

Chinatown Connections

Community
Engagement Session
June 15th, 2023

6:00 – Workshop Opens

6:05 – Welcome

6:10 – Presentation

6:30 – Breakout Rooms

7:15 – Closing

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Outline

1. Introduction / Overview of Goals
2. Focus Areas for Input
3. Breakout Sessions
4. Feedback Summary
5. Next Steps



Introduction / Overview of Goals

DOT Efforts to Date

- DOT has worked with multiple stakeholders on a variety of safety and public realm projects in Chinatown
- DOT is initiating a community-centered engagement strategy to develop a public realm plan to incorporate ongoing work by city agencies and New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) efforts
- Final plan will outline a vision, goals, and phasing strategy for implementation of projects



DRI Funding

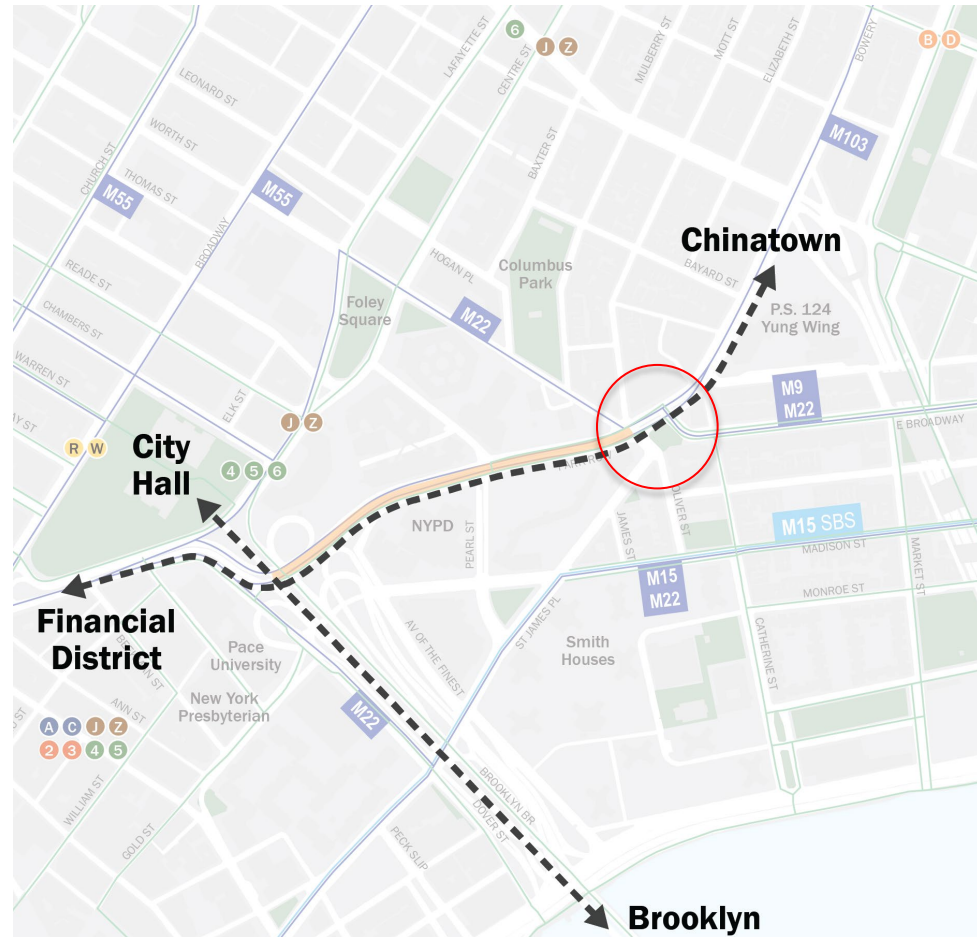
- The City received \$11.5M from New York State (NYS) as part of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) process
 - \$2.5M for a Chinatown Gateway Arch (NYC EDC)
 - \$4M for Park Row (NYC DOT)
 - \$5M for Kimlau Square (NYC DPR)
- The city is seeking feedback on how to develop these projects within the context of a larger, districtwide plan



Renderings for illustrative purposes only

Opportunities

- Kimlau Square sits at the prominent Chinatown intersection of East Broadway, Bowery, Park Row, and Worth Street
- Park Row is a key connection between Chinatown, Lower Manhattan, Brooklyn and City Hall
- High foot traffic area: City Hall, Brooklyn Bridge, Pace University, NY Presbyterian Hospital, and other civic institutions
- Multiple subways within walking distance
- Serves M103, M22 and M9 bus routes
- State DRI process identified a need to improve streetscapes and public spaces to bolster neighborhood identity



Challenges

- Pedestrians experienced **40%** of all injuries from crashes between 2016 and 2020
- Bicycle connections at Kimlau Square are complicated due to existing geometry
- Pedestrian space along Park Row is a mix of painted and concrete sidewalks
- Pinch point at Brooklyn Bridge off ramp creates shared space for pedestrians and bicycles, creating conflicts
- Large portion of Kimlau Square is dedicated to roadway space, and complicated operations limit possible improvements without large scale changes
- Coordinating multiple DRI funded projects being lead by different city agencies



Focus Areas for Input

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Short-term Improvements

- In collaboration with community stakeholders and sister agencies, install improvements to address safety, circulation, and wayfinding challenges identified during public engagement sessions.
- First phase could focus on:
 - Public art and wayfinding at Brooklyn Bridge Stair and along Park Row
 - Park Row security perimeter improvements at Frankfort and Worth Streets including barricade cleanup, landscaping, public art and wayfinding
- Future phases may include ongoing DOT public realm projects and programming along Canal, Doyers and Pell, Forsyth Plaza and the Brooklyn Bridge Arches.



Longstanding Requests to Reopen Park Row

- In the creation of a district wide plan, the City is seeking feedback from the community regarding the future of Park Row
- Park Row's purpose in the citywide network will potentially change operations at either end
- Must balance potential operational changes at Kimlau Square with safety of bicycles and pedestrians at the complicated intersection



Past Vision for Kimlau Square

- 2009 reconstruction plan was proposed to drastically expand the footprint of Kimlau Square
- Potential to revisit this concept to advance communities public realm and revitalization goals
- Redesigning Kimlau Square could improve traffic operations and enhance safety for all users



Break Out Sessions – Areas of Opportunity

3

Breakout Discussions

1. Short-term Improvements
2. Park Row Discussion
3. Kimlau Square Discussion



Break Out Room



Please note this breakout discussion will be recorded

Introduce yourself by writing in the chat!

1.Name

2.Any affiliations
(Community Groups,
Government affiliations, etc.)



Short Term Improvements for Park Row

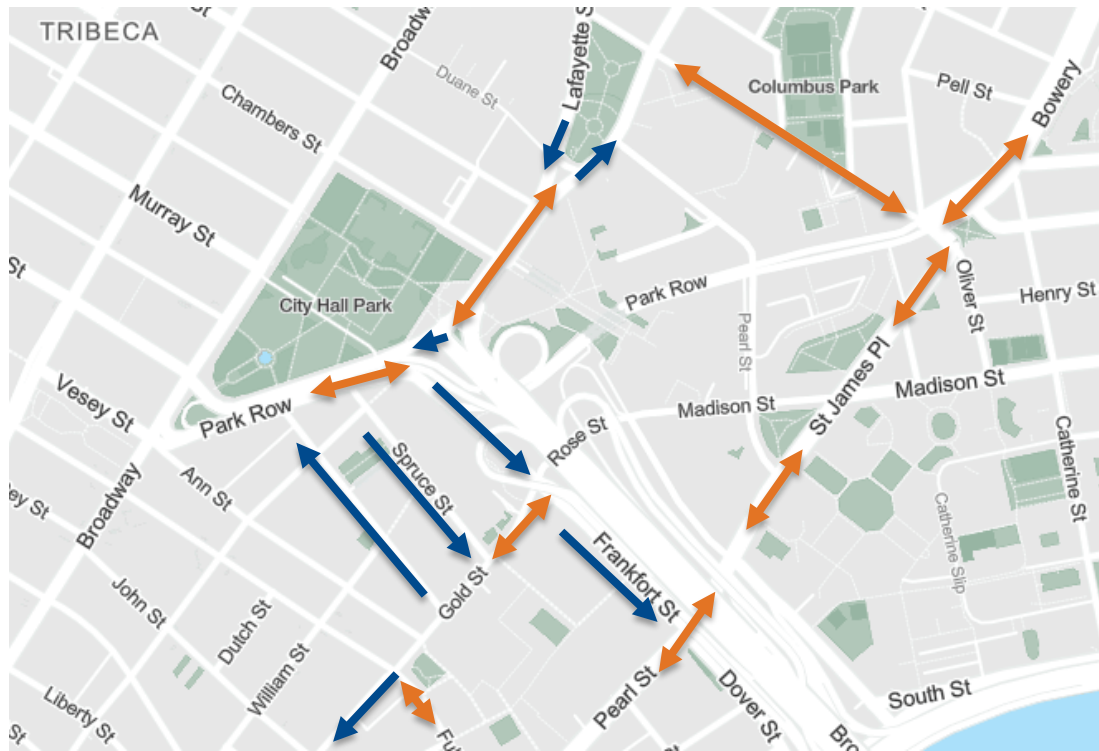
- Art Interventions
- Gateway Cleanup
- Improved Wayfinding
- Programming & Concession Opportunities in the area



Current Conditions of Park Row

- Majority of Park Row is within the security zone and closed to private vehicles
- Pedestrian, bike, and bus access is maintained
- Pearl St/St. James Place functions as closest alternative route for vehicles

How do you use Park Row today?



Recent DOT work on Park Row

- Temporary improvements added two-way bike path and pedestrian path in 2018
- New connections are well used, but could be improved with permanent materials and reconstruction



Park Row Deep Dive

Key issues

- Uninviting gateway at Frankfort St
- Narrow shared space with bikes and pedestrians near closed Brooklyn Bridge off-ramp
- Complex operations at Worth St



Where is your primary concern?



Where is your primary concern?



甯扶街 Worth St 甯扶街

柏路 Park Row 柏路

Under
Bridge

No visual connection
to Chinatown

Wide roadway at
Kimlau Square

珍珠街 Pearl St 珍珠街

Future of Park Row

City is seeking input on the below considerations:

- Should it reopen to vehicles
- One way or two way
- Direction of travel
- Time of day limits



Kimlau Square

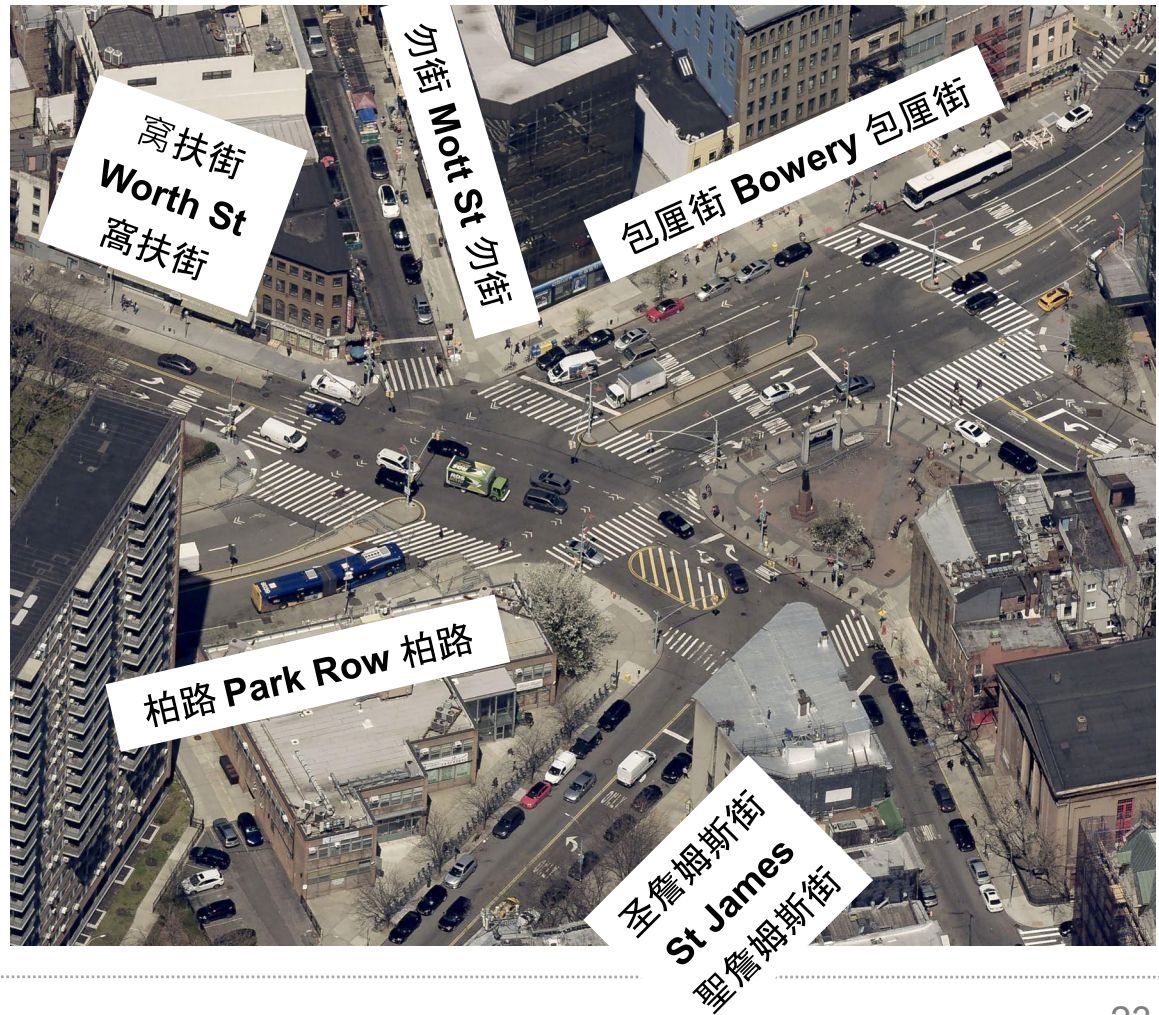
DRI Goals

- Reconstruct and expand Kimlau Square, creating larger public space
- Explore potential locations for Arch
- Maintain existing Memorial Arch and Statue



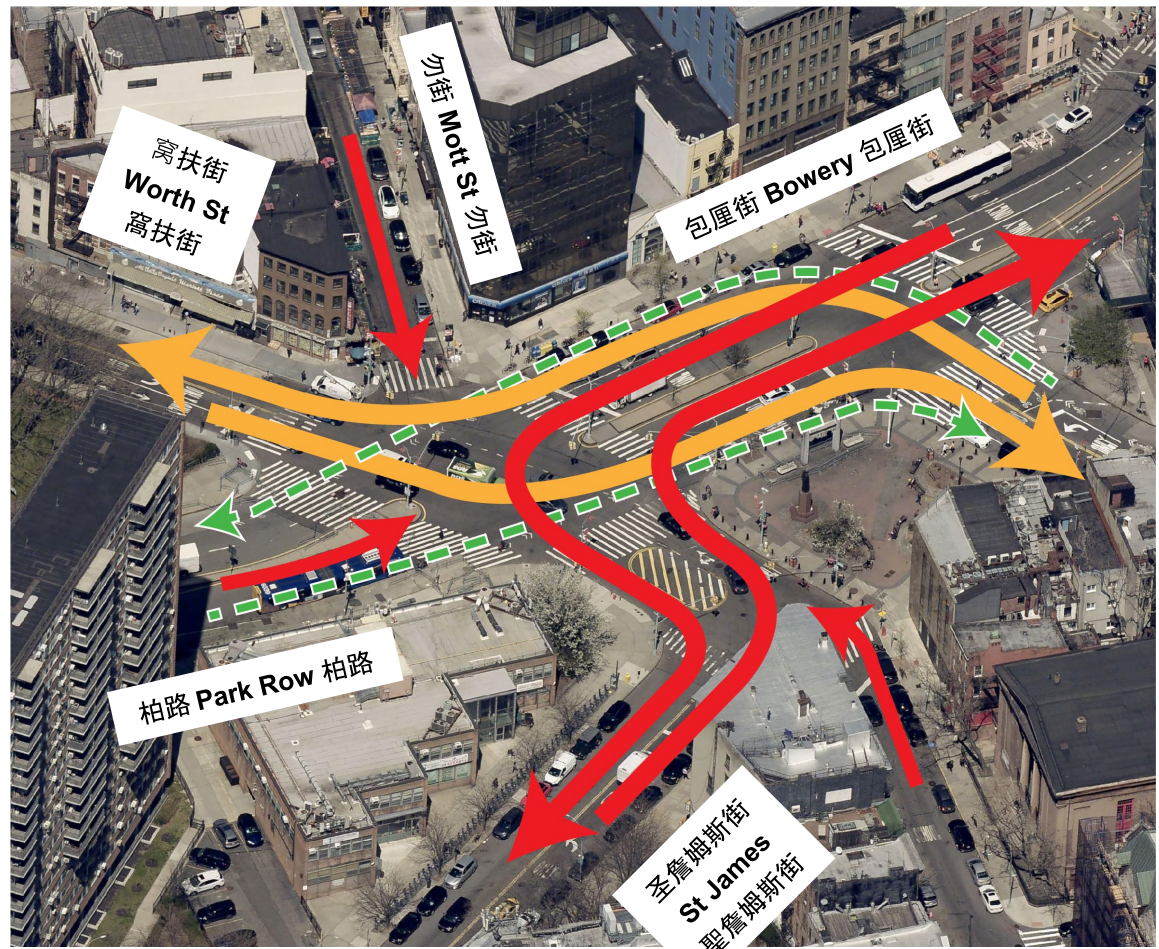
Kimlau Square Issues

- Existing square needs renovation
- Complex traffic movements at five-point intersection results in many conflict points
- Difficult bike network connections to/from Park Row to East Broadway
- Vehicles routinely spill back into pedestrian areas while queueing for the signal
- Signal timing is complex long waits for pedestrians and vehicles

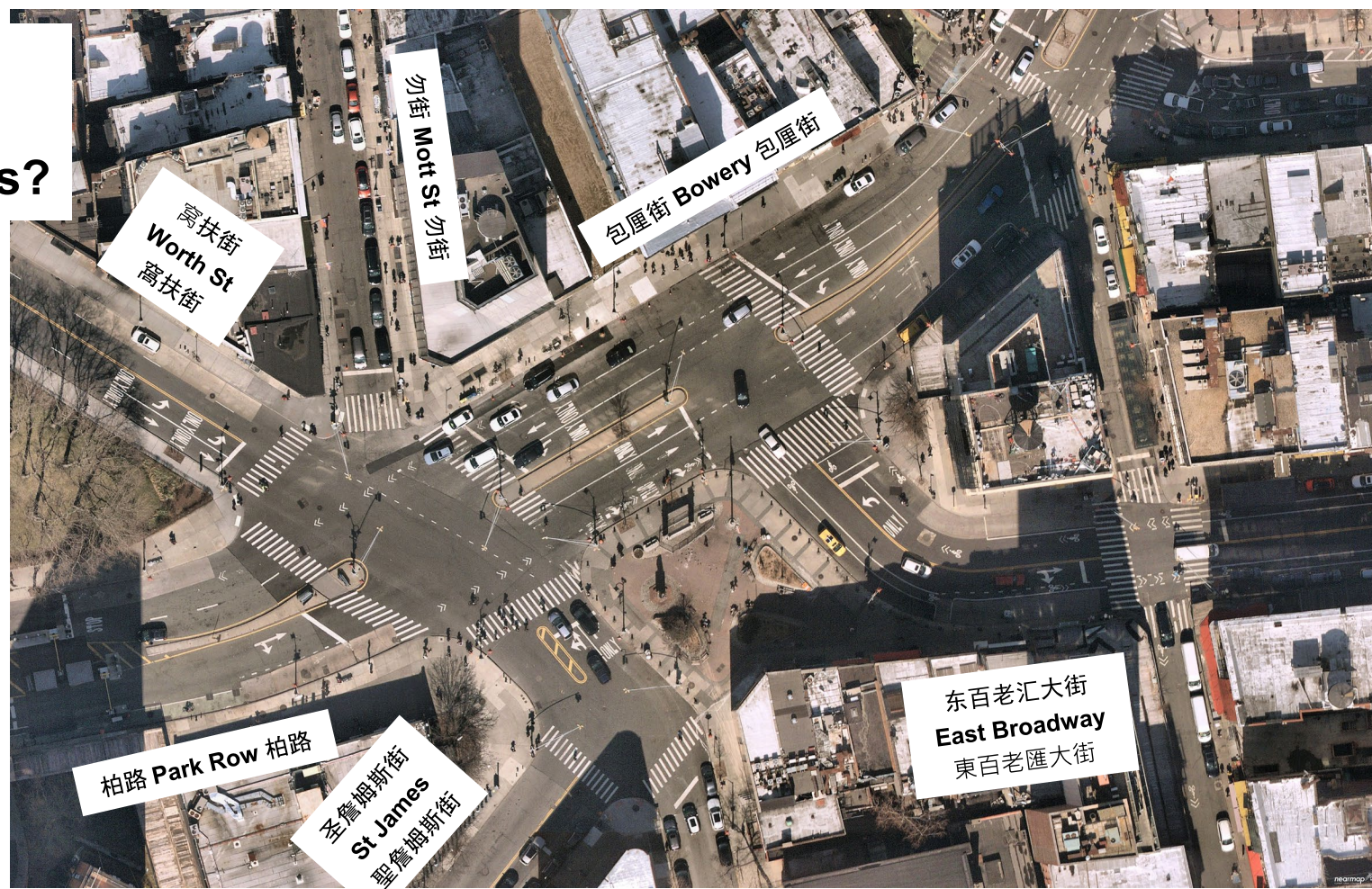


Kimlau Square Operations

- Predominant traffic flow is from Bowery to St James Place, which crosses multiple crosswalks
- Secondary traffic flow is Worth St to East Broadway
- These two "wiggles" around the existing Kimlau Square are the primary cause of the transportation issues seen today
- Bike connections are shared with vehicles
- Kimlau Square is surrounded by these complex movements



Additional Concerns? Opportunities?



Suggestions for Next Steps

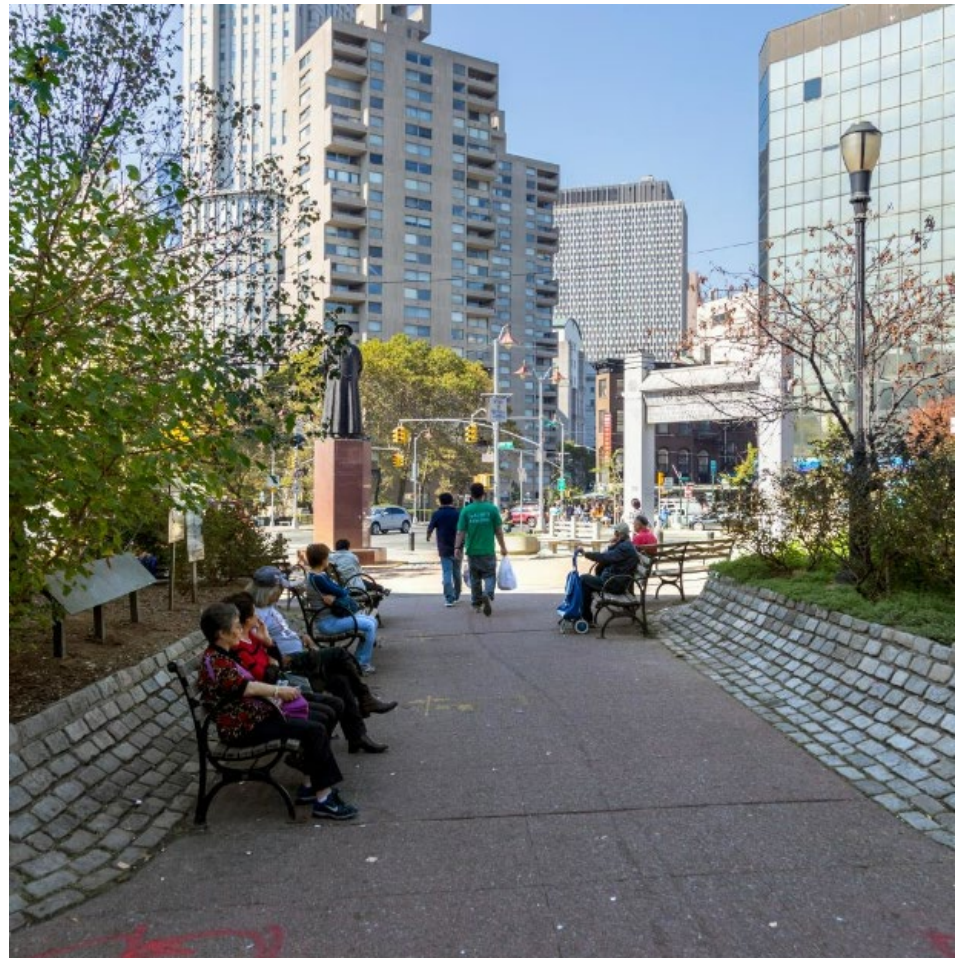
- What type of outreach and community engagement would be most meaningful?
 - Virtual / In-person / Combination?
 - In what languages
- Are there institutions, stakeholders, or organizations that should be included that have not been up to now?
- How can these projects and outreach connect to other DOT and City work happening in the neighborhood i.e. Doyers, Canal, etc.



Breakout Room Conclusion

Breakout groups will return to main room shortly for closing remarks

- Determine the group's primary feedback regarding Park Row and Kimlau Square
- Room Facilitator will report back



Feedback Summary

4

Report Back

- What were the key takeaways from your group?

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Next Steps

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Next Steps



Thank You For Attending!



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