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Next Steps

The Together for Kingsbridge Vision Plan is an important and necessary step, but it is not the end of this process. This plan will be a part of a forthcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) for the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory, helping to give future developers a real understanding of what the community would like to see in a future Armory.
The Together for Kingsbridge Working Group

To support the creation of an inclusive community engagement process, NIBDC partnered with Council Member Pierina Sanchez and local community leader Sandra Lobo, Executive Director of Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition to assemble the Together for Kingsbridge Community Working Group (CWG).

The CWG included a broad cross-section of community stakeholders, representing faith-based organizations, cultural groups, local business organizations, educational leaders, labor, and economic development organizations as well as local elected officials at each level of government.

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Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood

The Kingsbridge Armory is located in the Kingsbridge Heights neighborhood, which is home to a diverse population, thriving academic and health care institutions, vibrant retail corridors, and transportation connecting the neighborhood easily to the entire tri-state area.

“I feel like the fact that St. James Park is usually full of people on nice days shows that this community wants opportunities to relax after working hard, and to support the businesses nearby.”

“Young people want a chance to express their creativity in this community, and the Armory can provide that opportunity.”

Yet since the 1990s, the Armory has largely been vacant, its potential waiting to be tapped, and the city, local elected officials, community groups and local residents all working to turn the building into a true community asset. This plan marks a significant step forward toward that goal, a step toward turning the Armory into an economic engine for the neighborhood and the borough.

Priority Uses

The community identified two general categories of Priority Uses for the Kingsbridge Armory: Potential Industries which are envisioned as the main use of the Armory to attract major private investment that can transform the Armory into a sustainable economic engine for local jobs and local wealth, while generating enough revenue to make the project financially viable; and Complementary Uses that provide services and work opportunities for Bronx communities (especially youth and senior community members), while infusing the Armory with Bronx culture. Throughout the process, community members highlighted the desire for the Armory to be redeveloped in a way that contributes to the environmental sustainability and resilience of the Bronx.

POTENTIAL INDUSTRIES

When considering Potential Industries for the Kingsbridge Armory, community members consistently voiced two key principles: creating jobs and wealth for local workers and residents; and maximizing community ownership.

Based on the community’s interest in certain industries, NYCEDC met with industry stakeholders to understand the feasibility of specific industries as part of a future redevelopment of the Armory.

FILM AND TV
SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
URBAN AGRICULTURE

“This is a vibrant and diverse community. The presence of Lehman College and the many other schools in the area adds greatly to the spirit and energy of the community.”

“A number of local residents mentioned the interest in turning the Armory into a cultural and historical center for the Bronx.”
**Engagement Process**

Over the course of the process NYCEDC heard from over 4,000 people, through surveys, workshops, town halls, and small group discussions.

### Public Engagement by the Numbers

- **13** Hours Spent in Public Workshops
- **1000+** Participants Across four Public Workshops
- **950+** Surveys Completed
- **500+** Community Members Toured the Armory
- **16** Small Group Discussions
- **4** Public Information Sessions
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Community Vision for the Future of the Kingsbridge Armory

The Together for Kingsbridge Vision Plan brings together two key components of what we heard from the community. The first is a set of Guiding Principles which are actionable goals that would support a future development responsive to the community’s strengths and needs. The second, is identifying Priority Uses which offer a range of potential industries and uses that respond to the community’s economic development priorities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE KINGSBridge ARMORY

- PRIORITIZE YOUTH
- CREATE JOBS AND WEALTH FOR EXISTING WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES
- WELCOME OLDER ADULTS
- GROW A REGENERATIVE LOCAL ECONOMY
- MAXIMIZE COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP
- FOSTER INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS
- PUT THE BRONX ON THE MAP

Community Strengths

The engagement process began by identifying the community’s numerous strengths and assets. Community members want to build from these strengths and assets, and they want to see a future Armory that is a sustainable economic engine for the Bronx, one that creates good, local jobs and local wealth.

Community Health & Wealth

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- “The Armory can support the community by providing resources, programs, and initiatives that focus on strengthening the local economy, building social connectedness and resilience, and promoting community engagement.”
- “There are so few arts locations in the Bronx. The Bronx produced break dance, hip hop, and graffiti art — what other city has had that influence on the world? It’s time the Bronx claimed its position as a serious arts capitol!”

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“The Bronx represents history that still lives until this day through culture and community... the community is what makes this neighborhood thrive. From the sounds of reggae-ton to the taste of the various Hispanic cuisines.”

“This community is resilient and supports the community through organizing, strong work ethic, and looking out for each other.”

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Sustainable Manufacturing
Emerging Technologies
Urban Agriculture

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Working Group

Together for Kingsbridge Community Working Group included:
- New York City Council Member Maritza Sanchez
- Sandra Lobo, Northeast Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NCDCC)
- Elected Officials
  - Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
  - New York State Assembly Member George Alvarez
  - New York State Assembly Member Jose Rivera
  - New York State Senator Robert Jackson
  - New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
  - Congress Member Adriano Espaillat
  - Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson

Co-Chairs
- Community Stakeholders
  - Bronx Community Board 1
  - Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative (BCDI)
  - Bronx North Economic Development Corporation (BCEDC)
  - Community of the North West Bronx
  - Community Organization for Labor Development (COLD)
  - Central Labor Council
  - Dominico USA
  - Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
  - Kingsbridge Merchants Association
  - Lehman College
  - Local 79
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Next Steps

Youth were a priority for engagement throughout the process, as the local youth and future users of a redeveloped Kingsbridge Armory. The project team engaged Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, the Youth Leadership Council, International School for Liberal Arts, Bronx Science Center, the Academy of Software Engineering, and students of PS 340 and PS 310. Many of these groups visited the Armory and held focused discussions that were important part of the Vision Plan.
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The Together for Kingsbridge Vision Plan is a culmination of nine months of robust community engagement to guide the future of the Kingsbridge Armory.