

# DATA, PEOPLE, PLACES

## APPROACH:

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### CO-ENVISIONING THE

### RENOVATION OF THE

### BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

# KARP STRATEGIES

## MISSION

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Karp Strategies is a WBE-, DBE-, SBE-certified urban planning and strategy consulting firm that partners with organizations to identify their unique needs and provide tailored solutions.

We take analysis to action to help our cross-sector clients tackle challenges, make decisions, and advance their projects.

We strive to build stronger communities, systems, economies, and cities.



TOWN + GOWN: RESILIENT PUBLIC SPACES AND COMMUNITIES

**KARP STRATEGIES**  
URBAN PLANNING ADVISORS



# KARP STRATEGIES

## VALUES

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We take analysis to action to help our cross-sector clients tackle challenges, make decisions, and advance their projects.

Our firm examines every project from a holistic angle, incorporating people, data, and place as core tenets.

We believe in doing good to do well, and that equity and upside work hand in hand.



# AGENDA

**1 | CONTEXT**

**2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

**3 | CLOSING THE FEEDBACK LOOP**



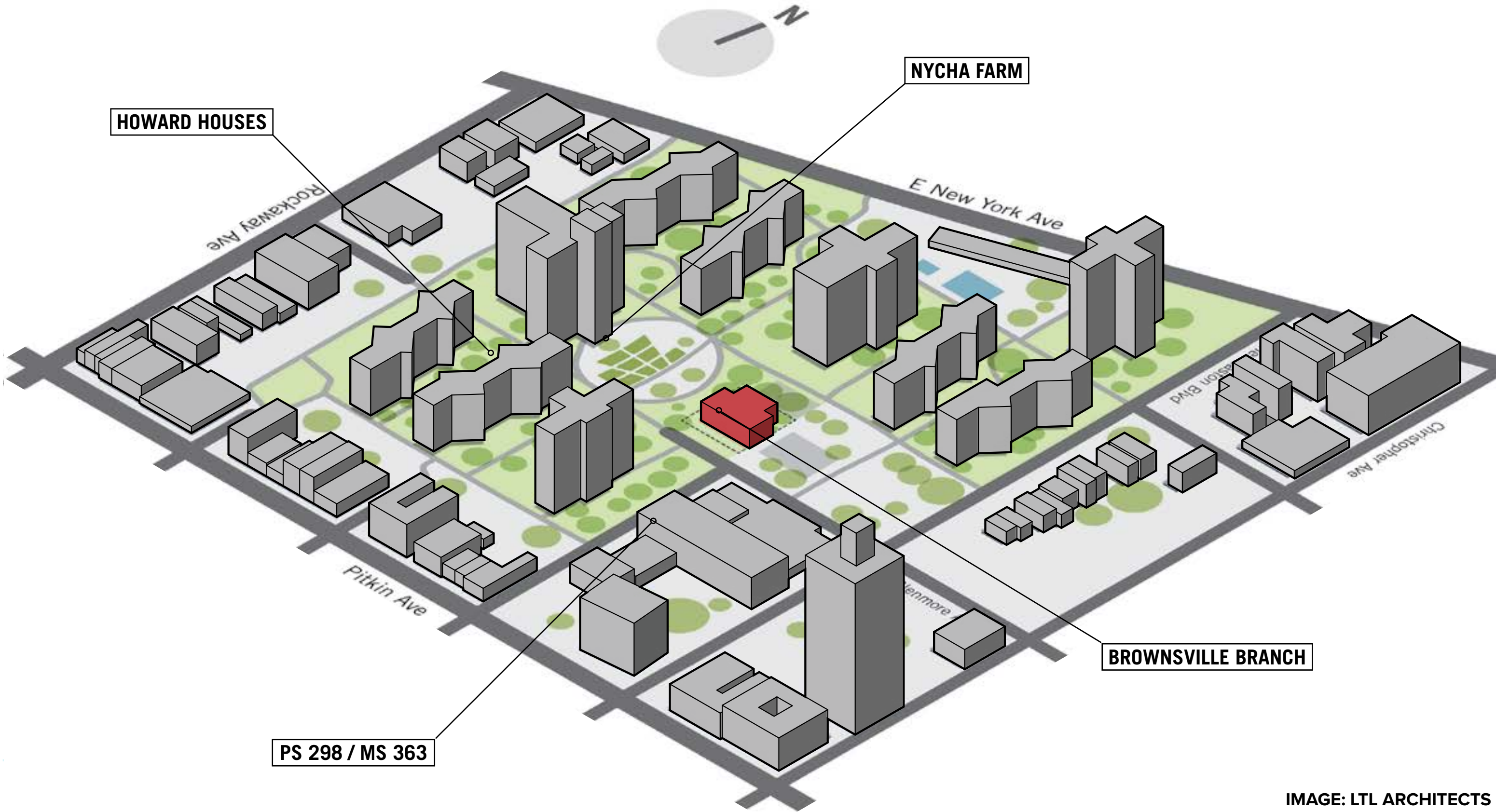
# 1 | CONTEXT

## BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

1. TO FOSTER LITERACY AND THE LOVE OF LEARNING
2. TO SUPPLY TRUSTED, UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION RESOURCES AND GUIDE PATRONS TO THE ONES THEY NEED
3. TO CONNECT RESIDENTS TO EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
4. TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND PROMOTE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
5. TO PROVIDE INCLUSIVE AND INSPIRATIONAL PLACES



# 1 | CONTEXT





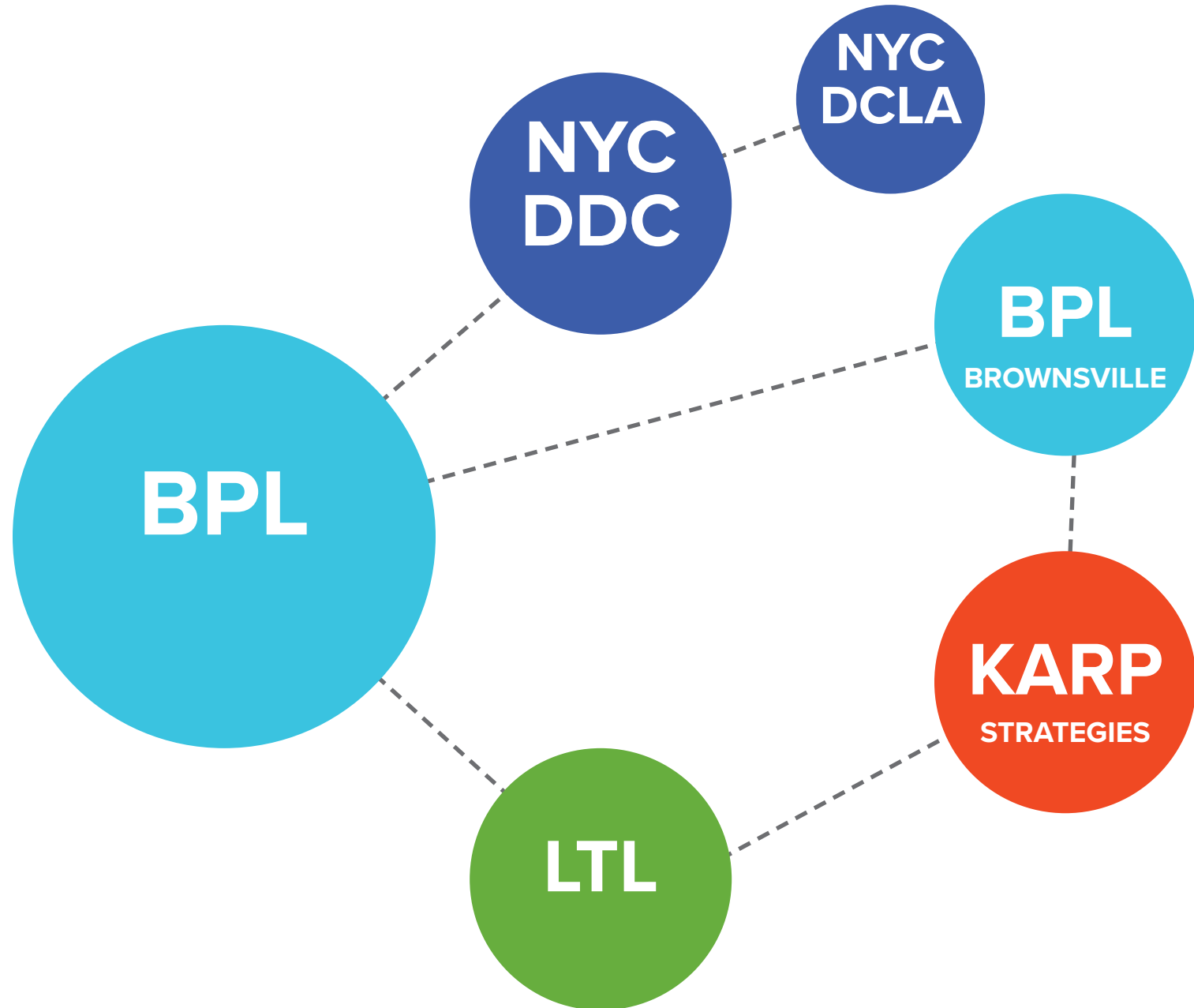
# 1 | CONTEXT

## HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY



# 1 | CONTEXT

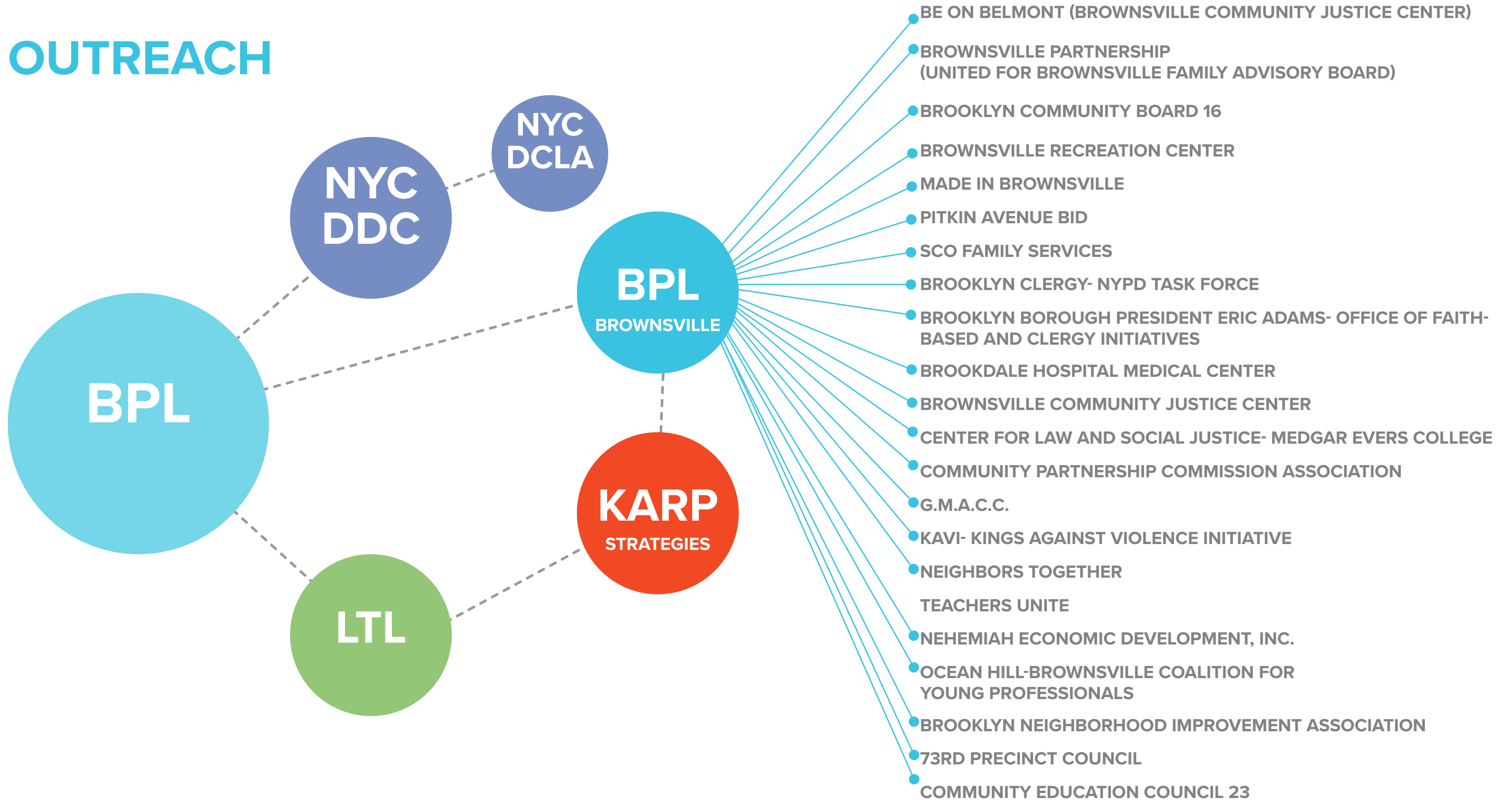
## KEY STAKEHOLDER





# 1 | CONTEXT

## OUTREACH



# 2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



6  
Staff Interviews

23-36  
Participants

26  
Participants

12  
Participants



**REPORT OUT**

**Branch Staff Interviews**

**Community Workshop**

**Teen Workshop**

**Family Workshop**

**Report Out**

**Construction Starts 2021**



**Design Development**

FALL 2018

WINTER 2018

WINTER 2019

SPRING 2019

SUMMER 2019

FALL 2019

WINTER 2019



# 2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP!





# 2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP!

**RELAXING AND CONTROLLABLE ENVIRONMENT:** Participants voiced widespread desire for the library to be a place where they could control their environment in distinct ways.

**ACCOMMODATING MULTIPLE USER TYPES/DYNAMIC FLEXIBLE SPACE:** Five of six tables expressed the need for spaces that **serve multiple users** – and especially different age groups – and functions at different times.

**ART AND HISTORY:** Participants expressed their appreciation for the **history of the library** and the Brownsville neighborhood.

**BEYOND THE WALLS:** From connecting to the community garden at the Howard Houses next door, to creating rotating exhibitions to display outside, **to making the roof available for activities**, many participants were excited by the prospect of bringing aspects of the library outdoors and **connecting it to the larger neighborhood context**.

**CELEBRATION AND INCLUSION:** Alongside the discussions of art, history, and dynamic spaces, participants raised the idea of the **library being a celebratory space**.

**GREEN:** Five out of the six tables emphasized that some sort of greenery be incorporated into the branch, whether it be through indoor plants and green walls, a **rooftop space, or connection between adjacent greenery and the branch**.

**HEALTH & WELLNESS:** Multiple tables and individual participants expressed their implicit and explicit desires for the future library to **incorporate health and wellness qualities**.



# 2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

## YOUTH WORKSHOP!





# 2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

## YOUTH WORKSHOP!

**BOLSTERING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS + MUCH MORE THAN A LIBRARY:** At all of the six tables, participants expressed their desire to have a **community space** that goes beyond a place to access books.

**DESIGNATED TEEN SPACE:** A space designated for teens where **participants could “hang out” and connect with friends.**

**CONNECTION TO BASKETBALL, PLAY, AND PERFORMING SPACES:** Participants shared their interest in **performance and music production.**

**ENTERTAINMENT, TECH, AND GAME ACCESS:** Multiple tables described their ideal branch as **rich in technology resources and experiences**

**INTEGRATING GREENERY AND GARDEN SPACE:** Participants resoundingly expressed the desire for a branch that connects to **green, garden spaces** where they can relax. At five out of six tables, participants created garden spaces that connected to the branch either as a rooftop garden, in the form of a hands-on hydroponics lab, or most often as a bench-filled garden that the branch opens out into. One table described a library with a **rooftop garden** whose entire floor would be covered in moss.

**SPACES DESIGNATED FOR QUIET AND RELAXATION:** All tables prioritized **quiet and relaxation**

**CIVIC BEACONS AND PLAYFUL SPACES TO FOSTER PRIDE AND SENSE OF WELCOME:** Participants described their ideal branches as beautiful, well-designed spaces which featured **playful architectural elements that communicated a civic pride within the surrounding built environment.**



# 2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

## FAMILIES WORKSHOP!





# 2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

## FAMILIES WORKSHOP!

**ACCESS TO OUTDOOR SPACE** : participants envisioned a flexible outdoor space that served as: a) a **quiet and relaxing**; b) a space where patrons can **learn about nature**; and c) an **active space**, where patrons could work out.

**OPENNESS WITH SPECIALIZED SPACES**: Participants expressed the desire for a branch with a **combination of both open, flexible spaces and smaller, more specialized spaces**.

**CAREGIVERS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**: participants envisioned **separate spaces** for parents in **close proximity or with visibility to their children and spaces where parents and children can experience their branch together**.

**TWEENS AND TEENS**: space with a **rich array of resources and experiences** and **spaces and programming for siblings across age**.



# 3 | CLOSING THE FEEDBACK LOOP

## WHAT WE HEARD!

- 1 BEYOND THE WALLS
- 2 INTEGRATING GREENERY AND GARDEN SPACE
- 3 FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY SPACE
- 4 SPACES FOR DIFFERENT AGES
- 5 RICH IN TECH RESOURCES
- 6 SMALLER, SPECIALIZED SPACES
- 7 ENCLOSED QUIET SPACE
- 8 MORE STAFF SPACE
- 9 IMPROVED BATHROOMS
- 10 WELCOMING CIVIC BEACON
- 11 CELEBRATE HISTORY
- 13 NATURAL LIGHT AND WINDOWS
- 14 TEMPERATURE CONTROL

# 3 | CLOSING THE FEEDBACK LOOP

**WHAT ASKED HOW YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WOULD DESIGN BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY AND WE HEARD YOU**

**WHAT WE HEARD YOU SAY**

- BEYOND THE WALLS**  
You want to see the library extend beyond its walls into the surrounding community.
- INTEGRATING GREENERY AND GARDEN SPACE**  
You want to see a garden that connects to green garden space where you can grow things.
- FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY SPACE**  
You want to see a space that can be used for many different activities and events.
- SPACES FOR DIFFERENT AGES**  
You want to see a space that can be used by people of all ages.
- RICH IN TECH RESOURCES**  
You want to see a space that is rich in tech resources.
- SMALLER, SPECIALIZED SPACES**  
You want to see a space that is smaller and more specialized.
- ENCLOSED QUIET SPACE**  
You want to see a space that is enclosed and quiet.
- MORE STAFF SPACE**  
You want to see a space that has more staff space.
- IMPROVED BATHROOMS**  
You want to see a space that has improved bathrooms.

**LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!**

**WHAT ASKED HOW YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WOULD DESIGN BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY AND WE HEARD YOU**

**WHAT WE HEARD YOU SAY**

- WELCOMING CIVIC BEACON**  
You want to see a building that is welcoming and serves as a civic beacon.
- CELEBRATE HISTORY**  
You want to see a building that celebrates the history of the area.
- NATURAL LIGHT AND WINDOWS**  
You want to see a building that has natural light and windows.
- TEMPERATURE CONTROL**  
You want to see a building that has temperature control.

**TRADEOFFS AND TRANSPARENCY**

**OUR BRANCH DESIGN**

**BECAUSE**

**WE HEARD YOU SAY**

**BECAUSE**

**GOALS FOR UPCOMING REPORT OUT**

- 1 COMMUNITY DESIGN**
- 2 FOSTER COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP**
- 3 CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL CBOS**

**WAYS FROM WHAT WE HEARD**

Were you there?

- Branch Staff Interviews
- Community Workshop 23-36
- Teen Workshop 26
- Family Workshop 12
- Report Out

**TODAY!**

**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH THE BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY**

Our branch wants to strengthen our relationships with other incredible community organizations in Brownsville.

What other spaces do you enjoy spending time in? Why?

Which community groups do you feel connected to?

BPL wants to make sure your voice is heard. Please share any additional ideas that this report out has sparked for you in the space below!



# 3 | CLOSING THE FEEDBACK LOOP





# THANK YOU!

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## Q+A