



NYC Criminal Justice

NYC DDC Department of Design and Construction

Borough-Based Jails

# Community Design Input Workshop #4

April 28, 2026

**QN**

Queens Facility







# Agenda

- 1** Community Engagement & Design Input Process
- 2** Project Goals & Overview
- 3** Feedback Review & 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

### Community Design Workshop #2

**Date:** March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Community Board 9Q Presentation #1

**Date:** April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

**Purpose:** Receive and incorporate community input before PDC Conceptual Review

### Community Board 9Q Presentation #2

**Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**Purpose:** Receive and incorporate community input before PDC Preliminary Review

### Community Design Workshop #3

**Date:** October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Upcoming Meetings

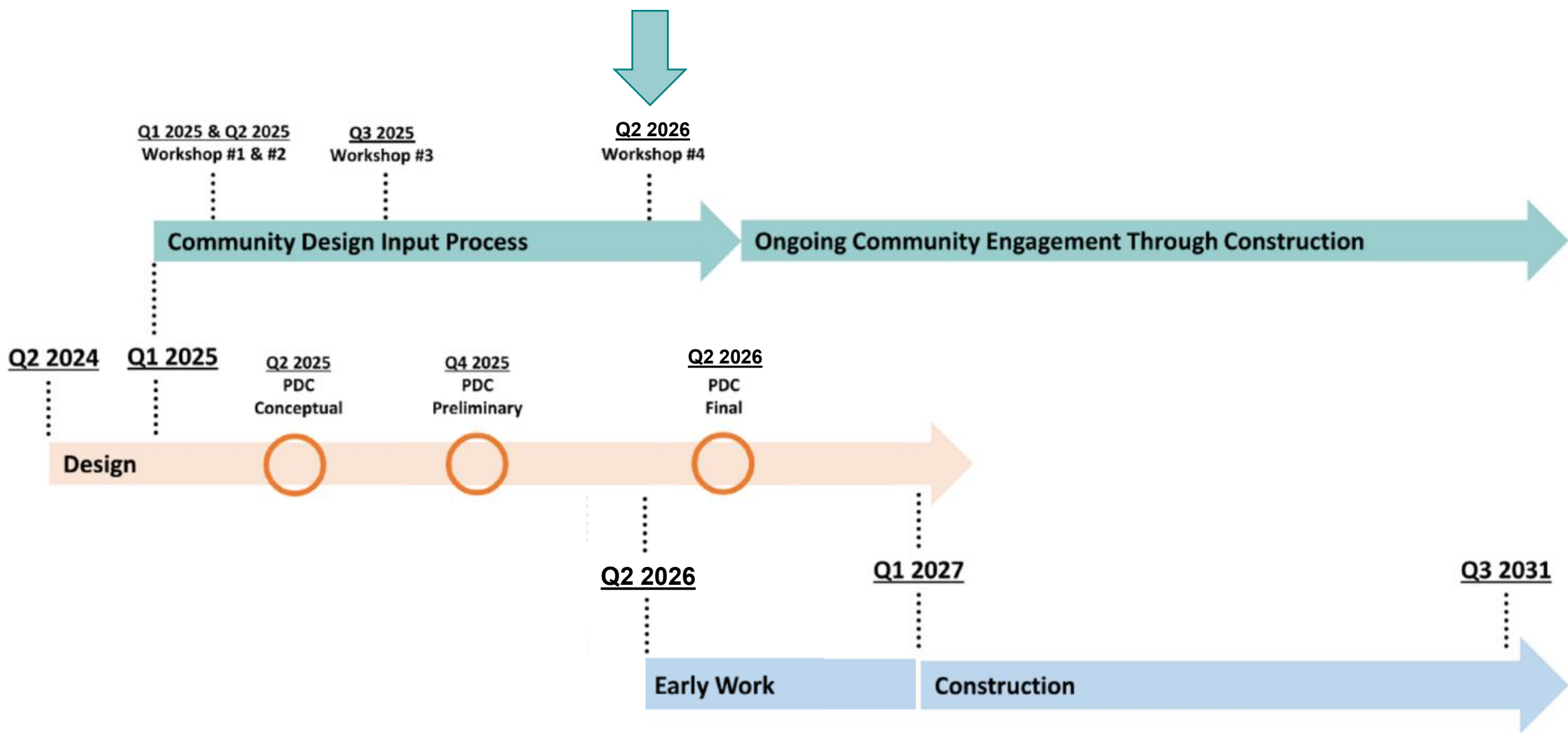
### Community Board 9Q Presentation #3 (Final)

**Date:** June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

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



# BBJ Design-Build and Engagement Schedule



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# Project Goals & Overview

# 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 – Community Construction Liaison**  
**(914) 819-2153 / [QueensCCL@bbjnyc.com](mailto:QueensCCL@bbjnyc.com)**

Monday – Friday 7:00am - 3:30pm



Office of Community Outreach & Notification

## WEEKLY CONSTRUCTION BULLETIN

10/06/25 - 10/10/25

**Queens Facility PROJECT: BBJ-QFAC BOROUGH: QUEENS DATE ISSUED: 10/03/25**

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 82<sup>ND</sup> AVE ON 126<sup>TH</sup> ST AND 132<sup>ND</sup> ST IS EXPECTED FOR THE DURATION OF THE PROJECT**

| DATE                   | WORK HOURS           | LOCATION                                                                                            | OPERATION                     |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 10/06/25 -<br>10/10/25 | 7:00 am -<br>3:30 pm | Existing Queens Detention Center/<br>80-25 126 <sup>th</sup> St / Buffer Zone/ 82 <sup>nd</sup> Ave | Site Maintenance (No Impacts) |
| 10/08/25               | 6:00 pm -<br>8:00 pm | Helen Marshall Cultural Center, Queens Borough Hall<br>120-55 Queens Blvd                           | Community Design Workshop #3  |

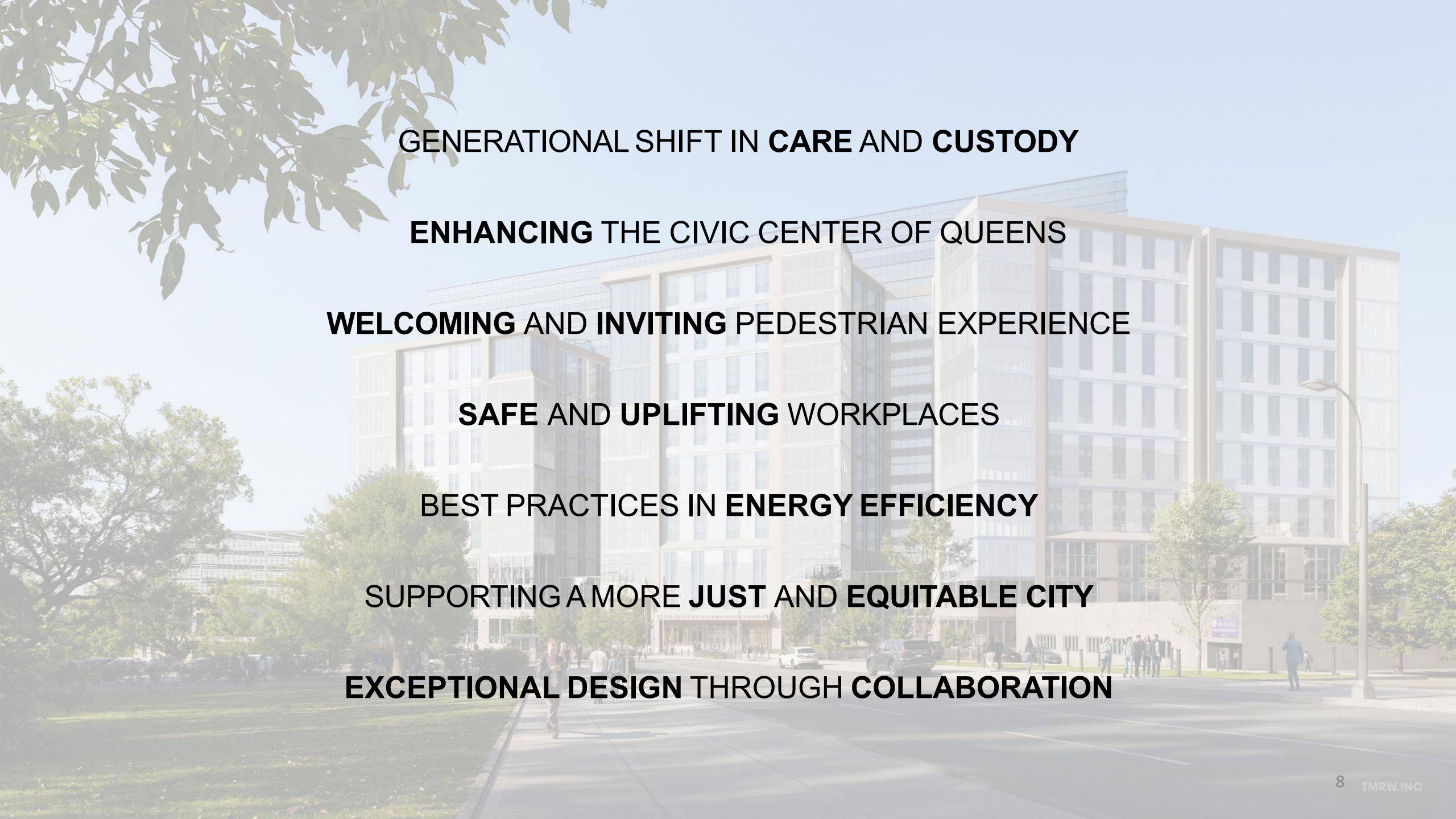
**WATER SHUT-OFF NOTIFICATIONS:** In addition to a 72-hour Advisory, prior 24-hour notification will be distributed/posted to any / all affected location(s).  
**NO PARKING SIGNS:** WILL be distributed/posted 72 hours before the temporary elimination of street parking. Please observe posted parking regulations in construction areas.  
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Contact Angel Pinto at (646) 940-0812 or [QueensCCL@bbjnyc.com](mailto:QueensCCL@bbjnyc.com).

Eric Adams  
Mayor

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

[www.nyc.gov/ddc](http://www.nyc.gov/ddc)



An architectural rendering of a modern, multi-story building with a light-colored facade and large glass windows. The building is situated on a street with a wide sidewalk, trees, and a few pedestrians. The sky is clear and blue. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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, 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

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# Public Realm



# Public Realm - What we heard (by topic)

## Public Realm

- **Comfort:** Desire for shade, rest, and everyday comfort
- **Seating:** Provide adequate quantity and comfortable design
- **Experience:** Balance security requirements and an inviting public realm

## Landscape

- **Tree Canopy:** Request large, mature trees at installation
- **Plant Selection:** Emphasize native species and sustainability
- **Maintenance:** Prioritize low-maintenance and long-term viability

## Movement and Access

- **Universal Access:** Address ADA compliance and universal design
- **Bicycle Amenities:** Provide bike racks and future Citi Bike options
- **Sidewalk Protection:** Prevent vehicle encroachment

## Connection and Activation

- **Community Passageway:** Clarify purpose and role of the passageway
- **Visibility:** Enhance views and open space connections
- **Activation:** Support the usage of the community space

# Public Realm

## Key Community Engagement Takeaways

- Promote a **welcoming public realm** that supports **everyday comfort** including **seating and shade**
- Prioritize **scale, quantity,** and long-term **quality** of **trees** and **planting**
- Clarify **circulation** across the site including for **pedestrian, bike** and **ADA compliance**
- **Strengthen connections** between site and surrounding **neighborhood**

# Public Realm – Approach from 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue



## What we heard:

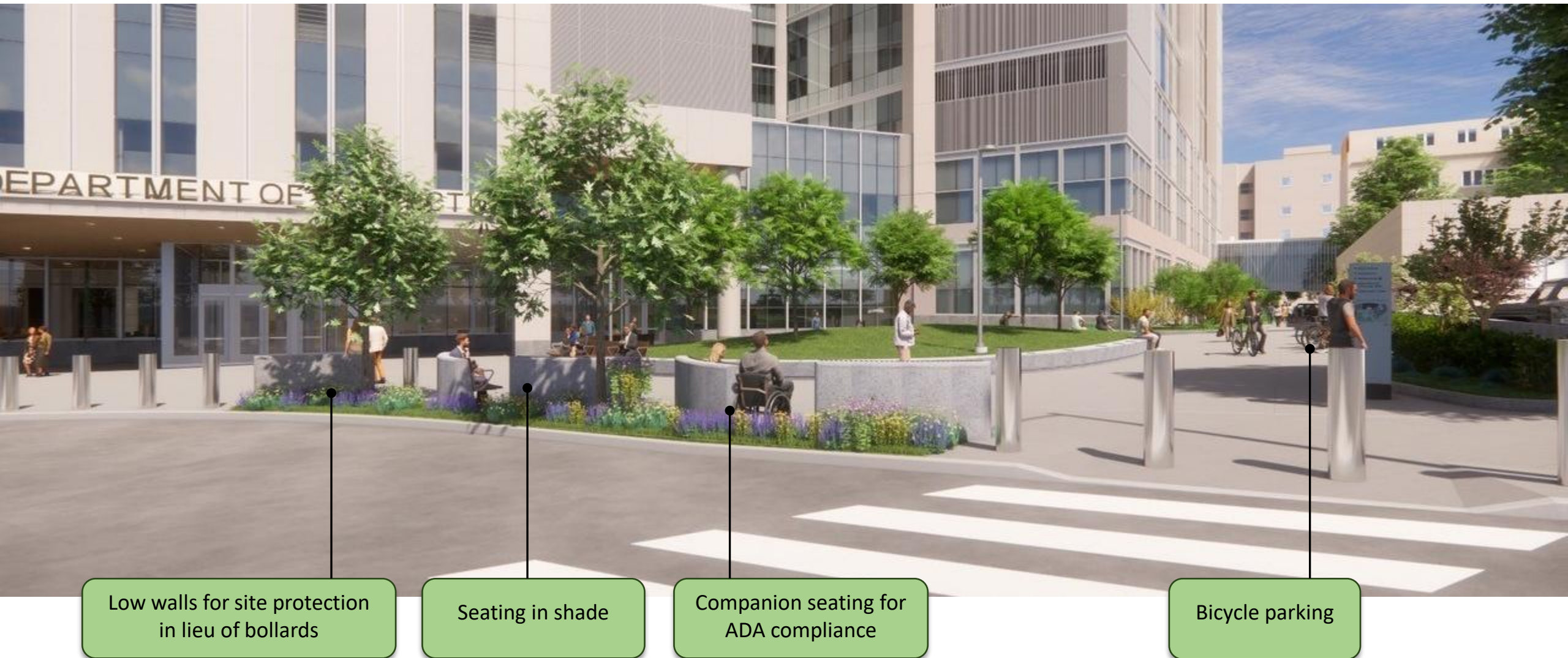
- Desire for shade
- Provide seating
- Create a welcoming experience

## Design features:

- Groups of seating
- Large canopy trees installed at 3-3.5" caliper, about 6-8' tall
- Trees will establish and reach about 12' tall and 20' canopy spread over a 5-year time period



# Public Realm – Approach from 126<sup>th</sup> Street



Low walls for site protection  
in lieu of bollards

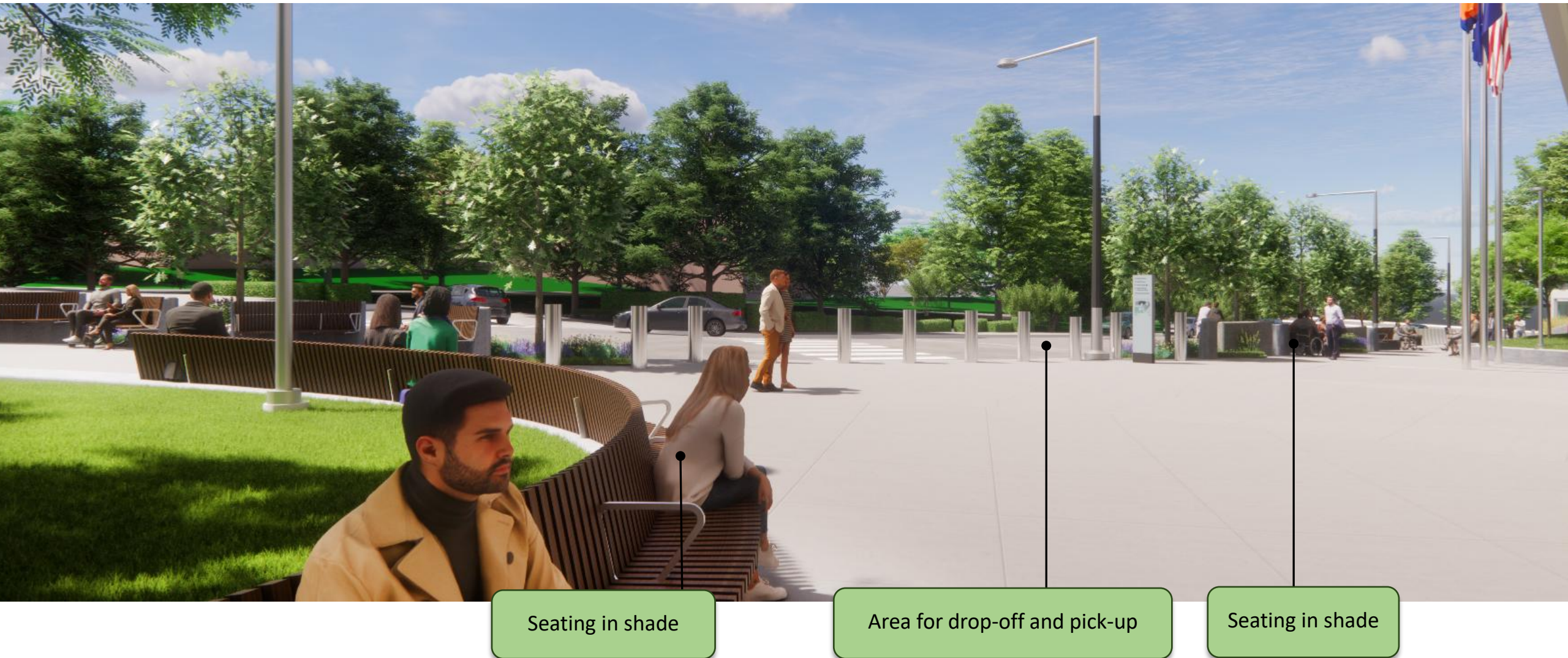
Seating in shade

Companion seating for  
ADA compliance

Bicycle parking



# Public Realm – View from the Main Exit



Seating in shade

Area for drop-off and pick-up

Seating in shade



# Public Realm – 126<sup>th</sup> Street toward Main Plaza



## What we heard:

- Balance security requirements with an inviting public realm
- Emphasize native planting and sustainability

## Design features:

- Low walls and bollards integrated with landscape for site protection
- Native species, low-maintenance, and low water usage



# Public Realm – 126<sup>th</sup> Street toward Staff Entrance



Seating in shade

Companion seating

Sidewalk connection to community space

Accessible route to  
staff entrance



# Public Realm – Community Passageway at 126<sup>th</sup> St.



## What we heard:

- Clarify the function and role of Community Passageway
- Support the usage of the Community Space

## Design features:

- Public plaza that provides visibility for Community Space, Garage Entrance, and Staff Entrance
- The pedestrian-only passageway connects 132<sup>nd</sup> Street with 126<sup>th</sup> Street

# Public Realm – Community Passageway at 132<sup>nd</sup> St.



Four-season perennial landscape

ADA compliant pedestrian path to 126<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Borough Hall and Queens Boulevard

Low-maintenance and sustainable landscape



# Public Realm – 132<sup>nd</sup> Street



Wide sidewalk connecting Briarwood pedestrian bridge to community passageway

Large shade street trees, curb-side rain gardens, and permeable pavers



# Public Realm – Courthouse Passageway



Wide sidewalk connecting Briarwood pedestrian bridge to main plaza, 126<sup>th</sup> Street and Borough Hall

Native species, four-season, perennial planting



# Public Realm – Key Outcomes



## Design features:

- Inviting public realm
- Comfort and shade
- Developing tree canopy
- Native planting
- Low-maintenance landscape
- Integrated security
- Rain gardens
- Bicycle parking
- Visual openness
- Clear connectivity
- Pedestrian priority

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# Building Appearance



# Building Appearance - What we heard (by topic)

## Building Appearance & Façade Design

- **Visual Screening:** Illustrate how the façade mitigates visual communication between the recreation areas and the public realm
- **Materiality:** Describe the exterior materials and color palette in more detail

## Scale & Impact

- **Massing:** Maintain the massing strategy that breaks down the overall bulk into a visual composition of smaller pieces
- **Neighborhood Views:** Share additional views from surrounding buildings

## Roof Elements

- **Maintenance:** Describe design considerations for maintenance needs
- **Rooftop items:** Provide update on green roof

# Building Appearance

## Key Community Engagement Takeaways

- Describe the **exterior materials and color palette** in more detail
- Illustrate how the **façade mitigates visual communication** between the **recreation areas** and the **public realm**
- Share **additional views** from surrounding buildings



# Exterior Materials and Color Palette - Campus



Community Space



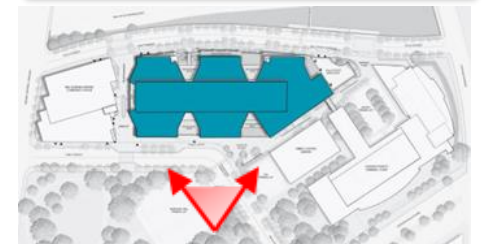
Courthouse



**What we heard:**  
Describe the exterior materials and color palette in more detail

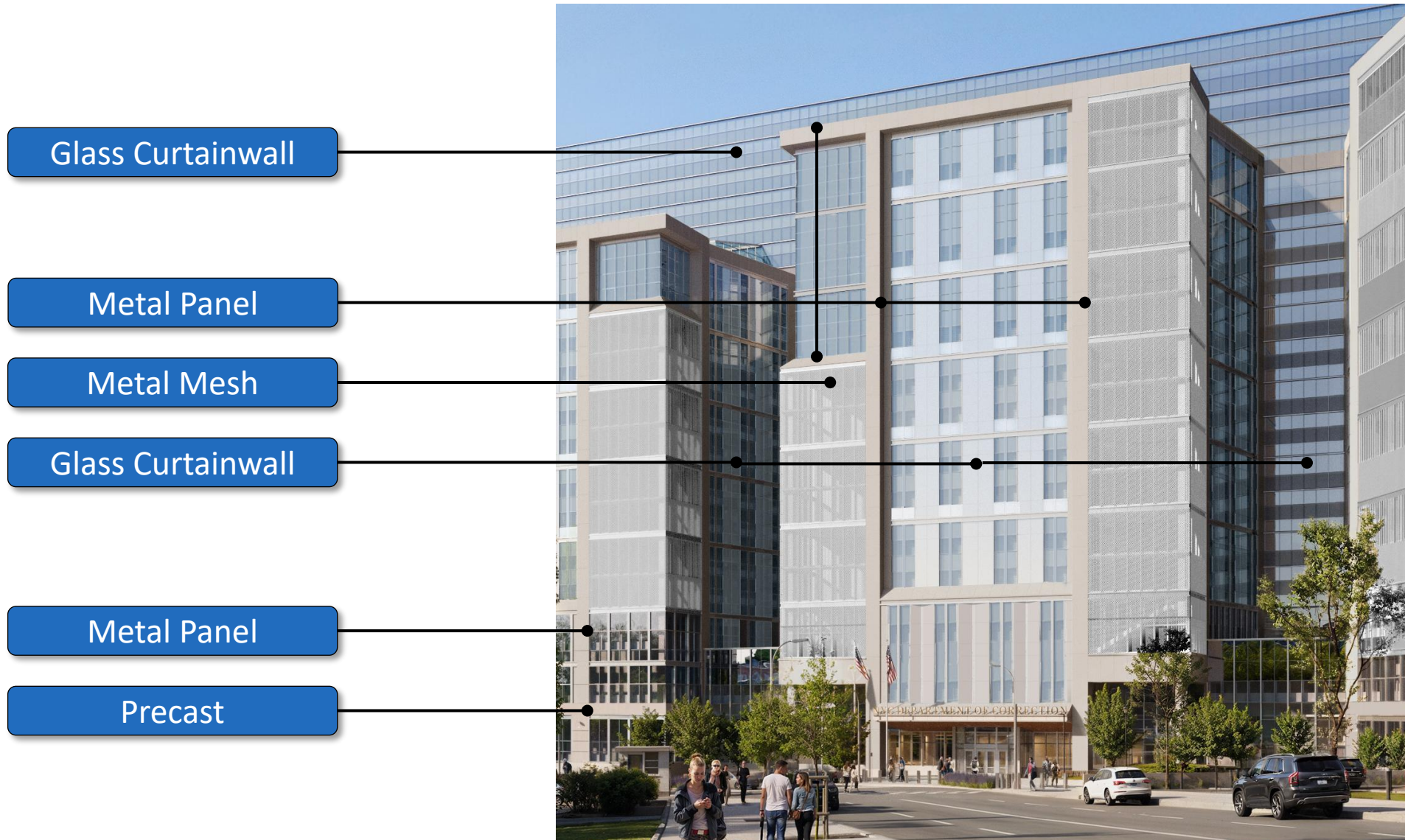
## Design features:

- Exterior colors are closely keyed to the Courthouse and Community Space
- Light-colored neutrals to blend in with existing buildings



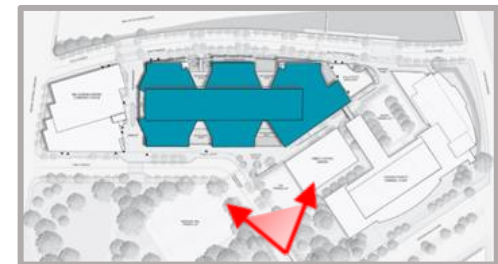


# Exterior Materials and Color Palette



**What we heard:**  
Describe the exterior materials and color palette in more detail

- Design features:**
- Housing tower materials include metal panel, metal mesh/louver and glass
  - The “Spine” materials include glass with a horizontal pattern
  - Façade is precast concrete where it meets the sidewalk





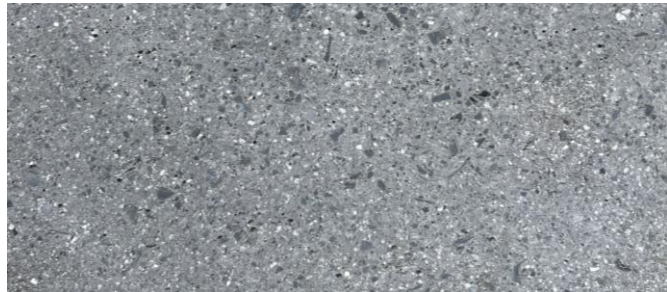
# Exterior Materials and Color Palette - Podium



Light Grey Metal Panel



Light Grey Precast

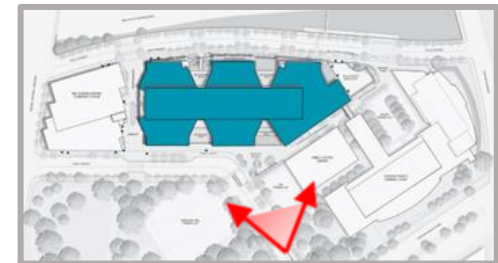


Dark Grey Precast



**What we heard:**  
Describe the exterior materials and color palette in more detail

- Design features:**
- Dark grey precast at the sidewalk handles abuse
  - Light grey precast at the ground floor hides dirt
  - Large glass storefronts welcome visitors, emphasize daylight



# Exterior Materials and Color Palette - Tower



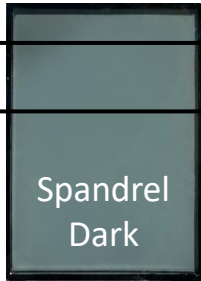
Light Grey Metal Panel



Vision



Spandrel  
Light



Spandrel  
Dark

Glazing Types



Silver Metallic Metal Accents

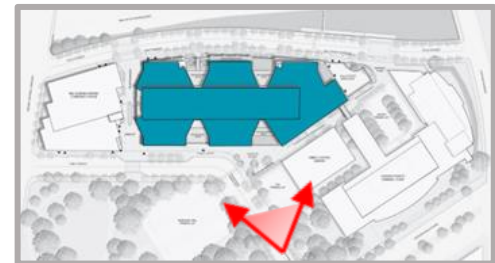


## What we heard:

Describe the exterior materials and color palette in more detail

## Design features:

- Light grey metal panel matches adjacent building colors
- Vision and spandrel glazing provide a softer, more ephemeral look
- Silver metallic accents break down the scale

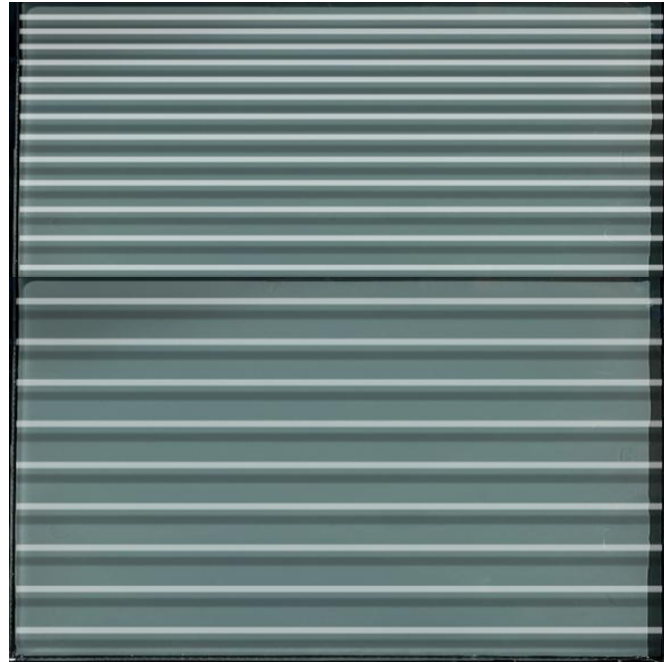




# Exterior Materials and Color Palette - Spine



Silver Metallic Metal Accents



Spandrel Glazing  
Linear Gradient Pattern



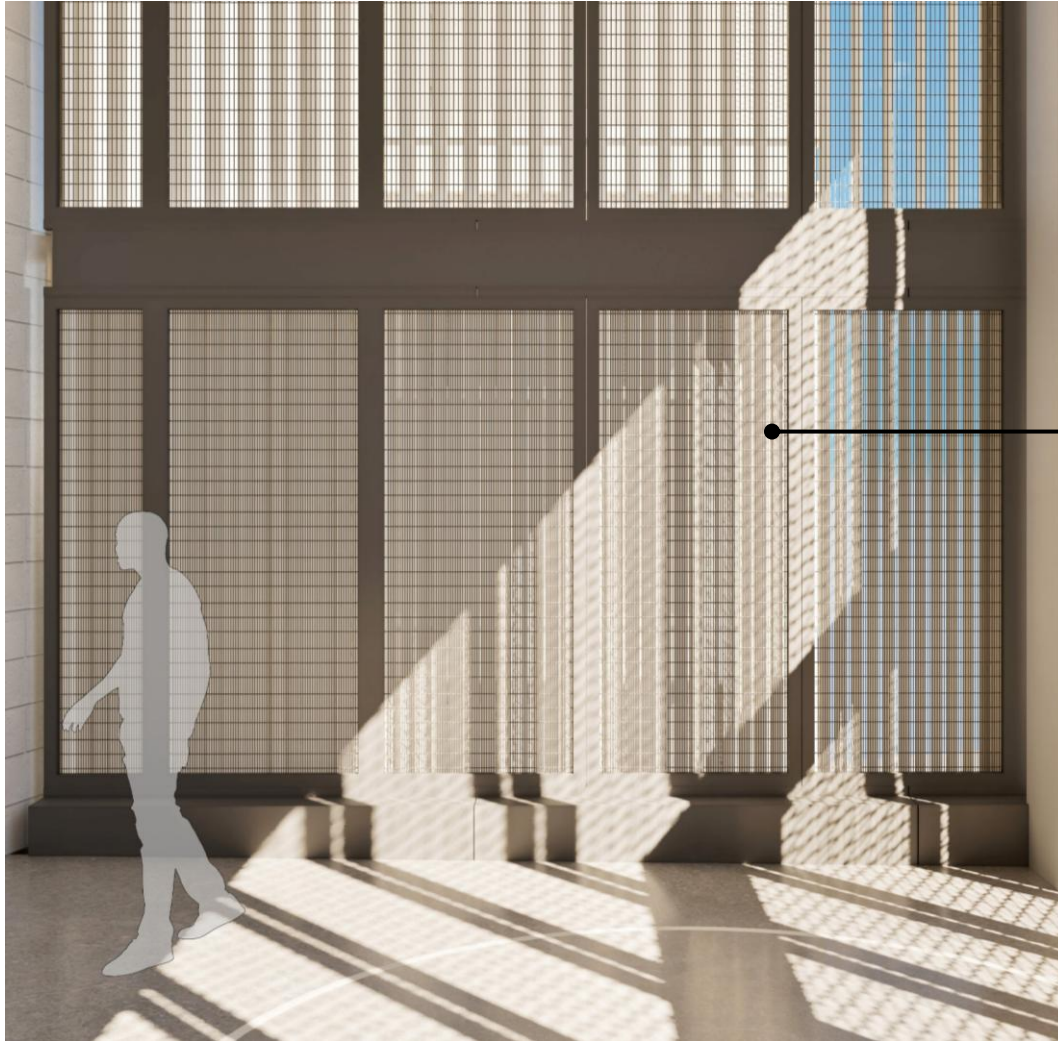
## What we heard:

Describe the exterior materials and color palette in more detail

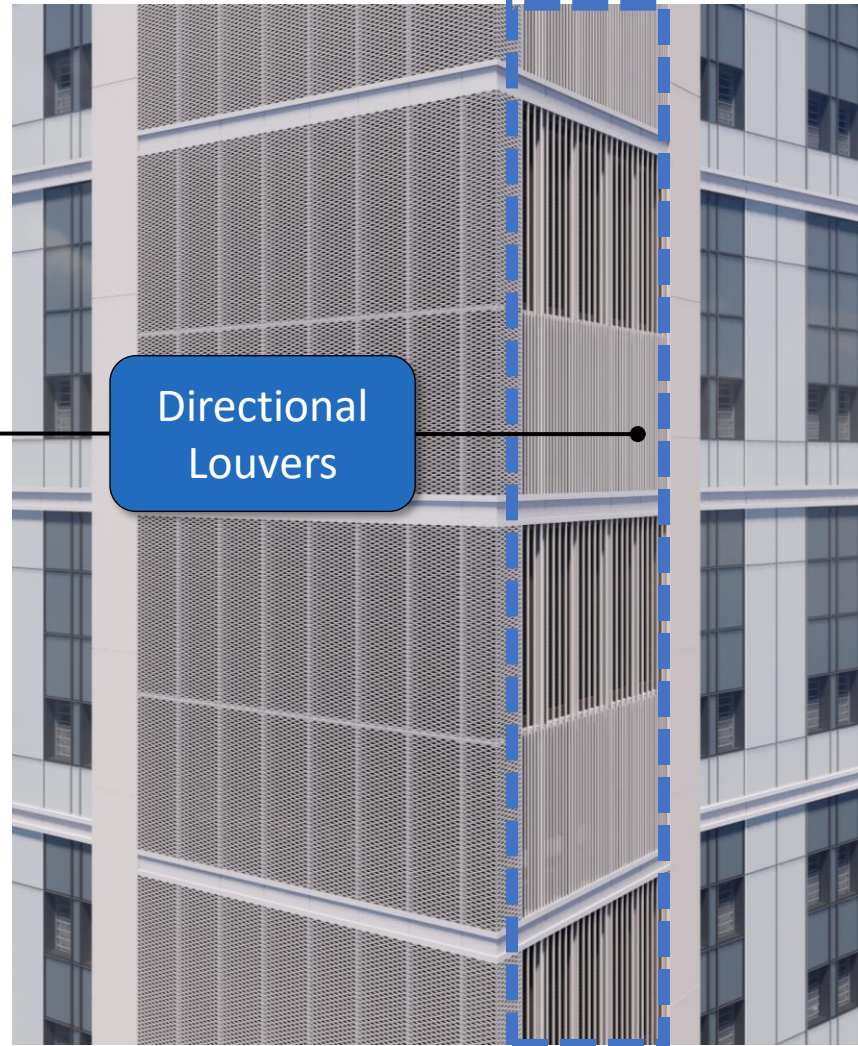
## Design features:

- Horizontal silver metallic accents break down scale
- Linear gradient pattern on glazing softens reflections

# Visual Screening - Outdoor Recreation Space



Cell and Recreation Space Cross View Blocking



Exterior Corner View

## What we heard:

Illustrate how the façade mitigates visual communication between the recreation spaces and the public realm

## Design features:

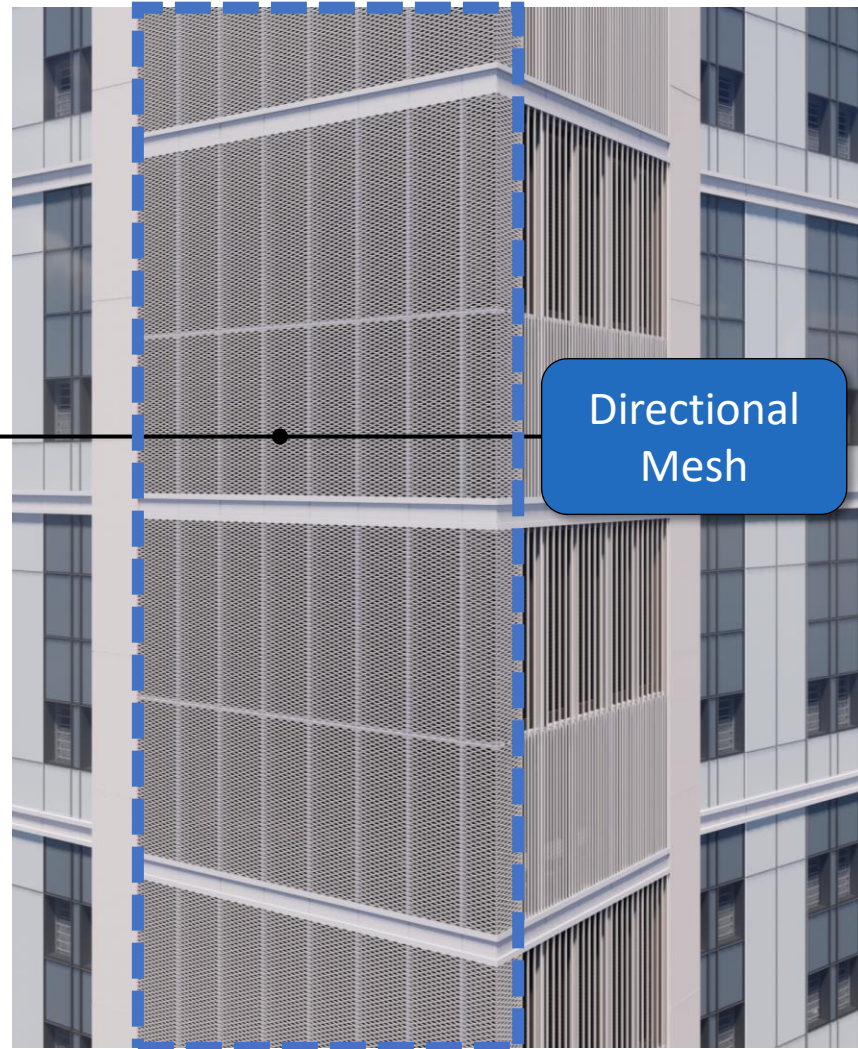
- Directional louvers block cross views
- Directional louvers support daylighting



# Visual Screening - Outdoor Recreation Space



Views Directed Outward & Up to Sky



Exterior Corner View

## What we heard:

Illustrate how the façade mitigates visual communication between the recreation spaces and the public realm

## Design features:

- Directional mesh limits downward views
- Directional mesh supports daylighting



# Visual Screening - Outdoor Recreation Space



Street Level Looking Up



View looking up to the sky



View looking down to the street

Inside Looking Out

## What we heard:

Illustrate how the façade mitigates visual communication between the recreation spaces and the public realm

## Design features:

- Directional mesh limits downward views
- Directional mesh supports daylighting



# Relationship to Surrounding Neighborhood

## What we heard:

Share additional views from surrounding buildings

## Design features:

- View from Briarwood added (E)
- View from lower level of nearby tower added (D)
- Expressway and Queens Boulevard buffer campus from neighbors
- Courthouse buffers new facility from Queens Boulevard

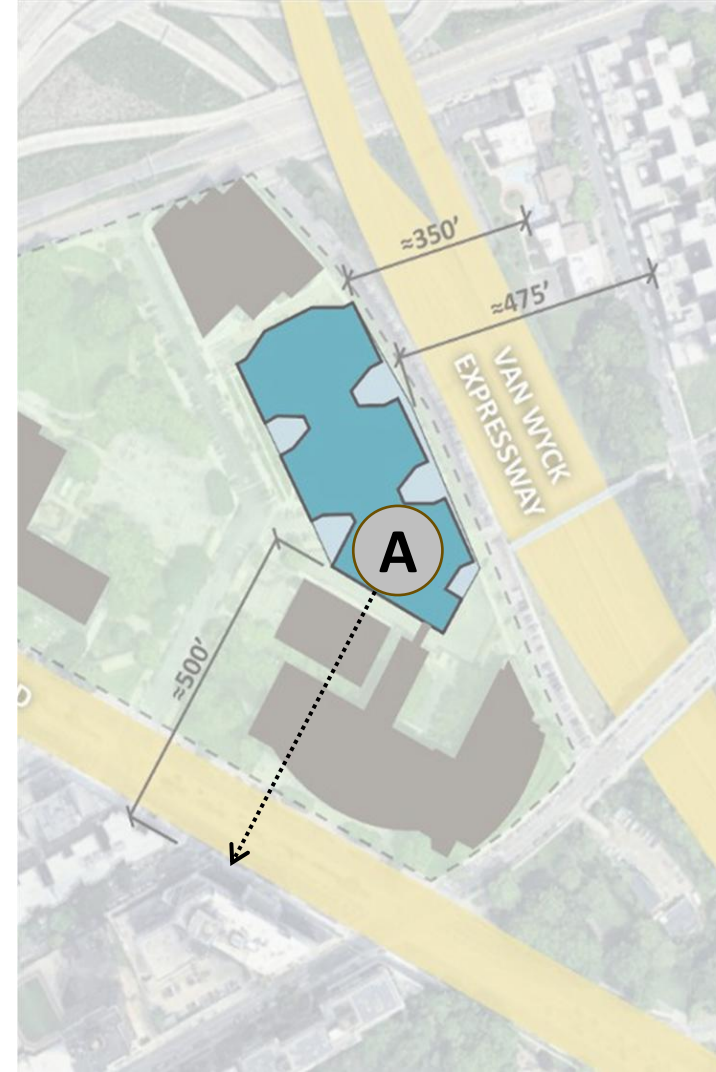




# Relationship to Surrounding Neighborhood



A – View from BBJ Queens Facility, Roof Level



Key Plan

## What we heard:

Share additional views from surrounding buildings

## Design features:

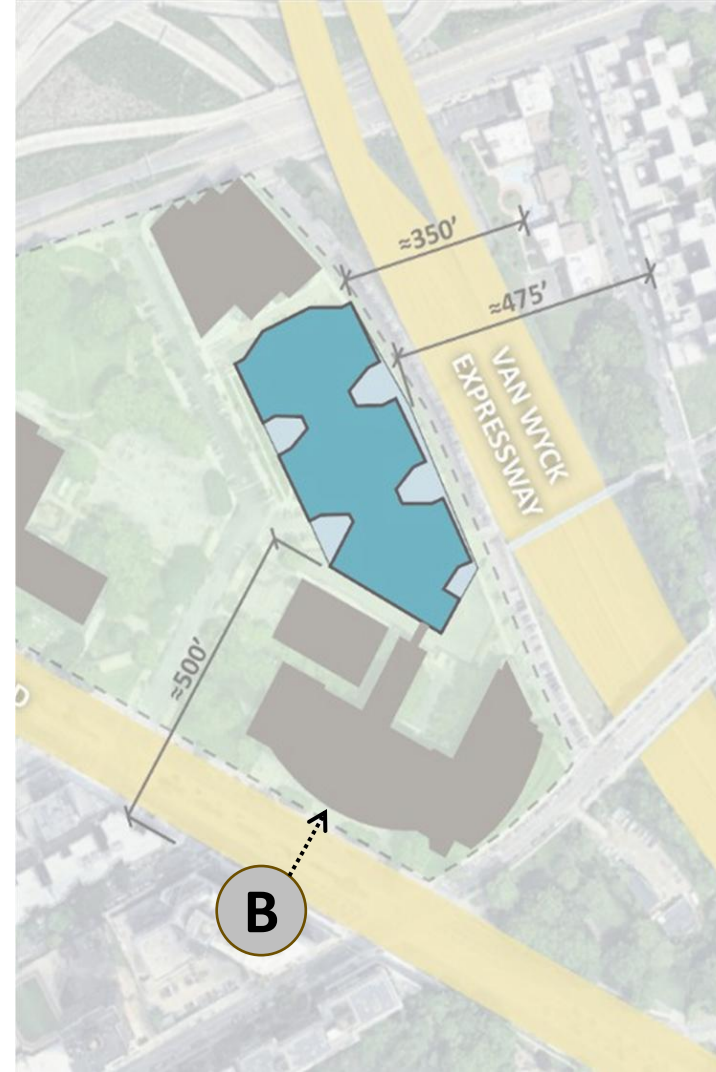
- Expressway and Queens Boulevard buffer campus from neighbors
- Courthouse buffers new facility from Queens Boulevard



# Relationship to Surrounding Neighborhood



B – View from Silver Towers, Top Floor



Key Plan

## What we heard:

Share additional views from surrounding buildings

## Design features:

- View from Community Design Workshop #3 updated
- Expressway and Queens Boulevard buffer campus from neighbors
- Courthouse buffers new facility from Queens Boulevard

# Relationship to Surrounding Neighborhood



C – View from Court Plaza, 32<sup>nd</sup> Floor



Key Plan

## What we heard:

Share additional views from surrounding buildings

## Design features:

- View from Community Design Workshop #3 updated
- Expressway and Queens Boulevard buffer campus from neighbors
- Courthouse buffers new facility from Queens Boulevard



# Relationship to Surrounding Neighborhood



D – View from Silver Towers, 7th Floor



Key Plan

## What we heard:

Share additional views from surrounding buildings

## Design features:

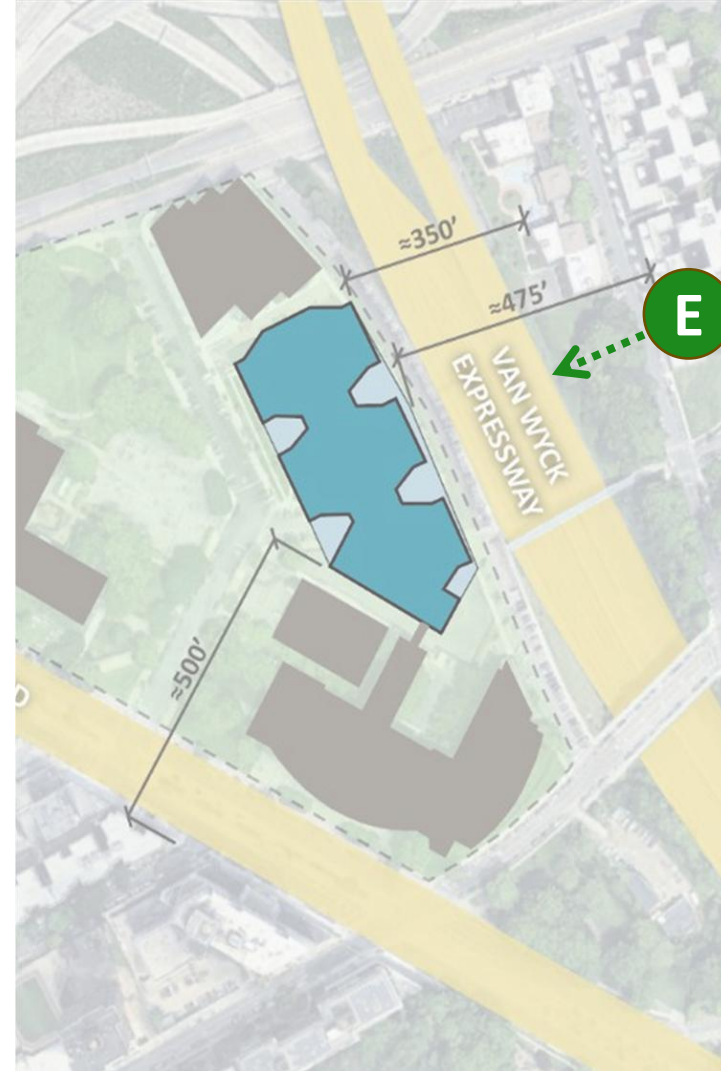
- Lower view from across Queens Boulevard added
- Expressway and Queens Boulevard buffer campus from neighbors
- Courthouse buffers new facility from Queens Boulevard



# Relationship to Surrounding Neighborhood



E – View from Briarwood



Key Plan

## What we heard:

Share additional views from surrounding buildings

## Design features:

- Lower view from Briarwood added
- Van Wyck Expressway buffers campus from Briarwood



# Relationship to Surrounding Neighborhood



F – View from Hoover Avenue Bridge



Key Plan

## What we heard:

Share additional views from surrounding buildings

## Design features:

- Lower view from Hoover Avenue Bridge added
- Van Wyck Expressway buffers campus from Briarwood neighbors



# Relationship to Surrounding Neighborhood



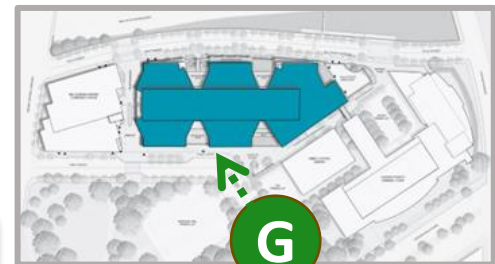
G – View from 82nd Avenue

## What we heard:

Share additional views from surrounding buildings

## Design features:

- View from Community Design Workshop #3 updated





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# Interior Experience - Public

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

## Accessibility

- **Mobility:** Maintain generous space at the entry and screening for wheelchair maneuvering
- **Comfort:** Consider more comfortable and accessible seating and table options in visitation area
- **Signage:** Continue developing straightforward and clear signage system for users

## Color Palette & Furniture

- **Color Palette:** Continue to incorporate the calming colors and welcoming environment
- **Finishes:** Consider durability and maintenance of lobby finishes and furniture
- **Furniture:** Consider different chairs that are both comfortable and secure at the visiting areas
- **Environment:** Consider alternative environmental wall graphics that are lively and refreshing

## User Experience

- **User Amenities:** Specify what amenities in the lobby are available to the public
- **Dedicated Spaces:** Maintain the family-friendly waiting area and dedicated children's place
- **Communications:** Show non-contact audio devices in the renderings
- **Visiting:** Share additional views and describe the visitation process in more detail

## Safety & Security

- **Weather:** Protect users from weather elements while waiting to enter through security
- **Sufficient Space:** Demonstrate there is space to enter through security screening during “peak rushes” without causing long lines

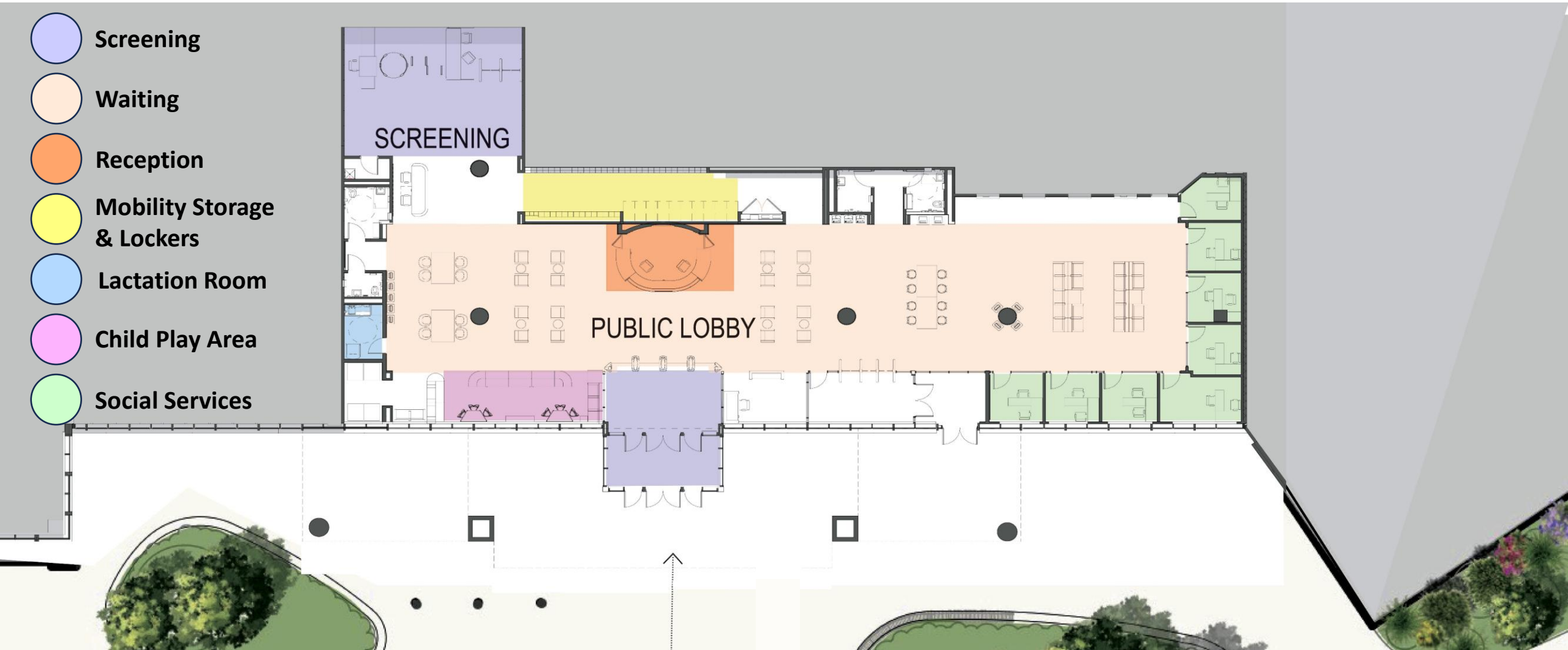


# Interior Experience (Public)

## Key Community Engagement Takeaways

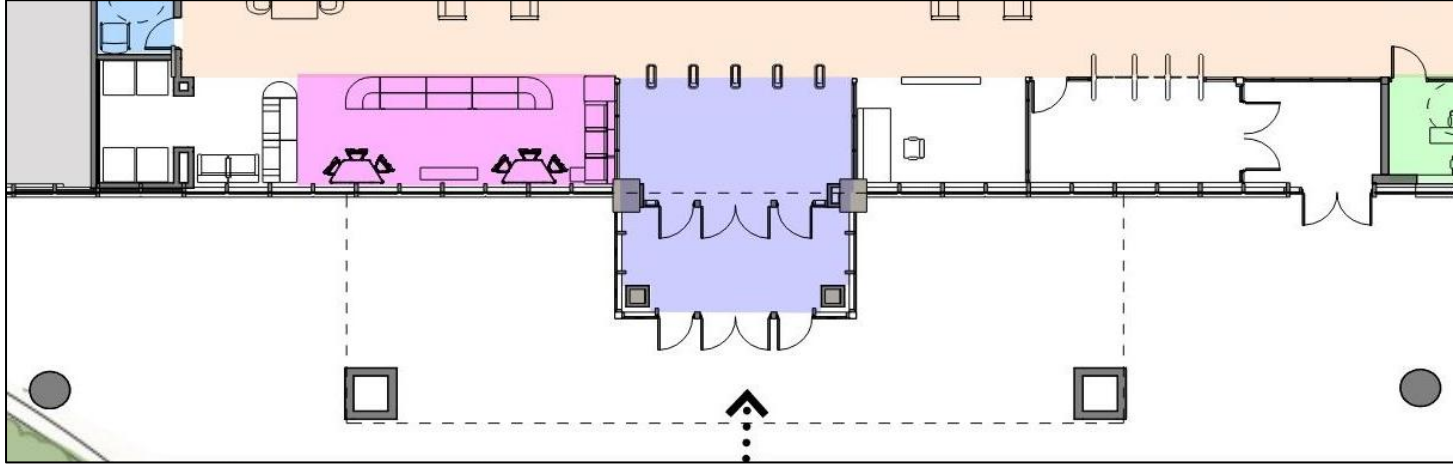
- Provide outdoor covered area to protect visitors from weather elements
- Consider **durability and maintenance** of lobby finishes and furniture
- Maintain **generous, family friendly circulation space**
- Continue developing **straightforward and clear signage system** for users
- Study **color palettes and furniture** in the visiting spaces to **provide a less institutional and more inclusive environment** for users
- **Update non-contact visiting views** to illustrate how conversations are supported

# Public Lobby - Plan





# Covered Area at Main Entrance



## What we heard:

Provide outdoor covered area to protect visitors from weather elements



## Design features:

- Ample outdoor covered area on either side and in front of main entrance



# Public Lobby



## What we heard:

Consider durability and maintenance of lobby finishes and furniture

## Design features:

- Natural wood materials replaced with more durable metal and high- density laminate
- Upholstery selection is highly durable and non-porous



# Public Lobby



## What we heard:

Maintain generous, family-friendly circulation space

## Design features:

- Ample space for entrance, exit, and cross traffic
- Multiple circulation alternatives within brightly lit space are easy to see and understand



# Public Lobby



## What we heard:

Continue developing straightforward and clear signage system for users

## Design features:

- Organized accent color blocking draws attention to signage
- High contrast between letters and background makes signage easier to read



# Visiting Waiting Area



## What we heard:

How can waiting spaces be designed to feel open and inviting?

## Design features:

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

# Contact Visiting Space



## What we heard:

- How does the space support family interaction?
- Is the space accessible?

## Design features:

- Seating and layout encourage comfortable connection with clear sightlines
- Furnishings and layout includes accessible tables with clear circulation



# Non-Contact Visiting Space



## What we heard:

How will communication be facilitated between individuals in non-contact visiting spaces?

## Design features:

- There will be secure speakers on the windows of non-contact visiting spaces

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# Interior Experience - Secure



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

## Program Spaces

- **Education:** Elaborate on the design of education spaces available
- **Library:** Continue to highlight the library and the program spaces
- **Indoor Recreation:** Design wall protection in the indoor gym space
- **Separation:** Show separation of all spaces between men/women

## Therapeutic and Medical Housing Units

- **Therapeutic Housing:** Provide sufficient medical resources inside these units
- **Medical Units:** Illustrate the different medical housing
- **Maternity / Nursery:** Prioritize the safety of mothers with secure design measures

## Dayrooms

- **Color Palette:** Study accent wall colors that support mental health and wellness
- **Acoustics:** Consider acoustics with the amount of exposed CMU
- **Ergonomics:** Research furniture with back support for long-term use
- **Furniture Layouts:** Arrange seating to be more of a gathering space and less randomized

## Outdoor Recreation

- **Materials:** Consider alternative aesthetic finishes
- **Safety:** Provide more information on the safety of the security mesh and the different layers of the double mesh areas
- **Daylight:** Show daylighting through the secure mesh materials

## Horticulture

- **Plantings:** Select appropriate plants such as mint, lemongrass
- **Program:** Continue to highlight the horticulture spaces and the different programs available

# Interior Experience (Secure)

## Key Community Engagement Takeaways

- Design furniture layouts that promote comfort and safety, while studying the ergonomics and daily use needs of people in custody
- Study softer colors in the dayroom
- Design outdoor recreation space that balances privacy and openness



# Women's Law Library



## What we heard:

Describe the key design features of the law library that improve functionality and user environment

## Design features:

- Ergonomic seating is provided to accommodate individual needs
- The law library features integrated bookshelves and law kiosks
- Large windows are used to maximize natural daylight exposure
- Furniture reflects a calming color palette

# Maternity Space



## What we heard:

- How is patient well-being supported?
- What is provided for clinical staff?
- How does the atmosphere cater to mothers and babies?

## Design features:

- Furniture layout offers a private, hygienic, and comfortable environment to support individual health and well-being
- The design includes dedicated workspaces for the unit's doctors and clinicians
- A calming color palette is used to provide a soothing environment for mothers and babies



# Nursery Space



## What we heard:

How does the unit's design and equipment support the needs of patients, families, and staff?

## Design features:

- The nursery is equipped with cribs for infants
- Natural light creates a supportive and comfortable environment for infants and their caregivers
- The children's area includes age-appropriate activities such as books and play equipment

# General Population Housing Unit



## What we heard:

How can interior design improve the atmosphere of secure spaces?

## Design features:

- Secure spaces use finishes, colors, and furniture to create a warm, inviting, and humane atmosphere
- Housing units feature direct access to natural daylight from the outdoor recreation space
- Each housing floor provides dedicated space for medical treatments



# Typical Cell



## What we heard:

- How are lights being controlled inside the cell?
- Continue to study the furniture and color palette

## Design features:

- Every cell features overhead lighting and individually controlled task lighting
- The design team is exploring various furniture and color palettes to ensure a comforting experience

# Therapeutic Housing Unit



## What we heard:

- What is the primary purpose of therapeutic housing?
- How do secure spaces create a more humane environment?

## Design features:

- Therapeutic housing is designed to prioritize access to care, treatment, and support
- Secure spaces use finishes, colors, and furniture to foster a warm, inviting, and humane atmosphere



# Outdoor Recreation Space



## What we heard:

- What are the design goals for outdoor recreation space?
- Which design components help balance the need for both privacy and openness?

## Design features:

- Designed to provide access to daylight and fresh air
- A security mesh and louver system will balance security requirements while controlling views to the street and other housing units



# Indoor Gym Space



## What we heard:

- How big is the indoor recreation space?
- Can the gym be used for different activities?
- Does the space have natural light?

## Design features:

- The indoor recreation space provides a full-sized basketball court
- The gym space is flexible to adapt to different uses
- Large windows maximize access to daylight



# Horticulture Space



## What we heard:

- How is the space being used?
- What are the design features of the horticulture space?

## Design features:

- The program includes a greenhouse, classroom, and an outdoor area for hands-on instruction
- Open space with direct access to daylight and fresh air
- Accommodating varied seating options
- Providing flexibility to support multiple uses beyond horticulture

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# Breakout Group Discussions



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# Group Report Out Reflection and Next Steps



NYC Criminal Justice



Department of Design and Construction

Borough-Based Jails

# Thank You

**QN** Queens Facility

