

SUMMARY



Hunts Point Forward Open House / Hunts Point Alliance for Children (HPAC) Back to School Fair

September 18, 2021

**HUNTS
POINT
FORWARD**

Thank you for attending the Hunts Point Forward Open House and HPAC Back to School Fair!

On September 18, 2021 the Hunts Point Forward team joined HPAC and a host of other local groups at the 14th Annual Back to School Fair in Manida Park.

Over 100 of you attended and spoke with us about the future of Hunts Point.

- × You love Hunts Point and want to make your neighborhood better!**
- × You'd like see more events (like this one) to gather with neighbors, talk about Hunts Point, and learn about available jobs and resources!**
- × You are concerned about safety**
- × You'd like to see better options for getting around the neighborhood and moving throughout the city**



During the event, you gave us feedback on a series of idea boards which listed different ways to address challenges in Hunts Point. This document highlights the ideas you liked the most.

PUBLIC HEALTH

How can we improve access to healthy food?

- ✘ Help bodegas stock fresh produce
- ✘ Start local greenmarkets staffed by youth to bring produce to Hunts Point residents
- ✘ Create an opportunity for retail space at the Food Distribution Center
- ✘ Distribute Health Bucks for farmers' markets at health fairs, screenings and other events in Hunts Point

Additional Comments

- ✘ Would like Fresh Direct and other grocery delivery to be available in Hunts Point
- ✘ The quality of food accessible in Hunts Point now is not good -even in shelters and food pantries
- ✘ Bodega produce markups are too high
- ✘ Farmer's market in the area can be expensive

Additional Ideas

- ✘ Young people should be hired for green and healthy food initiatives
- ✘ Hold healthy cooking classes in the neighborhood
- ✘ Empower residents to have space to distribute food to needy residents

How can we minimize heat vulnerability and air pollution?

- ✘ Use more electric trucks
- ✘ Explore creating new structures that provide shade at bus stops and other pedestrian spaces
- ✘ Install misting features in public spaces like parks
- ✘ Promote government programs that subsidize Air Conditioners & energy bills
- ✘ Identify residential buildings that need upgrades and work with landlords and community groups to retrofit them

Additional Comments

- ✘ Lead poisoning is a concern
- ✘ People would like to see buildings improved

How can we improve parks and green spaces?

- ✘ Develop tree planting & stewardship program so trees grow and provide shade
- ✘ Build green roofs in areas that have flooding
- ✘ Continue South Bronx Greenway project with lighting improvements and trash pick-up along routes to parks
- ✘ More community events at parks throughout the neighborhood
- ✘ Install restrooms in Hunts Point Riverside Park

Additional Comments

- ✘ Water fountains in community parks are not well maintained and there needs to be more
- ✘ More park bathrooms in all Hunts Point parks and they must be well maintained.
- ✘ Not everyone feels safe in parks

Additional Ideas

- ✘ More play equipment needed in Manida Park (Carballo Ball Fields)
- ✘ There should be educational events at parks
- ✘ More security, lighting, and trash cans in Hunt Point parks
- ✘ Create other recreation options besides basketball
- ✘ Create space to skateboard in parks

How can we strengthen healthcare and mental health?

- ✘ Free community workshops about mental health, self-care, and how to cope with stress, anxiety, or other challenges
- ✘ Expand Harlem's B-HEARD pilot program to reroute 911 calls to social workers and mental health professionals
- ✘ Train community organizations (i.e. churches, youth groups) that do social work with young people to also work on mental health issues
- ✘ Provide more mental health funding for schools with greater need

Additional Ideas

- ✘ Community CPR and Drug education classes
- ✘ Parental support groups

ECONOMIC SECURITY

How can we help get residents into good jobs?

- ✘ Start a biannual Hunts Point Career Fair and block party where residents can learn about job openings, local groups can develop stronger relationships, and resources can be distributed
- ✘ Partner with local schools and workforce programs to create training &
- ✘ Education programs for jobs in Hunts Point
- ✘ Create pipelines from local colleges & schools to jobs citywide

Additional Comments

- ✘ Job fairs should hire on the spot
- ✘ GED courses need to be made available at other times for those who cannot attend night classes/do not find it safe to be out at night

Additional Ideas

- ✘ More ESL courses for the community
- ✘ Use alternate ways to advertise for jobs because not everyone is on the internet
- ✘ Offer training in medical jobs other than health care attendant
- ✘ Open training & internships to all ages—not just youth!
- ✘ Eliminate prior conviction barriers to hiring

How can we support the youth of Hunts Point?

- ✘ Teach students in school how to be involved in the community to help make it better
- ✘ Start high school internship program with local businesses & community organizations
- ✘ Create and expand “second chance” curriculums in culinary arts, technology, and/or other focus areas

Additional Comments

- ✘ Teach both youth and adults to be more involved in the community
- ✘ Structured jobs and activities for youth are needed
- ✘ There needs to be more awareness in the community around programs like Rocking the Boat

Additional Ideas

- ✘ Expand summer youth employment
- ✘ Make all types of programs available to youth

How can we strengthen financial security?

- ✘ Work with community organizations to bring a physical community serving bank or credit union to the Hunts Point area
- ✘ Provide financial literacy trainings through local groups
- ✘ More accessible social services and resources

Additional Comments

- ✘ Government asks for too much documentation to demonstrate needs for assistance
- ✘ People are limited in how much they can save if they receive financial assistance - this hurts financial security
- ✘ The community needs more access/information on how to connect to resources

How can we help the local economy?

- ✘ Activate empty storefronts with pop-up events by entrepreneurs
- ✘ Improve the façades of existing retail businesses
- ✘ Improve the condition under the Bruckner with better lighting and art, or programming like La Marqueta in East Harlem
- ✘ Promote Hunts Point’s creative identity by:
 - ✘ Creating a cultural trail through local arts venues, anchored by a new street art exhibit near new Metro-North Station
 - ✘ Hosting local sales & events, with marketing & technical support to help monetize local work

Additional Comments

- ✘ Cleaner streets are critical for improving the main streets

Additional Ideas

- ✘ Help local residents open stores in the community

INFRASTRUCTURE

How can we make it easier for people to get around?

- ✗ Improve lighting along streets to parks and other popular areas in Hunts Point
- ✗ Reconstruct or redesign key intersections and streets to improve safety for pedestrians, drivers, and cyclists
- ✗ Complete and improve bicycle network on the peninsula
- ✗ Expand MTA City Ticket, which provides \$4.50 fares on MetroNorth trips within the city, to ensure new Metro-North Station allows local riders to benefit from this regional transit investment

Additional Comments

- ✗ Food Distribution Center is not accessible
- ✗ Local buses need to run more frequently
- ✗ More street lighting is needed for safer streets

Additional Ideas

- ✗ Ferry stop in Hunts Point
- ✗ Bruckner Expressway pedestrian crossings need to be improved
- ✗ Bike lanes should be protected

How can we support sustainable industry in Hunts Point?

- ✗ Commit to making the Food Distribution Center a model of industrial sustainability, starting with a comprehensive solar energy strategy
- ✗ Invest in using boats or rail to transport goods which can reduce traffic congestion and air pollution in Hunts Point and around the city

Additional Comments

- ✗ Reduce idling trucks in Hunts Point

Additional Ideas

- ✗ Get rid of gas generators at Food Distribution Center

How can we make all of Hunts Point sustainable and resilient to climate change?

- ✗ Take a holistic approach to resiliency
- ✗ Support The Point's efforts to expand emergency response planning to Hunts Point
- ✗ Make sure park upgrades include features that make them more resilient

Additional Comments

- ✗ There are a lot of concerns about flooding in area
- ✗ There is a lot of trash on streets and illegal/improper dumping by businesses

