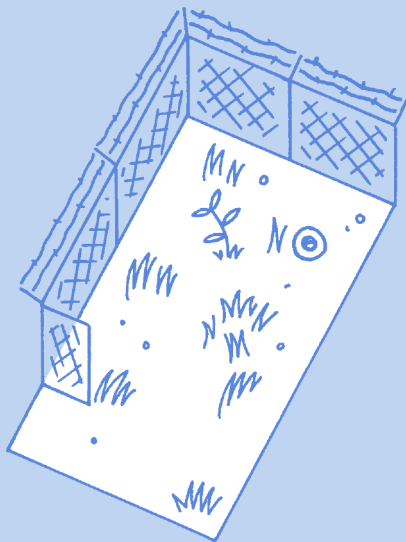


# Let's Un-Waste Space!



A Creative Reuse Guide for  
Resources Within New York City's  
Business Improvement Districts

# Business Improvement Districts?



Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are special districts comprised of property and business owners who cooperate to initiate, manage and finance supplemental services within their area. These are active corridors where people congregate, live, and visit. There are 76 BIDs within New York City that service 176 public spaces and over 24,000 storefronts. Because of their unique relationship with local property owners, BIDs can facilitate and simplify the processes through which community programs can be tested and implemented.

Often, there will be unused or underutilized spaces within your local BID. These are potential assets for the community to use with support from the BID. This guide will explore the types of underutilized spaces you may find, and some potential initiatives. These may be temporary or ongoing, but all can help foster community engagement and develop links between a neighborhood and its business community.

# What are the benefits of bringing 5R (reduce, reuse, recycle, repair, re-claim) programs to an underused space?

New York's public realm is a key asset to be utilized for reducing, reusing, recycling, repairing reclaiming materials before they become waste. This reduces the need for supplemental services.



### *BID Director*

5R programs deepen our relationship with the community. The BID is cleaner and more beautiful, and the buzz helps local businesses thrive and grow.

### *Property and Business Owners*

These programs attract customers and bring me foot traffic, all while keeping my space maintained. This helps me market my space and increases leasing opportunities.

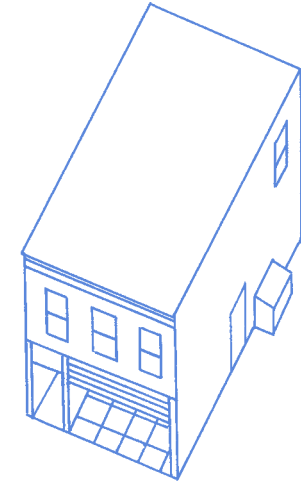
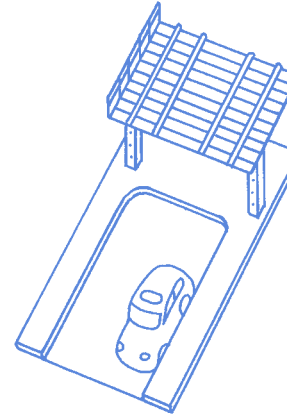
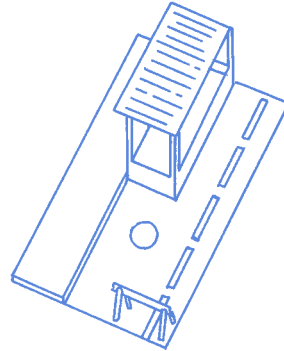
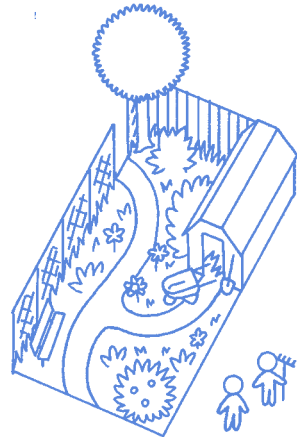
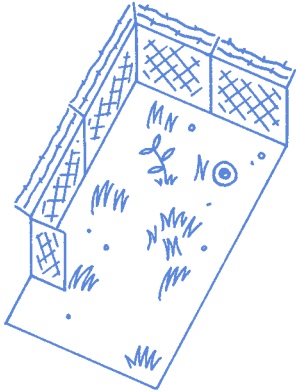


### *Local Residents and Visitors*

It feels good to be active in my community and to meet my neighbors. I can learn new skills and find job opportunities within the green economy. I feel like my quality of life has improved!



# What kind of underutilized space do you see in a BID?



Vacant Lot

Community Garden

Public Space

Residual Space

Vacant Storefront

*Vast open space*

*Existing storage space (shed)*

*Paved/finished floor*

*Paved/finished floor*

*Sheltered space*

*Not-yet-developed property*

*Existing infrastructure/utilities such as water*

*Existing maintenance*

*Vehicular access*

*Existing infrastructure and utilities such as water, heat, and electricity*

*No functioning utilities*

*Existing organized group of residents*

*Existing seating*

*Large open space*

*Access control*

*Large open space*

- DOT Plaza
- Open Street
- Green Street
- Sidewalk
- Privately-owned public space ("POPS")

- Cul-de-sac
- Street/dead-end
- Oversized parking space
- "El" space (under elevated structures)

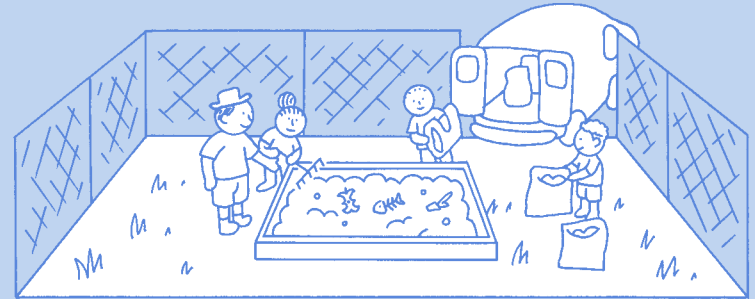
- Industrial warehouse
- Commercial store
- Office space

# Let's Get Started!

The kind of program you run will depend on the kind of space you have access to, and for how long.

One great real-world example is Compost Power. Compost Power uses a vacant lot owned by Two Trees Development Company for temporary processing of organics as a way to teach their staff, which are comprised of NYCHA youth and visitors about composting. Compost Power also processes organic resources from local businesses and NYCHA residents across the city.

Think about each space and its benefits, and match up which spaces and programs you think fit best!



Compost Power's work is an example of this combination:  
*Vacant Lot → Until The Space Is Filled → Recycle → Organics/Food*

Vacant Lot



Community Garden

Public Space

Residual Space

Empty Storefront

One  
time  
event

One  
week  
intervals

A few  
weeks

One  
month  
intervals

Until the  
space is  
filled

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Repair

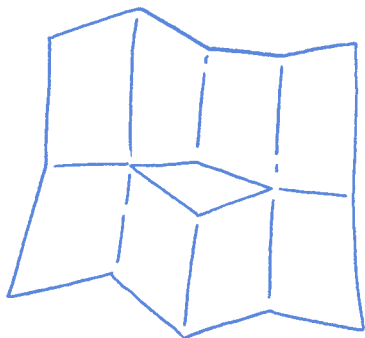
Reclaim

Organizations to Partner With

- LES Ecology Center
- Rescuing Leftover Cuisine
- Community Fridges
- TooGoodToGo
- GrowNYC
- Compost Power
- Big Reuse
- Housing Works
- Free Stores
- FabScrap
- Mechanical Gardens Bike Co-op
- Recycle-a-Bicycle
- bikeNYC
- Free Libraries
- WordUp Books
- Materials for the Arts



*Unfold this booklet  
to reveal the poster  
on the other side for  
more tips to activate  
BID spaces!*



UDF Forefront Fellowship 2022-2023

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