

FIVE BOROUGH FARM PHASE III

EL SPACE

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

THE WORLD'S PARK

FUTURE CULTURE

OPENING THE EDGE



2015
ANNUAL
REPORT



OUR MISSION

The Design Trust for Public Space is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the future of public space in New York City.

Our projects bring together city agencies, community groups, and private sector experts to make a lasting impact – through design – on how New Yorkers live, work and play.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

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*as of June 2016

COVER PHOTO CREDITS FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT Design Trust Project Fellows, Iwan Baan, Iwan Baan, Snøhetta, Katie Winter, Michael DiVito, Chris Kannen, Design Trust Project Fellows, Triborough Photography, Iwan Baan, Chris Kannen, Triborough Photography, Google Earth Image

20/20 VISION



Andrea Woodner
Andrea Woodner
Founder and Board
President, 1995-2015

Letter from the Founder

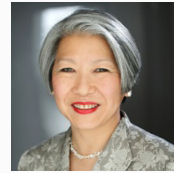
As I write this, the Design Trust has moved on to new leadership, and I regard with great affection and respect the way the Design Trust continues to expand and explore new vistas. The year 2015 was a turning point, as we celebrated our first 20 years and honored 20 “Public

Space Champions” who, as Design Trust Fellows, partners, board members and mentors, changed New York City in wonderful ways.

Since its inception, the Design Trust has brought equal parts curiosity, insight, respect for partnership, and dogged determination to each project it takes on. The High Lines, the purpose built taxis, re-designed Grand Army Plazas, and green guidelines for public parks, buildings, and infrastructure of the first twenty years will be followed by Staten Island arts enlivening local waterfront development; quality retail and streetscape design guidelines going into effect for the Mayor’s affordable housing initiative; and a plan to open the fenced edges that separate New York’s public housing sites from their neighborhoods. Beyond that,

the Design Trust will no doubt seek out questions, challenges and opportunities important to New York’s future.

With immense gratitude to the Design Trust’s many generous donors, and to its committed staff and board, I extend thanks for the past and every best wish for the future.



Susan Chin
Susan Chin, FAIA,
Hon. ASLA
Executive Director

Letter from the Executive Director

In this landmark year, celebrating the Design Trust for Public Space’s impact in the past 20 years of shaping New York City’s public realm with President and Founder Andrea Woodner and our highly engaged board has been truly inspiring. Building on Andrea’s nascent vision and deep intellect,

this year we increased connectivity to our city’s parks, streetscapes, and spaces under elevated infrastructure, working with enthusiastic partners and strong support of Design Trust’s friends and colleagues participating and investing in our catalytic work. Setting the course for our organization and strengthening our ability to transform and evolve our city in the next 20 years is a real privilege.



FIVE BOROUGH FARM PHASE III



EL SPACE



FUTURE CULTURE



LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

2015 AT A GLANCE



THE WORLD'S PARK



OPENING THE EDGE

PHOTO CREDIT CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Rosalba Lopez Ramirez, Joseph Huennekens, William Michael Fredericks, Jim Simmons for Killefer Flammang Architects, Gareth Smit

BELOW Young gardeners measuring their output.
Photo Credit: Rosalba Lopez Ramirez.

OPPOSITE Stills from an instructional video series
on how to use the *Farming Concrete Data Collection
Toolkit*. Photo Credit: Christopher Englese.



PROJECT

FIVE BOROUGH FARM PHASE III: MEASURING THE IMPACT OF URBAN AGRICULTURE IN NYC

PARTNER

Farming Concrete

FELLOWS

Sheryll Durrant

Outreach

Christopher Englese

Video

D. Rooney

Outreach

Philip Silva

Outreach

SUPPORTERS

NYC Department of Cultural Affairs

Five Borough Farm Phase III tackled the challenge of equipping a large number of farmers and gardeners with the first publicly accessible *Farming Concrete Data Collection Toolkit* (formerly named the *Five Borough Farm Data Collection Toolkit*).

The Design Trust worked with Farming Concrete to enhance its online data platform and design the website to be more visually accessible with increased reporting features based on feedback from users. Three new measurement protocols were added to widen access to this data for NYC's farmers, gardeners, policy makers, and funders.

In March, the Design Trust and Farming Concrete unveiled a publicly accessible data portal "Mill" for researchers, policy makers, and other urban agriculture stakeholders – the first of its kind in the urban farming and gardening community.

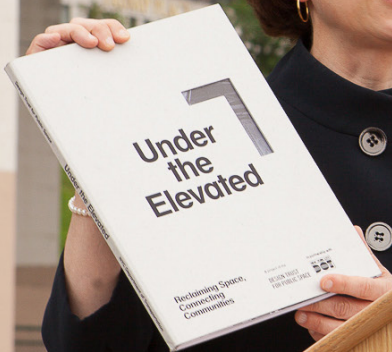
The Design Trust also produced and distributed the *Farming Concrete Data Collection Toolkit Instructional Videos*, a five-part video series, demonstrating how to use the Toolkit. The videos, filmed at eight sites across the five boroughs, described how to use the online data platform for entering information and generating customizable reports.





BELOW NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg announcing the publication of *Under the Elevated*.
Photo Credit: Samuel Lahoz.

OPPOSITE TOP The *Under the Elevated* publication.
Photo Credit: Ozgur Gungor. **BOTTOM** Lighting Fellow Leni Schwendinger leading community members on a nighttime walking tour of the site.
Photo Credit: Liz Ligon.



PROJECT

EL SPACE: CREATING DYNAMIC SPACES UNDER THE ELEVATED



PARTNER

NYC Department of Transportation
(NYC DOT)

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR

Industry City

FELLOWS

Tricia Martin
Landscape Architecture

Quilian Riano
Urban Design

Leni Schwendinger
Lighting

SUPPORTERS

New York Community Trust
Industry City

New York Building Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
BuroHappold Engineering
Tekton Builders

New York State Council on the Arts
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs
Situ Fabrication

The comprehensive study entitled *Under the Elevated: Reclaiming Space, Connecting Communities* was launched to the public in June at a press event held at Riverside Park South in Manhattan. *Under the Elevated* spelled out sustainable and versatile ways to redesign and maintain 'el space,' the multi-jurisdictional public spaces beneath and adjacent to elevated infrastructure. NYC DOT began adopting the Design Trust's key recommendations to improve public space beneath elevated highways, subway and rail lines, and bridges.

In Phase II, *El-Space: Creating Dynamic Places Under the Elevated*, the agency and the Design Trust have initiated several pilots based on our findings to develop creative site-specific proposals for el-space, while establishing standards for quality and streamlining agency approvals.

The first pilot in Sunset Park is in collaboration with Industry City. Located beneath the Gowanus Expressway at 36th Street and 3rd Avenue, it will safely connect residents and workers to the waterfront and increase environmental health. It will test urban design strategies, lighting and green infrastructure, and inform a future NYC DOT capital project at the site, and other locations citywide.

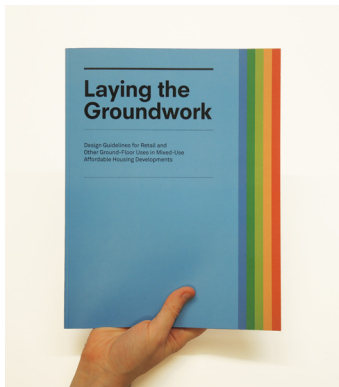


ABOVE The New Genesis apartments in Los Angeles are a case study of effective exterior lighting. Photo Credit: Jim Simmons for Killefer Flammang Architects.

OPPOSITE TOP The *Laying the Groundwork* publication. Photo Credit: Joseph Huennekens.
BOTTOM Sample configuration drawings demonstrate how a typical ground-floor can be arranged. Photo Credit: Joseph Huennekens.

PROJECT

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK



PARTNER

NYC Department of Housing
Preservation and Development
(HPD)

FELLOWS

Hayes and James Slade

Architecture

Fiona Cousins

Engineering

Penny Hardy

Graphic Design

SUPPORTERS

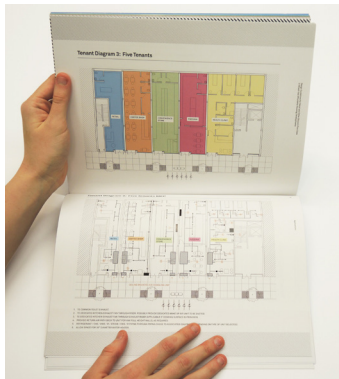
National Endowment for the Arts

Arup

Design Trust Founder's Circle

NY State Council on the Arts

NYC Department of Cultural Affairs



The Design Trust, along with HPD and project fellows, worked to develop a set of guidelines to encourage vibrant street life and quality ground-floor uses for future mixed-use affordable housing developments. A wide array of stakeholders also participated in a formal peer review.

The 87-page *Laying the Groundwork* guidelines, informed by Mayor Bill de Blasio's holistic approach to community development in support of diverse, livable neighborhoods, are applicable to a wide range of retail models that can evolve with community needs.

Developers and architects are encouraged to think creatively about the ways these developments contribute to the life and health of neighborhoods. The guidelines also include a user-friendly tool for developers and architects to estimate the added cost of recommended provisions, however most are cost negligible.

HPD will incorporate the guidelines into future RFPs, as well as in the evaluation of housing development proposals, and the review of architectural plans. The Design Trust will track several projects that are initiated using these guidelines.

BELOW A session of the Community Design School.
Photo Credit: Sam Holleran.

OPPOSITE TOP Community Design School participants showcasing their work at the Community Forum.
Photo Credit: William Michael Fredericks. **BOTTOM** Discussion at the second World's Park Community Forum held at the Queens Museum. Photo Credit: William Michael Fredericks.



PROJECT

THE WORLD'S PARK



PARTNERS

Queens Museum
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks)

FELLOWS

Sam Holleran
Participatory Design

Sarah Lidgus
Design Education

José Serrano-McClain
Community Organizing

SUPPORTERS

National Endowment for the Arts
Design Trust Founder's Circle
New York State Council on the Arts
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs



Working with the Queens Museum and NYC Parks, the Design Trust and its Fellows formed a Community Design School where 22 Queens residents, from 16 to 70 years old, developed proposals to improve access and circulation within Flushing Meadows Corona Park (FMCP).

Two public forums and an exhibition, *You Are Here: Creating a New Approach to Civic Participation in the World's Park*, were held at the Queens Museum in May, featuring community-driven concepts to improve the connectivity between FMCP and surrounding communities.

The Design Trust published *Building the Community Design School at Flushing Meadows Corona Park*, outlining how the school originated, the political context of the park, and the classroom structure and lessons plans.

The FMCP Alliance and corresponding Community Advisory Board, launched in December as a proactive body charged with setting the comprehensive vision for the park, includes Community Advisors from *The World's Park* project.

In 2016, the Design Trust will explore opportunities to conduct its Community Design School with community-based development organizations in low-income communities.

Staten Island Arts' Lumen Festival celebrates the vibrant 'Naturally Occurring Cultural District' on the North Shore. Photo Credit: Mike Shane for Staten Island Arts



EXPLORATORY PROJECT
FUTURE CULTURE

PARTNER

Staten Island Arts (SI Arts)

SUPPORTERS

National Endowment for the Arts

Design Trust Founder's Circle

In partnership with SI Arts, the Design Trust is exploring ways for Staten Island's cultural community and major developers to engage together in planning the North Shore waterfront to offer long-term strategies for neighborhood revitalization, sustainability, and equitable economic development. The first phase will create a cultural plan and compelling visions for Staten Island's waterfront, linking the public spaces and cultural assets of its neighborhoods. The second phase will test and promote the plan through installation of public art pilots and two exhibitions.

Throughout 2015, the Design Trust and SI Arts met to garner local support and investigate partnerships with various stakeholders and agencies, including the NYC Economic Development Corporation, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, and artists, as well as with multiple developers with projects in progress along Staten Island's North Shore.

Future Culture officially launches in early 2016 with an open call for the Photo Urbanism Fellowship, in partnership with the Alice Austen House and SI Arts. The selected photo-journalist will document Staten Island's North Shore in a time of transformation.



A fenced-in green space at a NYCHA development. Photo Credit: Dana Wall.

EXPLORATORY PROJECT

OPENING THE EDGE

PARTNERS

Artist Jane Greengold with the New York City Housing Authority as an affiliate

SUPPORTERS

National Endowment for the Arts
Design Trust Founder's Circle

Opening the Edge aims to create more active, productive public spaces at a NYCHA site and connect these developments more closely with the community.

Together, Greengold and the Design Trust conducted research throughout the summer of 2015 and held several high-level meetings with NYCHA and a number of consultants engaged in master planning and ground floor leasing strategies. These meetings provided a context and an approach for narrowing site selection and tying into ongoing NYCHA Next Gen Plan initiatives.

In 2016, the project team will begin meetings with resident leaders to determine which NYCHA site would be best for the project. The final site chosen will be based on the receptiveness of residents to the idea, and their commitment to the engagement and design process.

A Call for Fellows will be issued in Spring 2016.

Design Trust Executive Director Susan Chin was interviewed by Time Warner Cable News' NY1 at the launch for *Under the Elevated*.
Photo Credit: Samuel Lahoz



OUTREACH & IMPACT

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Staff represented the Design Trust to diverse audiences, including

- AAO's Making Design Matter, Chicago IL
- AIA NY's Edge Collaborations: Creative Partnerships with Social Science, New York, NY
- American Community Garden Conference, Denver CO
- Archtober's AIANY Oculus Book Talk, New York, NY
- Black Farmers and Urban Gardeners Conference, Oakland, CA
- DEMO: POLIS, Berlin, Germany
- Long Beach Film Festival: Shorts on the Beach, Long Beach, NY
- Next City Vanguard Conference, Reno, NV
- Parsons DESIS Lab + LMHQ's Public Space: New Ideas for Civic Life, New York, NY
- Philadelphia Center for Architecture's Design Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA
- Placemaking in the Creative Capital: Innovating Urban Districts, Brown University
- Shell Powering Progress Together, Detroit MI
- Staten Island Arts Technical Assistance Conference, Staten Island, NY
- Succeeding with Mixed-Use Properties, Hamden CT

123 MEDIA MENTIONS

Our work was featured in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, NY1, Crain's New York, Fast Company, Smithsonian Magazine, Kinfolk, Monocle, among other outlets.

SOCIAL MEDIA

11,152 Twitter followers
7,955 Facebook likes
1,990 Instagram followers

FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

A growing group of supporters who are passionate about the urban environment whose financial support provides a foundation for the Design Trust's lasting work on the future of public space in NYC. Members' contributions support a capital fund to seed and start new projects, capturing momentum and enthusiasm for topical issues.



2015 MEMBERS

Agnes Gund
Kitty Hawks
Sophia W. Healy
Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc.
Camila Pastor &
Stephen Maharam
Claire Weisz
Andrea Woodner, *Chair*

AWARDS

2015 Olmsted Medal

The Design Trust was honored to receive this prestigious award from the American Society of Landscape Architects in recognition of "the organization's genius in fostering unconventional partnership with city agencies and community collaborators to tackle complex issues of land use, policy, and funding."

2015 MAKINGOODESIGN Award

The Design Trust was recognized by AIA ENYA (Emerging New York Architects) and Design With Benefits as an NYC innovator using design for social good, alongside the Center for Urban Pedagogy, Design Ignites Change, The Alpha Workshops, and No Longer Empty.

2015 EVENTS

DESIGN TRUST COUNCIL

**MAY 5
DOWNTOWN** Tour of the new Fulton Center followed by a reception and an in-depth discussion with the transit hub's design and engineering teams, including: Craig Covil, CEng, Principal & Infrastructure Leader, Arup; Page Cowley, FAIA, RIBA, LEED B+C, Principal, Page Ayers Cowley Architects; Paulo Faria, Associate Principal, Grimshaw; Uday Durg, Senior Vice President & Program Executive, MTA Capital Construction; and James McConnell, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Senior Vice President and Sr. Professional Associate, HDR.

**JUNE 3
MIDTOWN** Breakfast tour of Carnegie Hall's Resnick Education Wing, guided by Richard Malenka, Carnegie Hall's Director of Administration.

**OCTOBER 29
UPTOWN** Breakfast talk on Columbia's Manhattanville campus with Maxine Griffith, Columbia University's Executive Vice President for Government and Community Affairs and Philip Pitruzzello, Manhattanville Development's Senior Vice President.



ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The Design Trust Council is a leadership circle of executives, urbanists, civic leaders, and designers that provides critical support for unlocking the potential of NYC's public spaces. Members attend exclusive programs headlined by newsmakers in the field and gain an insider's perspective on the issues facing NYC.

2015 EVENTS

PUBLIC SPACE POTLUCKS

Free and open to all, our popular program series gathers urban enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds together for a shared meal, temporarily transforming New York City's public space into a communal dining room.

- JULY 29** At the newly reopened Highbridge Park, with special guests Jennifer Hoppa, Parks Administrator for Northern Manhattan, Charles McKinney, Principal Urban Designer for NYC Parks, and members of City Life is Moving Bodies.
- AUGUST 25** At Staten Island Pier 1, with special guest Monica Valenzuela of Staten Island Arts.



2015 ART + DESIGN BENEFIT AUCTION

- OCTOBER 14** The Design Trust for Public Space turned 20 in 2015. We celebrated this exciting platinum anniversary at the 2015 Art+Design Benefit Auction at Christie's. To commemorate two remarkable decades of groundbreaking work in NYC's public realm, we saluted the Design Trust 20/20, an honor roll of 20 public space champions

that enable us to tell the story of the Design Trust's lasting impact on NYC's public realm.

Over 500 ardent Design Trust supporters gathered for our 20th Anniversary celebration. The silent auction featured more than 60 fine art and design pieces and the event raised a record \$325,850 in support of our general operations. A tremendous thank you to our extraordinary event chair Cindy Allen, our benevolent underwriters Camila Pastor and Stephen Maharam, and our generous sponsors, Blackstone Charitable Foundation, Christie's, Interior Design, Newmark Holdings, Richter+Ratner, and Templeton Rye.

20/20 Public Space Champions

FOUNDING BOARD

DD Allen, Ted Berger, Deborah Berke, J. Carter Brown, hon., David Childs, Raymond W. Merritt, Claire Weisz, Andrea Woodner

FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Deborah Marton

FIRST FUNDER

J.M. Kaplan Fund

FIRST FELLOW

Louise Harpman

ANNUAL BENEFIT VISIONARY

Interior Design magazine:
Cindy Allen, Annie Block,
Helene E. Oberman

Tenants United
for Better Living

→ Diego Beekman Houses

Bill & Mary Buchen,
Kate Dodd, Roger Hart,
Selim Iltus, Katie Winter

→ Designing for Children in
Community Gardens

Joshua David and
Robert Hammond

→ Reclaiming the High Line

Paul and Ulla Warchol

→ Photo Urbanism

Tim Tompkins

→ Times Square Streetscape
Improvement

Hillary Brown

→ Greening Infrastructure
in the Public
Right-of-Way

Yeohlee Teng

→ Made in Midtown

→ Making Midtown

Nissan, NYC Taxi &
Limousine Commission,
Smart Design

→ Taxi of Tomorrow

Doris Duke Charitable
Foundation

→ Five Borough Farm

Charles McKinney

→ Park Design for the
21st Century

Agnieszka Gasparska,
Farming Concrete,
Rupal Sanghvi, Philip Silva

→ Five Borough Farm

Robert W. Balder

→ Under the Elevated

→ Future Culture

NYC Department
of Transportation:
Commissioner
Polly Trottenberg,
Wendy Feuer,
Neil Gagliardi

→ Under the Elevated

National Endowment
for the Arts

→ Under the Elevated

→ The Energetic City

Sam Holleran,
Sarah Lidgus,
José Serrano-McClain

→ The World's Park

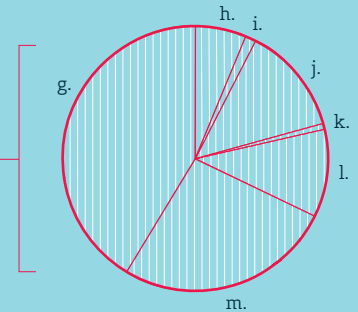
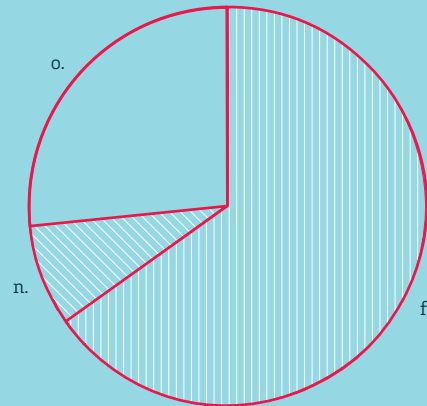
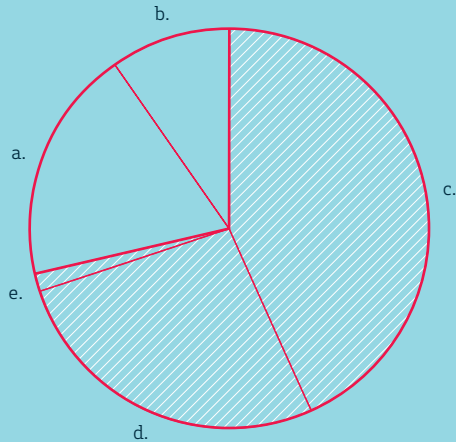
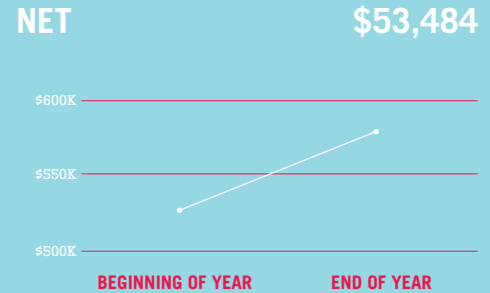
ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

RESTRICTED PROJECT FUNDING	\$ 267,000
a. Contributions & Grants	\$180,000
b. Government	\$87,000
UNRESTRICTED INCOME	\$669,714
c. Contributions & Grants	\$407,758
d. Special Events (Net)	\$249,901
e. Earned Income	\$12,055
TOTAL INCOME	\$936,714

f. PROGRAM SERVICES	\$575,360
g. General Program	\$240,454
h. Five Borough Farm	\$36,943
i. Future Culture	\$7,048
j. Laying the Groundwork	\$76,446
k. Opening the Edge	\$4,302
l. The World's Park	\$59,900
m. Under the Elevated	\$150,267
n. GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION	\$73,275
o. FUNDRAISING	\$234,595

TOTAL EXPENSES \$883,230

NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$526,955
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	\$580,439



2015 DONORS

The Design Trust's work is made possible by the generous foundations, corporations, and individuals who share our passion for public space.

282 TOTAL DONORS IN 2015

To see a full listing of our supporters, please visit designtrust.org/people/supporters/



DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE



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Your dress was made