

A master plan for LIC's revitalization

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The Long Island City Partnership has released what they call a comprehensive plan to tap into the community's full economic potential by utilizing public-private partnerships and other tools.

“Thoughtful planning is crucial at this key moment to foster the mix of uses that has helped attract investment and to ensure that businesses and organizations across all sectors in LIC, as well as residents and visitors, can take advantage of opportunities on the horizon,” said Gary Kesner, chairman of the Long Island City Partnership Board of Directors and executive vice president of Silvercup Studios.

The plan, available online at LICQNS.com/licplan, looks at the area's existing characteristics including land use, market conditions and demographics, in addition to meeting with focus groups consisting of community stakeholders. The greatest assets of LIC, according to the study, are its location and mixed-use character, but businesses have concerns of the affordability of the neighborhood, as well as appropriately-configured space.

Other findings include that despite area income and education levels increasing, pockets of poverty remain and more work needs to be done to connect the area's low-income populations to the economic and cultural opportunities.

Recommendations made to do just that, and more, include creating incentive programs to attract and keep businesses in LIC, increasing opportunities for cultural institutions and artists to maintain and operate active, permanent spaces, work with the city and state to increase public transit access in the area and work to decrease the need for commercial parking.

“Thoughtful planning helps ensure that our neighborhoods remain great,” said Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside). “The Long Island City Comprehensive Plan promotes a mixed-use, culturally vibrant community where people want to live, work, and raise a family. I'm proud to help fund this study and look forward to working with the Long Island City Partnership to implement these recommendations.”

CORRECTION: This story originally said the Long Island City Partnership and another entity had released the revitalization plan. Only the LICP did. We regret the error.