

# Meeting Summary

## LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #1

February 17, 2022, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

### Local Planning Committee attendees:

Name	Affiliation
Brendan Mehaffy (Co-chair)	City of Buffalo
Brenda McDuffie (Co-chair)	REDC
Atiqur Rahman	Broadway Hardware
Benjamin Hilligas	Matt Urban Center
Carl Skompinski	Fillmore Forward
Conrad Kickert	UB School of Architecture
Derrick Parson	The Exchange at Beverly Gray
Donna Edwards	Impacted Families Project
Fadi Dagher	Cedar Land Development
Frederick Gelsey	One In Christ Temple
Heidi Romer	Jerhico Road
Marva Threat	Greater Eastside Fields of Dreams Block Club Association Inc.
Monica Pelligrino-Faix	Central Terminal Restoration Corporation
Richard Palmatier-Maynard	Friends of the Broadway Market
Samaria Turner	Kitchen @ the Market
Stephen Karnath	Broadway Fillmore Neighborhood Housing Services
Van Taylor	Van Taylor Production

### Agency attendees:

Name	Affiliation
Kisha Santiago-Martinez	Deputy Secretary of State
Chris Bauer	Department of State
David Ashton	Department of State
Lenny Skrill	Homes and Community Renewal
Paul Tronolone	Empire State Development
Johanna Walczyk	Empire State Development
Lisa Hicks	City of Buffalo
Trevor Griffis	City of Buffalo
Nkosi Alleyne	City of Buffalo
Crystal Middleton	City of Buffalo
Alex Carducci	City of Buffalo
Kathleen Peterson	City of Buffalo

Hope Young-Watkins	City of Buffalo
Paul Harris	Buffalo Sewer Authority

### Consultant attendees:

Name	Affiliation
Mark Tytko	WSP
Stephanie Camay	WSP
Nancy Raca	Highland Planning
Tyra Jones	Highland Planning
Laura Evans	Prospect Hill

### Community attendees:

Name	
Alana Barrington Dye	Ladaisha Williams
Ben Upshaw	Linda Gossett
Beverly McLean	Linda Lund
Chris Hawley	Mitch Nowakowski
Christopher Byrd	Munassr Nagi
Drew Canfield	Patra Mangus
Graciela Rodriguez	Renee Lewan-Hesse
Jill Clark	Stephanie Clark
John Domres	Yuri Hreshchyshyn
Kevin Deese	Yvonne McCray

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened with a recording from the Secretary of State for New York, Robert J. Rodriguez congratulating the City on the DRI program award. Deputy Secretary of State, Kisha Santiago-Martinez, followed up with a welcome.

Local Planning Committee (LPC) co-chairs, Brendan Mehaffy and Brenda McDuffie, welcomed and thanked all LPC members for their attendance and participation. Stephanie Camay (WSP) began the formal presentation by introducing herself and welcoming members. She also explained that this meeting would be a working session for the LPC, and time would be reserved for public remarks/comments at the end of the meeting. Nancy Raca (Highland) did a roll call of the LPC, state partners, and City staff.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Following the introductions, Christopher Bauer reviewed the New York State Code of Conduct for all LPC members. The Code of Conduct procedure is intended to avoid any conflicts of interest throughout the DRI planning process.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Stephanie Camay led a discussion regarding the role of state agencies, consultants, and City staff in the DRI planning process.

## DRI PROGRAM REVIEW

Stephanie Camay provided an overview of the DRI planning process, including the goals of the DRI program, and the types of projects that are eligible for DRI funding.

She also provided an overview of the anticipated schedule for the DRI process.

Nancy Raca provided an overview of the DRI community engagement process. A Public Engagement Plan (PEP) is being prepared that details the components of all pieces of community engagement for the DRI process. The PEP will describe all methods of communication and engagement, including meeting notices and events.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nancy Raca discussed the community engagement efforts planned for the DRI and asked the following questions to gather input from the LPC.

- What would “success” look like to you from a public engagement perspective?
- What’s the best way to reach a wide range of people?
- What are the best venues and times for public meetings?

## BUFFALO DRI APPLICATION

Lisa Hicks (City of Buffalo) led a discussion on the City’s DRI Application, including an overview of the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood and past, recent, and on-going projects that have taken place within the neighborhood, including Al Cohen’s Bakery, Eckhardt Building, Schreiber Brewery, K-Mart, Corpus Christi Church Social Hall, Torn Space III, Lederman’s Building, and Union Stockyard Bank. Lisa also discussed potential projects proposed in the City’s DRI application. Potential projects include improvements at the Broadway Market, Central Terminal Great Lawn, affordable housing infrastructure, streetscape and placemaking improvements, a small business development fund, and commercial façade improvements.

Lisa also presented the proposed revision of the boundary. The boundary was reduced in size to focus on the connection of key cultural anchors including the Broadway Market and Central Terminal and commercial corridors.

The LPC agreed that the Wilson Street Urban Farm should be included in the DRI boundary.

## VISIONING SESSION

Nancy Raca facilitated a visioning activity with the LPC. Questions and responses are summarized below:

**Question 1:** Which of these aspects of revitalization are most important to you when thinking about the future of Broadway-Fillmore? (choose 2)

- Historic cultural anchors/buildings
- Park spaces
- Retail-oriented streets
- Cycling and pedestrian connections
- Streetscape improvements
- Appeal to visitors/tourists
- Affordable housing
- Other

Responses from Question 1 were most respondents felt that Historic Cultural Anchors/Buildings (34 out of 47 answers) and Park Spaces (21 out of 47 answers) were the top 2 most important when considering the future of Broadway-Fillmore as it relates to aspects of Downtown Revitalization.

**Question 2:** What one word would you like to be able to use in 15 years to describe Broadway-Fillmore to potential visitors or residents?

A few words that respondents want to be able to use in 15 years to describe Broadway Fillmore are: "Transformed, Bustling, Vibrant, Classic, Old-School, Bright, Resurrected, Thriving, Diverse, Historic, Cultural, Community, "Fillmore Forward", Safe, Equitable, Cosmopolitan, "Destination Location".

## NEXT STEPS

Stephanie Camay described upcoming public engagement and project development activities, which include:

- Stakeholder interviews throughout February and March
- Public Meeting #1
- Local Planning Committee Meeting #2

## COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Stephanie Camay opened up the meeting to questions or comments from the LPC. The following comments were made:

- A committee member requested that the LPC contact list be provided to LPC members.
- A committee member asked if there would be a workspace to post and share information.
- The LPC discussed private project sizes, which must be in the \$250K+ range. Smaller projects can be bundled into one project to meet the minimum grant requirement.

- The LPC discussed preferred dates for future meetings. The LPC meetings will continue to be virtual with the possibility of a hybrid meeting format (in-person and virtual) in the future.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Following input from the LPC, Nancy Raca opened up the meeting to public comments. The following comments were made:

- Be sensitive to neighborhood engagement. Do not propose projects until you look at the data (e.g., who owns the property).
- Be consistent with the City's "Green Code".
- Social media is the best for communication with the community – user groups exist to reach people.
- Share the website URL when it is up and running.
- A better map of the DRI area is needed for discussions with neighborhood residents.
- Will there be a Phase 2 DRI for the north side of Broadway?