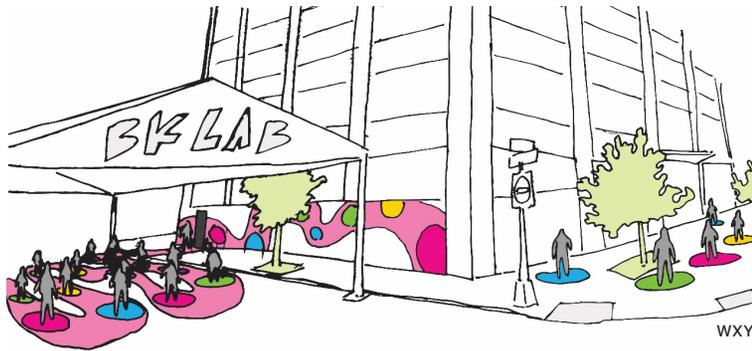




Front Porch

School Arrival Strategy to Support Re-Opening During COVID-19

Summary



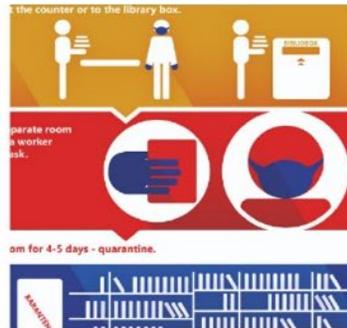
Student Visioning Sample

[Brooklyn Laboratory Charter Schools \(LAB\)](#) is committed to making any return for the 2020–2021 school year as safe as possible for all students and staff. Given the current public health pandemic, LAB is exploring ways to adapt school facilities and school operations in a manner that prioritizes and protects the school community’s health. The initial focus is on LAB’s 77 Sands Street middle and high school location, but the concept can be adapted to work in other schools or locations.

In May 2020, LAB partnered with several firms to develop a preliminary tool kit of design concepts that can support the operational requirements for returning to school amidst the COVID-19 health crisis. One of our most critical challenges will be entry bottlenecks due to social-distancing and other safety measures. Without changes to the arrival and departure process, experts predict students could be in mile-long lines, waiting for hours to enter the school. Although we identified alternative entries to the school, another challenge remained: how to provide shelter and welcoming spaces for students to be screened and wait their turn to enter. In the short term, our “front porch” concept safeguards health and provides refuge for students during COVID-19. In the future, this front porch will become a long-term gift to the community by providing places of respite from extreme weather events including rain, heat, and cold. LAB’s front porch will also serve as a bridge connecting our school to the communities we serve by providing information about school activities, supporting gatherings, and offering more appealing public spaces.



Shelter



Signage & Messaging



Lighting



Acoustics

Project Plan

Timeline

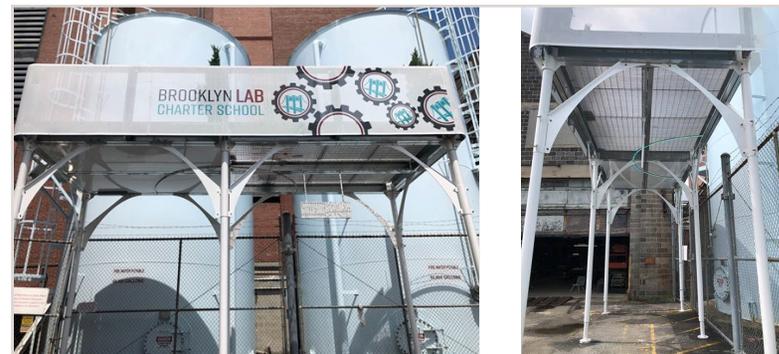
In order to meet the needs of returning students and staff, this project implementation plan has been developed to clarify the project scope and schedule alignment along with the process for delivery. This is described below in three phases:

Phase	Timeline	Description
Pilot	July 2020	Full scale mock-up of front porch unit that can be used long term and can inform final design for multiple units.
COVID-19 Period	Start of school 2020 (August is current assumption)	Sufficient structures to support social distancing while performing mask, temperature, and symptoms checks, as well as other needs in the wake of COVID-19.
Permanent	Post- COVID-19	Refurbished "front porch" structures that address school and community needs for creating outdoor spaces that provide shelter and amenities. Some units will be installed at school and some relocated to nearby public spaces.

Strategy for Design and Construction

Working with the owners representative firm [Urban Projects Collaborative](#), LAB engaged the architecture and urban design firms [WXY](#) and [SITU](#) to develop an implementation plan for the front porch concept. They identified a solution that builds off the framework of the award-winning [Urban Umbrella](#) construction shed and developed a kit of parts specific to the needs of schools planning for social distancing and health checks at entry points. Design elements are standardized to significantly reduce costs and provide a template for use by any school.

Urban Umbrella owns the shed structures and rents them out, which provides upfront cost savings and flexibility, as components can be added, subtracted, or moved. Additionally, permitting and other coordination costs are included in the contract for installation and rental. The process for adapting the kit of parts to a particular location and getting a front porch installed can take less than two weeks once the pilot project has been tested.



SITU

Vision

Permanent structures provide opportunities for communities to engage with each other and enjoy improved outdoor public spaces. Many of the concepts incorporated into the front porch can serve important functions and create inviting beautiful public spaces.



Possible Materials

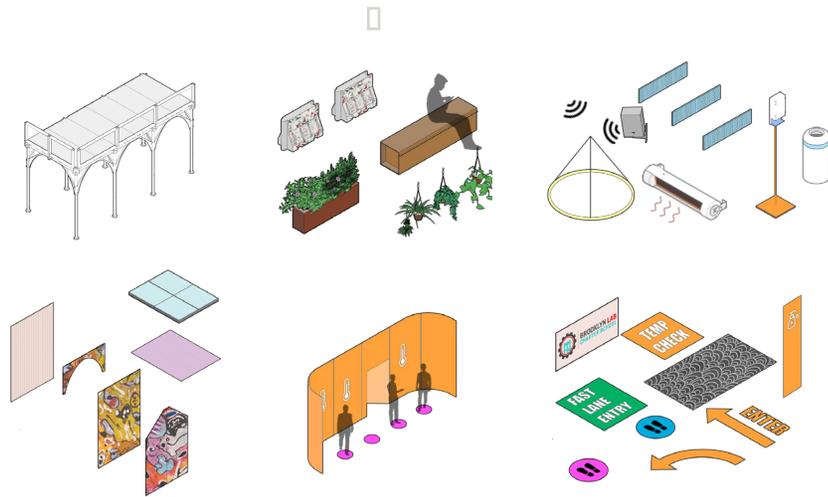
Resiliency and Community

Urban schools need more space for resilience and community. During the pandemic, permanent structures such as the front porch at Brooklyn LAB's 77 Sands Street campus address challenges around spacing, crowding, and the need to extend into outdoor spaces to maintain social distancing and other health guidelines. Beyond the pandemic, structures like this can help build community connections, serving as an inviting new outdoor public space for people from the school and the surrounding city to gather in community.

Potential areas for long term benefits:

- Spaces ready/adaptable for pandemic response
- Community engagement in the adapted spaces
- Solar-powered misters / climate comfort
- New places for outdoor seating and enjoyment
- Addresses challenges of limited space in urban schools

To learn more about Brooklyn LAB's Front Porch concept, or to get in contact with the design team, please visit Equitybydesign.org.



Kit-of-Parts

WXY/SITU