Melissa Benitez

LIB ARCH 2205 Learning Places FA2017

“My Brooklyn” by Kelly Anderson

Five years ago when I mentioned to my friends and family members that I was attending New York City College of Technology located in Brooklyn, everyone said “Brooklyn? Oh no is very dangerous. They stab and rob people...” and the comments were extensive but never nothing good. But if you don’t live or traveled to Brooklyn you wouldn’t know what really happens there. Brooklyn is criticized or judged to be a very dangerous borough and have really mean residents. For many years it was seen like an undesirable place to live in.

While watching “My Brooklyn” directed by Kelly Anderson I can relate to the residents in Brooklyn. Every community has their spirit or their genius loci. And Downtown Brooklyn was a place where people from many nationalities and cultures would come together and enjoy the shops there was. Where the owners of the shops were family and all the people in the streets knew who you were. The film speaks about how Brooklyn people were tight with each other despite their ethnicity differences.

But the main question is, why don’t the developers take into consideration the people that already live there? The only reason why a community has its spirit and vibe is because the people that already live there gives it that vibe. While watching the film I found out that the building I live in is owned by Thor Equities. Thor Equities has become one of the biggest developers in New York City. They are also responsible for the Downtown Brooklyn Plan and the displacement of many shops during the process. It’s very sad that the government allows this to happen by giving the power to developers, who don’t always take the existing community into consideration.