“By 2050, in a world fluid in every way, there will have emerged a small set of worldwide ‘idea capitals’ ... that will be both the engines of creativity, entrepreneurship, and economic activity and magnets for those who will drive these centers to even higher levels of achievement.”

—John Sexton

(NYU President)
10. Moving Forward
There are no great cities without great universities. And there would be no New York University without New York City.

Fundamentally, NYU 2031 is a recognition of the University’s unique position in one of the world’s great cities. A long-term, citywide vision for physical growth in support of an academic mission, the strategy is based on an understanding of the mutual and reciprocal benefits between New York City and the University. And—the result of an intensive and inclusive process between NYU and its community members and neighbors—NYU 2031 is an entirely new approach for the University as it looks to future growth in a more sensible, transparent, thoughtful, and sensitive way.
Academic Paradigm Shifts

In the first half of the 19th century—when NYU was founded—the connection between great universities and great cities in the United States was not a clear one. For the next 150 years, a Jeffersonian vision of higher education largely prevailed: colleges should be in pastoral settings, and the college experience should be removed from the hustle, bustle, and temptations of urban settings.

NYU’s origins sharply challenged those ideas, and by the 21st century, its underlying principle—that great cities and great universities belong together, that great cities need great universities, and that a university’s academic enterprise leads to the ideas, innovations, and human talent that help cities flourish—was widely embraced. Today there is a growing acknowledgment that intellectual, cultural, and educational institutions of all types are mainstays of cities’ futures.

In the last few years, NYU has married that idea with another: maintaining academic excellence will require growth, but how the University grows—how it respects its neighborhood’s character, how it makes its choices, how it grows—how it respects its neighborhood’s character, how it makes its choices, how it grows—how it respects its neighborhood’s character, how it makes its choices, how it grows—how it respects its neighborhood’s character, how it makes its choices, how it grows—how it respects its neighborhood’s chracter, how it makes its choices, how it grows—how it respects its neighborhood’s character, how it makes its choices, how it grows—how it respects its neighborhood’s character, how it makes its choices, how it grows—how it respects its neighborhood’s character, how it makes its choices, how it grows—how it respects its neighborhood’s character, how it makes its choices, how it grows—how it respects its neighborhood’s character, how it makes its choices, how it grows—how it 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