



## **Lowline Community Advisory Board Meeting Recap Wednesday, October 11, 6-8pm, Grand Street Settlement, 80 Pitt Street**

Longtime residents of the Lower East Side, local advocates and organization leaders gathered on October 11, 2017 to discuss **youth and education** at the Lowline's Community Advisory Board meeting. Below you will find a meeting recap and attendance record.

**Questions and comments can be sent to [community@thelowline.org](mailto:community@thelowline.org).**

### **Agenda**

1. Meeting overview, updates and announcements (6:15-6:30pm)

After the Lowline staff and meeting attendees introduced themselves and shared their affiliations, the meeting began with a brief presentation by Blaze Jones-Yellin (Manager of Community and Youth) that included updates and announcements about the Lowline and the recently selected 2017-18 class of Young Ambassadors.

2. Youth + Education: Who + How? (6:30-7:15)

Meeting attendees gathered at round tables and were invited to assess the list of possible youth and education partners brainstormed during 2016-2017 engagement sessions. They were asked to choose the top five most important partners on the list, and think about any additional partners that may have been missing.

3. Youth + Education: What, Where + How? (7:15-8:00pm)

Next, attendees discussed ideas about how the Lowline should engage with youth and support STEAM education in the community - in terms of **WHO** to partner with, **WHAT** gap the Lowline should try to fill and what kind of content it should use to do that, **WHERE** to hold this programming (without the Lowline Lab), and **HOW** to best engage with the LES community.

### **Key takeaways from discussion:**

- Focus on the local LES community, specifically vulnerable local populations with the largest resource needs (examples include: NYCHA, seniors)
- The Lowline should consider focusing on engaging younger students through after school and non-traditional education programming, perhaps through deeper relationships with the major LES settlement organizations
- A focus should be partnering with LES schools and teachers to build capacity, grow resources, and develop sustainable programs



- Local need for support in community gardens and parks (including those in NYCHA and senior housing developments) should be considered for priority, perhaps through the creation of committee
- The Lowline should offer educational opportunities for all ages both within our space and out in the community
- Lowline should consider forum for the exchange of knowledge between seniors and youth
  - Youth could go to senior centers and teach the seniors about technology -- perhaps the solar technology of the Lowline or something smaller-scale yet still useful, like how to use their cellphones
  - Seniors could teach youth about something they are well-versed in -- examples include knitting, jewelry making, indoor gardening, cooking, or how to use a cassette tape → relates to concept of "Used to" workshops / oral history
- Compared to previous meetings, attendees put a was a larger focus on gardening and growing food and plants, rather than on technology.
  - Programming for students could focus on physical, hands-on workshops -- like gardening lessons
  - Food could be integrated into Lowline programming -- perhaps workshops that teach people how certain foods are made, perhaps manipulate the Lowline's environmental factors to grow certain things
  - Hydroponics / urban agriculture could be a subject of interest
  - Kids could lead workshops on indoor planting at senior houses -- especially around winter holidays
  - Community members could plant seeds in pots, grow them in their homes, and then plant them outside in a community garden -- this could foster greater ownership, and thus motivate them to care for community gardens
  - Perhaps lead a program about local flora and fauna focused on what is native, herbal, edible, medicinal in New York



# lowline

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- Summary of programming content ideas:
  - Solar technology
  - Engineering
  - Design
  - Sustainability
  - History of the Lowline
  - Culture of LES
  - Food technology, food engineering
  - “Hands-on” workshops
  - Discipline cross-over (ex. art and science)

## **Attendee List for 10/11/17**

Dennis Edemeka, resident

Jan Enriquez, resident youth

Kean Ferin, resident

Monique Flores, University Settlement

Lynn Hayden-Findlay, resident

Meghan Joye, small business owner

Rebecca Karp, consultant

Afraz Khan, Manhattan Borough Presidents Office

Sue Lalchan, Grand Street Settlement

Danny Lin, resident

Liz Morales, resident

Lauren Pehlivanian, resident youth

Veronica Vasquez, resident youth

Dan Barasch, Lowline Co-Founder

Nerissa Moray, Lowline Director of Planning and Design

Devon Lawrence, Lowline Director of Development

Blaze Jones-Yellin, Lowline Manager of Community and Youth

Elizabeth Eichenberger, Lowline Community and Youth Engagement Intern