



# Chinatown Connections Overview

Chinatown Connections will redesign the gateway to Manhattan's Chinatown into a safe and vibrant space that celebrates the neighborhood's Chinese heritage, improves multimodal circulation into and around Chinatown, and supports local businesses. Chinatown Connections merges an \$11.5 million DRI award from the New York State Department of State with \$44.5 million in New York City capital to deliver public realm improvements.

## Reimagining Chatham/Kimlau Square

Chatham/Kimlau Square features a six-point intersection with complex traffic movements, which results in many conflict points that endanger drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. In consultation with the local Chinatown community, the City has kicked off public engagement and a traffic study to reimagine Chatham/Kimlau Square as a standard, four-way intersection with larger public space, shorter pedestrian crossings, and direct bicycle connections.

## Beautifying the Park Row Connection to Chinatown

Park Row is a critical walking and biking route connecting Lower Manhattan, Chinatown, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the new public space at the Brooklyn Bridge Arches. The City will launch a Street Improvement Project on the Park Row connection to Chinatown, between Frankfort Street and Chatham/Kimlau Square. In consultation with the local community, the City will improve Chinatown's walking and biking experience, including safety enhancements, art interventions, new planters, and additional wayfinding and signage.

## Creating a Chinatown Welcome Gateway

The City will build a Chinatown Welcome Gateway in the vicinity of Chatham/Kimlau Square, finally giving one of New York City's most historic districts the entrance it deserves. The Gateway will commemorate the neighborhood's cultural heritage and draw visitors to local businesses. The size and design of the Welcome Gateway will be determined after a robust community engagement period.

## Who is Involved?

### Lead Agency: NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

*Responsibilities: Managing planning, design, and construction.*

### Executive Agency: NYS Department of State

*Responsibilities: Administrative agency for the DRI grant awards.*

### Partner Agencies: NYC Parks, NYC DOT, NYC Cultural Affairs

*Responsibilities: Working with NYCEDC on project components to ensure implementation and delivery.*

### Working Group: Community Stakeholders & Elected Officials

*Responsibilities: Guiding the overall public engagement process and help make decisions about the project's design and implementation.*

### Consultant Team: Public Works Partners, 3x3 Design, Fu Wilmers Design

*Responsibilities: Supporting engagement, planning, and design*

# Chinatown Connections Timeline and Engagement Opportunities

2022

Chinatown neighborhood received \$20 million in grant funding from the New York State (NYS) Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) for 11 projects identified by local stakeholders to support the neighborhood's economic recovery, improve multimodal circulation into and around Chinatown, support local businesses, and celebrate the neighborhood's rich cultural history.

February 2024

Chinatown Connections Project announcement

Spring/Summer 2024

DOT Park Row and Kimlau Square Traffic Study  
Engagement Kick-Off  
Architectural Design Request For Proposals  
Street Improvement Project, concrete work, markings, and wayfinding signs installation

Fall/Winter 2024

Street Improvement Project artwork installation  
Welcome Gateway Artist Selection  
Pre-Design Community Engagement

2025/2026

Design Development Phase

2026

Construction begins

## Chinatown Connections Working Group

Meetings around key milestones with a 25-member local stakeholder and elected officials group guiding public engagement and providing feedback on the broader process.

### 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 Officials

Council Member Chris Marte | Borough President Mark Levine | Assemblymember Grace Lee | Senator Brian Kavanaugh | Congressman Dan Goldman

### Welcome Gateway Subgroup

Meetings with a subset of the working group responsible for guiding the Design Brief, defining artist selection criteria, and participating in DCLA's Artist selection panel.

## Engagement Opportunities

### Public Meetings

Four public meetings will provide an opportunity to update the public on the project and gather feedback on components and deliverables through to the completion of design development.

### On-going Engagement

Opportunities to meet the community so they can share information and give feedback. Examples include social media graphics, updates to Community Boards, local celebrations and events, and outreach to local schools.

*Engagement Activities will continue once the Architectural Design Consultant is retained in Q3 2024 and through construction completion.*

# Welcome Gateway Information

## What is it?

Public art celebrating Chinatown on expanded public space. Chinatown Gateway sponsors envision a landmark gateway to commemorate the area's cultural heritage and draw visitors to the neighborhood.

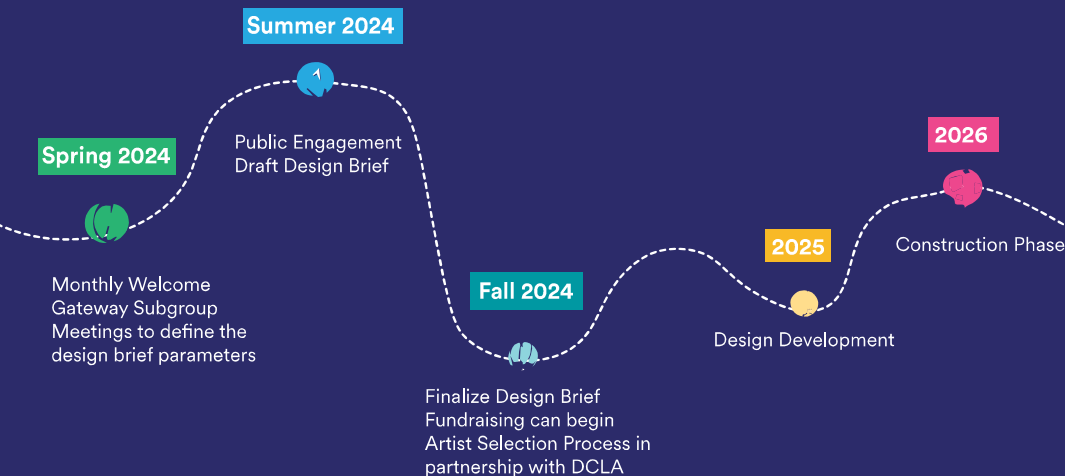
## Who is the Welcome Gateway Subgroup?

The Welcome Gateway Subgroup provides input on the location of the Gateway, the project's guiding principles and priorities, the criteria for artist selection, and community representation at the Selection Panel.

The subgroup is comprised of the following community stakeholders:

American Legion – Post 1291 | Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong, Local Artist | Chinatown BID/LDC | Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association | Nolan Cheng | Think! Chinatown | United Overseas Fujianese Association of America

## General Timeline



## Artist Selection Process

### Summer 2024

Together, the Welcome Gateway Subgroup and NYCEDC will create a design brief. This document will inform the artist selection and will include:

- Background and Precedent Research
- Artist Eligibility Criteria
- Design Brief / Guidelines
- Budget
- Selection Process
- Potential Locations

### Fall 2024

The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) will lead the Artist Selection Process. The agency will support finalizing the Design Brief, introduce the next steps, and identify artists that closely reflect community priorities in conjunction with the Subgroup.

A panel will be formed to select the top artist. It will be comprised of:

- Voting members** – NYC Agencies, 3 arts professionals with community connections.
- Advisors** – Representatives from the Public Design Commission, Community Boards, Borough President's Office, Council Members, and other community representatives). Subgroup members can advise arts professionals and community representatives.

Once selected, the artist will join the Chinatown Connections Design Consulting Team.

# Welcome Gateway Precedents

## How do people experience gateways?

Gateways might mean different things in different contexts. It may:

- Prepare you for what lies ahead, helping you move from point A to B
- Invite you to an experience, a rite of passage, a moment to notice
- Guide you toward a public space
- Welcome people somewhere
- Be the physical manifestation of heritage and cultural tradition

## How do gateways reflect China's heritage?

In China, gateways have had continued importance as heritage landmarks and public spaces:

- Wooden gateways were used to demarcate boundaries or mark significant locations.
- Elaborate and decorative structures with intricate carvings, inscriptions, and colorful ornamentations were placed to commemorate important events or signify entrances to prosperous commercial districts.
- Gateways served as thresholds between the secular world and the sacred realm, symbolizing authority or as common features of temple complexes.
- They even account for regional variations. For example, southern China often features curved roofs with upturned eaves, while northern China may have more squared-off designs.

## What do Chinatown gateways represent?

Chinatown gateways gained popularity through the 20th century and served many different purposes:

- They became an integral part of the urban cultural landscape.
- They were responsible for attracting visitors and consolidating many Chinatowns as tourist destinations.
- They rendered tangible geopolitical struggles through their design, such as the disputes between the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China in the United States.
- They created a stereotypical "Oriental" form that caters to Western notions of Chinese culture.
- They pay tribute to the heritage and cultural tradition of the community.
- They take many shapes and forms – wooden pillars on stone bases, stone or brick archways, circular moon gates, patterns of natural elements, etc.



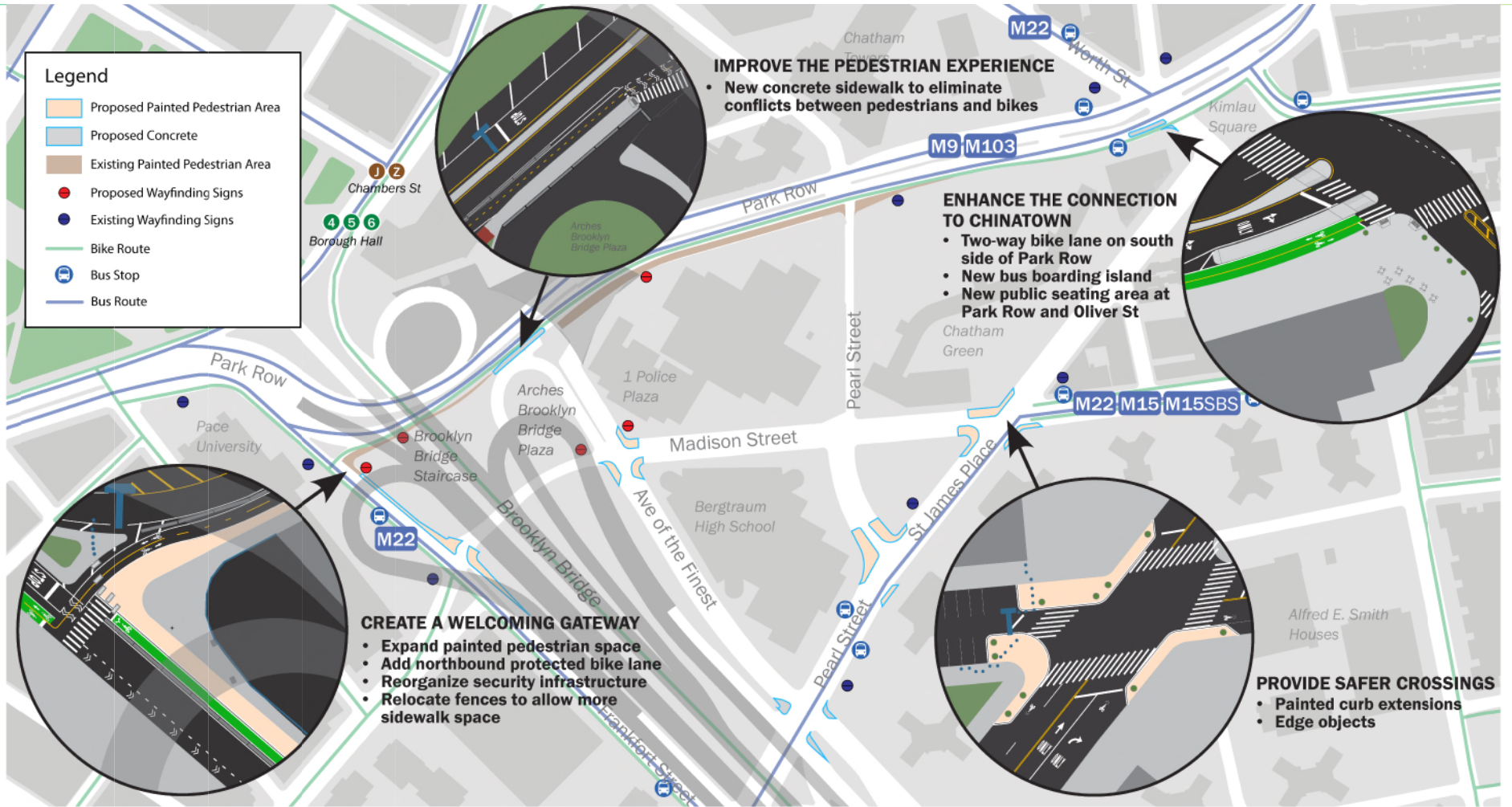
Millennium Gate Vancouver, Canada



Chinatown Gate Liverpool, England



Gateway at Hay Hing Park Seattle, WA



2024 Spring Summer Fall Winter

Public Outreach + Community Board Meetings Concrete Work + Markings + Wayfinding Signs

Art RFQ Release + Artist Selection Art Design + Engagement Art Implementation



Pedestrian Improvements



Planters, Blocks, and Other Edge Objects



Bicycle Infrastructure



Security Infrastructure Reorganization



Programming



Wayfinding and Signage



## Art

NYC DOT Art released the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for temporary site-responsive art. The submission deadline was May 5. For more information visit our website through this QR code:



nyc.gov/dotart

## Current Conditions at Kimlau Square

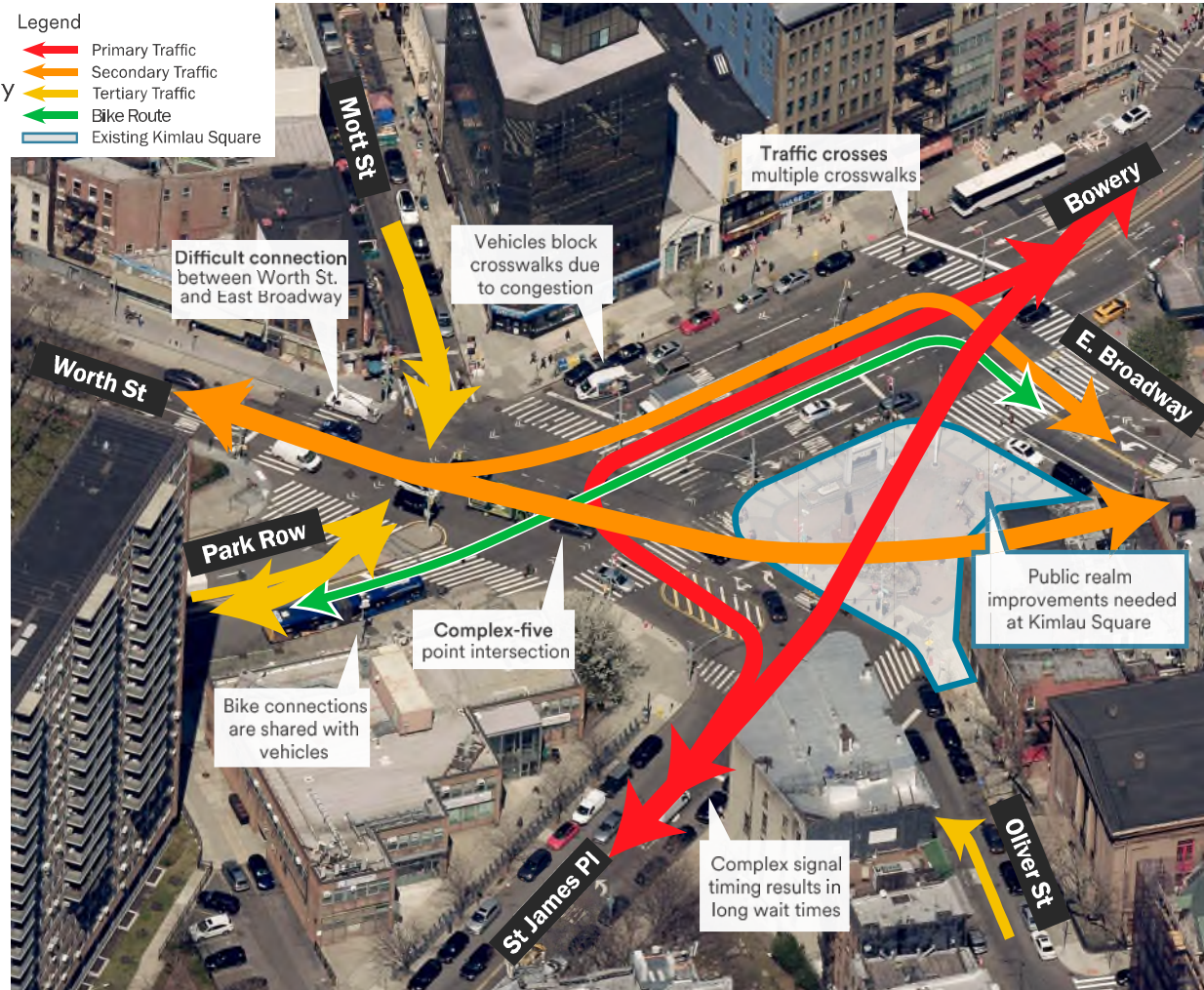
### Goals from Downtown Revitalization Initiative Process

- Reconstruct and expand Kimlau Square to create larger public spaces that support community programming
- Improve connections between Doyers St. & Pell St. and E. Broadway
- Maintain and restore Memorial Arch and statue of Lin Zexu
- Identifying locations for new Chinatown Gateway

### What We've Heard

- Complex, five-point intersection causes traffic and safety issues
- Bike lane configuration results in cyclists riding through Kimlau Square or on sidewalks to get to the bikeshare station
- More space for pedestrians is needed
- Kimlau Square should be improved with new planting and paving treatments
- There is not enough space for community programming
- Kimlau Square would be a good place for a Chinatown Gateway

### Existing Operations at Kimlau Square



# Comprehensive Plan for Kimlau Square

## Project Considerations

- Simplify operations and increase safety
- Increase the size of Kimlau Square
- Improve bike connections
- Create space for new Chinatown Gateway
- Improve traffic flow

## Next Steps

- Kimlau Square and Park Row traffic study currently underway, expected to be complete in summer 2024
- Project decisions, such as intersection improvements, reopening Park Row to private vehicles, and the Weclome Gateway will be informed by extensive community engagement and technical analysis
- Coordination with NYPD to reduce presence of vehicles and security infrastructure, particularly along Park Row

This map is for illustrative purposes only. Final design has not been determined and is contingent on Traffic Study recommendations and community engagement

## Possible Kimlau Square Design (To be Determined by Traffic Study Recommendations)

