

BOROUGH Brooklyn

MAP ID# B12

COUNCIL DISTRICT 34

COMMUNITY BOARD 3

NAME OF PLAN

Community Organization Community Board 3

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TYPE OF PLAN

197-a Plan (Groundwork)

GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF PLAN

Bedford-Stuyvesant is located in Community District 3, bounded by Classon Avenue on the west, Flushing Avenue on the north, Broadway on the north and east, Saratoga Avenue on the southeast, and Atlantic Avenue on the south.

NEIGHBORHOOD/PLAN BACKGROUND

Bedford-Stuyvesant is one of the oldest and largest African-American communities in New York City. It is a largely residential neighborhood with a mixture of brownstones, small apartment buildings, and public housing. Most of the 54,359 units of housing are renter occupied (82%), and were built before 1950 (58%). This is relatively close to the city-wide average of 55%. The Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, one of the first and most successful non-profit community development corporations, was started in 1967. Since then, there have been many grassroots efforts to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood.

One of the neighborhood's greatest assets is its large youth population; 34% of the population is under 19 years of age. Though this proportion has declined in the recent decade, it is still substantially higher than New York City as a whole, where 25% of the population is under 19. In 1990, the median income was approximately \$17,000.

Bed-Stuyvesant residents are served by four commercial strips-Fulton St., Broadway, Myrtle Avenue, and Ralph Avenue. In the northwest corner of the neighborhood is an industrial area. Mass transit is heavily utilized by area residents.

GOALS OF PLAN

1. Gather basic information as a foundation for a 197-a plan
2. Engage diverse sectors of the community in a dialogue about major planning issues
3. Improved community pride.
4. Better quality of life for all Bed-Stuyvesant residents.
5. Increased homeownership and reduction in the number of absentee landowners.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Infrastructure and Land Use:

- Redevelop vacant lots for residential use; possibly mixed-use buildings on commercial streets
- Clean up subways and improve sidewalks
- Renovate Franklin Avenue subway station
- Expand the supply of one- and two-family housing units and co-ops for low- and middle-income families
- Business and Economic Development:
 - Create a business center with "high-profile" businesses
 - Form a "Fulton Street Committee" and turn at least a portion of Fulton Street into a pedestrian mall
 - Monitor and screen new businesses in order to ensure that they are appropriate to the community
 - Generate employment, particularly in the northern part of the neighborhood
 - Redevelop the Broadway retail corridor
 - Create a vital commercial strip on Myrtle Avenue

Neighborhood Services:

- Improve Woodhull Hospital and establish a health care center
- Increase the number of recreational facilities and improve existing ones
- Promote the use of libraries
- Require methadone patients to perform community service
- Prevent new methadone treatment centers and homeless shelters from locating in the community
- Improve facilities for entertainment and recreation, and increase the number of youth programs
- Establish business-sponsored computer training
- Improve police surveillance, especially along Franklin Avenue
- Develop a comprehensive map of crime locations in order to ensure neighborhood residents' constructive participation in community policing efforts
- Improve community identity and communication

Transportation:

- Regulate truck traffic through residential areas
- Improve access to public transit and quality of public transit
- Develop a comprehensive sidewalk inventory and capital repair schedule
- Partially pedestrianize Fulton Street
- Fully rehabilitate the Franklin Avenue Shuttle
- Improve public transit facilities along Fulton Street

Economic Development:

- Create a vendor/merchant association on Fulton Street
- Keep "big box" retail out of manufacturing zones
- Use zoning performance standards to encourage compatible residential and manufacturing land uses
- Use zoning to mitigate environmental risks
- Develop a community land trust to maintain local control of future development in industrial areas
- Review current inventory of vacant parcels for appropriate development

Vacant Land:

- Develop vacant lots for residential use
- Review plans for all developable sites in urban renewal areas

- Work with city agencies, including the Department of City Planning, to develop a comprehensive long-term plan for the use of vacant lots

IDENTIFIED STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Pratt Studio recommended that the Community Board begin the 197-a process.

PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

The groundwork plan was initiated by Brooklyn Community Board 3. Three community workshop sessions were held in 1995 to get input into issues that should be addressed; provide information on the planning process; and the progress of the Pratt Studio's work.

PARTNERS

Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council, North East Brooklyn Housing Development Corp., and St. Lucy's Roman Catholic Church. Technical Assistance was provide by Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development

OBSTACLES

N/A

TIMELINE

INITIAL IDEA 1995 **FORMAL PLAN?** NO **DATE SUBMITTED:** N/A

SUBMITTED TO: N/A

CITY ACTION? N/A

MODIFICATIONS MADE TO PLAN

N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Red Hook and Gowanus is home to over 700 industrial/commercial businesses, employing thousands of blue collar workers and generating tens of thousands of dollars in real estate, sales and income taxes for the City. In Red Hook alone, the top 45 companies totaled over \$500 million in annual sales for the year 1997 (Duns Regional Business Directory). The Red Hook Gowanus Chamber of Commerce incorporated in August of 1998 and now has 70 Charter Members