

Learning Places Fall 2016

## **Library / Archive REPORT**

Interference Archive and Brooklyn Central Library

Fatoumata Camara

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### INTRODUCTION

This week the Interference Archive and the Brooklyn Central were two of the places we visited and got information about the Gowanus neighborhood, canal, and Brooklyn. Also, we got a chance to look at other issues that have been effecting Brooklyn such as gentrification and public housing. The good thing about the Interference visit was that many of the information was recent, so we got a chance to cross reference with old information as well.

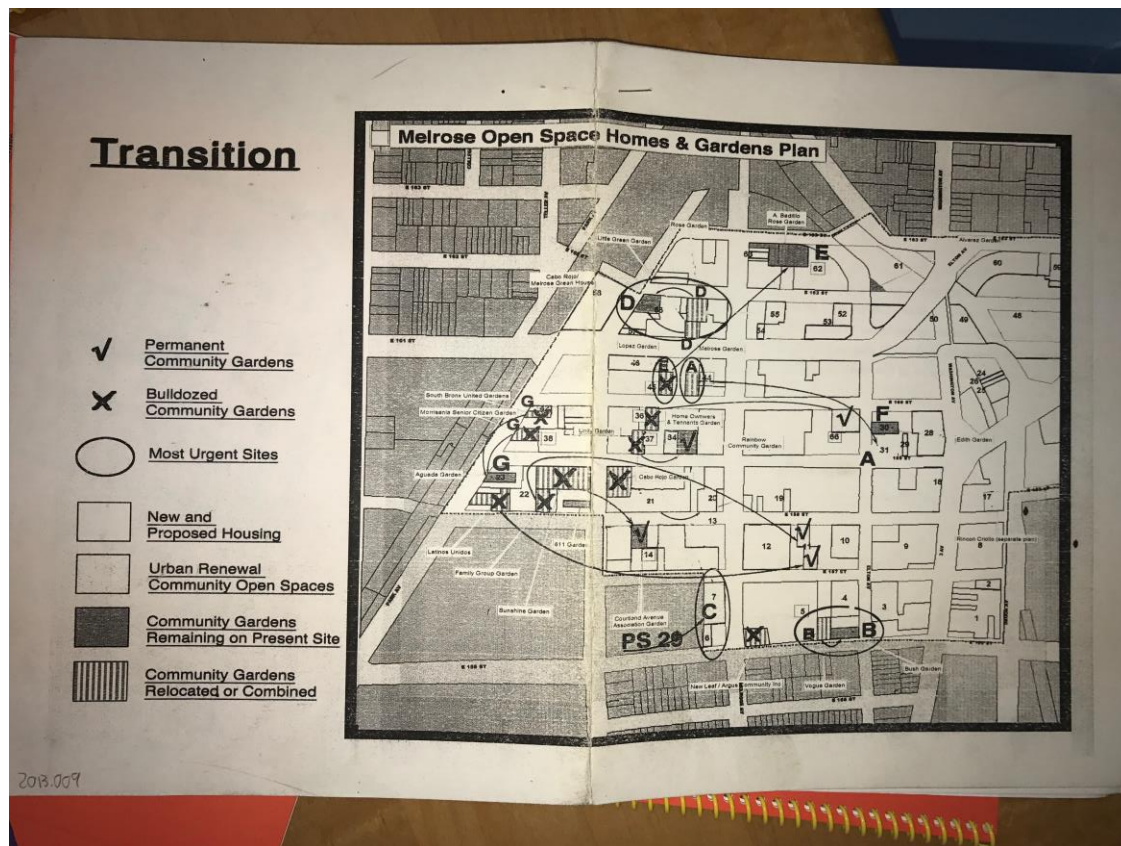
### SITE DOCUMENTATION



This is a picture of the inside of Interference Archive. It is where an abundance of information can be found about different topics that have to do with Brooklyn. It is a rented space that offers free events for residents and bilingual visitors. It also is volunteered based and is supported through donations. Interference Archive is the home to many different original artifacts dating back to when public housing started becoming a big issue. This sign spoke to me the moment I walked in. The quote written was a deep message that reminded me that working on yourself is not something to be frowned upon. The shelves stocked with books, posters, and other material reminded me of a library that I can stay in all day and learn about almost anything.



This is a picture of students hard at work looking for information on different topics of interest. You have on the table a box filled with oversized pamphlets. On the shelves in the background, is books about various topics of interest. There are also large posters and ads and even cartoons about displacement and gentrification. This is important because it shows how you can find information from any time and how people dealt with these issues. We may think now is bad but looking back could it have been worst. It also provides a sense of understanding on how communities come together more when they are being targeted. These are all primary sources, which makes them great sources to seek for a question such as how gentrification has impacted lives then and now.



(2013). [Transition]. Interference Archive (Large Fornat Pamphlets, Gentrification section)



This was an interesting artifact that I found on the Melrose houses in The Bronx. I know of the area because I had family that lived there, so to see that it was once projected to be gentrified creates clarity for why it looks the way it does today. It can be seen clearly in the map that when developing the new space homes for the Melrose houses, certain gardens had to be demolished for the construction of new housing. Most of the community gardens that were either relocated or combined, in the end just got demolished. Also, the most urgent sites are where some of the urban renewal and new housing projects are located. This is very significant because it shows how gentrification can change a neighborhood and make them feel isolated from the rest of the city.



(2015). [Why Are Apartments Expensive?]. Interference Archive (Housing/Squatting/Urbanism Folder).

This is a poster showing the effects and causes of why apartments have become expensive. I like that it's in a comic strip form because it's more interesting to read but also it makes retaining the information easier. This is very significant especially in today's time where rent increases are one of the main question on many people's minds. The way they broke it down that people are pushed out of the city and can cause homelessness, puts an image to the discussions we have had in class. It also puts some clarity to the documentary called *Blackout* that we watched in class where the 1977 blackout changed New York urban life forever.

#### GENERAL NOTES:

- ☐ Interference Archive is anti-capitalist and the artifacts are not open stock.
- ☐ The archives are organized by material type rather than title like in a library.
- ☐ The Brooklyn Public Library has inherited the eagle of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle newspaper.

#### KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

Open Stock : goods that are always kept in stock by a shop, etc.

Serial: Of a literary publication, esp. a story: issued in successive instalments (as in a magazine or newspaper).

Depository : A place or receptacle in which things are deposited or placed for safe keeping; a storehouse, a repository.

Atlas: A collection of maps in a volume

Artifacts: An object made or modified by human workmanship, as opposed to one formed by natural processes.

#### QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. What are the effects of gentrification on affordable housing?
2. How is the growth of gentrification linked to the growth on urbanization?
3. Why is it so hard for people to accept change?