

Greetings!

We hope you've been enjoying the fall! Keep reading for a brief update on what we've been up to:



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RED HOOK IFPS FEASIBILITY STUDY



HSC is taking on long-term resiliency in Red Hook. Working together with Dewberry Engineers, W Architecture, Cooper-Robertson, Hatch Mott MacDonald, and Grain Collective, HSC is engaging Red Hook community members to develop design solutions to meet the climate change challenges of the future. The project is an outgrowth of the state's New York Rising Community Reconstruction planning process and is being funded by HUD and administered by the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Take a look at the plan [here!](#)

LESSONS FROM CUBA



On Tuesday, September 29th, we were thrilled to host a group of Cuban architects, planners and urbanists here at HSC. The delegation met with a group of 30 NYC-based planners and designers to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the island as relations improve between our two countries. We talked about the long history of resourceful, innovative community-based design and planning in Cuba, the need for the institutionalization and expansion of the planning profession, existing public space as an entry point for small democratic development, and a kind of literacy campaign for urbanism. We were joined by:

Miguel Coyula, architect and planner who leads the Group for the Integrated Development of the Capital - a group of community-based workshops/community centers in a number of Havana neighborhoods that serve as the base for participatory design and development.

Patricia Rodriguez, director of the Plan Maestro department of the Office of the Historian of the City of Havana. Patricia oversees the ongoing challenges and opportunities faced by Habana Vieja (Old Havana), and the initiatives underway to address them.

Carlos Rodriguez Estevez, Orlando Inclan and Claudia Castillo, architects and co-founders of Habana Regeneracion, a new group of young architects and urbanists that seeks to develop and showcase new ideas for the future of Havana.

For more information, check out:

[Habana \[Re\]generacion](#)

[Plan Maestro \(Master Plan\) of the City of Havana](#)

NYCT CULTURAL AGENDA WORKSHOP



On September 17th, HSC worked with the [New York Community Trust](#) (NYCT) and the [New York City Cultural Agenda Fund](#) to develop and facilitate an all-day workshop as part of the Cultural Advocacy & Equity Program. The program was launched in April 2015 to provide a cohort of 40 arts advocates the space, time, and resources needed to collectively generate ideas to improve advocacy coordination and foster a more equitable cultural ecosystem in New York.

The workshop series brought together leaders from a wide range of NYC arts organizations, including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Queens Museum, and the Public Theater. HSC led the final workshop of the 4-part series, which focused on identifying ways that arts organizations could partner with one another and with community-based organizations to address social justice issues impacting their communities and connect to City-wide land use and development initiatives.

For more information on the NYC Cultural Plan, check out [the article here](#).

PUSH BUFFALO SCHOOL 77



HSC is excited to announce one of our partners, [People United for Sustainable Housing \(PUSH\)](#), was recently awarded an Artplace grant!

HSC has been working with PUSH since March to develop a popular education toolkit for their Green

Development Zone. Our new Artplace collaboration, [School 77: Participatory Design + Democratic Development](#), will transform an abandoned school building on Buffalo's West Side into a much needed community asset. Working with local arts and cultural organizations, including [Ujima Theater Company](#) and the [WASH Project](#), PUSH and HSC will work together to launch a community-led planning process to rehabilitate the structure while providing valuable skill-building opportunities for youth in the community.

[ArtPlace America](#) is a ten-year collaboration among a number of foundations, federal agencies, and financial institutions that works to position arts and culture as a core sector of comprehensive community planning and development in order to help strengthen the social, physical, and economic fabric of communities.

Find images from our first School 77 participatory design session [here](#).

GROUND UP AT P.S. 134



This past spring, students in HSC's [Ground Up](#) design education program at P.S.134 learned about sustainable food systems, organic gardening, and how to make healthy eating choices. Their final project, a mural done in collaboration with artist Eric Miles, illustrates what they learned and will serve as a teaching tool for future students.

If you haven't seen it yet, take a walk over to Sol Lain Playground on East Broadway at Pitt street, OR take a look at photos of the mural and end of the year Garden Celebration [here](#).

ABOUT HSC

[Hester Street Collaborative's](#) (HSC) mission is to empower residents of underserved communities by providing them with the tools and resources necessary to have a direct impact on shaping their built environment. We do this through a hands-on approach that combines design, education, and advocacy. HSC seeks to create more equitable, sustainable, and vibrant neighborhoods where community voices lead the way in improving their environment and neglected public spaces.

HSC is always looking for new partners and collaborators. To help us build a more equitable and sustainable New York City, click [here](#).