

# CHINATOWN CONNECTIONS

通達華埠

CB3 PRESENTATION  
09/09/2025



# AGENDA

- 1. Project Overview**
- 2. Community Engagement Overview**
- 3. Public Realm Framework**
- 4. Concept Design Approach**
- 5. Discussion**

# About Marvel

## DISCIPLINES

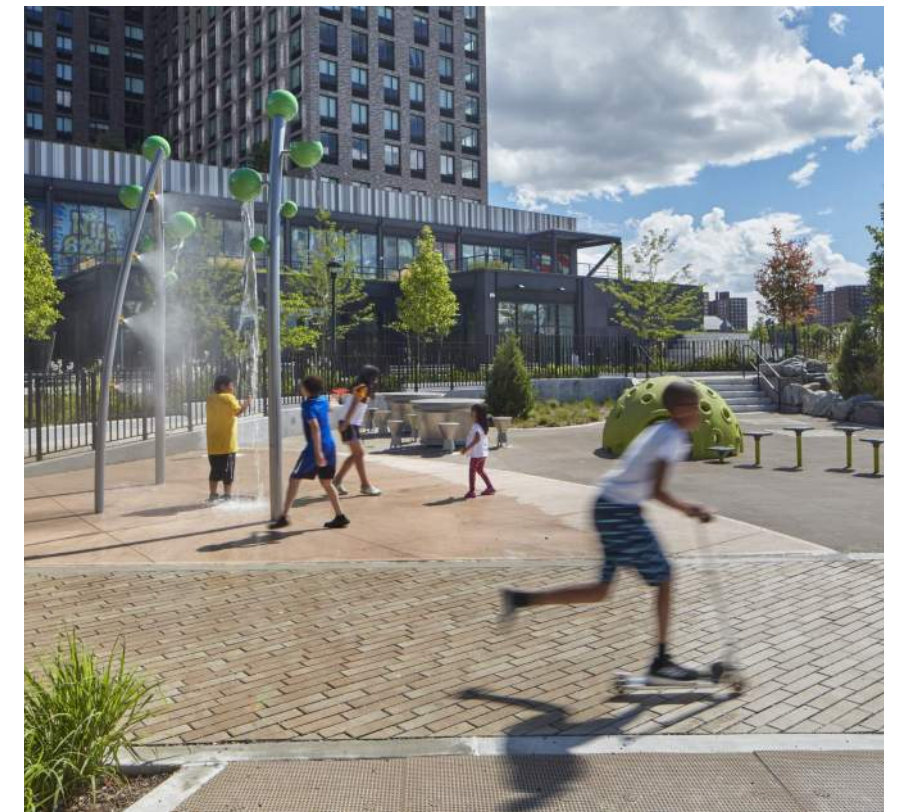
- Landscape Architecture
- Urban Design & Planning
- Community Engagement
- Architecture
- Interior Design
- Graphic Design

## OFFICE LOCATIONS

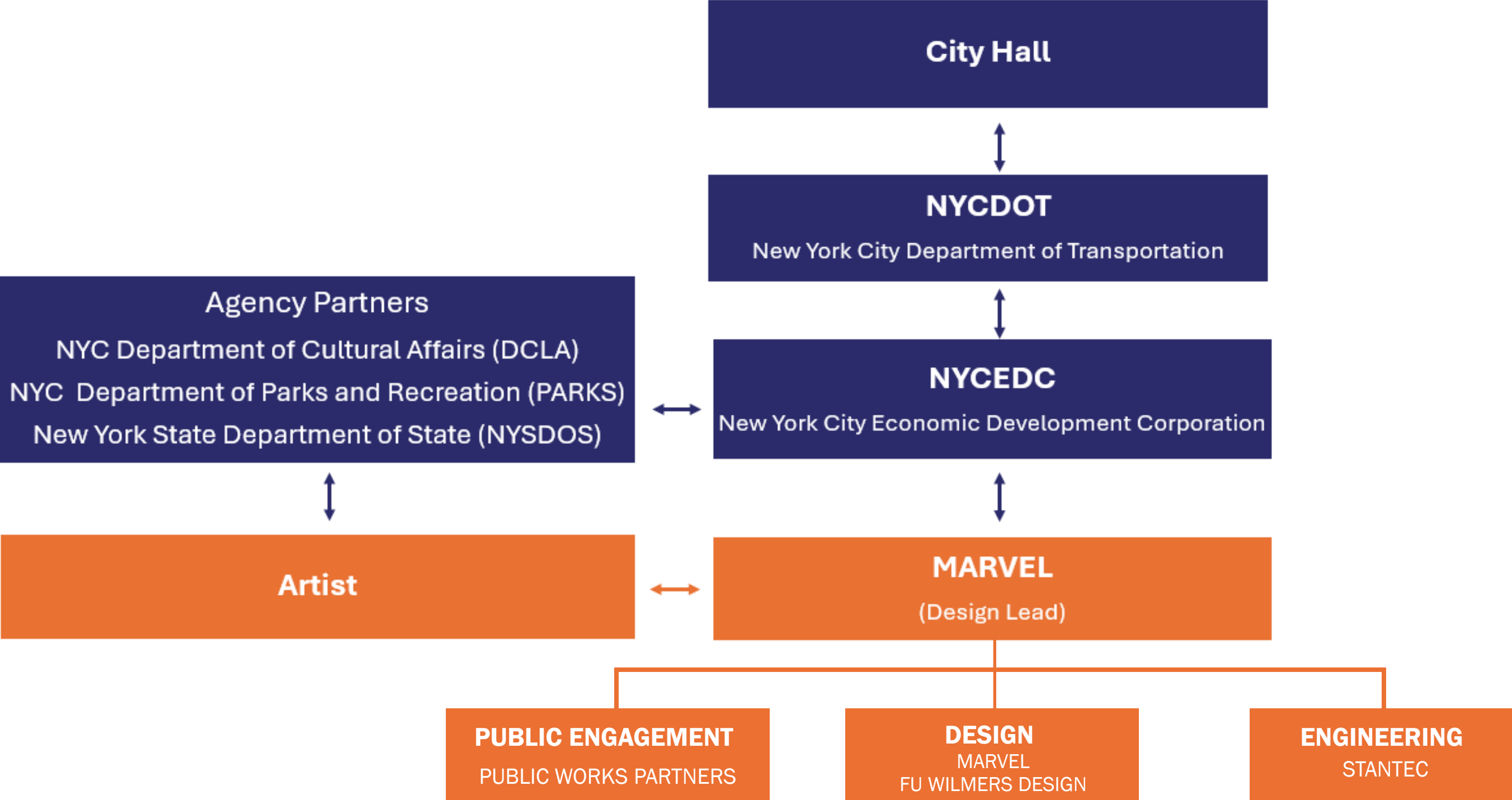
New York, San Juan,  
Richmond, Barcelona

## SPECIALTIES

Large-scale,  
complex urban environments,  
community-led design



# Project Structure



# Project Boundary



# Traffic and Intersection Existing Condition

## Existing Issues



Square has high pedestrian volumes and many, long crossings.



Pedestrians are frequently crossing at the same time as turning vehicles.



Square has complicated vehicular movements, requiring Traffic Enforcement Agents.



Primary vehicular movements are not direct, and require one or multiple turns.



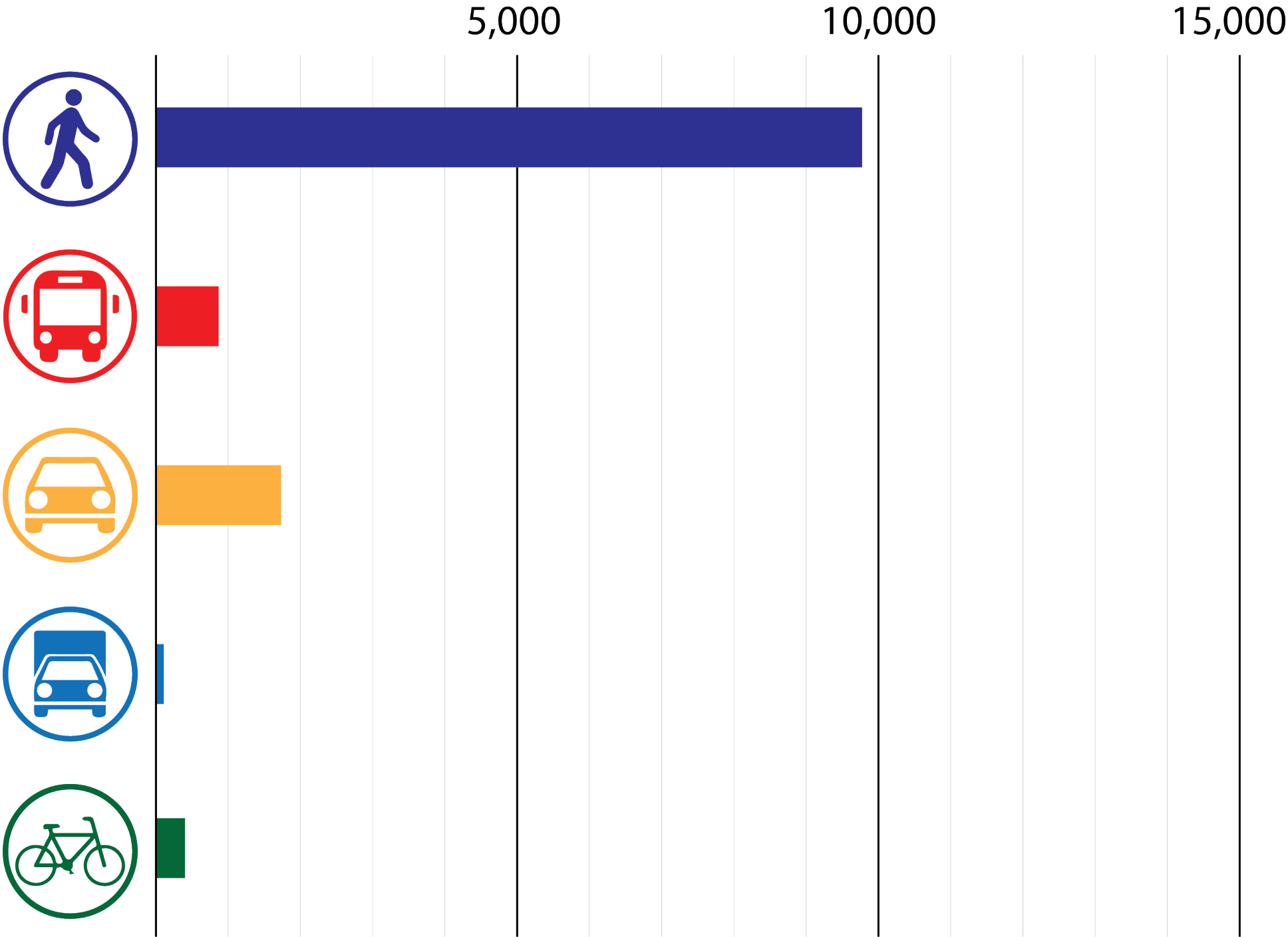
Square feels chaotic, is exposed to traffic noise and congestion.



Square cannot accommodate large events, memorials, and activations.



# Existing Users of Kimlau Square (PM Peak Hour)

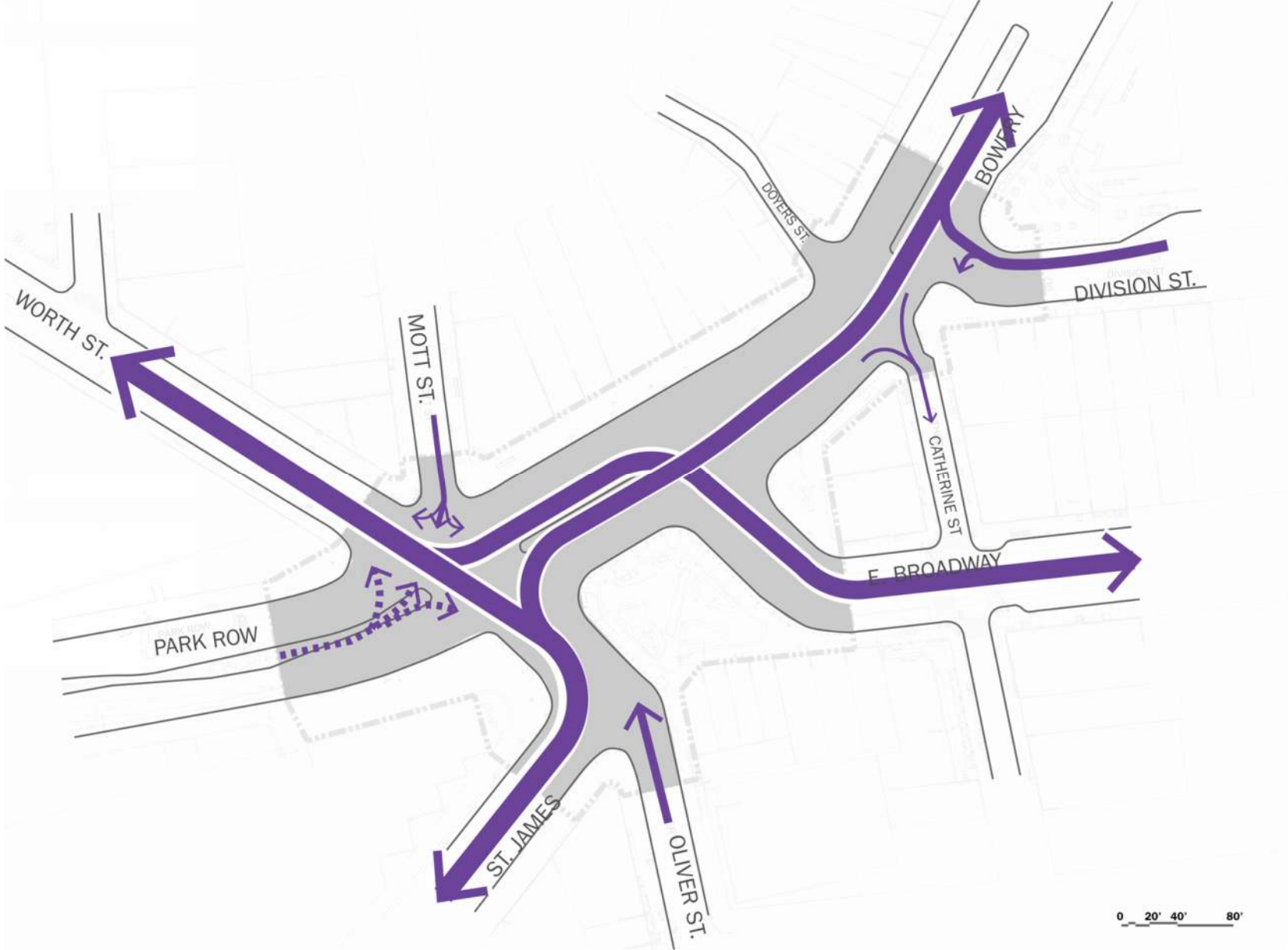


**THE SQUARE TODAY IS FULL OF PEOPLE**

**PEDESTRIANS ACCOUNT FOR ALMOST 80% OF USERS**

# Traffic and Intersection Existing Condition

## Primary Vehicular Flows

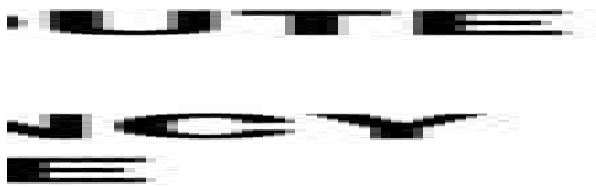


**TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS ARE COMPLEX**

**2/3 OF THE VEHICULAR MOVEMENTS ARE TURNS**

**HIGH NUMBER OF CONFLICTS BETWEEN TURNING VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS**

**CURRENT**



# Traffic and Intersection Existing Condition

## Existing Operation

5 key movements represent 46% of vehicle trips around the existing square:

**9% - St James Pl to Bowery**



# Traffic and Intersection Existing Condition

## Existing Operation

5 key movements represent 46% of vehicle trips around the existing square:

- 9% - St James Pl to Bowery
- 9% - Worth St to E Broadway
- 7% - E Broadway to Worth St

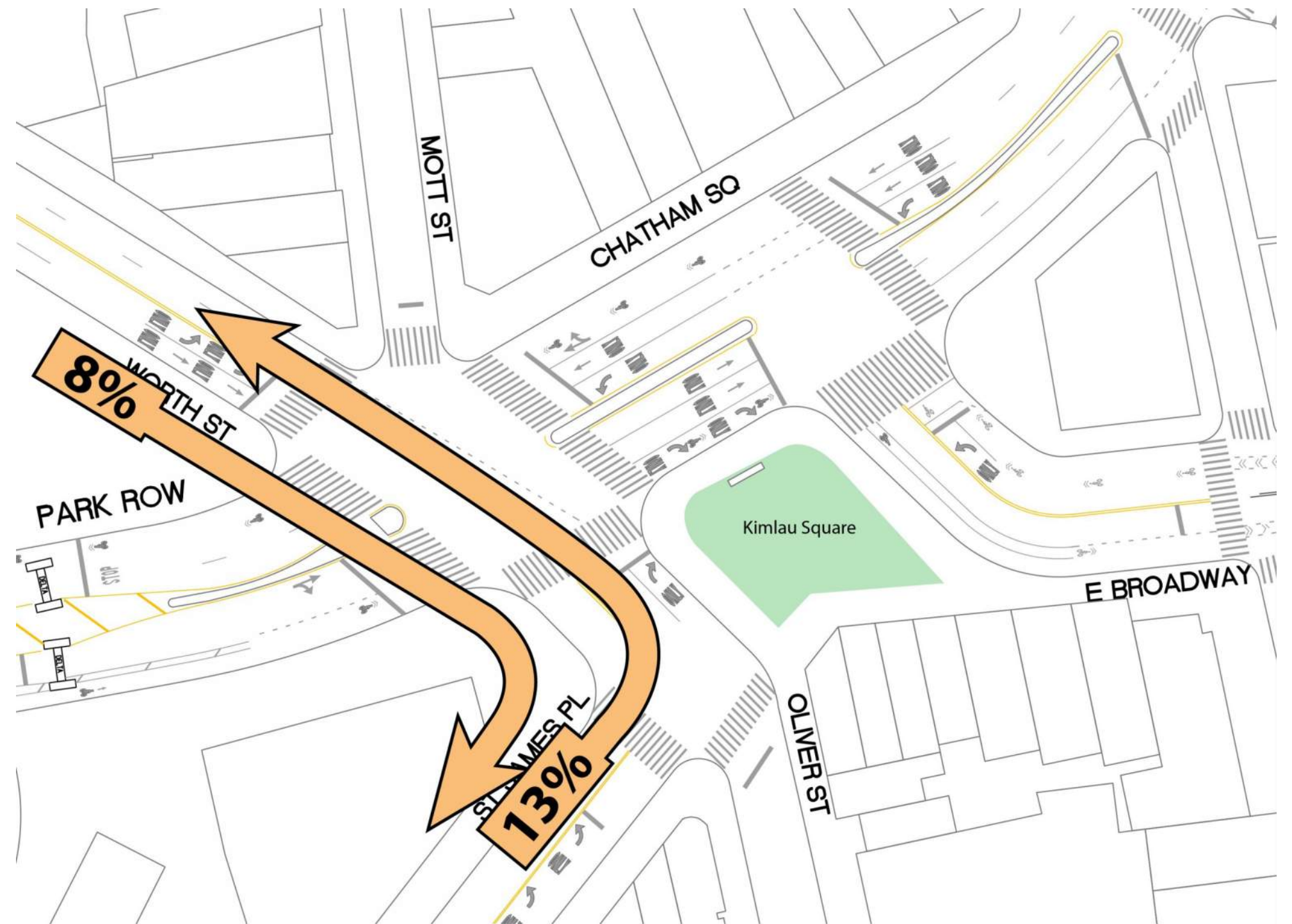


# Traffic and Intersection Existing Condition

## Existing Operation

5 key movements represent 46% of vehicle trips around the existing square:

- 9% - St James Pl to Bowery
- 9% - Worth St to E Broadway
- 7% - E Broadway to Worth St
- 13% - St James Pl to Worth St
- 8% - Worth St to St James Pl



# Traffic and Intersection Existing Condition

## Existing Operation

5 key movements represent 46% of vehicle trips around the existing square:

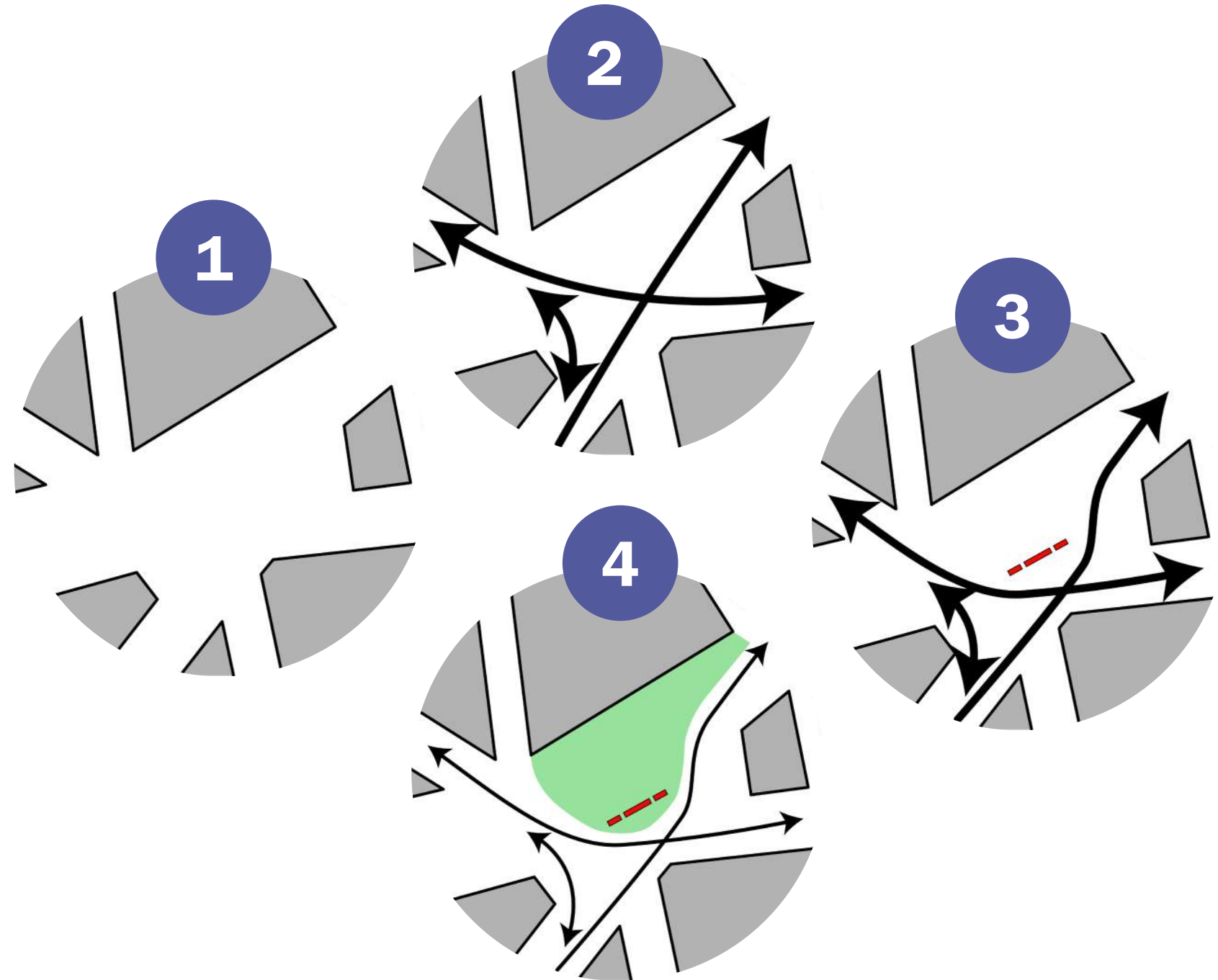
- 9% - St James Pl to Bowery
- 9% - Worth St to E Broadway
- 7% - E Broadway to Worth St
- 13% - St James Pl to Worth St
- 8% - Worth St to St James Pl

These 5 movements represent 20% of routes.



# Street and Public Space Design Process

1. Work within the existing right-of-way boundaries
2. Straighten primary traffic movements
3. Maintain landmarked Kimlau Memorial Arch in current location
4. Connect Arch and Public Space to adjacent blocks

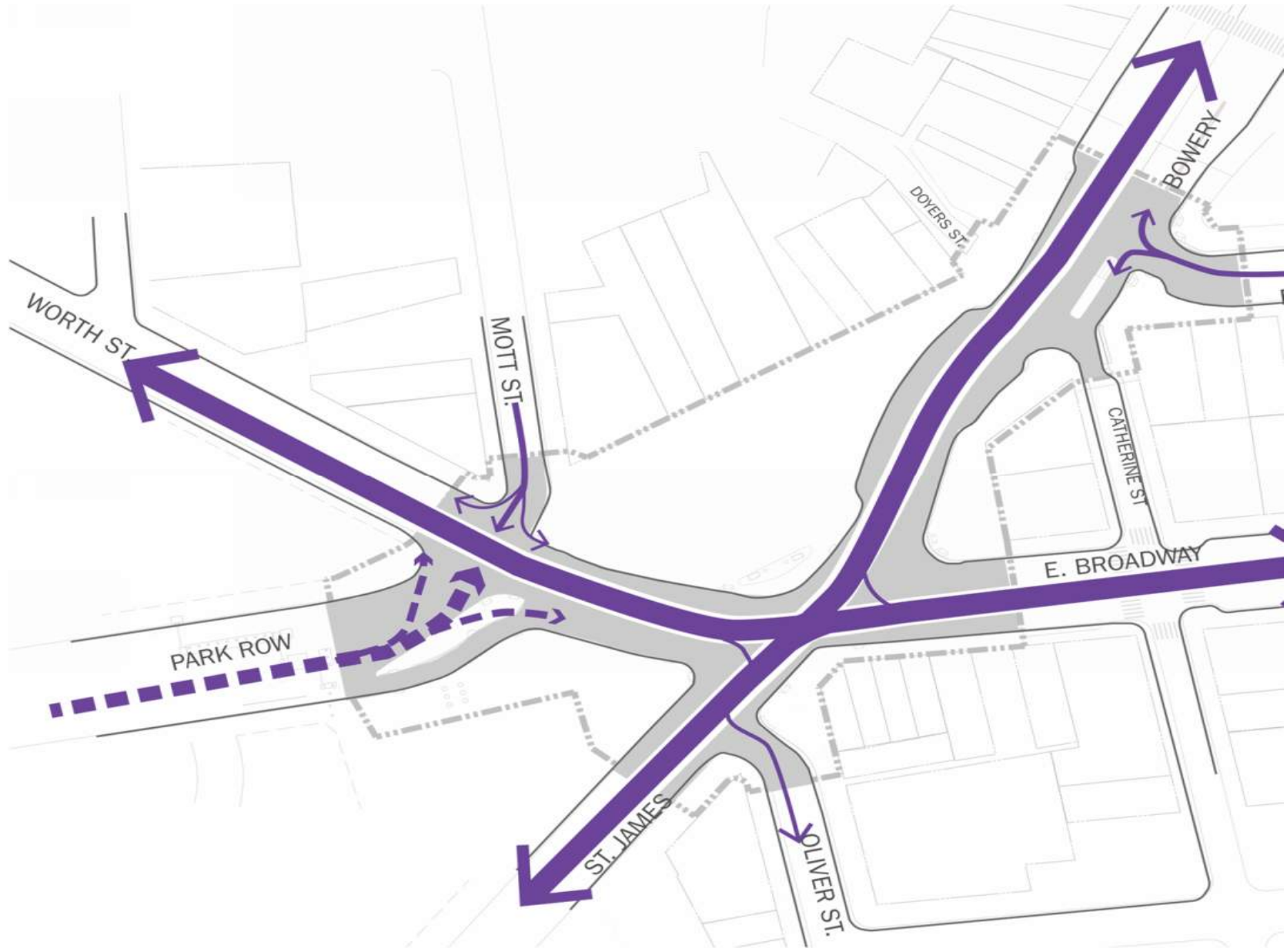


# Street and Public Space Design Principles

- Standard, four-way intersections are safer, more predictable for pedestrians, and function more smoothly.
- Straight, through-travel movements are safer and more efficient than turning movements.
- Shorter crosswalks reduce exposure and are more accessible/easier to cross for pedestrians, specifically seniors and children.
- Distance between intersections reduce congestion and queuing.
- Larger, consolidated open spaces are more flexible and can better meet a variety of needs.



# Proposed Primary Vehicular Flows

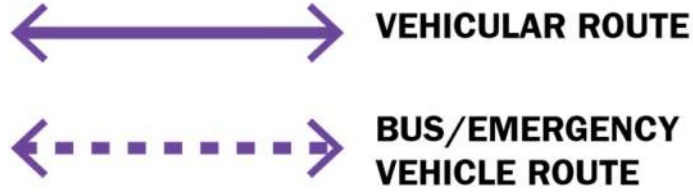


**REALIGNMENT SIMPLIFIES MOVEMENTS**

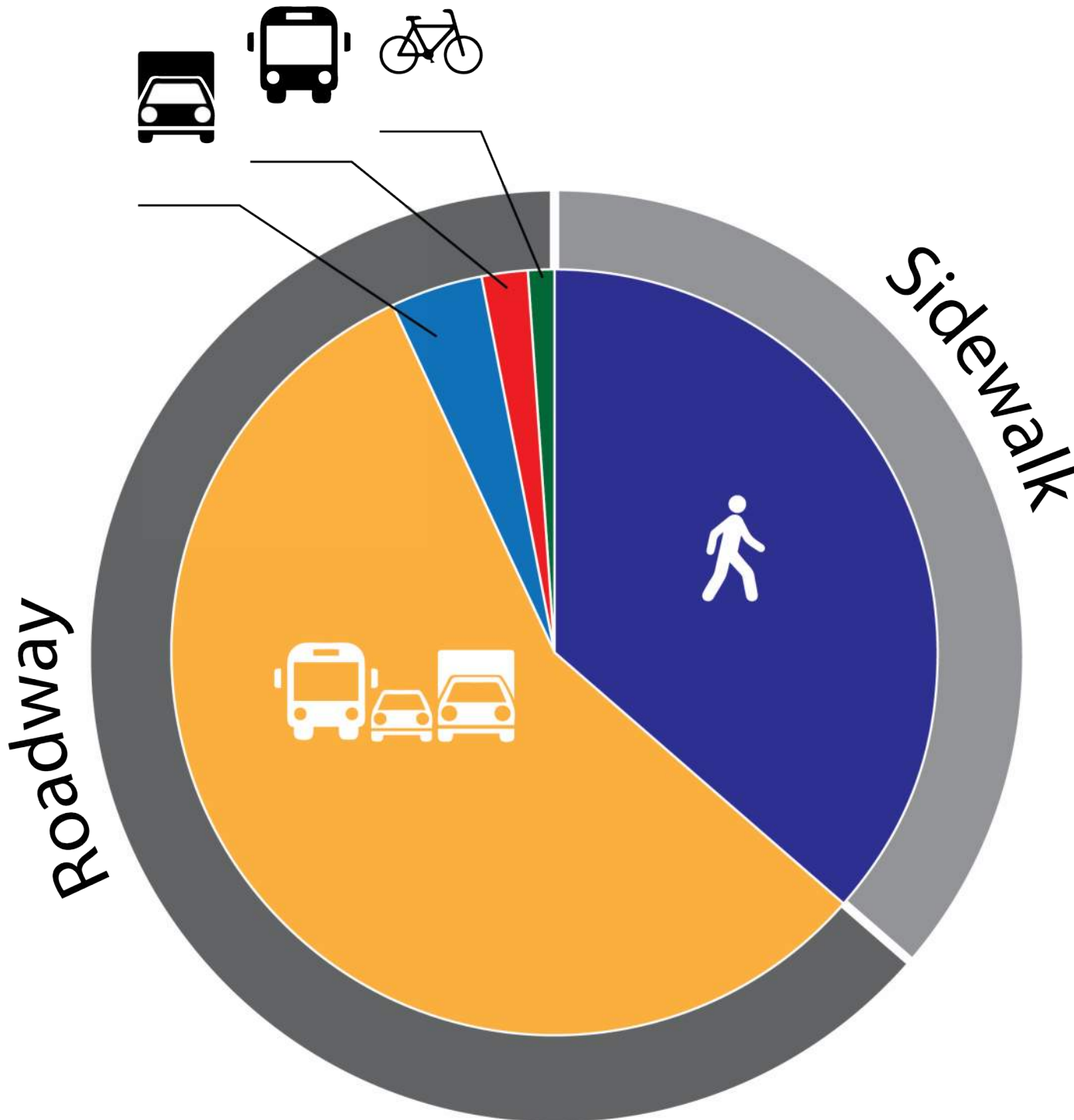
**ONLY 1/3 OF MOVEMENTS WOULD BE TURNS**

**FULFILLS THE GOALS OF SIMPLIFYING TRAVEL PATTERNS AND CREATING A MORE TYPICAL AND PREDICTABLE INTERSECTION**

**PROPOSED**

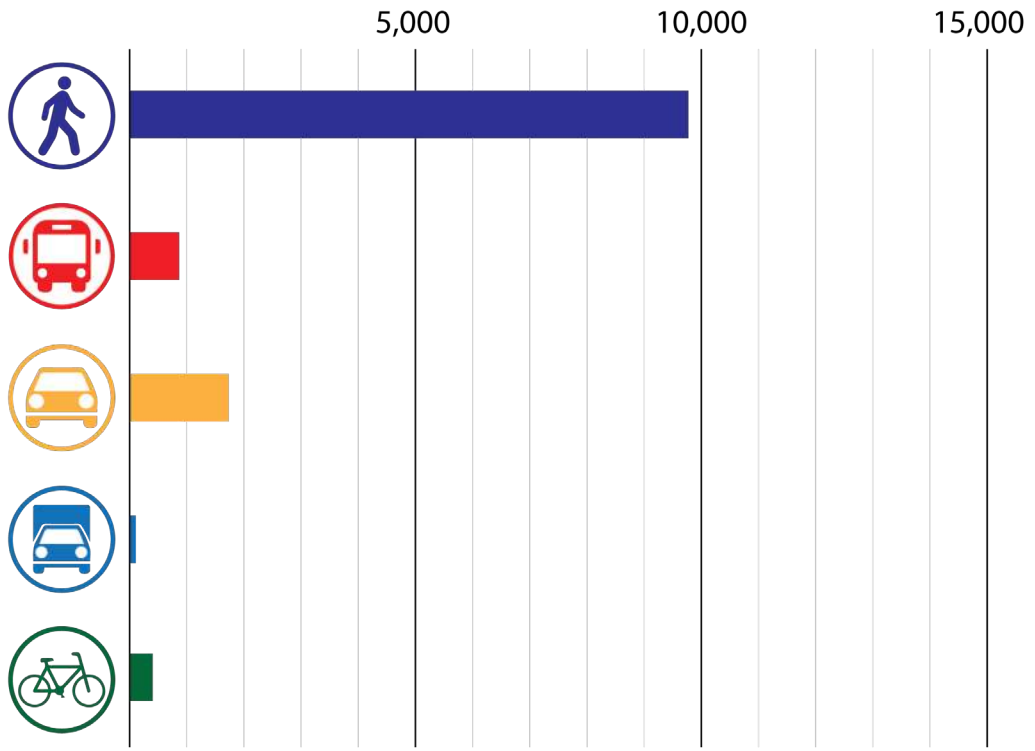


# Existing Kimlau Square - Vehicle Centered Design



**THE CURRENT SQUARE IS MOSTLY ROADWAYS**

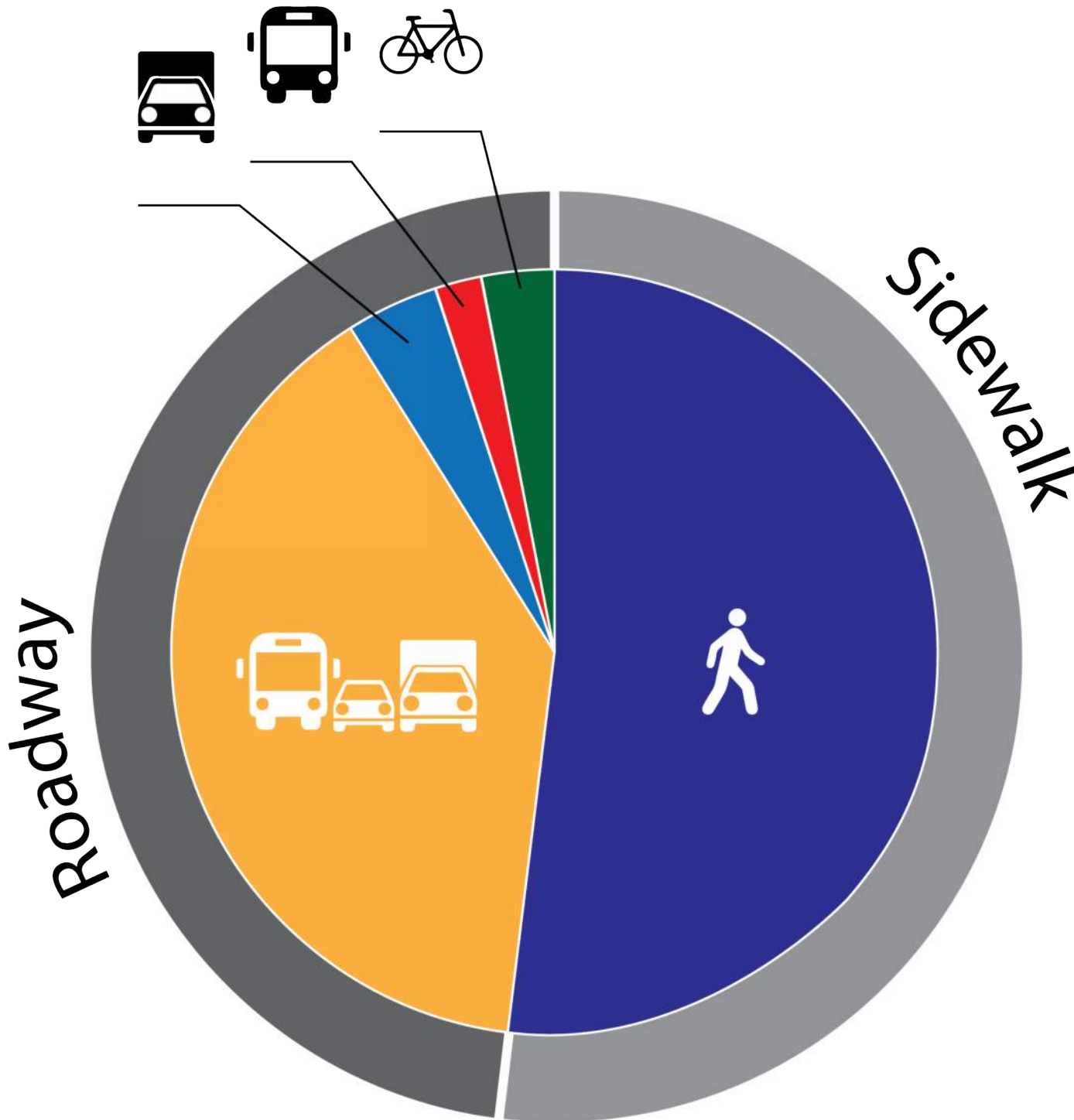
**ONLY 1/3 OF THE SPACE IS FOR PEDESTRIANS**



Space shared between different modes - Current

Current Users (PM Peak Hour)

# Proposed Kimlau Square - Pedestrian Centered Design

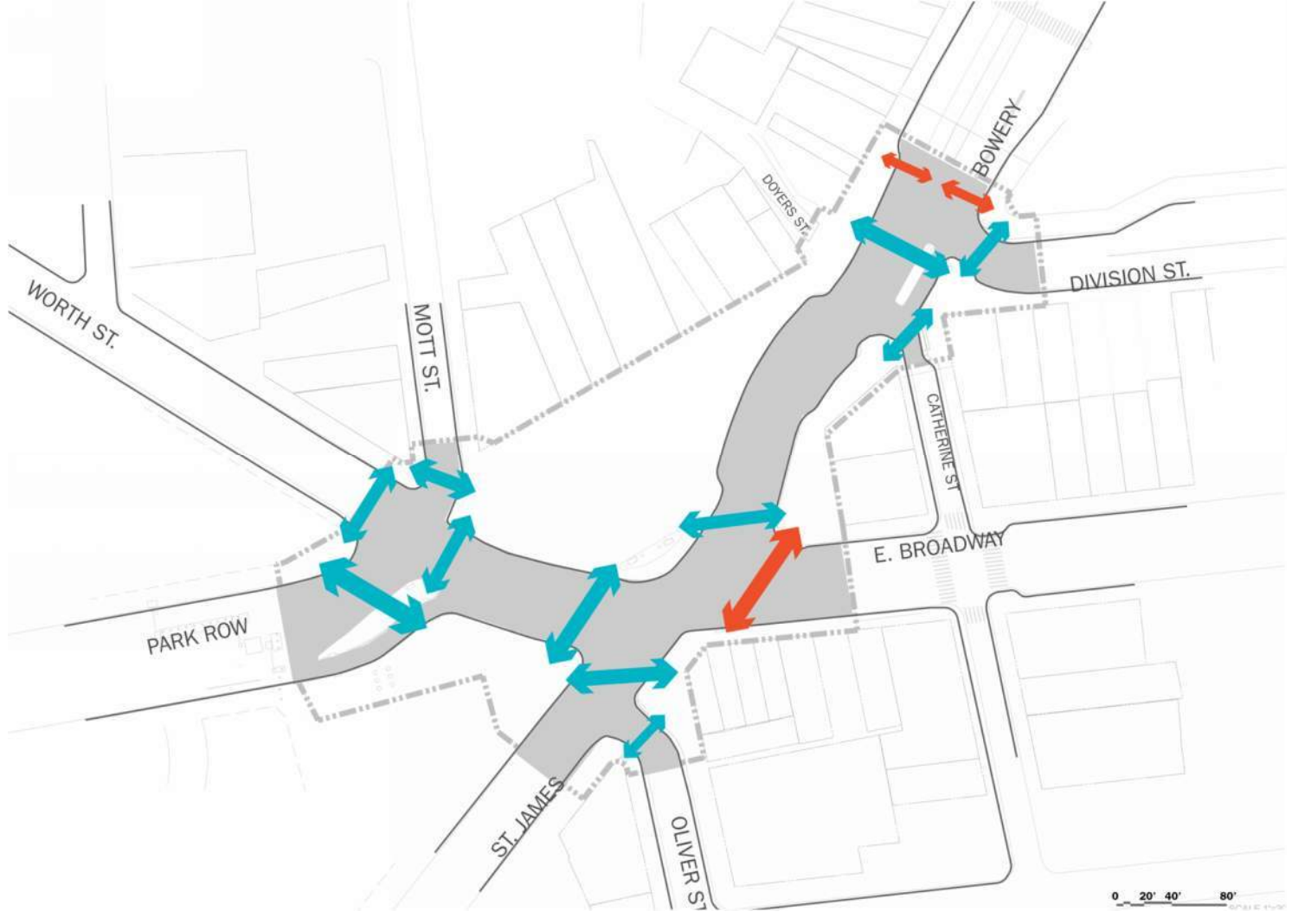
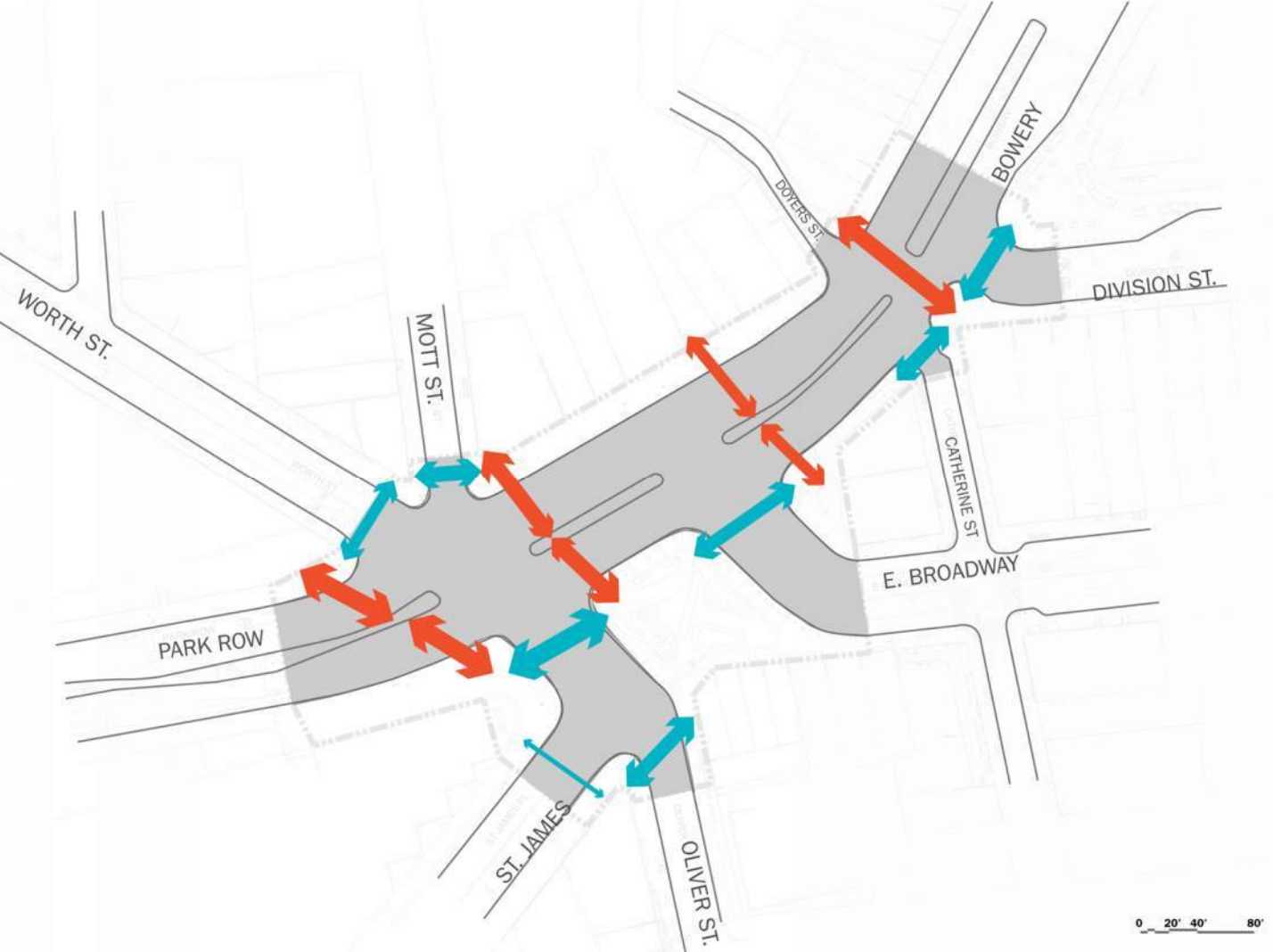


**A REDESIGN ALLOWS FOR THE CREATION OF A MUCH LARGER OPEN SPACE**

**FULFILLS THE GOAL OF BETTER ACCOMODATING CULURAL FESTIVITIES AND GATHERINGS**

Space shared between different modes - Proposed

# Reduce Crosswalk Length



**CURRENT**

-  **SHORT CROSSWALK (<65')**
-  **LONG CROSSWALK (>65')**

**PROPOSED**

-  **SHORT CROSSWALK (<65')**
-  **LONG CROSSWALK (>65')**

# Expand Public Space

Current: ~ 11,250 SF



Proposed: ~ 27,700 SF

Enlarged x2.5



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The team conducted **19** engagement events across Chinatown from **March to June 2025**



**Public Meeting**

**Community Stakeholders Walk-through**

**Pop-ups**

- Kimlau Square #1, #2, #3
- Transfiguration Church
- Confucius Plaza
- Columbus Park
- Chinatown Supermarket

**Tabling**

- Smith Houses
- Gotham Park Block Party
- Chinatown Bid Pell Open Street
- 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Of The American Legion, Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291
- E.E.E Festival

**Senior Center**

- CPC's Open Door Senior Center
- VHS Chinatown NNORC
- 100 Gold St.

**Schools**

- P.S. 124
- P.S. 130
- CPC Chrystie St. After-school Program

# Out of 19 engagement events, we have done Walk-throughs with Community Stakeholders





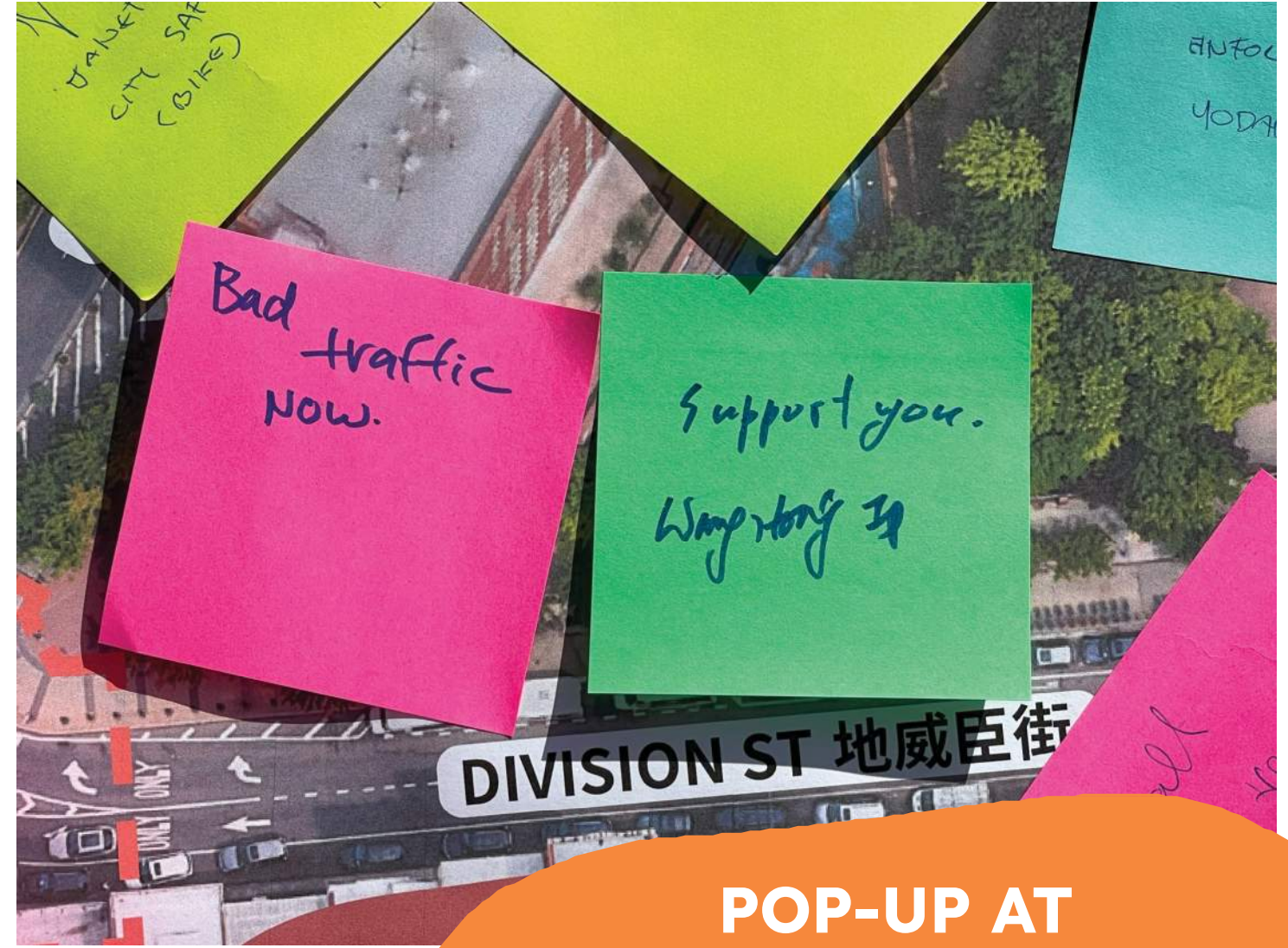
# Out of 19 engagement events, we have done 7 Pop-up Events



**POP-UP AT KIMLAU SQUARE**  
社區參與 - 劉錦廣場

Out of 19 engagement events, we have done

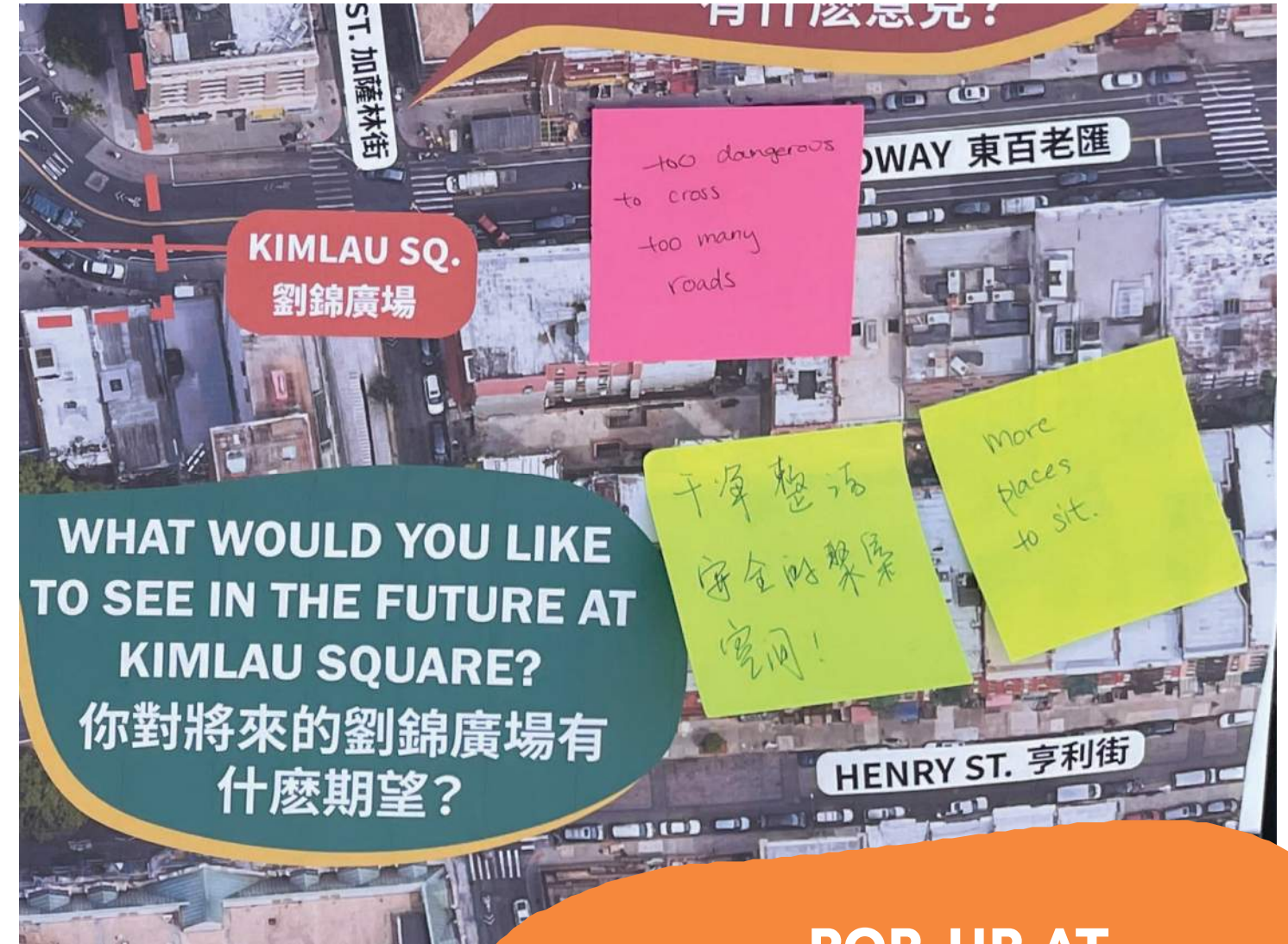
# 7 Pop-up Events



**POP-UP AT  
COLUMBUS PARK**  
社區參與 - 哥倫佈公園

Out of 19 engagement events, we have done

# 7 Pop-up Events



**POP-UP AT  
CHINATOWN SUPERMARKET  
OF MANHATTAN**  
社區參與 - 新中華超市

Out of 19 engagement events, we have done  
**3 Focus Engagement at Schools**



**School Engagement at PS130**

學童參與 - PS130



**School Engagement at Chrystie St. After-school Program**

學童參與 -  
Chrystie St. 課後活動

# Out of 19 engagement events, we have done 4 Tablings at Community Events



TABLING AT SMITH HOUSES  
EARTH DAY EVENT  
社區活動 - 地球日活動 -  
史密斯大廈

# Out of 19 engagement events, we have done 4 Tablings at Community Events



TABLING AT GOTHAM  
PARK BLOCK PARTY  
參與社區活動 -  
哥譚公園社區街區派對

# Out of 19 engagement events, we have done **3** Focus Engagement at Senior Centers

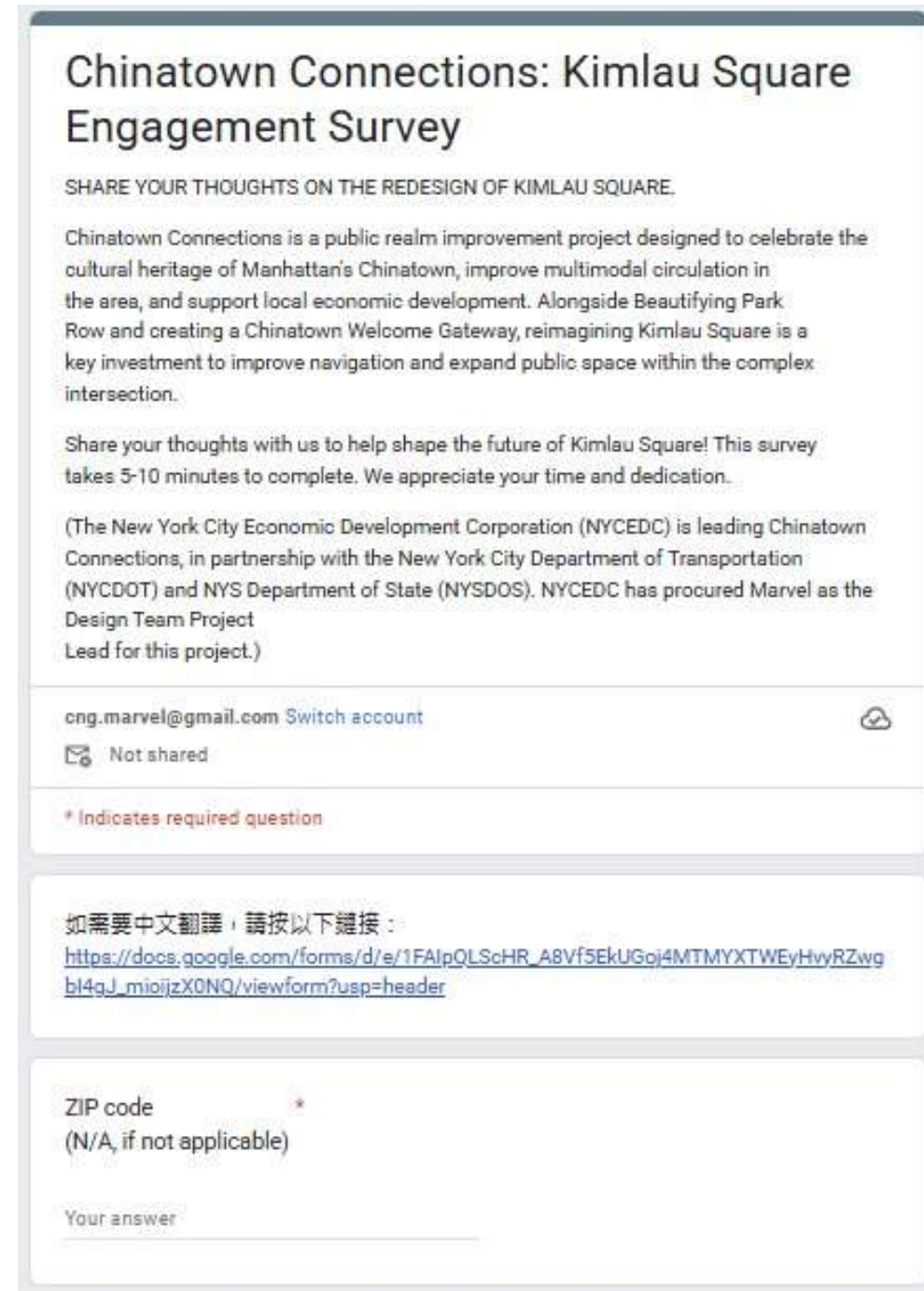


OPEN DOOR SENIOR CENTER  
長者中心 - 人瑞中心



VHS NNORC SENIOR CENTER  
長者中心 - 華埠退休居民社區服務

# Launched Surveys filled both online and in-person, and received **148** responses



# Who have we talked to

**19** ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

## Groups Engaged:

Community Members, Seniors, Children, Residents, Visitors, Elected Officials, People Working In The Area...

**700+** PEOPLE ATTENDED

**332+** WRITTEN COMMENTS

**268** VOTES ON DESIGN ELEMENTS

**148** SURVEY RESPONSES

# What we've seen..

## IT'S YOUR TIME TO BE A LANDSCAPE DESIGNER!

請你來做一次景觀設計師!

What type of activities you want to do on our new public plaza? How do YOU want to use it?

What type of things you want to see there? Trees? Flowers? Games? Sculpture? Pavement? Chair and tables?...what else could it be?

你想怎樣使用這個新的廣場? 你想在新的公共廣場上做哪些有趣的活動? 新的廣場空間裏都有什麼? 大樹-小花-遊戲-桌椅-藝術雕塑還是地磚...還有呢?

用剪刀、膠棒和彩筆來拼貼或者畫出你心中的廣場,向大家展示你和你的朋友、家人會如何使用這個廣場空間!

有中國元素, 老人小孩的去处, 有花有樹, 有氣派, 有節日氣氛

Use scissors, gluesticks and colors to collage or paint the empty space on the right, to show everyone what kind of activities you want to do with your friends and family!

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CHINATOWN CONNECTIONS | EDC MARVEL

## IN A REGULAR WEEKDAY AFTERNOON 在一個普通周中的午后.....



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CHINATOWN CONNECTIONS | EDC MARVEL



## OUR TIME TO BE A LANDSCAPE DESIGNER!

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CHINATOWN CONNECTIONS | EDC MARVEL



## WHAT TYPE OF THINGS YOU WANT TO SEE THERE?

Trees? Flowers? Games? Sculpture? Pavement? Chair and tables?...what else could it be?

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CHINATOWN CONNECTIONS | EDC MARVEL



I would like to share with you about what I think of the current Kintau Square  
我想和你分享對於金勢廣場 現狀的想法是:

And some changes I would love to see in the future Kintau Square:  
我希望在未來的金勢廣場看到的設計和改變:

1. 改善廣場附近的複雜的交通  
2. 確保行人的安全  
3. 擴大廣場

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And some changes I would love to see in the future Kintau Square:  
我希望在未來的金勢廣場看到的設計和改變:

1. 畫一切擴大現有的公共空間  
2. 最重要能確保行人的車輛的安全  
3. 一定要保障廣場內清潔。

BEST  
此致  
SIMON CHAN 陳振聲

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

# What we've heard.



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE EXISTING KIMLAU SQUARE?  
你對現在的劉錦廣場有什麼意見?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE FUTURE AT KIMLAU SQUARE?  
你對將來劉錦廣場有什麼期望?

# and many more...

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

## What we've heard..

Build a beautiful and clean space for minority groups. Ensure that the kids have a positive impression of Chinatown as they are growing up.

-Kimlau Square planting event

We need to get rid of these pigeons!  
NNORC Senior Center

No. 1 – Do everything possible to expand the public space.  
No. 2 – Importantly, let's ensure pedestrian and vehicular safety.  
No. 3 – Public space needs to be clean!

-Postcards @ Open Door Senior Center

The new square needs to reflect and represent the culture of Chinese Americans when "East meets West".

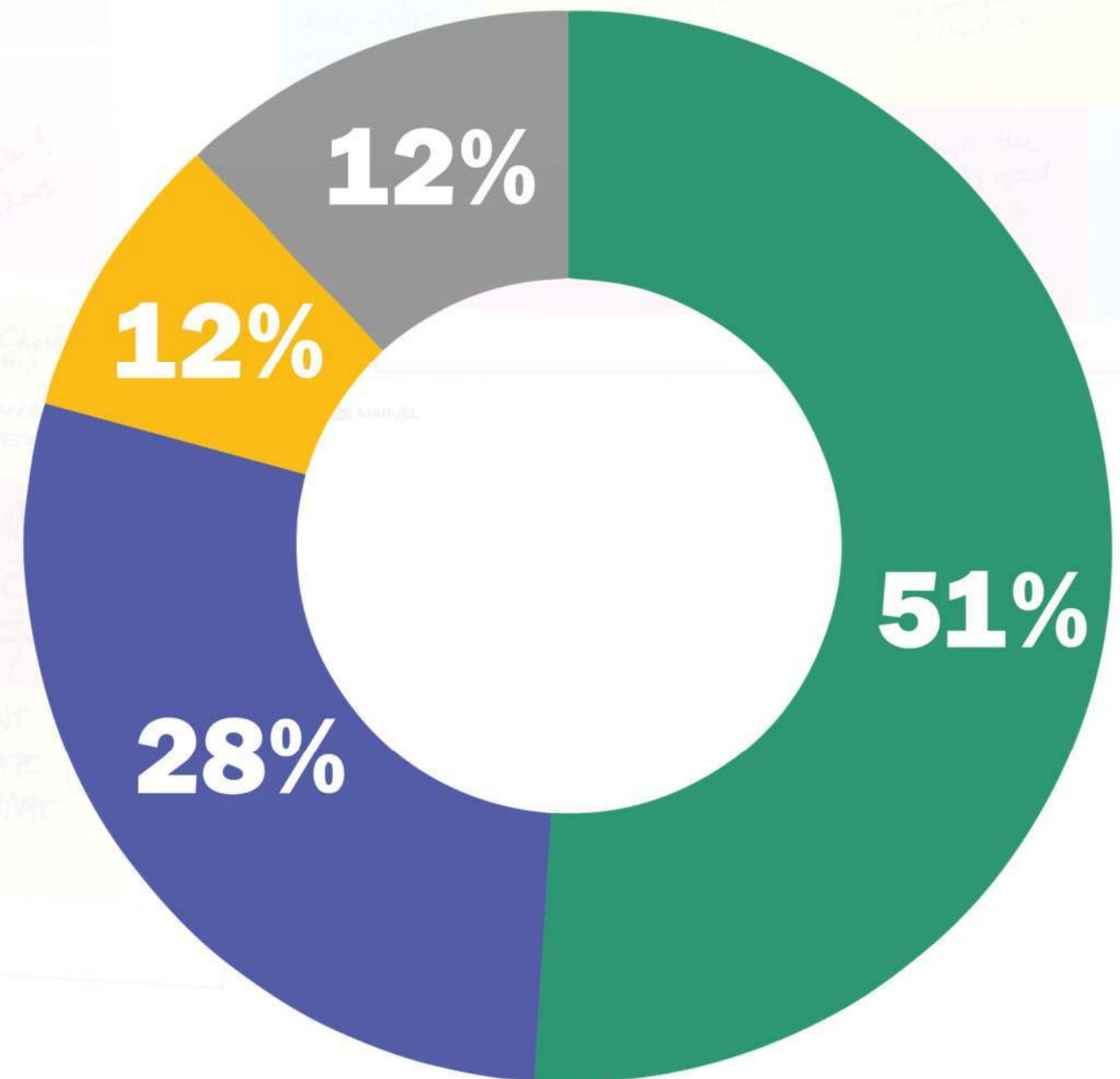
-Popup at the Confucius Plaza

We need a space for all different types of activities!

and many more...

# An analysis of 332 written comments revealed four key themes that highlight Existing Conditions and Visions for Kimlau Square...

- DESIGN & LANDSCAPE
- CIRCULATION & CONNECTIVITY
- ART, CULTURE, PROGRAMMING
- GENERAL COMMENT



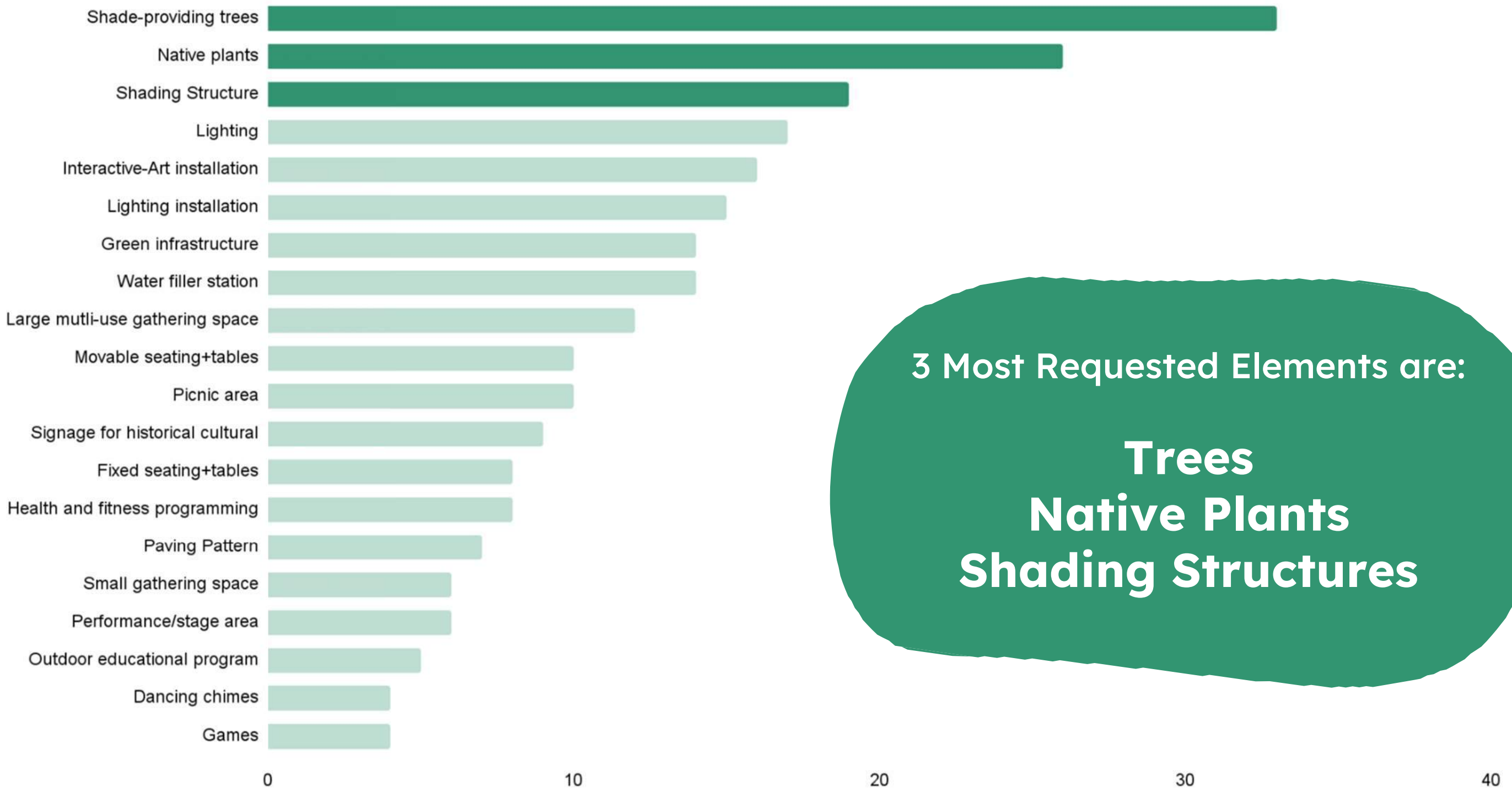
# What We Have Heard

**IN THE FUTURE AT THE KIMLAU SQUARE,  
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE/EXPERIENCE:**  
**未來在劉錦廣場,我想看到/體驗:**

<b>LARGE MULTI-USE GATHERING SPACE</b> 多用途集會空間	<b>SMALL GATHERING SPACE</b> 小尺度聚集空間	<b>LIGHTING</b> 燈光/照明	<b>LIGHTING INSTALLATION</b> 燈光藝術裝置	<b>SHADING STRUCTURE</b> 遮陽棚/架	<b>PAVING PATTERN</b> 鋪地圖案設計	<b>GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (RAIN GARDEN)</b> 綠色設施 (雨水花園)
<b>OUTDOOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM</b> 戶外教學空間	<b>PERFORMANCE / STAGE AREA</b> 舞臺·表演空間	<b>MOVABLE SEATING + TABLES</b> 可移動桌椅	<b>DANCING CHIMES</b> 地面鈴音裝置	<b>FIXED SEATING + TABLES</b> 固定桌椅	<b>NATIVE PLANTS</b> 原生植物	<b>SHADE-PROVIDING TREES</b> 林蔭樹
<b>GAMES (E.G. CHESS / CARDS)</b>	<b>INTERACTIVE ART INSTALLATION</b>	<b>WATER FILLER STATION</b>	<b>HEALTH AND FITNESS PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>PICNIC AREA</b>	<b>SIGNAGE FOR HISTORICAL CULTURAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>OTHER</b> Covered canopy (rain shelter)

# Emerging Themes & Design Priority

## Public space and Landscape

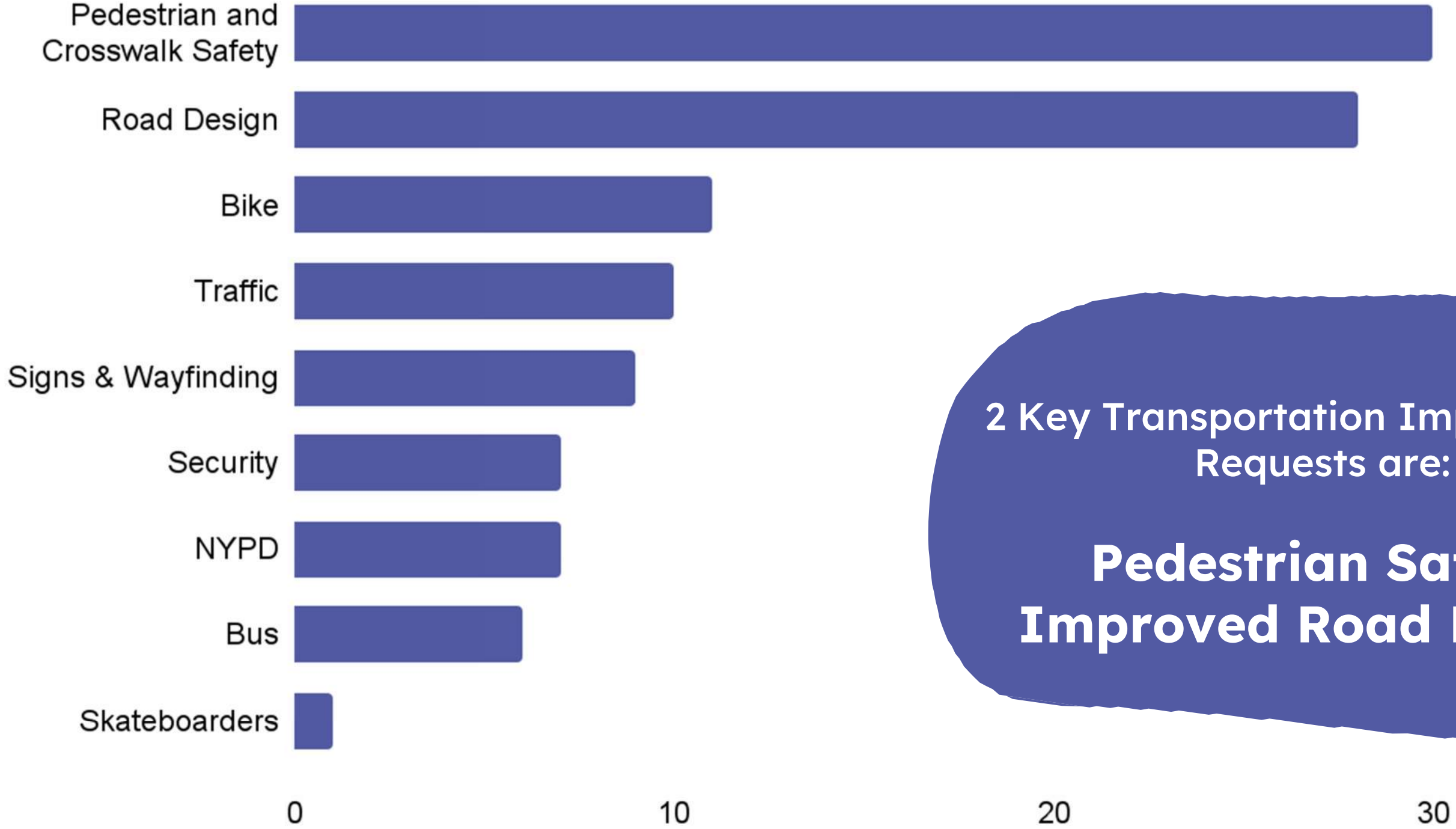


3 Most Requested Elements are:

**Trees**  
**Native Plants**  
**Shading Structures**

# Emerging Themes & Design Priority

## Safety and Connectivity



2 Key Transportation Improvement Requests are:  
**Pedestrian Safety**  
**Improved Road Design**

# Community Visions

**1**

## A PLACE TO GATHER

A green, shaded, and comfortable gathering place where mature trees, thoughtful amenities, and flexible spaces invite people of all ages to connect, rest, play, and celebrate together.

**2**

## SAFE AND CONNECTED

A road design that improves pedestrian safety and neighborhood connectivity and that minimizes friction at key crossings to Kimlau Square.

**3**

## CELEBRATE AND SHARE CULTURE

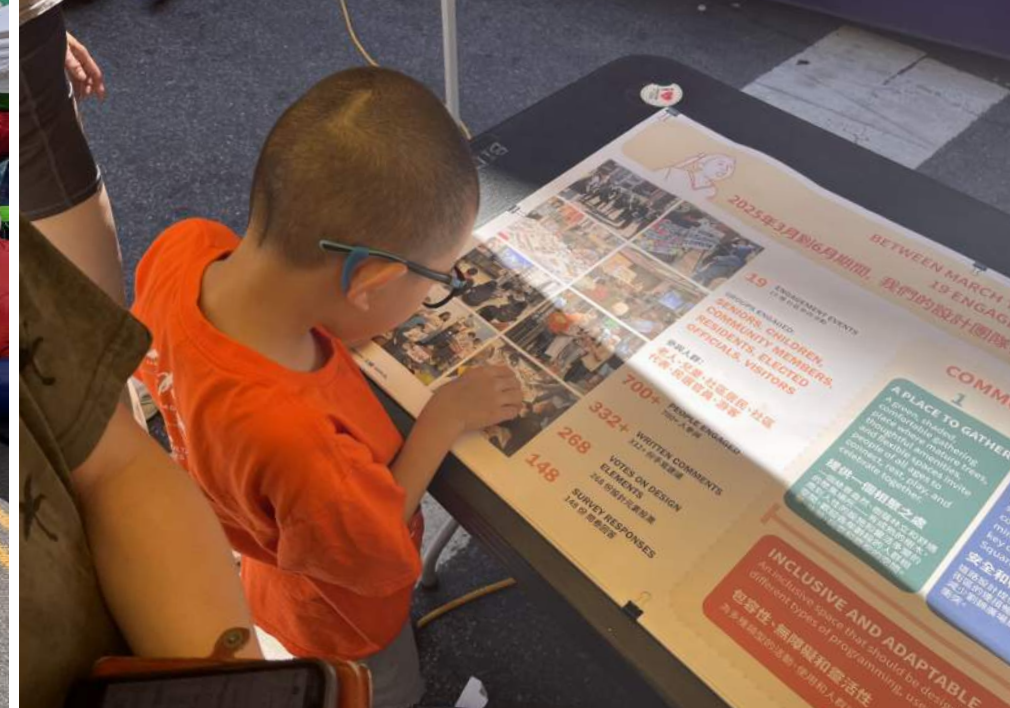
A space that respects and reflects the neighborhood's history and cultural context.

## INCLUSIVE AND ADAPTABLE

An inclusive space that should be designed flexibly to accommodate many different types of programming, uses, and people.

# We are continuing the Community Engagement effort throughout Concept Design

**Chinatown BID Summer Refreshing Weekend**  
08/09/2023



**Think!Chinatown Block Party**  
08/10/2023



**Smith House Family Day**  
08/23/2023

# Design Goals

## Celebrate and Share Culture



Develop a cohesive design standard for the square to create a visually distinctive entrance to the neighborhood that highlights the existing memorials and statues and provide a location for a new gateway installation

## A Place to Gather



Create a premier, expanded, and more functional open space for Chinatown to better accommodate the plethora cultural festivities and gatherings that occur in the neighborhood.

## Safe and Connected



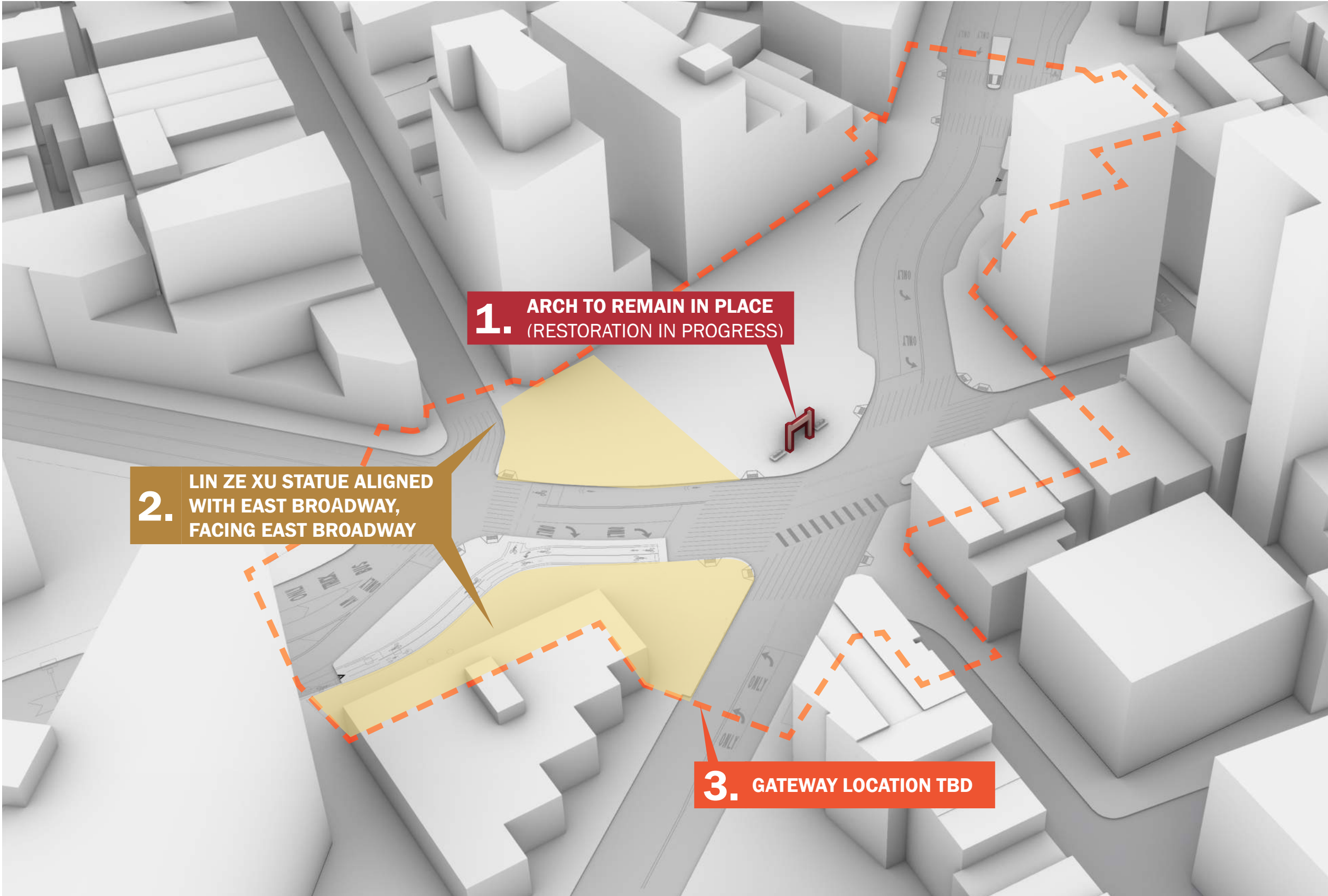
Simplify the existing travel patterns in the square to create a more typical intersection and ensure smoother, more direct connections for all roadway users

# Design Goals

The new public plaza will **serve as a gateway** to Chinatown, **expand the public space**, and **minimize conflicts between different modes of movement**.

# Celebrate and Share Culture

## Embrace 3 Cultural Markers



# Celebrate and Share Culture

## Kimlau Memorial Arch Reconstruction

### Updates:

Procurement is complete and construction is starting imminently

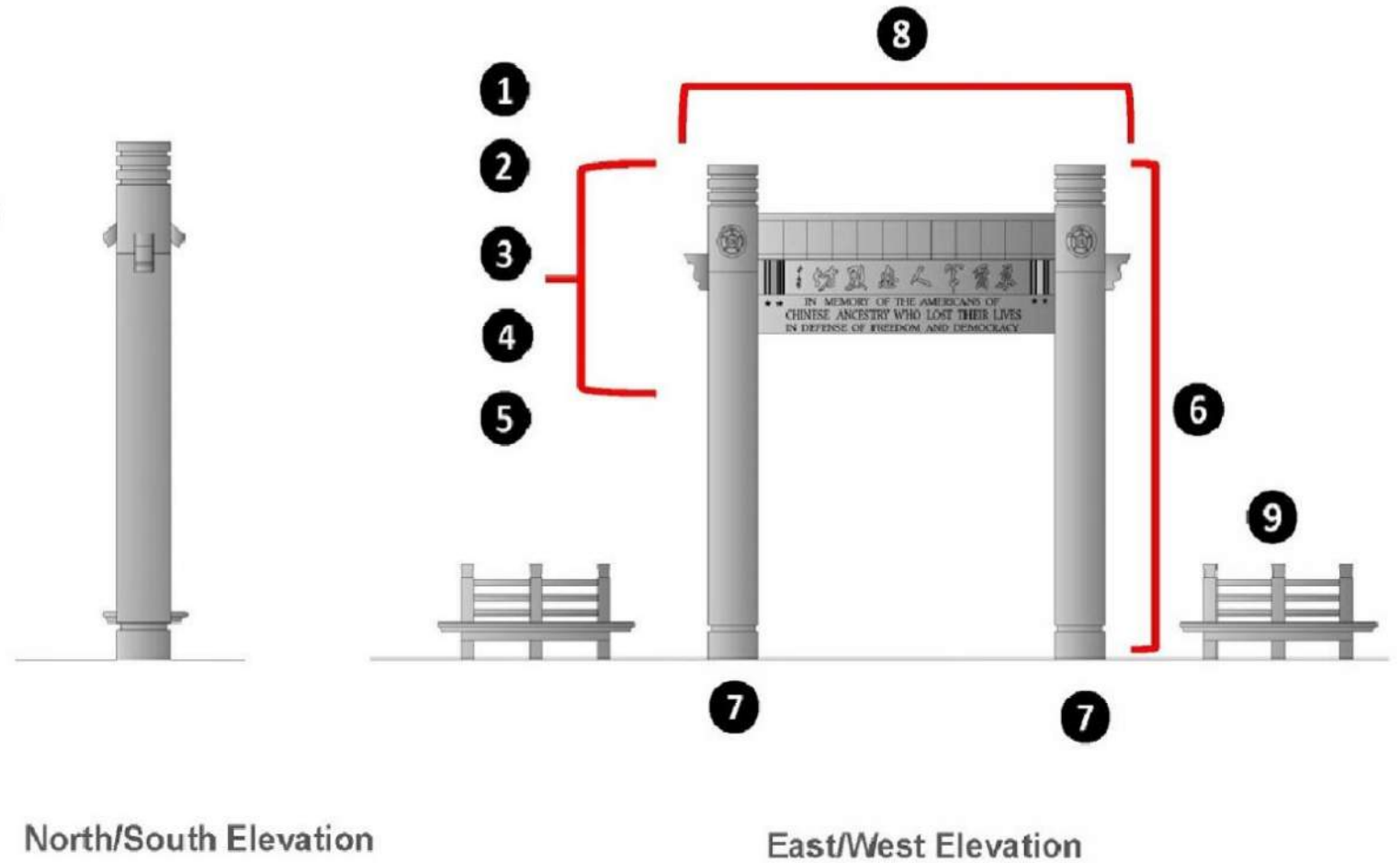
Construction duration is anticipated for 1 year (completion summer 2026).

#### Scope of work

##### Proposed Work Key

Work shown is typical for all elevations

1. Disassemble arch lintel/column connections and lintel roof stones.
2. Remove cracked portions of granite and hold for re-use or for modeling new replacement units
3. New and/or refurbished structural steel assembly and connections
4. New matching granite components or reinstall salvaged building fabric wherever possible
5. Rout and replace failed mortar joints
6. Chemically clean/wash entire structure
7. Footing/foundation stabilization as required
8. Install new bird deterrent apparatus along roof ridge, column tops and projecting side brackets.
9. Restore and chemically clean existing cast concrete benches



TENTATIVE construction fence boundary



Kimlau Memorial Arch Reconstruction  
Kimlau Square | Borough of Manhattan

# Celebrate and Share Culture

## Lin Ze Xu Statue



The location of the statue will be finalized with consensus from the Fujianese groups and leaders.

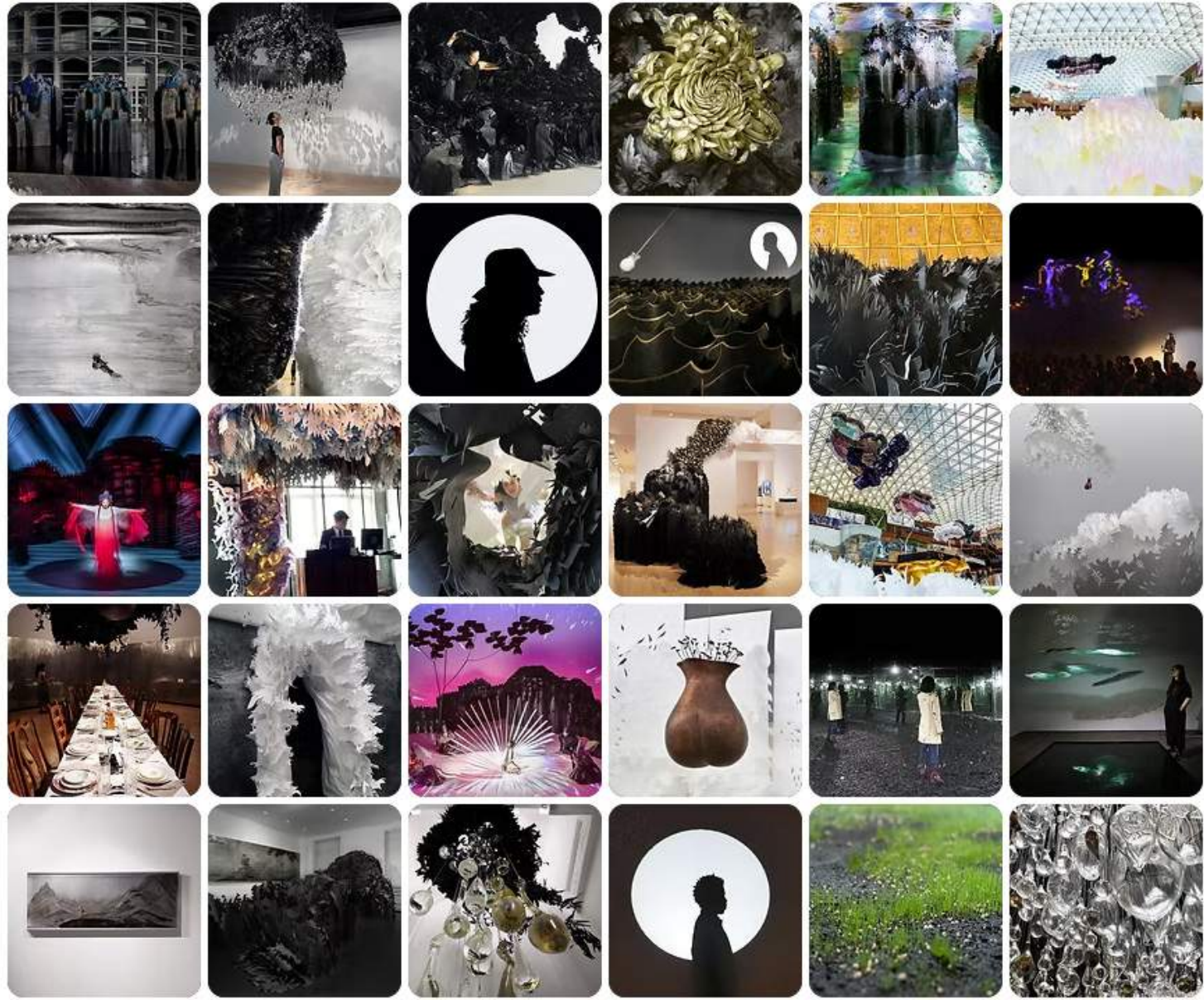
# Celebrate and Share Culture Welcome Gateway Artist

Jennifer Wen Ma

Website: <https://www.littlemeat.net/>

*Jennifer Wen Ma*

PROJECTS ABOUT BIBLIOGRAPHY THE BOUCHERIE More



Location options for the Welcome Gateway will be developed in coordination with several stakeholders including the artist, DOT, BID, etc..

# A Place to Gather

## Size Comparison - Bogardus Plaza

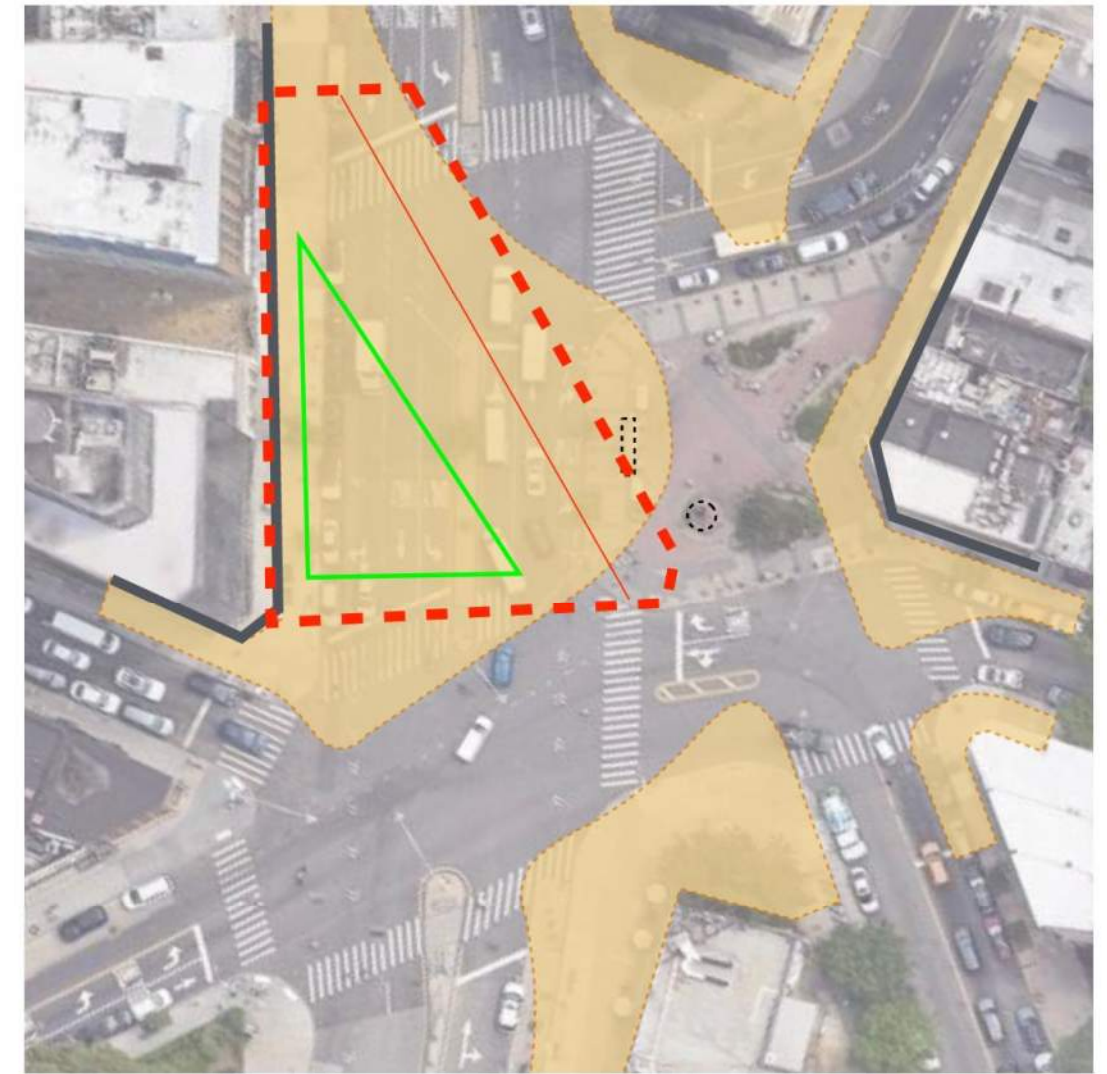
DOT PLAZA, BOGARDUS PLAZA, 5 Hudson St, New York, NY 10013



**Bogardus Plaza**



**Proposed Kimlau Square**



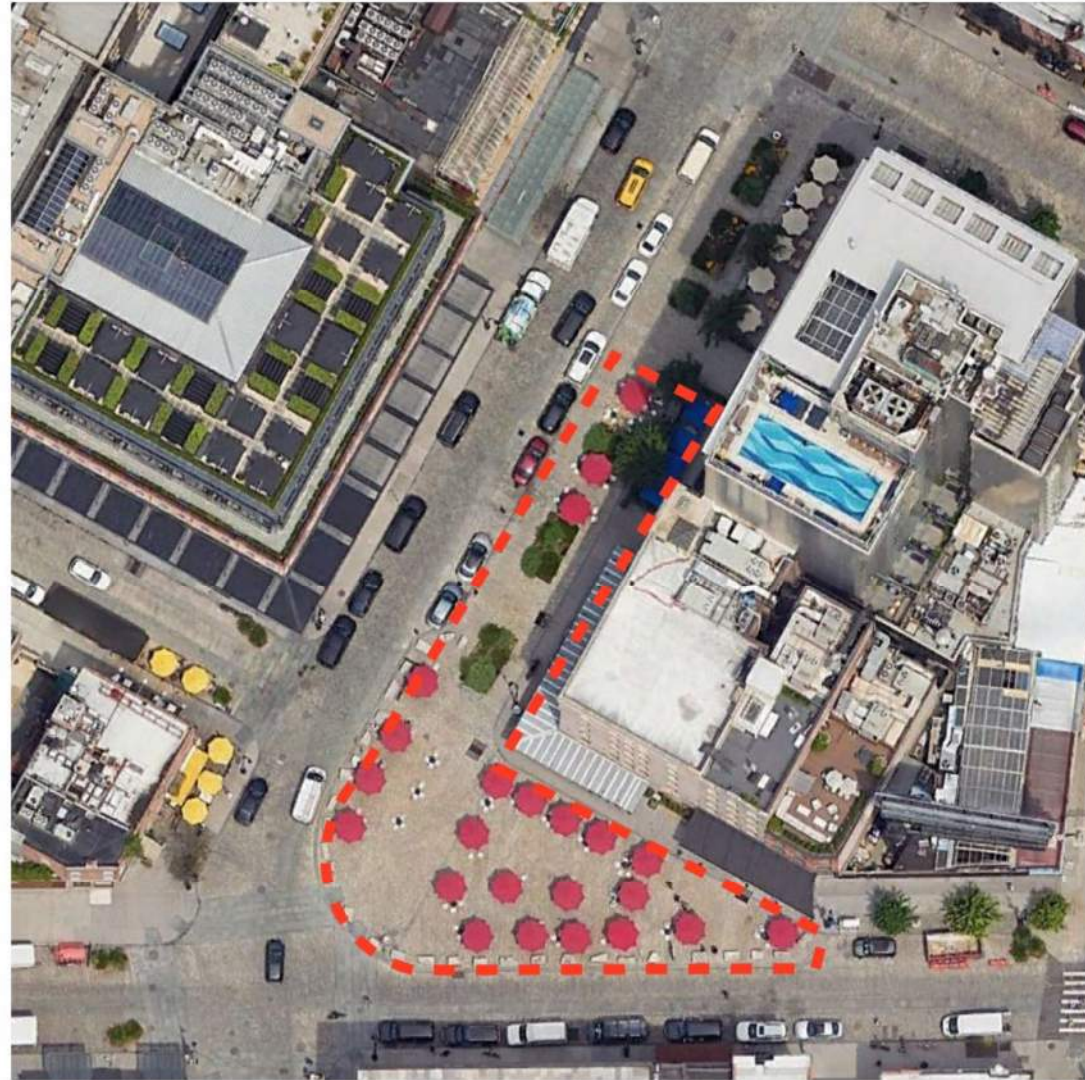
(Design to be determined with DOT traffic study and stakeholder input)

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Plaza limits
- Limits of sidewalk
- Planting zone

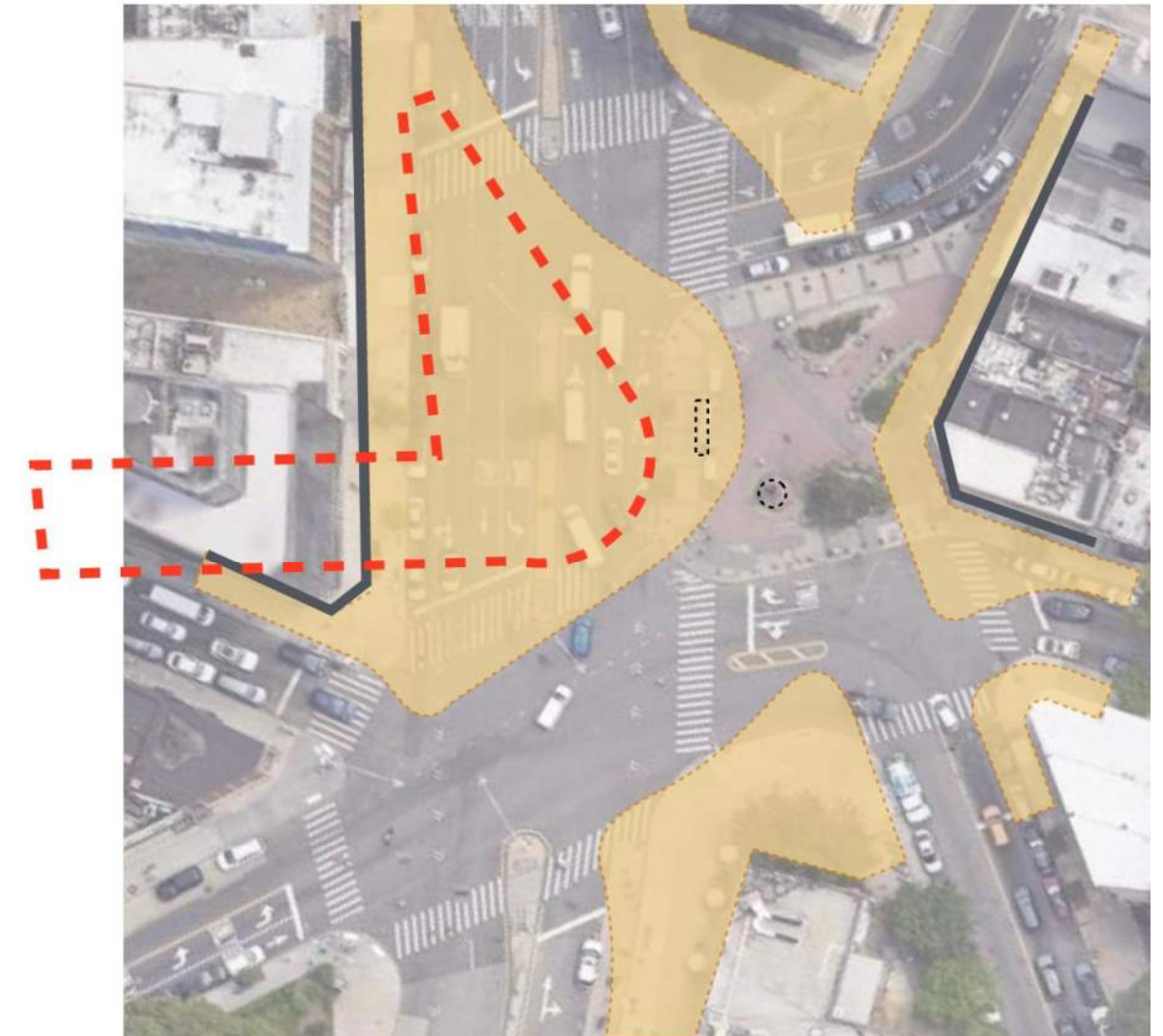
# A Place to Gather Size Comparison - Gansevoort Plaza

DOT PLAZA, GANSEVOORT PLAZA, 38 Gansevoort St, New York, NY 10014

### Gansevoort Plaza



### Proposed Kimlau Square



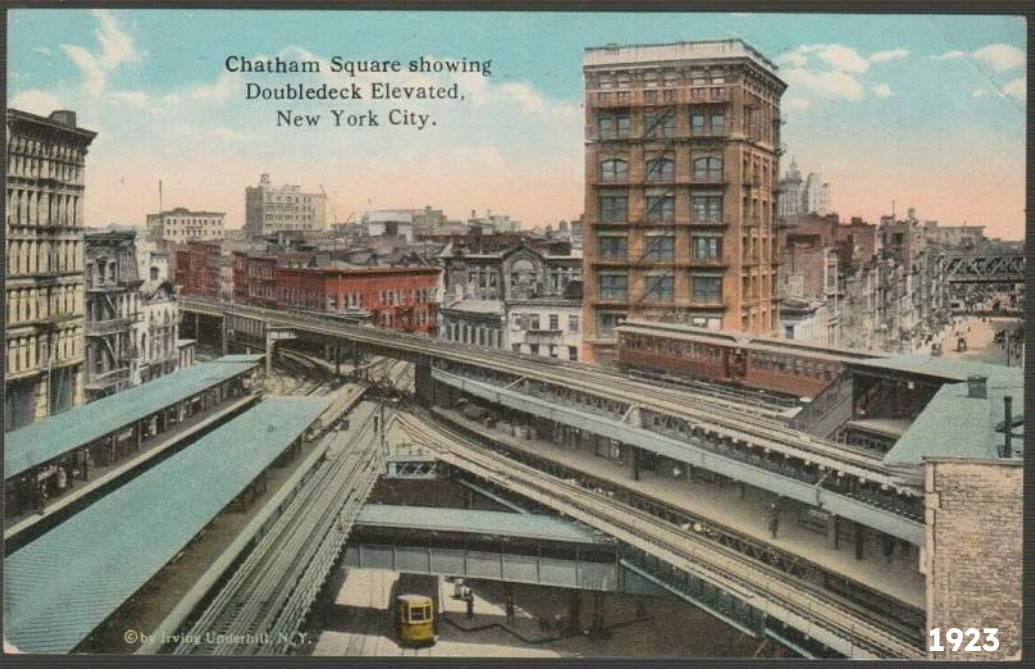
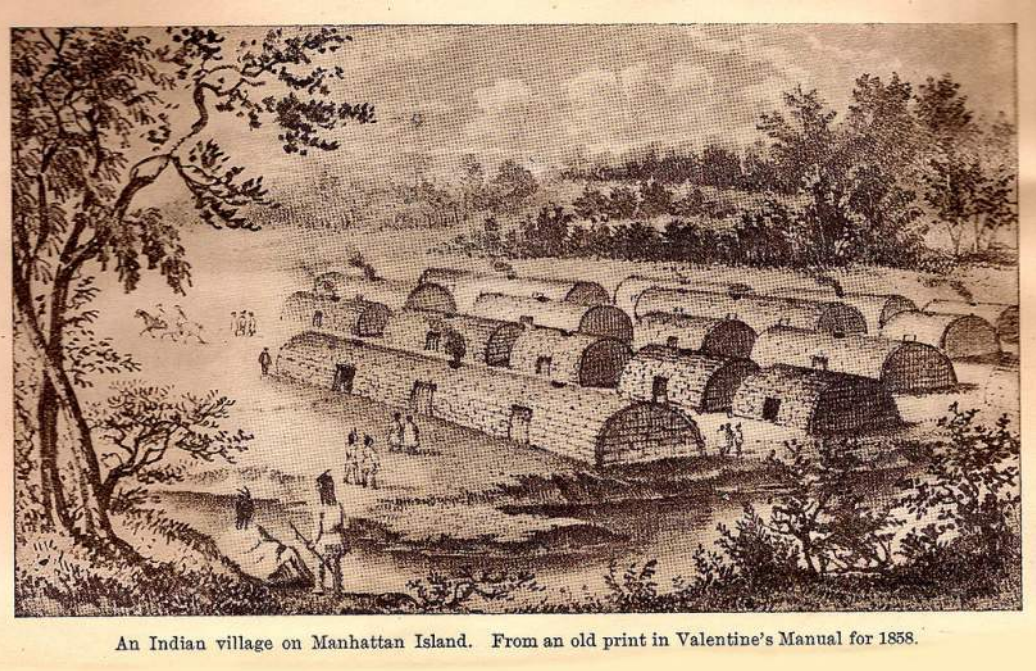
(Design to be determined with DOT traffic study and stakeholder input)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Plaza limits

# CONCEPT DESIGN APPROACH

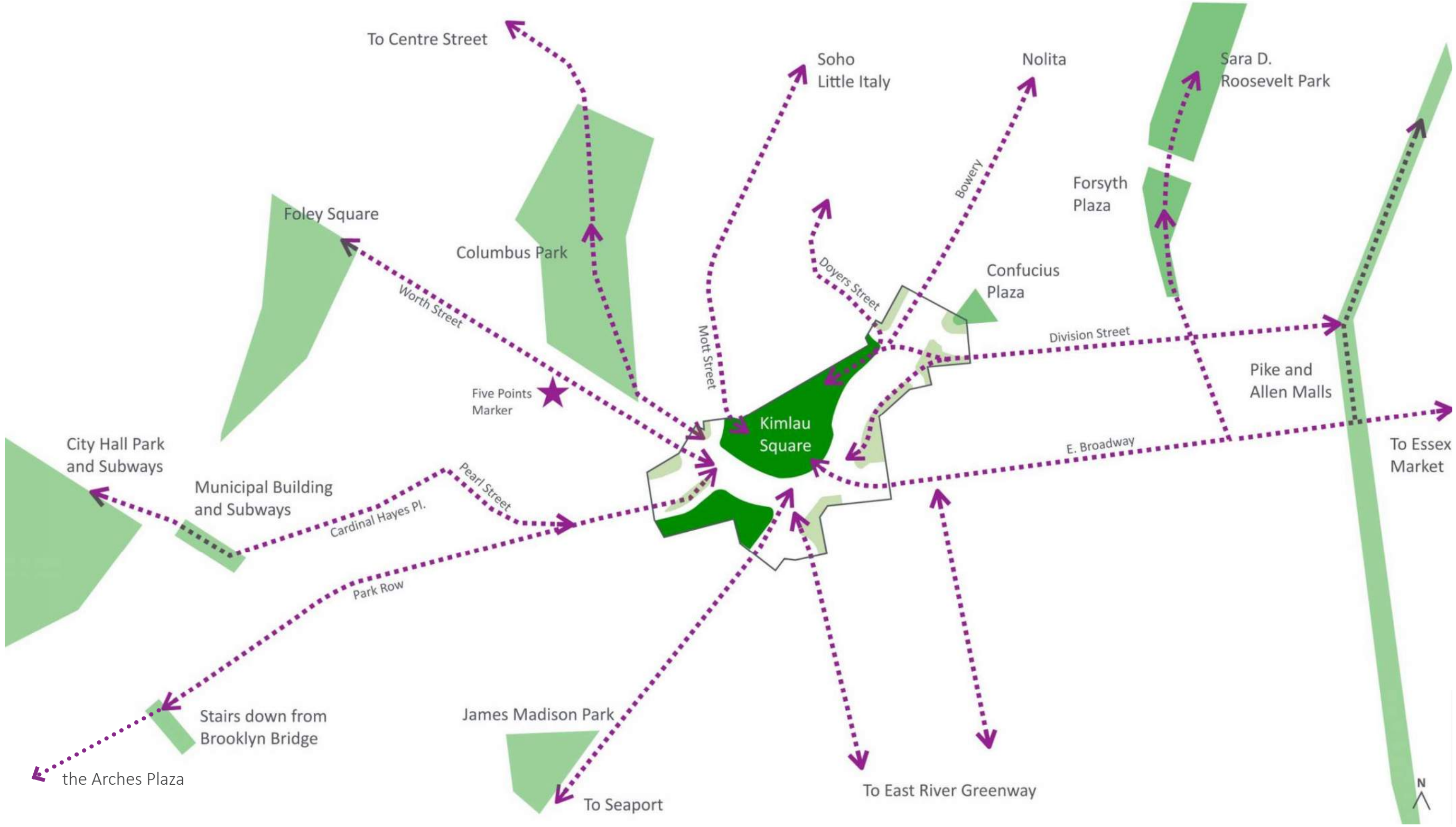
# Observation & Analysis

## Site History & Character

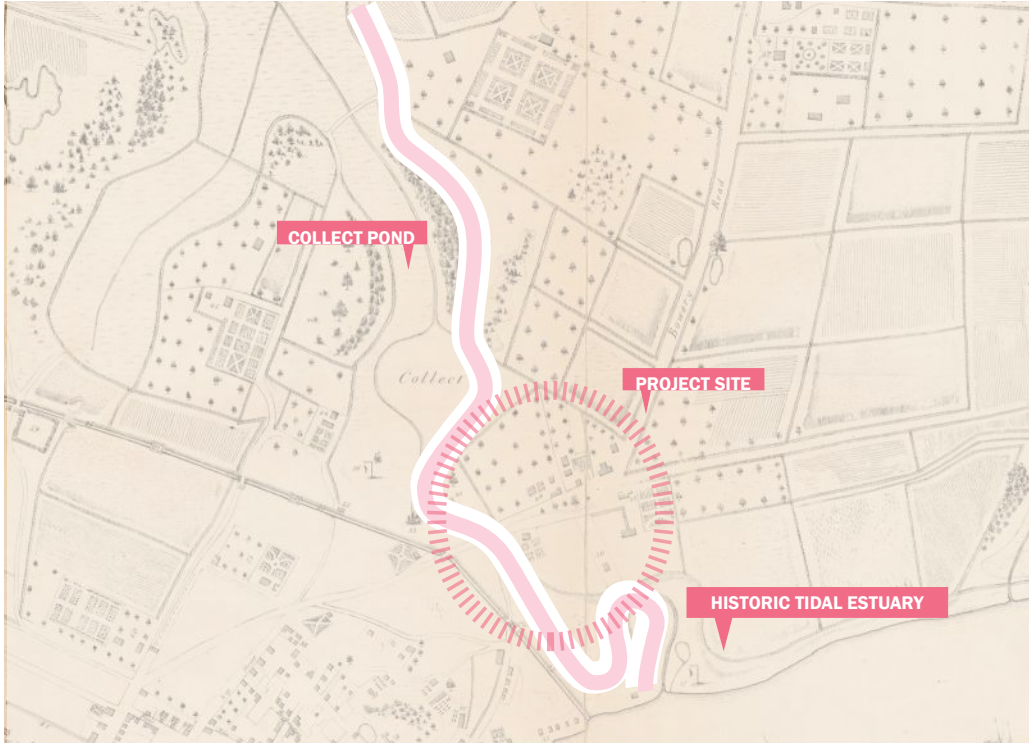


# Observation & Analysis

## Chinatown Public Realm: Creating Connections



# Concept Inspirations



## MEANDERING

Reference the site's hydrologic history with a design language that invite both movement and moments of rest.



## CONVERGENCE

Reinforce Chinatown and the site's identity as a convergence of different neighborhoods and a shared gathering space.

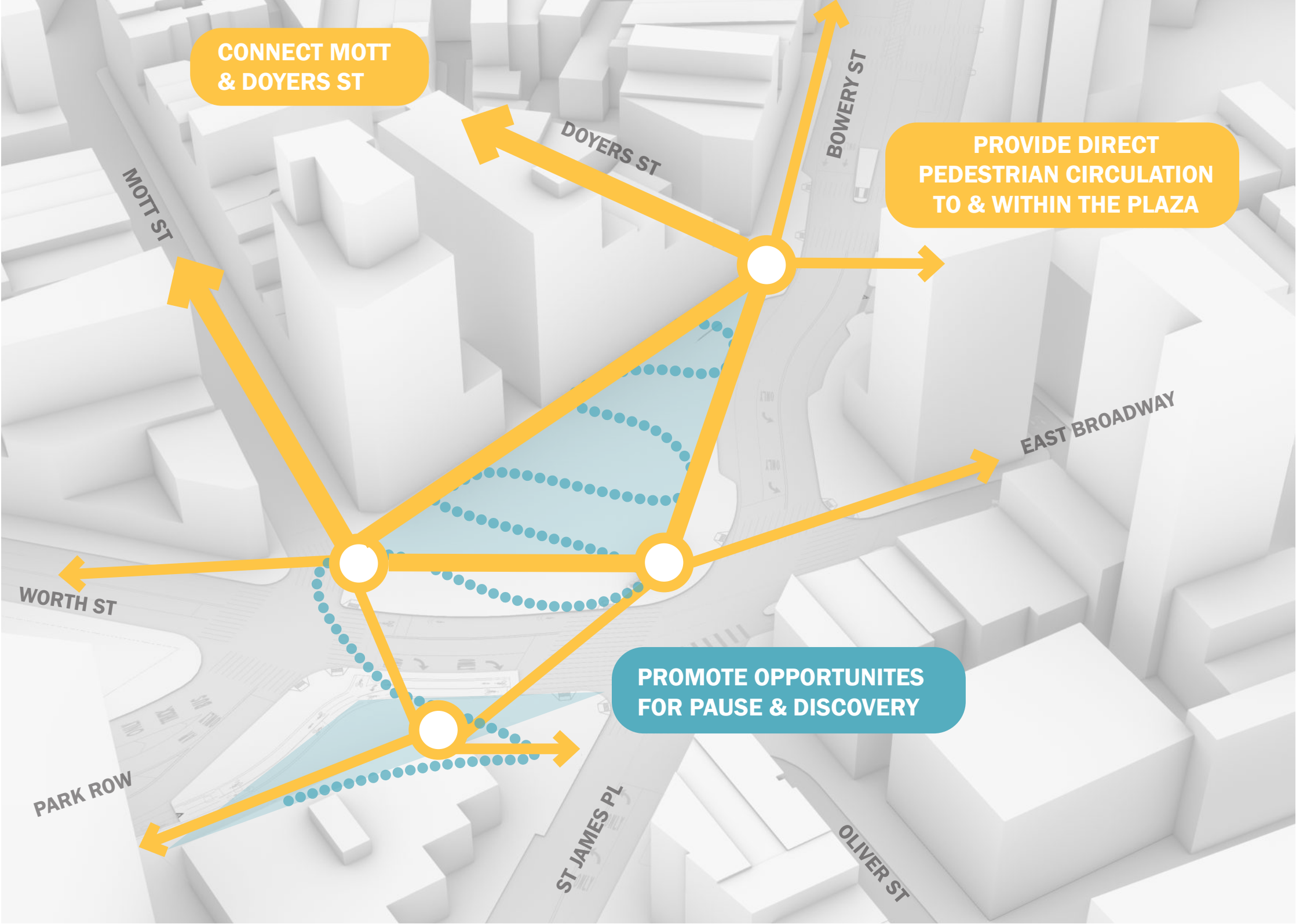


## CITY GRID

At the intersection of different grid alignments, position the site as a connector that improves connectivity and flow.

# What we have heard

## Circulation - Pedestrian Day to Day



Doyer St.

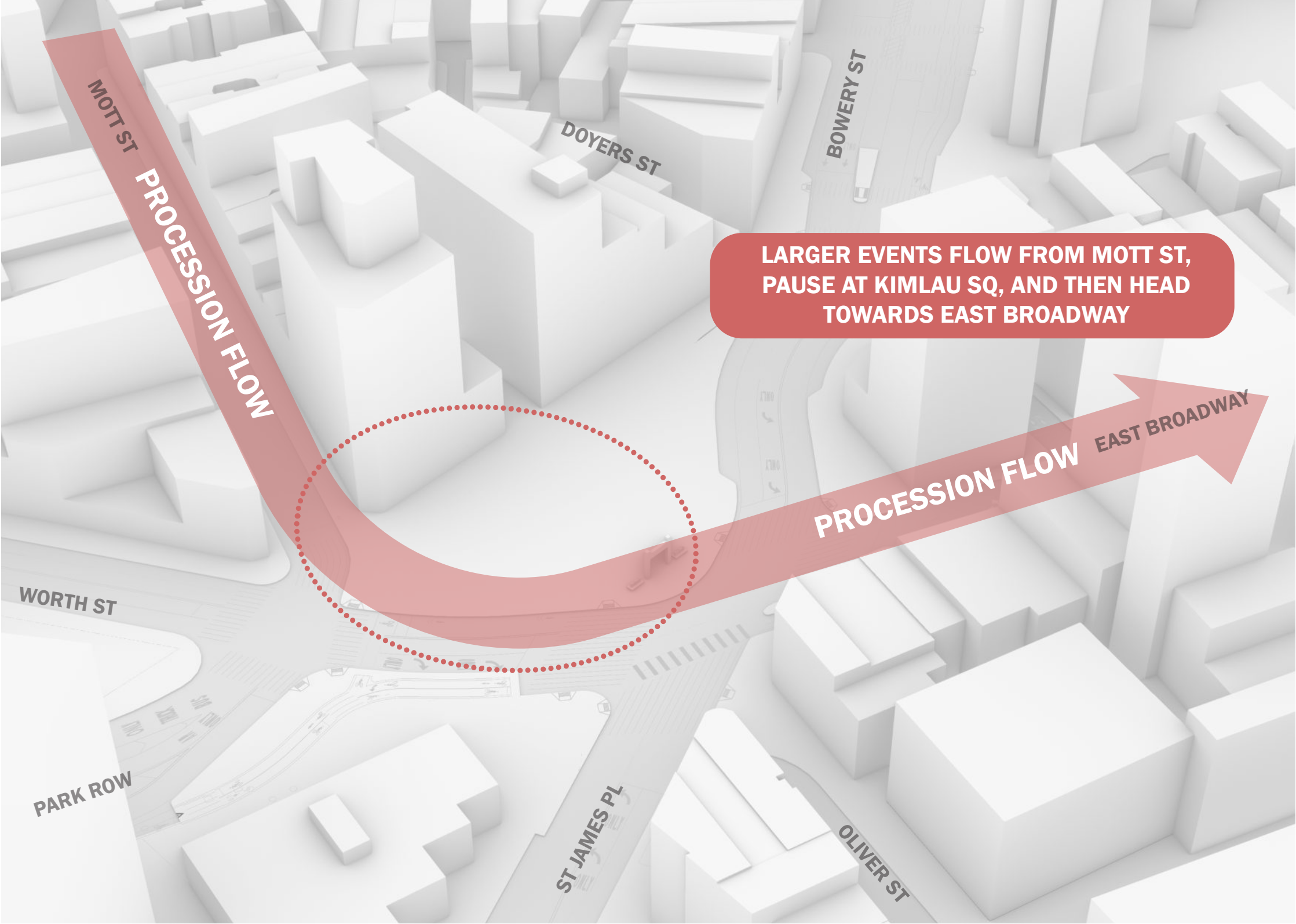


Mott St.

- DIRECT PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
- MEANDERING PATH

# What we have heard

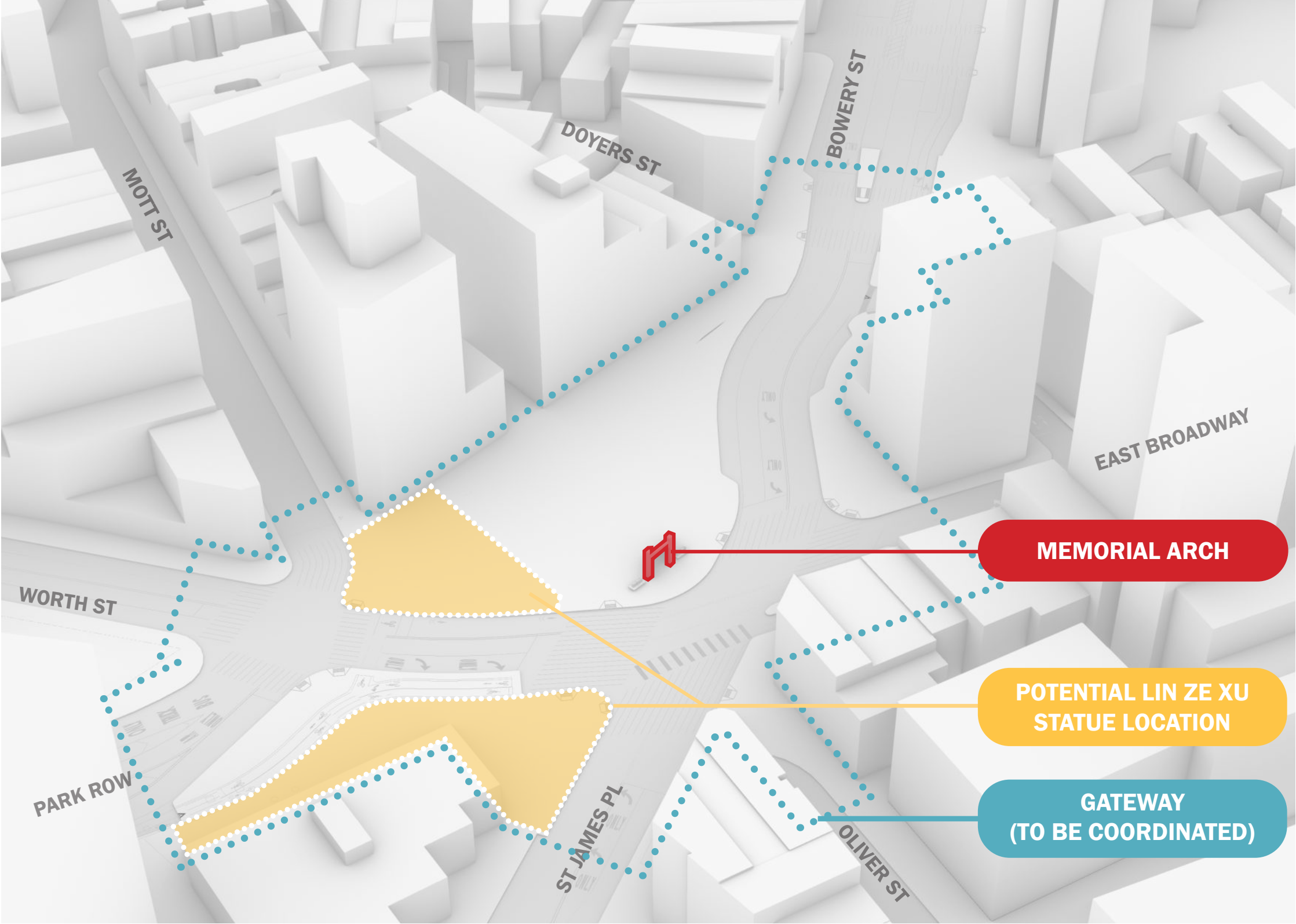
## Circulation - Event



PROCESSION FLOW

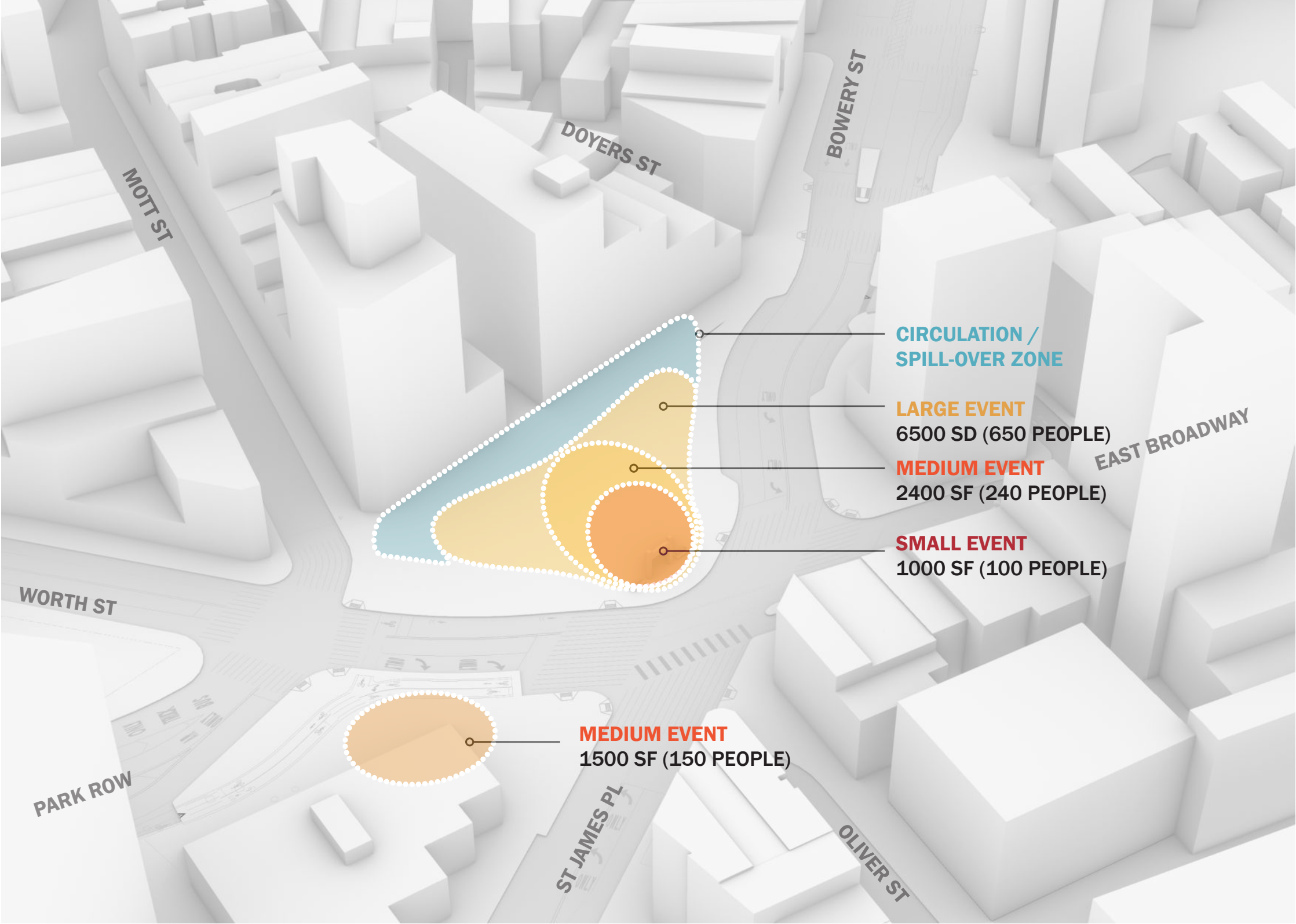
# What we have heard

## Flexibility - Gathering Space for Different Scales



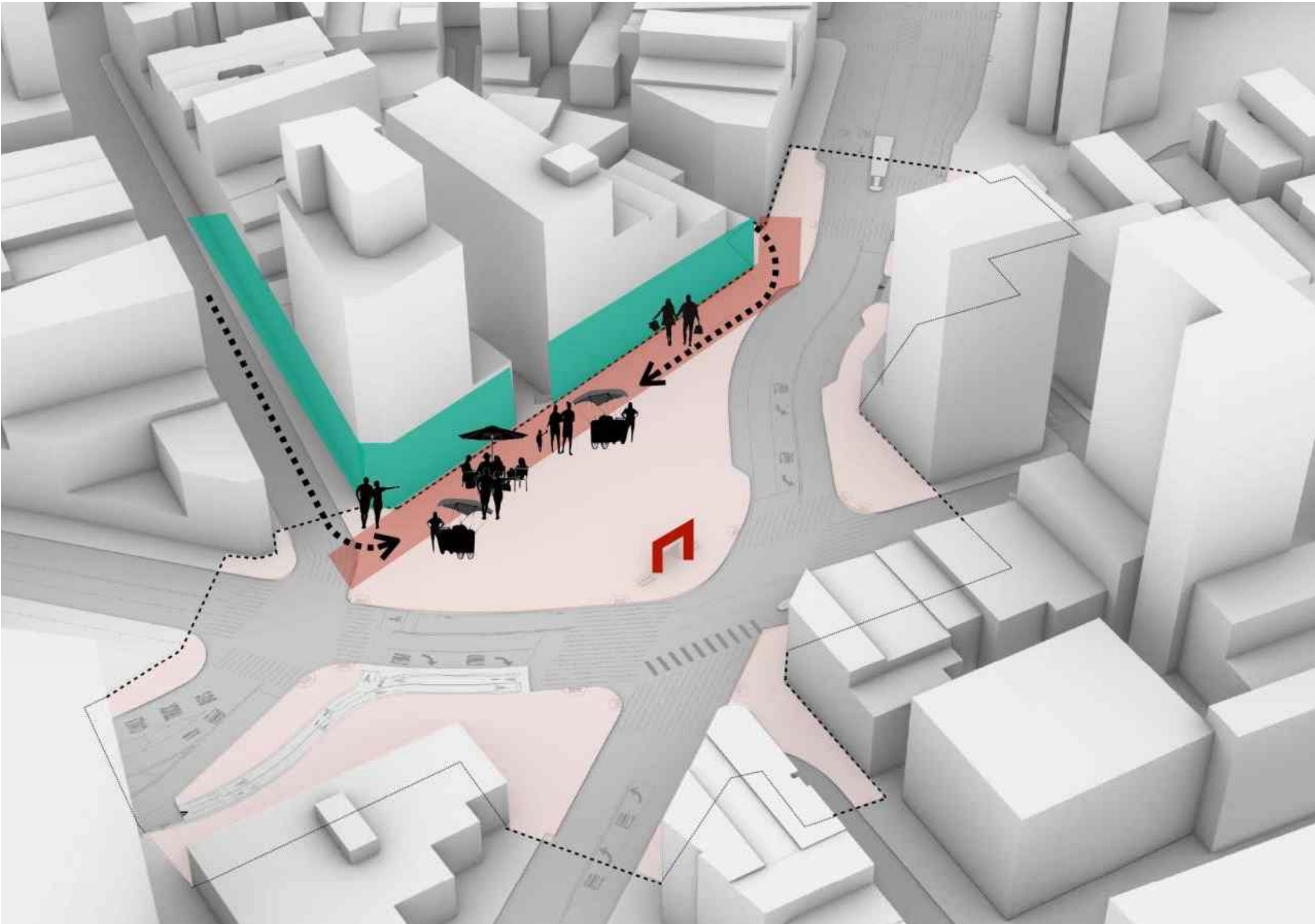
# What we have heard

## Flexibility - Gathering Space for Different Scales



# What we have heard

## Street Level Commercial Activation



Doyer. St



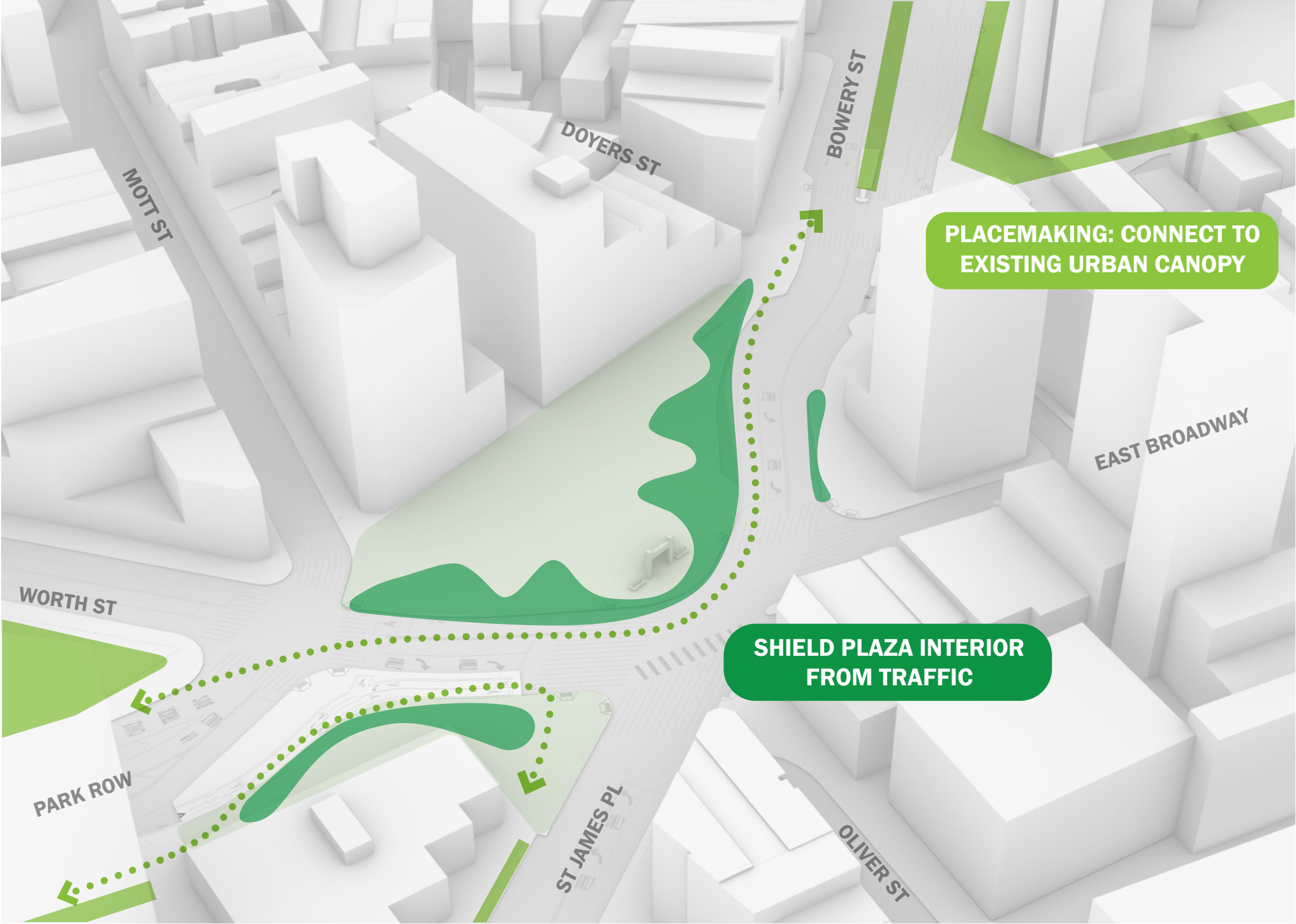
Mott St.



Pell St.

# What we have heard

## Planting - Buffer



- PROPOSED PLANTING BUFFER
- EXISTING TREE CANOPY

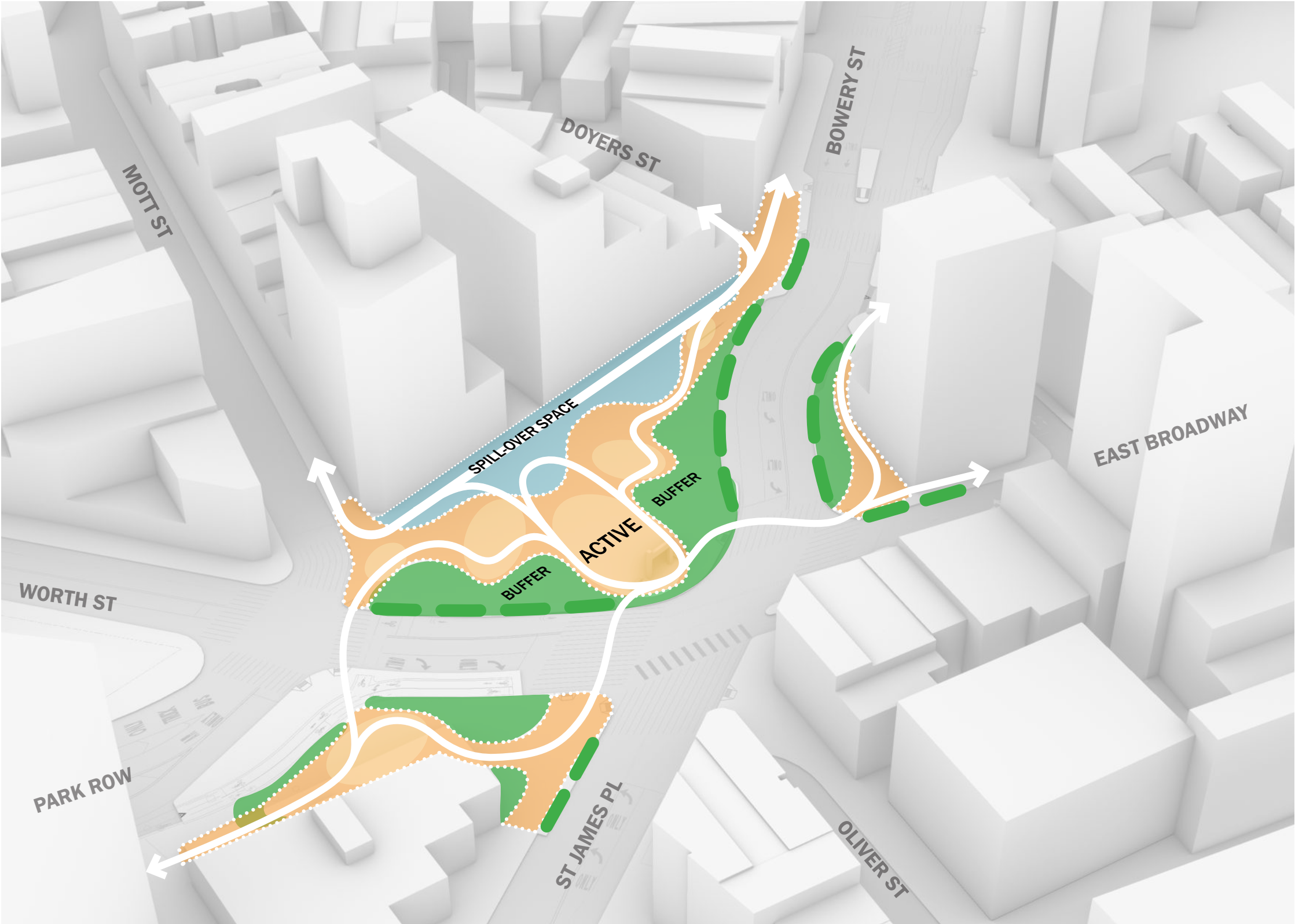
# What we have heard






## Canopy and Shade



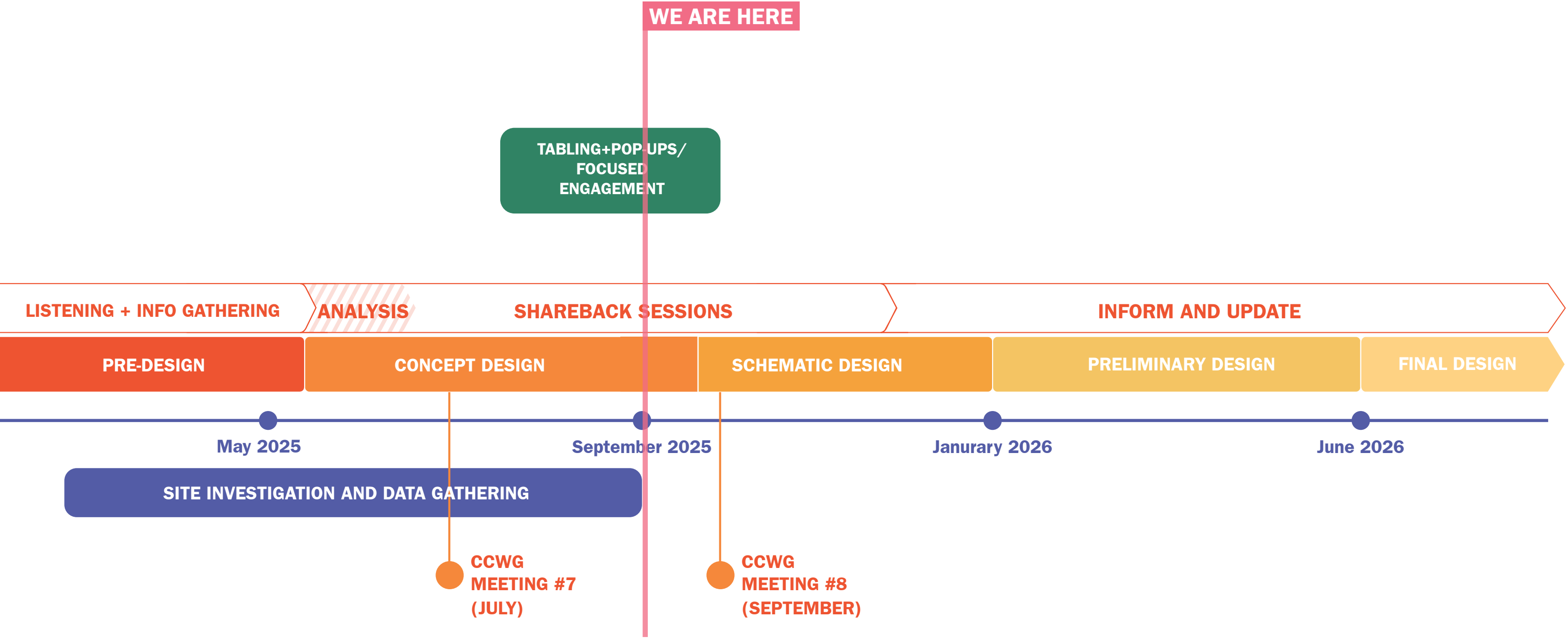
# What we have heard

## Conceptual Framework



-  MOVEMENT THROUGH SPACE
-  ACTIVE PROGRAM ZONES
-  GATHERING SPACE
-  FLEX SPILL-OVER SPACE
-  GREEN BUFFER

# Timeline



# DISCUSSION