

SPARC Kips Bay Community Task Force Design Principles

June 2024

Thank you to community task force members and local elected officials for their time and energy collaborating with NYCEDC and Ennead | Dattner and West 8 to arrive at these design principles.

Task Force Members

Task Force Co-Chair	Council Member Keith Powers	NYC Council District 4
Task Force Co-Chair	Sandra McKee	Manhattan Community Board 6, Chair
Elected Member	U.S. Representative Jerry Nadler	12th Congressional District
Elected Member	State Senator Kristen Gonzalez	59th Senate District
Elected Member	Assembly Member Harvey Epstein	74th Assembly District
Elected Member	Borough President Mark Levine	Borough of Manhattan
Elected Member	Council Member Carlina Rivera	NYC Council District 2
Member	Elsie Otero	Nathan Straus Houses Tenants Association, Board President
Member	Janet Handal	Waterside Plaza Tenants Association, Board President
Member	Maria G. Gotsch	The Partnership Fund for New York City, CEO
Member	Melanie Aucello	344 East 28th Street Tenants Association, Board President
Member	Michael Baran	Pfizer Ventures, Executive Director
Member	Molly Hollister	Alliance for Kips Bay, President
Member	Renee Moskowitz	East Midtown Plaza Tenants Association, Board President
Member	Santos Rodriguez	Building Trades Council, Chief of Staff
Member	Sophie McElroy	High School Representative, Student
Member	Stephen Levin	Solar One, President and CEO
Member	Susan Steinberg	Stuyvesant Town - Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association, Board President

Project Overview

Science Park and Research Campus (SPARC) Kips Bay is a first-of-its-kind life sciences innovation, career, and education hub that will drive equitable economic development through the integration of New York City's public education institutions - City University of New York (CUNY) and New York City Public School (NYCPS), pre-eminent municipal health institutions - NYC Health + Hospitals Bellevue (H+H) and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and life science innovation on one city block. SPARC Kips Bay's new and state-of-the-art facilities will support job training and workforce development for both public and private sector healthcare and science institutions. SPARC Kips Bay will also deliver long-standing community needs, bringing nearly one acre of new public open space and public realm improvements, a more vibrant First Avenue, and a universally accessible pedestrian bridge across the FDR at East 25th Street. The design of these public realm improvements and additions are guided through significant engagement with the Kips Bay community.

In November 2022, Mayor Eric Adams announced the formation of the SPARC Kips Bay Community Task Force, co-chaired by Council Member Keith Powers and Community Board 6 Chair Sandra

McKee. The Community Task Force was formed to integrate community priorities into the project's design and the implementation of future phases. The Task Force is composed of eleven community members ranging in age, lived experience, and neighborhood affiliation, and includes local representation from all levels of government. The Task Force met six times over the course of six months. NYCEDC and the project's design team, Ennead|Dattner with West 8, facilitated discussion to arrive at the creation of the following Community Design Principles for SPARC Kips Bay. During those meetings, images of open spaces and open space elements, like the ones in this document, were shared to discuss how the design principles might be realized. These principles set forth the overarching vision for the future design of the project's public open space, ground floor of buildings, and the campus' integration with the surrounding streets and neighborhood. These principles will guide the design of SPARC Kips Bay, in addition to further public engagement throughout design and implementation. The principles will also be included in the future Request for Proposals to procure a developer for the second phase of the project, which includes life sciences, H+H, and OCME.

Site Context Map



1. Connected

Create a hub that connects the surrounding neighborhoods both physically and socially to SPARC's programs and open space, enhancing existing assets, strengthening communities, and inspiring continued learning and curiosity.

1.1

Create a seamlessly integrated network of green areas and waterfront, including Asser Levy Park, Stuyvesant Cove Park, Bellevue Garden, Bellevue Sobriety Garden, and Bellevue South Park through well-designed pathways, signage, street improvements, and a new, inclusive pedestrian bridge.

1.2

Prioritize shared usage of spaces and programming that are complementary with neighboring sites, respond to the community's needs, and enhance the community's quality of life through continued engagement to create a sense of belonging and ownership.

1.3

Establish a center for learning and connect the larger community with educational and career opportunities in healthcare and the life sciences.

1. Connected



Pedestrian Crossing

54th Street Bridge, New York, NY



Connection to Green

Asser Levy Playground, New York, NY



Connecting Communities

NYC Open Streets, New York, NY (Photo by Karsten Moran via nytimes.com)



Well-Designed Pathways

Hudson River Park, New York, NY (Photo by Bruce Katz)



Campus Heart

Fordham University at Lincoln Center, New York, NY (Image source fordham.edu)

2. Inclusive

Create a welcoming space that promotes enjoyment and encourages interaction across all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

2.1

Implement clear and intuitive wayfinding, including visually appealing and easily identifiable entrances, and affirming signage to ensure all visitors feel a sense of belonging and can navigate and access the space easily.

2.2

Design elements and spaces using universal design principles and the City's Inclusive Design Guidelines to engage a range of ages, abilities, and disabilities.

2.3

Incorporate inclusive design best practices that consider the needs of all users to allow for positive shared use of the open space.

2. Inclusive



Welcoming

Governors Island*, New York, NY (Photo by Kreg Holt)



Accessible for All Ages

Madrid Rio*, Madrid, Spain (Image courtesy of West 8)



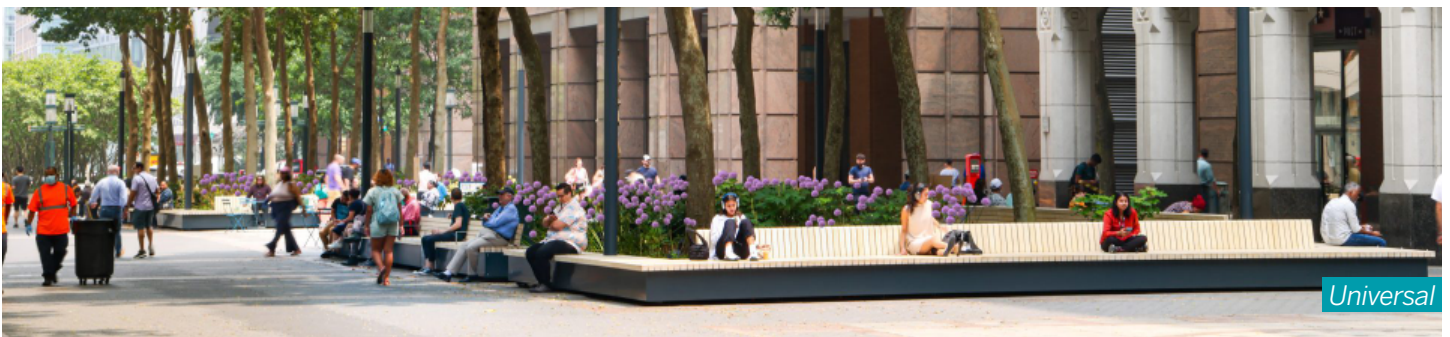
Park Spaces for All

Madison Square Park, New York, NY (Photo by Street Lab)



Educational and Collaborative

Harlem RBI Dream Charter School, New York, NY
(Image source scapestudio.com)



Universal

Brooklyn Commons, Brooklyn, NY (Image source jrmcm.com)

*Project by West 8 (Ennead | Dattner Design Team)

3. Activated

Create a lively and inspiring location, incorporating both passive and active design solutions, which support various activities for all ages and abilities ensuring vibrancy throughout the day, night, and year.

3.1

Provide a mix of gathering spaces that may include elements such as intimate nooks for small groups and adaptable areas for impromptu meetings and classes.

3.2

Reflect educational aspirations of the campus by providing flexible space that can accommodate public exhibits, workshops, and demonstrations that encourage visitors to actively participate, explore the space, and inquire about educational programming of the larger campus.

3.3

Incorporate ground floor transparency and projections to offer glimpses into academic and professional activities on campus, as well as, visible entrances and lobbies, and diverse retail offerings to create a lively ground floor experience.

3. Activated



The Forum Columbia University, New York, NY (Photo by Frank Oudeman)



Milstein Hall Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
(Image source aap.cornell.edu)



Miami Beach Soundscape*, Miami, FL (Image courtesy of West 8)



Harlem RBI Dream Charter School, New York, NY (Image source scapestudio.com)

*Project by West 8 (Ennead | Dattner Design Team)

4. Safe

Create an environment that is safe and secure by maximizing visibility, prioritizing pedestrians, implementing comprehensive lighting, and maintaining open space.

4.1

Position seating and pathways to maintain clear sightlines throughout the open space, as well as to and from the buildings and exit and entry points.

4.2

Minimize conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles by incorporating thoughtfully designed interventions, distinct pathways, and clear wayfinding especially in sensitive locations.

4.3

Provide a mix of lighting strategies to ensure visibility at all hours of the day.

4.4

Maintain a clean, well-kept open space which conveys care and enhances safety.

4. Safe



Place Gambetta*, Bordeaux, France (Image courtesy of West 8)

Open Park Edges



Maintainable

Milwaukee Downtown Clean Sweep Ambassador, Milwaukee, WI (Photo by Andrew Feller)



6 1/2 Avenue Mid Block Crossing, New York, NY

Safe Crossings



Protected Pedestrian Space

Schiphol Airport*, Amsterdam, Netherlands (Image courtesy of West 8)



Park Lighting

Xinhua Waterfront Park*, Shanghai, China (Photo by Wang Zilu)



Efficient Lighting

't Zand Square*, Bruges, Belgium (Photo by Matthias Desmet)

*Project by West 8 (Ennead | Dattner Design Team)

5. Comfortable

Create a space that supports the comfort of users and encourages them to stay by including a variety of uses, providing protection from environmental conditions, and supporting amenities.

5.1

Provide a variety of fixed and flexible seating options to support a range of passive and active activities.

5.2

Incorporate elements that protect against environmental factors like harsh sunlight, heavy wind, and street and mechanical noise.

5.3

Consider essential amenities like food options, hydration stations, and well-maintained, publicly accessible bathrooms.

5. Comfortable



Flexible Seating

Bryant Park, New York, NY (Image source philadelphiacitizen.org)



Dynamic

Highline Park, New York, NY (Image source eatplaysleep.suefrause.com)



Calming

Brochstein Pavilion Rice University, Houston, TX (Photo by Scott Frances via archdaily.com)



Shade

Greenacre Park, New York, NY



Hydration

Kansas City Int'l Airport, Kansas City, Missouri (Photo by Lucas Blair Simpson via archpaper.com)



Essentials

Moore Square, Raleigh, NC (Image source sasaki.com)

*Project by West 8 (Ennead | Dattner Design Team)

6. Distinctive

Create a unique place that serves both as a campus and a neighborhood gathering space with a distinct identity amplifying the healthcare and life sciences programming in the Kips Bay Science District, resonating with the community, and becoming a memorable location where people want to be.

6.1

Build a distinct theme centered on engaging visitors of all ages and abilities in health and life science education, careers, and wellness.

6.2

Utilize public art and installations to establish a landmark within the open space. Incorporate themes and concepts that celebrate the healthcare, the life sciences, and local history and culture, making the space educational, memorable, and neighborhood-specific.

6.3

Highlight natural features and views that enhance the biodiversity and landscape of the Kips Bay to create an immersive, scenic, and educational place.

6. Distinctive



Campus Atmosphere

NYU Langone Health Helen L. and Martin S. Kimmel Pavilion, New York, NY (Photo by Jeff Goldberg)



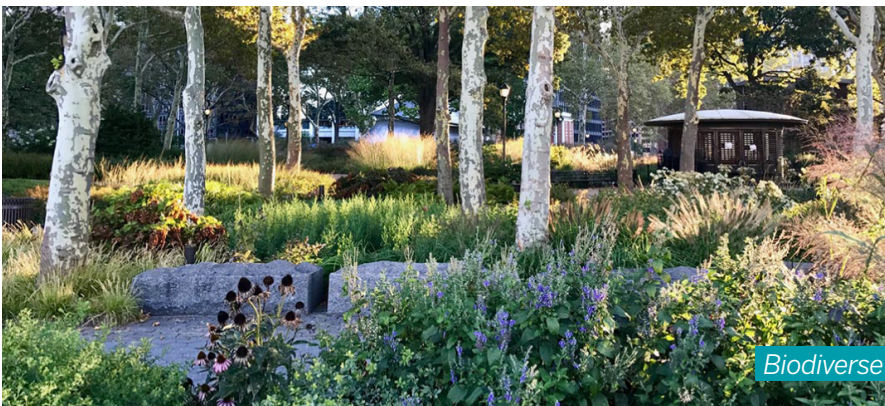
Memorable

Flatiron Public Plaza, New York, NY
(Photo by Cameron Blaylock via archdaily.com)



Waterfront

Stuyvesant Cove Park, New York, NY



Biodiverse

The Battery, New York, NY (Image source thebattery.org)



Views

East River, New York, NY

*Project by West 8 (Ennead | Dattner Design Team)

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Project Agencies

NYC Mayor's Office
State of New York
City University of New York (CUNY)
NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)
NYC Public Schools (NYCPS)
NYC School Construction Authority (SCA)
NYC Health + Hospitals / Bellevue Hospital (H+H)

Consultants

Ennead | Dattner with West 8