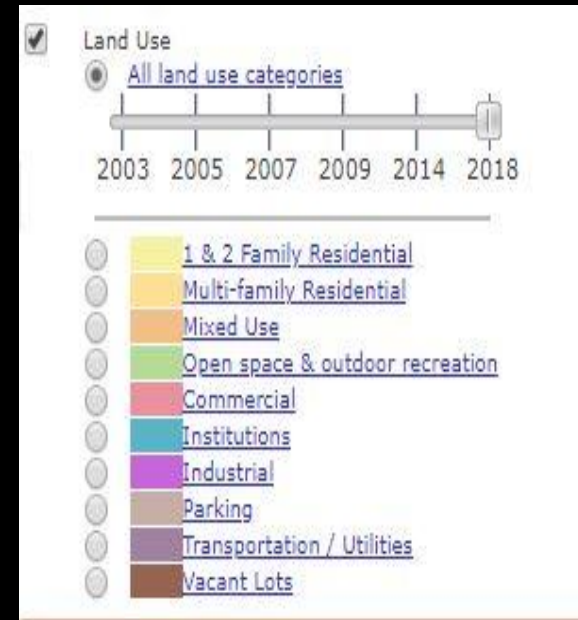
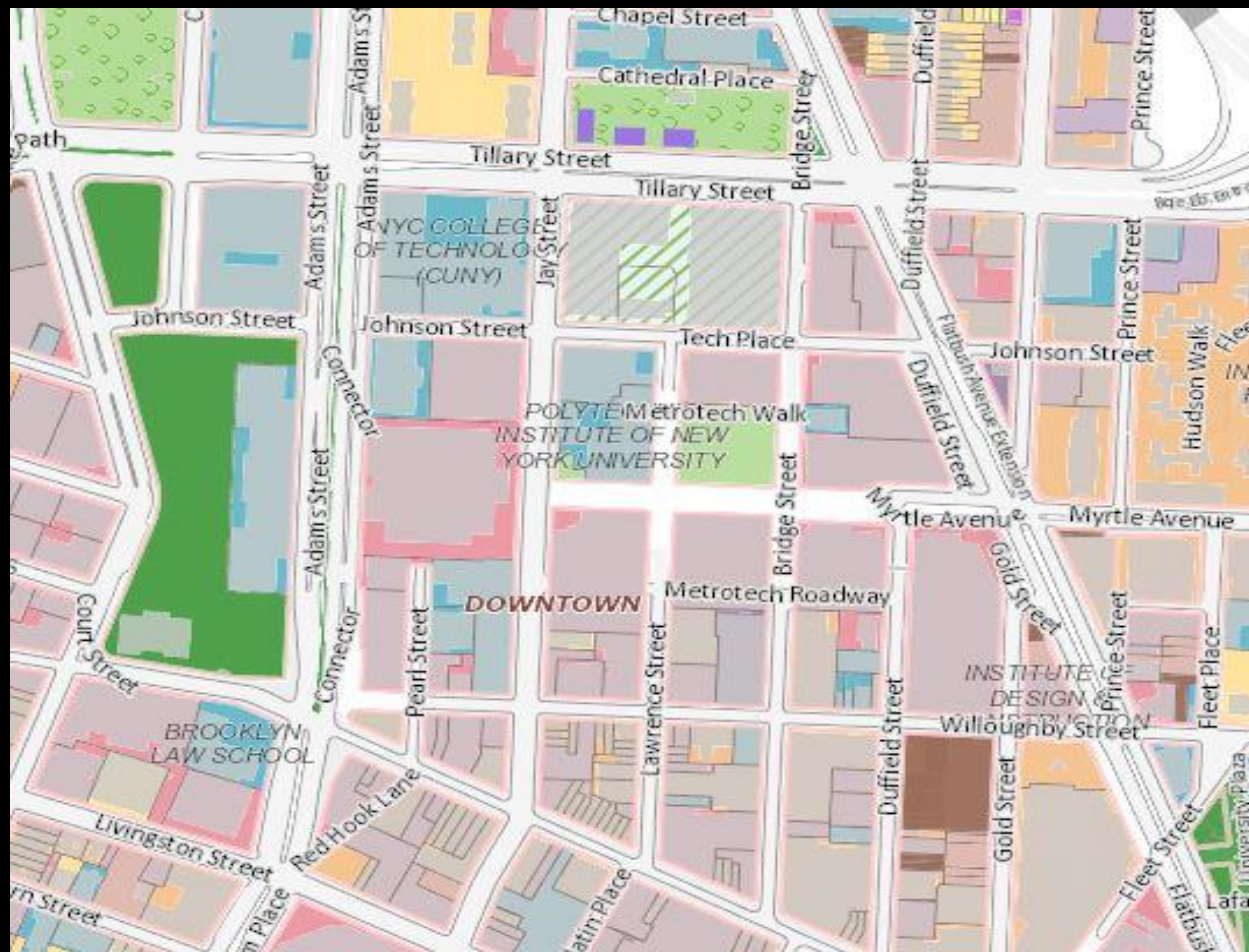


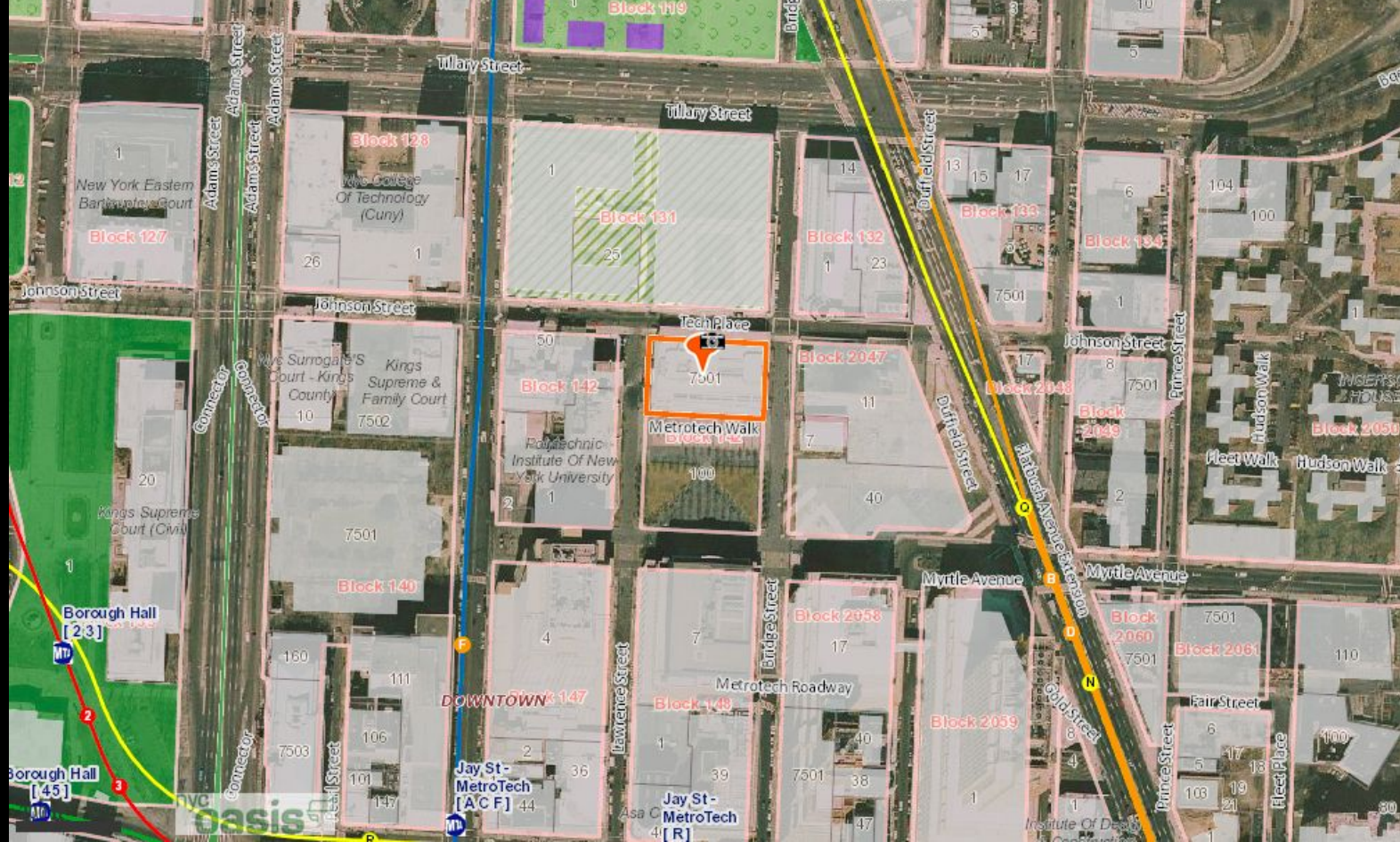


A Closer Look At MetroTech

*Written by
Basant Eid
and Karmoko
Sillah*



<http://www.oasisnyc.net/printmap.asp> *MetroTech Brooklyn Today*



Downtown Brooklyn is considered to be the 3rd most profitable commercial area in the city . “The area contains a high concentration of major office-buildings, regional stores, residential buildings, government offices, and academic and cultural institutions,” which caters to a large audience containing many different types of people.



DESTINATION KEY

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Manhattan Bridge Plaza | 9 The Rotunda Gallery | 19 Brooklyn Tourism & Visitor Center |
| 2 Manhattan Bridge Walkway/Bike Path | 10 Brooklyn Historical Society | 20 Brooklyn Municipal Building |
| 3 St. James Roman Catholic Church | 11 St. Ann's Church | 21 Brooklyn Law School |
| 4 Brooklyn Bridge Walkway/Bike Path | 12 St. Francis College | 22 Brooklyn Friends School |
| 5 US District Court House | 13 New York City College of Technology/CUNY | 23 Kings County District Attorney's Office |
| 6 US Bankruptcy Court House and General Post Office | 14 Domestic Relations Court | 24 Polytechnic Institute of NYU |
| 7 Brooklyn Business Library | 15 Hotel and Convention Center | 25 FDNY Headquarters |
| 8 Pierrepont Plaza | 16 NYS State Supreme Court | 26 Helen Keller Services for the Blind |
| | 18 Brooklyn Borough Hall | 27 St. Joseph High School |

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 28 Historic Duffield St. Houses | 37 Institute of Design & Construction |
| 29 St. Boniface Church | 38 MetroTech BID Office |
| 30 NYC Department of Environmental Protection | 39 TKTS |
| 31 Old Time Savings Bank | 40 A.J. Namm & Son Building |
| 32 Ft. Greene Park (Prison Ship Martyrs Memorial) | 41 O'Brien Building |
| 33 Brooklyn Hospital Center | 42 Gage & Folger |
| 34 Long Island University | 43 Hotel |
| 35 Internal Revenue Service | |
| 36 George Westinghouse High School | |

GRAPHIC KEY

- Destinations
- Historic District
- Shopping District
- Park
- Subway Stations



METROTECH

Conceived during the 1980s and completed in 2004, MetroTech quickly emerged as one of America's most successful urban redevelopment projects.



The 16-acre complex of new and renovated buildings has introduced over 6,000 jobs to the borough and linked the historic heart of downtown to Brooklyn's businesses and technical institutions.



In addition to major private enterprises, the complex includes Polytechnic Institute, New York City College of Technology, the New York City Fire Department and Long Island University.



It is served by an award-winning hotel building, which also houses the borough's district attorney's offices.

On the outer edge of MetroTech lies the bustling Willoughby Street corridor. One hundred and fifty retail stores line the street, many with long neighborhood associations. Willoughby Street connects to Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn's key commercial thoroughfare.

The landmarked Duffield Street houses and former City of Brooklyn Fire Headquarters join an array of restaurants offering an international selection of foods.

"Brooklyn of ample hills was mine"

Crossing Brooklyn Ferry
With Whitman



*Abraham & Straus on Fulton
Street, c.1950*

Myrtle Avenue looking east from Pearl Street, 1949





*Livingston Street,
showing Abraham &
Straus and Loew's
Metropolitan Theater,
1960*



Jay street Myrtle Ave
10:10 Am

There will be controversy. As early as 1982 an ad hoc committee called Stand Together Against Neighborhood Destruction had formed, with Pamela Dohner, a homeowner in the area, and Edwin Lieberfarb, owner of Bridge Auto Parts, as co-chairmen. They contend that Metrotech "will basically benefit a private institution" at the expense of "destroying a viable and growing neighborhood." There are about 40 existing properties on the 16-acre Metrotech site, containing 114 dwelling units with 220 residents and 57 businesses with 390 jobs.



Oser, A. S. (1985AD, January 6). METROTECH: A TEST FOR A NEW FORM OF URBAN RENEWAL. *NY Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/1985/01/06/realestate/metrotech-a-test-for-a-new-form-of-urban-renewal.html>

100 Johnson Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
March 6, 1987

100 Johnson Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

New York City Public Development Corporation
161 William Street
New York, NY 10038

ATTN: ANN WEISBROD, Senior Development Manager

Dear Sirs:

We submit this letter to you regarding the proposed Metrotech Project in Downtown Brooklyn and ask that it be made part of the public record.

As owners of 100 Johnson Street, we oppose the Metrotech Project for several reasons quite apart from the fact that we would lose our house if this project were to go through.

It seems wrong to us to use eminent domain in order to condemn and demolish private property for the express purpose of turning over this private property to other private individuals and organizations to use for their aggrandizement and enrichment. If Polytech and Forest City wish to alter the area of the project, then they should approach the property owners in the area and negotiate with them, and each property owner would then be free to sell or not sell as the case may be. As it is, a proposal has been made excluding the most important people of all, namely the property owners, businesses, residents, and workers who live and use the area every day. Furthermore, it is we who must devote our spare time and our money to justify the continued existence of our property and residences while bureaucrats from the City and Polytech and Forest City are paid a salary to come up with ways to eliminate us.

Furthermore, the proposal as it presently stands does not lend much credence to the loudly vaunted claims of the developer. After several years of presumably hard work, Polytech and Forest City have only been able to entice two prospective tenants into the area, one of whom (Brooklyn Union Gas) is already in the area. The developer has admitted on several occasions, they cannot find many prospective tenants who will even consider coming to look at sites in the proposed second phase of the project.

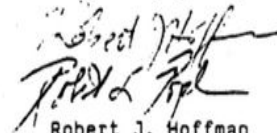
continued...

So even on paper this has not been a rousing success story up to this point. Yet since the second phase would not be built until phase one has been completed, we would in effect be the guinea pigs for a flawed proposal. The damage that the clearing of buildings and the relocation of already established businesses would do to Downtown Brooklyn when this project fails, is a consideration to be seriously weighed before the City consents to this project.

The additional traffic and air pollution, the chaotic traffic patterns for many years, and the clearing of valuable historical properties are further arguments against this project as it now stands.

By all means, development should be considered, but with and not against the area's residents and employees, and the power of the City should not be used against its own citizens in favor of cliques who are wealthy and powerful and have high-placed connections. The history of graft and corruption in this City is already shameful enough without adding more pages.

Very truly yours,



Robert J. Hoffman
Robert L. Popham

Opposition of Metrotech

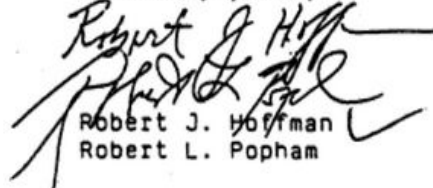
Dear Sirs:

As property owners within the proposed Metrotech Urban Renewal Area in Brooklyn, we oppose this project and hope that you will use your influence to have this proposal eliminated or at least modified.

Polytechnic Institute, a private college and the prime mover behind this project, is seeking the removal of established housing and businesses in order to be able to have a quadrangle-like open space. They cloak this aim behind a scheme that would, purportedly rejuvenate this part of downtown Brooklyn and create new jobs, although they have no specific tenants except for two companies who are already doing business in the city. Furthermore, they seek Federal and Municipal tax dollars for the acquisition and demolition of the housing and businesses already there, but they are unwilling or unable to provide information as to what their financial input will be in this proposal.

We urge you to read the Environmental Impact Study on Metrotech. We are confident that you too will see this project for the boondoggle that it is.

Sincerely yours,



Robert J. Hoffman
Robert L. Popham

Owners of the address 100 Johnson Street, opposed the development of Metrotech Center because it would displace them, and the surrounding businesses without giving first communicating with them of these changes.

Metrotech. (n.d.). Retrieved November 2, 2019, from

[https://books.google.com/books?id=LNk3AQAAAMAJ&pg=PA58-IA92&lpg=PA58-IA92&dq=100+Johnson+Street,+Brooklyn,+NY&source=bl&ots=WNudOlBEn6&sig=ACfU3U2MCIABA5foQIL3wHXJIwkLgpeZLO&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj8hujz8r3IAhXjUt8KHZg1BI0Q6AEwBHoECAYQAO#v=onepage&q=100 Johnson Street, Brooklyn, NY&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=LNk3AQAAAMAJ&pg=PA58-IA92&lpg=PA58-IA92&dq=100+Johnson+Street,+Brooklyn,+NY&source=bl&ots=WNudOlBEn6&sig=ACfU3U2MCIABA5foQIL3wHXJIwkLgpeZLO&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj8hujz8r3IAhXjUt8KHZg1BI0Q6AEwBHoECAYQAO#v=onepage&q=100%20Johnson%20Street%20Brooklyn%20NY&f=false)

(Metrotech, 2019)

March 13, 1987

Ms. Sylvia Deutsch,
Chairperson
Dept. of City Planning
2 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10007

WOODS*
LETTERS

Dear Ms. Deutsch:

I am writing to you as a long-time resident and business person as well as a concerned taxpayer. The **Metrotech** project projected for downtown Brooklyn may be the most ill conceived and destructive white elephant yet to be foisted upon the tax payers of NYC.

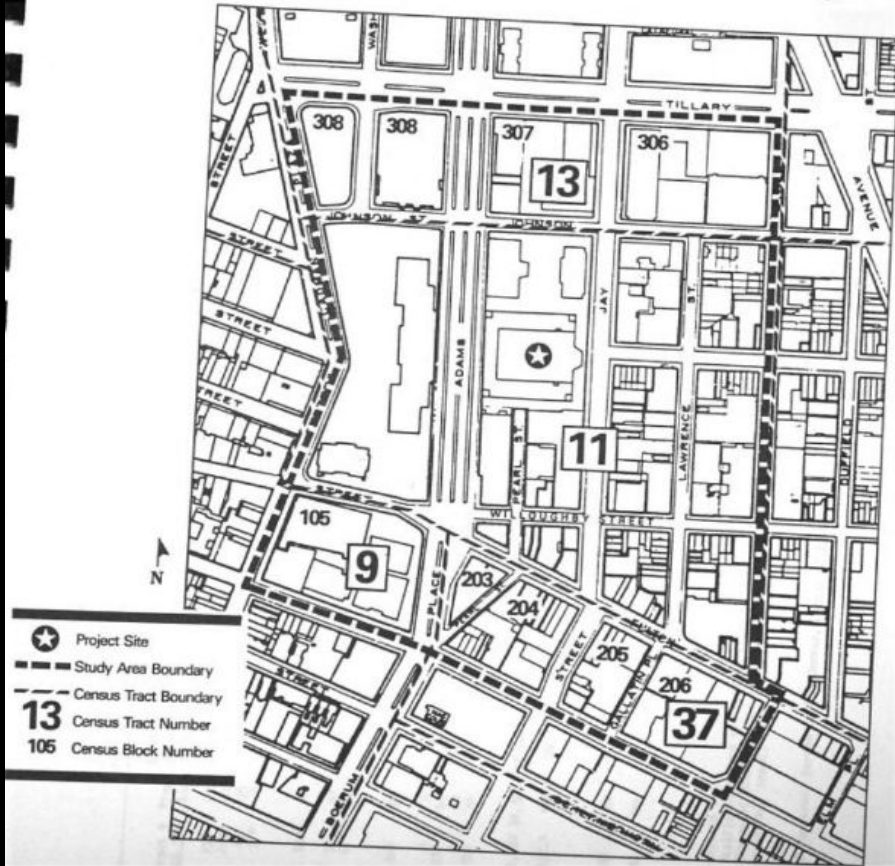
The city plans to use the laws of eminent domain to condemn and take the homes, businesses and properties of 250 residential tenants, and 101 businesses employing 1,068 workers in a ten square block area. These businesses and individuals would then be forced to relocate in a time when there is an intensely severe housing shortage and in a climate where the vast majority of all relocated businesses fail. An entire integrated and energetic community would be forcibly destroyed. And, all of this wholesale ruin at the expense of the public is intended for the economic gain of the private developer and other large and rich corporations, specifically SIAC and BUG.

The rationale for the project is that it would bring jobs to Brooklyn. The project is not really creating new jobs: both firms are moving **people** already employed from one part of NYC, and in case of BUG, one part of Brooklyn, to another. There is a glut of unrented office space in NYC. Empty offices do not provide jobs. Until we spend our public monies on education, our citizens will not qualify for jobs in any case. And, because offices are cheaper to build than residential housing, the city continues its investment in the real estate business by financing more and more office buildings. The morality of building empty buildings while tens of thousands of **people** are living in the streets is abominable. With priorities like this no wonder NYC has so easily sunk to shame and scandal.

The sudden removal of businesses and tenants was unethical in the sense that after these individuals were forced to move, they were never given the promised jobs and housing by developers(Metrotech, 2019).

Metrotech. (n.d.). Retrieved November 2, 2019, from <https://books.google.com/books?id=LNk3AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA58-IA92&lpg=PA58-IA92&dq=100+Johnson+Street.+Brooklyn.+NY&source=bl&ots=WNudOlEn6&sig=ACfU3U2MCIABA5foOIL3wHXJIwkLgpeZLO&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj8hujz8r3lAhXjUt8KHZg1BI0O6AEwBHoECAYOAO#v=onepage&q=100 Johnson Street, Brooklyn, NY&f=false>

Census Tracts and Blocks Figure 9



In the given study area, the total residential population in 1980 was 551 residents, which was a slight decrease from 1970 by 21.1% (147 residents). In 1980, over 60% of the population in that area (333 residents), were living in a single high rise in Livingston Street. The rest of the population were scattered in smaller residential buildings in that area. TRACT 11

“There are no good restaurants, there’s no midrange apparel or accessories. What we’re aiming for is a better neighborhood all around. That doesn’t mean Gucci, but maybe HMV, maybe Zara, maybe Equinox. We’re not asking anybody to leave the street. We just have to bring in new stores in a way that everybody can work together. We’re Botoxing Fulton Street Mall.”—*Faith Hope Consolo, real-estate agent for BellTel Lofts, as quoted in The New York Times.*

Families United for Racial and Economic Equality (FUREE) is a Brooklyn-based multi-racial organization that mobilizes low- and middle-income families to promote equality, improve economic conditions, and build collective power to win systemic changes at the local, state and national level. Primarily led by women of color—with an emphasis on community and family—FUREE uses direct action, leadership development, community organizing, and political education to achieve our vision and goals.





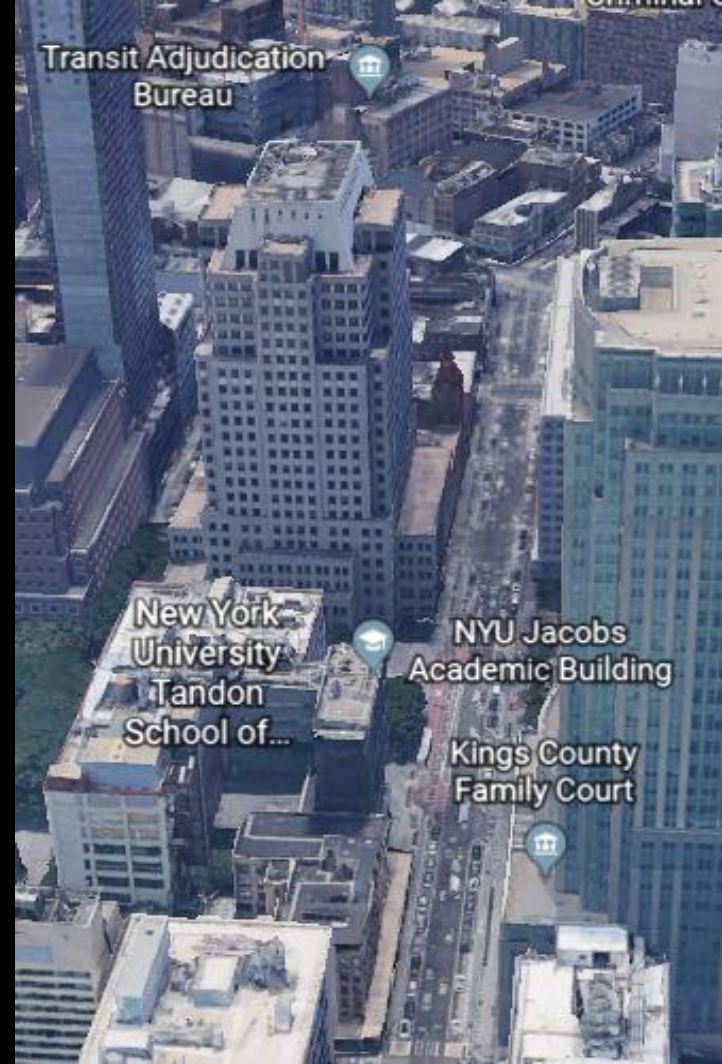
Polytechnic Institute

By 1988, MetroTech is also expected to have upgraded and expanded Polytechnic Institute of New York. Polytechnic would be in an improved position to serve the region in general and the new offices with its new academic facilities.

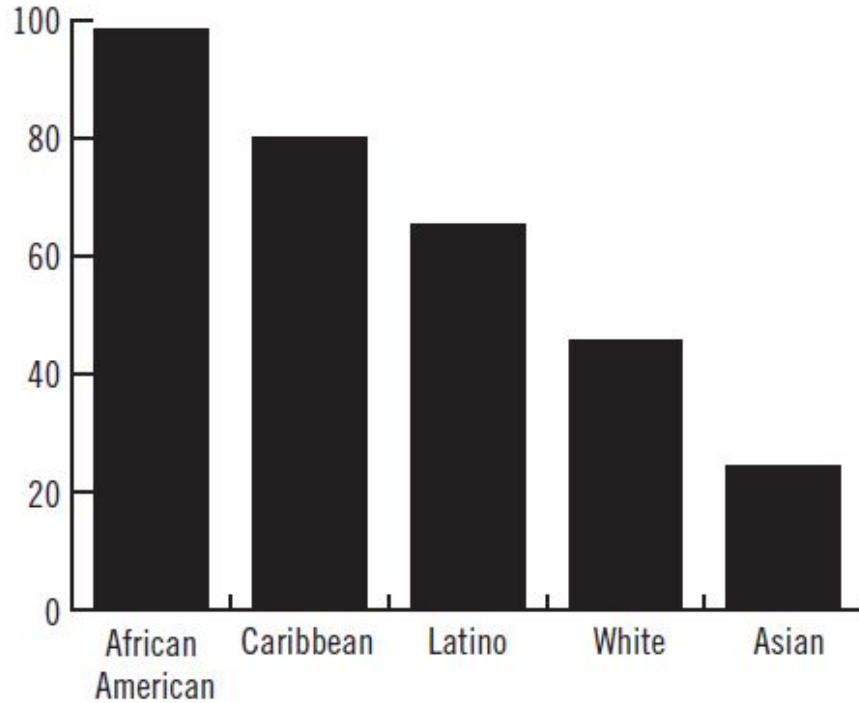
GEORGE BUGLIARELLO, the president of Polytechnic University in downtown Brooklyn, seems happy now to tell the story of being offered his job in 1973 and turning it down at first, not because of the school's faculty, finances or academic standing, but because of the urban blight surrounding its campus.

"I could not believe that a great university could exist amid such terrible deterioration," Dr. Bugliarello said the other day, waving an arm toward four dreary blocks just south of the campus that are soon to be leveled.

Lueck, T. J. (1989, January 22). Transforming Downtown Brooklyn. *NY Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/1989/01/22/realestate/transforming-downtown-brooklyn.html>

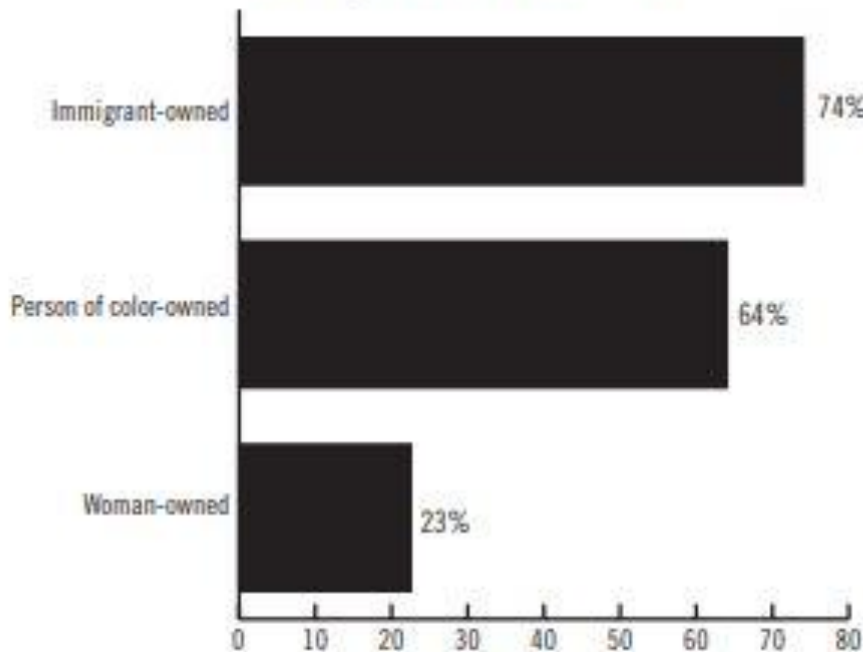


Customer Base of Downtown Brooklyn Small Businesses



In 1980s, you can clearly tell that private small business had a very diverse customer base. The majority of their customers were African American, Caribbean, and Latino.

Ownership Characteristics of Downtown Brooklyn Small Businesses



46% of businesses were locally owned.

64% of small business owners were people of color:

31% identified as Black

25% as Asian

8% as Latino or Hispanic

23% of businesses were woman-owned.

Households: More than \$40,000

Change data

☆ ⓘ Census 1980

by Tract

as Dot Density



100 Johnson St, Brooklyn, NY 11201

clear



+ Save as annotation

100 Johnson St, Brooklyn, NY 11201 ADDRESS

Census Tract 13, Kings County, New York

Households: More than \$40,000 14.05%

139

Percent base: Households 989

One dot represents value of:



10



● Households: More than \$40,000

Households: More than \$75,000

Change data

☆ ⓘ ACS 2018 (1-Year Estimates)

by PUMA

as Dot Density



100 Johnson St, Brooklyn, NY 11201

clear



+ Save as annotation

NYC-Brooklyn Community District 2--Brooklyn Heights & Fort Greene PUMA, New York

Households: More than \$75,000

61.5%

39,350

Percent base: Households:

63,983

One dot represents value of:



25



● Households: More than \$75,000

Social Explorer

THE OLD BRIDGE STREET CHURCH

In January 1863, an historic three-day celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation occurred here at the Bridge Street African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church. On Wednesday night, New Year's Eve - known as "seam night" in the church's tradition of annually awaiting the start of a New Year - hundreds of black and white Brooklyn citizens attended the service in anticipation of President Abraham Lincoln's promise to sign the proclamation on New Year's Day.

On Thursday, January 1, 1863, the Bridge Street Church remained open all day as word spread that President Lincoln had signed the Proclamation - freeing four million African American men, women, and children - people came hourly into the chapel to express their joy in meetings, speeches, prayers, and songs - and their concern about the ongoing Civil War. On Friday, January 2, they a formal program of speakers at the Bridge Street Church included African American historian William Wells Brown and abolitionist Theodore Tilton.

The Bridge Street Church served prominently in the anti-slavery movement as an abolitionist meeting place and a "station" of the Underground Railroad, hiding freedom seekers in the church basement. With local abolitionists Jackson Henry Ward Beecher, Henry Highland Garnet, J.W.C. Pettigrew, James Glasgow, Arthur and Lewis Tappan, and John H. Raymond (a founder of Polytechnic University), and sites like the Plymouth Congregational, Shalom Presbyterian, and Centred Baptist Church, Brooklyn became a national hub of abolitionist and anti-slavery activities - the nation's first lawsuit rights campaign.

In February 1862, the nation's leading civil rights activist Frederick Douglass spoke at the Bridge Street Church, denouncing a military search for the arrest of black soldiers in the Union ranks. Douglass used the Bridge Street address a few weeks later to launch his famous "Anti-Slavery" series of lectures which recruited southern African American soldiers for the Union cause.

In October 1863, Harriet Tubman, the nation's most famous conductor of the Underground Railroad, visited the church and was welcomed by an overflowed congregation fully half consisting of whites, supported the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, and she was lauded for her war heroism in a Union court and more. In that time Tubman met and found North McKim's New Year's Eve meeting program, then



Historic Church Building that goes as far back as 1847, transformed into NYU Polytech Student Center.



Metrotech Center Commons consists of large retail/food businesses along with residential offices. The jobs around the metrotech center commons did not cater to the residents that were pushed out of their homes nor the business owners who were forced to shut down.



References

Justice Center, U. (n.d.). *Out Of Business: The Crisis of Small Business In Rezoned Downtown Brooklyn*. https://cdp.urbanjustice.org/sites/default/files/oob_31jul08.pdf

Lueck, T. J. (1989, January 22). Transforming Downtown Brooklyn. *NY Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/1989/01/22/realestate/transforming-downtown-brooklyn.html>

Metrotech. (n.d.). Retrieved November 2, 2019, from <https://books.google.com/books?id=LNk3AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA58-IA92&lpg=PA58-IA92&dq=100+Johnson+Street,+Brooklyn,+NY&source=bl&ots=WNudOlEn6&sig=ACfU3U2MCIABA5foQIL3wHXJIwkLgpeZLO&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewj8hujz8r3lAhXjUt8KHZg1BI0Q6AEwBHoECAYQAO#v=onepage&q=100 Johnson Street, Brooklyn, NY&f=false>