

**Sunset Park Task Force**  
**October 20, 2022, 10:00 am-12:00 pm**

**ATTENDEES**

Task Force Members

1. Alba Pena, Equinor
2. Amrika Sieunarine, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
3. Christopher Lee, PANYNJ
4. Cristin Burtis, Burtis Consulting Group
5. Damaris Gonzalez, DG Tax
6. Dan Wiley, Chief of Staff of State Rep. Nydia Velazquez
7. Dash Henley, NYC DOT
8. David Bolotsky, Uncommon Goods
9. David Estrada, Sunset Park BID
10. Elizabeth Yeampierre, UPROSE
11. Edward Cerna, NYC Council Member Alexa Aviles' Office
12. Emmitt Mendoza, NYS Assembly Member Marcela Mitaynes' Office
13. Esther Sosa, Resident
14. Jeremy Laufer, Brooklyn CB 7
15. Karan Shah, AECOM
16. Krunal Kothari, AECOM
17. Laura Cohen, Center for Family Life

18. Lovinia Reynolds, UPROSE
19. Mike Stamatis, Red Hook Container Terminal
20. Michael Salazar, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
21. Oscar Jones, Burtis Consulting Group
22. Patrick Whelan, Sahadi's
23. Sam Frank, Arch Street Communications
24. Stephen Leone, Industrial Carting
25. Steve Mei, Chinese-American Planning Council

Members of Co-Convening Organizations

1. Christine Paglialunga, NYCEDC (Facilitator)
2. Collyn Chan, NYCEDC
3. Jacqueline Ting, NYCEDC
4. Jesse Solomon, SBIDC (Facilitator)
5. Justyn Turner, NYCEDC
6. Meredith Simon-Pearson, NYCEDC
7. Micaela Skoknic, SBIDC
8. Romulo Garza, NYCEDC

**MEETING NOTES**

Part I: Welcome, Introductions

Christine Paglialunga opened the meeting, introduced representatives of the co-convening organizations, and read through the agenda.

- Elizabeth Yeampierre: 10 minutes [at the end of the meeting dedicated to discussion] is not enough. We need minutes and the agenda in advance, host meetings in the evening, and more time for everyone to be heard.
- Esther Sosa: We need a dedicated meeting to discuss a process for coming up with agenda items, review when we should be meeting, and how often.

- Jesse Solomon mentioned capacity challenges if the group wants to meet more than four times per year. SBIDC cannot commit to facilitating more than four meetings a year.
- Elizabeth Yeampierre: There should be a meeting dedicated to setting priorities for the year. If more meetings will keep people more informed, UPROSE is willing to staff that. The group currently does not have the opportunity to reflect and give good feedback.
- Jesse Solomon proposed that the group dedicate a substantial part of the next Task Force meeting to set priorities.
- Christine Paglialunga reminded the group to help attract new members to the Task Force and noted that the application can be found on the Task Force website.

### Part II.a: Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund Selection Committee

Esther Sosa presented on the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund Selection Committee's work on the RFP process, evaluation criteria, and timeline for Equinor's \$5M fund.

- About the RFP
  - Disbursements ranging from \$100k-900k over a three-year period.
  - Applicants apply online and are invited to meet with the selection committee to discuss their proposals prior to project award.
  - The fund will support strong proposals that focus on WFD/MWBEs, prioritize frontline and environmental justice areas, and encourage partnerships between small and large organizations.
- Evaluation criteria
  - 35% project benefits and value (alignment with one or more priorities)
  - 30% project plan, scope, risks and challenges, and measurable outcomes
  - 20% environmental justice areas plan
  - 15% applicant experience and capabilities
- RFP timeline
  - Nov 17, 2022: Launch event
  - Nov 28, 2022: Info webinar focused on matchmaking
  - Apr 1, 2023: RFP submission deadline
  - May-Jun 2023: Applicant interviews
  - Jul-Aug 2023: Pre-award letters and due diligence
  - Aug 2023: Awardees announced
  - Sep 2023: Disbursements begin

### **Comments from TF Members**

- Emmitt Mendoza: Inflation Reduction Act might be a way to bring in and match funding.
- David Estrada: The selection committee is only focused on this fund and haven't discussed other funding sources. This fund can be a template for other work.

- Dan Wiley: We want organizations to work collaboratively on a project. For example, there were 11 groups that work together via DOL funding for UPROSE. One of the groups was dedicated to managing that grant. It's important to think about that [for this project] because that is an entire job. **Could there be an earlier deadline for groups to express interest so that organizations can see who is interested and combine their efforts?** You could send out a public RFEI.
  - Esther Sosa: We can take this back to see if it is possible to send out an early application. The launch event is an opportunity for this kind of networking.

## Part II.b: Sunset Park Infrastructure Project

Project consultants AECOM and Burtis Consulting Group presented on the Sunset Park Infrastructure project. They provided updates on the project's status, an overview of reconstruction, the phasing plan and timeline, and community outreach.

- Project status
  - National Grid has been on-site since May 2022 to make improvements to the gas line, and they are close to completing this work.
  - AECOM met with SBIDC, Brooklyn CB 7, and businesses in the area to provide project updates and address any of their concerns. The team is now starting work.
  - Phase 1 started on Oct 3, 2022, and takes place on 39th St. This phase includes installing catch basins, removing inactive rail and cobblestones, and installing a bike lane.
- Overview of reconstruction
  - The locations of reconstruction work were identified based on current conditions and needs of the area. The goal is to improve drainage, roadway, and sidewalk.
  - Project will result in temporary relocation of bus stops, Citi bike stations, and partial roadway closures.
- Community outreach
  - An October newsletter was sent out
  - The team conducted outreach to Industry City, the Task Force, Brooklyn CB 7, and business and residents around the impacted area.
  - **If you have any questions about the project, please contact Oscar Jonas at 646-470-1808 or [sunsetparkproject@burtiscg.com](mailto:sunsetparkproject@burtiscg.com). He is the main point of contact.**

## **Comments from TF Members**

- Elizabeth Yeampierre: How are you addressing impacts of extreme weather? How do you define stakeholders? How are you protecting cyclists and pedestrians? Disabled folks? Disruption of bus services—will it impact the elderly and people with limited mobility? Will the new streets be permeable, and will they endure in the long term against extreme heat and wind and storm surge?

- Christine Paglialunga: This project was designed in 2019 and has been delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project has been a standing agenda item at Task Force meetings for three years. The design went through a thorough review process with DOT for pedestrian safety, and it was presented to the Task Force and Brooklyn CB 7 during that design phase. **We can follow up after today to address some of these questions.**
- Esther Sosa echoed concerns raised by Elizabeth, specifically the resiliency component of the project. Based on the project timeline, is it possible to incorporate any new concerns into the project?
  - Meredith Simon-Pearson: The design scope is complete, and construction is starting. We can't incorporate new elements now.
  - Dan Wiley: Greenway connectors need to be funded as much as projects along the waterfront. DOT and all elected officials need to be involved in relation to dangerous pedestrian crossings near Hamilton Ave. This is outside the scope of this group, but the point is that there needs to be a focus on infrastructure improvements, as well as with funding coming down from the federal government.
- Dan Wiley: New BQE project is one opportunity to engage the community going forward.

### Part III: District Wide Updates, Site Specific Updates, and Workforce Trends

Christine Paglialunga shared updates on EDC projects in the neighborhood. Jesse Solomon presented on workforce trends and updates from Workforce 1 Center.

- One way pair study
  - This study is currently in the feasibility stage and will continue to be an agenda item until substantial progress is made.
- Made in NY Campus at Bush Terminal
  - The Garment Hub (Building A) is expected to open in April 2023.
  - Steiner Studios is aiming to start construction imminently.
  - Lighting work at Bush Terminal Piers Park is complete. The sports field is operating, and the sinkhole has been filled.
- Pier 6 update
  - EDC is currently fundraising to complete the scope of work for this pier.
- Pier 4 update
  - Phase 1 electrical work will be completed next month. Phase 2 involves barge tie-up improvements.
- Brooklyn Army Terminal
  - Alliance Enterprises and Absolute Mechanical both renewed their leases, and Ombligo Group is a new tenant.
  - BAT is close to 100 percent occupancy! Building A is 88 percent occupied and needs one large anchor tenant. Building B and the Annex are both 100 percent occupied.

- Workforce Trends
  - There has been an increase in foot traffic at BAT. 56 hires took place between July 1, 2022 and September 30, 2022. Sunset Park residents were placed in 27 jobs during that same period, with the average wage at \$19 per hour.

#### Part IV: Q&A

- Dan Wiley: MDC (Metropolitan Detention Center) has a quarterly stakeholder meeting that could be of interest for members of the Task Force.
- Esther Sosa: Has resiliency been addressed at MiNY and other projects near the piers?
  - Christine Paglialunga: Building A includes flood resiliency and Building C has undergone more light touch improvements. EDC is aware that more resiliency needs to be done and are currently building this out in the scope of work for Building C. EDC is also building its energy portfolio and EV charging portfolio.
- Jesse Solomon answered a question from the Zoom chat about the types of jobs at the Workforce 1 Center.
  - Jesse: WF1 ITC Brooklyn prioritizes industrial and manufacturing businesses in Brooklyn and throughout the city. There are exciting partnerships with M Factory to hire glass polishers and other types of production assistants, with food production companies, and with advanced manufacturers like Nanotronics.
- Emmitt Mendoza: Is there a platform to monitor project outcomes like RFPs?
  - Christine Paglialunga: RFP selections and criteria are posted on the EDC website at <https://edc.nyc/rfps>. EDC expects Steiner Studios to engage with stakeholders, as they did at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.
  - Jesse Solomon: Workforce 1 would be the best source for HireNYC data and jobs. The Center is working closely with Steiner Studios.
- Jesse Solomon: For the next Task Force meeting, we can discuss how meeting agendas are created per Emmitt and Esther's requests. We can also invite the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Selection Committee to discuss their progress. What else should we address?
  - Esther Sosa: The way elected officials and their representatives attend the Task Force meetings.
  - Christine Paglialunga: Any elected official of the area has a permanent open invitation to the Task Force conversations.
  - Esther Sosa noted that other representatives are listed on the Task Force website.
  - Dan Wiley flagged that State Rep. Nydia Velazquez will no longer be a representative for the area covered by the Task Force because of new congressional district lines. Dan encouraged the group to contact the new applicable elected officials and ask them to join meetings.
- Emmitt Mendoza: One agenda topic that we could discuss is the impact of the Inflation Reduction Act on the Sunset Park neighborhood. What opportunities are there for the community? Perhaps public tours with elected officials would help us better understand the scope of work being done in the waterfront.

- Christine Paglialunga: EDC's Government Relations team is working on tours for elected officials. We are also having conversations with Brooklyn CB 7 representatives to plan tours.
- Christine Paglialunga: Co-conveners are proposing a return to in-person Task Force meetings. We are also considering a hybrid format to increase accessibility.
- Jesse Solomon: **Two main agenda items for the next meeting: (1) offshore wind selection subcommittee process and (2) Task Force priority topics for the coming year.**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.**