

Future City Lab:
Design Your Own Gallery



Today we're designing a museum gallery about our community! You've already identified challenges that fall under five major themes:

- *Housing*
- *Economy*
- *Environment*
- *Transportation*
 - *People*

You've also listed what you **love** about our community, so let's think about how to communicate your ideas to others.

Before you start designing, let's think about the benefits and challenges of telling a story through a museum exhibition:

- What kinds of museum exhibitions have we visited?
- Which museums have we really liked, and which did we find boring?
- What are our goals in telling our story?
- How can we tell our community's story to people of different learning styles, ages, and abilities?

Consider the case of the Museum of the City of New York, which recently opened a gallery about New York City that asks the same questions we've been working on. This is what the Future City Lab's Director said about the gallery's goals:

*"The real experts on the future of New York are New Yorkers who are living it, and whose decisions will determine what kind of city this is in the future. So our job as curators is to spur the imagination, start conversations, and empower visitors to feel a sense of **agency**."*

– Kubi Ackerman, Director of Museum of the City of New York's *Future City Lab*

Do you agree with him? What should a gallery do?

Design Break!

As you design your gallery, consider the following:

- What do you want your gallery to *look* like? What colors, what “feel”?
- What kinds of *media* do you want to use? (Photographs? Videos? Text? Audio?)
- How do you want people to move through the space – freely or following a specific path?
- How can you make sure people are absorbing what you want them to know? Can you make it *interactive*?

Instructions

1. Use the provided template to sketch your gallery from a birds-eye view.
2. Label:
 - each gallery section and its theme
 - the materials and media used
3. On a separate piece of paper, sketch *one* of your gallery sections in color so we can see how it would look to a visitor being sure to include and label all the parts.

Conclusion

Now that we've shared our own ideas, let's go back to the [Future City Lab](#) at the Museum of the City of New York and see how their curators addressed these same questions.

Discuss:

- How does the *Future City Lab* resemble our own gallery designs? What is different?
- How has our thinking about museum galleries changed?