

# Annual Report 2019 NYCDESIGN



**NYC**DESIGN

NYC Public Design Commission  
City Hall, Third Floor, New York, NY 10007  
[nyc.gov/designcommission](http://nyc.gov/designcommission)



# Contents

About the Public Design Commission	2
Commissioners	3
Staff	3
Conservation Advisory Group	3
Design Review	4
2019 Year in Review	7
Submissions by Type	8
Architecture and Structures	9
Parks, Open Spaces, and Streetscapes	10
Artworks	11
Private Structures on or over City-owned Land	12
Carry-over Projects	12
Submissions Acted or Commented Upon	13
Review Cycles	13
Submissions and Projects by Lead Agency	14
Submissions and Projects by Borough	15
Public Engagement and Data	16
Resiliency and Green Infrastructure Projects	17
Highlighted Projects by Borough	19
Designing New York: The Public Designers	31
Special Projects and Interagency Initiatives	51
The Archive	52
City Hall Tour Program	53
Annual Awards for Excellence in Design	55
Women-Designed NYC	60
Shared Spaces: Designing People-Friendly Urban Streets	61
Prefabrication in the Public Realm	62
Quality Affordable Housing	63
The City's Public Art Database	64
Art for New York: The Making of a Public Art Collection	65
Other Collaborations and Professional Development	66
Commissioner Biographies	69
Staff Biographies	72

# The Public Design Commission



PDC Executive Director Justin Garrett Moore and PDC Commissioners Mary Valverde, Laurie Hawkinson, Ethel Scheffer, Manuel Miranda, Shin-pei Tsay, Signe Nielsen, and Susan Morgenthau celebrate the Design Awards at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice

The Public Design Commission (PDC) is New York City’s design review agency. Established as the Municipal Art Commission in 1898, the agency was renamed the Public Design Commission in 2008 to better reflect its mission and purview. As an advocate for excellence and innovation in the public realm, the PDC works to ensure the quality and viability of public projects, programs, and services for New Yorkers in all five boroughs.

The PDC reviews permanent works of architecture, landscape architecture, and art proposed on or over City-owned property. The PDC also acts as caretaker and curator of the City’s public art collection, which is located throughout public buildings and open spaces in New York City.

The Commission comprises 11 members, including an architect, landscape architect, painter, sculptor, three lay members, and representatives of the Brooklyn Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York Public Library, and the Mayor. Members serve pro bono and meet monthly to review and vote on City projects.

The PDC maintains an extensive archive of projects reviewed by the Commission since 1902, documenting more than 7000 sites throughout New York City and providing a unique view into the history of the City’s public works.

The PDC’s jurisdiction and procedures are outlined in Chapter 37 of the New York City Charter and the Rules of Practice and Procedure. For more information, see [www.nyc.gov/designcommission](http://www.nyc.gov/designcommission).

## Commissioners

- Signe Nielsen**, President, Landscape Architect
- Philip E. Aarons**, Vice President, Lay Member
- Laurie Hawkinson**, Architect
- Manuel Miranda**, Lay Member
- Richard Moore**, Brooklyn Museum
- Susan Morgenthau**, The New York Public Library
- Ethel Sheffer**, Mayor’s Representative
- Dr. Merryl H. Tisch**, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Shin-pei Tsay**, Secretary, Lay Member\*
- Mary Valverde**, Sculptor
- Hank Willis Thomas**, Painter

*\*Shin-pei Tsay served as a Lay Member of the Commission through September 2019.*

## Staff

- Justin Garrett Moore**, Executive Director
- Keri Butler**, Deputy Executive Director
- Grace Han**, Director of Capital Projects
- Rebecca Macklis**, Senior Urban Design Manager
- Jenna E. Miller**, Urban Design & Policy Manager
- Carolina Llano**, Project Manager
- Julianna Monjeau**, Archivist & Senior Records Manager
- Mary Beth Betts**, City Hall Tour Manager
- Gail Cornell, Gary Deane, Gail Green, Deirdre LaPorte, and Patricia Orfanos**, Docents
- Vincent DeCesare**, Affordable Housing Research Associate (Intern)

## Conservation Advisory Group

The Conservation Advisory Group (CAG) was established to advise the PDC on projects specific to art and building conservation. CAG includes conservators, art historians, artists, and preservationists who serve pro bono.

- Lucy Belloli**, former Senior Conservator, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Dr. Michele H. Bogart**, Professor, Department of Art, SUNY Stony Brook
- Lauren Bradley**, Associate Conservator of Paintings, Brooklyn Museum
- Lisa Bruno**, Carol Lee Shen Chief Conservator, Brooklyn Museum
- Phyllis Samitz Cohen**, Director of Adopt-a-Monument/Mural Programs, The Municipal Art Society
- Isabelle Duvernois**, Associate Conservator, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Stephen E. Gottlieb**, AIA and formerly of WASA
- Kendra Roth**, Associate Objects Conservator, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- John Willenbecher**, Artist and former Art (PDC) Commission member

# Design Review

A Typical Capital Project Schedule



When determining whether to approve or reject proposals, the Commission considers a diverse range of design parameters, including the unique context of the site and surrounding area, the history of the site and project, the durability and resiliency of the materials, the sustainability and maintainability of the design, the appropriateness of the design in terms of how it will facilitate the desired function and program, and how to best serve the public through long-term planning and innovative solutions.

The PDC has developed guidelines for certain types of projects, which are intended to provide a general sense of designs the Commission supports, clarify requirements, provide guidance to applicants, and streamline the review process. In addition, staff has worked with City agencies to develop expedited review strategies for prototypical and standardized designs and projects with small scopes.

Due to the iterative nature of design development, the PDC has established multiple levels of review – Conceptual, Preliminary, and Final – that are integrated into typical project schedules established by City capital agencies. The charts on these two pages indicates where the different levels of PDC review fit within a typical capital project schedule. Individual projects may be submitted multiple times within a year as the design progresses through the levels of review.

## Conceptual

Conceptual review is required for all artworks, ground-up buildings, major infrastructure projects, master plans, other large-scale or complex projects, as well as projects that are subject to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). Submissions are made early in the design process when drawings are at the pre-schematic level.

## Preliminary

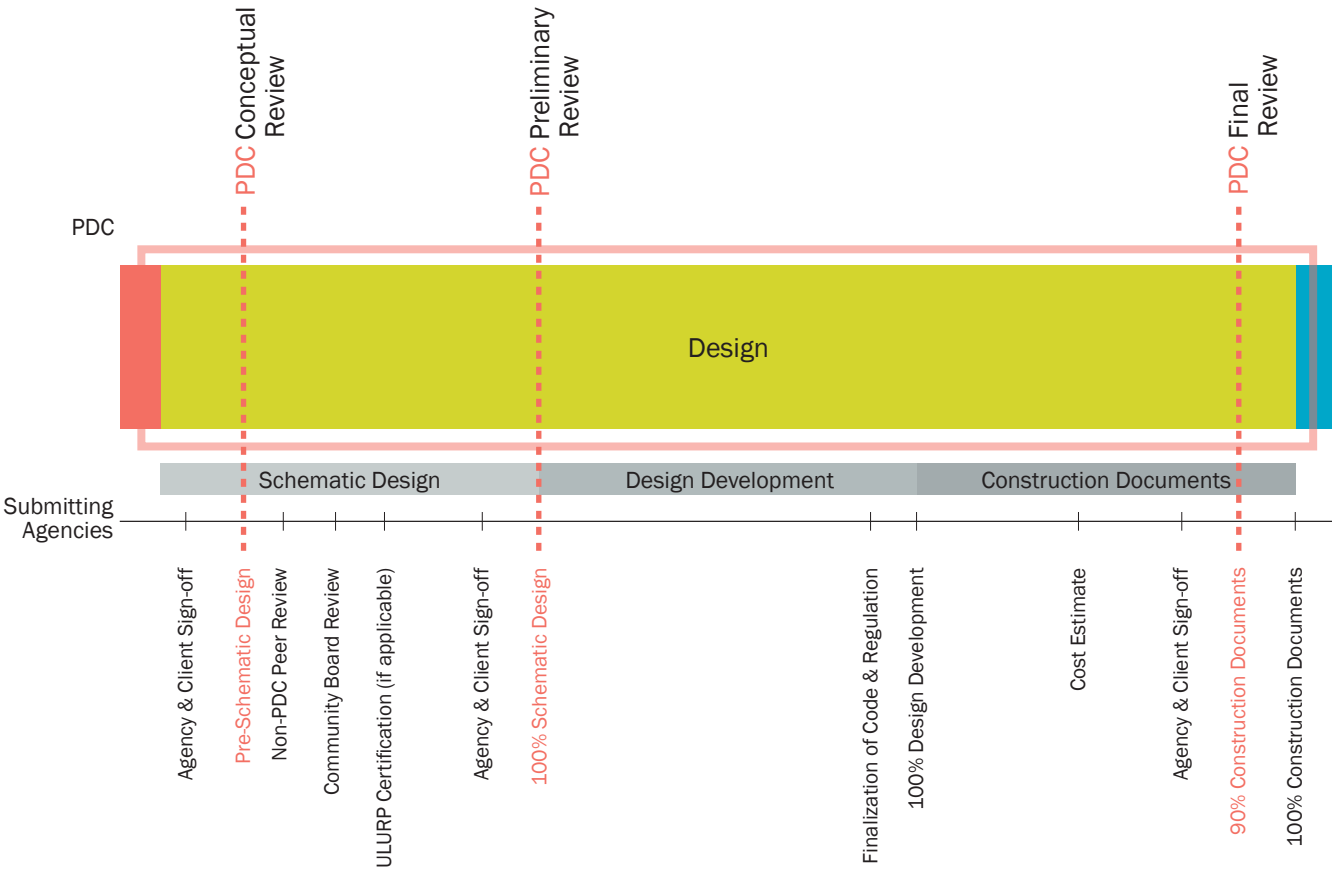
For structures and landscapes, preliminary review occurs at the end of the schematic design phase. For artworks, preliminary review occurs when the artist has completed fabrication drawings.

## Final

For structures and landscapes, final review and approval occurs at approximately 90% completion of construction documents. Once final approval is granted, construction can commence. For artworks, final review takes place after the artwork has been installed and includes the submission of photographs documenting the installed artwork.

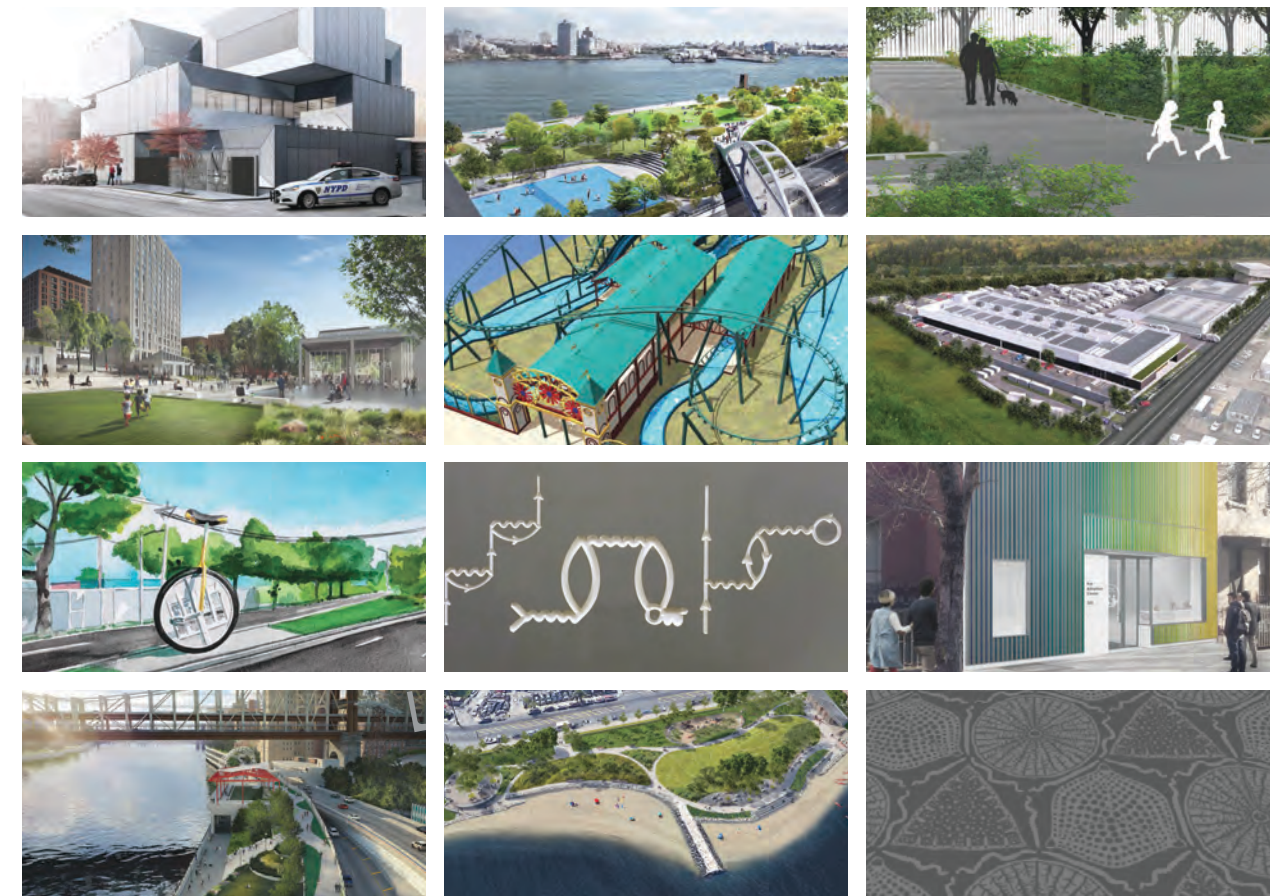
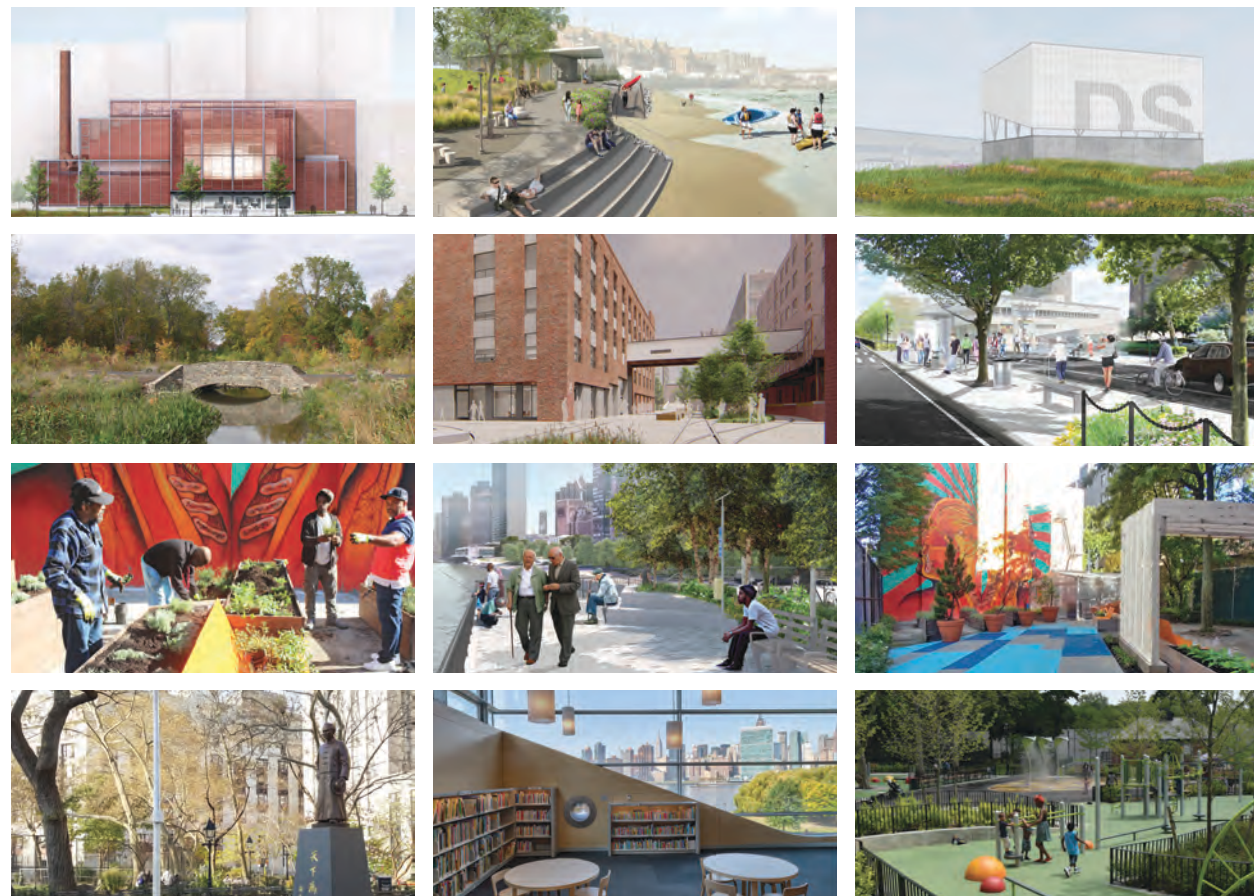
## Final Sign-off

Final sign-off occurs after a project has been completed and photographic documentation has been submitted.





# Year in Review 2019





# Total Number of Submissions by Type

The Public Design Commission reviews approximately 800 to 1,000 submissions (600 to 800 unique projects) every year. Most of the projects that the PDC reviews fall under the major categories of structures, parks, open spaces, and streetscapes, and artwork. These main categories are further broken down and described in the following pages.

## Total Number of Submissions Received: 910

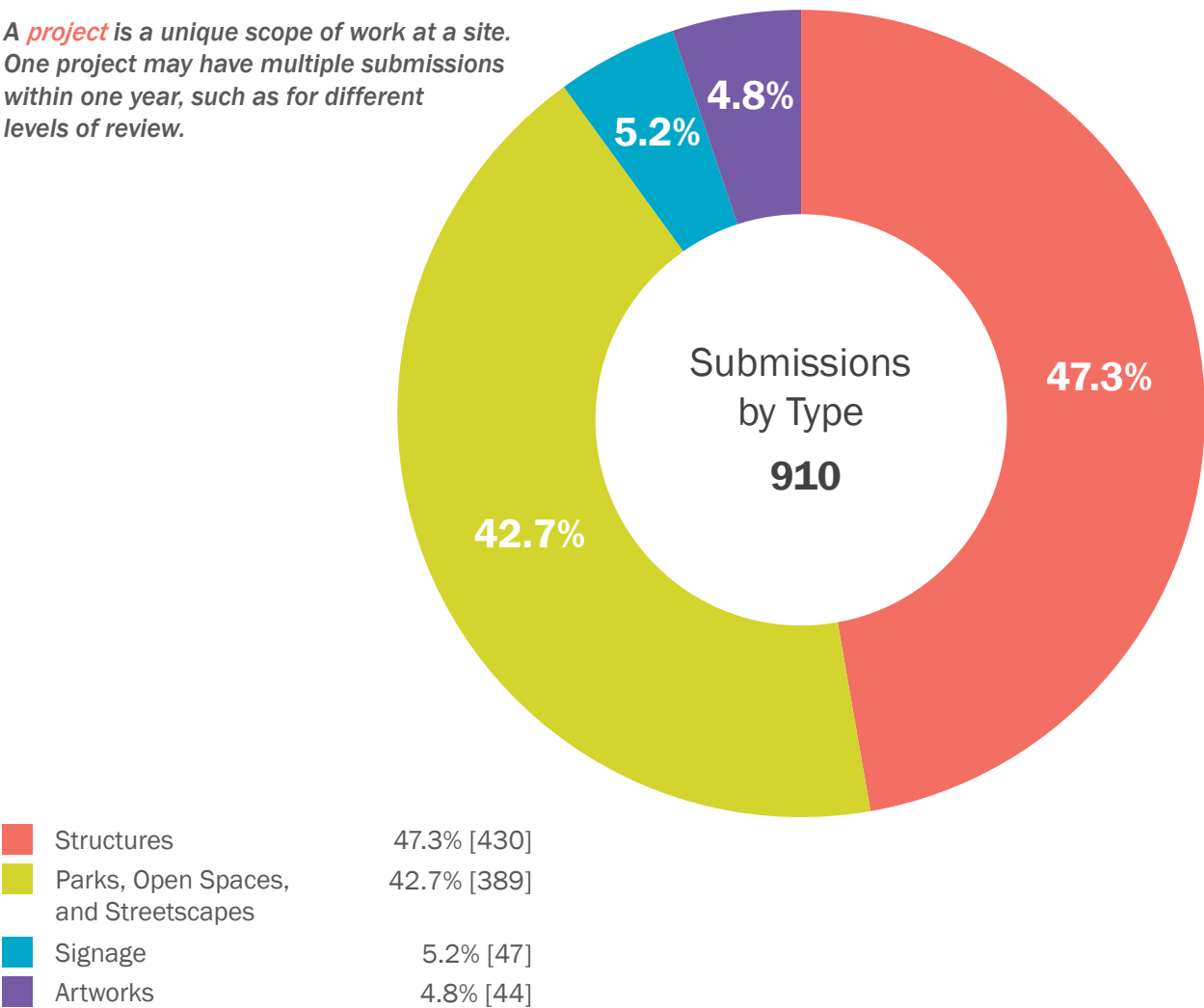


## Total Number of Unique Projects Reviewed: 655



A **submission** is a package of review materials for a single project at a specific level of review.

A **project** is a unique scope of work at a site. One project may have multiple submissions within one year, such as for different levels of review.



NOTE: All numbers have been rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

# Architecture and Structures

Architectural projects range in size and scope from large-scale multi-building developments to small-scale building improvements such as HVAC installations. Projects may include new affordable housing, libraries, police stations, sanitation garages, and bridges as well as renovations or restorations of existing buildings or bridges and the installation of mechanical units or other equipment.

Typical subcategories include but are not limited to:

## Construction

An entirely new building, bridge, or other structure

## Building Modifications and Minor Structures

Installation of prefabricated structures or small-scale additions of specific elements such as photovoltaic panels, HVAC units, or lighting

## Rehabilitation

An upgrade for the purpose of making a building functional today, such as improvements to life safety and HVAC systems

## Reconstruction

Replacement of an existing structure with a new one of the same function

## Renovation

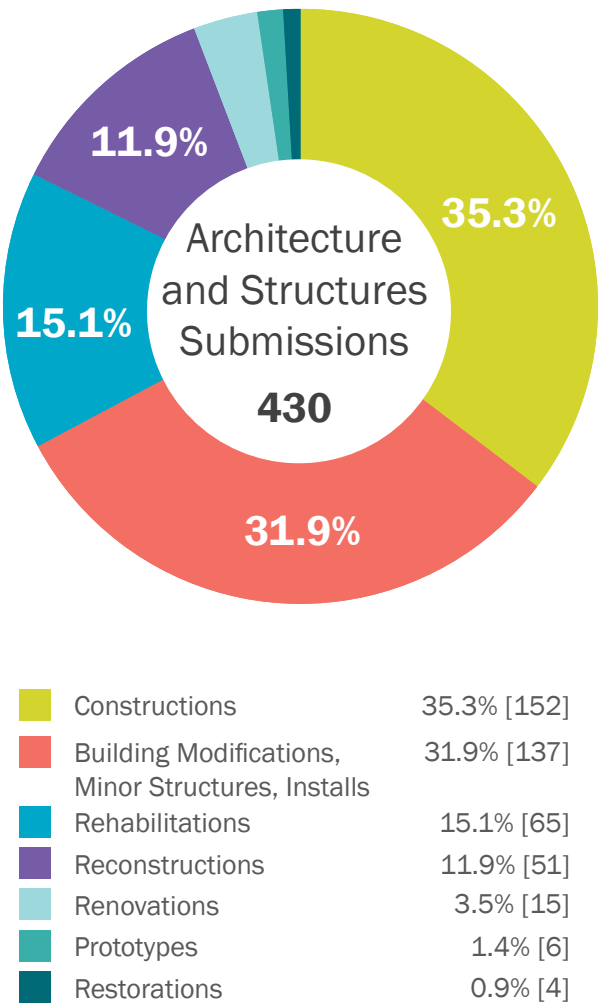
Significant changes to an existing structure

## Prototype

A typical design that can be replicated at multiple locations, requiring only minor site specific adjustments

## Restoration

Bringing a structure back to its condition at a specific period in time using the same construction materials and methods as the original



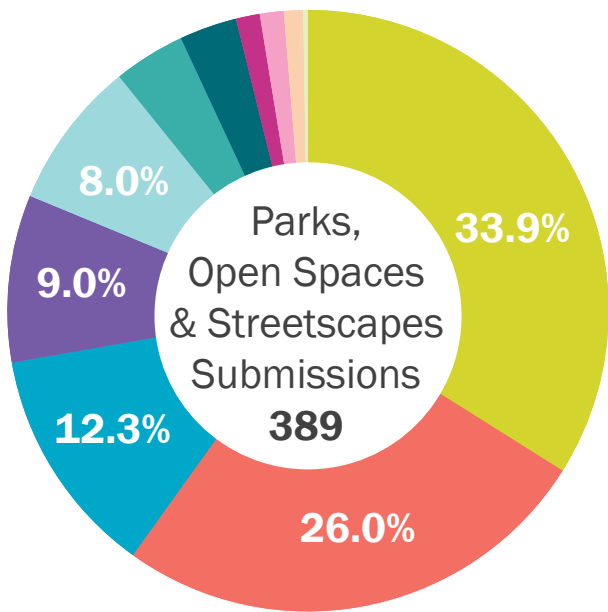
NOTE: All numbers have been rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.



# Parks, Open Spaces, and Streetscapes

Landscape projects range in scale from master plans for large-scale open spaces and streetscapes to the installation of specific site furnishings, such as benches or newsstands. The most common type of landscape architecture submission is the reconstruction of parks, including playgrounds and athletic fields. Projects may also include parking lots, dog runs, path reconstructions, streetscapes, planter installations, esplanades, flood mitigation measures, and shoreline stabilizations.

Typical subcategories include but are not limited to:



Reconstructions	33.9% [132]
Constructions	26.0% [101]
Minor installations	12.3% [48]
Street Furniture	9.0% [35]
Newsstands	8.0% [31]
Distinctive Sidewalks	3.9% [15]
Master Plans	3.1% [12]
Distinctive Lighting	1.3% [5]
Rehabilitations	1.3% [5]
Restorations	1.0% [4]
Stabilizations	0.3% [1]

NOTE: All numbers have been rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

## Reconstruction

Replacement of an existing park, plaza, or streetscape with a new one

## Construction

An entirely new park, plaza, or streetscape

## Minor Installation

The addition of specific elements, such as artificial turf, tennis bubbles, or adult fitness equipment

## Newsstand

Prototypical street furniture approved for sidewalk vending

## Street Furniture

Amenities installed on a sidewalk

## Distinctive Sidewalk

Non-standard sidewalk treatments, materials, scoring patterns, or tints

## Distinctive Lighting

Light fixtures distinct from the typical poles for a neighborhood

## Rehabilitation

An upgrade for the purpose of making an open space functional today, such as improvements to pathways, and site furnishings

## Master plan

A framework for a large site that often includes landscape as well as structures

## Restoration

Bringing a site back to its condition at a specific period in time using its original construction materials and methods

## Stabilization

Modification to control shoreline erosion

# Artworks

Artwork projects include the installation of new artworks as well as the conservation, relocation, and removal of existing artworks. Artworks may be installed within buildings, on the facades of buildings or structures, or outside in public plazas or parks. Artworks may include but are not limited to sculptures, bas reliefs, engravings, paintings, mosaics, photographs, and electronic media.

The City typically commissions artworks for City-owned property through the Department of Cultural Affairs' Percent for Art Program. The sponsoring City agency and the Percent for Art Program are jointly responsible for the selection of the artist and the development of the work of art. A member of the Public Design Commission serves as an advisor on the Percent for Art artist selection panel. Once the proposal is approved by both the sponsoring agency and the Percent for Art Program, it is submitted to the Commission for review.

For projects that are not going through Percent for Art, the PDC requests that applicants follow the Percent for Art process, where a panel including art professionals selects the artist.

Typical subcategories include but are not limited to:

## Installation

Commissioning of a new artwork for a site, usually through the Percent for Art program

## Conservation

The treatment by a conservator to preserve an artwork, including but not limited to cleaning, recreation of missing elements, crack repairs, stabilization, repainting and repatination

## Relocation

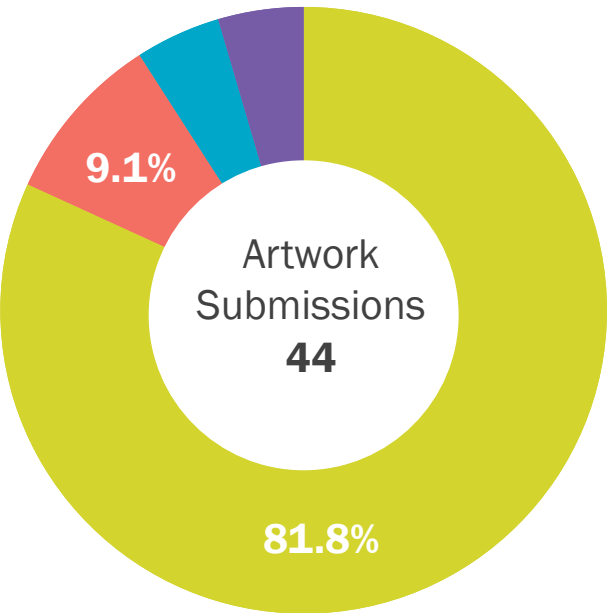
The moving of an artwork from one site to another site

## Reconstruction

Replacement of an existing artwork with a reproduction, typically due to the inability to repair or conserve the original

## Removal

In rare cases, an artwork may be completely removed from public view



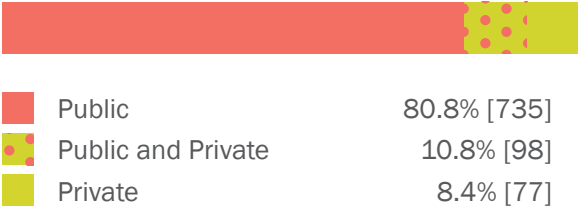
Installations	81.8% [36]
Conservations	9.1% [4]
Relocations	4.5% [2]
Reconstructions	4.5% [2]
Removals	0.0% [0]

NOTE: All numbers have been rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.



# Private Structures on or over City-owned Land

The PDC reviews privately-owned and/or operated structures and installations sited on or over City-owned land. Examples may include a concessionaire such as a restaurant or a recreation facility within a park, a mixed-use development on leased City-owned land, a newsstand, a distinctive sidewalk, or a stoop that extends onto the public right-of-way.



In 2019, the PDC reviewed 77 submissions for private structures or installations on or over City-owned property.



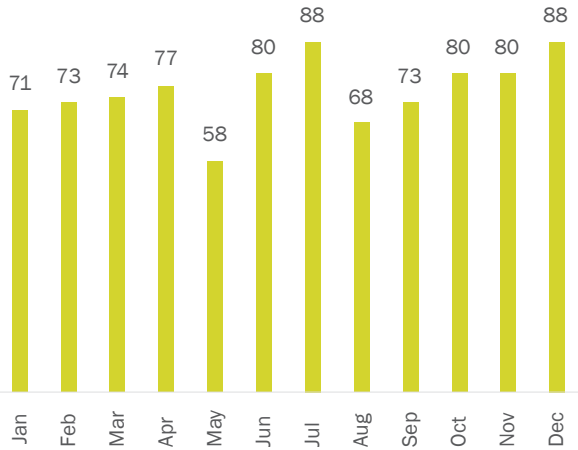
- 1. Sherman Creek Boathouse, Manhattan  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
Foster + Partners, MNLA
- 2. Made in NY - Buildings A + C and Landscape, Brooklyn  
Economic Development Corporation  
nARCHITECTS, Gilbane,  
W Architecture & Landscape Architecture, Dewberry

## Carry-over Projects

The PDC works year-round and typically the submission deadline for the January meeting is in December, so this one-month review cycle extends into the following year.

In 2018, 4 submissions (out of 71) were submitted in December for the January 2019 meeting, but were found incomplete and were not acted upon in January 2019. 1 of these submissions was acted upon later in 2019, and the other 3 were not resubmitted.

In 2019, 77 submissions were submitted in December and were then reviewed in January 2020. Of the submissions, all were acted upon in January 2020.



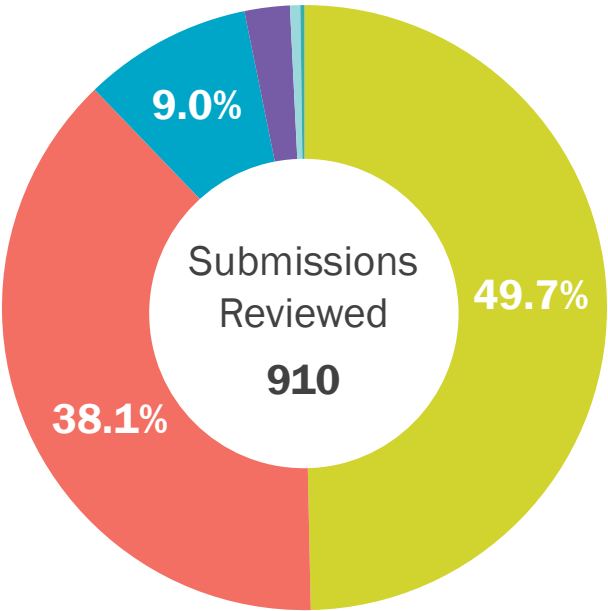
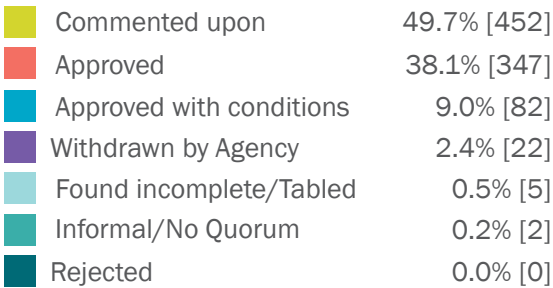
2019 Submissions by Month

# Number of Submissions Acted or Commented Upon

Design review is an iterative process and the PDC works to provide applicants with feedback and guidance so that their submissions can be approved in the shortest number of review cycles. Even if a submission is not formally acted upon by the Commission within a cycle, the PDC typically provides feedback that will help the agencies revise their proposal so that it may be approved the following month. Submissions that were commented upon but not acted upon may have been submitted for conceptual or informal review and include final sign-off and amendments to approved designs.

The term “acted upon” means an action was made by the Commission on a submission in the form of an approval, approval with conditions, or a rejection.

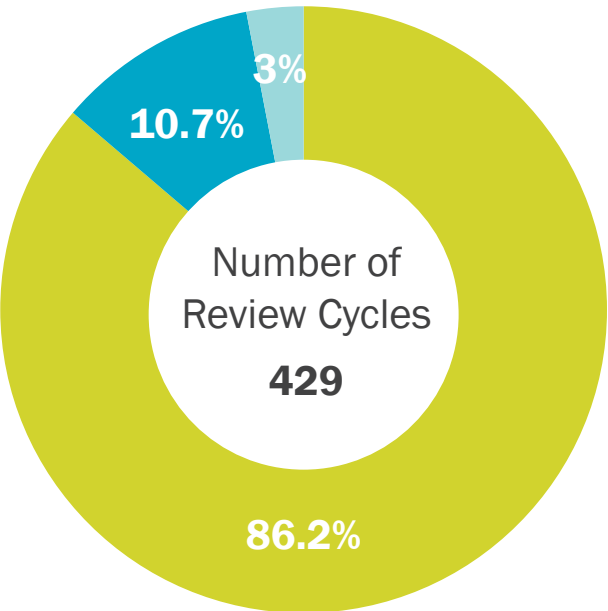
The term “commented upon” means written comments were provided to the sponsoring agency by the Commission, a special committee within the Commission, or the Executive Director as designated by the Commission.



## Review Cycles

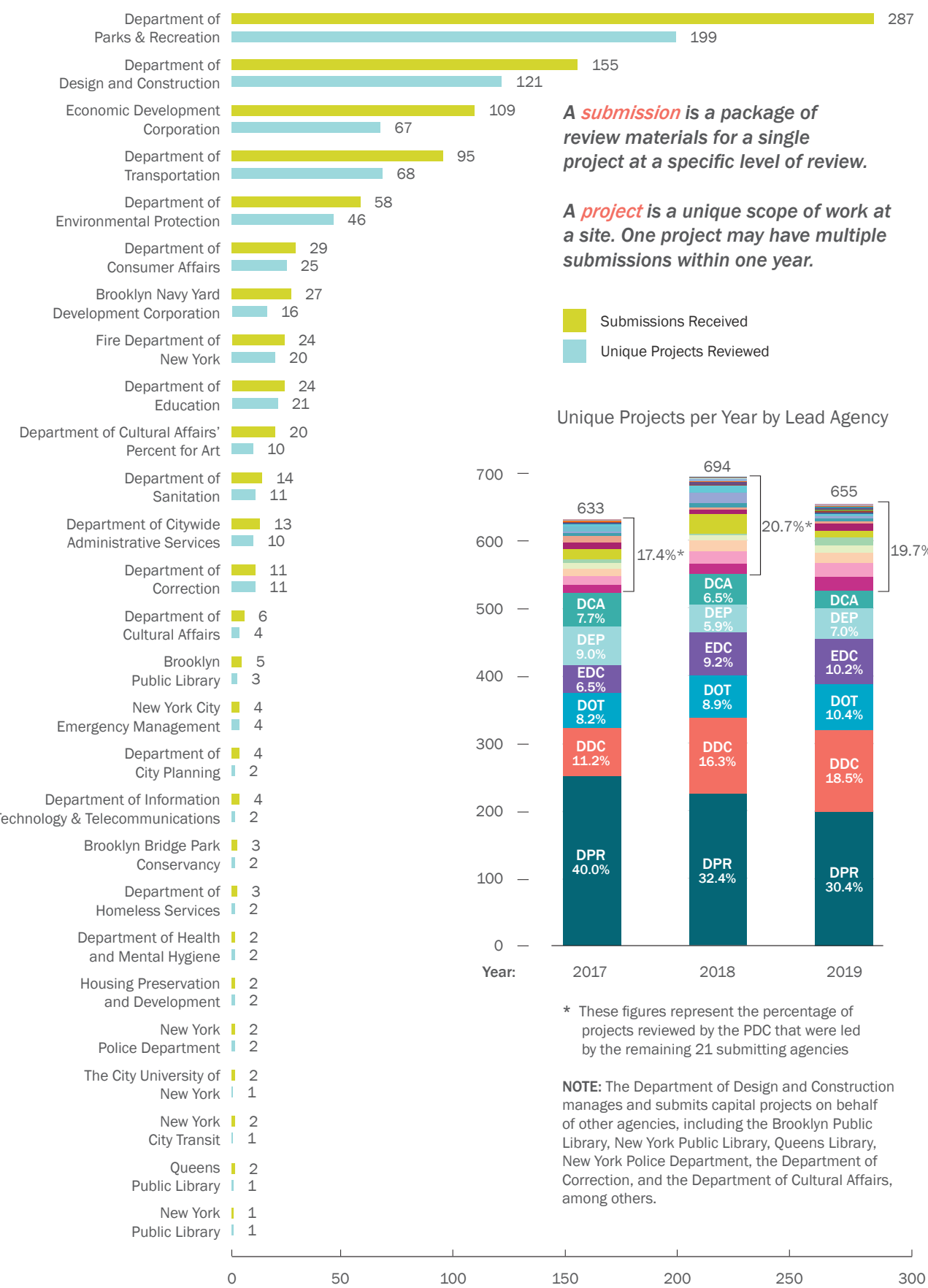
The PDC reviewed 97% of the 429 acted upon submissions in two or fewer cycles.

The term “review cycle” means the time between the deadline for the filing of a submission to the Commission and the scheduled date of the next public meeting of the Commission.

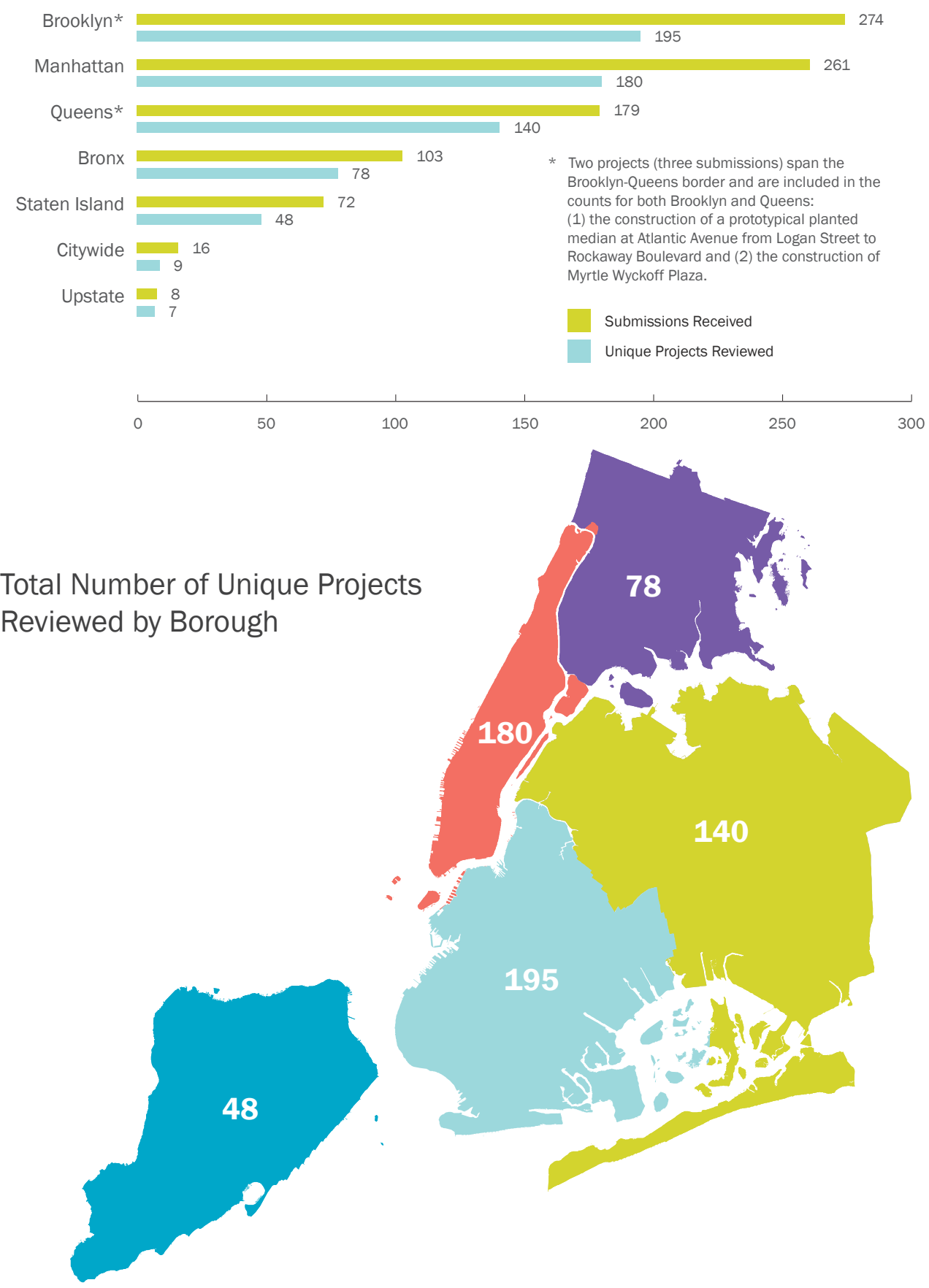




2019 Submissions and Projects by Lead Agency



2019 Submissions and Projects by Borough





# Public Engagement and Data

## Open Data

NYC Open Data is an online portal that makes the public data generated by various New York City agencies and other City organizations available for public use. As part of an initiative to improve the accessibility, transparency, and accountability of City government, NYC Open Data offers access to a repository of government-produced, searchable data sets available for download. The PDC submits a list of projects that were reviewed by the Commission on a monthly basis (PDC Monthly Design Review), as well as a list of projects that were submitted to and reviewed by the Commission on an annual basis (PDC Annual Report).

## Participatory Budgeting

NYC's Participatory Budgeting process was adopted by New York City Council in 2011. This democratic process allows community members to decide how to allocate capital funding toward projects in their local community districts. NYC residents are able to propose and vote on projects, which are subsequently adopted in the City's budget and implemented by the appropriate City agency. These projects include physical infrastructure projects that benefit the public, cost greater than \$50,000, and have a lifespan of at least five years.

Many of these projects are general open space and safety improvements within the public realm, such as sidewalk curb extensions, signal improvements, the build-out of existing painted plaza spaces, or the installation of real-time bus passenger information. In 2019, the PDC reviewed several projects from the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Transportation, and the Prospect Park Alliance, which received funding through the Participatory Budgeting process:

**Reconstruction of the perimeter streetscape and park entrance, including the installation of a bike lane, Prospect Park, Ocean Avenue between Flatbush and Parkside Avenue, and Parkside Avenue between Ocean Avenue and Parade Place, Brooklyn;**

**Construction of adult fitness areas and a shade structure, Parade Grounds and Harmony Playground, Prospect Park, Brooklyn;**

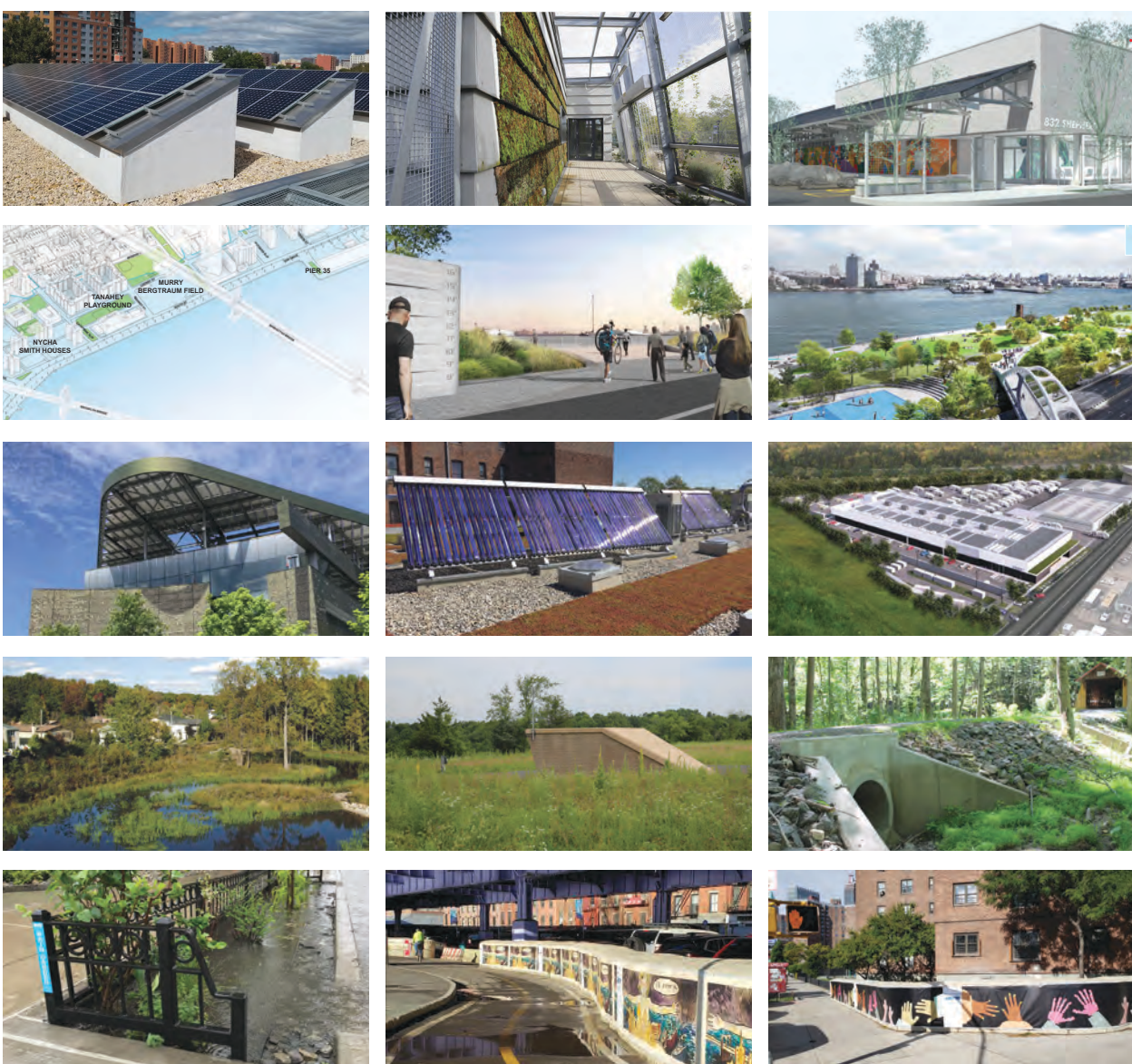
**Construction of an adult fitness area, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona Avenue and 111th Street, Corona, Queens;**

**Construction of streetscape improvements, including prototypical planted raised medians as part of DOT's Vision Zero Great Streets Initiative, 4th Avenue between 8th Street and 18th Street, Brooklyn; and**

**Construction of an open space, Tenth Avenue between West 48th Street and West 49th Street, Manhattan.**



# Resiliency and Green Infrastructure Projects



City agencies and design teams are working to address the alarming effects of climate change. In 2019, the PDC received over 87 proposals focused explicitly on green infrastructure and resiliency. Sixteen of these projects were for the installation of flood-protection measures, including flood walls and gates, and deployable HESCO barriers and tiger dams. Other projects included stormwater runoff and erosion control, bioswales, bluebelts, retention basins, and berms, as well as shoreline reconstruction and protection measures. Additionally, the PDC reviewed electric vehicle charging infrastructure and numerous photovoltaic arrays on a breadth of structures, including education centers, fire

stations, animal care centers, shade canopies, and sanitation garages.

Many other projects have integrated concepts of sustainability into their designs, reducing energy loads through the use of site planning, passive solar techniques, and the installation of LED or solar-powered lighting. Additionally, many building modifications have included the elevation of generators and critical equipment above the floodplain for increased resilience, and the reconstruction of roofs to reduce the urban heat island effect and comply with NYC Local Laws 92 & 94, which require vegetated roofs or rooftop solar arrays.





## Highlighted Projects by Borough



# The Bronx

## 1 Bronx River House

Starlight Park, East 174th Street, Sheridan Expressway and the Bronx River  
Department of Parks & Recreation; Kiss + Cathcart



This building serves as the headquarters for the Bronx River Alliance and includes a boathouse, environmental education and community gathering space. It incorporates sustainable design features, including a photovoltaic array, geothermal and rainwater harvesting systems, a vegetated wall, and a vine-covered rainscreen for passive solar control, which help to reinforce the organization’s environmental mission.

## 2 Para Roberto by Melissa Calderón

Roberto Clemente Plaza, Third Avenue, East 147th Street, East 149th Street, and Willis Avenue  
Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art; Department of Design & Construction;  
Department of Transportation; Melissa Calderón



Melissa Calderón’s memorial to Puerto Rican humanitarian and Major League Baseball Hall of Fame player Roberto Clemente pays homage to his humble beginnings and philanthropic spirit. Located in a busy commercial plaza, the artwork consists of a bronze chair shaded by patinated cast bronze sugar cane stalks and offers a place of respite to any passerby.

## 3 Bridge Playground

Undercliff Avenue, Boscobel Place, and University Avenue  
Department of Parks & Recreation; DPR In-house



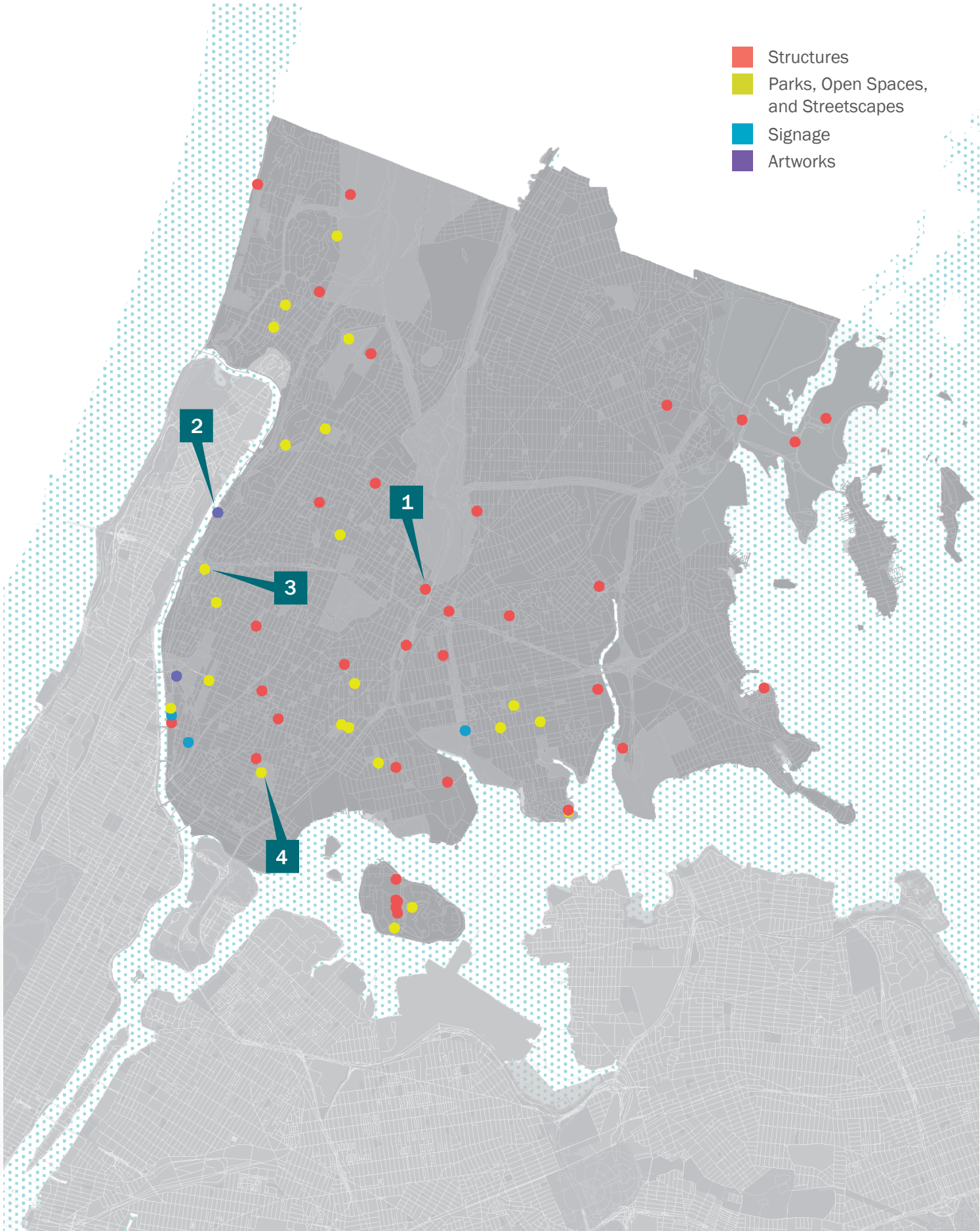
At a two-tiered site nestled between the I-95 Expressway and the off-ramp of the Washington Bridge, this playground reconstruction uses new trees and planted areas to buffer seating and play areas from the heavily trafficked perimeters. Paths, program areas, and park entrances will be reconfigured to reduce underutilized space, increase safety and promote accessibility. A play area, adult fitness areas, a basketball court, and other site amenities will be added.

## 4 St. Mary’s Park West Playground

St. Anne’s Avenue, East 149th Street, Jackson Avenue and St. Mary’s Street  
Department of Parks & Recreation; Abel Bainnson Butz



Completed in 2019, this playground reconstruction includes new play equipment, swings, spray showers, and adult fitness equipment, as well as accessible seating areas interspersed with planting beds and trees. The basketball and tennis courts were reconstructed, and painted games and a track were added to the multi-purpose yard. Additionally, the project addressed drainage issues with the use of permeable pavers and catch basins.

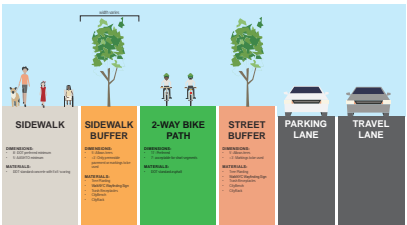




# Brooklyn

## 1 Jamaica Bay Greenway - Canarsie Pier Connector

Shore Parkway Service Road North, Rockaway Parkway, and Canarsie Veterans Circle  
Department of Transportation; DOT In-house



In 2017, DOT and the Regional Plan Association published the *Jamaica Bay Greenway Implementation*, which was the culmination of a three-year outreach process to develop a master plan for the Greenway. As part of that master plan, the Canarsie Pier Connector includes wayfinding signage and a continuous 8'W, two-lane raised bike path buffered from the road and sidewalk by street trees.

## 2 Coney East Amusement Parks and Rides

West 16th Street, West 15th Street, Stillwell Avenue, West 12th Street, Surf Avenue, and the Riegelmann Boardwalk  
Economic Development Corporation; Department of Parks & Recreation; Zamperla; Central Amusement International



The Coney East project encompasses amusement parks and rides, including Luna Park, the Thunderbolt, the Cyclone, and the B&B Carousel. Sites B and D, located along the boardwalk, include the construction of a log flume ride inspired by Paul Boyton's 1895 Coney Island Shoot the Chute water ride, a custom station house and fence inspired by 1905 images of Dreamland and Luna Park, as well as a new entrance gate, food kiosks, and a central shaded seating area.

## 3 Urban Poet by Alexandre Arrechea

Atlantic Avenue median between Conduit Boulevard and Fountain Avenue  
Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art; Department of Design & Construction; Department of Transportation; Alexandre Arrechea; HDR



In conjunction with streetscape safety improvements at Atlantic Avenue, artist Alexandre Arrechea proposed a whimsical, 20'H painted steel sculpture of a unicycle at a median near City Line Park. Inspired by the architecture of nearby P.S. 159, an aluminum bas relief panel echoing the school's facade is integrated into the sculpture's wheel.

## 4 Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway - Hamilton Gowanus Connector

Hamilton Avenue and Smith Street to 3rd Avenue and 29th Street  
Department of Design & Construction; Department of Transportation; NV5



As part of the 14-mile Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway project, which connects Brooklyn to its waterfront via bike paths that are safely buffered from traffic, this segment stretches across the Gowanus Canal from Red Hook to Sunset Park and includes a new two-lane bike path and a sidewalk, buffered by curbside plantings. Trees separate and shade the two paths, and sidewalk curb extensions facilitate safer pedestrian crossings at key locations.





# Manhattan

## 1 *Diatom Walk* by Stacy Levy

East Midtown Greenway, East River between East 53rd Street and East 61st Street  
Economic Development Corporation; Department of Parks & Recreation; Department of Transportation; Stacy Levy; Stantec



Artist Stacy Levy’s site-specific repeating pattern of geometric forms is derived from microscopic diatoms native to the East River. The cast concrete art pavers will be installed in meandering forms at various overlook areas along the East Midtown Greenway, an elevated walkway at the East River. To augment the viewer’s sense of discovery and simplify installation, the art pavers will match the hexagonal form of the surrounding greenway pavers.

## 2 *Dr. Sun Yat-sen (2011)* by Lu Chun-Hsiung

Columbus Park, Worth Street, Baxter Street, Mulberry Street, and Bayard Street  
Department of Parks & Recreation; Lu Chun-Hsiung; WXY Architecture



Sponsored by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, this artwork commemorates Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the early 20th-Century revolutionary figure who founded the Republic of China and lived for a time in Chinatown, New York. At the conclusion of the work’s temporary exhibition, community leaders advocated on behalf of establishing a permanent home in Chinatown for the commemorative sculpture, which was provided with a new pedestal.

## 3 East Side Coastal Resiliency

East River between Montgomery Street and East 25th Street  
Department of Design & Construction; Department of Parks & Recreation; Department of Environmental Protection; Department of Transportation; AKRF; MNLA; Bjarke Ingels Group; Pentagram



This coastal protection initiative will integrate coastal flood protection into the urban fabric of lower Manhattan, and improve access to the waterfront. Recreation fields, courts, fitness areas, and playgrounds will be raised to resilient elevations while deployable flood gates and planted berms will provide flood protection. New recreation and maintenance buildings, comfort stations, pathways, and pedestrian bridges will increase access and services for the community.

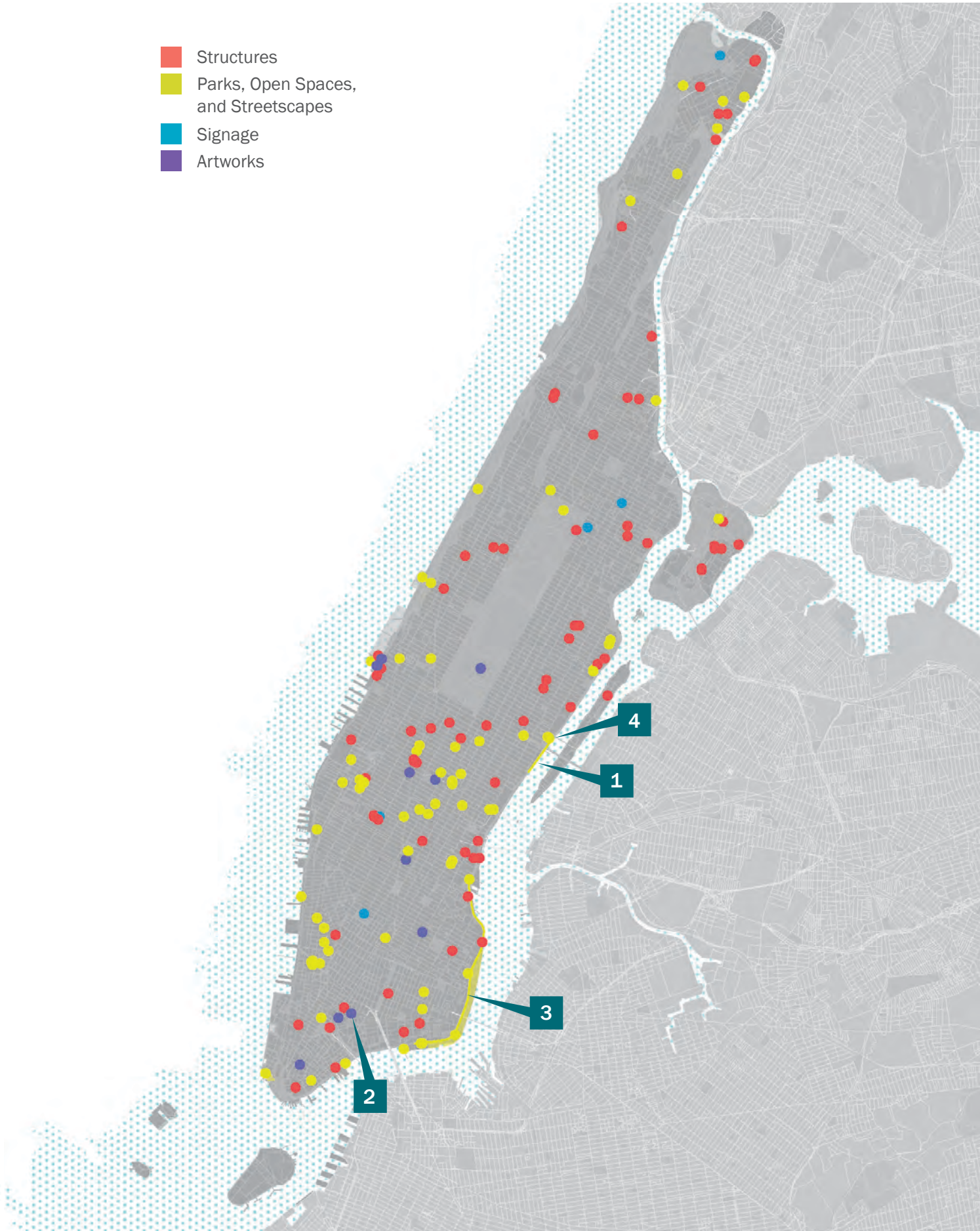
## 4 Andrew Haswell Green Park

East 60th Street to East 63rd Street between the FDR Drive and the East River  
Economic Development Corporation; Department of Parks & Recreation; MKW



Located just north of the Queensboro Bridge, this park bridges over the FDR Drive to connect with the East River Esplanade, where an accessible lawn surrounded by lush planted areas allows pedestrians to sit and look out at the river. LED pedestrian lighting lines the walking path, and pebble-shaped seating and bright green painted graphics on the overpass pavement playfully denote areas of respite where planters were not feasible.

- Structures
- Parks, Open Spaces, and Streetscapes
- Signage
- Artworks

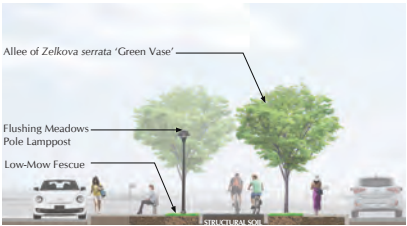




# Queens

## 1 Beach 108th Street Streetscape Improvements

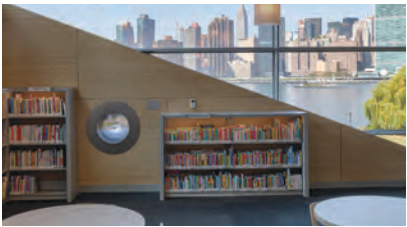
Beach 108th Street between Beach Channel Drive and Shore Front Parkway, Rockaway Park  
Department of Design and Construction; Department of Parks & Recreation; Department of Transportation;  
Dewberry



This new streetscape with a tree-lined two-way bike path will improve the experiences of pedestrians and cyclists along a main north-south corridor that cuts across the Rockaway Peninsula from the ferry landing at Jamaica Bay to the Rockaway Beach Boardwalk. Structural soil will promote healthy tree growth, and new streetlights, wider crosswalks, and curb extensions are added for pedestrian safety.

## 2 Four Directions by Julianne Swartz

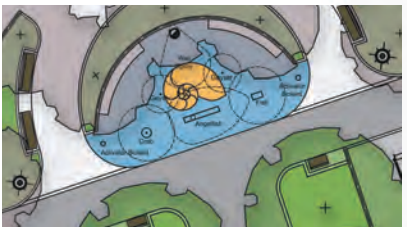
Hunter's Point Community Library, Queens West Development, Parcel 8, 4-56 47th Road  
Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art; Department of Design & Construction; Queens Library;  
Julianne Swartz; Steven Holl Architects



Integrated into the Hunter's Point Community Library, this playful, site-specific artwork abstracts views through the architecture to the surrounding neighborhood. Using a variety of lenses, the portals encourage curiosity and allow children and adults to peer out at an inverted skyline, to glimpse bubbly views of the reading garden, and to catch kaleidoscopic sight of adjacent buildings.

## 3 Nautilus Playground

Roy Wilkins Park, Merrick Boulevard and Baisley Boulevard, Jamaica  
Department of Parks & Recreation; DPR In-house



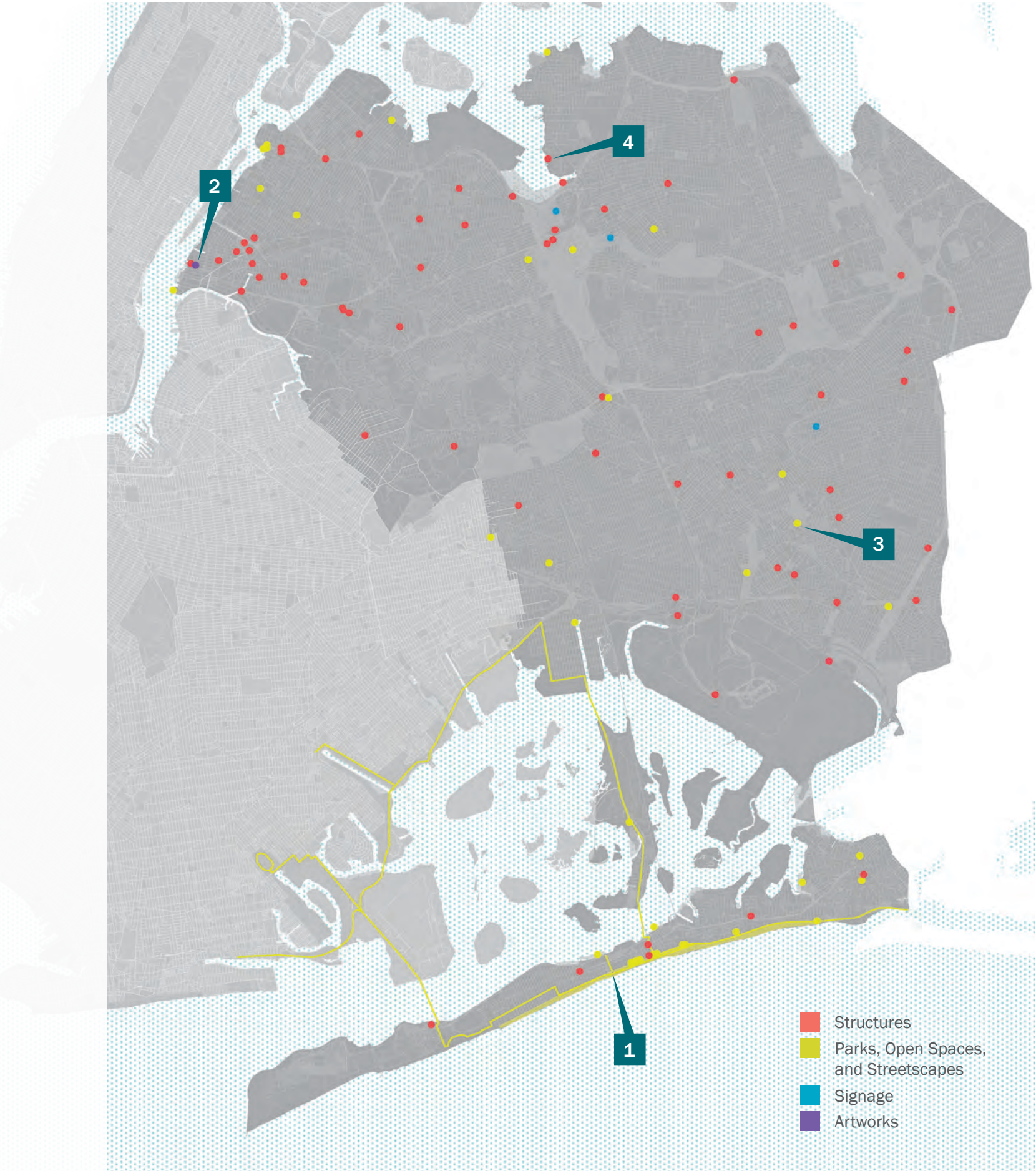
Located at the southern tip of Roy Wilkins Park near the intersection of two busy commercial streets, the entrance of the park has been reconfigured with seating to be more approachable and welcoming and to align with Parks without Borders principles. The park was regraded to make the comfort station accessible, and recreation areas with play and fitness equipment, spray showers, and seating were added to allow for patrons of all ages to enjoy the space.

## 4 Harper Street Yard

30-01 and 32-11 Harper Street, Corona  
Department of Design & Construction; Department of Transportation;  
nARCHITECTS; Robert Silman Associates; URS Corporation; Langan Engineering



Located by the Van Wyck Expressway, within a Department of Transportation maintenance yard that is a refueling site for DOT vehicles, this diesel monitoring booth is chevron-shaped in plan and includes a bent ribbon window that captures a panoramic view of the yard. The booth's facades light-heartedly reference traffic symbols and road markings with alternating black and white glazed tile cladding set in a supergraphic zig-zag pattern with 'Safety Yellow' accents.





# Staten Island

## 1 Snug Harbor Boardwalk Trail

Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, Kissel Avenue at Linden Street  
Department of Cultural Affairs; Department of Parks and Recreation;  
Elizabeth Kennedy Landscape Architect



This boardwalk will provide fully ADA-compliant community access through wooded areas of the site to a pondside overlook platform that offers views toward the Chinese Scholar’s Garden, rustic bridges, and natural wetland features. It aims to enhance the visitor experience with greater opportunities for educational and passive recreational enjoyment, while reducing erosion, runoff contamination, and the encroachment of invasive plant species.

## 2 Dugan Playground

Mill Road, Isernia Avenue, Weed Avenue, and Tysens Lane  
Department of Parks & Recreation; DPR In-house



A complete reconstruction, with new grading and bioswales, will increase site permeability and reduce stormwater runoff for this park sited within the 100-year floodplain. A bermed lawn area with shade trees buffers the spray play area and creates a more inviting park edge along the street. New play spaces accommodate children of all abilities, and shaded, family-friendly picnic areas and benches will be added within the park and along its perimeter.

## 3 Curiouser by Mark Reigelman

Charleston Branch Library, Tyrellan Avenue and Bricktown Way  
Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art; Economic Development Corporation; New York Public Library;  
Mark Reigelman; ikon.5 architects



Located throughout the interior and exterior of the Charleston Branch Library, Mark Reigelman’s cast bronze sculptures reference symbols from literature, some of which also pay homage to the rich history of the area. The sculptures will range in scale and some will be hidden within bookshelves to inspire a fantastical sense of discovery.

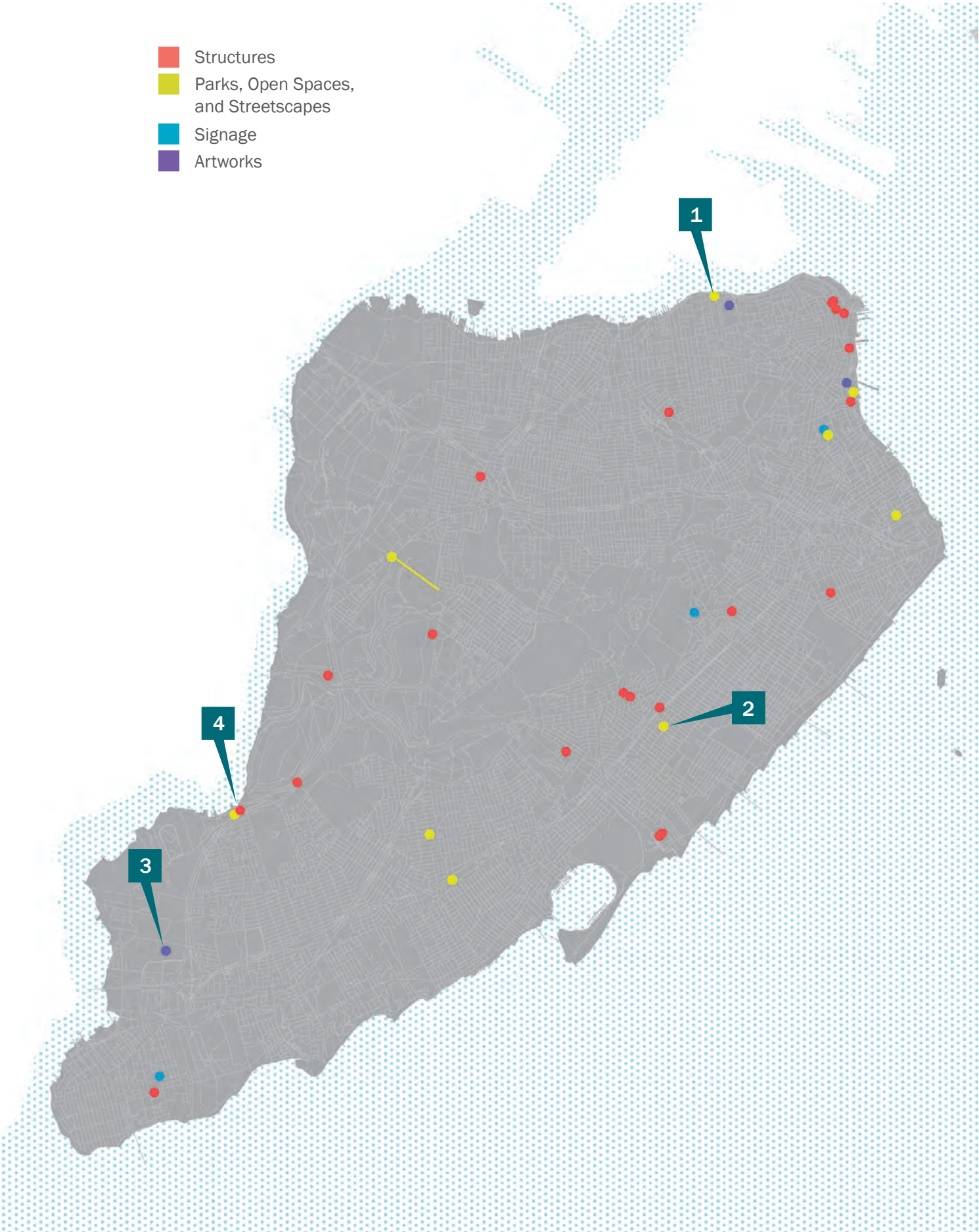
## 4 Districts 1 & 3 Sanitation Garage

Fresh Kills Park, Muldoon Avenue and West Service Road  
Department of Design & Construction; Department of Sanitation New York; TEN Arquitectos; Sasaki; SPD



Located within Fresh Kills Park, this new facility will serve two districts and include a public recycling center. The low-lying human-scaled building includes a vast array of rooftop photovoltaic panels. Bioswales, hydro-channels, and bio-basin elements will allow for conveyance, treatment, and infiltration of water at the site, and grasslands to the north will buffer the site from the rest of the park.

- Structures
- Parks, Open Spaces, and Streetscapes
- Signage
- Artworks





A stylized map of New York City, including the five boroughs, is rendered with a teal dot grid pattern. The map is positioned on the left side of the image, with the title text to its right.

# Designing New York: The Public Designers

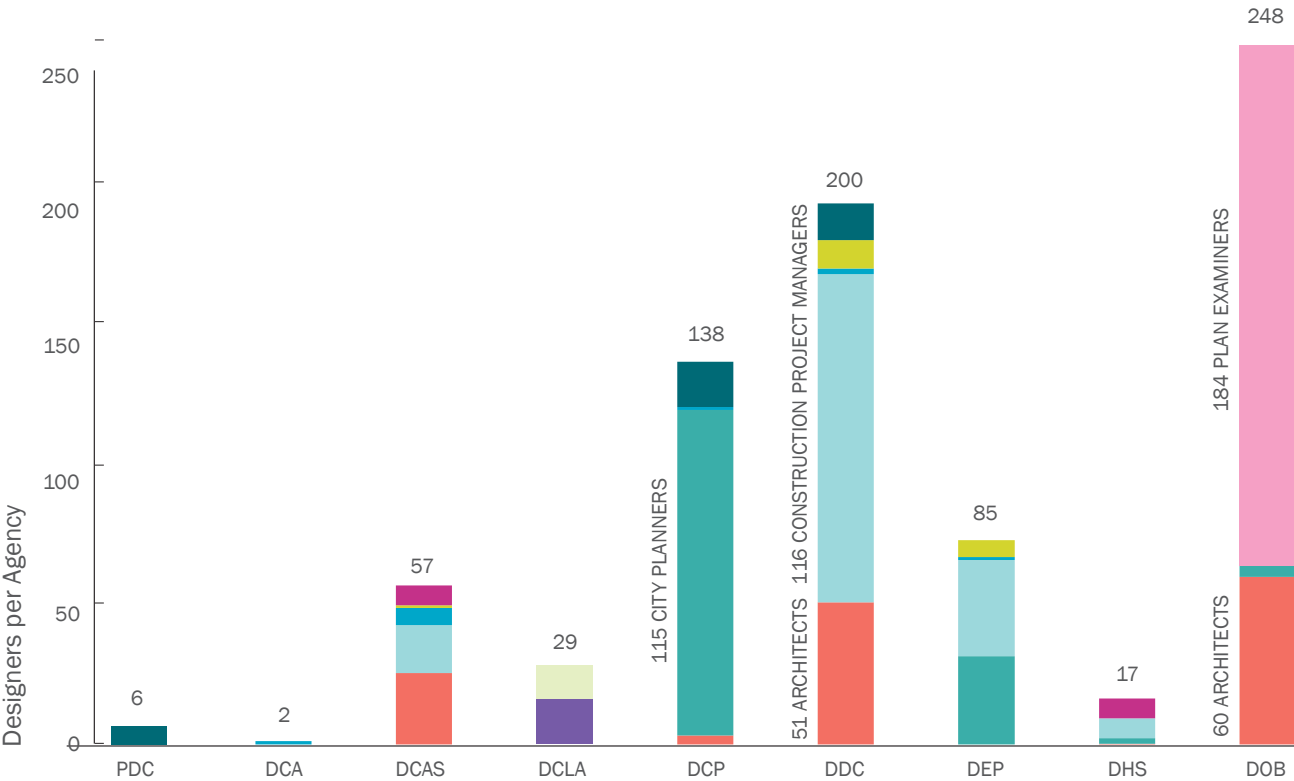


Designing New York: The Public Designers

At the Public Design Commission, we have the honor to work with great designers and design advocates who serve in various positions within New York City’s government. More than 1,000 of these professionals work across multiple City agencies. Their roles range from landscape architects working for the Department of Parks and Recreation to architects designing our essential infrastructure at the Department of Environmental Protection to urban designers problem-solving for various initiatives at the City’s planning and transportation agencies. These public designers have backgrounds in art, design, architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, urban planning, construction, project management, and other related fields. By contributing their expertise, creativity, and commitment, these civil servants help us to plan, design, and build a better New York City.

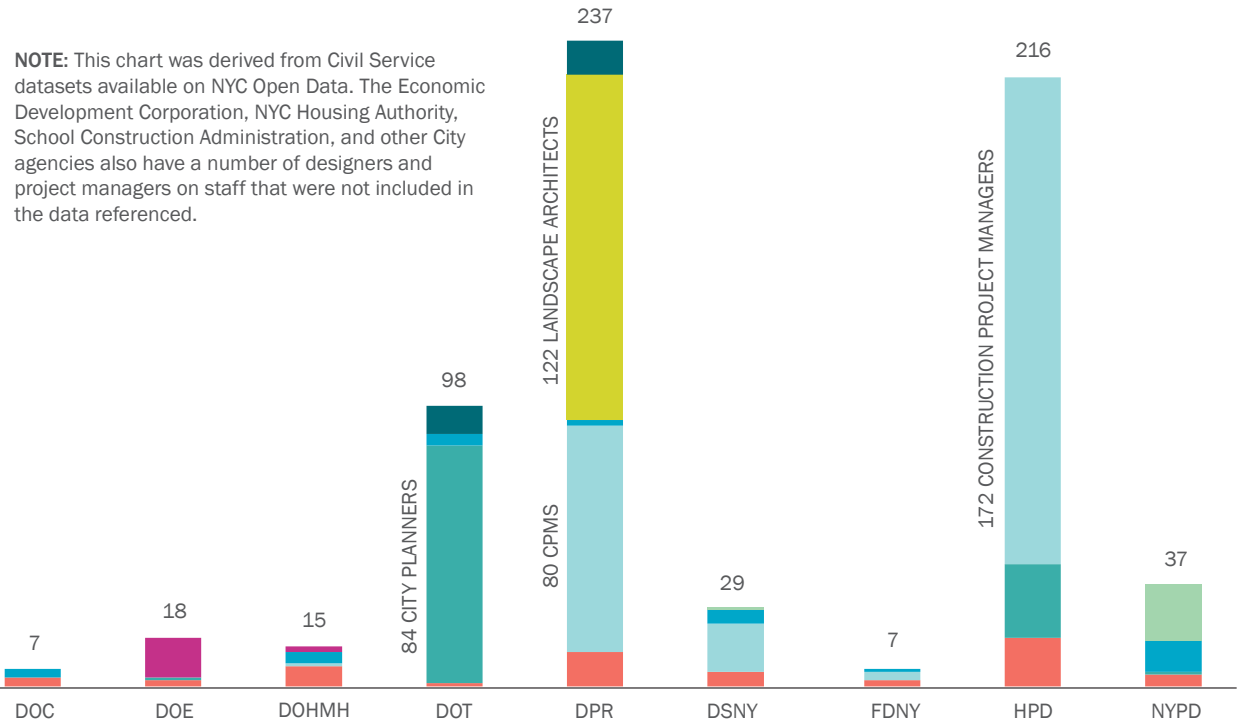
Good public design and the City’s capital projects are complex and often challenging. These projects require skilled and committed people to deliver quality design, balance community and stakeholder input, and ensure the sound investment and maintenance of our public resources. Good design also requires the participation, agency, and leadership of a diversity of people who bring their backgrounds, experiences, and knowledge to advancing equity and sustainability for New York City’s built environment.

The people and projects highlighted in this report are just a small sample of the contributions by our city’s public servants. There are countless others, our unsung stewards and advocates for a better future, and it is essential to acknowledge and appreciate each of their efforts and value.



	PDC	DCA	DCAS	DCLA	DCP	DDC	DEP	DHS	DOB	DOC	DOE	DOHMH	DOT	DPR	DSNY	FDNY	HPD	NYPD
Architects																		
Architect			16			21		1	14	1	3	4		9	1	1	1	1
Admin Architect			4			30			31	2				2	3	1	1	3
Assistant Architect			6		2				15	1		4	2	2	2	1	16	1
Architectural Intern					2													
Arts Program Specialists																		
Arts Program Specialist				3														
Associate Arts Program Specialist				14														
City Planners																		
City Planner					78		32		1		1		84				26	
Admin City Planner					36			2	3									1
Planning Consultant					1													
Community Coordinators																		
Community Coordinator				12														
Construction Project Managers																		
Construction Project Manager			8			109	34	5				1		74	12	1	171	
Admin Construction Project Manager			9					2						1	5	2	1	
Construction Project Manager Intern						7								5				
Graphic Artists																		
Graphic Artist		2	4		1		1			2		4	3		5			10
Admin Graphic Artist			2			2				1			1	2		1		1
Landscape Architects																		
Landscape Architect			1			6	1							80				
Admin Landscape Architect						4	1							2				
Assistant Landscape Architect							3							39				
Landscape Architect Intern							1							1				
Photographers																		
Photographer																		20
Senior Photographer															1			
Plan Examiners																		
Plan Examiner									26									
Admin Plan Examiner									158									
Space Analysts																		
Space Analyst			5					7				1						
Admin Space Analyst			2								14	1						
Urban Designers																		
Associate Urban Designer					5	13							2	12				
Assistant Urban Designer					11								8					

NOTE: This chart was derived from Civil Service datasets available on NYC Open Data. The Economic Development Corporation, NYC Housing Authority, School Construction Administration, and other City agencies also have a number of designers and project managers on staff that were not included in the data referenced.





# Designing New York: The Public Designers



Mitchell J. Silver  
Commissioner,  
Department of Parks & Recreation

Mitchell Silver is an award-winning planner with more than 30 years of experience, internationally recognized for his leadership in the planning profession and his contributions to contemporary planning issues. He specializes in comprehensive planning, place making and implementation strategies. As Parks Commissioner, he oversees management, planning and operations of nearly 30,000 acres of parkland, including parks, playgrounds, beaches, marinas, recreation centers, wilderness areas and other assets. Mitchell was born in Brooklyn and grew up near Prospect Park. Prior to returning to New York City as Parks Commissioner, he served as the Chief Planning & Development Officer and Planning Director for Raleigh, NC. His career has included roles as a policy and planning director for New York City’s Department of Planning, a principal of a New York City-based planning firm, a town manager in New Jersey, deputy planning director in Washington, DC, and president of the American Planning Association (APA). He lives in Brooklyn with his family.

*“My favorite projects have transformed places that were underutilized or had not seen investment in decades into must-see destinations and world-class public spaces. Among them are the reconstruction of **Lincoln Terrace**; Anchor Park projects at **Highbridge Park** and **Astoria Park**; the Parks Without Borders project at **Prospect Park**; and the Community Parks Initiative project at **Garrison Playground**.”*

- 1. Lincoln Terrace Park, East New York Avenue between Rochester Avenue and Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn; Department of Parks & Recreation
- 2. Perimeter streetscape and park entrance, including the installation of a bike lane, Prospect Park, Brooklyn; Department of Parks & Recreation



1



2



Delma Palma, RA  
Community Design Architect,  
New York City Housing Authority

Delma Palma is a licensed architect and an urban designer at the New York City Housing Authority. She leads the Connected Communities Initiative to better connect the over 400,000 public housing residents to their surrounding neighborhoods and resources through the design of the public realm. Delma manages strategic cross-sector partnerships to further design excellence across the Authority’s 2,400 acres. Her work focuses on combating the effects of social isolation, addressing physical and mental health, and mitigating issues of safety through a community-led design process. Prior to NYCHA, she worked at Torti Gallas and Partners in Washington, D.C., on affordable housing across the country. Prior to that, Delma worked with the largest social housing organization in Latin America, TECHO, on housing policy and construction of modular emergency housing. Delma is committed to using design as a tool to build equity and livability in urban areas. She currently lives in Jackson Heights, Queens.



- 3. Excerpt from NYCHA Connected Communities presentation
- 4. Sketch from an interagency Connected Communities urban design charrette

*“One of my favorite projects while at NYCHA has been leading the creation of the **Connected Communities Guidebook**—a publication that consolidates NYCHA’s priorities for urban design and community engagement. It is the Authority’s comprehensive approach to urban design across its portfolio and was created as an inter-agency collaboration with City Planning. It serves as an important illustration that accessibly outlining City priorities around urban design pushes us closer to accomplishing those goals with transparency, equity, and design excellence.”*



4



# Designing New York: The Public Designers



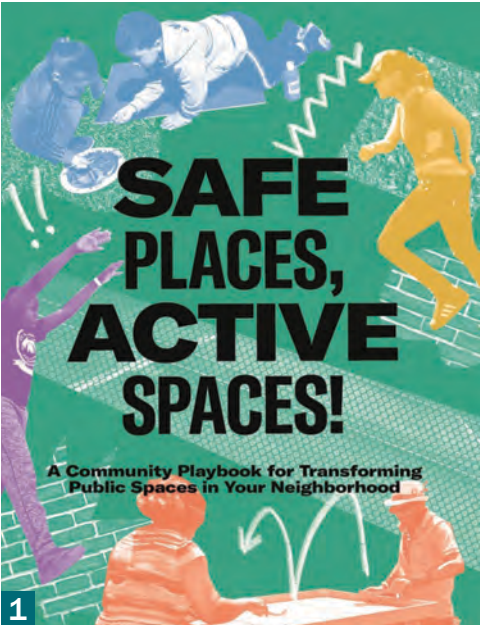
Ifeoma serves on Advisory Boards for the Mayor of Helsingborg- Sweden H22 Smart City Initiative, Association for Community Design and the BlackSpace Urbanist Collective. She is a Visiting Critic and Lecturer at Cornell University and Syracuse University. Ifeoma holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University and a Master in City Design and Development from MIT.

**Ifeoma Ebo, LEED AP**  
Director of Predevelopment Planning  
Department of Housing Preservation  
and Development

Ifeoma Ebo is an experienced Urban Designer/ Planner, Architectural Designer and Strategist that has harnessed design and management capabilities to lead international projects in architecture, urban revitalization, community/ large scale masterplanning, infrastructure upgrading and neighborhood development. At the Department of Housing Preservation & Development she leads predevelopment planning and urban design initiatives for the Office of Neighborhood Strategies.

The diversity of her 20-year career emphasizes a commitment to equity and design excellence. As the Director of Strategic Design Initiatives with the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice, she led interagency built environment initiatives exploring the use of community-engaged design to address public safety in marginalized communities across NYC. As a Strategic Design Specialist at the Department of Design and Construction she developed equity focused guiding principles for the Design and Construction Excellence program guiding the design of public buildings, plazas and infrastructure.

1. *Safe Places, Active Spaces!*  
A Community Playbook for Transforming Public Spaces in Your Neighborhood publication by the NYC Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice



*“As a Designer in the public sector I feel honored to use my skills and experience in service of my fellow New Yorkers. It is my way of contributing to the City that raised me. I am most proud of my work at the Mayor’s Office bringing together City agencies and community stakeholders to design and implement public space transformation projects. This work culminated in the creation of the **Safe Places, Active Spaces Community Playbook** – a resource guide to encourage cocreated public space projects between community and government as a design-based approach to community safety.”*

2. Illustration of open space at Wagner Houses by students at the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation that is featured in *Safe Places, Active Spaces!*





# Designing New York: The Public Designers



Judy Tung, RLA  
Senior Project Manager for Design,  
Capital Projects,  
Department of Parks & Recreation

Judy Tung is a registered landscape architect and Senior Project Manager for Design at NYC Parks, Capital Projects, where she works with the Chief of Landscape Architecture to implement best design practices for public parks in the five boroughs. Judy joined Parks in 2014 as a Landscape Architect with Bronx Capital Design. Her work at Parks has included the management and design of Garrison Playground, Echo Park, Seabury Park, and Williamsbridge Oval Skate Park. Prior to joining Parks, Judy designed public landscapes as a private sector landscape architect in New York, Boston, and Atlanta. Her work focuses on creating resilient landscapes that answer complex site design problems.

*“My favorite project is **Garrison Playground**, a notable **Community Parks Initiative** site in the Bronx. The park had been closed for years and was in a changing neighborhood with institutional, industrial, and residential neighbors. It presented the challenge of bringing disparate elements together along with connecting various elevation changes across the site. The goal was to create a park that is understated but playful, which would serve as a backdrop for daily community interaction.”*

1. Reconstruction of Garrison Playground, East 146th Street, Walton Avenue, and the Grand Concourse, Bronx



Emmanuel Thingué, RLA  
Senior Landscape Architect,  
Department of Parks & Recreation

Emmanuel Thingué is a registered landscape architect with more than 30 years of experience designing high-quality public spaces with the NYC Parks Department. His imaginative designs address the needs of communities as well as the unique logistical challenges of building and maintaining parks in New York City. Balancing practical concerns with a creative aesthetic vision, Emmanuel has produced spaces that are both beautiful and functional, such as the new Cadman Plaza, South Oxford Park and Lincoln Terrace Playground. Emmanuel has a BS in Architecture and Landscape Architecture from the City College of New York. He lives in Queens with his wife and two children.



*“My favorite project is **Lincoln Terrace Playground**, which was a playground that I frequented often as a kid living in Crown Heights. The design transformed the space from a flat hardscape to a dynamic play space with undulating landscape that reflects the hilly topography of Lincoln Terrace Park. A large plaza around the comfort station provides seating space for parents and the general public, while a planted buffer delineates the adjacent spaces that are dedicated to uninterrupted free play. The space was designed to immerse the park users in nature and to encourage immersive and social play. The design included a large interactive spray shower with colorful pavement, instinctively fun narrow corridors and steps, semi secluded play niches, interactive play elements, tall net climbers and a prominent play mound with a panoramic view of the entire playground.”*

2. and 3. Reconstruction of a portion of Lincoln Terrace Park, East New York Avenue between Rochester Avenue and Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn; Department of Parks & Recreation





# Designing New York: The Public Designers



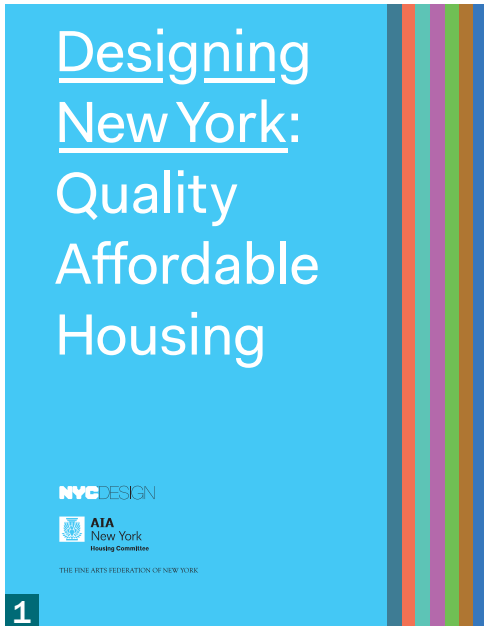
Claudia Herasme  
Chief Urban Designer,  
Department of City Planning

Since joining the Department in 2003, Claudia has been involved in a wide variety of projects relating to public space design and policy, streetscape regulations, active design and well-being guidelines, and large-scale waterfront developments. Key projects include the Design Standards for Waterfront Public Access Areas, Greenpoint-Williamsburg Waterfront Access Plan, Coney Island Comprehensive Plan, Designing for Flood Risk Report, and Connected Communities Guidebook in partnership with the New York City Housing Authority.

She also served as Associate Editor of the 2011 Zoning Handbook. Claudia frequently participates as a design critic at universities in New York City and Santo Domingo; enjoys participating at high-school “career days” to raise awareness about the design profession; and has served as a jury member for prestigious competitions and awards, such as the American Institute of Architecture’s Honor Awards for Regional and Urban Design (2019). Claudia holds a Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University, and an Architecture degree from Universidad Nacional Pedro Henriquez Ureña in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

*“One of the things that I value the most about working in the public sector is being exposed to such a variety of projects and subject matters, and the opportunity to collaborate with other City agencies and gain their perspectives. **Designing New York: Quality Affordable Housing** was a great example because it was a holistic approach - from design principles and review process to case studies and actual conversations with a variety of stakeholders.”*

1. *Designing New York: Quality Affordable Housing* publication by PDC, the AIANY Housing Committee, and the Fine Arts Federation of New York



Amritha Mahesh  
Urban Designer,  
Department of City Planning

Amritha Mahesh’s work entails advocating for the highest standards of urban design and a quality public realm. Amritha has experience in planning for climate change adaptation, and has contributed to several City-led efforts to support the vitality and resilience of New York City’s coastal neighborhoods. In her current role as Planner/Liaison for Community District 2 in Brooklyn, she manages a portfolio

of wide-ranging projects from large-scale development proposals to public space improvement projects. Amritha is committed to identifying ways to engage in thoughtful dialogue with communities on topics including rezoning, flood risk, and infrastructure needs to help shape the future of the city. She was selected as part of the Urban Design Forum’s 2019 Class of Forefront Fellows, investigating inequities in health outcomes through a climate change lens. Amritha holds a master’s degree in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University GSAPP and a bachelor’s degree in Architecture from MEASI Academy of Architecture, India.

*“I enjoyed working with PDC staff to catalog affordable housing precedents for the **Designing New York: Quality Affordable Housing** report. I’m thrilled to see how the project has evolved over the years into a comprehensive online database and a much-needed resource for the design community that illustrates how principles of good design must remain integral to every planning decision for affordable housing developments.”*

2. and 3. The Peninsula, a mixed-use affordable housing development in the Bronx, designed by b/A and WXY and jointly developed by Gilbane Development Company, Hudson Companies, and the Mutual Housing Association of New York, is featured in *Designing New York: Quality Affordable Housing* for its unique coordinated interagency review process.





# Designing New York: The Public Designers



## Kendal Henry

Director, Percent for Art Program,  
Department of Cultural Affairs

Kendal Henry is an artist and curator who has specialized in the field of public art for almost 30 years. He illustrates that public art can be used as a tool for social engagement, civic pride and economic development through the projects and programs he’s initiated in the US and internationally. Kendal is an adjunct professor at New York University’s Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development and a guest lecturer at various universities and educational institutions, including Rhode Island School of Design Senior Studio and Pratt Institute’s Arts and Cultural Management Program. Previously, Kendal served as the Director of Culture and Economic Development for the City of Newburgh, NY, where he created the region’s first Percent for Art Program. Prior to that post he was Manager of Arts Programs at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Arts for Transit for eleven years. During this time, he oversaw the commissioning, fabrication and installation of the MTA’s permanent art projects, served as a member of the in-house design team, and produced temporary exhibitions at Grand Central Terminal.

*“It’s very hard to pinpoint a favorite public artwork as there are many that I gravitate towards for different reasons. Lately I’ve been loving **“Unity” by Hank Willis Thomas** because the raised-arm gesture has punctuated the sentiment most of us are feeling in NYC right now.”*

1. Installation of Unity by Hank Willis Thomas, Tillary Street, between Cadman Plaza East and Adams Street, Brooklyn; Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art Program; Department of Design & Construction; Department of Transportation



## Neil Gagliardi

Director of Urban Design,  
Department of Transportation

Neil Gagliardi is the Director of Urban Design at the New York City DOT where he offers more than 30 years of interdisciplinary design and planning experience. During his eleven-year tenure at DOT, Neil has spearheaded design initiatives that foster pedestrian-friendly, visually appealing and sustainable streetscapes, public spaces and transportation corridors citywide. Neil’s international achievements and versatile project portfolio ranges from comprehensive neighborhood zoning and streetscape design plans in Queens to a transformative, art-in-action, redevelopment project in a favela of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

*“One of the most rewarding milestones for me during my tenure at DOT was marked when the City broke ground last year on the first of the two-phase, 25-block **Downtown Far Rockaway** project. The comprehensive urban design and streetscape reconstruction project exemplifies the potency of planning and designing in the public sector. A result of exhaustive collaboration among elected officials, neighborhood stakeholders and multiple City agencies, the project shall culminate in a regenerated urban center and optimized transportation hub accommodating affordable housing developments, new storm water and sanitary sewer systems and a cohesive, hospitable and dynamic public realm.”*

2. Reconstruction of a streetscape and construction of three plazas, including installation of a prototypical automatic public toilet (APT), Far Rockaway, Queens; Department of Design and Construction; Department of Transportation; Department of Parks & Recreation; W Architecture and Landscape Architecture





# Designing New York: The Public Designers



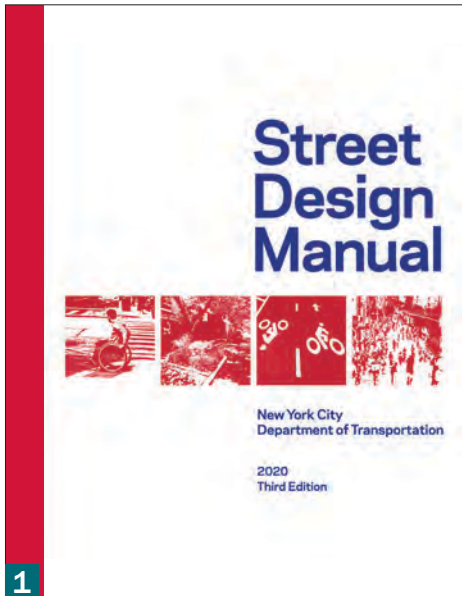
**Wendy Feuer**  
Assistant Commissioner for Urban Design & Art,  
Department of Transportation

Wendy Feuer oversees three units creating public streets that are re-balanced, vibrant and welcoming to all users. Since she started in 2007, her team has commissioned or facilitated more than 400 temporary art installations on the city’s streets, bridges, and plazas. She guides the agency’s management of permanent art as well as a wide variety of cultural and recreational programming for the large-scale events such as Car Free Earth Day and Summer Streets. Wendy led the development of WalkNYC, the City’s first comprehensive wayfinding system with over 1500 award-winning maps installed citywide.

Wendy was the founding director of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s Arts for Transit office and served as Director of Art and Design for eleven years. As a consultant, Feuer worked on public art and planning projects for Columbia University, Terminal 4 at JFK, the Hudson River Park Trust, Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority, Brown University and The Cathedral St. John the Divine. She is also a public art peer for the federal General Services Administration’s Design Excellence program.

- 1. Third Edition of *Street Design Manual* by NYC Department of Transportation

*“I could not be prouder of the Third Edition of the **NYC DOT Street Design Manual**, the result of an extraordinary inter-and intra-agency collaboration, with contributions and reviews by over one hundred City staff. This public document reflects DOT’s continued effort to communicate clearly about the principles, policies, safety and aesthetic design best practices that guide its work. Aspirational treatments modeled on other cities in the first edition have become standard components of agency operations. Practitioners seeking direction on anything from siting street furniture, to community or cultural programming in the public right-of-way, or the application of a protected bike lane, can start with the *Street Design Manual*.”*



**Nick Pettinati, RLA, ASLA**  
Deputy Director of Urban Design,  
Department of Transportation

*“One of my favorite projects has been the **Prototypical Planted Raised Median Guidelines**. As a landscape architect, this was a way to bring focus and elevate the baseline designs we expect from the agency. The guidelines have and will continue to inform miles of capital reconstruction through **Vision Zero Great Streets**; ultimately resulting in the addition of almost 20 acres of new planted space in underserved neighborhoods throughout the City.”*

With close to 10 years of experience, Nick Pettinati has worked on projects ranging from bridge reconstructions to streetscape redesigns to crafting design policy for the agency. Nick has been instrumental in advancing the agency’s design standards and EI-Space initiative, which aims to improve spaces beneath elevated infrastructure. He has established new design standards for planted raised medians, started a program to maintain such landscapes, and developed an online searchable database for plants that perform well in the public right-of-way as part of the agency’s Street Design Manual.

Nick has successfully designed and managed the implementation of multiple EI-Space pilot projects, including Dutch Kills Street under the Queensboro Bridge, which introduced a custom modular fence with integrated lighting, new landscaped areas, and gabion planters that capture and slow run-off from the adjacent downspouts. Nick is a board member of the American Society of Landscape Architects – New York Chapter, an advisor to TreesNY, and a Fellow of the Urban Design Forum.

- 2. Construction of a prototypical planted median, Atlantic Avenue from Logan Street to Rockaway Boulevard, Brooklyn and Queens; Department of Transportation; Department of Design & Construction; B. Thayer Associates; HDR





# Designing New York: The Public Designers



Michaela Metcalfe,  
AIA, CCM, LEED AP  
Director of Project Excellence,  
Department of Design and Construction

Michaela Metcalfe is a licensed architect dedicated to mindfully shaping the public realm. For nearly 20 years she has worked in collaborative settings within public and private sectors developing multi-scalar architectural and urban interventions that strive to create more equitable and resilient communities. At the Department of Design and Construction, Michaela leads a team that develops and implements policies and processes that prioritize design excellence and facilitate the creation of quality capital projects.

Prior to joining DDC, Michaela was a Project Architect at Sage and Coombe Architects where she managed the development of various projects for the City of New York Fire Department, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the New York Public Library. She currently serves on the AIANY Civic Leadership Program Strategic Task Force and was previously an advisor and leader focusing on community engagement and justice within the program. Michaela holds a Master of Architecture from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Design from the University of Florida.



*“My experience working as a Project Manager on **Rescue Company 2** instilled an optimism for the possibilities inherent in all public projects and highlighted the importance of an all-inclusive design process that engages with the community. The completed project demonstrates a commitment to creating a civic building that reflects the collective ambition of our City to be responsive to the needs of the community.”*

1. and 2. Construction of a firehouse, Rescue Company 2, Sterling Place between Howard Avenue and Saratoga Avenue, Brooklyn; Department of Design & Construction



Xenia Diente  
Public Art Deputy Director,  
Department of Design and Construction

Xenia Diente is an artist and art administrator with more than 18 years of experience working with visual artists and designers to plan, design, fabricate and install public art citywide in civic projects. She strives to strengthen opportunities for artists and designers to creatively serve NYC. Xenia has managed NYC Percent for Art projects that have received local to national recognition including the Public Design Commission Award for Excellence in Design, Public Art Network Year in Review, and Collaboration of Design + Art. She is a 2020 Create Change Artist-In-Residence at The Laundromat Project, Coro civic leadership LNY25 alumna and 2011 recipient of the Atlantic Center for the Arts social practice artist residency led by artist Rick Lowe. She is a member of Americans for the Arts Public Art Network and Public Art Dialogue. Xenia is a lifelong New Yorker based in Queens with a bachelor’s in fine art from The Cooper Union School of Art.

3. Installation of *Swing Low* by Alison Saar, Harriet Tubman Plaza, St. Nicholas Avenue, Frederick Douglas Boulevard, West 122nd Street and West 121st Street, Manhattan; Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art Program; Department of Design & Construction; Department of Parks & Recreation

*“**‘Swing Low’** by the artist Alison Saar, is a memorial to abolitionist organizer and Underground Railroad leader Harriet Tubman. I’m deeply moved to have played a small role in the first public monument to an African American woman in NYC. The sculpture is located at the intersection of St. Nicholas Avenue and Frederick Douglass Boulevard at W. 122nd Street in Harlem. Installed in 2007, this important public art was commissioned through the NYC Percent for Art program with a collaboration led by Alison Saar, Quennel Rothschild, URS, DDC, DPR, DOT and DCLA.”*





# Designing New York: The Public Designers



**Anthony Ayman Thompson**  
BIM Designer,  
In-House Design, Bureau of Engineering,  
Design & Construction,  
Department of Environmental Protection

Anthony Ayman Thompson was born and raised in Boston, MA, where he discovered the marvel of the built world by working in his family’s construction company. He trained as an architect and construction manager under the tutelage of builders, architects, and engineers and received his formal architectural training from the New York Institute of Technology. As a BIM Designer with the In-House Design Group Architecture Section at DEP, Anthony approaches the design of new structures with the goal of building upon the architectural legacy of the agency’s infrastructure. For one of his first projects at DEP, the rehabilitation of the electrical pre-houses at the Wards Island Wastewater Recourse Recovery Facility, Anthony surveyed the materials and color palette of the existing architecture, which spans nearly a century, to inform the contemporary yet contextual design of the new façade systems.

1. — 4. Rehabilitation of five pre-houses, Primary Settling Tanks, 3rd Drive between B Road and H Road, Wards Island Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility, Wards Island, Manhattan; Department of Environmental Protection



*“As a firm believer in the power of technology to improve lives, I am passionate about leveraging creativity to design and build to benefit humanity. As a devoted Muslim, son, brother, husband, and father, my mission is to be my best self to ensure I can serve all those who surround me near and far.”*



**Robert D. Cuevas**  
Architectural Section Manager,  
In-House Design, Bureau of Engineering,  
Design & Construction,  
Department of Environmental Protection

*“Among my favorite design projects is the reconstruction of the **Hannah Street Pump Station** in Staten Island. This project required the sensitive adaptive reuse of the existing facility to meet resiliency and code requirements and the design of two new structures that both spoke to the architectural context but expressed their own contemporary design concept.”*

Robert D. Cuevas oversees the In-House Architectural Section at DEP, which is responsible for producing design solutions that meet the complex, technical requirements of the agency’s wastewater and water supply facilities in all five boroughs and in the Upstate watershed. Robert supervises a team of a dozen architects, city planners, and designers. He fosters a collaborative spirit among the team and acts as a guide through the design process, including coordination with client bureaus. A graduate of Pratt Institute School of Architecture, Robert has 34 years of architectural experience with DEP. He has worked on a wide variety of projects from new facilities to adaptive reuse to citywide prototypes.

5. and 6. Reconstruction of the Hannah Street Pumping Station, including the construction of an electrical building and a Con Edison meter building, 10 Murray Hulbert Avenue, Staten Island; Department of Environmental Protection







# Special Projects and Interagency Initiatives



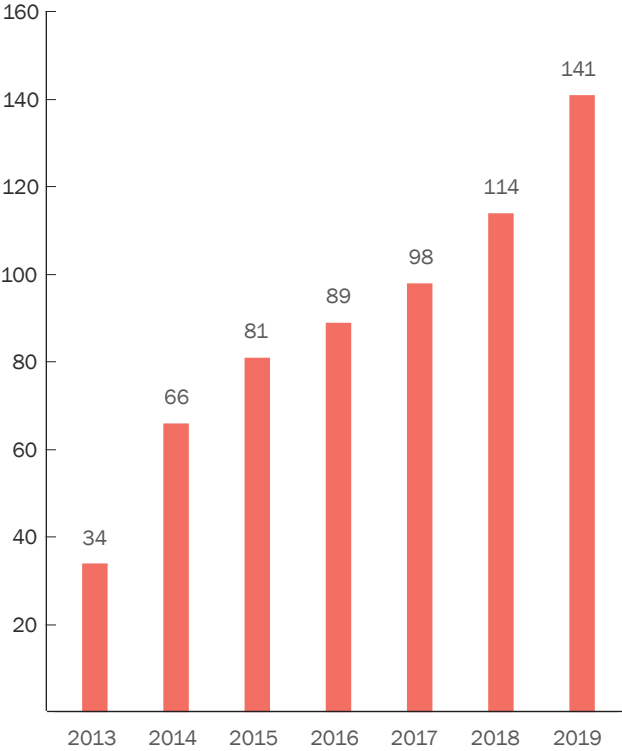
# The Archive

The Public Design Commission maintains an archive of projects reviewed by the Commission since 1902, documenting more than 7,000 sites throughout New York City and providing a unique view into the history of the City's public works. Containing original documents, drawings, and architectural plans, the Archive informs the Commission's review of current projects and provides a valuable resource to other City agencies as well as to researchers from around the world.

*In 2019, the archive facilitated 141 research requests, which is a 23.7% increase from 2018.*

In addition, the Archive holds special collections that were acquired by Commission members and staff. These photographs, postcards, letters, books, and artifacts provide additional insight into the history of the public spaces and buildings of New York City.

*In 2019, the archive hosted 10 tours for 106 visitors, including 3 tours with the New York Adventure Club, a Women's History Month Tour, and tours for the Citywide Monuments Conservation Group and the Young Professionals Transportation Group.*



Research Requests by Year

1. Archive tour with the Citywide Monuments Conservation Program on July 25, 2019
2. "Evolution of Music" (1938) by Lucienne Bloch, photograph by FAP/WPA Photographic Division, for the music room in George Washington High School, Manhattan; Approved October 11, 1938



# City Hall Tour Program



*In 2019, the PDC's volunteer docents led 208 tours for 4,422 visitors, including 14 public school groups.*

3. A tour group explores the City Hall Rotunda.
4. A City Hall Docent shows students George Washington's historic writing desk in the Governor's Room.



Since it was founded as the Art Commission by the 1898 City Charter, the Public Design Commission has been located within City Hall and has exercised curatorial advisory supervision over all works of art belonging to the City of New York. With its unique position and mandate, the Commission closely manages City Hall's collection of artworks, antiques, and decorative objects. The Commission also organizes regular tours to highlight the building's architectural history, function, and unique historic collection.

*In 2019, the PDC hosted a diverse range of tour groups, including:*

The U.S. Army Chaplains; JCC of Staten Island; Mosholu Montefiore Community Center; Goodwill Industries of New York; TipTop Guides; Indonesia Permanent Mission to the UN; United Nations International School Parents; New York Adventure Club; Bronxworks; Jiangsu, China Government Officials; ChunCheon Gangwon Province South Korea Government Officials; UN Tour Guides; UN Hospitality Committee; NYU Down town; Federal Reserve Bank Employees; Baruch College; Norre G. High School, Denmark; Columbia University Roosevelt Institute; Wake Technical Community College of North Carolina; Duke University in New York City; Princeton University Alumni; Columbia University; Catholic Regional College, Sydenham, Australia; Obama Fellows; NYU Graduate Students; University of Bremen; Manhattan College; Taichung Taiwan University; Mayor's Office Civic Spirit; Lico Classico, Benevento, Italy; Fashion Institute of Technology; NYC Department of Consumer Affairs Ladders for Leaders; New York School of Interior Design; CLQ Mizzou High School, Piracicaba, Brazil; NYC Mayor's Office of Contract Services; Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; NYC Department of Education; NYC Department of Youth and Community Development; NYC Department of City Planning Brooklyn Office; NYC Mayor's Office Interns; NYC Law Department Interns; Civilian Complaint Review Board Interns; Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor Interns; Chinese-American Planning Council Interns; DCAS Civil Service Pathways Interns; NYC Campaign Finance Board Interns; Administration for Children's Services students; DCAS Urban Fellows; and NYC Service Fellows.



# City Hall Tour Program

## Open House New York

Open House New York is an annual event that celebrates the best examples of design and planning throughout the five boroughs and promotes the importance of architecture and urban design in sustaining New York as a vibrant place to live, work, and learn.

*On Saturday, October 19th, the Public Design Commission once again opened City Hall to the public as part of the Open House New York Weekend. Over the course of four hours, **1,000 visitors** came through the doors of City Hall!*



## Epicenter: The Black Experience through the Eyes of City Hall

For Black History Month, Black Gotham Experience returned to City Hall to guide visitors and Mayor’s Office staff through an interactive exploration of the African Diaspora’s impact on lower Manhattan from the 1600s through the early 1800s. This dramatic tour unveils the lives of enslaved and freed Black people under Dutch and British rule, the early days of the Republic, the rebellions of 1712 and 1741, and the hidden stories of revolutionary New York.

Started by Kamau Ware in 2008, Black Gotham Experience has been giving walking tours of lower Manhattan since 2010, combining history and visual storytelling to celebrate the impact of the African Diaspora on New York City.



# Annual Awards for Excellence in Design



Since 1983, the Annual Awards for Excellence in Design have recognized City projects that exemplify how innovative and thoughtful design can improve the public realm. The winning projects represent the wide range of City proposals reviewed by the Commission the previous year—from streetscape reconstructions to libraries to large mixed-use affordable housing developments. The annual event is typically held in a venue that exemplifies good design and includes a short program followed by a reception.



## The Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice

In 2019, the awards were hosted at The Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice, a hub for social good and the courageous people who devote their lives to achieving it. The Ford Foundation building was commissioned by Henry Ford II in the 1960s. The architectural firm of Kevin Roche, John Dinkeloo and Associates designed a soaring, inspiring space for the Foundation’s headquarters: a radically transparent building of glass, granite, and Corten steel that stretches the width of the block between 42nd and 43rd Streets. The 12-story enclosed atrium garden, designed by Dan Kiley, was the first of its kind in the United States

Between 2015 and 2018, the building underwent a renovation led by architecture and design firm Gensler that preserved its original character while making it even more open, inclusive, and environmentally friendly. Driven by a mission to serve the individuals, institutions, and ideas that are broadening the frontiers of social change, the building features 81,000 square feet of convening space for the social sector, and a beautiful garden and social justice art gallery that are open to the public.



1. Guests explore City Hall Rotunda during Open House New York.
2. Kamau Ware begins a tour on City Hall Plaza.
3. Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development Vicki Been and PDC President Signe Nielsen honor Awardees.
4. PDC Executive Director Justin Garrett Moore speaks about the importance of excellence in design.
5. Guests mingle within the Ford Foundation’s restored atrium.



# Annual Awards for Excellence in Design

## The 2019 Event



1. PDC Executive Director Justin Garrett Moore, PDC Commissioner Manuel Miranda, and a guest
2. Department of Parks and Recreation's PDC Liaison Sheena Brown, PDC President and Commissioner Signe Nielsen, Architect Jennifer Sage, and Department of Parks and Recreation's Deputy Commissioner Thérèse Braddick
3. Director of NYC's Percent for Art Program, Kendal Henry, and Director of the Ford Foundation Gallery, Lisa Kim
4. PDC Commissioner Mary Valverde with Don Guillory and Gonzalo Casals
5. Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl with Artist Pablo Helguera and Members of the Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers: Harriet Senie, Richard Alba, and Gonzalo Casals



## 2019 Special Recognition Projects



### The Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers

A project of the Department of Cultural Affairs

In January, 2018, The Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers submitted its final report to the City of New York, establishing guiding principles for the critical review of the City's public art collection. Created by Mayor de Blasio in the wake of national uprisings against Confederate monuments, the Commission held a series of public hearings and meetings, offering opportunities for public dialogue, engagement, and debate. Committed to a process of historical reckoning, the Commission members came to this project with a nuanced understanding of the complicated histories of our country. They gave thoughtful consideration to the various time periods and methods of acquisition that led to the current collection of public monuments and markers, which celebrates some histories and ignores others. Ultimately, the Commission's final report can be seen as a blueprint for achieving equity and diversity in the City's public commemorations.

### The Bluebelt Program

Staten Island and Queens

A project of the Department of Environmental Protection

The Department of Environmental Protection pioneered the Bluebelt system over 20 years ago as a means to manage stormwater runoff through natural drainage corridors including wetlands, ponds, and streams. These natural features are enhanced to better convey, store and filter stormwater before it is discharged into the local waterway. To date, over 70 Bluebelt projects have been completed. In order to realize these projects and preserve open green space in Staten Island, the City acquired over 400 acres of property. In addition to reducing urban flooding and improving local water quality, the Bluebelts replace invasive plant species with native ones and provide an ecosystem for the reemergence of diverse wildlife such as turtles and birds. As New York City prepares for heavier rains due to climate change, Bluebelts offer a natural and effective toolkit for stable and sound stormwater management that can be employed through the city.





# Annual Awards for Excellence in Design

## 2019 Award-Winning Projects

### The Peninsula Mixed-use Development

Tiffany Street, Spofford Avenue, and Manida Street, Bronx

A project of the Economic Development Corporation  
WXY architecture + urban design  
Body Lawson Associates Architects & Planners  
Elizabeth Kennedy Landscape Architect



### Third Street Men's Shelter Garden and Greenhouse

A project of the Department of Homeless Services and Project Renewal  
Hester Street  
Grain Collective



### Vision Zero Great Streets Queens Boulevard Reconstruction

Queens Boulevard from Roosevelt Avenue to Union Turnpike, Queens

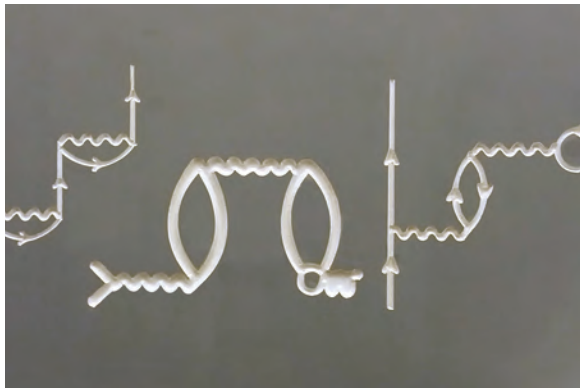
A project of the Department of Design and Construction and the Department of Transportation  
AECOM  
NV5



### Feynman Code by Pablo Helguera

Far Rockaway Community Library, 16-37 Central Avenue, Far Rockaway, Queens

A project of the Department of Cultural Affairs' Percent for Art Program, the Department of Design and Construction, and Queens Public Library  
Pablo Helguera  
Snøhetta



### Gowanus Combined Sewer Overflow Facility and Open Space

Gowanus Canal, Butler Street, Nevins Street, and Degraw Street, Brooklyn

A project of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Parks & Recreation  
Selldorf Architects  
DLANDstudio



### Manhattan Pet Adoption Center

323 East 109th Street, Manhattan

A project of the Department of Design and Construction, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Animal Care Centers of New York City  
Studio Joseph



### Staten Island 1 & 3 Districts Garage

Fresh Kills, Muldoon Avenue and West Shore Expressway, Staten Island

A project of the Department of Design and Construction and the Department of Sanitation  
TEN Arquitectos  
Sasaki



### Bay Breeze Park

Beach Channel Drive between Old Beach 88th Street and Beach 89th Street, Far Rockaway, Queens

A project of the Department of Parks & Recreation  
Quennell Rothschild & Partners  
Sage and Coombe Architects



# Women-Designed NYC

As part of the 2019 Design Awards, the PDC created a special program called *Women-Designed NYC* to celebrate the work of women who have shaped New York City’s public realm. A booklet was published highlighting previously-awarded projects where women architects, landscape architects, engineers, designers, and artists played a key role in the design. The booklet also features a history of women members of the PDC.

To celebrate Women’s History Month, PDC staff gave a preview of *Women-Designed NYC* at the Center for Architecture. Staff worked with the AIANY Women in Architecture and Diversity & Inclusion Committees to host the event, *Women-Built NYC | Three Decades of Public Design*, alongside Cynthia Kracauer of the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation and Jacqueline Ebanks of the Mayor’s Commission on Gender Equity. The program highlighted multigenerational women who have made a significant impact on the built environment of New York City, with a focus on City-owned property and public design.

In November, PDC staff collaborated with the Barnard and Columbia College Architecture Department to exhibit content from *Women-Designed NYC* at The Louise McCagg Gallery. At the opening, PDC staff presented the project and spoke with students about the highlighted women and their projects that helped shape New York City.

*Women-Designed NYC* was sponsored in part by the Associates of the Art Commission.

- 1. Women designers and PDC Commissioners are honored at the Annual Awards for Excellence in Design at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice on June 4, 2019.
- 2. Jacqueline Ebanks of the Mayor’s Commission on Gender Equity presents at the Center for Architecture on March 27, 2019.
- 3. PDC staff Keri Butler and Rebecca Macklis present *Women-Designed NYC* at the Center for Architecture on March 27, 2019.
- 4. Guests mingle at the opening reception for *Women-Designed NYC* exhibition at Barnard College’s Louise McCagg Gallery on November 21, 2019.



# Shared Spaces: Designing People-Friendly Urban Streets

On May 15th, as part of NYCxDesign, the PDC and the Fine Arts Federation of New York hosted a panel discussion to explore a future frontier in people-friendly urban street design: shared spaces. This event occurred in conjunction with the PDC’s ongoing research surrounding the creation of safer streetscapes for people and incorporated public and private-sector perspectives on the potential for shared spaces in New York City.

Vishaan Chakrabarti, Principal of Practice for Architecture and Urbanism (PAU) presented on the creation and implementation of shared spaces around the world. His presentation was followed by a conversation with PDC Commissioner Signe Nielsen and NYC Department of Transportation Director of Public Space Emily Weidenhof, moderated by PDC Executive Director Justin Garrett Moore.

The panel explored the challenges and merits of shared spaces, discussing how roadways and sidewalks could be reimagined as seamless public realms for civic life. Participants looked at global case studies where traditional traffic lanes, curbs, barriers, and signals have been replaced with raised intersections, chicanes, and car-free or unified public zones that have shifted the ways in which people are able to navigate the urban realm and foster new spaces for events, markets, and public art installations. The discussion weighed the environmental, safety, security, and urban design impacts and posed a possible urban future for New York.

- 5. PDC Executive Director Justin Garrett Moore moderating the NYCxDesign panel with Vishaan Chakrabarti, Emily Weidenhof, and PDC President Signe Nielsen.





# Prefabrication in the Public Realm

At this critical moment in the implementation of modular, prefabricated, and design-build processes in New York City, PDC Commissioner Hawkinson and PDC staff organized a technology seminar at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation (GSAPP) to research how prefabrication and modular construction can be expanded to address issues related to the public realm. Students gathered research on prefabrication projects and best practices, and participated in a site visit to a modular fabrication shop in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

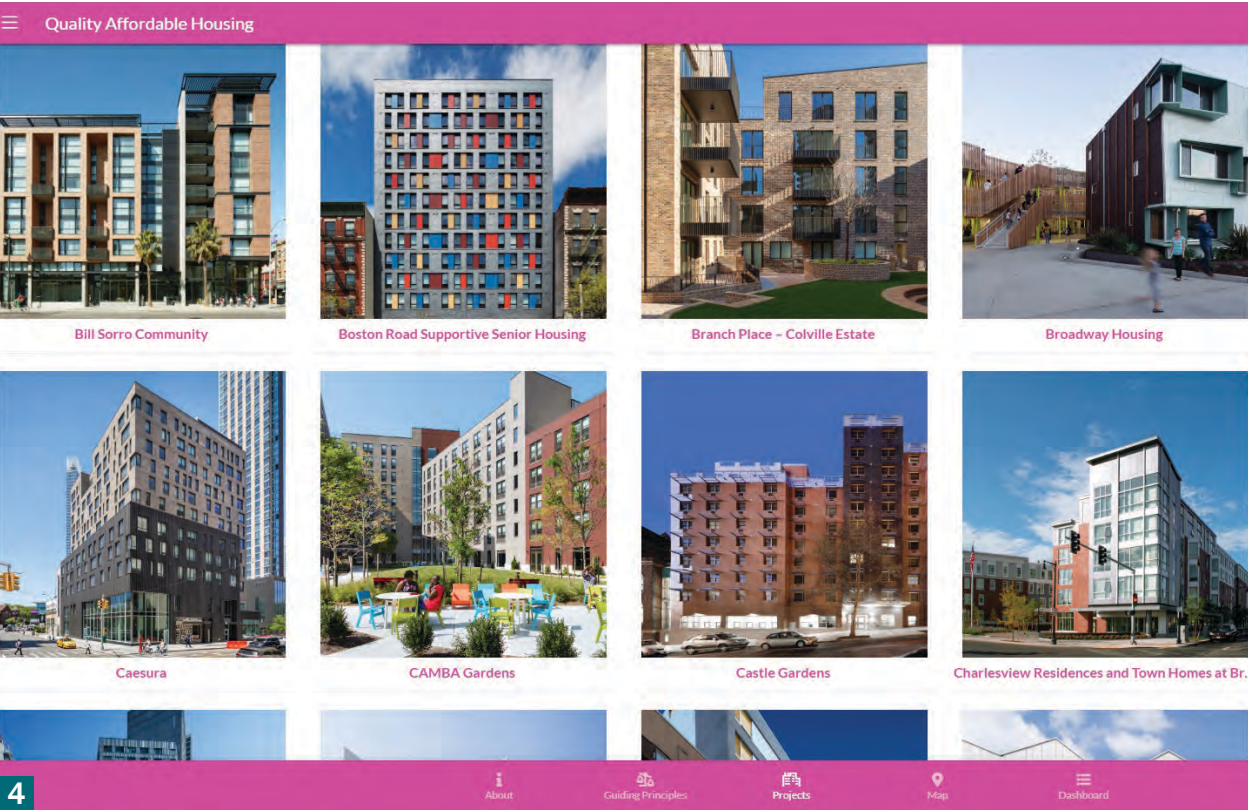
On July 23rd, the PDC, in collaboration with the AIANY Technology Committee and the Columbia University GSAPP seminar, hosted a roundtable discussion at the Center for Architecture in New York City. The discussion focused on how prefabrication practices can be applied to small-scale urban infrastructure projects to have a large public-realm impact. Panelists from both the public and private sector, including PDC Commissioner Laurie Hawkinson, touched on issues related to design and procurement, engineering and construction management, as well as site selection and the logistics of prefabricated projects in New York City. This event aimed to spur dialogue surrounding how prefabrication and modular construction can be expanded to address issues related to the public realm, and to encourage the public and private sectors to join forces to unpack key roadblocks.



1. Publicity image featuring NYC Parks Beach Restoration Modules by Garrison Architects and Carmel Place micro-unit development (modular) by nARCHITECTS
2. Students from the technology seminar tour FullStack Modular in the Brooklyn Navy Yard on February 11, 2019.
3. Panelists discuss prefabrication best-practices at the roundtable at the Center for Architecture on July 23, 2019.



# Quality Affordable Housing Database



Following the May 2018 release of the *Designing New York: Quality Affordable Housing* publication, the PDC launched an interactive database in July 2019 as the second phase of the initiative. The database is ever-evolving and intended to provide a platform to advance the national and global dialogue surrounding affordable housing design, and to make PDC's housing research done to-date fully accessible to the general public and professionals in the housing and development field alike.

PDC staff gathered design and development data on over 100 exemplary affordable housing case studies from across the globe, and organized them into a geocoded and user-friendly database, publicly accessible via web and mobile app. Design principles developed as part of the 2018 publication are also referenced to help inform the City's housing review process and inspire sensitive and holistic approaches to quality affordable housing design.

The case studies illustrate a diversity of creative design approaches to challenging sites and budgets, and were selected to demonstrate how design principles and best practices in development can be applied globally to raise

the bar on affordable housing and the design of our public realm.

Together, they pave the way for the next generation of affordable housing design to not only produce better buildings, but to better serve communities around the world.

While site-specific restrictions, building regulations, and funding challenges often heavily influence design decisions, the PDC hopes that the principles and considerations outlined in the database can encourage welcoming and contextually responsive affordable housing designs. Ultimately, the goal is to highlight that many design improvements are often low-cost or cost neutral, and that well-designed housing can contribute to more equitable cities, with safe and dignified homes and neighborhoods for all residents.

In an effort to continue the conversation surrounding quality affordable housing, PDC staff hosted an urban design studio from Washington University in St. Louis in February to present and discuss the initiative.

4. A selection of projects that are included in the database.



# The City’s Public Art Database

The Public Design Commission has general and curatorial supervision over works of art belonging to the City and its approval is required for any permanent installation of artwork on City-owned property as well as any relocation, conservation, or removal of City-owned artworks.

New York City’s vast public art collection dates back to the early 1800s and is installed throughout the city’s five boroughs in outdoor spaces such as parks and plazas, as well as on or inside public buildings such as libraries, court buildings, and fire departments.

Artworks have been acquired by the City in a number of different ways, including donations from private individuals and groups, official commemorations, federal work relief programs, and the City’s Percent for Art program.

Since 1982, New York City’s Percent for Art law has required that one percent of the budget for eligible City-funded construction projects be spent on public art. Managed by the City’s Department of Cultural Affairs, the Percent for Art program has commissioned hundreds of site-specific projects in a variety of media, including painting, new technologies, lighting, mosaic, glass, textiles, sculpture, and works that are integrated into infrastructure and architecture.

In September 2019, the PDC completed the first phase of a public art inventory, with a focus on outdoor artwork, including monuments and memorials. As part of this project, two archivists were hired to create a database, and two professional photographers were hired to document the artworks, beginning with Manhattan and Staten Island. PDC staff continue to review the data and plan for future phases of the project.

The PDC would like to thank the Department of Cultural Affairs and the Associates of the Art Commission for their generous support of the public art database project.

- 1. *Invisible Man* by Elizabeth Catlett, 150th Street and Riverside Drive, Manhattan, 2003
- 2. *Frances Hodgson Burnett Memorial Fountain* by Bessie Potter Vonnoh with landscape by Charles Downing Lay, Central Park Conservatory Garden, Manhattan, 1926



# Art for New York: The Making of a Public Art Collection



On November 20th, on the occasion of the Fine Arts Federation of New York’s 2019 Annual Meeting, PDC partnered with FAF to host an evening of dialogue about how New York City’s public art is commissioned, created, reviewed, and maintained.

Rarely considered as a whole, this body of work gives rise to questions about the value of public art, its evolution over time, and its relevance to an ever-evolving city. How can an urban art collection grow and change? Should we expect public artworks to endure forever? What special considerations are needed for art when it is integrated into infrastructure or architecture? How do we maintain works of wide-ranging materials and methods? And how can we ensure an equitable public art process that reflects a diverse city?

Panelists included PDC Deputy Executive Director Keri Butler, artist Melissa Calderón, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art Program Director Kendal Henry, and Department of Parks and Recreation Art and Antiquities Director Jonathan Kuhn. PDC commissioners, Philip E. Aarons and Mary A. Valverde acted as respondents.



- 3. PDC Deputy Executive Director Keri Butler presents research on New York City’s public art collection and its increasing diversity of artists and content by demographic.
- 4. PDC commissioners Mary A. Valverde and Philip E. Aarons respond to the panel.
- 5. Artist Melissa Calderón presents her recent work and the ways in which it is both accessible and equitable.



# Other Interagency Collaborations and Professional Development

In 2019, PDC staff continued to work collaboratively with other City agencies to improve the design review process, inform good design practices, and provide continuing educational development for staff and commissioners.



**Cooper Hewitt Museum Visit**  
To complement its research on streetscapes and new technology, PDC staff visited the Cooper Hewitt Museum’s exhibition on the future of streetscapes: *The Road Ahead: Reimagining Mobility*.



**Digital Signage Guidelines**  
Working closely with the Department of City Planning’s Urban Design team, PDC staff collected research and developed a survey for use in the ongoing development of digital signage design guidelines.



**Brooklyn Navy Yard Site Visit**  
PDC Commissioners and staff visited the Brooklyn Navy Yard to meet with the development team and tour recently approved and constructed projects.



**Sunnyside Yard**  
Continuing our collaboration, PDC staff worked with the Department of City Planning and NYC Economic Development Corporation to workshop and develop urban design principles and best practices for the Sunnyside Yard Master Plan development team.



**NYCHA Connected Communities**  
Following two interagency urban design charrettes hosted by the Department of City Planning and the New York City Housing Authority, PDC staff continued to serve on the Advisory Committee for the forthcoming Connected Communities Guidebook.



**Rededication Rebecca Salome Foster Memorial by Karl Bitter**  
PDC Deputy Executive Director Keri Butler helped guide the conservation, reinstallation, and rededication of the 1903 bas relief that commemorates Foster, who dedicated much of her life toward counseling prisoners.



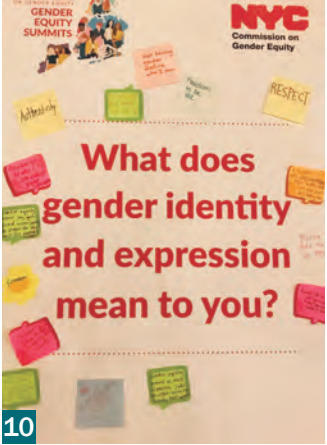
**Design-Build**  
PDC staff began a coordinated effort to develop a strategy for integrating design review into the Design-Build process, working collaboratively with multiple City agencies, including the Department of Design and Construction and the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice.

**POPS Logo Competition**  
Executive Director Justin Garrett Moore was a juror for the NYC POPS Logo Design Competition, hosted by the Department of City Planning, Advocates for Privately Owned Public Space, and The Municipal Art Society of New York, to give design feedback in the selection of a logo that will be prominently featured at each of the City’s more than 550 Privately Owned Public Spaces.

**Art Conservation and Policy**  
Working closely with NYCHA, PDC staff helped to plan for the conservation of *Green Pastures: The Walls of Jericho* (1938) by Richmond Barthé at the Kingsborough Houses in Brooklyn. PDC staff also joined the Conservation Advisory Group for a demonstration of the laser cleaning process used in the conservation of *SFB Morse*. Additionally, PDC Deputy Executive Director Keri Butler led a panel on the long-term expectations for the care and management of public art for the annual Americans for the Arts conference in June 2019.



**Parks and Antiquities Tour**  
PDC staff hosted the Department of Parks and Recreation’s Parks and Antiquities team for a special tour of City Hall to explore the historic building and its antiques.



**Gender Equity Summits**  
As a partner agency to the Commission on Gender Equity, the PDC participated in Gender Equity Summits, which were hosted across all five boroughs and aimed to engage and mobilize New Yorkers to advance gender equity.



**Streetscape Guidelines**  
PDC staff worked with the Department of Transportation to provide feedback on its Third Edition Street Design Manual and on its EI-Space project for the design of public spaces beneath elevated infrastructure.

**New Technology**  
Together with several other agencies, including the Mayor’s Office of the Chief Technology Officer and the Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications, PDC staff actively participated in the City’s Telecom Working Group, discussing urban design impacts and strategies for spurring innovation and shaping design guidelines about new technology.

**Civic Leadership Program**  
PDC staff hosted the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter’s Civic Leadership Program participants for a presentation and discussion surrounding the role of architects and urban designers in the public sphere.

**Engaging Barriers**  
PDC met with the AIANY Civic Leadership team members in October 2019 to discuss the urban design role of security infrastructure in New York City prior to their *Engaging Barriers: Physical Safety Measures Reshaping the Public Realm* presentation at the Center for Architecture.



**Security Infrastructure**  
PDC staff continued to actively participate in the City’s interagency Security Infrastructure Working Group, and hosted Washington, D.C.’s National Capital Planning Commission in November 2019 for a presentation and discussion following a day of security-related site visits with members of NYPD and the Department of Transportation.



# Commissioner Biographies

Pictured on previous pages (66 and 67):

1. PDC staff engage with an installation in *The Road Ahead: Reimagining Mobility* at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum. **Pictured left to right:** Mary Beth Betts, Rebecca Macklis, Grace Han, and Justin Garrett Moore.
2. Brooklyn Navy Yard staff and real estate developer Doug Steiner show PDC commissioners and staff construction in progress at Admirals Row Plaza in the Brooklyn Navy Yard Industrial Park, which includes the construction of two retail buildings, the rehabilitation of Building B and the Timber Shed, and adjacent site work **Pictured left to right:** Ethel Sheffer, Shani Leibowitz (BNYDC), Laurie Hawkinson, Jenna E. Miller, Manuel Miranda, Richard W. Moore, Doug Steiner (Steiner Studios), and Signe Nielsen.
3. PDC commissioners and staff visit Building 269 at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Industrial Park during a site visit. **Pictured left to right:** Carolina Llano, Manuel Miranda, Laurie Hawkinson, Shani Leibowitz (BNYDC), Signe Nielsen, and Richard W. Moore.
4. PDC Commissioner Nielsen pauses to take a photograph during an October site visit to the Brooklyn Navy Yard Industrial Park. **Pictured left to right:** Shani Leibowitz (BNYDC), Signe Nielsen, Richard W. Moore, Grace Han, and Carolina Llano.
5. PDC Executive Director Justin Garrett Moore and PDC staff Jenna E. Miller and Rebecca Macklis workshop ideas with urban designers from multiple other City agencies during a “NYCHA Connected Communities” design charrette workshop hosted at the Department of City Planning.
6. PDC Deputy Executive Director Keri Butler participates in the rededication ceremony for the *Rebecca Salome Foster Memorial* after guiding the artwork’s conservation and reinstallation. **Pictured left to right:** Hon. Deborah Kaplan (Supreme Court of the State of New York), Keri Butler, Robert Pigott (Phipps Houses), Jon Ritter (NYU), Jeremy Ann Brown (grandniece of Rebecca Salome Foster), and John Werner (Supreme Court of the State of New York).
7. The rededicated 1903 *Rebecca Salome Foster Memorial* at the New York State Supreme Courthouse.
8. PDC Deputy Executive Director Keri Butler joined members of the Conservation Advisory Group and staff from the Department of Parks and Recreation and Central Park Conservancy for a demonstration of the laser cleaning process used in the conservation of *SFB Morse*. **Pictured left to right:** Dr. Michele H. Bogart, Jonathan Kuhn, Stephen Gottlieb, and John Saunders.
9. DPR’s Parks and Antiquities team visits the PDC Board Room during a special tour of City Hall’s antiques.
10. An ideas board from a Gender Equity Summit workshop.
11. Becky Yurek, DDC’s Senior Design Liaison to PDC, presents *Engaging Barriers: Physical Safety Measures Reshaping the Public Realm* at the Center for Architecture.
12. Times Square Alliance Senior Vice President Tom Harris, Nick Koster from Snøhetta, and staff from PDC and NYPD Counterterrorism Bureau speak with the National Capital Planning Commission about the design of security infrastructure in Times Square.
13. Staff from NYC DOT and NYPD Counterterrorism Bureau, and Jenna E. Miller from PDC, guide the National Capital Planning Commission on a site visit through Flatiron Plaza, discussing the design and application of security infrastructure and its urban design impacts on the public realm.

## Signe Nielsen

Signe Nielsen is the Landscape Architect member and President of the Public Design Commission. As founding principal of her firm for 25 years, she has designed and supervised the construction of more than \$240 million worth of projects, including waterfront parks, large campuses, urban design and transportation improvements, and corporate facilities in the United States and abroad. Her design work has received more than two dozen national design awards, has been published extensively in professional journals and books on landscape architecture and has been exhibited in New York, Washington, DC, and Chicago. A Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Signe holds degrees in Urban Planning from Smith College, in Landscape Architecture from City College of New York, and in Construction Management from Pratt Institute.

## Philip E. Aarons

Philip E. Aarons is a lay member and Vice President of the Public Design Commission and a partner at Millennium Partners, a developer of large-scale, mixed-use properties in major cities throughout the country. Prior to co-founding Millennium Partners in 1990, he was President of the real estate subsidiary of the General Atlantic Corporation, a pioneer in the construction of low-income housing. From early 1978 until 1983, Phil worked in the Koch Administration, first as an Assistant to the Mayor, and then, in mid-1979, as President of the Public Development Corporation overseeing projects including the South Street Seaport and Carnegie Hall restoration. An avid art collector, Phil is active on the boards of a number of cultural and civic organizations, including Friends of the High Line, where he is Founding Board Chair, Creative Time, MoMA PS1, Printed Matter, The Museum of Modern Art’s Library Council, and Ballet Tech. Phil graduated from Columbia College where he majored in Art History and the Columbia University School of Law where he was an Editor of the Law Review.

## Laurie Hawkinson

Laurie Hawkinson is the architect member of the Public Design Commission. She is a partner at Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects (SMH+); Professor of Architecture at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation; and serves on Columbia University’s Professional Schools’ Diversity Council. Previously, she taught at Georgia Institute of Technology’s School of Architecture, Southern California Institute of Architecture, Yale University’s School of Architecture, the Institute for Advanced Architectural Studies in Venice, Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design, Parsons School of Design’s School of Environmental Design, and the University of Miami’s School of Architecture. She has served on the Space Planning Committee of Columbia’s Manhattanville Campus and on the Dean Search Committee of Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture from The Cooper Union, a Bachelor of Fine Arts from UC-Berkeley, a Master of Art in Department of Art Practice from UC-Berkeley, and was a recipient of the Whitney Museum’s independent study fellowship.

## Manuel Miranda

Manuel Miranda is a lay member of the Public Design Commission and a graphic designer. His studio, MMP, works across an expansive media spectrum to make places and ideas visible, legible, and navigable to people. In addition to professional practice, Manuel is an adjunct faculty member in the graduate graphic design program at the Yale School of Art and Vice President of the AIGA New York board of directors. In 2015, he led a team that created the winning proposal for Van Alen Institute’s “National Parks Now”, a competition to imagine new audience engagement strategies at urban parks for the National Park Service. Previously, Manuel was a design director at 2x4, Inc., and a senior designer at Brand Integration Group at Ogilvy. He earned a BFA from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, and an MFA in Graphic Design from the Yale School of Art.



# Commissioner Biographies

## Richard W. Moore

Richard W. Moore serves on the Public Design Commission as the representative of the Brooklyn Museum, where he is a Trustee and a member of the Executive Committee of the Board and chairs its Building and Grounds Committee. A retired trusts and estates lawyer, Dick was of counsel in the Individual Clients department of the law firm of Day Pitney LLP. He currently serves as a member of the board of the Brooklyn Community Foundation and has also served on the boards of the HOPE Program, the Brooklyn Historical Society, and the Packer Collegiate Institute. Dick graduated from Harvard College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

## Susan Morgenthau

Susan Morgenthau serves on the Public Design Commission as the representative of the New York Public Library, where she has been a Trustee since 2010. She has been a co-Chair of the Library Council since 2004, and is a member of the NYPL's Program and Policy Committee, Audit Committee, Development Committee, Finance Committee, and the Privacy and Policy Working Group. Susan's volunteer activity outside of the Library includes serving on the board of the Lehman College Foundation, The Riverdale Nature Preservancy, as well as a founding board member and past president of the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park. She currently serves on the Friends of Horticulture Committee at Wave Hill, a public garden in the Bronx, and is President of the Riverdale Sanitation Corporation, a private sanitary sewer serving over 300 properties in the North West Bronx. Susan is a former Head Teacher at the Brearley School, and served in the admissions office both at Brearley and at the Fieldston Lower School. She is an alumna of Vassar College, where she received a BA in Philosophy, and completed her graduate work at the Bank Street College of Education.

## Ethel Sheffer

Ethel Sheffer serves on the Public Design Commission as the Mayor's Representative. She is an urban planner, civic and community leader, and educator. Ethel heads Insight Associates, a small consulting group providing research services and advice in community planning and development, land use, and collaborations among government, nonprofits, and the private sector. In the 1990s, she headed the Columbus Circle Tri-Board Task Force of Community Boards 4, 5, and 7 and the Riverside South Task Force. Ethel also served as President of the New York Metro Chapter of the American Planning Association from 2002 to 2008. She is a Board Member of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council and a member of the Municipal Art Society's Planning Committee, and she teaches in Columbia University's Graduate Planning Program.

## Dr. Merryl H. Tisch

Dr. Merryl H. Tisch serves on the Public Design Commission as the representative of the Metropolitan Museum of Art where she is a trustee. She is one of the nation's leading voices on education, having served at the helm of New York State's governing body for education from 2009 to 2016. As Chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents, Dr. Tisch was responsible for setting the State's education policy and overseeing both public and private education throughout New York. She currently holds a number of philanthropic and civic positions, including serving as co-chairperson of the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, a leading social services agency. Dr. Tisch also sits on the executive committees of The Washington Institute for Near East Policy and the Citizens Budget Commission. Additionally, she serves on the board of The International Rescue Committee, The Trust for Cultural Resources of the City of New York, and the Graduate School of Education's Board of Overseers at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Tisch earned a B.A. from Barnard College, an M.A. in Education from New York University, and received an Ed.D from Teacher's College, Columbia University.

## Shin-pei Tsay

Shin-pei is a lay member and Secretary of the Public Design Commission and the Executive Director of the Gehl Institute, a non-profit organization that works to improve the public realm. Previously she was the Deputy Executive Director of TransitCenter, a foundation committed to improving urban mobility. She founded and directed the cities and transportation research program and the Leadership in Transportation Solvency project at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, served as Deputy Director of Transportation Alternatives, Chief Operating Officer of Project for Public Spaces, was a founding member of the NYC office for ZGF Architects, and worked with Fortune 500 companies to develop Internet strategies. In 2010, she co-founded and directed Planning Corps, an organization that matches urban planners with community-based projects, whose work was selected for the U.S. Pavilion at the 2012 Venice Biennale for Architecture. Shin-pei currently serves on the Board of Directors for Transportation Alternatives and In Our Backyard, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Government with distinction from Cornell University, and a Master of Science in Cities, Space, and Society from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

## Mary A. Valverde

Mary A. Valverde is the sculptor member of the Public Design Commission. She is an interdisciplinary artist who uses ephemeral materials to reflect upon sacred spaces and rituals and politics of production, exploitation, social roles, culture, and tradition. Mary teaches at Hunter and was the 2011 MFA Lecturer at the ICA Philadelphia. She is the recipient of the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Design's Full Dean's Diversity Fellowship and in 2010 received the Artist Fellowship, Inc., Individual Artist Award and the Mayer Foundation Grant. Mary's work has been exhibited at El Museo del Barrio, Queens Museum, Jersey City Museum, Momenta Gallery, Abrons Art Center, and Cuchifritos Gallery, among others. She received her MFA from the University of Pennsylvania and her BFA from the School of Visual Arts.

## Hank Willis Thomas

Hank Willis Thomas is the painter member of the Public Design Commission. Hank's work is in numerous public collections including MoMA, the Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the High Museum of Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. Hank has exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the United States and abroad, including Goodman Gallery in Johannesburg, Galerie Michel Rein in Paris, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Cleveland Art Museum. He is represented by Jack Shainman Gallery in New York City. Hank has acted as a visiting professor in the MFA programs at Virginia Commonwealth University, Maryland Institute College of Art, and ICP/Bard and lectured at Yale University, Harvard University, the Birmingham Museum of Art, and the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris. Hank earned a BFA from New York University and an MA and MFA from the California College of the Arts.



# Staff Biographies

## Justin Garrett Moore

Justin Garrett Moore is a transdisciplinary designer and urbanist and serves as the executive director of the Public Design Commission. He has extensive experience in architecture, urban design, and planning—from large-scale urban policies and projects to grassroots and community-based planning, design, and arts initiatives. At the Public Design Commission, his work focuses on prioritizing quality and excellence for the public realm and fostering accessibility, diversity, and inclusion in New York’s public buildings, landscapes, and art. He is a member of the American Planning Association’s AICP Commission, the Urban Design Forum, and the Black urbanist collective BlackSpace. Justin is an adjunct faculty member at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and the Yale School of Architecture. His social enterprise, Urban Patch, focuses on sustainable development through social and environmental design projects in the United States and Rwanda. He holds a Bachelor of Design from the University of Florida and a Master of Architecture and a Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University.

## Grace Han

Grace is an urban planner with over a decade of experience managing capital and planning projects, focusing on programming, place making, and civic vitality. Her projects have included cultural institutions, university campuses, and waterfront open space and development. As the Director of Capital Projects, she oversees the design review process, working closely with agency liaisons. Grace received her Masters’ in Urban Planning from Columbia University, where she has also taught, and has an undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

## Keri Butler

Keri is the Deputy Executive Director of the Public Design Commission. She holds a Masters’ in Arts Administration from the Art Institute of Chicago and has nearly 20 years of experience in her field in both New York City and Chicago. At the Public Design Commission, Keri works closely with New York City agencies on the development and design of capital projects with a particular focus on citywide prototypes, adaptive reuse of historic structures, public art commissions, and art conservation projects. She has collaborated with City and State agencies along with private partners to conserve the City’s art collection, including the City Hall portraits, large-scale sculptures, and WPA murals. Keri also oversees the Commission’s special initiatives and events, including City Hall tours, panels, exhibits, and the Annual Awards for Excellence in Design.

## Rebecca Macklis

Rebecca is an urban designer and the Senior Urban Design Manager at the NYC Public Design Commission. Her work is concentrated on design policy and design review of architecture and urban design projects, with a focus on affordable housing, mixed-use developments, and urban systems. She manages the *Designing New York: Quality Affordable Housing* and *Prefabrication in the Public Realm* initiatives, and works on the Commission’s special projects such as Women-Designed NYC and the Annual Awards for Excellence in Design. Rebecca is a member of the Urban Design Forum (a 2019 Forefront Fellow), holds a MArch in Urban Design from the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, and a BA in Architecture and Anthropology, with a minor in American Culture Studies, from Washington University in St. Louis. She has been a guest lecturer and critic at various institutions including Washington University in St. Louis, Syracuse University, and Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

## Jenna E. Miller

Jenna is the Urban Design and Policy Manager at the Public Design Commission. A LEED Accredited Professional in Building Design and Construction and co-founder of RUED’ ARCH LLC, Jenna has designed and managed a breadth of public and private design/build and architectural projects in New York, Massachusetts, and abroad. She is a member of the Female Design Council and the Society of American Registered Architects, and she holds a Master’s Degree in Architecture from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and a B.A. in Architecture and Environmental Studies from Wellesley College. As a member of the Wellesley Board of Trustees and Columbia University Senate, she participated in committees that oversaw institutional issues of gender equity, architectural and campus planning. At PDC, Jenna oversees interagency urban design and policy initiatives and working groups, particularly those with a focus on the public realm, new technology, security, and justice. She manages the agency’s geospatial analysis and data visualization, Annual Report, and *Designing New York: Safer Streets for People* initiative, and she strives to promote and develop strategies for improved equity and excellence of design in the City.

## Carolina Llano

Carolina is a Project Manager at the Public Design Commission. At the Design Commission, Carolina reviews projects and proposals submitted by City agencies and assists with initiatives related to public art. She has prior experience on the project management of institutional, residential, and museum projects with architectural firms in New York City, and continues to pursue her interest in the intersection of art, architecture, and landscape. She holds a Master’s Degree in Architecture from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, as well as a B.A. in Architecture from the University of Florida.

## Julianna Monjeau

Julianna is the Archivist and Senior Records Manager of the Public Design Commission. She holds a Master’s Degree in Archives & Public History from New York University. At the Public Design Commission, she manages the accession and preservation of all public records reviewed by the Commission and provides research services. She also manages the digitization of Design Commission records and posts selections of digitized records on our Tumblr and Flickr accounts. She is a member of the Society of American Archivists, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, and the Archivist’s Roundtable of the Metropolitan New York.

## Mary Beth Betts

Mary Beth Betts is the Tour Manager at the Public Design Commission. She plans tours of New York City Hall, manages a team of four docents, and researches the diverse history of City Hall and its collections. She is an architectural historian and has worked at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, The New-York Historical Society and taught architectural history at The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture, The Cooper Union. She organized exhibitions on McKim, Mead & White, and New York City Hall and has published essays on Cass Gilbert, New York City Hall and the New York City waterfront. Mary Beth holds a Ph.D. in Art History from the Graduate Center, CUNY and a B.A. in Art History from the University of Virginia and is active in the Society of Architectural Historians and the Vernacular Architecture Forum.



**Cover image:** PDC commissioners and staff tour the Brooklyn Navy Yard Industrial Park with BNYDC staff.  
**Pictured left to right (Front Cover):** Richard W. Moore, Johanna Greenbaum, Mary Beth Betts, Rebecca Macklis.  
**Pictured left to right (Rear Cover):** Carolina Llano, Signe Nielsen, Ethel Sheffer, Grace Han, Jill Schmidt, Shani Leibowitz.