



Audubon Avenue Open Street

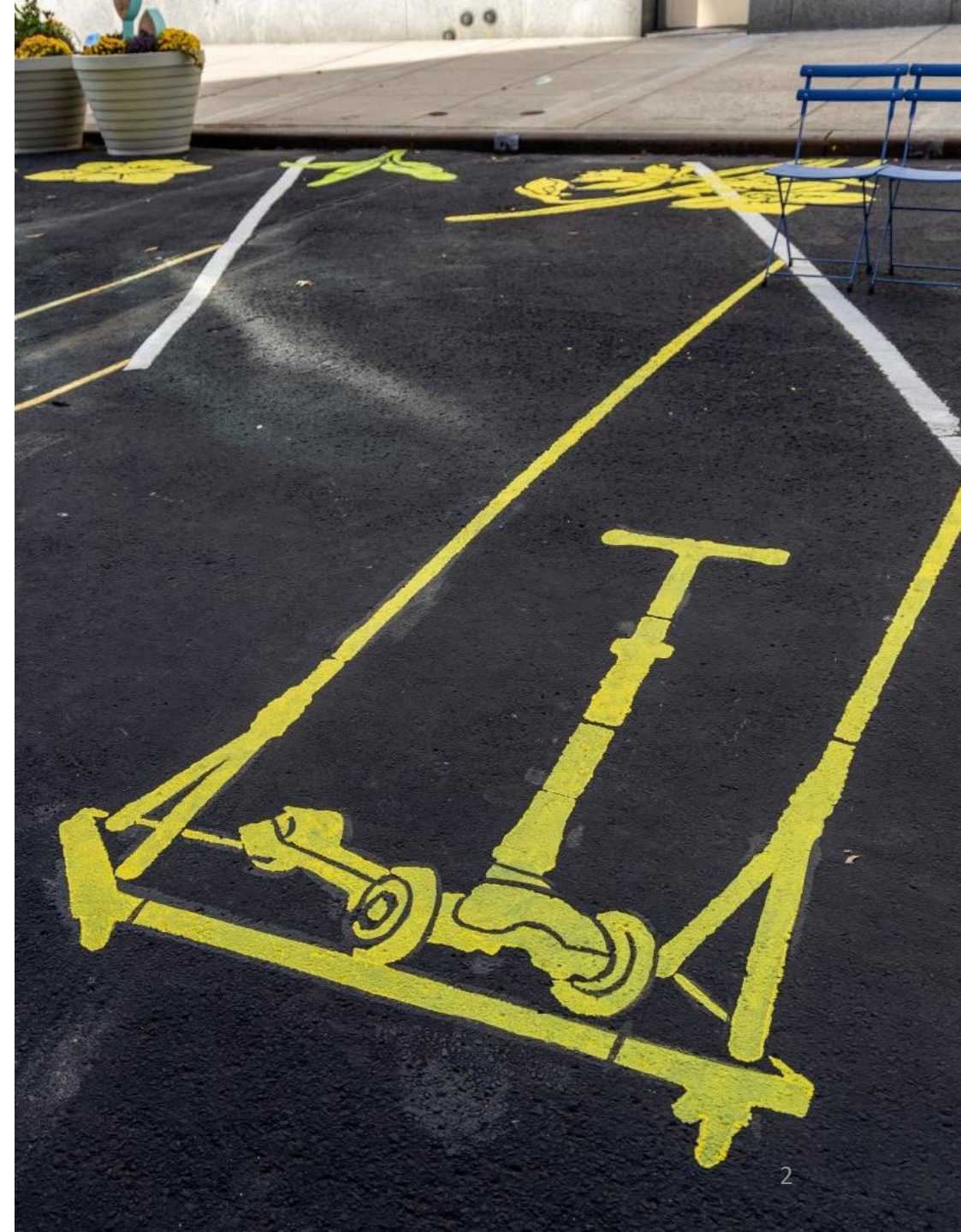
Manhattan Community Board 12

Traffic and Transportation Committee Update

February 3rd, 2025

Agenda

- DOT Public Realm Overview
- 2024 Programming Highlights
- Community Survey Feedback
- 2025 Vision & Next Steps



NYC DOT Public Realm



Community Partnership + Engagement



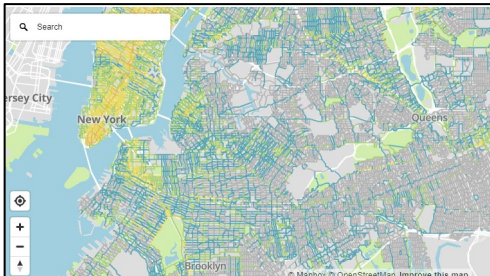
Open Streets



Crossings + Intersections



Dynamic Curb + Corridor Strategies



Comprehensive Planning + Policy



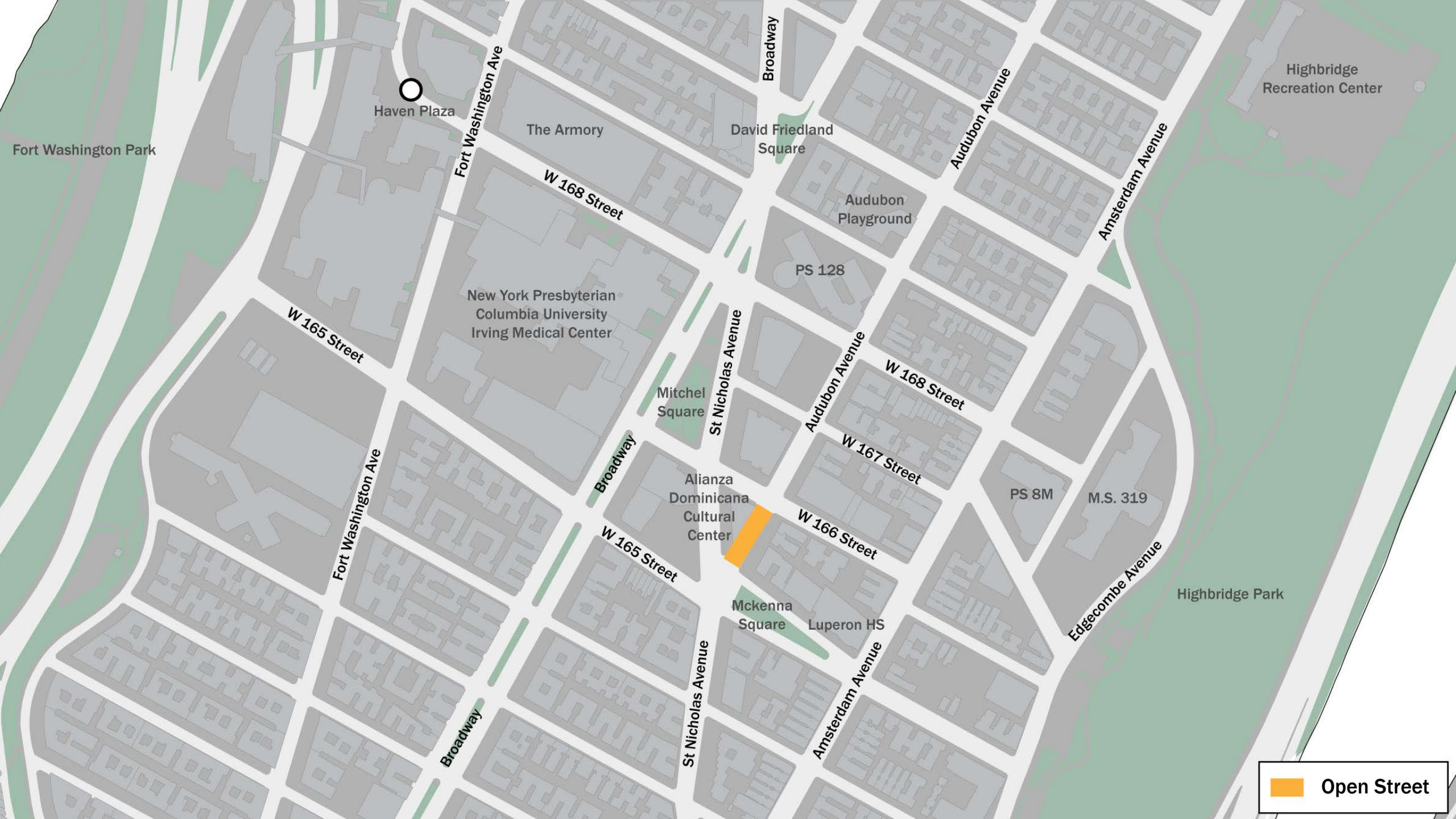
Equity Focused Maintenance



Programming + Concessions



Premier Public Spaces



Haven Plaza

Fort Washington Ave

The Armory

David Friedland Square

Broadway

Audubon Avenue

Amsterdam Avenue

Highbridge Recreation Center

Fort Washington Park

W 168 Street

Audubon Playground

PS 128

New York Presbyterian
Columbia University
Irving Medical Center

W 165 Street

Mitchel Square

St Nicholas Avenue

Audubon Avenue

W 168 Street

Fort Washington Ave

Broadway

Alianza Dominicana
Cultural Center

W 167 Street

PS 8M

M.S. 319

W 166 Street

W 165 Street

Mckenna Square

Luperon HS

St Nicholas Avenue

Amsterdam Avenue

Edgcombe Avenue

Highbridge Park

 Open Street

Project Background

- Audubon Avenue is a NYC DOT Streets Plan Priority Investment Area
- Piloted Open Street: Full Closure since summer 2024 – 24/7 schedule
- Daily maintenance and operations services by the Hort (DOT contractor)
 - Setting up/breaking down tables, chairs, and umbrellas daily
 - 2x daily sweeping + cleaning, and pressure washing monthly
 - Horticulture care seasonally
 - Ongoing programming





Car Free Earth Day

First event in April 2024 w/ Kids Fest



Open Street Implementation Day

Event in July 2024 with The Hort and Community League of the Heights (CLOTH)



Pollinator Port Project – Habitats for Bees

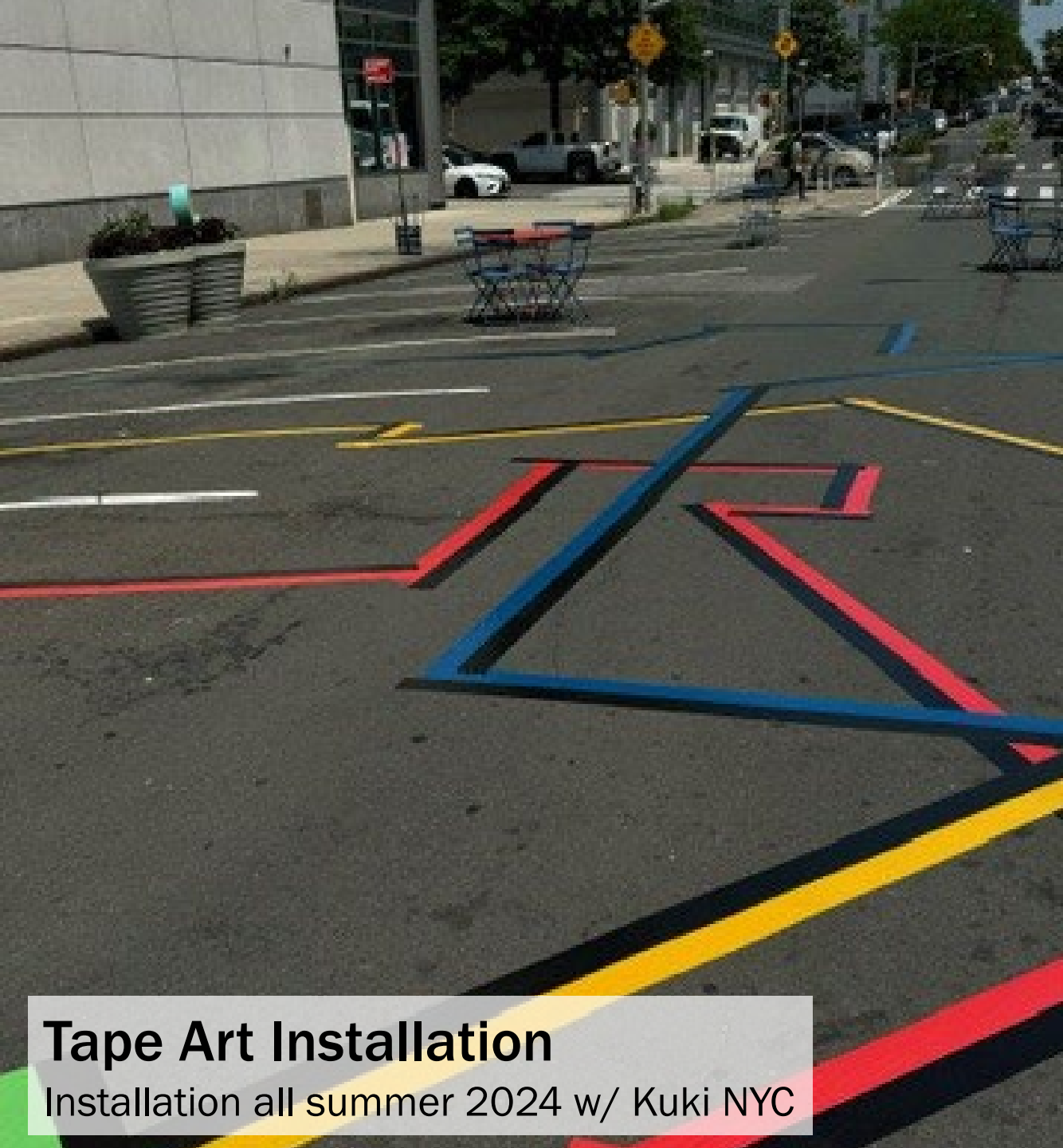
Ongoing collaboration with The Hort and Rutgers University



Plant-based Programming and Education

Ongoing collaboration with The Hort all season





Tape Art Installation

Installation all summer 2024 w/ Kuki NYC



Bindlestiff Family Cirkus
August 2024 event





Street Lab Programming
10 events in summer 2024



Street Lab Programming
10 events in summer 2024



Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
Event in September 2024 w/ Salsa Stories

Fiel Sam
NY LATIN DANCES



Health Education Outreach
Event in September 2024 w/ NY Presbyterian/CHALK



Fall Programming – Music Series

4 events in October 2024 w/Juan Usera and Sambuco Tribe



Shine the Light on Domestic Violence Event

Event in October 2024 w/ Manhattan District Attorney's Office

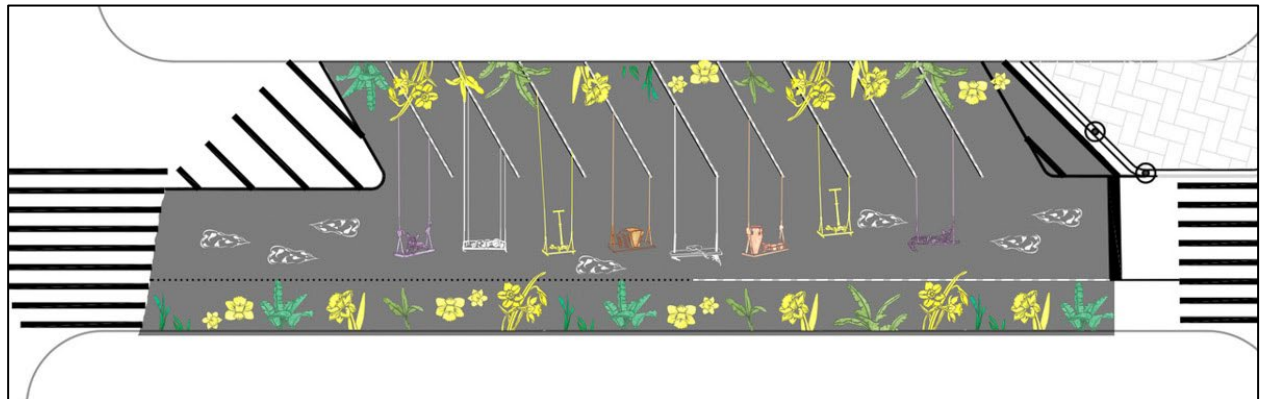


Trick or Streets – Signature Event

Event in October 2024 w/ NYC DOT and NYC Kids Fest

Asphalt Art – Community Engagement

- Street Lab and artist Mildor Chevalier gathered input and ideas for an asphalt art mural during 3 events in fall 2024
- Street Lab used their IMAGINE programming series to create an engagement station with writing, drawing, and photo taking activities, and customized prompts to gather ideas for a future mural on Audubon Ave
- Community ideas and feedback were adapted by the artist into a unique, playful, light-touch design implemented as asphalt art mural





Asphalt Art – Stencil Mural Installation
November 2024 w/ Street Lab, Artist Mildor Chevalier, and Washington Heights Community



Asphalt Art – Stencil Mural Installation

November 2024 w/ Street Lab, Artist Mildor Chevalier, and Washington Heights Community



Asphalt Art – Completed Mural

November 2024 w/ Street Lab, Artist Mildor Chevalier, and Washington Heights Community



3 New Trees Planted by the Hort!
Planted 2 American Elm trees and one Ginkgo tree in November 2024

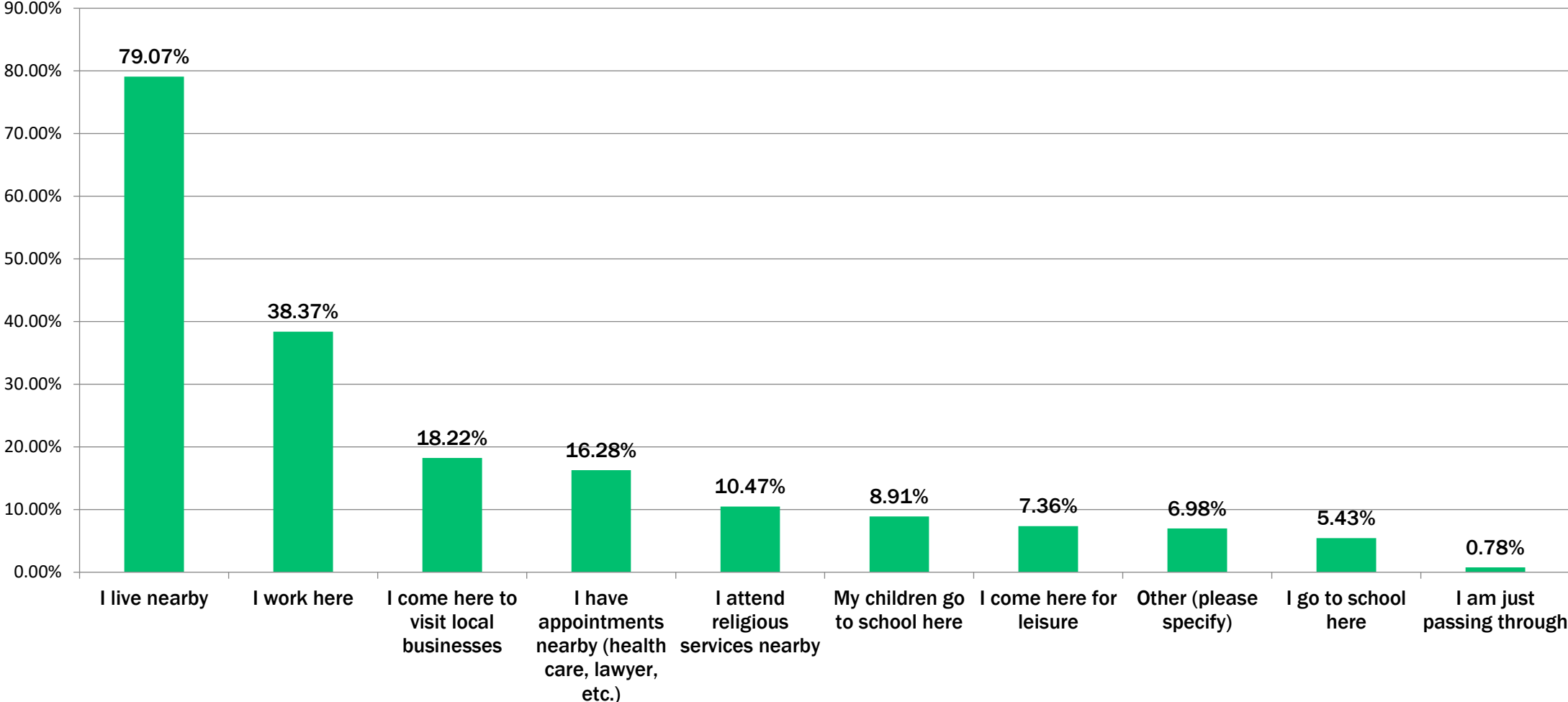
Community Feedback Survey Results

- Throughout the summer and fall 2024, NYC DOT facilitated a feedback survey for the community to share comments and ideas for the Audubon Open Street
- The survey was promoted via signage, email outreach, newsletters, and so on.
- The survey was available in both English and Spanish
- **259 individuals responded to the survey between June 2024 and January 2025**



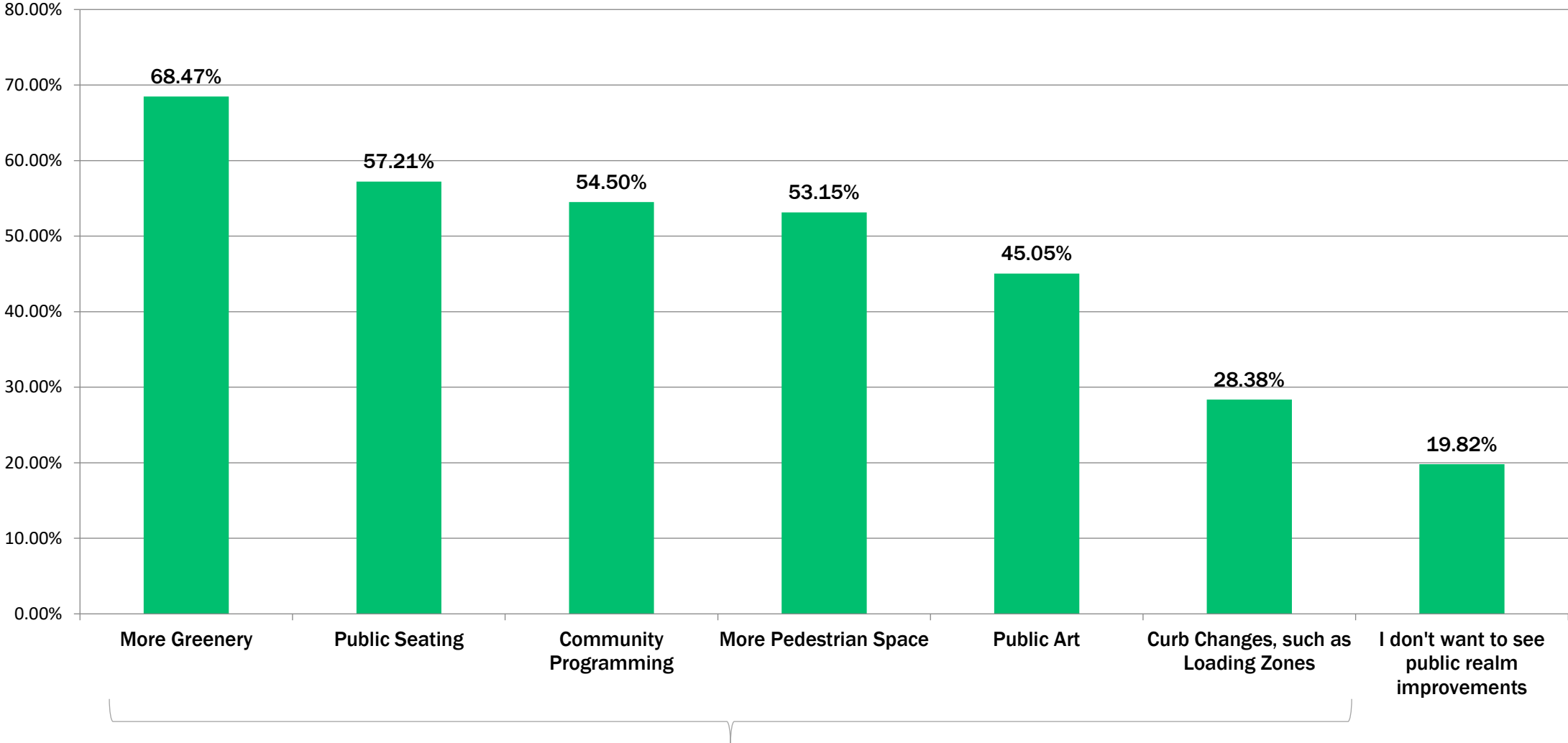
Community Feedback Survey Results

What is your relationship to Washington Heights? Select all that apply.



Community Feedback Survey Results

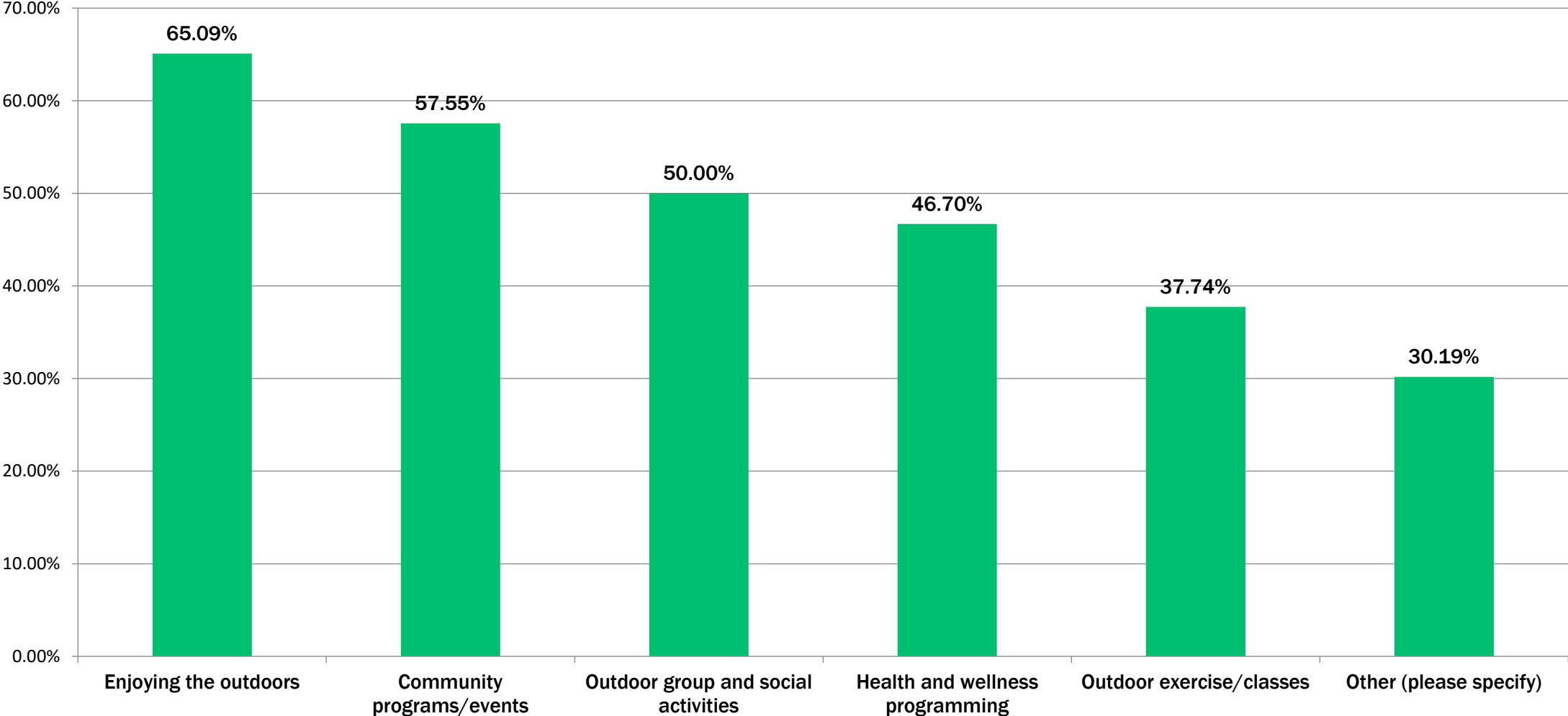
What are some public realm improvements you would like to see on Audubon Avenue? Select all that apply.



Approx. 80% of respondents wanted to see some type of public realm improvements.

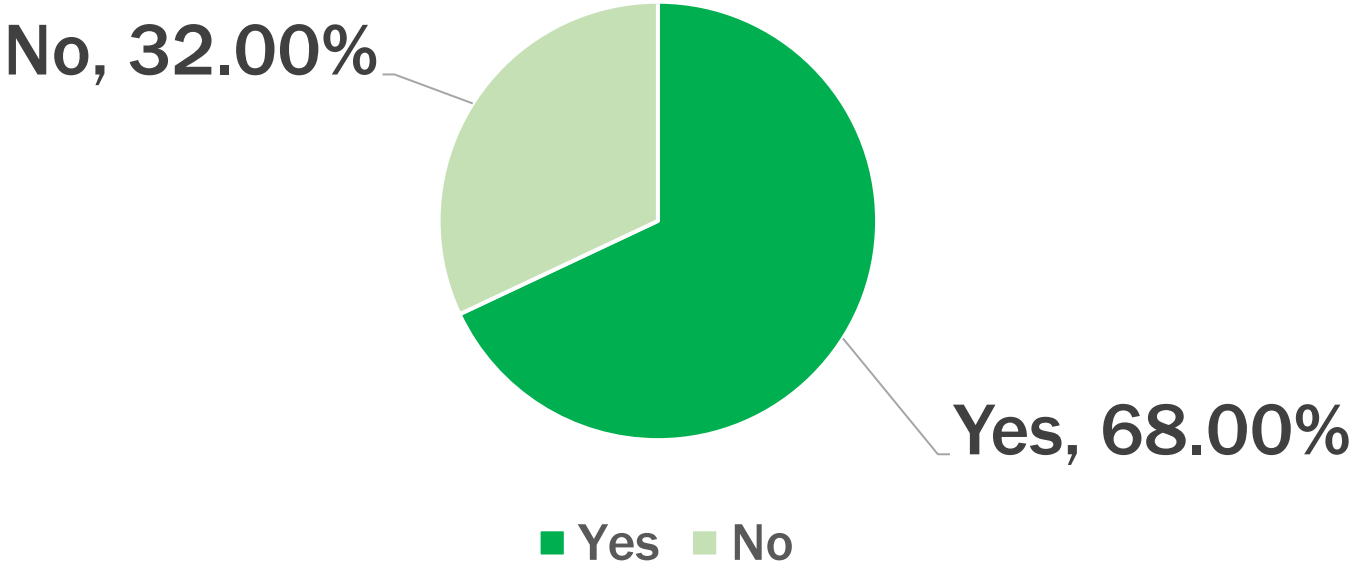
Community Feedback Survey Results

What types of activities and uses would you want on the Audubon Avenue Open Street?



Community Feedback Survey Results

Do you want to see the proposed Open Street on Audubon Avenue?



Positive Feedback:

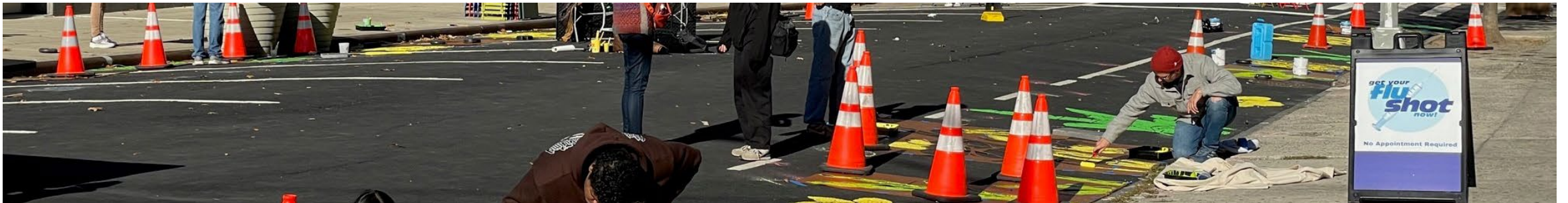
- **Community Space:** Many respondents appreciate the idea of creating an open space for community use
- **Pedestrian Safety:** Some feedback highlighted the improvement in pedestrian safety, particularly for children, elderly, and residents who walk in the area.
- **Support for Local Businesses:** A few responses suggested that creating pedestrian spaces boosts business activity nearby

Concerns and Other Feedback:

- **Parking Issues:** Some responses focused on the loss of parking spaces because of the Open Street
- **Disruption to Local Traffic:** A few responses mentioned the disruption caused by diverting traffic and how it affects those who rely on vehicles to navigate the area
- **Quality of Life Issues:** Some respondents noted certain quality of life impacts as a result of the Open Street

Outreach and Next Steps

- Following the success of the Open Street and positive response from the community, DOT is proposing to implement a Street Improvement Project to formally redesign the block as a pedestrian plaza
- DOT to host a series of community workshops in spring 2025 to gather feedback, comments, and ideas ahead of any redesign
- DOT to conduct traffic analysis and make recommendations on loading zones, signal changes, and evaluate traffic network impacts
- Following the workshops, DOT will return to CB 12 to present a final design proposal for feedback, comments, and ideas
- The Street Improvement Project would then be implemented in summer 2025 using DOT's public realm tool-kit



Plaza Toolkit

UMBRELLAS

MOVABLE
FURNITURE

Public
Art or
EPOXY
GRAVEL

FLEXIBLE
DELINEATORS

PLANTERS

GRANITE
BLOCKS



MTA M2 Bus Re-Route Since Summer 2024



Deliveries, loading, and drop offs/pick ups



Upcoming Event – February 8th 2pm

HIVE PUBLIC SPACE PRESENTS

LOVE

A TRAVELING ART PROJECT

Join us in **creating** and **sharing** LOVE around NYC

FEB 8 11AM–1 PM **Roberto Clemente Plaza** | South Bronx
2PM–4PM **Audubon Plaza** | Washington Heights

FEB 9 11AM–1 PM **Doyers Plaza** | Chinatown
2PM–4PM **Diversity Plaza** | Jackson Heights

FEB 14 2PM–4PM **Thatford Ave Open Street** | Brownsville
In partnership with the **Brownsville Community Justice Center**

DRAW, WRITE, OR LEAVE A VOICE NOTE

Send **LOVE** to yourself, someone, or somewhere!
Take your creation with you or add it to the LOVE installation
FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

FREE Materials provided



Amor
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Любовь
Lanmou

hive PUBLIC SPACE

hive PUBLIC SPACE

hive PUBLIC SPACE

NYC DOT

NYC OpenStreets
REIMAGINING OUR STREETS

HIVE PUBLIC SPACE PRESENTA

LOVE

AMOR

UN PROYECTO DE ARTE VIAJERO

Ven a **crear** y **compartir** AMOR por Nueva York

FEB 8 11AM–1 PM **Roberto Clemente Plaza** | South Bronx
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En asociación con el **Brownsville Community Justice Center**

DIBUJA, ESCRIBE O DEJANOS UNA NOTA DE VOZ

Envía **AMOR** a ti mismo, a alguien o a algún lugar!
Llévate tu creación contigo o agrégala a la instalación LOVE

PARA TODAS LAS EDADES Y HABILIDADES

Materiales **GRATIS** proporcionados



Amor
愛
আমর-আমর
Любовь
Lanmou

hive PUBLIC SPACE

hive PUBLIC SPACE

hive PUBLIC SPACE

NYC DOT

NYC OpenStreets
REIMAGINING OUR STREETS

Thank You!

Questions? Email openstreets@dot.nyc.gov



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