

Overview

The Bronx Community Justice Center works to create a safer, more equitable Bronx through community-driven public safety initiatives, youth opportunity, and economic mobility efforts focused in the South Bronx. Our vision is to support the South Bronx community to become a safe and thriving place where local ownership, community-led investment, and youth opportunity can flourish. The Bronx Community Justice Center works toward this vision by focusing on community safety, restorative practices, and youth and economic development.

Community Safety

We create safer communities by preventing violence at all levels and responding when violence does occur. We help residents transform neglected spaces, converting high-crime areas into safe and inclusive public spaces in which social and commercial activity can flourish.



- **Save Our Streets South Bronx** is a gun violence prevention program that aims to reduce and prevent shootings through the use of public health strategies. Credible messengers engage those who have been most impacted by violence using multiple strategies including street outreach, conflict de-escalation by trained violence interrupters, mentoring, community

organizing around gun violence prevention, and leadership opportunities for impacted youth. When violence does occur, S.O.S. responds by providing opportunities for communal response and healing.

- **Placekeeping** initiatives create places that are welcoming, maneuverable, familiar, and conducive to economic development and social interaction to increase safety. Placekeeping engages community residents—those who are closest to the issue—to define the goals and the tools for change. These initiatives also create avenues for youth and community members to impact their neighborhood by conceiving, designing, and implementing changes to public spaces to address the underlying causes of violence such as disinvestment and marginalization.



Youth and Economic Development

The Bronx Community Justice Center works towards healing and redefinition of possibility for young people from the South Bronx through a range of opportunities, including leadership development and entrepreneurship. The neighborhood-centric program model is rooted in creative social enterprise that builds hard and soft skills, provides paid internships, and creates employment pipelines.



■ Youth Anti-Violence Work

LeadershipWorks engages young people who have been marginalized and impacted by community violence as leaders in creating community change. Programming includes mentoring, leadership development, and neighborhood planning projects.

■ Alternative to Incarceration

Insight Initiative is a diversion and alternative to incarceration program for youth and young adults ages 13–24. The program is specifically designed to engage youth who have been impacted by violence and/or gang involvement. Using a transformative, healing-centered model, Insight Initiative allows youth to take accountability for their actions, contribute to their communities and address root causes to prevent future justice involvement. Many youth have also experienced harm and trauma. Insight offers support so that youth have an opportunity for healing.

■ Youth Entrepreneurship

The youth entrepreneurship program provides participants with hands-on, project-based training to develop and launch a business. Participants gain skills to develop their side hustles into entrepreneurial ventures while also creating collective projects focused on community safety and healing.

Restorative Practice

Restorative justice informs programming across the Bronx Community Justice Center and the team works across a range of settings to implement restorative initiatives supporting Bronx youth.



■ **School-based restorative programs** provide violence intervention and prevention services, restorative programming and mentorship in Bronx middle and high schools.

■ **Juvenile Justice Programs** provide mentorship and restorative programming at juvenile secure and non-secure detention sites, as well as support for youth as they transition home.

For More Information

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