



On September 21, 2015, advocates for healthy food in the upper Manhattan region organized as the Healthy Food for Upper Manhattan (HFUM) workgroup came together to continue collaborations on food-related work in the area. HFUM is a workgroup for communication between public health practitioners, health care providers, community stakeholders, and policy makers, which aims to raise awareness of the role of food policy in our communities and to build strategies to create healthier food environments in East and Central Harlem and Upper Manhattan. This meeting was hosted and organized by the NYC Food Policy Center at Hunter College at the CUNY School Public Health's new offices on 125th street in collaboration with Mt. Sinai Hospital, and Supportive Children's Advocacy Network NY (SCAN NY).

Re-Cap of Last Meeting

The last meeting on June 15th, HFUM convened a panel on "Food and Crime" to explore opportunities for youth to become involved with food programs to further discourage criminal activities. The panelists included Estelle Stryker-Santiago from the New York District Attorney's Office, Judy De La Cruz, Fortune Society, Mac Levine from Concrete Safaris. Key Points include:

1. Various initiatives and programs in the area aim to prevent youth from taking the path of violence and crime and rehabilitating and providing resources for prior offenders. For youth, Saturday Night Lights keeps gyms open late; Fortune Society Culinary Arts Training for former offenders; Concrete Safari puts kids to work and play in gardens that were previously dark places prone to crime

HFUM Visioning Breakout Group

At the June meeting, HFUM Attendees were invited to join a smaller visioning workgroup to create 5-10 year long-term goals for the workgroup. The proposal to work a visioning process for the workgroup titled "Finding Synergy" is available on the NYC Food Policy Center's host website for HFUM. Click [here](#) to view. The first meeting of the visioning workgroup will be on **Tuesday September 29th, 2015 at 2180 Third Avenue at 119th Street, Room: TBD.**

Today's Panel: Rezoning & Food

Today's panel discussion was surrounding the topic of what rezoning is and what it means for the food movement. The panelists included Kimberly Libman, the Deputy Director for Prevention, Division of Health Policy at the NY Academy of Medicine, Mia Brezin, Assistant District Manager at CB 11, and Carmen Diaz-Malvido, Program Manager of East and Central

Harlem District Public Health Office (DPHO). Below are main points from the panel and announcements.

1. Kim Libman first provided a brief and presentation on zoning
 - Zoning is a legal mechanism of what can happen where:
 - There are direct pathways through zoning initiatives such as the Fresh Initiative which created incentives for food markets on ground floors of tall developments
 - Indirect influences shaped by the residents and their social profiles (influences purchasing power, price and products).
 - EastHarlemPlan.nyc- planning process in community; includes community visioning workshop; Steering Committee; Public Presentation of Draft Plan; Final East Harlem Neighborhood Plan. A rapid health assessment was also mentioned.

2. How do you think rezoning can support the goals of HFUM? What concerns does rezoning raise for you?
 - Mia Brezin: There is a tension between affordable housing and community gardens as NYC Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) is tapping gardens space for development.
 - Carmen Diaz-Malvido: DPHO aims to address health disparities. The departments initiatives includes Wellness School awards; Shop Healthy Initiative where they have spoken to bodega owners in all of 10029 and 19 of which have completed 7+ criteria to be named a healthy store; East Harlem Healthy neighborhoods initiative to support systemic change within community including access to healthy food, bolstering economic opportunities, and support for health food; Health Box; Community walking trails initiative connecting with walking and running groups; Tapping into Randall's Island and Central Park resource; HealthBucks redemption rates at 80% in EH; DPHO has a Doris Duke foundation grant for pre-K and kindergarten level nutrition education.
 - Mia Brezin: The areas of East Harlem looked at for Re zoning in 2013 include Park Ave 115-132nd. The administration change stopped this plan. New plans should Mandatory inclusionary zoning where affordable housing must be included. Currently all of District 11 is being looked at for rezoning, but not all will be rezoned.

Question, Answers and Comments

1. Dr. Nick Freudenberg: We do not want to miss the bigger picture. So far about \$2 Billion investments in EH have been made for upper scale buildings and residential. Take the example of Extell development (this company were the one's who created the "poor door") and they will shut down PathMark soon. These decisions have already been made (without community input) and will continue to be made until Rezoning occurs.
 - Kim Libman: This planning process and assessment should be done by January 2016.
2. Kim Libman: How can we glue people to the neighborhood? Supporting home ownership would be a great thing but is not possible for many given their economic realities as they are now.

- Carmen Diaz-Malvido: Suggests looking to what other neighborhoods are doing in terms of housing and rezoning, including South Bronx and East New York and the Hester Street Collaborative.
- 3. Dennis Derryck: WEACTION is working on housing and climate resiliency plans. They are part of the working subgroups of the East Harlem Plan. We need more "501c4"- members who are organizing in the community.
- 4. Mia Brezin: There are many issues in NYCHA and community visioning sessions will take place within NYCHA developments.
- 5. Carmen Diaz-Malvido: On the community capacity building piece- residents can hold elected officials accountable and build civic participation. The January deadline for the East Harlem Plan is the beginning of conversation and residents should give feedback and take action to ensure a feedback loop. Continue to build voices that are not at the table, get community members more involved.

Funding Opportunities & Program Updates

1. SCAN-NY received funding from the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund through the United Neighborhood Houses Creating Healthy NYCHA Communities Through Food Project. SCAN will work closely with NYCHA residents primarily at the Johnson Cornerstone Center in East Harlem to improve access to, and use of healthy food.
2. Carla from United Way- Seed grant for Urban Farming- for Emergency Food programs and CBOs interested in starting urban farms. Deadline for Application is October 1st, 2015. Seed Grant Application workshop will be held at UWNYP, 2105 East 42nd Street, 13th Fl, New York, NY 10017 on September 24, 2015 at 10am to 11:30am. Click [here](#) for more information.
3. East Harlem Plan Public Meetings:
 - a. Thursday October 22 at 6:30- 8:30 PM- Community Visioning Workshop #5: Zoning, Land Use, Affordable Housing Development. DREAM Charter School, 1991 2nd Ave.
4. Fresh Food Boxes from DPHO – A hand-selected mix of fresh, locally grown produce available for pick up for \$12 on Thursdays from 3:30-6:30pm at the East Harlem District Public Health Office, 161-169 East 110th Street, New York, NY. Contact Cinthia De La Rosa for more information at cdelarosa@health.nyc.gov
5. NHEMA Uptown Grand Central Plaza at 125th and Park- Space between 125th and 124th- Reinvigorating Space. Will host Food Day on October 24th and the Big Apple Crunch. Gale Brewer will be in attendance.
6. Hally Chu at the Manhattan Borough President's Office: Fresh food box for seniors- \$8 box- Pick up sites include Central Harlem Senior Center, East Harlem senior nutrition program- NYCHA Lincoln senior center
7. Concrete Safaris- Join Concrete Safaris for their fall Garden Volunteer Sessions from 10am -1pm at Jefferson Gardens and Mad Fun Farm in Upper Manhattan. Click [here](#) for more information about their upcoming gardening events.
8. Cada Paso – Cada Paso is holding their second Greenmarkets walk of the season this Saturday, Sept 26th from 10 to noon, with a visit to Chenchita's Garden where they'll have a customized farmer's market set up for our families to spend Health Bucks. There will be activities for the whole family, including gardening, arts and crafts, free books for the children, and we'll be cooking food on the spot, all in the beautiful setting of the

garden. Check out a video of the last Greenmarkets walk:
<https://youtu.be/r09bnsOIcc8>

Next Meeting

1. Our next general HFUM meeting will be on **Monday December 7th at 12:00pm,**
Location: TBD.