

# Site Selection Tips



urban art program





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## Selecting a Site

### Introduction

The NYCDOT Urban Art Program presents temporary public art on DOT-owned and maintained properties. DOT plazas, fences, medians, triangles, sidewalks and jersey barriers, in all five boroughs, are possible locations for art. DOT identifies a number of priority sites for the pARTners' track that are wide enough to accommodate artwork, accessible to a diverse audience, and respond to requests from the community for beautification. For an updated list of current priority sites, refer to the Priority Site List.

Organizations are also invited to propose art projects for DOT-owned sites within their community. This document is intended to assist in appropriate site selection.



**Consider the following guidelines when selecting a potential site for art:** Size and Safety, Visibility and Accessibility and Site Enhancement and Significance.

- **Size and Safety:** Select a site that is large enough to accommodate both the proposed artwork and passersby to ensure artwork does not introduce a tripping or safety hazard.
- **Visibility and Accessibility:** Select a site that is visible and accessible to the public.
- **Site Enhancement and Significance:** Select a site appropriate for the artwork that will also benefit from the addition of public art.

This document describes a) site types, b) typical elements found at a site, c) site type requirements and recommendations, and d) potential installations appropriate for site types.





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## Selecting a Site

### Site Type: Plazas

DOT plazas are outdoor public spaces created by reclaiming and redesigning street segments as places for pedestrian use.

#### Typical Elements

- Street furniture (benches, tables, awnings)
- Pedestrian lighting
- Drinking fountains
- Litter receptacles
- Utilities
- Landscaping
- Main amenity (permanent artwork, fountains)
- Bike racks

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- Plazas with integrated design elements (such as pavement art or distinctive benches) are appropriate for temporary art.
- The primary paths must be maintained at an acceptable width; ancillary paths within a plaza may be reduced to the ADA minimum where appropriate.
- An unobstructed path with a width of at least 8 feet between the art and the curb line must be maintained at all times for pedestrian use and vehicular safety.
- Plazas with main amenities (such as permanent artwork or large fountains) are not appropriate for temporary artwork

For more information on the NYC Plaza Program, visit [www.nyc.gov/plazas](http://www.nyc.gov/plazas).

#### Potential Installations

- Sculpture/3-dimensional installations
- Art/light projections
- Display cases



14th Street and 9th Avenue Plaza, Manhattan  
Sleeping Monster, Nicolo Verlatto (artist)  
In partnership with More Art





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### Site Type: Triangles/Medians

Triangles and medians are raised divides separating traffic lanes, roadway directions or roadbeds within a street. Triangles/medians vary in size.

#### Typical Elements

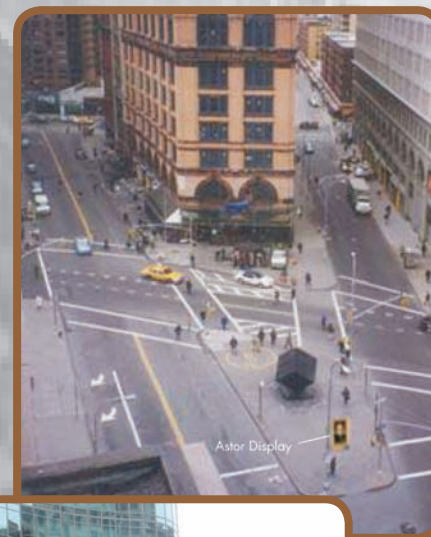
- Litter receptacles
- Landscaping
- Street lighting
- Road signs
- Bike racks

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- Larger concrete triangles/medians are appropriate for artwork.
- Triangles/medians that are easily and safely accessible and/or visible to the public are appropriate for artwork.
- An unobstructed path with a width of at least 8 feet between the art and the curb line must be maintained at all times for pedestrian use.
- Triangles/medians owned by DOT but maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation (Greenstreets) must be reviewed by both agencies as a site for public art.

#### Potential Installations

- Sculpture/3-dimensional installations
- Display cases



Astor Place Triangle, Astor Place and 4th Avenue, Manhattan  
Making History Matter, La Placa Cohen (designer)  
In partnership with New-York Historical Society





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### Site Type: Sidewalks

Sidewalks are paved paths designed primarily for pedestrian use, which are located between the roadside curb and adjacent property lines.

#### Typical Elements

- Street furniture
- Litter receptacles
- Bike racks
- Bus shelters
- Signs and sign posts
- Street and pedestrian lighting

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- Wide, well-maintained sidewalks with a limited number of elements are appropriate sites for artwork.
- The primary paths must be maintained at an acceptable width; ancillary paths on a sidewalk may be reduced to the ADA minimum where appropriate.
- An unobstructed path with a width of at least 8 feet between the art and the curb line must be maintained at all times for pedestrian use.
- Sidewalks will not serve as canvases; therefore artwork cannot be painted directly onto the pavement but must instead be bolted to or mounted on the sidewalk.

#### Potential Installations

- Sculpture/3-dimensional installation
- Art/Light projections
- Display cases



LaGuardia Park, LaGuardia Place between W 3rd and Bleecker Streets, Manhattan  
Fly's Eye Dome, Buckminster Fuller (architect)  
In partnership with Center for Architecture and Max Protech Gallery





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### Site Type: Fence

A fence is a barrier that encloses an area and restricts movement in and out of DOT-owned space.

#### Typical Elements

- Signs
- Gates
- Corrugated metal or chain-link (material)

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- Gates or other egress points on a fence must not be blocked by art work.
- Fences must be able to support the weight of an installation to be considered an appropriate site.
- Fences will not serve as canvases; therefore artwork cannot be painted directly onto the surface but instead must be bolted to or mounted on the fence.

#### Potential Installations

- Murals/2-dimensional installation
- Reliefs



Front Street between Pearl and Adams Streets, Brooklyn  
Nature Matching Systems, Tattfoo Tan (artist)  
In partnership with the Dumbo Business Improvement District





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## Selecting a Site

### Site Type: Jersey Barrier

A Jersey barrier is a low, concrete barrier installed by DOT to separate lanes of traffic, buffer bicycle lanes, support weakened infrastructure and enclose construction sites.

#### Typical Elements

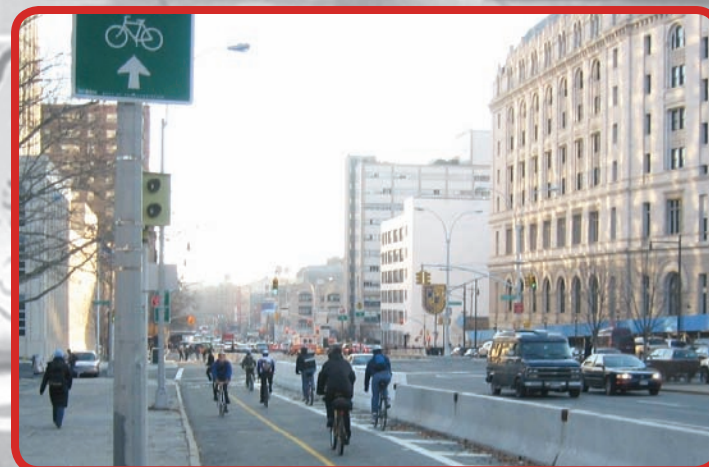
- 20 feet long by 3 feet tall (individual barrier)

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- The side of a Jersey barrier facing a pedestrian sidewalk and/or cyclist pathway is appropriate for artwork; the vehicular traffic side is generally not appropriate.
- The height of the Jersey barrier can not be altered.
- Jersey barriers can be painted or a separate canvas (such as vinyl or parachute cloth) can be adhered to the barrier.

#### Potential Installations

- Murals
- Two-dimensional installation



Tillary Street between Adams Street and Cadman Plaza West, Manhattan  
Worker Bees, Clare Herron, Christopher Beck and 11 Brooklyn students (artists)  
In partnership with Groundswell Community Mural Project  
and the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership





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### Site Type: Bridge Anchorage and Archway

A bridge anchorage is composed of the two outer sides of a bridge, that are grounded on land, providing support for the structure as it spans across a body of water, a roadway, a railroad, etc.

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- The bridge structure cannot be altered; therefore artwork may only be projected onto the surface of the bridge.
- The anchorages and archways, any doors or gates, utility points, conduits, emergency fire valves and stand pipe systems of the bridge must not be blocked by equipment used to project artwork.
- The Anchorages' security system can not be interfered with by the art projections.
- Sites are appropriate for artwork only if the projected image is below the bridge roadway.

#### Potential Installation

- Art/Light projections



Manhattan Bridge Anchorage, Brooklyn  
Digital Art Projections, Various Artists  
In partnership with the Dumbo Business Improvement District