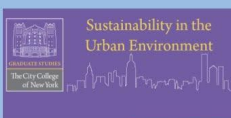
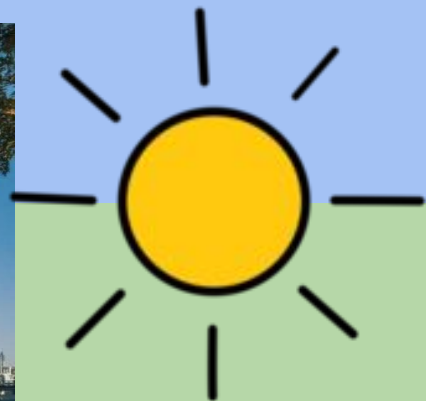


WELCOME!



COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL
Environmental Justice and Climate Just Cities Network



PANEL 2

Moderation by



Seeking Environmental Justice Through the Dialogue Between Academia and Frontline Communities

In this panel, we will showcase a series of capstone projects and partnerships that epitomize the collaborative efforts between university researchers and those most affected by environmental injustice. Through these presentations, we will explore the mechanisms through which academia can engage more deeply and effectively with frontline communities, focusing on projects that address environmental disparities and seek sustainable solutions. Discussions will center on strategies to promote such collaborative projects, ways to empower and support frontline communities effectively, and approaches to decolonizing academic practices to ensure equitable participation and representation.

With 6 different Panelists from CUNY, Columbia, and NYC

Presentation of the Panelists:



- Moderator
 - WE ACT,
- NYC Panelist
 - Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice
- Columbia Panelists
 - Paul Gallay, Director of the Resilient Coastal Communities Program
 - Amy X. Chen, Staten Island Urban Center: Making Way for the MERC (class: Building Climate Justice: Co-Creative Coastal Resilience Planning)
- CUNY Panelists
 - Alex Diaz, Harlem Housing Project
 - Marileidy Pimentel, CCNY graduate, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Bilingual Community Organizer | Organizadora Comunitaria Bilingue

QUESTIONS

How can we harness the expertise of both academic communities and partner organizations?

What priorities and goals should guide these partnerships?

Maritime Education, Recreation and Culture Corridor (MERC)

Making Way for the MERC in Staten Island's North Shore

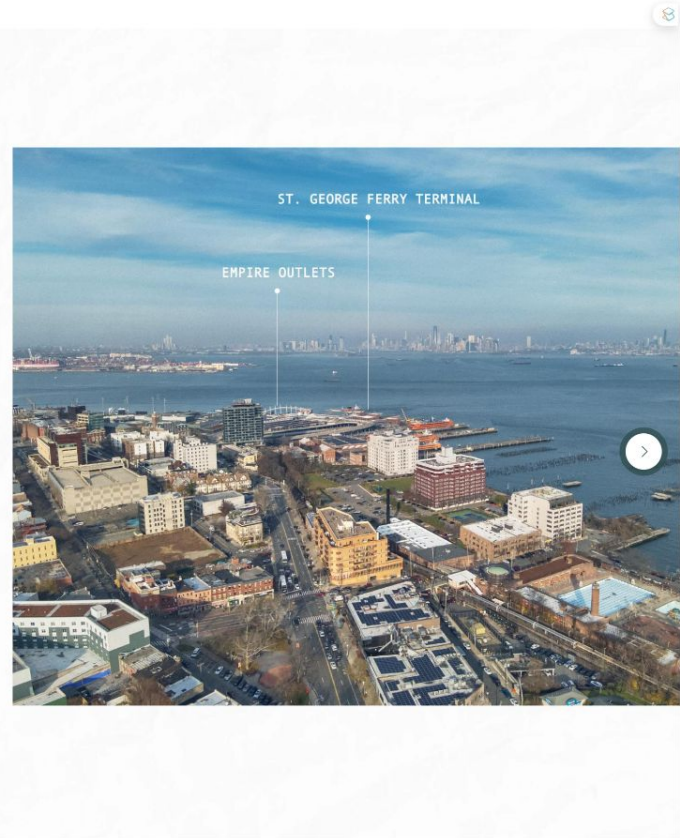
Abigail Hugill, E Jen Liu, Zoe Ann Dansdill, Amy X.Chen, Nicole Blanco, Suleyman Ahmed, Iynul Rizwan
November 15, 2023



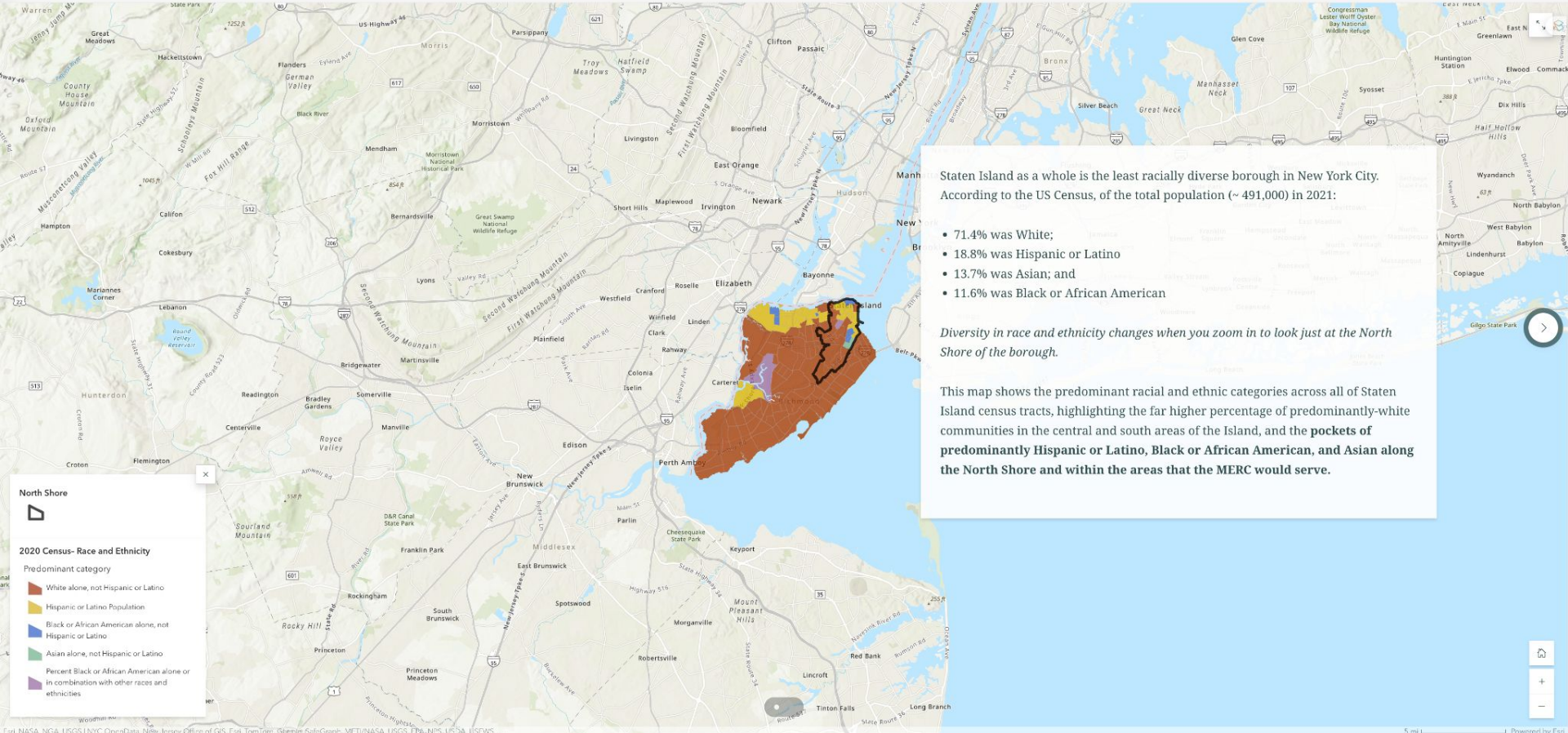
Staten Island Urban Center

Staten Island Urban Center (SIUC) is a community-based organization that aims to strengthen North Shore communities through youth and community development. SIUC strives to serve its youth and uplift and support the most vulnerable community members via participatory planning processes.





Photos of the Empire Outlets, near the St. George Ferry Terminal, Staten Island, NY. (December 2, 2023)



"When you think of Staten Island, many do not jump to the idea of it being an **architectural destination**."

The borough is rich in history and has some beautiful architectural landmarks in different styles: Greek Revival, Victorian Mansions, to even a Frank Lloyd Wright original. Near the waterfront, you can see a palimpsest of beautiful buildings from municipal halls to quiet suburban houses.

Staten Island Borough Hall

Right across the street from the [St. George Ferry Terminal](#), overlooking the Manhattan skyline, sits the building designed by the same architects who designed the New York Public Library main branch, Carrere (who was a resident of Staten Island) and Hastings. Built in 1906, its purpose was to welcome Staten Island being elected as New York City's fifth borough. It was designed in the style of a French Renaissance city hall, with a brick and limestone exterior, and Doric columns separating the windows. The high clock tower in the center can be seen from the harbor and throughout St. George. ([Source](#))

"...one of the great early 20th century civic monuments of New York City."

-- NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission



The Accolade - Condominium

The Accolade Condominiums were built in St. George, on Staten Island in 2013. The 10 story building consists of 100 luxury units. Residents can choose from studio, 1, 2, and 3 bedroom condos for sale and for rent. Many units have a view of Manhattan's skyline from their balcony.

[\(Source\)](#)



Aerial View of the Bay St. and Hannah St. Intersection

With drone data collection, we are able to get aerial photos of the waterfront. This photo shows how the Lyons Pool is currently being surrounded by diesel trucks and automobiles. The beauty and potential of the North Shore waterfront is far from realized.

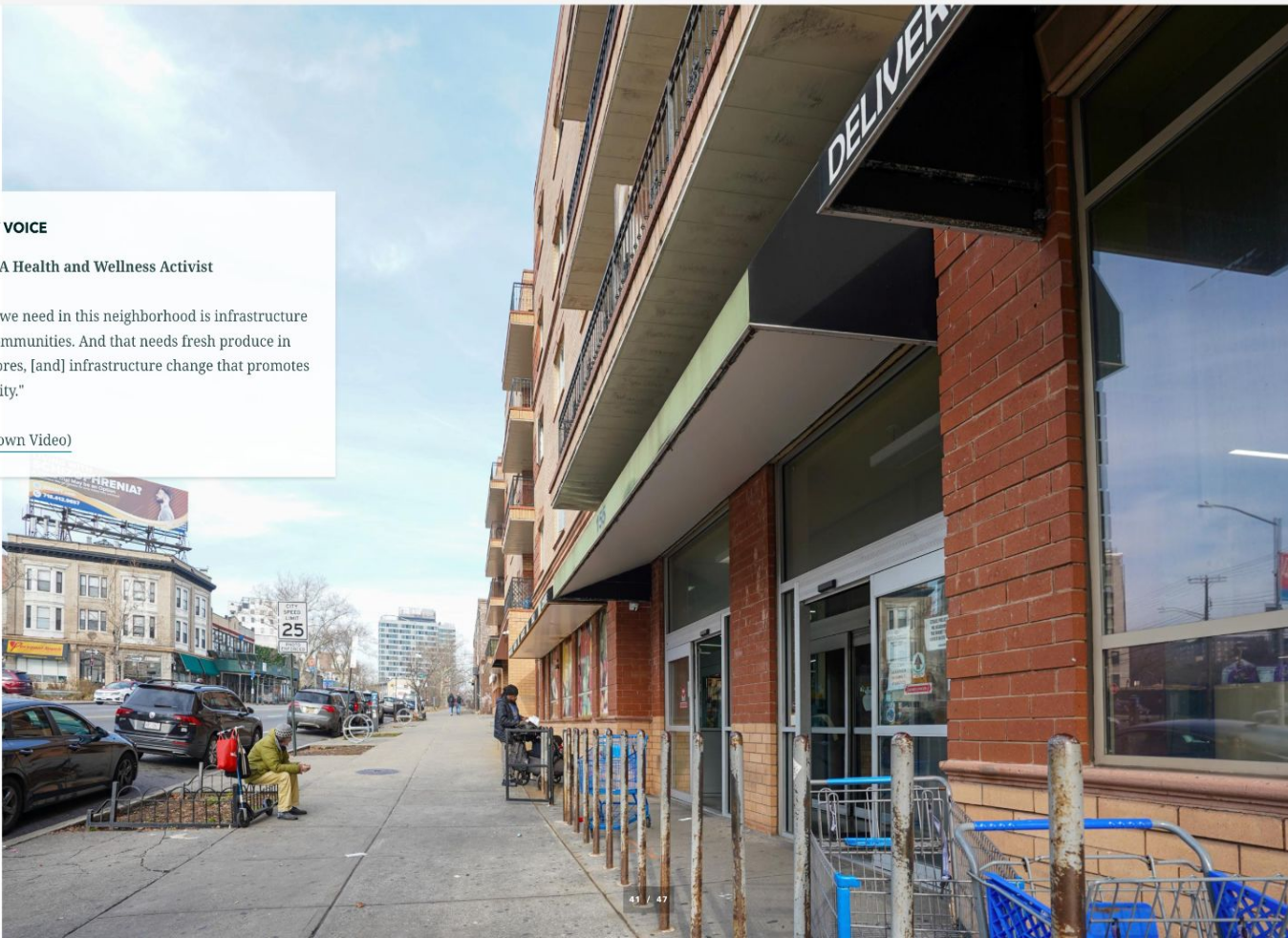


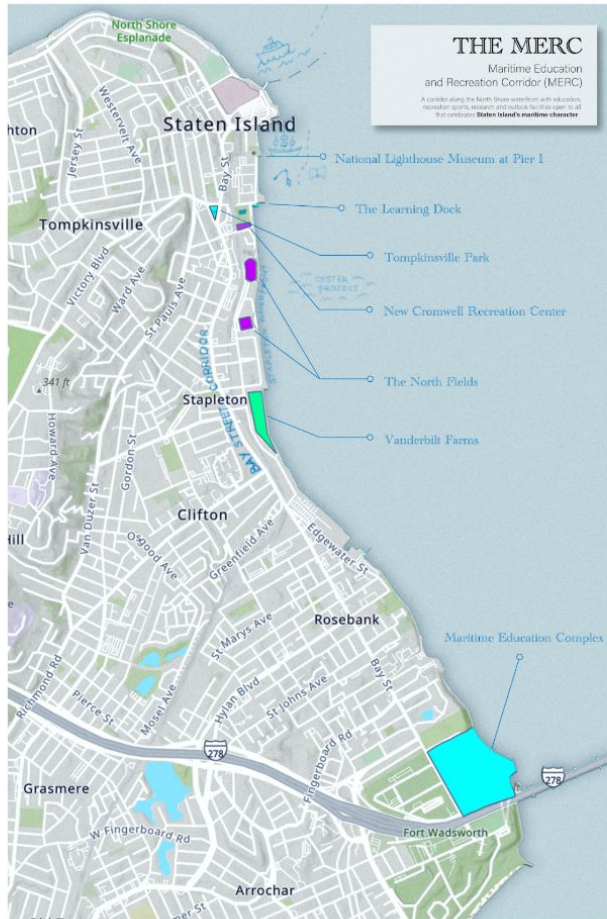
COMMUNITY VOICE

Sarah: NYCHA Health and Wellness Activist

"I think what we need in this neighborhood is infrastructure for healthy communities. And that needs fresh produce in our corner stores, [and] infrastructure change that promotes physical activity."

[\(Our Urban Town Video\)](#)





The Maritime Education, Recreation & Culture Corridor, also known as the M.E.R.C., addresses key aspects of community needs. The corridor along the waterfront is planned to be an enclave for Maritime-focused education, recreation and waterfront heritage culture opportunities.

MERC also fits with the existing plans for making the North Shore waterfront more walkable, with bike paths and destinations for both tourists and residents.

seven main sites in the corridor

SUIC also envisions vibrant programming along the waterfront, from the Billion Oyster Project, Staten Island Kayaking, to community fishing areas.



Tour of the MERC

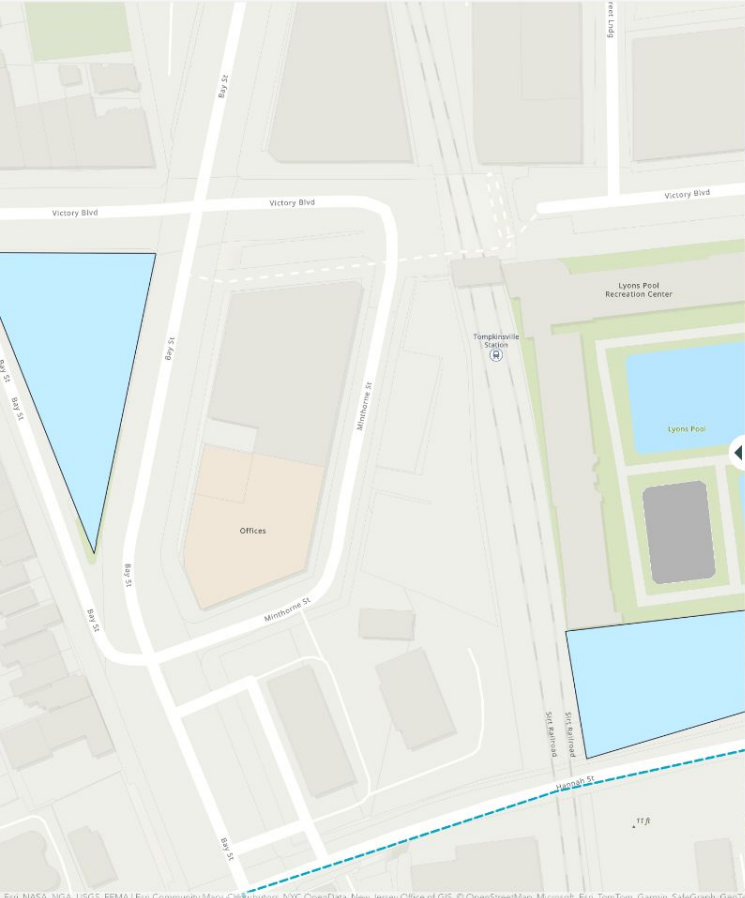
Maritime

Education

Recreation &

Culture

Corridor



Free Navigation: Try clicking and holding onto one map to move it around.

Left: Outlined blue blocks are the seven main sites in the MERC plan.

Right: Satellite Map.



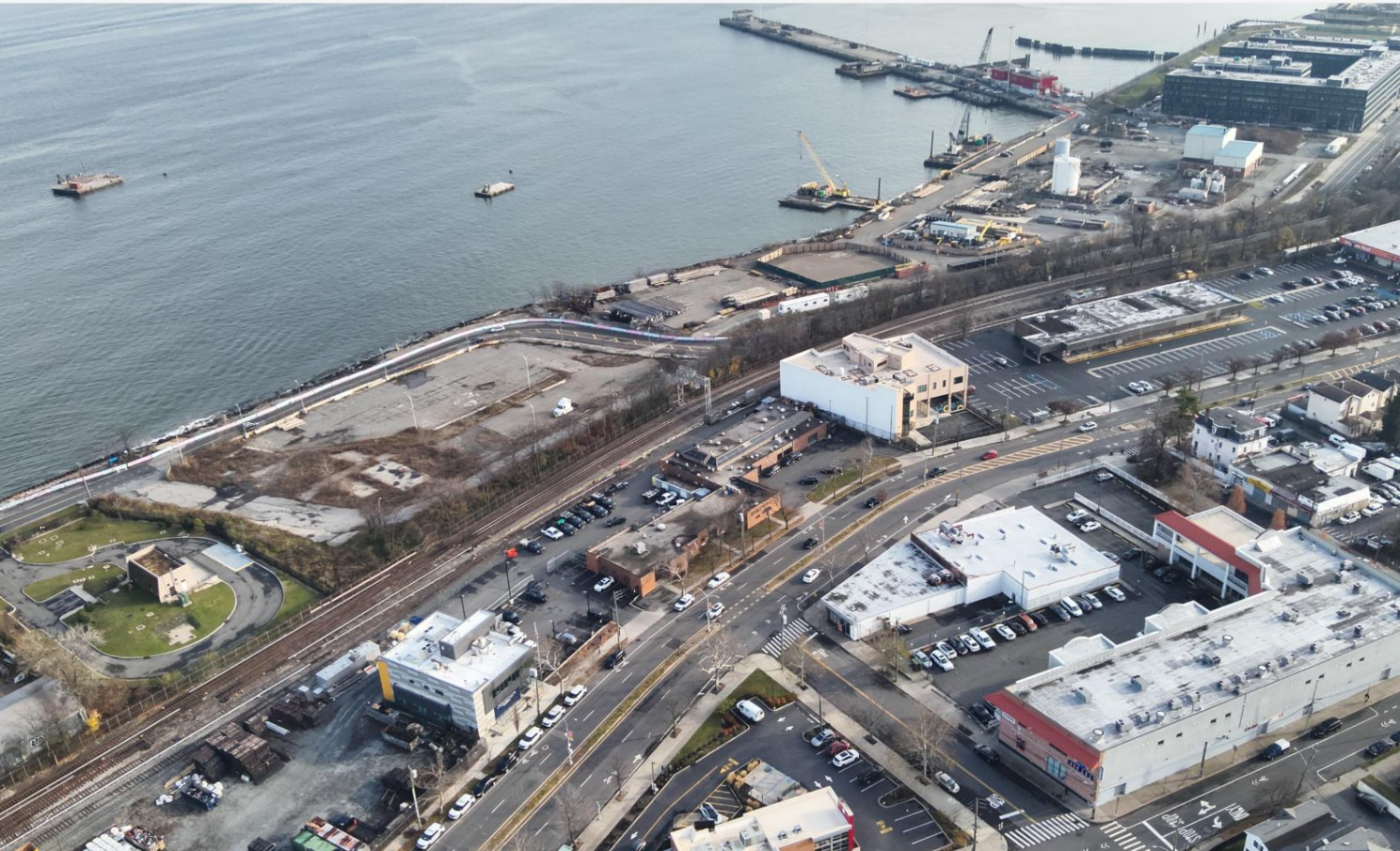
Purpose and Programs

In the footprint of the old Cromwell Center (on a pier destroyed by the hurricane), the new Learning Dock will host a vessel for ecology and sustainability related education and training.

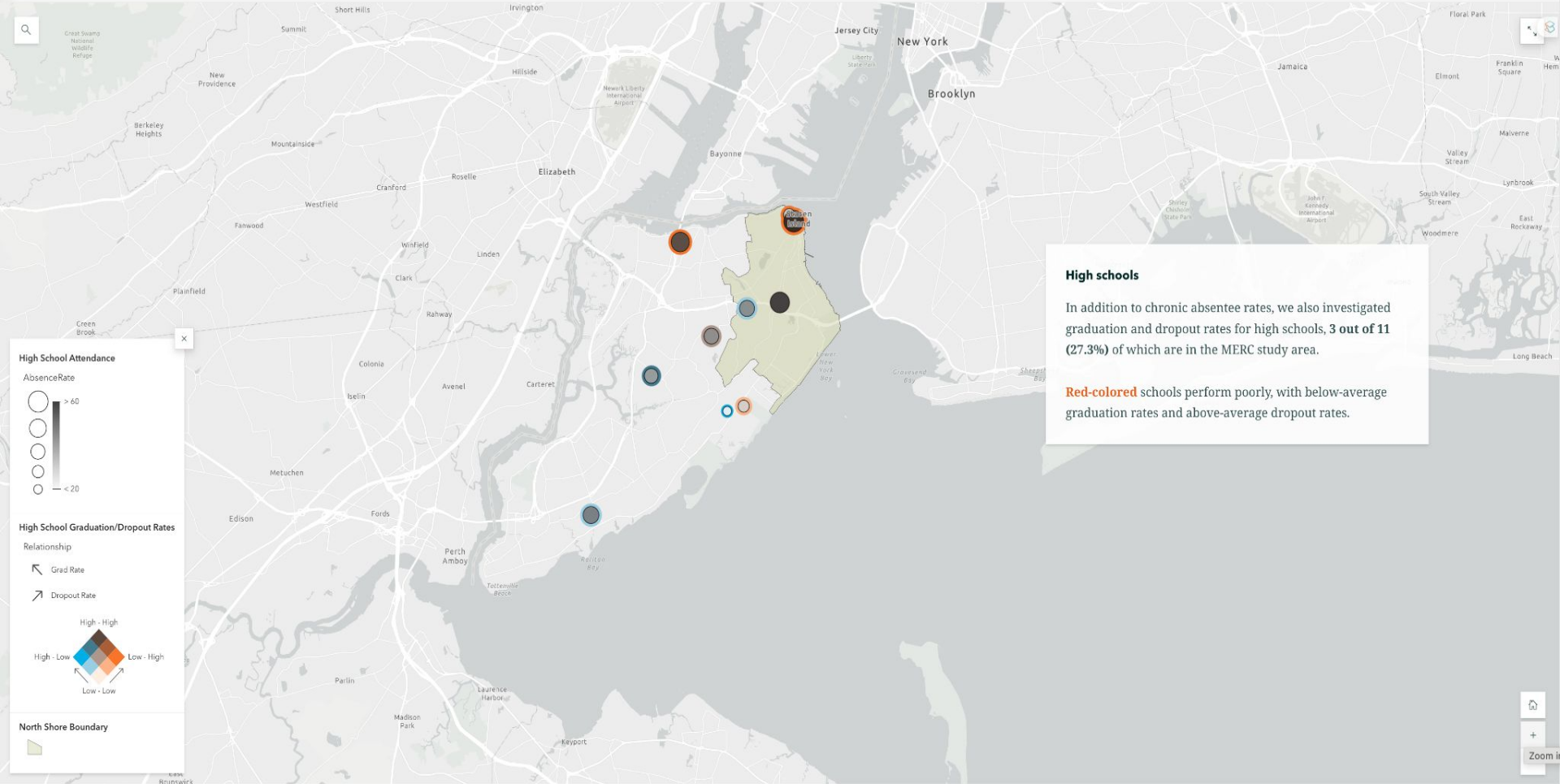


Purpose and Programs

A new Cromwell Recreation Center will be built adjacent to Lyons Pool, on top of the parking lot (on the right), creating indoor sport facilities for basketball, swimming, and others.

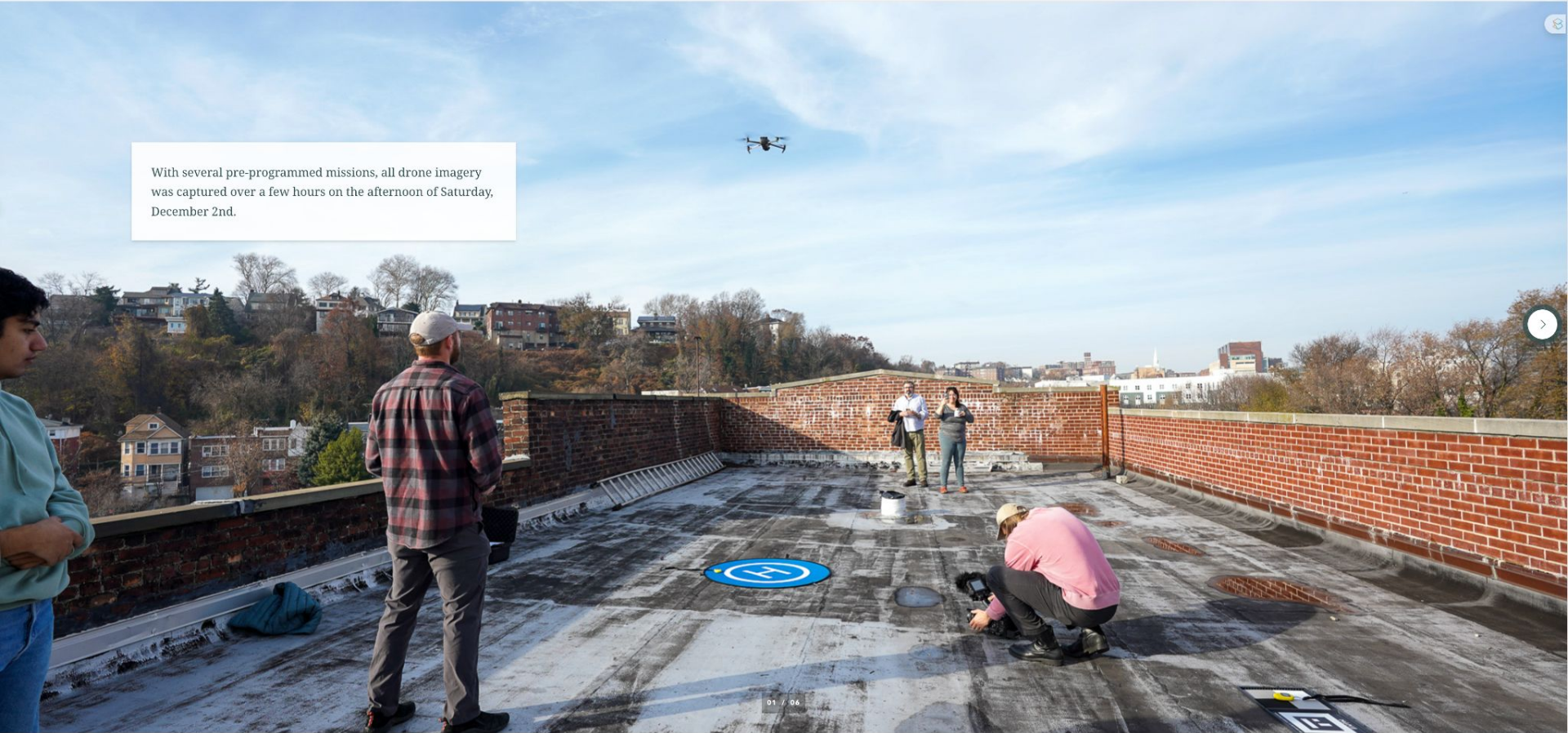


Bird-eye view of what the lots currently look like





With several pre-programmed missions, all drone imagery was captured over a few hours on the afternoon of Saturday, December 2nd.





Project

StatenIslandFieldWork112923

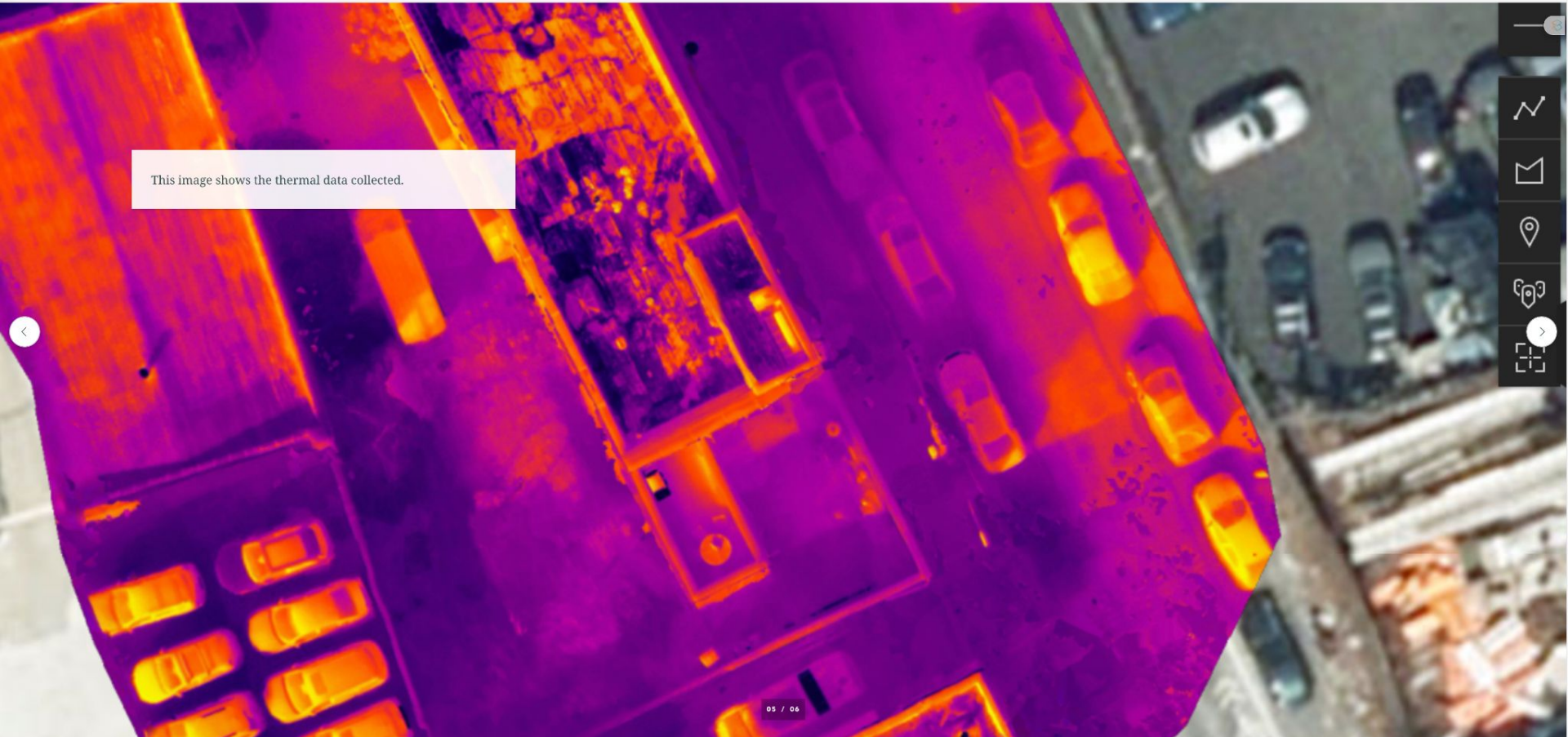
Mission

60HannahStreet

Date

12/2/2023





This image shows the thermal data collected.

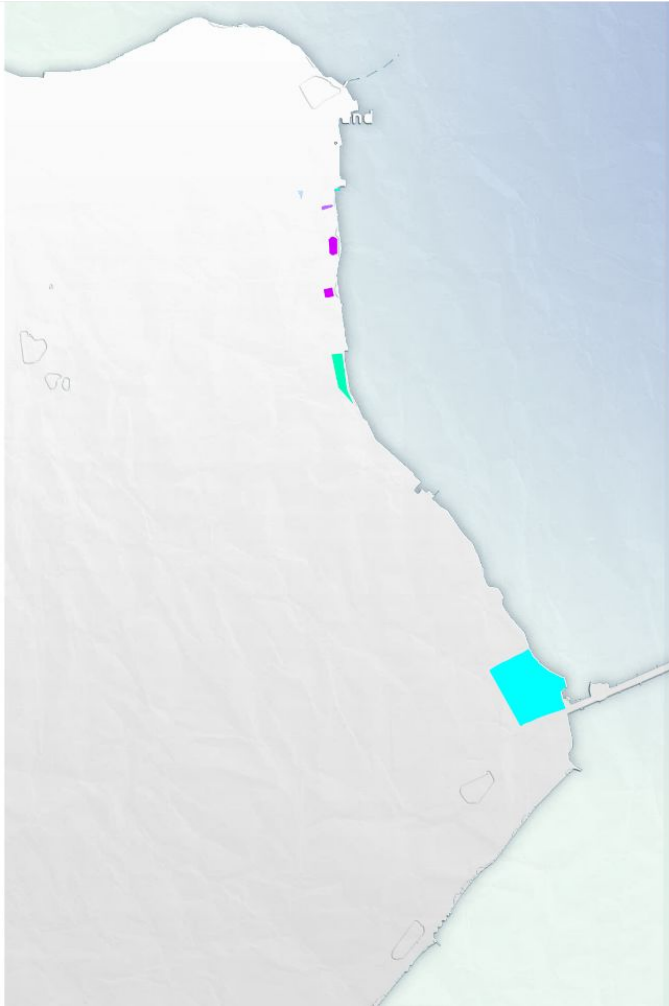
Navigation icons: Home, Line graph, Envelope, Location pin, Share, and Full screen.





This image shows the contour data collected.

Navigation controls including zoom in (+), zoom out (-), home, location, and other map interaction icons.



*"We are a waterfront. We
should act like one."*

Kelly Vilar, Staten Island Urban Center

- Alex Diaz, Harlem Housing Project | Alex Diaz-Casos adiaz039@citymail.cuny.edu
 1. Possibilities of retrofitting in Manhattanville; modeling; Alex's tool

<https://adiaz039.wixsite.com/retrofit-manhattan>

2. How WE ACT can participate in sustainable transition without creating more gentrification and displacement; possibilities for the Inflation Reduction Act

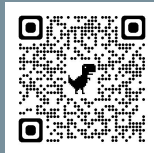
From CCNY Minors to Internships to Full Time Job at WE ACT for Environmental Justice



Marileidy Pimentel, BS in Earth Science
(She/her/Ella)
WE ACT Bilingual Community Organizer

Cell: 646-532-1101(work)

E-mail: Marileidy.pimentel@weact.org



WE ACT

For Environmental Justice



Since 1988 WE ACT has worked to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and low income people participate in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. WE ACT advocates for policy change at local, state and federal levels on these focus area with different working groups.



CLEAN AIR



CLIMATE JUSTICE



HEALTHY HOMES



SUSTAINABLE LAND USE



AFFORDABLE, EQUITABLE TRANSIT



OPEN & GREEN SPACE



WASTE, PESTS & PESTICIDES REDUCTION



TOXIC FREE PRODUCTS



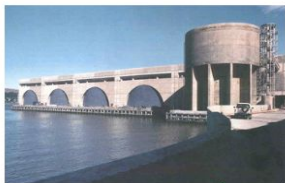
FOOD JUSTICE



WATER QUALITY

WE ACT Timeline - **Línea De Tiempo**

The Birth of WE ACT / North River Sewage Treatment Plant



1988



North River Sewage Treatment Plant

1988-1993

West Harlem Piers Park



1997-2004



Dump Dirty Diesel Campaign to reduce bus emissions

2000-2009

New York City's Local Law 97 optimizing building energy systems



2008-2014



The Mother Clara Hale become the first green depot built by the MTA.

2019

Launch of Justice40ward Campaign & COP27



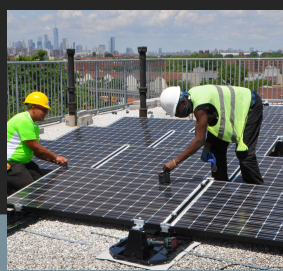
2021



New York City's Local Law 154 Gas-Free NYC.

2022

<p>Climate Justice To transition away from fossil fuels and mitigate the effects of climate change in a fair and safe manner for all communities</p>	<p>Healthy Homes To promote homes that are safe and conducive to overall well-being, addressing health and safety concerns such as lead, indoor allergens, radon, and carbon monoxide</p>
<p>NYCHA To ensure the growth and improvement of NYCHA housing</p>	<p>Transportation Promotes equitable and sustainable public transportation for all through grassroots organizing, policy work, and community-based research</p>
<p>Beauty Inside Out Helps girls and femme-identifying people of color in Northern Manhattan and the South Bronx make informed choices about their beauty products through research and surveys</p>	<p>Workforce Development To advocate for a just and equitable transition to clean energy for all communities, with a focus on providing green job opportunities to all New Yorkers</p>
<p>Civic Engagement Developing voter and civic engagement campaigns, focusing on this year's Federal, State Senate, NYS Comptroller, State Assembly, Attorney General, Lt. Gov, and Governor races</p>	



WORKING GROUPS



CLIMATE JUSTICE

Meetings are the third Tuesday of the month at 6pm



HEALTHY HOMES

Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm



NYCHA

Meetings are the fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30pm



TRANSPORTATION

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 6pm



BEAUTY INSIDE OUT

Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

To find out about upcoming meetings, email Charles@weact.org



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. Email pamela@weact.org for more info.



WE ACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

1854 Amsterdam Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10031 // 212-961-1000
50 F Street, NW, Suite 550, Washington, DC 20001 // 202-800-5896

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BECOME A SUPPORTER / Conviértete En Un Partidario

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