A NEW ERA
Philadelphia’s 30th Street Station District is at the epicenter of an urban renaissance. Bordered by Center City, premier universities and hospitals, the Schuylkill River, and Fairmount Park, the district is primed to become a vibrant new neighborhood.
SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT...

Since the 1930s, plans to re-knit the district back into the urban fabric have fallen short. A multi-disciplinary team, dedicated principal partners, and renewed public interest in city-making informed this 30-year vision for transforming the district.
SIX PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The plan for development extending out from the station is focused on creating a community with unparalleled access to transportation and amenities and a uniquely ‘Philadelphia’ identity.
PRIORITIZING THE PUBLIC REALM

The 30th Street Station District is nestled amidst vibrant neighborhoods, the Schuylkill River, and one of the world's premier urban park systems. The plan connects to and through these networks, cultivating a diverse, authentic new place.
Station Plaza Planning Principles

- Honor the East-West Axes and the Historic Facade
- Create Seamless Access for All Modes and Design for Flexibility
- Visually Unify the Field
- Link to the River
- Program the Plaza to Serve Customers, District, and City
- Program and Design Each Side of the Plaza Uniquely

STATION AS ANCHOR
30th Street Station is the beating heart of the district. Activating Station Plaza as a dynamic public space will provide an anchor for the district and true gateway to the rest of the city.
THE CITY’S NEXT GREAT CIVIC SPACE
The redesign of Station Plaza creates an early win for the district. It will be a welcoming experience for all station visitors, seamlessly integrating everyday passenger circulation with opportunities for social interaction and recreation.
CIVIC ARMATURE
Station Plaza crosses the physical boundaries of its adjacent streets, extending south to public space in front of the former post office along Market Street, north to anchor development at Arch Street, and east to a riverfront promenade.
A riverfront promenade – at some points a wooded riverbank and at others a series of boardwalks and floating barges in the river – will offer a unique district amenity. Its counterpart will be an upper level river overlook park built on a deck partially over the Schuylkill Expressway.
A FLOATING PARK
A lower-level boardwalk system will step down from the riverfront promenade over a deck covering I-76. A vegetated sound barrier would reduce traffic noise, filter pollutants, and provide a backdrop to enjoy the river and wetland gardens.
The district’s signature park will be Schuylkill Bluffs, an elevated riverfront landscape stretching from 30th Street Station to Spring Garden Street. Schuylkill Bluffs brings the landscape of Fairmount Park into the heart of the district and University City.
Schuykill Bluffs will be an extension of Fairmount Park, offering views across the city, enough space to accommodate varying programmatic needs, and the scale and connectivity to serve as a corridor for wildlife as well as people.
HUMANIZING CHALLENGING INFRASTRUCTURE

In certain places where decking over rail is currently infeasible, pedestrian bridges will span the gaps. Humanizing elements, such as these layered habitat trays, will help screen the railways, temper micro-climates, and perhaps become destination points themselves.
RESTORING NATURAL HABITATS
By restoring what was once a void in the urban fabric, the plan will fill in and help to reconnect both riparian and upland habitat on the west side of the Schuylkill River.
ENGLISH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The vision harmonizes the ideas from diverse and highly engaged stakeholders, including elected officials, community organizations, business, trade and advocacy organizations, anchor institutions and major employers, transportation passengers, citizens within the district, and the general public.
A COMPREHENSIVE VISION

The plan is equally daring in its vision and achievable in its details: a roadmap toward a world-class, well-integrated transit hub anchoring a connected and inviting neighborhood, a gateway for Philadelphia, and a center for new opportunity.