

# Sunnyside Yard Master Planning Process Public Meeting 01 Overview

**NYCEDC**



# Sunnyside Yard Public Meeting #1

## When:

October 24, 2018, 6:00-8:00p

## Where:

LaGuardia Community College

## What:

6 Information/Activity Stations, with representatives from 5+ City agencies, Amtrak, MTA, and the technical consultant team to facilitate and answer questions at each station.

15 minute presentation

Carl Rodrigues, *Senior Advisor, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Housing & Economic Development*

Cali Williams, *Director of Sunnyside Yard, NYCEDC*

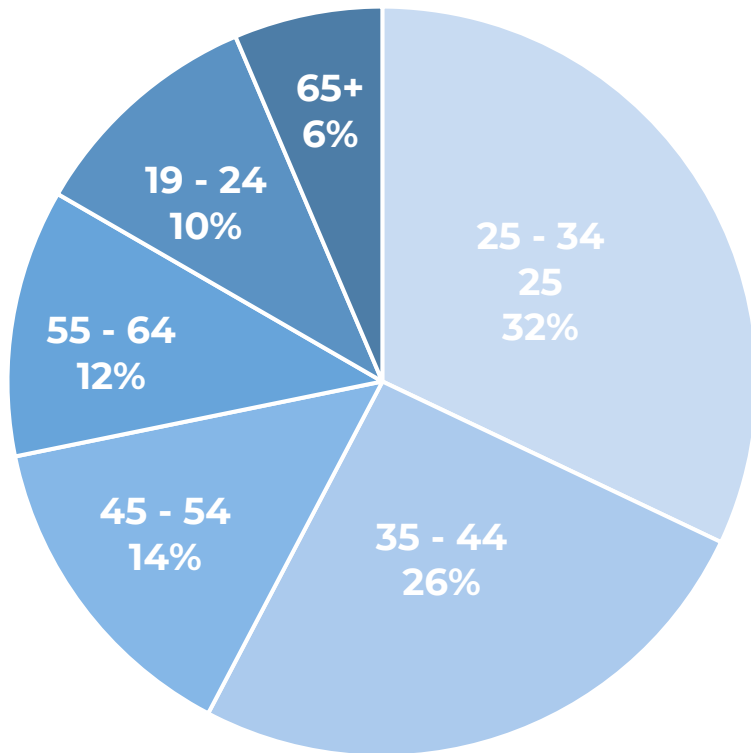
Vishaan Chakrabarti, FAIA, *Lead of Sunnyside Yard Master Plan Consultant Team, Founder of PAU*

**Sunnyside Yard Master Plan**

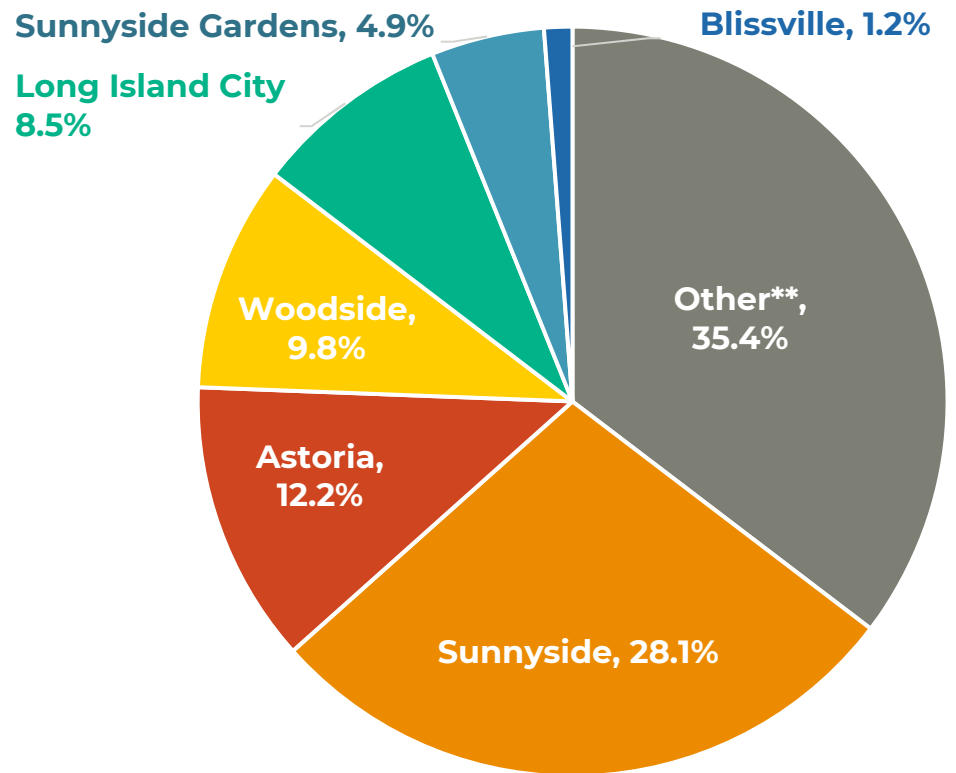


# 375+ People Attended the First Public Meeting!

## Age\*



## Residence\*



\*Data from survey conducted during Public Meeting #1.

\*\*Of those who selected "Other" 10 reside in Brooklyn, including Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn Heights, Greenpoint, Bushwick, and Williamsburg; 9 reside in Manhattan, including Murray Hill, East Village, Harlem, and Washington Heights; and 7 reside in other neighborhoods in Queens, such as Jamaica, Flushing, Ozone Park, Ridgewood, and Maspeth. One participant was a resident of Dutchess County.

# Summary of Findings

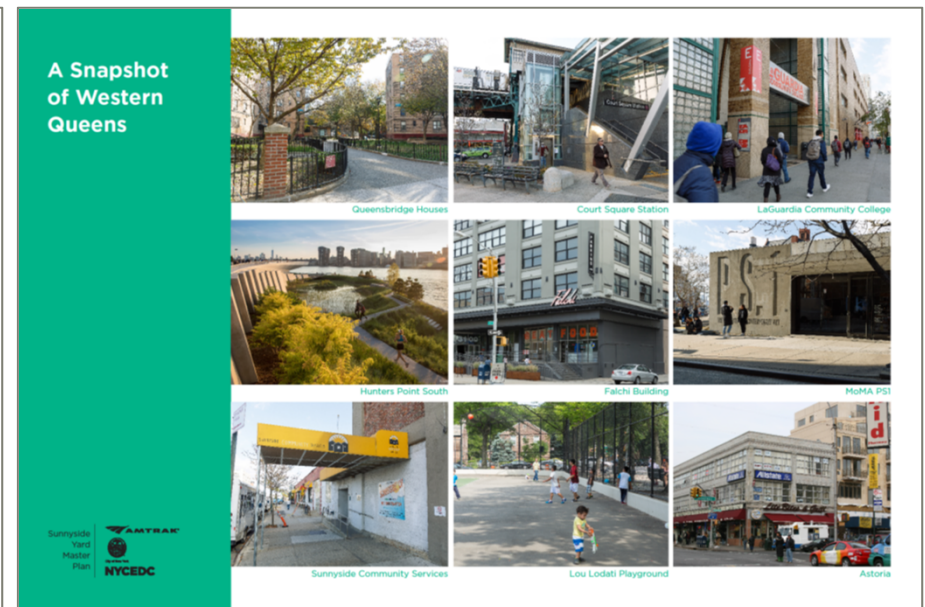
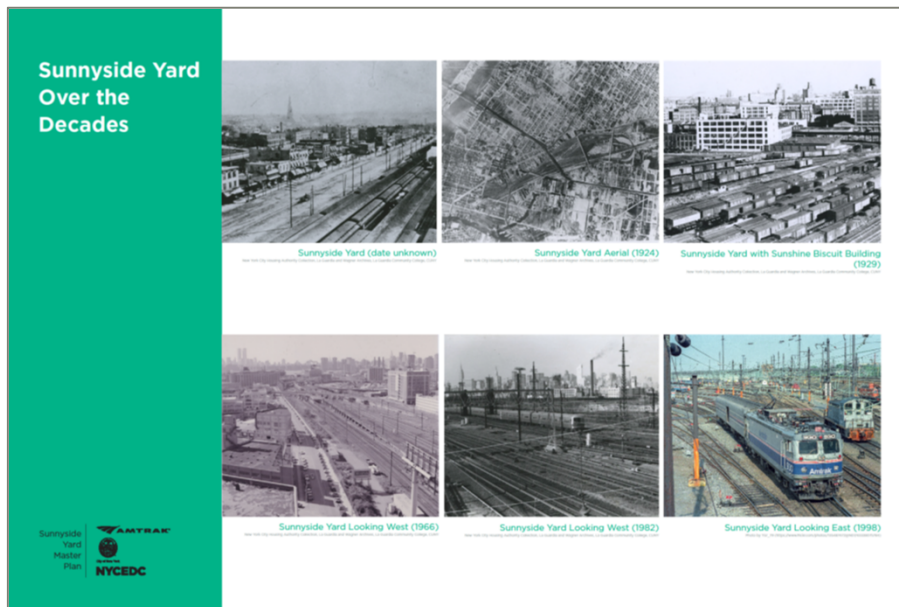
The public meeting offered a number of activities designed to collect feedback from attendees on a range of topics. Participants highlighted the extent to which the Sunnyside Yard Master Plan is an opportunity to:

- Ensure that **quality of life** is invested in today and improved for future generations
- **Increase access to green space**, neighborhood parks, and open spaces in the community
- Meet the needs for truly **affordable housing** in Western Queens
- **Create good, quality jobs** through the site's programs and uses
- **Reshape the current transit system** connecting Western Queens to the rest of the borough, Manhattan, and beyond



# Station 1: Introduction to Sunnyside Yard

The first station provided an overview of the history of Sunnyside Yard and highlighted recent and active projects in the neighborhood. Two activities solicited input about opportunities and challenges in the area and information about destinations around the Yard.



# Station 1: Introduction to Sunnyside Yard

## Opportunities and Concerns Activity Input

This activity asked participants to identify **opportunities and concerns** facing Western Queens as it continues to evolve.



Sunnyside Yard Master Plan

### Top Opportunities:

1. More parks and green space for the community
2. Diversity of the community and the variety of services these attract, like housing that accommodates people of all ages and abilities
3. Job and educational opportunities

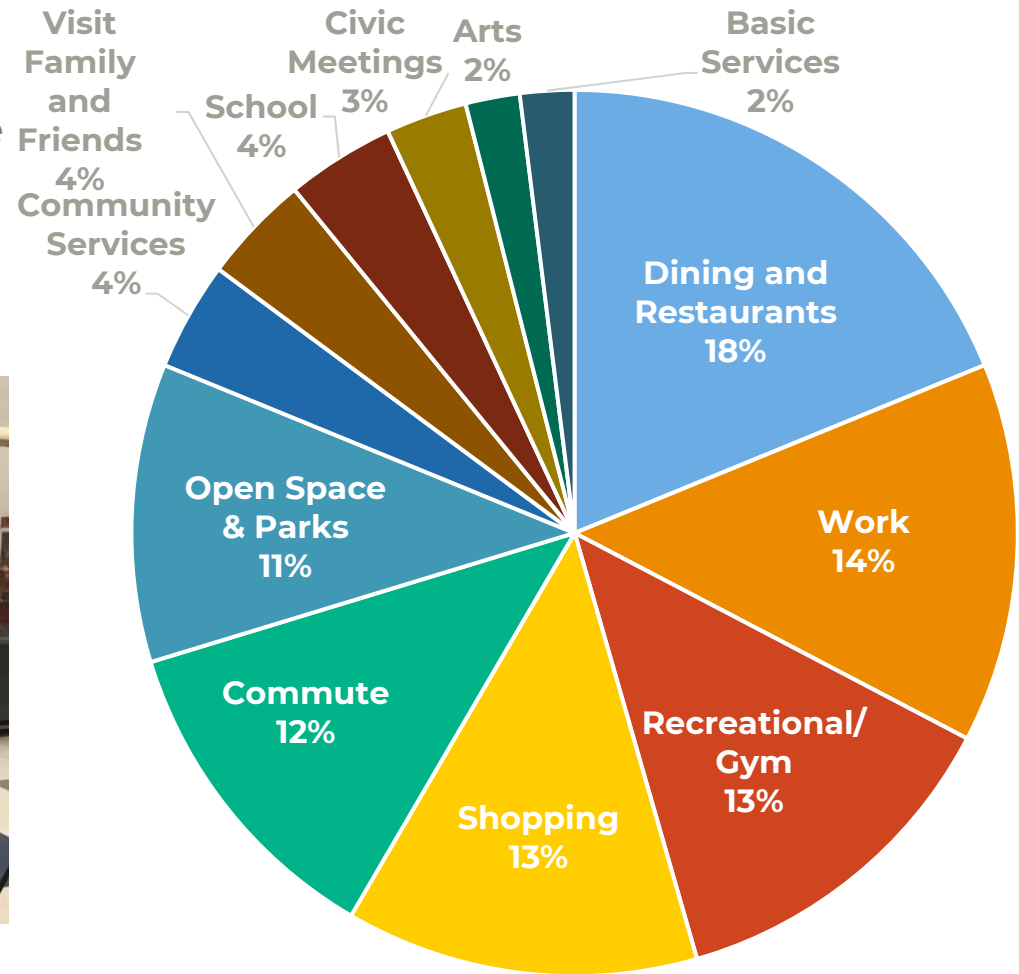
### Top Concerns:

1. The lack of affordability of housing, services, and amenities
2. Aging infrastructure of public transit, sewer, and water lines
3. Mass transit's capacity to withstand population increases
4. Overcrowding of existing schools

# Station 1: Introduction to Sunnyside Yard

## Destinations Around Sunnyside Yard Activity Input

This activity asked participants to identify **why they visited other neighborhoods** around Sunnyside Yard. Pins were color-coded to identify the participant's home neighborhood.

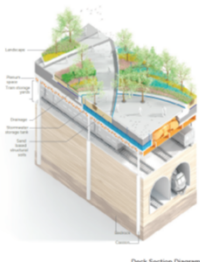


# Station 2: Inside Sunnyside Yard

The second station provided an overview of the functions of the Yard and a high-level description of how you build a platform over a railyard.

## How do you deck over a Railyard?

## What type of activities take place inside a Yard?



**Deck Section Diagram**

**What is a deck?**

A deck is a platform structure that is built over rail tracks to allow different types of buildings and open spaces to be built above.

Decks can be different sizes and use different construction methods, depending on the specific context of the railroad uses below and the types of uses desired above.

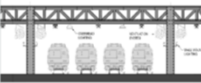
**Why is it complicated?**

**Existing railroad tracks** – the columns and piers that support the deck need to avoid existing tracks.

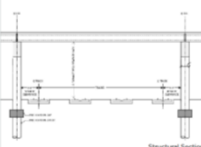
**Existing power source catenary** – the deck either needs to clear catenary (U-shaped wires) or transition properly from existing supports to the new deck.

**Constructability** – a project must be able to build new foundations, supporting columns, and the deck without affecting railroad operations.

**Ventilation and other systems** – construction of a ventilation system which supports diesel-powered locomotives and other railroad equipment.



**Rail Yard Section**



**Structural Section**


**What variables impact the design of a deck?**

Track layout, spacing, and railroad operations dictate the placement of structural columns for the deck:

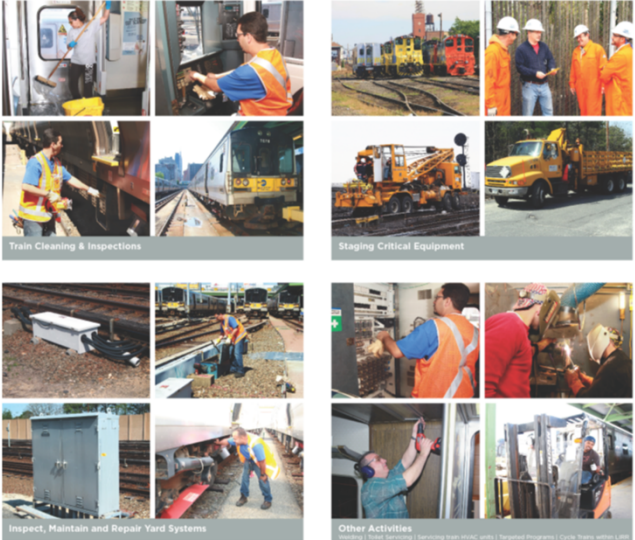
- Span length
- Deck thickness
- Column type and width
- Type of Foundation

Placement of columns to support a deck must account for various site conditions including the location of:

- Right of Way (ROW)
- Railroad infrastructure
- Existing utilities (above and below ground)
- Substructure and tunnels



Sunnyside Yard Master Plan



**Train Cleaning & Inspections**

**Staging Critical Equipment**

**Inspect, Maintain and Repair Yard Systems**

**Other Activities**  
Staging | Train Servicing | Servicing train (MTC units) | Repaired Programs | Carry Trains within LIRR



## Station 3: Master Planning and the Future of Sunnyside Yard

The third station explained the process of master planning and the different types of public space typologies that could be part of the plan for Sunnyside Yard. This station invited people to participate in three activities:

1. Identifying and prioritizing Guiding Principles for the Plan
2. Describing visions for Yard
3. Prioritizing types of public space



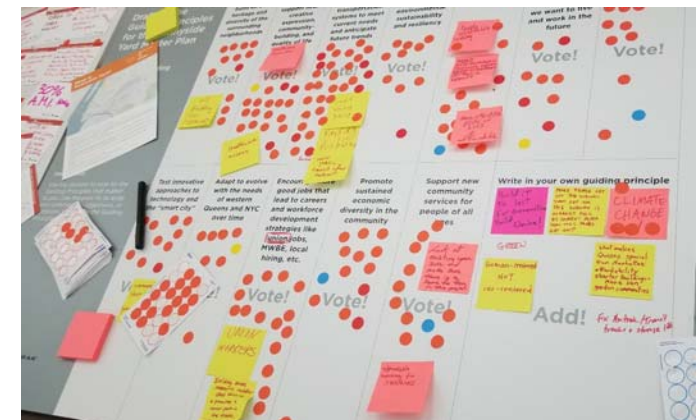
# Station 3: Master Planning and the Future of Sunnyside Yard

## Guiding Principles Activity Findings

The top 5 guiding principles identified were:

1. Design **infrastructure and transportation** systems to meet current and anticipate future trends (32 votes)
2. Create **public spaces** that support health, creative expression, community-building, and quality of life (19 votes)
3. Explore new ways to create a mix of **affordable housing** (16 votes)
4. Encourage more **good jobs** that lead to careers and workforce development strategies like union jobs, MWBE, local hiring, etc. (16 votes)
5. Promote sustained **economic diversity** in the community (14 votes)

Drafting the Guiding Principles for the Sunnyside Yard Master Plan	Respect and build on the heritage and diversity of the surrounding neighborhoods	Create public spaces that support health, creative expression, community-building, and quality of life	Design infrastructure and transportation systems to meet current needs and anticipate future trends	Set ambitious standards and explore creative strategies for environmental sustainability and resiliency	Explore new ways to create a mix of affordable housing	Support creative approaches to education, careers, and industries that envision how we want to live and work in the future	Ensure high-quality, human-centered design at every scale
Vote on the guiding principles!	Vote!	Vote!	Vote!	Vote!	Vote!	Vote!	Vote!
Instructions: Use the stickers to vote for the Guiding Principles that matter to you. Use the post-it to write your comments, suggestions, or questions to improve the Guiding Principles.	Test innovative approaches to technology and the "smart city"	Adapt to evolve with the needs of western Queens and NYC over time	Encourage more good jobs that lead to careers and workforce development strategies like union jobs, MWBE, local hiring, etc.	Promote sustained economic diversity in the community	Support new community services for people of all ages	Write in your own guiding principle	
	Vote!	Vote!	Vote!	Vote!	Vote!	Add!	



# Station 3: Master Planning and the Future of Sunnyside Yard

## Vision for Sunnyside Yard Activity Findings

### Key Themes:



Affordable Housing



Open Space



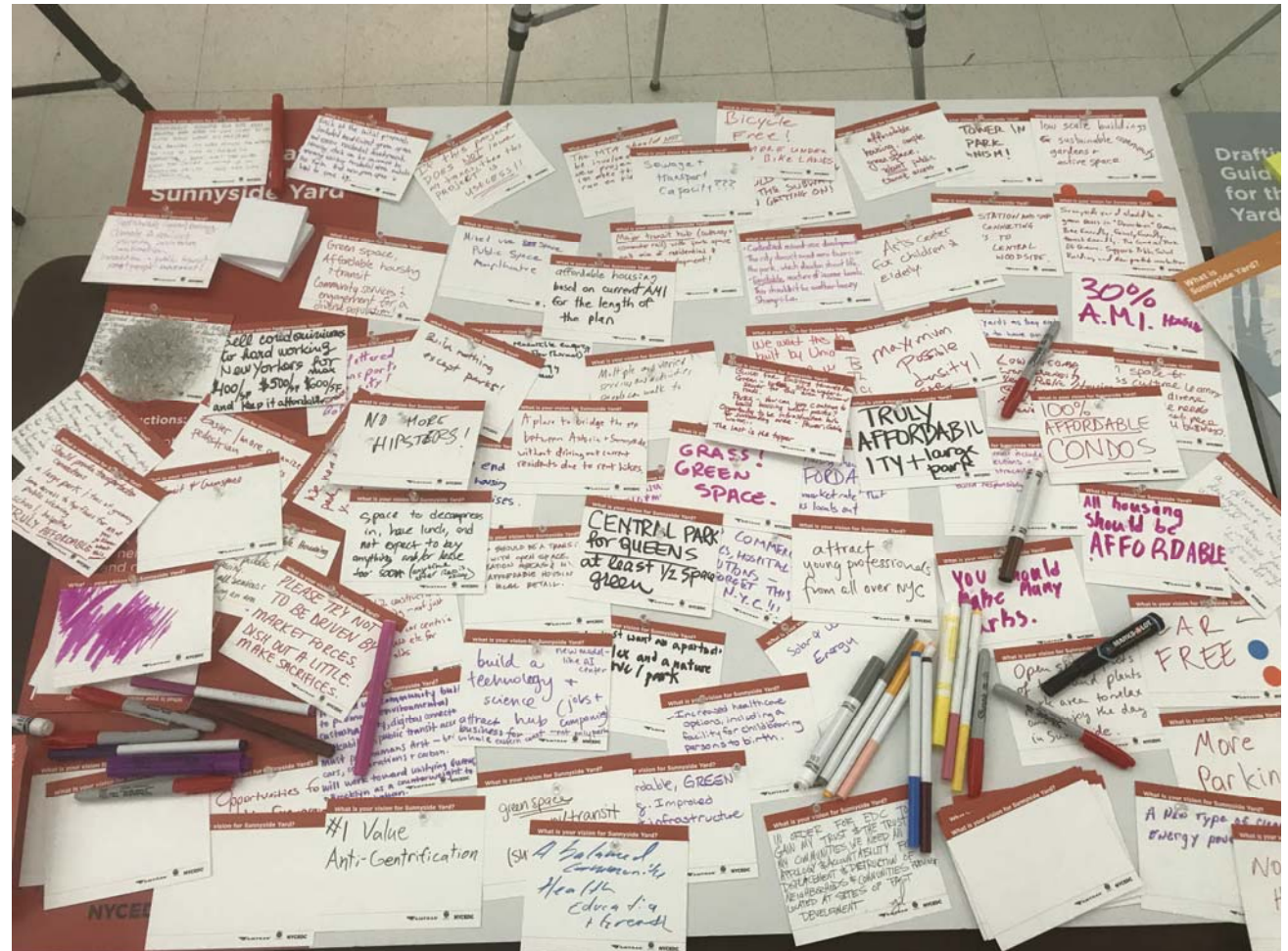
Sustainable buildings



Alleviate transit issues



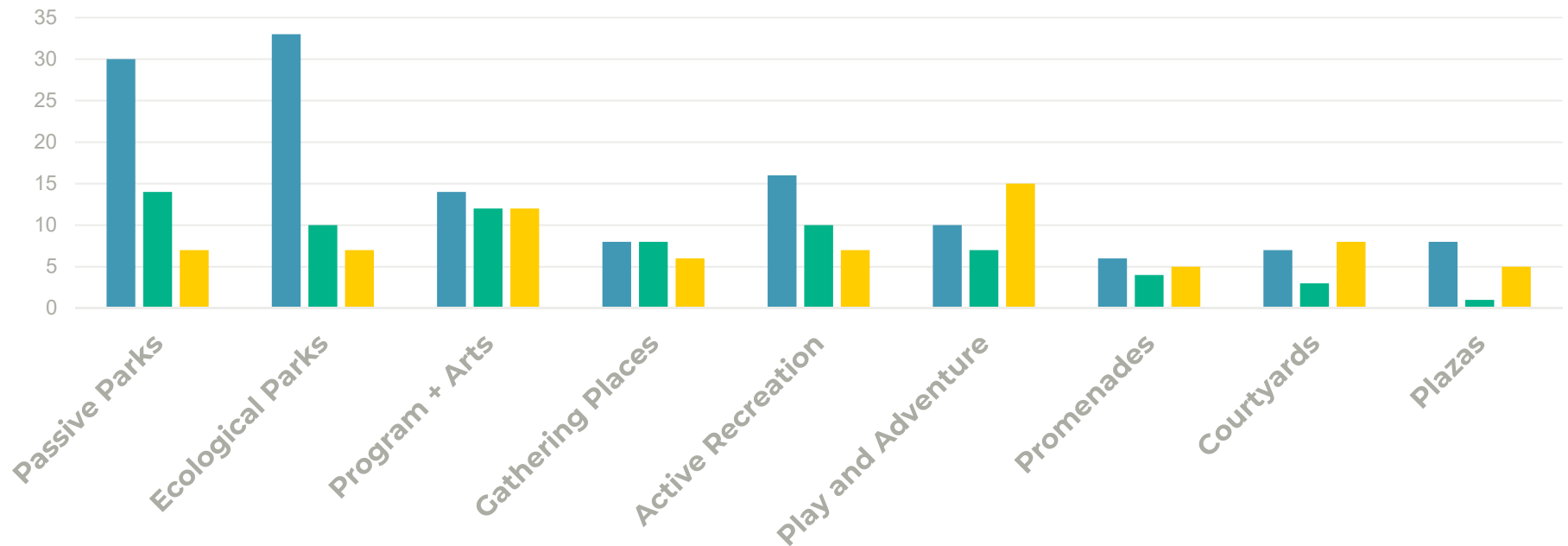
Support and bolster Queens' multi-cultural profile



# Station 3: Master Planning and the Future of Sunnyside Yard

## Public Space Activity Findings

Votes for Public and Open Space Typologies



■ 1st Choice ■ 2nd Choice ■ 3rd Choice

# Station 4: Connecting Sunnyside Yard

Station 4 provided an overview of transportation in Western Queens and included a collaborative mapping exercise

## Western Queens Transportation

How do people get through Western Queens? What does multi-modal transit look like? This map explores the many modes of transportation that serve Western Queens.



**Queensboro Bridge:**  
170,300 daily vehicles  
**Queens-Midtown Tunnel:**  
73,500 daily vehicles

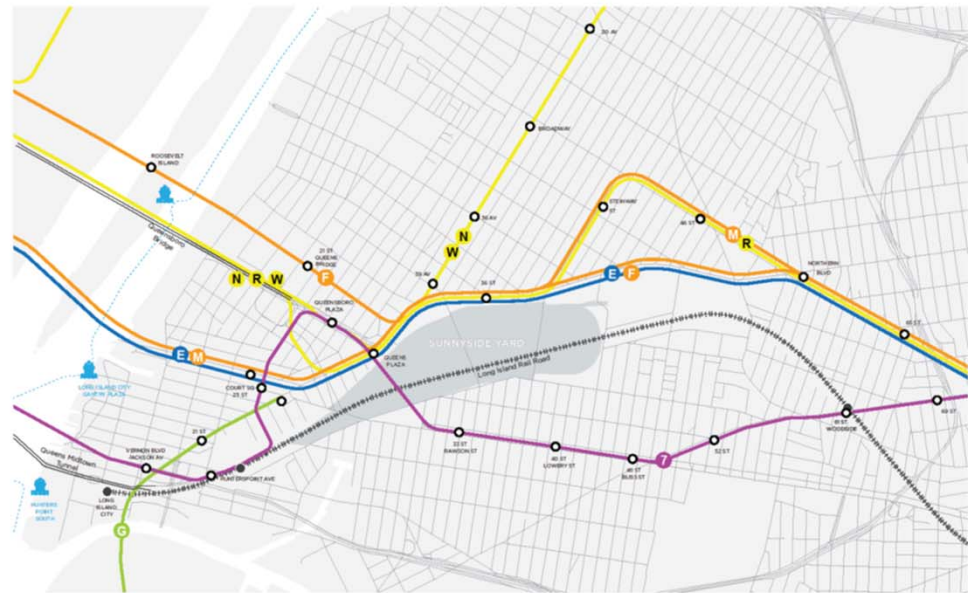


**Queensboro Bridge:**  
5,400 daily cyclists



**Long Island Rail Road:**  
5,900 daily passengers  
(Long Island City and Hunter's Point Ave Stations)

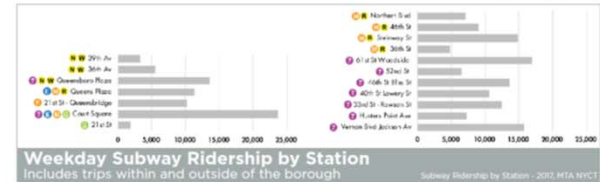
Vehicle Volume - 2016, NYC Bridge Traffic, Western Queens Volume - 2017, Cycling in the City Report, Subway & LIRR Daily Passengers - 2016, MTA's Rail Board, Transit



**NYC Ferry:**  
Astoria stop: 1,100 passengers\*  
HPS stop: 1,500 passengers\*  
LIC stop: 1,200 passengers\*









**NYCT Subway**  
Queens4-Manhattan  
987,900 daily passengers  
traveling between the boroughs on N, R, W, E, F, M, 7



\* Numbers for combined weekend/weekday daily ridership  
Ferry Ridership - 2017, NYCTDC

## Station 4: Connecting Sunnyside Yard

The Collaborative Mapping tool used Google Places to allow participants to identify infrastructure concerns and opportunities facing Western Queens. Themes included:

-  Opportunity to transform the Yard into a **major transit hub** serving the region at large through LIRR, New Jersey Transit, Amtrak, & regional airports.
-  **Subway capacity and improvements** remain a major concern for Western Queens. Close to 1/3 of tags expressed concerns about accommodating growing population.
-  Neighborhoods surrounding the Yard face **limited parking** with Sunnyside Gardens particularly troubled by the shortage of available space in their neighborhood.
-  **Increased and improved bus service** could alleviate congestion across other modes of transit.
-  More **protected bike lanes** could provide valuable alternative means of transit for residents of Western Queens.
-  **Infrastructure**, such as pedestrian-friendly areas, green space, and sewage lines, will become increasingly important as more people move to the area.

# Station 5: Community Engagement

Station 5 outlined the Community Engagement process for the Sunnyside Yard Master Plan and solicited input on preferred types of communication and engagement in the future.

## What Will Community Engagement Look Like in the Sunnyside Yard Master Planning Process?



Over the next 18 months, **community engagement for the Sunnyside Yard** planning process could look like:

- Workshops
- Small group meetings
- Public meetings
- Tabling at community fairs
- Interactive exercises
- Surveys
- Interviews
- Pop-up events
- Planning with local students
- Office hours
- Art installations
- And more...

**We want to hear from you!**

## How would you want to participate in this conversation?

Although each engagement session will be different, we will use the following set of **principles** to guide each event:

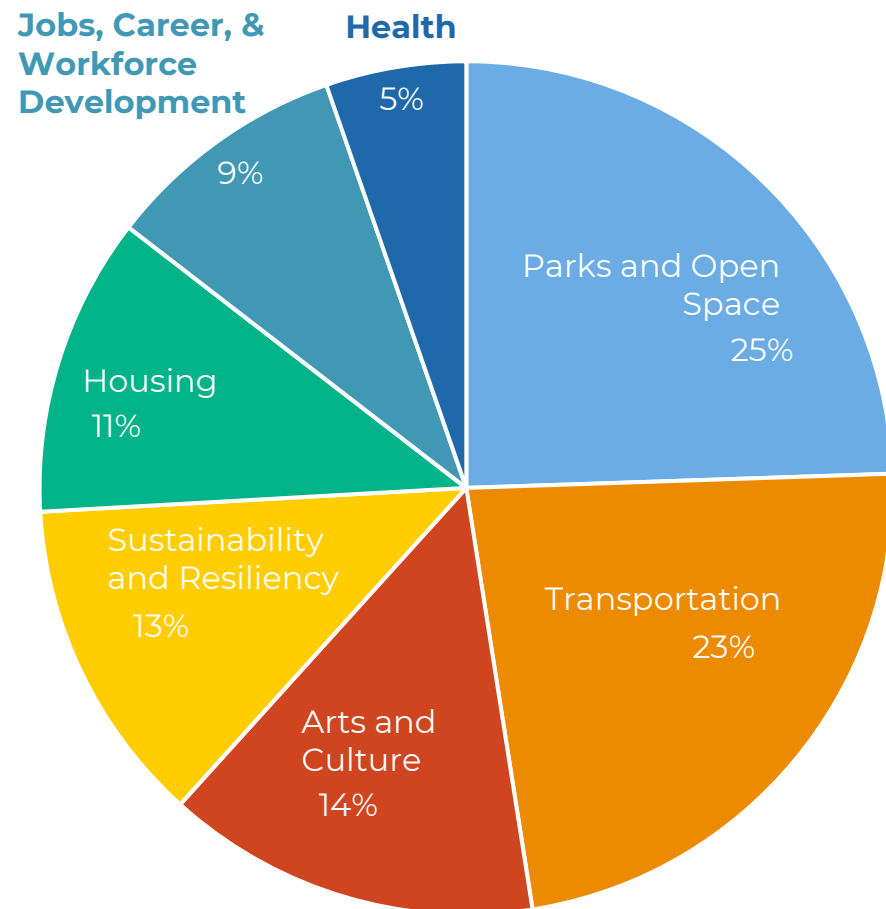


# Station 5: Community Engagement

## Workshop Topics Activity

Participants were asked to vote for **topics that most interest them for workshops and other community engagement events**. The topics that most interest participants are:

1. Parks and open space
2. Transportation
3. Arts and Culture
4. Sustainability and Resiliency
5. Housing
6. Jobs and Workforce Training





## Station 6: What Makes Western Queens Unique? (Youth Station)

### Key Themes

1. Neighbors and the **people** that make up their communities make their neighborhoods unique.
2. **Small and local businesses** are what make Western Queens special.
3. The **multicultural fabric** of the community is another positive element of the surrounding neighborhoods.
4. The good **quality of life** in Western Queens is made possible by the mixed-use neighborhoods and walkable neighborhoods.



# Incorporating the Insights into the Master Plan

How is this information being incorporated in the Sunnyside Yard Master Plan?

The detailed insights generated from the first public meeting:

1. Will be **reviewed by the consultant teams to inform their analysis** – from mobility planning to open space design.
2. Will be **presented to the Steering Committee** at their next meeting.
3. Will **inform future engagement events**, including workshops, public meetings, and interviews to continue building an **inclusive and sustainable vision for Sunnyside Yard**.

