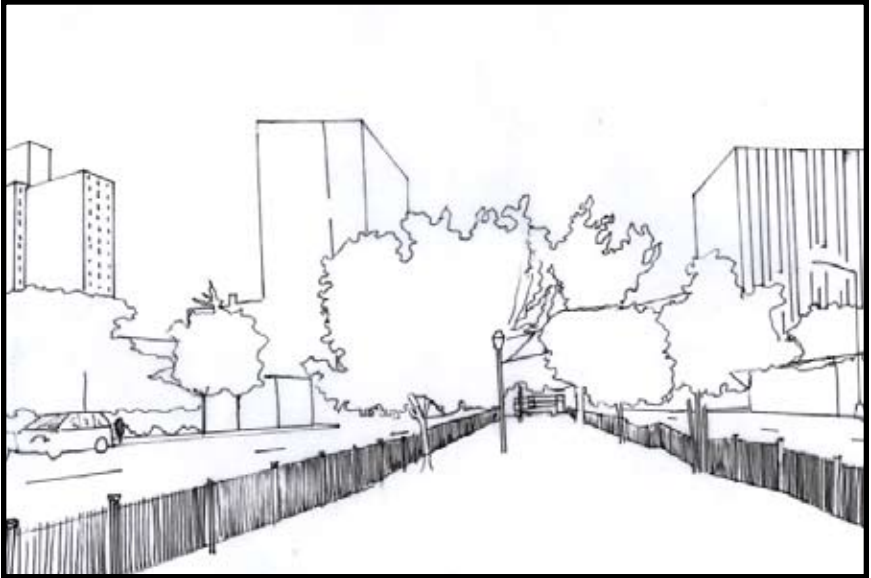


TAKE BACK YOUR PARK!

Allen & Pike Street Malls

Self-Guided Walking Tour



Name: _____

Contact Info: _____

Please return your tour book once you've
completed to your tour guide.

ALLEN & PIKE STREET

The Allen and Pike Street Pedestrian Malls will be renovated in the coming year. The NYC Parks Department has collected community input about the malls before. Now it's your turn to tell us how you think the parks on Allen and Pike should be re-built.

PROJECT HISTORY

The mall between Delancey and Broome was renovated first. The five malls closest to the waterfront will be next thanks to funding from the LMDC. Parks hopes to renovate the rest of the malls soon, and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and Councilmember Alan J. Gerson have committed to providing some funds.

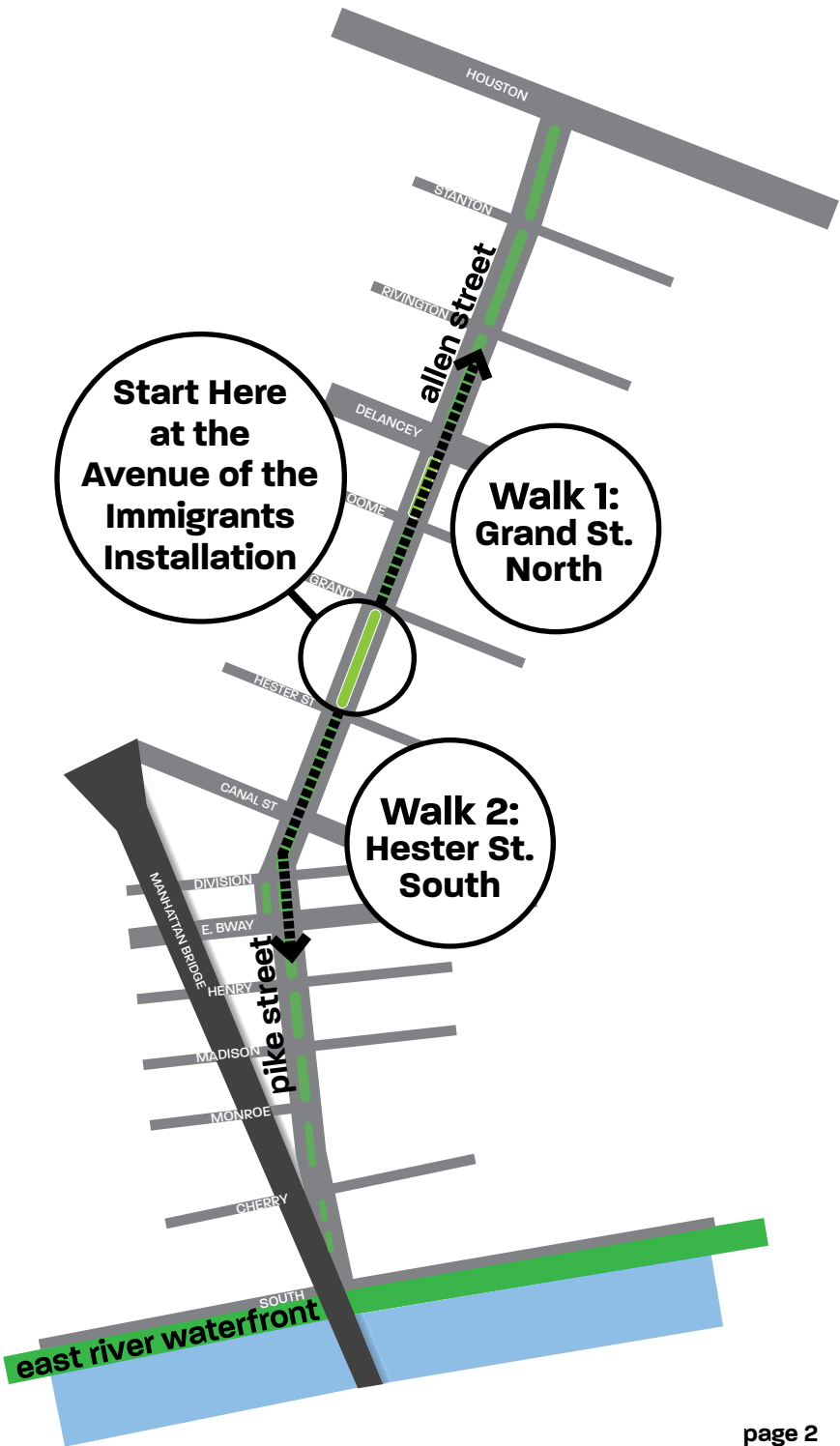
WALKING TOUR INSTRUCTIONS

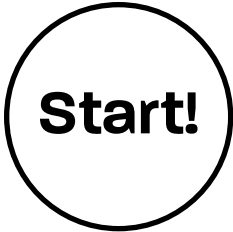
Use this walking tour booklet to tell us what you envision for the new malls.

The walking tour is divided into two sections: **Walk One** takes you from Hester to Delancey Street and **Walk Two** takes you from Hester Street to the East River waterfront. Choose one tour to complete, or, if you're feeling ambitious, do both! Walk One starts on page 3 and Walk Two starts on page 9.

Follow the booklet as you walk and write in your responses to the questions about each mall. Also feel free to write down your own thoughts and comments, and draw on the maps and other images to illustrate your ideas and point to specific sites within each mall.

Don't forget to turn in your booklet when you're done! We'll read submit your ideas to the NYC Department of Parks and to the landscape architect responsible for designing the malls.





The Avenue of the Immigrants Installation HESTER TO GRAND

Students from M.S. 131 created this temporary "Avenue of the Immigrants" art installation in honor of immigrant contributions to the Lower East Side. This is one way that our local cultural identity and history can be represented.

Are there other ways that the new Allen & Pike Street malls can reflect the unique culture and history of OUR community? How can we make the malls our own? Circle or write in your choice.

COMMUNITY ART



PLACES TO GATHER



COMMUNITY GARDENING



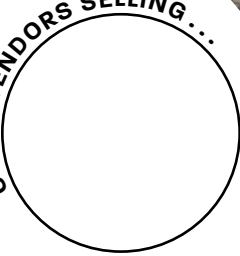
INFORMATION ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY AND CULTURE



EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



OTHER VENDORS SELLING...



FOOD VENDORS

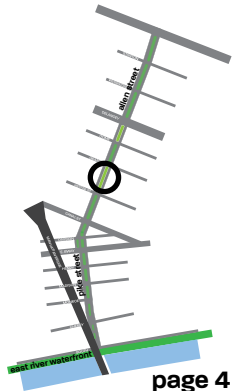


OTHER IDEAS? WRITE THEM HERE →

What important community members, places, themes, and / or events should be celebrated here? Write in your ideas.

- Community Members _____
- Places _____
- Events _____
- Themes _____
- Immigrant history
 - Gateway to Chinatown and the LES
 - Connection to the waterfront
 - Other _____

How can the mall support the needs of residents and business owners?



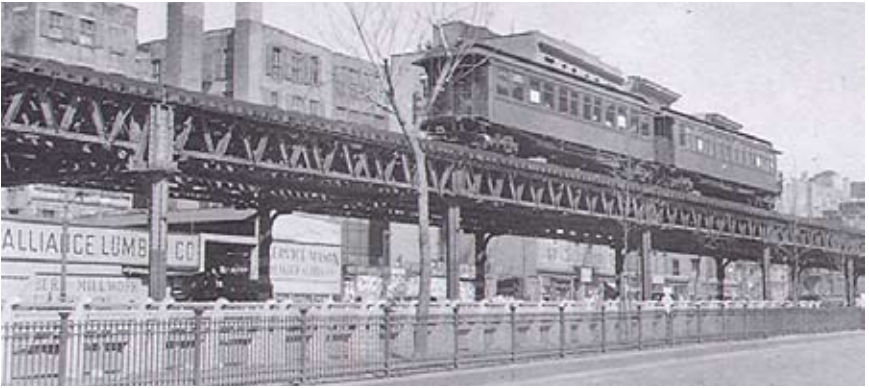
Walk 1

Going North **GRAND TO BROOME**



LISTEN carefully on the mall. What do you hear? Would the traffic noise prevent you from sitting or attending programming on the mall? What could be planted or built to protect the mall from noise?

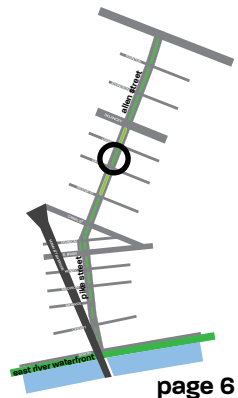
Think about how close we are to Sara D. Roosevelt Park, just two blocks west on Forsyth Street. Sara D. Roosevelt is such a beloved public green space that it often feels very crowded. Would more seating at the Allen and Pike Street Malls help ease that congestion? Would you like to sit on this mall? Where?



HISTORY OF ALLEN STREET

Starting in 1878, the Second Avenue elevated train ran over Allen Street. The overhead train made the street dirty and loud, but Lower East Side Life bustled underneath it. The El was removed in 1942, but now cars have replaced trains as the street's air and noise polluter.

How could this story and the multitude of others that make up the history of this neighborhood be told through the malls?



Walk 1

The Demonstration Mall BROOME TO DELANCEY



This mall is an example of how Allen and Pike Street could be renovated. UNRAP (United Neighbors to Revitalize Allen and Pike) has worked with the Parks Department to develop this prototype mall since 1998. The mall opened in April 2008 and provides a possible vision for the rest of the malls.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? Mark what you like and don't like on the demonstration mall.

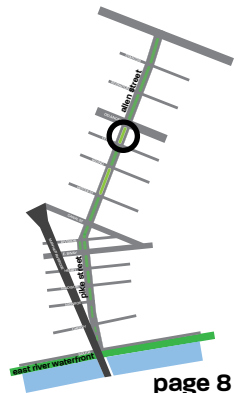
SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

- **New Benches at Intersections:** Benches at the ends of malls are inviting to passersby -but also face oncoming traffic.
- **Planting Beds:** The new beds give more space for the rows of trees to spread their roots, and for additional plants.
- **Post and Chain Fence:** Easier to replace in the event of a vehicular accident, but are less of a barrier to vehicles. They also allow people to cross the mall mid-block and step over them, creating a safety hazard.
- **Scholars' Rocks:** Designed by artist Justen Ladda, these sculptures recall traditional Chinese garden elements.
- **New Pathway:** Since the malls were originally built on the foundations of old tenement buildings, much of the construction budget went into creating a level surface for this pathway. This allows for safe walking, but it uses up a large chunk of the budget that otherwise could be spent on other park features.

If the mall was widened, what other activities and features could be accommodated?

Look across Delancey Street at the comfort station building. How could the building be reused? Circle or write in your choice, or draw over the image of the building to show us your vision.

- Community meeting space
- Visitors center / gateway to Chinatown and the Lower East Side
- Food vendor / restaurant
- Gallery
- Open up a pathway through the building so it does not obstruct the mall
- Leave it as a comfort station and reopen the bathrooms
- Other _____



**Walk
2**

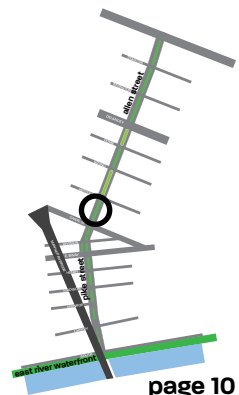
**Going South
HESTER TO CANAL.**



HISTORY OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE

There is a powerful history on the Lower East Side of building community gardens in abandoned spaces to reclaim them for public use. In the 1970s, landowners fled the city and left their property full of trash and rubble from burned-down buildings. The people who remained decided to take back these spaces. They threw seed bombs into fenced-off lots as a first step to greening them, and then they planted trees, flowers, and vegetable and built shelters to turn them into lush sanctuaries and gathering places for the community. La Plaza Cultural and Liz Christy Community Gardens on the Lower East Side were some of the first in New York City, helping to launch the urban community garden movement. Ironically, these properties later became valuable because of the gardeners' hard work, and they have had to defend themselves from real estate developers.

How could this story and the multitude of others that make up the history of this neighborhood be told through the malls? We now have the opportunity to reclaim Allen and Pike Street Malls. How can the new malls represent the heritage of Lower East Side community gardens?



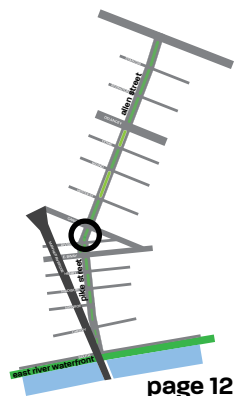
Walk 2

Going South **CANAL TO DIVISION**



Notice how this mall curves. This is the only mall that is not straight. Does the bend make this mall feel different from the others? How? Are there different uses or features that this mall could have to take advantage of its elbow shape?

Label and describe what you like about the existing mall, what you don't like, and your ideas for how the mall can be improved.



Walk 2

Going South DIVISION TO EAST BROADWAY



Notice that there are two malls here. In previous community studies, people have expressed the concern that this double mall creates an unsafe environment for both cars and pedestrians. What do you think about the double mall?

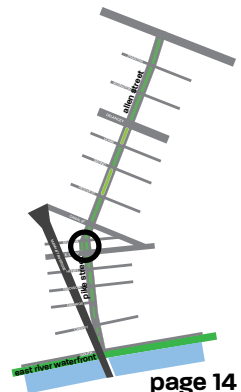
If one of the malls was removed to make room for traffic, it might be possible to widen the other mall. How could that widened park space be used?

- markets/vendors
- green spaces
- seating/gathering
- community art
- events
- other _____

LOOK carefully at the mall. Where do you see room for improvement? The malls were built in the 1930s and they have not been renovated in decades. Label and describe all the things that could be updated or improved in this mall.

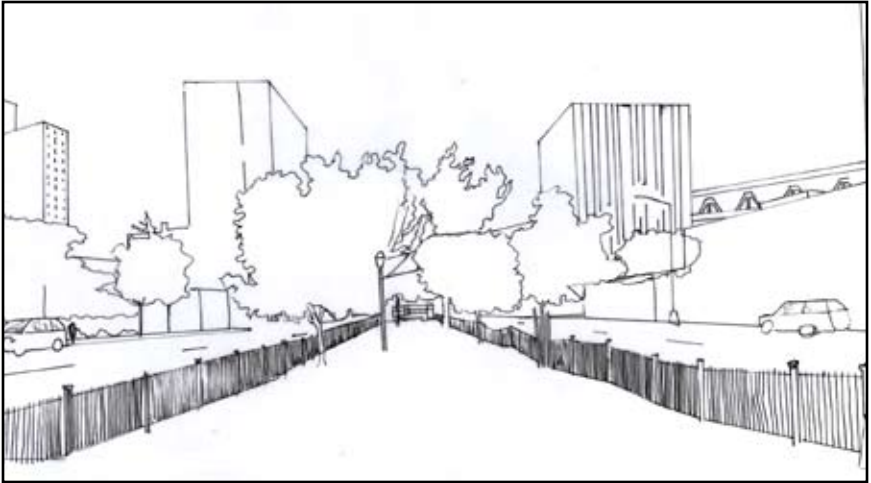
LOOK around the mall at the businesses and homes on this block. How could the mall become a resource for businesses? For residents?

LISTEN carefully on the mall. What do you hear? Would the traffic noise prevent you from sitting or attending programming on the mall? What could be planted or built to protect the mall from noise?



Walk 2

Going South EAST BROADWAY TO MONROE



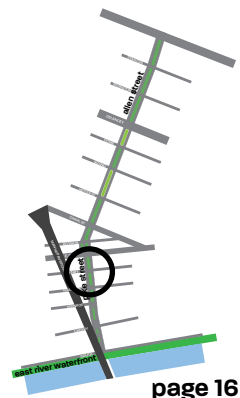
As you walk along these malls, a view of the East River and the Manhattan Bridge opens up. What would tempt you to continue walking all the way down to the river? How can the design of the new malls celebrate this river view and help the neighborhood connect to its waterfront?

Notice the green promenade that runs through the center of the Rutgers Houses. How could the malls help connect the promenade and the Houses to the water?

HISTORY OF ALLEN STREET

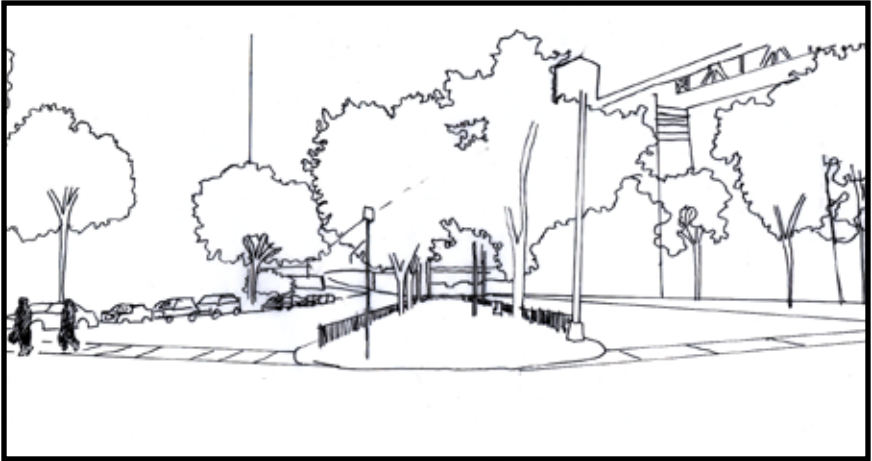
The surface of this mall, and many of the others, is uneven. This condition is a window into the malls' history. Allen Street was widened in 1931 to make room for increasing automobile traffic. To make the expanded street possible, dozens of tenement buildings were demolished, and the malls are so bumpy because they were built on top of the tenements' foundations. This strategy of demolishing old housing to make room for new streets is called slum clearance. Many New Yorkers lost their homes because of slum clearance, but the proponents of slum clearance argued that it rid the city of overcrowded housing and opened up crowded neighborhoods to light and air.

How could this story and the multitude of others that make up the history of this neighborhood be told through the malls?



Walk 2

Going South MONROE TO SOUTH STREET

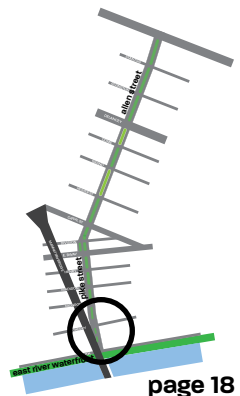


Now you are getting even closer to the water. There is a plan to create a waterfront esplanade that will open up this section of the East River waterfront to walking, biking, fishing, and other recreation. This plan, led by the NYC Economic Development Corporation, is currently in the design phase. How can this section of the malls help connect Chinatown, Lower East Side, and Two Bridges residents to these new recreational opportunities on the waterfront?

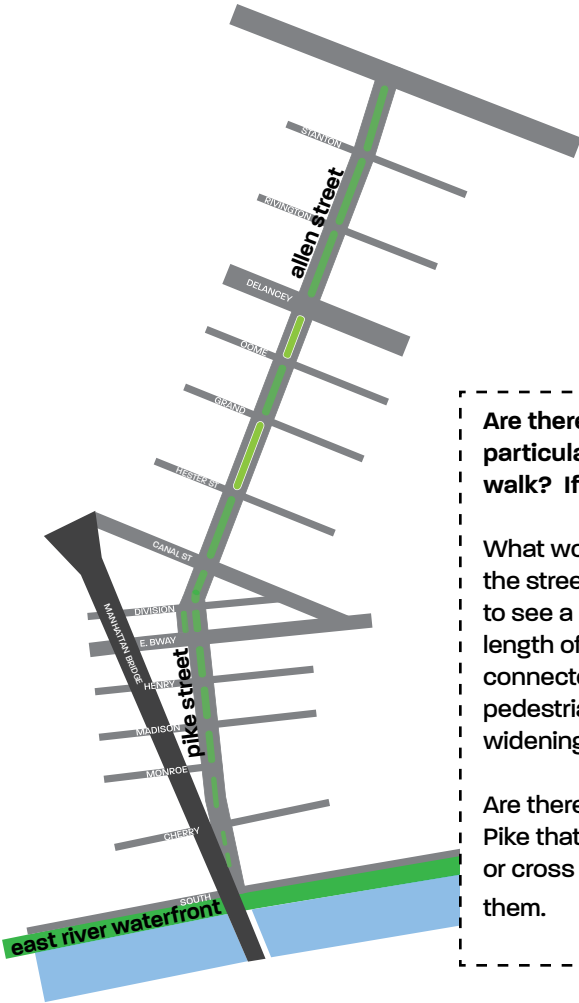
What are your greatest concerns around the waterfront development?

In previous community studies, people have said that they feel unsafe crossing the street at these malls because of traffic. Do you feel safe walking along the malls? Would you feel safe crossing the street through the malls? Would you feel safer if the malls were wider? What if they were connected to each other?

How can the new waterfront development best serve the needs of local residents?



SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION



Are there areas that are particularly unsafe to bike or walk? If so, label them.

What would make the malls and the street safer? Would you like to see a bike path through the length of the malls? The malls connected to one another for pedestrian use? What about widening the sidewalks?

Are there places along Allen and Pike that you would like to walk or cross but can't? If so, label them.

United Neighbors to Revitalize Allen and Pike (UNRAP):

Asian Americans For Equality, Community Board 3, Hester Street Collaborative
 Lower East Side BID, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, Two Bridges Neighborhood Council

