**Collaborative Timeline of Melrose, Spring 2017**

1840s: Train lines serving the Bronx; natural area for farming and residences.

1930s: Harlem and LES the quintessential slums of NYC; Bronx working-class, striving families; redlining starts; rent control in place

1943: The start of the largest wave of Puerto Rican migration to urban North; construction of Stuy Town/Peter Cooper Village

1945 end of war: GI Bill in place; start of “white flight”; slum clearance in Black and Spanish Harlem; Second Great Migration

1940s and 1950s: Mass migration of African Americans, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, and Native Americans to northern cities for wartime industry jobs and absence of de facto Jim Crow; South Bronx housing is overcrowded and aging; redlining and FHA are in place; FHA and GI Bill assist whites in moving out to the suburbs through low-cost mortgages

1948-1961: The major parts of the Cross-Bronx Expressway

1949/1954 Housing Act, urban renewal

1950s: construction of public housing in Bronx – 5 in the South Bronx, all low-income; Victoria Archibald-Good moves to the Bronx (Patterson Houses); Gangs form as social clubs, usually associated with the projects, and fight with their fists, not with other weapons; heyday of Embassy Ballroom and Savoy Manor for Latin music

1950-1976: 500,000 factory jobs lost in the city

1955: Mitchell-Lama Legislation Passes; many of these were built in the Bronx, but led to greater displacement and segregation

1958: Fair Housing legislation passes in NYC

1960: Puerto Rican and Black population is ¼ of the city’s overall population, four times more than 1940; JFK’s campaign in the Bronx; Victoria Archibald-Good begins to see more violence in the 1960s; Assaults increase from 998 to 4,256; 41st Police Precinct in Hunts Point-Crotona Park Wast leads in murder and crime for early 1960s on

1963: Heroin; According to Archibald-Good, “heroin as a major factor in dissolving the sense of community I grew up with” – affecting young men especially – people with middle-class status or aspirations moved out and took their small businesses with them

1964: Civil Rights Act; Economic Opportunity Act of 1964; Head Start; Special college admissions policies to attract more diverse student body – YLP founders educated in this environment, SUNY – Old Westbury; 47% of Puerto Ricans in New York were unemployed, underemployed, or permanently out of the workforce.

1965/6: Founding the Black Panther Party; also introduction of Medicare/Medicaid as a federally funded social benefit.

1965: Mayor John Lindsay elected in NYC

1967/8: DNC in Chicago; Weathermen; Vietnam; East Harlem riots; Lindsay’s decentralization policies go into effect (community control of schools; “Little City Halls,” summer programs for youth)

1968: End of the Fair Housing Act; Model Cities; Southeast Bronx Community Organization (SEBCO) as part of Model Cities – Louis Gigante

1968-71 – some of the first graffiti pioneers start tagging

1969: Mott Haven Historic District; founding of the Young Lords Party; activism around garbage dumping; anti-police brutality activism; anti-lead poisoning activism

1970: YLP occupies Lincoln Hospital

1970: Archdiocese considers tearing down St. Joseph’s Church; neighborhood “decimated” according to Father Bob; Father Bob says there are 500 fires per month.

1970s: The Bronx becomes the national symbol of decay; 1970-77, 300 companies leave the South Bronx, employed 10,000 people

1971: Lindsay leaves office, replaced by Abe Beame; Bronx gang truce

1973: Hip hop begins – DJ Kool Herc hip hop party; UHAB starts; Victoria Archibald-Good’s mother moves out of the South Bronx after she is mugged.

1974 – Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBC-CC) – don’t move, improve; People’s Development Corporation (Ramon Rueda); Mid-Bronx Desperadoes (MBD Community Housing Corporation)

1975 – NYC Fiscal crisis, planned shrinkage; Neighborhood Preservation Companies Program starts too, but this is a state program – funds operating costs of local CDCs; Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1977 (CRA) forces banks to disclose lending practices, thus officially ending redlining; Grandmaster Flash starts mixing

1977: Blackout; “Bronx is Burning” during the World Series; Carter’s visit to Charlotte Street; Abe Beame replaced by Ed Koch as mayor.

1977 – Transformation of federal housing policy to focus on community block grants through the Community Reinvestment Act. Devolution (!)

1978 – Banana Kelly, three buildings – Harry DeRienzo and Leon Potts

1979 – Rise of intermediary lending institutions like the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) – in response to 1977 Community Reinvestment Act – basically neoliberalization of home construction in NYC

1979 – Release of Sugar Hill Gang’s Rappers Delight

1980 – Longwoood Historic District established through the efforts of the Longwood Community Association

1980 – Election of President Ronald Reagan and further devolution of funding and governance to states and cities; end of federal urban financial support

Early-1980s – Most of the success of these small development corporations and self-help orgs starts to be seen now through creative financing and state/city investment; mobilizing Section 8, selling off tax shelters, etc.

1980s – Rising immigration due to unrest throughout the world, particularly in Haiti, DR, El Salvador, Eastern Europe