

CHURCH - FLATBUSH
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

2025

2026

SHINE A LIGHT ON FLATBUSH

This project is a collaboration between Church-Flatbush Community Alliance, Queens Lighting Collective, The Local Center, and NYC Small Business Services

Photography: Cameron Blaylock



PROJECT OVERVIEW & GOALS

The Shine a Light on Flatbush Project is proudly supported by the Public Realm Grant from the NYC Department of Small Business Services. Over the next 12 months, the Church-Flatbush Community Alliance, together with Queens Lighting Collective, SBS, and The Local Center, will bring community-centered events, and collaboratively develop a temporary lighting installation for the neighborhood.

Our goal is to brighten public space, especially around the Church Ave B/Q Subway station, and bring neighbors together through art, light, and community connection.

This initiative is made possible thanks to the Public Realm Grant from the NYC Department of Small Business Services.

Goal 1

Honor & celebrate Flatbush

Goal 2

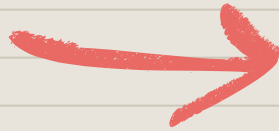
Enhance the feeling of community & safety

Goal 3

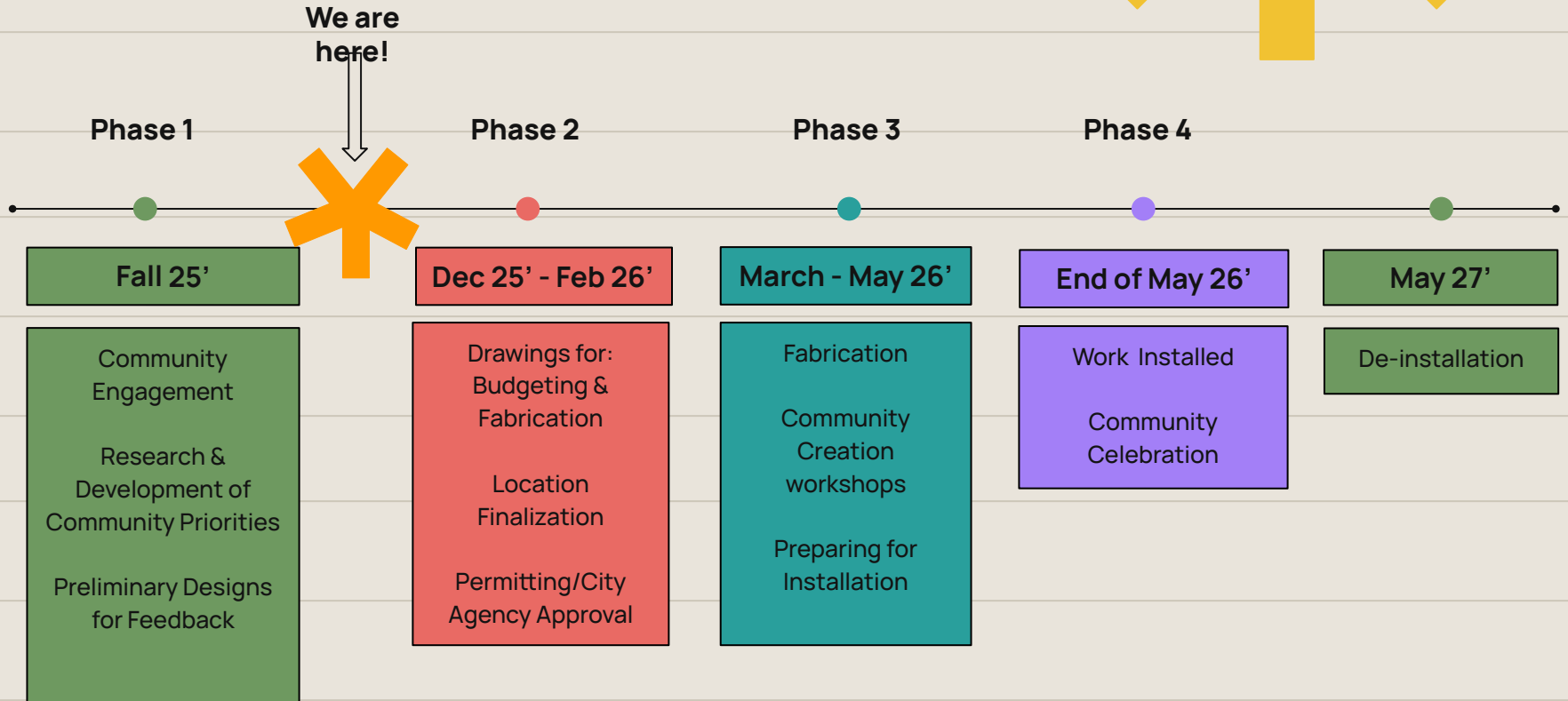
Draw more people to the district

Deliverable

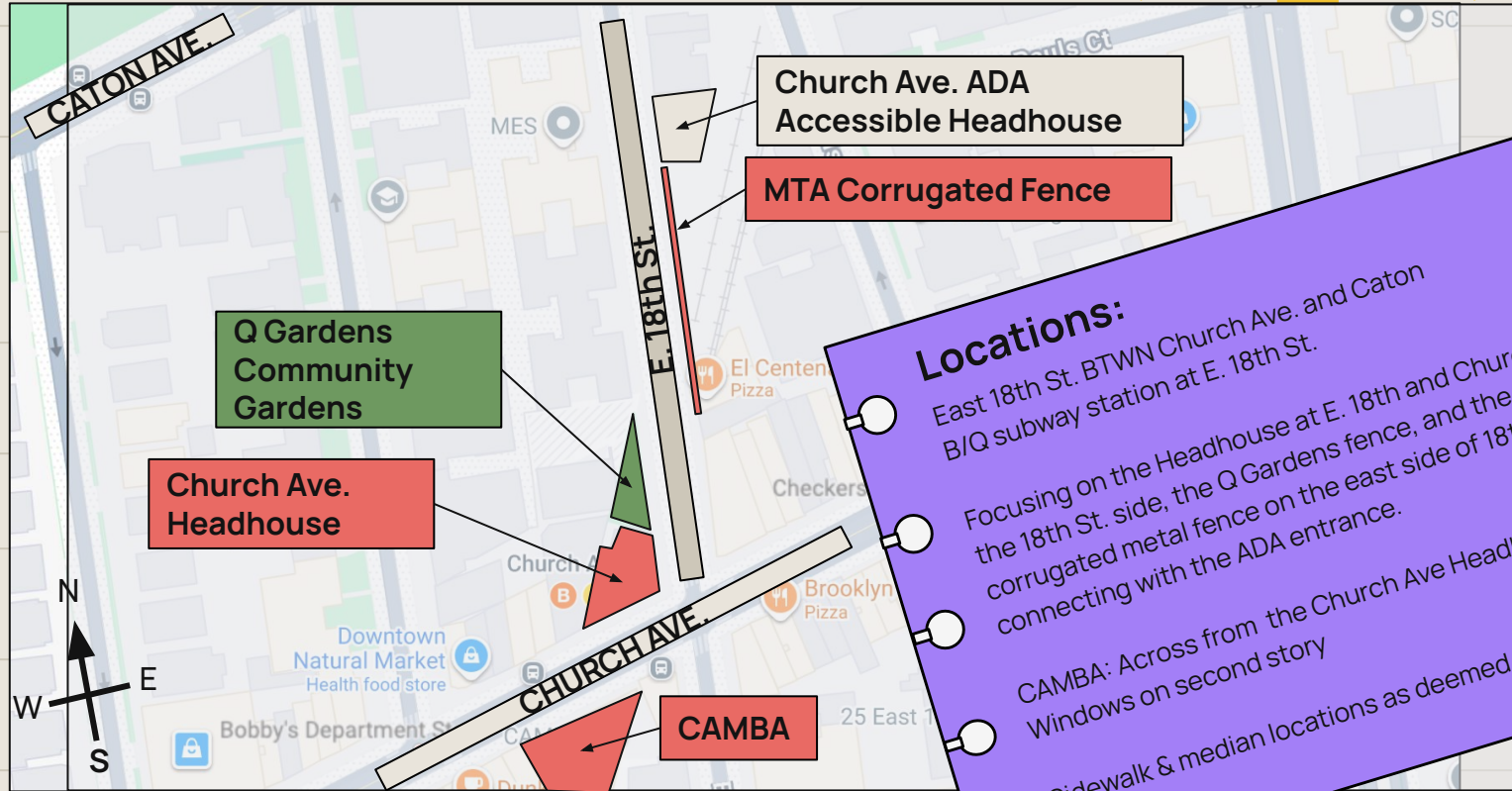
A temporary lighting installation installed for approximately 11 months - co created with the community



TIMELINE



THE LOCATION



Locations:

- East 18th St. BTWN Church Ave. and Caton B/Q subway station at E. 18th St.
- Focusing on the Headhouse at E. 18th and Church Ave on the 18th St. side, the Q Gardens fence, and the corrugated metal fence on the east side of 18th st - connecting with the ADA entrance.
- CAMBA: Across from the Church Ave Headhouse - Windows on second story
- Sidewalk & median locations as deemed appropriate

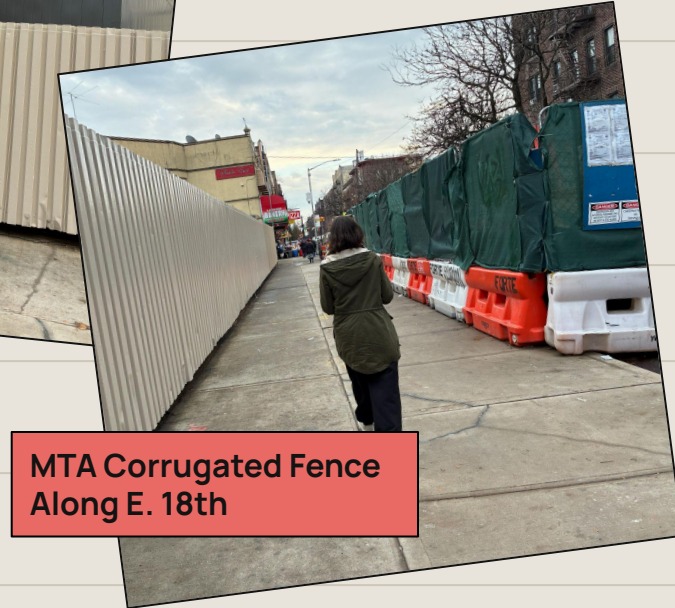
THE LOCATION: DAY



**Church Ave. Station
Headhouse
Facing E. 18th**



**Church Ave. Station
ADA Headhouse
Facing E. 18th**



**MTA Corrugated Fence
Along E. 18th**

THE LOCATION: NIGHT



Church Ave. Station
Headhouse
Facing E. 18th



Church Ave. Station
ADA Headhouse
Facing E. 18th



MTA Corrugated
Fence Along E. 18th

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2 MERCHANT WALKS

We walked around Flatbush having one on one direct conversations with local businesses like Beauty Palace, Beverly Hills Bridal Shop, Seven Stars Seafood Market and Reynaldo Tailor Shop.

Getting to know each other
And the project's goals!

3 ACTIVITY DAYS

Sticker poll and conversation at the Church Ave. stop

Coloring and collective imagining at the Flatbush Central Caribbean Marketplace

Design brainstorming & community roundtable at CFCA offices

SURVEY

Published a survey in Haitian-Creole, French, Arabic, Spanish and English

Both online and hand written

With over 81 responses

COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP

A community design presentation and discussion at Checkers on Church Ave to share preliminary ideas and to gain community insight and feedback

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED

CONNECTION IS IMPORTANT

So often - our neighbors have expressed:

Celebration of the love that exists in this neighborhood

memories of strangers helping each other and welcoming into neighborhoods

Desiring new ways to bridge and build community - across difference

CHURCH AVE. STATION

The Times Square of Flatbush!

The businesses between the two entrances would like greater foot traffic

Has some wayfinding hurdles

The priority for the community in terms of location

EVERYTHING IS HERE

You can find everything you need here!

People travel at great distances to buy from Flatbush merchants
Specific spices, pillows, hardware, fashion, you name it - Flatbush has it.

NATURE-THE PARK

A beloved asset is the park!
From picnics to drum circles to bird watching.

Can we continue to bring additional nature further into the neighborhood?

A NEED FOR CLEANLINESS AND SAFETY

Our neighbors desire less trash!

Brighter, well-lit streets

A greater sense of safety, especially at night.



MOMENTS OF CONNECTION





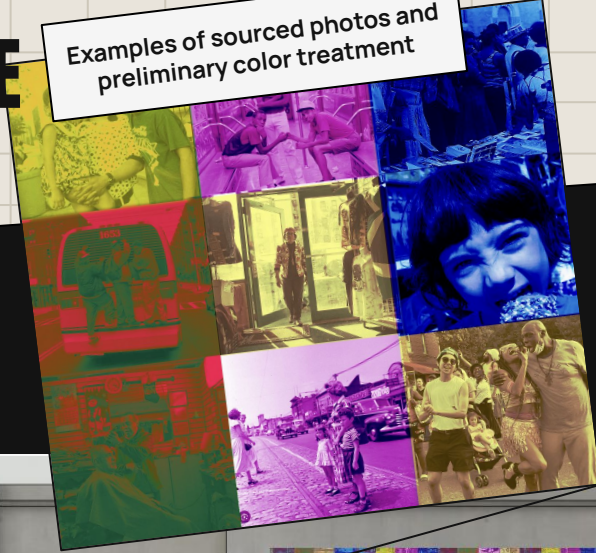
PRELIMINARY DESIGNS

E. 18TH STREET SUGAR CANE PARADE

Materials: Vinyl “photo-textile” created with photos of Flatbush memories, crowdsourced from the neighborhood’s residents and archives, embellished with graphic sugarcane motifs - using the headhouse tile as grid.

LED neon flex in aluminum channel and plexi leaves offset from tile, attached to headhouse surface - in the form of a dancing sugar cane.

Examples of sourced photos and preliminary color treatment



QR Codes to Audio of Flatbush Memories

Preliminary rendering

Vinyl photo textile

LED neon flex - Sugar Cane

1720 CHURCH AVE. CAMBA WINDOW TRANSLUCENCY

Materials: Vinyl “photo-textile” created with photos of Flatbush memories, crowdsourced from the neighborhood's residents and archives, printed on translucent vinyl, temporarily attached to inside of CAMBA windows. At night, the mural will be illuminated from within, welcoming people back to the neighborhood as they exit the transit station, and during the day, the sunshine will cast colorful light into the CAMBA offices, without obstructing visibility to the outside.

Example of
Translucent
Vinyl Window
Film



Preliminary rendering

E. 18TH STREET SUGAR CANE PARADE

Materials: Vinyl “photo-textile” repeated along the corrugated metal fence - TBD applied directly or to aluminum composite panels - then attached to the fence

LED neon flex in aluminum channel - arranged in a dancing sugar cane motif - with plexi leaves

Power Draw:

Fence on East side of E.18th St.: 840w.

Solar Power Requirements: (4) 5' x 3' 320w panels at 33lbs each.

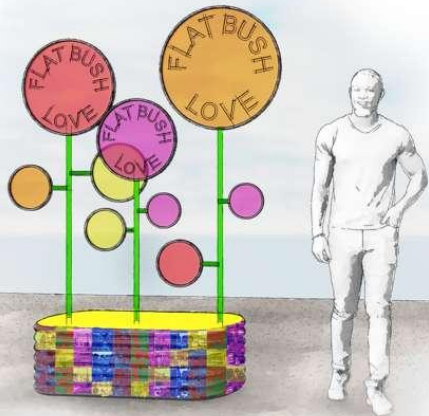


Solar Panel Mounting Ref

Preliminary rendering

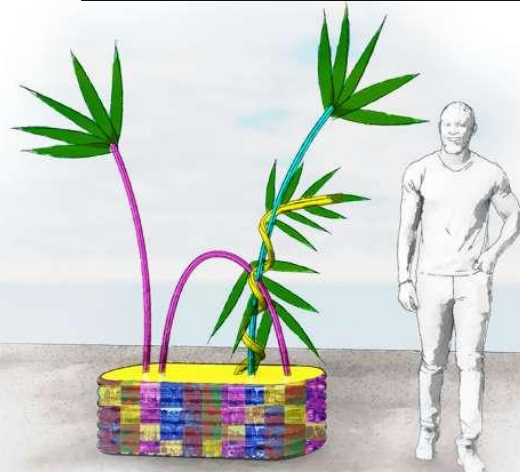
COMPLEMENTARY STREET LEVEL PLACEMAKING (DOT JURISDICTION)

Nature inspired free standing lighting elements along the sidewalk - to create moments of stillness.



Bubble Stand Lighting Materials:
Rigid Plastic LED Lighting Poles
Flexible LED Light Mat (under plexi)
Translucent colored plexiglass.

Power Requirements per freestanding object:
Power Draw: 130w
Solar Power Requirement: (1) 4'x2.5' 200w solar panel at 23lbs each.



Sugarcane Stand Lighting Materials:
LED neon flex mounted inside aluminum channel.
Flexible LED Light Mat (under plexi)
Translucent colored plexiglass.

Preliminary renderings

E. 18TH STREET SUGAR CANE PARADE

Materials:

LED neon flex in aluminum channel - arranged in a dancing sugar cane motif - with plexi leaves

Power Draw:

E. 18th St. Headhouse & Garden Fence:
910w.

Solar Power Requirements:
(6) 5' x 3' 320w panels at 33lbs each.



Preliminary Rendering

ATTACHMENT METHODS

Mural:

- Temporary adhesive vinyl printed decal
- For corrugated fence panels: printed directly on aluminum composite panels mounted with tamper / anti-theft screws

LED Elements:

- Enclosed flexible LED - mounted / liquid nailed to precurved aluminum channels that are attached via:
 - **Headhouse:** screwed to tile
 - **Corrugated Fence:** Anti-theft / tamper proof screws
 - **Q Gardens Fence:** anti-theft - bolted clamps to chain link

Street Level Placemaking:

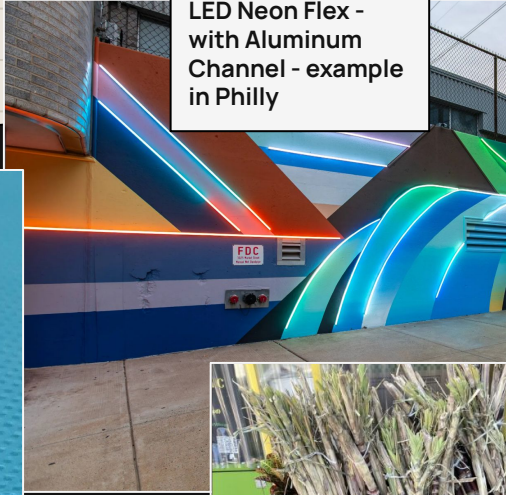
- Tamper proof ballasting in base
- Additional bolted connection to sidewalk TBD with DOT

Power:

- **Solar Headhouse :** discussion with station master / MTA - mounting to roof of headhouse
- **Solar Corrugated Fence:** braced metal pipe mounted to fence with panel attached + 12' from ground - oriented in the direction of the sun.
- **Direct Tap:** TBD with MTA - to headhouse exterior LX or DOT to pole - via licensed electrician

REFERENCE IMAGERY

LED Neon Flex -
with Aluminum
Channel



LED Neon Flex -
with Aluminum
Channel - example
in Philly

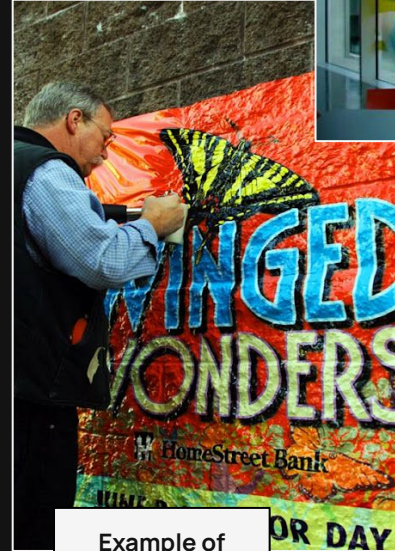
Example of
Translucent
Vinyl Window
Film



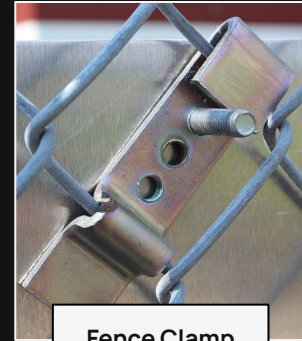
Anti-Theft / Tamper
Screws



Sugar Cane Ref



Example of
Vinyl Mural



Fence Clamp

Reference Photos for Material Examples

Thank you!

Contact info
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QLC: Queenslightingcollective@gmail.com

This presentation reflects preliminary concepts only and is provided solely for discussion purposes. All ideas are subject to change based on budgetary constraints, agency review, permitting approvals, and other considerations that may arise. As a result, these concepts should not be construed as final or binding.