the future of planning for economic democracy and self-determination

towards a post-COVID just recovery
About MIT CoLab Just Urban Economies

- operationalize economic democracy and self-determination among marginalized communities in the New York City region
- facilitate learning, diffusion of ideas, movement building, and collective action
- documenting, evaluating, analyzing and communicating lessons learned from economic democracy experiments within and beyond our networks
Economic democracy and self-determination

● “An economic, social and political system that puts capital and resources under democratic control and ownership” – from BCDI and MIT CoLab, Economic Democracy Training Series, 2015

● Variety of practices and structures include CLTs, cooperatives, credit unions, participatory budgeting, community asset mapping

● Also known as social and solidarity economy

CoLab’s approach to economic democracy:
- Civic infrastructure
- Shared ownership over the assets that drive regional economy
- Governance over the way value is defined and created in society
Fight back and fight forward
Fight back and fight forward

Bronx Community Wins Big on Development Project Committed to Living Wages and Local Economy

When the board of the Coalition in 2007, and discovered that the local armory was being empty, said, "We need to do something that will help the economy of local people."

This fall—a decade later—"saw the building go from a place that was never going to be used to a place that is now being used by local people."
Highlights from The Bronx
Highlights from Brooklyn

East Brooklyn Call to Action
for Health and Economic Justice!

Come discuss the topics that are most important to you.
It's time to take ownership of...

Your Health  Your Housing  Your Education  Your Future

Date/Time
Saturday, April 27, 2019
10AM - 2PM

Location
P.S. 136 Waverly
104 Sutter Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11212

Light refreshments will be served
Contact us at EBCall2Action@gmail.com for more information or click here to register.

[Map of Brooklyn]
COVID-19 impacts

75% of NYC frontline workers are POC, 62% women, 50% foreign born

COVID-19 death rate for Black Bronxites is 4.6x higher than that of white Manhattanites

Nationally, the number of active Black and Latinx business owners decreased by 41% and 32%, respectively, in the first two months of the crisis
Future(s) of planning

Reparative planning (Williams 2020)

Abolitionist planning (UCLA 2017)

Insurgent planning (Miraftab 2009)

Antisubordination planning (Steil and Delgado 2019)

Therapeutic planning (Sandercock 2004)

Transformative planning (Kennedy 2018; Angotti 2019)

Planning from below (Harnecker and Bartolomé 2019)
Future(s) of planning

Decentralized

Participatory Action Research & Participatory budgeting

Beyond participatory: democratic control and ownership

Intersectional: addresses race, gender, indigeneity, ability, sexuality
Other worlds are possible

Fideicomiso Caño Martín
Peña, San Juan, PR

Chantier de l’économie sociale/Caisse d’économie solidaire/CSN/FTQ,
Québec
Paths to a post-COVID just recovery

- Expand democratic, community ownership of land and housing by POC
  - Community Opportunity to Purchase Act would allow local CBOs to purchase distressed properties
  - Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act would allow tenants to purchase their distressed buildings
- Incorporate sustainable, health-related manufacturing space on the ground floor of mixed-use projects set aside to generate local jobs (Bridge Rockaway and La Peninsula model)
- Center environmental justice
  - Funding to support and scale community wifi networks and solar power networks for resilience and just energy transition
  - Re-frame CLTs as a tool to also fight for environmental justice and resilience
- Invest in community care and healing
  - NYC should redistribute divested funds towards community-based models that work towards harm reduction, violence prevention, and crisis-intervention
- Develop Municipal Procurement Trust
  - funded by the interest on the loan from larger institutions or by fines from enforce MWBEs procurement goals
  - Invest a portion of public pensions in burgeoning MWBE businesses located within the city
Questions for discussion

- What resonated with your experience, your practice, your ideals as a planner and city dweller?
- It’s 2030 - where are you, what do cities look like, what are you doing as a planner?
- What questions still remain for you?