



Planning an Everyday Destination for the Local Community



The City of Kingston, NY, hired KaN Landscape Design to develop a community-

driven design of two new greenspaces along the Kingston Greenline (a network of trails and complete streets) to support and encourage walking and bicycling. The outreach feedback was the most diverse of recent City projects.

PLANNING FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Creating a beautiful design along a crucial, yet currently bare juncture of the Kingston Greenline right in the heart of Midtown Kingston will encourage and support more people to choose to walk or bike. Not only does it make the trip more desirable and pleasant, but the designs will provide shade structures and benches

for those who might need to rest, along with bike racks so that people can safely secure their bikes.

ANCHORED IN HISTORY

The opportunity for new pocket parks came about when the intersection was realigned in 2021. Historically, at this location, was a beautiful post office built in 1908 that was torn down during the Urban Renewal era. A robust outreach was needed because the destruction of the architectural gem is still a sore point for the community.



Photo from the Friends of Historic Kingston as printed in the *Life and Death of the Post Office* by Blauweiss Media.

YOUTH-LED PROCESS

One of the reasons that KaN Landscape Design was chosen was their unique suggestion of having the youth lead the process. They worked with three local organizations, YMCA Farm Project, Place Corps, and PUGG/DRAW Kingston to host youth-led workshops in an iterative process of creating conceptual designs.



Additionally, they conducted extensive community outreach by partnering with multiple local organizations and community events. They studied past relevant plans and found inspiration from other cities.

that it would increase community ownership and buy-in.

NEXT PHASE

The City of Kingston has secured over \$500,000 in funding to construct a "phase 1" of the design in either fall 2023 or spring 2024 and is having early conversations about how to fund the rest of the design in future years.

Multiple departments collaborated to ensure the feasibility and sustainability of the spaces, including Parks & Recreation, Engineering, Public Works, Water, and Arts & Culture.

Public Outreach by the Numbers

75 Number of Youth Involved

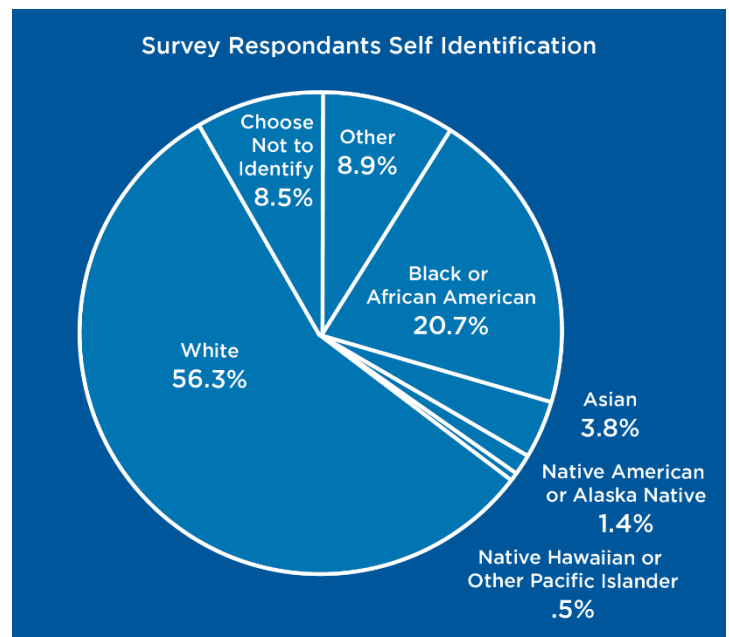
144 Snacks Given Out

1,500 Estimated People Reached

50% Of Respondents that Use Non-Vehicular Transportation

SUCCESSFUL OUTREACH

In addition to this work, KaN conducted or attended over 8 community events during 2 months of outreach during the fall of 2022, at which they spoke with an estimated 1500 community members and received 267 responses to a community survey. Around 50% of the respondents reported that they usually get to the spaces by a mode of transportation other than a car and nearly 50% of them lived in the neighborhood (Midtown). It was a more diverse group of respondents as well, with 35% identifying as BIPOC, and over 20% identifying as Hispanic or Latino. This diversity was identified as a goal for the project with the hope



Following the presentation of the final design one person wrote:

"This rendering looks absolutely beautiful. Please build this!"

To learn more about our work visit:

www.kingston-ny.gov/health-and-wellness/chsc

Email: kkessler@kingston-ny.gov