



Chinatown Connections

NYC / EDC



March 2024 CB1 and CB3 Meetings

Agenda

Community Board 1

- Announcement
- Project Goals, Funding, Roles and Responsibilities
- Project Overview
 - Context
 - Scope
 - Engagement Strategy
 - Project Timeline
- Nearby Projects
- Next steps

Recent Chinatown Connections Announcement



The City and State came together on February 9th to announce Chinatown Connections – a joint city and state investment that will dramatically improve public space and traffic safety in Chinatown.

Speakers included: Mayor Eric Adams, Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez, DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez, Congreemember Dan Goldman, Manhattan BP Mark Levine, State Assemblymember Grace Lee, and State Senator Brian Kavanaugh, Wellington Chen and Raymond Tsang

Chinatown Connections Project Goals

- Support needs of existing community and local economy
- Bolsters neighborhood identity and culture
- Improve quality of life with expanded pedestrian space
- Support connections with surrounding communities by creating safer pedestrian and bike connections at Worth Street and Chatham Square



Scope: Chinatown Connections is a \$55M Project with 3 Key Components

With \$11.5M in DOS grants, NYC DOT is contributing an additional \$44.3M in City Capital for a total project budget of \$55.8M

The City's project scope includes 3 major components (*state funding in brackets*):

1. Renovating Kimlau Square (\$5M)

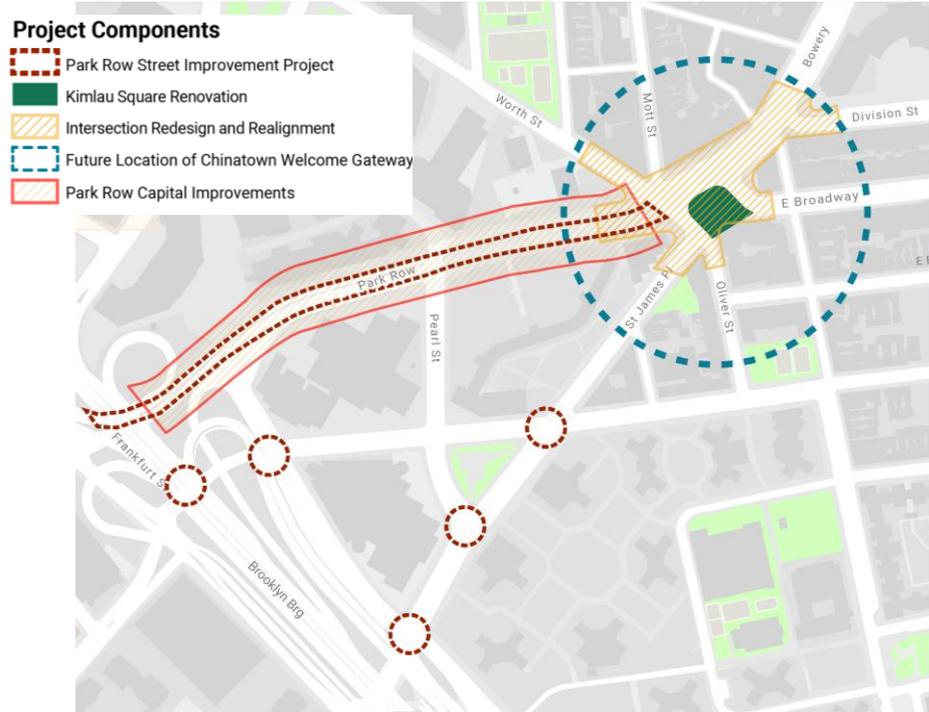
Expand public space at Kimlau Square to support a broader mix of community events, draw visitors into the neighborhood, and provide open space in the heart of the community.

2. Beautifying the Park Row Connection to Chinatown (\$4M)

Implement a Street Improvement Project in the near-term to beautify and improve accessibility at Park Row from the Brooklyn Bridge to Kimlau Square, while engaging on future capital improvements in the long-term.

3. Creating a Chinatown Welcome Gateway (\$2.5M)

Build a landmark gateway to commemorate the cultural heritage of the area and draw visitors to the neighborhood



Project Roles and Responsibilities

Chinatown Connections is made possible by strong intergovernmental partnership.

Lead Agency



Managing planning, design, and construction.

Executive Agency



Administrative agency for the DRI grant awards.

Partner Agencies



Working with NYCEDC on components of the project to ensure project implementation and delivery.

Additional agencies will be consulted throughout the design and construction of each of the projects.

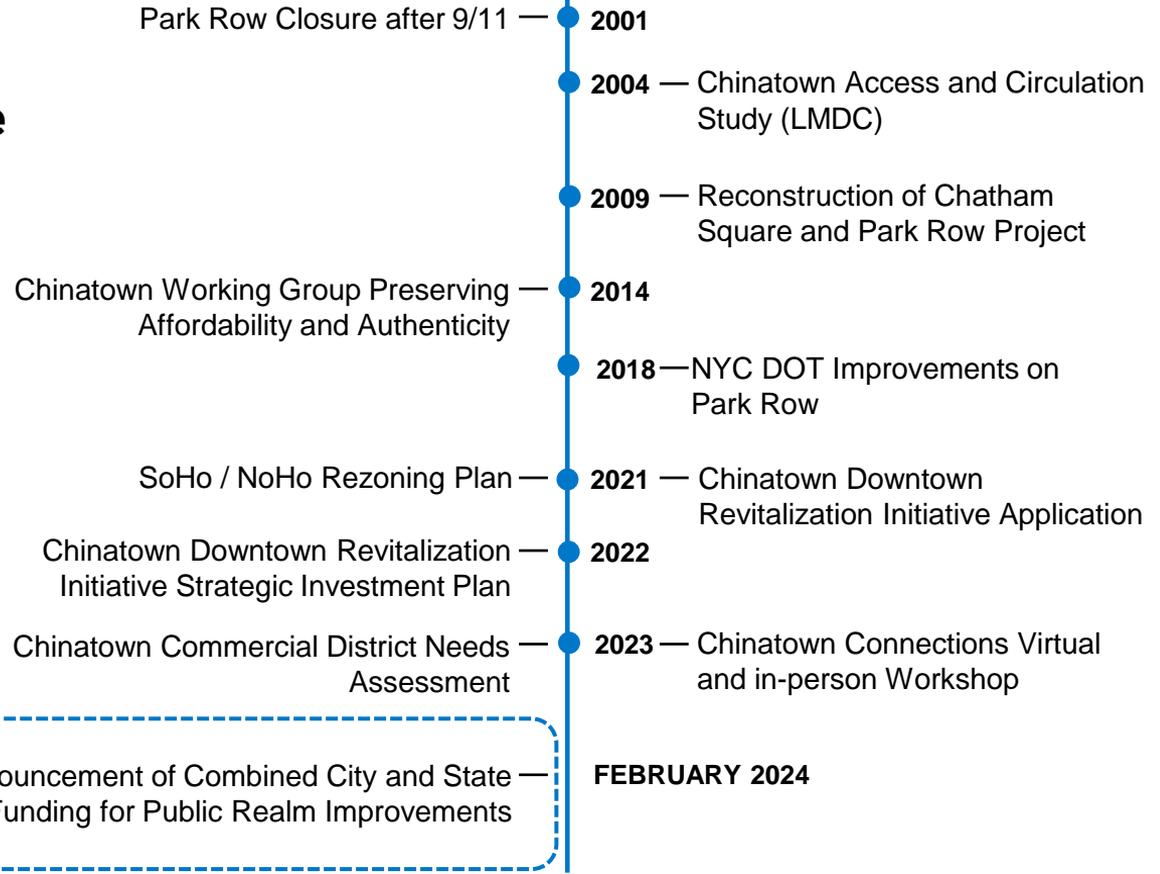
Consultant Team

Engagement, Planning, and Design will be supported by a multidisciplinary team of consultants retained by NYCEDC.

Project Overview

Project History

Planning Efforts for Park Row and Kimlau Square



Neighborhood Context & Strategy

Unconventional intersections disrupt the pedestrian flow of the millions who walk through Chinatown every year



Existing Circulation Patterns for Peds and Bikes



Proposed Circulation Patterns for Peds, Bikes, and Transit (blue)



Renewed links to Manhattan neighborhoods

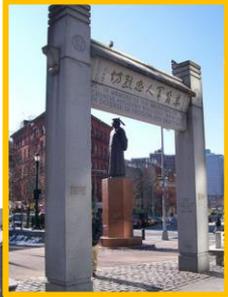
Kimlau Square Today



Long Crossings



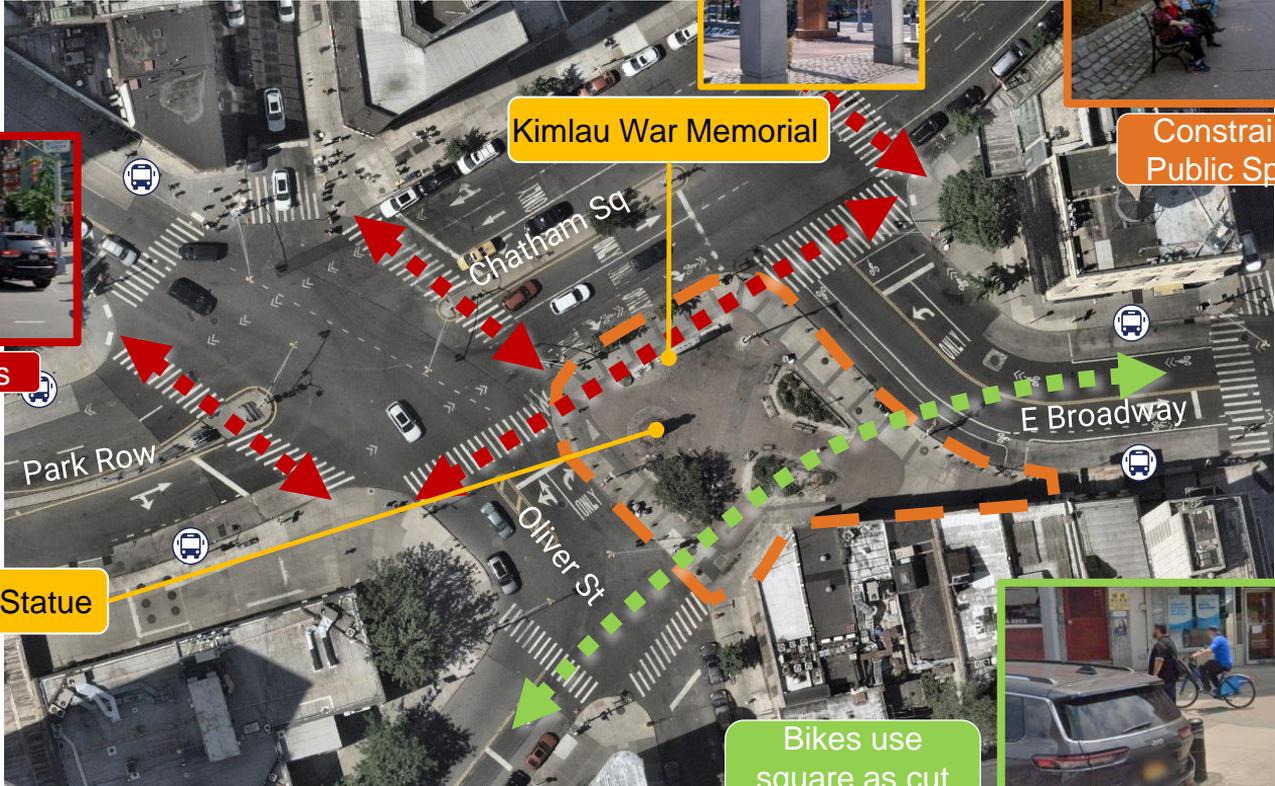
Lin Zexu Statue



Kimlau War Memorial



Constrained Public Space



Bikes use square as cut through



Summer 2024 Traffic Study

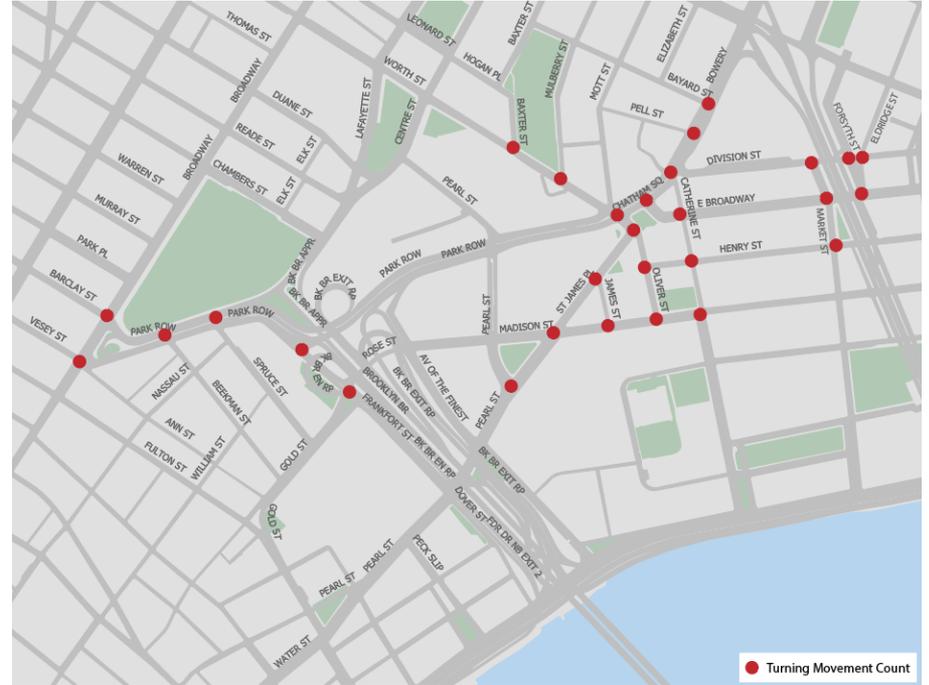
Kimlau Square and Park Row

Three general scenarios will be studied:

1. Only Kimlau Square Improvements
2. Only Park Row Reopening
3. Both Kimlau Square Improvements and Park Row Reopening

Study will analyze:

1. Vehicular, Bicyclists, and Pedestrian Counts
2. Travel time/travel speeds
3. Parking and loading operations
4. Changes in travel patterns/circulation in Park Row reopening scenarios



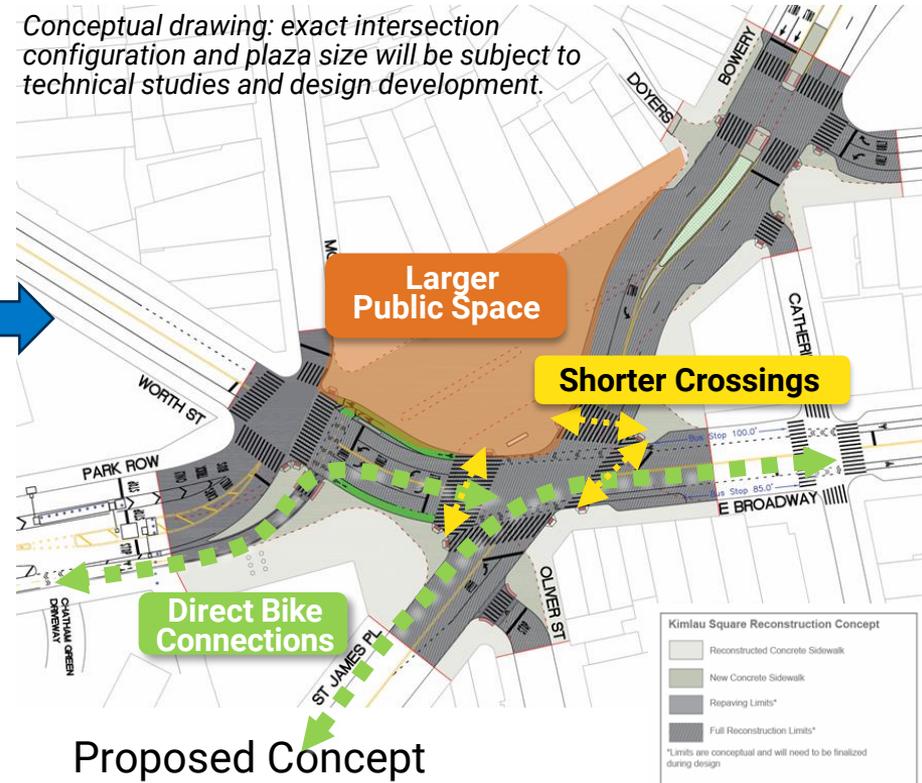
1. Renovating Kimlau Square

Alignment of intersection geometry, improving pedestrian crossings, and placemaking



Existing Conditions

Conceptual drawing: exact intersection configuration and plaza size will be subject to technical studies and design development.



Proposed Concept

2. Beautifying Park Row

- Enhance pedestrian and cyclist experience
- Beautify the corridor through signage, temporary art opportunities, and planters
- Improve NYPD security checkpoints and rationalize parking
- Create safer crossings and better connections to Park Row

Current Conditions on Park Row



Frankfort St. entrance to Park Row



Worth St. entrance to Park Row

Near-Term Improvement Toolkit



Barrier Beautification



Art Interventions



Wayfinding and Signage



Gateway Security Cleanup



Planters, Seating, and Edge Objects



Safety Improvements

2. Beautifying Park Row

SIP Engagement

- **March:** Kicked-off engagement with Art Stakeholder engagement walkthrough
 - Stakeholders invited: Chinatown Partnership, Light Up Chinatown, Gotham Park, Murals for Good, Chinatown Soup, Chen Dance Center, and Think!Chinatown
- **Spring:**
 - Ongoing internal DOT design coordination
 - Ongoing coordination with sister agencies
 - DOT Art RFQ release opens
 - DOT Street Ambassador survey for the Brooklyn Bridge and Park Row
 - On-site public workshop with translators
- **Summer:**
 - Public engagement with artists that have been selected from the DOT Art Park Row RFQ
 - Ongoing stakeholder and community engagement
 - Community Board presentation

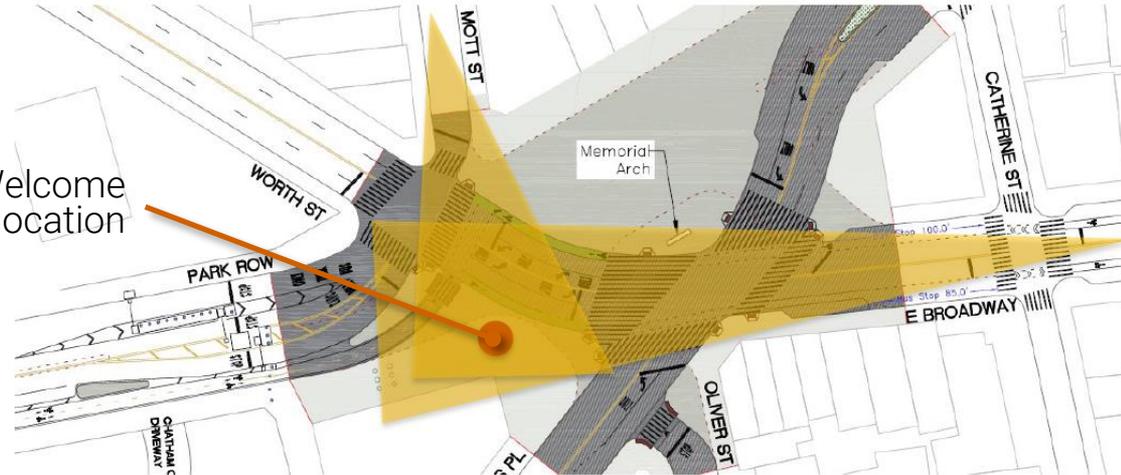
3. Creating a Chinatown Welcome Gateway

Public art celebrating Chinatown on expanded public space

Chinatown Gateway sponsors envision a landmark gateway to commemorate the cultural heritage of the area and draw visitors to the neighborhood.



Potential Welcome Gateway location



Chinatown Connections Working Group Membership

Community Stakeholders:

- Ammy Lim Cuccia (Chinatown resident & business owner)
- American Legion – Post 1291
- Asian American Federation
- Chinatown BID/LDC
- Chinatown East Neighborhood Council
- Chinatown Core Block Association
- Chinatown Manpower Project
- Chinese American Planning Council
- Chinese Chamber of Commerce
- Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association
- Community Board 1
- Community Board 3
- Confucius Plaza

- Hamilton Madison House
- Gotham Park
- Park Row Alliance (Chatham Green and Chatham Towers)
- Smith Houses
- Think! Chinatown
- United Overseas Fujianese Association of America

Local Elected Offices:

- Council Member Chris Marte
- Borough President Mark Levine
- Assembly Member Grace Lee
- Senator Brian Kavanagh
- Congress Member Dan Goldman



Chinatown Connections will be supported by an extensive and inclusive engagement process

The engagement process for the capital improvements is expected to span approximately 18 months.

- Engagement for the Park Row SIP will begin in Spring 2024, ahead of implementation in Spring/Fall 2024.

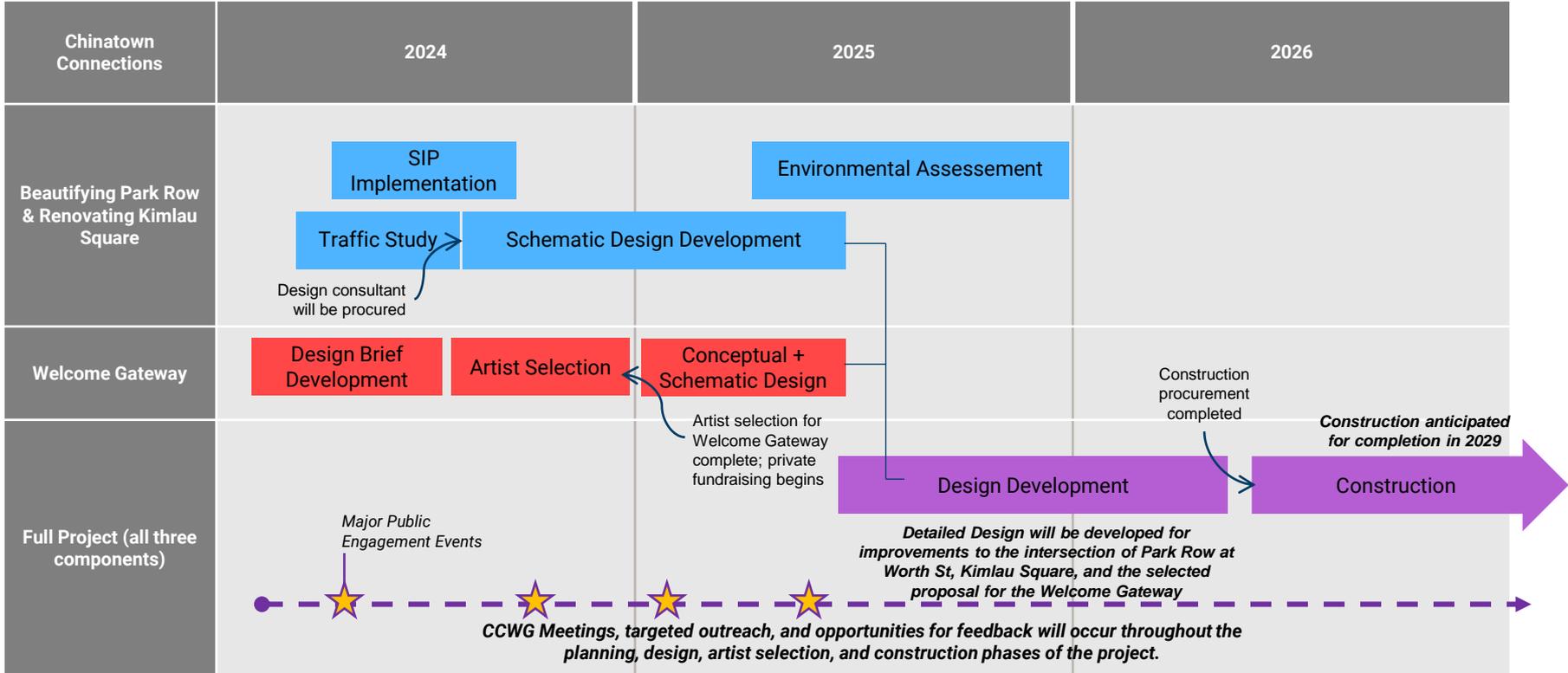
The design engagement process will consist of:

- Regular CCWG and Gateway Subgroup Meetings;
- Public Engagement Events at Key Milestones;
- Community Board Meetings;
- An Artist Selection Process run by NYC Department of Cultural Affairs for the Welcome Gateway, and;
- Targeted stakeholder conversations, as needed.

Language Accessibility: All engagement materials will be bilingual and all meetings will have Mandarin and Cantonese interpretation.

After completion of design: Construction manager will continue communications and engagement with the local community and community boards during construction.

Project Schedule



Nearby Projects

Project Team will coordinate with adjacent projects on stakeholder engagement and construction impact mitigation.

- Canal Street Study 2025
- Gateways to Chinatown Early 2024 Capital Project Initiation
- Brooklyn Bridge Manhattan Arches 2023 Plaza Applicant
- Doyers Street Plaza Existing SIP Plaza
- Kimlau Square Memorial Arch Reconstruction *In Procurement**
- Manhattan Borough Based Jail (BBJ) Dismantle ongoing through Q4 2024, Design-Build contract in procurement
- 70 Mulberry Reconstruction Final Design Q2 2024, Construction 2025-2027

Other local projects: US Federal Court House, PACE University Expansion, Metropolitan Correctional Center



*Summer 2024 Traffic Study will help inform whether Parks will proceed with the Kimlau Square Arch Reconstruction as a separate capital construction project, or if it will be combined with the larger EDC-managed Chinatown Connections Project.

Next Steps

Spring

- Procure Engagement Consultant
- Kick-off of Gateway subgroup
- Hold CCWG Meeting #2
- Continue engaging NYPD on parking footprint

Summer:

- Kimlau Square and Park Row Traffic Study
- Public Engagement Event #1
- SIP Implementation commences
- Release RFP for Planning and Design Consultant Team