

## Another Year of waiting while another Gowanus generation grows up without a Community Center!



### Mayor de Blasio Put a Plan in Writing Keep the Promise to Reopen the Gowanus Community Center!

[www.tinyurl.com/reopengowanuscenter](http://www.tinyurl.com/reopengowanuscenter)

As massive public and private investments in the Gowanus, Brooklyn neighborhood are underway the Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice (GNCJ) is calling on the City of New York to honor their promise to Reopen the Gowanus Houses Community Center.

One year ago, in Oct. 2017, Mayor de Blasio publicly committed to Gowanus public housing residents his promise to re-open the Gowanus Houses Community Center - elevating our community hope that the next generation of residents in Gowanus would benefit from access to opportunities previously denied. As we mark the 1 year anniversary of this promise - the quagmire of bureaucracy continues while the price tag for repairs grows ever steeper - ballooning to an estimated \$4 Million!

We're demanding the Mayor's public commitment be met with an action plan in writing to provide a fully operational and renovated Gowanus Houses Community Center to the local residents of public housing and the Gowanus community and [we are reopening our petition](#) - until the mayor presents his promise with a blueprint and timeline prioritizing the re-opening of this center!

The Gowanus Community Center has been closed for over a decade, depriving the residents of one of New York's largest public housing developments, a place to come together for artistic, educational, and vocational activities. Before its closing, the center was a positive force in the neighborhood, providing engaging and productive programming. The center even played a vital role during Superstorm Sandy relief efforts, when it was temporarily reopened to provide goods and services for Gowanus Houses residents impacted by the Superstorm. In the 2013 - 2014 Participatory Budgeting cycle, the community rallied together to advocate for funding to fix the physical building which had fallen into disrepair and successfully won \$475,000 through Councilmember Levin Participatory Budgeting, yet the funded repairs have still not been contracted.

Tell NYC it's past time to take action to prevent another Gowanus generation growing up without their Center.

**Sign the GNCJ Petition to Reopen the Gowanus Houses Community Center!**

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**#ReopenGowanusCenter**



## Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice

The Gowanus neighborhood is slated for significant land use actions and public investment by the City of New York that will change our community and impact surrounding neighborhoods for decades to come. These changes have the potential to address long standing challenges and problems in our neighborhood or to significantly increase the displacement of long-term residents and businesses and deepen existing inequality.

Formed in association with the Fifth Avenue Committee, a long-standing not-for-profit Community Development Corporation in Gowanus Brooklyn, the Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice (GNCJ) represents a concerted effort by local residents and stakeholders to specifically elevate the priorities of low- and moderate income residents, industrial firms, and the neighborhood-based organizations and small businesses that serve them in Gowanus, Brooklyn.

Our platform asks the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) to address the following concerns in their neighborhood rezoning plan:

- I. ADVANCE RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE
- II. CREATE REAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING and PROTECT TENANTS FROM DISPLACEMENT
- III. PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TO RECOGNIZE BURDENS ON LONG TIME RESIDENTS
- IV. RESPECT, PRESERVE AND CONNECT PUBLIC HOUSING AND ITS RESIDENTS TO ALL COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND DECISION MAKING RELATED TO GOWANUS REZONING
- V. RECOGNIZE & CELEBRATE THE CULTURE & COMMUNITY OF LONGTIME GOWANUS RESIDENTS
- VI. PROTECT LOCAL BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRY TO PRESERVE WHERE WE SHOP AND WORK

To learn more about the community campaign to re-open the Gowanus Houses Community Center in association with the Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice contact Sabine Aronowsky, the Fifth Avenue Committee, Campaign Manager, 621 Degraw Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217, 718-237-2017, ext. 117 [saronowsky@fifthave.org](mailto:saronowsky@fifthave.org)

