



NYC Criminal Justice

NYC DDC Department of Design and Construction

Borough-Based Jails

Community Design Input Workshop #3

October 8, 2025

QN Queens Facility





Agenda

- 1** Community Engagement & Design Input Process
- 2** Project Goals & Overview
- 3** Feedback Review and Design Updates
 - 3.a** Public Realm
 - 3.b** Building Appearance
 - 3.c** Interior Experience – Public
 - 3.d** Interior Experience – Secure
- 4** Breakout Sessions
- 5** Group Report Out
- 6** Reflection and Next Steps

Queens Facility

Community Engagement & Design Input Process

Queens Facility Design Engagement Plan

Previous Engagements

Intro Briefing with Elected Officials and Kew Gardens Civic Association

Date: Q4 2024 – Q1 2025

Community Design Workshop #1

Date: January 23rd, 2025

Community Design Workshop #2

Date: March 27th, 2025

Community Board 9Q Presentation #1

Date: April 2, 2025

Purpose: Receive and incorporate community input before PDC Conceptual Review

Community Board 9Q Presentation #2

Date: October 1, 2025

Purpose: Receive and incorporate community input before PDC Preliminary Review

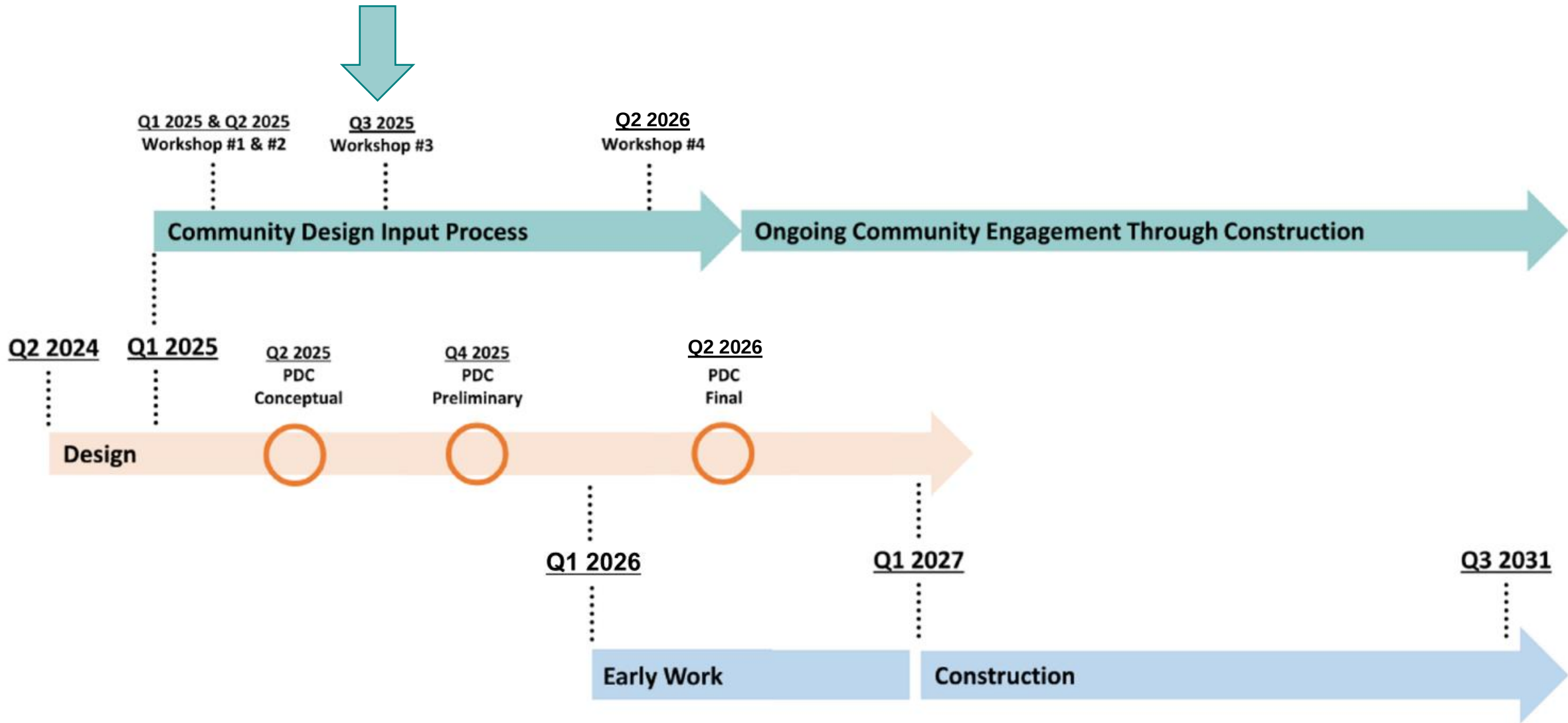
Upcoming Meetings

Community Design Workshop #4 (Final) and Community Board 9Q Presentation #3 (Final)

Date: Q2 2026

Purpose: Report back before PDC Final Review to show how community feedback was incorporated

BBJ Design-Build and Engagement Schedule



Community Resources During Construction



BBJ Website

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/borojails/>



Designated Phone Number (646) 940-0812



Weekly Look Ahead



72-Hour Advisories for Impactful Construction Activities



Community Construction Liaison and Field Office

Angel Pinto - Queens BBJ CCL
(646) 940-0812 / QueensCCL@bbjnyc.com

Monday – Friday 7:00am - 3:30pm



Office of Community Outreach & Notification

WEEKLY CONSTRUCTION BULLETIN

10/13/25 - 10/17/25

Queens Facility PROJECT: BBJ-QFAC BOROUGH: QUEENS DATE ISSUED: 10/10/25

The following is an anticipated work schedule for the upcoming week. However, due to unforeseen field and weather conditions, it may become necessary to change some scheduled work locations, operations, and dates.

PARKING & SIDEWALK ACCESS RESTRICTIONS BETWEEN UNION TPKE AND 82ND AVE ON 126TH ST AND 132ND ST IS EXPECTED FOR THE DURATION OF THE PROJECT

DATE	WORK HOURS	LOCATION	OPERATION
10/13/25 - 10/17/25	7:00 am - 3:30 pm	Existing Queens Detention Center/ 80-25 126 th St / Buffer Zone/ 82 nd Ave	Site Maintenance (No Impacts)

WATER SHUT-OFF NOTIFICATIONS: In addition to a 72-hour Advisory, prior 24-hour notification will be distributed/posted to any / all affected locations(s).

NO PARKING SIGNS: WILL be distributed/posted 72 hours before the temporary elimination of street parking. Please observe posted parking regulations in construction areas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Angel Pinto at (646) 940-0812 or QueensCCL@bbjnyc.com.

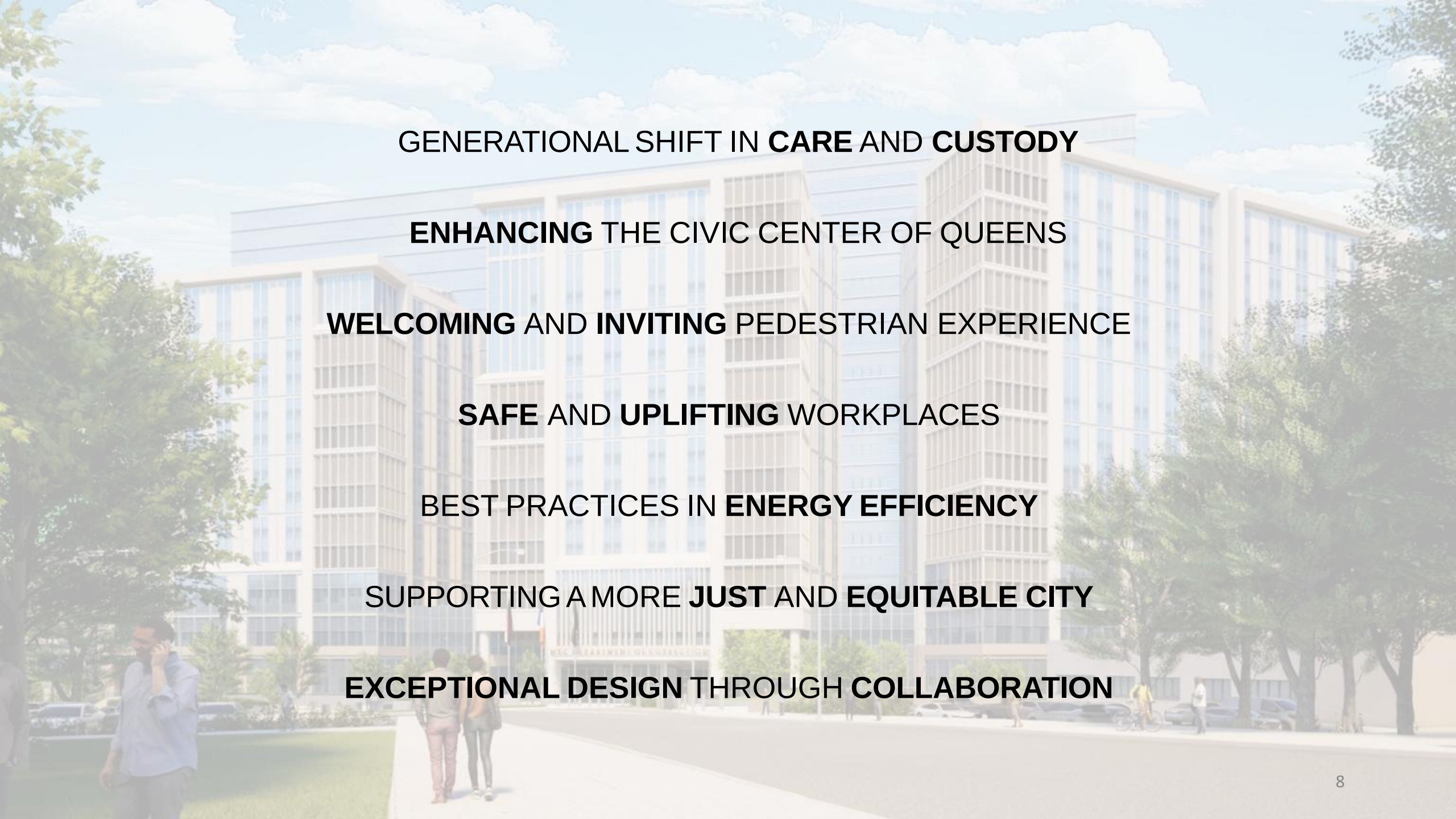
Eric Adams
Mayor

Eduardo N. del Valle, AIA, LEED-AP, DBIA
Acting Commissioner

www.nyc.gov/ddc

Queens Facility

Project Goals & Overview



GENERATIONAL SHIFT IN **CARE AND CUSTODY**

ENHANCING THE CIVIC CENTER OF QUEENS

WELCOMING AND INVITING PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE

SAFE AND UPLIFTING WORKPLACES

BEST PRACTICES IN **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

SUPPORTING A MORE **JUST AND EQUITABLE CITY**

EXCEPTIONAL DESIGN THROUGH COLLABORATION

Queens Facility Project Overview

1,040 beds (590 men and 450 women)

- Maximizes flexibility of movement and operations while ensuring "sight and sound" gender separation
- Balanced therapeutic capacity
- Provides programmatic elements, such as a gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, and educational facilities and workforce development spaces

100 accessory parking spaces below grade

- Parking for authorized City vehicles to alleviate street parking

Pedestrian bridge connection to Queens County Criminal Court

- Secure connection, isolated from public contact, for robust security and efficiency



Design Goals / Approach

Civic Asset

Exceptional
Design
Through
Collaboration

Balance
Aesthetics,
Functionality,
Safety, and
Durability

Prioritize
Environmental
Sustainability
and Energy
Efficiency

Acknowledge
and Respect
Neighboring
Properties and
Communities

Queens Facility

Public Realm

Public Realm - What we heard (by topic)

Vehicular Circulation

- Illustrate **vehicular circulation** to and from Van Wyck and Union Turnpike to the site
- Clarify **travel routes** for the facility-related vehicles
- Provide vehicular path wide enough for **pick-up and drop-off**

Site Connections

- Provide direct **wayfinding and signage** for pedestrians
- Accommodate **bike parking** and identify potential Citibike locations

Community Safety and Access

- Design the plaza to **discourage loitering**
- Maintain **pedestrian safety** adjacent to the Van Wyck

Landscape Elements

- Maximize **greenery**
- Ensure seasonal planting for **year-round color**
- Create a **sustainable environment**
- Design with **long-term maintenance** in mind

Public Realm - Key Community Engagement Takeaways

- Demonstrate **clear circulation** for vehicles and pedestrians, with **legible routes for all users**
- **Enhance the** pedestrian experience at street level through **views, sightlines, and wayfinding**
- **Create sustainable landscape with year-round greenery and seasonal interest**

Public Realm – Circulation to the Site



What we heard:

- Illustrate vehicular circulation to and from Van Wyck and Union Turnpike to the site
- Clarify travel routes for the facility-related vehicles

Response:

1. Main entrance to the facility
2. Staff parking entrance/exit
3. Transportation and service vehicle entrance /exit

Public Realm – Overall Site Plan Update



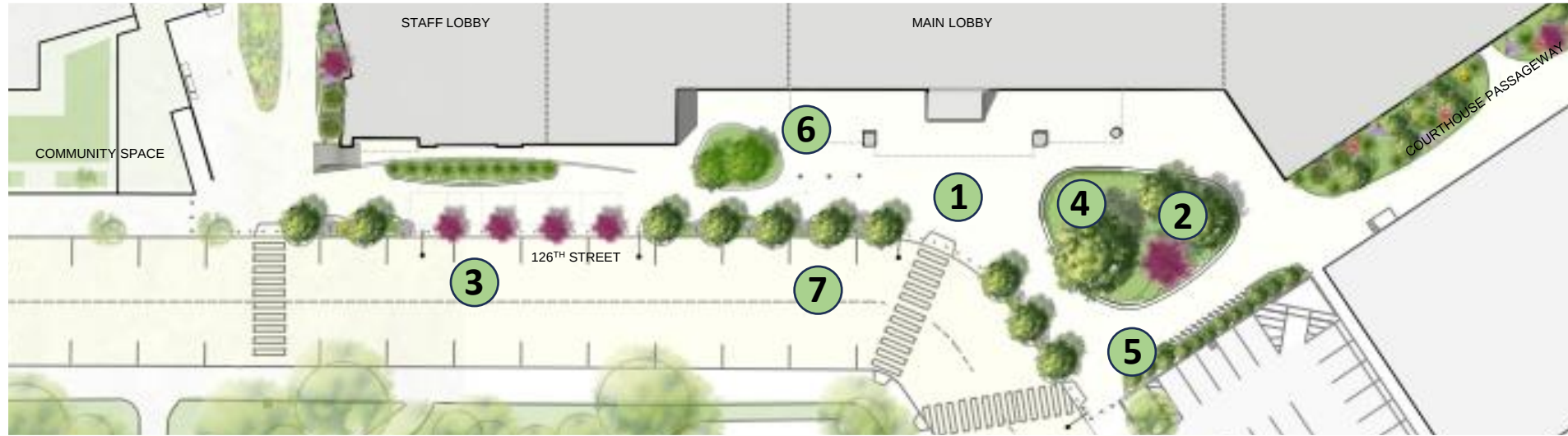
What we heard:

- Greenery
- Year-round color
- Sustainability

Response:

- Enlarged the Main Plaza
- Increased planting areas
- Added streetlights
- Added pedestrian lights
- Reduced number of benches/seats

Public Realm – Main Plaza Update

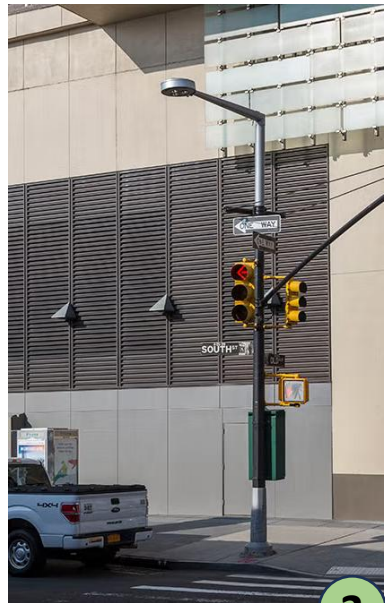


What we heard:

- Greenery
- Year-round color
- Sustainability

Response:

1. Enlarge the Main Plaza
2. Increased planting areas
3. Adding streetlights
4. Adding pedestrian lights
5. Adding wayfinding signage



October 2025



Public Realm – Seating Update



What we heard:

- Design the plaza to discourage loitering

Response:

- Raised armrests provide support and comfort, especially for seniors
- Installed every 4 feet, they also prevent longer-term occupancy and lying down

Public Realm – Greenery and Seasonal Interest



What we heard:

- Greenery
- Year-round color
- Sustainability

Response:

- Four season planting plan that reflects community members' desire for year-round landscape interest

Public Realm – Greenery and Seasonal Interest

View of Main Plaza in Fall



What we heard:

- Greenery
- Year-round color
- Sustainability

Response:

- Trees with fall color for seasonal interest
- Evergreens to maintain visual barrier to parking area
- Seating with armrests
- Bicycle parking near main entrance

Public Realm – Greenery and Seasonal Interest

View of 132nd Street in Fall



What we heard:

- Greenery
- Year-round color
- Sustainability

Response:

- Street trees added to enhance pedestrian experience, beautify the environment, reduce heat island effect, provide seasonal color, and soften the building base
- Permeable pavers and curb-side rain garden to reduce stormwater runoff and improve sidewalk appeal

Public Realm – Greenery and Seasonal Interest

View of Community Passage in Winter



What we heard:

- Greenery
- Year-round color
- Sustainability

Response:

- Providing a 14-foot-wide, accessible, unobstructed sidewalk designed for year-round ease of maintenance
- Use of evergreens to enhance year-round experience
- Rain garden to reduce stormwater runoff at the low point of the site

Public Realm – Greenery and Seasonal Interest

View of Courthouse Passage in Spring



What we heard:

- Greenery
- Year-round color
- Sustainability

Response:

- 14 ft wide accessible and unobstructed sidewalk designed for accommodating maintenance in the summer and snow plowing needs in the winter
- Underplanting with spring-flowering plants for year-round color

Public Realm – Greenery and Seasonal Interest

View of Main Plaza in Summer



What we heard:

- Greenery
- Year-round color
- Sustainability

Response:

- Shade trees to enhance pedestrian experience, beautify the environment, and reduce heat island effect

Queens Facility

Building Appearance

Building Appearance - What we heard (by topic)

Building Appearance & Façade Design

- Explain **façade composition** in more **detail**
- Clarify **program locations** within the massing and façade composition
- Illustrate how **materials** provide **visual screening** in the outdoor recreation areas

Scale & Impact

- Provide updates on the **building's height and size** relationship with the surrounding context
- Share **pedestrian view** renderings

Roof Elements

- Provide landscape spaces for **garden and horticulture program**
- Clarify **rooftop program** location and size within the massing and façade composition
- Describe design considerations for **maintenance** needs

Building Appearance

Key Community Engagement Takeaways

- **Describe building appearance in more detail**, including mechanical volumes, rooftop use, and how the building's scale relates to its surroundings
- **Balance openness and privacy** by carefully designing outdoor recreation spaces and perimeter conditions to respect both people in custody and neighboring residents
- Share more information on **detailed façade design** of all frontages

Façade Design



**Embrace
Context**

**Emphasize
Daylight**

**Balance
Privacy & Openness**

Relationship to Surrounding Neighborhood

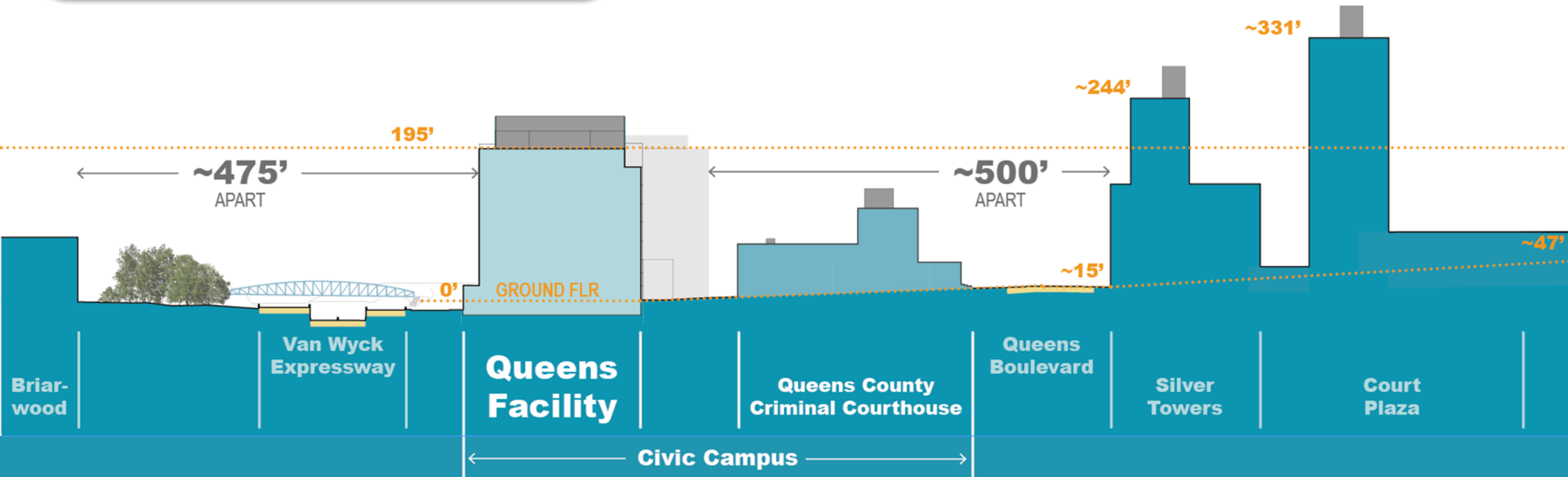
Relationship Clarified:

- Expressway and Queens Boulevard buffer campus from neighbors
- Courthouse buffers new facility from Queens Boulevard

Relationship to Surrounding Neighborhood

Relationship Clarified:

- Nearby residences are far away
- Queens Facility is not the tallest building in the neighborhood
- Facility's site is lower than neighbors



Relationship to Surrounding Neighborhood

Relationship Clarified:

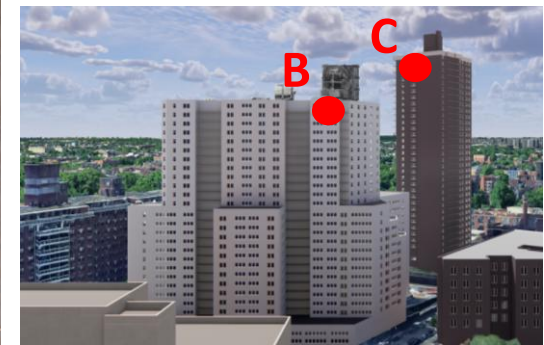
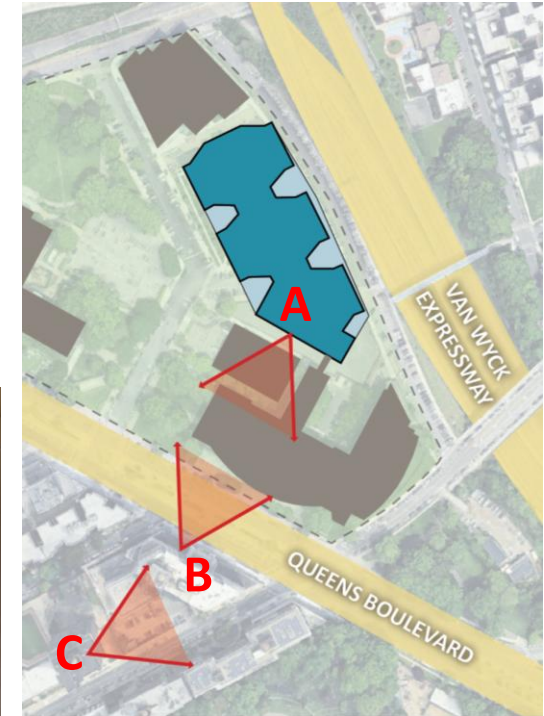
- Visual impact to towers residents studied
- Fully screened rooftop mechanical equipment
- Facility obstructs view of Van Wyck Expressway



B – View from Silver Towers, 26th Floor

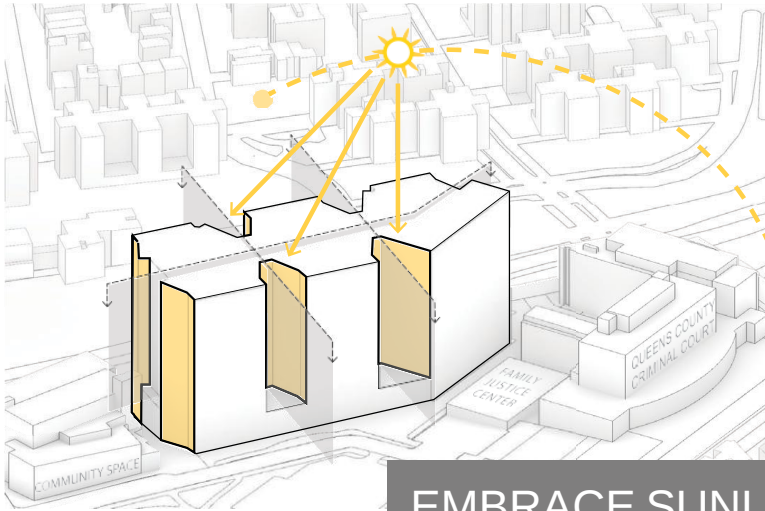


C – View from Court Plaza, 32nd Floor

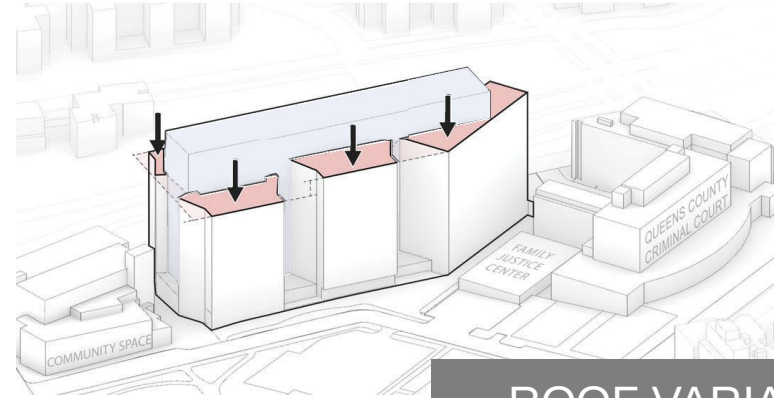


A – View from
BBJ Queens Facility

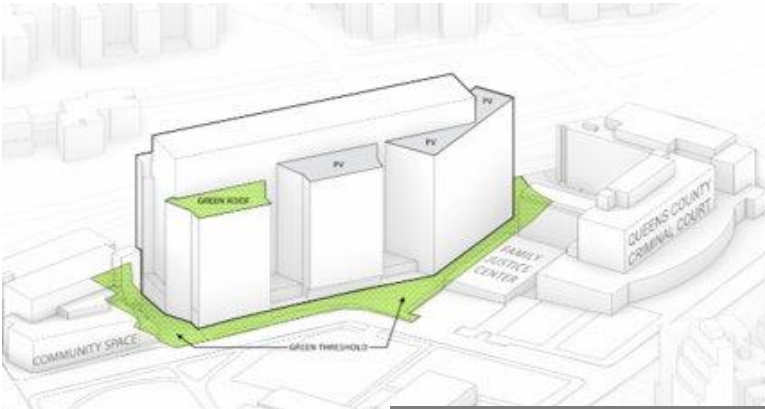
Massing Strategy



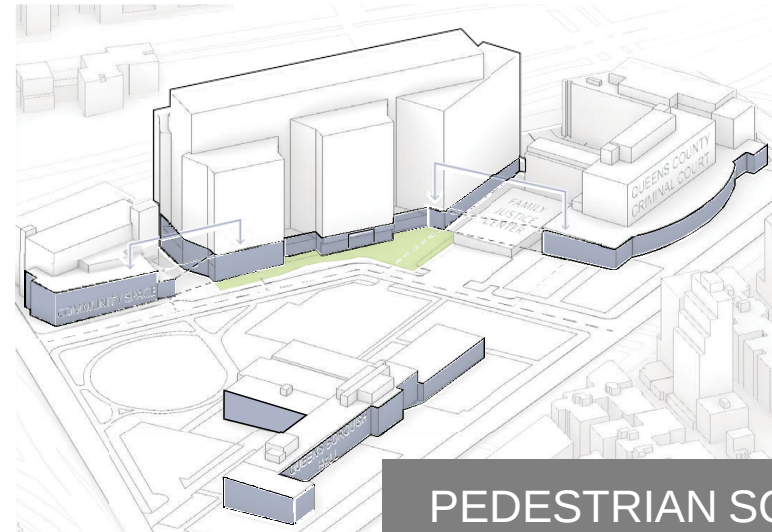
EMBRACE SUNLIGHT



ROOF VARIATION

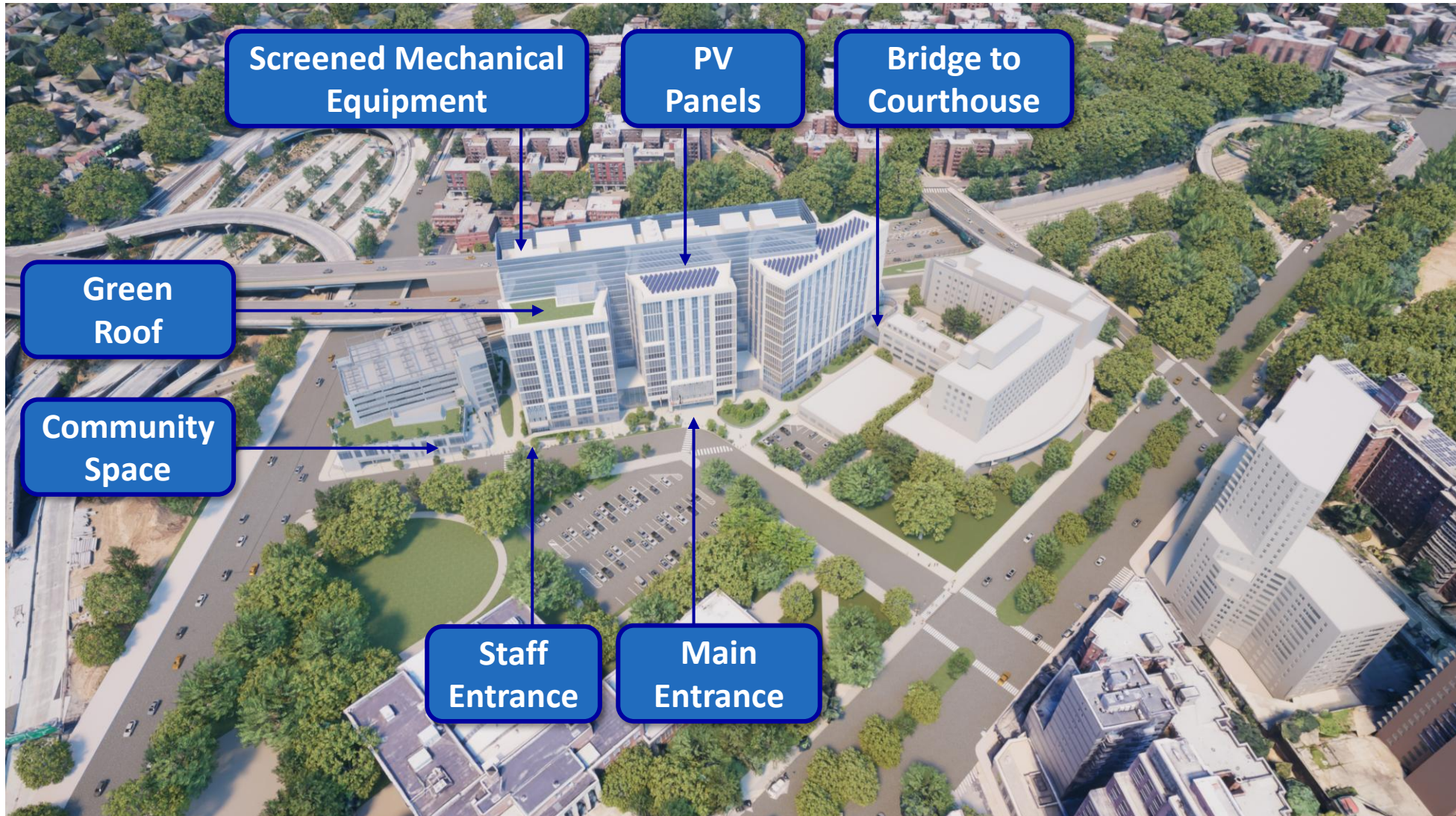


EXTEND GREEN



PEDESTRIAN SCALE

Façade Composition: Program Locations

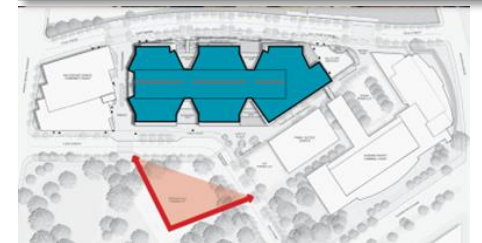


What we heard:

- Clarify **program locations** within the massing

Response:

- Entrances located along 126th St
- Community space in adjacent building
- Bridge connects facility to courthouse
- PV panels, mechanical equipment and horticulture at roof



Façade Composition – Program Locations

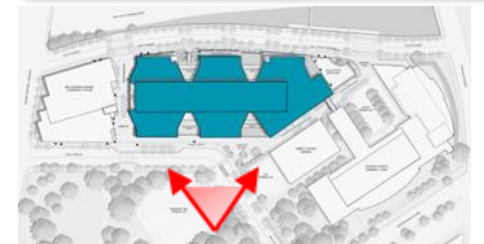


What we heard:

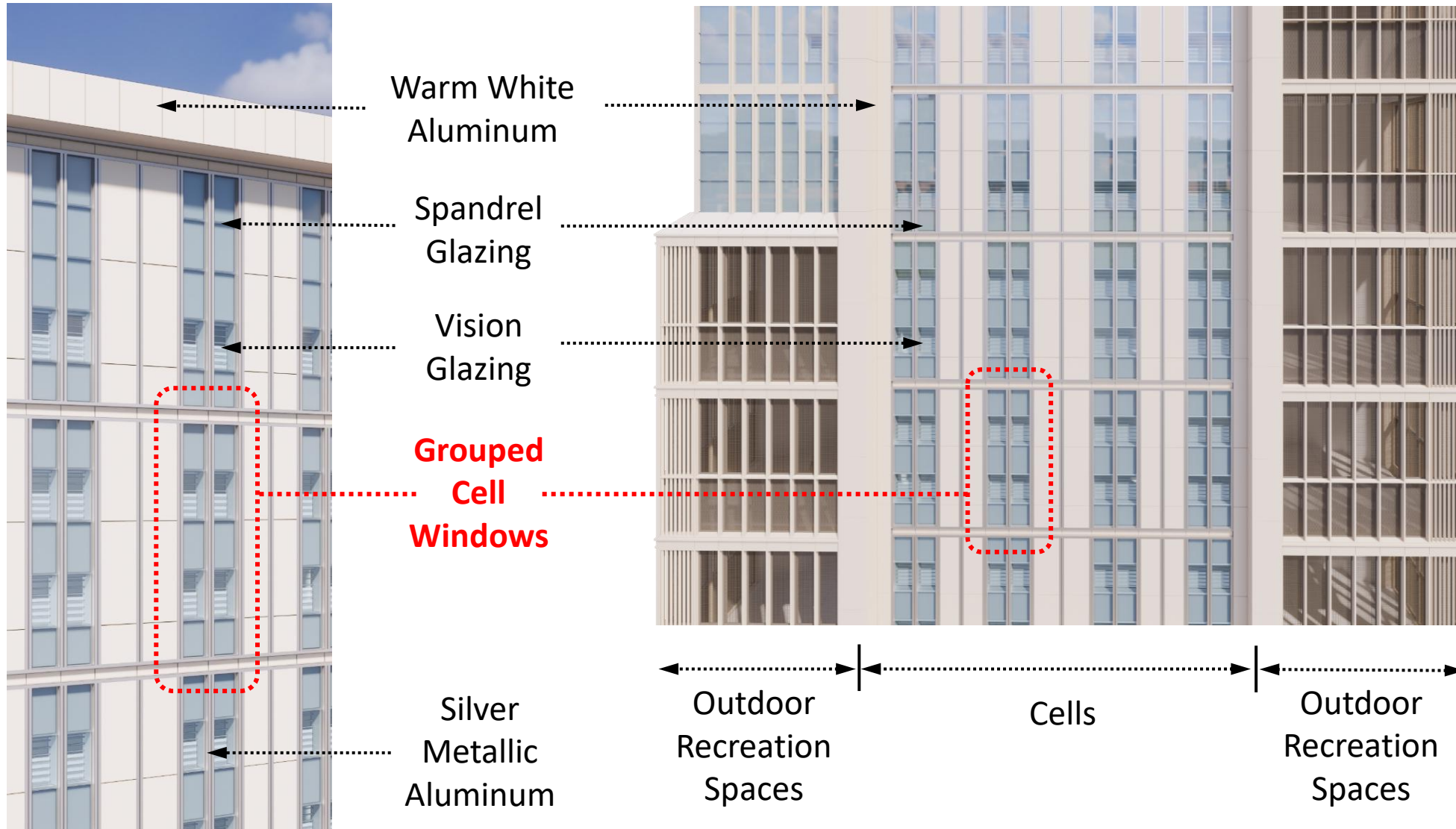
- Clarify **program locations** within the massing

Response:

- Entrances located along 126th St
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Façade Composition – Double Height Housing Unit



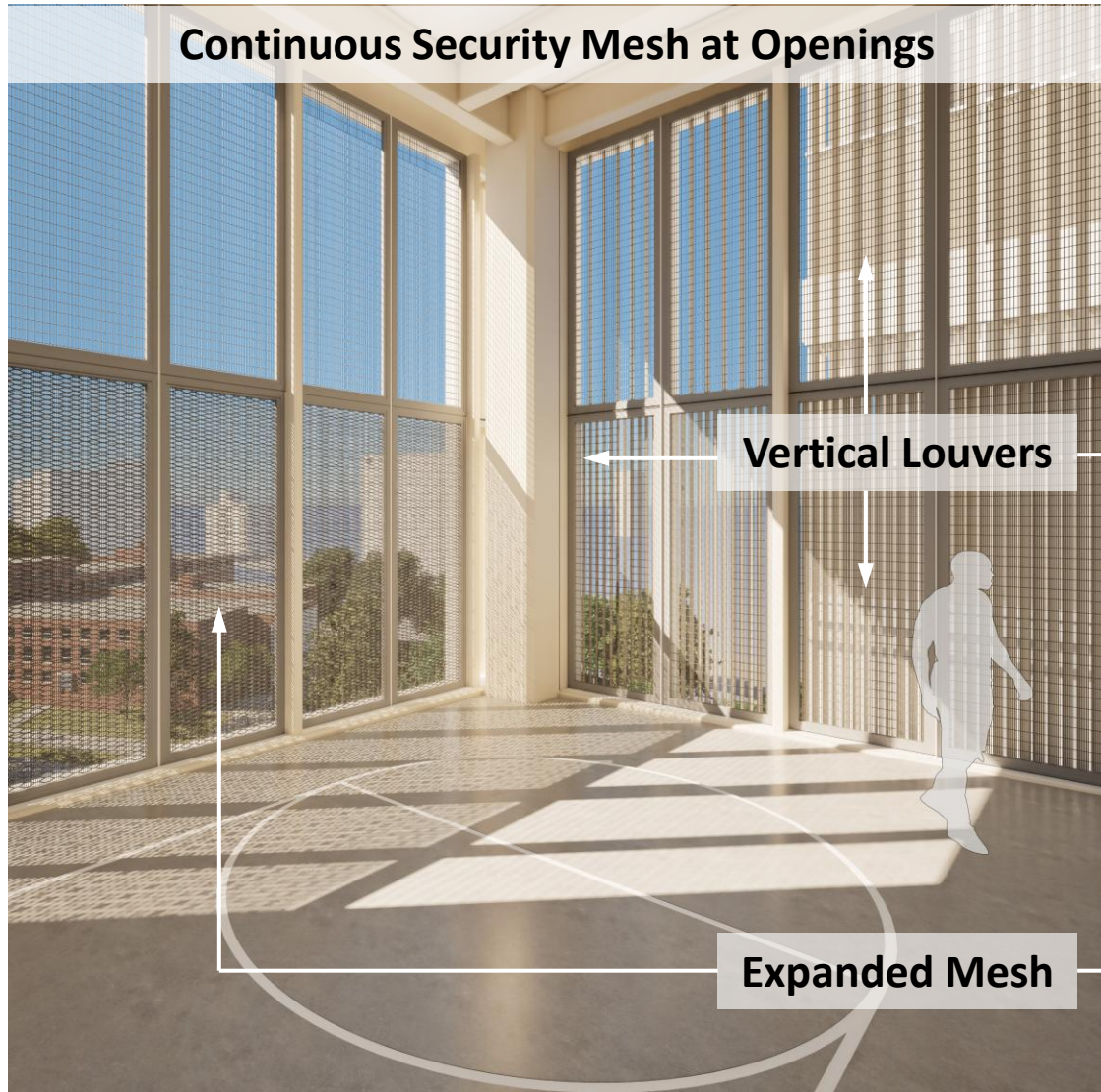
What we heard:

- Explain **façade composition** in more detail

Response:

- Cell windows are grouped at housing units
- Provides appearance of larger windows
- **Mitigates overall bulk** by playing with visual scale

Outdoor Recreation Space



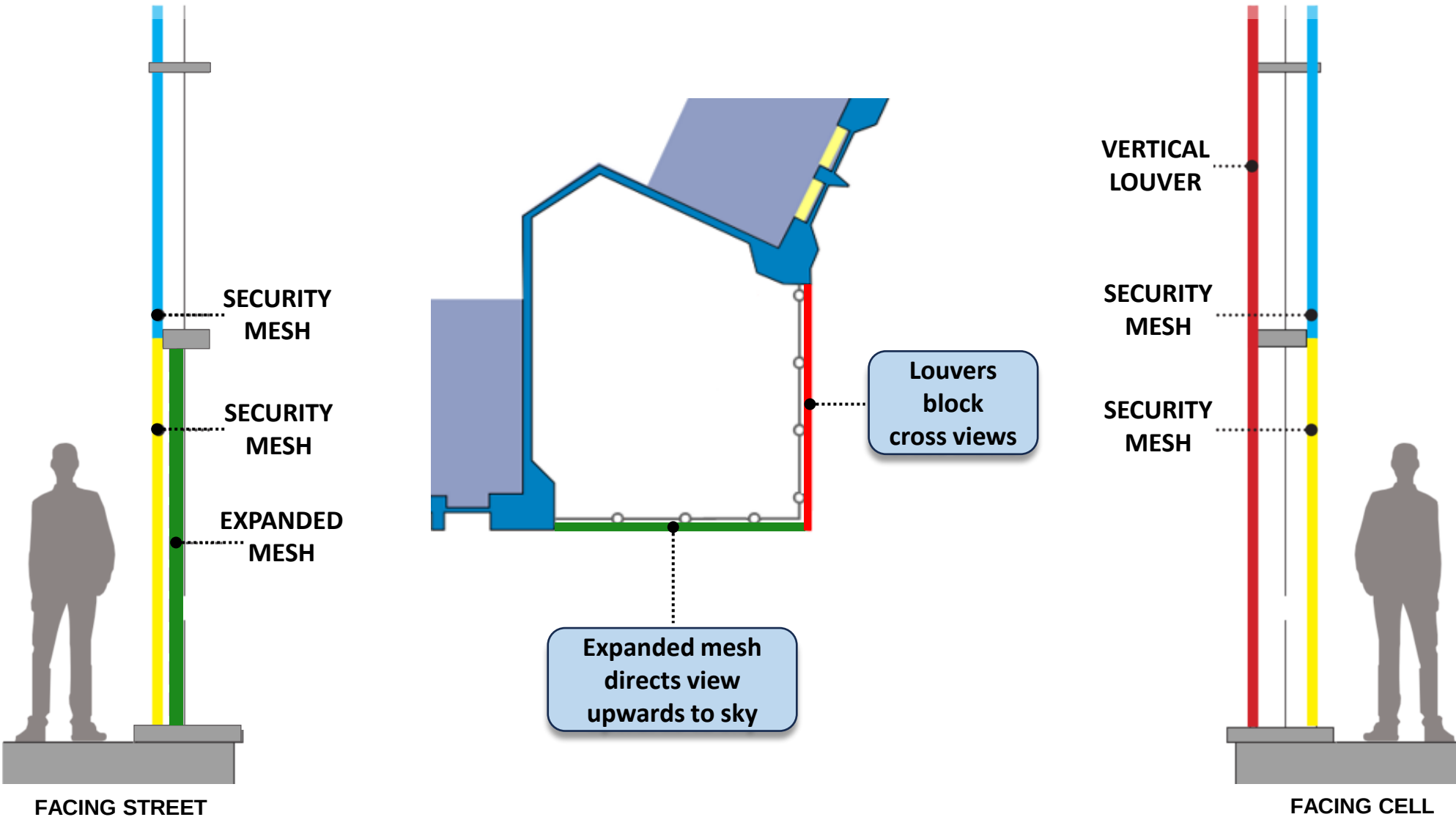
What we heard:

- Explain **façade composition** in more detail

Response:

- **Two sides open to daylight and air**
- Inner mesh provides a fully secure perimeter
- Vertical louvers emphasize daylight & **block cross views**
- Expanded mesh up to 10' **mitigates downward views**, communication to street below

Façade Composition – Outdoor Recreation Spaces



What we heard:

- Explain **façade composition** in more detail

Response:

- **Two sides open to daylight and air**
- Inner mesh provides a fully secure perimeter
- Vertical louvers emphasize daylight & **block cross views**
- Expanded mesh up to 10' **mitigates downward views**, communication to street below

82nd Ave Approach - Main Entrance



What we heard:

- Share **pedestrian view** renderings

Response:

- Main Public entrance clearly identifiable from Queens Boulevard, looking down 82nd Ave
- Mature tree canopy frames view

126th Street Approach - Main Entrance



What we heard:

- Share **pedestrian view** renderings

Response:

- Entrances visible along the pedestrian path from Union Turnpike
- Community space **softens scale** and mitigates visual communication to towers

Pedestrian Experience Main Entrance



What we heard:

- Share **pedestrian view renderings**

Response:

- Entrance expression visible from Queens Boulevard and Union Turnpike
- Transparent glass lobby wall welcomes visitors through the landscaped plaza to the covered entrance

Pedestrian Experience – Courthouse Passageway



What we heard:

- Share **pedestrian view renderings**

Response:

- At the Courthouse passageway, a translucent bridge **connects the BBJ-Queens facility to the courthouse**

Pedestrian Experience – Vehicle Maneuvering Yard



What we heard:

- Share **pedestrian view renderings**

Response:

- At the 132nd St pedestrian crossing, the soft curve of the service yard wall **guides pedestrians** to their campus destinations and beyond

Pedestrian Experience – Sallyport Entrance



What we heard:

- Share **pedestrian view renderings**

Response:

- At the 132nd St Sallyport entrance, trees are widely spaced to maintain **clear sightlines** and support **pedestrian safety**

Pedestrian Experience – Vehicle Entrance



What we heard:

- Share **pedestrian view renderings**

Response:

- At the 132nd St vehicle entrance, trees are widely spaced to maintain **clear sightlines** and support **pedestrian safety**

Pedestrian Experience – Staff Entrance



What we heard:

- Share **pedestrian view renderings**

Response:

- At the 126th St staff entrance, a generous staircase provides a **dedicated circulation path for staff** and helps **manage visitor flow** at high-traffic times of day

Queens Facility

Interior Experience - Public

Interior Experience (Public) - What we heard (by topic)

Accessibility

- Identify **storage location for wheelchairs** or other **mobility aids**
- Focus on **universal accessibility** at the lobby entrance

Family & Child-Friendly Design

- Develop a designated **area for children** in the **lobby**
- Create a **child centered area** in the **visiting spaces**
- Provide **lactation space for nursing**

User Experience

- Use **bright/welcoming colors** in the visitor waiting area
- Design the public spaces to be **open and inviting**
- Show **non-contact visiting** rendering

Safety & Security

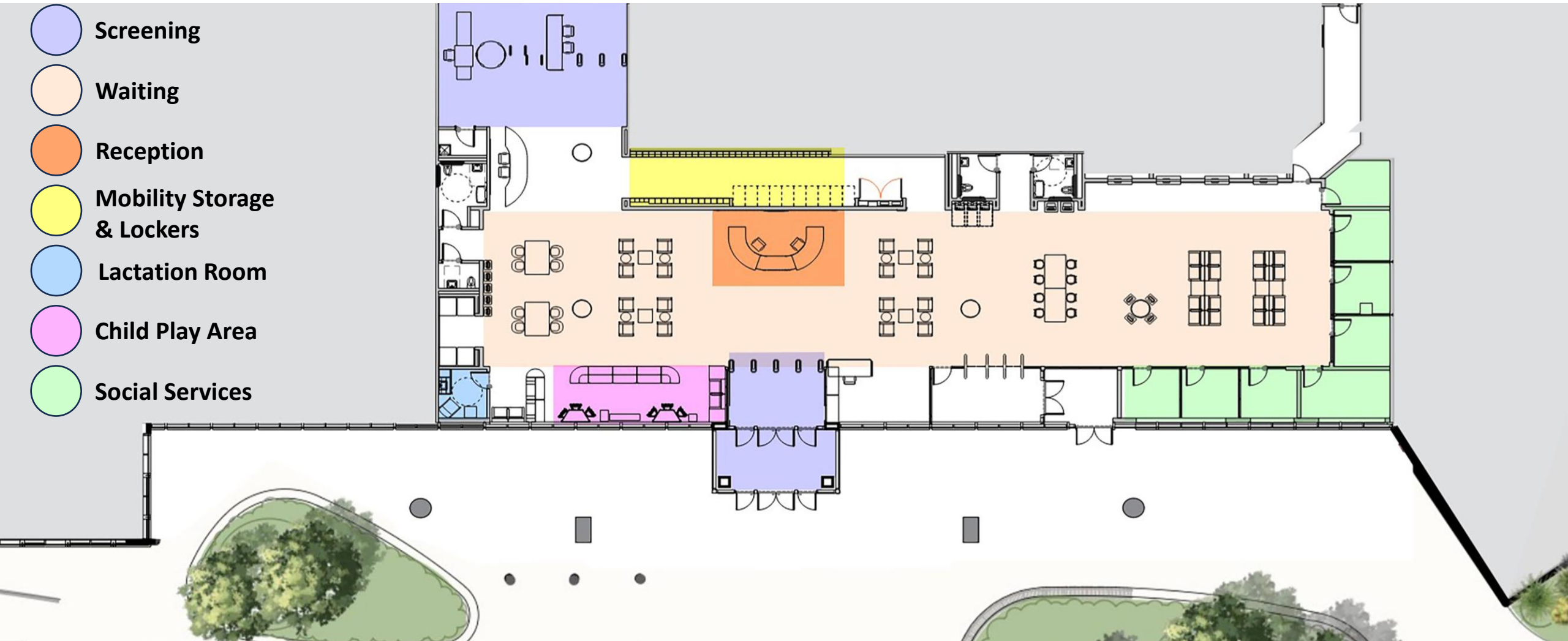
- Confirm there is **enough room for security checks** at the visitor screening area

Interior Experience (Public)

Key Community Engagement Takeaways

- Design the public lobby to include designated **wheelchair storage**, child-friendly area, a **lactation room** and **accessible amenities** that create a **welcoming and inclusive environment** for all visitors
- Utilize **bright, welcoming colors** and an **open lobby layout** to create a more inviting and supportive visitor experience
- Focus on developing a **clearly defined** and **spacious security screening** area
- Share visual examples of the **non-contact visiting** areas to improve understanding of the visitation process

Public Lobby - Plan



Public Lobby



What we heard:

- Use **bright/friendly colors**
- Include a separate area for **children**

Response:

- Explored a **variety of color palettes**
- Provides a **welcoming and comforting experience**
- Designed the children's play area to promote a **positive visiting experience**

Public Lobby



What we heard:

- What are the **safety measures** in the lobby?

Response:

- Visitors enter through **screening when entering** the building
- Provided **adequate space for security screening in a safe and efficient manner**
- DOC staff in the lobby maintain a **safe atmosphere**

Public Lobby



What we heard:

- How is the lobby accessible?

Response:

- **Furnishings, amenities** and adequate circulation meet accessibility needs
- **Lockers** and a **storage area** for strollers and mobility aids provided

Visiting Waiting Area



What we heard:

- The public **waiting spaces should be open, inviting, yet a secure environment**

Response:

- **Bright, welcoming colors** in an open layout create a supportive **environment**
- Variety of seating options which is **comfortable** and **ergonomic** with armrests

Contact Visiting Space



What we heard:

- Create **child-centered visiting areas**

Response:

- **A children's play area is provided with natural light, furnishings appropriately scaled for children, and appropriate activities such as books and play equipment**

Non-Contact Visiting Space



What we heard:

- Provide visual example of **non-contact visiting** areas

Response:

- The design provides the individual visiting spaces with **improved visibility** through **glass partitions**

Queens Facility

Interior Experience - Secure

Interior Experience (Secure) - What we heard (by topic)

Program spaces

- Clarify the size and users of the **law library**
- Illustrate the law library **furniture design**
- Confirm how **books are stored** in the library

Medical/Maternity/Nursery

- Create **private lactation area**
- Provide a refrigerator to store breast milk, formula, and other forms of food for children
- Design the nursery with **infant play and bathing areas, storage for care items, natural light and noise control**

Housing unit/Cell

- Consider **softer colors** and thicker mattresses in cells to promote a humane and comfortable environment
- Provide **appropriate lighting** in cell

Outdoor recreation

- Show the size of the **outdoor recreation area**
- Design outdoor recreation areas to have **access to direct sunlight**

Horticulture

- Clarify **horticulture space design**
- Elaborate on the horticulture **space capacity** and uses

Interior Experience (Secure)

Key Community Engagement Takeaways

- Provide **detailed information on the law library's design**, including, size, furniture, book storage and user access to effectively meet the needs of people in custody
- Create **private, well-equipped nursing and lactation areas**, along with nursery designed for **infant care, play, comfort, and safety**
- Incorporate **softer colors, adequate lighting**, and **appropriate materials** for furniture and fixtures at cells
- Outdoor recreation areas should be **adequately sized and provide access to direct sunlight**
- Clearly defined **horticulture space** with capacity for **programming**

Women's Law Library



What we heard:

- How is the **library furnished** and where are the **books stored**?

Response:

- Provided **appropriate seating** for individuals
- The design of the law library includes **bookshelves**

Maternity Space



What we heard:

- How is **care** established in the maternity/nursery spaces?

Response:

- These spaces provide a **comfortable, private, and hygienic environment** that supports the health and well-being of individuals
- The design provides **space for doctors and clinicians** in this unit

Nursery Space



What we heard:

- Design the nursery with **infant play areas**, **storage** for care items, **natural light** and **noise control**

Response:

- There are **cribs for infants** within the nursery
- **Access to natural light** creates a comfortable and **supportive environment for infants** and caregivers
- The children's area will have **appropriate activities** such as books and play equipment

General Population Housing Unit



What we heard:

- What are the **colors** and **materials** used in the housing units?

Response:

- Finishes, **colors** and **furniture selections** in all secure spaces are intended to create **humane, inviting and warm spaces**
- Housing units include direct **access to daylight** from outdoor recreation space

General Population Housing Unit



What we heard:

- How is **access to medical care** incorporated into the design?

Response:

- Every housing floor will include **space for treatments**
- All housing units will include a **medication distribution booth**

Typical Cell



October 2025



Preliminary Illustrations for Discussion Purposes Only 63

What we heard:

- Provide appropriate **lighting, colors, and furniture** in cell

Response:

- Overhead lighting and **individually controlled task lighting** will be provided in each cell
- The design team will explore a variety of furniture designs and **color palettes** to provide a **comforting experience**

Therapeutic Housing Unit



What we heard:

- How are **individuals cared for** in the therapeutic spaces?

Response:

- Therapeutic housing spaces are designed to promote **access to care, treatment and support**

Outdoor Recreation Space



What we heard:

- Outdoor recreation facilities should have **access to direct sunlight**

Response:

- Provide **access to daylight and fresh air flow** to meet requirements of local and state laws
- A **security mesh and louver system** will be provided to meet **security requirements and view control**

Indoor Gym Space



What we heard:

- Can **recreation areas** be larger and designed for running or jogging?

Response:

- People in custody will have access to a larger **indoor recreation space** which includes a **basketball court**
- The gym is a **flexible space** to adapt to different uses
- **Larger windows** provided for **daylight** access

Horticulture Space



What we heard:

- What is the **horticulture program** and use?

Response:

- The program includes a **greenhouse, classroom,** and an **outdoor area** for hands-on instruction
- Open space with **direct access to daylight** and **fresh air**

Queens Facility

Breakout Group Discussions

Queens Facility

Group Report Out Reflection and Next Steps



NYC Criminal Justice



Department of Design and Construction

Borough-Based Jails

Thank You

QN Queens Facility

