COMMUNICATE CLEARLY:

APPLYING VISUAL DESIGN
BEST PRACTICES IN REPORTING

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SCENIC CITY SUMMIT
JUNE 20, 2025

























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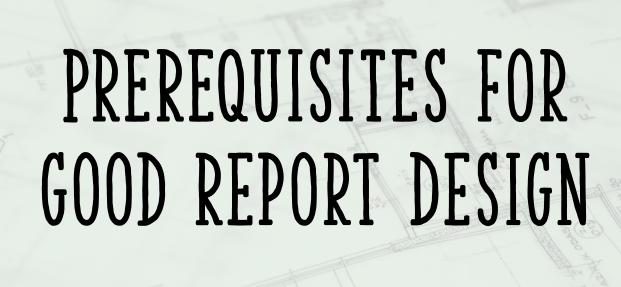






AGENDA

- Prerequisites for good report design
- Simplify charts by eliminating noise
- Gestalt's Principles of Perception
- Report page layouts
- Choose colors
- Designing for visual impairments





REMEMBER! WE'RE COMMUNICATING INFORMATION AND INSIGHT FROM DATA



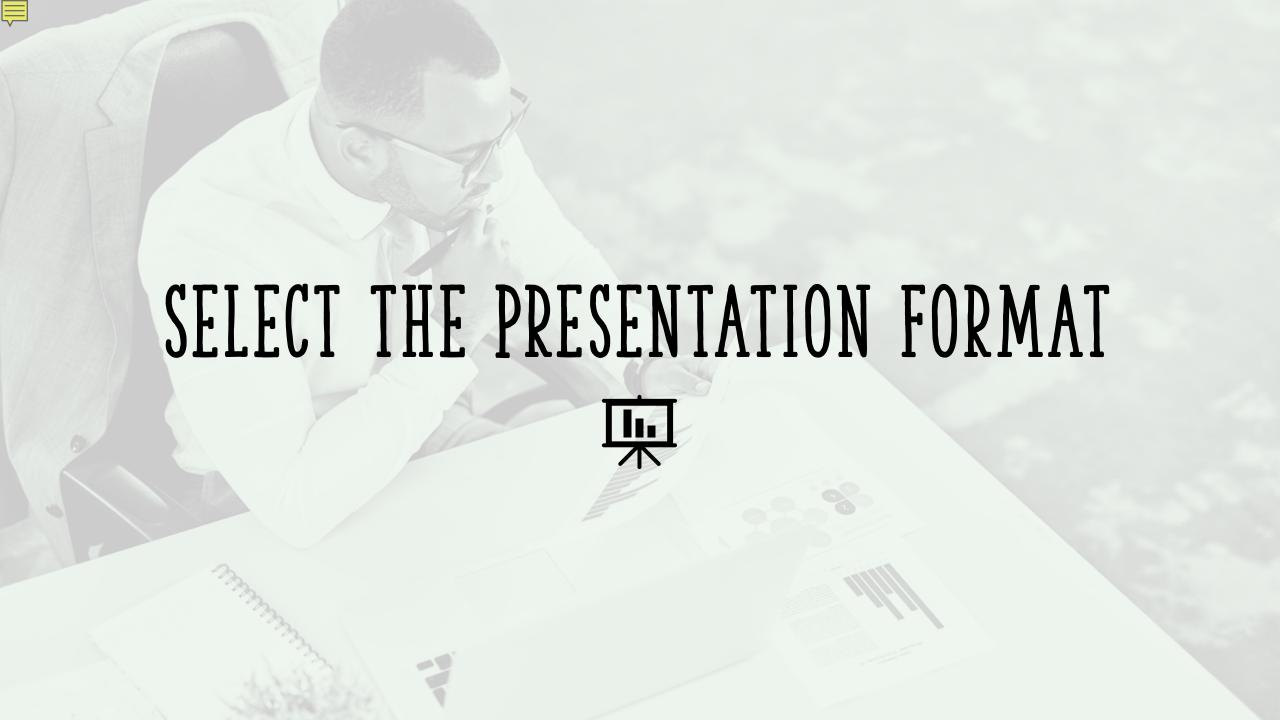
KNOW THE AUDIENCE

UNDERSTAND THE DATA

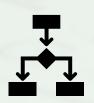


UNDERSTAND THE DATA STORY



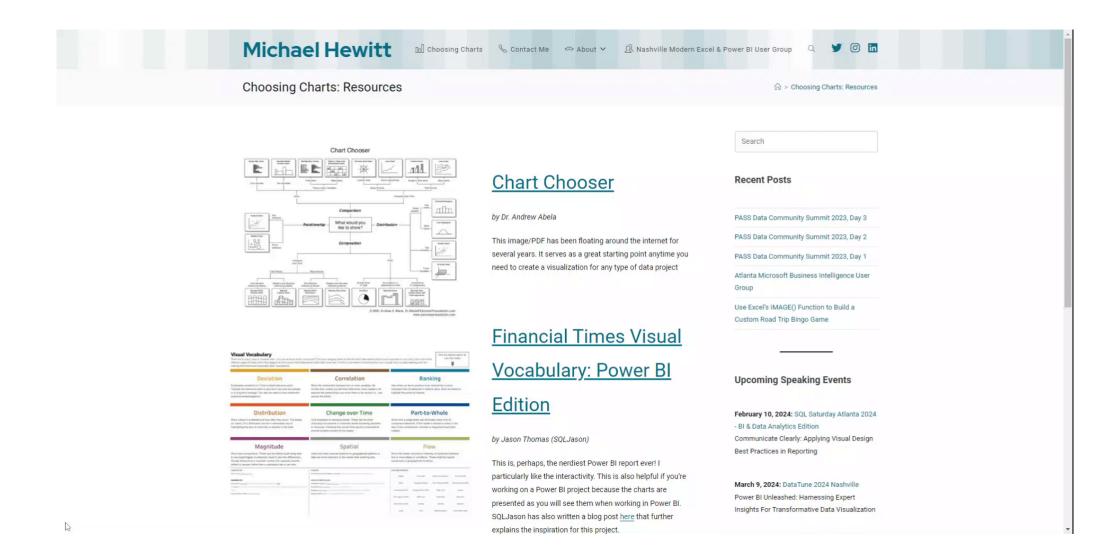


CHOOSE THE CORRECT CHART(S)





CHOOSE THE CORRECT CHARTS





EXAMPLES IN THIS TALK

- NYC Green Taxi dataset
- Green taxis "are restricted to picking up passengers in areas outside of Manhattan, such as Upper Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island"¹

SIMPLIFY CHARTS BY ELIMINATING NOISE

WHAT IS NOISE?

Anything in a visualization, report, or dashboard that does not help tell the data story



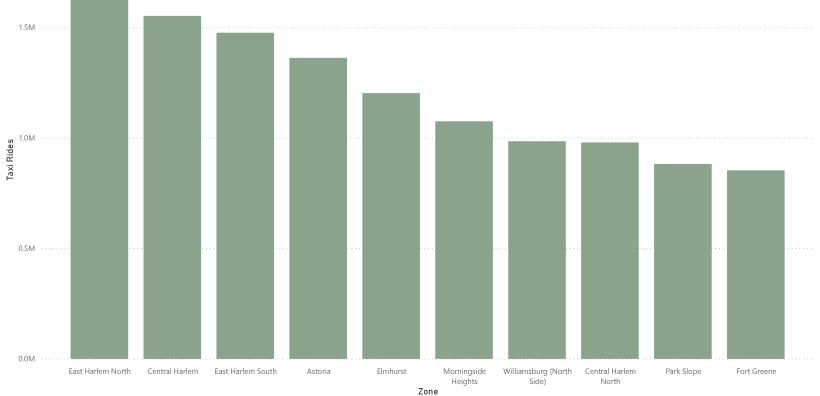
NOISE CAN BE...

- Ambiguous, unclear titles
- Gridlines
- Dividers
- Borders or boxes
- Lack of whitespace
- Overcrowded data labels
- Too many data points



How many pickups were made in the top 10 green taxi zones?

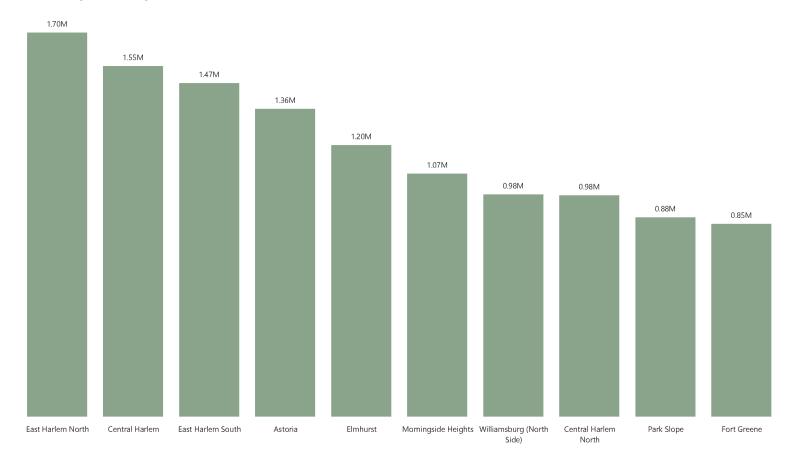






How many pickups were made in the top 10 green taxi zones?

Number of Pickups in the Top Ten Green Taxi Zones





WHAT IS GESTALT?



School of Psychology

a n d

Theory of Perception



Founded in early 20th century by German psychologists

Max Wertheimer Kurt Koffka Wolfgang Köhler



Shape

Form

Pattern

Configuration



The whole is greater than the sum of its parts



GESTALT PRINCIPLES - LAW OF...

Emergence

Closure

Common Region

Continuity or Continuation

Proximity

Multistability

Connectedness

Figure / Ground

Invariance

Prägnanz

Similarity

Symmetry and Order

Common Fate



GESTALT PRINCIPLES - LAW OF ...

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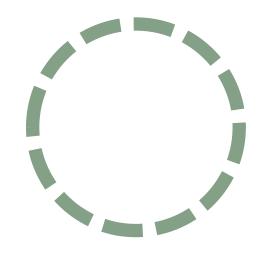
Similarity

Symmetry and Order

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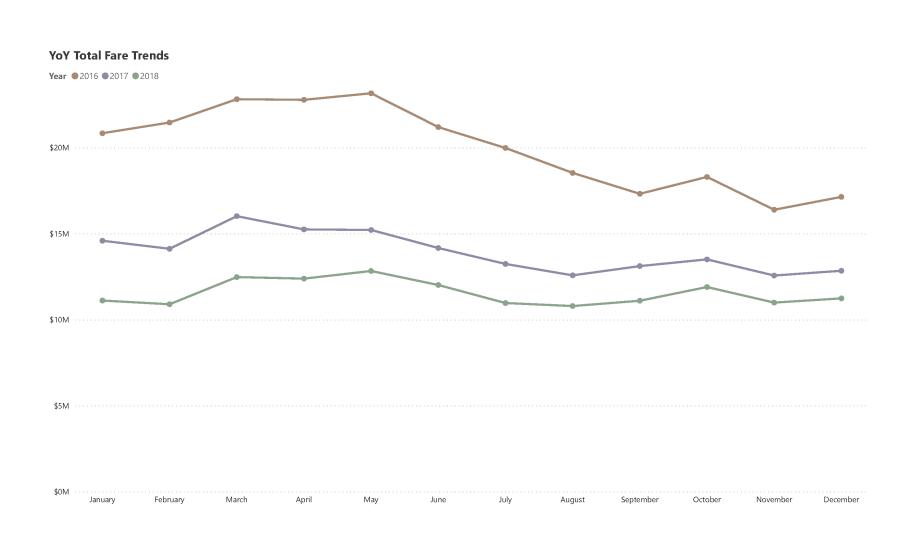
LAW OF CLOSURE

Objects that are incomplete are perceived as complete



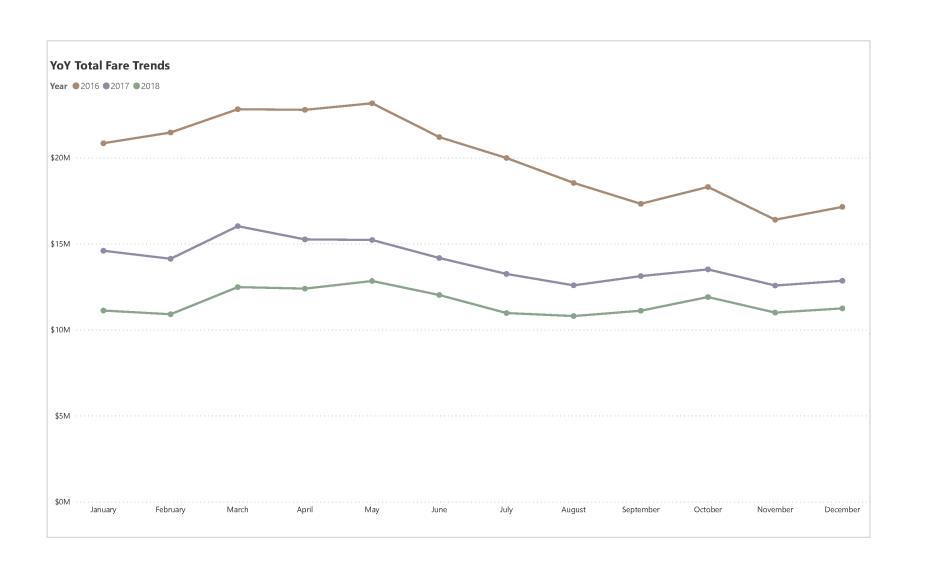


The Law of Closure in action





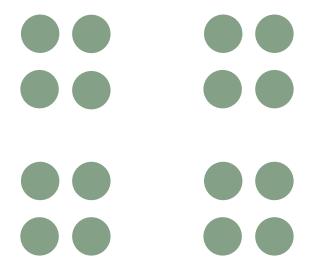
The Law of Closure in action





LAW OF PROXIMITY

Objects that appear close together tend to be grouped together





The Law of Proximity in action

Date	Pickup Time	Dropoff Time	Trip Type	Pickup Borough	Pickup Zone	Dropoff Borough	Dropoff Zone	Passengers	Trip Distance	Total Fare Amount
Friday, June 01, 2018	12:34:23 PM	1:16:06 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	East Concourse/Concourse Village	1	6.95	\$31.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	12:02:18 PM	12:16:53 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	East Tremont	1	2.68	\$13.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	8:15:29 PM	8:32:30 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Morrisania/Melrose	1	6.37	\$21.80
Friday, June 01, 2018	11:41:02 PM	11:56:34 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Mount Hope	1	3.78	\$15.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	6:11:20 PM	6:57:01 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Riverdale/North Riverdale/Fieldston	1	5.90	\$38.29
Friday, June 01, 2018	5:47:03 PM	6:25:37 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Spuyten Duyvil/Kingsbridge	5	8.48	\$33.80
Friday, June 01, 2018	8:50:21 AM	9:07:20 AM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Van Cortlandt Village	1	3.31	\$19.71
Friday, June 01, 2018	11:36:35 AM	12:07:22 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	West Concourse	1	6.77	\$26.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	12:36:24 PM	12:51:04 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Westchester Village/Unionport	1	2.57	\$13.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	1:52:23 PM	2:13:31 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Westchester Village/Unionport	1	3.93	\$18.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	3:03:10 PM	3:21:24 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Williamsbridge/Olinville	1	2.64	\$14.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	12:42:03 PM	12:55:28 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Woodlawn/Wakefield	1	2.90	\$12.80
Friday, June 01, 2018	5:29:18 PM	5:39:21 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Woodlawn/Wakefield	1	1.34	\$10.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	8:20:43 PM	8:34:03 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Woodlawn/Wakefield	1	2.58	\$12.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	11:07:07 PM	11:26:24 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Manhattan	Central Harlem North	1	9.72	\$29.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	11:09:10 AM	11:46:01 AM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Manhattan	East Harlem North	1	9.12	\$31.80
Friday, June 01, 2018	3:37:02 PM	4:35:42 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Manhattan	Midtown Center	1	12.68	\$51.06
Friday, June 01, 2018	11:50:17 AM	12:58:10 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Manhattan	Upper East Side South	1	14.82	\$53.80
Friday, June 01, 2018	12:36:50 PM	1:29:15 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Manhattan	Washington Heights South	1	8.29	\$36.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	4:27:15 PM	5:20:24 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Queens	Elmhurst	1	10.45	\$49.56
Friday, June 01, 2018	4:27:21 AM	4:43:31 AM	Dispatch	Bronx	Bedford Park	Bronx	East Concourse/Concourse Village	1	3.10	\$0.00
Friday, June 01, 2018	10:08:03 PM	10:21:18 PM	Dispatch	Bronx	Bedford Park	Bronx	Soundview/Bruckner	1	3.90	\$0.00
Friday, June 01, 2018	5:08:32 AM	5:37:19 AM	Dispatch	Bronx	Bedford Park	Bronx	Williamsbridge/Olinville	1	5.20	\$0.00
Friday, June 01, 2018	2:17:23 AM	3:01:25 AM	Dispatch	Bronx	Bedford Park	Manhattan	Bloomingdale	2	16.50	\$0.00
Friday, June 01, 2018	2:19:54 PM	2:26:14 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Bedford Park	Bronx	Bedford Park	1	0.66	\$6.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	3:46:29 PM	3:50:29 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Bedford Park	Bronx	Bedford Park	1	2.13	\$12.80
Friday, June 01, 2018	6:28:04 PM	6:28:22 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Bedford Park	Bronx	Bedford Park	1	0.02	\$4.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	11:46:15 PM	11:52:00 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Bedford Park	Bronx	Bedford Park	1	0.85	\$6.80
Friday, June 01, 2018	8:55:47 AM	9:05:23 AM	Street-hail	Bronx	Bedford Park	Bronx	Belmont	1	1.10	\$8.80
Friday, June 01, 2018	5:30:02 PM	5:35:59 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Bedford Park	Bronx	Belmont	5	0.69	\$7.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	7:01:06 PM	7:13:27 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Bedford Park	Bronx	Belmont	1	1.38	\$10.30
Friday, June 01, 2018	1:52:30 PM	2:07:42 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Bedford Park	Bronx	Bronxdale	1	2.48	\$12.80
Friday, June 01, 2018	12:08:29 PM	12:22:13 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Bedford Park	Bronx	Claremont/Bathgate	1	2.34	\$12.30
Friday June 01 2018	1-36:00 PM	1·52·56 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Redford Park	Bronx	Claremont/Bathgate	1	2 50	\$13.80

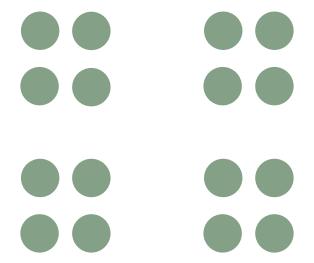


The Law of Proximity at use in Table visuals

Date	Pickup Time	Dropoff Time	Trip Type	Pickup Borough	Pickup Zone	Dropoff Borough	Dropoff Zone	Passengers	Trip Distance	Total Fare A
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Friday, June 01, 2018	11:41:02 PM	11:56:34 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Mount Hope	1	3.78	
Friday, June 01, 2018	6:11:20 PM	6:57:01 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Riverdale/North Riverdale/Fieldston	1	5.90	
Friday, June 01, 2018	5:47:03 PM	6:25:37 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Spuyten Duyvil/Kingsbridge	5	8.48	
Friday, June 01, 2018	8:50:21 AM	9:07:20 AM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Van Cortlandt Village	1	3.31	
Friday, June 01, 2018	11:36:35 AM	12:07:22 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	West Concourse	1	6.77	
Friday, June 01, 2018	12:36:24 PM	12:51:04 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Westchester Village/Unionport	1	2.57	
Friday, June 01, 2018	1:52:23 PM	2:13:31 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Westchester Village/Unionport	1	3.93	
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Friday, June 01, 2018	8:20:43 PM	8:34:03 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Bronx	Woodlawn/Wakefield	1	2.58	
Friday, June 01, 2018	11:07:07 PM	11:26:24 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Manhattan	Central Harlem North	1	9.72	
Friday, June 01, 2018	11:09:10 AM	11:46:01 AM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Manhattan	East Harlem North	1	9.12	
Friday, June 01, 2018	3:37:02 PM	4:35:42 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Manhattan	Midtown Center	1	12.68	
Friday, June 01, 2018	11:50:17 AM	12:58:10 PM	Street-hail	Bronx	Allerton/Pelham Gardens	Manhattan	Upper East Side South	1	14.82	
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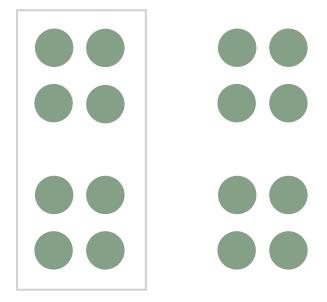
LAW OF COMMON REGION

Objects enclosed in the same region are perceived as a group



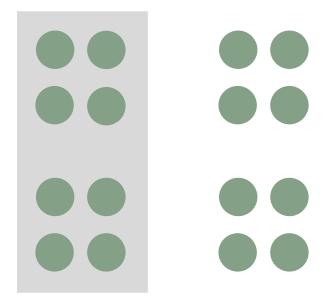
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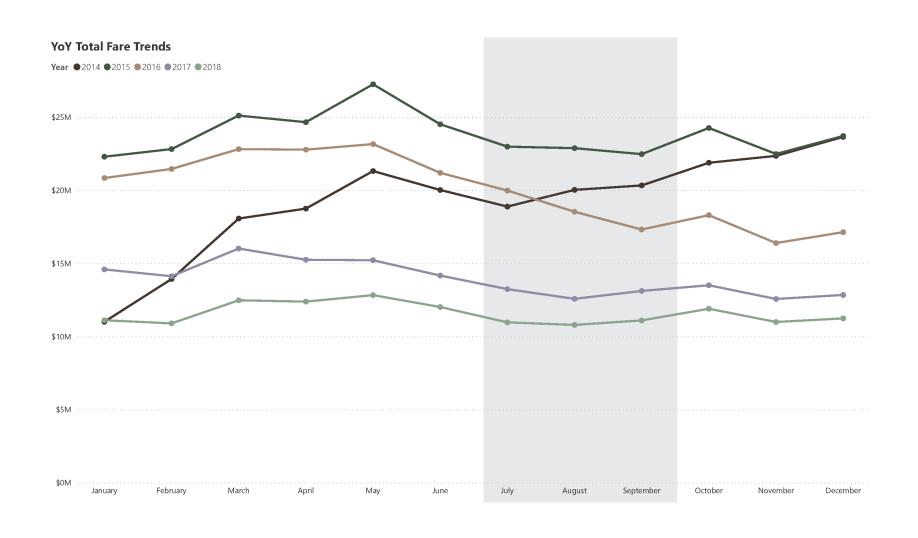
LAW OF COMMON REGION

Objects enclosed in the same region are perceived as a group





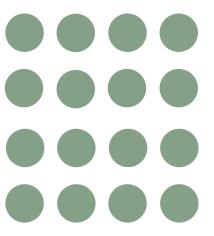
The Law of Common Region in action





LAW OF SIMILARITY

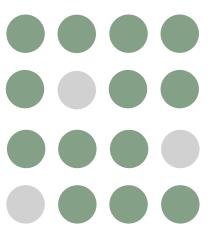
Objects that appear similar in color, shape, size, or orientation tend to be grouped together, even if the objects are separated





LAW OF SIMILARITY

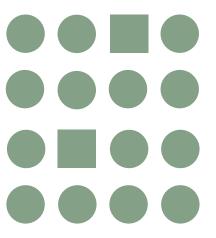
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LAW OF SIMILARITY

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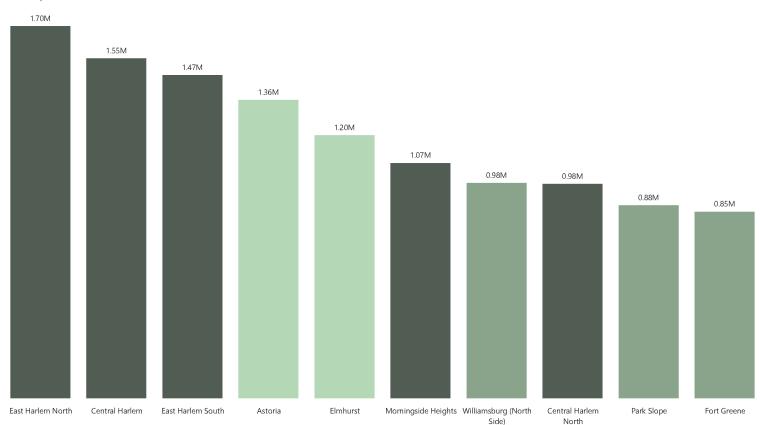




The Law of Similarity in action

Number of Pickups in the Top Ten Green Taxi Zones



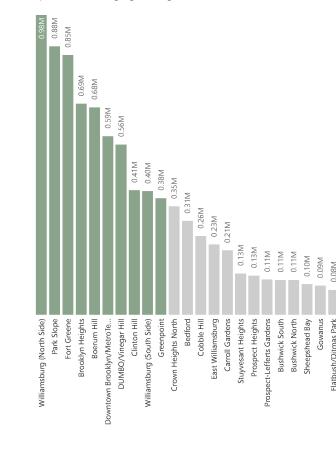




The Law of Similarity in action

Number of Taxi Pickups in Brooklyn

Top 10 Taxi Zones highlighted in green





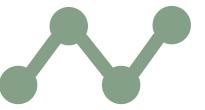
LAW OF CONNECTEDNESS

Objects that connected physically connected are part of a group



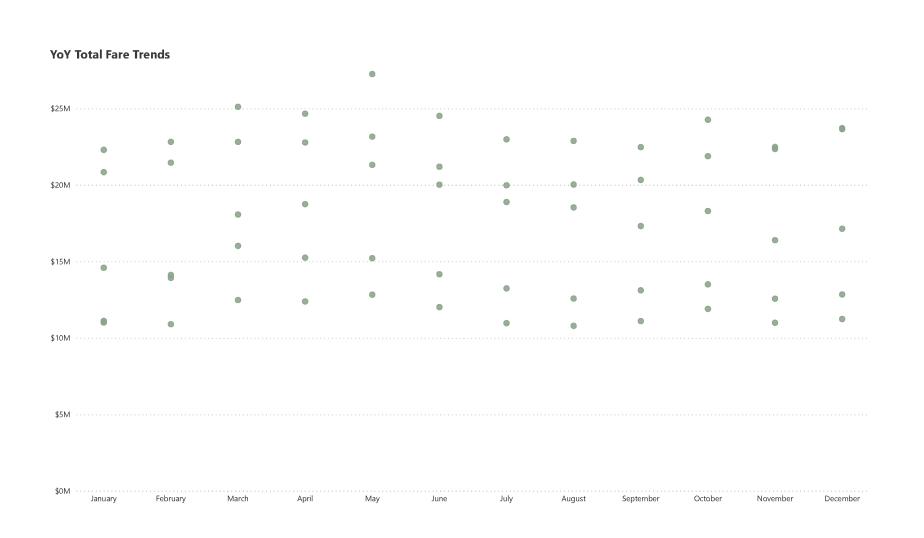
LAW OF CONNECTEDNESS

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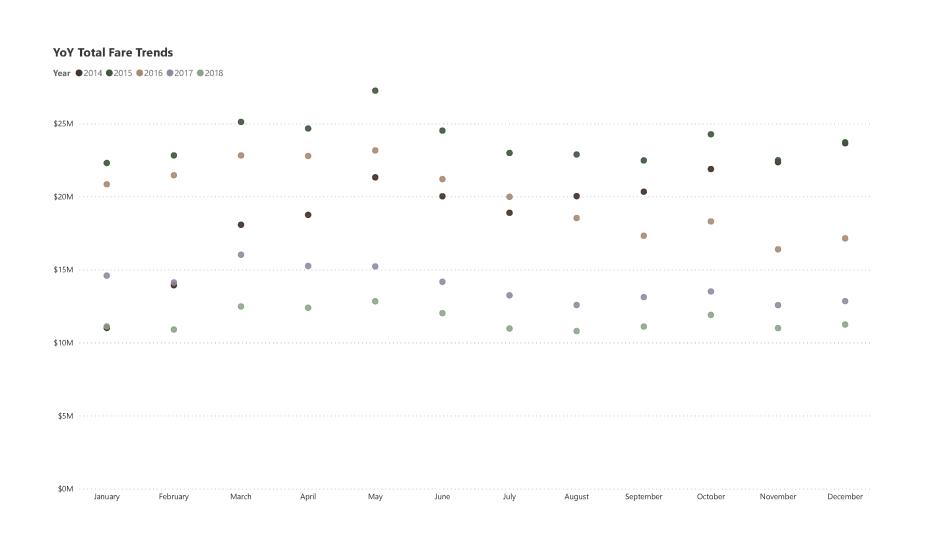


The Law of Connectedness in action



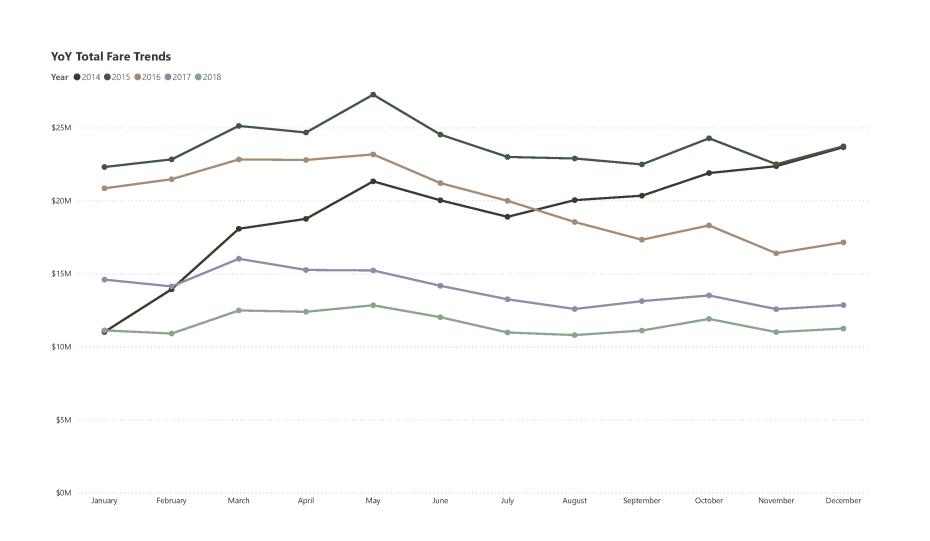


The Law of Connectedness in action





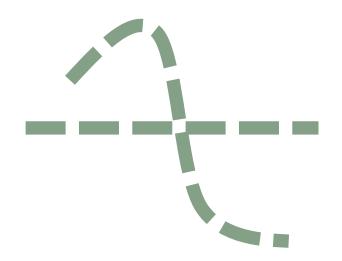
The Law of Connectedness in action





LAW OF CONTINUITY OR CONTINUATION

Objects that appear on a simple, continuous path appear to follow the path in that direction

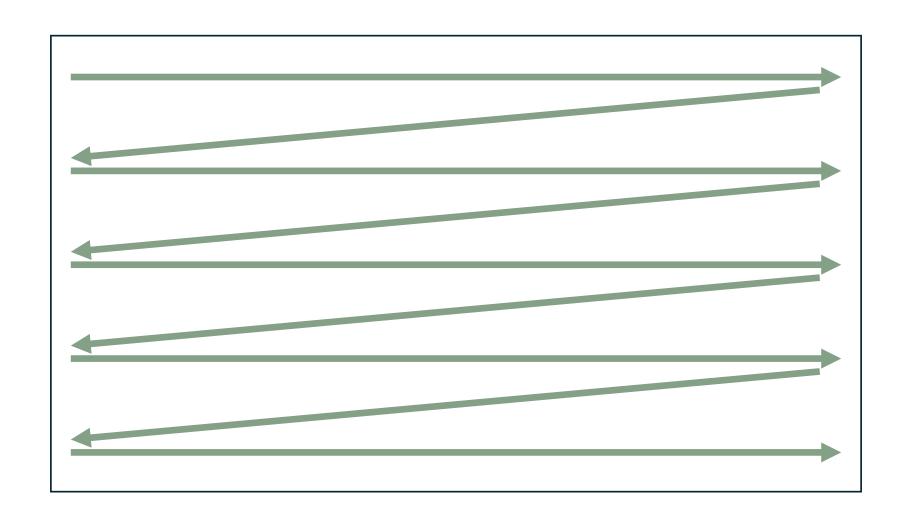


REPORT PAGE LAYOUTS

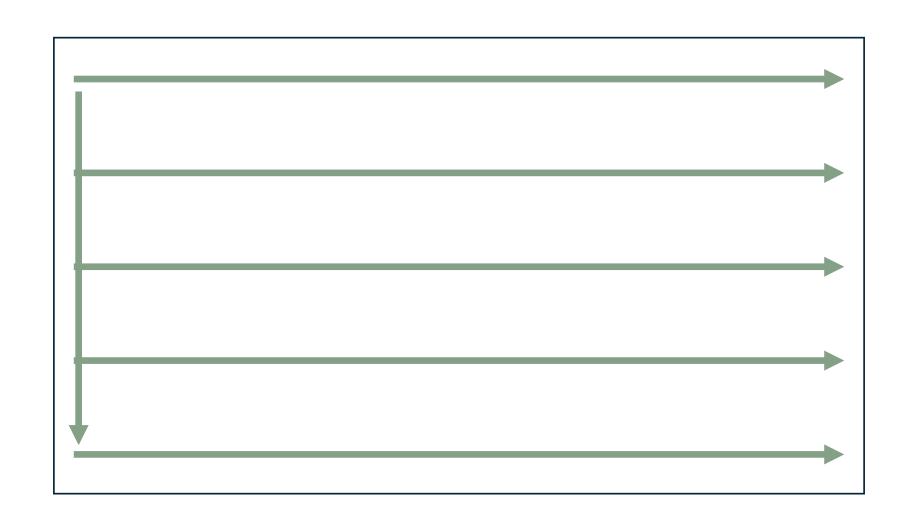














Most Important Information Least Important Information

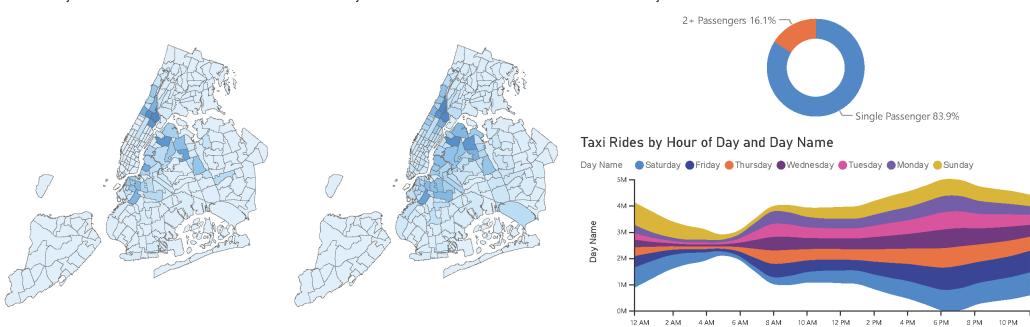


NYC GREEN TAXI OPERATIONS DASHBOARD

- Customers are opting for Uber or Lyft instead of taking a taxi
- Operational changes will be implemented to make getting a taxi more convenient for customers
- Monitor key metrics versus previous month and previous year
 - Taxi ride counts
 - Average trip distance
 - Average trip duration
- See popular pickup and drop off zones. Where are more taxis needed?
- When are people using taxis most often?
- Are people using taxis to ride alone or with others?
- Users need the ability to interact with visuals as filters best presentation format is dashboarding tool, i.e. Power BI, Tableau, Looker
- Chart types have already been chosen



2.66	00:12:56
▲ 3.8% YoY	▲ 00:00:52 YoY
Avg Trip Distance MTD	Avg Trip Duration MTD (Formatted)
2.66	00:12:53
▲ 1.1% MoM	▼ 00:00:10 MoM
Taxi Rides by Zone	Taxi Rides by Rideshare
	2+ Passengers 16.1%
	Avg Trip Distance MTD 2.66 A 1.1% MoM



Hour of Day



NYC Green Taxi Operations Dashboard

Last Data Refresh 02/10/2018

Taxi Rides

MTD

1,080,798

287,287

▼ -24.1% YoY

▲ 22.9% MoM

Average Trip Distance

YTD

MTD

2.66

2.66

▲ 3.8% YoY

▲ 1.1% MoM

Average Trip Duration

YTD

MTD

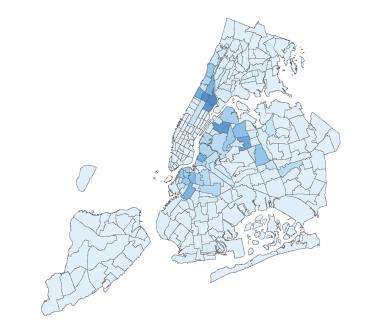
00:12:56

00:12:53

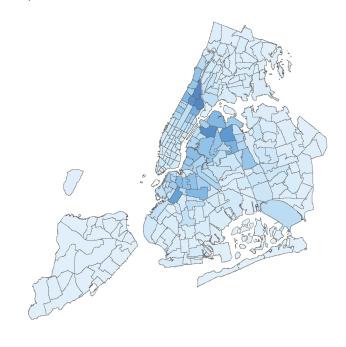
▲ 00:00:52 YoY

▼ 00:00:10 MoM

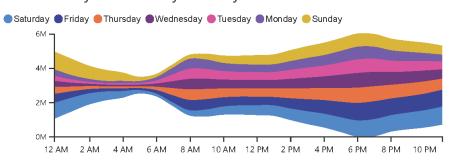




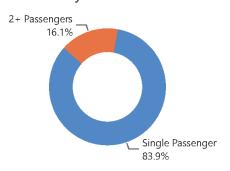
Dropoff Zones



Taxi Rides by Hour of Day and Day Name

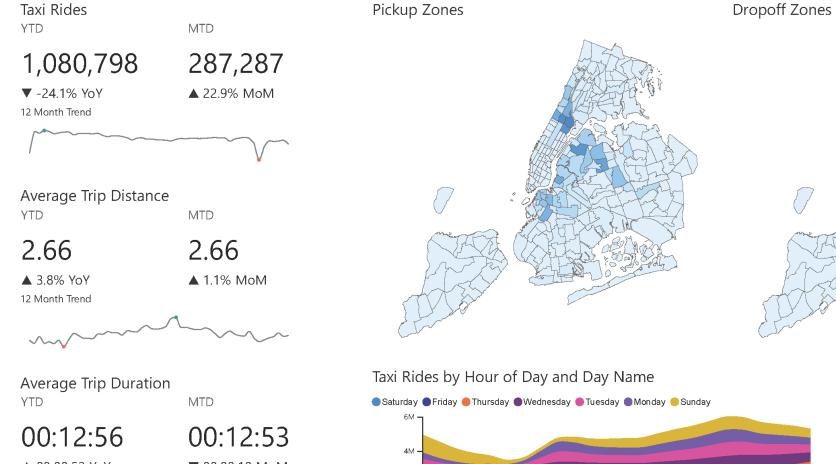


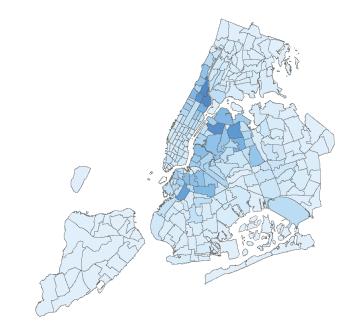
Taxi Rides by Rideshare



NYC Green Taxi Operations Dashboard

Last Data Refresh 02/10/2018

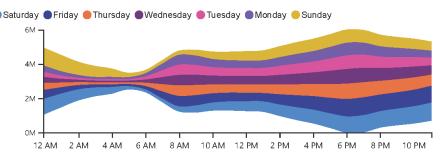




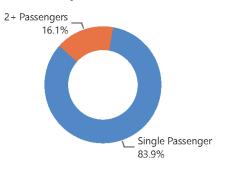
▲ 00:00:52 YoY ▼ 00:00:10 MoM

12 Month Trend





Taxi Rides by Rideshare







COLOR INSPIRATION

- Corporate Branding
- Nature
- Paintings
- Wallpaper samples
- Physical Design
- Web Design
- Anywhere we see color around us!



COLOR CONSIDERATIONS

- Start designing in grayscale
- Add color intentionally
- Don't use more color than necessary
- Use shades of a single color rather than multiple colors
- Pay attention to your senses when looking at a palette
- There are many beautiful color palettes, but not all suit data visualization
- Develop your style!



COLOR PALETTE TOOLS



Adobe Color



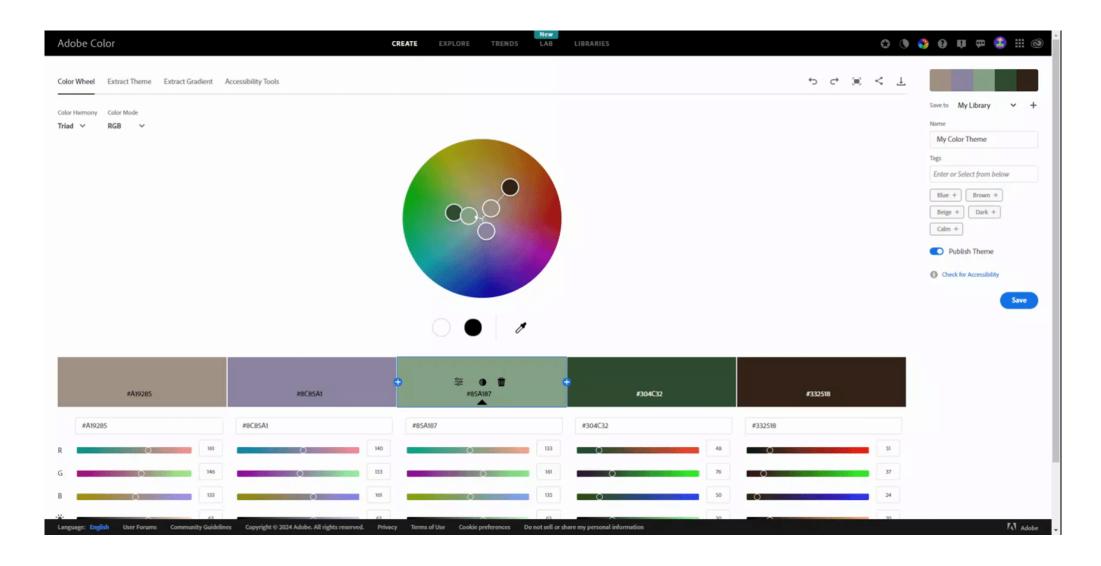
Leonardo



Color in Culture
Information is
Beautiful

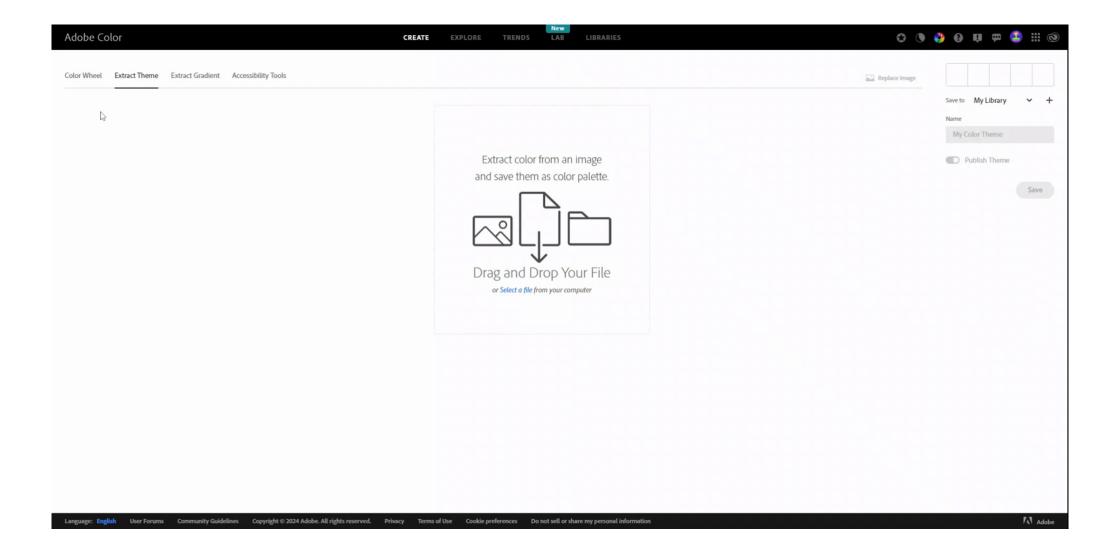


ADOBE COLOR





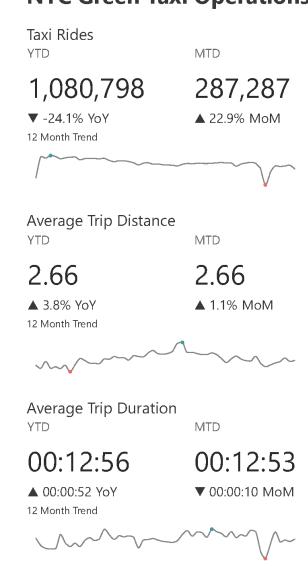
ADOBE COLOR

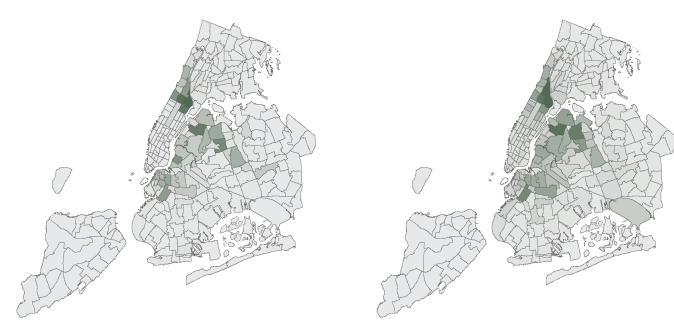


NYC Green Taxi Operations Dashboard

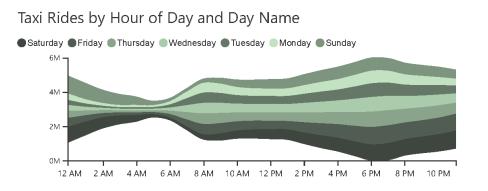
Pickup Zones

Last Data Refresh 02/10/2018

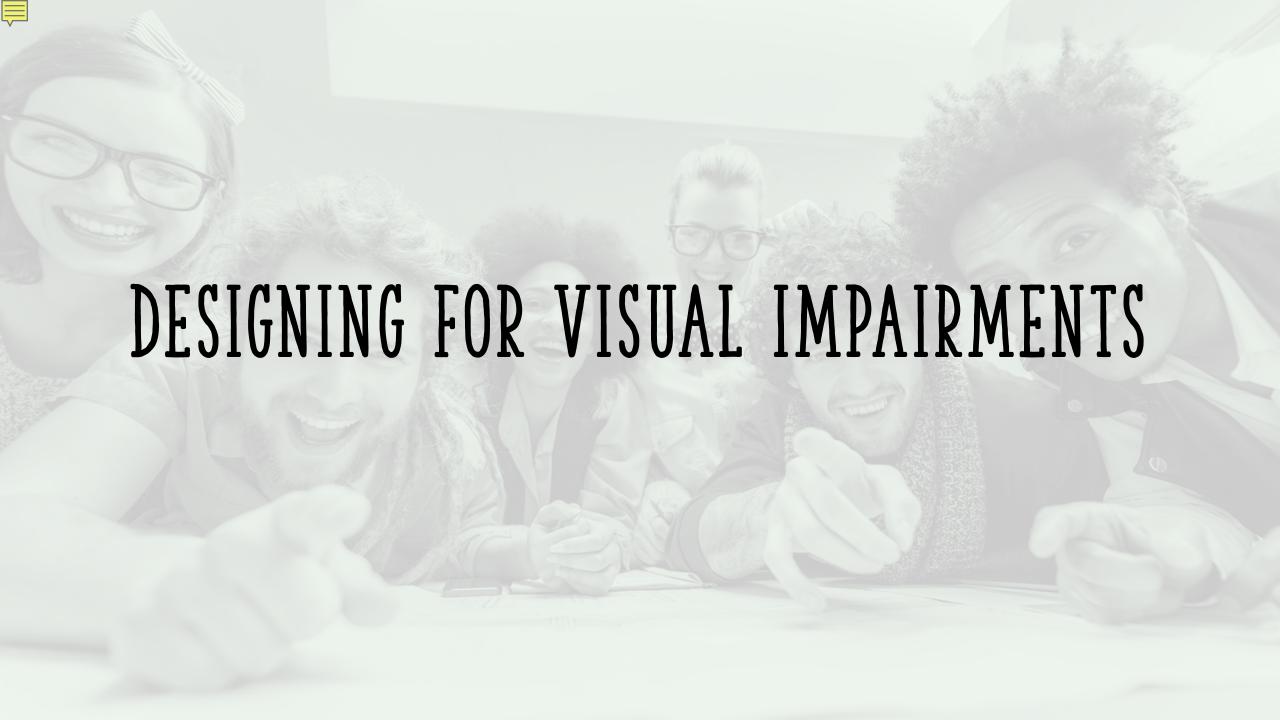




Dropoff Zones

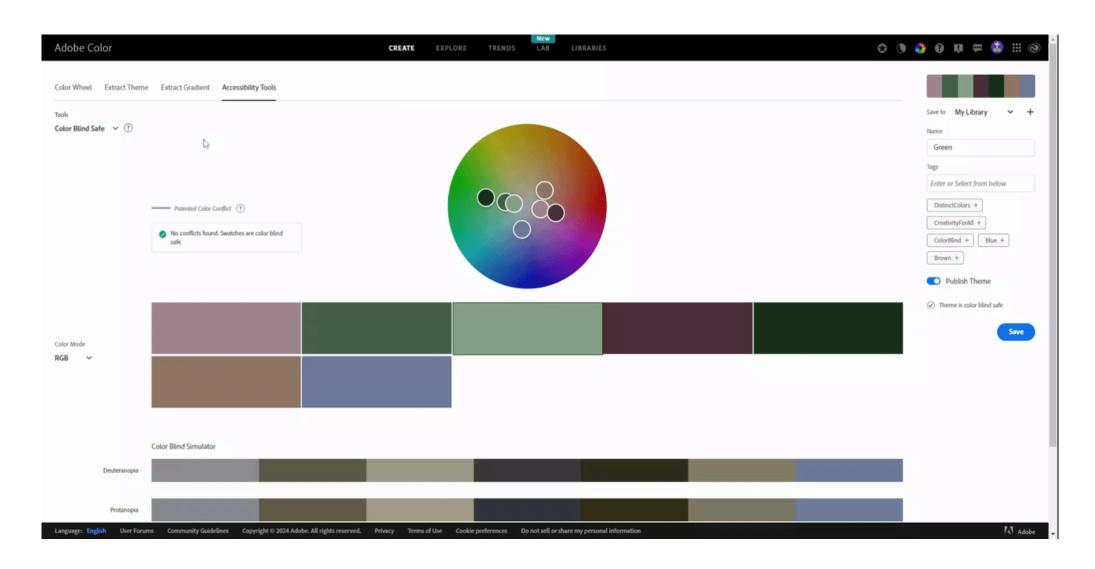








ADOBE COLOR ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS





COBLIS - COLOR BLINDNESS SIMULATOR





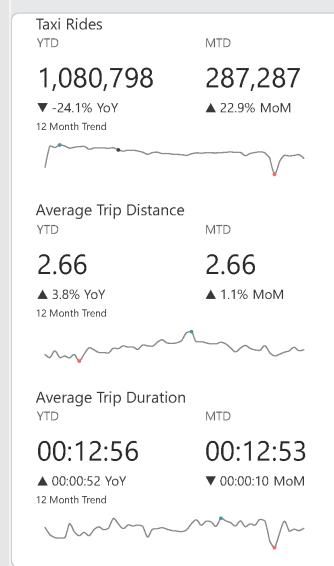
DESIGNING FOR VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

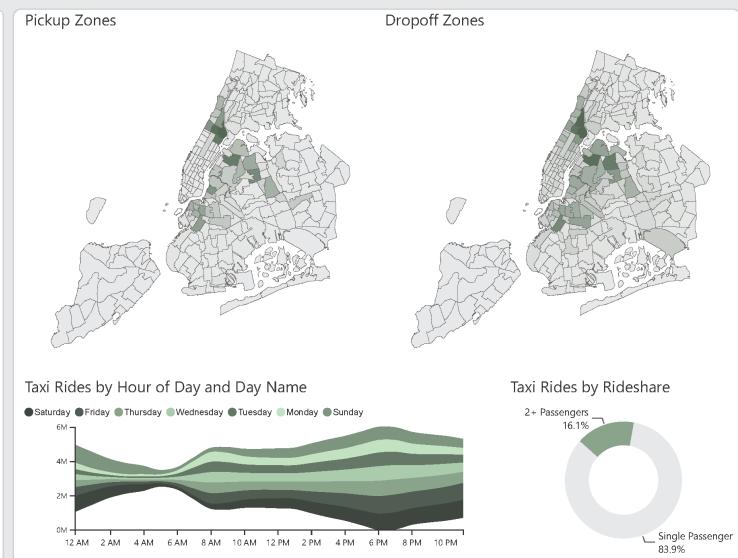
- Be aware of fonts and font sizes
- Use icons
- Add Alt Text entries



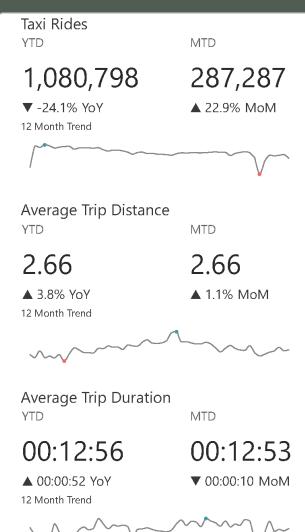
NYC Green Taxi Operations Dashboard

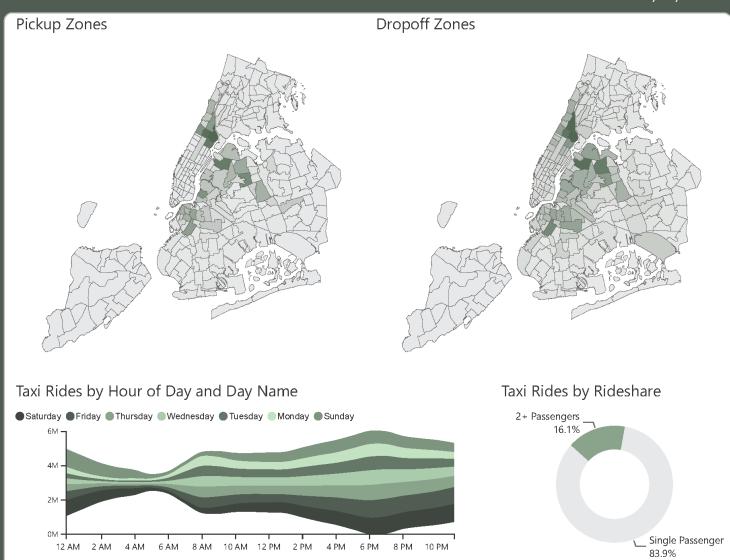
Last Data Refresh 02/10/2018





NYC Green Taxi Operations Dashboard







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