

Community Board 1, Queens - Board Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2024

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Welcome to the Tuesday, March 19th meeting of Community Board 1, Queens.

We're going to be starting with a presentation from Parks. We'll then be going into our Public Hearing Session regarding a rezoning on 31-17 12th Street. We'll then move into our Business Session. We'll hear from our elected officials or representatives and then a public session where the public can come and speak for 2 minutes about any concern or idea or whatever it is that they may want to talk about. So, with that, let's begin with our presentation from Parks.

Presentation

Alex Servos, NYC Parks Department Project Manager - Presenting Astoria Park Pool filtration system: I'm going to start off by saying that the pool is on track to open in the summer (tentatively June). We're here tonight because, as we're getting closer to opening, there is a set of doors that we'd like to propose, with a letter of support from the Community Board, that we will then also take to Landmarks.

The door is along the west elevation on Shore Boulevard. This is the existing condition along Shore Boulevard. This is the area of work that we're looking at.

Currently, which many of you already know, it has that glass block and the brick that's crumbling. We're reconstructing that entire west elevation. We put in the new louvers - we've done all the brick reconstruction and, as we were going through the construction, our contractor found that it was an ideal place to have an opening to get all their equipment into the filtration room. You'll see in some photos that are coming up, there's currently a temporary door that's made out of wood. We would like to make those permanent doors for the future, so that Parks, maintenance, and operations can access the mechanic room. These are some photos showing what's going on inside as well, and this is the proposed elevation. These are the new louvers across the elevation, and this would be the set of doors. They're 8' x 8'.

This is Shore Boulevard, and this is the location of the doors and then obviously the pool. This is a location map. Currently, that is the elevation that many of you already know. That's along Shore Boulevard - the location of the new double doors that we're looking to propose. It's in line with what's going on right now in the park. It's just a very basic steel, black double door that's flat from the outside. It's for our maintenance and operations to bring things such as lifts etc. for the new mechanical equipment and filtration systems that are inside the building.

It wouldn't be for the pool or the bath house. That's the location of the door from the street. There's many trees and shrubs, so it is somewhat obstructed. These are the temporary doors that are there currently and the opening that leads down into the mechanical room. If the new permanent doors do not go in, it would just get infilled with brick, but our maintenance operations are very fond of it being there for them because it is an ideal spot to bring in lifts and equipment that currently they don't have that access to. All the mechanicals resting outside the building are now inside. Then here's a proposed rendering of the doors. They're just black steel doors that would go there. I wish I had the image before, but it is much better inside there. It is the ideal location for the doors. There is a ramp there. These are doors that are not the best of shape, but these are currently around the park. The new doors would be in line with them - steel, basic black doors. This is the mechanical room inside. There is a lift there that they're using currently to access some of the filtration systems above. They were able to get in through those doors and down that ramp. Some more pictures of doors that are around which is why we are proposing basic steel, double doors. This is the nearby playground that was recently completed and also approved by LPC. A steel, black door is the proposed door that we're looking to put in that location. It's a very quick presentation, but it's important to show the community board for a letter of support, because our next step would be to go to landmarks to then propose this to them so that the contractor can stay on schedule and install the doors in time for the pool opening.

Q&A with the Board

Dan Aliberti : My understanding is that double doors are inherently less secure than a single door. My question is, how are you going to secure those doors and has there been a history of any vandalism or has anybody gotten in there and done any damage at this point?

Alex Servos: That's a great question. The doors we currently have there are 8'x8'. We are proposing a larger expanse for the equipment to come in easily. These doors would have no handles on the outside. They would be flush because of the chemicals and equipment that's inside. There will be no access from the outside. Maintenance would come from the inside and push them open. They'd be secure, steel doors. In terms of any vandalism or break-ins, at least during construction, I know there hasn't been, but I'm happy to follow up with our staff just to answer that question more in depth. I could definitely ask.

Chris Hanway: The purpose of replacing these doors is purely for the construction phase, or what role will it play after the pool is open and up and running and there's no more construction?

Alex Servos: So sorry if that wasn't clear. No. The doors are currently temporary. They're wooden, and so we would like to make them permanent with steel, secure doors for the longevity of the pool opening and for ease of maintenance and operations to access it.
Chris Hanway: This requires approval from Landmarks, correct?

Alex Servos: Yes. All the elements across that west elevation were reviewed and approved by landmarks. Before we do go to Landmarks, they ask that we come to the Community Board beforehand, for a letter of support.

Richard Khuzami: I have a question about what's available within the facility. You obviously have the filtration system. Is there access to any major electrical within that mechanical area that would be in case there's any other uses that may require electricity that we may look at trying to create? Like in the diving pool for performances or other types of uses that might end up going in there?

Alex Servos: I know there are separate panel boxes that are away from the wet elements in a room adjacent. I know there are panel boxes that are being installed or have been installed in the room there.

Richard Khuzami: I would love to find out amperage and things like that at some point.

Tony Meloni: Thank you for your presentation. Twenty years ago when we put the Veterans Memorial right in front of where your doors are, we had asked Parks to store some very important pavers with names of veterans, and they gave us access to that particular door. It's a no-brainer to make sure that it's secure. They did put the two doors for that reason and I don't see any issues because it's not affecting the landmark status. It's just something that's part of the actual building. I would think that, rather than have a wooden door that doesn't really offer any security, the new doors should be big improvement.

Corinne Wood-Haynes: Did you mention something about a playground?

Alex Servos: There is a playground nearby that was redone a few years ago. It has a public restroom as well.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Are there any other questions? Okay, thank you. Alex, we'll be voting on this item during the business section of the meeting. Next up we have our public hearing regarding 31-17 12th Street rezoning. Are the applicants here to do their presentation?

Not here yet? We'll give them some time. Maybe they're stuck in traffic. Hopefully they'll get here soon.

Business Session

Adoption of February 2024 Minutes

What we can do is move on ahead through our meeting. Let's start off with the adoption of the 2024 minutes. Does everyone have those minutes via email? Hopefully you had time to read through them. Would anyone like to make a motion to approve the minutes?

Motioned by Tony Meloni; Seconded by Vanessa Jones-Hall Anyone opposed? Minutes are approved.

Chairperson's Report:

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: It's been a month since the election and since then I've had a couple meetings with Florence and with Marie, helping to acclimate me and transition to make sure we're doing all of our due diligence and learning what we need to learn. So I want to thank Florence and Marie both for that.

I wanted to update you on some of the things that we are going to be doing over the next period. We will be sending out a survey to all the board members. The survey is going to ask you what committees you are interested in being on. Are you interested in a leadership role on those committees? We might be asking you just a few other questions to get your input on things.

One of the things that falls within my role is to look at committees. Every year new committee appointments are made. We are going to be getting some new board members as well. The last I heard from the Borough President's office, we have five vacant seats for this next round. That is people who either resigned or they didn't reapply. That does not include anyone who may or may not be reappointed, but we know that there are going to be five vacant seats.

I would like to start with the board members and kind of survey what your interests are so we can look at our committee structures. I will also be talking with the new committee chairs when they're appointed, about what expectations are and also provide any guidance that you may need to help with your role. Whether you're currently serving as a committee chair or whether you may be serving as a new committee chair in the future.

The other thing is that we also have the ability to appoint public members to each committee. We do have a public member now on Land Use and we do have a public member on Parks. Those are the two official public members - maybe I'm missing one - but we can appoint a public member to every committee. We are going to do an official call for applications, and also talk to the BP, because we had over 70 applications for the vacant board seats here at Community Board One.

There's a lot of people who are interested, so we are looking at those folks in case they're interested in applying to be a public member and also anyone else who may be interested.

For those of you who don't know, public members serve on committees. They can vote on the committee, but they do not vote at the full board meetings. If you want to learn more about that, you can look at our bylaws, which I encourage everybody to do. They're on our website under resources. It talks about how the board functions, including the definition of public members.

Rod has agreed to provide training for all of the board members on parliamentary procedure. We will be setting up a date for that in early May. That's for any new board members, but for all of us as well so we can dot our I's and cross our Ts on parliamentary procedure. I want to thank Rod for agreeing to do that.

The other thing I just wanted to mention is that there is a position posted for a Community Board office staff person - a part-time position. It is posted on the Queens Gazette and Queens Post website. You can send the link to anyone you may know. You can also ask Florence if you need the job description. It is a part-time position and it's for a Community Aid to assist Florence and the office with all sorts of things.

If you need to contact me, please do. I encourage you to. If you have any thoughts, ideas or concerns, you can email me about those as well. I'm happy to also give any board member my cell phone number if you need it. Please come and see me after the meeting.

District Manager's Report

DM Florence Koulouris: Thank you, Evie. Good evening board members. It's so good to see you all again. During the recent month at the borough cabinet, there was a presentation from Animal Care Centers of New York. They will be opening a brand new 50,000 square foot facility in Queens, 19-06 Flushing Avenue, Ridgewood. In the handout it informs you of their other locations. It is also reported that Long Island city has the highest proportion of dogs per capita - 180 licensed animals with 4,702 people. This is about one dog for every 26 people. Please look at the handouts that have been provided to you.

Our office recently received Principles of Good Design. We have printed out a copy for you to retain for your review and for your records. This is an illustrated guide book that is intended to assist New Yorkers from all walks of life.

Our office additionally received a flier for an event to occur on March 25, 2024 at Riis Neighborhood Settlement. This will be related to power and energy. This will be a public Workshop to reimagine Ravenswood. So please see it in your packet.

Our office is continuing to hear concerns from the Steinway Industrial Business Zone. Our office has been working hand in hand with the task force from the Mayor's Office. Their most recent follow up with our office has stated active recaps: a total of 10 Vehicles were removed and a total of three summonses were issued. The breakdown is as follows: 13th Street, 33rd Avenue, 34th Avenue: five vehicles removed, three summonses issued, one RV towed, one bus violation, one bus voluntarily removed, one occupant accepted services from the Department of Homeless Services. 43rd Street, 19th Avenue to 20th Avenue: one RV voluntarily removed. 46th Street, 19th Avenue to 20th Avenue: one RV was voluntarily removed.

Finally, if your smoke alarm still uses removable batteries, be sure to change them twice a year. A great reminder is changing batteries on the day the clocks are changed for Daylight Savings Time, which just passed. Please consider replacing these alarms with the ones that contain sealed 10-year batteries as soon as possible. Smoke alarms save lives. If you experience a fire when leaving, please always remember to close the door. This also is a life-saving action.

Our office continues to work with New York City agencies to remedy the concerns of the public. As always, please feel free to call or email with questions, concerns or complaints.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you so much Florence. I just want to check -are the applicants here? They're still not so we're going to keep going. Next up we have committee reports.

I just want to double check that we have 26 people here. Just so we can take a vote if we need to. We do. We are going to start off with the airport committee, but I believe Rosemary is not here. Business Economic Development - we will be appointing a new chair soon for that committee.

Committee Reports

Consumer Affairs Committee Report

Dino Panagoulas: Everyone, happy Tuesday. Really quickly, the last board meeting there was a discussion and concerns about a business in the area - Code. One of the things that Florence did immediately after the meeting was to call the owner of Code and we actually brought that owner in. He brought his manager and head of security to meet with Florence. I was invited to the meeting as Chair of the Consumer Affairs committee. The 114Th Precinct was also there and there was a robust discussion about the complaints that we've been getting. NYPD also said that they are now seeing an increase in 311 complaints.

There will now be a change in the way that Code's security will operate at the end of the night - dispersing crowds outside when the club is closing. They're going to do a sporadic kind of closure, instead of saying, "It's 4:00 am, - everybody get out right now," it's going to be staged. I'm hoping, from the conversation that we had, he is a very willing participant to actually be a really good neighbor. He wants to actually hear from the community if there are other concerns. So, if there are continued items that need to be discussed about this particular business, just please bring it to Florence's attention and we will certainly take care of that.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you for doing that. I would say If there are going to be other meetings, it would be good to invite the committee members. I think other people might have wanted to ask questions since that was a concern for many people.

Dino Panagoulas: Okay, thank you. On this week's agenda and packet that Florence sent out, there are 21 businesses that are up for renewal. No concerns are being brought forth from our NYPD Partners for utilizing unnecessary city resources and no concerns on our end, so I would like to put a motion forth to approve these 21 businesses that are on this list for approval.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Do we have any questions about any of the business?

Motioned by Tony Meloni; Seconded by Rod Townsend Anyone opposed? Minutes are approved.

Frank Fredericks: Yes, Shah newsstand. I'm not familiar with newsstands having liquor licenses. Is there a story there?

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: So it's a newsstand that's on 21St Avenue.

DM Florence Koulouris: They used to call them bodegas.

Frank Fredericks: So are we approving on license and off license premises, because I assumed it was only on license, meaning, every place that serves a bottle you can take home with you were not approving. I assume it's only places that serve liquor publicly, correct?

DM Florence Koulouris: Please repeat your question.

Frank Fredericks: One is a place where you can drink there. Another is where you can buy it at a liquor store and take it home. Are we approving both types?

DM Florence Koulouris: We don't have to approve delis. I encourage them to send applications in and if they do send them in, we will vote on them. But they don't mandatorily, by law in New York, have to send them in. The corner delis normally do not have to send in beer and wine licenses. Some of them do and those that do send them in. I always put them on the lists and bring them forward to you, the board. I don't say to them, "It's not necessary for you to send it to us." If they do, we vote on it. It's a courtesy.

Frank Fredericks: Thank you for that. The only thing that might be helpful for us to determine in the future is separating off an on license, because, if we're offering the same approval to them as to a place that serves liquor on license, meaning people can drink at that place, then we're giving a news stand that ability.

DM Florence Koulouris: No, we're not. Absolutely not. The form that they fill out is a completely different mannerism in its content, so that's not the case.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: I think that's a good point, Frank. I don't recall actually ever voting for this.

DM Florence Koulouris: It's happened many times, I guess we just missed it.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thanks Frank. Maybe in the future, if that's going to be the case, just to make a footnote?

Frank Fredericks: That would be great. Maybe that's what's meant by type BC in the chart. My apology. That's why I wanted to ask because I'm still learning.

DM Florence Koulouris: It's quite alright. Sometimes we also get liquor stores which are not mandated to do it, send it in. I will never hold it back from the list. It'll always go to the chair of the committee and it'll always come to you. The board members for review.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Okay, any other questions. Thank you. Yes, Rod.

Rod Townsend: Just a point of clarification - it's on premise and off premise: not on license and off license. It just makes it clearer for everybody.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Any other questions? No. The motion is on the table and it was seconded. If you approve, please raise your hand. Any objections? Anyone abstaining? Motion carries.

Next up, we have **Education Library and Youth Services**. No report? Environmental and Sanitation - Antonella.

Environmental and Sanitation Committee Report

Antonella Di Saverio: A few months ago we had Fluoride Action Network speak at our committee meeting and we were going to propose a motion for the board. Since then, the Fluoride Action Network trial began and concluded against the EPA. We're waiting for the decision to be handed down, and then we will see whether fluoride will have to be removed from municipal waters. I'll keep you posted on that.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Health and Human Services. Judy is not here tonight. Housing - Katie - here or not here? I know that there is a housing committee meeting coming up or did that happen this past week? I was away. Next is Land Use and Zoning. I will hand it over to Liz.

Land Use and Zoning Committee Report

Elizabeth Erion: Well, this is the first, ladies gentlemen - Our applicant is not here. I think it's due to a misunderstanding. He probably figured that the committee was going to make a presentation but that is not the case. You all did receive your report yesterday. An option here - the deadline for us to make a recommendation is not until early May, so we could have them come in and make the presentation in April, if that's what you want, or you can do it on the basis of the report that was sent to each of the members.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: I feel it's good for them to make a presentation. So, unless anyone is really not wanting to see a presentation at the next meeting, we can see if they can come. We'll probably have a short meeting tonight and maybe a longer one next time so just be prepared. I think it's important that they do a presentation.

Elizabeth Erion: We'll be in touch with him to let him know what our procedure is. I just wanted to mention that we are having another meeting on April 3rd and at that time we have two applications now. One is for a Fresh Supermarket on 40th Avenue and 27th Street for which they will get additional floor area. Then there is rezoning on 30th Avenue and 42nd Street. There's a Key Food there which is going to expand and have a residential development above it. I don't remember the particulars - six stories, perhaps - R6A. I want to encourage all of you to go to the Department of City Planning's website to watch the videos. It's time consuming - each one that they have is about an hour and a half, and it's a lot of information. But what's going to come down the line for you to consider is a whole different kind of Urban Design for our neighborhood, so things are going to change and you should be aware of what's going to happen with respect to what's going to be allowed within the zoning districts coming our way. A lot of it is going to have an effect on us because we are considered a low to medium density community and that's what they're focusing on - increasing density. Especially around transit areas, and we have good access to transit. I do urge you to look at it. The first one was about affordability. The second was February 27th, which was the different kinds of housing types to be expected to come. March 27th is a new one which is missing middle housing types - I'm not sure what that means - I didn't read up on that. I'm taking it as it comes so I do recommend you look at those videos because it'll probably come to us in May at this point. We're still waiting for the draft text amendments.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: I want to emphasize trying to learn as much as you can about the "City of Yes" housing proposals. Again we don't have the text Amendment yet. We'll probably get that at the last minute as that's what happened before as well, but there's preliminary information that you can access and I do believe that Land Use and Housing are planning to schedule a joint committee meeting specifically to talk about those proposals. That's open to any board member who just wants to learn more and discuss before the board meeting as well.

Elizabeth Erion: Our next meeting is going to be April 3rd.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: We pretty much have a Land Use meeting every month. Those links to those videos were sent by Florence, but again, you can go to the City Planning website and access those videos as well.

Diana Limongi: When the city is looking at low and medium density to increase the density, are they also looking at building the infrastructure around it? Because I feel like a lot of times we talk about adding housing but not a school for all the families. I'm just using school as an example.

Elizabeth Erion: I don't know how they're handling it. I don't know if they're going to come out with new zones. Right now, when there is a rezoning and the density is increased, they do an environmental review. If the impacts are going to be higher than certain levels, then they might have to do mitigation - meaning they might have to add a school somewhere. I don't know how they're going to handle the increase at this point. I don't know if we're keeping the same zoning districts. I don't know if the zoning districts are going to be completely changed. Now, with the change in the environmental assessment, where they have a threshold of 400 units or 250 units for medium and low-density areas, if you go below 250, there's no environmental review. I'm not sure if it's been adopted yet, but there were new rules that were being put in place to increase the number of residential units that can go into a project without an environmental review which would indicate where there are impacts that would be coming from development. So we have to see how all of this is going to work out. The focus is not on preservation. The focus is not on the context of neighborhoods, it's on getting more units built in the city.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you for that question, Diana. I actually think that's important for the education committee to look at as well. I know that we kind of talked about it. When Innovation Queens was happening, they didn't think a school needed to be built. Yet there's going to be several thousand people being added to the neighborhood through that. So I think talking with the office of enrollment and school construction and seeing what the blue book says is really important. Also to call out those questions during the Land Use process as well.

Tony Meloni: As far as the LaGuardia Shopping Center project is concerned, are they going to allow the existing businesses to stay to build over them, or are they going to make them go out and build up?

Elizabeth Erion: At the last meeting we had a presentation by the group that owns the LaGuardia Shopping Center. They have a proposal to rezone most of the block. Only the industrial buildings on the corner of 23rd Avenue are excluded from the rezoning. R7A was the zone they were asking for which is comparable to the mega development across the street. Eight stories. They're talking about 400 plus residential units and they're doubling the retail. Their intent is to build the majority of the building where the existing retail is because, they claim that they built it when they first built that center - they built the foundations to support an eight-story building. So they knew way back when that was built that they were going to redevelop in the future. I mean it was a smart move business-wise. However, across the street we have one and two story single family homes, and eight stories, on a narrow street, is going to really have an impact on the surrounding area. The committee does have issues with the size of the development. To answer your question with respect to the retail, they're going to have a corridor in the center with retail access on both sides. The supermarket is supposed to remain where it is at the end of the road. The development is not in its final stages. They have not filed it with City Planning as yet and I don't know how long down the line they're thinking. By the end of the year they should have it filed.

Tony Meloni: So as far as you see right now, they're looking to retain the Berry Fresh Supermarket and the other stores - or are they looking to make them go out so they can build up from the foundation?

Elizabeth Erion: Well, they're not going to be able to occupy the site while it's under construction, that's for sure. We asked about that, and their response was, "It's very difficult to maintain safety and also a construction schedule." If you have occupants on the site, phasing would take them much longer to construct the project rather than getting in there and getting it done and then having them return.

He did happen to mention that Berry Fresh was enthusiastic about having a newer and larger space. I don't know about the other tenants.

Andreas Migias: Liz, did they explicitly rule out phased building, or it was something that they were still kind of discussing? I think they wanted to kind of do it in sections where maybe they could preserve some of the businesses for as long as they can, but I got the same impression that everybody's going to have to get out of there at some point at least, but I don't think they fully gave us a picture of how that construction is going to be phased right?

Elizabeth Erion: They did say, "Maybe we can keep some people on site," but the bottom line was that I got the impression that they wanted to vacate the site so that they can get it done faster.

Richard Khuzami: I just want to bring up that they said it was a two-year construction. I don't know how many of the same businesses will be able to wait that period of time. I don't think they're going to be giving them any financial breaks, so I would not expect to see the same businesses. The other thing I want to mention - and Jerry mentioned this, the reason why they're building so much bulk on 43rd Street next to the two story homes is they want to continue to use the existing foundation. So they want to have the same shape but, to be honest with you, while they think that it would support it, Jerry actually mentioned that he knew the facilities and he had serious doubts that could happen. So there's going to be a lot that's going to have to happen with this building and I really do feel that having the bulk on 43rd Street instead of 45th is a nonstarter. It should have been focused on 45th Street where there was similar type development.

Frank Fredricks: It sounds like you're already communicating this - the interest of the community having a grocery store there, even if it's not Berry Fresh. I'm assuming we can't stipulate it, but we could certainly communicate that we'd ask for a commitment from them as well.

Elizabeth Erion: There is a supermarket on the next block on Ditmars. It's a small one - privately owned.

Frank Fredricks: I live all the way up on 79th and there's a supermarket near us which is so limited that we often have to go to Berry Fresh. If Berry Fresh goes down, it's 20 blocks for folks that often rely on it. I just want to communicate that there's a big community interest there.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: That was just a pre-information presentation to get our initial feedback. You can also watch on our YouTube channel if you want to see the presentation and hear the questions that we asked as well. I encourage everybody to read Liz's report on the Land Use items before you come to the meeting as well. But those are all great questions and I think there is a lot of community concern, specifically around the supermarket as well as the bulk.

Legal, Legislation and Parliamentary Committee Report

Rod Townsend: As Evie mentioned, there will be a training on parliamentary procedure - Robert's Rules, in May. That training will only be as good as you guys make it - as in, tell me what your questions are, because I can teach thousands and thousands of hours on Robert's Rules and you'll go to sleep, or we can make it really interesting about the things that you actually need to know. Could that be part of the survey that you're sending out?

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Absolutely. Next up we have Parks, Recreation and Cultural, but Kathleen is not here.

We do need to take a vote on whether to provide a letter of support. I think Shahanaz is the vice chair, but she's not here either. So since Kathleen is not here and the vice chair is not here either, due to holiday, I'm going to put it out there to see if we can have a motion to provide a letter of support for the door project - the presentation that was presented tonight.

Motioned by Vanessa Jones Hall; Seconded by Richard Khuzami Anyone opposed?

Any comments, discussion, anything? Raise your hand if you're in favor. Brian?

Brian Hunt: I have a quick question about the Reimagine Ravenwood on March 25th.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: That's separate. We can get to that. This is just about the letter of support for the door project. All those in favor say aye. Anyone opposed? Any abstentions? All right, passed unanimously.

Transportation Committee Report

Dominic Stiller: We had a Transportation Committee meeting where the guest speaker was Megan Molina of the New York City Transit. The topic was the MTA Queens Bus Network Redesign. It was very interesting. Six of eight of our members were there. We did some good work and learned some good things. I thought their team was very professional and I was impressed by their intent and their plans. You can see the Network Redesign on the web. Secondly, we will be having a meeting on April 15th, which is a Monday, next month, where the DOT will present and provide a presentation regarding a grant for federal funding to place an ADA compliant sidewalk and/or ramps in our community. We also hope to get some information about the Queensboro Bridge and the 31st Street bike Boulevard that's proposed. So that's on Monday, the 15th of April.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you so much, Dominic. I'm sorry I skipped over Public Safety Tony. Do you have a report?

Tony Meloni: Madam Chair, I do not.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: That's all of our committee reports. So with that, is there any old business? Any new business? Brian?

Old/New Business

Brian Hunt: In regards to the Reimagine Ravenswood Public Workshop. What Community Board involvement is there in this process? Are they going to do a presentation here as well? I know they have a project committee set up for this. I know it's going to be a long way off. They'll probably have multiple workshops, but does that involve this board at all?

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: All I know is what's on this flier. Do we have a rep from the BP's office here tonight? Yes. Maybe you can talk about it when you address the Board, but there's a whole lot of workshops going on about a whole bunch of things. So there's the one LIC, which is more City Council and City Planning. This seems like it's coming out of the BP's office. Also Riis Light and Power, which is one of the power plant companies. I think there might be fliers on the table. If not, we can put one there and people can scan the code. There's a lot of interest in development in this neighborhood so the community involvement is really important. Nothing formal has come before the board. I think these are bringing people together. We'll try and find out more - but you have the info - it's March 25th 6:30 to 8pm.

Stella Nicolaou: I wanted to ask about the animal shelter. I heard that it's pretty much going to be located in Rego Park, which is very far from here. We have such a huge animal population here and we do a lot of volunteer work on our own. It's exhausting. Is it possible to get a smaller extension here in Astoria or Long Island City? We have so many ferals and I know me and another teacher have done so much over the years - literally picking them up, using our pocket money, finding homes, having to go to Manhattan when they would allow us to leave them, if not, going very far just to find a home for these animals. I can understand needing 50,000 square feet in Rego park, but there must be a way we could have a smaller shelter here, like a sister extension.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: There's a very active community here in western Queens for sure. Cat rescue - animal rescue - animal welfare. For our elected official reps that are here tonight, maybe that is something that you can take back to them.

Stella Nicolaou: I see a lot of groups coming here to raise money, but we totally ignore them. We're using our pocket money to really help out a block and the next block etc. It's useless when they come here unless it's for adoption. I know I see them coming up on Broadway. It's kind of sad and there's no point donating to them because we need all this pocket money to take care of the animals we pick up individually and we're not necessarily a group we're just a community and we help each other.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Every fall we put together our capital requests. So remember when that meeting comes, Stella, you might want to get other members of the community to come in and advocate to put that on the list.

Richard Khuzami: A couple things I wanted to bring up with the Old Astoria Neighborhood Association that is coming up. It's related to what Stella was just talking about. On the 27th we're going to be having a virtual meeting. We put together a volunteer group for a new dog run in Whitey Ford Field down in Hallet Peninsula. The volunteers - and we have 45 of them - which is not bad, will be addressed by Partnerships for Parks. We will have this online. We don't have the specifics now, but if you just Google Old Astoria Neighborhood Association you should be able to find out the link to that.

Also on April 18th, we're co-sponsoring an event with the Champagne Hudson Power Express - a discussion on the installation of the power lines. It's open to the public. It'll be at St George's Church on 27th Avenue and 14th Street. This will be a discussion on how they're going to be laying the power cables down from up around 20th Avenue on down to the Con Ed facility down on Vernon Boulevard. So that'll be hitting Shore Boulevard, 14th Street, Vernon Boulevard, it'll affect the neighborhood a lot. It will affect traffic.

Frank Fredricks: I know I've been a little chatty today. Just two quick things for anyone celebrating Ramadan Kareem. I think it ended about 15 minutes ago, so I hope folks are breaking their fast. Secondly, anyone celebrating the Persian New Year, today's the day. So excited that we have both holidays at once. I just wanted to wish that to the community.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Next up, we are going to hear from representatives from our elected officials. If you would like to speak, we're going to ask you for two minutes. Please sign in, say your name and obviously what office you represent.

Elected Officials / Representatives

Brian from the Office of the Public Advocate: Just as a reminder, heat season is from October 1st to May 31st. Indoor temperatures must be at least 68 degrees during the day when outdoor temperatures are below 55° and 62 at night. Report issues to your building management or 311 if they occur.

Free tax preparation is available for eligible New Yorkers. The deadline to file a tax return for your 2023 taxes is April 15th 2024. You can find out more about that at nyc.gov/dca.

Continue to protect yourself and others from Covid-19. New Yorkers can sign up for an updated Covid-19 vaccine as well as flu shot at vaccinefinder.nyc.gov. New Yorkers can also sign up for free PCR tests at on.nyc.gov/covidexpress

Just some legislative updates as well. Public Advocate Williams recently released a review of the response to the arrival of migrants in the city from all levels of government, including our own office. In the review, he calls for New Yorkers to reject the false assertions and attacks about the migrant population in the city and instead extend the compassion that is at our City's core and history. You can read more about that review, which includes a chronological timeline of city, state and federal action to address the arrival of asylum seekers on our website advocate.nyc.gov.

The council recently held a hearing on the Public Advocate's bill to prohibit discrimination in issuing credit and mandate transparency in the process. The bill could help hundreds of thousands of people applying for mortgages, small business loans and other types of credit, as well as protect groups of people in the city that face historical discrimination and unfair treatment when it comes to banking, home ownership and access to financial opportunities. You can always reach out to our office at gethelp@advocate.nyc.gov or by calling 212 669-7252.

Shawna, Director of Community Affairs for State Senator Gonzalez: First off she wants to say Ramadan Mubarak to everyone who celebrates. She's really looking forward to joining celebrations all over the district, in particular in this part of Queens where celebrations are ongoing and plentiful.

On March 25th, from 2:00 to 5:00pm we'll have our office hours monthly event at Astoria Houses in their Community Center. If you have any state level issues or even city level, we're more than happy to help, and we are more than happy to pass on anything that could be a federal issue, like immigration, onto your correct representatives in Congress or the Senate.

We've been doing a lot of school visits around the district lately - not only to make connections, but also to hear about any needs that they have for capital and infrastructure issues. If you have a local school that needs funding for things like HVAC systems, or doors that are not working, please feel free to reach out to us and I can walk you through what the process is like to apply for funding from our office. We're more than happy to help to upgrade our schools.

We had a really nice event with Urban Upbound recently and they're doing their free tax prep event this week.

The senator is really fighting hard in Albany right now for the budget we're coming up to the end - it should be done hopefully, April 1st. It usually ends up going a smidge longer, but she's fighting really hard for things that help, not only our district, but districts all over the state, particularly with technology and internet issues. With Wi-Fi and broadband and stuff like that, but also things like housing, which is incredibly important, especially for places like this.

Last but not least, we're attending the Queens bus design meeting that was mentioned earlier. We're fighting for the Long Island City to Midtown bus route, but if there's anything that you see as a gap in the Queen's bus system that you would like to have redesigned, please reach out to us. I'm going to leave a stack of cards over here and you can email me. Because the congestion pricing is going to be coming up really soon we're trying to get a more accessible way for people to get into Midtown.

Tiffany, Congresswoman Nidia Velasquez. Happy Women's History Month. Two points of legislation that she introduced into Congress: one act is supporting America's young entrepreneurs Act of 2024. This act aims to provide loan cancellation for founders and employees of small business startups. This act also establishes a young entrepreneur business center. Another act that she introduced was the Survivor Financial Safety and Inclusion Working Group Act. This act aims to increase support for domestic violence survivors experiencing economic abuse.

Community Project funding - the Congresswoman was able to secure \$11 million dollars for her congressional district. Some Queens district allocations that she was able to provide funding for were \$9 Million Reasons Evangelical Church, Queens, Economic Development Corporation, Queens Together and Sunnyside Community Services. I also put out some fliers there if you want to take a really detailed look at everything that she got Congressional allocations for this fiscal year.

Congress still does not have a clear guidance as to how our constituents can apply for funding. On Friday they are supposed to be voting on the other half of the funding bill, but you can come to me afterwards if you want to sign up. It's not up on our website yet because we do not have any guidance yet from the Appropriations Committee, but if you would like to come to me to have a Community Project funding request started, we could do that. Just come to me and I could provide you with that information. Lastly, if you wanted to check it out, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 is on congress.gov. You could see exactly what was funded.

Tessa, Councilmember Tiffany Caban. We will be having another Community Citizenship Now event at our office on Monday, April 1st, so there'll be an attorney coming to our office to answer immigration questions. If you know of anybody that would like to come they can call our office.

We're going to be holding an event in Elmhurst on April 6th from 10 a.m. to 2pm, also Community Citizenship Now. If you know anybody that is requiring assistance with assessing eligibility for naturalization, it's going to be an event regarding that.

We'll be having our Astoria Houses satellite office hours, March 25th from 2 to 5pm. Participatory Budgeting is coming up April 6th - April 14th, so there'll be voting sites whatever weekend days are in there and then there'll also be the opportunity to vote online. We're going to be sharing the link shortly for the projects that are on the ballot which our constituents want to see funded in our community. We're also going to be hosting a paper shredding event at Astoria Park on April 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. limit five boxes per person. I know my mom would bring more than that, so just bring five. We're also going to have an unlocking doors event in association with HPD, where they're going to be talking about their unlocking doors pilot program which provides \$25,000 in qualifying repairs for up to 400, rent stabilized homes that are currently vacant and unavailable for rent. So if you want to come and learn more about that, just call our office.

Legislative updates: we've reintroduced 25 bills and resolutions that were considered last session, so we're working on those again and we're also in the middle of preliminary budget hearings this month and the council member is going to be questioning and hearing testimony at hearings led by the committee on public safety, mental health, disabilities and addiction.

Javier, District Attorney Melinda Katz. The DA recently seized homemade bombs and illegally owned weapons, including assault rifles, from two brothers in Astoria in her continued effort to get guns and weapons off our streets and keep our community safer. More about that is right here in our newsletter. It's the front page of it actually. She's also working with local precincts to tackle the issue of illegal scooters that are being used to commit violent crime and also non-violent traffic crimes. She seized 250 last month and she'll continue to do so as the months go on. Lastly, we are still looking for RFP's - there is a flier on that table. Our Women's History Month event is next week, fliers are also on that table.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thanks Javier.

Dan Aliberti: What happens to those 250 scooters that are confiscated? Are they resold? Are they destroyed? What happens to them?

Javier: I believe they're at the precinct she's working with. It's multiple precincts. She worked with the 110th. She worked with, I believe the 115th. The precinct takes them and then I believe they probably do resell them. I could find out for you, but I'd have to contact the precinct.

Tony Meloni: I just have a point of information. As you mentioned, they do hold the scooters for a period of time until the owners can either certify that they actually are registered and they can register them at the time, otherwise they can be destroyed.

Stephen Melo, Queens Borough President's Office - Immigrants Affairs Department. I want to remind everyone that our applications to become a Community Board member are now closed. We have conducted our interview process and we are in the final stage before appointing. I am proud to announce that we received 592 new applicants throughout the borough and 845 total applications, including reapplications. Not our personal best, but we still have a solid number. All applicants, whether appointed or not, will be notified by the beginning of April. If you have any questions, please reach out to our director Kahlil Bragg at kbragg@queensbp.org

When it comes to events, we have March 25th the Irish heritage celebration event. It's going to be located in Sunnyside Community Services which is located at 43-31, 39th Street, Sunnyside. On Thursday April 4th at 6 PM it will be at Queensboro Hall our Baki celebration.

When it comes to Ravenswood, it's the Ravenswood Regeneration Station site and the neighborhood around it. The study was supported by Riis Light and Power, the site owner, and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. The aim of the study is to help the community plan and benefit from the Ravenswood generation station transition from a fossil fuel plant to renewable energy. I will be giving anyone that has any questions the email of the person that could answer more specific questions.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Could you provide that email for the record because I just noticed that City Planning doesn't seem to be involved, so I'm just curious as to why they're not.

Stephen Melo: The email is kbrezler@queensbp.org

Kazi, Office of Assemblymember Steven Raga. We have some quick updates to share with you all. We have introduced A9358, which revises the New York State Veterans, Memorial and Monument registry to make it easier to navigate and includes deadlines for the submission of memorials and monuments as well as for updating the registry. Additionally, we have introduced A9051 which would enact a study of the Guardians of Littles Programs. The study aims to examine the usage of the program by New Yorkers and assesses the feasibility of expansions and wage increases. The program is vital for ensuring the well-being of our neighbors and helps them to stay in their home. The Assembly has also adopted the one budget resolution today. We are currently reviewing the proposals, but we are pleased to see inclusions.

As for upcoming events, our office is currently offering tax preparation services in partnership with Urban Upbound. Appointments will be available on Saturdays. Please call our office to schedule an appointment and to take advantage of this valuable service. We also have an event coming up and we are thrilled to share this with you - it's for the annual Woman of Distinction Award ceremony which will be held on March 23rd at Elmhurst Hospital from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. We hope you can celebrate with us.

Megan, Community Affairs Unit, Principal Director: Before I give my quick update I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Community Board members and offer congratulations to our new chairs. Also, a big shout out to our District Manager, Florence. Thank you for your amazing work.

There are few updates. March is Women's History Month, so the Mayor's Office is committed to leading gender equity with the Women Forward NYC Action Plan. You can go to the website. It's called Women.NYC. This is the one-stop shop website where you can learn more about the action plan and access more resources to support women and families.

The second update is about the NYC school bus app. This is the citywide app. You can download this app and it allows parents to track the bus trips in real time. Another update is about the neighborhood supporting team. This initiative is driven by input from the local community to identify quality of life issues. The application process is on the website. Once you submit the link, you will go through the vetting process. There are three per borough. Once we identify those three neighborhoods, it's going to establish a team to meet with the city agencies and the community members and have these action plans to address those issues.

Angela, Office of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio Cortez: Earlier this month, the Congresswoman, along with Senator Durbin and Representative Mace, formally introduced the Defiance Act, a bipartisan bill that would create a civil right of action for the victims of non-consensual deep fake pornography. This is just the beginning of the congresswoman's work on regulating AI as a newly appointed member of the bipartisan AI congressional task force.

Last week, the President signed into law six government spending bills and averted a partial government shutdown. The package includes funding for 14 projects in our district, bringing home over \$12 million dollars in total for our district. Some of the projects funded include \$1 million to rebuild the playground at Astoria houses, \$1,166,279 to redevelop the Boys and Girls Club and \$1,200,000 to Malika to develop a three-story mixed use violence prevention focused Community Center here in Astoria.

Our office invites high school students to participate in the 2024 Congressional Art competition. The winner's artwork is recognized in a special reception by the Congressional Institute and displayed at the US capital for one year. The deadline to submit is April 26th at 5:00 p.m. and our office is now accepting submissions. You can visit our website to find out more information or you can email NewYork14@mail.house.gov. Feel free to reach out to me directly if you'd like to follow up about anything that I mentioned tonight - especially the art competition.

Jingo Mamud, Assemblymember Jessica Gonzalez Rojas: I just recently joined as a community liaison, so I'm very excited to become a familiar face. Now for some community events to serve our neighbors. On April 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in partnership with Public Health Solutions and AA, we will have a mobile vaccination clinic at our office located in Jackson Heights Shopping Center. They will be providing flu shots and Covid-19 vaccines free of charge for uninsured people. Our next housing clinic will be on Thursday April 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call our office to make an appointment. That number is 718 457-0384. Also, AARP will be having a paper shredding event at our office at Jackson Heights Shopping Center on Friday April 26th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and then the next day we're having another paper shredding event in partnership with Council Member Caban, on Saturday April 27th 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Astoria Park parking lot.

Some other updates, if you've been a victim of snap skimming, you could submit a claim to replace the benefits that have been electronically stolen and contact our office so that we could help you receive back your benefits. We're also hosting our e-waste drop offs as always on Mondays. Call our office so that we could help you set a time to drop whatever you have off. Things like appliances, but not batteries or air conditioners. We don't know what to do with air conditioners. The completed list is posted on our social media platform. Lastly, if you need barriers or rain barrels, call us at our office and we'll help you with that, as well.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: I just really want to acknowledge all the Reps from the elected officials. I know you work really long hours. You work really hard for the community. Can we just give them a round of applause because we appreciate you being the eyes and ears and reporting back to our electeds - and for being here so members of the public can talk to you. So thank you for that. I will say that at our next meeting, we are going to have four Land Use items. So, this is my challenge to the Reps - one minute for the next meeting. Just because, and it's great we have so many people who come, but just so that you can all get home at a reasonable hour and so we don't get kicked out of the space. So, thank you again for that. Next up we have the public session where members of the public are invited to speak. You have two minutes. Tyrone will be keeping time - our Sergeant at Arms, so we need you to make sure that you sign in, say your name and take it away.

Public Session

David Kerberg, Vice President of Bus Advocacy Passengers United. I believe that how to determine if a bus network is a bus network redesigned as a success or failure, is local riders and how they are treated as part of the redesign effort. As per MTA's presentation, 77% of riders would lose their bus stop. This is unacceptable and won't help the MTA in a Title 6 case. After all, 77% of the Queen's population is 386,000. At its short end, the B62 is proposed to serve Astoria via 21st Street. I think the B62 should not have route changes in Queens. Instead, there should be a new route to serve Astoria in Long Island City via 21st Street, and the Queens Midtown Tunnel. I will call it the Q90.

The surrounding communities have requested such a bus route for a long time in Manhattan. The Q90 would serve NYU Langone Medical Center, Bellevue Hospital and VA Hospital. Not having overnight service on the Q66 into Astoria is an abomination. I think the Q66 route path should remain untouched, except for a minor route from 35th Avenue to 36th Avenue in order to serve the N and W trains. In other words, there should be no Q63. The Q100 Limited is proposed to be replaced with the Q105 Local. Doing so would turn northwestern Astoria and part of 20th Avenue into a transit desert. The Q104 should be retained to serve eastern Astoria and the Q100 limited 20th Avenue segment. Instead of serving the F at 21st Street Queensboro Station, the Q104 in Northwestern Astoria would be more direct. It would serve the N and W trains at the Astoria Boulevard Station. We must all work together to have better bus service for Queens. I have longer versions on the table, plus my critique of bus stop balancing.

Neil Herdan, Friends of Whitey Ford Field: I am a longtime resident of Astoria for 35 years. Just a quick recap. We had a very successful event on March the 6th. We had a big cleanup involving the 114th Precinct, Frank Sinatra High School and Astoria Sports. We've been in the press in the Chronicle, thanks to Richard. We've also been featured on ONA. Richard, we've got another event for ONA April 6th. It's called pitching for Parks. This is a park organization event, not Partnership for Parks. So that's something - we've got to reassemble the same team and some more volunteers.

I want to raise something more general and I'm going to curtail this a little bit until the parks committee is in place, but I think that when you reassemble the group, you as a Community Board need to reach out to the friends groups. We're on the front lines dealing with a lot of issues. Listening to many of the events and zoom meetings in the past, there's a detachment - not from reality - but not really knowing what's going on. I would encourage you to come down, talk to the friends groups and find out what's going on in the fields. For example, we have been overrun by dogs at Friends of Whitey Ford Field - often unleashed. I don't know how many people know about that. A lot of it doesn't get reported. We've had incidents on some of the softball fields where players have been injured. Another issue that we've had, a \$250 light bulb that should have been installed 2 years ago in a ball field has not been installed. I spoke to Eric and Eric said that they are still struck trying to get the lights from China. That's all I want to say thank you.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Neil, two things I'm going to ask you to do. One is to lodge your complaints through 311 always and then call the board office as well and talk to Florence. You're signed up for the email newsletter so you know when committee meetings are happening as well. You can attend committee meetings for sure. Thank you for coming to raise those points here and all the work that you're doing.

Katha Kato, Queens World Film Festival: We're turning 14. We're opening on April 16th. We're running through the 28th with 152 films from 19 Nations - 67 from the New York metropolitan area, and there are nine filmmakers from your district. I believe that we have six of them here. I was just hoping that they could stand up and if everybody could just give them a round of applause. I'm so proud of them. I'm so proud to be part of the Queens World Film Festival and I just want to remind you that, from the beginning of time, we have gathered in the darkened caves around the flickering lights to share our stories. The caves have been updated, the flickering lights are now zeros and ones, but the desire and the impulse to gather remains-and it is in that darkness, when we laugh together, when we cry in unison, when we gasp in unison - it is in that darkness around those flickering lights when we discover and we remember - they is us. - them is we, and I am just another you. We will see you at Queens World April 16th at the Museum of the Moving Image and at Astoria Studios. Thank you, everybody.

Paul Sapienza: I'm just here to bring you some information. I grew up in my family home on 25-02 Ditmars Boulevard. For those of you that are familiar, it's a corner house on Crescent Street down the block from the current St John's Prep, the old Monte Cristo. My grandfather bought the house in 1924. During World War II, a local club approached my grandfather and asked if he would allow a wooden sign board to be placed in our front yard where they could add the names of the war dead. As the war progressed - that's the conclusion of the War - they asked for permission to establish a more permanent marker. On December 8th of 1946, a bronze plaque mounted on a gray Granite Stone was mounted in my family's front yard and for those who've been around for a while, you may remember that's where the veterans' parades used to terminate to a 21-gun salute. I remember they gave me shell cases, as a kid. Anyway, when my mother sold the house after the family had it for over 69 years, the new owners didn't want the plaque in the front of the house. It was removed. We tried to find a place for it at the time, but we're unsuccessful. The plaque is dedicated to the men who made the ultimate sacrifice from the neighborhood. It doesn't use the word Astoria, so some suggestions were outside the community. We thought that was inappropriate. I've had this plaque for over 30 years. I am now in the process of trying to restore it by cleaning it up and so forth, and maybe having it publicly displayed once again within Astoria. I looked at several potential locations such as parks, post offices and public libraries. One suggestion was on church grounds - although, I must admit, I can't guarantee that all these servicemen share the same faith, so that may not be appropriate. I am working to that end and someday I may come to you for

some letter of support for resurrecting this plaque in the community. But for right now, I just wanted to bring to your attention what I'm doing. I do have copies of the plaque, the picture of the house where it was located and a spreadsheet of the men who are listed. It is my intention to create a website so that people could go and, not only see the names, but find out who they were, where they lived, where they died and what battles they were in. Thank you.

Donal Cogdell, Director of Justice at Hope Astoria Church: I didn't plan to speak tonight, but I realized there is an issue that me and my community have been trying to advocate for. I go to the Ravenswood resident meetings every month, the second Wednesday and the issue is how the DOT has redesigned the 21st Street bus stops. They removed the bus stops at 21st and 36th Avenue. The issue has been for seniors and those with disabilities. I don't think there was any input from the community about the bus stop. They have to walk down a whole block to catch the bus, and it just makes travel that much more inconvenient. I have emailed and they told me it's not their responsibility, and then they refer me to the MTA or 311 and I've done that. I'm just at a place trying to figure out how we can resolve this and bring the bus stop back for the people.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you so much. I know that was brought up when they did that redesign so there was a lot of concern. I know that the MTA met recently with the transportation committee. I don't know if that stop was discussed at all during that meeting.

Athanasios Magoutas: We saw a new draft during the presentation. I don't know about that particular stop, but if you look up the Queens bus redesign on the web, there's a whole thing showing the most revised version of it. Maybe they added something back. Maybe they didn't - I don't know, but on that map you can put comments if, let's say, there's a bus stop that was lost you can say, "Hey, the community uses this stop a lot. It would be helpful to have it." They are listening. Of course, there's no promises, but you can see if something's changed between then and now at least.

Donal Cogdell: How do I get to that map?

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: We'll get that information to you, because you want to get as many people as possible to give that input. Also, please call the board office tomorrow and speak to Florence. I would also say to our elected officials, any advocacy that you can give on behalf of the Ravenswood Community would be great. Thanks, Donal, for bringing that up. I know that it's been a concern.

Victor: I have a question mostly for Youth Services. Starting last month, we've been told that, unfortunately, our budget for a summer program has been cut immensely. We've already lost a day and we've lost about 8 hours in total every week. So, my question is, is there any way to stop that budget cut or if there is any information at all, because this mostly came out of left field?

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: The budget cuts hit people really hard this year. People are very concerned about next year as well. So we do have a City Council rep here. So definitely speak to her, because our Council Member is fighting hard against a lot of the budget cuts. The more she hears from the community, the better. Also, we do have an Education/Youth Committee, that committee might want to consider a letter to the Mayor. That's just a suggestion for Diana to think about. I would say coming here and speaking in front of the Community Board is really important. Also, connecting with our elected officials and making sure they're advocating, which I know they are because I think they're in this community. Everyone's really looking out in terms of these budget cuts and how they're affecting the most vulnerable - certainly that's true for Youth and youth programs. We need them.

Chris Hanway: I run a youth serving organized nonprofit in the district. I just want to assure you that there is enormous advocacy going on around this. A lot of the umbrella organizations that represent organizations like mine, are advocating. Yesterday morning there was a large rally on the steps of City Hall before the budget meeting of the Education Committee, so I believe there will be some movement in the right direction. The tricky part is, and I know we're pressed for time, we may not find out until two weeks before the contract year begins. That is two weeks before summer camp starts, so I would definitely follow up with Councilmember Caban and Councilmember Juan's office to get updates and to add your voice to those who are seeking to overturn this ridiculous budget cut.

Dino Panagoulis: I was going to tell you the same exact thing. I work in New York City, public schools for early childhood and we've been proposed to get a cut of \$170 million. Our Deputy Chancellor was actually testifying along with the Chancellor in front of the Education Committee. Talk to your City Council Member. They're the ones who are directly going to be advocating for the needs of the community and doing this back-and-forth kind of conversation with the Mayor. So all of the elected officials I'm truly appreciative for the advocacy that they are doing for their early childhood and again for Youth Services. It's so very important. Please just continue to do that.

Adjournment

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Before I ask for a motion to adjourn, I just want to remind everybody, we're going to have a lot of land use items next month. So please read Liz's report before you come to the meeting just because a lot of info will be there and that can help you really hone in on any questions that you may have. I just wanted to emphasize that before the next meeting. May I have a motion to adjourn?

Motioned by Dino Panagoulis; Seconded by Juliet Payabyab. All in favor. Any opposed? Have a good night.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 p. m.



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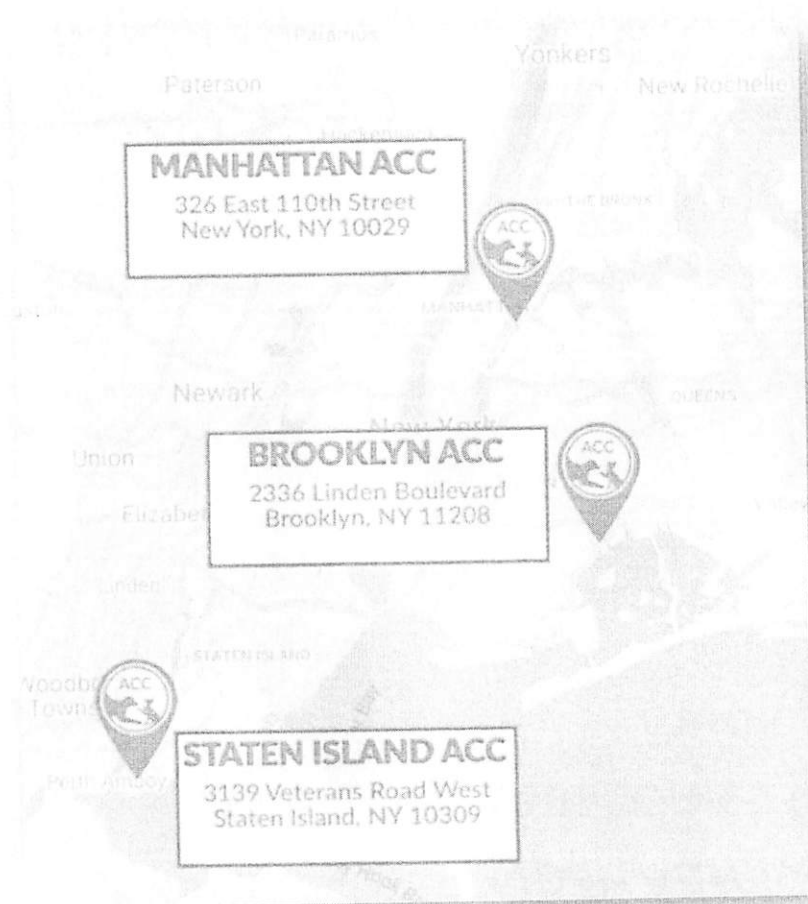


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OUR ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY





OUR ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

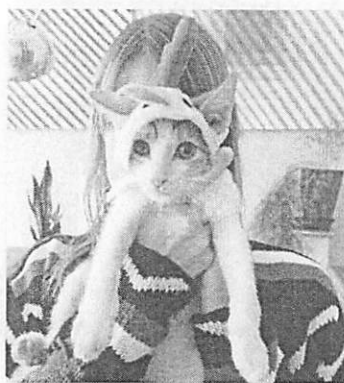
Fostering Saves Lives



Reasons we place animals into foster care

- Age/weight
- Moms with nursing litters
- Sickness
- Injured
- Stressed in the shelter

This is such an important way to help our animals by providing them with a temporary home until we can find placement.





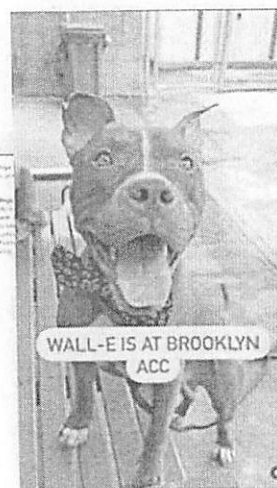
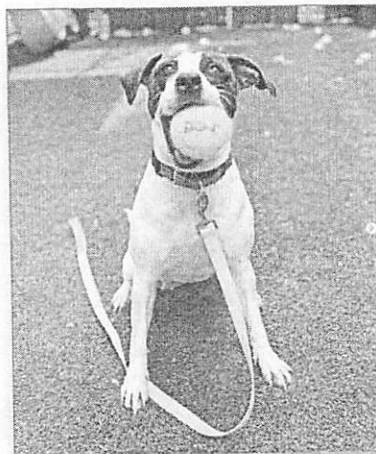
OUR ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer Program



Volunteers are a crucial part of ACC

- Over 350 volunteers come to the shelters to provide companionship and exercise for the hundreds of pets in our care
- In 2023 volunteers logged in 36,000 hours of service
- Many videos/photos of our pets are from volunteers!





STATISTICS

<https://www.nycacc.org/about/statistics>

COMMUNITY REPORT • YEAR END 2023

Proud to Serve the People and Pets of NYC



KEEPING PETS IN HOMES

3,915

Surrender
Preventions

1,373

Boroughbreds
Returned Home

3,245

Community Pets
Vaccinated/Chipped



IN SHELTER CARE



33,485

Vaccinations
Administered

6,579

Specialized Surgeries
for ACC Animals

15,427

Companion
Animals Taken In

FINDING PETS HOMES

6,394

Public
Adoptions

4,489 1,444 461

6,115

Placed with
Rescue Partners

3,449 2,168 498



ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY



1,639

Boroughbred
Foster Placements

135

New Hires
on Team ACC!

32,136

Hours of Work
by ACC Volunteers

SHOWCASING BOROUGHBREDS

41.9 million

Profiles Reached Across
Social Media

386k

Social Media
Followers

103

Community Kids
Presentations



Placement Rate: Dogs 89% Cats 91% Rabbits 95% Guinea Pigs 99%



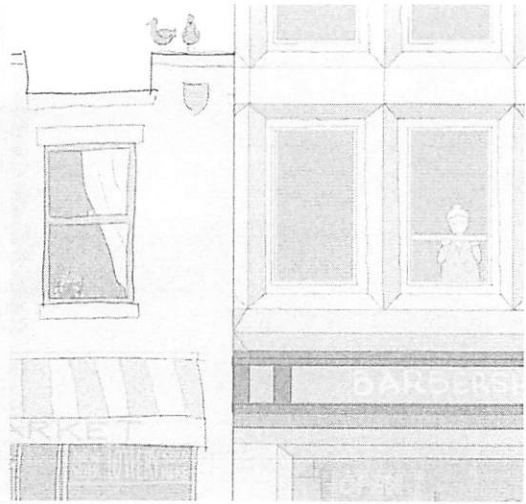
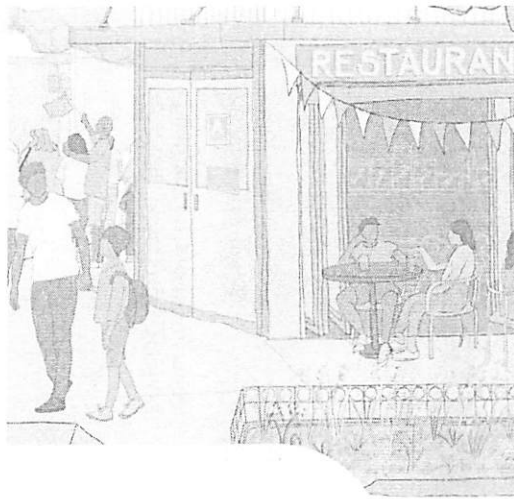
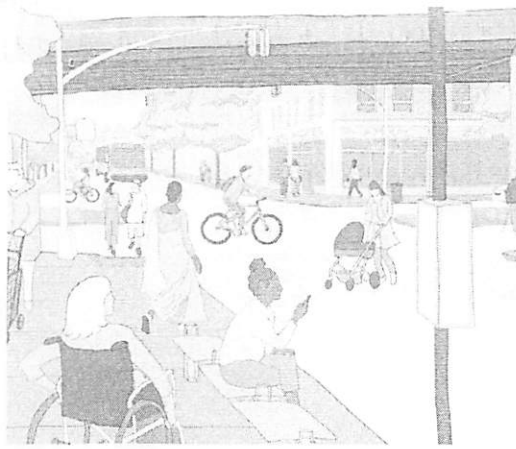
HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Visit our website and encourage others to do the same
- Subscribe to our Boroughbred Bulletin Newsletter
- Download our mobile app 'ACC of NYC'
- Follow us on social media and share our promos!
- Become a foster or volunteer! (orientation dates posted on website)
- #ThinkGlobalAdoptLocal

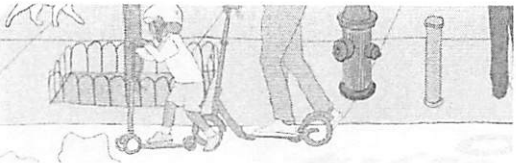
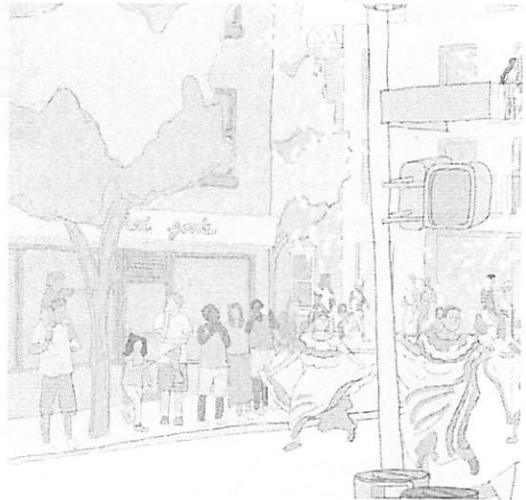


@NYCACC





PRINCIPLES *of* GOOD URBAN DESIGN *for* NEW YORK CITY



A tool for everyone interested in creating better neighborhoods through design.

NYC
PLANNING

Principles of Good Urban Design for New York City

The City of New York
Mayor Eric Adams

Department of City Planning
Daniel R. Garodnick, Director



March 2024
www.nyc.gov/planning



There's no question that urban design impacts the lives of all New Yorkers. Whether it's the buildings we live in, the streets we cross, the parks we play in, or broader issues of housing, climate adaptation, public space, or transit accessibility, questions of design are always at stake.

It's with this context in mind that the Department of City Planning (DCP) created the *Principles of Good Urban Design* guidebook, which explains New York City's urban design principles, so New Yorkers can use them to advocate for positive change in their neighborhoods and across the city. The guidebook is the result of a multi-year public engagement process and reflects the input of a wide variety of stakeholders, including over 1,500 New Yorkers who submitted feedback online. Inclusive design requires a shared, accessible framework and this guidebook reflects that.

Indeed, making our guidelines clear and accessible is a central priority of ours. It's the driving force behind new digital tools we've created that put planning data at New Yorkers' fingertips, as well as our ambitious *City of Yes* proposals to replace outdated 20th-century zoning regulations with clear, sensible rules that meet our 21st-century needs. NYC's *Principles of Good Urban Design* were created in the same spirit.

In addition to explaining *The Principles*, this guidebook illustrates how they are put into practice with real-world examples of high-quality urban design. These include the recently-opened Sendero Verde in Harlem, the world's largest fully-affordable Passive House building, and the East New York Neighborhood Plan, a collaboratively-developed roadmap for new housing, economic development, community services, and public spaces in a historically-underinvested neighborhood.

As these projects demonstrate, good urban design not only improves the built environment and enhances our daily lives, it can also bring us together into conversation and collaboration, and it can help make our city a more equitable, resilient, and affordable place to live.

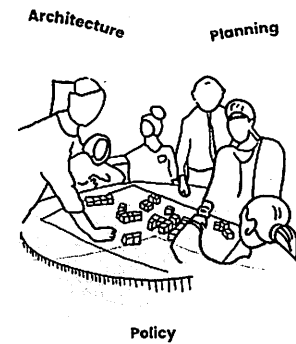
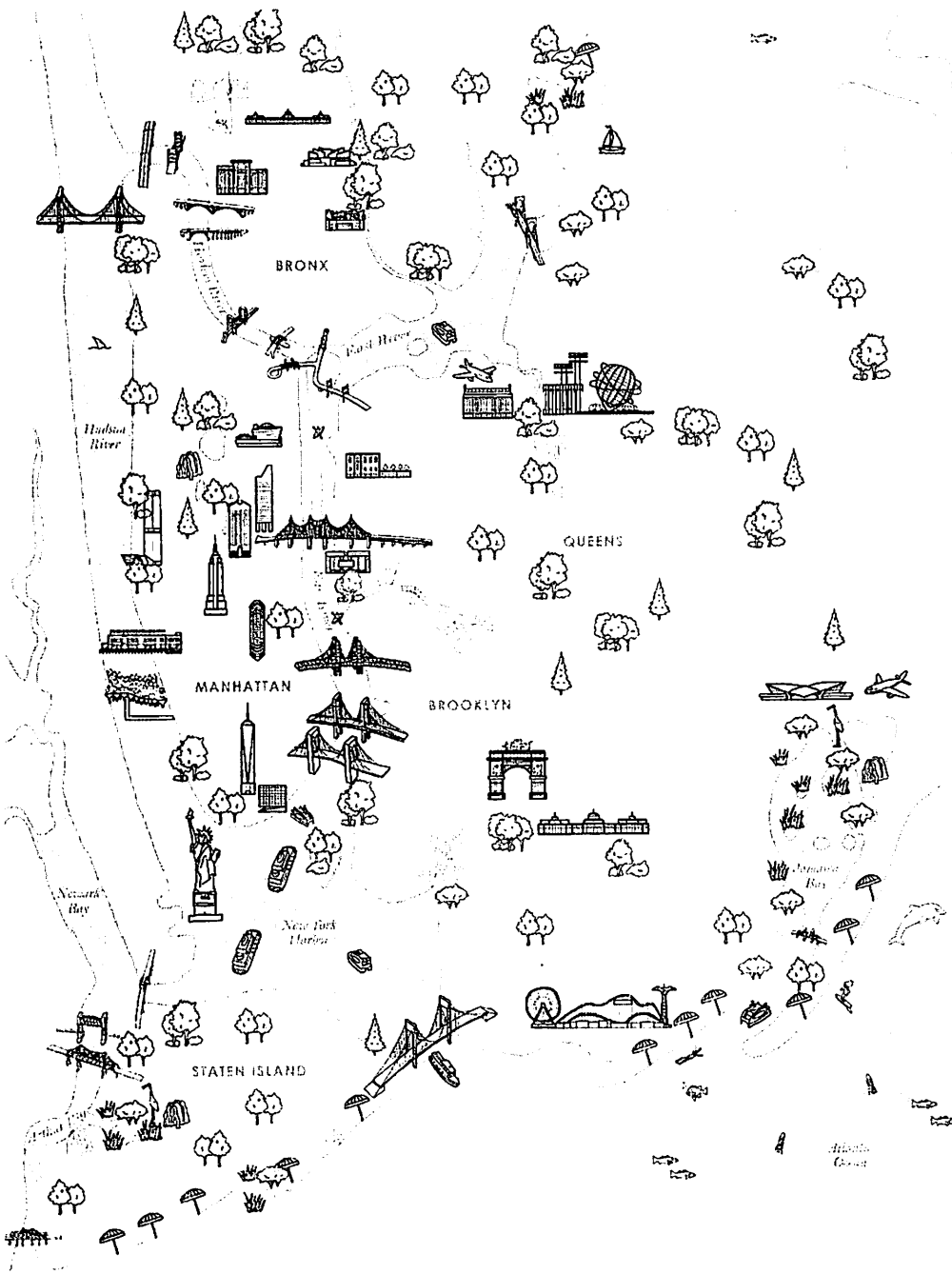
In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel R. Garodnick".

Daniel R. Garodnick

Director, New York City Department of City Planning (DCP)
Chair of the City Planning Commission (CPC)



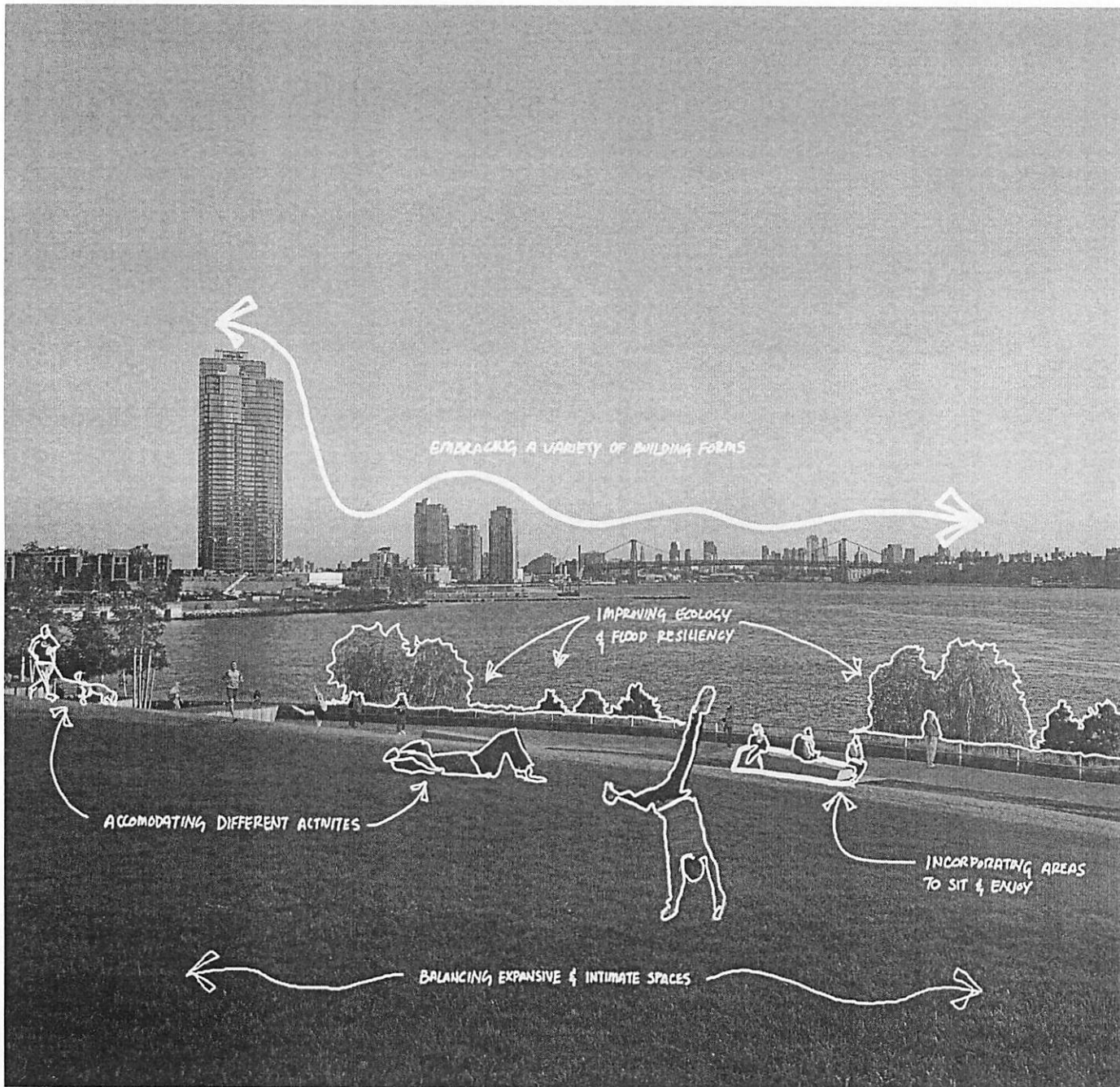


Preamble

The NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) helps shape a more livable city by advocating for high-quality design of the built environment. At DCP, urban design work happens at the intersection of architecture, planning, and policy. It entails:

- Incorporating design best practices into city policies
- Critiquing design proposals from private developers to promote better design throughout the city
- Helping to define a clear vision for the built environment during neighborhood planning efforts
- Creating civic engagement tools to get people more involved in urban design and city planning
- Supporting the work of other city agencies by providing urban design analysis and expertise
- Conducting design research to stay current with and get ahead of development trends

The role of urban design in NYC has become more fundamental in planning processes and political discourse throughout the past two decades. Collectively we must strive for our planning and policy objectives to be designed with care and attention to detail, doing so in a coordinated fashion across city agencies, and by working with shared values. It is our aim that the *Principles for Good Urban Design* can serve as this bridge.



CONTENTS

1 Urban Design in NYC (pages 1-12)

A primer on urban design and introduction to this guidebook.

2 The Principles (pages 13-32)

Illustrations, language, and objectives to explain how to achieve better design outcomes in all parts of the city.

3 The Principles in Place (pages 33-48)

Real-world project examples to showcase how *The Principles* take shape in different spaces across the city.

4 Resources and Acknowledgments (pages 49-60)

Resources, references, and terms to learn more about urban design and get involved in planning projects.

Opposite page:
Hunter's Point South Park - Long Island City, Queens



1

URBAN DESIGN IN NYC

As we move through the city, our physical surroundings play an essential role in our daily encounters and how we feel. The design of streets, buildings, plazas, parks, and other shared spaces influence choices for how we get around and affect our experiences, whether positive or negative. This chapter describes how urban design relates to our daily experiences and establishes why good urban design is fundamental to improving the quality and functionality of spaces across NYC.

Chapter Contents

- What Is Urban Design and Why Is It Important?
- Purpose of *The Principles*
- Who Should Read This and What Can You Expect to Learn?

Opposite page:
1185 Broadway Plaza - NoMad, Manhattan

What Is Urban Design and Why Is It Important?

Urban design is the process of shaping buildings, streets, and open spaces to make the city more functional, beautiful, and well-connected. It considers how people experience places throughout the city, ensuring that their surroundings support a healthy lifestyle and provide them with opportunities to thrive. Urban design takes into account systems such as transportation, infrastructure, parks and public space, among others, as well as community priorities to make sure that NYC's built environment is well-coordinated and responsive to local needs. While design is a component of urban planning, it is inherent to every project.

What are the present planning challenges?

NYC is a dynamic and vibrant world capital. It is a city in constant change, re-inventing and adapting itself to meet the demands and challenges of the present while keeping an eye towards the future. This has always been the reality for NYC, and recent years have been no different. The city faces a housing shortage that continues to drive up housing costs, greater frequency of major storms, the aftermath of a pandemic that highlighted supply chain vulnerabilities, congestion and safety issues on the city's roadways, as well as inequities and structural racism. These challenges are being tackled by city agencies, elected officials, civic groups, community advocates, and the private sector. They are also the basis for DCP's planning priorities and sit as the backdrop for any project under consideration at the City Planning Commission.

In NYC, planning happens at various scales, from a single residential building to a neighborhood plan, or initiatives with citywide implications. No matter the theme or scale of the project, input comes from many stakeholders (politicians, community groups, private interests, etc.) who round out a process that can be quite complex. Urban design should be central in discussions between these groups as it is integral to how we plan the future of NYC.

Why does NYC need good urban design?

A thriving city invests in its people and the positive experiences it can bring to them. Good urban design makes people feel safe, comfortable, and engaged as they move around. When urban design is an afterthought, people may find themselves surrounded by unattractive buildings, flood barriers that block them from seeing the waterfront, unsafe street conditions, and policing structures that prevent them from en-

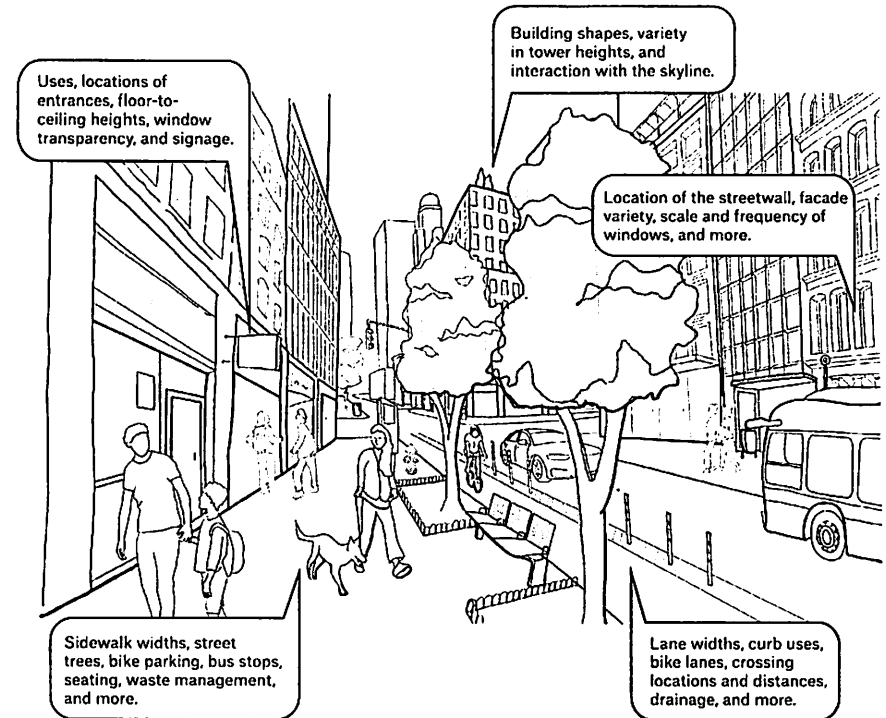


Illustration above: Common physical features of city block that are informed by urban design.

joying public spaces. NYC needs good urban design not only to enhance our quality of life, but also to address the present and future challenges: improving our public space network, creating new housing that is attractive, protecting us from storms and other climate disasters, expanding the options for how we get around, ensuring equitable enjoyment of the city, and more.

How to think like an urban designer

Good urban design is at its best when anyone interested in shaping their surroundings feels welcome to speak up. Use the examples below to think like an urban designer and advocate for more people-centered design in your neighborhood.

Urban designers do not singularly focus on the design of a building or an open space. They think about how a building relates to the block and how it can make a valuable contribution to a neighborhood or to the city. Let's say there's a building proposed in your neighborhood. When evaluating that building, think about the relationships between different scales. You can begin by picturing yourself moving down the sidewalk. You would notice how the proposed building stands in relation to the

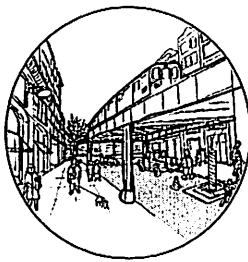
street. The ground and lower floors of the building would be most prominent from your perspective. You should assess how they relate to neighboring buildings or imagine what kinds of activities could occur on the ground floor to make the space more functional and welcoming. You should also consider whether the street is designed to support people of different ages and abilities, including those who are biking or taking public transit.

Urban design also requires thinking about how to use space efficiently and connect local strategies to larger planning goals. For instance, a small plaza sitting next to a new building often includes planting beds to make the space more appealing. At the same time, the planting beds can be part of a larger system that collects stormwater within the project site, preventing that water from entering the city's overburdened storm sewer system. You

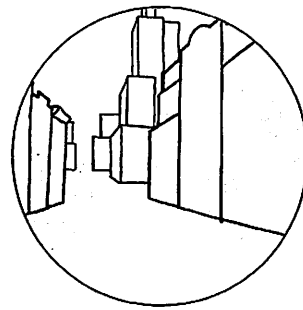
Diagram below: No matter the size, location, or budget of a project, it should be approached from a variety of scales. This ensures that projects are integrated with their surroundings and can capitalize on opportunities that make the city function better for its people. Use the diagram below to assess a project from multiple scales.



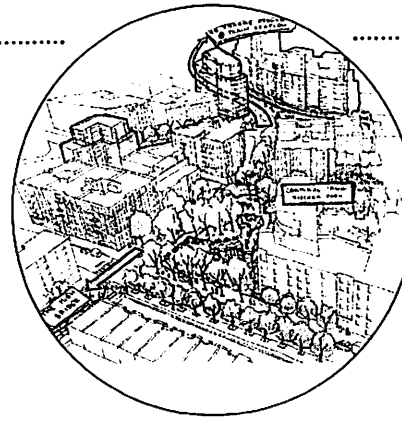
Scale of People: How will the final design feel from eye level?



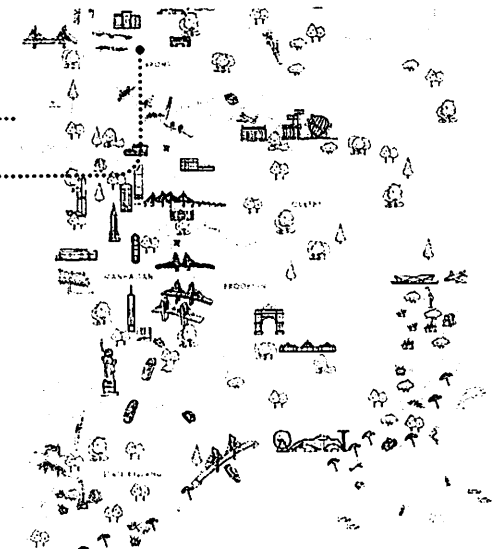
Scale of Site: Does the site face specific challenges or limitations?



Scale of Block: How does the site relate to its immediate neighbors?



Scale of Neighborhood: What community needs will shape planning and design decisions?



Scale of the City and Beyond: How is the site connected to larger citywide systems and regional networks (e.g. transport, open space, ecological, or stormwater)?

should also consider what uses (e.g. businesses, services, or amenities) the new building brings to the neighborhood. Has the community identified a need, such as a grocery store, school, or library, that could be incorporated within the lower floors of the building? Good urban design makes these spaces feel inviting to passersby by thinking about how lower floors can be differentiated from upper floors, how to draw people to building entrances, and how to maximize visual connections between indoor and outdoor spaces.

How do people talk about design?

NYC's nearly 9 million people are spread across 304 square miles. Each neighborhood has a different demographic, a unique set of challenges, distinct community needs, and varied opinions about potential change. It's challenging to translate into words how a public space or building makes us feel or to convey how a design solution is not simply a choice in aesthetics. When we see an empty lot with construction fencing going up it can conjure up many thoughts and feelings—from excitement about what new uses or amenities may come to the block, to anxiety that a new building may shift neighborhood dynamics, to something in between. We all have different opinions about the future of our neighborhoods, and it is valuable to hear all perspectives when talking about urban design. This guidebook provides a shared set of values and resources to help New Yorkers continue these constructive conversations.

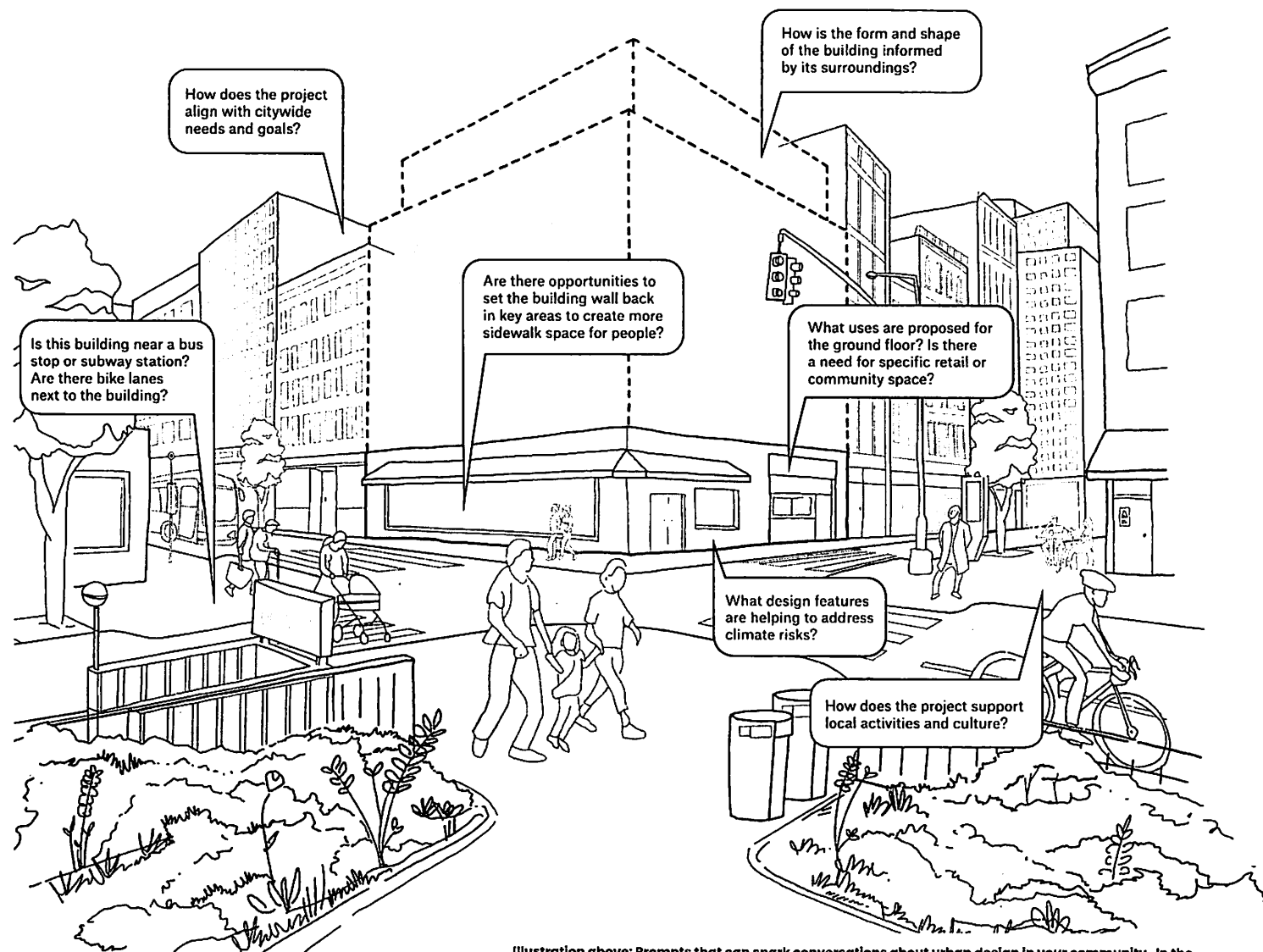


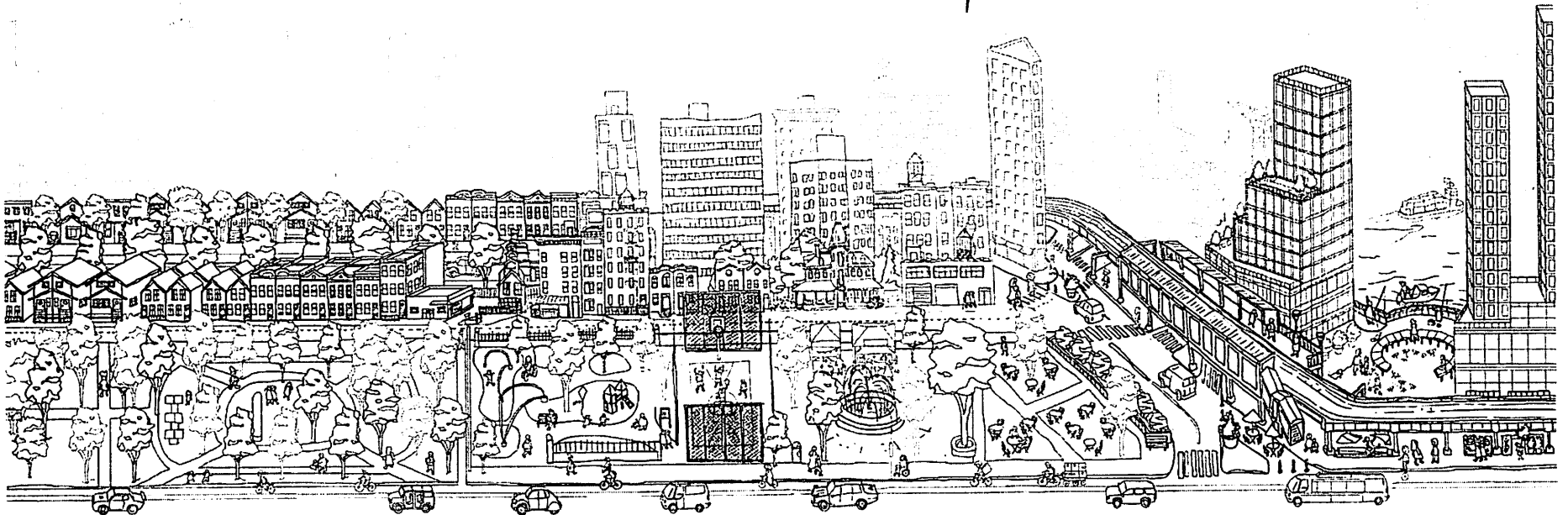
Illustration above: Prompts that can spark conversations about urban design in your community. In the example shown, a new mixed-use building is proposed along a retail corridor close to public transit.

Purpose of The Principles

The Principles are a set of values and goals that inform how we approach the design of NYC. These principles are a lens through which we examine not only how the city looks, but also of how it feels to live, work, come together, and move around the city. They describe how design can influence one's daily experience of the city by making it more enjoyable and comfortable; how design can support quality of life, well-being, and health; and how design can help foster a sense of belonging and civic pride. Ultimately, *The Principles of Good Urban Design* communicate a vision of a city that works for everyone—a city that New Yorkers deserve.

Good urban design is centered on the **experience of daily life** and **care for our neighborhoods** so that we may continue to **embrace our dynamic city** and **confront the challenges** ahead.

Illustration below: Good urban design takes a holistic approach to designing the city.



Who Should Read This and What Can You Expect to Learn?

This guidebook explains how urban design can improve neighborhoods across NYC. It is a shared resource and advocacy tool for everyone interested in learning, testing, and using *The Principles* to strive for better design outcomes.



Members of the Public

Those who live in, work in, and visit NYC have an intimate knowledge of the city and what they do and do not like. This guidebook provides the public with helpful tools to participate in the design process and help shape the city through their own lived experience.



Professionals

Designers, planners, engineers, and other professionals are experts in creating and assembling the elements that constitute the city. This guidebook can provide professionals with important considerations to ensure these elements are shaped and organized in a cohesive manner.



The Government

City agencies, elected officials, and other government entities play an important role in how public policy shapes the city. This guidebook can help ensure consistent design messaging across the government that is aligned with city policy and priorities.



Developers

Builders and other real estate professionals are responsible for developing and realizing projects across the city. This guidebook can demonstrate how good design benefits financial and community investments alike.

Driving Goals of The Guidebook:

1

By defining what is good urban design, **we can set expectations that align with a vision for the city.**

2

By outlining an approach to good urban design, **we can shape better design outcomes.**

3

By promoting examples of good design, **we can illustrate how urban design goes beyond aesthetics.**

4

By simplifying design language, **we can increase involvement in planning and design discussions.**

Here are just a few examples of how anyone can use this guidebook:

- You could bring this guidebook to your local Community Board when a proposed development in your neighborhood is being discussed. Pages 7-8 provide example questions you could pose in conversations about the proposal.
- You may want to share your own idea or example of a well-designed building or open space and draw from the examples on pages 33-48.
- You may be navigating through a public review process and using *The Principles* to align your goals with that of the City's.
- Or you may have a citywide policy idea that involves multiple city agencies and you need to connect them to broader design, planning, and regulatory factors.

The Principles of Good Urban Design and this guidebook provide a platform to execute a variety of projects and initiatives that create a safe, sustainable, and equitable built environment.



2

THE PRINCIPLES

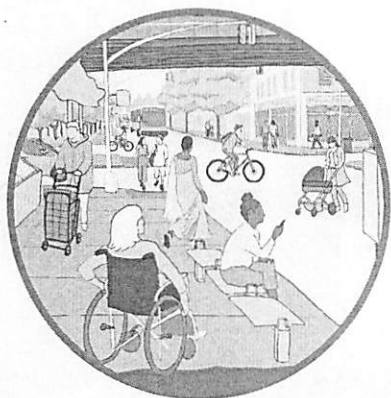
Urban design is not just about aesthetics. It involves a rigorous process of investigation, civic engagement, and analysis, to support thoughtful design outcomes. This chapter presents the four *Principles of Good Urban Design*, plus actionable goals to help New Yorkers bring each principle to life.

Chapter Contents

- The Principles of Good Urban Design
- Principle 1: Enhance People's Daily Lives
- Principle 2: Care for a Neighborhood's History, Culture, and Identity
- Principle 3: Embrace the City's Dynamism
- Principle 4: Confront Society's Greatest Challenges

Opposite page:
Little Island and Pier 57 – West Chelsea, Manhattan

The Principles of Good Urban Design



Principle 1 Enhance People's Daily Lives

Good design can contribute to a more inclusive, enjoyable experience that supports everyday life in the city. Whether it's a sidewalk that is wide enough for rush hour crowds, the elevator that provides wheelchair access to a subway station, storefronts that enliven a neighborhood street, or a plaza that has comfortable chairs to relax in, the details of how we design our city matter and help contribute to a friendlier, more inclusive, enjoyable experience for everyone. Ultimately, a well-designed city creates a place of belonging where people feel not only like they are part of the city, but also that the city is part of them.



Principle 2 Care for a Neighborhood's History, Culture, and Identity

Caring for what makes a neighborhood unique can help foster a sense of belonging, community, and civic pride. Good design should respect the histories, identities, and cultures that have shaped and continue to shape the city's many diverse neighborhoods. Whether it is new architecture that complements neighboring buildings, a playground that meets the needs of different age groups, a new plaza that has the flexibility to accommodate community gatherings and festivals, or a project that incorporates landscape features that reinforces the ecology of a place, the layers of a neighborhood's identity should be reflected in how it looks and feels.



Principle 3 Embrace the City's Dynamism

New York City is an unparalleled, dynamic, and vibrant world capital. Good urban design does more than organize and structure our city—it embraces the icons and opportunities that have made NYC a magnet for generations to visit, work, or settle for a lifetime. Whether it is the iconic landmarks admired around the world, the bustling commercial districts driving innovation, the vibrant parks that everyone can enjoy, or the rhythm of buildings and storefronts that provide distinct character to each neighborhood. Design can challenge preconceptions, advance progress, and spark new ideas.



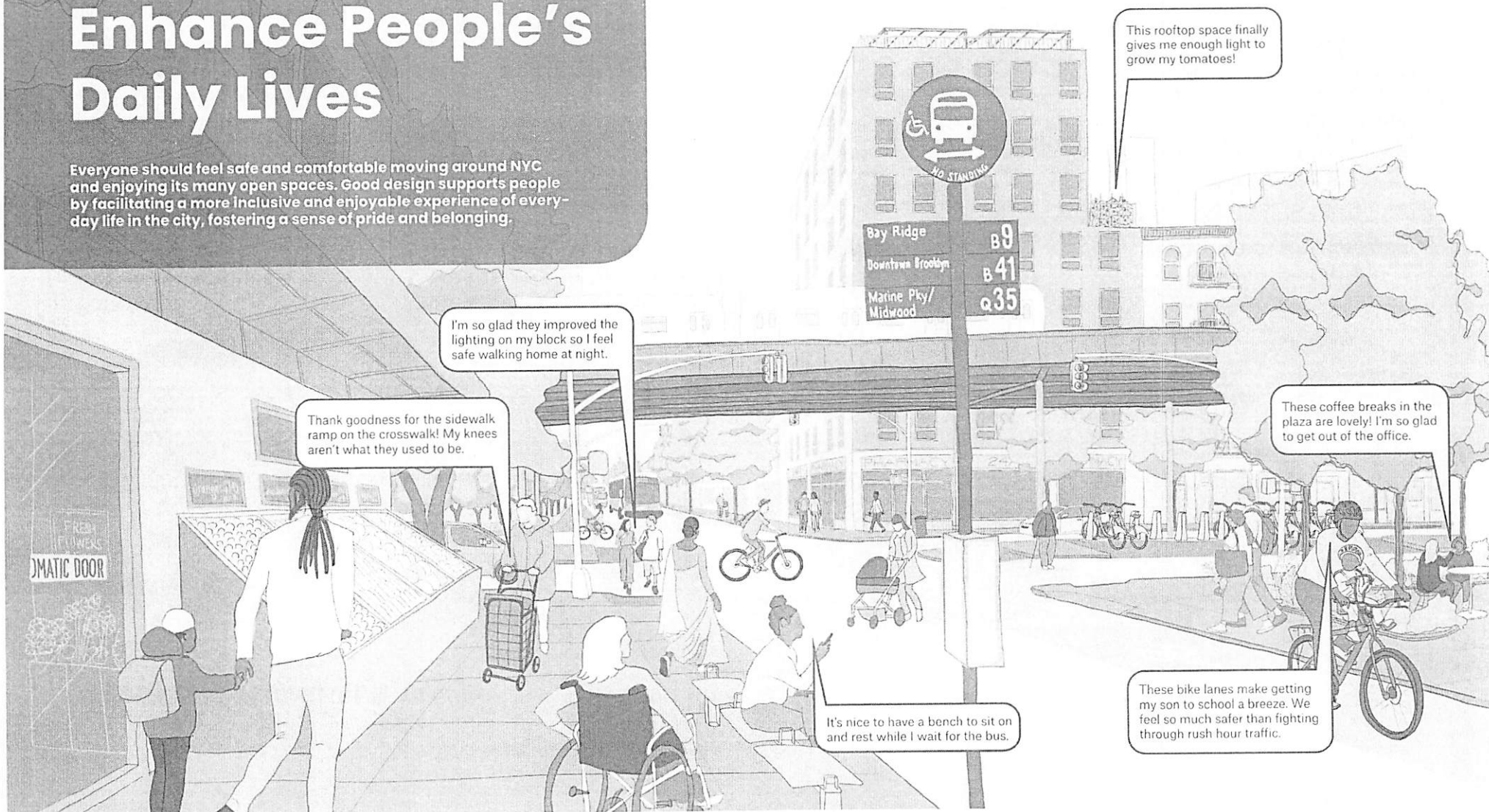
Principle 4 Confront Society's Greatest Challenges

New York City must secure its future against the greatest challenges of today and tomorrow, from the climate crisis to social inequity. We must make design choices that help us build a stronger, fairer, more adaptable city. Whether it is healing the wounds created by highways that cut through well-established neighborhoods, acknowledging the damage of racist policies such as 'redlining', or responding to other spatial injustices, we must ensure the city is a livable place for all New Yorkers. Design can help protect communities that are most vulnerable to the climate crisis and provide quality affordable housing that instills the feeling of civic pride.

Principle 1

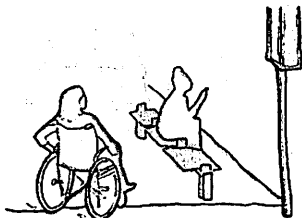
Enhance People's Daily Lives

Everyone should feel safe and comfortable moving around NYC and enjoying its many open spaces. Good design supports people by facilitating a more inclusive and enjoyable experience of everyday life in the city, fostering a sense of pride and belonging.



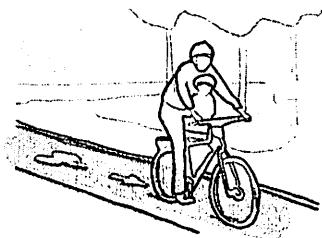
Objectives

The following categories and detailed actions demonstrate how good urban design can enhance people's daily lives.



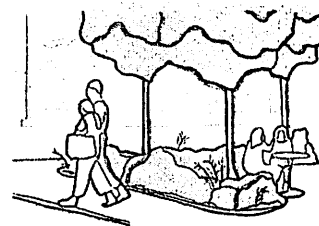
Accessibility and Safety

- Providing people of all ages and abilities with an easy, safe, and comfortable experience on streets and within all our city's shared spaces.
- Improving convenience of everyday life by ensuring access to essential neighborhood assets and services such as schools, open spaces, libraries and community facilities, grocery stores, pharmacies and health facilities, banking, and laundromat facilities.
- Ensuring safety in daytime and nighttime with good lighting, clear sight lines, and inviting spaces.
- Incorporating a variety of spaces to sit, socialize, or take shelter, as well as opportunities for play.



Mobility and Connectivity

- Prioritizing sustainable mobility by encouraging walking, cycling, and public transit.
- Facilitating convenient and comfortable transfers between modes of transit, while providing an opportunity to sit and rest during commutes.
- Making navigation easier by using building features—such as easy-to-spot transit entries, visible access to indoor public spaces, and buildings that recess to expand the sidewalk—to connect the city's network of inviting public spaces.
- Providing basic public services, such as bathrooms, drinking fountains, and Wi-Fi, and ensuring they are equally distributed across the city.



Comfort and Beauty

- Ensuring everyone has a short journey to quiet, leafy, and clean open spaces that offer New Yorkers moments of respite from busy urban life.
- Prioritizing activities, amenities, and architectural variety along the lower portions of buildings to create visual interest and enhance the pedestrian experience.
- Finding opportunities for family-friendly design with programming and play spaces for all ages.
- Creating cleaner, more attractive streets to promote a healthier and more enjoyable environment.



Quality and Durability

- Providing public space amenities, such as seating, planting, and lighting, that are attractive, comfortable, and encourage social interaction.
- Delivering long lasting, well-designed buildings that enhance neighborhood architecture and help improve quality of life within neighborhoods. (An example is featured on pages 39-40.)
- Prioritizing durable and sustainable materials in our buildings and public spaces to serve New Yorkers for generations.
- Considering maintenance needs in site design and materials. For example, using low-maintenance plants and locally-sourced building materials.

Principle 2

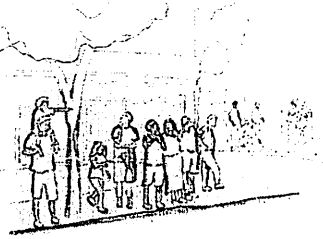
Care for a Neighborhood's History, Culture, and Identity

People make our neighborhoods; the buildings, parks, and streets are their backdrop. Good design respects the histories, identities, and cultures that have shaped and continue to shape the city's many diverse neighborhoods.



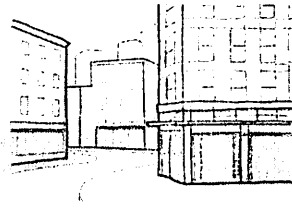
Objectives

These actions should be used to inform the design process and provide care for a neighborhood's history, culture, and identity.



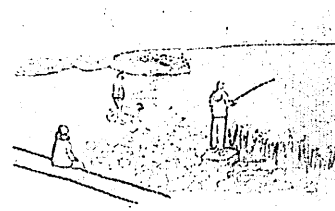
Community and Diversity

- Approaching urban design with the understanding that shaping neighborhoods must be a collaborative, open, and honest process.
- Communicating in plain language and meeting the needs of non-English speakers.
- Considering a neighborhood's history and collective knowledge to inform community needs and guide design decisions.
- Respecting that change can be uncomfortable, and being a patient and active listener during design discussions.
- Providing information, data, research, and tools that are easily accessible for people to shape their neighborhoods.



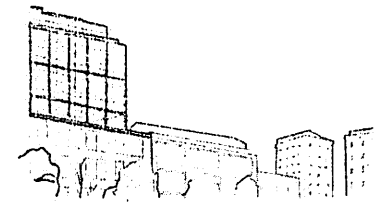
Existing Networks and Uses

- Collaborating with neighborhood groups, institutions, and other local leaders to shape the design process and respond to community needs.
- Considering how people use their existing spaces to inform priorities and unlock opportunities through design.
- Incorporating established economic, cultural, religious, and festive activities into the design of buildings and public spaces.
- Providing flexible public and semi-public places (such as libraries, community centers, and markets) where communities feel comfortable expressing their cultural traditions.
- Synthesizing a wide variety of goals, whether they be from residents, property owners, elected officials, or more, to ensure different opinions are accounted for.



Natural Features and Resources

- Looking for opportunities to re-integrate landscape within larger natural ecosystems by incorporating native species or materials into the design of public spaces.
- Designing spaces that celebrate seasonal change and can be enjoyed year-round.
- Encouraging greenery on rooftops, building facades, and other infrastructure to expand the biodiversity of NYC.
- Considering how the design of public spaces and buildings can mitigate exposure to air and noise pollution.
- Orienting new buildings and designing infrastructure in a way that maximizes access to natural light.



Building Features and Form

- Creating relationships between buildings and public spaces by emphasizing the forms and rhythm of surrounding neighborhood blocks.
- Using materials, colors, and shapes that reflect their surroundings.
- Looking beyond the immediate boundaries of a lot to inform site programming and ensure a planned development complements neighborhood conditions.
- Designing quality city facilities to represent the pride, history, and ambition of communities.

Principle 3

Embrace the City's Dynamism

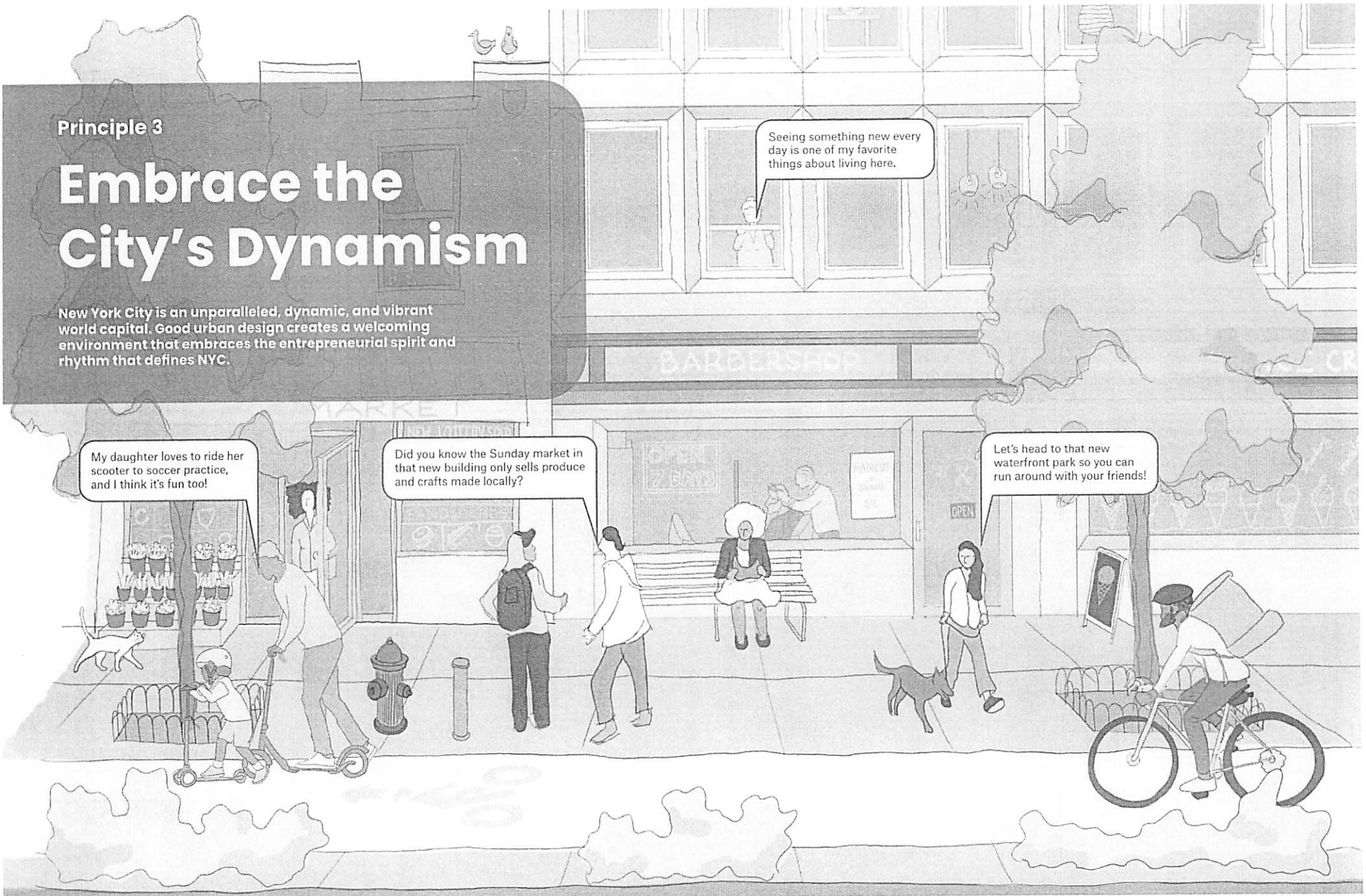
New York City is an unparalleled, dynamic, and vibrant world capital. Good urban design creates a welcoming environment that embraces the entrepreneurial spirit and rhythm that defines NYC.

Seeing something new every day is one of my favorite things about living here.

My daughter loves to ride her scooter to soccer practice, and I think it's fun too!

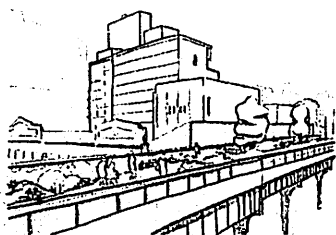
Did you know the Sunday market in that new building only sells produce and crafts made locally?

Let's head to that new waterfront park so you can run around with your friends!



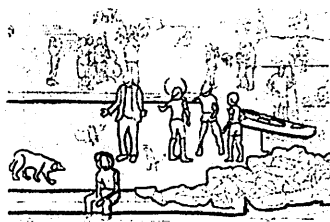
Objectives

These ambitions describe how good urban design can contribute to NYC's dynamic and vibrant spirit.



Innovation and Creativity

- Reflecting NYC's wonder and delight with designs that give people a variety of experiences and vantage points. (An example is featured on page 35-36.)
- Promoting ambitious and thoughtful approaches to design, programming, and the environment—no matter the size or budget of the project.
- Utilizing new technologies (such as modular construction, *Passive House* design techniques, and advanced materials) to create better places for living and working.
- Recognizing creative local initiatives and collaborating with communities to develop responsive solutions.



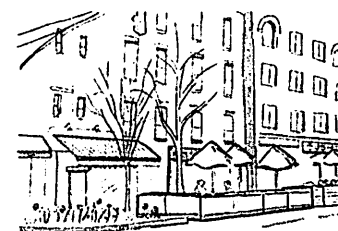
Flexibility and Variety

- Embracing a variety of architectural forms and details to provide people with a dynamic experience as they move through neighborhoods.
- Coordinating layers of activity in the design of buildings and open spaces to amplify public life.
- Creating indoor and outdoor spaces that are great not only in their own right, but also complement and draw people to NYC's network of public spaces.
- Designing places that are functional, beautiful, and comfortable throughout the seasons and across different times of the day and night.
- Promoting amenities and programs for everyone, including evening activities and one-off celebrations or events.



Old and New

- Ensuring new developments strike a balance between embracing NYC's continual change and respect for the context of existing neighborhoods, so they can stand as unique places on their own.
- Collaborating with an alliance of local, public, and private interests to create inclusive places that support the old and embrace the new.
- Recognizing the design opportunities that engage the ebb and flow of movement that is characteristic of NYC.
- Adapting old buildings to meet current needs, ensuring NYC continues to thrive.



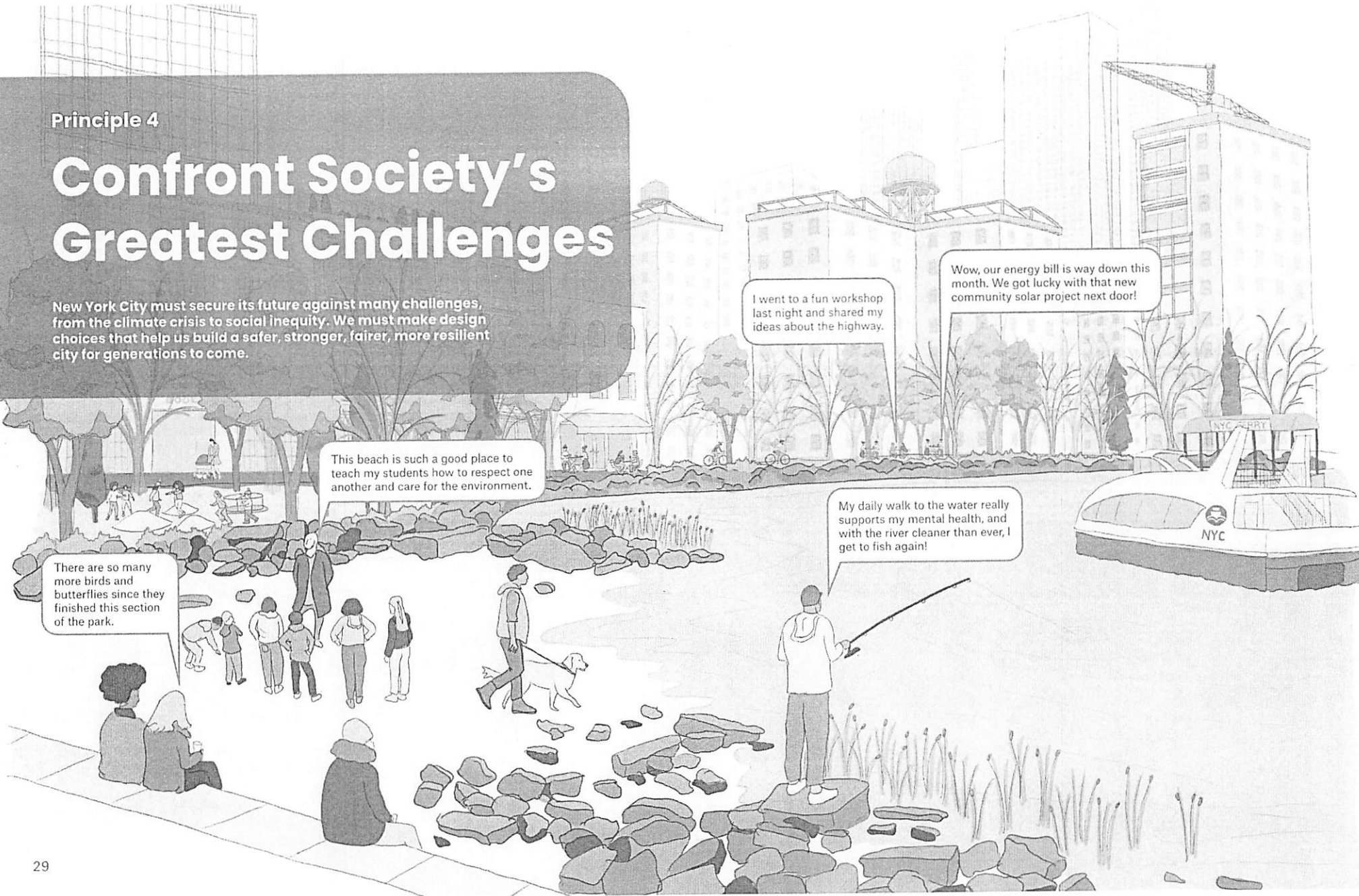
Resourcefulness and Tenacity

- Contributing to NYC's enduring spirit of reinvention by learning from past challenges, adapting to change, and continually striving to create the best city we can.
- Welcoming new ideas, approaches, and technologies to solve problems and unlock opportunities for urban imagination.
- Identifying creative solutions when dealing with budget constraints by prioritizing design strategies that meet broader planning and policy goals.
- Negotiating thoughtful trade-offs between hyper local, borough, citywide, and regional initiatives.

Principle 4

Confront Society's Greatest Challenges

New York City must secure its future against many challenges, from the climate crisis to social inequity. We must make design choices that help us build a safer, stronger, fairer, more resilient city for generations to come.



This beach is such a good place to teach my students how to respect one another and care for the environment.

There are so many more birds and butterflies since they finished this section of the park.

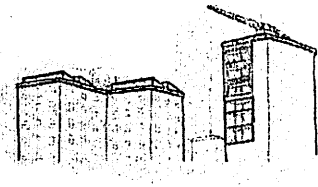
I went to a fun workshop last night and shared my ideas about the highway.

Wow, our energy bill is way down this month. We got lucky with that new community solar project next door!

My daily walk to the water really supports my mental health, and with the river cleaner than ever, I get to fish again!

Objectives

Good urban design is about problem solving. These actions can help us confront society's greatest challenges in a collective and responsible manner.



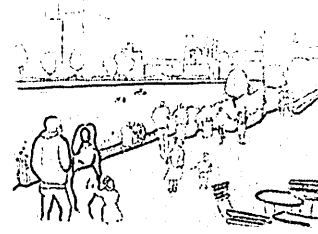
Sustainability and Adaptability

- Forging an ambitious path toward a carbon neutral city, while protecting neighborhoods from the impacts of a changing climate.
- Looking for opportunities to incorporate signage and other features that share information about climate issues and goals.
- Going above and beyond code requirements to better prepare for the climate risks of today while creating a more resilient environment for the future.
- Identifying clear strategies that adapt open spaces to withstand climate risks, improve ecological habitats, and ensure people have access to cool spaces.



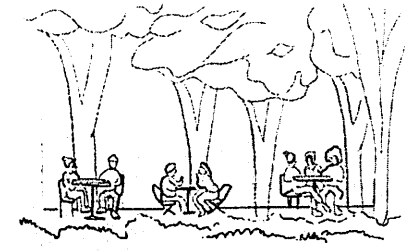
Equity and Opportunity

- Striving for positive change by "co-designing" our neighborhoods.
- Designing alongside diverse, representational groups and community leaders to generate an inclusive vision for public spaces in any given neighborhood.
- Prioritizing restorative and reparative strategies, such as improving parks that have received less investment than others in the city. (An example is featured on pages 45-48.)
- Avoiding "hostile design"—or design features that discourage access, gathering, or rest—to create inclusive, comfortable, and welcoming spaces.



Health and Well-being

- Designing to reduce noise and air pollution and mitigate urban heat.
- Making physical activities more available and enjoyable for people of all backgrounds and abilities.
- Encouraging people to maximize time in public spaces by designing interesting pathways with ample amenities.
- Being mindful of generational needs to ensure that all ages—from young children to seniors—are well connected to spaces that are comfortable and engaging.



Diversity and Mutual Understanding

- Considering programs and spaces that facilitate social interaction and community decision-making.
- Encouraging programs and activities that enliven the neighborhood by welcoming residents and visitors of all races, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, and sexual orientations.
- Increasing the design quality of open spaces in all corners of the city to foster pride, encourage stewardship, and bring neighborhoods together.
- Creating or enhancing spaces that support social interaction and allow for a diverse array of cultural and artistic expressions.

3

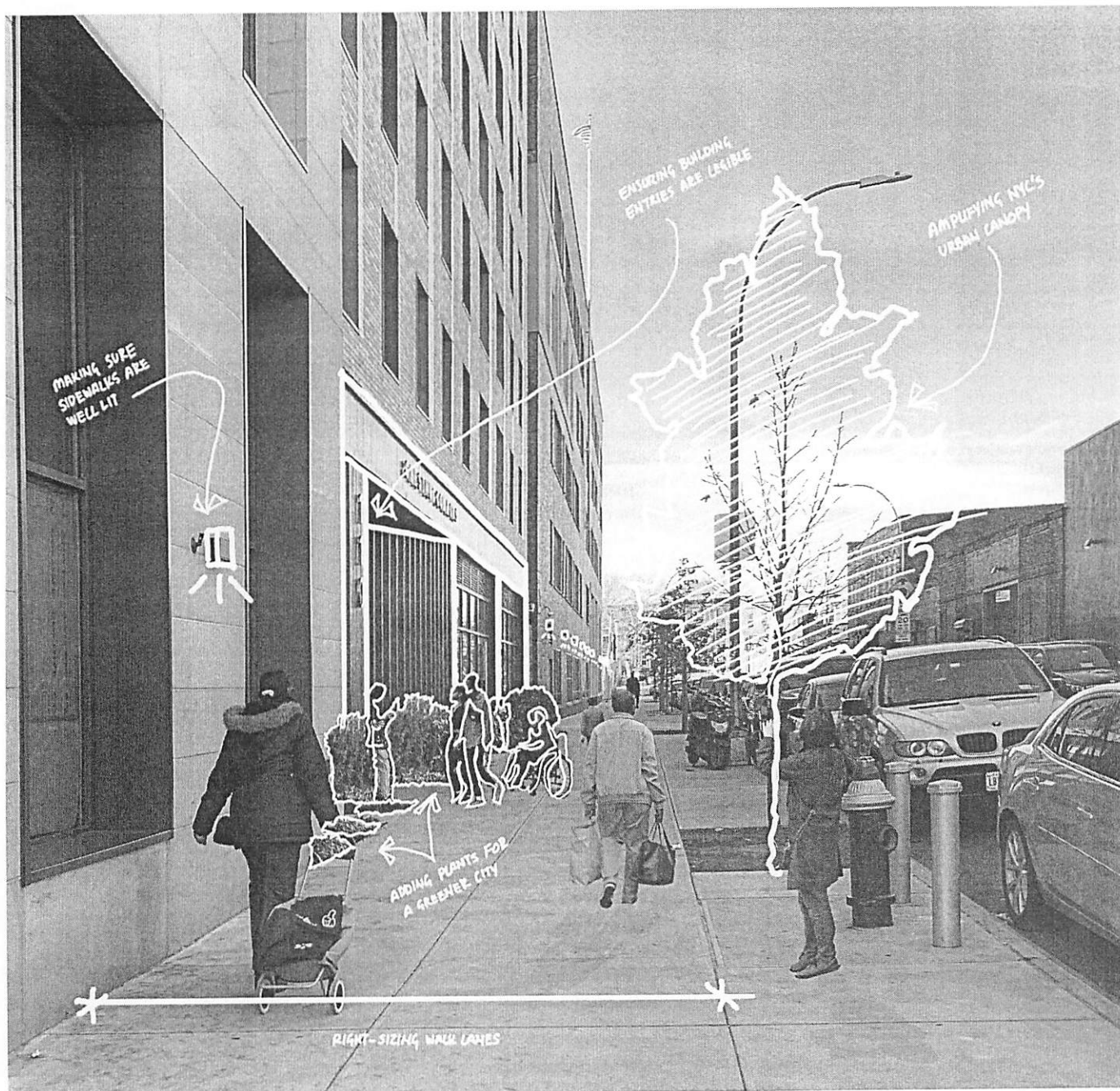
THE PRINCIPLES IN PLACE

Chapters 1 and 2 capture a thoughtful approach for how to think about and practice urban design. This chapter grounds *The Principles* in real-life places throughout the city. Each example reveals how project teams applied design strategies to achieve positive outcomes. The two project examples at the end of this chapter include further detail on how city agencies use *The Principles* throughout different stages of a planning and design process.

Chapter Contents

- Design of a Public Space
- Design of a Waterfront Open Space
- Design of an Affordable Housing Building
- Design of a Large-scale Development
- Applied to a Neighborhood Plan

Opposite page:
Chestnut Commons - East New York, Brooklyn



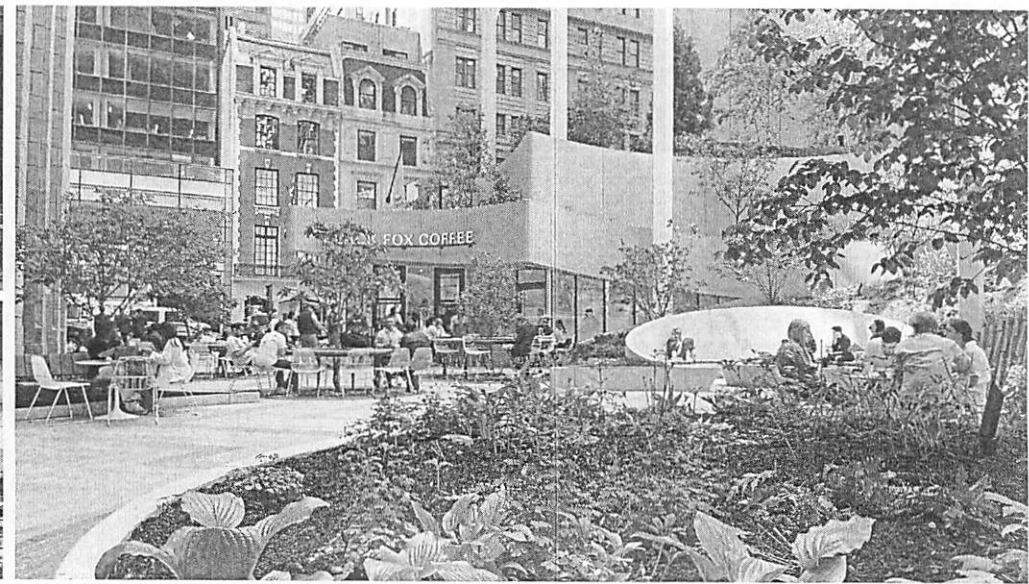
Design of a Public Space

550 Madison Garden

Team: Designed by Snohetta
 Developed + Managed by The Olayan Group
 Location: 550 Madison Avenue, Manhattan
 Type: Privately Owned Public Space (POPS)
 Year: 2023

550 Madison Garden is a renovated privately owned public space (POPS) in the heart of Midtown Manhattan. This project transformed a dark and enclosed public passageway into a public oasis for social gathering, cultural activities, and rest.

This POPS responds to the rising demands of public space to address many variables in a holistic and cohesive manner. The project demonstrates how *The Principles* complement each other by implementing context-responsive solutions and sustainable design strategies to enhance daily life in the area. The details below describe how this project's design improves urban vitality, public health and well-being, access to recreation, and how it addresses climate change.



Lower left: Enclosed space before renovation; Upper left: Aerial view after renovation; Above: From within the garden.

Principle 1

Enhance People's Daily Lives

- People are drawn into the space by large, open entryways and tiered green spaces.
- A variety of spaces and seating options accommodate diverse needs and interests.
- Services and amenities—such as gender-inclusive public restrooms, public Wi-Fi, an interactive fountain, food and beverage kiosks, and heated seating—create a comfortable space for all ages and backgrounds.
- The glass canopy structure provides shelter while maximizing daylight.
- The seating and paving materials are high quality, comfortable, attractive, and durable.

Principle 2

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

- Lushly planted with native species, the garden blooms in different seasons to attract birds and pollinators and look inviting throughout the year.
- Circular elements and curvilinear forms throughout the garden complement the historic architectural significance of the 550 Madison Avenue landmark building and its iconic Chippendale pediment.
- Clear sight lines between E 55th and E 56th Street open up views to adjacent buildings and nearby landmarks.
- The garden design enhances Midtown's public space network by considering existing amenities and introducing new programming.

Principle 3

Embrace the City's Dynamism

- The unique glass canopy invites visitors to discover a captivating hidden gem in the heart of Midtown.
- This contemporary public space uses careful material selection and design details to blend well with old buildings and public spaces, offering a great example of "old and new."
- The tiered landscape design creates hierarchy and topography within the space, an uncommon feature in most POPS—especially those in Midtown.

Principle 4

Confront Society's Greatest Challenges

- The conversion from indoor to outdoor space reduced energy consumption as there is no longer a need for heating and air conditioning.
- The plaza now feels more inclusive due to clear openings on each block.
- Eco-friendly features such as the glass canopy—equipped with rainwater capture technology—sustainably irrigate planted areas, mitigate stormwater runoff, and reduce water consumption.
- Native plants promote biodiversity, reduce water usage, support local ecosystems, and support a healthy and attractive environment.

Design of a Waterfront Open Space

300 Huntington Street

Team: Designed by SCAPE Landscape Architecture
Building Design by Dattner Architects + Berheimer Architecture
Developed by Monadnock Development

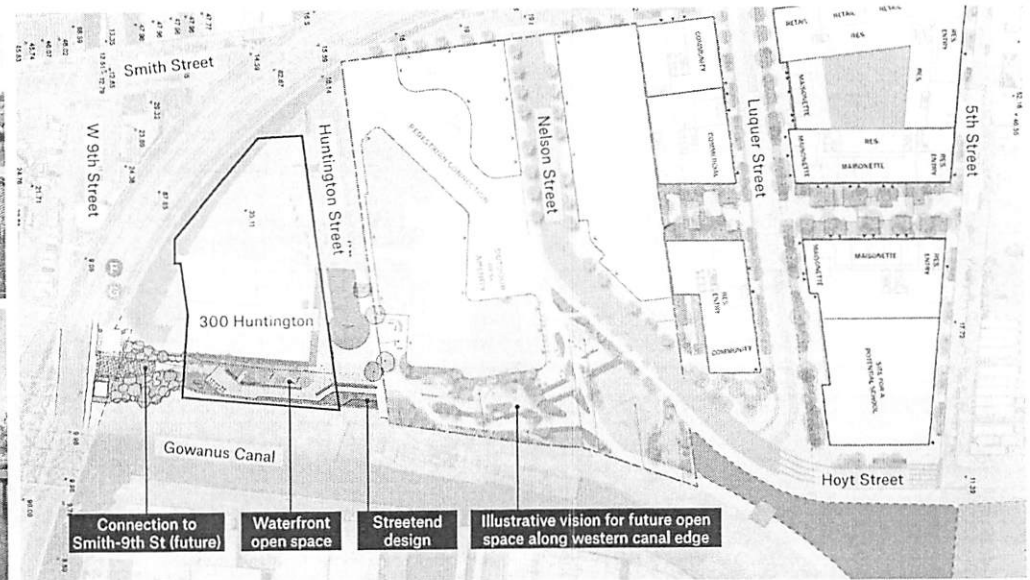
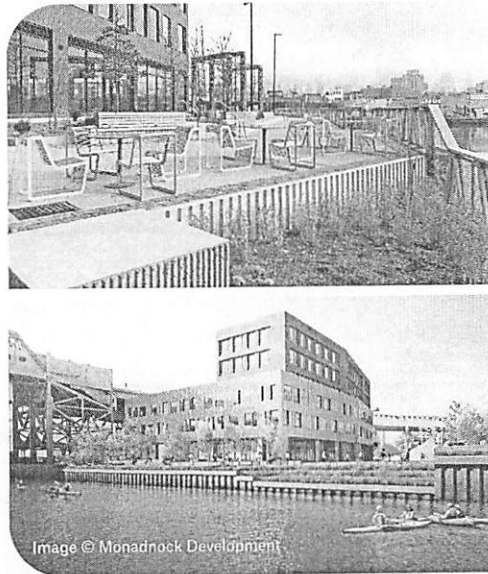
Location: 300 Huntington Street, Brooklyn

Type: Waterfront Public Access Area (WPAA)

Year: 2024

300 Huntington is a waterfront development along the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn. DCP required the property owner to provide a public open space, with plants and amenities, as part of the development. 300 Huntington's esplanade will connect to waterfront public access along the canal and will be directly accessible from the Smith-9th Street subway station and bus stops.

This project demonstrates a thoughtful urban design approach that builds upon the area's industrial history while accommodating the needs of a growing and evolving neighborhood. The addressed various environmental challenges, including remediation and flood risk. The strategies below showcase how this project is designed as an important gateway to existing and planned public spaces along the Gowanus waterfront.



Lower left: Design rendering; Upper left: Photo after construction; Above: Vision plan for the Gowanus waterfront.

Principle 1

Enhance People's Daily Lives

- The open space orients visitors to a growing network of public spaces along the canal.
- The waterfront open space will improve public transit access by connecting the western side of the canal to Smith-9th Street.
- Continuity of the waterfront open space is maintained at the end of Huntington street—the vehicular turnaround is set back to give priority to pedestrian safety and connectivity.
- A variety of seating areas and social spaces are provided throughout the open space.
- Locally-sourced, durable materials are used in the open space and on the building exterior.

Principle 2

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

- The development team addressed community priorities that were highlighted during City-led workshops and visioning sessions.
- Site programming fosters a mixed-use neighborhood by creating job space near transit.
- The waterfront open space is flood-adaptive and includes flexible space for different programming, addressing primary community requests.
- The building massing has been arranged to acknowledge its adjacency to elevated rail and the canal. Its materials are consistent with the surroundings.

Principle 3

Embrace the City's Dynamism

- Large storefront windows on the ground floor make the space welcoming and visible. This unifies indoor and outdoor areas, increasing activity during different times of day and improving perceptions of safety.
- The building accommodates diverse uses, such as offices, retail, and an industrial workshop.
- The materials used in the landscape design reflect Gowanus' industrial history, such as the guardrail and canopy structure.
- Strategies to optimize and expand soil volume were used to promote the growth and long-term health of shade trees that will be integral for ensuring comfort in the space.

Principle 4

Confront Society's Greatest Challenges

- The building's non-residential uses will bring a variety of people to the waterfront open space, providing more opportunities for social interaction along the canal.
- Stormwater management techniques, including rooftop, open space, and street treatments, reduced the site's stormwater runoff.
- A variety of native and aquatic plants enhance biodiversity, flood resiliency, and local ecosystems.

The Principles in Place

Design of an Affordable Housing Building

Cyrus House

Team: Designed by Curtis + Ginsberg Architects
Developed by Bronx Pro Group
Location: 4697 Third Avenue, Bronx, New York
Type: Disposition of city-owned property to facilitate affordable housing development.
Year: 2022

Cyrus House is a residential building along Third Avenue in the Bronx with 53 apartments and a commercial ground floor. It was built on a site that previously sat vacant for over five years and was used as an NYPD parking lot before that. This project is a good example of how the City partners with the private sector to build more housing in the neighborhoods that are well-connected to transit. This building is designed to the highest energy efficiency standards and adds a new architectural flavor to Third Avenue.

This project demonstrates multiple interactions between *The Principles*. The innovative and creative design strategies make this building an exceptional and distinctive place. Its presence and visibility make Third Avenue a safer place for people living and working in the community. Furthermore, the architectural quality and sustainable design details allow this project to inspire civic pride and creativity along the Third Avenue corridor.



Lower left: Distinct ground floor; Upper left: From across Third Ave; Above: Adjacency to neighborhood services.

Principle 1

Enhance People's Daily Lives

- The building is near a major transit hub and the area is well-served by a variety of transit options. Because tenants do not have to rely solely on cars, the building space can prioritize homes over parking spaces.
- The building's location provides convenient, walkable access to green spaces, schools, and essential retail services.
- Residents have access to convenient amenities such as shared laundry facilities, bicycle storage, a gym, and an outdoor courtyard.
- Windows along all sides of the building maximize residents' natural light.
- Durable and readily available building materials were used to ensure long-term viability.

Principle 2

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

- The project brings new affordable housing to the neighborhood and offers a variety of apartment sizes.
- The building's dynamic form responds to the site's highly visible location and its size complements nearby buildings.
- The project comes from a neighborhood-based developer with knowledge of local conditions and community needs.
- The sculptural windows create visual interest and add to the neighborhood's architectural variety.

Principle 3

Embrace the City's Dynamism

- The building helps reorient Third Avenue as a vibrant, residential and industrial, mixed-use corridor.
- New technologies were used to create an insulated thermal "shell" that allows the building to lower energy use, improve indoor comfort, and reduce noise.
- The project supports citywide priorities: adding more affordable homes near transit and reducing the carbon footprint of buildings.
- The commercial space on the ground floor can increase sidewalk activity and enhance the pedestrian experience.

Principle 4

Confront Society's Greatest Challenges

- The project goes above and beyond code requirements, achieving *Passive House* certification for optimizing natural heating and cooling techniques.
- Apartments come with energy-efficient appliances and air conditioning.
- Solar panels and an energy recovery system reduce fuel consumption.
- The building design encourages health and well-being by providing naturally-lit stairways, an outdoor garden, superior indoor air quality systems, and fitness equipment.

The Principles in Place

Design of a Large-scale Development

Sendero Verde

Team: Designed by Handel Architects
Landscape Design by AECOM
Developed by L+M Development Partners,
Jonathan Rose Companies, and
Acacia Network

Location: 60 East 112th Street, New York, New York

Type: Neighborhood rezoning and disposition of
city-owned property for affordable housing

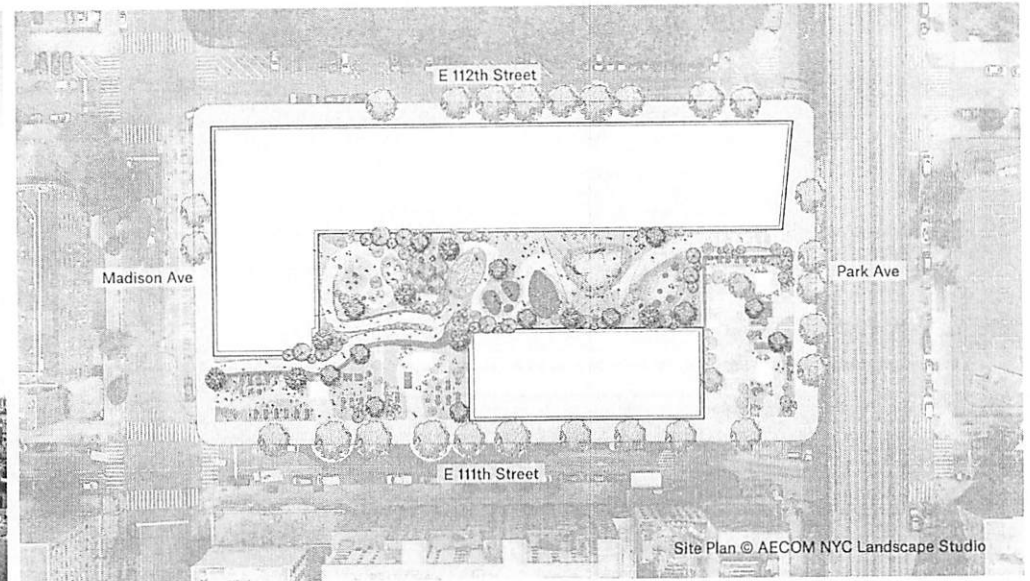
Year: Ongoing

Sendero Verde is a mixed-use, multi-building development in East Harlem that is being constructed on a large lot previously owned by the City. NYC Housing and Preservation Development (HPD) undertook a dynamic planning and design process that involved neighborhood groups, community leaders, multiple city agencies, private sector design teams, and multiple developers. Many voices informed the design and uses of the buildings and open space. The relationship between this process and good design principles is further explained on the following pages.

This case study showcases urban design strategies that should be a reference for other multi-building projects under consideration. The development demonstrates how diverse, community-driven programming and thoughtful design coordination between indoor and outdoor spaces is foundational to all four principles.



Image © Volley Studio



Site Plan © AECOM NYC Landscape Studio

Left: Architectural rendering; Above: An overhead plan of the courtyard, meandering path and gardens.

Principle 1

Enhance People's Daily Lives

- The buildings include homes and jobs within a short walk from multiple subway lines and a regional Metro-North station.
- The site will feature a school, community center, and healthcare services to provide convenience for residents and activate the buildings at all times of day.
- Open areas at each end of the public courtyard provide an alternative route between Madison and Park Avenues.
- Building entrances open directly to the courtyard, which improves visibility and enhances safety.
- Play spaces, community gardens, outdoor exercise areas, and meditation spaces encourage cross-generational socializing.

Principle 2

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

- A community visioning workshop was conducted to gather local input and priorities before developing the site plan.
- The building arrangement maximizes sunlight hours on community gardens and other open spaces, in response to a public priority.
- The courtyard builds on East Harlem's open space network, offering a moment to rest.
- The landscape design and meandering path mimic the form of a historic Lenape trail that once existed on the site.
- The building material and detailed brickwork complement other buildings in East Harlem.

Principle 3

Embrace the City's Dynamism

- Collaboration between the public sector, community, and private development teams resulted in a site plan that integrates multiple layers of programming and services.
- The development attracts residents, students, workers of various professions, and visitors, adding energy and new experiences to the neighborhood.
- Important work of local groups—such as Union Settlement—is recognized by including space for their services in new buildings.
- The elevated courtyard adds a unique type of public space to the neighborhood.
- 100% of residential units in each building are income-regulated and rent-controlled, increasing community access to affordable housing.

Principle 4

Confront Society's Greatest Challenges

- The north building is the world's largest fully affordable *Passive House*-certified building. The building's thermal envelope, energy recovery system, all-electric systems, and on-site power generation reduce its carbon footprint and support better indoor air quality.
- "Co-designing" led to a more inclusive and representative inventory of community needs and a vision for adapting the site to meet local demands.
- Diverse indoor and outdoor programming encourages interaction across generations and social backgrounds.
- The courtyard features a performance space suitable for events that celebrate diversity and inclusivity.

The Principles in Place

Co-designing Sendero Verde

Sendero Verde demonstrates how *The Principles* should influence each phase of a planning and design process.

Community Visioning Workshop

This project was ignited from energetic conversations and debate among nearby residents, community gardeners, people who work in East Harlem, and other local constituents. During the visioning workshop, people gathered in groups to discuss their ideas for the future of this city-owned site. They spoke about community needs, such as deeply affordable housing, a healthier environment, space for social interactions, and support for small businesses and local organizations. Urban designers from city agencies joined each table to visually represent these ideas through hand-drawn diagrams, 3D sketches and notes on poster-size flip charts.

Setting Urban Design Priorities

Over 100 community members shared their opinions during the visioning workshop, which was supplemented by additional feedback from focused sessions with neighborhood groups. NYC Parks' GreenThumb unit conducted a thorough evaluation of existing community gardens, taking note of each garden's key features, spatial requirements, and existing shadow patterns. City agencies combined community feedback with this site analysis and other neighborhood research to establish other urban design priorities. This included identifying preferred locations for new public open space, determining how to shape buildings around that open space and along adjacent streets, and how to enhance connections between indoor and outdoor spaces.

Request for Proposals (RFP) Announcement

The City used an RFP to solicit proposals from private sector development teams. RFPs explain the scope and vision for a project and provide information about the existing site, preferred qualifications of design and development teams, and requirements for proposal submissions. As part of the *SustainNYC RFP* for this site, city agencies translated community feedback and site planning priorities into specific design guidelines. These guidelines focused on how a future development

should be experienced from the perspective of a person on the sidewalk. They provided strategies for improving neighborhood connectivity, enhancing safety, strengthening social interaction, designing for environmental performance, and identifying how architecture should respond to the context.

Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation and Selection

The design guidelines were an essential part of the metrics used to evaluate site development proposals. The RFP heavily weighted the 'Architecture and Urban Design' section of the selection criteria. The selection committee referred to the RFP's design guidelines to judge this section, taking into account how each proposal articulated strategies that responded to the design guidelines. This example highlights why it's necessary to have structured core values and principles that can guide decision-making. They ensure that processes are efficient, impartial, and effective in producing optimal outcomes.

Detailed Design Review

This project is a great example of how good design can be maintained throughout the course of a project. After a development team's proposal was selected, there was ongoing collaboration between the public and private sectors. While the design guidelines ensured that important architecture and urban design goals were incorporated into the initial design, continued involvement from urban designers was critical. Projects deal with many factors that can compromise design quality, such as budget constraints, regulatory challenges, and maintenance issues. To address this, the city agencies that wrote the design guidelines met regularly with the development team to provide design feedback and develop creative solutions for maintaining high quality design. This also ensured that the project stayed true to the core vision.



Opposite page (top, bottom left): Recording community priorities during the visioning workshop; Opposite page (bottom right): Development of an open space design that accounts for many different users.

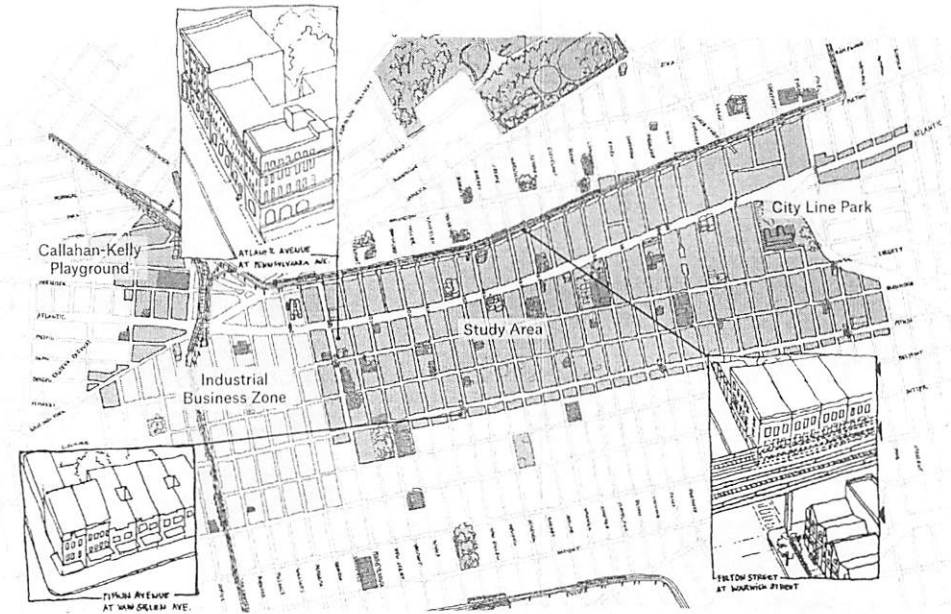
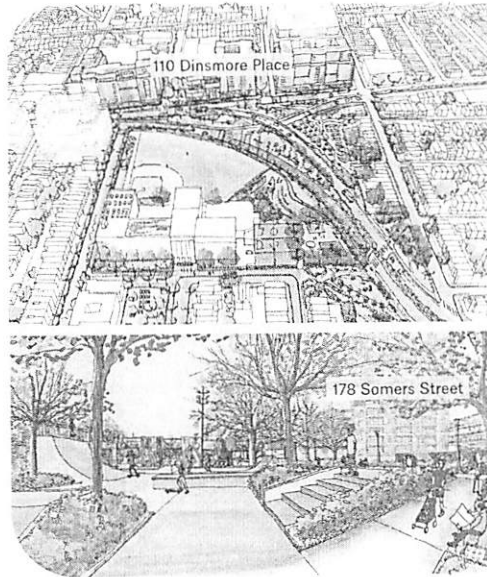
Applied to a Neighborhood Plan

East New York Neighborhood Plan

Team: City agencies (led by DCP, HPD, and EDC)
Location: East New York, Cypress Hill and Ocean Hill
Type: Neighborhood Plan
Year: 2011-2013: Sustainable Communities East New York study
2014-2016: Outreach and planning process
2016: Plan and rezoning approved
2016-current: Implementation

A city-led neighborhood plan provides an opportunity for communities and stakeholders to work collaboratively with city agencies and elected officials to shape a long-term vision that includes identifying land use changes and capital investments for a particular area. The *East New York Neighborhood Plan* focused on strategies to increase housing opportunity, encourage economic development, and strategically use City investment to bring new community services and improve public spaces. During the plan's formation, urban design was crucial in demonstrating how specific design strategies could be layered and connected to neighborhood goals.

This project required thinking across different physical scales, considering many community interests and ideas, and working with others to develop realistic pathways for implementation. The following details provide a clear picture of how *The Principles* can transform and enhance the look, feel, and functionality of a neighborhood to make it safer, convenient and more attractive for everyone.



Left: Re-envisioned parks and potential new buildings; Above: Drawing of existing neighborhood assets.

Principle 1

Enhance People's Daily Lives

- New buildings on main corridors are now permitted through the zoning code to build housing but are required to activate their ground floor with shops, community facilities, and other non-residential uses that will further enhance the pedestrian experience.
- Improvements such as new trees, curb extensions, and pedestrian refuge islands on Atlantic Avenue have made it safer and more enjoyable to walk in the neighborhood.
- Neighborhood parks and playgrounds have been upgraded and transformed near existing housing and new housing that was built as a result of zoning changes.

Principle 2

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

- The neighborhood planning process was designed to engage all local communities by providing outreach in multiple languages and holding all events within the neighborhood.
- The multi-agency project team mapped existing local assets (sketched in the map above) with community input, gaining insight on how people use different spaces. Through this process the team identified opportunities for improving the access to and quality of those assets.
- Strategies for protecting and enhancing the industrial business zone were developed through targeted outreach to local industrial businesses.
- The team analyzed land use and mobility patterns to develop zoning changes that have led to new housing near public transit, quality open spaces, schools, and neighborhood services.

Principle 3

Embrace the City's Dynamism

- NYC Parks' *Schoolyards-to-Playgrounds* program converted schoolyards into multi-use spaces, expanding the public space network.
- New developments have been good neighbors by addressing community needs such as new schools, shopping opportunities, and space for existing businesses.
- The former courthouse at 127 Pennsylvania Ave. was rehabilitated to an NYPD community youth center, showcasing how buildings can be adapted to meet community needs.
- The plan demonstrated how "infill buildings," or new buildings on underused space, could support a neighborhood that feels more inviting, lively, and safe.

Principle 4

Confront Society's Greatest Challenges

- The project team held visioning workshops where community members shaped priorities for site improvement and redesign of various spaces under city ownership.
- The civic engagement strategy enabled emerging immigrant groups, such as a Bengali community, to express priorities in their own language.
- The plan identified both physical and non-physical strategies to repair disinvestment and discriminatory practices, such as housing rehabilitation loans and new schools.
- Reinvestment in parks, wayfinding improvements, and safer streets have invited neighbors to walk and enjoy their time in public space.

Urban Design in East New York

The East New York Neighborhood Plan was the result of collaboration between the community, professionals, and city planners, along with commitments from city agencies and elected officials. The plan encompassed several components including land use changes through a rezoning, preservation and creation of affordable housing, funding for new schools, public open space improvements, a new community center, and programs to strengthen the local economy and workforce. This project serves as an example of how to shape neighborhood plans by using *The Principles* throughout the planning process.

Community Engagement

The neighborhood plan was created with residents, local organizations, elected officials, and various city agencies. This collaborative process allowed urban designers to listen and learn from these local experts while communicating how good urban design can enhance people's daily lives. Urban designers shared visual diagrams, drawings, and presentations at public events, and acted as facilitators and visual notetakers during roundtable discussions. Results from public outreach informed the following design opportunities:

- Ways to arrange and program new buildings on city-owned lots
- Strategies to bolster activity on key corridors
- Ways to enhance neighborhood connectivity
- Strategies to improve the quality of existing parks, playgrounds, schoolyards, and streets

Asset Mapping and Analysis

DCP visited the study area to record observations, take measurements of public spaces, streets and buildings, and capture the neighborhood's character through hand-drawn sketches (such as the drawing on page 46). This documentation was supplemented with desktop research and mapping to complete an existing conditions assessment of the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Framework Plan

The framework plan outlined opportunities raised through community engagement and neighborhood research. It identified strategies for land use changes that distinguished different approaches for main corridors versus interior residential blocks. The plan also highlighted corridors that

could improve neighborhood connectivity, areas to enhance or create open space, and sites that could be leveraged for future community resources. The framework plan is an example of how all four *Principles* work together to create a robust vision for the future.

Modeling and Drawing

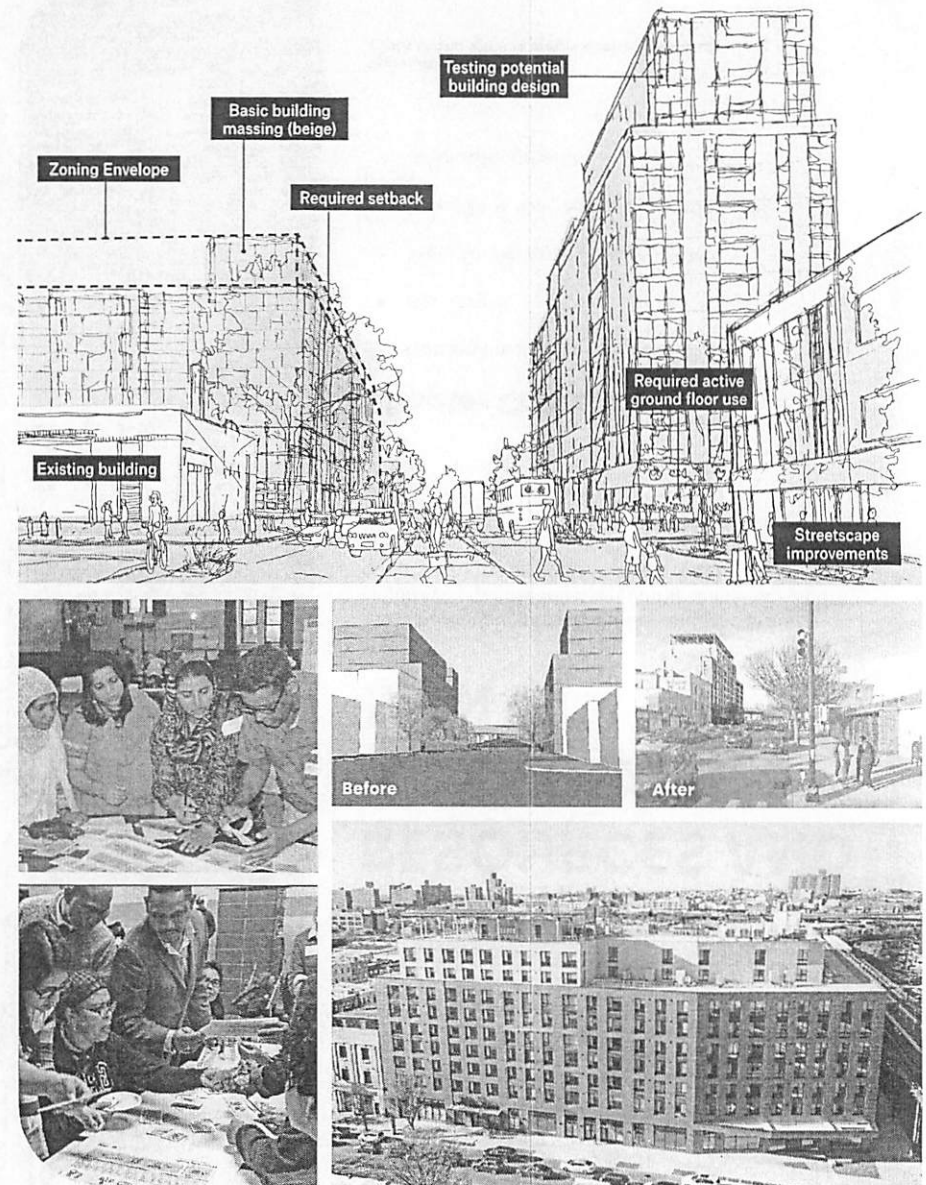
Many factors and variables are weighed when considering changes to zoning districts. Urban designers have the critical responsibility of visualizing what can be built under a zoning proposal. To achieve this, designers use 3D modeling software to create various building forms that are analyzed from the viewpoint of a person on the sidewalk. During this phase, different zoning districts were tested to compare the visual and environmental impacts between different densities. This helped justify and ground the zoning proposal. You can find examples of these models in the Urban Design and Visual Resources chapter of the East New York Neighborhood Plan's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

In some locations within the study area, additional information was hand drawn and layered atop the 3D models. This included sidewalk and open space improvements, in addition to specific zoning controls such as setbacks, requirements for how ground floors can be used, and more. These drawings were critical for capturing how people would experience future conditions as they move through the neighborhood. (Refer to the top image on page 48 for an example.)

Assessing the Outcomes

During the public review process, rezoning proposals are considered for six months before a vote by the City Council. If a rezoning is approved, new buildings are required to adhere to updated zoning from the date of passage. For East New York, this was April 2016.

Since then, several new buildings have been built within rezoned areas (see the 2021 progress update and the bottom right photos on page 52). This offers an opportunity for urban designers to evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes of the zoning regulations. Post-construction site visits are important to *The Principles* as they keep us current with development trends and identify design strategies that are proving to create places where people feel safe, comfortable, and welcome.



Opposite page (top): Layered sketch of potential buildings along Atlantic Avenue; Opposite page (bottom left): Co-designing on city-owned lots; Opposite page (bottom right, clockwise): EIS model, sidewalk photo, and completed building at 50 Pennsylvania Ave.



4

RESOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This chapter includes resources and key terms to ensure you get the most out of this guidebook and understand the avenues to apply your urban design knowledge. Towards the end of the chapter, you will find references that can further expand your learning about urban design in NYC.

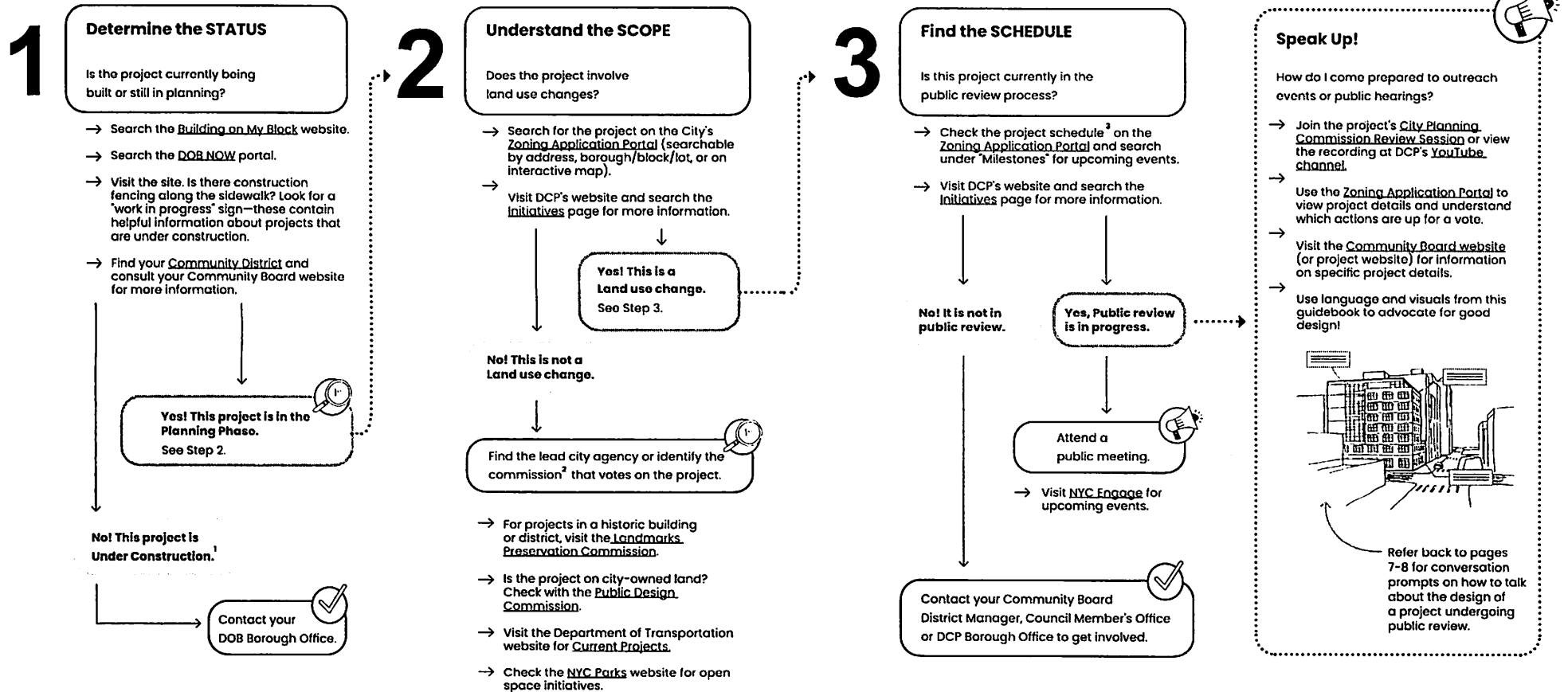
Chapter Contents

- Getting Involved in a Project
- Key Terms
- Want to Explore a Topic Further?
- How Were *The Principles* Decided On?
- Acknowledgments

Opposite page:
E 28th St and 5th Ave intersection - Manhattan

Getting Involved in a Project

Do you want to take action and help shape the future of your neighborhood?
Use this guide to determine how to get involved in various projects.



1. Since 2010, approximately 90% of NYC construction on privately-owned land has not required city approval.

2. Landmarks Preservation Commission, Public Design Commission, the Board of Standards and Appeals, Community Boards, and Borough Presidents host public hearings.

3. For projects marked "Completed," use the ULURP number to search for recorded City Planning Commission review sessions and [City Planning Commission reports](#).

Key Terms

Access

The ability to make use of amenities and resources, such as grocery stores, pharmacies or schools, often within an easily traveled distance from where a person lives or works.

Accessibility (Universal Design)

In this case, refers to how friendly and inviting an area is for people of all ages, physical abilities, and social identities to move around safely and easily. This is often referred to as “universal design.”

Accessibility (neighborhood) is measured by the distance and time it takes someone to go from one location to another. When routes are direct and one is able to experience a varied and dynamic built environment, people are often willing to move for longer distances.

As-of-right Development

The Zoning Resolution governs what property owners can build on their land. When property owners or development teams follow all zoning regulations, they are pursuing what is called an “as-of-right” development. These projects involve a limited number of City approvals and do not go through a public review process.

Built Environment

The human-made structures that we live, work, and play in, ranging from buildings and infrastructure to parks and green spaces.

Civic Pride

The feeling of satisfaction and belonging in connection to a location. It is pride in your city, neighborhood and/or community.

Co-designing

Bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders—in the form of advisory

groups, steering committees, or community working groups—to participate directly in problem solving, consensus building, and identification of planning and design solutions.

Culturally Responsive Design

Involves incorporating and respecting the cultural values, practices, and preferences of diverse racial and ethnic communities in the design of the built environment.

Discretionary Action

An action requiring approval from either the City Planning Commission (CPC) or the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA). Urban designers at the Department of City Planning are often involved in projects with a discretionary action. They provide design review and help shape a proposal before it is put in front of the CPC. Many projects with discretionary actions are subject to the uniform land use review procedure ULURP (defined on page 55).

Diversity

The presence of a wide range of demographic, cultural, and social groups within the design process and the physical product(s) of a place.

Equity

The just distribution of resources, opportunities, and benefits within a place, taking into account the varying needs and circumstances of its residents. Equity accounts for systemic inequities and differences in conditions while using corrective measures to ensure fairness and access.

Racial equity is a process of actively identifying and dismantling discriminatory practices, addressing racially biased policies, and ensuring



Pedestrian perspective (the point of view from a person as they move down street).

that the benefits and opportunities of urban development are shared among all racial groups.

Inclusion

Intentional and proactive efforts to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their backgrounds or abilities, feel welcomed, respected, and able to participate fully in the life of the city.

Hostile Design

The use of design or policy to intentionally exclude or hinder human use of a space, restrict access to amenities, and limit freedom of movement through the city. Hostile design systematically discriminates against particular groups while benefiting others.

Massing

Refers to building form and is often broken into three sections: base, middle and top. It defines both the interior space and the exterior shape of the building.

Land Use

The activity, occupation, business, or operation that is conducted in a building or on a tract of land. Common categories of land uses include residential, commercial, industrial, or institutional uses.

Pedestrian Perspective

The point of view or experience at eye level of a person as they move through the city's neighborhoods. Urban designers focus on the pedestrian perspective when evaluating any aspect of a project or when designing a building, plaza, or any other element of the public realm. See images on pages 54 and 55 for examples of this viewpoint.

Principles of Good Urban Design

A set of values and goals that inform how we approach the design of NYC—its building, open spaces, and other aspects of the built environment.

Resources and Acknowledgments



Pedestrian perspective (the point of view from a person as they look across street).

Public Open Space

Areas that are open to the public to use, such as streets and public parks.

Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP)

A roughly 7-month process for the public and the City to review and make decisions about proposed changes to zoning or other regulations governing the use of land in NYC. The public has the opportunity to share their input on projects by participating at hearings at the Community Board, Borough Board and Borough President levels, as well as at the City Planning Commission (CPC) and City Council.

Public Realm

The spaces and experiences that members of the public share within the built environment. For example, our streets, parks, and plazas are part of the public realm. The public realm is also shaped by adjacent buildings. This is highlighted on page 56.

Redlining

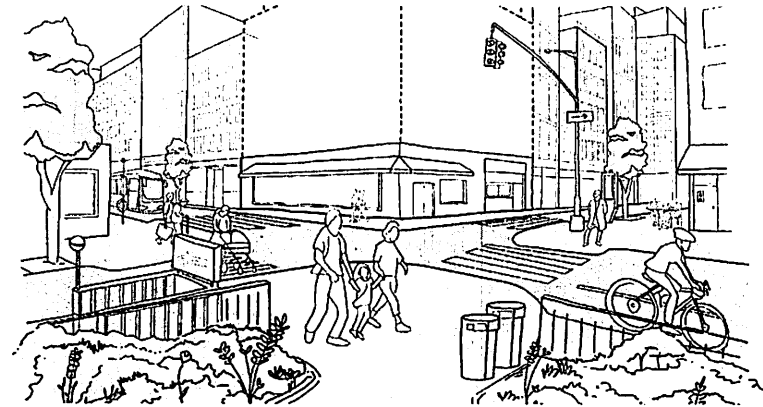
The discriminatory practice of denying financial services to residents of certain areas based on their race or ethnicity. The term refers to the red color used to denote "undesirable" areas on maps used by lending institutions to determine loan eligibility.

Sense of Belonging

The feeling of connectedness to a place or community. This is important because if we feel recognized and connected to the place where we live, work, and play, we feel more at ease and can thrive within that environment. It's through a sense of belonging that our built environment can improve our well-being and quality of life.

Sense of Scale

Scale refers to how elements of the city relate to one another in size or dimension and to how a pedestrian experiences them.



The public realm includes streets, transit, plazas, parks, and many other shared spaces.

Urban Design

Urban design focuses on how the elements of our city, buildings, streets, parks, and plazas are designed, built, and arranged in relation to one another, and how people experience the city.

Urban Planning

Urban planning looks at how features of the city, such as buildings, transportation and infrastructure, open space, housing, and public buildings, connect and relate to one another to shape regulations and investments to promote the health, safety, and economic well-being of the city's residents, workers, and businesses. Planning discussions combine the technical planning practice with the unique needs of our communities. Planners, who may work for government agencies, private entities, nonprofit organizations, or as volunteers, collaborate with communities, other public agencies,

and elected officials, to define and address the unique needs, aspirations, and cultures of NYC neighborhoods and their residents.

Well-being

The degree to which people feel their physical, emotional and social needs are met. It includes all aspects of community life that have a direct influence on the physical and mental health of its members and the quality of the environment around them.

Zoning

Laws that regulate the types of uses (for example, residential or commercial) that can be located on a given piece of land, as well as the overall shape and size of buildings. New York City's zoning regulations are established in the Zoning Resolution.

Want to Explore a Topic Further?

The following links are resources from a variety of city agencies and urban design advocates that provide more in-depth detail for designing different types of spaces or understanding more about the planning and design process.

Streets and Open Space

- [NYC Street Design Manual](#)
- [NYC Pedestrian Mobility Plan](#)
- [Curb Management Action Plan](#)
- [Dining Out NYC \(Sidewalk and Roadway Cafe Setup Guides\)](#)
- [Designing New York: Streetscapes for Wellness](#)
- [Designing New York: Prefabrication in the Public Realm](#)
- [Active Design Guidelines: Promoting Physical Activity and Health In Design](#)
- [Active Design: Shaping the Sidewalk Experience](#)
- [Safe Places, Active Spaces: A Community Playbook for Transforming Public Spaces in Your Neighborhood](#)
- [School Streets Toolkit: Every child deserves space to Play, Learn, and Grow](#)

Housing and Campus Design

- [HPD Design Guidelines for New Construction](#)
- [Connected Communities Guidebook: A practical guide for community engagement, open space design, and building preservation and construction on NYCHA Campuses](#)
- [Designing New York: Quality Affordable Housing](#)

Sustainability and Adaptability

- [Native Species Planting Guide for NYC](#)
- [Design and Planning for Flood Resiliency: Guidelines for NYC Parks](#)
- [NYC Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines](#)
- [Retrofitting Buildings for Flood Risk](#)
- [PlaNYC: Getting Sustainability Done](#)
- [Zero Waste Design Guidelines](#)

Neighborhood Planning

- [New New York: Making New York Work for Everyone](#)
- [Neighborhood Planning Playbook: Housing New York](#)
- [Commercial District Needs Assessments](#)
- [Community District Profiles](#)

Inclusive Design

- [Inclusive Design Guidelines: New York City](#)
- [Universal Design New York](#)

How Were *The Principles* Decided On?

NYC's *Principles of Good Urban Design* were first released in 2017 to guide the city, community members, and everyone working towards promoting the livability and vitality of our neighborhoods and the public realm. Those principles were used to improve design and planning outcomes in DCP's work on land use applications. In 2020, DCP began to consider how *The Principles of Good Urban Design* could be used and implemented by all New Yorkers and adapted to address the evolving nature of our city's current reality, including the pandemic, racial justice efforts, the city's economy, and the mental health crisis. As a result, we embarked on a multi-year engagement process to update *The Principles of Good Urban Design*.

DCP structured the engagement process to reach a broad swath of New Yorkers and hear what urban design means to them. We set up a variety of forums to hear feedback from the following groups: members of the public, design and planning professionals, the government, and developers. This process began with a website ([goodurbandesign.nyc](#)) that hosted the video [What Is Urban Design?](#) and a survey about the 2017 Principles. We received over 1,500 responses—from Staten Island to City Island. The recurring themes included physical safety, beautifying the neighborhood, providing convenient connections to public services, and complementing the surrounding neighborhood.

In addition, we participated in Community Board meetings, presented to all five Borough Boards, and participated in pop-up events. DCP held workshops with architects and designers to better understand how they incorporate core values in their work. In addition, we convened roundtable discussions with developers to understand how they approach urban design.

This guidebook responds to this engagement by:

- Re-framing *The Principles* and underpinning them with clear objectives that can be applied in any NYC neighborhood.
- Providing prompts that can be used when evaluating a project.
- Including real-world examples to ground *The Principles* and share concrete ways for how good urban design can be achieved both in product and process.
- Sharing a roadmap of how to get involved in different planning and design projects.

NYC's *Principles of Good Urban Design* is a living document, one that must be revisited and refined to meet the moment. *The Principles* will always begin from the same starting point of people, their experience of the city, and how we can collectively make NYC a well-designed city for everyone.

Acknowledgments

The Principles for Good Urban Design guidebook was shaped by numerous conversations with community leaders, design advocates, non-profit organizations, design practitioners, city-agency leaders, and the City Planning Commission. DCP greatly appreciates their contributions, time, and insights throughout an extensive engagement process.

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To our colleagues across partner agencies who help shape good urban design whether through parks and public spaces, sidewalks and streets, or city facilities. Thank you for being stewards for a better public realm, elevating civic pride and your feedback in this effort.

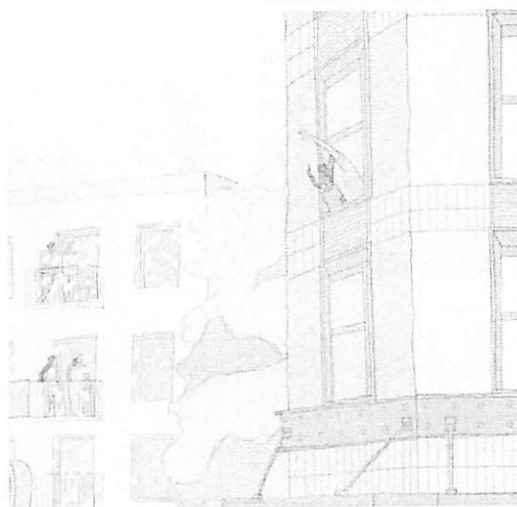
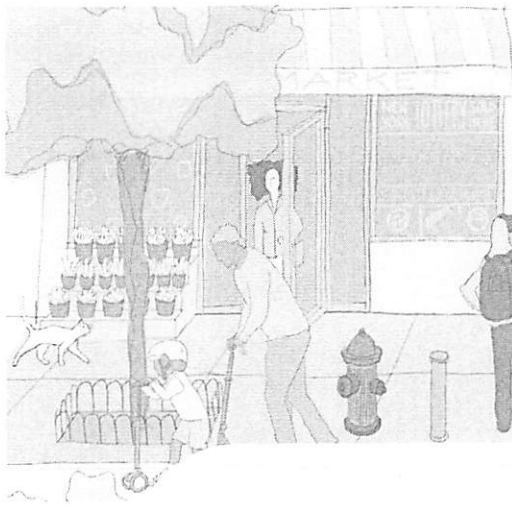
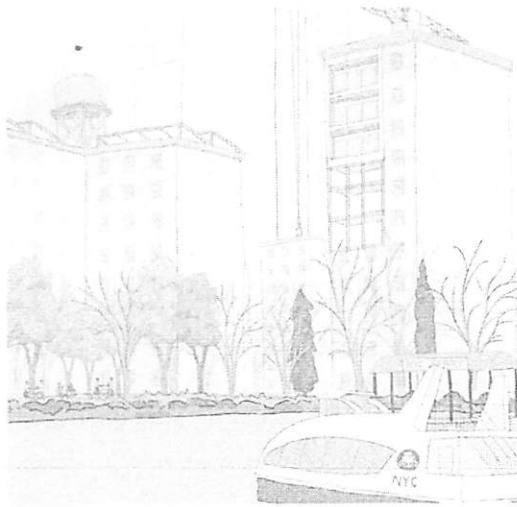
- Department of Design and Construction
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Department of Housing Preservation and Development
- Department of Transportation
- Economic Development Corporation
- Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice
- New York City Housing Authority
- NYC Parks
- Office of the Chief Public Realm Officer
- Public Design Commission
- Small Business Services

To the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter (AIANY) for your continued collaboration and support on city-wide efforts to promote good urban design and AIANY's Planning and Urban Design Committee for hosting workshops and events for this effort.

To the private sector firms that participated in workshops and roundtables:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Design Firms | Development Firms |
| • FX Collaborative | • Alloy |
| • Gehl Architects | • Bronx Pro Group |
| • Henning Larson | • Gotham Organization |
| • HOK Architects | • Hudson Companies |
| • Marvel Architects | • Jonathan Rose Companies |
| • SCAPE Landscape Architecture | • L&M Companies |
| • Skidmore, Owings & Merrell | • Phipps Housing |
| • Starr Whitehouse | |
| • Studio Forny | |
| • TenBerke Architects | |
| • Vinoly Architects | |
| • WXY Architects | |





Principles of Good Urban Design

The Principles are a set of values and goals that inform how to approach the design of NYC. These principles are a lens through which we examine not only how the city looks, but also how it feels to live, work, come together, and move around the city.

The Principles describe how design can influence one's daily experience of the city by making it more enjoyable and comfortable; how design can support quality of life, well-being, and health; and how design can help foster a sense of belonging and civic pride. Ultimately, *The Principles of Good Urban Design* communicate a vision of a city that works for everyone—a city that New Yorkers deserve.

