

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT'S

RESEARCH & POLICY INITIATIVE UPDATE
MARCH 2014 - MARCH 2015

URBAN
JUSTICE
CENTER



COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT



RESEARCH FOR
ORGANIZING



RECENT RESEARCH & POLICY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For the Community Development Project's Research & Policy Initiative, it has been another exciting and productive year. In 2014, the Research & Policy team presented our research on Participatory Budgeting at the White House and joined other academics and researchers at the first meeting of the North American Participatory Budgeting Research Board in Oakland, California. We released a total of six reports in partnerships with community groups and are currently providing support for four additional campaigns and research endeavors.

The impact of our research support has taken root in the lives of our community partners and expands widely across the city. The grassroots community groups with which we work have been able to further their campaigns for social and economic justice in the realms of post-Sandy recovery, food processing and distribution, financial access for immigrants in Queens, domestic worker justice, and more. CDP's research has allowed these groups to strengthen their organizational capacities and magnify their calls for expanded justice in New York City and beyond.

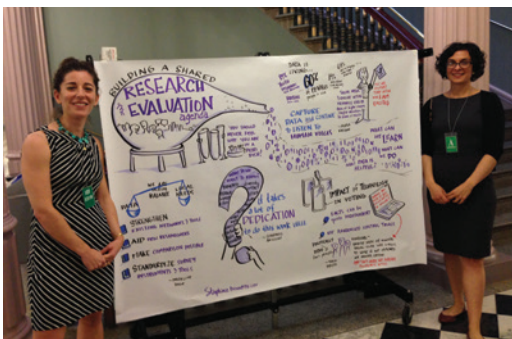
In this update, you will find information about our recently published reports as well as information about some of our current and upcoming projects and initiatives.

For more information about our reports and current projects, feel free to contact Alexa Kasdan, Director of Research & Policy, at akasdan@urbanjustice.org.

Thank you for your continued support of the Community Development Project and the Research & Policy team!

Alexa Kasdan
Director of Research & Policy

RESEARCH & POLICY TEAM PRESENTS AT WHITE HOUSE CONVENING ON PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



On May 13th, the Research & Policy team participated in a convening hosted by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, titled "Promoting Innovation in Civic Engagement: Exploring Participatory Budgeting in the United States."

CDP's Director of Research & Policy, Alexa Kasdan, presented about CDP's research and evaluation work for the Participatory Budgeting process in New York City. The agenda also featured several of CDP's partners, including Sondra Youdelman and Agnes Rivera of Community Voices Heard and Josh Lerner of the Participatory Budgeting Project. The meeting was attended by Participatory

Budgeting stakeholders from around the country as well as representatives from the New York City Council Speaker and Mayor's offices as well as the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

NORTH AMERICAN PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING RESEARCH BOARD AND INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING CONFERENCE



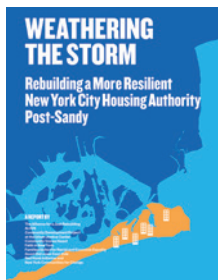
In June, CDP's Alexa Kasdan and Erin Markman were invited to join the newly formed North American Participatory Budgeting Research Board, which brings together key researchers and organizations with the aim of promoting collaborative PB research efforts in North America.

The first meeting of the board coincided with the annual International Participatory Budgeting conference in California, where both Alexa and Erin were invited speakers. This year's Participatory Budgeting conference brought together a diverse and passionate group of people to discuss international and local experiences of researching and evaluating PB. The conference included a brainstorming session entitled "Research Priorities: Evaluation and Beyond" that encouraged PB

leaders to inform the work of the North American PB Research Board. CDP's presentation was among several that called attendees to think deeply on issues like how PB impacts the likelihood of voting in future elections, how technology could be incorporated into PB without excluding marginalized communities, and how PB researchers can measure the quality of deliberation among PB participants.

NEW REPORTS

WEATHERING THE STORM: REBUILDING A MORE RESILIENT NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY POST-SANDY



Together with community partners including Community Voices Heard, Alliance for a Just Rebuilding, ALIGN, GOLES, FUREE, Faith in New York, the Red Hook Initiative, and New York Communities for Change, CDP released "Weathering the Storm: Rebuilding a More Resilient NYCHA Post-Sandy" on March 12th at a press conference on the steps of City Hall. The report was based on 600 surveys of NYCHA residents and revealed that public housing tenants in the areas most affected by Superstorm Sandy are still suffering from mold, inadequate heat, slow repairs, and a lack of job opportunities almost 17 months after the storm. The report release garnered extensive media coverage from the Wall Street Journal, NY Daily News, and NY1.

Several Council Members, including Public Housing Committee chair Ritchie Torres, Recovery and Resiliency Committee chair Mark Treyger, and Carlos Menchaca spoke in support of the report. NYCHA also released a statement commending the report and committing to work with the organizations that produced the report to ensure that NYCHA residents are well prepared for future storms.

Read the report here: http://cdp.urbanjustice.org/sites/default/files/CDP.WEB.doc_Report_WeatheringTheStorm-full_201403.pdf

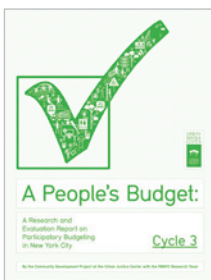
FEEDING NEW YORK: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKERS IN NEW YORK CITY'S FOOD MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY



On June 24th, CDP and Brandworkers held a policy briefing and panel discussion to release "Feeding New York: Challenges and Opportunities for Workers in New York City's Food Manufacturing Industry." The report was released at the Murphy Institute and speakers included workers from the food manufacturing industry, representatives from the Mayor's Office, advocates, and academics. Over 70 people attended the release and the report was covered in the NY Daily News.

Read the report here: http://cdp.urbanjustice.org/sites/default/files/CDP.WEB.doc_Report_FeedingNewYork_20140624.pdf

A PEOPLE'S BUDGET: A RESEARCH AND EVALUATION REPORT ON PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN NEW YORK CITY, YEAR 3



On October 30th, CDP and the PBNYC Research Board hosted a webinar to release "A People's Budget: A Research and Evaluation Report on Cycle 3 of Participatory Budgeting in New York City." This report was the culmination of nearly 9,000 surveys, more than 100 in-depth interviews, and over 50 meeting observations designed to explore the New York City Participatory Budgeting process. PB in New York City began three years ago (in 2011-12) with a historic pilot process in four Council districts. In Cycle 3, the process expanded to ten districts and saw nearly 17,000 people turn out to vote. This made New York's process the largest PB process in the United States to date. And PB continues to grow: in the current cycle it has more than doubled to include nearly half of the City Council districts.

Read the report here: https://cdp.urbanjustice.org/sites/default/files/CDP.WEB.doc_Report_PBNYC-cycle3-FullReport_20141030.pdf

GETTING LES READY: LEARNING FROM HURRICANE SANDY TO CREATE A COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER PLAN FOR THE FUTURE



On November 17th, CDP along with Good Old Lower East Side and Hester Street Collaborative released "Getting LES Ready: Learning from Hurricane Sandy to Create a Community-Based Disaster Plan for the Future" to more than 100 attendees. Among those in attendance were LES community members, LES Ready member organizations, and elected officials, including representatives from the offices of Governor Cuomo, State Senator Brad Hoylman, Council Member Margaret Chin, Comptroller Scott Stringer, Borough President Gale Brewer, and the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency. Council Member Rosie Mendez and Assembly Member Brian Kavanaugh attended the briefing and addressed the audience. This report was the culmination of over 640 surveys of Lower East Side residents, 29 surveys from local organizations, and eight focus groups and explored the LES community's experience during and after Hurricane Sandy. The report will go on to inform a community-based disaster relief plan being created by LES Ready, the long term recovery group in the Lower East Side.

Read the report here: http://cdp.urbanjustice.org/sites/default/files/CDP.WEB.doc_Report_LESready_20141117.pdf

THE ELDERCARE DIALOGUES: A GRASSROOTS STRATEGY TO TRANSFORM LONG-TERM CARE



On December 11th, CDP, Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, Damayan, Adhikaar, and National Domestic Workers Alliance released “The Eldercare Dialogues: A Grassroots Strategy to Transform Long-term Care” to over 125 attendees. Among those in attendance were care recipients, caregivers, domestic workers, allies, and elected officials, including representatives from the offices of Speaker Mark-Viverito, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, NYC’s Department for the Aging, and the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs. Council Member Helen Rosenthal also attended the briefing and addressed the crowd. The report explored the experiences of caregivers and care recipients in the movement to transform long-term care and ensure that caregivers and recipients have the support they need to age and work with dignity. The full report includes a toolkit so other communities can learn from and replicate the Dialogue process.

Read the report here: https://cdp.urbanjustice.org/sites/default/files/CDP.WEB.doc_Report_Eldercare-Dialogues_20141211.pdf

BRIDGING THE GAP: OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO IMMIGRANT FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT IN NORTHWEST QUEENS



On Wednesday February 25th, the Northwest Queens Financial Education Network, including the Community Development Project, Chhaya CDC, New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE) and Queens Community House (QCH) released their new report, “Bridging the Gap: Overcoming Barriers to Immigrant Financial Empowerment in Northwest Queens.” The report, which is based on 253 surveys, explores how immigrants in Northwest Queens save and manage money and the barriers they face in doing so. The report also provides concrete suggestions for how policy makers and financial institutions can improve financial empowerment for immigrant communities in Queens and across New York City. Speakers from the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs and the New York State Office of the Attorney General gave remarks at the report release event, and representatives from the New York

City Office of Financial Empowerment, Office of Emergency Management, Department of Youth and Community Development, Office of U.S. Representative Joseph Crowley, and Office of New York City Council Member Daniel Garodnick were in attendance. Representatives from a variety of community-based organizations and financial institutions were also present. The report was covered in the New York Daily News and El Diario and several other outlets.

Read the report here: https://cdp.urbanjustice.org/sites/default/files/CDP.WEB.doc_Report_Bridging_the_Gap_20150225.pdf

CURRENT PROJECTS

CAAHV LANGUAGE ACCESS



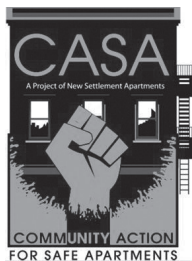
CDP has partnered with CAAHV: Organizing Asian Communities on a project that will center on the experience of Asian public housing residents. Issues of language access have emerged as a primary issue of concern for Asian tenants of public housing.

Together, CDP and CAAHV will identify the main issues that arise for Asian residents with limited English proficiency in interfacing with public housing systems, hear their stories, highlight opportunities for organizing and systemic reform, and strengthen multi-racial organizing in public housing.

STAND FOR TENANT SAFETY CAMPAIGN

The Stand for Tenant Safety campaign aims to pass a package of city level legislation to improve enforcement and protection of rent regulated tenants in buildings undergoing aggressive renovations of vacant apartments in buildings in rapidly gentrifying or high real estate value neighborhoods across New York City. The campaign is being organized by Cooper Square Committee, St. Nicks Alliance, CAAHV: Organizing Asian Communities, Urban Homesteading Assistance Board, Fifth Avenue Committee, and Tenants and Neighbors. As part of this campaign, CDP is coordinating a community based research project to document the experience of tenants- in rent-regulated apartments that have experienced major construction work in their buildings. This will include surveys and in depth interviews with tenants in buildings undergoing major construction, as well as secondary data collection to review permits and violations for buildings that we have surveyed. This data will help the coalition to more effectively educate their members, build their base, and organize and advocate for the legislation.

CITY-WIDE RENT FEES RESEARCH



This project, will explore the extent to which rent-stabilized tenants across the city are being charged non-rent fees by their landlords. A previous report—The Burden of Fees: How Affordable Housing Is Made Unaffordable—by New Settlement Apartments' Community Action for Safe Apartment (CASA) and CDP demonstrated that one of the biggest landlords in the Bronx, Chestnut Holdings, was systematically charging such fees. This project will expand upon those findings to other neighborhoods in the city in order to reveal the scale and scope of the issue, illustrate the impact on tenants, and identify differences between neighborhoods or landlords. This research will be used to help move forward New York City and State level legislation related to non-rent fees.

PB CYCLE 4



In this 2015-2016 cycle, PB in New York City is undergoing a significant expansion (from 10 participating Council members in Cycle 3 to 24 participating members in Cycle 4) and, for the first time, resources and coordination for the process are being provided by the New York City Council Speaker's office. This year's research will focus on evaluating how PB is implemented in each participating district, exploring best practices for outreach and engagement, examining the extent to which participation in PB has an impact on other forms of civic engagement (such

as voting in regular elections), looking at the work of community based organizations which are contracted to conduct outreach to target communities, and conducting a large-scale survey project of PB voters.

RESEARCH & POLICY IN THE NEWS

DAILY NEWS

17 months after Hurricane Sandy, NYCHA residents are still waiting for repairs: report

NY Daily News, March 11, 2014

https://cdp.urbanjustice.org/sites/default/files/CDP.WEB.doc_Media_nydailynews_20140311.pdf

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Sandy Left Scars on Housing, Report Says

Wall Street Journal, March 11, 2014

https://cdp.urbanjustice.org/sites/default/files/CDP.WEB.doc_Media_wsj_20140311.pdf

DAILY NEWS

Survey: Nearly half of the city's food manufacturing workers have been injured on the job

NY Daily News, June 24, 2014

https://cdp.urbanjustice.org/sites/default/files/CDP.WEB.doc_media_nydailynews_20140624.pdf

DAILY NEWS

Many New York immigrants close bank accounts or avoid them, citing language barriers or high transaction fees, new study found

NY Daily News, February 25, 2015

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/immigrants-city-choose-non-bank-options-article-1.2127910>

URBAN JUSTICE CENTER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, RESEARCH & POLICY INITIATIVE

CDP's Research & Policy Initiative partners with and provides strategic support to grassroots community organizations to build the power of their organizing and advocacy work. We utilize a "participatory action research" model in which low-income and excluded communities are central to the design and development of research and policy. Our work consists of the following:

Participatory Action Research Reports: From start to finish, we work with our community partners to design, administer, analyze and write participatory action research reports. These reports are used by our partners to educate community members, engage elected officials, garner media attention and advocate for socially just policies.

Grassroots Policymaking: With community organizations, we research and develop ground-up policy solutions to problems they identify and document.

Popular-Education Curriculum Design and Research Training: Our trainings and tools assist communities in designing and conducting their own research. We also conduct trainings on a variety of research topics to build the capacity of our partner organizations.

Strategic Campaign Research: We conduct background research and develop fact sheets to provide strategic data in support of organizing campaigns. Our partners use these materials in leadership development and base-building and to educate elected and government officials about specific issues and campaigns.

Research for Organizing Toolkit: Our website and toolkit provides resources for organizations to conduct participatory action research (PAR), a people-centered, power-building research method. We have compiled trainings, tools and tips from our work over the last decade into a web-based resource that includes case studies featuring CDP's community partners, workshops, worksheets and templates. This toolkit is designed for organizations and individuals that want to use PAR to support their work towards social justice. For more information, please visit: www.researchfororganizing.org.

For more information, please contact

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