

# Task Force Meeting #3

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February 24, 2021



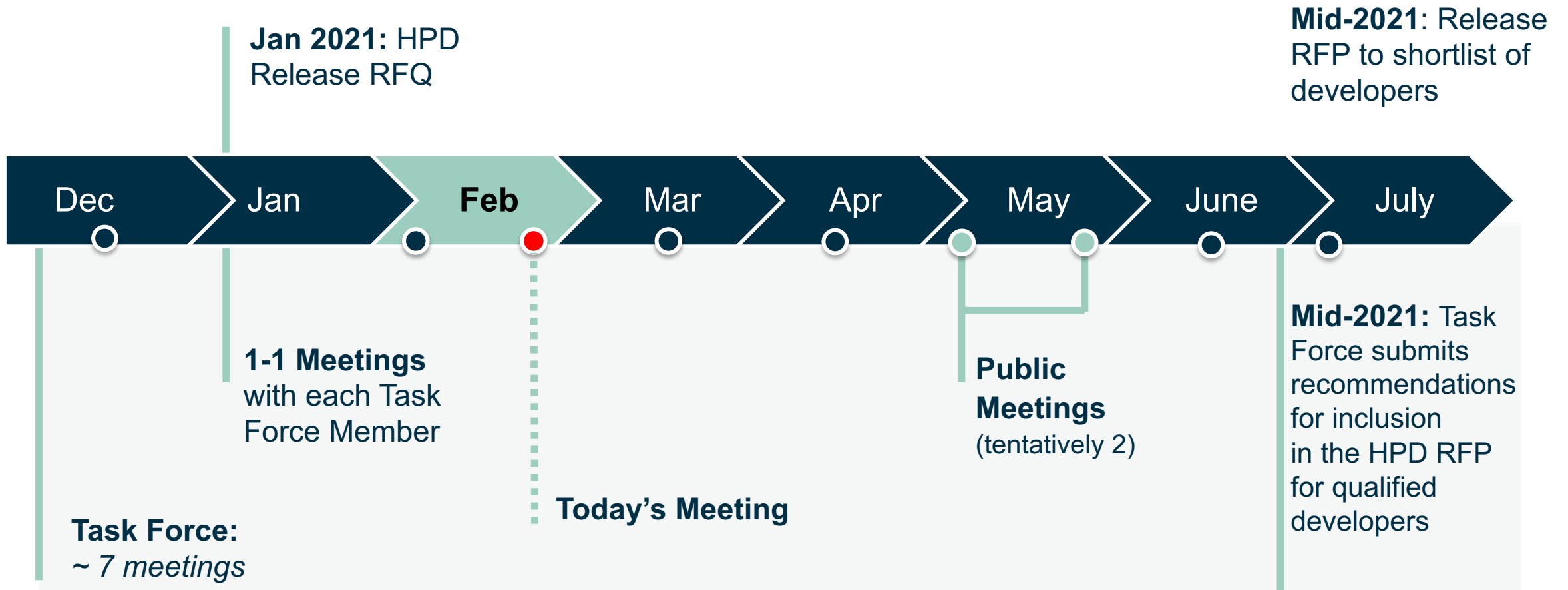
# Welcome

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## Goals for today's session:

- To build on where we landed in the last meeting – to hold meaningful discussions on potential recommendations for memorialization that honors the historical significance of the site, the descendent community, and the relationship with the building.
- To present additional information on the HPD RFP process and the process for building recommendations.
- To co-design for the public engagement process and set intentions for inclusive, equitable, and accessible outreach and engagement.
- To outline next steps.

# Task Force Timeline



# Zoom 101

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## Framing best practices for this platform.

- **The chat box is a great tool!** Use the chat box for questions, comments and thoughts.... This is a helpful space for discussion.
- **Please stay on mute** unless you are asking a question or in the breakout sessions. Trick: you can use the space-bar like a walkie-talkie.
- **We love seeing you!** If you are comfortable, please keep your video on. It helps me to see if you are nodding, confused... or looking to say something.

### IN FULL TRANSPARENCY

- We are currently recording
- We are currently livestreaming
- The recording, notes and presentations will be hosted on the PS90 website after the meeting



# Descendant Community Research

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## Historical Perspectives Inc (HPI) – February Update

- HPI contacted interested members of the Task Force regarding joining research efforts
- HPI spoke to Reverend Sheldon Hamblin of St. Paul's Church in Flatbush (established 1836). He reports that their church has records of "Black" parishioners listed in the records of deceased, some of whom were buried in the "Burial Ground for Coloreds." He will be copying and sharing these records with HPI.
- HPI is now focusing on identifying additional churches in Flatbush established from before and through the mid-19th century that did not have associated burial grounds or may have had African American parishioners who may have also been interred in the African Burial Ground.
- Collected and reviewed information relevant to the enslaved population and burial ground (list of information reviewed will be shared in our post-meeting email).

# Guidelines for Productive Conversation

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- Have empathy to, and awareness of, the unique perspectives in the virtual room.
- Being conscientious and acknowledging to the lens and perspective you speak of. Where possible, speak from the I. Acknowledge if you are speaking from your lived experience, the lens of your organization or an assumption.
- Assume the best intentions of your fellow group members. Be mindful not to make assumptions about others or their experiences.
- Be comfortable with discomfort as we together unlearn history related to slavery in this community, and be wary of oppressive, offensive or racialized language that may be triggering to others.

# Task Force Members Introductions

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Building our shared leadership through knowledge building of perspectives, skills and resources.

Each Task Force Member will have **10 seconds or less** to share the following:

- **Name and organization**

# City Team in Attendance

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- **Julianne Herskowitz**, Vice President, Neighborhood Strategies, NYCEDC
- **Eleni DeSiervo**, Vice President, Government and Community Relations, NYCEDC



- **Josh Saal** Deputy Director of Predevelopment, HPD
- **Uriah Johnson** Project Manager in Neighborhood Planning, HPD
- **Perris Straughter** Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Predevelopment, HPD



- **Amanda Sutphin**, Director of Archaeology
- **Timothy Frye**, Director of Special Projects and Strategic Planning

# Meeting #2 Resources

## Staying up-to-date on this project

- The recording, notes and presentations for Meeting #1 and #2 are currently hosted on the project website

Project Website

[www.ps90taskforce.nyc](http://www.ps90taskforce.nyc)



# Determining New Project Language

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Building off the discussion started in Task Force Meeting #2, we heard the request to change the project name and to change some of the language we use in this project.

## Task Force Names:

- Flatbush African Burial Ground Task Force (FABG)
- Flatbush Descendant Community Task Force (FDCTF)
- Flatbush African Cemetery Remembrance and Redevelopment Task Force (FACRR)

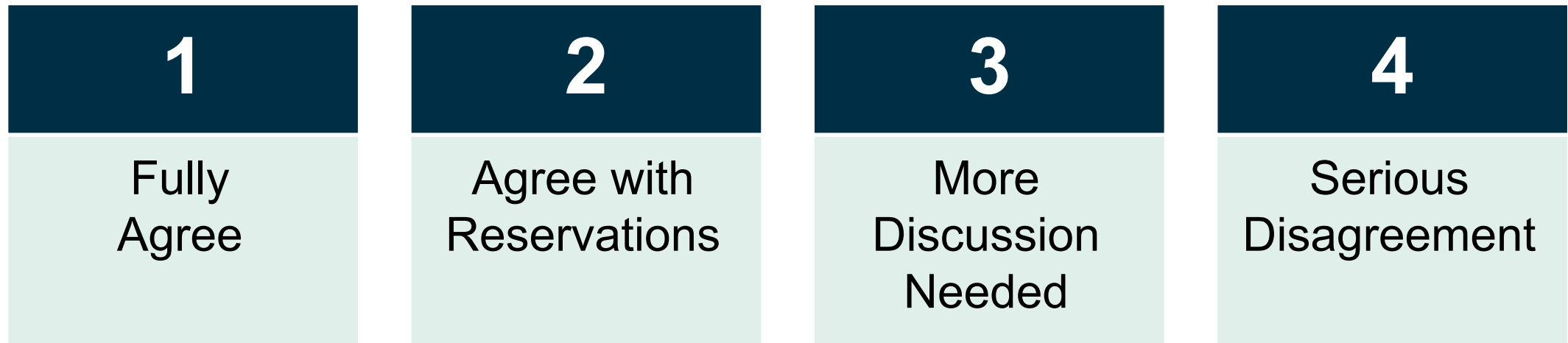
## New Language for Remains:

- Ancestral Remains
- Disinterred Ancestors
- Human Remains

# Gradient of Agreement (using the Zoom Poll Function)

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Gradient of Agreement enables members of a group to express their support for an idea along a continuum. Using this tool, we are no longer trapped into expressing support in terms of yes and no.



# Determining New Project Language

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Reviewing the gradient of agreement results

## Task Force Names:

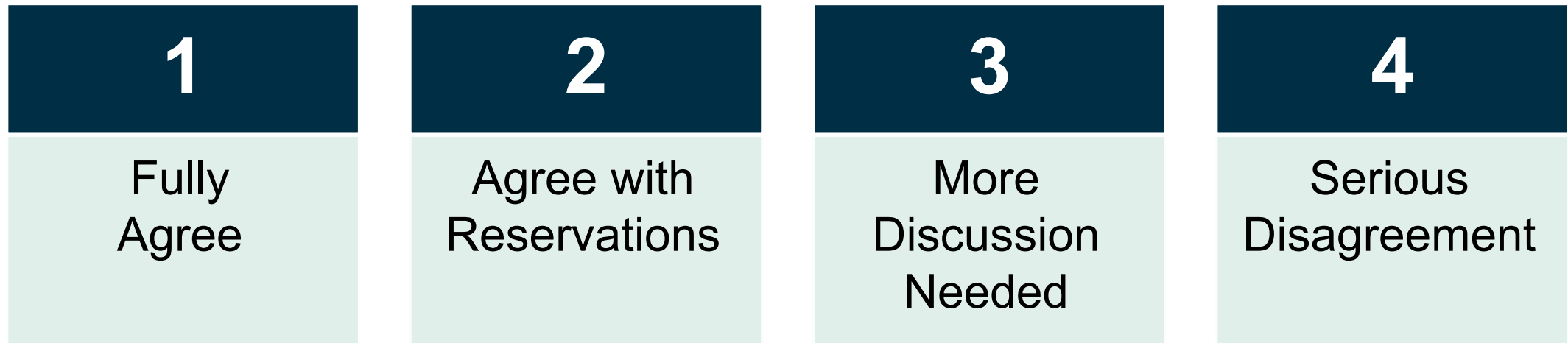
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# Determining New Project Language

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# Memorialization Presentation

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**A short presentation from EDC on different memorialization options, drawing from local and national precedents.**

# What Is Memorialization?

*Memorials and monuments serve multiple functions in the communities in which they are erected.*

*When the members of a community create a monument or memorial, they are making a statement about the ideas, values, or individuals they think their society should remember, if not honor.*

*-- facinghistory.org*



*Harlem African Burial Ground Ceremony*



*Sankofa Park reinterment ceremony*

# What is a Successful Memorialization?

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*A successful memorial makes visible the unremembered. It serves as a platform to engage in dialogue and is a means for developing knowledge, a deeper understanding, and new ways of thinking.*

*-- Kendal Henry, Director, Percent for Art Program, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs*

*The most successful memorials are responsive to site and subject, permit a range of interpretation, integrate with existing functions of the site, and can be maintained for a reasonable budget.*

*-- Jonathan Kuhn, Director of Monuments, NYC Parks*

# Memorialization Examples

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- Plaques & Pavement Markers
- Symbolic Markers
- Educational Elements & Programming
- Natural Elements
- Public Art
- Architectural Elements / Space for Gathering
- Reflection & Contemplation Space
- Building & Memorial Interaction



# Plaques & Pavement Markers



***FDNY Battalion 9 Memorial, commemorating the tragic events of 9/11, located on the corner of 8th Avenue & West 48th Street.***



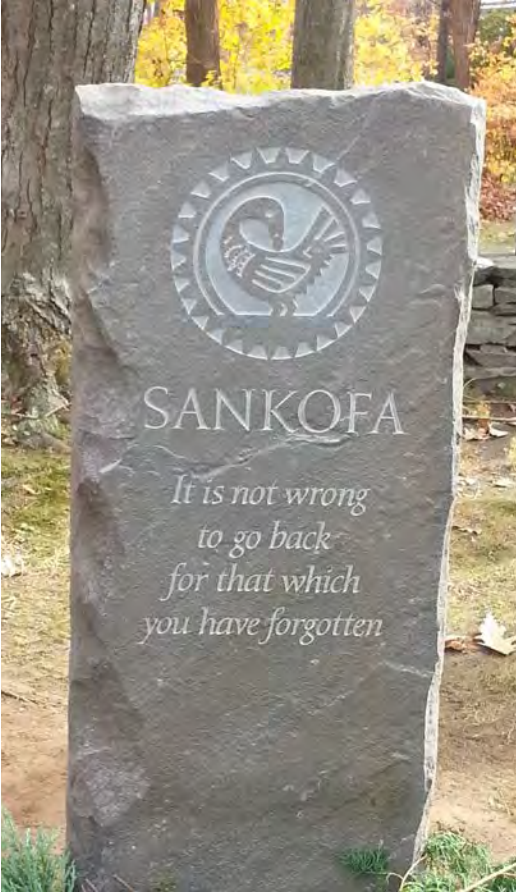
***Foley Square Historical Medallion, Manhattan***

*One of five that commemorate what Foley Square looked like at various points of New York history. This one acknowledges the presence of the African Burial Ground. Its central image consists of a skeleton and broken shackles.*



# Symbolic Markers

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## ***Huguenot Burial Ground, New Paltz, NY***

*Marker for the burial place of  
an enslaved man reinterred in  
2011.*



***Memorial in the churchyard of a Unitarian Church in  
Charleston, SC, constructed from original bricks that were  
made by enslaved people and used to build the church.***



# Educational Elements & Programming



**Montgomery, Alabama** has several historical markers documenting the city's role in the proliferation of slavery.

## HUNTS POINT SLAVE BURIAL GROUND

- Home
- About The Project
- Moving Towards Permanent Remembrance
- Location
- Upcoming and Recent HPSBG Events
- Media

Transform Learning About History to Doing Something About History  
What will you investigate?

### UPCOMING AND RECENT HPSBG EVENTS

Family Heads	Free white Males	Free white Females	Free white Children	Free white Totals	Free colored Males	Free colored Females	Free colored Children	Free colored Totals	Slaves
10	10	10	10	40	10	10	10	30	69
10	10	10	10	40	10	10	10	30	145
10	10	10	10	40	10	10	10	30	74

#### JUNE 8, 2019 '5 BOROS TO FREEDOM' CELEBRATES NEW YORK'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

5 Boros to Freedom looks to celebrate the themes of self-reliance, supporting others, self-assertion, and community through a variety of program offerings in each of the five boroughs on June 5-16, 2019, including at the Hunts Point Slave Burial Ground.

Join us for **Remember the Forgotten- A Walking Tour of the Hunts Point Slave Burial Ground** on Saturday, June 8, 2019, from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. This family friendly tour begins at PS 48, the Joseph Rodman Drake School (1290 Spofford Avenue, Bronx NY 10474) and ends at Drake Park.

For more information and to register for the **Remember the Forgotten- A Walking Tour of the Hunts Point Slave Burial Ground**, please **RSVP using the registration form**.

**Hunts Point “Slave” Burial Ground (Website)**  
HPSBG (<https://hpsbg.weebly.com/>) is an educational project housed in P.S. 48 in the Bronx to increase awareness and research about a burial ground at Drake Park and incorporate learnings into the P.S. 48 curriculum



# Public Art



*The **Raise Up!** sculpture by Hank Willis Thomas in Montgomery, Alabama, is located on the grounds of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which is dedicated to those who lost their lives to lynching.*



*Rendering of upcoming **Shirley Chisholm** monument by artists Amanda Williams and Olalekan Jeyifousto, to be erected in **Prospect Park's** southeast corner.*



# Public Art

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## ***Cité Mémoire, Old Montreal, Canada***

*One of a series of video projections with accompanying audio that tell stories about Montreal's history. Pictured is a video dramatization commemorating Jackie Robinson.*



## ***“Remembering a Forgotten Hero”, Philadelphia, PA***

*The artwork celebrates early civil rights activist Octavius V. Catto in the neighborhood where he lived. Photograph is from its dedication day.*



# Natural Elements

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## **9/11 Living Memorial Grove, City Hall Park, Lower Manhattan**

*Comprised of trees that used to be planted in plazas around the World Trade Center. Each borough has its own living memorial grove, located in a park with clear views of downtown Manhattan where the Twin Towers once stood.*



# Architectural Elements / Space for Gathering

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***NYC AIDS Memorial, Greenwich Village***

“The Memorial is a place of contemplation and provides a shelter for reflection and remembrance of the men, women, and children lost to AIDS. It also serves as a gathering place and reminder of the work that remains to defeat the disease.”

-- [nycaidsmemorial.org](http://nycaidsmemorial.org)



# Reflection & Contemplation Space

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*African Burial Ground National Monument Park, Lower Manhattan is the oldest and largest known excavated burial ground in North America.*



*The "Slave" Memorial at Mount Vernon marks the site where both free and enslaved Africans were buried in the 18th and 19th centuries.*



# Site Considerations

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- Physical site considerations
- Relationship between development & memorial
- Public access, longevity and maintenance



# Physical Site Considerations

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© 2010 Blackwell Publishing Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 267: 103–111



# Relationship Between Development & Memorial

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- Memorialization could be separate from development, or they could interact with each other
- Examples include:
  - Decorative façade/building exterior
  - Outdoor or indoor spaces
  - Programming with ground-floor uses



**Harlem Hospital, Manhattan**

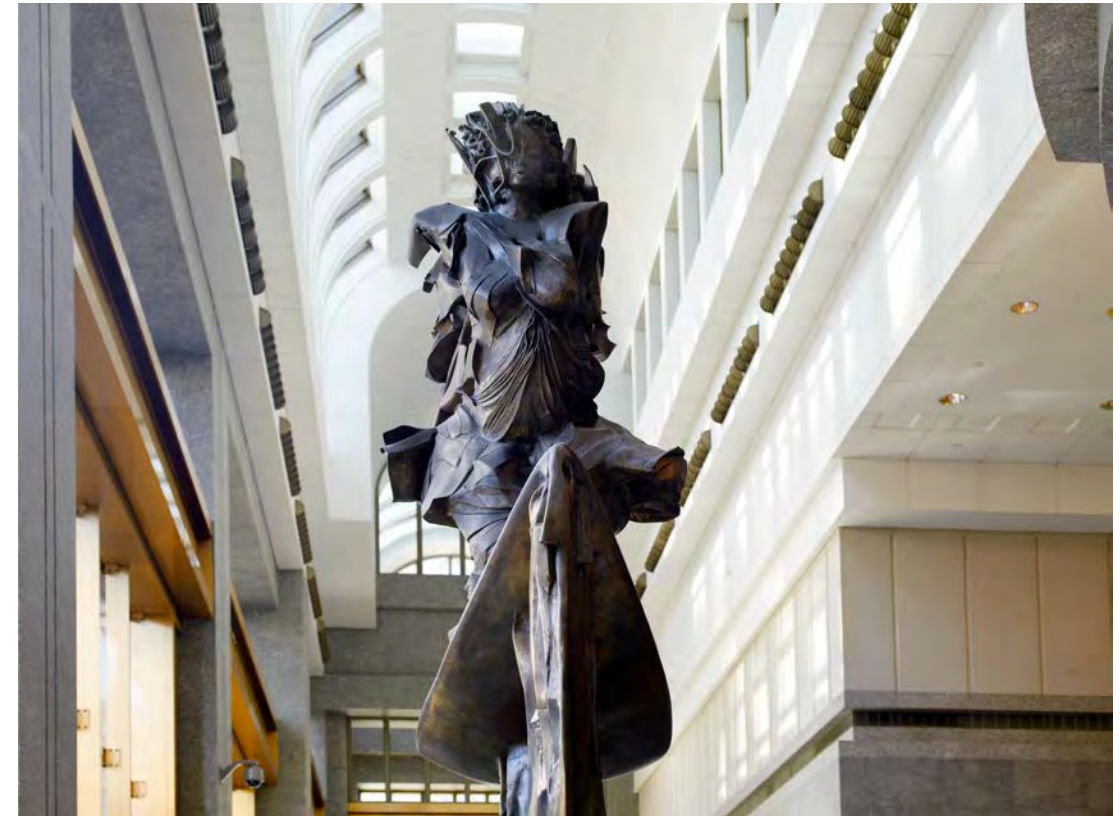
*The façade, by Jack Travis, replicates 3 panels from a Works Progress Administration mural that depicts scenes from the African diaspora story.*



# Relationship Between Development & Memorial



*Temporary exhibit about the **Harlem African Burial Ground** installed at **La Marqueta in Harlem** to build awareness about that site's history and the future development project.*



***"Africa Rising"** by Barbara Chase-Riboud, Ted Weiss Federal Building, Lower Manhattan. One of several works of art celebrating Black culture in connection with the nearby African Burial Ground.*

# Public Access, Longevity and Maintenance

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- Burial ground location is at street corner – the most prominent, trafficked portion of the site
- Public access considerations include accessibility, visibility, and legibility
- Designing a memorial for longevity becomes more important the more public it is
- Different memorial elements require different levels of maintenance



*Top: Southwest corner of Church and Bedford, looking toward site.  
Bottom: Northeast corner of Church and Bedford, looking from site.  
Source: Google Maps.*

# Resources

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- **NYC Parks Monuments Catalogue:** <https://www.nycgovparks.org/art-and-antiquities/permanent-art-and-monuments>
- **In Honor of Black Life**, by Natiba Guy Clement: <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/blog/2020/06/16/honor-black-life>
- **Hunts Point Burial Ground:** <https://hpsbg.weebly.com/>
- **Periwinkle Initiative:** The Periwinkle Initiative is a public humanities and education initiative with the important mission of building the National Burial Database of Enslaved Americans (NBDEA) — the first and only national database to document individual burials and burial grounds of enslaved Americans. Report of the Burial Database Project of Enslaved Americans by the Periwinkle Initiative, published on Jan 20, 2017: <https://issuu.com/periwinkleinitiative/docs/flipbook>

# Questions

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**How can we support your understanding of memorialization and the opportunity for recommendation development?**

## **Process Notes:**

- As we are limited by time, we encourage you to use the **CHAT box** to share all your questions.
- Your questions will either be answered as part of a follow-up email or as part of an upcoming meeting.
- Additionally, your questions, comments and concerns will support the development of the full engagement plan.



# Discussion: Recommendation Development

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We will take time to talk through the potential options for the recommendations.

**What are your hopes for the memorialization of the decedents discovered on this site and the historical importance of the site within Flatbush's history?**

## Breakout Sessions:

- Split into **2 different breakout groups** so that we can talk in more details about how this is an opportunity to honor the past and look toward the future.
- Each group will have time to discuss and then we will come back to reflect as a full group.

# Discussion: Recommendation Development

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**What are your hopes for the memorialization of the decedents discovered on this site and the historical importance of the site within Flatbush's history?**

## Prompts:

- What is your vision for the relationship between the development and the site regarding memorial?
- In your vision, is the memorialization -- on the site/building? Indoors, outdoors, or both? Off-site? Digital? Stand-alone?
- How do you vision people interacting with the memorialization --- passing by, sitting, visual/audio, interactive, etc.?



# Themes from Meeting #2 - Vision for Honoring

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Building on the Site History Presentation by HPI, Task Force members were provided time to talk through what they heard in more details and their initial thoughts and vision for honoring the site.

- **Acknowledging the Full History**

There needs to be an acknowledgement of the history and the current context.

- **Sacredness**

The space should be a sacred ground that serves as a space for the community to pay homage to the past.

- **Shifting the Narrative**

It would be an opportunity to let the youth and the community know about the history of the site by disrupting the narrative around enslaved Africans here, to support youth education that shifts the narrative from shame to one of pride and resilience.

- **Respect**

There needs to be respect for this particular community that has been plagued with so much disrespect. Respect for the decedents and those who are here today.

- **Youth and Education**

It is important to build awareness of the project, because a lot of people may not know what is going on at the site, or its history. Bring the community in and together through education.

- **Accessibility**

To support visibility, there should be multiple layers of accessibility. To capture one's attention and engaging with the site.

# Reflection

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## Breakout Room Sharing:

Each group will share what was discussed regarding the recommendations.

### Order for the Discussion:

- Kris' Room
- Claudie's Room

# Break

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**We will dive back into our discussion in 5 minutes.**

# RFP Process Presentation

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**A short presentation from HPD on how the recommendations developed by the Task Force (and the public) are included into the Affordable Housing Request for Proposal (RFP).**

# Requests for Proposals

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Josh Saal – Deputy Director of Predevelopment, HPD

Uriah Johnson – Project Manager in Neighborhood Planning, HPD

Perris Straughter – Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Predevelopment, HPD

# Developing Affordable Housing on Public Land

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## Construction of City-funded New Affordable Housing

- Private sites
- Public sites

## Requests for Proposals

- Identify a development team that will propose a development program, execute construction and manage future development for public benefit

## Request for Qualifications

- Establish a list of Qualified Applicants who will apply to the RFP
- Ensure development teams applying to an RFP have the experience to deliver a high-quality project that will be sensitive to the historic significance of the site



# Engagement Focus

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## Building and Site Design

RFP-Specific (Memorialization)

Site Planning and Placement of Uses

Massing and Bulk





# Engagement Focus

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## On-site uses

**Populations Served**

**Non-Residential Uses**

**Programming (Including  
Memorialization)**

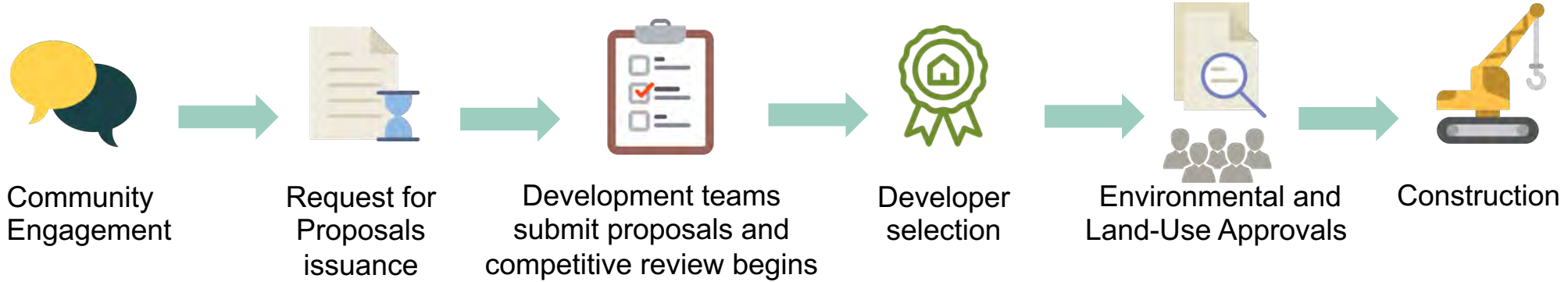




# Selection Process

## Purpose of RFP

- Competition → Creative proposals → Maximize benefits to the public
- Task Force and public engagement identify priorities and goals, which are incorporated into RFP
- Review ensures selected project aligns with the needs of the community and selected team has ability to execute and deliver project



# Selection Process

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## Criteria for Selection

**Development Team Experience and Capacity**

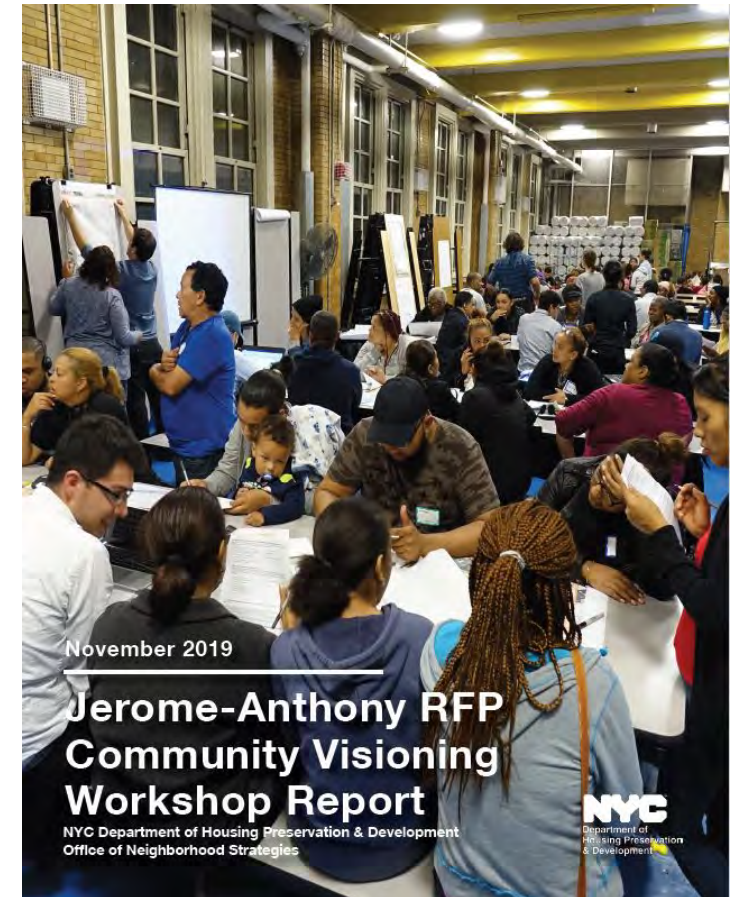
**Financing and Affordability**

**Development Program and Community Development**

**Design and Performance**

**Responsiveness to Task Force recommendations and community priorities identified through engagement.**

- Memorialization
- Populations served by newly developed affordable housing
- Urban design that contributes to the neighborhood
- Additional programming that will meet community needs



# Selection Process

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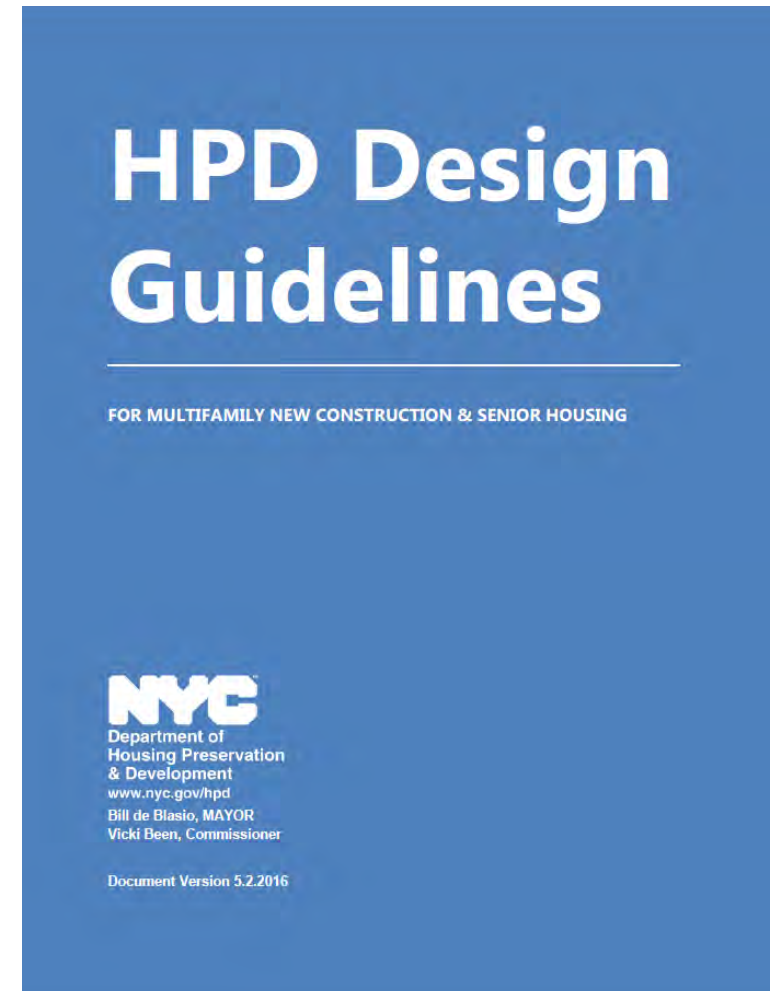
## Requirements

### Aligns with city-wide goals

- Increase access to affordable housing across neighborhoods
- Increase M/WBE and non-profit participation
- Sustainability and building performance (beyond code)

### Regulatory and legal requirements and obligations

- Financing rules
- Environmental requirements
- Building codes



# Case Study: Chestnut Commons

## Development Program

### Community Identified Goals

- Maximize number of units for a variety of households

### Selected Proposal

- 274 units studios to three bedrooms
- Set-aside for formerly homeless households with supportive services
- Households with extremely low to low incomes



Source: MHANY Management Inc. + Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, Inc. + Urban Builders Collaborative LLC



# Case Study: Chestnut Commons

## Development Program Continued

### Community Identified Goals

- Community facility space to accommodate arts and culture, senior center, and workforce development
- Retail that will activate street and connect to main corridors

### Selected Proposal

- Community Facility
  - Cypress Hills LDC (CHLDC) to provide programming for workforce development, adult education, and a food manufacturing incubator
  - Satellite classes by CUNY Kingsborough
  - Black Box theatre for performing arts
- Brooklyn Federal Credit Union – mission driven retail banking services based in Central Brooklyn



Source: MHANY Management Inc. + Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, Inc. + Urban Builders Collaborative LLC



# Case Study: Chestnut Commons

## Building and Site Design

### Community Identified Goals

- Green roof or rooftop terrace for residents
- Welcoming streetscape improvements
- Local arts community into interior/exterior building design

### Selected Proposal

- Courtyard and rooftop garden for residents
- Transparent ground floor, lighting and seating to improve streetscape and pedestrian safety
- Working with local students to create murals facing neighboring school yard



Source: MHANY Management Inc. + Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, Inc. + Urban Builders Collaborative LLC

# Post-Selection

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## Development Team Introduction

### Selected Proposal's Engagement Plan

- Design charettes
- Task Force Meeting, if active
- Memorial
- Coordinating programming before and during construction

### ULURP (public review process)

- Community Board
- Borough President
- City Planning Commission
- City Council



# Questions

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**How can we support your understanding of the RFP process and how your recommendations will be integrated?**

## **Process Notes:**

- As we are limited by time, we encourage you to use the **CHAT box** to share all your questions.
- Your questions will either be answered as part of a follow-up email or as part of an upcoming meeting.
- Additionally, your questions, comments and concerns will support the development of the full engagement plan.

# Community Engagement Process

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## Goals of the community engagement process

- To develop a multi-prong approach to outreach:
  - To ensure the public is aware of the historical importance of the site.
  - To build awareness of the work being undertaken by the Task Force and gather feedback from the community.
  - To encourage participation in this process, through a community questionnaire and/or the public workshops.

# Community Engagement Process

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## Goals of the community engagement process

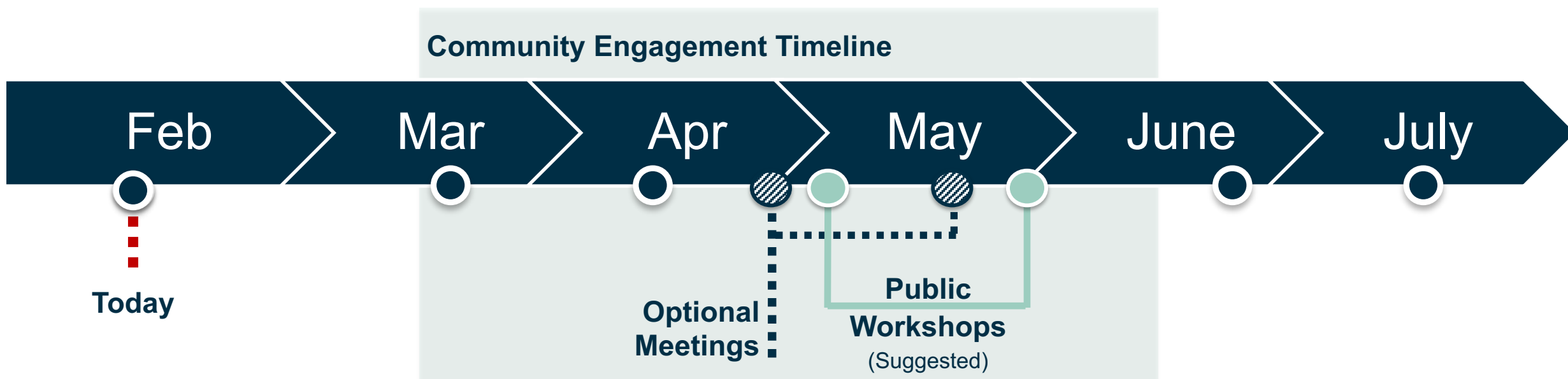
- To gather input (new ideas and narrowing ideas for the Task Force) for the development of all recommendations.
  - To gathering input on ways to memorialize this part of Flatbush's history respectfully.
  - To understand the existing housing and youth district needs to ensure that this land is used in service of this community.
  - To draw in the vast community expertise in the efforts to identify any potential descendent communities of the colonial enslaved and freed Africans of early Flatbush.



# Community Engagement Process

## The plan to date:

- To develop print and digital **outreach materials**.
- To distribute a print and digital **questionnaire** (with a youth specific section).
- To hold **two public workshops**, to gather input on the recommendations.



# Community Engagement Process

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## Role of the Task Force

- To support the **development of a stakeholder engagement plan** that is inclusive, accessible and equitable:
  - To determine the most effective distribution channels and the type of materials.
  - To develop a stakeholder map of the neighborhood organizations or stakeholder groups that need to be engaged throughout the public engagement.
  - To gather insights on the effective format and time of day.
- **To support in the public outreach** by building awareness and encouraging participation.
- **To attend the public workshops:**
  - If interested, to support in the planning, leading and facilitation of the workshops.

# Co-Designing Community Engagement

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To brainstorm potential best approaches towards equitable, inclusive and accessible public engagement by leveraging the existing networks of the Task Force

## Today's Brainstorm

- To hold a discussion, a few activities and a poll to help us to uncover the following:
  - The most effective distribution channels and networks we can leverage.
  - The type of materials that would best support your outreach.
  - Identify the neighborhood organizations or stakeholder groups that need to be engaged throughout the public engagement.
  - To co-develop an approach to set appropriate expectations for the process and project.
  - To gather insights on the effective format and time of day.

# Co-Designing Community Engagement

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To start...

**How do we make sure that public engagement (the questionnaire, the outreach and public workshops) is accessible, inclusive and equitable?**

## **Prompts:**

- How can we bring local community voices into the process of honoring Flatbush's history and the ancestors who once lived in the area?
- To ensure we are accessible, what are the appropriate languages for materials?
- How can we use the site itself, including the fence, as a space to build awareness?



# Co-Designing Community Engagement

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Our tentative approach for the two public workshops

## **Workshop #1 – Tentatively the Week of May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Focus: Gather key insights from the public with focus on honoring the site's history and archaeological findings

## **Workshop #2 – Tentatively the Week of May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Focus: Gather key insights from the public with a focus on the affordable housing development

### **POLL #1:**

#### **Gathering feedback to refine our approach:**

The poll will include these two scenarios:

- Two stand-alone workshops.  
(The scenarios listed to the left)
- The same public workshop repeated.

Both options would include a questionnaire, gathering insights on all recommendation topics.

# Co-Designing Community Engagement

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Our tentative approach for the two public workshops

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Focus: Gather key insights from the public with focus on honoring the site's history and archaeological findings

## **Workshop #2 – Tentatively the Week of May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Focus: Gather key insights from the public with a focus on the affordable housing development

### **POLL #2:**

**Gathering feedback to select the most inclusive time of day.** The poll will include a series of scenarios:

- 2 weekday evening workshops
- 2 weekend morning workshops
- 2 weekend afternoon workshops
- 1 weekday and 1 weekend (*times TBD*)
- 2 workshops on 1 weekend day (*this would be an adaption to the original calendar*)

# Co-Designing Community Engagement

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**How do we ensure we are setting appropriate expectations for this project and process with the public?**

## **Prompts:**

- What if anything, can we clarify to better communicate this process to others?
- Is anything we should keep in mind as we develop the engagement plan?

# Next Steps

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## Request for information from Task Force:

- Complete the **post-meeting survey** (which will be shared through email) outlining your questions and comments.

## What happens next on our end:

- **Notes** from this meeting will be shared before the next meeting.
- **The goals for the next session and reading materials** will be shared before the next meeting.



# Next Session

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## Focus for Task Force Meeting #4

- A presentation from HPD on affordable housing basics and which populations are served through affordable housing programs.
- To hold a meaningful discussion on the population served by the future development
- To hold a meaningful discussion on the community benefit including ground-floor use, youth space and programming.

**Next Task Force meeting will be March 24, 2021**

# Thank You!

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