



**BRONX COOPERATIVE
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

January 2019

The last year has been truly remarkable for the Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative (BCDI). Even in the context of a broadly unfavorable political environment, heartbreaking attacks on our communities, and policies that have exacerbated income disparities; in the Bronx, we have managed to advance an inspiring and liberation-focused vision: a vision that considers not what we're missing but rather what we have and how we can leverage our assets to build shared wealth and ownership for low-income people of color; a vision that doesn't focus on how our democracy is broken but instead on how we can create more democratically governed institutions; a bold vision to build economic democracy at scale in the Bronx, which can facilitate the conditions for the future of our borough as it could and should be.

We strongly believe that our approach of building a network and ecosystem with key infrastructure projects, grounded by institutional partners with a long-standing history in the Bronx, is both possible and transformative. We believe that our network can and should be led by those most impacted, in particular women and people of color. And this year we have been able to demonstrate that, with the right tools, we can build the kinds of alternative models that correct the imbalance of power and inequity in our community.

When we first took on the beautiful and challenging task of building BCDI, we wanted to ground our vision in the political and economic reality of our community. We have always known that we would be met with powerful opposition, and we have experienced our share of challenges along the way. We have often had to push past conventional ideas and established practices that undermine our efforts. But we have become resilient, and through a combination of luck and sheer will, we have not allowed these obstacles to inhibit our imagination or impact.

I am so proud of what our diverse and vibrant BCDI network has accomplished over the last year to bring us closer to our goals. The network we have developed, the partnerships we have built, and the progress we have made are a result of the many years we have collectively dedicated to ending intergenerational poverty and building a democratic, equitable, and sustainable economy in the Bronx. This past year in particular we generated significant momentum, and the accomplishments we share in this report are truly extraordinary.

None of this would be possible without the people who believe in us and our vision and those who have generously shared their ideas and time with us—particularly the members of our staff, our invaluable MIT CoLab partners, our Bronx-based partners, and our board. I am grateful for and proud of all of you.

And lastly, for whom we exist, our brothers and sisters in our extended Bronx community, thank you for inspiring us everyday.

We fight forward.



Wendy Marte
BCDI President

ABOUT BCDI



The **Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative (BCDI)** is a community-led effort to build an equitable, sustainable, and democratic local economy that creates shared wealth and ownership for low-income people of color—what we call economic democracy.

Above: Our 2018 cohort of community leaders after having completed our four-part Economic Democracy Training Series

WHO WE ARE

BCDI started with a question: If community members collectively owned and governed key assets in the Bronx, could we create an economy that invests in human dignity, fosters community well-being, and supports a larger movement for self-determination?

In 2011, grassroots organizations—frustrated by the persistent and increasing poverty of our community members, despite major organizing campaign victories—began convening to answer this question. We were encouraged by the fact that the Bronx is already home to incredible assets. It has some of the region’s top hospitals and universities, which collectively purchase over 9 billion dollars of goods and services each year; successful commercial corridors, including the third largest in New York City; and the Hunts Point Terminal Market, the largest food distribution center in the world. It is home to some of the country’s most sophisticated community-based organizations, which fight disinvestment and secure critical policy wins for their members.

Despite this, the Bronx remains the poorest urban county in the US, a fact that points to a structural failure. As BCDI, we believe the Bronx already has many of the resources it needs to address its greatest challenges, and that people of color and women can and should lead the change.

In order to better coordinate Bronx resources to build wealth and ownership for low-income people of color, we invited Bronx-based institutions, elected officials, labor leaders, and finance partners to join BCDI. We also partnered with MIT Community Innovators Lab, to provide technical support. Through years of planning and studying similar models (including the Mondragón Cooperatives in Spain, the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative in Boston, Market Creek Plaza in San Diego, and the Young Negroes Cooperative League in the American South), we developed a borough-wide, multi-stakeholder strategy for economic development that is integrally connected to the broader movement for economic democracy.

All together, the Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative is a transformative model for urban economic development that can serve as an example for other communities across the US and the world.

What is economic democracy?

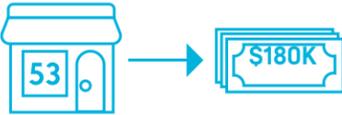
The last cohort of community leaders to go through our Economic Democracy Training defined it as “a system where people share ownership over the resources in their communities and participate equally in deciding how they are used.”

What do we mean by “resources”? To us, these are the big things that matter in our daily lives and that make up most of our most basic needs and costs: our housing, our workplaces, our sources of energy, financial services like banking, our educational institutions, our healthcare institutions, even our institutions of government.

BCDI IN 2018, BY THE NUMBERS



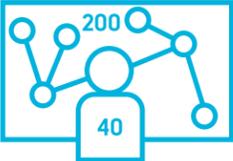
Above: Bronx artists Tats Cru paint an economic democracy-inspired graffiti mural to welcome community leaders from Chile, Colombia, Brazil, and Panamá



Engaged **53 Bronx-based businesses**—representing over **200 workers**—and secured them over **\$180,000** in transactions, building huge momentum for the equitable local market we’re creating.



Trained **100 Bronx community leaders** in economic democracy—including every organizing staff person at NWBCCC, The Point, and Mothers on the Move—which is shifting the Bronx’s culture of organizing to include community wealth building.



Trained **40 Bronx residents** to use our strategic online mapping tool for Development without displacement, an interactive map with **200 variables**—building the digital infrastructure to enable local residents to collect much of the data they need to proactively combat gentrification in their neighborhoods.



Coached **23 local business owners** over **6 months** on how to grow their businesses and increase their local impact as part of the Bronx Business Peer Exchange—a program launched in partnership with the Business Outreach Center Network and the City of New York.



Trained **40 Bronx youth** on key skills needed for advanced manufacturing and economic democracy; and built a **12-member advisory council** with experts in fabrication, electronics, software, workforce development and union organizing—building the initial ecosystem of players who will shape advanced manufacturing in the Bronx.

BCDI is Turning Heads

Over the course of 2018, BCDI garnered significant attention and recognition from key stakeholders. We received new funding from the New York City Council to expand the BronXchange, we were invited to join Urbantech NYC GRID as a steering committee member, and we hosted five day-long site visits for interested funders and elected officials. Additionally, individual board and staff members received a variety of accolades this year:

- Board member Daniel White was included in the 40 under 40 list issued by *City & State*.
- Board member Sandra Lobo was included in the Bronx Power 50 list by *City & State*.
- Board member Angela Fernández was appointed to the Mayor’s Charter Revision Commission.
- Board member Yorman Núñez was among the *Grist* 50 Fixers.
- MIT CoLab’s Katherine Mella was recognized as a change maker by CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance.

OUR PROGRAMS

BronXchange

To best understand the BronXchange, it's worth starting with some statistics. For years, while major nonprofit anchor institutions in the Bronx were spending some 9 billion dollars every year on goods and services to support their operations, only a tiny fraction of that was going to vendors in the borough. First launched in 2017, the BronXchange is a social enterprise that aims to rectify that imbalance. By shifting spending from external companies to local, minority-owned businesses, we are working to create a more equitable economy.

The BronXchange works as a platform to connect anchor institutions with Bronx-based vendors in two ways. First, through our rigorous vetting process, we are creating a database of vendors that are not only the best at what they do, but are also owned by women and people of color, aligned with our values around economic inclusion, and have completed a business impact assessment. By bringing these local businesses into our network, we're helping anchor institutions put the "mission" back into their mission-driven models by making it easier for them to contract cleaners, pest control companies, builders, and more. Secondly, the BronXchange is working to serve as a prime contractor for select industries that we've identified as especially promising. In that capacity we act as both a vetter and a permanent intermediary that ensures high-quality customer service, proper licensing and insurance, and a support system that builds the capacity of participating businesses.

In the long-term, the BronXchange seeks to fundamentally transform the way business is done in the Bronx by in-sourcing so much of what is being done outside the borough. We are building a brand that directly creates value for businesses and institutions.



Above: Our CEO celebrates with local vendors F&F Supply and Intervine after successfully executing a contract



Above: Participants in the Bronx Business Peer Exchange reflect on how to improve their businesses' operations



Above: Graduates of the Bronx Business Peer Exchange celebrate their accomplishment

2018 was in many ways a transition year for the BronXchange as we hired a CEO, Tim Gamory, and honed our strategic focus. As Gamory puts it, "We asked ourselves, 'What are we really excellent at?'" The answer? Nurturing powerful relationships with Bronx-based businesses and institutions and leveraging those relationships for a more equitable (and profitable) economy. As a result, we've put a renewed effort behind working closely with service-based businesses and creating long-lasting partnerships rather than one-off transactions. A more focused approach has led to new opportunities and gotten us one step closer to our platform being a go-to for institutions Bronx-wide.

Some Big Wins Of 2018

- Facilitated \$180,000 in transactions and created a database of 53 values-aligned Bronx-based businesses.
- Launched BronXchange Partners, a line of business that will allow us to serve as a prime contractor across select industries, like integrated pest management and cleaning.
- Became an approved vendor in the Montefiore Hospital system, setting us up to greatly contribute to the institution's local procurement efforts.
- Collaborated with Business Outreach Center (BOC) Network and B Lab for the Bronx Business Peer Exchange, a multi-week training that helps Bronx businesses increase their capacity and access growth opportunities through local procurement.
- Received funding from New York City Council to begin convening a Bronx Anchor Council, which will unite some of the largest institutions in the borough in a coordinated effort to increase local procurement.

Looking into 2019

- Officially launch the Bronx Anchor Council, convening leadership from the largest anchor institutions in the Bronx. Together, we'll share information, identify the existing barriers to local procurement, and set goals for more engagement with Bronx-based businesses, especially those owned by people of color.
- Grow the integrated pest management business in the Bronx through our role as a prime contractor. We'd also like to expand the industries that we support in that capacity, looking to cleaning services and the signs and awnings industry as our next partners.
- Grow the vendor network to at least 75 vetted, values-aligned Bronx businesses.
- Upgrade our website, bronxchange.com, to increase the visibility our Bronx businesses and make it even easier for Bronx-based vendors and buyers to connect.
- Expand our capacity-building supports for businesses, including an enhanced version of Bronx Business Peer Exchange that integrates economic democracy and access to values-aligned capital.

Spotlight on the Changemakers

Naceo Giles, Skedaddle Pest Management

Naceo Giles, of Skedaddle Pest Management, has a problem with the way we think of worth. "You hear people say, for example, 'Bill Gates is worth this-many-billion dollars,' but none of that money would be possible without the dedicated workers making his vision possible," he says. "People ought to get paid a rate that's reasonable in relation to the wealth that's generated."

It's this thinking that has contributed to Giles's approach to the business he runs along with three other pest management professionals. Skedaddle Pest Management is an entirely worker-owned cooperative, with each member involved in decision making, contracting, and hiring. It's also a company just as committed to providing holistic and comprehensive

pest control services as it is to improving health and environmental outcomes in a borough where asthma death rates are three times higher than the rest of the U.S.

All this made Skedaddle a natural partner as the BronXchange expands its work as a prime contractor. And besides the introduction to new clients and the support offered in contract negotiations, Giles also sees another benefit to working with the BronXchange and BCDI is that they are people who understand the worth of the individual and the respect for work well done," he says. "And I think this is something our whole community needs to value."



Above: Naceo Giles (left) and his fellow worker-owner Kasan Humphries (right)

Economic Democracy Learning Center

BCDI's Economic Democracy Learning Center wants Bronxites to challenge the core assumptions surrounding our economy: Is the way it operates inevitable, or can we change it? If the latter, who should control it? Who should govern its institutions, and who should they be accountable to? Who gets to share in the wealth created?

So what does *economic democracy* even mean? We believe in, and are working towards, an economic system where people in the Bronx own and control more of the Bronx economy together. Of course it's easier said than done. Sharing ownership together means we all benefit, but it also means working together in ways that we aren't always taught in our education system. When we say Bronxites should control the Bronx economy together, we're talking about housing, workplaces, energy, financial services, education, healthcare, and even government institutions. Our goal is to make sure all the players in those various spheres, from youth to high-level policymakers, are working together toward our collective end goal of a more democratic economy that creates shared wealth for low-income people of color.

As such, we've developed a curriculum that looks beyond just developing economic infrastructure and instead asks how those different building blocks—business development initiatives, anchor institutions, planning processes—are interrelated. Our ten-module curriculum was built with grassroots leaders in mind, but it is applicable beyond that: we've run sessions with financial professionals, students, business owners, and policymakers. This year, we've seen just how widely economic democracy tools can be applied through our workshops and training sessions as we brought in even more people from the community.



Above and right: Participants in our four-part Economic Democracy Training learn and discuss how to shift their organizing work

Some Big Wins Of 2018

- Hired the first Director for the Learning Center in March.
- In April, we trained staff members of core community partners, including the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC), Mothers on the Move, and the Point Community Development Corporation (CDC), and arrived at a deeper shared understanding of what economic democracy means for the Bronx.
- We partnered with the Summer Youth Employment Program, collaborating with the NWBCCC and The Point CDC for an economic democracy training series. We introduced thirty young people to concepts around economic democracy and its role in their education and daily lives.
- Developed a summer series for young planning professionals, a five-part mini-course on economic democracy that serves as a pilot for future programs.

Looking into 2019

- Release an updated economic democracy curriculum, including editions tailored to new audiences, like business and labor. Stay tuned!
- Run a summer intensive on economic democracy for early-career urban planning, organizing, and policy professionals.
- Grow our community training offerings to include additional community partner organizations, with a focus on grassroots leaders.
- Introduce a blog series that will be a combination of in-depth conceptual work and updates on our own efforts, with the goal of heightening the understanding of economic democracy efforts in the Bronx.



Above: Community leaders debate core economic democracy concepts as part of our training series

Spotlight on the Changemakers

Isabel Figueroa, The Point CDC

Isabel Figueroa is the youth programs manager at The Point Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit committed to the economic and cultural revitalization of Hunts Point in the South Bronx. Her work combines environmental justice, arts education, and civic engagement with a focus on young people. She was, in short, the perfect kind of person to join our economic democracy training program.

“There were a lot of concepts that I came to The Point to learn that the training really gave me an introduction to,” Figueroa says, citing lessons learned from movements around the world, from the Zapatistas in Mexico to worker coops in Spain. “It really taught me the importance of collaboration and sharing ideas.”

She says the real value of learning about economic democracy came to the fore when those same concepts were introduced to the young people she works with every day in The Point’s design and arts education programs. “Young people don’t need a lot of instruction,” she says. “They really just need to know the tools.” She describes a joy in seeing kids apply the very questions that drive economic democracy efforts.

Budding visual artists created maps of the Bronx that highlighted their own place in the community. Dancers were encouraged to ask questions about what it means to interact with the space around them, as well as face more concrete questions: If you open a dance studio, where do you do that and who owns it? Designers asked what their community really needed and approached their own projects as solutions. Participants of The Point’s A.C.T.I.O.N. (Activists Coming Together to Inform Our Neighborhood) program found a seamless fit between their own efforts around social and environmental justice and economic democracy concepts.

If you ask Figueroa, the next steps towards a more democratic Bronx economy must start with word-of-mouth. “Everything you learn, you have to pass on to your neighbor, to your best friend, to your mom,” she says. “It’s about creating a common language that allows us to communicate to different people on different levels.”



Above: Isabel Figueroa participating in our Economic Democracy Training Series

Bronx Innovation Factory

The Bronx Innovation Factory is on its way to becoming a disruptive economic force, a place where Bronx residents develop new skills and technologies while also generating shared wealth and challenging long-standing racial and gender inequities. The first of its kind in the Bronx, the Bronx Innovation Factory is a center for advanced manufacturing led by women and people of color.

We aim to not only provide the latest advanced manufacturing tools to the community, but to do so with a focus on economic democracy, community-led solutions, and ground-up social entrepreneurship. In our startup space at BCDI headquarters, community members learn the intricacies of 3D printing, laser cutting, and electrical engineering through a lens that arms them with the tools to make not just a profit, but a difference.

We've taken inspiration for our design from other programs that combine technical know-how with a purpose, including the Bilbao Innovation Factory in Spain's Basque Country, and the MIT Fab Lab. Our operations and our planned expansion are conducted in collaboration with Mondragón LKS, an industrial cooperative group in Basque Country. While this program has been running for less than a year, based on the energy and excitement we have seen from Bronx youth and entrepreneurs so far, we expect this program to grow rapidly. We have a lot in store for the Bronx, its residents, and its businesses when it comes to modern production and wealth creation.



Above and right: Bronxites learn the fundamentals of digital fabrication and electronics in our digital fabrication lab

2018 was an important year for the Bronx Innovation Factory. We opened our fabrication lab to the public for the first time and received an immediate and enthusiastic response from Bronx residents, who have long awaited a resource like this.

Some Big Wins of 2018

- Developed an advanced manufacturing curriculum, combining technical knowledge with economic democracy concepts.
- Hired our Shop Manager and opened our fab lab to the public for the first time, training over 40 people in digital fabrication and electronics—primarily from the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, The Point CDC, and FIERCE.
- Launched our web and social media presence; check us out:
 - Website: bronxinnovation.org
 - Facebook: [@bronxinnovationfactory](https://www.facebook.com/bronxinnovationfactory)
 - Twitter: [@bronxinnovation](https://twitter.com/bronxinnovation)
 - Instagram: [@bronxinnovationfactory](https://www.instagram.com/bronxinnovationfactory)
- Began planning for a larger-scale center for advanced manufacturing by forming an Advisory Council of local stakeholders and industry partners (including organized labor, youth programs, tech workforce programs, entrepreneurs, and worker centers), while undertaking extensive research on other fab labs and the advanced manufacturing ecosystem in NYC.
- Entered into a partnership with Mondragón—the largest network of worker-owned cooperatives in the world, primarily in the manufacturing sector—to help us learn from their entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem.
- Joined the global MIT Fab Lab network, and kicked off a second year with Futureworks NYC as one of a handful of shops across the city tasked with growing the advanced manufacturing sector.

Looking into 2019

In 2019, we will focus on expanding our educational offerings to build a community of Bronxites who are trained in digital fabrication and economic democracy, and positioning ourselves as the go-to provider of prototyping services for Bronx-based businesses. We aim to:

- Offer multiple after-school and summer programs for young people using our custom curriculum that integrates economic democracy with digital fabrication skills and focuses on putting these skills into practice in real-life, team-based projects.
- Launch a series of public workshops and community-building events available to Bronxites of any age.
- Work with several Bronx-based businesses and community organizations to prototype new products that specifically address the needs of low-income communities of color.
- Begin the next phase of planning work for our fully fledged center for advanced manufacturing, with the goal of releasing a preliminary feasibility report before the end of the year.

Spotlight on the Changemakers

Wesley Guzmán, Bronx Academy for Software Engineering

Bronx native Wesley Guzmán, a 16-year-old junior at the Bronx Academy for Software Engineering, loves video games—but that's not the only thing that takes up their free time. Guzmán, who identifies as gender fluid and uses the pronouns *he*, *she*, and *they*, also works with Sistas and Brothas United (SBU) on its restorative justice programs and putting an end to the school-to-prison pipeline.

It was their work with SBU that first brought Guzmán to the Bronx Innovation Factory (BXIF). "That's when I first started learning about all the machinery and got more interested in it." They joined the spring workshop, which combined training on Arduino, the open-source electronic prototyping platform, with economic democracy education. It was enough to bring them back

for our fall course, which focused on our larger-scale equipment, including a 3D printer and laser cutter. "It was really interesting to see not only how a 3D printer works, but going into the program for the model, and uploading it to make sure it's all correct."

Like SBU, the BXIF is proud to be contributing tools that will help Guzmán's future goals. Guzmán wants to one day work in digital graphic design, but the BXIF has shown them that they don't have to limit their work to what's on a screen. "I now realize I can make all kinds of artwork using a bunch of different things," they say. "I used to think graphic design was a small, limited field. I see, through the workshops, that can it be much bigger than that. It opens that world up for me."



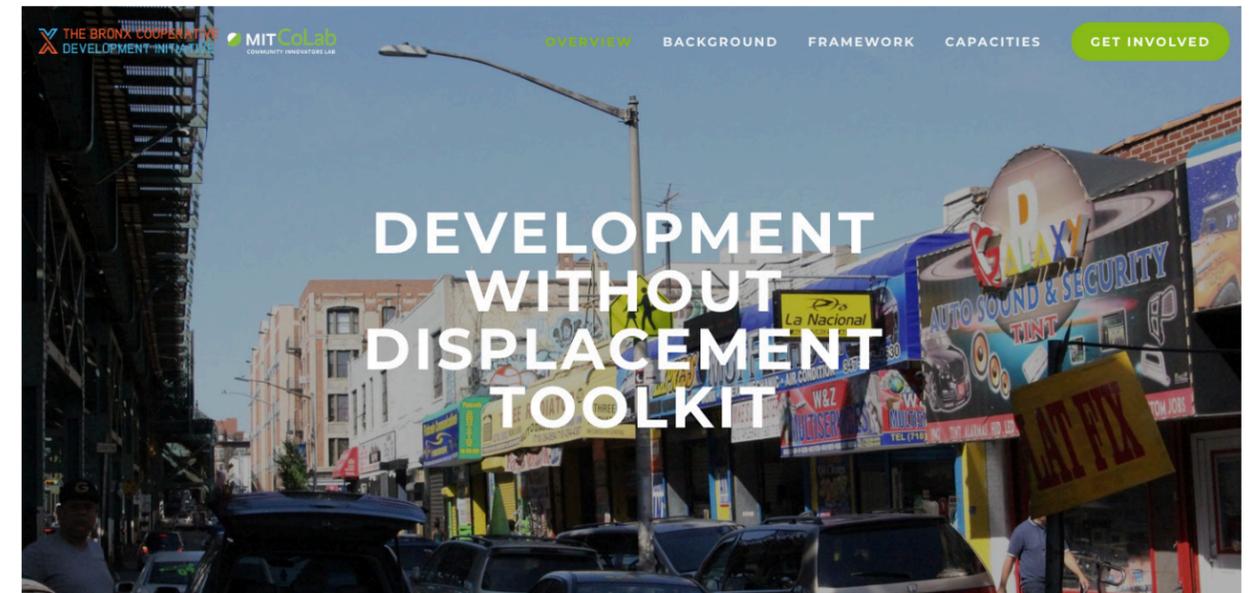
Above: Wesley Guzmán in our fab lab after completing a laser cutting class

The Planning and Policy Lab

The Bronx, like other urban areas, has faced a long history of systematic underinvestment due to destructive planning policies and practices. For decades, the federal government and lenders refused to insure and underwrite mortgages in neighborhoods with immigrants and black people, a practice known as redlining. Despite this, the Bronx has thrived thanks to the work of residents and community organizations. Currently, the borough faces a new set of 21st-century challenges, including gentrification and displacement due to rising rents, that require a new set of creative solutions. That's why we started the Planning and Policy Lab, which provides technical assistance and strategic consulting services to organizations and institutions operating in the Bronx.

As a partner, we bring an economic democracy lens to every project we work on, whether that's undertaking a feasibility study for a new community land trust proposal, or charting out a long-term strategy for a more inclusive Bronx economy. We put a value on lived experience and emphasize the need for Bronx-specific solutions, devised by Bronxites, to address development challenges. In short, we take the concepts and teachings put forth by BCDI's Economic Democracy Learning Center and provide the concrete tools, strategies, and policy frameworks to implement those philosophies in the real-world.

As part of our efforts, we've collaborated with MIT Community Innovators Lab (CoLab) to create a Development without Displacement Roundtable. This brings together grassroots organizations from across the Bronx to formulate equitable development solutions that prioritize community ownership while fighting back against gentrification and displacement. Our corresponding toolkit highlights the lessons learned from our work and provides practical frameworks for other organizations around the country to use in their own efforts to create more equitable planning and development outcomes.



Above: A screenshot of our Development Without Displacement Toolkit after its release



Above: The Point CDC and BCDI train youth leaders how to use stories, media, and mapping to fight gentrification and preserve Bronx culture

Over the course of the past two years, we convened and coordinated eight community-based organizations from across the Bronx, known as the Development without Displacement Roundtable. The Roundtable has been a critical space to coordinate at a borough-wide level as well as develop tools and strategies to fight back against gentrification and displacement and develop fight forward strategies to advance equitable economic development outcomes.

Some Big Wins Of 2018

- Released the Development Without Displacement Toolkit, a synthesis of all the tools and frameworks developed at the Roundtable and available at WeFightForward.com for anyone to use.
- Developed a Strategic Online Mapping tool that has over 200 variables for every lot in the Bronx and that allows mission-driven developers, community-based organizations, and residents to answer research questions and strategize around equitable development using data and analysis.
- Launched the Bronx Development Digest, a monthly synthesis of real estate news and data from across the borough, including the biggest sales and top-level headlines that relate to opportunity and risk.
- Partnered with MIT CoLab to co-facilitate focus groups with local businesses and related organizations to identify ways to strengthen the City's Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprise program as one strategy to build wealth in communities of color.
- Organized a community event that convened over 100 people with organizational representatives from Brazil, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Staten Island, Mississippi, and the Bronx that connected issues of forced migration across those places with issues of gentrification in the Bronx.

Looking into 2019

In 2019 our biggest focus will be designing and launching a participatory process to create a development plan for the entire Bronx. We believe planning initiatives need to extend beyond individual neighborhoods and that a comprehensive, borough-wide approach is necessary to achieve our vision of economic democracy at scale. We will also continue working with our partners to design, test, and make available tools for equitable development. Specifically, we aim to:

- Launch the first phase of a participatory planning process for the entire Bronx, including interactive products that participants can explore and iterate on.
- Work with our partners who are responding to the study and anticipated rezoning of Southern Boulevard to ensure that shared wealth and ownership continue to be priorities in the community's vision for their neighborhood.
- Take advantage of provisions in the 2017 tax bill and launch a capital-gains-tax-free Opportunity Zone Fund with our real estate partner Ernst Valery Investments and community partners, which will support affordable housing, existing businesses, and industrial growth.

Spotlight on the Changemakers

Ernst Valery, Ernst Valery Investments

"I want to put every shady developer out of business," says mission-driven developer Ernst Valery. "But not by saying don't develop. I want to do it by showing an alternative development strategy." That's what Ernst Valery does and why his approach to development—one that values community ownership and community needs—was such a good fit for a partnership with our Planning and Policy Lab.

Valery's personal path to development, which included a stint in Columbia University's real estate program, might seem conventional, but his work is not. He works around the country on development initiatives that respond directly to community demands and can still generate revenue. Just convincing city officials and policymakers that this was possible was a major obstacle. "We're letting the City know that there is such a thing as a developer that wants to develop with the community and that they're not a not-for-profit developer," he says.

Valery first encountered BCDI in 2012 and thinks the next six years is really when the partnership will bear fruit. "It took three years just to develop the kind of trust you need to work on development projects together," he says. "The last three years have been about setting up the mechanism to do that." So what's in store for the future? "Over the next six years, I want us to be building," he says.

That process of building will undoubtedly look different from what most are used to when developers start moving into vacant lots. "It's about redefining who the stakeholders are," Valery says. "We're going to start developing housing, businesses, and office spaces that we own *with* the community. The engine for it all is this shared ownership of community assets. It's time to build onto it."



Above: Ernst Valery has made it his personal and company mission to support community-based development and affordable housing

THE TEAM

Evan Casper-Futterman
Director, Economic Democracy Learning Center

Fanta Condé
Grants Coordinator

Angel Farias
Accounts Manager, BronXchange

Tim Gamory
CEO, BronXchange

Luis Henríquez
Office Manager

José Reynoso
Shop Manager, Bronx Innovation Factory

The [MIT Community Innovators Lab \(CoLab\)](#) works closely with the BCDI team to support a more equitable, sustainable, and democratic Bronx economy. Below are the four CoLab team members who are based in the Bronx and work alongside BCDI:

Katherine Mella
Program Director for Participatory Planning and Policy

Yorman Núñez
Director for Just Urban Economies

Nicholas Shatan
Planning and Knowledge Capture Coordinator

Maggie Tishman
Program Director for Economic Innovation

THE BOARD

Angela Fernández
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Nicholas Iuviene (Treasurer)
Community member

Sandra Lobo (Vice President)
Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition

Rebecca Lurie
CUNY Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies

Allison Manuel (Secretary)
Community member

Wendoly Marte (President)
Center for Community Change

Yorman Núñez
MIT Community Innovators Lab

Danny Peralta
The Point Community Development Corporation

Wanda Salamán
Mothers on the Move

Kellie Terry
Community member

Angela Tovar
The Point Community Development Corporation

Misra Walker
Community member

Daniel White
Geto & de Milly, Inc.

OUR PARTNERS

Lastly, none of our work would be possible without the support and collaboration of our incredible partners. For all that you have contributed so far, an immense and eternal *thank you*. We hope you see yourselves in all the accomplishments highlighted in this report. But also know that 2018 was just the beginning. There is still so much more we will achieve together. Onward!

Community:

Mothers on the Move
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition
The Point Community Development Corporation
Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association
Community Action for Safe Apartments
Gun Hill Business Improvement District
The HOPE Program
Nos Quedamos
South Bronx Unite
Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice

Business:

The BronXchange small business community
B Lab
Barretto Bay Strategies
Ernst Valery Investments
The Knowledge House
MetaBronx
Mondragón Cooperative Corporation & LKS
Spring Bank
The Working World

Academia:

MIT Department of Urban Studies
Rutgers Bloustein School
CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

Anchor Institutions:

Bronx Community College
Fordham University
Hostos Community College
Montefiore Medical Center
Wildlife Conservation Society

Labor:

1199SEIU

Government:

State Senator Jamaal Bailey
Council Member Vanessa Gibson
Council Member Ritchie Torres
NYC Department of Small Business Services
NYC Economic Development Corporation
Geto & de Milly

Philanthropy:

Catholic Campaign for Human Development
JP Morgan Chase & Co.
The Kendeda Fund
Morgan Stanley
Nathan Cummings Foundation
New York Foundation
New York Community Trust
The Solutions Project

Key Advisors: Juan Antigua, John Calvelli, Jeffrey Hollender, Jason Laidley, Ed Ott, Michael Peck, Barika Williams

Special Thanks to: Breonne DeDecker, Lily Knorr, Nene Igietseme, Nicole Salazar, Rachael Tanner

In Loving Memory of: Gregor Barnum, Joseph Iuviene



Above: Members of our staff and board, celebrating the momentum we've built over the course of 2018 and looking ahead to the future



