

"I've had problems with midnight police raids, but it's getting better."
—Father Powlis, St. Barbara's Catholic Church

"They are supposed to safeguard people's safety, but often they don't do their jobs. There are good and bad cops. Some police officers jump to conclusions. They are aggressive and intimidate people."
—Jhoanna, Rolos Bakery

"I don't fear anything in Bushwick. To be scared of something, you have to experience it, and I've never been held at gunpoint. I believe in God, if it was my time, the only thing is who would do the flowers?"
—Bruce, American Florist

"In order to be safe, a community needs to organize to decide what its own safety issues are and how to tackle them. We should find a way to police ourselves."
—Jose Lopez, Make the Road NY

Scary, OK with it, Good.

Safety in Bushwick

Is Bushwick safe? Where do people in the neighborhood feel safest? What would the area need to be safer? 10th graders from the Academy of Urban Planning interviewed people in the neighborhood to find out their perspectives on safety in Bushwick. Here's what they said.

Special thanks to Ms. Haynes and all of our interviewees

AUP students: Sarika Barrow, Adarka Bowen, Samuel Cacaci, Stevenson Catul, Daixiolet Coakley, Enmanuel Diaz, Gabriela Guedes, Tyrell Hughes, Janery Nunez, Rodolfo Palacios, Mickey Paul, Nastasia Pellot, Johnny Pizarro, Michael Ruiz, Lucano Saint Albord, Tyshawn Simms, Dominique Sims, Kimberly Valentine, and Kenrick Venzen

CUP Teaching Artist: Jonathan Bogarín
Additional Design: Nikki Chung

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“The thing I fear most is the rent—it’s going up.”
—Data, Eddy’s Barber Shop

“I work at a family-run business. This store has been robbed five times. I don’t even feel safe to walk from the subway to the store.”
—Nancy, Jorgy’s Things

“If someone is following you on the street, the thing to do is pray. What the neighborhood needs is more Bibles.”
—Ana, El Divino Salvador

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“Bushwick isn’t that dangerous, but it also isn’t that safe. People join gangs because they’re scared, have the wrong idea about gangs, or need backup. Gangs have good and bad aspects.”
—Eddy from Eddy’s Barber Shop

“It is important to stay in school and get a degree. Guys who are making money illegally end up dead or in jail. If you finish school, you can earn money legitimately for life. We see cycles where young kids look up to drug dealers and gang members and want to be like them. Twenty years later, those guys who were chilling on the corner are now dead or locked up. Don’t be those guys!”
—Martin, Alfred, and Juan, three guys on the street on their way to lunch

“In Bushwick, there’s always people outside. If something happens, the people see everything. In a fancy neighborhood, no one knows what’s going on because they are always inside their homes.”
—Nereida, La Clinica de la Belleza

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