

CO-OP CITY STATION AREA



DRAFT

PLANNING WORK IN PANDEMIC

COVID-19 has changed the world. The Bronx has been particularly affected, and our health and economy are suffering. As we continue to fight back COVID-19, we seek to make the City a hub for public health research, create high-quality jobs, and make New York the fairest city in America. New Metro North service in the Bronx can support economic recovery of the borough and the city in the wake of the pandemic, and station-area planning can bring much needed amenities and services to the neighborhoods of the East and South Bronx.

However, as the City and MTA face extreme financial challenges, stakeholders of all kinds – elected officials, community residents, businesses, institutions - must continue to advocate for the regional rail stations and service to support New York City's recovery. The new stations can be critical to kickstarting the recovery of the borough and city's economy by thoughtfully and pro-actively planning for job growth, supporting existing commercial corridors, and working to get New Yorkers back to work in the Bronx, the city, or the wider region.

The draft recommendations shared in this remote open house are a first attempt at understanding how we move forward amidst the current health, social, and financial crises. Your guidance and feedback on the recommendations in the coming weeks will be fundamental to the plan's success as we seek to understand and respond to changing priorities during COVID.

Through the public planning process, you and your neighbors have already helped develop planning objectives that have only grown in importance as we confront COVID. These include:

- Create new or expanded open spaces where people can relax, play, and enjoy the outdoors.
- Help residents of the Bronx access opportunities for jobs in the borough, the city, and the region.
- Ensure affordable homes are available across the East and South Bronx.
- Help address longstanding health inequities, which have exacerbated the pandemic's impact on Bronxites, by working to reduce systemic barriers to good health. To address this we must plan for:
 - Access to transit that reduces reliance on automobile use and the pollution that comes with it.
 - Expanded healthy food options.
 - Convenient mixed-use neighborhoods that allow residents to accomplish their daily tasks within walking distance from home.

After you have viewed the recommendations, we encourage you to join the conversation, share your priorities, and provide your own guidance as a member of the community.



Photo: Restaurant outdoor dining, Bronx



Photo: Food distribution center, Bronx

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HOW TO READ THE RECOMMENDATION BOARDS ?

1. NAVIGATION BAR:

This text tells you where you are.
For instance, this is the "Land Use and Placemaking: Neighborhood Center" category of the Vibrant Communities section.

2. ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY:

This text explains the issue or opportunity to be addressed by each set of objectives and recommendations. These came out of conversations with the community.

3. OBJECTIVE:

The objectives state what we are trying to accomplish with each set of recommendations and are a response to the issue/opportunity identified.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

These are the recommendations for how to carry out the objective identified above

5. IMPLEMENTATION:

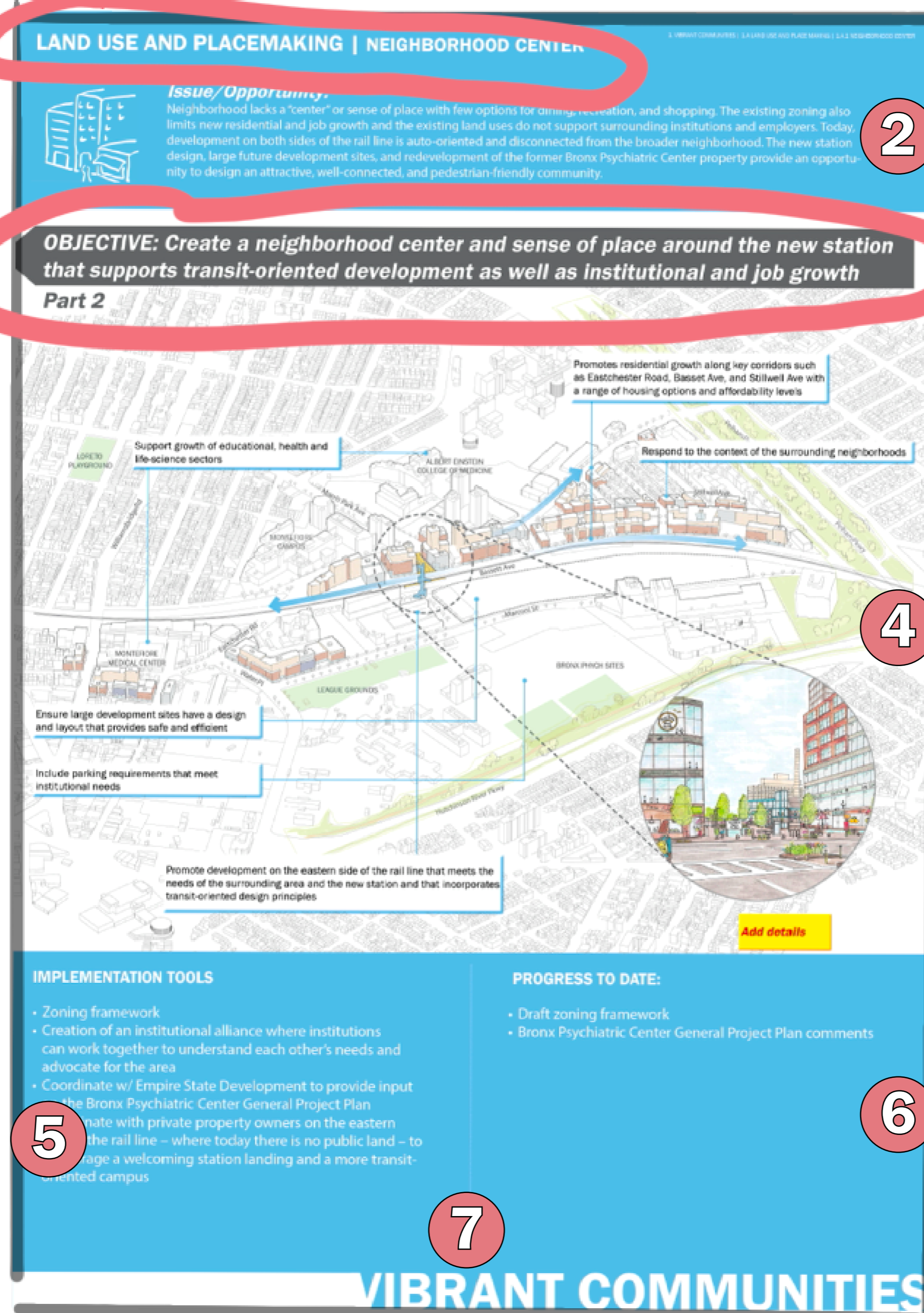
This section identifies how and by whom the above recommendations might be addressed

6. PROGRESS TO DATE:

This section identifies the progress to date the city has made, over the course of study, to advance certain recommendations.

7. SECTION TITLE:

This bar identifies which of the three major categories or recommendations (Vibrant Communities, Working Communities, or Connected Communities) you're in. Each of these categories is also associated with its own color (blue, purple, and orange, respectively)



ACRONYMS

HPD - Housing Preservation and Development
DPR - Department of Parks and Recreation
DOT - Department of Transportation
MIH - Mandatory Inclusionary Housing
TOD - Transit Oriented Development
BID - Business Improvement District

FDNY - Fire Department
NYPD - Police Department
DCLA - Department of Cultural Affairs
MTA - Metropolitan Transportation Authority
FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency
ZCFR - Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency

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CONTENTS

1.VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

- A. LAND USE AND PLACEMAKING
- B. STATION AREA AND ACCESS
- C. COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vibrant Communities, which relates to how we plan for growth while celebrating who we are

2.WORKING COMMUNITIES

- A. CONNECTING TO THE REGION
- B. JOB PREPAREDNESS

3.CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

- A. VEHICULAR ACCESS
- B. PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ACCESS

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

CO-OP CITY

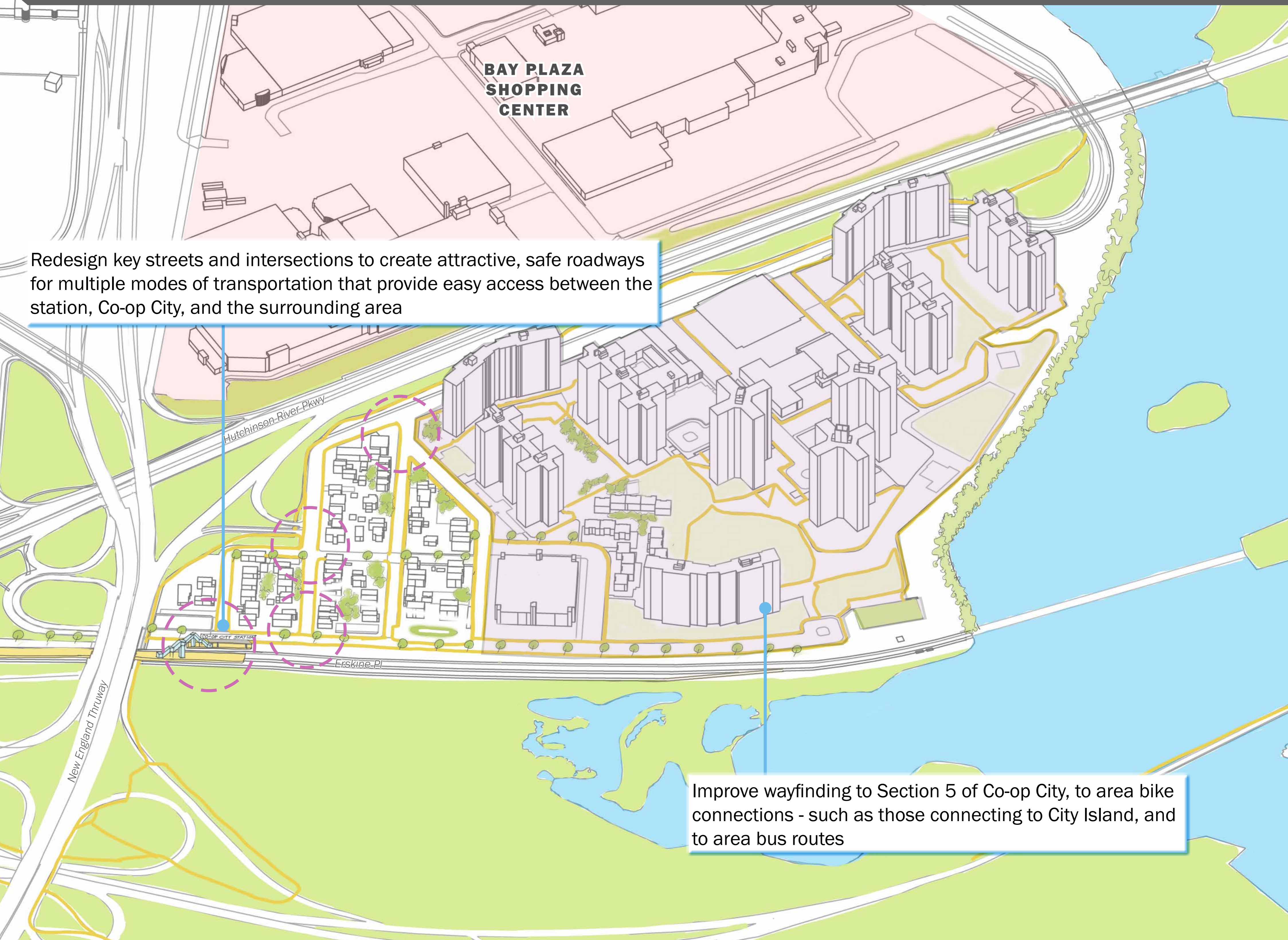
OBJECTIVES:

1. Encourage welcoming public connections to and from the station area
2. Thoughtfully integrate new station into the surrounding neighborhood
3. Promote fair, transit-oriented development that benefits all residents
4. Honor the area's history and promote public art

Issue/Opportunity:

Today Erksine Ave lacks sidewalks and pedestrian lighting and is not ready for future passengers

OBJECTIVE: Encourage welcoming public connections to and from the station area



Redesign key streets and intersections to create attractive, safe roadways for multiple modes of transportation that provide easy access between the station, Co-op City, and the surrounding area

Improve wayfinding to Section 5 of Co-op City, to area bike connections - such as those connecting to City Island, and to area bus routes

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS:

- Urban Design Guidelines
- DOT Street Design Manual
- City street mapping

PLANNING TEAM PROGRESS TO DATE:

- Held series of public meetings that included interactive exercises around transportation and access to develop circulation plan

STATION AREA AND ACCESS | STATION CONNECTIONS AND AMENITIES

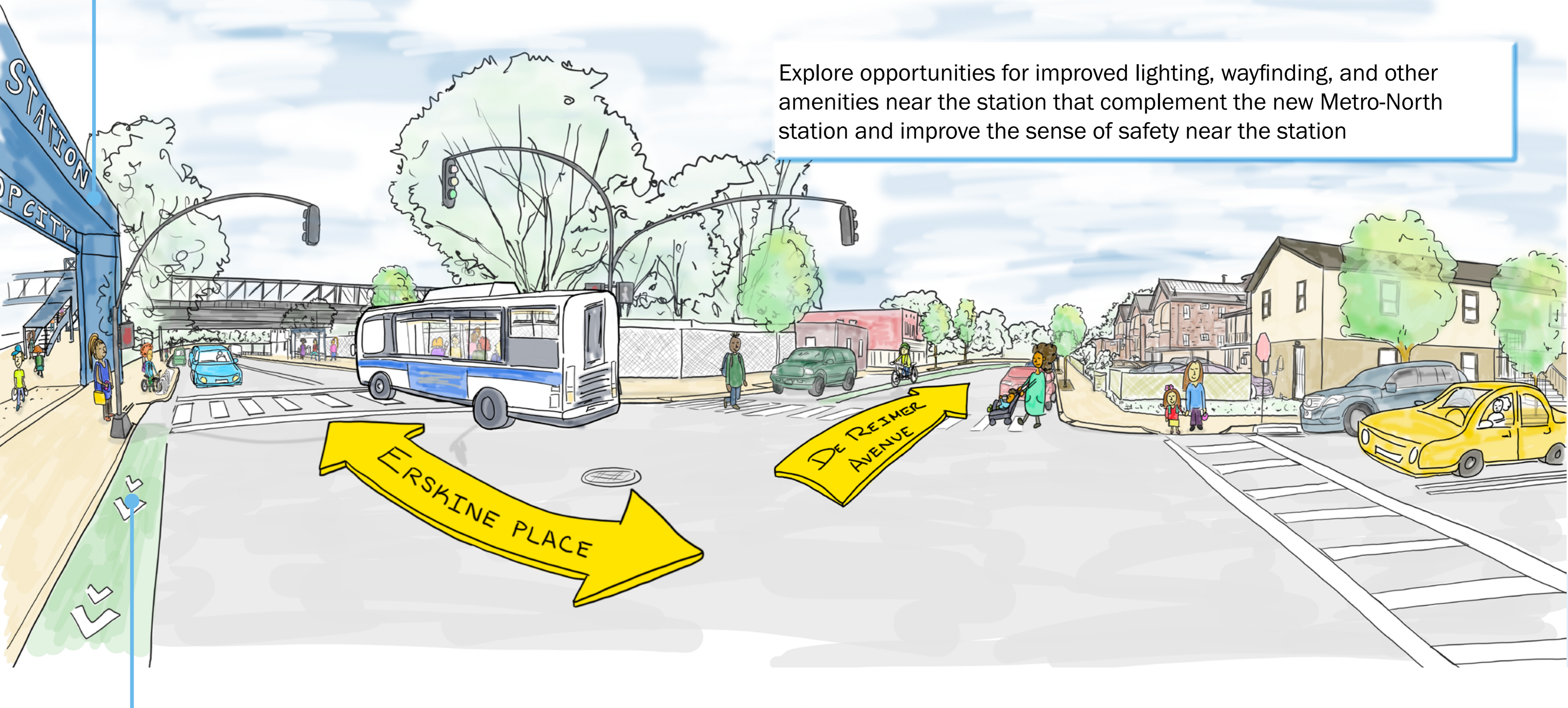
Issue/Opportunity:

The planned station location is in a remote and isolated corner of the neighborhood

OBJECTIVE: Thoughtfully integrate new station into the surrounding neighborhood

Apply best practices related to signage, art, and accessibility for station landing and street design to build connections to area bus stops and routes, area bike paths, and Section 5 of Co-op City

Explore opportunities for improved lighting, wayfinding, and other amenities near the station that complement the new Metro-North station and improve the sense of safety near the station



Explore opportunities for improvements to sidewalks along north side of Erskine PI and addition of new sidewalks along south side of Erskine PI

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS:

- Coordination of MTA station design and City station-area planning
- MTA design work and guidelines
- DOT Street Design Manual and toolkit

PLANNING TEAM PROGRESS TO DATE:

- Influenced preliminary stations design by MTA which included feedback from planning process
- Planning team has created a shortlist of potential improvements to pedestrian and vehicular circulation for further study

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES | EQUITABLE TRANSIT-ORIENTED

Issue/Opportunity:

Currently, Co-op City lacks regional rail transit, limiting access to important job centers and employment opportunities north of the Bronx, in mid-town, and the region. Recent studies show that households in areas with new transit-oriented development (TOD) projects had access to almost 2X times more jobs than households in areas with no TOD activity. When centered on racial inclusion and community wealth building, TOD can be a driver of positive transformation for more vibrant, prosperous, and resilient neighborhoods connected to opportunities throughout the city and region.

OBJECTIVE: Promote equitable transit-oriented development that benefits all residents, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, age, gender, immigration status, and ability



View from Co-op City



View from Co-op City

Promote the creation of quality jobs close to other stations along new planned transit service and create a pipeline connecting residents to local and regional jobs centers

Work with NYC Transit to optimize bus service to and from new Metro-North stations and along major corridors

Inventory current sidewalk infrastructure to prioritize needed improvements in pedestrian infrastructure around new stations

Improve visibility and accessibility of transit signage and wayfinding, especially for people with disabilities or for whom English is not their first language

Increase access to alternative forms of transportation for community members, including bike-share, e-bikes, and e-scooters

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS:

- MTA station design guidelines
- NYC Transit bus redesign
- Public realm design guidelines

PLANNING TEAM PROGRESS TO DATE:

- MTA preliminary station design, which is fully ADA accessible
- Ongoing work with City agencies to develop plan for connecting Bronxites to jobs

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Issue/Opportunity:

Co-op City has a unique history, and public art celebrating its history should be incorporated into the station, surrounding streets, and new developments

OBJECTIVE: Honor the area's history through public art and design



View of Co-Op City



Co-Op City under construction, aerial view, c.1970. Photograph by Charles Harbutt. NYPL

Work with local community organizations to identify opportunities for historical markers, murals, or public art elements that pay homage to the area's history

Incorporate the area's history into parks and public into area wayfinding

Continue to support the work of neighborhood organizations working to recognize and protect the neighborhood's identity, such as Riverbay, which manages the 50,000 resident Co-op City community

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS:

- MTA Percent for Arts
- DOT Art and Event Programming
- Collaboration with DCLA

PLANNING TEAM PROGRESS TO DATE:

- Engaged the community during public workshops to understand the history of the area

To voice your opinion on these recommendations, [click here](#)

To see how the study seeks to make Co-op City a:

***Working Community*, [click here: \[links to pdf\]](#)**

***Connected Community*, [click here: \[links to pdf\]](#)**

To return to the Remote Open House, [click here](#)

