Open Data for All 2021 Progress Report

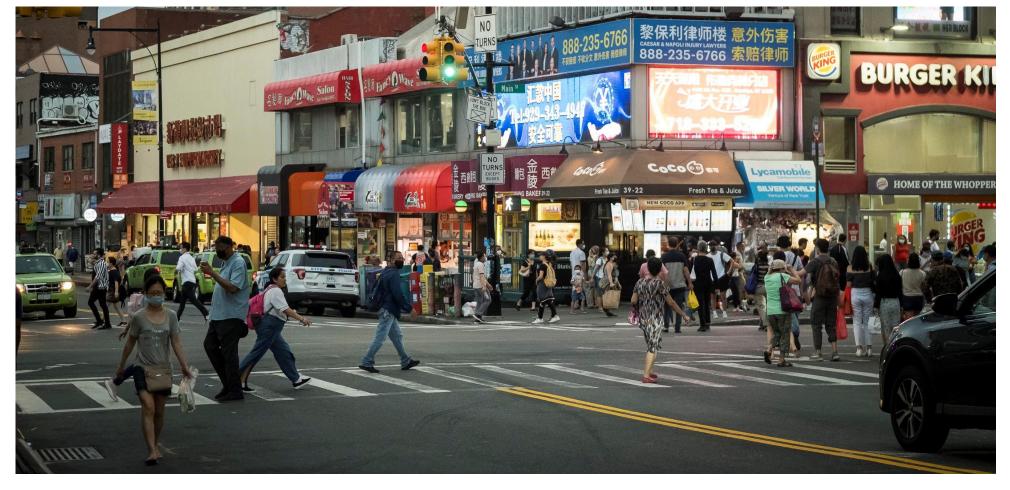
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Dear New Yorkers,

Every day, as New York City agencies serve the public, they create records of their work. From teachers taking attendance records to Sanitation workers driving snow plows down the streets after a storm, the City is constantly generating data. This data is key to understanding how City government is working for New Yorkers, and when

New Yorkers engage with that data, they can be empowered to take action on behalf of themselves and the communities they live in. This vision is what led good government advocates, City staff, and elected officials to promote government transparency and public access to City data. Their efforts resulted in innovations like Freedom of Information Laws and the Public Data Directory, which built on each other, each making it easier to find and access the data used to run New York City. The creation of Open Data, now in its twelfth year, resulted from a shared understanding that even greater access to the information used to run NYC and more structure around how that information is identified and formatted could allow for more government accountability, improved civic education, better data quality, and new economic development. And in the past twelve years, as Open Data has been used by academics, entrepreneurs, government staff, non-profits, students, reporters, and millions of other New Yorkers and people from around the world, this promise is being realized.

The success of NYC's Open Data program is the result of this process of evolution and the same collaborative development that was responsible for its creation. Hundreds of datasets from a few dozen agencies have grown to thousands of datasets from nearly a hundred agencies. New laws, policies, and systems have been created to support the people who create and use Open Data. From requiring each agency to have a designated "Open Data Coordinator" and each dataset to have a plain language data dictionary, to sharing projects built on Open Data and holding an annual Open Data Week festival, more advocates, City staff, and members of the public have joined the effort to make City government data more accessible to every New Yorker.

However, our work is far from finished. Two years ago, we published the plan for NYC Open Data's next decade, initiatives designed to support and grow the program's infrastructure, make it easier for New Yorkers to use Open Data, and build communities of users. This plan, which you can find an update on in the following sections, was informed by the challenges faced and lessons learned over the course of this program's evolution. As we reflect on this past year and the last eleven preceding it, we also look forward to continuing to deliver and expand on the vision that animates NYC Open Data: making more data more accessible to more New Yorkers. It is only with continued collaboration, building together, and learning from our past work that this vision is possible. We look forward to you joining us.

Sincerely,
The NYC Open Data Team

Next: 2. Strategic Plan Update





Strategic Plan Update

Two years ago, the Open Data Team brought together City employees, civic hackers, open data evangelists, and good government advocates in a two-day workshop to reflect on the successes and challenges of the first ten years of open data in New York City. During the workshop, the participants co-created a vision for the next decade of

NYC Open Data, which the Open Data Team used in tandem with a public survey to write the strategic plan for the next ten years of NYC's Open Data. This strategic plan encompasses 27 initiatives across three main areas: improving user experience, strengthening the City's capacity, and building communities.

As part of last year's report on Open Data, we provided an update on each initiative with highlights on specific areas of progress. While our plans to implement some of these initiatives have shifted in two years time, we are continuing to work on seeing them forward, and what follows is a two-year update on the strategic plan. As with last year, each initiative has a Status Update, and many have "Status Notes" to share more detail on the work that is underway or planned.

Statuses

In progress: Meaningful work has begun on this initiative. In some cases, portions of the initiative are complete while others remain underway. In those cases, additional detail is available in the Status Notes column.

Planning: The Open Data Team has begun to work on the planning and preparatory work necessary for this initiative.

Future: The Open Data Team has not yet started working on this initiative or work is temporarily on hold as other initiatives are moved forward.

Improve User Experience

WHAT THIS MEANS:

Making it easier for all New Yorkers to request, find, understand, and use data

Subcategory	Strategic Initiative	Timeline	2021 Status	Status Notes
Provide a User-Friendly, Dynamic Platform	Explore an open source platform that allows for continuous design, development, piloting, and implementation of new features—while ensuring equitable access to the underlying code for this public service	Long-term	Future	In 2020, started initial exploration into building more open Open Data, collaborating with Two Sigma Data Clinic to la discovery tool
	Embed platform users as stakeholders when gathering requirements for future development to ensure that a diversity of user needs are represented	· Long-term Future		In 2020, we conducted a workshop with City agency stake requirements for citywide data sharing
	3. In collaboration with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), work to make the platform more accessible for people of all abilities	Short-term	In Progress	Continued work with the Mayor's Office for People with Disaccessibility review of several key features of NYC Open I updates to the platform.
	Streamline communications around NYC Open Data by improving the transparency and responsiveness of our help desk for all users	Short-term In Progress		Gathered requirements for a new help desk platform, conc available platforms, and ran user testing with Open Data C responsible for answering inquiries.
	5. Collect user feedback around data and metadata standards, and update to ensure standards reflect current needs	Medium-term	In Progress	Conducted a review of existing data documentation and conducted a review of existing data documentation and conducted data coordinators on preliminary versions of updated data guidelines, and resources.
	6. Connect Open Data to existing citywide performance reporting, allowing equitable access to the data	Long-term	Future	In 2020, the Open Data compliance report looked at data

Subcategory	underpinning some of NYC's reports, dashboards, and tools Strategic Initiative	Timeline	2021 Status	Status Notes
				of the groundwork for making more formal connections be performance reporting and the underlying open data.
				In 2021, this website data inventory was turned into a dynaupdated each year.
Create a Repository for Data about New York City	7. Revamp dataset request process so the most popular requests can be prioritized to be released first	Medium-term	Planning	An updated public requests tracker will include informatior requests are assigned to, when requests were due, and w be completed.
	8. Formalize publishing process for non-City publishers such as public libraries, district attorneys, and citizen-science initiatives	Long-term	Future	Previously, we published the Central Park Squirrel Census as a model for future non-City datasets.

Strengthen City Capacity

WHAT THIS MEANS:

Supporting City agencies and other publishers to NYC Open Data with better tools, more resources, clearer standards, and stronger connections with existing Open Data operations

Subcategory	Strategic Initiative	Timeline	2021 Status	Status Notes
Improve Open Data Coordinator (ODC) Support	9. Guide Open Data Coordinators through regular training sessions for those new to the role and "office hours" for veterans	Short-term	In Progress	Held an Open Data compliance Q&A and training session Data Coordinators, and virtual office hours throughout the

Subcategory	Strategic Initiative	Timeline	2021 Status	Status Notes
	10. Build internal understanding of and support for open data use across Agency leadership and key internal teams (including legal, communications, and information technology) through education and training	Medium-term	Future	
	11. Create case studies and presentations to share how Open Data can improve service delivery, promote equity, and increase efficiency	Long-term	Planning	The Open Data Team is working on a training session for help them design more impactful civic engagement.
Streamline Dataset Publishing	12. Improve dataset automation process and technology support, making it easier for agencies to keep their datasets up to date	Short-term	In Progress	In 2020, DoITT piloted new technology to streamline the of This has continued to be used to make dataset automatic maintain.
	13. Redesign how we identify new data for publication so that more public datasets are being shared	Short-term	In Progress	The 2021 compliance reporting process continued to colled data on City websites. In Fiscal Year 2021, more than 400 from over 60 different agencies.
Develop NYC Open Data Policies & Measures	14. In collaboration with the City's Chief Privacy Officer and Mayor's Office of Information Privacy, develop and implement clear privacy policies and guidelines on the responsible release of open data	Short-term	Planning	
	15. Share best practices for open data interoperability and access that can be incorporated when new technology systems are procured	Medium-term	Planning	
	16. Update open data policy guidance in the Technical Standards Manual to better address internal data coordination, data quality standards, and self-publishing processes	Short-term	In Progress	Currently finalizing the redesigned Technical Standards M lifecycle from dataset identification to dataset maintenance
	17. Create a new quality assurance system to check how published datasets comply with updated standards	Medium-term	In Progress	Began codifying data quality best practices used during re These standards will be further developed as part of the n quality assurance system.
	18. Collaborate with NYC's Records Access Officers and the OpenRecords team to align NYC Open Data with FOIL practices and resources across the City	Medium-term	In Progress	Working with the Department of Records and Information tracking of when FOIL requests contain data.
	19. Introduce and track Open Data Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to show the health of the program at a glance	Short-term	In Progress	Published beta version of a new Open Data dashboard wat NYC Open Data at a citywide, agency or dataset level

Build Communities

WHAT THIS MEANS:

Supporting New Yorkers with tools and information to help them solve local problems, and amplifying the voices of people who find solutions using NYC Open Data

Subcategory	Strategic Initiative	Timeline	2021 Status	Status Notes
	20. Create "Powered by NYC Open Data" brand to identify initiatives that have used NYC Open Data and create guidelines for usage and citation	Short-term	In Progress	"Powered by NYC Open Data" was used to help advertise 2021, and we will be further developing this brand.
Chara Stavias of Impact 9	21. Demonstrate impact of open data usage through focused case studies, communications and storytelling	Medium-term	Future	
Share Stories of Impact & Success	22. Facilitate regular peer exchange among Open Data Coordinators to help capture and share lessons and best practices	Short-term	In Progress	In May 2020, more experienced Open Data Coordinators I videos and joined a virtual panel during our online training
	23. Continue engaging existing citywide programs in integrating open data into their process, service, or curriculum in order to improve reach and equitable access to Open Data—similar to past efforts with Computer Science for All and Participatory Budgeting NYC	Long-term	Future	
Fulfill the Promise of "Open Data for All"	24. Foster connections between people whose questions can be answered with open data and tech- savvy communities who are interested in helping them find solutions, promoting equity of access to insights generated using open data	Long-term	Future	
			•	

Subcategory	Strategic Initiative	Timeline	2021 Status	Status Notes
	25. Assess "Data Counts" pilot, connecting library visitors to NYC Open Data, for potential to scale	Short-term	Planning	Redesigned the Open Data Ambassadors program, an init the public, including librarians, to teach about NYC Open [During Open Data Week 2021, we collaborated with civic to hold 10 training classes, including one in Spanish.
	26. Continue to grow the annual Open Data Week celebration	Short-term	In Progress	The all-virtual and outdoor NYC Open Data Week 2021 fe and welcomed more than 3,600 attendees from 42 states
	27. Launch issues-focused community sessions building on the "Learn About NYC" event series	Medium-term	Future	

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NYC Open Data Timeline

As we reflect on the past year, we also look back to the past dozen. Here are some of the highlights. If you have a suggestion for a notable event we've omitted, send us a note!

NYC Data Mine Launched

2009

NYC Data Mine, a precursor to NYC Open Data, launched to share more than 100 datasets from City

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Open Data Law Proposed

Introduction 29A to make NYC Open Data into law is proposed in the City Council.

2011

NYC Open Data Created

The Data Mine is replaced by nyc.gov/opendata, designed to make open data easier to find and use, including the ability to run basic analysis without downloading any data and offering APIs for each dataset.

NYC Open Data Signed into Law

With the signing of Local Law 11 of 2012 (from Introduction 29A) Open Data is a legal requirement for every City agency.

2012

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'Open Data for All' is the de Blasio administration's commitment to making NYC Open Data accessible to every New Yorker and increasing the engagement that Open Data has with the public.

Data Dictionary Requirement

Every dataset is legally required to have a data dictionary, explaining the nuances and operational context of the data in plain language

Geospatial Standards Requirement

Agencies are legally required to release standardize geospatial fields for each dataset that contains street addresses

Data Request Process Requirement

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Data Retention Requirement

NYC Open Data is legally required to preserve row data when datasets are updated or archived

NYC Open Data Relaunch

The current version of the Open Data site launches with new tutorials, a dataset request tool, and a more robust help desk

2016

First NYC Open Data Week Festival

Inaugural BetaNYC to celebrate the free public resource and foster connections between people who use open data

2017

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perpetuity

Open Data Coordinator Requirement

Every agency is legally required to have an Open Data Coordinator, responsible for identifying, structuring, documenting data

First Data Through Design art exhibition

Established by a group of volunteer artists and data visualization experts, the Data Through Design collective now organizes an annual data art exhibition featuring works that creatively analyze, interpret and interrogate data made available on NYC Open Data.

2018

Metadata for All project to improve data documentation

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develop new standards for this information, and create resources for Open Data Coordinators to use. Some of the results of these efforts can be viewed on the Open Data Coordinator Resource Page.

Data Counts! and Open Data Ambassadors

Pilot of Data Counts! initiative, a collaboration with BetaNYC and the Queens Public Library, which led to the creation of a cohort of volunteer "Open Data Ambassadors" teaching people from every community board in Queens about Open Data and the US Census.

2019

Co-designing the Future of NYC's Open Data Workshop

After an earlier public survey campaign to better recognize New Yorker's information needs in all five boroughs, the Open Data Team convened a two-day co-design workshop where more than 60

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Examination & Verification Final Report

NYC Open Data published a report concluding its series of three annual examinations of City agencies, pursuant to Local Law 8 of 2016, Open Data Examination and Verification. The examinations were intended to improve agency compliance with the Open Data Law by creating a systematic way to locate datasets that may have been omitted in agencies' self-reported Open Data compliance plans. This effort has since been used to inform the Open Data compliance reporting process.

Agency website data added to Annual Compliance Report

Bolstered annual Open Data compliance reporting to include a list of data that is published on each agency's website, to ensure that more datasets are

2020

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COVID Open Data

Working together with staff from across the City – including the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Education, Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications, Department of Parks & Recreation, and Department of Transportation – the Open Data Team published datasets related to COVID-19 and the City's response.

Open Data Coordinator Virtual Training

The Open Data Team conducted a comprehensive online training for Open Data Coordinators (ODCs). Prior to the live training, the Open Data Team worked with more experienced ODCs to prepare a suite of online training videos on different aspects of the ODC role and the annual compliance process.

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The first virtual-first Open Data Week festival featured more than 150 events and attracted more than 3,600 attendees

Revamped Open Data Dashboard Released

Beta version of the Open Data Dashboard released, providing the same key metrics about NYC Open Data to the public, City agency Open Data Coordinators, and the NYC Open Data Team

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New Dataset Highlights

While much of the work of the Open Data Coordinators and Open Data Team is maintaining and promoting existing datasets, new datasets are being continually created and published as City operations evolve and new technology is acquired. Over the past year, more than 400 datasets were published by over 60 different agencies. The current list of datasets and when they were published is available in our asset inventory and some recently published highlights are below:

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Photo: Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation

Agency:
Mayor's Office of
Environmental
Remediation (MOER)

NYC Clean Soil Bank Generating and Receiving Sites

The Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation's (MOER) NYC Clean Soil Bank recycles clean, native soil from deep

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an agreement with the New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation,
keeps clean soil in the city rather than
shipping it beyond the city for disposal and
provides projects with clean soil to adjust land
elevation, build wetlands, prevent lead
exposure, and fortify shorelines.

This dataset features both the generating and receiving sites affiliated with this program. Generating sites must meet certain environmental standards, while receiving sites include public construction projects, projects that advance social equity goals, and projects that remediate contaminated land. Both public and private sites within the City can apply to be part of the Clean Soil Bank.

Read more about the Clean Soil Bank program on the Mayor's Office of Environmental

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Photo: NYC Department of Transportation (DOT)

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Dataset Link:

https://data.cityofnewyork.us/d/b4@ity. The Street Sign Work Orders dataset contains information from the DOT Sign

contains information from the DOT Sign Information Management Systems (SIMS) which is an asset management system to track regulatory, warning and guide signs. The Traffic Control and Engineering Unit is responsible for operational and administrative tasks related to installation, maintenance, and removal of signs. The Street Sign Work Orders dataset offers sign details, installation dates, location, work order details and repair history.

across every road and neighborhood in New

This dataset can be used with the Street Name Sign Work Orders (which contains signage of street names as opposed to the regulation signs in this dataset), Parking Meter Locations, or Parking Meters ParkNYC- Blockfaces datasets to better understand the history of signage in a particular location. For more information about NYC's street signs, visit the DOT's traffic sign webpage.

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Agency: Mayor's Office of **Operations**

Media Print, Digital, and **Broadcast Outlet Directory**

New York City is one of the most diverse cities

Dataset Link:

https://data.cityofnewyork.us/d/glc4z-nited States, and the news publications q69i

New Yorkers read reflect that diversity. Community and Ethnic Media outlets are an important way for the City to make sure that all New Yorkers, including those with limited English proficiency or who are part of immigrant communities, are aware of City government programs and services. In 2019, Mayor de Blasio issued Executive Order 47, calling for City agencies to spend at least half of their overall advertising budgets with Community and Ethnic Media outlets. The directory of eligible outlets is available as a dataset and serves as a resource for agencies, listing more than 200 approved print and digital media outlets where agencies can direct

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communities served by local media outlets in the City. Anyone studying the dataset would better understand the breadth and depth of the City's media landscape, especially as it pertains to communities of color and communities who speak another language. This summer, this work was codified into law, creating the Office of Ethnic and Community Media to ensure efforts to better reach every New Yorker continue.

To understand the impact of this program, visit the Community and Ethnic Media Agency Ad Spend dataset on Open Data, which shows agency expenditures and compliance with EO 47. Visit the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment website to learn more about the Community and Ethnic Media program.

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Photo: NYC Parks

Cool It! NYC 2020 -

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nttps://data.cityotnewyork.us/d/nzpnqu9k available to the public during heat

emergencies, particularly in neighborhoods vulnerable to the dangers of high heat. Last year, as the COVID-19 pandemic made gathering indoors risky, the mission of creating more outdoor cooling elements took on additional urgency. This dataset represents the hundreds of cooling features – including water sprayers, misters, and more that were activated as a part of this plan. These new cooling elements were installed using various existing water sources in parks, including drinking fountains and ground hydrants. To learn more, visit the interactive map of cooling sites across the city, which also includes information on tree canopy cover to show which streets and parks are leafiest.

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Open Data by the Numbers

NYC Open Data has more than a million visitors each year – people who are interested in learning more about how NYC works, conducting an analysis about a particular community, or just looking for real-world data.

These visitors come from across NYC, around the country and the world:

50% of our visitors are from New York35% of our visitors are from the United States15% of our visitors come from around the world

Locations where the most international visitors come from:

- 1. Hong Kong
- 2. Singapore
- 3. London, UK
- 4. Toronto, Canada
- 5. Beijing, China
- 6. Gurugram, India
- 7. Bengaluru, India
- 8. Managua, Nicaragua

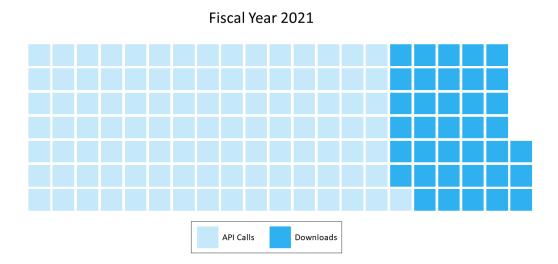
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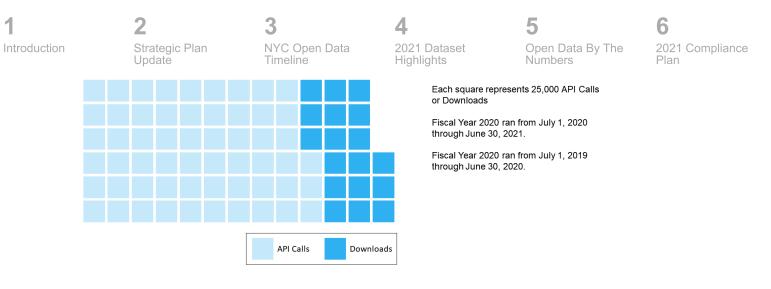
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data to their computers or write programs that connect directly to NYC Open Data Each dataset has its own Application Programming Interface (API) endpoint, which allows anything from an interactive map to a Twitter bot to get the latest data automatically.

As more people learn to employ this technology, the number of times data is accessed automatically will only grow. During 2021, NYC Open Data was accessed by API a total of more than 2.6 million times and downloaded from a total of more than 900,000 times. This is a 61% increase in API calls and a 77% increase in downloads from 2020. You can learn more about our APIs and how to use them here.





Most Popular Datasets, FY2021, by Views	Most Popular Datasets, FY2021, by Downloads	Most Popular Datasets, FY
1. 311 Service Requests from 2010 to Present (NYC 311)	For Hire Vehicles (FHV) - Active (Taxi & Limousine Commission)	Motor Vehicle Collisions — Crash (NYPD)
Civil Service List (Active) (Department of Citywide Administrative Services)	For Hire Vehicles (FHV) - Active Drivers (Taxi & Limousine Commission)	2. 311 Service Requests from 2010 t (311)
3. Motor Vehicle Collisions — Crashes (NYPD)	3. LinkNYC Locations (Department of Information Technology &Telecommunications)	3. DOB Job Application Filings (Department of Buildings)
4. FHV Base Aggregate Report (Taxi & Limousine Commission)	4. LinkNYC Kiosk Status (Department of Information Technology &Telecommunications)	4. DOHMH New York City Restaurar (Department of Health and Mental H
Citywide Payroll Data (Fiscal Year) (Office of Payroll Administration)	5. Medallion Drivers - Active (Taxi & Limousine Commission)	5. DOB Permit Issuance (Department of Buildings)

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2021 Open Data Compliance Plan

The Open Data Law requires the publication of an annual Compliance Plan. The datasets below capture these reporting requirements and additional reporting required by the Open Data Team for 2021:

2021 Open Data Plan: Future Releases

2021 Open Data Plan: Dataset Removals

2021 Open Data Plan: Agency Website Data

2021 Open Data Plan: FOIL Metrics

2021 Open Data Plan: Datasets Identified Through FOIL

2021 Open Data Plan: Completed Civic Engagement Activities

