

Sunset Park: A Community on the Frontlines

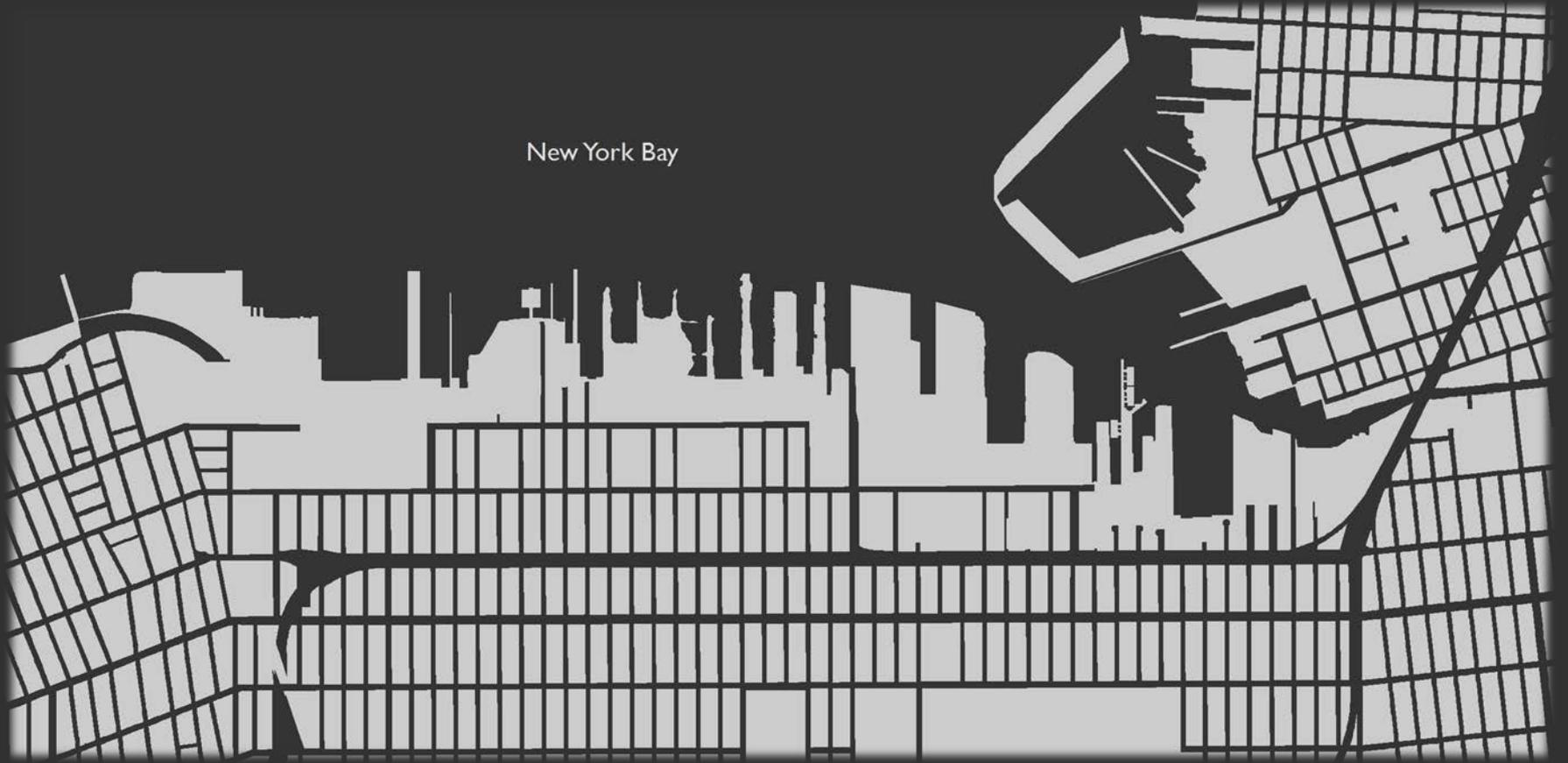


Elizabeth Yeampierre
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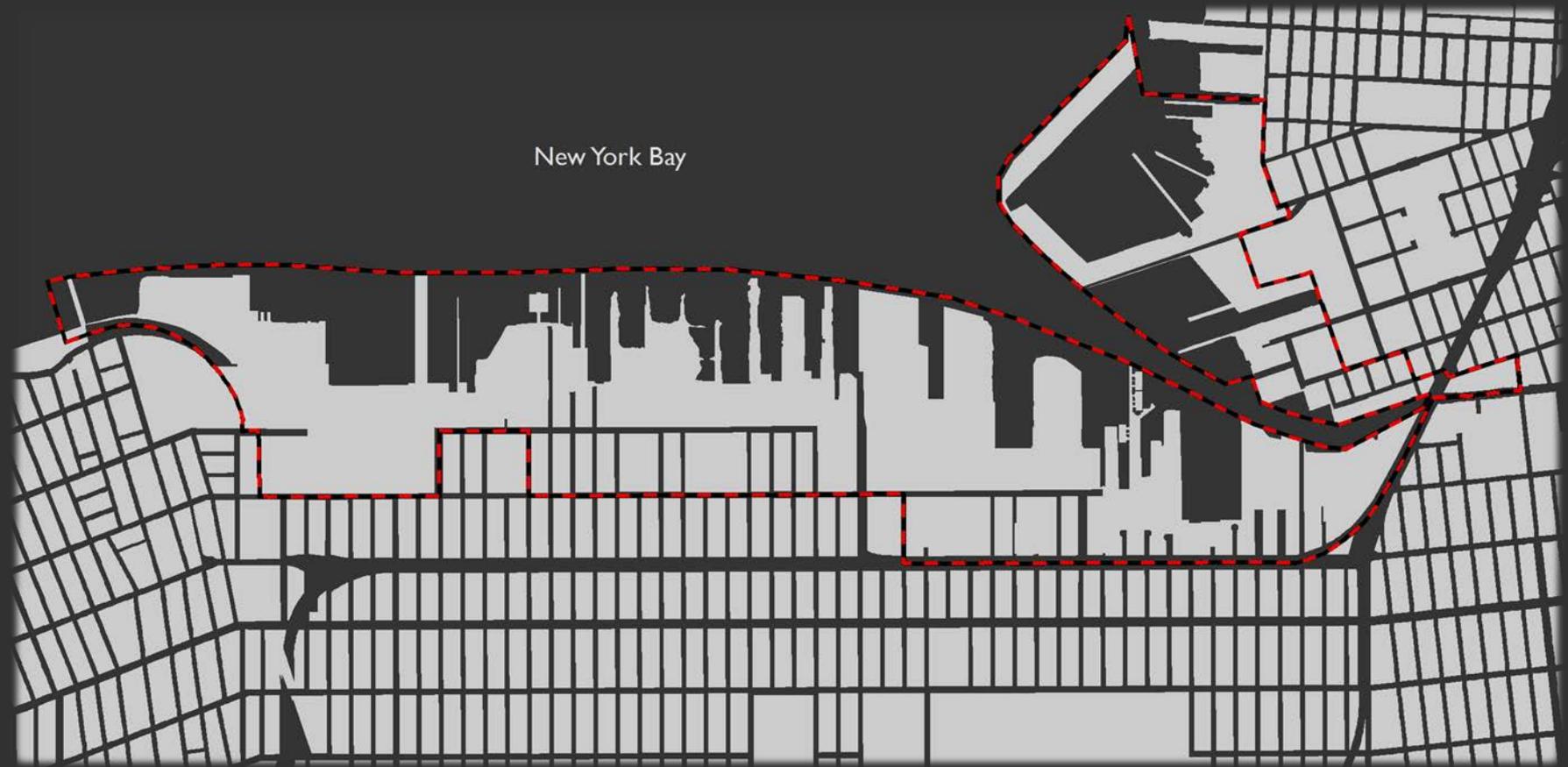


Sunset Park

New York Bay



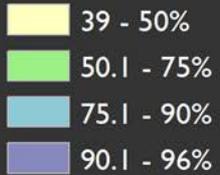
Sunset Park Significant Maritime and Industrial Area



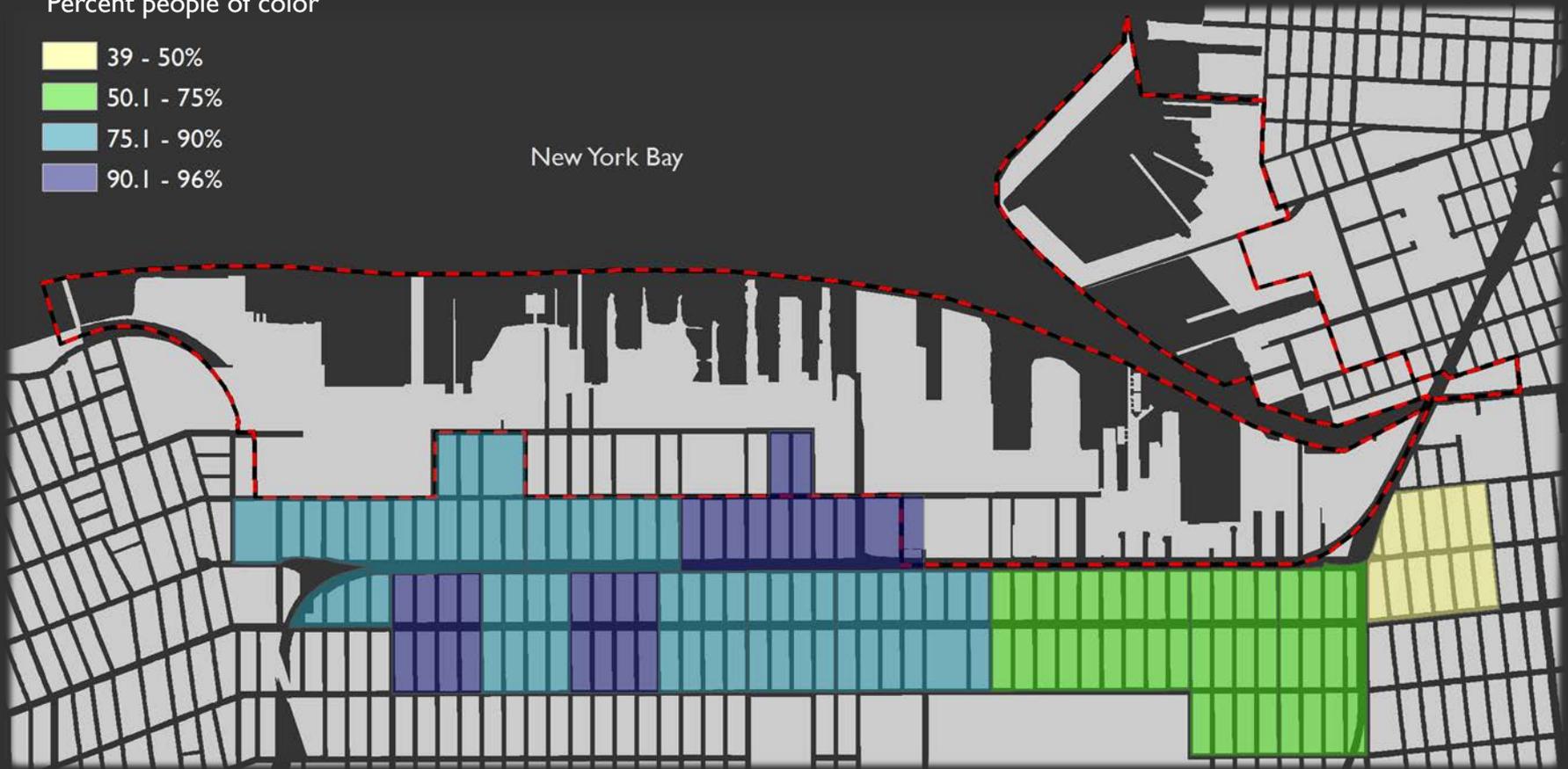
- NYC's largest SMIA
- Clusters the city's most toxic and polluting land uses

Community of color

Percent people of color



New York Bay



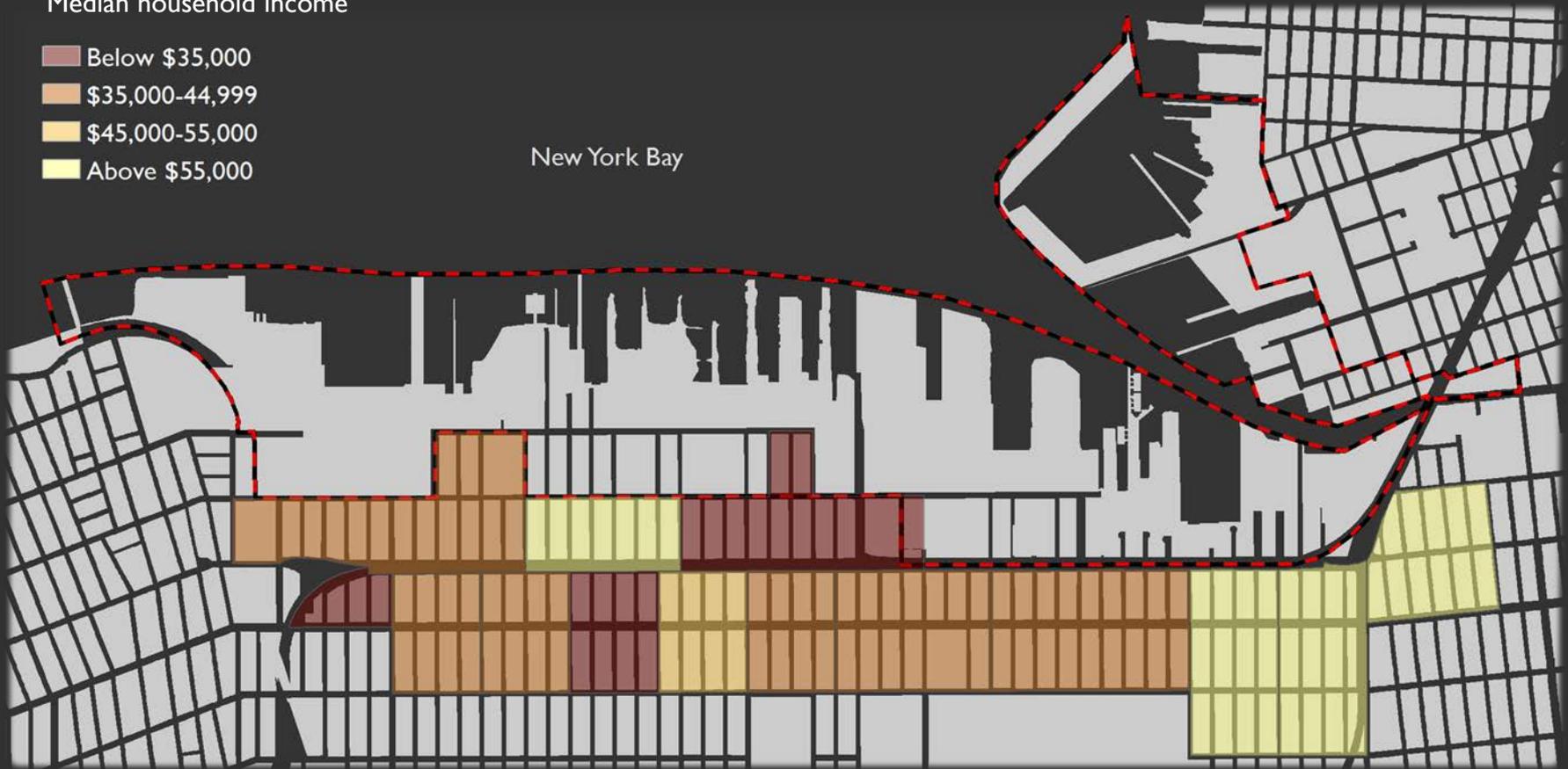
- The majority of Census Tracts are majority people of color

Working class

Median household income

- Below \$35,000
- \$35,000-44,999
- \$45,000-55,000
- Above \$55,000

New York Bay

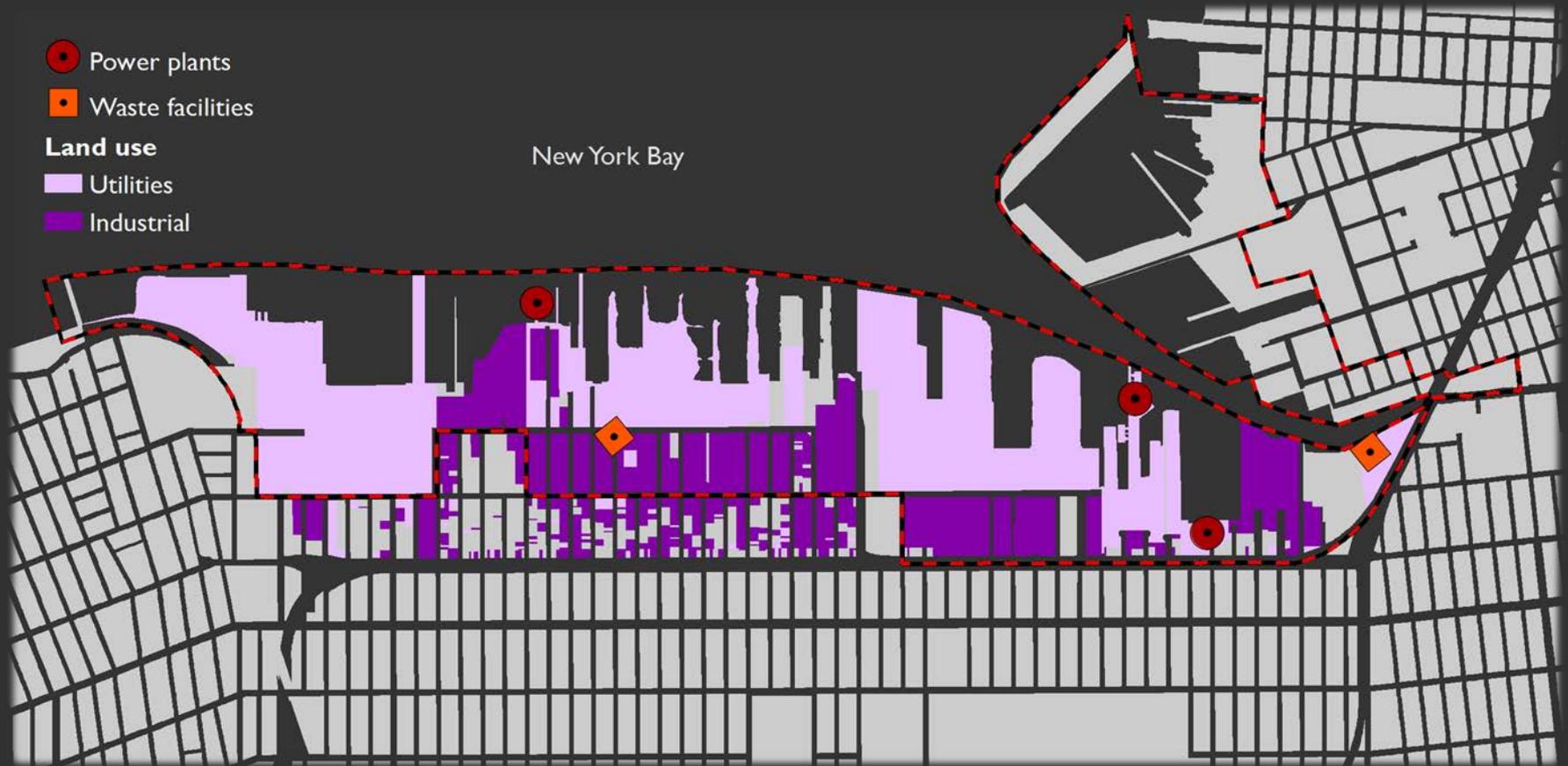


- The majority of Census Tracts are below NYC's median household income



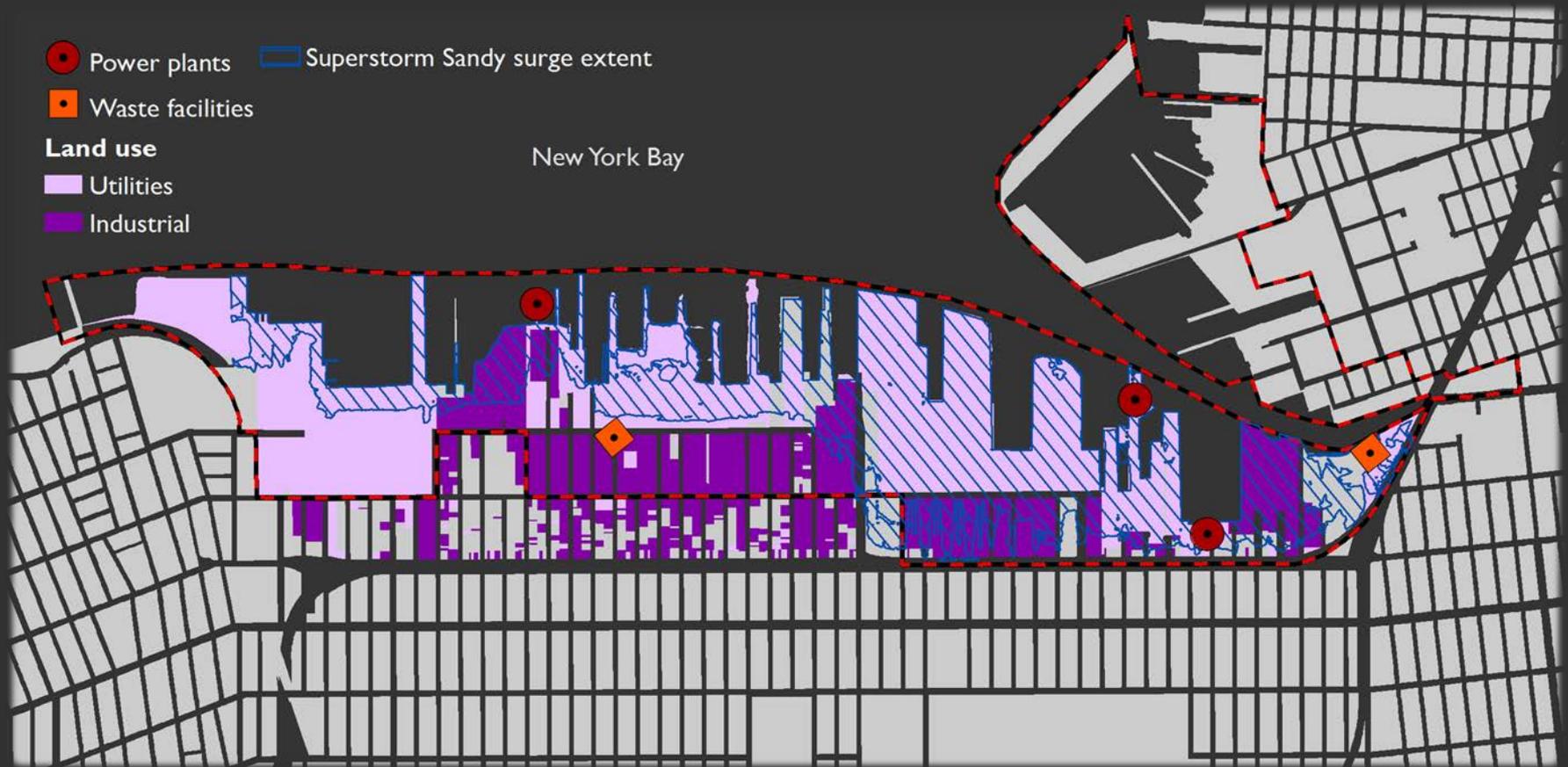
Source: American Community Survey, 2013

Environmental burdens



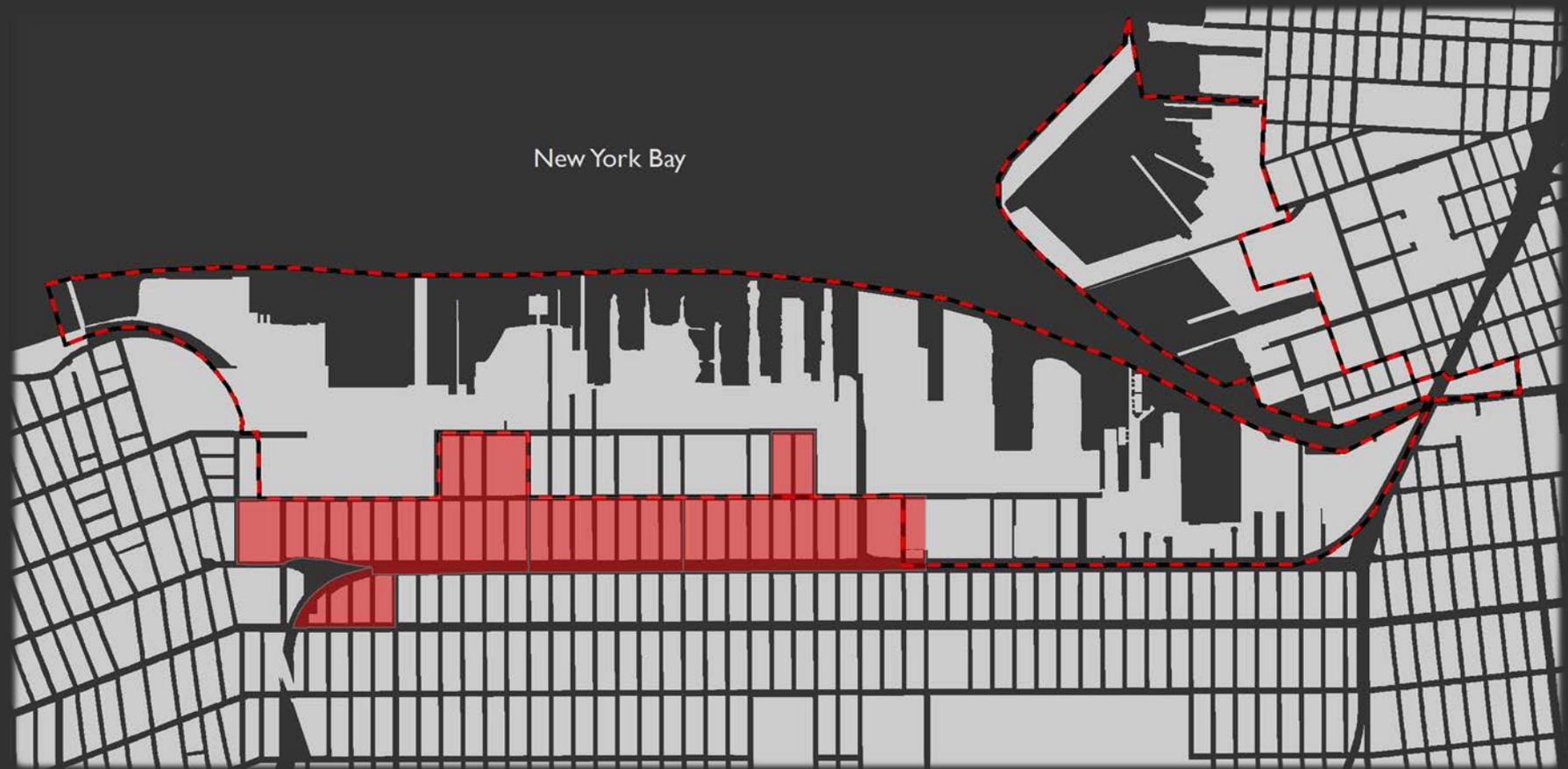
- Three power plants
- Waste management facilities
- Multiple brownfields

On the frontlines of climate change



- Climate change poses substantial threats to public health
- Storm surge and flooding can create a “toxic soup”

Health risks



- One of the highest cancer risks in NYC, according to EPA's EJView
- Population is closest to environmental burdens



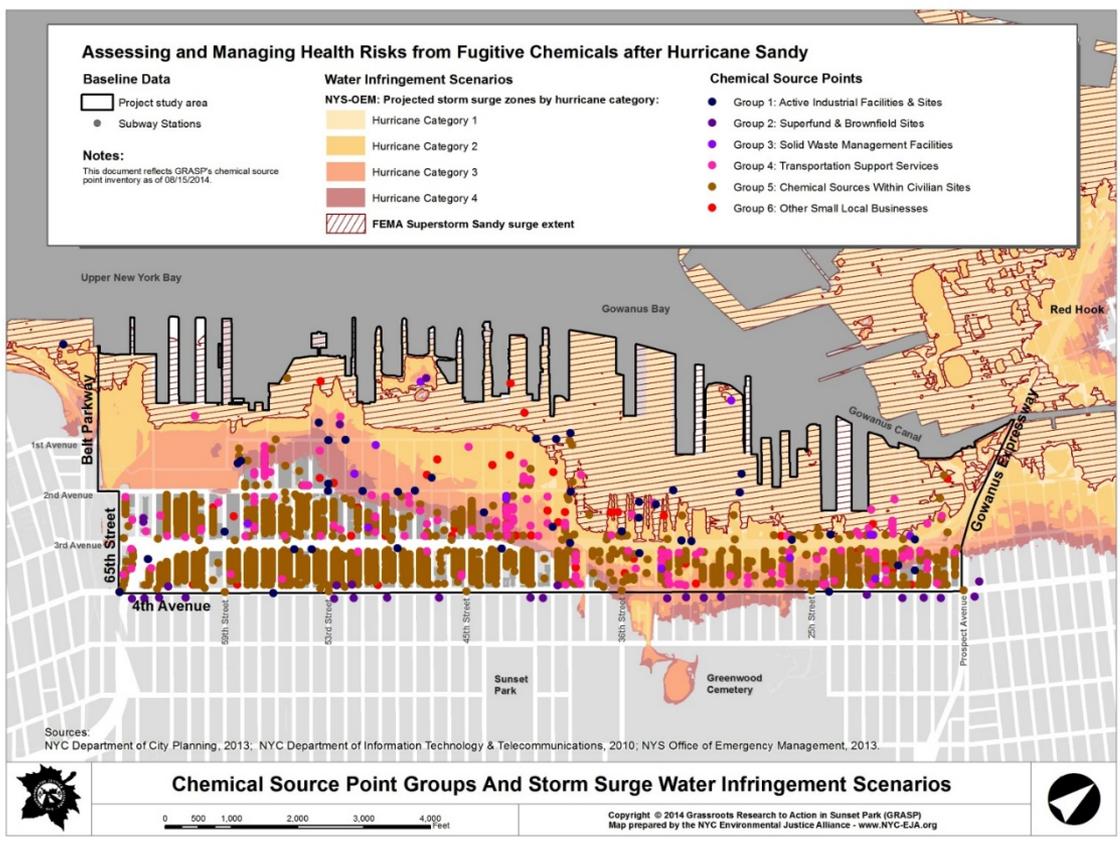
Source: EPA EJView, <http://epamap14.epa.gov/ejmap/>

Climate Justice and Community Resiliency Center



- Organize block by block
- Facilitate community-based resiliency planning
- Help businesses become climate adaptable
- Develop renewable energy facilities
- Promote stormwater management infrastructure

Community-based research



- Over 2,200 chemical source points mapped within study area
- Chemical source points maps overlaid to 9 different water infringement scenarios:
 5 storm surge scenarios
 4 flooding scenarios



Community-based research



- Initial calculations suggest exposures may result in harmful health risks:
 - **Decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE):**
 - Flame retardant, used in electronics, wire and cable insulation, textiles, automobiles, marine vessels.
 - Possible health effects include: possible carcinogen, endocrine disrupter in males, thyroid enlargement, developmental neurotoxin



Thank you.