

(the lack of)

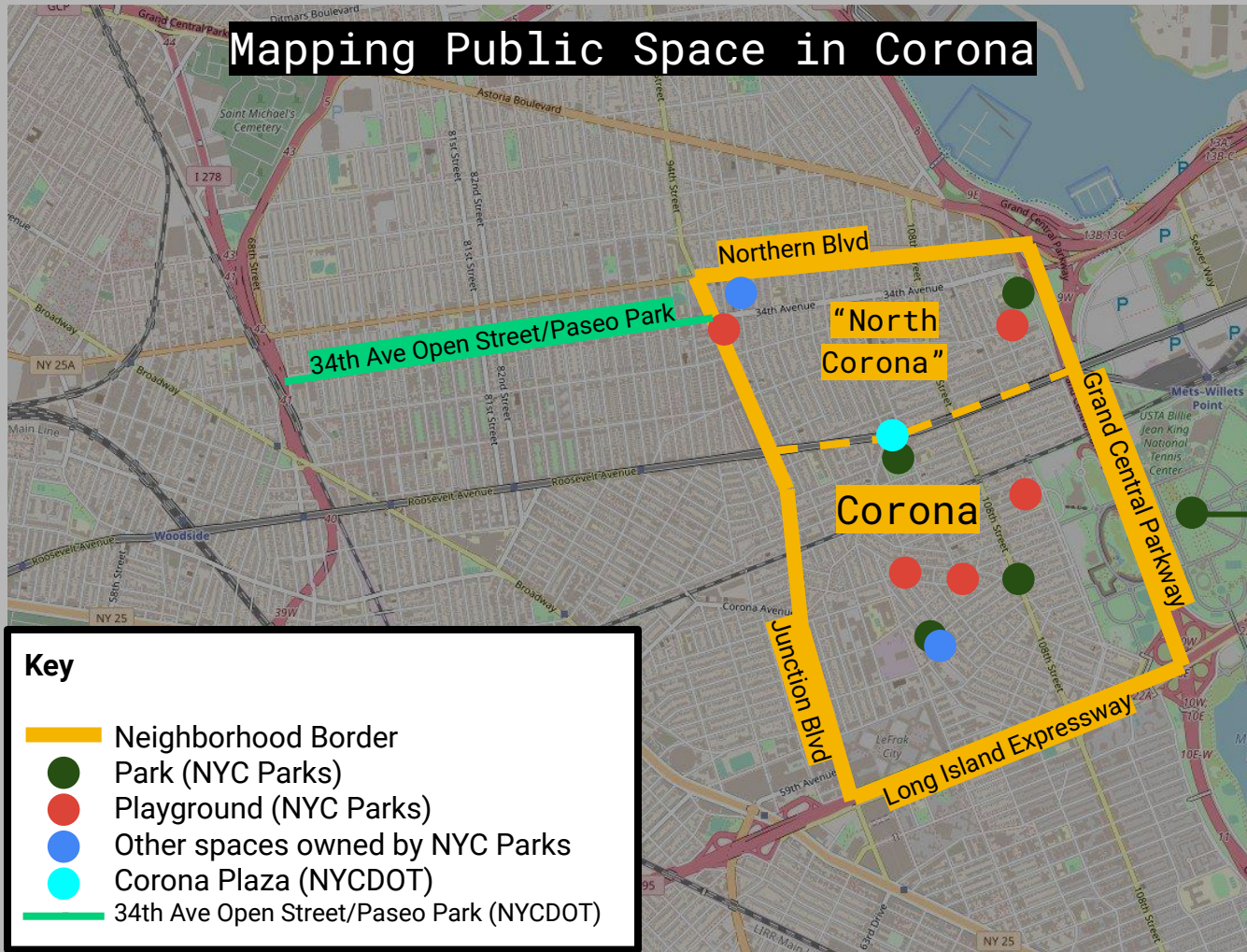
Public space in Corona

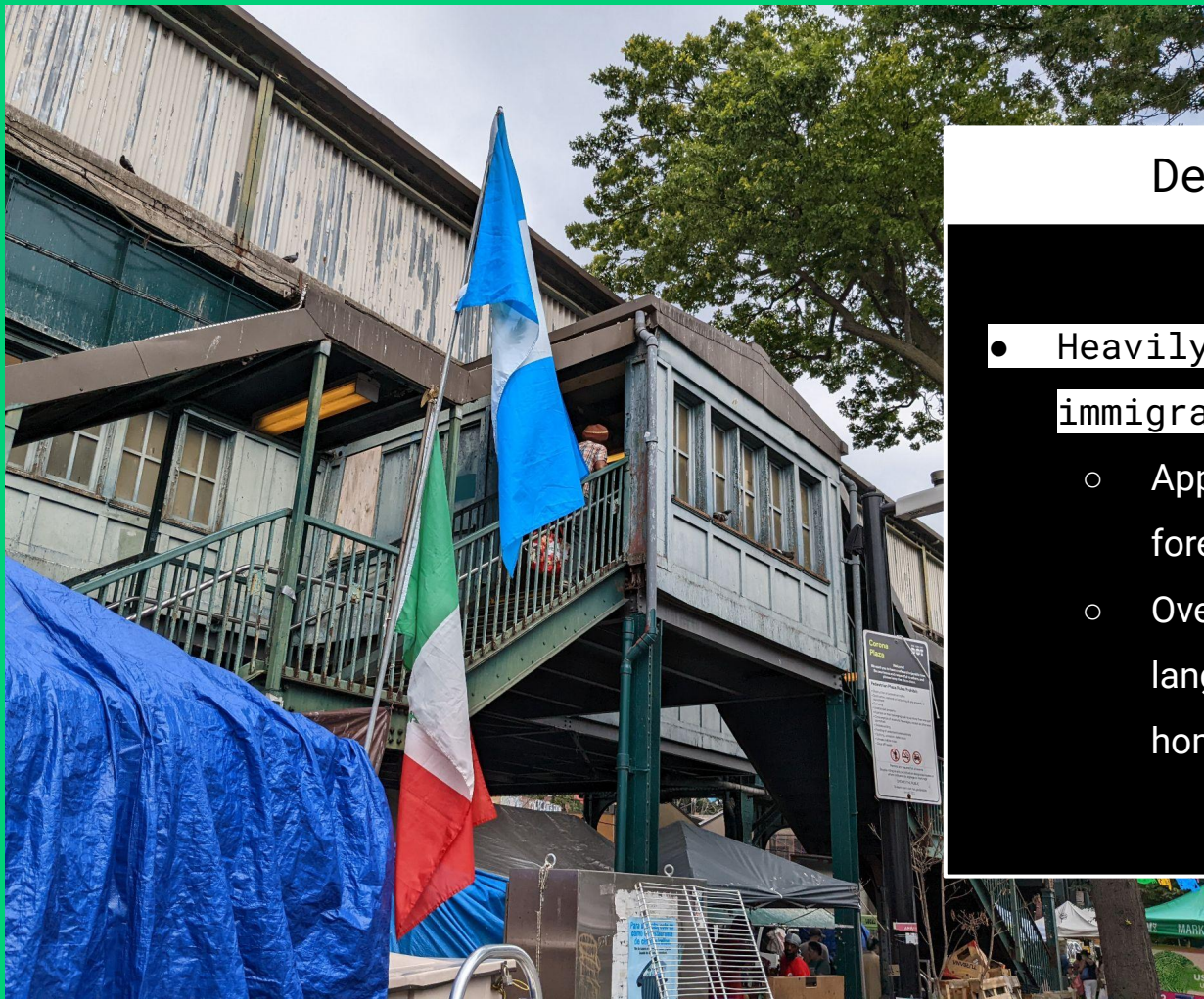
Henry Mei - August 4th, 2022

*All photos by Henry Mei unless otherwise noted.
Aerial satellite maps by Nearmap.*



Mapping Public Space in Corona





Demographics

- Heavily working class & immigrant
 - Approx. 60% of residents are foreign-born *
 - Over 85% of residents speak a language other than English at home *

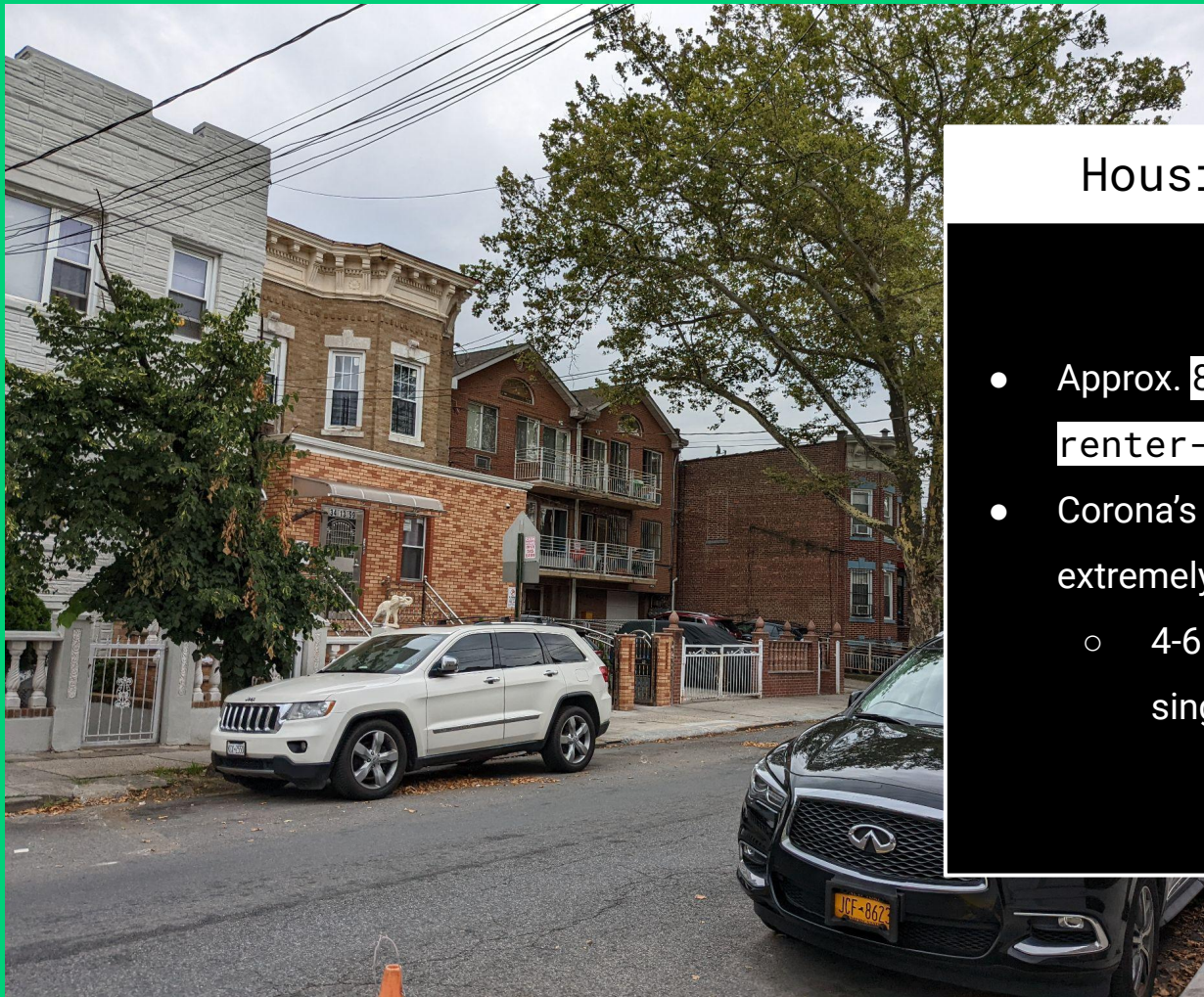
* From "NYC Population FactFinder" using data on the Corona and North Corona NTAs from the 2015-19 ACS

Demographics

- Historically home to European immigrants, Black Americans & Afro-Caribbeans
- Today, **Latinos** make up **>75%** of Corona. The largest groups include: *
 - Mexicans
 - Ecuadorians
 - Dominicans



* From ["NYC Population FactFinder"](#) using data on the Corona and North Corona NTAs from the 2015-19 ACS



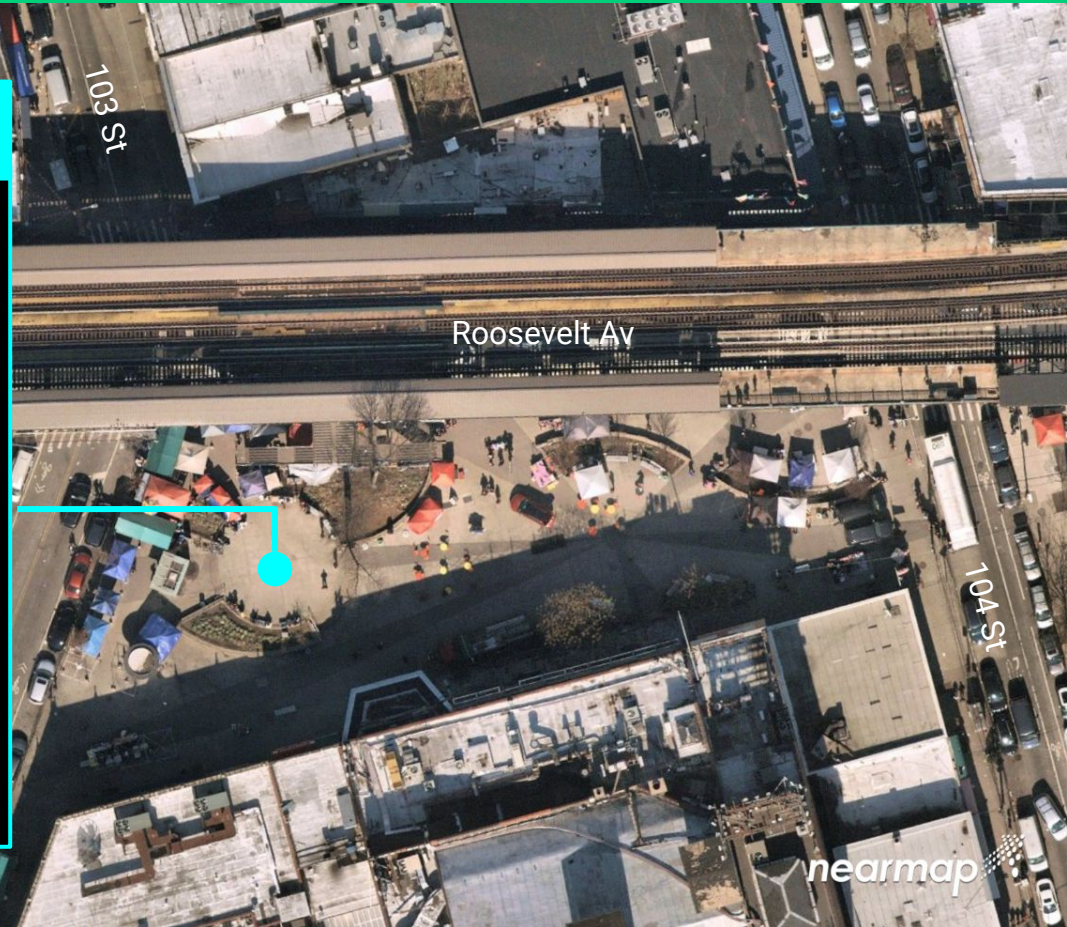
Housing in Corona

- Approx. **80%** of housing units are **renter-occupied** *
- Corona's houses and apartments are extremely overcrowded
 - 4-6 people can be sharing a single bedroom

* From "[NYC Population FactFinder](#)" using data on the Corona and North Corona NTAs from the 2015-19 ACS

Corona Plaza

- Former parking lot
- Transformation into a plaza took over a decade
 - Began with block parties in 2007
 - Interim plaza installed in 2012
 - Capital reconstruction permanently rebuilt the plaza starting in 2016
- Community partners, public engagement, and street vendors integral to its success



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Programming on the interim plaza



MOBILE PRINT POWER SCREEN PRINTING WORKSHOP

"I think that this space is the most beneficial for kids. Because kids always need open space and a place to flourish and develop their skills, and above all they need a place to breathe fresh air, to be social and to meet other children, to share something... And that's what I've seen in Corona Plaza.

In the screen printing workshop, the kids made their own designs. Seeing what they can do, at just five years old, that's an incredible sense of power and security that we give to the kids, and they need it a lot."

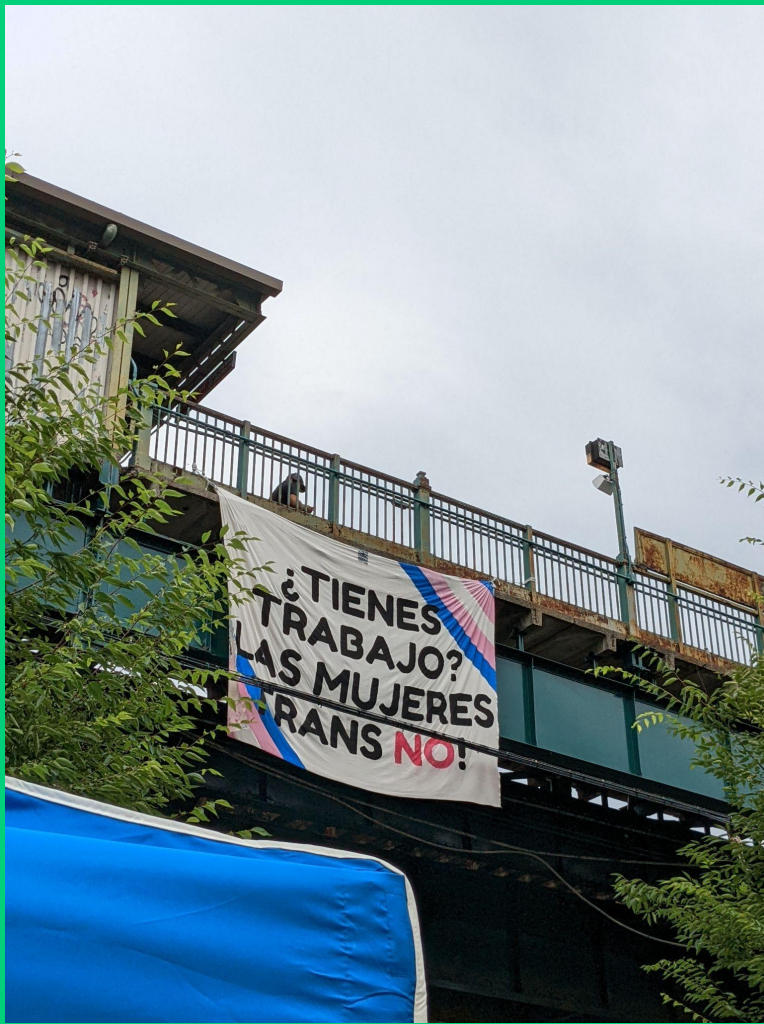


"That place used to be full of moving trucks, and you weren't able to go there or even see anything. And then all of a sudden there was a digging truck, people with shovels and there was yellow tape all around. That got my attention. I wondered what they were going to do here. I started taking pictures and the workers weren't shy at all. On the contrary, it seemed like they wanted to be photographed working, so I did it. And they changed the space super fast. One day I saw them digging and removing dirt and the next day there were chairs and people were sitting there drinking coffee. It was beautiful."

INSTALLATION OF TEMPORARY PLAZA

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Installation of interim plaza (epoxy gravel)

Interim Plaza



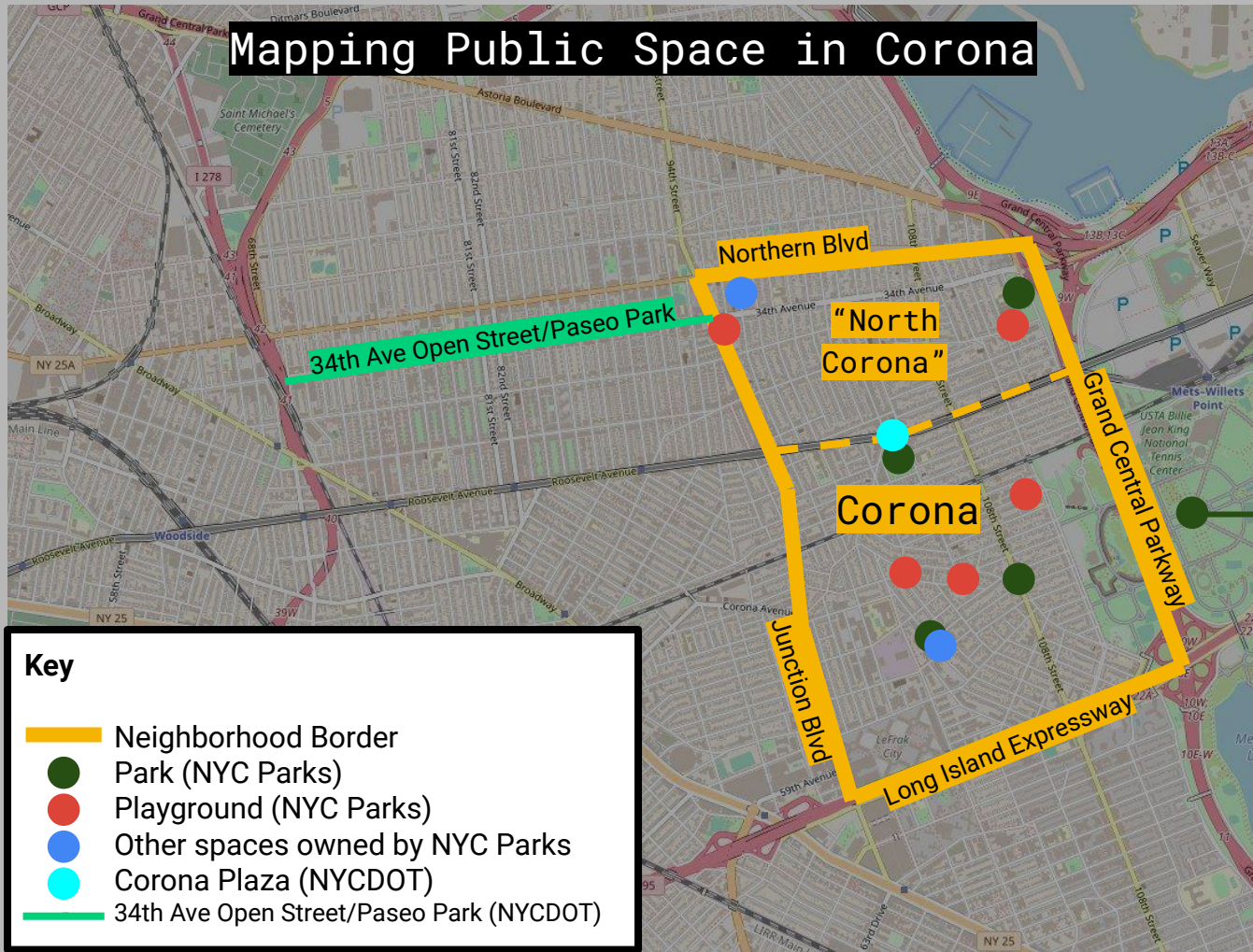
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Banner from Make the Road NY's
Trans Latinx March

^ R
Sunburst pattern; Green market

Today



Mapping Public Space in Corona





34th Ave Open Street

- *“Limited Local Access”* - No thru traffic; local access only
- 26 blocks (69 St to Junction Blvd) - Everyday from 7AM to 8PM
- Community Partner - 34th Ave Open Streets Coalition



Streetfilms (1,033 videos!)

@Streetfilms



Parents were wondering why PS212 on the @34_ave #openstreet why their school wasn't taking advantage of the street as much as others along the corridor. So they held a fun dismissal event! @dawnsiff @NYC_DOT @OpenPlans @StreetsblogNYC @QnsBPRichards @voteshekar @KathyParkPrice



PS 212 Parents

2:15 PM · Apr 10, 2022 · Twitter Media Studio

10 Retweets 6 Quote Tweets 50 Likes



34th Avenue Corridor Design

Create fully pedestrianized programmable plazas on 34th Ave from:

- 69th St. to 70th St. on the north side
- 73rd St. to 74th St. on the north side
- 77th St. to 78th St. on the north and south sides
- 78th St. to 79th St. on the south side
- 79th St. to 80th St. on the north side
- 93rd St. to 94th St. on the north and south sides

Create shared streets on 34th Ave from:

- 69th St. to 70th St. on the south side
- 73rd St. to 74th St. on the south side
- 74th St. to 75th St. on the north side
- 78th St. to 79th St. on the north side
- 82nd St. to 83rd St. on the north and south sides
- 94th St. to Junction Blvd. on the north side

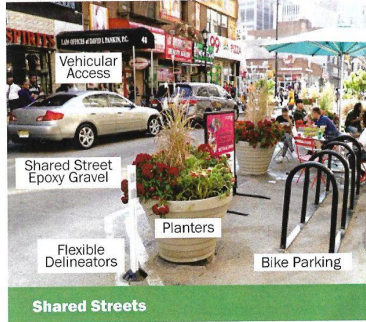
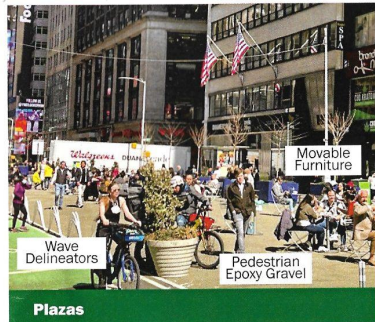
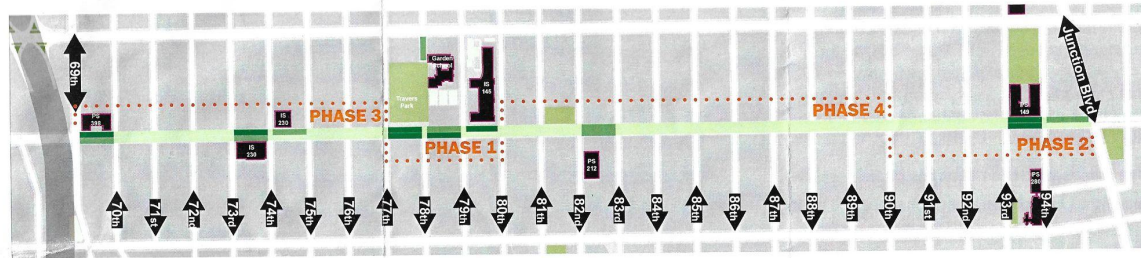
Convert 78th St. to 2-way from 34th Ave to 35th Ave.

Create traffic diverters at the intersections of 34th Ave and:

- 71st St., 72nd St., 75th St., 76th St., 81st St., 84th St., 85th St., 86th St., 87th St., 88th St., 89th St., 90th St., 91st St., and 92nd St.

Convert traffic signals to stop controls at the intersection of 34th Ave and:

- 70th St., 71st St., 72nd St., 75th St., 76th St., 77th St., 78th St., 79th St., 80th St., 84th St., 85th St., 86 St., 87th St., 88th St., 91st St., 92nd St., 93rd St., and 94th St.



Paseo Park redesign (69 St to Junction Blvd)



Ongoing plaza + shared blocks implementation (77 to 80 St)



Ongoing plaza + shared blocks implementation (77 to 80 St)

What does this
have to do with Corona?



PS 149 Q

PS 92 Q

34th Ave Open Street/Paseo Park

New Plaza

New Shared Block

PS 280 Q

PS 92 Q

- 800+ students
- Annex was built onto schoolyard, meaning more students but less playspace
- Title I public school



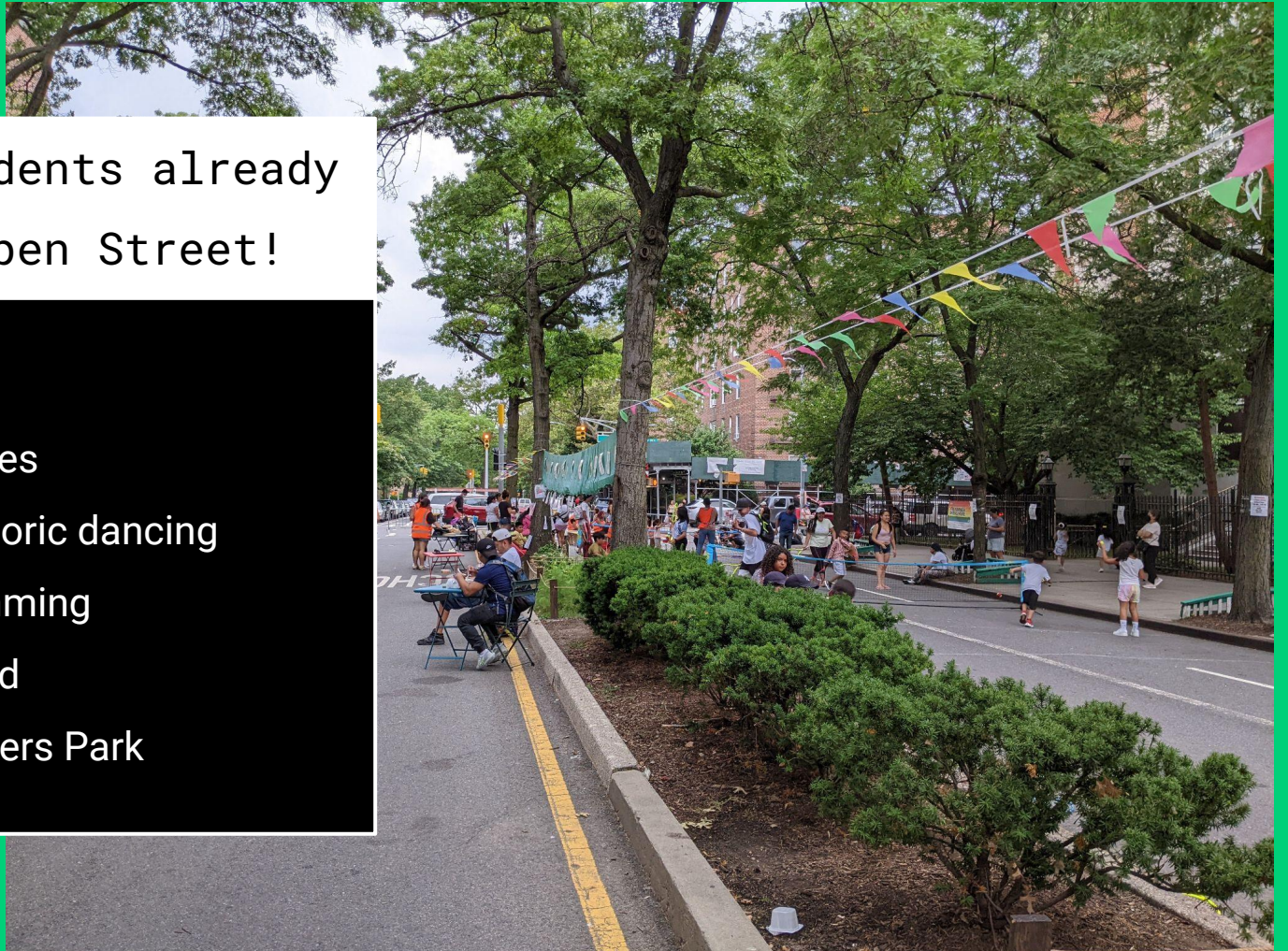
PS 92 Q parents

and Corona residents expressed:

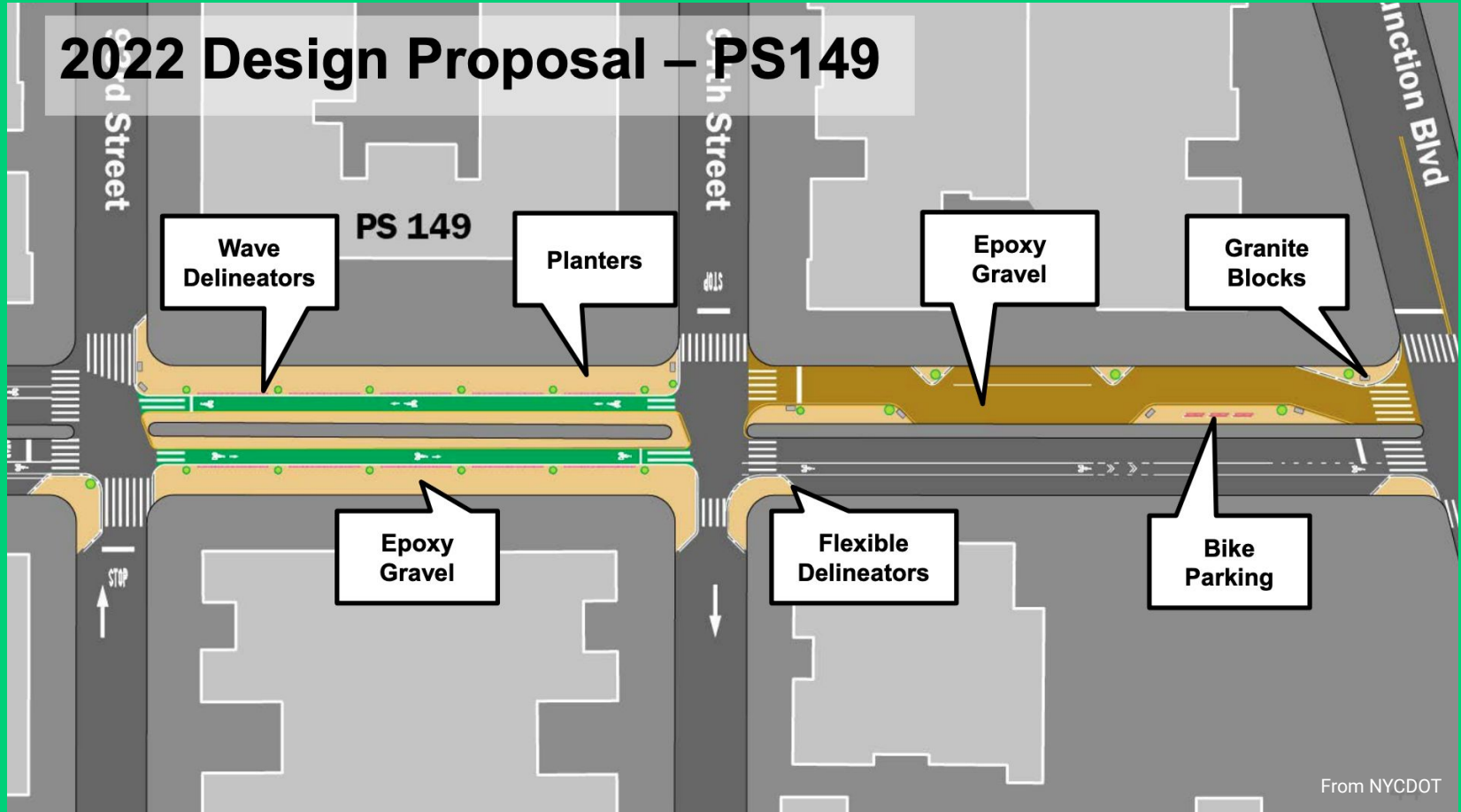
- Lack of public space in Corona
- Dramatic difference in safety on 34th Ave between the sections west and east of Junction Blvd
- Junction Playground (on 34th Ave between Junction Blvd and 96 St) is chronically overcrowded
- PS 92 Q's already downsized schoolyard is closed during the summer; not part of DOE's Community Playgrounds program
- Parents in Corona prefer going to Travers Park in Jackson Heights rather than Flushing Meadows Corona Park because of the Open Street
- Living in a house ≠ home ownership

Corona residents already
use the Open Street!

- Food pantry
- English classes
- Mexican folkloric dancing
- Kids programming
- Fresh Air Fund
- Going to Travers Park



2022 Design Proposal – PS149



Upcoming pedestrian plaza (93 to 94 St) & shared block (94 St to Junction Blvd)



34th Ave looking east from Junction Blvd



PS 149 Q

PS 92 Q

34th Ave Open Street/Paseo Park

New Plaza

New Shared Block

PS 280 Q

<<< Jackson Heights

Corona >>>

34th Ave Open Street/Paseo Park

Junction Blvd





Thank you.