

Your LIC: Density & Uses: Comprehensive Planning for an Inclusive LIC
(see full transcript of workshop notes [HERE](#))

This is a summary of key takeaways and recommendations by participants in community engagement activities focused on Density & Uses: Comprehensive Planning for an Inclusive LIC.

This outreach was conducted by the Your LIC team, and includes online submissions on this topic by the public at YourLIC.nyc and a webinar with more than 170 participants on June 30, 2020. Because of the declared State of Emergency by Governor Cuomo due to COVID-19, this workshop was held online and included breakout sessions and a Q&A session. You can read a summary of the expert presentations and key takeaways from the webinar, including concerns voiced by participants, along with a full video of the webinar [here](#).

Next Steps: The Your LIC team will use the aspirations and suggestions to inform density and uses for the waterfront development project.

Takeaway 1: Any new development needs to be equitable and benefit the entire community, with a priority on jobs creation and housing, especially affordable housing. The team needs to make sure that workforce development is equitable and protects manufacturers and artists.

“We need a workforce plan that supports all members of the community. LIC schools don’t have open space. How do we engage K-12, LaGCC, veterans, and artists?” - Workshop 5 Participant

“You guys have talked a lot about housing and public open space. What would it take for you to increase the amount of housing in this space? Can you build higher? What we need is more affordable housing.” - Workshop 5 Participant

Summary of Participants’ Input (see full text [HERE](#))

- **Any new development needs to be equitable and benefit the entire community, with a priority on jobs creation:** The team needs to consider opportunities to expand programs to generate employment opportunities for the broader neighborhood and develop standards and programs to stop this development from leading to community displacement. The scale and density need respect the broader community.
- **Housing – especially affordable housing – needs to be a cornerstone of the project:** The City needs more housing, and this project should maximize affordable housing, with a goal of alleviating overcrowding. This housing should be genuinely affordable for the community.

Takeaway 2: Create a true mixed-use district that ensures that infrastructure can handle increased capacity, including wastewater and transportation, and ensure that the design of the project leads to inclusive, equitable benefits for all of Long Island City.

“I have lived here for 20 years. How is this density going to affect the infrastructure of our community? We are already so dense with the amount of people going in and out of the city and the subway cannot support our density. What is this development going to do to help that?” - Workshop 5 Participant

“My concern is that even if 50% of people working in these buildings already live in the community, you’ll still have new people joining the community. Our infrastructure is already overburdened. I struggle to believe that this vision will really address the issues of adding that many more people to this small area. How will this benefit people who already live here without overburdening the area?” - Workshop 5 Participant

Summary of Participants’ Input (see full text [HERE](#))

- **Create a true mixed-use district that ensures that infrastructure can handle increased capacity, including wastewater and transportation:** The team needs to identify mechanisms to limit impact on sewers along with understanding the full impact on the city’s transit system. A priority needs to be linking together residents and job hubs and creating a walkable, bikeable, and accessible neighborhood.
- **Ensure that the design of the project fosters an inclusive, equitable district with real benefits for the Long Island City community:** The team needs to leverage lessons learned from mixed-use districts across the world to make sure the same mistakes are not repeated, along with developing accountability measures to ensure that the community is positively benefited from the development.

Takeaway 3: The vision for the waterfront should take into account the height of buildings, the ratio of density to public open space, the impact of COVID-19, and the broader impact on the Long Island City community.

“How can developers maximize the amount of housing for this project? As we’ve seen with COVID, overcrowding is a serious problem, and we need real solutions to address it.” - Workshop 5 Participant

“I’ve lived here since I was four years old, and 25 years ago I heard the same stuff from the Queens Clock Tower. How do we know you can pull this off and what are the assurances to the people who already live here that you will provide real benefits for the community?” - Workshop 5 Participant

Summary of Participants’ Input (see full text [HERE](#))

- **The vision for the waterfront should take into account the height of buildings, the ratio of density to public open space, the impact of COVID-19, and the broader impact on the Long Island City community:** The team needs to study the full impact of incoming stores, parking,

tower heights, and more on the broader community. Public land should be used for public benefit and public use.

- **Take into account the impact of COVID-19 in designing the district:** The team needs to analyze the conditions created as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (such as the impact on Class-A office space) to inform planning, along with prioritizing creating a district that can sustain a 15-minute neighborhood and does not burden infrastructure. Select participants were critical of the density and height, suggesting that open space would be a better use of the land.

Takeaway 4: Identify mechanisms to ensure that new development is resilient and sustainable and does not put the Long Island City community at additional risk from flooding and climate change.

“I’m concerned that the plans don’t do enough to go beyond the 25-year storm surge, and it seems that open space would be more effective than new development at protecting the community from flooding.” - Workshop 5 Participant

“This project shouldn’t just be resilient -- it should help create a sustainable way of life for residents and visitors that promotes environmental efficiency.” - Workshop 5 Participant

Summary of Participants’ Input (see full text [HERE](#))

- **Identify mechanisms to ensure that new development is resilient and sustainable and does not put the Long Island City community at additional risk from flooding and climate change:** The project should promote the maximum number of residential units possible to promote dense, environmentally friendly living, demonstrate how it will help protect the community during rain events, not push water into the community, and communicate plans with the public on strategies to clean historically contaminated land.
- **The district needs to be designed to make Long Island City more resilient to flooding and climate change:** The project should balance open space and development to maximize the amount of protection delivered, leveraging storm surge barriers and absorbent green space, as well as go beyond traditional standards for resiliency and create infrastructure that can broadly reduce the community’s carbon footprint.