



# Chinatown Connections

NYC / EDC



CB 3 Meeting – 03/12/2024

# Agenda

## Community Board 3

- Announcement
- Recently completed engagement
- Project Overview
  - Project Context
  - Scope
  - Roles and Responsibilities
  - Engagement Strategy
  - Project Timeline
- Nearby Projects
- Next steps

# Recent Chinatown Connections Announcement



**The City and State came together on February 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Kavanagh, Wellington Chen and Raymond Tsang

# Chinatown Connections Project Goals

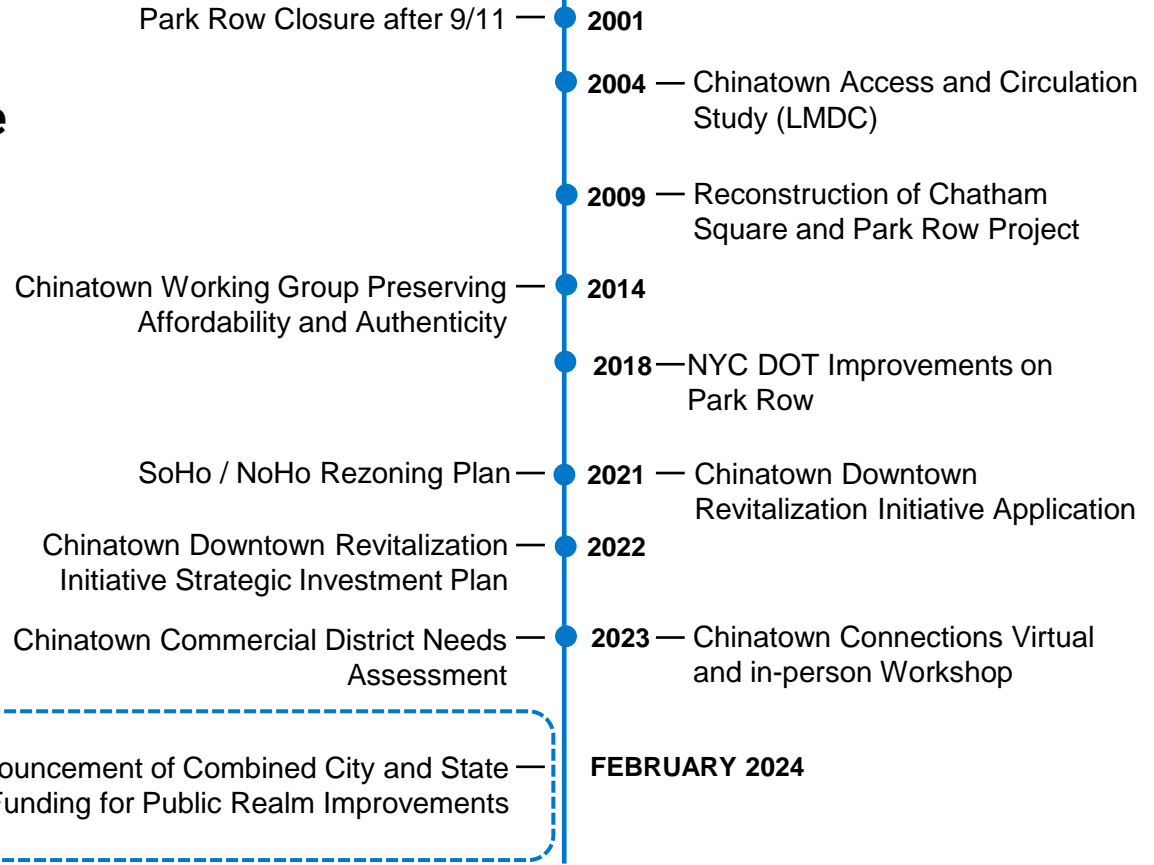
- Support needs of existing community and local economy
- Bolsters neighborhood identity and culture
- Improve quality of life with expanded pedestrian space
- Support connections with surrounding communities by creating safer pedestrian and bike connections at Worth Street and Chatham Square



# Project Background

# Project History

## Planning Efforts for Park Row and Kimlau Square



# Recently Completed Engagement

## Virtual workshop: June 26, 2023

- 80 members of the public attended
- Park Row and Frankfort identified by the community as a priority
- Kimlau Square identified as a priority, with specific mention of the conditions of materials, traffic flow, and unsafe crossings to and from the Square



## In-person workshops: July 26 & August 3, 2023

- Three in-person workshops held at Kimlau Square and the Brooklyn Bridge Arches
- Recorded over 200 survey responses
- The 3 events were attended by over 100 members of the public with a diverse age range and representation of users that included, residents, local businesses, students, and tourists.
- Pedestrians (locals) and tourists perceive Park Row as closed and inaccessible due to security infrastructure. There was general consensus for bike and ped improvements.
- The current condition of Kimlau e.g. lighting, uneven pavement, etc. creates a hazard for users.

# 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



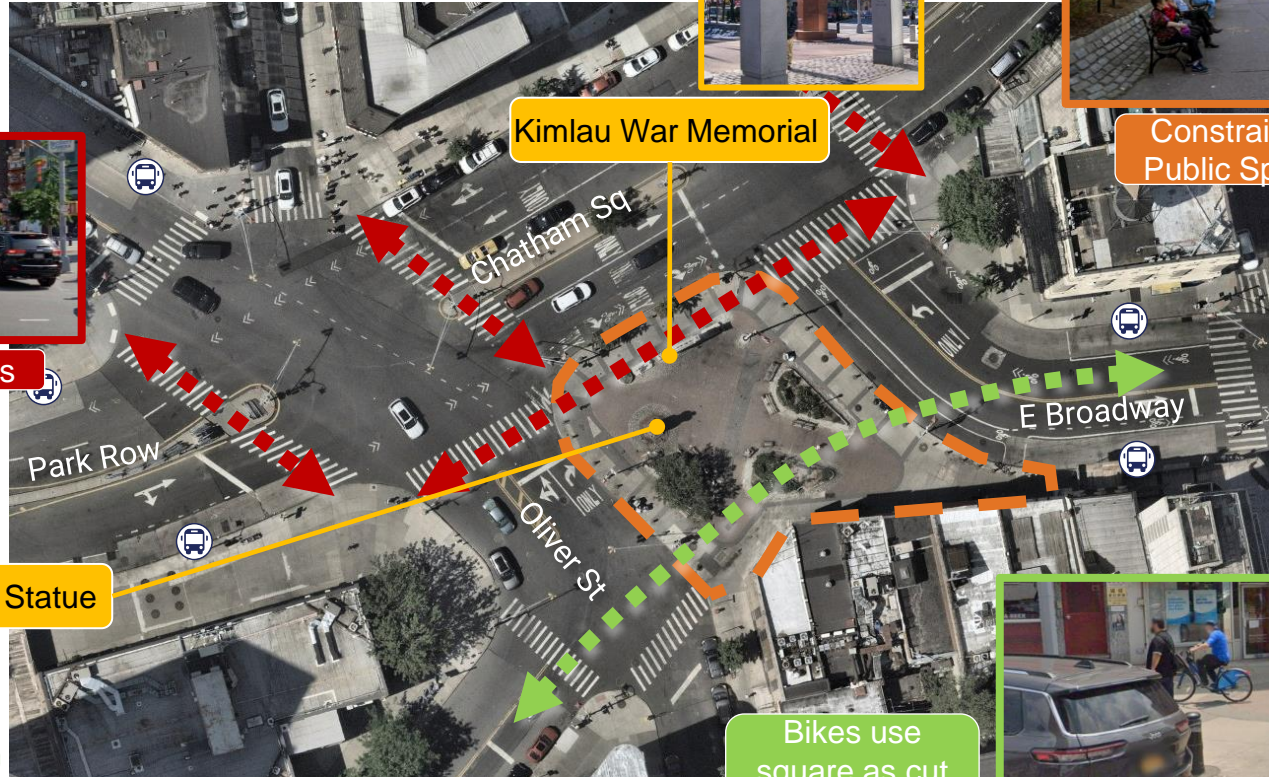
Lin Zexu Statue



Kimlau War Memorial



Constrained Public Space



Bikes use square as cut through



# Project Overview



# 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)

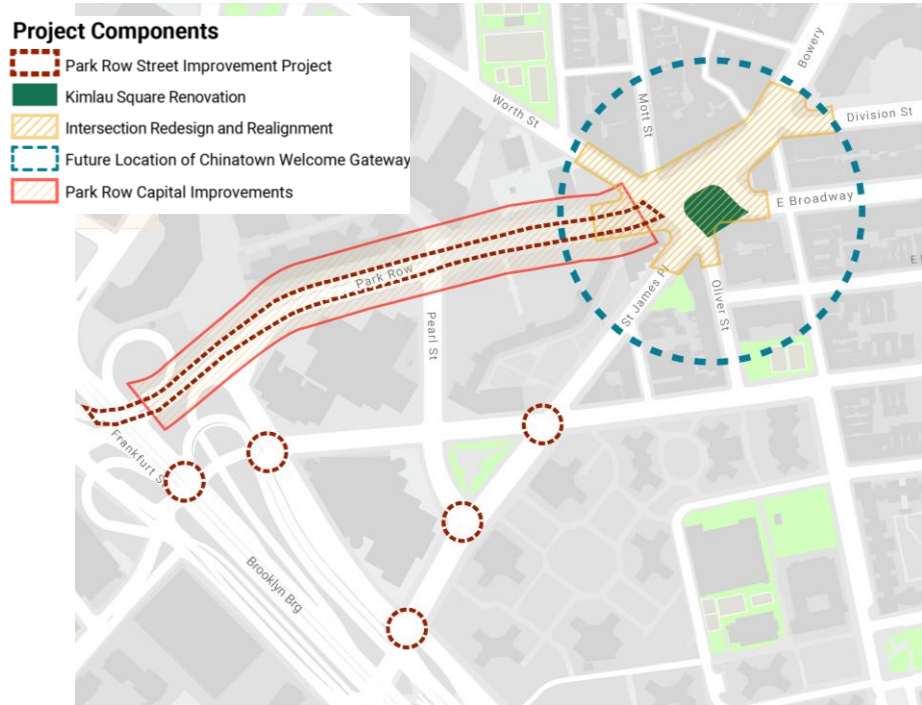
Expand public space at Kimlau Square to support a broader mix of community events, draw visitors into the neighborhood, and provide open space in the heart of the community.

## 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



# 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

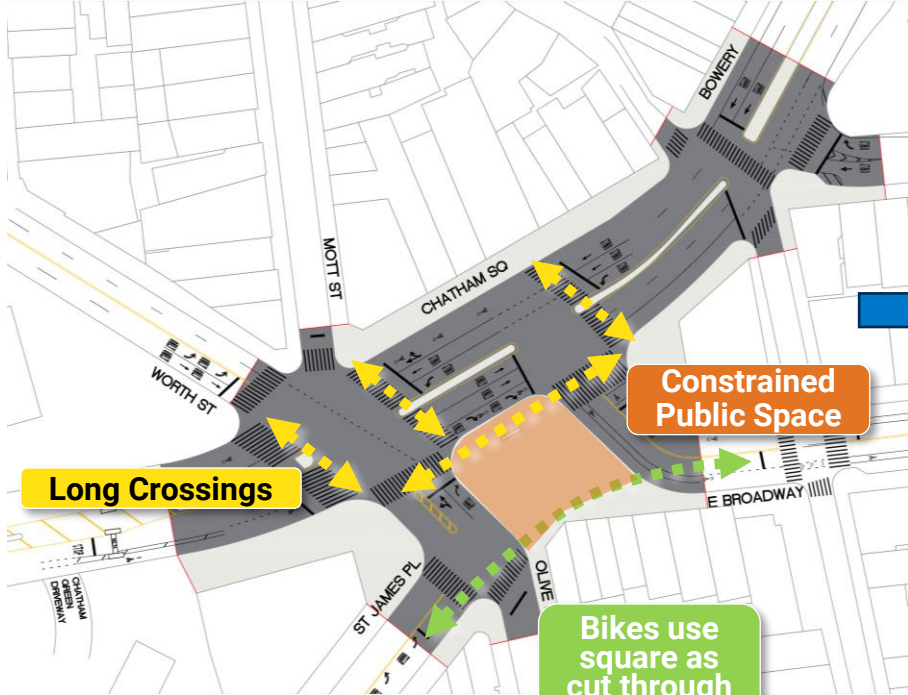
Study will analyze:

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

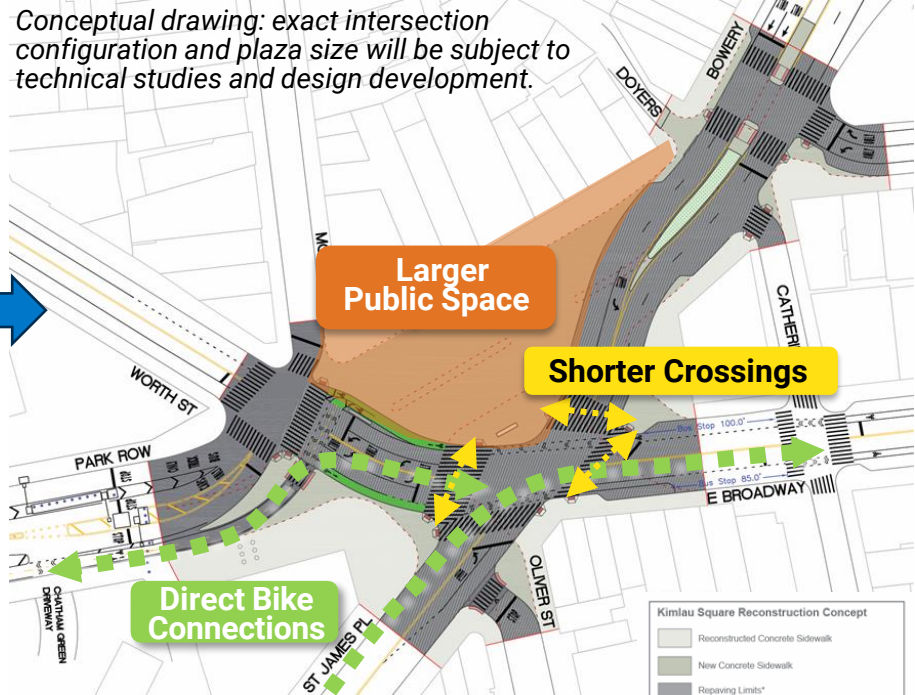


# 1. Renovating Kimlau Square

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, 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

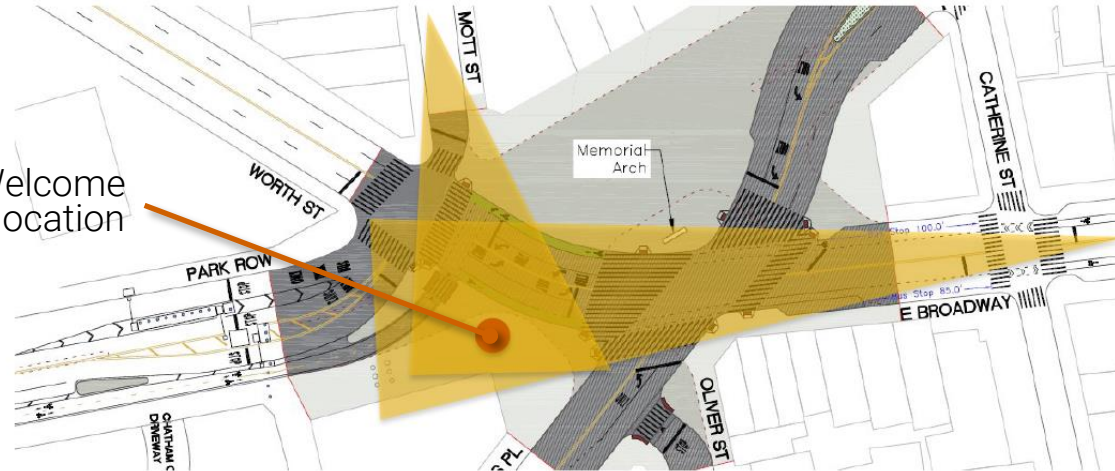
# 3. Creating a Chinatown Welcome Gateway

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



# 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.



# 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.

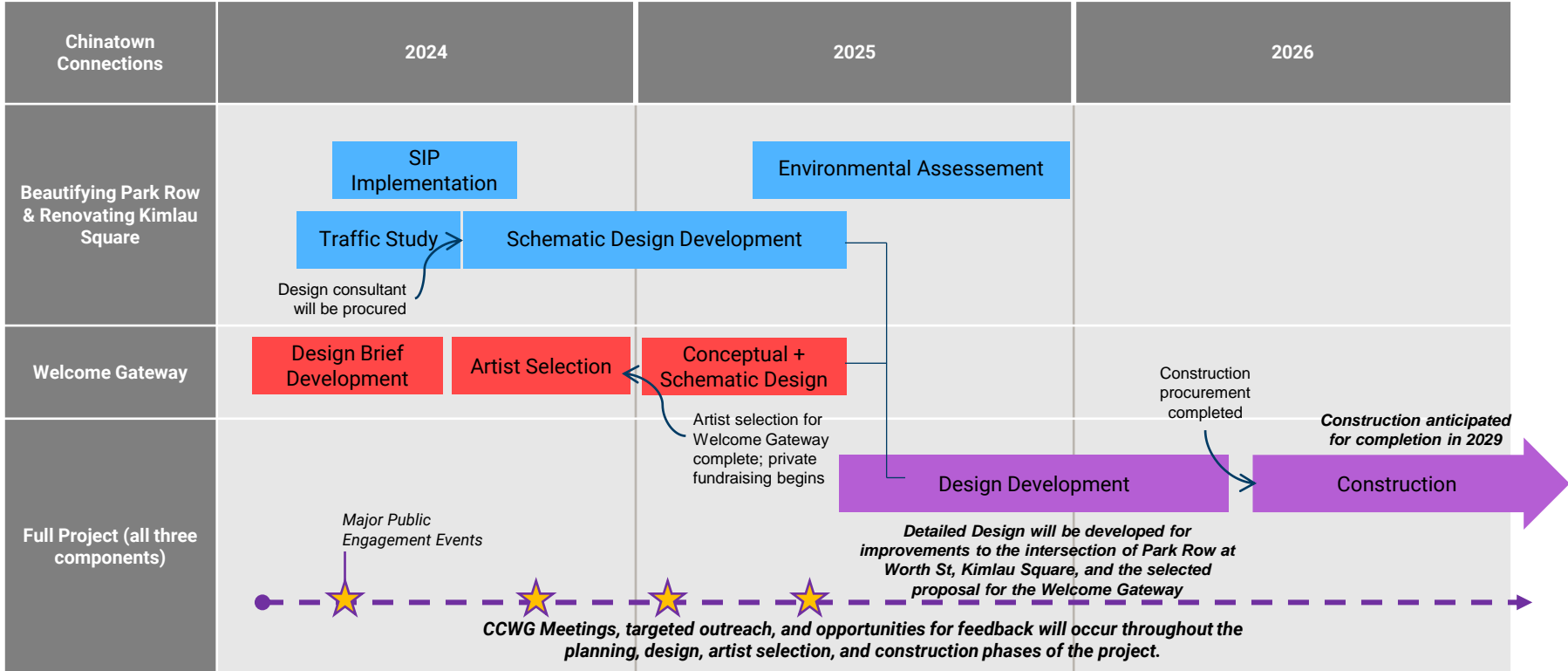
The design engagement process will consist of:

- 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



\*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

- Present to CB 1 and CB 3
- 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

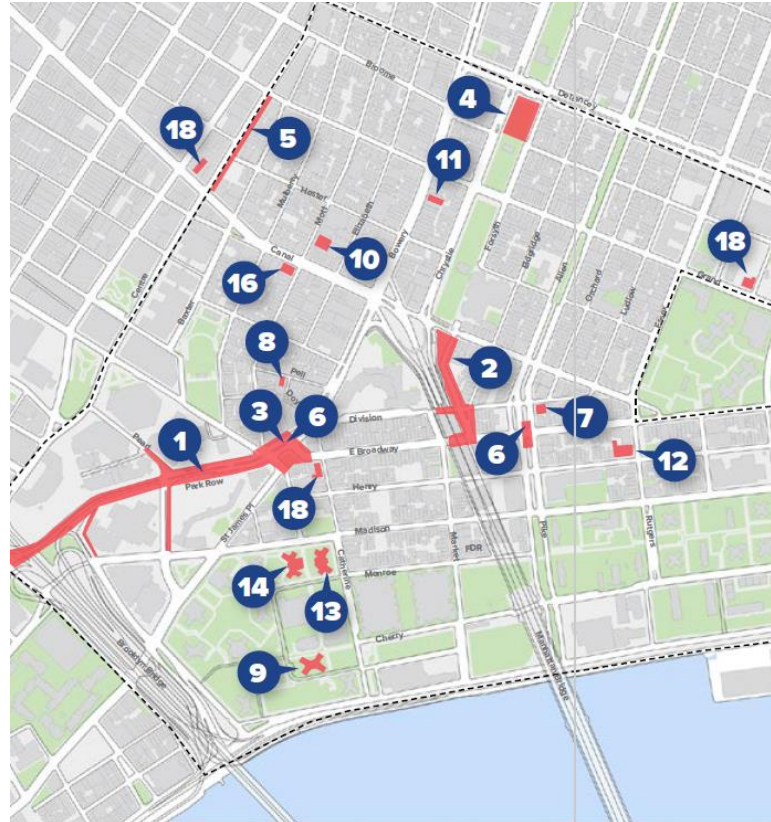
# Appendix

# NY State Downtown Revitalization Initiative

In December 2022, **Governor announced \$20m investment to 11 projects in Chinatown** in recognition of the acute effects of the pandemic on Chinatown's businesses.

Goals Identified in the report included:

- Streetscape and public realm improvements that:
- Support needs of existing community and local economy
- Bolster neighborhood identity and culture
- Improve quality of life
- Are accessible and support connections with surrounding communities



## The DRI Projects

### Public Realm

1. Beautify the Park Row Connection to Chinatown
2. Improve Forsyth Plaza
3. Renovate Kimlau Square
4. Upgrade a Section of Sara D. Roosevelt Park
5. Upgrade Centre Street Streetscape between Canal and Grand
6. Construct a Chinatown Welcome Arch/ Gateway\*

### Cultural and Civic Centers

7. Establish the Chinatown Cultural Welcome Center
8. Create a Cultural and Performing Arts Community Center
9. Reopen the Childcare and Family Support Center at 10 Catherine Slip
10. Establish the Asian Culinary Institute of New York
11. Launch a Small Business Innovation Hub
12. Open a Soup Kitchen and Community Center at the Church of St. Teresa
13. Open a Community Health and Wellness Center at Smith Houses

### Building Improvements

14. Expand Access to Hamilton-Madison House Community Center
15. Create a Building Upgrades Fund\*
16. Restore the Historic On Leong Merchants Association Building

### Public Art & Digital Marketing

17. Create a Chinatown Art-Eries Public Art Fund\*
18. Install Murals & Light Projection Art Throughout Chinatown
19. Expand Light Up Chinatown\*
20. Launch Meet Chinatown Local Digital Directory App\*

\* District-wide Projects  
\* Potential Location