



NYC Criminal Justice

NYC Department of Design and Construction

Borough-Based Jails

COMMUNITY DESIGN INPUT WORKSHOP FOR THE BROOKLYN FACILITY

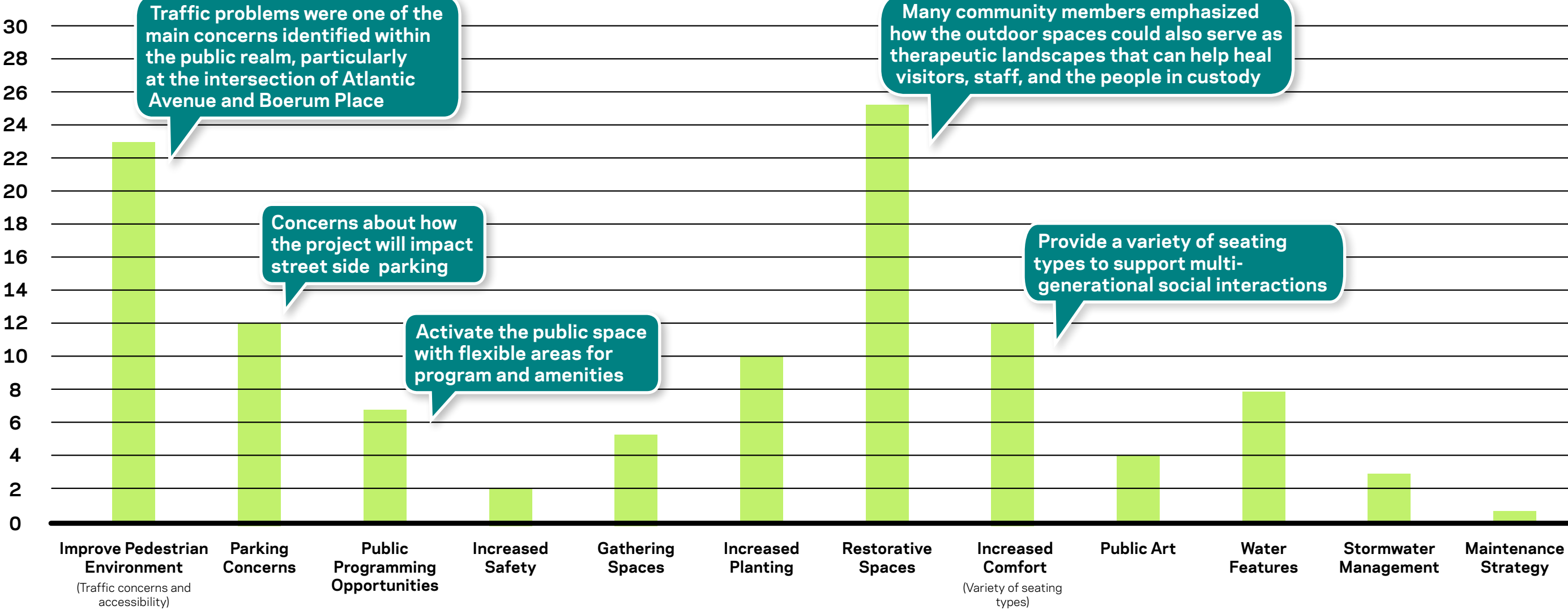
October 02, 2023



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Brooklyn Borough Based Jail

WHAT WE HEARD - PUBLIC REALM



Number of community comments from September 7 Workshop and Online Portal.

BBJBK DESIGN WORKSHOP #1 COMMUNITY COMMENTS

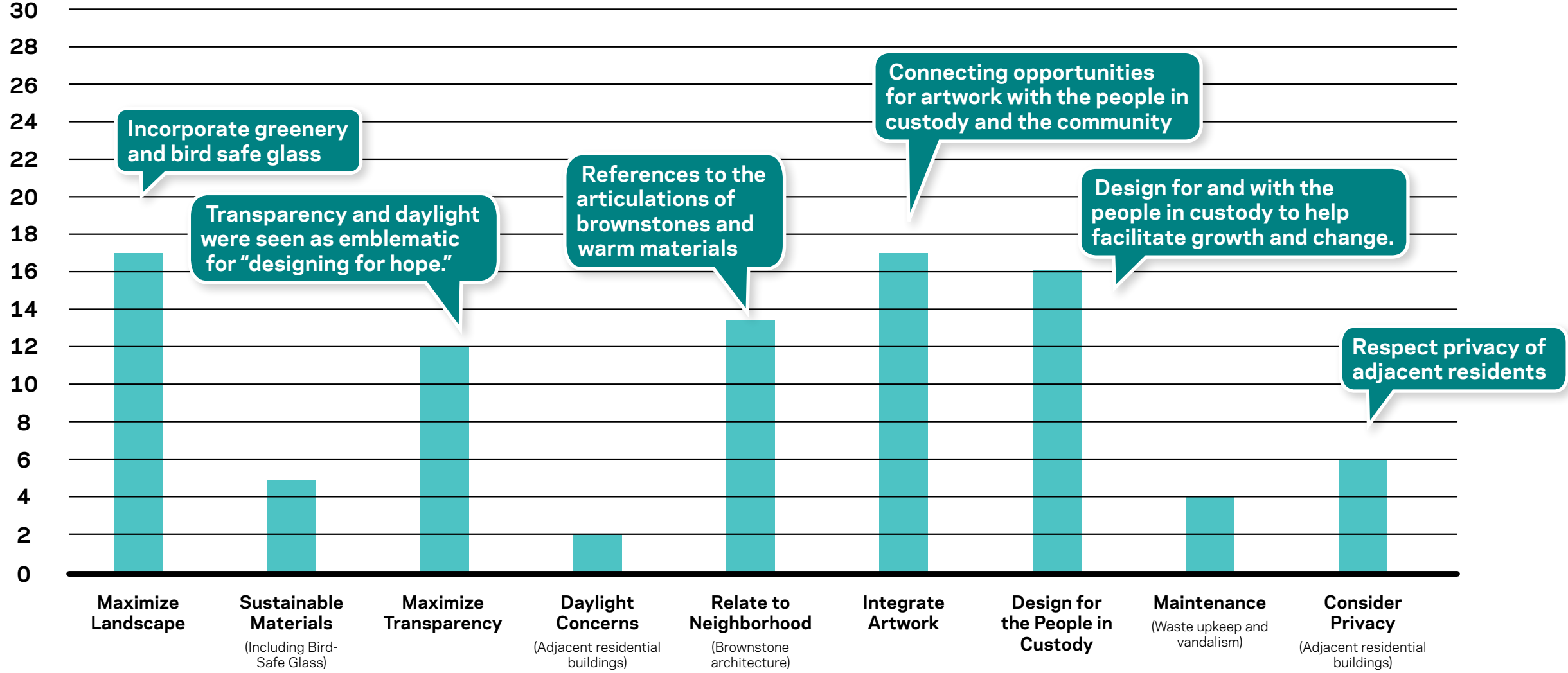
COMMENT	RESPONSE
PUBLIC REALM	
Provide reserved DDC, staff, and public visitor parking in the parking garage and around the street perimeter (where possible, to preserve the existing MTA bus stop).	100 parking spaces will be provided in the parking garage for use by authorized City vehicles. The project requirements state that existing public infrastructure, including MTA, needs to be maintained or enhanced if possible.
Incorporate street level parking strategies that discourage the use of parking placards.	The addition to the site of 100 parking spaces for authorized City vehicles will alleviate the use of parking placards and street parking.
Preserve/expand access to the Smith Street bike lane.	The State Street bike lane is outside the scope of the BBJ project
The neighboring residents approve of locating the public entrance and main plaza to the facility on the Atlantic/Boerum corner as it's currently shown to divert pedestrian traffic away from State and Smith Streets.	The design team takes note and is continuing to refine the public realm experience in these areas.
Develop accessible routes into the facility and the community space from the nearby street intersections with integrated wayfinding.	The design of all pedestrian access areas will be ADA compliant. Wayfinding devices will be integrated into the design in a later phase of design development.
Create accessible gathering spaces with public seating and diverse planting strategies to invite the community to occupy the plaza.	The team will continue to refine the design for the plaza and will present updates to the Community.
Incorporate a variety of seating modules to encourage multi-generational interactions.	The team will continue to refine the design of the streetscape and will present updates to the Community.
Provide a community garden for the people in custody in the public plaza that children can play in or visually engage with.	Proposing a community garden at street level which is usable by the public including children as well as people in custody is not feasible for spatial constraint reasons and security reasons. The design team is collaborating with the NYS Horticultural Society and drawing on design standards by the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership to create a landscape design that activates public engagement and interest. The facility contains an outdoor horticultural program area for people in custody on the rooftop, containing similar programmatic elements to what is currently provided on Rikers.
Integrate rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable paving systems that require minimal maintenance	The design team is currently studying porous paving and raingarden options wherever feasible.
Incorporate exterior public drinking fountains.	Exterior public drinking fountains are not within the project scope; however the design team is studying locations of drinking fountains with the public spaces.
Incorporate an exterior dog run	A public exterior dog run at street level is outside the scope of the BBJ program and is not feasible for spatial constraint reasons. There will be dog runs within the facility for use by people in custody in the dog training program.
Create diverse street designs for each street around the block.	The design team is working through various design opportunities to create a more diversified public realm experience for each street.
Improve trees and planters	The public realm design proposal includes a significant number of street trees and planters. The design team is studying the specific locations around the site perimeter.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
Incorporate parking along Smith Street.	Parking along Smith Street is outside the scope of the BBJ program. Parking areas will be provided along State Street.
Implement protective barriers.	Protective barriers are provided around the site perimeter and where possible integrated into the streetscape furnishing.
Provide a space for food cart and food vendors.	The design team is looking at incorporating open spaces into the streetscape which could allow for a variety of future uses, including space for vendors.
Implement a sheltered bus stop.	The design team is looking at incorporating a sheltered bus stop.
Use space at Smith Street and Atlantic Avenue for social gathering.	The design team is studying the streetscape to include integrated seating to allow for social gathering of different types.
Avoid implementation of raised gardens that collect garbage.	The design team is studying the detailing of the planting to minimize maintenance concerns.
Integrated trees and maximize planting of trees.	The revised streetscape design integrates and maximizes trees and understory planting around the site.
Include sidewalk guide lines (directional arrows).	The design team will include dimensions and additional directional information to the site plan.
Repair sidewalks.	All sidewalks will be new as part of the BBJ project.
Incorporate wide sidewalks (12' min, 15'-18' ideally) and reduced lanes.	All sidewalks will follow the DOT Pedestrian mobility plan which ensures clear path widths per street typology. Reducing the number of traffic lanes is outside the scope of this project.
Limited hardscape	The design team is studying the use of hardscape and flexible seating to allow different uses of the exterior spaces.
Expand public space beyond Brooklyn Detention Center block in all directions.	Expanded public space beyond the Brooklyn Detention Center is outside the scope of the BBJ project. Comment will be shared with our City partners.
Ensure adequate safety upon arrival and throughout.	Pedestrian safety is a critical part of the overall site design.
What role does COBA play in the design?	Department of Correction (DOC) staff will be engaged in the design process through workshops and informational sessions.
11 Hoyt sidewalk designs similar to the proposed - obstructs people	The design team is ensuring adequate clear widths for all sidewalk types.
Solve Boerum Place-Atlantic Avenue crossing and traffic to encourage people to use the plaza	Traffic work is outside the scope of the BBJ project. This project will be coordinated with NYC Department of Transportation (DOT).
Walk signal and lights need to be improved	Traffic work is outside the scope of the BBJ project.
I always walk down south side of Atlantic because of the traffic - how do you make it more pedestrian-friendly?	The design team is working with traffic and civil engineers to design a safer pedestrian public realm experience along Atlantic Avenue at this site.
Should be as joyful as possible, to offer care to the families and residents (flowers, seating, ???)	The design concept will continue to develop to be playful, with soft, human design geometries that continue in the spirit of the Downtown Brooklyn Public Realm Action Plan toolkit
How do we really feel about our kids hanging out around the jail? What programmes do we add that will really make us want to use this space	The use of the Community Space will be determined at a later time with input from the Community.
More parking for people working in the facility.	100 parking spaces will be provided in the parking garage for use by authorized City vehicles.
Lack of parking is always an issue - this may affect available parking for community residents. Visitors need parking too.	The addition to the facility of 100 parking spaces for authorized City vehicles is intended to alleviate the parking concerns.
Reduced parking is a concern	Parking is not being reduced. The facility is adding 100 parking spaces for authorized City vehicles. Safer and wider sidewalks are provided to enhance the public realm.
Bus lane and bike lane on Smith Avenue - concerns with construction taking lanes for parking	The project team will work with DOT to alleviate any impacts during construction.
Prevent parking even to cars with placards; legit or not	The addition to the site of 100 parking spaces for authorized City vehicles will alleviate the use of parking placards and street parking.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
What efforts will be made to ensure that there is NO placard parking around the facility? This is the number one abuse of rules in the area and undermines almost all the public spaces and efforts to create public access and amenities (pedestrian areas, bike lanes, bus lanes, etc.)	The addition to the site of 100 parking spaces for authorized City vehicles will alleviate the use of parking placards and street parking.
Improve public seating	The facility's site design offers ample seating within the streetscape and plaza areas.
Bike lane along Atlantic	Building a bike lane on Atlantic Avenue is outside the scope of the BBJ project.
State Street as Pedestrian Shared Street	Vehicular traffic on State Street is part of the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) approval. Comment will be shared with the appropriate City agency.
Pedestrian Concerns along Atlantic and Boerum	The design team is working on developing traffic calming design approaches within the street ROW.
Make less-car dominated, reduce lanes with no parking.	Reducing traffic lanes is outside the perview of this project. Comment will be shared with the appropriate City agency.
BRT-lane to enable staff and families to visit easily	BRT lane is outside the perview of this project. Comment will be shared with the appropriate City agency.
Support BRT stops	BRT stop is outside the perview of this project. Comment will be shared with the appropriate City agency.
Community garden or herb garden for the people in custody	The updated design reflects a horticultural program area on the rooftop of the facility.
Water features for kids to play in and for cooling	The design team can look into the potential use of water, or misting feature in the public realm but will need to balance against safety and maintenance concerns.
Smith Street to Atlantic is opportunity for gateway	The design team is currently looking at unique approaches to celebrate the Smith and Atlantic intersection as a gateway between neighborhoods.
I like that the public entrance and main plaza to the building is located on the Atlantic/Boerum corner, away from the residential buildings surrounding the site.	Noted. Thank you!
Can the people in custody engage with nature?	The updated design reflects a horticultural program area on the rooftop of the facility.
Can we extend downtown planting?	Expanded planting beyond the Brooklyn Detention Center is outside the scope of the BBJ project. Comment will be shared with our City partners.
Since we are having a green and lush sidewalk why are the people in custody not able to see them? (shared view)	Views for the people in custody need to be balanced with the safety and security of the neighborhood.
Ensuring the dignity and safety of all	Dignity and safety in design is one of our core values in every aspect of design, inside and outside the facility.
Restorative justice - spaces for healing	Areas to promote therapeutic restoration are the foundation for all design approaches.
Trauma informed healing - educational opportunities and community garden	The design team is currently studying ways to embed educational opportunities into the public realm design.
More informative experience, draw people in!	The design is currently evolving to integrate ways for educational aspects for a more informative experience.
Who will steward the public spaces - plantings, plazas, amenities? Are there ways to engage the employees, neighbors, families, and incarcerated individuals in greening & public art partnerships? What about job training opportunities (i.e. bike repair, energy & greening partnerships, etc.)?	The design team is working with local partnerships to develop a maintenance agreement plan for the future streetscape.
The public should decide what makes people feel comfortable to enjoy the public scape. Consistency as well.	The community engagement process is helping our design team refine the design with input from the community.
Public events should be posted around the public space.	Public events are outside the building design scope. Comment will be shared with the appropriate City agency.
Partner with local law schools to host events/classes	This Partnership is outside the building design scope. Comment will be shared with the appropriate City agency.
Partner with local organizations (e.g. churches)	This Partnership is outside the building design scope. Comment will be shared with the appropriate City agency.
Showcase artwork of PIC in the public space so we can see it walking by - creating connection	The design team will study how this can be incorporated.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p>Those of us who share street space with the facility appreciate the thoughtfulness of your design. The needs of neighbors must be considered alongside the needs of the incarcerated individuals. When the current facility was in use, residents of our building -- directly across the street -- were frequently verbally harassed by detainees using the open rooftop recreation spaces. They could see inside windows and had perfect line of sight to people using their home terraces. Both adults and children were recipients of this verbal harassment. It cannot happen again. I can't imagine this would be helpful to the rehabilitation of these individuals, either. We appreciate your thoughtful placement of the interior-outdoor spaces that seem to help mitigate this issue, and could support a design that keeps this feature.</p>	<p>Line of sight from any spaces with people in custody is being carefully studied to minimize impact on surrounding residences. Acoustic impacts are being carefully studied to improve the relationship between the neighboring community and the people in custody and staff. Location of recreational yards minimizes adjacency with surrounding residential areas. Incorporation of screening minimizes sightlines and reduces acoustic impact.</p>
<p>Please continue to balance what's best for those housed in the facility with the facility's neighbors, particularly our past negative experiences with the old building regarding direct lines of site/sound with the adjacent residences. I observed one proposal that suggests the outdoor spaces were placed in the center of the building looking out at Atlantic and State Street, while limiting visibility to Smith Street. If that's the case, I strongly support such a design and encourage that element survive design revisions. I am all for giving those housed the best environment possible, but not to the detriment of the living experiences of its neighbors.</p>	<p>Line of sight from any spaces with people in custody is being carefully studied to minimize impact on surrounding residences. Acoustic impacts are being carefully studied to improve the relationship between the neighboring community and the people in custody and staff. Location of recreational yards minimizes adjacency with surrounding residential areas. Incorporation of screening minimizes sightlines and reduces acoustic impact.</p>
<p>Residents in 53 Boerum Place have many concerns, some include: 3. The day-to-day operations of the building on State Street, both in vehicular traffic and foot traffic. What will the operational flow of that corner be and how can you demonstrate it to us in drawings or otherwise? Is there enough space in your plan to accommodate this tremendous increase in foot traffic?</p>	<p>The site layout is being studied to minimize pedestrian traffic.</p>
<p>Very cool. We are the environmental consultants on the Bronx Jail project. I wonder how I might find out about wonderful workshops like this in the future. Can someone point me in the right direction. Thanks, Robert</p>	<p>All community meetings are public and posted on the BBJ website. Contact Lucien Allen, [add contact]</p>

WHAT WE HEARD - ARCHITECTURE



Number of community comments from September 7 Workshop and Online Portal.

BBJBK DESIGN WORKSHOP #1 COMMUNITY COMMENTS

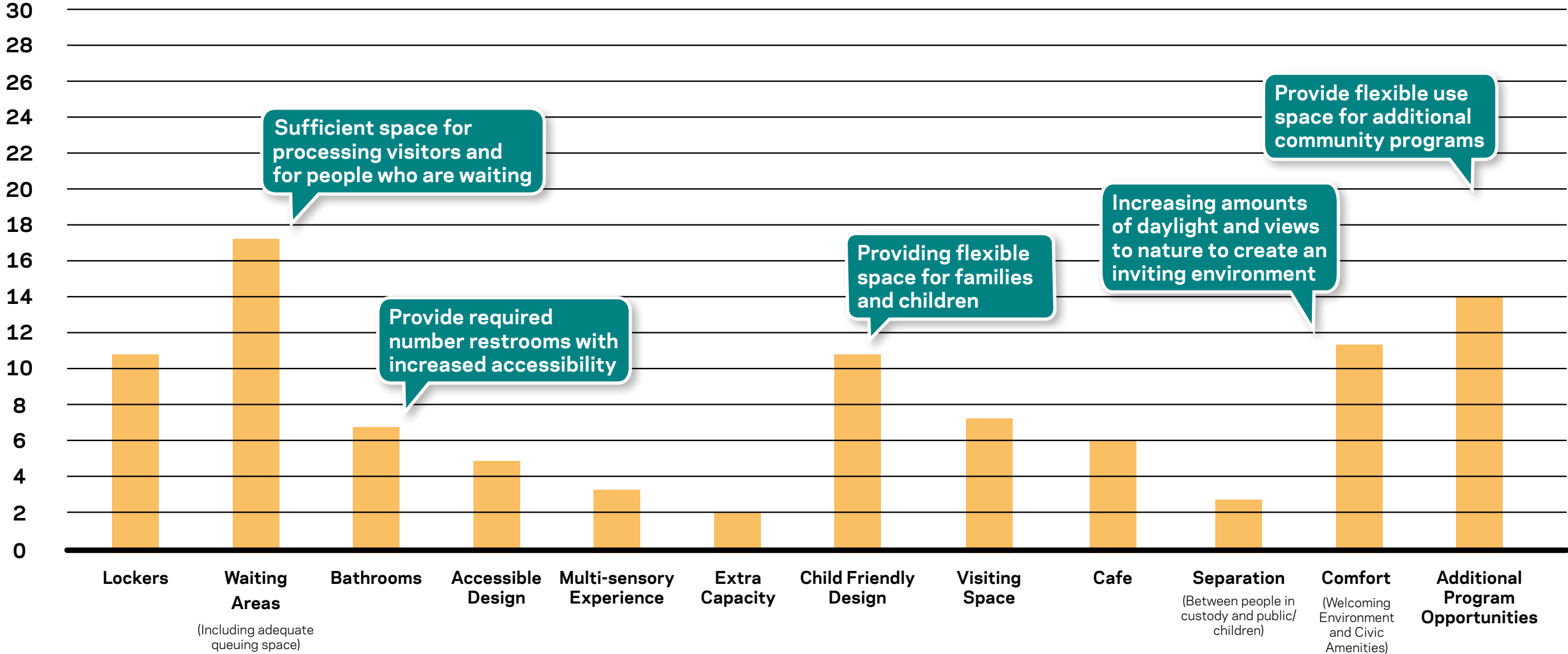
COMMENT	RESPONSE
ARCHITECTURE	
Incorporate warm-toned materials at the entrances to the facility to appear inviting to the public/visitors.	Warm materials and comfortable, welcoming spaces are being prioritized in the design.
Accentuate the architectural features of the Brownstone on the façade through setbacks and fenestration framing details, especially on Smith Street	The street experience at Smith Street is being studied to ensure the character of the street is respected.
The design of the outdoor recreation spaces should address the neighboring residents' concerns about their visual and acoustical privacy and personal safety.	Line of sight from any spaces with people in custody is being carefully studied to minimize impact on surrounding residences. Acoustic impacts are being carefully studied to improve the relationship between the neighboring community and the people in custody and staff. Location of recreational yards minimizes adjacency with surrounding residential areas. Incorporation of screening minimizes sightlines and reduces acoustic impact.
Maximize access to natural light and views to the outside while avoiding direct line-of-sight relationships and acoustical spillover to the neighboring residences via screening of the façade	Line of sight from any spaces with people in custody is being carefully studied to minimize impact on surrounding residences. Acoustic impacts are being carefully studied to minimize impact to surrounding neighborhood. Location of recreational yards minimizes adjacency with surrounding residential areas. Incorporation of screening minimizes sightlines and reduces acoustic impact.
Address community concerns about the facility casting shadows on the residences North of the site.	ULURP permits the current building height and setbacks. A daylighting analysis is being conducted to determine the transparency of the facade and shading strategies.
The overall character of the facility should reflect the humanity of both the community and the people in custody, and encourage personal growth and interaction.	The building design will continue to be developed to reflect the humanity of both the community and the people in custody.
Incorporate architectural massing strategies that respond to daylighting and that distribute natural light deeper into the facility	The design team appreciates the response to the 'sculpted by light' concept and will continue to prioritize daylight in living spaces.
Incorporate live landscaped areas on the building's exterior setbacks and roof	Integration of landscape is being studied including access to green space for people in custody and green landscape visible to the community.
Incorporate contextual references into the material language of the façade to show respect to the existing fabric of the neighborhood, and mitigate the use of reflective materials	Façade design includes a large proportion of solid material surface area with significant depth which mitigates reflection issues. Whilst glass at windows will have some reflectivity, glass selection will minimize highly reflective glass.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
Integrate bird safe glass into the fenestration along with pigeon control systems and graffiti resistant materials at street level	Bird-safe glass will be used. Exterior materials chosen will be resistant to graffiti. Façade design will discourage birds from perching on it.
Will there be roof access?	An outdoor horticultural program area for people in custody will be located at the rooftop. The remainder of the roof is dedicated to mechanical use.
How will sanitation and garbage be handled?	Sanitation and garbage will be handled within the building
Where the proposed building relates to brownstones isn't where the brownstones are.	Relationship to brownstones is addressed through multiple design solutions. The overall massing reflects 'reveals' that reflect the scale and warmth of brownstones and these face south towards neighborhoods of Boerum Hill and Cobble Hill. Additionally, at the ground floor experience along State and Smith Streets, the rhythm of brownstones is integrated into the facade that continues the existing rhythm of brownstones along those streets.
Modern buildings have significant setbacks: Brooklyn Law School, 265 Pacific, Hilton (?) Hotel are modern examples of relating massing to brownstones.	Setbacks are included along Atlantic Avenue, Smith Street, and State Street in compliance with approved ULURP.
Transparency important.	Transparency is balanced throughout the facility. Transparency into the lobby and community space are highlighted to create a dialogue between the facility and the surrounding community. For the staff transparency is maintained to allow daylight and views to the outside. For people in custody transparency is balanced to optimize daylight penetration whilst maintaining security concerns of direct sightlines to surrounding neighborhood.
Daylight analysis is important, including for the holding cells	Daylight is integral to the design of the project. Daylight analysis has been undertaken and will continue to be considered as the design evolves to optimize daylight into the facility.
Really like the "sculpted by light" concept.	Sculpted by light concept will remain to optimize natural light and break down the scale of the building
Light is life. I've visited Rikers many times and from the outside and inside it was very oppressive. It's good for the mind to have light.	Sculpted by light concept will remain to optimize natural light and break down the scale of the building
the idea of a lot of light and views to the outdoors is a new level of humanity for the drippy gray walls of Rikers and many jails and inpatient programs. The consequence of doing a sentence for a mistake in judgment should be a piece in the renewal of your outlook, goals and dreams not a gray box to extinguish anything left of ur spirit and mind.	The building design will continue to be developed to reflect the humanity of the people in custody.
Line of sight to surrounding residential buildings - will people inside the facility see into apartments?	Line of sight from any spaces with people in custody is being carefully studied to minimize impact on surrounding residences. Acoustic impacts are being carefully studied to improve the relationship between the neighboring community and the people in custody and staff. Location of recreational yards minimizes adjacency with surrounding residential. Incorporation of screening minimizes sightlines and acoustic impact.
Will Boerum corner have transparency? There are existing residents on Boerum (No = windows on this corner will be into staff areas)	Transparency is balanced throughout the facility. Transparency into the lobby and community space are highlighted to create a dialogue between the facility and the surrounding community. For the staff transparency is maintained to allow daylight and views to the outside. For people in custody transparency is balanced to optimize daylight penetration whilst maintaining security concerns of direct sightlines to surrounding neighborhood.
Non-reflective materials	Low reflectivity glass will be prioritized, depth of vertical piers and horizontal elements reduce glare and reflectivity of glass
Residents in 53 Boerum Place have many concerns, some include: 2. The line of sight into our apartments and terraces both by employees and detainees; the windows will be close to ours and we had this problem in the former facility.	Line of sight from any spaces with people in custody is being carefully studied to minimize impact on surrounding residences. Acoustic impacts are being carefully studied to improve the relationship between the neighboring community and the people in custody and staff. Location of recreational yards minimizes adjacency with surrounding residential. Incorporation of screening minimizes sightlines and acoustic impact.
Avoid steel and glass - Manhattan is looking more and more of an eyesore	Relationship to Brooklyn brownstones is a guiding principle; the design of the building uses warm materials and incorporates solid materials to reduce 'glass and steel' effect.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
Birds get confused with glass-covered buildings - bird-safe glass must be used	Bird-safe glass will be used.
More articulation softens the building - there are good examples in the area	Relationship to Brooklyn brownstones is a guiding principle; the design learns from the articulations of traditional brownstones to create sculpted piers and horizontal elements.
More articulation/wedding cake style	Setbacks are included within the building to step it away from the street.
Smith Street is very narrow - façade shouldn't be solid, needs setback	Setbacks are included within the building to step it away from the street.
The Boerum-side and Atlantic-side concept designs have some wonderful setback and/or carve-out elements. Smith Street is a narrow street, which has been made narrower by the previous wardens parking in a traffic lane and narrowing the street further (don't know if this will continue). As the sally port also exits to Smith, I am concerned Smith will feel congested and overly boxed in. Is it possible to add a setback or carve out element on Smith? Maybe toward the corner of Smith and Atlantic? Thank you for your time.	Setbacks are included on Smith Street. Additionally an articulated façade incorporates a rhythm of brownstones through materiality so the street experience is a continuation of its surroundings.
Keep it simple.	Landscape has been maximized at the public realm to maximize its impact on the surrounding community. In addition to diverse programming space allotted on every housing floor, an outdoor horticultural program area is also included in the Facility. Landscape on the building itself poses security and maintenance concerns.
Green landscape on the building.	
Abundance of green (e.g. on setbacks, flow between the floors).	
Real greenery!	
People in custody need something to pour their efforts/time into - HORTICULTURE ON MULTIPLE LEVELS!	
Trees on every setback	
Must provide way for incarcerated people to see greenery beyond the horticultural area	Facade design will discourage wildlife from perching on it.
Habitats for wildlife (e.g. Peregrin falcons)	Percent for Art Program is currently underway by Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) and DCLA will coordinate the public art program for the Facility.
Not digital artwork	
People in custody and DDC staff should have an input on artwork	
Artwork is public facing - young people can get involved in artwork, decrease "threat" of jail	
Conflicting views on type of artwork:	
Mosaic for artwork	
VS	
Mosaic is not a good artwork for this wall on the corner;	
Not mosaic and not historic artwork as it's been done before! What about stained glass?	
There was a historic site of the underground railroad just north of Fulton Street in Downtown. It would be great if there were some artwork that referenced that. Any art that affirms the humanity of the people inside.	
Existing murals were mentioned - can they be incorporated into the new building?	Design is based on principles of dignity, respect and rehabilitation.
Art that emphasizes dignity of people inside - rotating displays with artwork by people in custody?	Design is based in principles of dignity, respect and rehabilitation. The facility will include programming for education, vocational training, counselling and horticulture.
Art and messaging on exterior of building that represents positive themes/images of incarcerated/previously incarcerated people	
Will existing mural on site be kept?	The civic design of the building may allow for alternative uses in the future based on the City's assessment of needs and resources.
No antagonistic architecture	Design is based on principles of dignity, respect and rehabilitation.
We should think of the building like a school - a place where people grow and thrive. Everything about the building - including its public face - should reflect that.	The civic design of the building may allow for alternative uses in the future based on the City's assessment of needs and resources.
Build to be transformed into NOT a jail	Design is based on principles of dignity, respect and rehabilitation.
Our concern with the architecture is how it will be designed for the benefit of people in custody	Design is based on principles of dignity, respect and rehabilitation.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
Is anyone working on this design friends with or is a formerly incarcerated person?	Justice advocates and formerly incarcerated individuals have been included in the preparation of the design guidelines for the project.
Incorporate feedback from families of former detainees	Justice advocates and formerly incarcerated individuals have been included in the preparation of the design guidelines for the project.
Concerned about of exterior with graffiti and how to remedy or repair	Exterior materials chosen will be resistant to graffiti.
Pigeon control on façade	Façade design will discourage birds from perching on it.
Will trash be left on the street?	Sanitation and garbage will be handled within the building.
Lack of temperature regulation in existing jails in a problem	Modern mechanical systems are being designed into the building which will provide comfortable conditions in all seasons.
Previously the north side of the site had lower buildings so the natural light could come through to the residential building. (53 Boerum) With this new plan, I wonder if the north, east side of the detention center will obstruct the natural light from reaching 53 Boerum. I'm concerned about the impact this will have on the natural light for residents of 53 Boerum, which will affect people's mental health. Is there any way?	Shadow studies were undertaken during the ULURP process to understand impact of the proposed facility on the surrounding neighborhood. The proposed design is smaller than the allowable ULURP envelope.
Residents in 53 Boerum Place have many concerns, some include: 1. The height of the building on State Street is towering over us and blocking lots of light and turns State Street into a tunnel/cavern	
Generally, an impressive presentation. 3 main criticisms: (1) I don't think the policy issues can be separated so easily from the architectural plans. It seems like an artificial distinction was established at the very beginning of the presentation. The policy issues need to be addressed. (2) The timeline showed a 2029 completion date, but the mandate is to close Rikers by 2027. There was no discussion of this delay or its repercussions on the closure of Rikers, or whether the could be a quicker completion time. (3) I appreciated the photos of the common rooms, etc., but there were no photos of what the individual units will look like.	Noted.

WHAT WE HEARD - INTERIOR PUBLIC SPACE



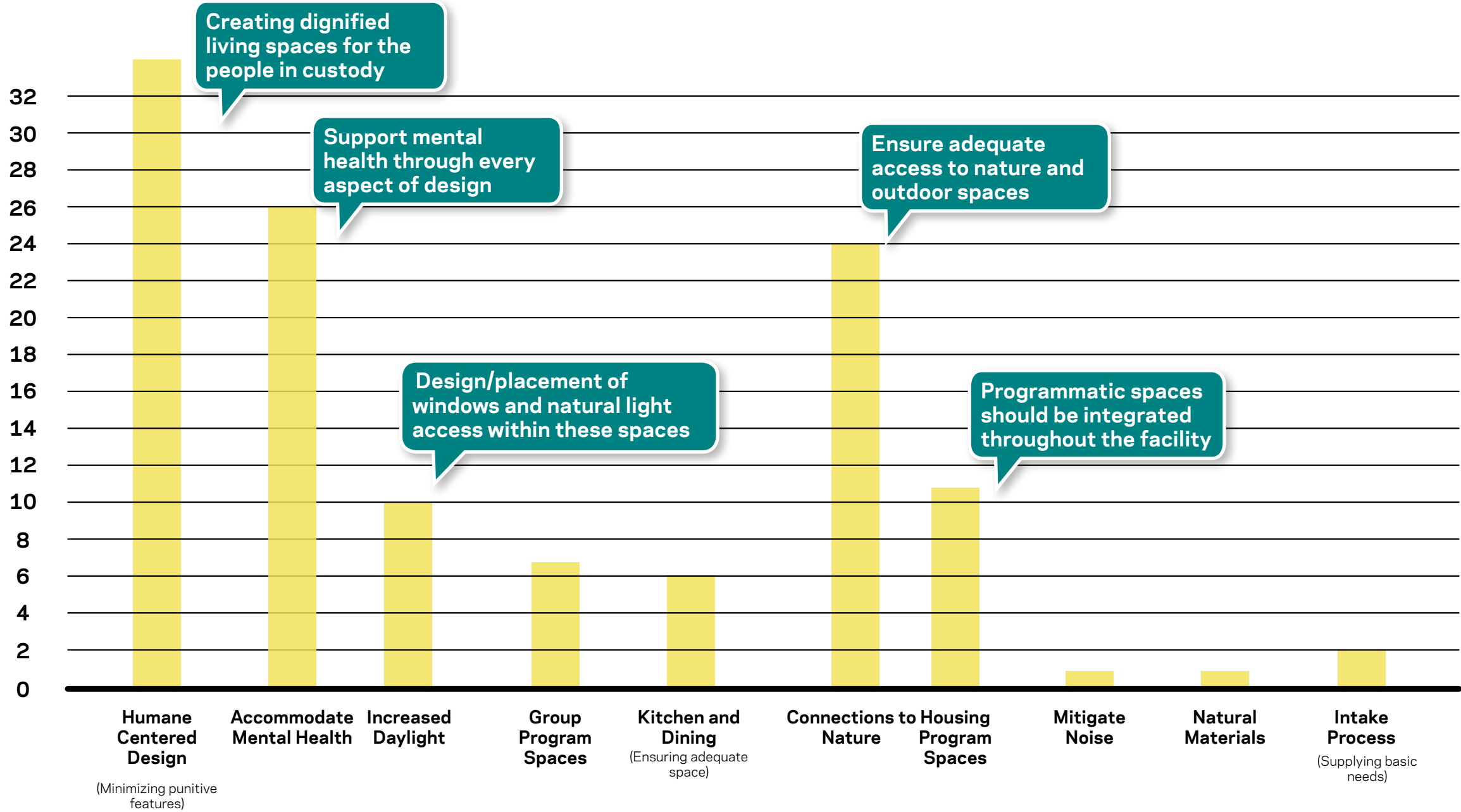
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COMMENT	RESPONSE
INTERIOR PUBLIC SPACE	
Incorporate a children's play area adjacent to the visiting/waiting areas with separation between People In Custody discharge/intake areas	Space for children's play areas will be provided both at the lobby and at the visiting areas.
Provide no-charge storage lockers for the visiting areas	The City is committed to minimizing barriers to visiting and will evaluate its approach to storage lockers.
Provide comfortable seating in the waiting areas with nearby accessible public restrooms	Included in Program
Introduce a calming olfactory experience in the public lobby	Design team will include natural air ventilation and will evaluate additional opportunities to create a calming experience.
Provide an inviting, well-lit environment for visiting areas	Included in Program
Eliminate excessive invasive searches of visitors	The City will make every effort to maintain the dignity of the visitors during the search process.
Incorporate a mother's room for visitors	A lactation room is included in the public lobby.
Provide a grab-n-go café area or vending machines at visiting lounges	Vending machines will be available in the public lobby.
Incorporate an indoor waiting area for visiting public and/or expand the lobby queueing area to prevent overflow and extended wait times.	Included in Program, population flows are being studied through simulation models to allow for ample space.
Provide a separate attorney visiting space for families of the people in custody	Spaces are provided so attorneys can meet with families and people in custody.
Provide public drinking fountains	Included in Program
Incorporate a gallery space visible to the street for people in custody to showcase their art	City will take this under consideration.
Incorporate a free community book exchange	City will take this under consideration. There is 30,000 s.f. of dedicated community space that is currently undefined. The use of the community space will be determined at a later time with input from the community.
Provide facilities for community social outreach and local events and exhibitions	There will be social service providers' offices accessible to the public in the Public Lobby. There is also 30,000 s.f. of dedicated community space that is currently undefined. The use of the community space will be determined at a later time with input from the community.
Incorporate a community café or bodega	There is 30,000 s.f. of dedicated community space that is currently undefined. The use of the community space will be determined at a later time with input from the community.
Provide an accessible entrance to the community space on Smith Street	Included in the program
Engage with the public to host public events in partnership with local organizations	The City is engaged with local organizations to provide input on the BBJ project. The use of the Community Space will be determined at a later time with input from the Community
Provide facilities for temporary housing or resources for temporary housing placement	Temporary housing is outside the scope of the BBJ project. The City is currently assessing resources and necessary services for temporary housing to be provided as part of the discharge and reentry planning and space in the lobby.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
Prioritize natural light, accessibility, and population flow at the internal lobby, including transport of people in custody.	Lobby benefits from 2 exterior facades that will bring in plentiful natural light and have views to the exterior. Population flows are being studied through simulation models to allow for ample space. Flow of people in custody is being carefully studied and designed for.
Incorporate an anxiety-reducing scent so people feel less anxious upon entering	Design team will include natural air ventilation and will evaluate additional opportunities to create a calming experience.
5,000 sq ft of indoor waiting spaces would prevent lines outside the building	Population flows are being studied through simulation models to allow for ample space.
Currently very long lines	
Long waiting lines for visitors	
Plenty of lobby space for visitors to line up to escape the weather while waiting - clear security	
Facility visiting lounges with a café (or at least vending machines that work)	Vending machines will be available at the public lobby.
Nice and well lit - doesn't need to look like an archaic dungeon, it can be a nice lounging area for families to enjoy themselves	Spaces will be designed to be welcoming and provide a positive human experience.
Free of intense searches - a welcoming space for all	The City will make every effort to maintain the dignity of all individuals during the search process.
Create space for children - children-sized furniture/children friendly space	Space for children's play areas will be provided both at the lobby and at the visiting areas.
Let the community decide what the community/public space is used for	The use of the Community Space will be determined at a later time with input from the Community.
Accessible community spaces for meetings, exhibits, workshops that engage diverse populations from community and facility	The use of the Community Space will be determined at a later time with input from the Community.
The design looks good as long as the inmates are safe	Noted.
Seating in waiting areas	Seating will be provided both at the lobby and at the visiting areas.
Bathrooms	Restrooms will be provided both at the lobby and at the visiting areas.
Population flow	Population flows are being studied through simulation models to allow for ample space.
Interior space capacity	
Transport of people in custody	Flow of people in custody is being carefully studied and designed.
Interior separated space between PIC and the public	Spaces are dedicated between people in custody and public. People in custody interact with visitors in visiting areas only.
Pumping/lactation area for visitors	Included in Program
Benefits for families to be closer to loved ones	A community-based facility is the basis for this program.
Separation between children and PIC	Children's play areas are being designed to be dedicated and create privacy for children.
Community café/food source	The use of the Community Space will be determined at a later time with input from the Community.
Interior spaces should be built with a purpose and utilized the same	Noted
Welcoming entrance for staff and visitors	Generous indoor staff and public lobbies are being designed to be calming and include warm materials to create a positive human experience. Entrances also include outdoor space with landscape and seating.
How is prioritization of who has access to community space determined? Will it be for justice-impacted folks?	The use of the Community Space will be determined at a later time with input from the Community.

WHAT WE HEARD - INTERIOR SPACE



Number of community comments from September 7 Workshop and Online Portal.

BBJBK DESIGN WORKSHOP #1 COMMUNITY COMMENTS

COMMENT	RESPONSE
INTERIOR SPACE	
Provide individual climate controls for people in custody housing	Modern mechanical systems are being designed into the building which will provide comfortable conditions.
Double-tiered housing units exacerbate the sensation of overcrowding and could negatively influence people in custody with serious mental illnesses (SMI)	Required bed count and site constraints require that some number of units be configured as two-tiered. The team is developing designs that will make these spaces as safe, normalized and humane as possible. We will use the additional height in the space to provide enhanced daylighting into the unit.
Provide an adequate number of therapeutic housing units - should stay at 40% as in original design. This is key to addressing the needs of people in custody and communities.	All housing units include access to mental and medical health care providers. Every housing floor will include space for treatment in addition to the main clinic.
Provide dormitory housing units for people in custody with mental health conditions like claustrophobia	All housing will be in single cells to foster a sense of privacy and security. Use of light, windows, normalized furnishings, and other strategies are being utilized to mitigate issues of claustrophobia
Integrate acoustical finishes where possible in the large communal spaces to control noise levels	These features are being incorporated into the design.
Eliminate punitive design features such as vertical bars on doors/windows and enhanced supervision units (solitary confinement)	The design is being studied to eliminate vertical bars.
Provide dedicated cultural programming spaces for education, art, group activities, and vocational training for people in custody	Programming for art, group activities, and vocational training are included in the facility space program.
Provide a polling site for feedback from people in custody	The facility project requirements include kiosks in housing units for people in custody to electronically order commissary items, file grievances, request sick call, order library books, and/or participate in video visits.
Increase access to the natural environment outside beyond the minimum requirements for outdoor recreation	Access to the natural environment far exceeds the minimum requirements for recreation. Every housing unit will include outdoor recreation which will allow people in custody to easily access outdoor spaces. In addition, there is an outdoor horticultural program space on the rooftop for people in custody.
Integrate communal facility DDC staff areas with people in custody areas to foster interaction	Every housing unit is designed in accordance with direct supervision management recommendations, which is specifically intended to foster interaction between people in custody and staff.
Would decontamination showers be in cages?	Decontamination showers are in secure shower rooms.
Will they design a housing unit for Enhanced Supervision Housing?	There will be Special Management units, which will not include any isolation beds.
Can we provide a schematic representation of what cells will look like?	The cell design is still under development.
Cells: what is window size, how each cell will be furnished?	Each cell will have its own individual window. Final window design is still under development.
What is the size of housing units (max # of cells in each area, not sf)?	The largest housing unit in the Facility will have 36 single cells.
Food: how and where will it be prepared; how will it be delivered to a)housing areas and b)facility in general?	Food is prepared in a central kitchen and all dining takes place within the living units. Meals are delivered to each housing unit by cart. Seating is provided in the dayroom for dining.
How/where are medical facilities and clinics included?	All housing units include access to mental and medical health care providers. Every housing floor will include space for treatment in addition to the main clinic.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
Rendering of Mezzanine - questions about whether visitors would be able to see PIC through the clear glass in the mezzanine, whether housing areas have mezzanines, or if that was only for public facing areas.	The design team is studying how to mitigate sightlines between people in custody and the public.
How will DOC make sure that those glass walls wouldn't be obscured with papers etc. ?	The design of the spaces is being developed to allow for privacy without sacrificing security and should help alleviate the need for glass being obscured with paper.
What are the fire safety and evacuation procedures?	These procedures are under development, but in all cases, issues regarding occupants' safety coupled with public safety are paramount.
Single versus double tiers (and can/will there be a unit in dorm format?).	All housing will be in single cells to foster a sense of privacy and security. Required bed count and site constraints require that some number of units be configured as two-tiered. The team is developing designs that will make these spaces as safe, normalized and humane as possible. We will use the additional height in the space to provide enhanced daylighting into the unit.
Double-tiered PIC housing units and mezzanine levels can hinder medical responses during crisis, and be unsafe for individuals with mental health issues. (this is separate from #44 above, as this concern is about physical access for medical response teams, not experiential quality and emotional/mental impact)	Design is being coordinated with medical and management staff to ensure no hinderance to getting medical responses.
Provide direct natural light in all cells	Included in the design
Provide direct access to medical space in all cells	All housing units include access to mental and medical health care providers. Every housing floor will include space for treatment in addition to the main clinic.
Provide program spaces in every housing area	Included in the design
Provide access to water and private bathrooms at the intake area	Included in the design
Increase community space to 30,000 sft	Included in the design
Too many mezzanine levels - not conducive to reducing population	Noted.
We don't want tiered mental health units - dangerous for folks with Serious Mental Illnesses (SMI)	Some step-down units for individuals at lower risk are two-tiered; all other therapeutic housing is single level. The team is developing designs that will make these spaces as safe, normalized and humane as possible.
More space between chairs - still looks crowded	Space is still being developed
Spaces that allow for human element - public art & color integrated into spaces, changing exhibitions of work curated by community partners, plantings, greenery inside the building	Space is still being developed
"Outdoor" space is not actually outside	Outdoor space will provide fresh air and views to the sky. Open air tops are not possible with the urban site arrangement.
Access to fresh air is needed	Access to fresh air is provided in the outdoor recreation areas.
More green outdoor space Still quite sterile - green plants?	Design team is studying integration of more biophilic features.
NYS SCOC, NYC BOC, and Federal Consent Decrees mandate one hour direct access to fresh air and sunlight (outdoor recreation)	Noted.
Dorms in the facility for those who have mental health condition - claustrophobia	All housing will be in single cells to foster a sense of privacy and security. Use of light, windows, normalized furnishings and other strategies are being utilized to mitigate issues of claustrophobia.
Dormitory units should be included in the design especially for people who are claustrophobic, special programming, and for those serving City Sentences.	All housing will be in single cells to foster a sense of privacy and security. Use of light, windows, normalized furnishings, and other strategies are being utilized to mitigate issues of claustrophobia.
Windows need to thought process mental health, over half the population have a mental health concern - applies across all areas	Design of windows is being developed.
Adequate therapeutic space/units - keep at 40% (as it is in ongoing design).	All housing units include access to mental and medical health care providers. Every floor will include space for treatment in addition to the main clinic.
This is key to addressing the needs of incarcerated people and communities.	Noted.
No bars on windows	Design of windows is being developed.

COMMENT	RESPONSE
"Enhanced supervision units" are solitary confinement	The City must comply with the HALT Act eliminating solitary confinement.
Design out solitary confinement (don't just change what it's called!)	The City must comply with the HALT Act eliminating solitary confinement.
Design that makes isolation (however it's called) impossible	The City must comply with the HALT Act eliminating solitary confinement.
No bars on cell doors	Design of cell doors is being developed.
The design looks good so long as the inmates are safe	Noted.
Concerned for how sound travels through big open spaces - somehow buffer sound	Acoustic controls being studied
Spaces for cultural programming - visual art, music, movement, production, learning. With focus on partnerships that provide linkages to participants during and following detention.	Included in Program.
Also offering yoga classes, pottery, languages, employment skills, Ged and college classes. We want to build the incarcerated up not keep them down and put them lower when they reenter society	Included in Program.
Program space should include space for private groups/classes without Correction Officers	Noted.
What is the plan for food and what space needs are associated with that plan?	Food is prepared in a central kitchen and all dining takes place within the living units. Meals are delivered to each housing unit by cart. Seating is provided in the dayroom for dining.
Will there be an onsite kitchen and dining areas	Yes
Intake area - access to water and private bathrooms	Included in Program.
How will the system ensure adequate staffing and proper usage of this design to be humane?	Every housing unit is designed in accordance with direct supervision management recommendations, which is specifically intended to foster interaction between people in custody and staff.
1.) I'd like to lift up other's citing of the need for a large internal waiting area with no outdoor line. 2.) Provide food and drink for purchase in the internal waiting area.	The lobby area is being studied to ensure that people are not waiting outside. Vending machines will be provided in the lobby.
3.) Provide all-season shelter/stations for officers outside the building on all sides, to prevent loitering, conflict, harassment, litter etc.	The City will maintain the security of the building perimeter, and the building will be secured and monitored 24/7.
4.) Provide direct transportation to persons in custody to their homes or designated shelter after release.	Transportation considerations are part of the discharge and reentry planning process.