formation of community land trusts as a tool for ownership. The table felt strongly about preserving local history, the arts, and culture especially at local institutions like The Point, CDC and Casita Maria, but also in public spaces like local parks. The table discussed making it easier to access Concrete Plant Park with additional entrances and programming the park more with activities such as fishing. They also discussed making the Westchester/Sheridan area safer to get around, especially for bicyclists between Starlight Park and Concrete Plant Park. They also agreed that local playgrounds should be upgraded and there should be more farmers' markets available to the community. Regarding the Southern Blvd corridor, they discussed the importance of preserving local businesses and making it safer to get around by reducing truck traffic. A lack of free parking on the corridor was also seen as an issue.



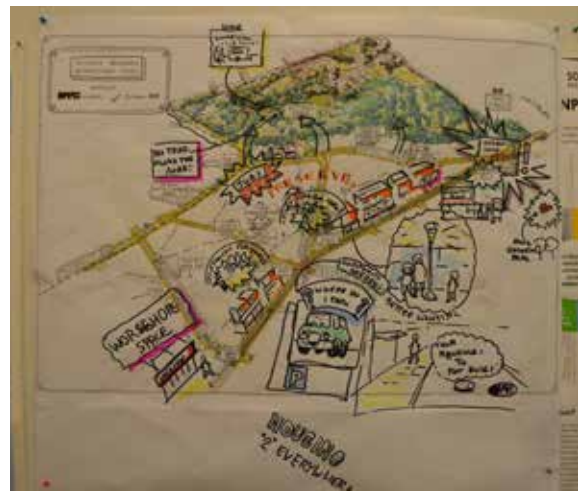
Southwest Quadrant

The Southwest quadrant table first discussed the goal of “Ensuring that this is a great place for young people to grow and thrive and for seniors to age in place.” They chose the tools of job training and placement and youth internships and employment to apply to the whole study area with a focus near schools and parks. They also discussed improving and maintaining parks and open space and making Westchester Avenue safer with less crime. For the “Preserve and build on existing community assets,” the table chose the tools of making streets and sidewalks better lit, especially under the elevated; making it easier and safer to walk, bike, and take transit, especially safer street crossings under the elevated; encouraging new and diverse retail options around Southern Blvd and 163rd Street and Intervale and Westchester Avenue; and preserving existing housing, ensuring that it stays affordable. For the goal of “Addressing longstanding health and economic inequities in the community by focusing on root causes,” the table chose the tools of creating more active, healthy programming for all ages and abilities in open spaces and parks; locating a supermarket with health food options at Intervale Avenue and promoting health and fitness; investing in open space and parks; building safe bike routes, perhaps on Westchester Avenue; and highlighting local history, arts, and culture such as with the Bronx Music Heritage Center and the South Bronx Culture Trail.



Northwest Quadrant

The Northwest quadrant table discussed many tools that would help to achieve the study goals in the area. These included improvements to Crotona Park such as: better park access and lighting; maintaining and upgrading facilities; and a restaurant, vending, and concessions in the park. The table discussed addressing the “dead” commercial areas on Southern Boulevard and attracting businesses, offices, and healthy food options. They suggested better lighting throughout the neighborhood and thinking about parking strategies. Regarding housing, they discussed rehabilitating existing housing for current residents and find opportunities for new housing in underutilized areas of Southern Boulevard and on vacant lots like Stebbins Street. For streets and transportation, they spoke about the need for accessible and functional subways; a 174th Street that allowed for trucks to pass under the elevated structure; a strategy around parking; and more street trees as long as they can be maintained well.



Tools for Achieving Our Goals: This menu of tools was used by each group at the Visioning Workshop to place stickers relating to each tool on their map. (right)

TOOLS FOR ACHIEVING OUR GOALS

Directions

- Search for the sticker with the number and color that corresponds to the tool you'd like to use from the menu below
- Place the sticker on the map to illustrate where that tool would be useful



HOUSING

- 1 Make sure existing affordable housing stays affordable
- 2 Build affordable housing that is affordable for a range of people, including those with the lowest incomes
- 3 Build both affordable rental housing and affordable homeownership opportunities
- 4 Rehabilitate aging buildings in need of repair
- 5 Provide better service to tenants with housing quality issues
- 6 Protect tenants from landlord harassment
- 7 Research new affordable housing policies and programs, such as community land trusts, to see how they can be implemented



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- 1 Ensure there is youth programming for all ages
- 2 Increase and improve health care and social services
- 3 Provide healthy food options
- 4 Promote health and fitness
- 5 Make the area safer and discourage crime
- 6 Highlight local history, the arts, and culture



JOBS & BUSINESSES

- 1 Create new opportunities for jobs
- 2 Provide job training and placement services
- 3 Create paid youth internships/employment opportunities
- 4 Create opportunities for vending and concessions
- 5 Strengthen and preserve local businesses
- 6 Encourage different kinds of retail such as more sit-down restaurants, better grocery options, entertainment options, etc.



PARKS & OPEN SPACE

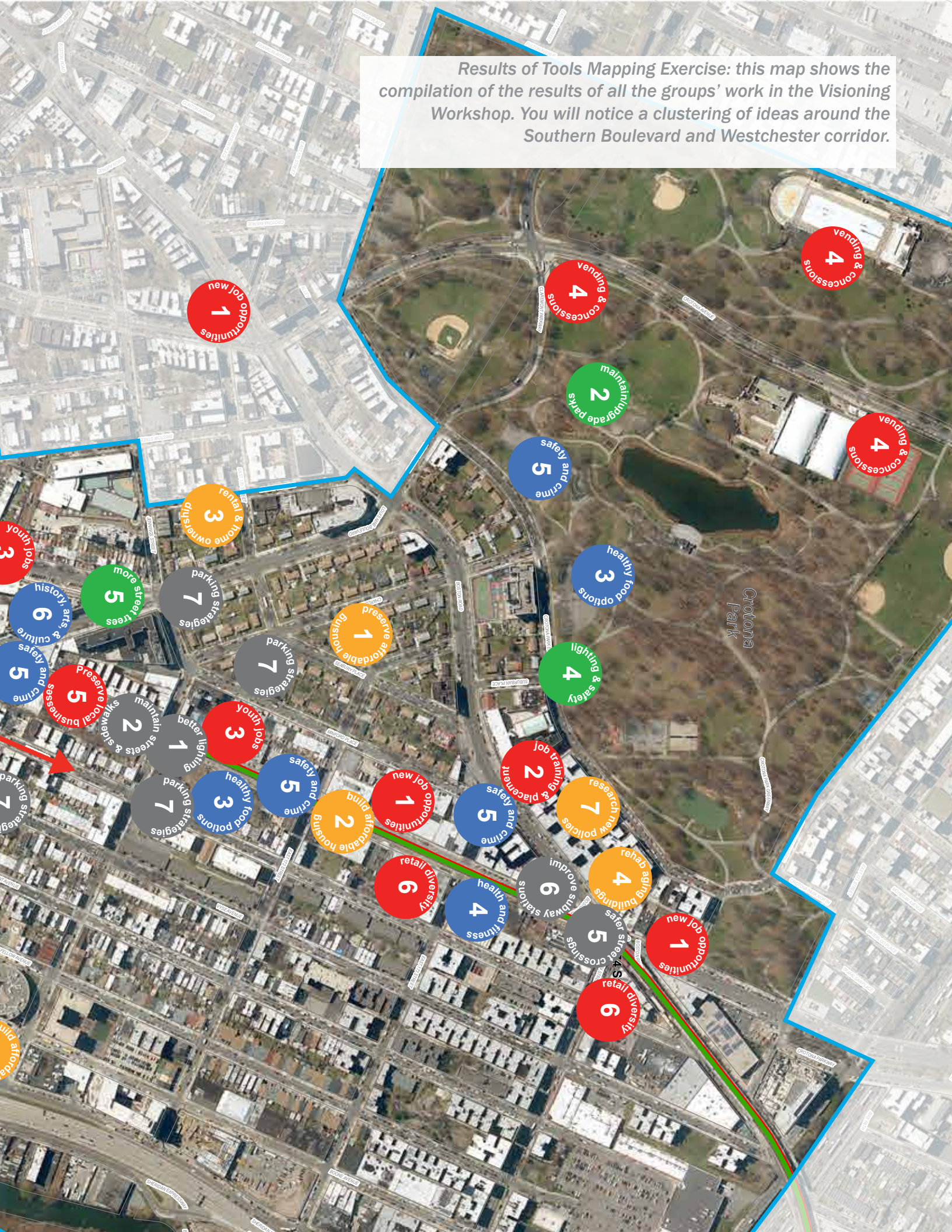
- 1 Make it easier to get to parks and the Bronx River
- 2 Maintain and upgrade existing parks and facilities
- 3 Create more programming for all ages and abilities in our open spaces and parks
- 4 Parks and public spaces should have more lighting and safety measures
- 5 Plant more street trees to buffer noise and pollution
- 6 Improve Bronx River water quality

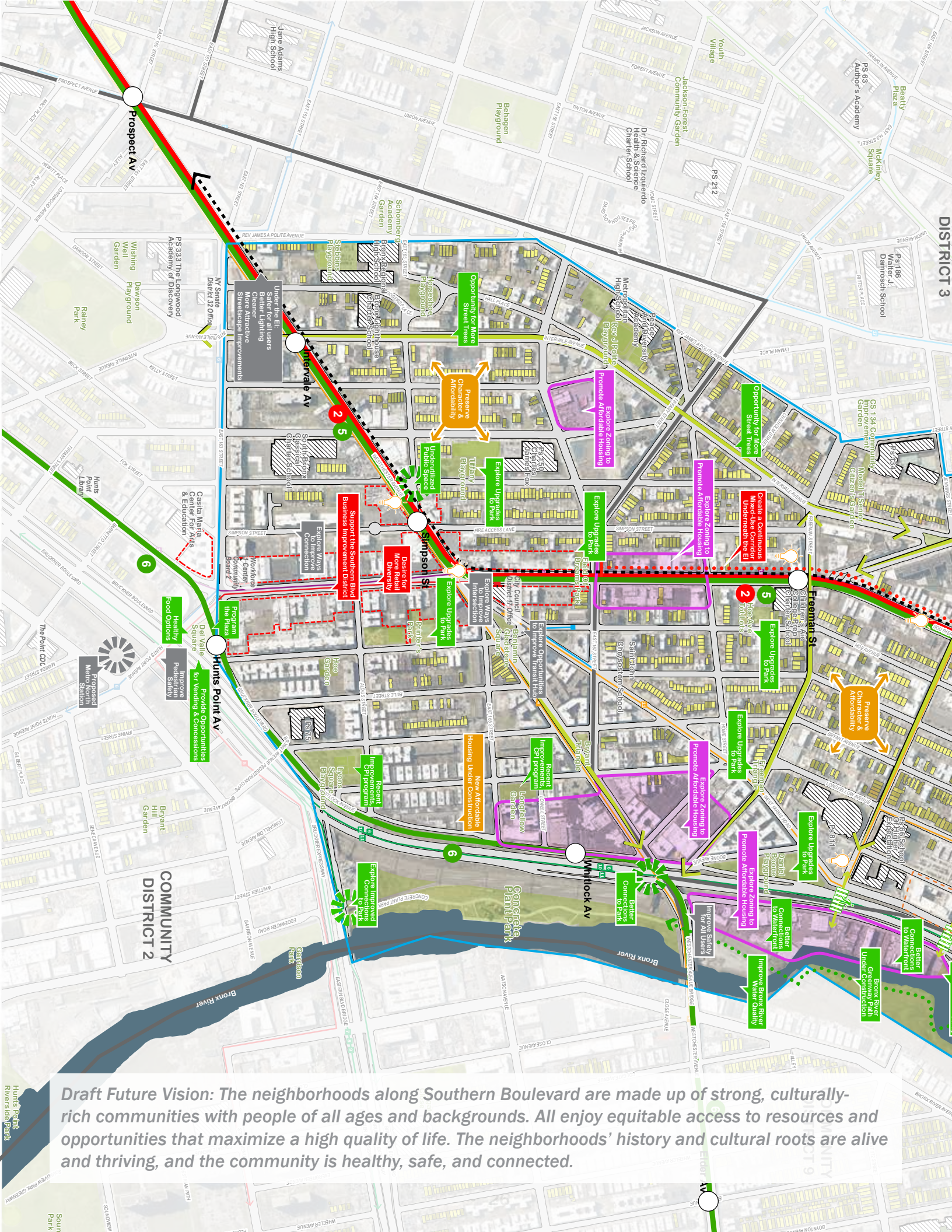


STREETS & TRANSPORTATION

- 1 Make streets and sidewalks better lit at night
- 2 Maintain streets and sidewalks better
- 3 Build safe bike routes
- 4 Make it easier and safer to walk, bike, take transit, and drive around the area
- 5 Make street crossings safe, especially as they connect to schools, parks and the Bronx River
- 6 Ensure that subway and elevated rail stations are clean, safe, accessible and attractive
- 7 Think strategically about issues related to parking, now and looking into the future

Results of Tools Mapping Exercise: this map shows the compilation of the results of all the groups' work in the Visioning Workshop. You will notice a clustering of ideas around the Southern Boulevard and Westchester corridor.





DISTRICT 3

Prospect Av

Simpson St

Hunts Point Av

Whitlock Av

COMMUNITY DISTRICT 2

Draft Future Vision: The neighborhoods along Southern Boulevard are made up of strong, culturally-rich communities with people of all ages and backgrounds. All enjoy equitable access to resources and opportunities that maximize a high quality of life. The neighborhoods' history and cultural roots are alive and thriving, and the community is healthy, safe, and connected.

Southern Blvd. Neighborhood Study

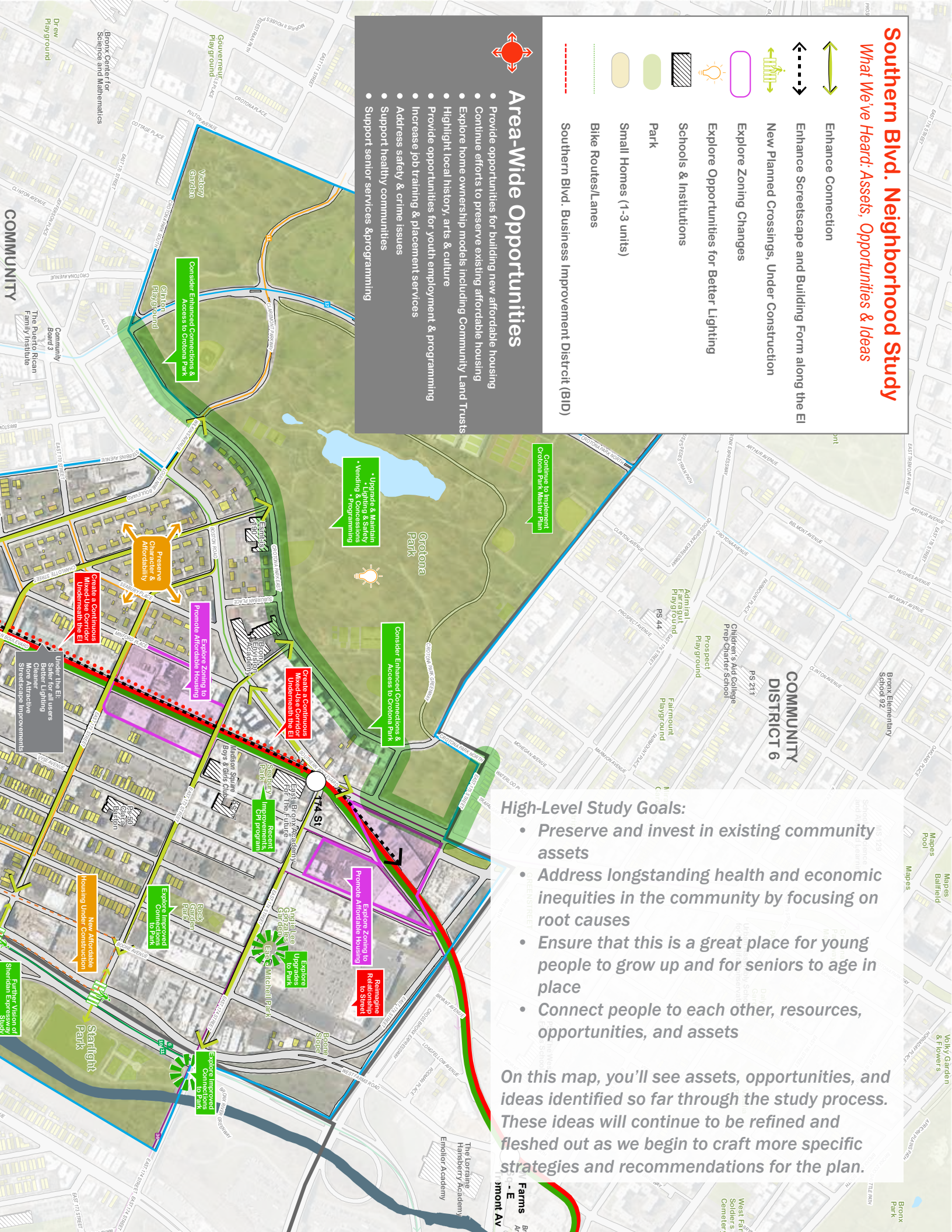
What We've Heard: Assets, Opportunities & Ideas

- Enhance Connection
- Enhance Streetscape and Building Form along the EI
- New Planned Crossings, Under Construction
- Explore Zoning Changes
- Explore Opportunities for Better Lighting
- Schools & Institutions
- Park
- Small Homes (1-3 units)
- Bike Routes/Lanes
- Southern Blvd. Business Improvement District (BID)



Area-Wide Opportunities

- Provide opportunities for building new affordable housing
- Continue efforts to preserve existing affordable housing
- Explore home ownership models including Community Land Trusts
- Highlight local history, arts & culture
- Provide opportunities for youth employment & programming
- Increase job training & placement services
- Address safety & crime issues
- Support healthy communities
- Support senior services & programming



High-Level Study Goals:

- Preserve and invest in existing community assets
- Address longstanding health and economic inequities in the community by focusing on root causes
- Ensure that this is a great place for young people to grow up and for seniors to age in place
- Connect people to each other, resources, opportunities, and assets

On this map, you'll see assets, opportunities, and ideas identified so far through the study process. These ideas will continue to be refined and fleshed out as we begin to craft more specific strategies and recommendations for the plan.

Consider Enhanced Connections & Access to Corona Park

• Upgrade & Maintain Lighting & Safety • Vending & Concessions • Programming

Continue to Implement Corona Park Master Plan

Consider Enhanced Connections & Access to Corona Park

Create a Continuous Line Use of the EI

Explore Zoning to Promote Affordable Housing

Preserve Character & Affordability

Create a Continuous Mixed Use Corridor Underneath the EI

Under the EI, Safely for all users Greater Lighting Streetcape Improvements

Recent Improvements OPI program

Explore Zoning to Promote Affordable Housing

Explore Improved Connections to Park

Explore Improved Connections to Park

New Affordable Housing Under Construction

Explore Improved Connections to Park

Further Vision of Sheridan Expressway



DISTRICT 3

Prospect Av

Intervale Av

Simpson St

Freeman St

Whitlock Av

Elder Av

COMMUNITY DISTRICT 2

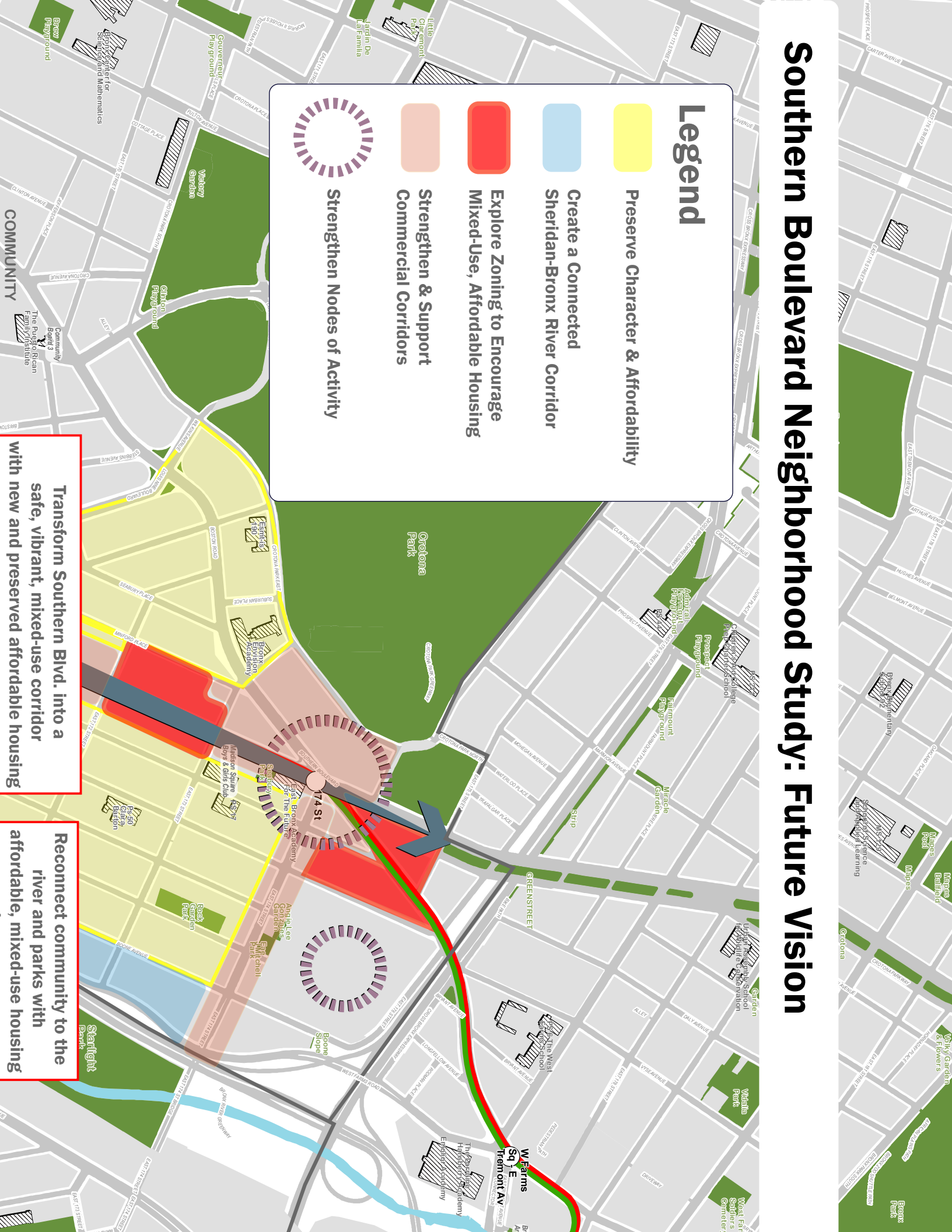
COMMUNITY DISTRICT 9

and open space

Southern Boulevard Neighborhood Study: Future Vision

Legend

-  Preserve Character & Affordability
-  Create a Connected Sheridan-Bronx River Corridor
-  Explore Zoning to Encourage Mixed-Use, Affordable Housing
-  Strengthen & Support Commercial Corridors
-  Strengthen Nodes of Activity



Transform Southern Blvd. into a safe, vibrant, mixed-use corridor with new and preserved affordable housing

Reconnect community to the river and parks with affordable, mixed-use housing