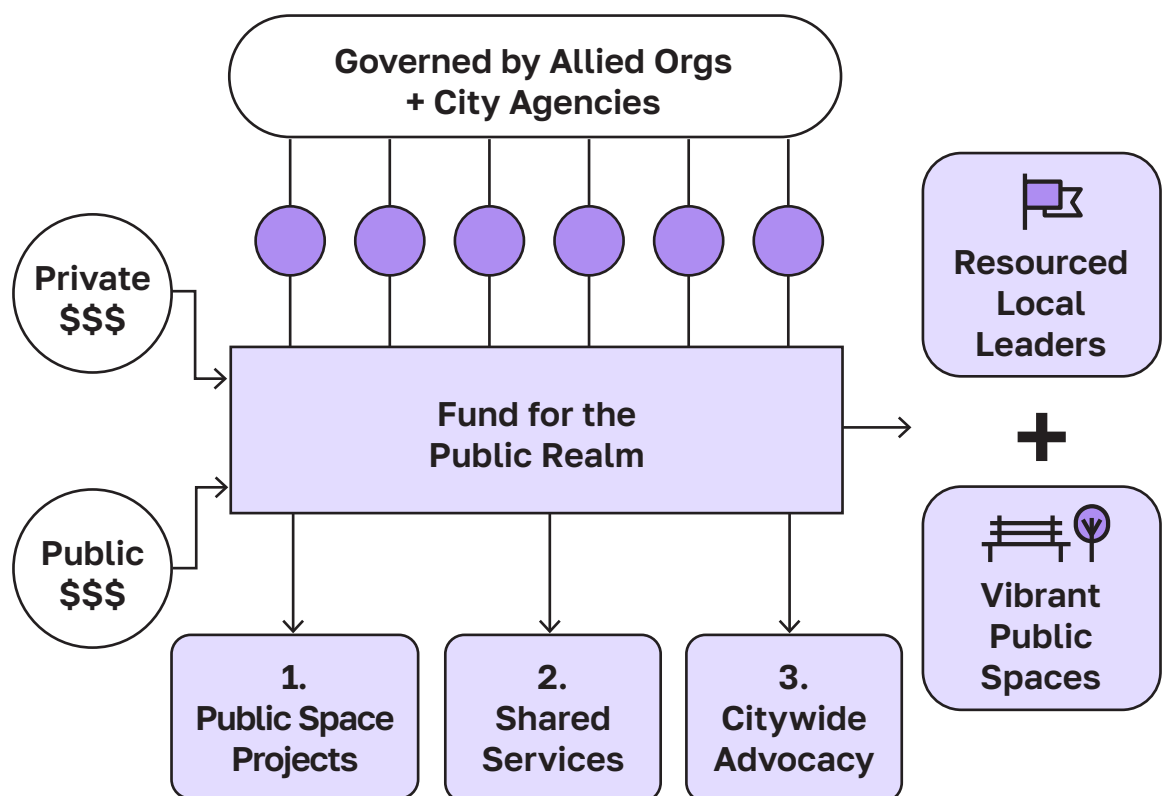


To the Mayor and City Hall

As our leaders, your charge is to set the visionary agenda and priorities for our City. If New York City can redesign our systems and refocus our investments to center the neighborhoods that have been most overlooked, the whole city will benefit. As part of your legacy, you can champion local visions for public space that reflect the diversity of the city.



We believe that City Hall can play a critical role in championing investment from city government, organizing resources from agencies and demonstrating to philanthropic and private partners that the City is committed to resourcing public spaces equitably across New York City.

We invite you to:

1. Establish a Fund for the Public Realm

We propose establishing an intermediary organization that draws on the best from public and private sectors to effectively resource local leaders and drive public space innovation. Drawing on models like the City Parks Foundation, the Fund for the Public Realm could collect and reinvest resources from

the private, public, and philanthropic sectors into local visions for public space, streamlining the bureaucracy that currently inhibits public space innovation.

This nonprofit can be governed by place-based organizations, citywide advocates and programming partners, with representation from city agencies. The Fund can advance hyper-local public space solutions to drive economic growth and address health disparities citywide:

- **Incubate public space projects in low-income neighborhoods.** Equip local partners with technical assistance and funding to develop, test, and advocate for their ideas. Pilot projects would expand opportunities for designers, planners, architects, and engineers to contribute their skills to neighborhood projects, while delivering impactful installations and vision plans.
- **Offer shared services to increase the capacity of local organizations across the city** to lead public space work through peer-to-peer learning and connections to vetted experts. Building on the Public Realm Academy and efforts led by SBS, DOT, Parks, and others, this holistic capacity-building endeavor would upskill hundreds of local organizations to navigate confusing regulations, access government resources, and more.
- **Advance Citywide advocacy through innovative multi-year pilots and partnerships** to address systemic public realm challenges like waste management and extreme heat or pilot new revenue streams.

2. Lead interagency coordination to solve for pressing challenges and boost innovation

- **Define a mutually beneficial operational partnership model between the City and CBOs** that allows for creativity in the public realm without the burden of financial risk. Work closely with agencies managing partnerships such as NYC DOT and Parks to learn from their experiences and advocate for legal and budget reforms.
- **Resource and expand the Chief Public Realm Office** to set a visionary public realm agenda that centers low-income communities of color, direct internal improvements to promote accessibility and accountability, and work closely with City Council to advocate for legislative changes.
- **Convene permitting agencies and the Public Design Commission** to audit the City's permitting processes to find opportunities for collaboration and streamlining, and define new pathways for temporary installations to extend or become permanent public space amenities.