

# Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice Soundview Market Place



Located under the Bruckner Expressway at the intersection of Bronx River Ave, the Soundview Market Place offers up to 22,500 sq ft of community space uniquely situated to impact over 250,000 people in the surrounding neighborhoods of Soundview, Bronx River, and Hunts Point. A destination along the Bronx River Greenway, it is one of only three connections across the highway connecting Soundview to other communities.

YMPJ's Soundview Marketplace will be active year-round, anchoring Foodway efforts to impact public health through innovative food and cultural programming. The Marketplace will serve as a hub for healthy food production and distribution providing incubator space for food manufacturing businesses and a critical access point for fresh produce and prepared foods.

The health of our Bronx River and Soundview communities is challenged by physical infrastructure as well as local perception. Highways, blighted lots, and safety concerns around walkability create barriers for Soundview residents looking to access better quality supermarkets and greenmarkets. Following meetings with residents, in 2014 YMPJ launched its campaign to transform an abandoned public space into a vibrant destination that connects communities while addressing long-standing community needs around food access, economic development, and intergenerational programming.

The Soundview Marketplace will create a healthy food destination for Soundview/Bronx River residents, offering a Greenmarket run by local youth and food vendors. Incubator space for food manufacturing will offer employment and job training opportunities. This new community gathering space will shift perceptions of safety by creating foot traffic at a formerly blighted site, establishing a destination for local

families, youth, seniors, and those who work nearby. The Marketplace will serve as a gateway to Bronx River Foodway programming and amenities for Soundview residents as well as the 200,000 drivers who use the Expressway every day.

**Timeline:**

2014: Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice holds public meetings, design competition

2015: New York State Department of Transportation concludes feasibility study.

2016: YMPJ awarded a grant of \$75,000 from Small Business Services to activate space, bringing attention by using public art installations

2017: NYS Department of Transportation begins pedestrian safety measures, including lighting and painting. YMPJ leads the installation of 15 murals at the site.

2018: YMPJ activates first bay with community programming, GreenMarket, and other activities.

2019-2024: YMPJ activates additional bays with food manufacturing businesses, a community pantry, public plaza

**Partners:** Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, New York City Small Business Services, New York State Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, Bronx Community Board #9, New York City Economic Development Corporation, M&T Bank

