

Event Date: June 23rd, 2025
BBJ BX Project - Community Design Input Workshop #3 Feedback Log
Issue Date: August 14th, 2025

Session Topic	Comment Origin	Comment	Response
A - Building Exterior	In Person - Breakout Session	Can you see through the glass?	Exterior glazing is transparent with a partial translucent frit at specific locations to maintain security and privacy.
A - Building Exterior	In Person - Breakout Session	Where are they going to put the buses to transport from the courthouse to the facility?	As we move closer to completion, the City is working to devise transportation plans for the new facilities as they come online. For security purposes, detailed transportation plans cannot be shared publicly. The sally port has been sized to allow space for bus staging.
A - Building Exterior	In Person - Breakout Session	How can the windows be kept clean overtime?	Provisions have been made for window cleaning throughout the building, allowing for a window washing system to reach all windows throughout the building. While the window washing operations are not finalized, the Department of Correction may choose to contract with an outside vendor for maintenance.
A - Building Exterior	In Person - Breakout Session	For the next meeting, will we be able to see a close-up picture of the facade in more detail?	More detailed facade renderings will be provided at the next Community Design Workshop.
A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - What kind of feeling would you like the building's exterior to evoke when people see it for the first time?	Outside of the building to be clean and not covered in a layer of grime.	Facade materials are being selected for durability and ease of maintenance. Provisions have been made for window cleaning throughout the building, allowing for a window washing system to reach all windows throughout the building. While the window washing operations are not finalized, the Department of Correction may choose to contract with an outside vendor for maintenance.
A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - What kind of feeling would you like the building's exterior to evoke when people see it for the first time?	Welcoming to the public and visual art.	The design consists of many welcoming features and spaces including the landscaping, facade design, exterior lighting and well-lit public lobby. The Facility's programming includes a Percent for Art component which is currently still being developed. Artwork will be integrated into the interior and/or exterior of the building.
A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - As we design the face of the building, what elements would help it feel like a part of the neighborhood?	Lighting is very important to avoid issues with loitering.	The Facility design includes NYC DOT street lights and building-mounted lighting, allowing for clear sightlines to the building which will maximize light distribution and discourage hidden locations.
A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - Additional Comments and Feedback	Need for parking for employees that work for jail.	The Facility includes 120 parking spaces for authorized City vehicles beneath the building, alleviating additional parking stress on the neighborhood. The site is also accessible by public transit with nearby subway stations for the 2, 5 and 6 trains, as well as bus routes Bx33 and Bx17.
A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - What kind of feeling would you like the building's exterior to evoke when people see it for the first time?	It blends in with the surrounding neighborhood.	The Facility's design aims to uplift its surrounding community, utilizing a contemporary interpretation of building materials and forms found in the surrounding neighborhood. The Facility's tiered facade utilizes a three-story podium, which complements the neighboring residential buildings in height and scale.

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A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - As we design the face of the building, what elements would help it feel like a part of the neighborhood?	A public rest area.	Seating and restrooms are provided in the public lobby. The streetscape around the Facility will have generous sidewalk widths for pedestrian circulation, a fully protected perimeter of continuous barriers, and green space with curving, generously planted and shaded pathways and seating areas for gathering.
A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - Additional Comments and Feedback	I am [biased] about [the] building and having jails in [a residential] neighborhood.	One of the core goals of the Borough-Based Jails program is to locate the facilities within the boroughs, increasing access to communities and courts, while allowing people to maintain connections to families and service providers. The vertical form of the Borough-Based Jail facilities is a function of the urban setting that we are designing and building within. This is not unprecedented; the team has researched, visited, and studied other vertical jails around the country and abroad and is confident that the City will design and build state-of-the-art facilities that achieve the goals of the Borough-Based Jails program.
A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - What kind of feeling would you like the building's exterior to evoke when people see it for the first time?	Transformation and change in our approach to how we treat incarcerated individuals.	The jail is designed in accordance with the best practices of restorative justice, to provide dignity and respect for all persons in custody, visitors, and staff.
A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - As we design the face of the building, what elements would help it feel like a part of the neighborhood?	The greenery around the building as long as it's well maintained.	The landscaping of the sidewalk surrounding the Facility is a key component of the design, intended to be enjoyed by all people walking to or near the building. Seating, shade trees and planting beds are designed to complement the building and beautify the site while being easy to maintain and likely to survive in the Bronx. DOC will be responsible for maintaining the exterior landscape around the facility.
A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - What kind of feeling would you like the building's exterior to evoke when people see it for the first time?	The cleaning of the outside windows.	Provision is made for window cleaning throughout the Facility, allowing for a window washing system to reach all windows throughout the building.
A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - Additional Comments and Feedback	I want to bring attention to an ongoing issue at the 143rd street subway station and surrounding area. There is currently no available parking for visitors, doctors, employees or other essential personnel, which creates unnecessary hardships for those accessing the area. There are no elevators at the 143rd street subway stop.	This comment is outside the scope of the Borough-Based Jails Program. We have shared your comment with City Hall.
A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - What kind of feeling would you like the building's exterior to evoke when people see it for the first time?	I think it depends on who's seeing it for the first time. As a person who has never been to jail, I would like to feel that the people doing time can learn, eat, pray, and love on themselves. It's just a pretty jail, outside looking in.	The Facility will include a wide variety of programming, including horticulture program, culinary arts program, vocational training, library, gymnasium, chapel, and medical facilities.
A - Building Exterior	Question Packet - As we design the face of the building, what elements would help it feel like a part of the neighborhood?	Community Resouces; People outside the building with resources for those that are visiting their loved ones. Teaching them how to help those loved ones to live a more positive life while in there, and preparing them for the outside world when they get out.	The project will provide 40,000 square feet of interior retail/community space, the use of which is currently undefined but is intended to be an asset to the surrounding community. The use of this space will be determined at a later time with input from the community. Within the Facility, social service providers will be located in the lobby to assist people who are getting released offering voluntary services & referrals (such as employment, mental health, and other social services).

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A - Building Exterior	Online Feedback	Would love if the plants considered, inside and out, have air-purifying qualities, such as the snake plant, spider plant, and peace lily.	For the public realm, the design team will be selecting shade trees and understory (smaller) trees that can withstand difficult urban conditions, provide 3-season interest, and require little to no maintenance. NYC Parks will make the ultimate determination of the street trees along the curb. For the interior spaces, the design team is looking to introduce biophilic elements and warm color palettes to promote a calming and dignified environment in the interior spaces. The building will also include state of the art heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) design which ensures air quality throughout all spaces.
A - Building Exterior	Online Feedback	It would be nice if this building looks like other newly constructed apartment buildings nearby and blends in with the local architecture. I would not want to know that this is a "jail" or to look like an institutional building.	The Facility's tiered facade utilizes a three-story podium, which complements the neighboring residential buildings in height and scale. The Facility's configuration and materials have been chosen to blend with the neighborhood aesthetic.
A - Building Exterior	Online Feedback	I would like to know if all the large windows in the public spaces and in the visit room actually can open all the way, like in an apartment. They need to allow breeze to flow through, not just large windows to view outside.	Operable windows in these locations are not practical for security and indoor environmental concerns. The building's design includes state of the art heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) design which ensures air quality throughout all spaces.
B - Public Realm	In Person - Breakout Session	Is there a visitors parking area?	The Facility only includes 120 parking spaces for authorized City vehicles beneath the building, alleviating additional parking stress on the neighborhood. The site is accessible to visitors by public transit with nearby subway stations for the 2, 5 and 6 trains, as well as bus routes Bx33 and Bx17.
B - Public Realm	In Person - Breakout Session	What is the vehicular circulation to the parking garage?	The Facility includes 120 parking spaces for authorized City vehicles beneath the building. Vehicles enter and exit via East 141 Street.
B - Public Realm	In Person - Breakout Session	Does everyone have their own cells?	Yes, all cells are single-occupancy.
B - Public Realm	In Person - Breakout Session	Are there any concerns with loitering?	The design of the streetscape can discourage loitering on site through the use of perimeter security cameras, NYC DOT street lights and building mounted lighting, clear sightlines to the building to maximize light distribution and discourage hidden locations, armrests to break up continuous bench expanses, notching or other skate prevention methods, and most importantly the activation of the area by the community visiting the site facility and retail/community spaces.
B - Public Realm	In Person - Breakout Session	The site should not be a jail.	The location of all four Borough-Based Jail facilities was determined by the 2019 ULURP process. One of the core goals of the Borough-Based Jails program is to locate the facilities within the boroughs, increasing access to communities and courts, while allowing people to maintain connections to families and service providers.
B - Public Realm	In Person - Breakout Session	Are there multiple color tiles on the planters?	Planters are designed to be a colored concrete to complement the adjacent building materials.
B - Public Realm	In Person - Breakout Session	Why is there a change from gray concrete to color concrete?	As the design has developed further, we have adjusted colors of both the building and the landscape features to integrate more cohesively with the surrounding buildings. Updates will be presented in the next Community Design Workshop.
B - Public Realm	In Person - Breakout Session	Who is going to maintain the outside of the facility to include landscaping?	The NYC Department of Correction (DOC) is responsible for maintaining the landscape and public realm around the Facility; the Department may choose to form a maintenance agreement with a partner entity. DOC prioritizes a low-maintenance planting palette, including understory natives for all planting beds that provide year-round interest.
B - Public Realm	In Person - Breakout Session	What is the material of the bollards?	The bollards will be stainless steel.
B - Public Realm	In Person - Breakout Session	What is the frequency of the armrests on exterior benching?	The maximum distance between armrests will be four feet.
B - Public Realm	Question Packet - How does the design of the entrances meet the needs of the community?	As long as they are accessible for all = meets the needs of the community.	The building entrances are designed under the principles of universal accessibility to provide access for persons of all abilities while minimizing the need to provide separate accessible routes.
B - Public Realm	Online Feedback	It will take time for trees to mature and provide shade. In the meantime can we add fabric draping? This would provide shade, cover from the elements and color.	Building canopies will be provided at entrances for immediate shade and cover from the elements. Fast-growing and colorful trees at the largest practical size will be selected to provide shade.
B - Public Realm	Online Feedback	A water feature may also help with cooling the outdoor public space.	The streetscape around the Facility, while unable to accommodate water features due to size and maintenance concerns, will have generous sidewalk widths for pedestrian circulation and green spaces with curving, generously planted and shaded pathways and seating areas for gathering.
C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	Was there an open-air visiting space previously?	The outdoor visiting space was reincorporated into the interior visiting area to allow for better flow through the visiting area and provide more opportunities for different types of indoor visits.

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C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	People may be disappointed with the removal of the open air visiting area. This feature was different.	The outdoor visiting space was reincorporated into the interior visiting area to allow for better flow through the visiting area and provide more opportunities for different types of indoor visits.
C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	What made you change the window styles?	The style of windows in the facility varies depending on the use of space behind them.
C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	The design has some nice improvements. It is nice that the chairs that look normal.	Thank you, the furniture design strives to be inviting and welcoming.
C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	Where will my child be when they come visit? Is there a space for a 2-year-old or a 5-year-old?	There are children's play areas in the public lobby, contact visit spaces as well as extended family rooms that offer opportunities for children to play independently or interact with their loved ones.
C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	How does the color scheme work?	The color scheme is based on the soothing colors of nature and their ability to promote calming feelings and boost healing effects.
C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	When a person visits, do they have to clear a second security screening?	Visitors go through an initial security screening at the public lobby, and an additional screening when they move from the visitor waiting room to the visiting areas.
C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	Is there a bathroom in or before going into the visiting area?	Restrooms are provided pre-visit within the visiting waiting room.
C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	The open-air visiting area was one of the more normalizing elements; people were excited about it.	The outdoor visiting space was reincorporated into the interior visiting area to allow for better flow through the visiting area and provide more opportunities for different types of indoor visits.
C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	Are the chairs on the presentation board the actual chairs that will be in the space?	While the specific furniture has not been chosen yet, furniture shown does represent what will be provided in terms of look and feel. The furniture design strives to be inviting and welcoming.
C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	Is there air conditioning in the area?	The building's design includes state of the art heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) design which ensures air quality throughout all spaces.
C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	The difference in the waiting area and the actual visiting area seems like a hostile change. Going from comfy chairs to hard plastic chairs.	The contact visiting area has increased security requirements compared to the public lobby and public visiting waiting area. As a result, different types of chairs and seating have been provided in these spaces.
C - Interior Public	In Person - Breakout Session	What is the process coming through the visiting area? The wait time is a concern.	The City is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all people in custody, staff, and visitors. Screening is being designed to maximize the efficiency of visits and minimize wait times. The Department of Correction is committed to leveraging the latest technology to make the screening process minimally invasive, efficient, and dignified.
C - Interior Public	Question Packet - What makes these spaces feel welcoming and inviting to you? What can be added to make these spaces more inviting?	A rest area.	Public seating and restrooms are provided in the Public Lobby. The streetscape around the Facility will also have generous sidewalk widths for pedestrian circulation, a fully protected perimeter of continuous barriers, and green space with curving, generously planted and shaded pathways and seating areas for gathering.
C - Interior Public	Question Packet - What makes the children's area a space that children would enjoy? What features would make the children's space more enjoyable?	Physical activities and mechanics to occupy a child's mind.	The children's area is currently being designed. The space will be designed to be durable and warm with plenty of natural light and furnishings appropriately scaled for children. There are children's areas located in the public lobby and visiting areas. Within the visiting areas there is a children's play area in the contact visiting space and an area for kids to play in the extended family rooms. The children's area will have appropriate activities such as books and play equipment.
C - Interior Public	Question Packet - What makes these spaces feel welcoming and inviting to you? What can be added to make these spaces more inviting?	The addition of color and the street welcoming stand created to welcoming people.	Colors based in nature are provided to create a sense of calm and to feel welcoming and inviting.
C - Interior Public	Question Packet - What makes the children's area a space that children would enjoy? What features would make the children's space more enjoyable?	Is there an organization that will maintain this area? A non-profit contracted to do so?	DOC intends to have dedicated staff to help supervise and engage children in the visiting and waiting area. This plan is still under development.
C - Interior Public	Question Packet - Additional Comments and Feedback	Will there be a non-profit that will help with the children's area? Is it a place where children can be taken care of while parents take care of other needs?	DOC intends to have dedicated staff to help supervise and engage children in the visiting and waiting area. This plan is still under development.

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C - Interior Public	Question Packet - Additional Comments and Feedback	Will the lobby area with programming be open for tabling for other providers?	Social service providers will be located in the lobby in the path of discharge to offer recently released individuals voluntary services & referrals (such as employment assistance and mental health counseling).
C - Interior Public	Question Packet - Additional Comments and Feedback	There is no elevator at the 143rd street subway station, making it completely inaccessible for individuals who are elderly, disabled, or have mobility challenges. Installing elevators are urgently needed to ensure fair and safe access for everyone.	This comment is outside the scope of the Borough-Based Jails Program. We have shared your comment with City Hall.
C - Interior Public	Online Feedback	[Public Lobby] This looks like cinder block - not a material that creates a normative or therapeutic environment. Cinder block should not be used.	Cinder block is not used as a finish in the public lobby. The space will be designed to be durable, warm, and uplifting with plenty of natural light.
C - Interior Public	Online Feedback	We need comfort stations for breast feeding. Can we add pods? or some other set up so that mothers can have some privacy if they so want it?	Lactation rooms are located in the public lobby and the visitor waiting area. The current floor plan for the public lobby was presented at the Community Design Workshop and all community presentations can be viewed at https://www.nyc.gov/site/borojails/project-updates/the-bronx/public-meeting-materials/the-bronx-public-meeting-materials.page .
C - Interior Public	Online Feedback	Warmer tones and softer materials should be used. Interior green spaces would also add to the livability of the public areas.	The space will be designed to be durable, warm, and humane with plenty of natural light. The color scheme is based on the soothing colors of nature and their ability to promote calming environment.
D - Interior Secure	In Person - Breakout Session	What is the material that is going to be used for the windows?	Exterior glazing is transparent laminated glass assembly with a partial translucent frit at specific locations to maintain security and privacy.
D - Interior Secure	In Person - Breakout Session	Are the mirrors scratch resistant?	Stainless steel mirrors are consistent with best practices for cell design and more durable and resistant to scratches, corrosion, and shattering than glass mirrors.
D - Interior Secure	In Person - Breakout Session	Are doors in the cells mechanical?	Cell doors can be opened and closed manually and are designed according to the Facility's security requirements.
D - Interior Secure	In Person - Breakout Session	When it rains, where will the drainage be located?	Area drains are provided at all outdoor recreation areas to direct any water to the building's storm drain system.
D - Interior Secure	In Person - Breakout Session	Why are we using mesh? What is the visibility of the mesh?	Mesh provides a secure barrier to meet security and privacy requirements while allowing access to views, light and fresh air.
D - Interior Secure	In Person - Breakout Session	What has changed from the last workshop?	The cell design has been further developed along with the dayrooms, outdoor recreation and program spaces, including horticulture and indoor recreation.
D - Interior Secure	In Person - Breakout Session	Who is going to maintain and supervise the Horticulture Space?	The horticulture instructors and persons in custody will maintain the space as part of the instructional program.
D - Interior Secure	In Person - Breakout Session	Are the cell beds going to look the same as shown in the renderings?	The design of the cell beds will continue to be further developed. Updated renderings will be shown at the next workshop.
D - Interior Secure	In Person - Breakout Session	Will the outdoor spaces have concrete flooring?	Yes, the outdoor recreation areas have concrete flooring and will include painted basketball key.
D - Interior Secure	In Person - Breakout Session	Is there fresh air coming into the indoor and outdoor recreational spaces?	Fresh air is admitted to the outdoor recreation areas through the mesh screening. The indoor recreation space, like the rest of the building, is designed to includes state of the art heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) design which ensures air quality throughout all spaces.
D - Interior Secure	In Person - Breakout Session	Will there be a retractable roof for the recreational space?	A retractable roof is not included in the project scope. However, the indoor recreation area includes a full size basketball court and large windows that maximize daylight in the space.
D - Interior Secure	Question Packet - What about these spaces feels calm and therapeutic?	No visible threat.	Thank you. The design utilizes colors, natural light and artwork locations to provide an environment that is both calming and dignified.
D - Interior Secure	Question Packet - What other secure spaces would you be interested to see more renderings of?	Rest areas.	Additional renderings for interior secure program spaces will be provided at the next community design workshop.

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D - Interior Secure	Question Packet - What about these spaces feels calm and therapeutic?	The chair designs and greenery in the outside area.	While the specific furniture has not been chosen yet, furniture shown represents what will be provided in terms of look and feel. Furnishings will use molded plastic and a soothing color palette to provide a comfortable and inviting environment. The Horticultural classroom offers an outdoor space for hands-on instruction such as planting, gardening, and related subjects.
D - Interior Secure	Online Feedback	The mirror here is too skinny for no reason. There is ample space for a wider mirror that shows someone's whole torso. Mirrors, specifically larger mirrors have a recorded effect on self-perception and also are proven to improve personal hygiene and self-care. Without access to a full body mirror, an upper body mirror should be wide enough to accommodate people with different body types as well.	The mirror size will continue to be studied.
D - Interior Secure	Online Feedback	Basketball is too often the only team sport available. Can we explore pickle ball, tennis, or other group activities?	The outdoor recreation space includes fitness equipment, passive recreation opportunities and the ability to play other group activities. There is a larger indoor gymnasium to allow larger group activities. In addition to the indoor and outdoor recreation areas, dayrooms accommodate a variety of activities and each housing unit has a multi-purpose room available for group activities including games.