



Principles of Good Urban Design

Presentation to the City Planning Commission
January 17, 2023

Urban Design focuses on people



...and how they interact with and experience their city

Good Urban Design

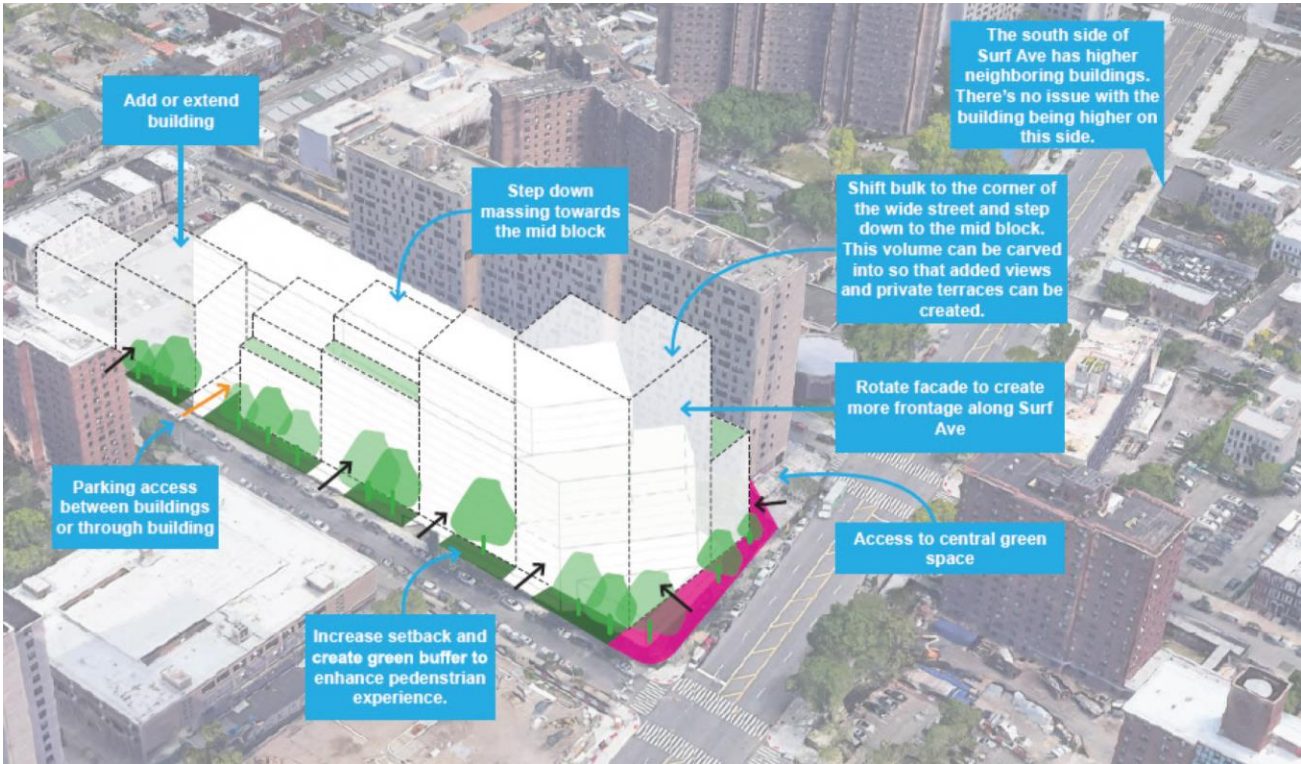
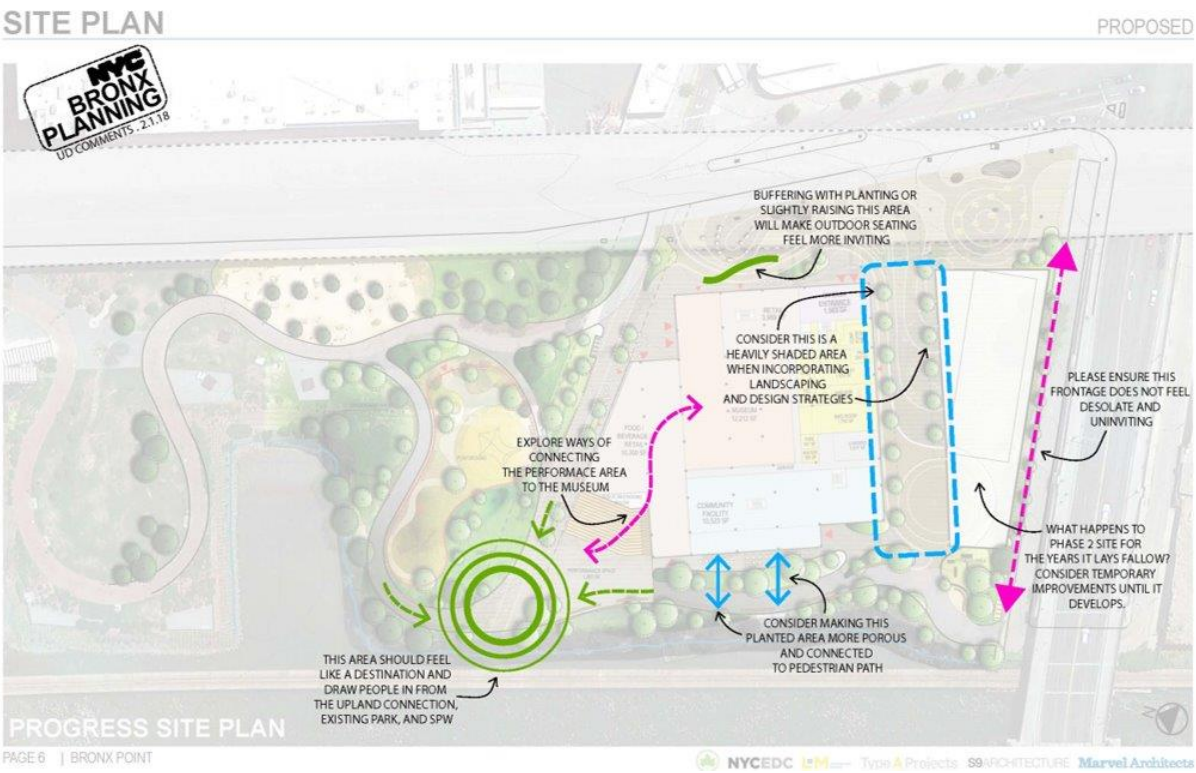


Image Source: Department of City Planning

We shape NYC's neighborhoods

Image Source: Department of City Planning

Design Review of Applications



Examples of Using clear and simple language to communicate comments and recommendations

Collaborate with Interagency Partners

THE VISION

a program that continues to safely enliven streets across the five boroughs!

It will put safety first, providing access for emergency vehicles and ensuring that setups are safe spaces that protect pedestrians, diners, and drivers.

It will ensure clean, attractive and well maintained setups that enhance the local community.

It will ensure that setups are temporary and removable.

Open Restaurants



It will ensure that restaurants in all neighborhoods will have the opportunity to participate.

It will ensure that setups add vibrancy and add to neighborhood characteristics.

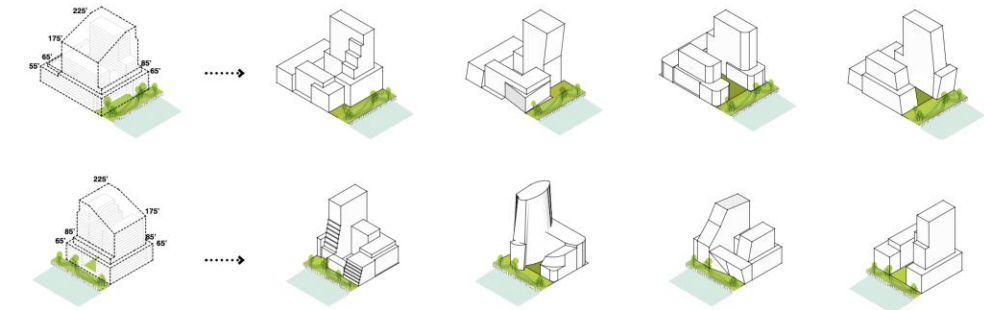
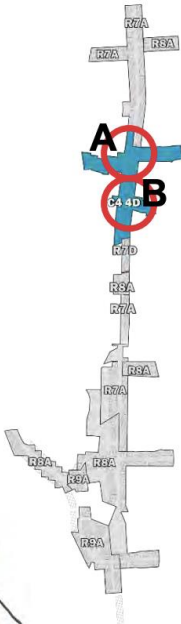
It will require setups that are inclusive to all users.

It will ensure setups work well in varying street contexts.

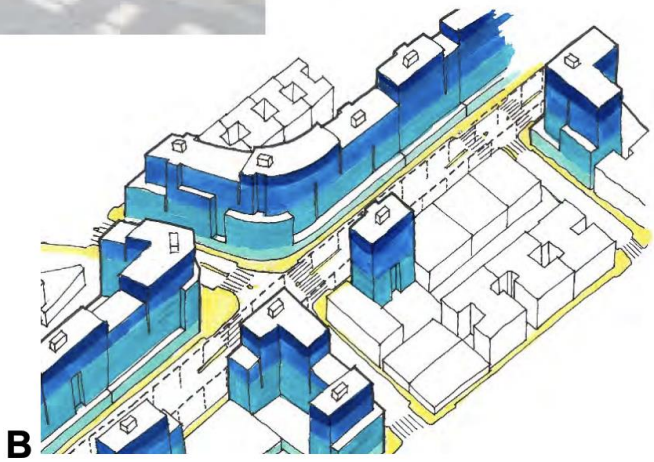
Shape Neighborhood Studies



Burnside Avenue and Davidson Street

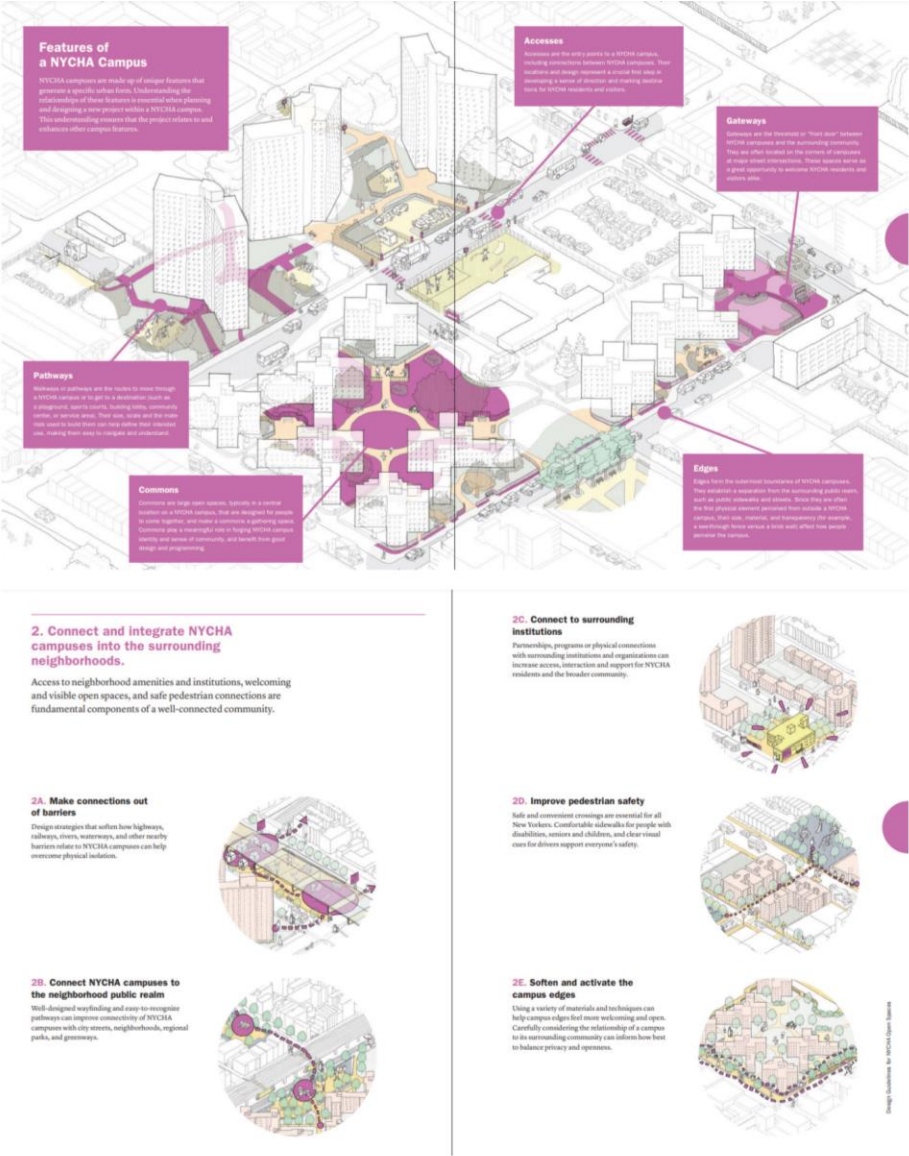


Gowanus Neighborhood Plan



Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Plan

Develop Design Guidelines



Engage with Communities



Flood Text II engagement event in southern Queens



Southern Boulevard, Parking Day engagement for neighborhood study



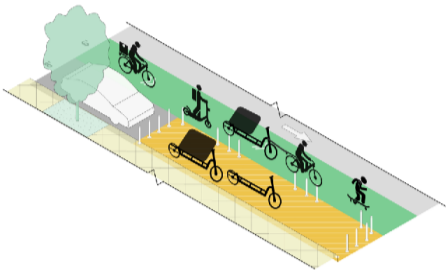
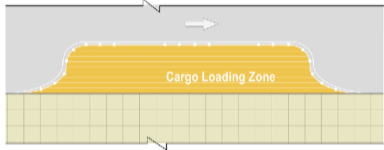
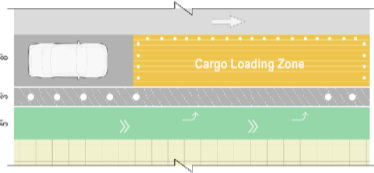
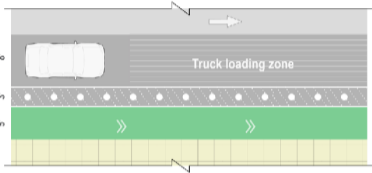
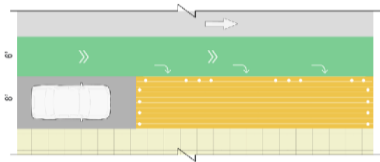
East Harlem, Parking Day



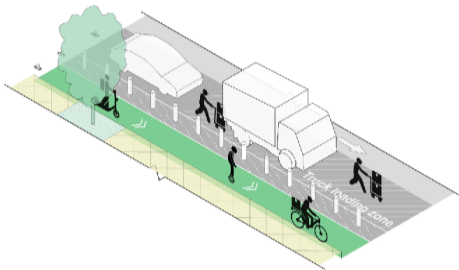
Broadway, Earth Day

Rethinking Space

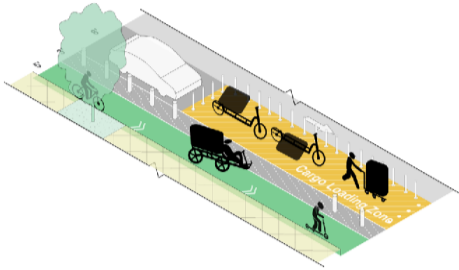
micromobility



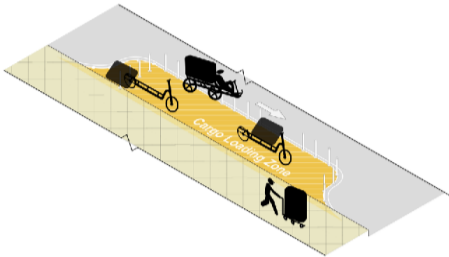
1
LOADING - CARGO BIKE PARKING
FLEX LOADING ZONE



2 - before
TRUCK LOADING



2 - after
CARGO PARKING/LOADING



3
MID - BLOCK LOADING BULB-OUT
CARGO PARKING/LOADING

TOOLKIT - loading - midblock

Rethinking Systems

Urban Design Forum:
Neighborhood Fare



The Food-Forward Neighborhood

[Download](#)



IN A FOOD-FORWARD NEIGHBORHOOD...



BODEGAS are a hyper-local source of healthy, fresh food, local produce, and local value-added products. Bodegas stock produce from community gardens and affordable grab-n-go items from large distributors.



FOOD WASTE enriches the soil, generates power, and builds local economies. Compost sites near gardens, restaurant corridors, and food manufacturers process food scraps; hyper-locally and citywide compost collection reaches every neighborhood.



COMMERCIAL URBAN AGRICULTURE provides accessible, local produce and strengthens the food economy. Rooftop and indoor farms distribute to nearby residents, markets, and restaurants with cargo bikes and electric vehicles.



GROCERY STORES that offer affordable, culturally appropriate food are accessible to every New Yorker.



COMMUNITY GARDENS & FARMS are protected spaces for food production, community convening and wealth-building. Garden produce supplies neighborhood farm stands, markets and bodegas.



REGIONAL FARMS connect to local markets to provide fresh, high-quality produce. Farms distribute to neighborhood hubs and receive food scraps in return, processing them into compost to build healthy soil.



FARMERS MARKETS distribute fresh food from regional farms, urban farms, and local community gardens. Markets host bakers, food vendors, and other small food businesses selling their wares.



RESTAURANTS offer welcoming spaces for New Yorkers to gather and share meals made with fresh, local produce.



FOOD HUBS promote community ownership within the food system. In spacious facilities, processing, packing and distribution facilities are co-located with cafes or food retail to serve local residents.



SMALL SCALE PROCESSING operates in distributed facilities to support local economies. Shared use kitchens house diverse food businesses, neighbors cook meals for each other in community kitchens, and home kitchens enable micro-entrepreneurs.



FOOD MARKETS support small restaurants, bakeries, lunch counters, and produce vendors that reflect neighborhood identities.



TRANSPORTATION moves plentiful food supplies to every neighborhood in a coordinated, carbon-neutral and safe way. Cleaner trucks transport food across the region, expanded rail and water routes serve distribution hubs, and robust cargo bike networks connect the last mile.



FOOD PANTRIES & SOUP KITCHENS support emergency food needs with dignity and choice. Pantries and soup kitchens source food from local grocers, manufacturers, farms and restaurants, and offer retail options with affordable prices.



WAREHOUSES & DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES provide critical connections for large food distributors to serve neighborhoods across the city through coordinated distribution.

Our Mission

To shape a more livable city
by advocating for high
quality design of the built
environment, together with
all New Yorkers



2017's Principles of Good Urban Design

The Principles -

- Communicate the importance of a high quality-built environment
- Established a set of design values for the Department
- Aided Urban Designers as a tool to advocate and improve projects
- Shared resource for those involved in city making

Good Urban Design:

Both reinforces and creates a *sense of place*.

New Yorkers love neighborhoods with a sense of identity and authenticity. Great urban design incorporates and celebrates a neighborhood's history, the culture of those who call it home, and the natural systems that underlie and surround it. Iconic buildings, vibrant public spaces, and natural areas can generate a powerful and unique sense of place. Those elements of urban design that are familiar throughout the city—recognizable building types, well-ordered streets, and waterfront esplanades—create a rich and welcoming urban environment.



Is open, accessible to everyone and *inclusive*.

The City uses policy and zoning tools to improve New Yorker's access to housing, open space, healthy food, and other essential neighborhood services. For instance, quality public space can be defined as balancing the needs of its users, pedestrian, bicyclists and motor vehicles, on any given street. By ensuring that privately owned public spaces and waterfronts are both visible and welcoming to passersby, and that affordable housing construction enjoys the same standard of design as its neighbors, our city will feel more inclusive to all.



Pays attention to *details*.

Good urban design spans multiple scales, from benches to planters, to large-scale planning and large-term initiatives. It requires attention to detail at every step in the planning and design process. With urban design leadership and vision, an abandoned rail line can become a world class park and a dilapidated street can emerge as a village commons. Good design does not have to cost more or take more time, it is rather about making strategic decisions at the initial stages of a proposal.



Provides a *sense of comfort*.

In 1916 New York City's first zoning regulations were established to address quality of life concerns, from appropriate separation of land uses to access to light and air. These core ideas remain integral to every urban design decision, more so as we now address a broader set of questions regarding public health, greater inclusion, and enjoyment across public spaces. Urban design supports the creation of vital street life by promoting a diverse range of uses to activate the ground floor of buildings that give each neighborhood a unique identity. People feel a sense of security and comfort walking through a well-knit network of buildings and public realm.



and don't be afraid to explore new solutions, these may produce a more innovative and improved outcome.

Urban Design Principles for Planning New York City

At the Department of City Planning, the practice of urban design is concerned with the policies that shape our experiences of the built environment. The goal of these policies is to create a sense of civic pride and foster the enjoyment of the city for people of all ages, abilities and background. To do so, urban designers aim to create a well-knit fabric of buildings and public spaces and to improve people's experience through the city by crafting policies that serve the public good. By thinking across scales – from the bench to the building, to the block to the neighborhood, the borough to the city – we promote quality of the built environment in support of good quality of life. The principles are intended to be a resource internally for department staff and externally for those who are working to improve the livability of New York City's neighborhoods and those who share our commitment to expand, protect and promote our public realm.



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New York, NY 10271
www.nyc.gov/planning
@NYCPlanning

Why update the Principles?



Dyckman Street – Open Restaurants. Inwood, Manhattan

Year-long Engagement Process



1

Video of what urban design is and why it's important



2

Share things you care about in your neighborhood



3

Share stories and photos from your neighborhood



4

Read and give feedback on the Principles

Year-long Engagement Process



Public Events
Earth Day

A photograph showing a group of people gathered around a table outdoors, engaged in a community activity. They are looking at and pointing to various maps and informational materials spread across the table.



Website
▶
goodurbandesign.nyc

An illustration of a city street scene with a multi-story building, a person in a red hoodie walking, and a person in a green shirt standing near a flower box. A play button icon is centered over the text.



Roundtables
Design Professionals
Real Estate Professionals
DCP Interdivisional Experts

A photograph of a group of people sitting around a long table in a meeting room, participating in a roundtable discussion. Some are looking at documents while others are talking.



Community Board Meetings
In effort to invite residents to participate on the website

A photograph of a community board meeting with several people seated around a table, looking at documents and talking.

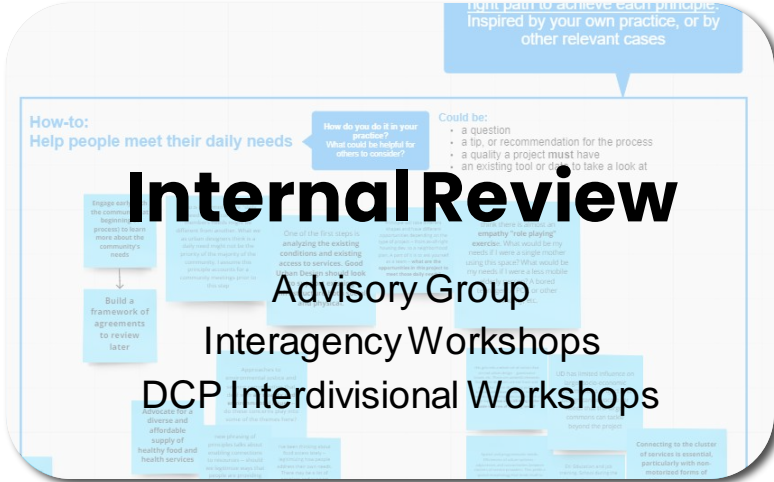


Survey
City Agencies Survey

Principles of Good Urban Design

As the next step in this ongoing conversation, this survey will help us understand how DCP's Principles of Good Urban Design might relate to your own guidelines and be used by your agency. After receiving your responses, we will follow up via e-mail to share our progress and schedule one-to-one meetings to continue the conversation. Thank you again for your wonderful feedback and for your support throughout this effort! We truly appreciate it.

An illustration of a diverse group of people walking along a city street, including a person with a stroller, a person with a dog, and a person in a wheelchair.



Internal Review
Advisory Group
Interagency Workshops
DCP Interdivisional Workshops

How-to: Help people meet their daily needs

How do you do it in your practice? What could be helpful for others to consider?

Could be:

- a question
- a tip, or recommendation for the process
- a quality a project must have
- an existing tool or process to take a look at

empirically "rule playing" example: What would be my next step? What would be my next step? What would be my next step?

Engage and listen to the community's needs

Build a framework of agreements to review later

One of the first steps is analyzing the existing conditions and existing access to services. Good access to services is a key component of a good urban design.

Connecting to the cluster of services is essential. Particularly with the interconnected fabric of the city.

A diagram showing a flowchart of the internal review process, with various steps and boxes connected by arrows.

Voices & Outcomes



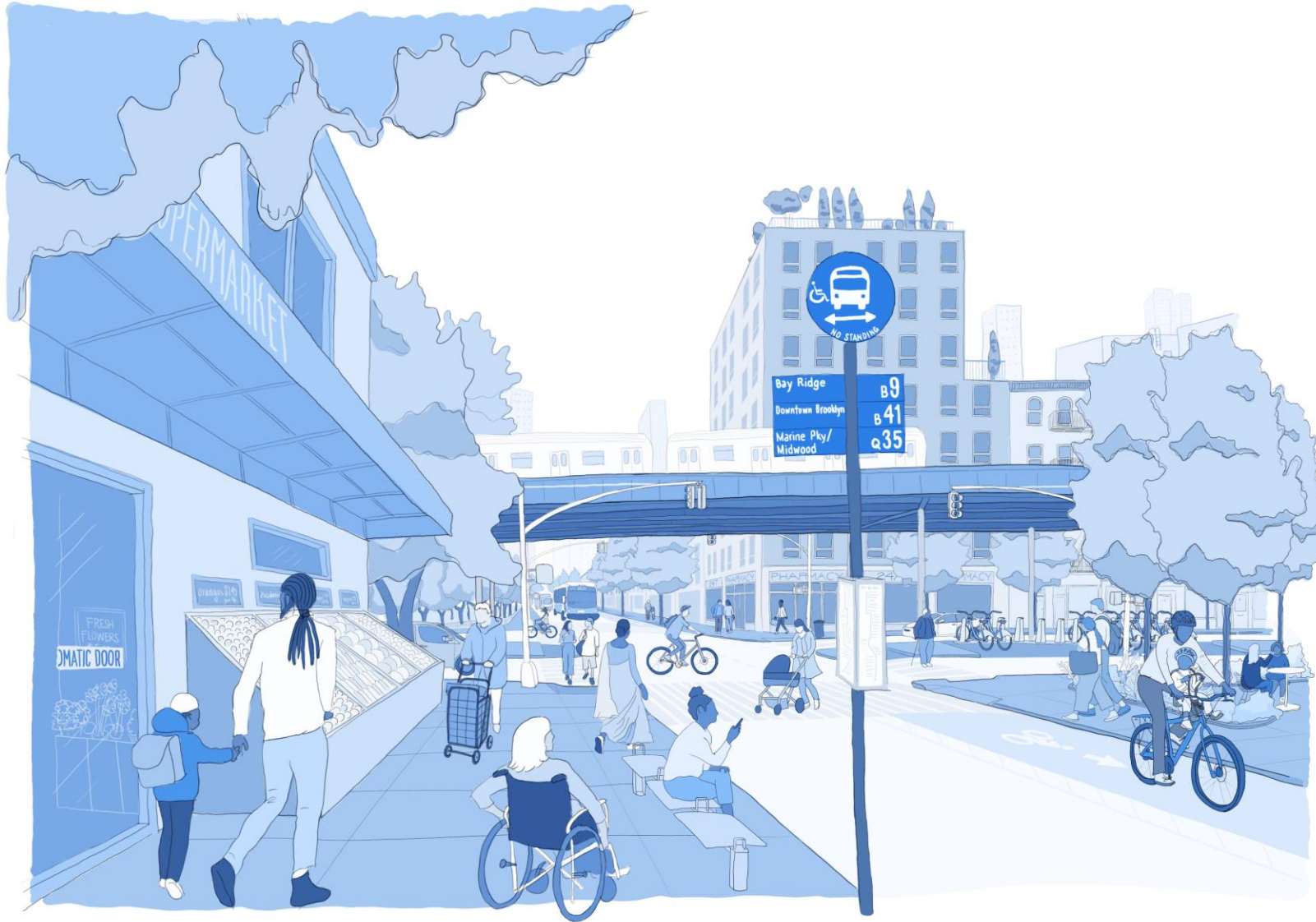
Incorporate **feedback**

Make them more **accessible**

Provide concrete **examples**

Put them into **action**

The NEW Principles of Good Urban Design



**Enhance People's
Daily Lives**

The NEW Principles of Good Urban Design



Open Streets & Restaurants, Vanderbilt Ave, Brooklyn

Accessibility and Safety
Mobility and Connectivity
Comfort and Beauty
Quality and Durability

**Enhance People's
Daily Lives**

The NEW Principles of Good Urban Design



**Care for a
Neighborhood's
History, Culture,
and Identity**

The NEW Principles of Good Urban Design



Innovation Village. East New York, Brooklyn

Community and Diversity
Existing Uses and Networks
Natural Features and Resources
Building Features and Form

**Care for a
Neighborhood's
History, Culture,
and Identity**

The NEW Principles of Good Urban Design



**Embrace the City's
Dynamism**

The NEW Principles of Good Urban Design



1 Vanderbilt. Midtown, Manhattan

Innovation and Creativity
Flexibility and Variety
Old and New
Resourcefulness and Tenacity

**Embrace the
City's Dynamism**

The *NEW* Principles of Good Urban Design



**Confront Society's
Greatest Challenges**

The NEW Principles of Good Urban Design



420 Carroll Street. Gowanus, Brooklyn

Sustainability and Adaptability

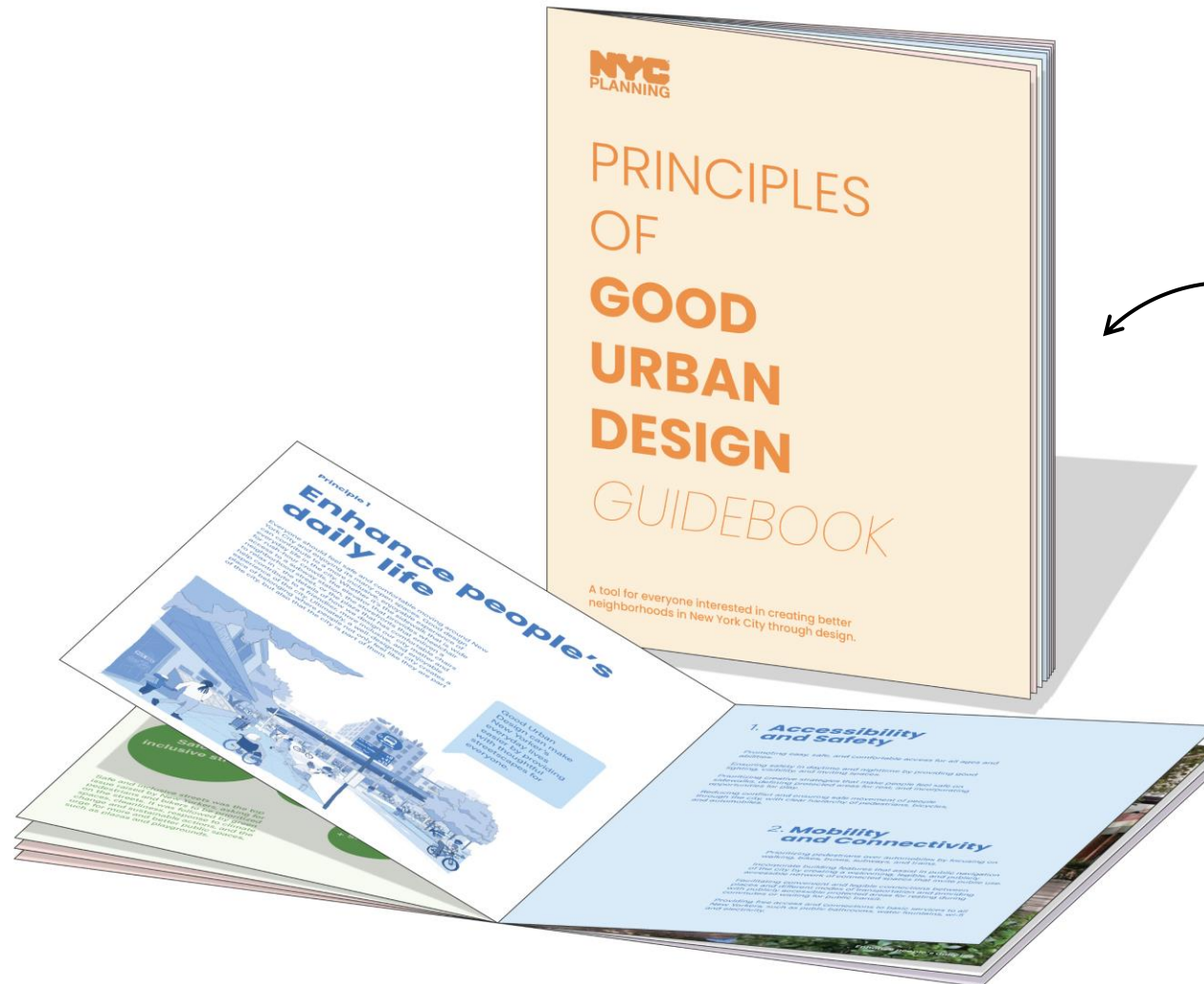
Equity and Opportunity

Health and Well-being

Diversity and Mutual Understanding

Confront Society's Greatest Challenges

The NEW Principles of Good Urban Design



Coming this spring!

Features Will Include:

- Summary of stakeholder engagement effort
- Guidance for when and how to use the Principles
- Details about the Principles, including more specific strategies for each
- Photographs from NYC that help visually describe the Principles

Who & How



Public

Those who live, work,
and visit New York City
everyday



Professionals

Designers, planners,
and other city-making
professionals



Development

Builders and other
real estate professionals



Government

City agencies, elected
officials, and other
government officials

The City Planning Commission (CPC)

Policy



- Link design decisions with broader priorities
- Understand how decisions shape the built environment
- Inform questions to applicants and how Commissioners evaluate projects

Communication



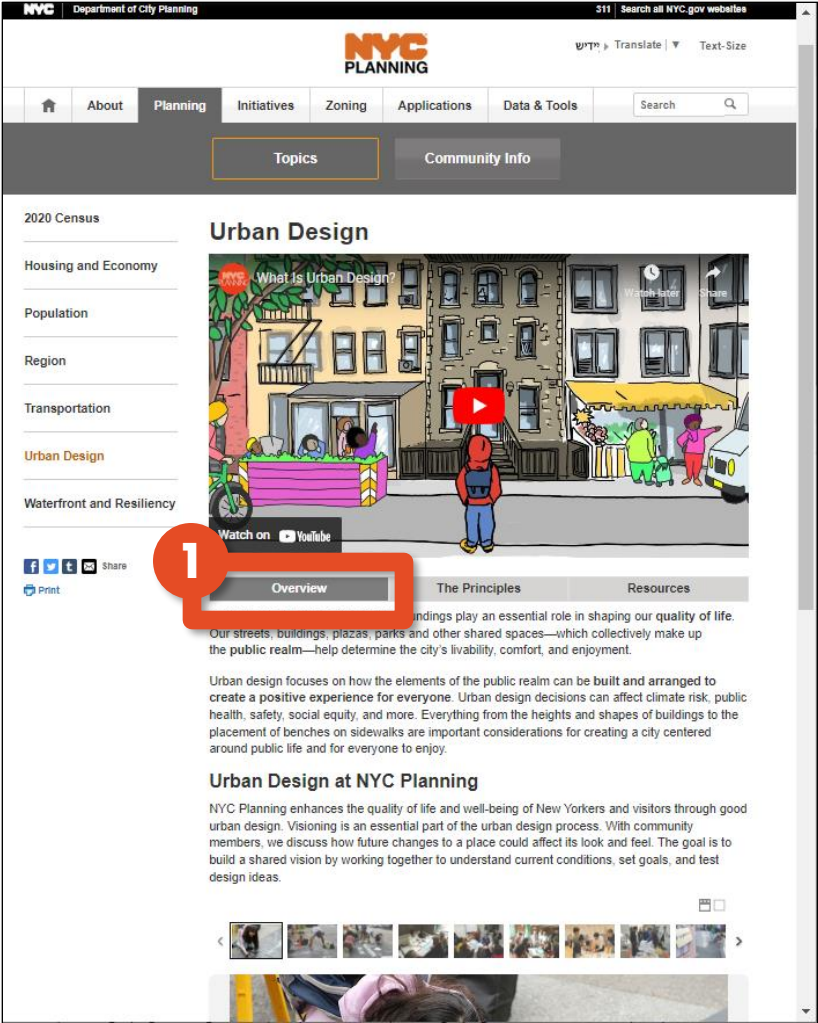
- Ensure consistent language and messaging across projects
- Influence how policies and decisions are crafted in the CPC reports
- Consensus Building

Advocacy

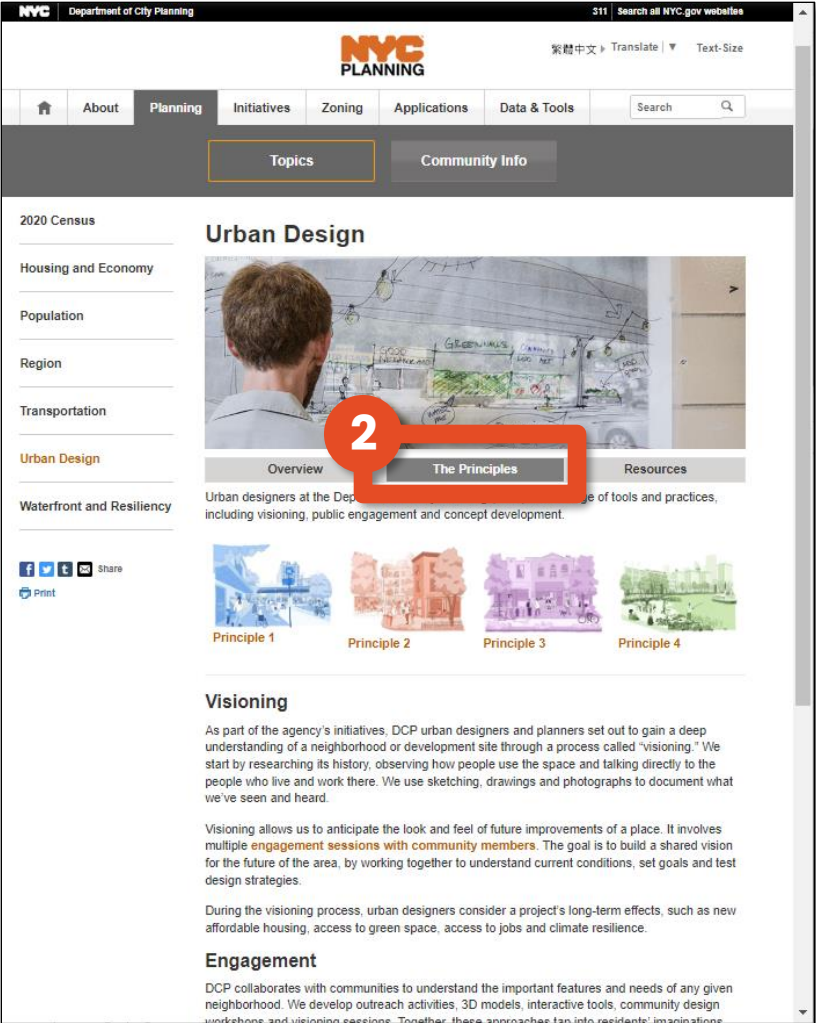


- Connect broader design outcomes with city-wide policies, initiatives, design excellence, and more
- Advocate for design excellence to and for everyone in the city

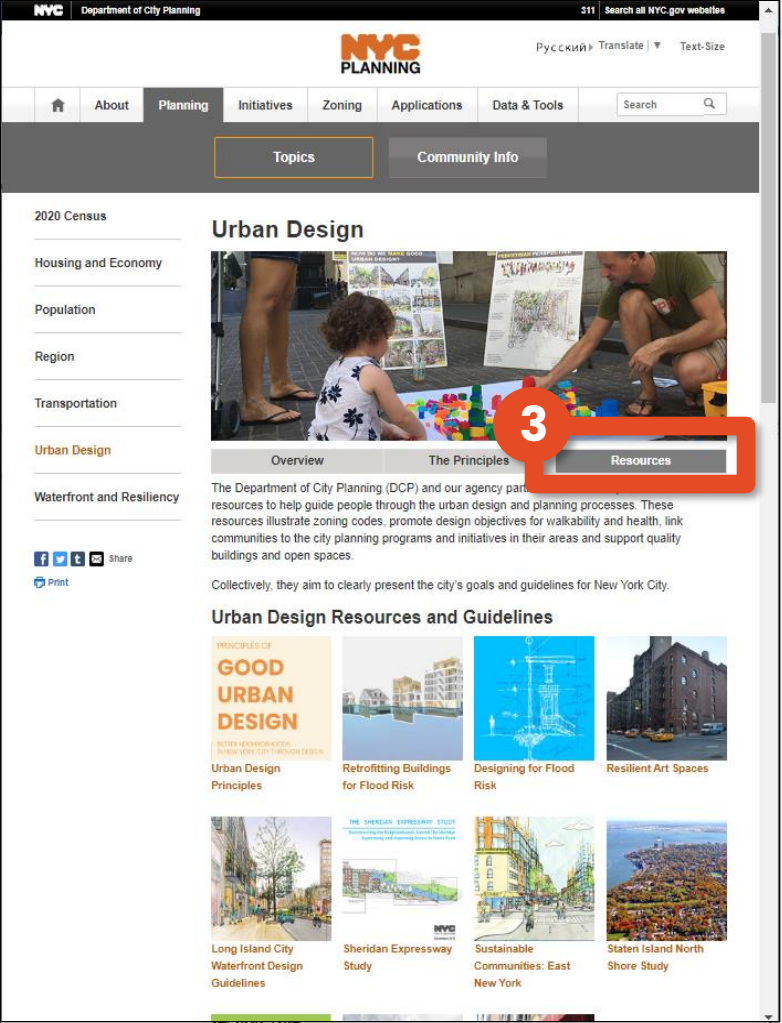
Updated Agency Website



Overview

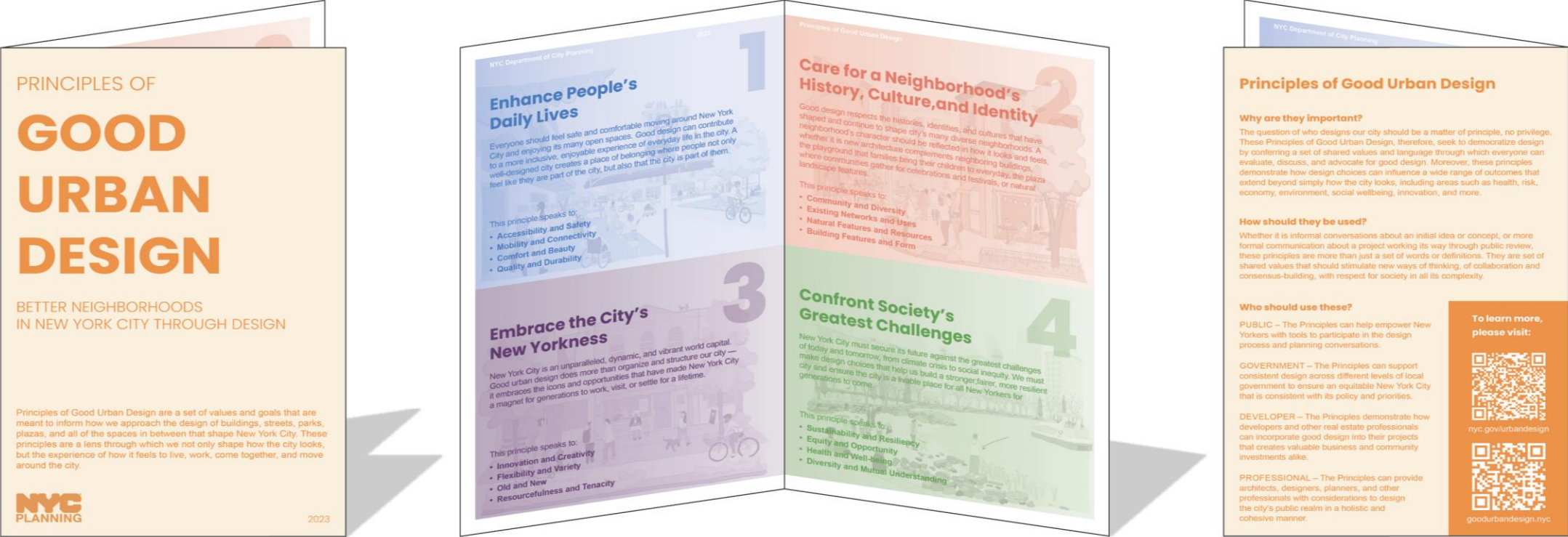


Principles



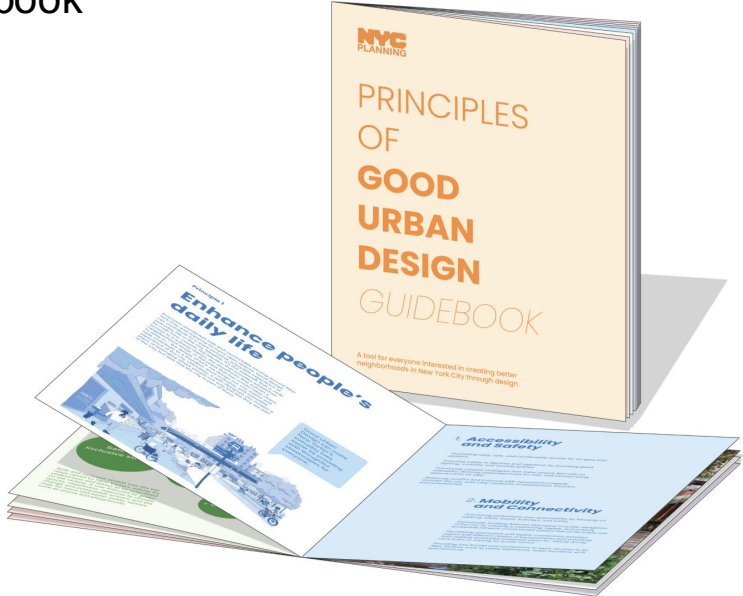
Resources

Downloadable Brochure

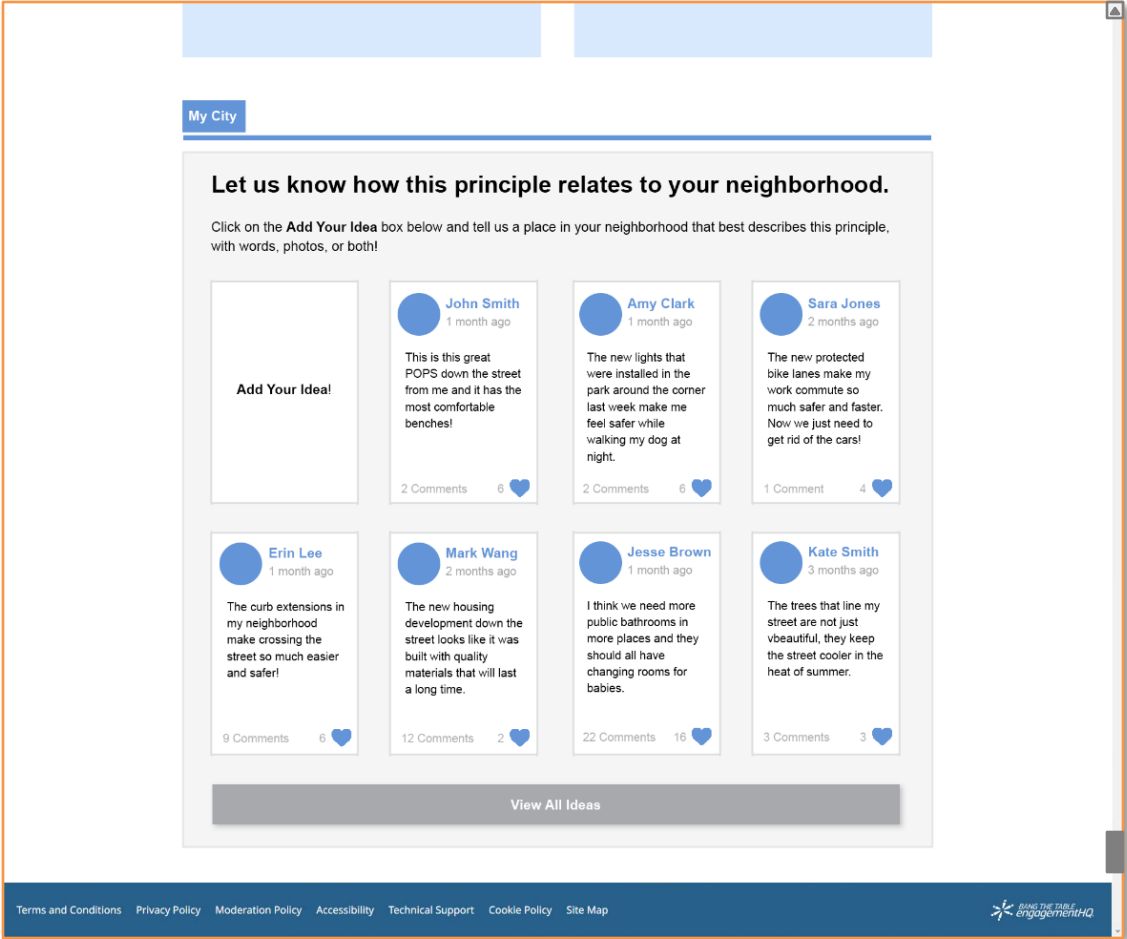


Spring 2023

- Release of the Principles of Good Urban Design Guidebook
- Release of the updated *goodurbandesign.nyc*
- Presentation to City Planning Commission about the Guidebook
- Outreach and engagement community boards about the PGUD Guidebook



Guidebook



Engagement Website
goodurbandesign.nyc

Thank You!

