



*together for*  
**KINGSBRIDGE**  
*juntos para*

Jan 05, 2022 – Virtual Public Information Session

## Where are we today?

- We have begun a 6-month community engagement process that will culminate in a vision for the Armory this Spring.
- Armory is currently inaccessible for remediation (likely until early 2023).
- We expect to release a Request For Proposals before the end of this year.
- We have been holding Focus Group discussions to understand needs of communities and their vision for the Armory.
- We have held one Public Workshop and we have another this month.



# History of the Armory

# Kingsbridge Armory

- Operated as an Armory from 1917 to 1994. Transferred to City in 1996.
- The facility has held a series of short-term uses throughout its history including shows, exhibitions, and filming.
- It is a New York City and New York State Landmark building.
- Largest Armory in New York City and, possibly, in the United States.
- Two previous redevelopment attempts did not move forward.
- Emergency Uses:
  - Homeless Shelter (1980s – mid-1990s),
  - Pandemic (2020)
  - Twin Park North fire (2022)



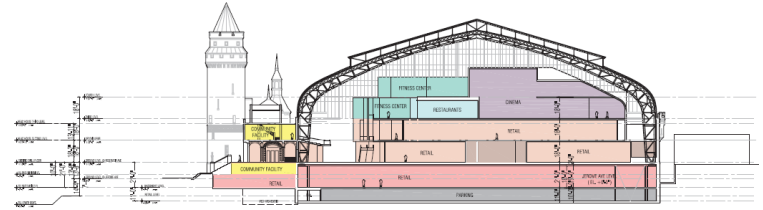
## Previous redevelopment attempts have been unsuccessful...

2006 Request For Proposal - Related Companies were selected, the proposal included 605,000 GSF Retail + 400 parking spaces.

- In 2009, the City Council voted the proposal down.

2012 Request For Proposal - KNIC was selected as the developer, planned to convert the Armory into an ice center, including 9 ice rinks, parking, ancillary retail, and a community facility space.

- ULURP was completed in December 2013.
- Community Benefits Agreement signed between KNIC and Community Orgs included:
  - Monetary contributions for community priorities
  - Local procurement, hiring, training, and living wages
  - Environmental sustainability
  - Community space and programming
  - Construction of New School
- KNIC was unsuccessful in obtaining financing.



*Section of Related Proposal*



*Conceptual Rendering of KNIC Proposal*

# Kingsbridge Armory & Community Advocacy



For over 30 years, the Kingsbridge Heights community has been engaging around the Kingsbridge Armory through development proposals, feasibility studies and community discussions.

Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition has been organizing over years around the site and most recently with community stakeholders around surveys and public art installations.

# Visioning Process: Together for Kingsbridge

## What is our goal?

In partnership with local elected officials and the Community Working Group, NYCEDC has started a robust and inclusive engagement process to define a vision for the Armory's future.

We will release a Vision for the Armory's future this Spring. The Vision will capture the community's priorities for the Armory and will serve as the foundation for a future RFP.

As part of our outreach, we will:

- Engage a broad range of people,
- Rely on local partnerships and relationships,
- Build a shared understanding of opportunities, challenges, and trade-offs through extensive due diligence about the building's condition



## Who is part of the consultant team?



*Hester Street Collaborative will lead public engagement. They have broad experience on similar projects throughout the city and the Bronx.*



*WXY will lead a technical consultant team to complete building conditions analysis, support engagement, study redevelopment scenarios, and write the Vision document.*

*Subconsultants: AKRF, Jablonski,  
Buro Happold, Manuel Miranda  
Practice, Toscano Clements Taylor*

## What is the Kingsbridge Armory Community Working Group?

The CWG will be central in guiding our approach to engagement and will provide feedback throughout the broader process to develop the vision.

Responsibilities:

- Meet once a month to provide guidance and feedback around engagement, facilitation, and messaging
- Participate in site tours, public workshops, community events
- Promote community workshops throughout neighborhood
- Provide feedback and review on a timely basis
- Collaborate with NYCEDC and Consultant with quotes, images, press release events, tours, as needed
- Support the development of the engagement process

# Community Working Group

- Co-Chairs:

- Council Member Pierina Sanchez
- Sandra Lobo, Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC)

- Elected Officials:

- Borough President Vanessa Gibson
- Congress Member Adriano Espaillat
- Senator Gustavo Rivera
- Assembly Member George Alvarez
- Senator Robert Jackson

- Community Stakeholders:

- **Community Groups:** Community Board 7
- Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
- Gardiner Foundation, Mekong, Dominicanos USA
- **Labor:** Central Labor Council, Local Union 79
- **Small Businesses:** Kingsbridge Merchants Association, Burnside-Jerome-Tremont Merchant Association, Street Vendor Project
- **Faith Based:** Our Lady of Angels
- **Health:** Morris Height Health Center
- **Academic:** Lehman College, Monroe College, School District 10
- **Economic Development:** Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp, Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative- BCDI



# What is a Vision Document?

The Kingsbridge Armory Vision Document will define and develop a vision and guiding principles for the building.

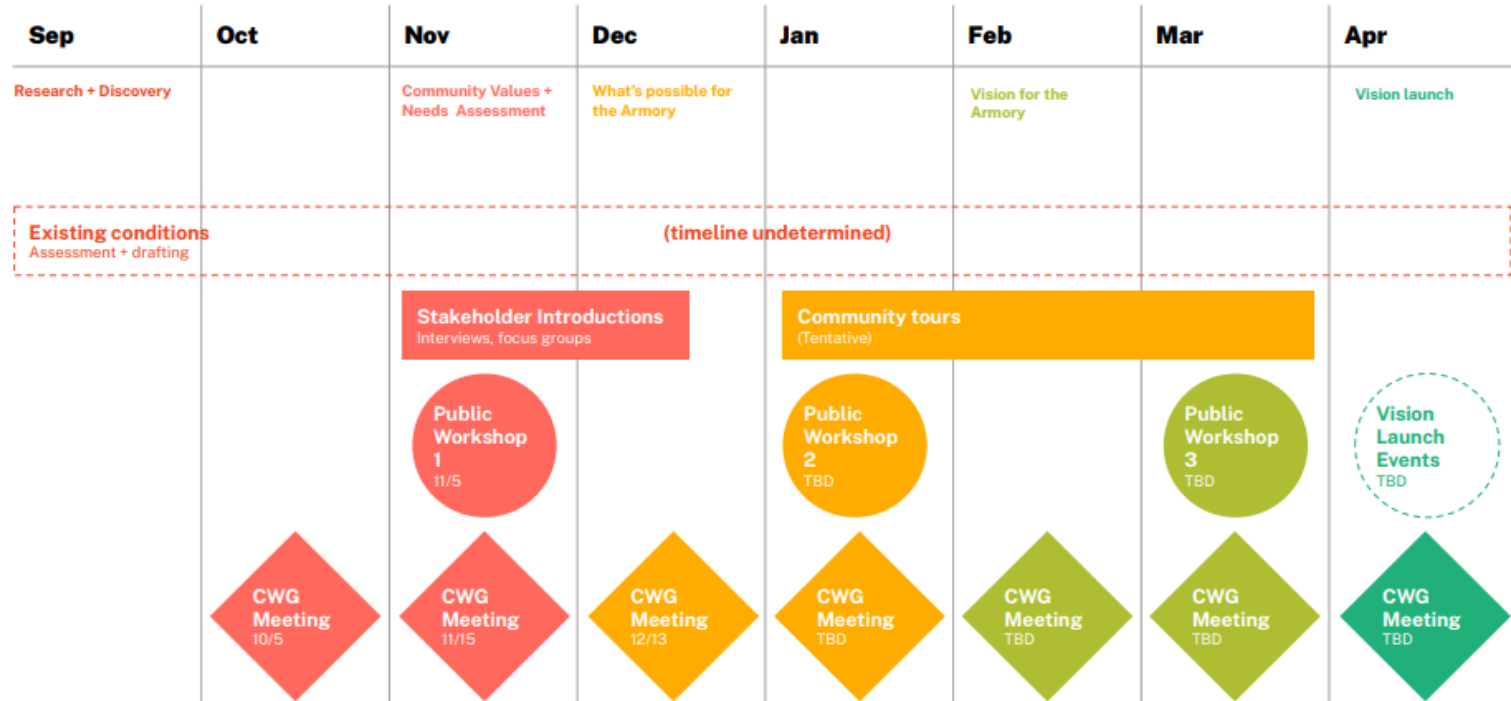
We will synthesize the information from all stakeholder and public workshops into a cohesive and accessible vision document for the future of the Kingsbridge Armory.

## It will include:

- A summary of our engagement
- A summary of the community's shared goals
- Representative graphics to demonstrate vision
- Next steps



# Engagement Timeline



# Together for Kingsbridge Outreach

- Monthly Community Working Group Meetings
- Monthly Community Board 7 Updates
- Weekly Meetings with Co-Chairs
- Public Workshops
- Focus Group Conversations:
  - Small Business
  - Health
  - Youth
  - Cultural/Art
  - Residents



# Community Values

## MOST MENTIONED VALUES

1. **Togetherness + mutual support**
2. Collective economy
3. Strong work ethic, working class values
4. Diverse, inclusive of all cultures
5. Resilience through creativity + resistance
6. Family
7. Kindness + compassion towards others
8. Educational + vocational progress

## DIGGING DEEPER

Unity

Community helping neighbors uplift each other

Pride

Working together



## MOST MENTIONED PROGRAM NEEDS

### Value educational + vocational training for all ages

Supporting startups + smaller CBOs > large corporations

Local business > external interests

Healthy + local food access as key to sustainable regenerative economy

Culture

Supporting youth

Provide community services, especially in service of most vulnerable community members

## DIGGING DEEPER

Educational and vocational training for all ages, especially in tech + creative fields

Job training + placement

Education

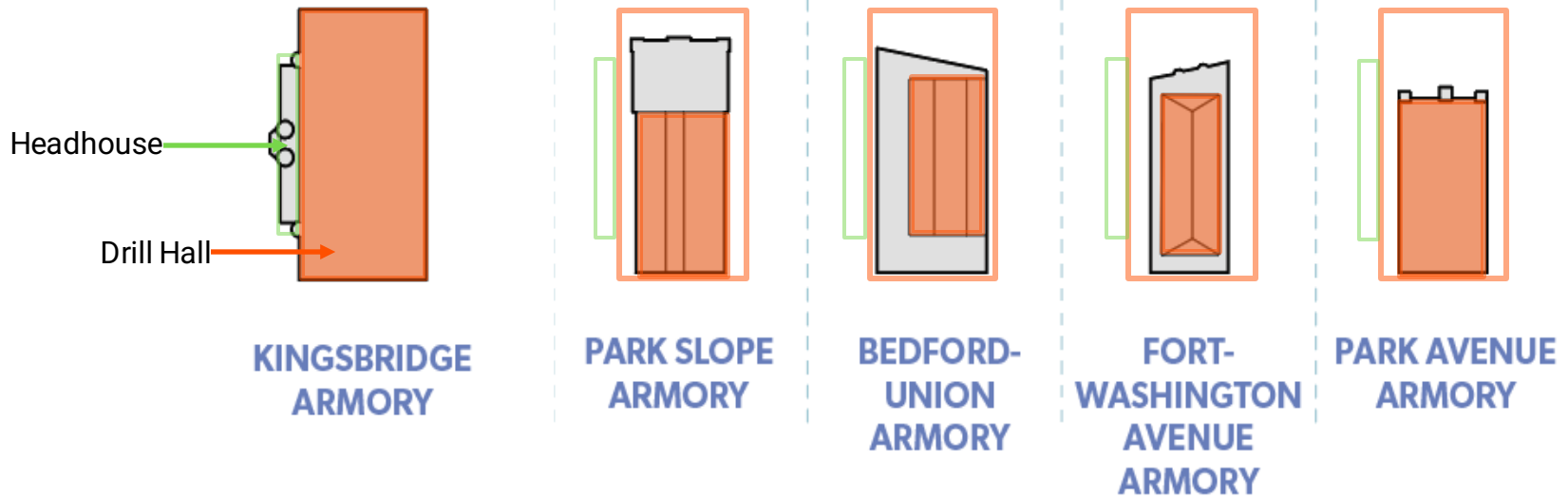
Education + skills development





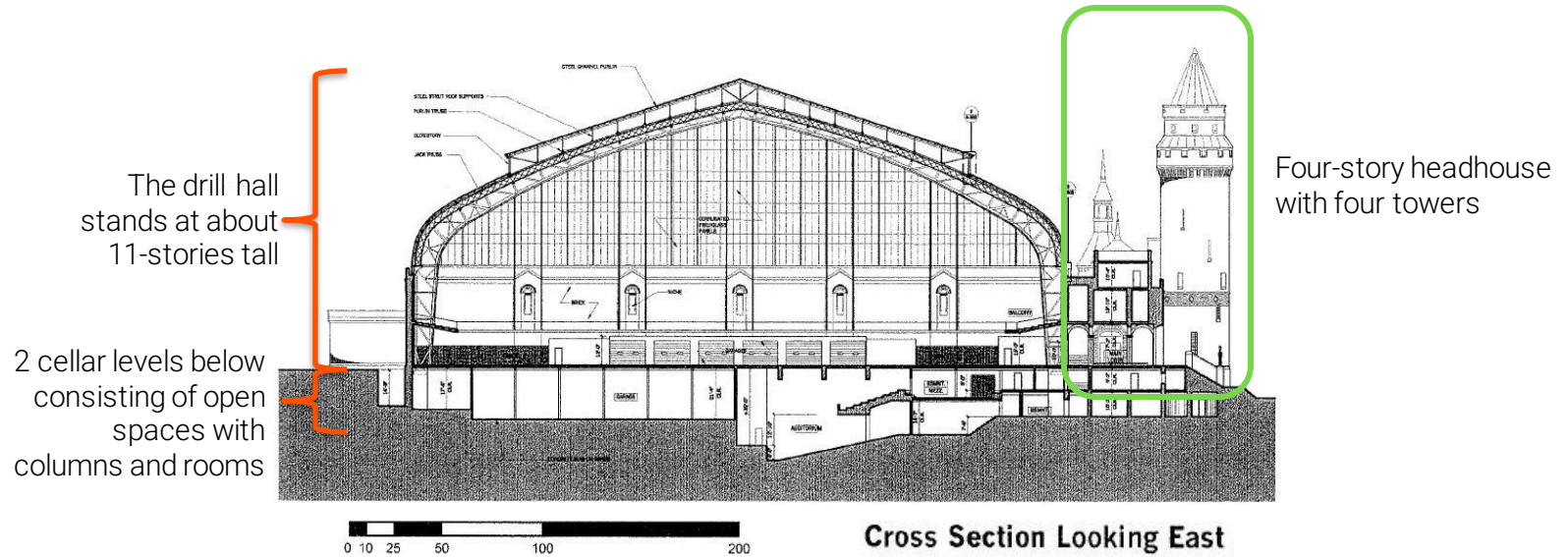
# The Kingsbridge Armory: Scale and Condition

# The Kingsbridge Armory is bigger than any other armory in the City.



The Armory has a footprint of 200,000 square feet (SF), that's more than 27 basketball courts.

# The Kingsbridge Armory is made up of unique spaces.



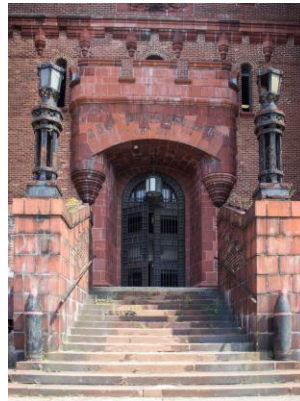
*The inside of the Armory is over 500,000 square feet, around the size of Madison Square Garden.*



**The drill hall is 180,000 square feet, it could fit 3 football fields or 27 basketball courts.**

# Kingsbridge Armory – Existing Conditions

## The Armory Today – Exterior



# Kingsbridge Armory – Existing Conditions

The Armory Today –Roof



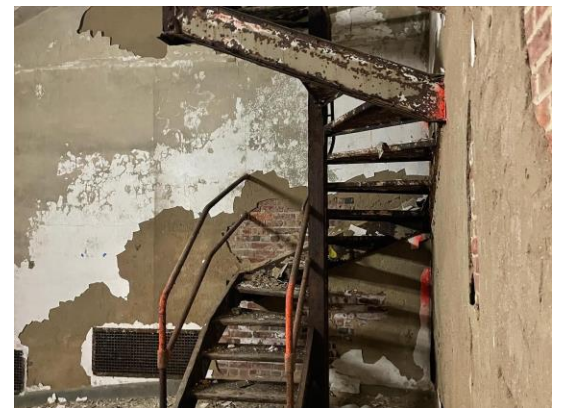
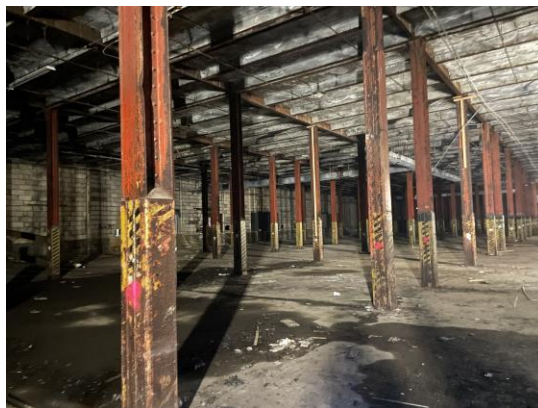
# Kingsbridge Armory – Existing Conditions

The Armory Today – Headhouse



# Kingsbridge Armory – Existing Conditions

The Armory Today – Cellar levels





# Discussion

# We want to hear from you!

## Upcoming Events

Thurs Jan 17	6 - 7:30 pm	Adaptive Reuse Panel Discussion
Sat Jan 21	12 - 3 pm	Public Workshop at PS 340 Annex
Early March	TBD	Public Workshop #3

Visit [www.kingsbridgetogether.com](http://www.kingsbridgetogether.com)

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