

## **FAB Meeting #45 01/14/2022**

### **Attendance:**

- 6 UB Backbone Staff (David Harrington, Kassa Belay, Athenia Rodney, Danielle Herring, Ruth Horry, Briona Clark)
- 15 FAB Members

### **Meeting Objectives:**

1. Cover numerous announcements
2. Solicit a new FAB Fellow applicant
3. Learning Landscapes/Learning Neighborhoods: Solicit a list of potential spaces to target for transformation
4. Benefits Optimization: Understand benefits access experiences and develop a list of potential benefits to target for improvement

### **Takeaways:**

The group used the December meeting to celebrate what the FAB has done throughout the past year and preview plans, priorities, and proposals going into 2022. We focused on learning about possible areas of focus for the Learning Neighborhoods and Benefits Optimization project ideas.

### **Opener**

How are the children? And how are the parents?



### **FAB Check-In**

During this portion of the meeting, everyone took a turn giving an update where they felt comfortable.

Kassa is currently in Addis ababa, Ethiopia

Georgina encourages all of us to go out and get fresh air, take care of ourselves despite being quarantined.

Some are struggling with getting up very early to get kids to school on time.

Kids are starting after school programs, giving parents more time to get things done in the afternoon.

## **Mission Statement Review**

Ashanti read the UB mission statement to start our discussion to remind us of our goals and background as we move through our objectives.

**United for Brownsville is a family-led collaboration transforming the early childhood systems in Brownsville, Brooklyn, so that all young children are able to flourish.** Our work starts with families' hopes for their children and their ideas for eradicating systemic inequities in early childhood services. This approach disrupts harmful power dynamics and beliefs rooted in anti-Black racism that prevent Black and Latinx children from lifting off.

## **Previously at UB...**

- December: FAB arrived at consensus on new project priorities, PAT appreciation for 2021 contributions
- January: PAT reviewed new project priorities for the first time and began identifying other collaborators to bring into the work
- Child Tax Credit follow ups: U.S. Treasury Dept. data is being analyzed by Code for America, with a report expected in February

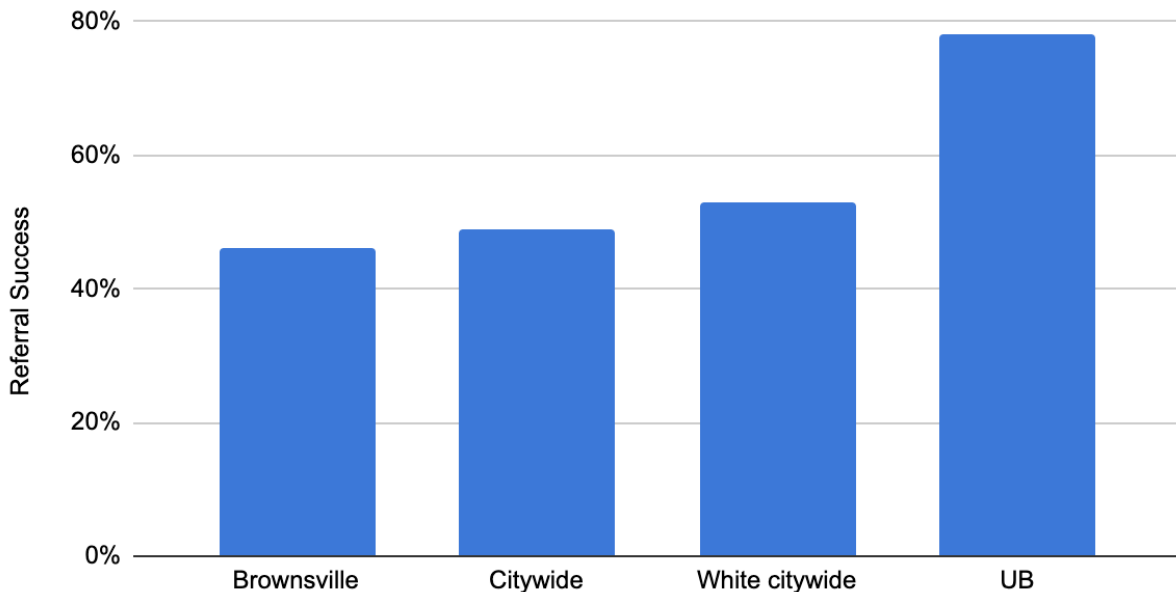
## **New and Updates**

- **FAB stipends**
  - Our first time doing stipends without the recently promoted Danielle Augustine
  - We will send out a sheet to review by the end of the day on Tuesday
  - Payment will be submitted by the end of the week
- **Parent Corner**
  - Athenia explained that FAB members are reinvigorating the Parent Corner concept from the Family Co-op. This will be a parents only space to share resources, build community, and enjoy each other's company.

- Audrey and Evelyn have been working on keeping this support available for FAB members
- The first meeting will be on February 14th
- They are looking to broaden this to the larger neighborhood beyond just FAB parents
- Interest in facilitating has been beyond expectation
- **FAB Membership Meeting**
  - UB will hold a FAB membership meeting on Sunday, January 30th from 7:45-9:00pm on zoom
  - Purpose
    - Membership goal setting, sustaining and growing engagement and membership
  - Background
    - The meeting came out of the 2021 FAB Engagement Survey and will cover topics ranging from what it means to be an active FAB member, expectations, and what the FAB wants to see moving forward.
  - Create a solid foundation on which to invite new FAB members to join
- **Brooklyn Book Bodega**
  - The event will take place on Saturday 02/12 from 12pm - 2pm at the Greg Jackson Center
  - Learning Landscapes activity cards and diapers will also be given out
  - GJC event admittance requires that either vaccinated or have a recent negative test
- **Tribeca Pediatrics Event**
  - There will be an opening event for the new Brownsville location of Tribeca Pediatrics at the Greg Jackson Center on February 10th, 2022 from 10am-12pm.
  - The staff, including Dr. Wendy Johnson, will be present to get to know the community
  - Ruth will be tabling and distributing Learning Landscapes at home kits.

- Learning Landscapes
  - Please request an available kit before 11am Thursday to receive it by the following Friday
  - Ruth will distribute kits 3-5pm every Friday at the GJC
  - Request: Please send pictures of our FAB kids using the Learning Landscapes Cards to Ruth at rhorry@sco.org
- Data Updates
  - David reviewed some of the EI data of UBs first year having an EI Ambassador

Successful referrals to EI based on UB (2021) and City data (2019)



- Of EI referrals through United for Brownsville, almost 80% of referrals were successful. Compared to Brownsville and other city-wide success rates, referrals through UB seem much more likely to result in follow-through.
- Child Tax Credit data is expected to come in February
- EI Ambassador
  - Danny requested to meet with FAB members to combine clips for EI introduction video featuring testimonials from FAB members. Those

interested can contact Danny at [dherring@community.solutions.org](mailto:dherring@community.solutions.org) or by phone at 631-223-8953

### **FAB Fellowship Part III**

UB is excited to offer another FAB fellowship. The second FAB Fellow Ruth will continue working as the PAT Engagement Associate and Athenia will continue to work on tangible projects as the Assistant Director of Applied Projects.

- Process
  - The application process will remain the same as the last two years
  - Candidates should submit written answers to the linked interview questions
  - Applications are anonymized by backbone team
  - The entire FAB, not including the backbone, rates applicants and the highest rated application is offered the position
- Position
  - The role is part-time and flexible (20 hrs per week, \$25k per year)
  - Focuses on FAB engagement similar to past Fellow positions
  - The [job description](#) is linked
- Application
  - Submit responses to [info@unitedforbrownsville.org](mailto:info@unitedforbrownsville.org) by Sunday January 30th
  - Voting period is February 2-9
  - Start date is March-April

### **New Project Priorities**

- Learning Neighborhoods
  - Athenia explained that UB is trying to expand Learning Landscapes at home along with WNET/PBS

- WNET is offering increased exposure through their media channels and gives an opportunity to share the custom Learning Landscapes characters with the world as representatives of Brownsville
- Exercise: The group grabbed a pen and pencil to begin the journaling prompts.

1. Remember what happened over the last week. Imagine all of the places and spaces that you spent outside of your apartment the last time you were in Brownsville. Make a list.
2. What other places can you think of where families regularly gather, wait, or spend time together in Brownsville?
3. Mark each space listed with a plus for positive experience and a minus for negative sign.
4. Identify 3-5 top priority spaces for transforming to be better supportive for families with young children and a note saying why you chose this space.

- Benefits Optimization

- Benefits optimization looks like
  - Supporting families who are in need of social assistance programs
  - Coming together to better understand and tackle lack of access to benefits like TANF, SNAP, WIC, Child Care Vouchers, etc.
  - Revisiting successful methods used by UB and the PAT to address barriers and circulate critical information to those that need it
- Activity: Breakout Group Questions

1. If you could wave your wand, what would be the ideal experience signing up for benefits?
2. Which benefits in your experience work well or closest to the ideal?
3. Which benefits are furthest from the ideal experience?

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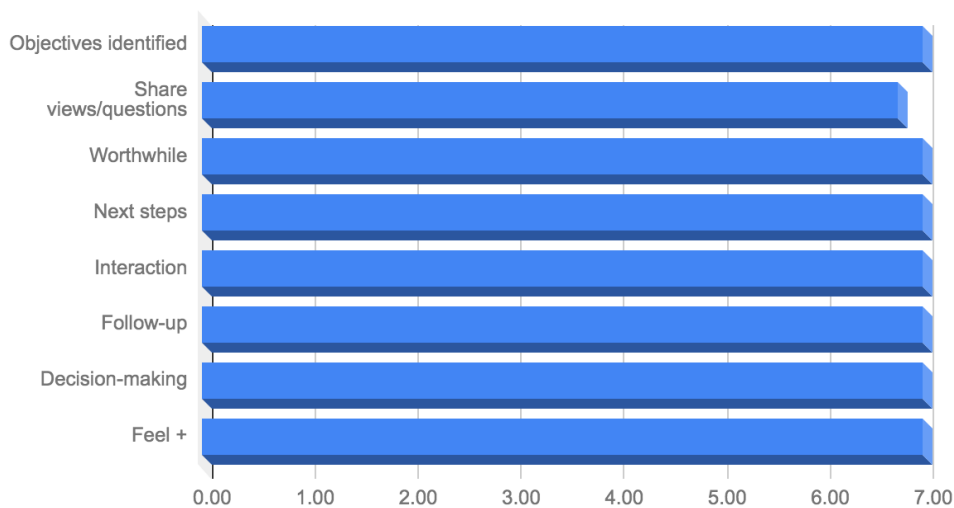
Answers from the groups were distilled into a document for later use.

### Next Steps

- UB will email/WhatsApp link to FAB Fellowship application and share back submissions with the FAB in two weeks for voting
- Athenia and ackbone team will digest Learning Neighborhoods locations and share with the WNET team
- Backbone team will digest contributions from benefits optimization and begin learning more about priority benefits/identifying potential collaborators

### Reality Check

FAB Reality Check Average Answers





activity application athenia backbone **benefits**  
brownsville data ei engagement event expected **experience**  
**fab** families giving group ideal kits landscapes  
**learning** linked list **meeting** members membership  
neighborhoods offer optimization parents pat pm position  
priorities project question referrals request review **ruth** share signing  
space submit team **ub** updates week wnet **work** year