
**FAB Meeting #17 09/012/2019, 6:00-8:00 pm
Morris Koppelman Center (774 Saratoga Avenue)**

Attendance

- 3 UB backbone staff (Kassa Belay, David Harrington, Danielle Augustine)
- 16 FAB members
- 1 Prospective UB staff

Objectives

1. Review updates on Discover Together: Brownsville project launches
2. Discuss Leadership Council Meeting # 8
 - a. How should the FAB be involved?
 - b. What concrete requests can we make of the Leadership Council?

Takeaways

- FAB members discussed the status of 3 Early Intervention improvement projects that are currently launching and are aimed at closing racial disparities in rates of African American and Hispanic children.
- FAB members prepared for the UB Leadership Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2019 by exploring roles they envision for themselves with UB over the next 3-5years and specific topics and skills they'd like to develop related to those roles.

Books for Brownsville (B4B) Updates

- Last month UB held antiracism and implicit bias training as a prerequisite ahead of the B4B curriculum professional development workshop
- Books for Brownsville curriculum was co-facilitated by two parents
 - 13 Brownsville area service providers from across an array of sectors completed the 2 part workshop series
 - Gift bags are being distributed to every member of B4B cohort 1; bags include:
 - 3 books including a bilingual book, Family Literacy tip sheets, Spotify playlist, reusable tote bag, infant/toddler clothing and Brooklyn Children's Museum pass

Next Steps

- Promote practice from tip sheets
- Recruitment for next cohort has started and inviting more FAB members to participate as facilitators

- 750 bags will be distributed during this cohort
 - UB holding a packing party on Monday, the 23rd from 4:00 to 7:00 pm (children are welcome | food will be provided)

Learning Landscapes

- Blake the Brownsville Bumble Bee will be in two grocery stores (Cherry Valley: 381 Mother Gaston Boulevard & Food Bazaar: 417 Junius Street)
 - The bunny, the cat, the frog characters will be in different places for the “Explorer Card” component where children are invited to become explorers for the day, tasked with finding these characters like a treasure hunt and children will get a sticker from cashier if they are able to spot characters
- Pre-evaluations have begun
- Signage has been received and the official launch is set for November ‘19

Recommended Next Steps

- Families/parents serve as the best credible messengers
- Request for community members/parents to share their pictures of shopping
- Consider a hashtag to promote visibility and participation

Family Co-op

Launching this Saturday, 9/14/19, and will run through 30 Saturdays with 20 parents and 30 children including siblings, featuring 4 visitors, 5 field trips, and 5 staff members including Family Ambassadors (Ashanti and Evelyn)

Planning for Leadership Council (LC) Meeting

- Invited FAB members to attend upcoming LC meeting, to provide testimonies about UB work, share aspirations and their vision for FAB leadership roles within UB, and discuss topics and skills FAB is interested in developing, related to these leadership roles
- Ideas for FAB member contributions to discuss
 - *Books for Brownsville*: prerequisite trainings for Books for Brownsville was very powerful, and spoke to the importance of bearing witness. The roundtable planning series brought everyone to the same table. What each person said was valid and there was genuine interest, everyone listened which is different than an organization coming to parents with its own list of desires. “With UB parents were part of the decision making and no one was surprised that they read to their children.”
 - *Early Intervention*: Prime example of using data to identify disparities and engaging in a genuine community based planning process where drivers behind inequities are surfaced and projects to address those drivers are subsequently developed by combining perspectives from community residents and professionals

- *UB experience vs other organizations:* “lived experience is a form of expertise” is part of the ethos of United for Brownsville (UB). FAB members are accustomed to the top down approach (that they have to validate that they know something to be included in discussion), however UB has offered a distinct experience
- *Family Co-op:* prior to this program parent didn’t know where to find opportunities for socializing with other parents and FAB members reported needing to travel to other areas to participate in activities. FAB members shared they were grateful to help plan a program to fill this gap. FAB members are proud of helping to create the curriculum. This program genuinely feels culturally compatible which only works if it has the fingerprints of people from Brownsville on it
- *Learning Landscapes:* Children will be occupied and learning while shopping and will even look forward to it. Parents will surely enjoy an improved shopping experience while developing language skills with their children and families will love that there is an incentive at the end for children to earn stickers.

Recommended Next Steps

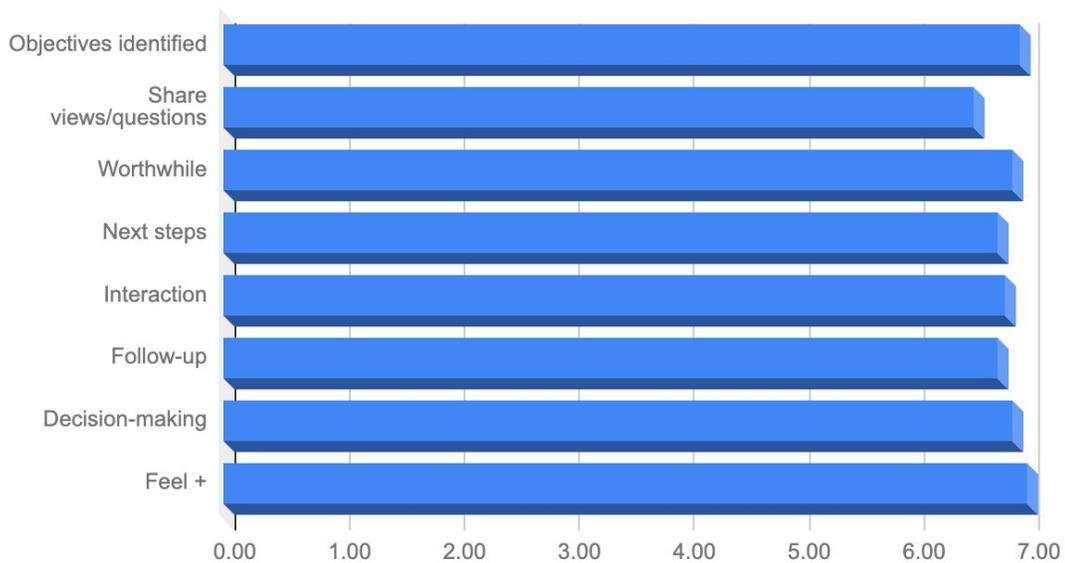
- FAB members suggest reaching out to BCAT TV and presenting at community board meetings to promote UB activities
- If there is a list of media contacts FAB can all send emails. UB will create a template.
- Invite Leadership Council to be part of anti-bias training and Books for Brownsville training/workshops and may want to consider using a Leadership Council meeting as anti-bias training
- Only 2 white people completed the anti-bias training. To be committed to work, Leadership Council has to be committed to training
- Consider presenting these numbers of cultural background of training participant at next meeting and consider creating a video to invite the entire Leadership Council to training hosted at the community space

FAB Leadership

- Many Leadership Council organizations have offices related to professional development and could help FAB be successful with their projects.
 - For instance, the more technical skills and areas of knowledge related to data analysis FAB members are able to master, the more successful a data request to City Agencies may be
 - Continuous Quality Improvement trainings: UB is exploring professional development opportunities with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Reality Check Survey Results

FAB Reality Check Average Answers



FAB members indicated very strong positive feelings about membership and responded positively to the survey overall. The lowest numerical ratings were for having time to share opinions and ask questions, which UB staff will take into consideration for future meeting plans. In written survey responses, members were pleased to see the Discover Together projects all launched or launching and indicated that they enjoyed the professional development aspect of the meeting.