Urban Design 101

The Urban Design Practice at DCP

Brooklyn
Community Board 8

NYC PLANNING

Objectives

Familiarize with the urban design practice at DCP

What is urban design, and why is it important?

Understand the urban designers' role at DCP

How does urban design complement the planning practice at DCP?

- Within established DCP processes (ULURP and application reviews)

- In collaborating on specific initiatives with other city agencies

- In advocating for better urban design in New York City

Urban Design Principles

What are the guiding principles that guide Urban Designer's work?

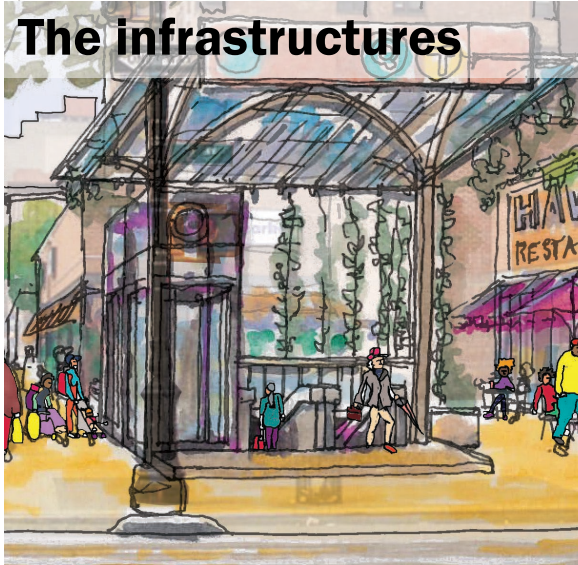# The Urban Design Practice at DCP

Urban designers focus on people...

The Urban Design Practice at DCP

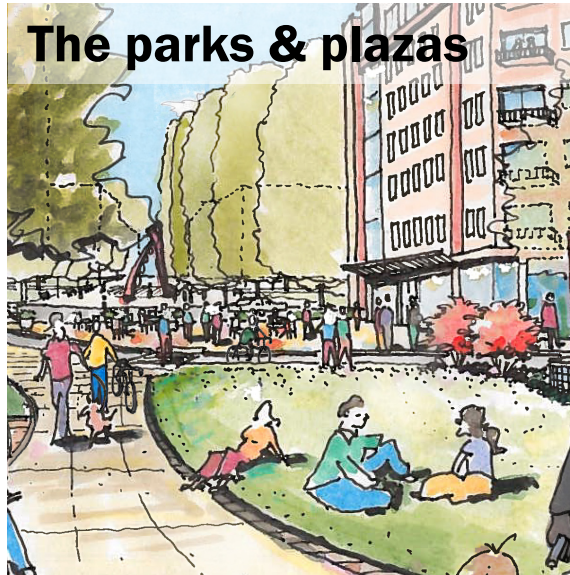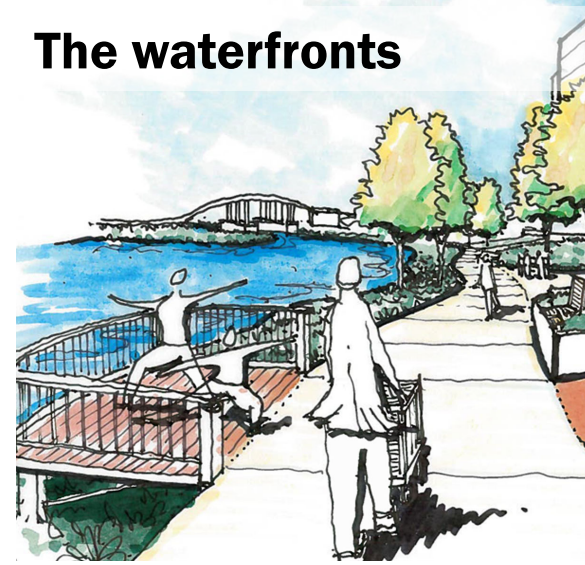...and how they interact with and experience their city

The streets

The buildings

The parks & plazas

The infrastructures

The waterfronts

The Urban Design Practice at DCP

Origins of Urban Design Practice at DCP

From Mayor Lindsay's taskforce

The Threatened City

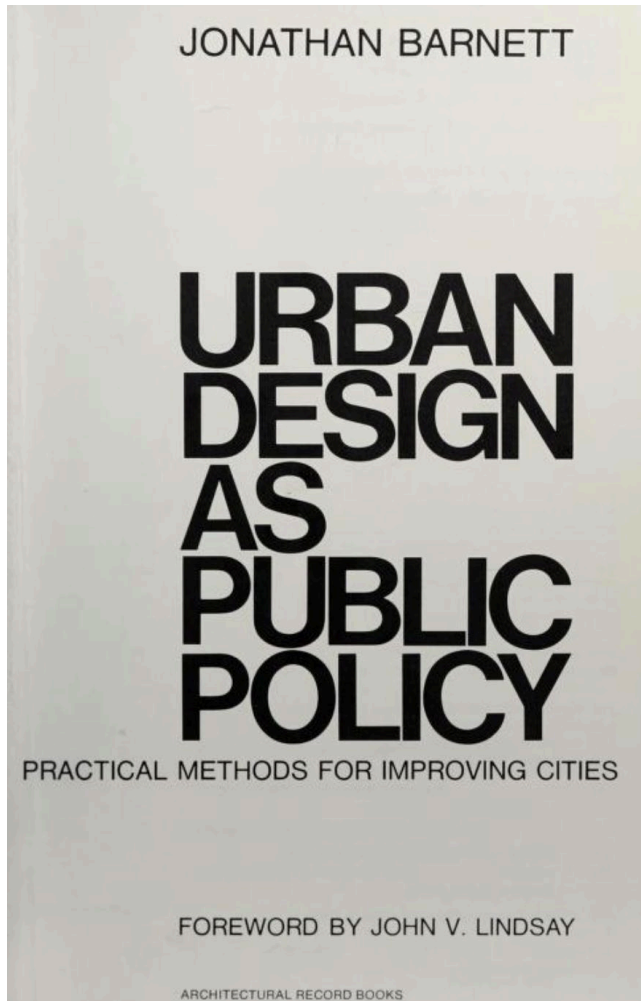A REPORT ON THE DESIGN OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BY THE MAYOR'S TASK FORCE

VOTE FOR LINDSAY
JOHN LINDSAY FOR MAYOR

"The subject is quality, the quality of living in the sometimes overpowering environment of the world's greatest city."

-Mayor's Urban Design Task Force, 1967

Origins of Urban Design Practice at DCP

From Mayor Lindsay's taskforce

JONATHAN BARNETT

URBAN DESIGN AS PUBLIC POLICY

PRACTICAL METHODS FOR IMPROVING CITIES

FOREWORD BY JOHN V. LINDSAY

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD BOOKS

Urban Design Group
created in 1967

"…. it is the **individuals** who must be kept in mind in working out the **details of the design solutions** if the solutions are to be **genuine**, not merely standard."

-Mayor's Urban Design Task Force, 1967

The Urban Design Practice at DCP

Together with all New Yorkers, help shape a livable city by advocating for high quality design of the built environment.

The Urban Design Practice at DCP

Our Vision...

A city designed and built to contribute to the quality of life and wellbeing of all New Yorkers in every neighborhood.

The Urban Design Practice at DCP

Our Objectives...

INFLUENCE POLICY AND ADVOCATE FOR GOOD DESIGN

THINK ACROSS SCALES AND INTEGRATE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

UNDERSTAND, EVALUATE, AND COMMUNICATE CHANGES TO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

KEEP UP WITH EMERGING TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES

EMPOWER COMMUNITIES / BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN POLICY MAKERS AND NEW YORKERS

Urban Designers' role at DCP

They shape New York City's public realm...

Urban Designers' role at DCP

...while reviewing applicant projects...
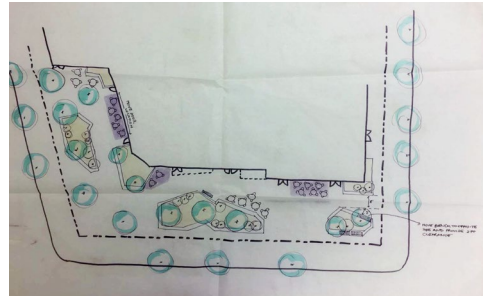
Urban Designers' role at DCP

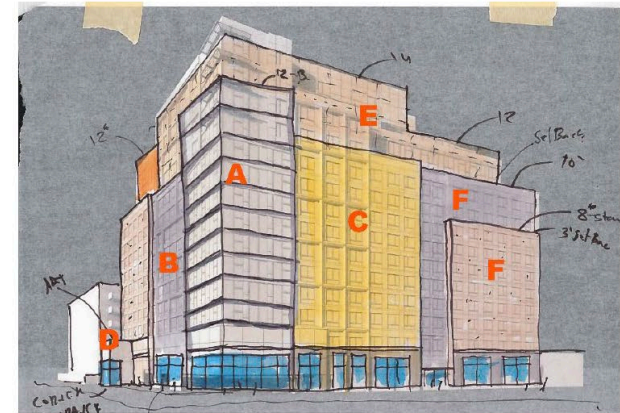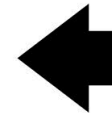## ...while reviewing applicant projects...
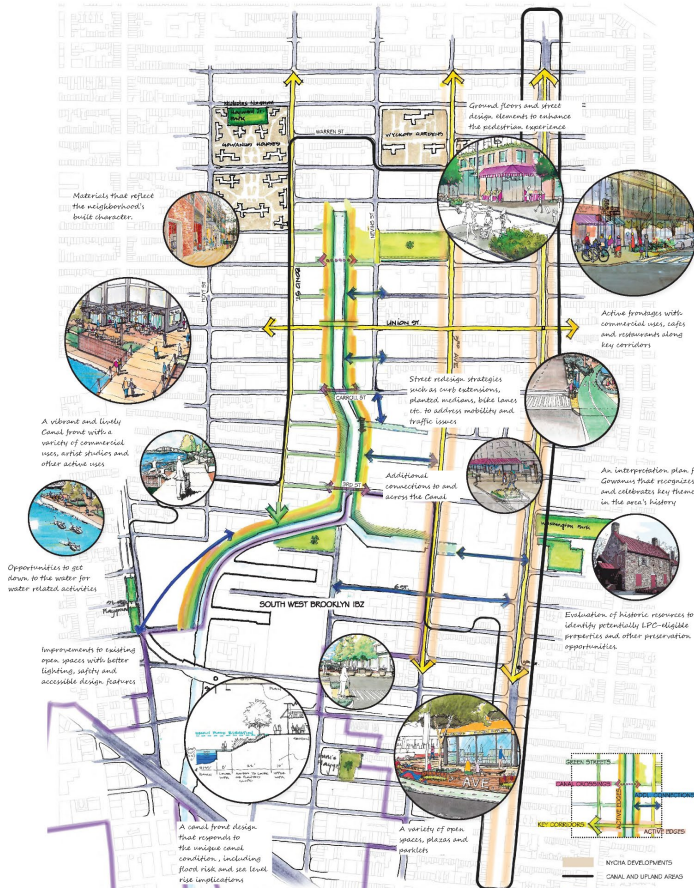

Progression

October 2015
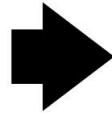
April 2016

October 2016 – DCP comments

Certification

Urban Designers' role at DCP

...in rezoning and neighborhood studies...
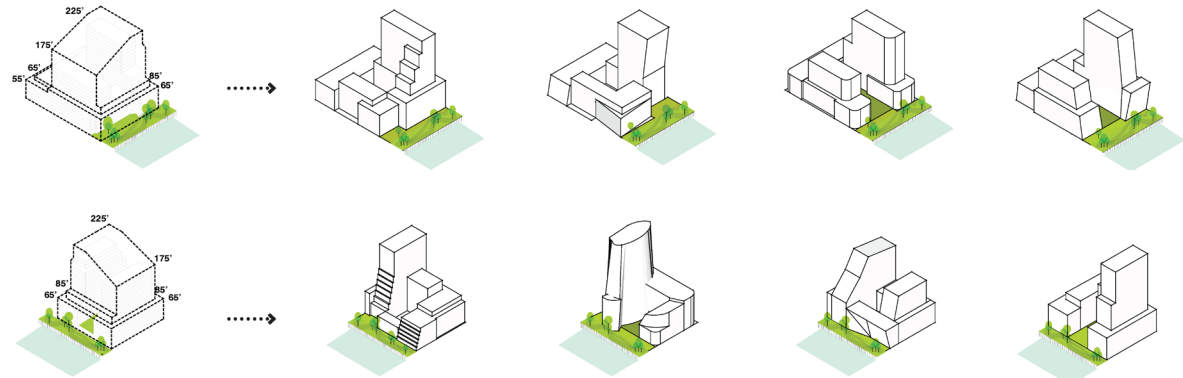
Urban Designers' role at DCP

... designing for special sites...

Urban Designers' role at DCP

...developing creative engagement strategies and tools...

Tell us what matters in your neighborhood

Share a story and a picture about your neighborhood

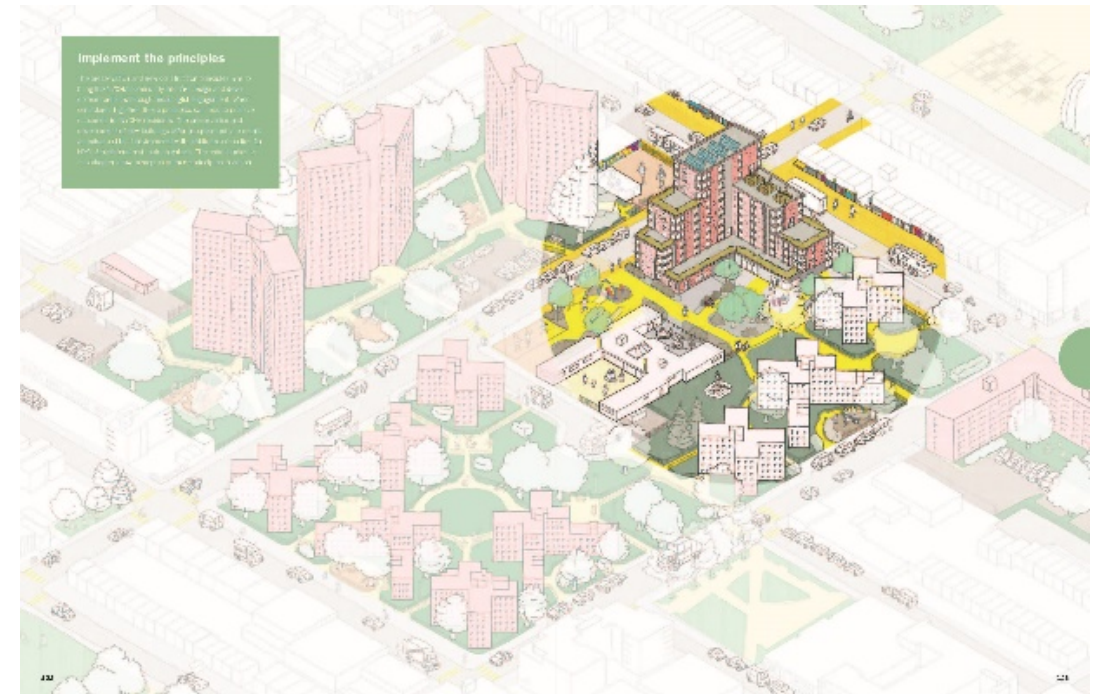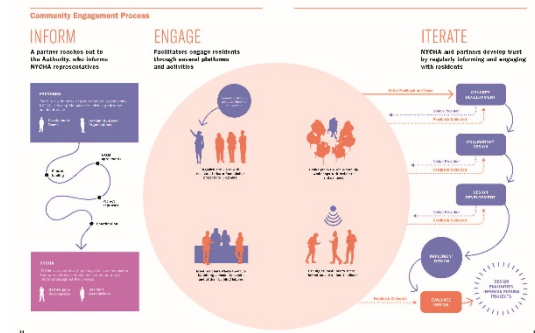Read and give feedback on the Principles of Good Urban Design

## ...creating design guidelines to improve people's wellbeing...

Urban Designers' role at DCP

...advocating for a better public realm for all...

The 4 urban design principles

1. ... reinforces the sense of place of a neighborhood

2. ... supports ease of movement around the city and an accessible public realm

3. ... incorporates details that ensure quality, durability, stewardship, and maintenance

4. ... ensures that our city is comfortable, welcoming, and feels safe to all
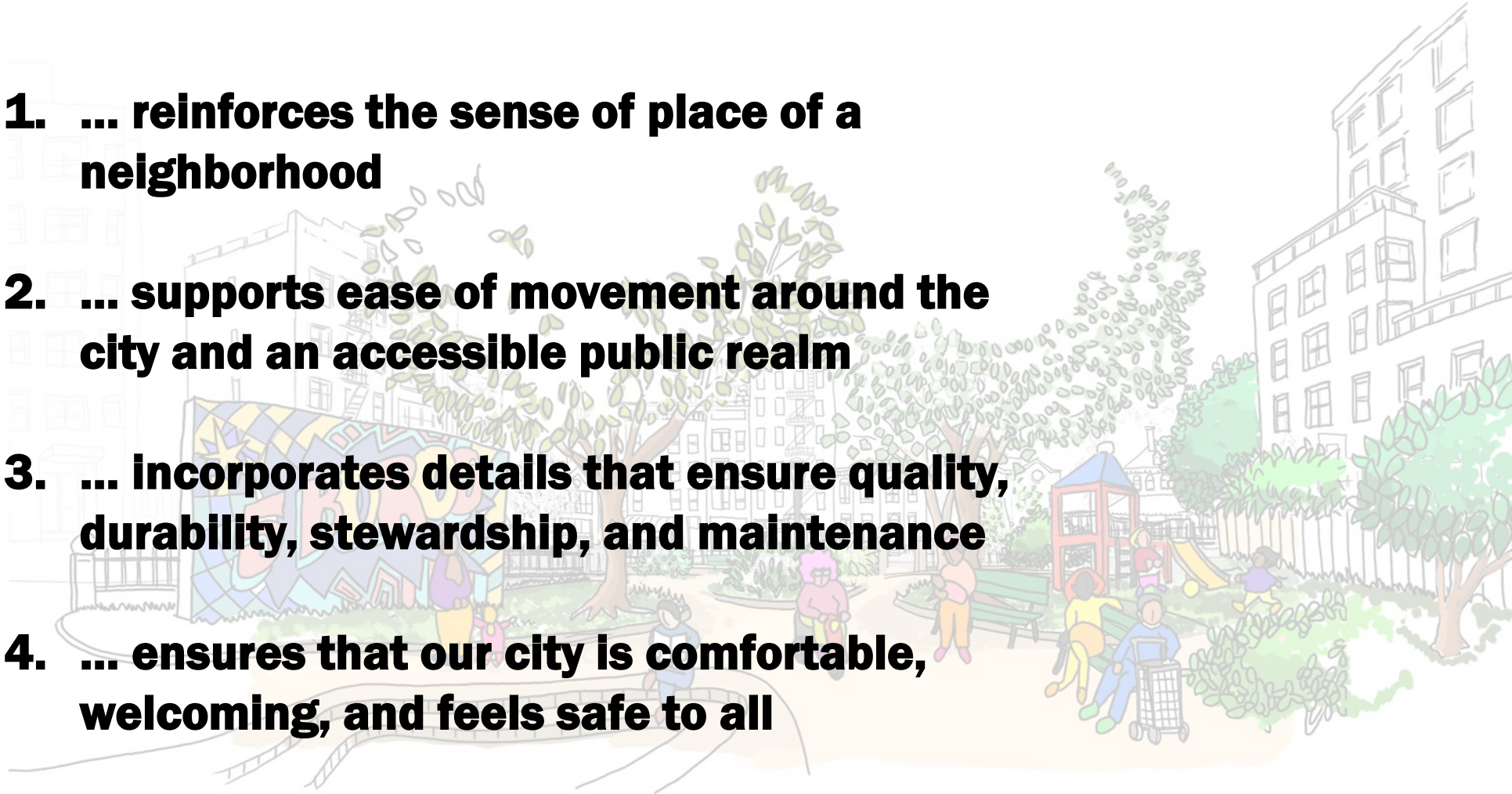
The 4 urban design principles

1. Good urban design reinforces the sense of place of a neighborhood

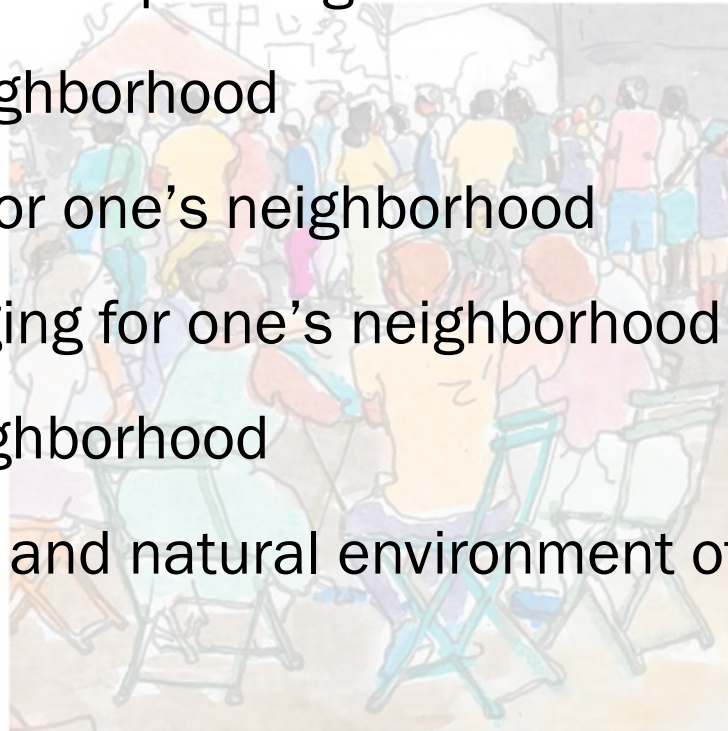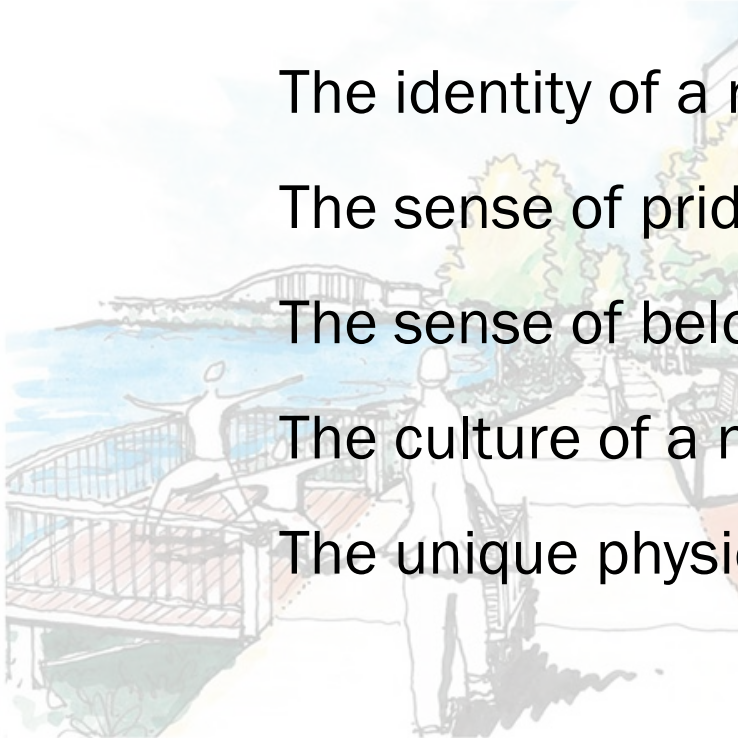The features that make up a neighborhood

The identity of a neighborhood

The sense of pride for one's neighborhood

The sense of belonging for one's neighborhood

The culture of a neighborhood

The unique physical and natural environment of a neighborhood
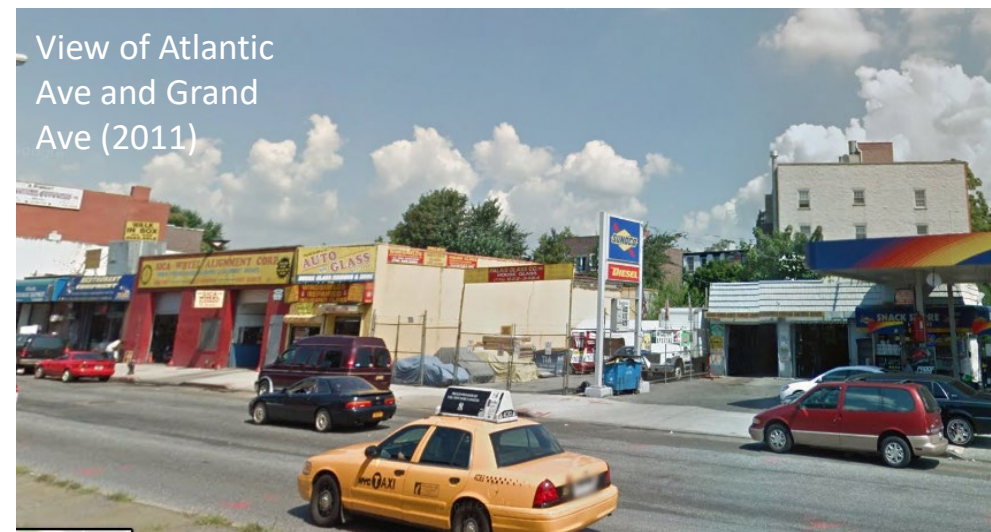
The 4 urban design principles

1. Good urban design reinforces the sense of place of a neighborhood

View Marcy Plaza at Marcy and Fulton St. (2019)

View of Atlantic Ave and Grand Ave (1941)

View of Atlantic Ave and Grand Ave (2011)

The 4 urban design principles

Anywhere in your neighborhood that really makes you feel like a sense of place?

A feature that makes your neighborhood special? A unique physical or natural environment feature?

The 4 urban design principles

2. Good urban design supports ease of movement around the city and an accessible public realm

Inclusiveness

Meeting everyone's needs
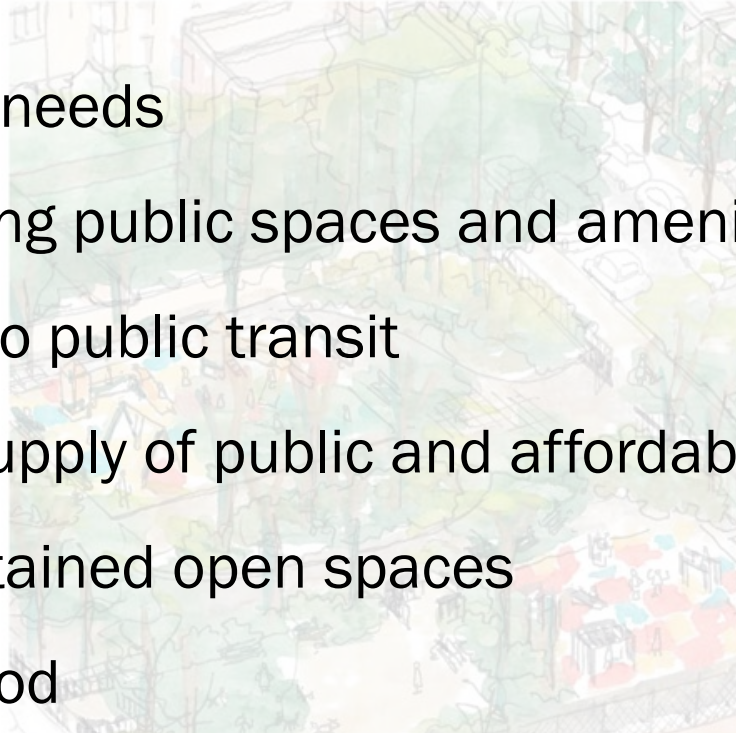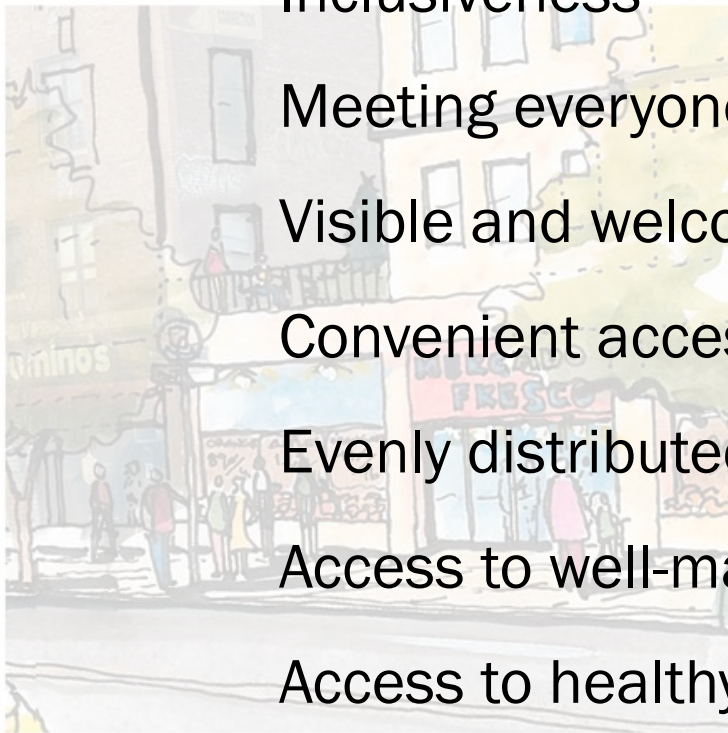
Visible and welcoming public spaces and amenities

Convenient access to public transit

Evenly distributed supply of public and affordable housing
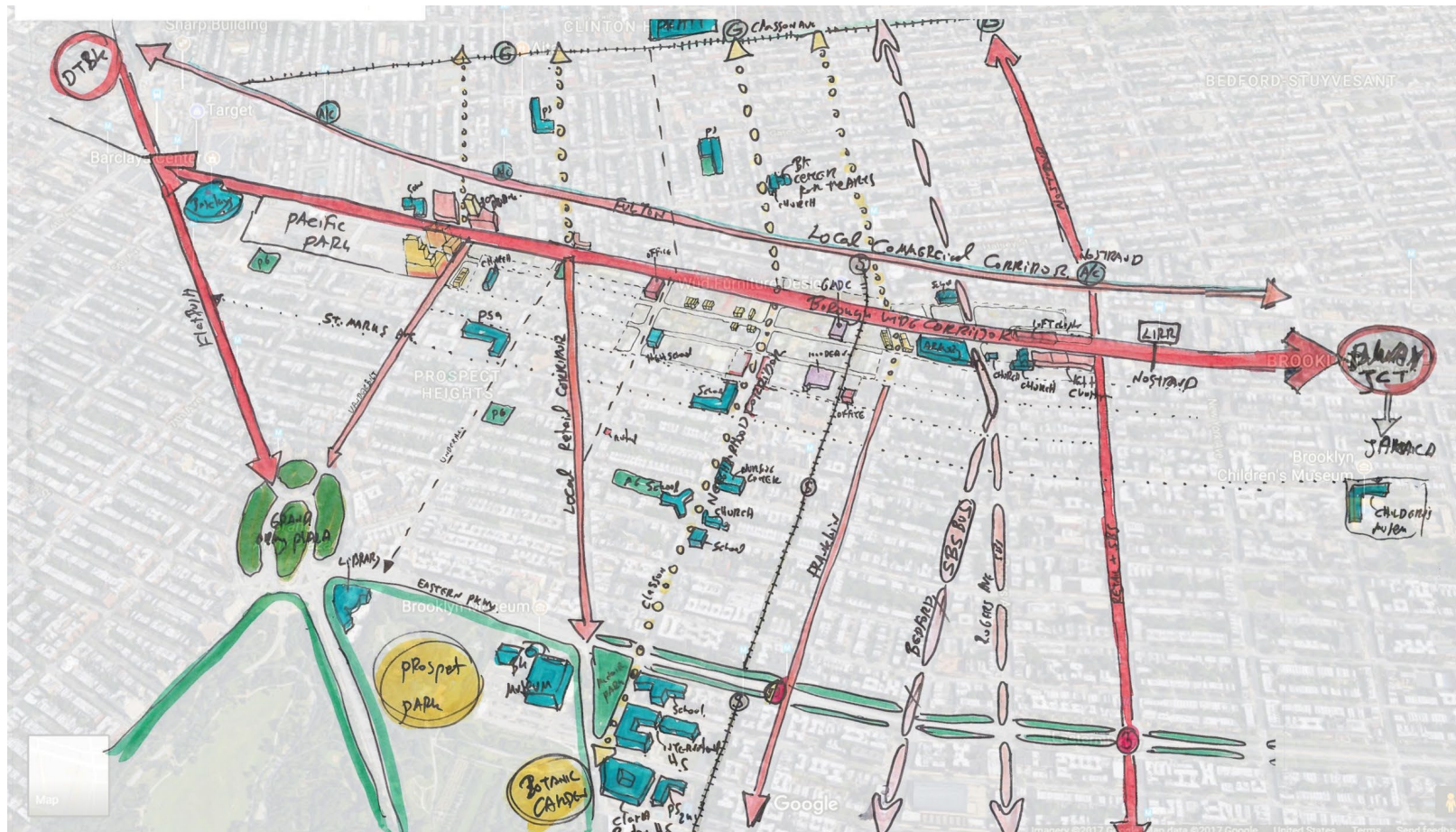
Access to well-maintained open spaces

Access to healthy food

Access to neighborhood services
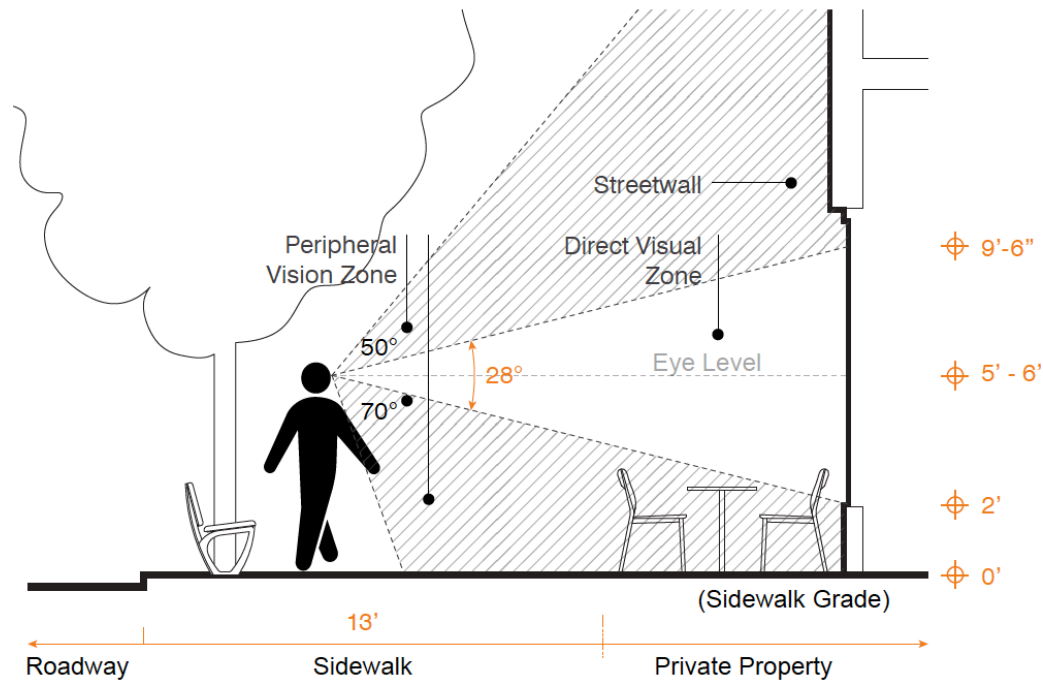
The 4 urban design principles

2. Good urban design supports ease of movement around the city and an accessible public realm

Atlantic Avenue, under the L-shuttle

The 4 urban design principles

2. Good urban design supports ease of movement around the city and an accessible public realm

Citywide, Zoning for Quality and Affordability

2. Good urban design supports ease of movement around the city and an accessible public realm

Is there a street or walkable area in your neighborhood you really like?

A place that makes you feel welcome? Maybe you don't notice it but it's somewhere easy to access? Provides a lot of neighborhood services?

3. Good urban design incorporates details that ensure quality, durability, stewardship, and maintenance

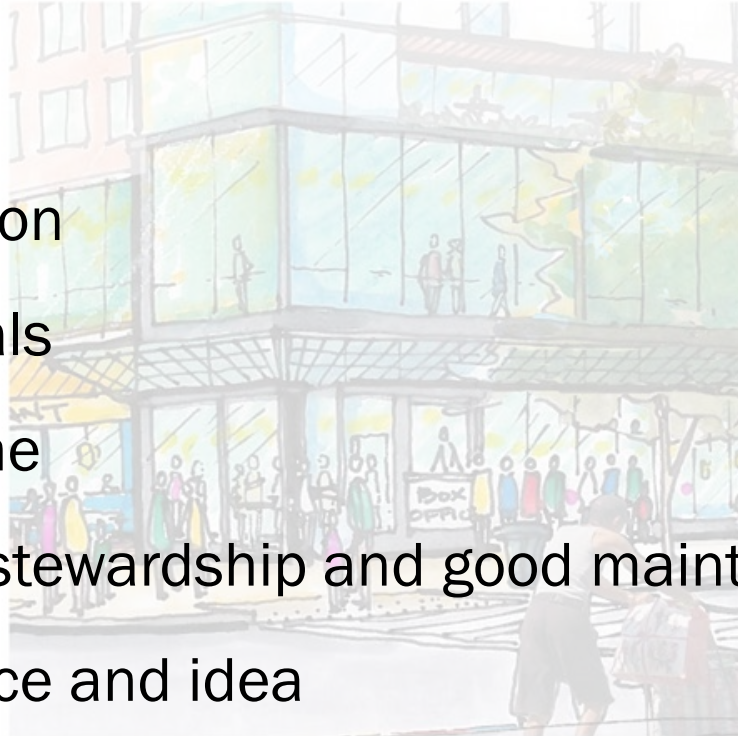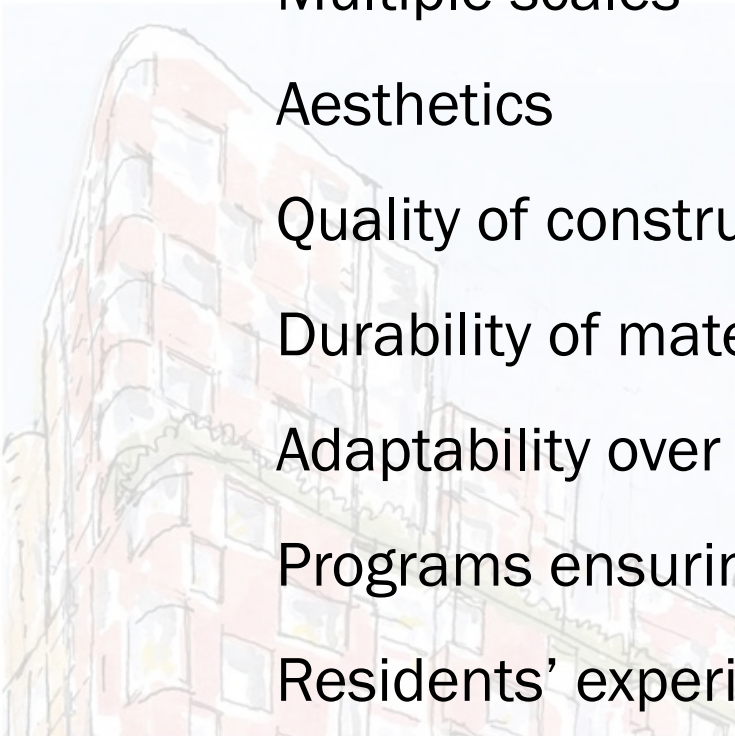Multiple scales

Aesthetics

Quality of construction

Durability of materials

Adaptability over time

Programs ensuring stewardship and good maintenance

Residents' experience and idea

High quality design

The 4 urban design principles

3. Good urban design incorporates details that ensure quality, durability, stewardship, and maintenance

Atlantic Avenue and Classon Avenue

4. Good urban design ensures that our city is comfortable, welcoming, and feels safe to all

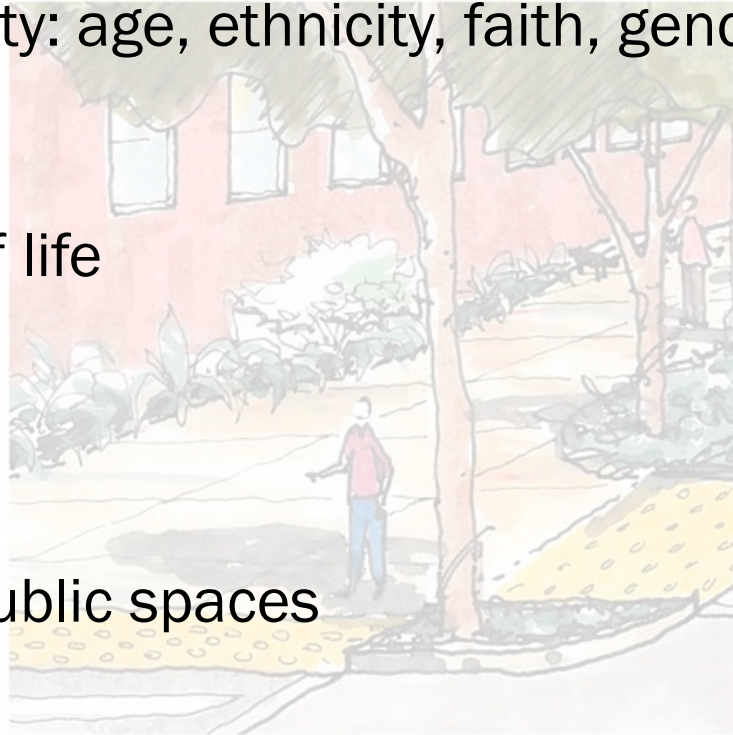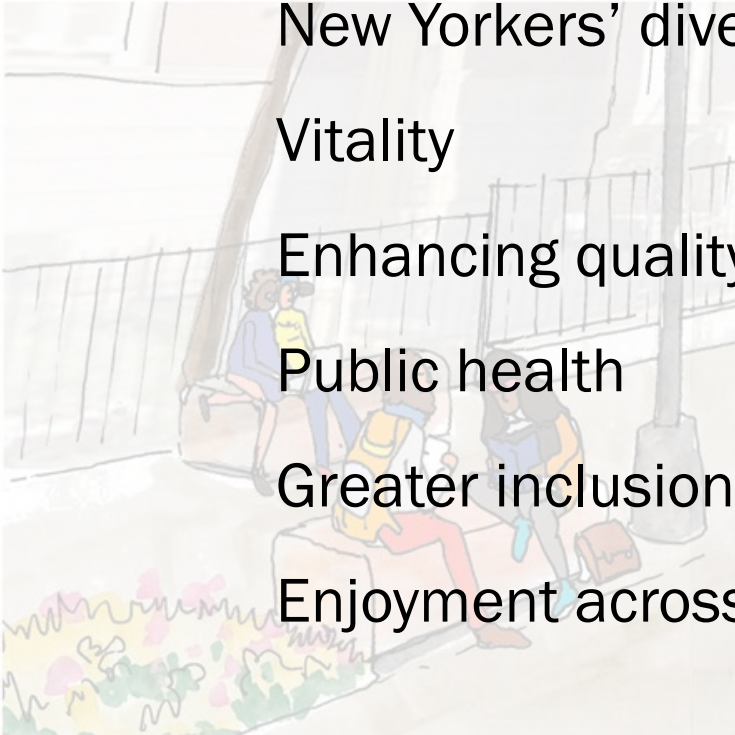New Yorkers' diversity: age, ethnicity, faith, gender, race

Vitality

Enhancing quality of life
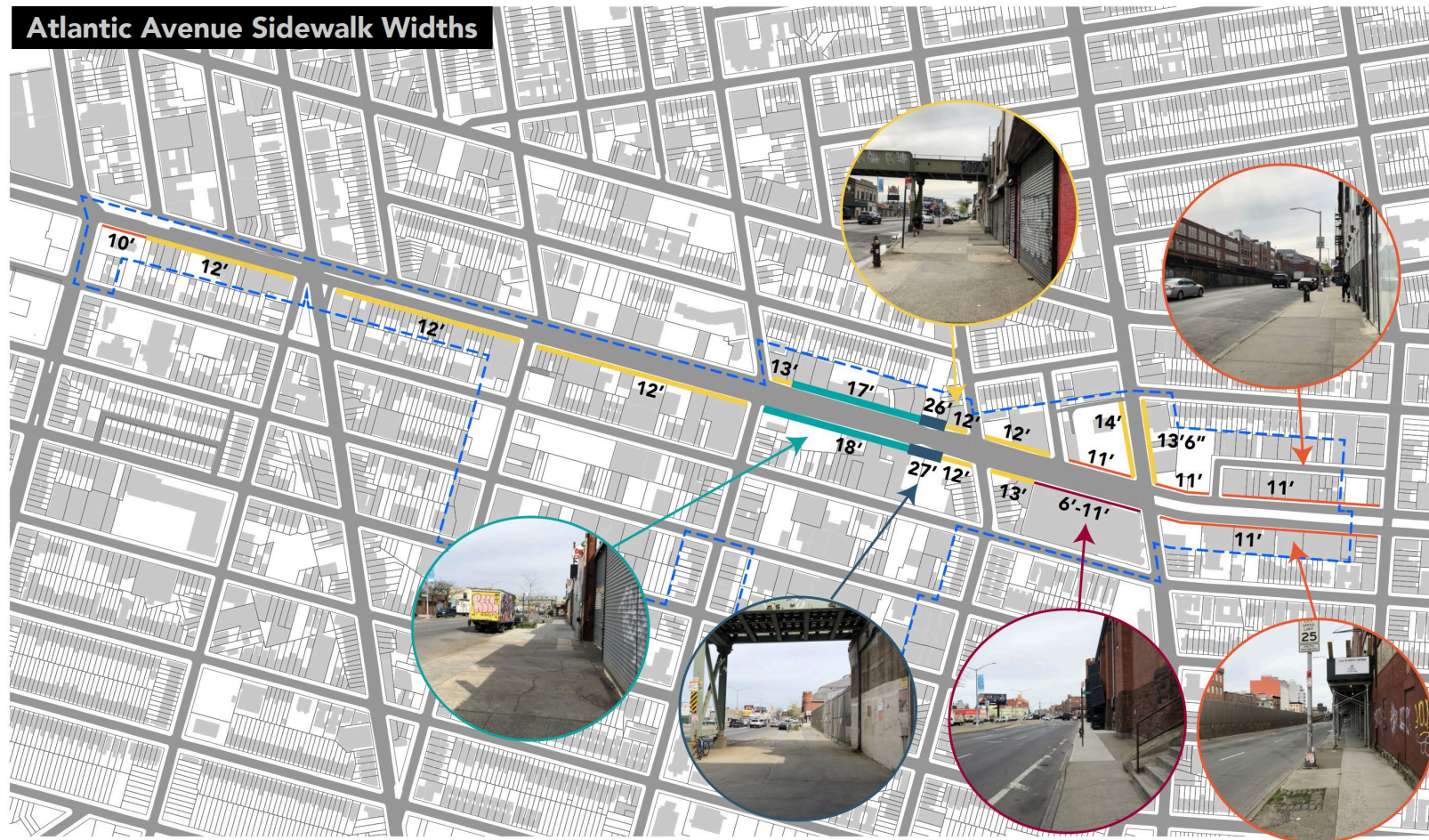
Public health

Greater inclusion

Enjoyment across public spaces

The 4 urban design principles

4. Good urban design ensures that our city is comfortable, welcoming, and feels safe to all

Atlantic Avenue Sidewalk Widths

Private Application for 1045 Atlantic Avenue for a text amendment of a sidewalk widening

The 4 urban design principles

4. Good urban design ensures that our city is comfortable, welcoming, and feels safe to all

What do you see?

Atlantic Avenue and Classon Avenue

Atlantic Avenue and Court Street

Do you have feedback?
goodurbandesign.nyc

Potential upcoming topics

Tools of Planning
- Zoning 101/Housing & MIH
- Capital Planning

Community Participation
- ULURP
- Public Engagement
- Community District Needs Statements

Other topics – **Suggestions welcomed**

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THANK YOU!

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