



# EL PUENTE

---

## GREEN LIGHT DISTRICT

On this day, September 16, 2011, the community of the Southside of Williamsburg calls out to all hear present. *AQUI NOS MANTENEMOS UNIDOS. HERE WE STAND UNITED.*

We are empowered.  
We are a multi-cultural community.  
We are in search of justice.  
We are the voice of our community.  
We are united.

We—the residents of Los Sures, the Southside of Williamsburg—have struggled and grown together, we have established roots on these streets, and we have built a strong community. Over the years, we have faced many challenges. However, in the face of those and the new challenges ahead, we will not be passive - “No nos quedaremos cruzados de brazos”. Today, we ask you to stand with us as a united community to forge a vibrant future for our children and ourselves in our Los Sures community.

### **AQUI PROCLAMAMOS / HERE WE PROCLAIM**

In Los Sures, every single resident will exercise his /her right to have a high quality of life by having access to the resources that will improve their physical, social and emotional well-being. In this community, we will fight for free quality health care that will incorporate alternative healing practices that respects and utilizes the cultural knowledge and expertise of our people. In this community, our youth will be empowered to organize, educate each other, and advocate for solutions that address their particular holistic wellness needs. In this community elders will be honored and supported to engage proactively in the design and facilitation of their own comprehensive care that will enhance their quality of life. *Aquí Proclamamos / Here we proclaim.*

### **AQUI VIVIMOS / HERE WE LIVE**

We are resolved to correct the environmental injustices that plague our community and limit our ability to flourish. We will create solutions to combat the pollution from the BQE and Williamsburg Bridge that has contributed to the high incidences of asthma in our children. We will develop the capacity to transition to clean, community-powered energy and the opportunities for our residents to develop the skills to get jobs in this field. We will fight for clean air and clean water, creating a community where our families can thrive. Here, in this community, we will breathe free! *Aquí vivimos / Here we Live!*

### **AQUI CULTIVAMOS / HERE WE CULTIVATE**

We will work to have access not only to healthy food, but also *affordable*, local food. We advocate for the productive transformation of vacant and underutilized land into community gardens and locally operated urban farms. *Aquí Cultivamos / Here we Cultivate!*

### **AQUI CELEBRAMOS / HERE WE CELEBRATE**

We will create viable and sustainable venues that will honor, promote, preserve and nurture the indigenous art forms and rich cultural heritage of the people in Los Sures. We will develop community spaces where artists and artisans can make art, collaborate, share resources and incubate creative work and enterprises. We will advocate for an open space on the waterfront where our families can share cultural celebrations and enjoy the talent and work of renowned artists. While the arts are central to our cultural vibrancy, we will also nurture creative projects that will foster economic growth—providing small business, employment opportunities, and utilizing skill sets that are unique to cultural workers in our community. Our culture rises up out of our experiences, our traditions, our history, our struggles, and our triumphs, and we will work to preserve and honor its powerful legacy. Aquí Celebramos / Here we Celebrate!

### **AQUI RESPETAMOS / HERE WE RESPECT**

We will reverse the trend of environmental injustices that burdens low-income neighborhoods and communities of color, such as ours. Our community will continue to fight against the intentional siting of hazardous waste sites on our streets, such as Radiac. We demand the closing of Radiac, a facility that never would be licensed today. We also repudiate the siting of incinerators, power plants and any other polluting industry with the potential of imposing stress on our community. We believe it is our moral responsibility to respect and care for our environment, so we remain vigilant. We demand the environmental benefits our community deserves and will shoulder an equitable share of necessary burdens, while constantly searching for new and innovative solutions for healthy and clean energy production and waste disposal. Aquí Respetamos / Here we Respect!

### **AQUI REPRESENTAMOS / HERE WE REPRESENT**

We are here and we are not leaving Los Sures. We urge the City of New York to make affordable housing a top priority in Los Sures. We advocate for a transparent, affordable housing policy that ensures that the revitalization of Los Sures does not continue to displace our residents; one that maintains mechanisms for inclusion; one that enables quality living conditions for all; and one that ensures an adequate number of safe and affordable housing units for our low-income families, including our youth and young couples. We will do our part to make our cost of living more affordable by making energy efficiency improvements in our homes to reduce the cost of our utility bills. We will create healthy and sustainable buildings that will remain home to the long-term residents of this community. Aquí Representamos / Here we Represent!

### **AQUI INSPIRAMOS / HERE WE INSPIRE**

We call on the City to create public parks that are green, accessible, and plentiful, where we are free to gather, worship, relax, and exercise. Our young people demand the development of a sports field on the waterfront, our own Bridge Park, where we can all play soccer, baseball, and other field sports. We want to see flowers on every block, birds feeding from our community gardens, children cultivating their family garden plots, and our families enjoying an afternoon on the *great lawn* of our

waterfront community park. Our people love and need nature, so we will not rest until all these become reality. Aquí Inspiramos / Here we Inspire!

### **AQUI HONRAMOS / HERE WE HONOR**

Our schools will anchor the dreams of our children. They will be houses of love and caring where our young can learn about who they are and who they can be. All our schools will reflect the highest level of mastery. A curriculum of excellence and the expectation that every child is gifted will be the standard. Building on the passion and contributions of our parents, students and educators, our schools will become true community centers for learning and development. Aquí Honramos / Here we Honor!

### **AQUI FORJAMOS / HERE WE FORGE**

We will create safe and caring spaces where our children and youth will be supported to find their passion, develop their potential, strive for mastery in body mind and spirit and exercise their leadership. Providing community networks of mentoring, internships and apprenticeships, our young people will be provided with productive life options that will deter them from finding refuge in inappropriate and dangerous behaviors. We believe in the greatness that lives in each and every one of our children, it is our responsibility as community to nurture their genius. They are our hope and we must give them the green light to forge a promising future. Aquí Forjamos / Here we Forge!

### **AQUI TRANSFORMAMOS / HERE WE TRANSFORM**

As a community, we know our rights. We will continue to document and advocate against the abuses of our human rights—especially in the areas of access to public and subsidized housing, equitable land use and homeownership. In the face of these challenges, we will become self-sufficient. We will help our people develop marketable skills and build local employment capacity. We will incubate and grow small and creative businesses, and ensure that the economic growth of the neighborhood helps us, the long-term residents, to survive and prosper. Aquí Transformamos / Here we Transform!

Today, we the community of Los Sures declare our commitment to blaze a path of collaboration and unity. Now, we call on all of you—community members, organizations, leaders, elected officials, funders, allies and all people of good will—to support us to make this vision a reality for present and future generations.

**PA' LANTE SIEMPRE PA' LANTE!**