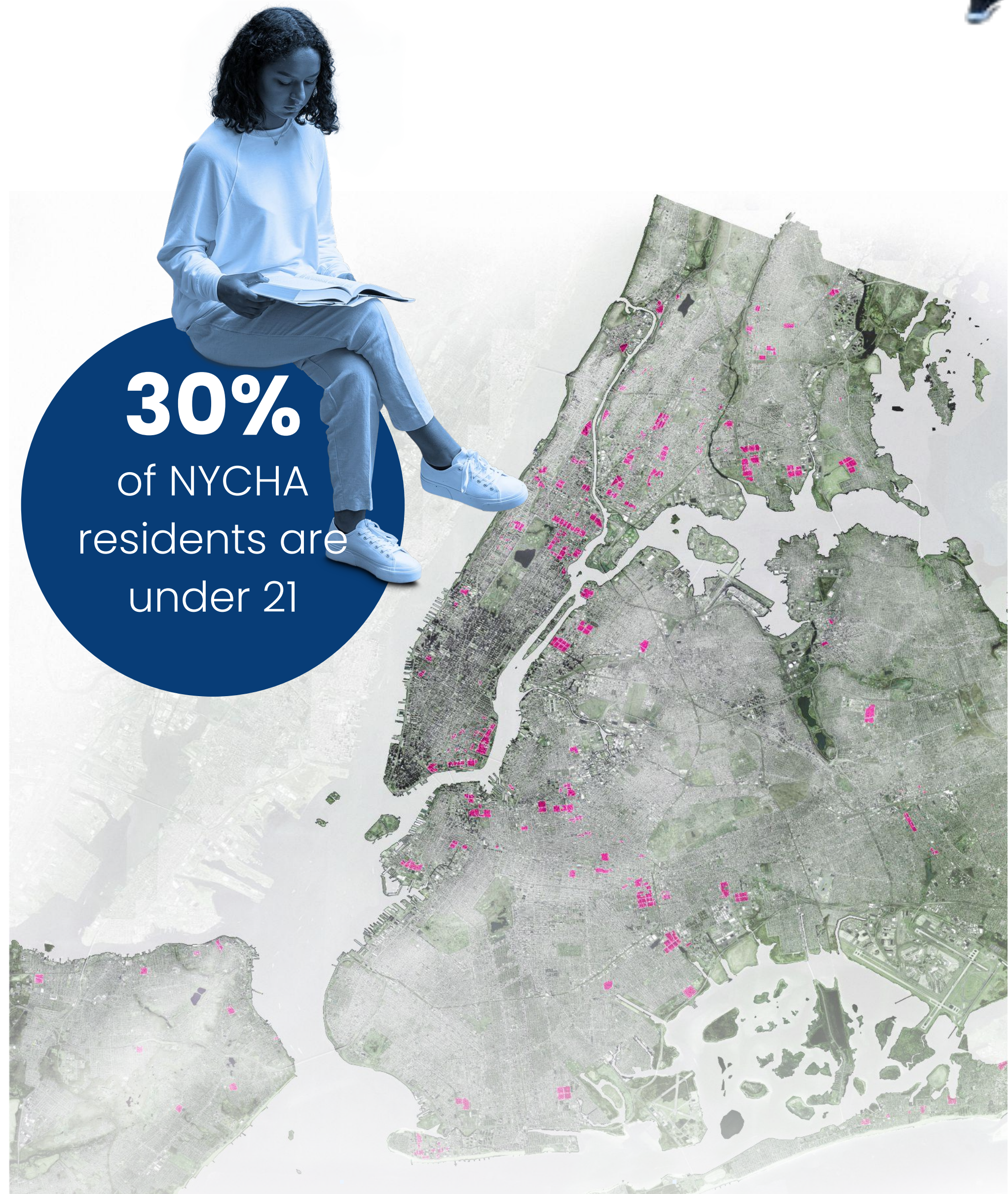


NYCHA is the future of New York City

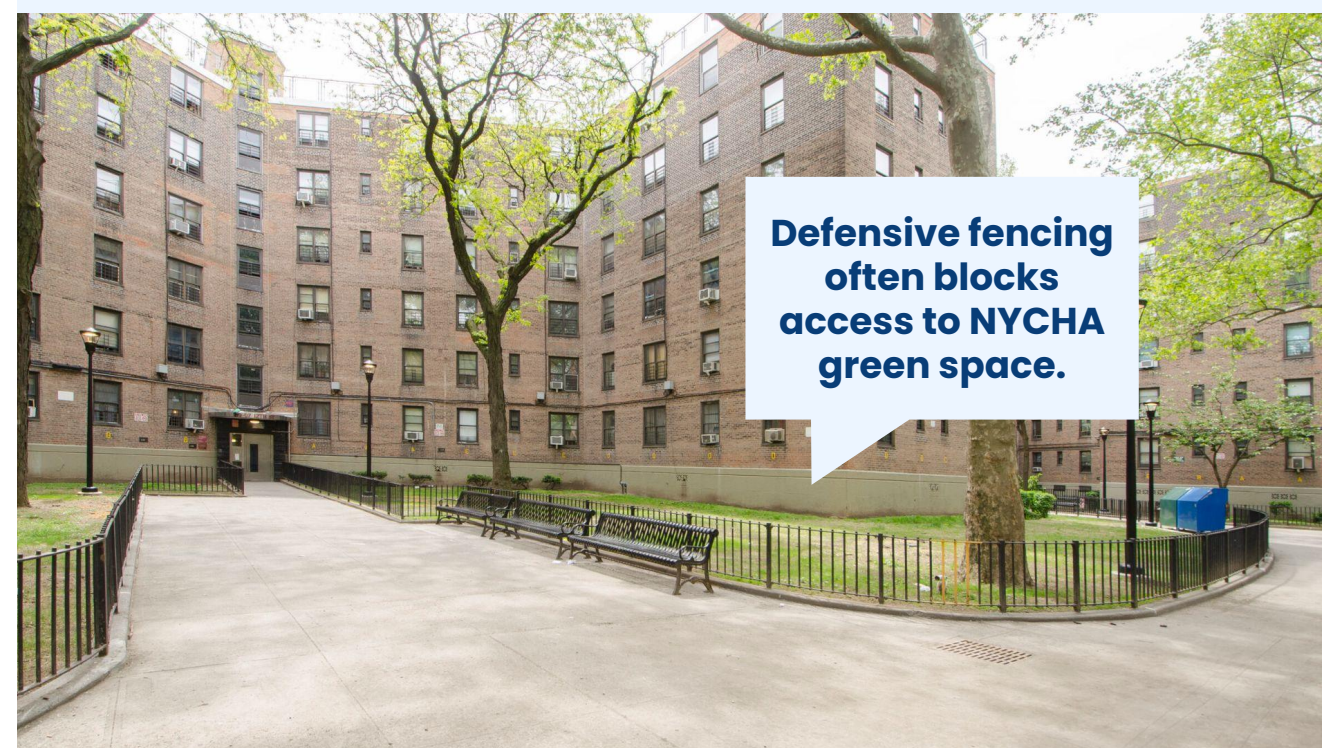
NYCHA communities are an integral part of all five boroughs and are home to thousands of young people.



30%
of NYCHA residents are under 21



← **High-Level Vision**
Light, air, and green space were design priorities in the initial design of many NYCHA communities.



Defensive fencing often blocks access to NYCHA green space.

← **Eye-Level Reality**
Today, 88% of open space is largely inaccessible due to disrepair or access issues.



Despite this, many residents claim these spaces for a range of activations that foster youth and intergenerational connection.



1 in 17

New Yorkers call NYCHA home

11%

Of NYCHA residents are under 14

25

Average residential tenure of NYCHA residents

95%

Of NYCHA residents are people of color

\$25K

Average NYCHA family income

\$557

Average monthly rent of NYCHA housing

Youth Workshops



View Our Full Report!



A blueprint for amplifying youth voices in the design process.

Approach

Piloted with students from City Polytechnic High School, Making Space for Youth is a four-part workshop that covered site analysis, asset mapping, design framing, creative process, ideation. Students concluded the workshop series with a clear vision and skills to pursue accountable relationships with stakeholders necessary to create community-led urban designs. Our curriculum can set students up for success in implementing the construction and engineering of community-accountable space activations.

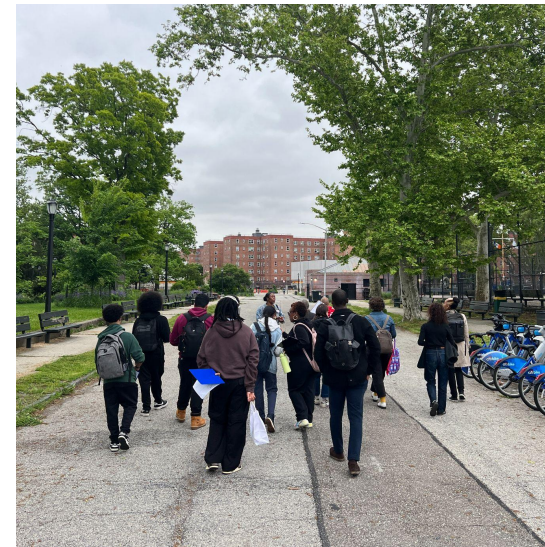
Why involve youth in design?

Young people living on NYCHA campuses should be able to shape the place they call home. Young people have few venues to be heard on issues that can have a critical impact on their future. Design processes hold a unique and powerful opportunity to engage the voices of young people living on NYCHA campuses.

Where else could youth workshops be relevant?

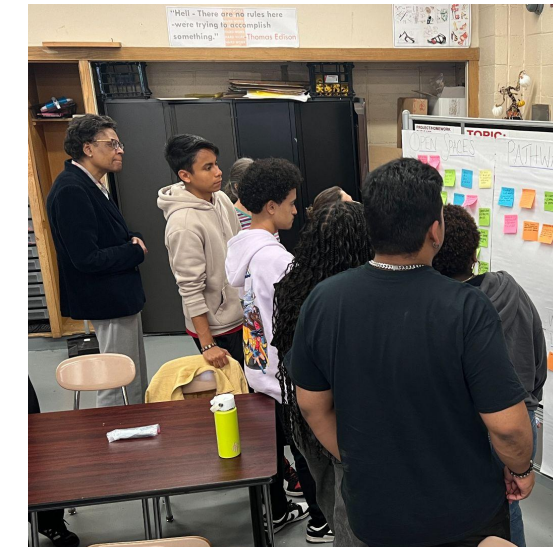
We see curriculum development as a design tool and believe that in order to capture and represent youth voices, community engagement activities must go beyond the surface level. These workshops can be used by community based organizations, nonprofits, government programs, and designers as a blueprint for youth-centered engagement.

Curriculum Pilot



← Session 1 Red Hook Site Visit

We kicked off the first session with a site visit to Red Hook Houses led by MAP Engagement Coordinator Antoniqua Roberson-Darcy from the Red Hook Community Justice Center and longtime Red Hook Houses Resident, Lisa Gonzales.



← Session 2 NYCHA in Context

The second session was framed around reflecting on the site visit and learning more about the history of public housing from our guests Dr. Jessie Fields and Maureen Albanese from the Committee for Independent Community Action.



← Session 3 Design Sprint

In the third session, students worked in three teams: Open Space, Pathways and Corridors, and Neighborhood Planning to develop their observations and impressions into design ideas for Red Hook.



← Session 4 Bring It All Together

Finally, our last session balanced work time with a round table feedback discussion. Students presented their ideas and learned new ways of giving and receiving feedback that were generative and centered growth.

Student Projects



Open Spaces

Protecting nature and celebrating culture

Garden Boxes made using recycled wood from felled trees. These boxes would be painted by residents to represent different cultures and used to cultivate culturally relevant vegetables.

A Pavillion for community gatherings, with a roof composed of different glass tiles to represent different cultures and identities.

A Youth-Led Committee to manage these projects and their programming.



Neighborhood Planning

Emphasizing freedom and ensuring safety

A Park where teens and people of all ages can come and go freely without over-policing.

A Weekend Event Series hosted in the park featuring local vendors.

A welcoming archway entrance built out of a twisted tree trunk surrounded by flowers and art welcome visitors to the park.



Pathways + Corridors

Making history fun, engaging, and inclusive

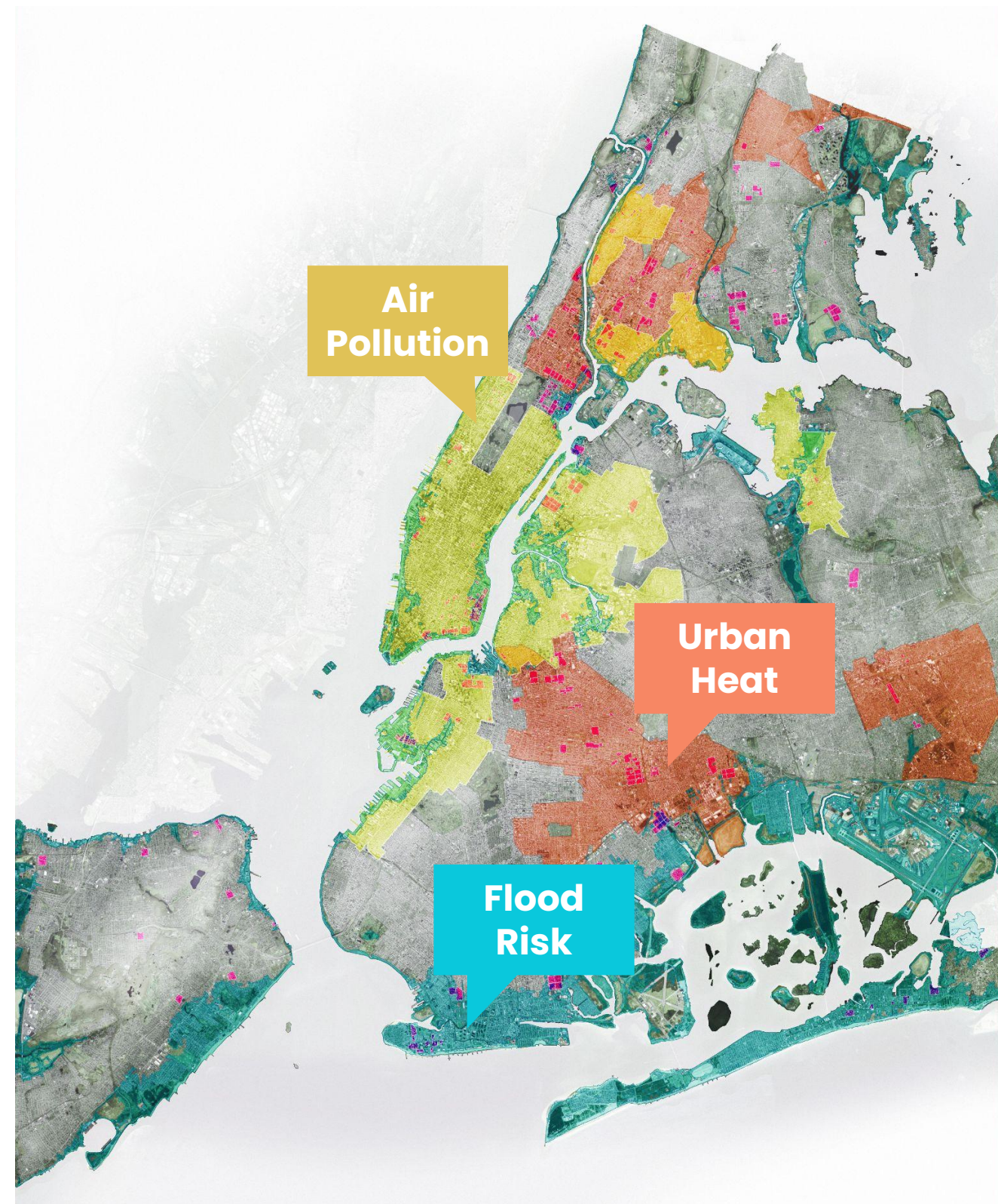
A Red Hook Story Walk to tell the history of Red Hook and connect residents of Red Hook Houses to the waterfront.

Educational sculptures as a playable library for residents of all ages to engage with.

A giant ship replica at the water's edge to anchor the walk.

Youth-Centered Futures

From Environmental Injustice



To Ecological Stewardship

1

Hire and train a young green workforce

Through training and hiring residents, especially youth, New York City has the opportunity to invest in the community while securing climate resilience and landscape improvements. New York City can draw inspiration from other climate resilience and workforce programs, like the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund.

2

Require responses to environmental assessments in open space design proposals

Each NYCHA campus contains ecological challenges and assets (e.g., mature tree canopy). These should be documented in a pre-design feasibility study that must be addressed during the implementation of open space improvements.

3

Diversify funding streams and partners to power climate resilience

For example, public sector and philanthropic funds for health, environment, and education may be eligible for youth-led environmental mitigation efforts in NYCHA. Nonprofits like the Trust for Public Land and Nature Conservancy can be fundraising / implementation partners.

4

Engage youth and residents in the development of climate strategies

NYCHA residents are on the frontlines of the climate crisis and should be meaningfully involved in crafting solutions. Resident-led coalitions that convene from multiple developments facing similar issues such as urban heat or flooding are opportunities to build solidarity and develop strategies that center resident needs.

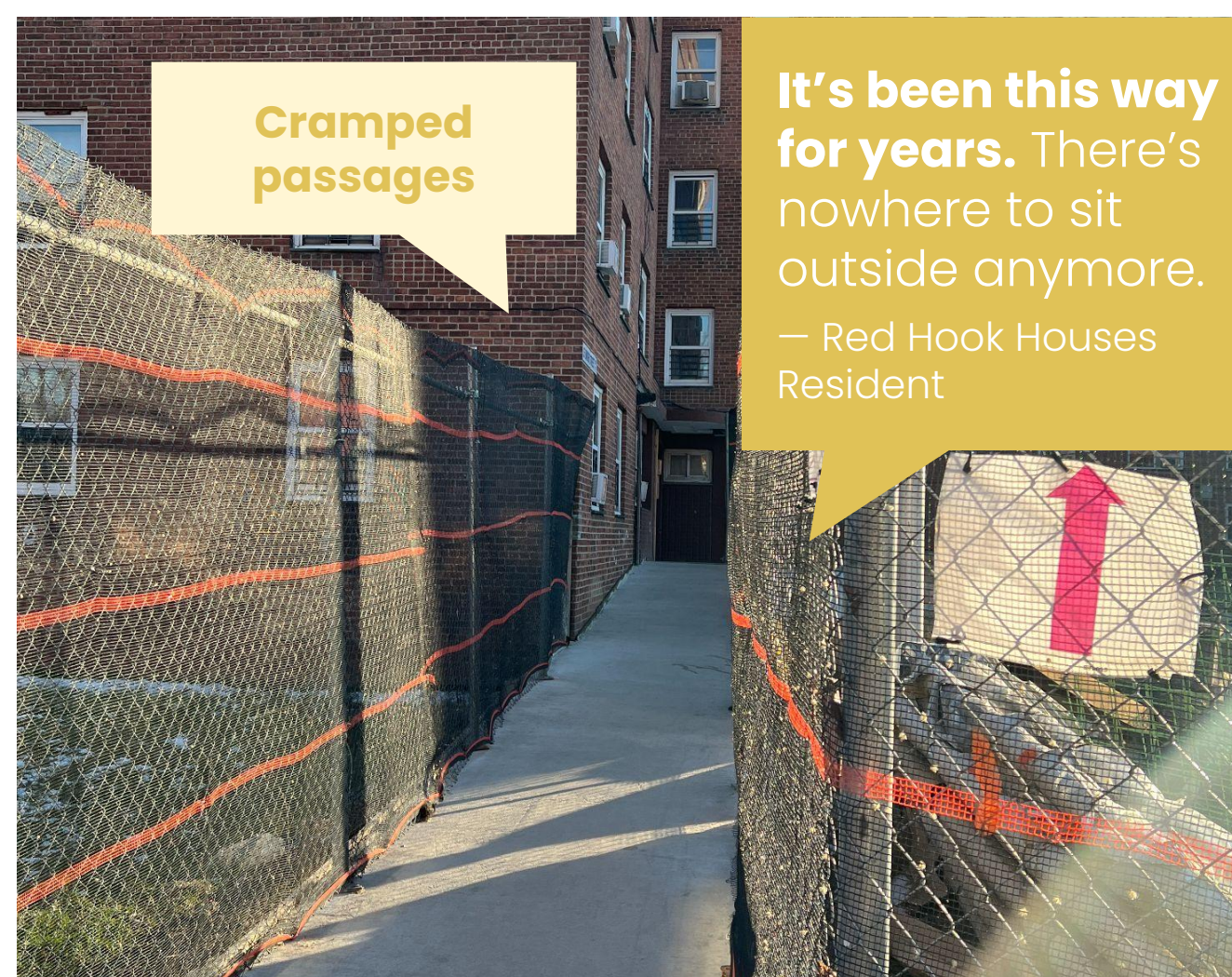
I see myself gardening, not only building spaces for gardening — but **encouraging others to garden and take care of nature.**

— Margarida, Youth Workshop Participant, High School Junior



New York City
Red Hook Houses Farm

From Construction



Cramped passages

It's been this way for years. There's nowhere to sit outside anymore.

— Red Hook Houses Resident



Empty, Unsafe Open Space

Work in Progress: 2023
Anticipated completion: 2023
Owner: New York City Housing Authority
Capital Projects Division
Program Unit: Recovery & Resilience
250 Broadway, 27th Floor
For additional information: 212-306-8532
General Contractor: Adam's European Co.
589 Johnson Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11237
718-417-8000

Unclear Timelines

To Creative Activation

1

Prioritize residents' needs and livelihood in capital management

NYCHA's Asset and Capital Management (A&CM) Division is resource constrained and measures against how fast a project can be executed. Create an accountability measure that balances construction speed, cost, and resident impact. Phase work so the maximum amount of available open space is prioritized.

2

Integrate community engagement during construction

Designers should include community engagement scope in construction as well as design phases of proposals for work on capital projects at NYCHA. Likewise, community feedback from feasibility and pre-design exercises should be required to be incorporated or addressed in selected design proposals.

3

Create alternative open spaces and art installations during construction

Through partnerships with city agencies, nonprofits (e.g., Open Plans, StreetLab), and artists, deploy improvements to enhance the experience and availability of open space during construction — from street closures / pop-up plazas on streets adjacent to construction sites, to art installations on fences and passageways.

4

Create NYCHA-wide construction mitigation guidelines

Define and enforce standardized protocol related to tree protection, site prep, and construction mitigation for the entire NYCHA system. Require regular construction site inspections.

When I think of freedom, I think of open space — somewhere you can think, breathe, and be in.

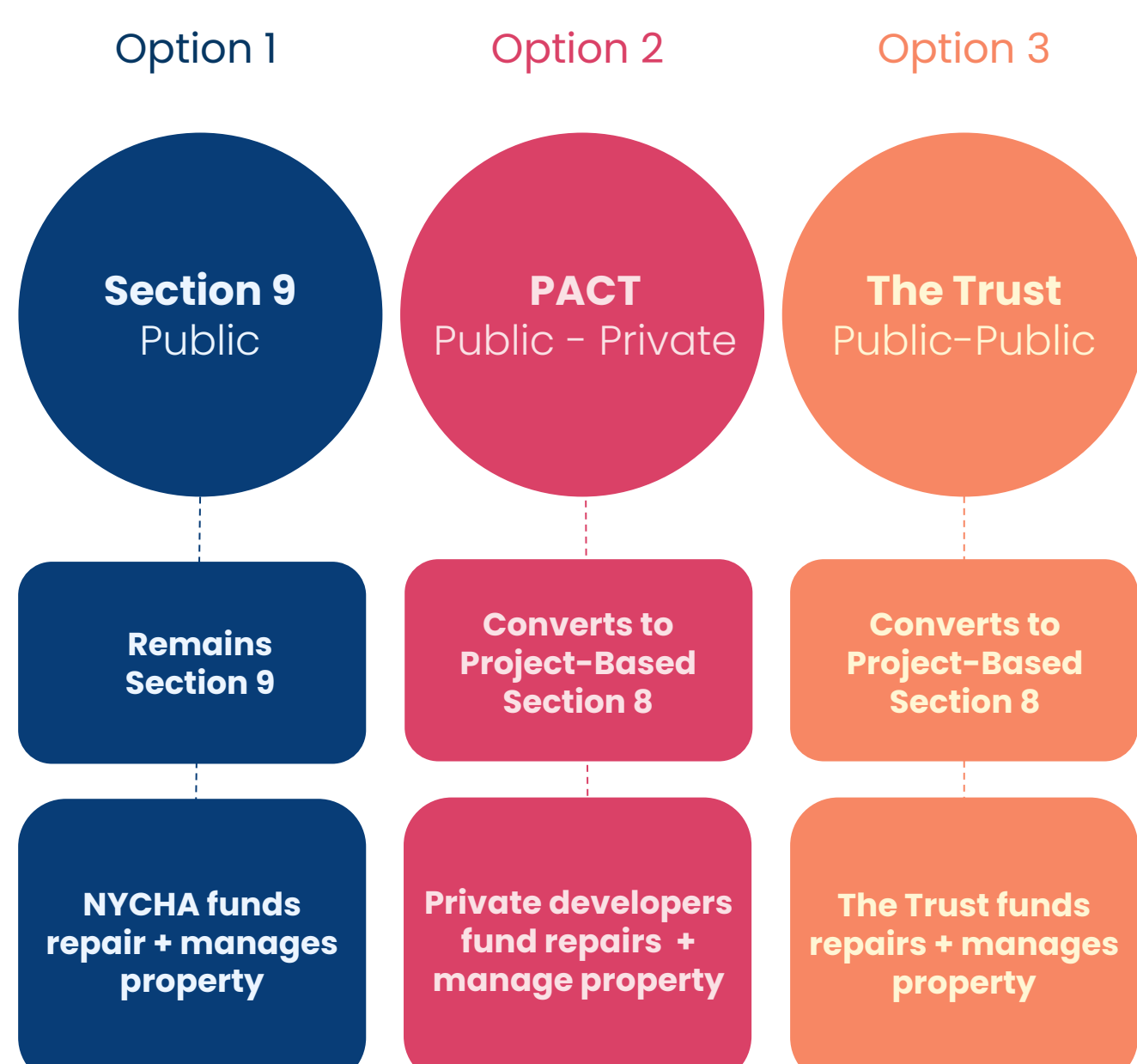
— Natalia, Youth Workshop Participant, High School Junior



Melbourne Metro Tunnel Creative Program

From Privatization

NYCHA residents are slated to vote for an option to fund over \$78 billion in essential renovations system-wide.



To Youth Power

1

Grant residents age 11+ the right to vote on Section 8 conversions

Youth decision-making on public housing's future is vital. Expand voting on Section 8 conversion to residents age 11+, regardless of immigration status, based on NYC's Participatory Budgeting (PB) eligibility requirements. Increase tenant outreach and engagement preceding a vote. Consider increasing the minimum household voter turnout from 20% to 52%.

2

Pass the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA)

TOPA would allow tenants to buy their buildings and convert them into affordable, social housing. If passed, TOPA would create precedent-setting case studies for resident management in NYC with the support of nonprofit housing providers and community land trusts.

3

Amplify Resident Management Corporations' (RMCs) right to contract with NYCHA under Section 9

RMCs have proven successful in cities across the U.S. Expand tenant voting options to include RMC formation as an alternative to Section 8 conversion. Increase public awareness of tenants' management rights.

4

Increase pathways for inter-development relationships

Strengthen opportunities for NYCHA residents to brainstorm solutions to common struggles. Fund youth-led committees to lead space improvements through inter-agency collaboration (e.g. DOT, SYEP, etc.) Prioritize living wages for youth over nominal stipends.

5

Use alternative funding streams for resident-led space improvements

Create a publicly available resource documenting such funds.

It all comes down to **empathy**. People who are not living in that reality will not make decisions based in that reality.

— Shannon, Educator



New Orleans
Guste Homes Resident Management Corporation