



TOWARD A  
RAINPROOF  
NEW YORK CITY

# AGENDA

- I. Rebuild by Design Overview
- II. Rainproof NYC:
  - A. Background
  - B. Working Group Process
  - C. Recommendations
- III. Creating a Rainproof NYC Movement
  - A. What actions can Community Boards take?



Rebuild by Design is a process that harnesses and cultivates strong stakeholder support and government leadership by bringing together global and local expertise, regional leadership, and local vision to tackle multidimensional problems.

**REBUILD BY DESIGN**

Because of the enormity of this challenge, the Rebuild by Design process was developed to find better ways of implementing designs and winning policy.

Bringing together interdisciplinary teams of internationally renowned designers, scientists, economists, and other experts with a diverse range of thousands of stakeholders, Rebuild by Design has developed innovative, feasible solutions that better protect residents from future climate risks, while strengthening everyday resilience within communities.

This graphic provides an overview of the Rebuild by Design process, from its June 2013 launch to the unveiling of final design proposals in April 2014 and beyond, as well as key themes and strategies. The following embed includes detailed descriptions and images representing the design proposals.

**Collaboration by Design**

*Form coalitions to innovate*

**3**

**Lead Supporter**  
The Rockefeller Foundation

**Additional Supporters**  
Deutsche Bank  
Hears Foundation  
The JPB Foundation  
Surdna Foundation  
The New Jersey Recovery Fund

In collaboration with the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University, Municipal Art Society of New York, Regional Planning Association, and Van Alen Institute

**Design Teams**

**BIG Team**  
BIG U

**HR&A Advisors w/ Cooper, Robertson & Partners**  
The Commercial Corridor Resiliency Project

**Interboro Team**  
Living with the Bay: a Comprehensive Regional Resiliency Plan for Nassau County's South Shore

**MIT CAU + ZUS + URBANISTEN**  
New Meadowlands: Productive City + Regional Park

**OMA**  
Resist, Delay, Store, Discharge: a comprehensive strategy for Hoboken

**PennDesign / OLIN**  
Hunts Point Lifelines

**Sasaki / Rutgers / Arup**  
Resilience + The Beach

**SCAPE / Landscape Architecture**  
LIVING BREAKWATERS

**WB unabridged with Yale ARCADIS**  
Resilient Bridgeport

**WXY / WEST 8**  
Blue Dunes - The Future of Coastal Resiliency

**Build by Design**

*Transforming the region and its future*

**4**

The final projects will be selected based on four key components: length of the research and analysis, demonstration of a participatory design process and stakeholder coalition; design innovation and excellence; and impact of the proposed design solution, as well as its implementation strategy.

**Research Advisory Group:**  
John A. Bevilacqua, Chair  
Franklin S. Block  
Victoria Chan (Chair)  
Thomas Conner  
William Conner  
David B. Cook  
Richard DeWitt  
Richard D. Evans  
Michael G. H. Frisvold  
Michael G. Frisvold  
Michael G. Frisvold  
Robert W. Holmbeck  
William S. Holmbeck

**Talent by**

**RAINIPROOF NYC**



Queens



Staten Island

# NYC IS EXPERIENCING INCREASED FLOODING FROM RAIN



The Bronx



Brooklyn



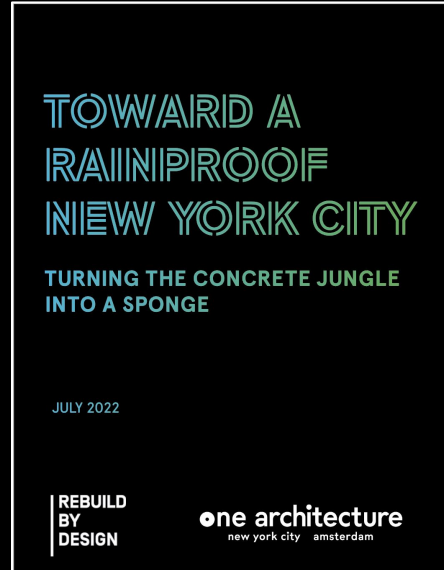
Manhattan



**GOAL:**

**Adapt to living with more water:  
Help NYC transition from an urban  
jungle to a sponge.**

# RAINPROOF NYC: TRANSFORMING THE CONCRETE JUNGLE INTO A SPONGE





1

START WITH THE MOST  
SOCIALY AND PHYSICALLY  
VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES.

2

CREATE A MASSIVE INVESTMENT  
IN MULTIBENEFIT "GREEN" AND  
"BLUE" SOLUTIONS.

3

WHERE WE CANNOT GO  
FULLY GREEN, PRIORITIZE  
CO-BENEFIT SOLUTIONS.



**REBUILD  
BY  
DESIGN**



**one architecture**  
new york city amsterdam

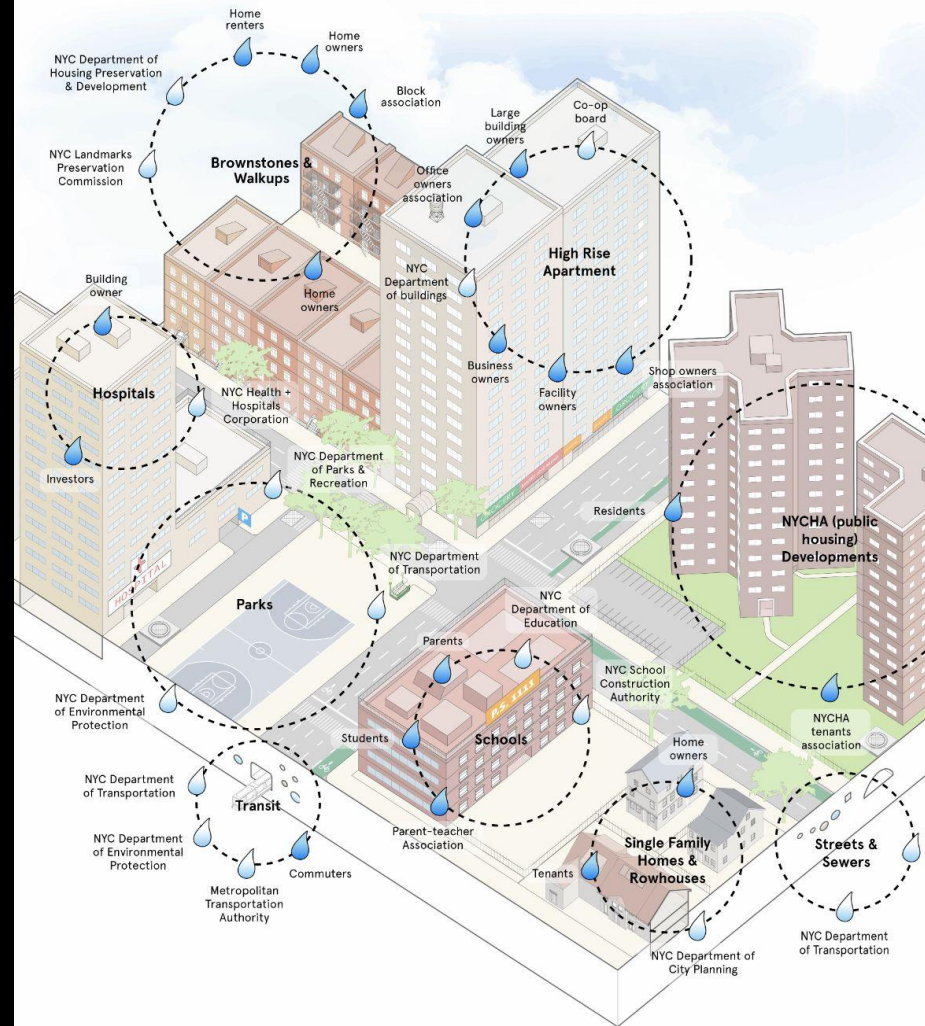
**NYC** Mayor's Office of Climate &  
Environmental Justice

RAINPROOF NYC



# PROCESS GOALS

- Adapt to living with water through a collaborative process.
- Create a deeper understanding of intersectionality.
- Utilize stakeholder input.
- Create a replicable model of community and government collaboration in policy design.
- Shared ownership with stakeholders and agencies.



# THE CHALLENGES

- **CHALLENGE 1:** How can we shift NYC's policies and priorities to create a comprehensive plan to prepare for increasing rainfall?
- **CHALLENGE 2:** What does an equitable buyout program look like for New York City?
- **CHALLENGE 3:** How can we build capacity among communities, the private sector, and CBO's to share responsibility of managing increased heavy rainfall?



# PROCESS OVERVIEW

- One working group per topic area
- Transparent and collaborative
  - Each co-facilitated by NYC and NGO
  - Decisions pertaining to working groups are made together
- Timebound: set timelines and goals
- Interdisciplinary: Comprised of multiple agencies and multiple stakeholders
- Overall coordination by Rebuild/ONE/NYC though co-facilitators run their own groups in coordination with one another



# RAINPROOF NYC BY THE NUMBERS

## Rainproof NYC Process Outreach

- Call for Applications Outreach: Targeted outreach to over 1000 people. 8000 through general communications.
  - Received 315 applications
- Working group member stats:
  - 52 people selected
  - 49 people accepted
  - Representative of all 5 boroughs
  - 12 neighborhood organizations
  - 21 city, state, or national nonprofits
  - 14 city agencies, 1 state and 1 federal had a separate process to join
  - 10 + academic, private or philanthropy

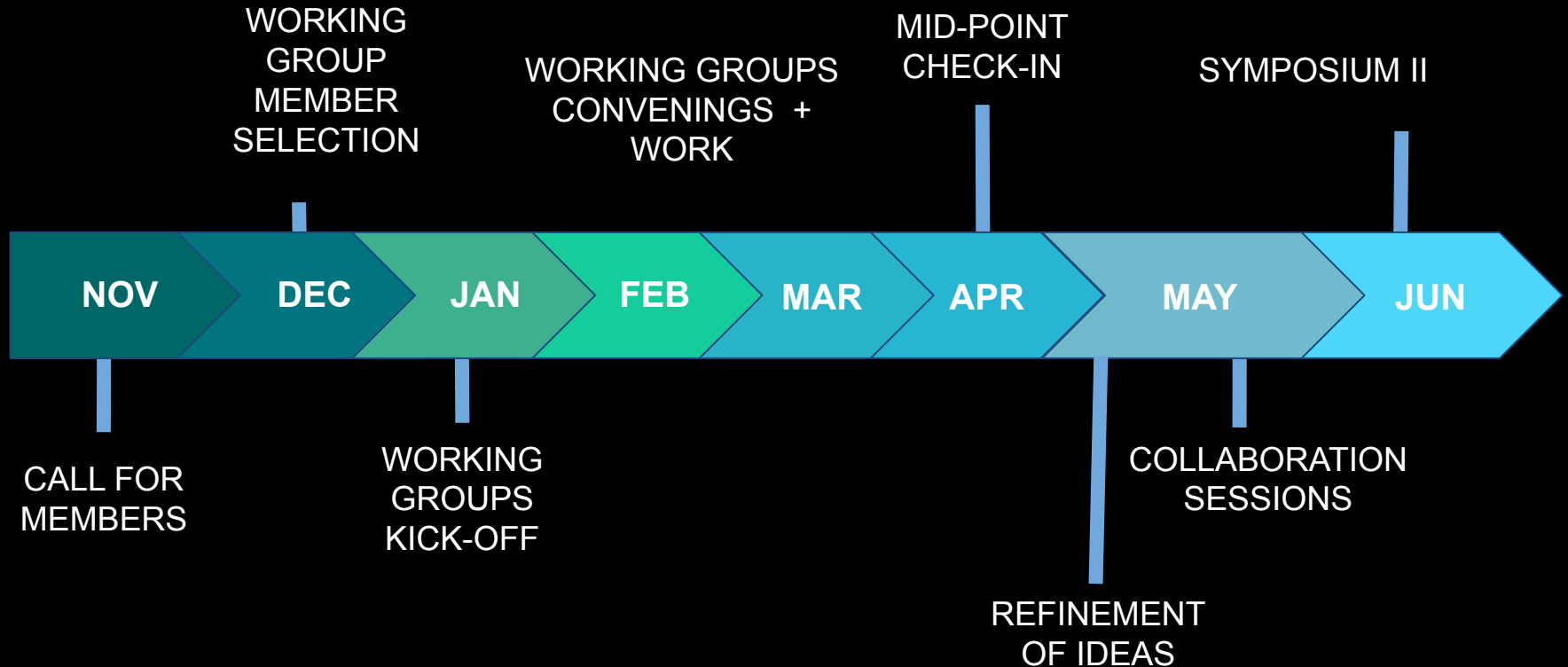
## Rainproof Internal Communications & Events

- 9 Rainproof NYC Newsletters
- 5 Site Visits - Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan
- 4 Specialized events only for Working Groups

## Rainproof Public Events

- Outreach to over 8000 people (newsletters, social media, targeted outreach, etc.)
- Event stats
  - 5 public Rainproof NYC events
    - ~1000 Attendees
  - 2 public feedback sessions
    - May 1: 100 Attendees
    - May 14: 100 Attendees
  - 1 public symposium
    - June 25: 260+ attendees
- 15 Rainproof NYC Newsletters

# HIGH-LEVEL TIMELINE



# DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHALLENGES THROUGH PROCESS

- **CHALLENGE 1:** How can we shift NYC's policies and priorities to create a comprehensive plan to prepare for increasing rainfall?
  - **How can we effectively utilize space in NYC to equitably reduce the risk from heavy rain and add value to communities?**
- **CHALLENGE 2:** What does an equitable buyout program look like for New York City?
  - **How do we determine the parameters and best practices to inform the design of a voluntary equitable buyout program for New York City?**
- **CHALLENGE 3:** How can we build capacity among communities, the private sector, and CBO's to share responsibility of managing increased heavy rainfall? Every drop counts.
  - **What tools, resources, and knowledge do New Yorkers need to become rainproof?**

# RECOMMENDATIONS HIGH LEVEL OVERVIEW

MANAGING INCREASING HEAVY RAINFALL	HOUSING MOBILITY	EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY
Learning to Live With Water	<p>Principles for the program's implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Voluntary &amp; Well-Informed</li><li>• Community-Based &amp; Neighborhood-Specific</li><li>• Housing-Centered &amp; Housing-Focused:</li><li>• Equitable &amp; Renter-Inclusive</li><li>• Environmentally Restorative &amp; Integrated</li><li>• Permanent &amp; Adaptable</li></ul>	Integrate Rainproof into community programs to educate on extreme rain mitigation.
Integrating Green & Gray Infrastructure		Prioritize outreach on rain-affected populations and ensure resources are accessible.
Improving & Expanding Natural Systems		Invest in and equip community leaders with resources to understand rain forecasts and impacts.
		Promote cross-sector collaboration

# AFTER JUNE REBUILD WILL CONTINUE TO:

1. Grow the Rainproof NYC journey.
2. Continuing communications:
  - a. Keeping groups informed of City's progress
  - b. Sharing new ideas, etc.
3. Collecting resources for a public Rainproof NYC Library
4. Continue Rainproof Event Series
5. Monitor implementation of recommendations



You're invited to the

## RAINPROOF NYC MIXER!

Join us for an opportunity to get to know your fellow working group participants and share what you've been working on. The evening will include conversation, light bites, and beverages.

[RSVP HERE](#)

**WEDNESDAY** | REBUILD BY DESIGN  
**MARCH 6TH** | 20 COOPER SQUARE  
**5 PM - 7 PM** | 2ND FL, NYC

For questions please contact:  
rimam@rebuildbydesign.org

**one architecture**  
new york city amsterdam

**REBUILD  
BY  
DESIGN**



# CREATING A RAINPROOF NYC MOVEMENT

## We asked the Rainproof NYC Symposium participants:

- How can we each Rainproof NYC?
- What is your long term commitment to this issue?
- What is one action you will take to Rainproof NYC?

## We heard many themes emerge:

1. Educate and Engage Community
2. Foster Collaboration and Networking
3. Develop and Implement Resilient Infrastructure
4. Advocate for Supportive Policies
5. Commit to Personal Climate Actions
6. Pursue Ongoing Research and Learning

# HOW CAN WE EACH RAINPROOF NYC?

“Initiate connection & collaboration with various community spaces to truly reach a diverse community”

“I will try to integrate verbiage about rainproofing in a climate bill I’m working on with CRETF!”

“I pledge to take care of 3 rain gardens and to advocate for green jobs in frontline communities”

“Design a Rainproof toolkit for CBOs and CHWs with working groups”

“Work professionally on these issues and attend more neighborhood listening sessions”

# ACTIONS COMMUNITY BOARDS CAN TAKE:

## FOSTER COLLABORATION:

- Partner with public and non-profit agencies for workforce training and volunteer coordination.
- Collaborate with other stakeholders to identify risk translators and engage under-represented groups.
- Encourage shared ownership of rainproofing efforts across city agencies, private sector, nonprofits, and communities.
- Create opportunities for community members to engage with stormwater infrastructure through employment, volunteerism, and recreation.

## ALLOCATE RESOURCES EQUITABLY:

- Prioritize outreach to populations most affected by extreme rain.
- Expand access to resources through language translation and printed materials.

## PASS RESOLUTIONS:

Inform city agencies about the Community Board's support for Rainproof NYC.

## ENGAGE WITH CITY AGENCIES AND DEVELOPERS:

- Ask how projects address increased rainfall and prioritize green infrastructure.
- Report areas prone to flooding to 311 and ensure responsive measures

## ENGAGE IN OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

- Educate community members on rainproofing through workshops and training sessions.
- Develop and distribute communication tools linking resources for before, during, and after rain events.

## ENSURE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS:

- Develop stormwater flooding preparation and response training for local organizations.
- Build a network to check on the most vulnerable community members during storms.
- Work with multifamily affordable housing owners to create emergency communication and business continuity plans.

## UTILIZE EXISTING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

- Leverage programs like DEP's hydra barrier distribution and NYCCEM's Strengthening Communities to promote rainproofing.
- Engage platforms like town halls, community boards, and civic associations for outreach

# THANK YOU!

**Contact:**

Rifal Imam

Rainproof NYC Fellow

[rimam@rebuildbydesign.org](mailto:rimam@rebuildbydesign.org)

All Resources: [bit.ly/rpnyccb](https://bit.ly/rpnyccb)

