

BLACKSPACES: BROWNSVILLE

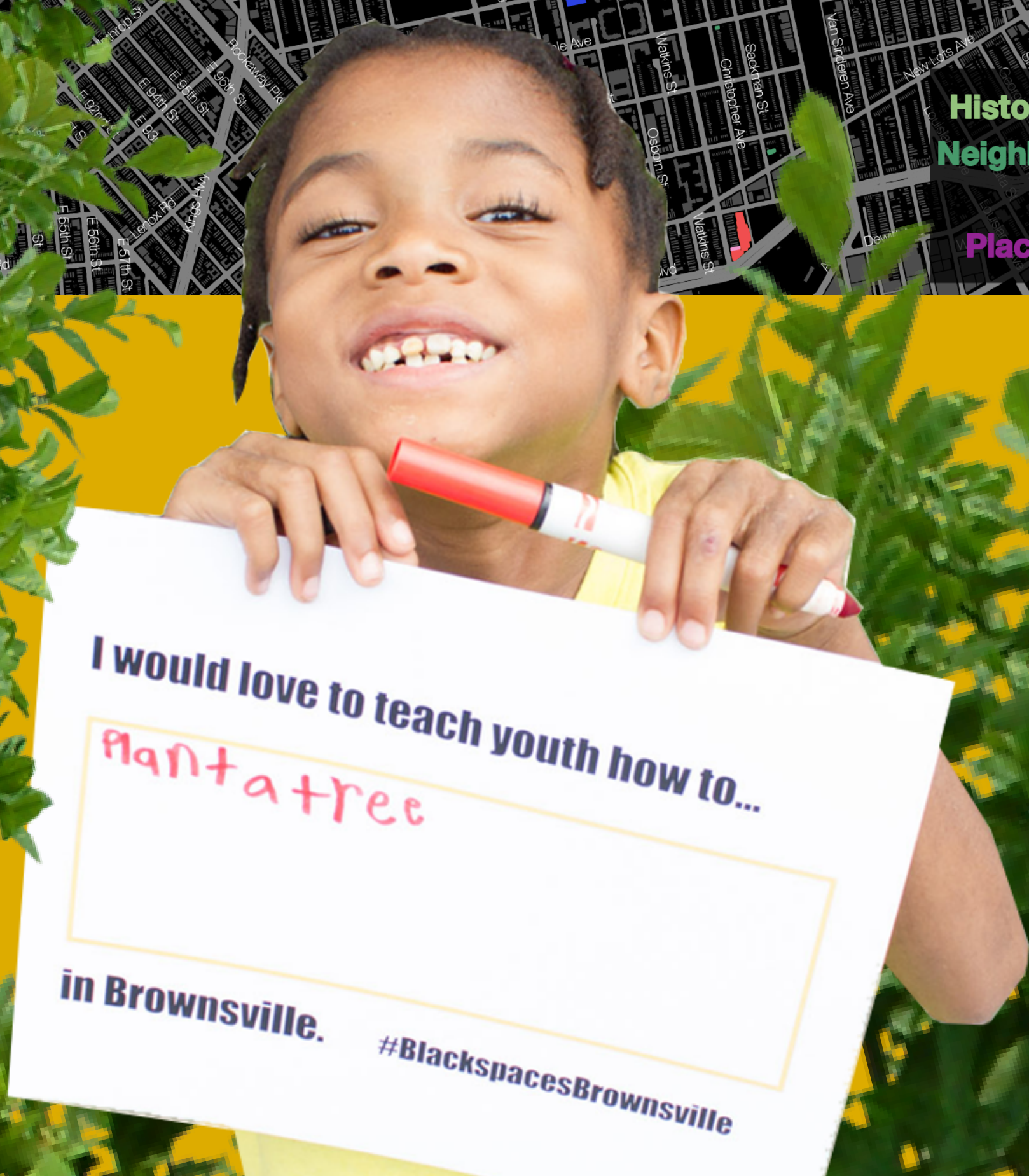
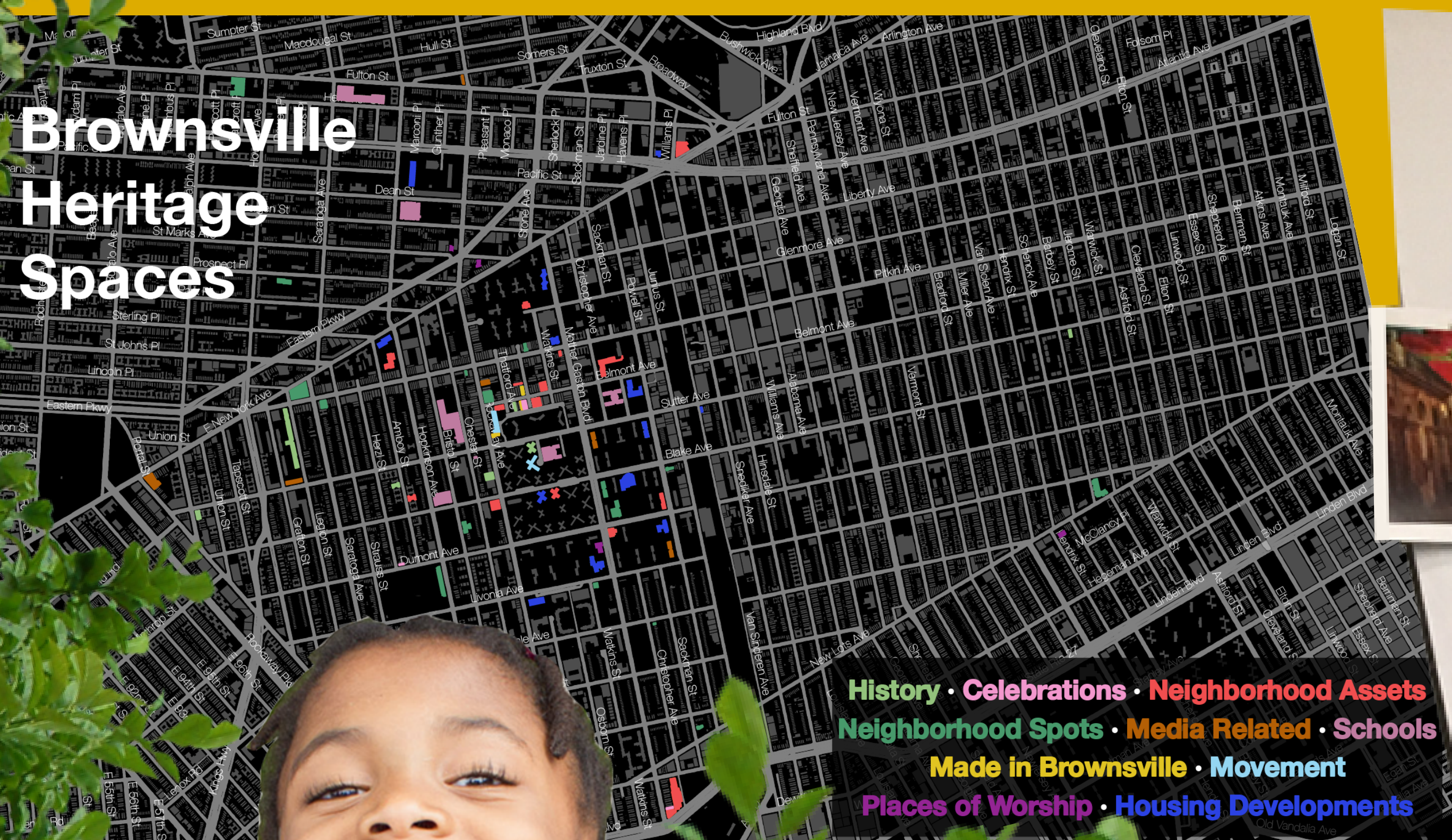
BLACKSPACE

SITE DOCUMENTATION | PARTICIPATORY DESIGN
BROWNSVILLE, BROOKLYN

CONTEXT

DURING A YEAR LONG PROCESS, BLACKSPACE WORKED WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO DOCUMENT NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIES, IDENTIFY CULTURAL ASSETS AND HERITAGE VALUES, AND CREATE SPACE FOR LOCAL HERITAGE CONSERVATIONISTS TO CONNECT IN THEIR PREDOMINANTLY—AND HISTORICALLY BLACK—NEIGHBORHOOD OF BROWNSVILLE, BROOKLYN.

“MAPPED 62 SITES OF BLACK CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE”



LEARN, LISTEN, ACTIVATE

“RESEARCHED BROWNSVILLE’S BLACK HISTORICAL SITES, COMMUNITY SPACES, EVENTS, AND TRADITIONS, BY STARTING CONVERSATIONS”

To understand the local histories, BlackSpace members first researched Brownsville’s Black historical sites, community spaces, events, and traditions, by starting conversations with everyday community experts and groups.

REFLECT, CO-DEVELOP

“DRAFTED AND CO PRODUCED A POP UP NEIGHBORHOOD STORYTELLING TOUR.”

BlackSpace co-designers reflected and synthesized the information into sets of major cultural heritage themes. Transforming the information into a design project, BlackSpace collaborated with Brownsville community cultural producers and heritage conservationists to draft and co-produce a pop up neighborhood storytelling tour.

CO-CREATE, LINK

“THROUGH THE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS AND STORIES SHARED, BLACKSPACE CONTINUED TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND STORYTELLING PROJECTS”

The afternoon tour served families of Brownsville and creatively brought together the resources of five local cultural groups to make it happen! Through the meaningful connections and stories shared, BlackSpace continued to build relationships and storytelling projects with Power in the Pen writers group and the Brownsville Heritage House.

MANIFESTO PRINCIPLES

“SYNTHESIZED THE INFORMATION INTO SETS OF MAJOR CULTURAL HERITAGE THEMES.”

Through this year-long project, Blackspace created the Co-Designing Black Neighborhood Heritage Conservation playbook and the 14-principle Manifesto that guide our work and the work of theirs toward realizing spatial and cultural equity and justice in historically Black and/or marginalized neighborhoods.



THIS IS A BLACK SPACE.

PARTNERS

BLACKSPACE.ORG | @BLACKSPACEORG

Amistead Printing • Brownsville Community Justice Center • Pitkin Avenue BID • Power in the Pen • Youth Design Center (formerly Made in Brownsville) • Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts • J.M. Kaplan Fund • and many community friends!