

Community Vision

Today /

East Harlem is a culturally and socioeconomically diverse neighborhood with two major cross-town commercial corridors and good transit connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods and the wider region. The neighborhood is home to a rich history of arts, culture, and activism, and plays an integral role in the larger NYC community. In addition to its many strengths, East Harlem has a number of challenges largely related to its inadequate resources, a concentration of social services, and overall affordability, all of which impact its residents, businesses, and the public realm.

What we will do /

Capital projects resulting from the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) will work in tandem with existing initiatives to elevate the visibility of East Harlem's unique cultural assets and commercial corridors, enhancing residents' and visitors' experiences of the neighborhood, and inviting them to spend more time in the area. Investments will support affordability for businesses and residents, improve the public realm and connectivity, and market the area's history and identity.

The Future /

East Harlem will become a vibrant, safe neighborhood with new business, public spaces, and transportation improvements. Residents and visitors will have access to a myriad of economic, cultural and educational opportunities and destinations.

Goal 1 / Local Economy

Support and grow local businesses on primary commercial corridors and leverage increased foot traffic generated by the anticipated 2nd Avenue subway extension.

Goal 2 / A Safe, Healthy, and Interconnected Neighborhood

Foster a healthier community by investing in public realm improvements that promote environmental sustainability and protect and prioritize pedestrians and cyclists.

Goal 3 / Historic and Cultural Identity

Reinforce East Harlem's identity by exhibiting and improving the visibility of its unique culture, history, and current assets.

Goal 4 / Community Development

Ameliorate symptoms of concentrated poverty and disinvestment by improving access to existing resource networks, and supporting open space improvements, wealth building opportunities, and addressing unnecessary impacts within the public realm.