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Neighborhood Commons Launches Watkins Public Space in Brownsville with Local Vendors, Music, Food, Public Art, and More

The space will be open throughout the week through July as a pilot project for the Neighborhood Commons Toolkit of Policy Recommendations Supporting Public Spaces in Commercial Corridors

Brooklyn, NY – Tuesday, June 21st, the Design Trust for Public Space is partnering with I AM CaribBEING and the Brownsville Community Justice Center to launch the Watkins Plaza Public Space, a new open plaza that is part of the Neighborhood Commons initiative, bringing local makers and vendors to Brownsville this Summer. Lookout for I AM CaribBEING”s iconic yellow shipping-container-turned-local-shop, murals, food, performances, and more

WHAT: Watkins Public Space Launch Party

WHO: Local Vendors, Community Artists, Brownsville Community Members, Design Trust for Public Space, I AM caribBEING, and the Brownsville Community Justice Center.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 21st 12-6pm and open throughout the week until the end of July.

WHERE: Watkins Public Space in Brownsville (Watkins Street & Belmont Avenue)

This location is a pilot project for the Neighborhood Commons policy toolkit of recommendations aimed at supporting public spaces in commercial corridors. Supported by a Strategic Impact Grant provided by the NYC Department of Small Business Services, Neighborhood Commons: Reimagining Public Space Governance and Programming in Commercial Districts, lists recommendations on ways the City of New York can reshape its approach to the management of public spaces located in the right-of-way, and how different models of local governance, stewardship, and service delivery can impact the economic resilience of small businesses. Press release about the toolkit is attached. Please contact Alexa Mauzy-Lewis (amauzy@designtrust.org) to coordinate an interview with Neighborhood Commons Spokespeople.
About the Design Trust for Public Space
The Design Trust for Public Space is a nationally recognized incubator that catalyzes change and transforms New York City’s shared civic spaces—streets, plazas, parks, public buildings, transportation, and housing developments—to create a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable city. Established in 1995 by Andrea Woodner, the nonprofit brings design expertise and systems thinking to the public realm to make a lasting impact. Founded on the tenet that New York City’s cultural and democratic life depends on viable public space, the Design Trust focuses on social justice and equity, environmental sustainability, design excellence, and public engagement. Its innovative model brings together government agencies, community groups, and private-sector experts, utilizing cross-sector partnerships to deliver creative solutions that shape the city’s landscape.