



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

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Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. JOHN SANCHEZ
District Manager

Housing and Land-Use Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Frank Franz, Committee Chairperson

The Housing and Land-Use Committee met on Thursday, November 18, 2021 through Zoom Audio and Video Conference. The following board members were present at this meeting: Clarita Bailon, John Barczak, Frank Franz, Marilyn Gurley, Angela Hernandez, Magdamary Marcano, and Jacquetta Whaley.

The following information was discussed:

- **Presentation by Open Plans on the Building Blocks Program**

Open Plans informed the committee that Open Plans' mission is to transform the streets of New York City to be truly livable for the residents of this city. Open Plans uses tactical urbanism, grassroots advocacy, policy and targeted journalism to promote structural reforms within city government. They shared that our streets and sidewalks have potential. Streets and sidewalks are more than just traffic conduits — they are public spaces where city life takes place. However, we were informed that the problem is that residents lack clear processes for making changes to the streets and sidewalks on their blocks. Open Plans is proposing to resolve this by creating Borough President-led pilot program for block-level democratic decision-making. This process will assemble neighbors and facilitate conversations and learning, ultimately allowing blocks to make decisions about the public spaces in front of their homes. Because Open Plans believes that creating a public engagement, communication, and change process would increase city residents' connection to their blocks, neighbors, and the city-at-large and because perhaps most importantly, this process would lead to things getting fixed and problems addressed. In order to initiate this program in our district, the Board needs to identify a block, send a letter of support to our local elected officials, and conduct and support community outreach. The proposed resources and budget for this program would be an estimate of \$5,000 per block. Open Plans is proposing this program because a new process and sets an example for how government should work, it creates opportunities to increase civic participation and community building, builds on the energy of public space and Open Streets Deliver, and it brings more equitably distribute resources. The committee recommended to issue a letter of support to Open Plans on their Building Blocks Program's proposal to improve a street in Bronx Community Board #6's district.