



Future of Our Block

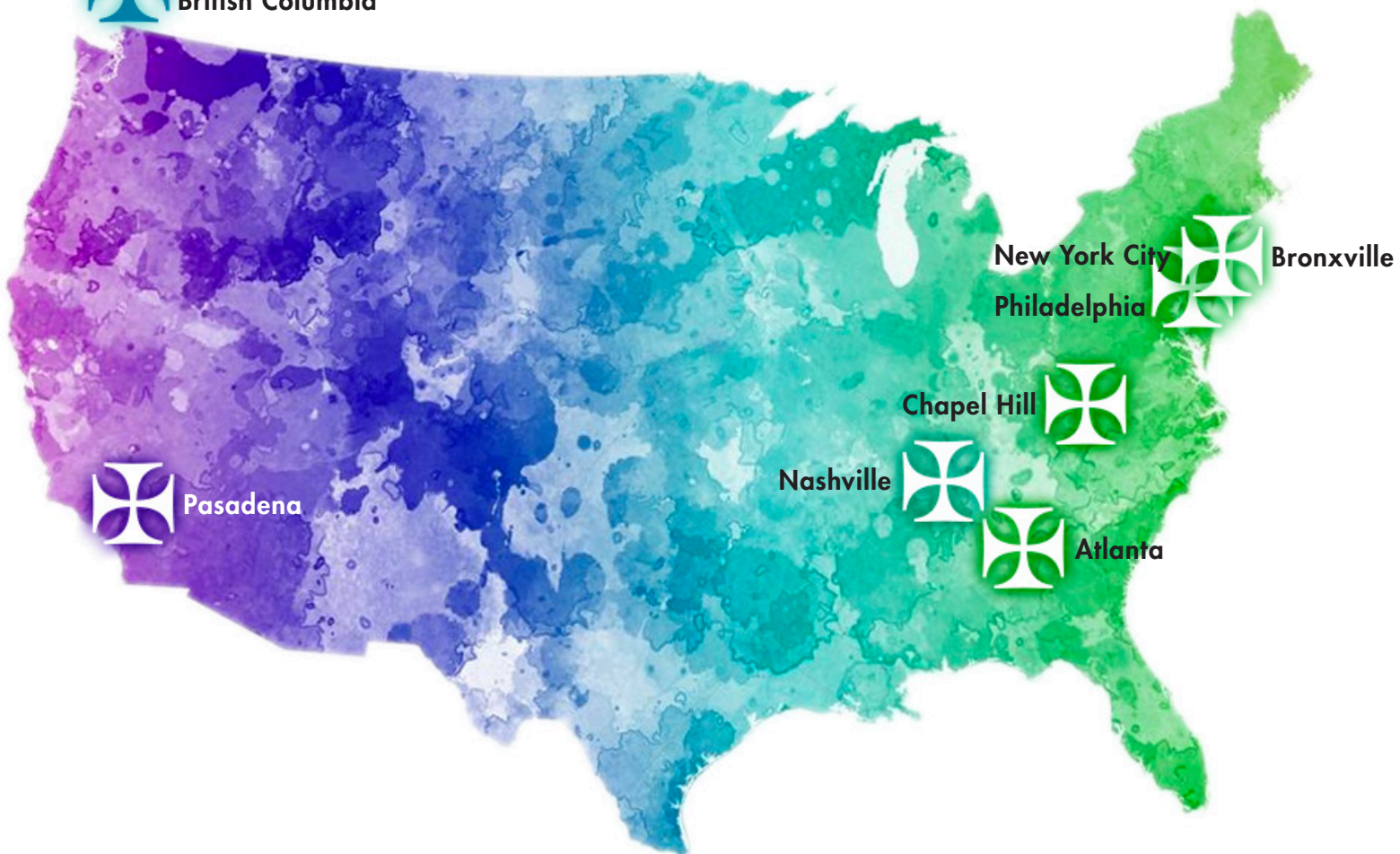
Year One: Learning Together

Over the past year, the Future of Our Block Steering Committee has engaged in discussions with our neighbors to learn from and about community partners like Midtown Alliance and MARTA, large institutions like Georgia Tech and Emory University Hospital, as well as over 40 service agencies and our own core ministries that serve the community in Midtown and beyond. Visit our website at futureofourblock.org to review handouts, presentation

slides, and audio recordings from the previous three sessions in which we shared all that we learned through these discussions.

Throughout this year of Learning Together, we knew it would be important to learn from the experiences of churches around the country that have also sought to enhance their missions by thinking creatively about their campuses' buildings and grounds. ✚

 Vancouver,
British Columbia



 Pasadena

Nashville



Chapel Hill



Atlanta

New York City
Philadelphia

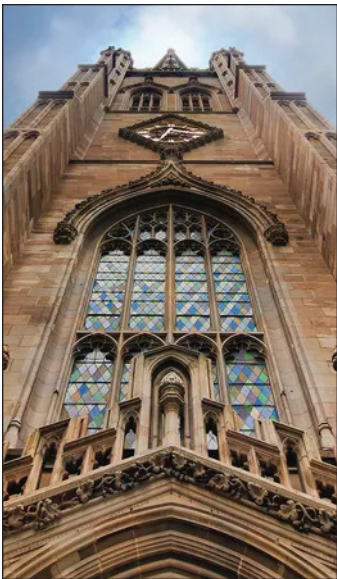


Bronxville

What We Learned

During our information gathering, we spoke with a wide variety of churches, ranging from the bucolic countryside of North Carolina to the bustling streets of Manhattan to our neighbors right down the road in Atlanta. These churches are all at various points in the process, from visioning to completion, and hearing their stories was enlightening as we begin next year to discern our vision for the future of our block together:

- First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, Georgia
- St. Mark United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, Georgia
- Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville, Tennessee
- The Episcopal Church of the Advocate, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Christ Church Bronxville, Bronxville, New York
- Church of the Heavenly Rest, New York City, New York
- Trinity Church Wall Street, New York City, New York
- All Saints' Episcopal Church, Pasadena, California
- St. Bart's Episcopal Church, New York City, New York
- Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver, British Columbia



Trinity Church Wall Street



Church of the Heavenly Rest

Philadelphia
Episcopal Cathedral

From these conversations, we learned about all of the exciting work these churches are doing, as well as practices to incorporate into our own future of our block work and potential pitfalls to avoid:

1. Communication is at the heart of the process

A theme we heard time and time again was the importance of communicating early, often, and with openness. Don't be surprised if you get a little tired of hearing about this work!

2. Get grounded in our guiding principles

Throughout the month of January, we will take a look at our history and name some guiding principles for our work, to which we will return again and again throughout this process.

3. Build for mission

Our vision for the block should propel us forward in mission and ministry.

4. Value partnerships and engage the local community

Some of the most successful churches proactively collaborated outside of traditional church circles to involve civic organizations, local universities, and even school children, in the missions on their campuses. We will spend the months of February and March identifying potential opportunities for collaboration with our community.

5. Move toward the future

We are fortunate to be a vibrant and healthy parish and envisioning the future of our block presents an exciting opportunity to look toward the future and build our legacy.



Christ Church Cathedral

Bluestone Lane
Upper East Side Café
in Church of the
Heavenly Rest



Next Steps

With these five guidelines in mind, we're excited to move into the next phase of this work in which we will dream together and envision the future of our block.

Part 1: Our History and Our Guiding Principles

In the first month of the year, we will take a look at our past, during a series of four All Parish Forums to celebrate our history and the values that drive our mission.

Please save the following dates:

- Sunday, January 5: All Saints' History, Part 1 (1903–1963)
- Sunday, January 12: All Saints' History, Part 2 (1963–today)
- Sunday, January 19: MLK Day: The church in the city
- Sunday, January 26: What are our guiding principles?

Between these forums, we invite all ages to go deeper by learning our story and naming what is most important to us about All Saints'. Watch for details on our website, futureofourblock.org, in the Friday E-News, and in the Sunday bulletin.

Part 2: Local Community Engagement

Then, we'll engage the local community in identifying potential opportunities for collaboration and mutual benefit to ground ourselves in the needs of our neighbors and the city we serve. To do so, we'll host an event on Saturday, February 1 as well as a series of focus groups throughout February and March, culminating in this All Parish Forum:

- Sunday, March 22: Community Engagement Findings & Next Steps

Part 3: Listening for Our Visions for the Block

Next, we'll shift to listening and imagining potential visions for the block, based on our shared history, values, and the needs of the city. We'll host focus groups and neighborhood gatherings, conduct interviews and a parish-wide survey to seek input from all of the saints. During this phase, we'll also host two All Parish Forums to provide updates on what we hear:

- Sunday, May 3: Initial Update
- Sunday, June 7: Final Update & Next Steps

Part 4: Honing Our Visions for the Block

After that, we'll identify potential visions for the block and hone them into a single, shared vision. Following each of three All Parish Forums, we will continue to seek feedback from focus groups as we get closer to discerning our single, shared vision.

- Sunday, August 23: Initial Presentation of the Visions
- Sunday, September 13: Update on Vision Honing
- Sunday, October 25: Presentation of the Refined Vision

Part 5: Celebrating Our Vision for the Block

Finally, we'll celebrate our vision for the block, as well as outline a way forward for achieving that vision.

- Sunday, January 24, 2021: Presentation & Celebration of the Vision

Forum dates are subject to change as we progress through each phase of the work. We will continue to provide updates on our website, futureofourblock.org, as well as in the Sunday bulletin and the Friday E-News.

<https://futureofourblock.org>



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