The People’s Bus:

Youth-led participatory democracy on wheels. We aim to meet New Yorkers where they are, provide them with resources and education, facilitate dialogue, and begin to restore and strengthen relationships between local government and residents. In its first phase, *The People’s Bus* invites New Yorkers to reimagine and transform a retired city vehicle into a vibrant and welcoming mobile civic engagement and community center.

Get On Board:

This program could not succeed without the support of our agency partners. We want to work with and hear from you.

- Does your agency have existing resources or programming that we can include?
- Are there existing events or civic convenings that we can tap into?
- Can you help spread the word about this program?

To collaborate with us, please email: thepeoplebus@civicensement.nyc.gov
The People’s Bus is an initiative of New York City’s Civic Engagement Commission (CEC), which was created in 2018 through a Mayoral Charter Revision Commission and citywide vote. CEC’s mission is to enhance civic participation in order to increase civic trust and strengthen democracy in New York City. The Commission believes that active listening is a core practice of participatory democracy and is essential to building relationships and trust between government and communities. CEC is committed to engaging with and lifting up the voices of all NYC communities.

In 2020, Yazmany Arboleda became the first CEC artist in residence, through the NYC’s Department of Cultural Affairs’ Public Artists in Residence program (PAIR), a municipal residency program that embeds artists in city government, to propose and implement creative solutions to pressing civic challenges. Yazmany activates communities with large scale art projects that seek to build connections across barriers and highlight how connected we all are. He believes that art is a verb, not a noun. His philosophy and his practice have led us to a project we call The People’s Bus, a public art activation that will engage the hearts and minds of New Yorkers across all five boroughs, cultivating grassroots engagement in a year of profound change.

At a time of extraordinary turmoil and hardship, there is also the opportunity for extraordinary resilience buffered by mutual care and community.

The People’s Bus will use beauty, joy and inclusion to reignite the vital sense of community and civic engagement that is the hallmark of New York’s generous spirit.

Welcome aboard.