

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

RESTORATIVE CITY

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMONS

TURNOUT NYC

OPENING THE EDGE

ALFRESCO NYC

NEURODIVERSE CITY

GREEN SPACE CONNECTIONS

TURNOUT! NYC

TODAY JULY 28

Queens Dance Party

6:00 PM Dance Performances

OUR MISSION

The Design Trust for Public Space is a non-profit organization that unlocks the potential of New York's public spaces. Our unique model catalyzes design ideas into action for a more just and equitable city.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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AIA, LEED GA
Suchi Reddy
Eric Rothman

Gustavo Rodriguez,
AIA, CODIA, LEED AP
Andy Wiley-Schwartz
Barbara Wilks, FAIA,
FASLA

**Our beloved Board Member Paula Muller passed away in August 2022. The Design Trust is grateful for her legacy of leadership and dedication to New York City.*

STAFF

Patricia Argueta-Medina
Matthew Clarke
Elana Ehrenberg
Alexa Mauzy-Lewis
Luke Meares
Claire Mondry
Akemi Sato
Alisa Schierman
Karyn Williams

FELLOWS

Catherine Betances, Equitable Public Space Fellow
Journeye Harris, Equitable Public Space Fellow
Natalie Roach, BOLD Fellow

**Reflects all Staff, Fellows, and Board who served DT between 2022 and 2023. View current lists at designtrust.org. Project-specific fellows are listed on project report pages.*

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Matthew Clark
Matthew Clark
Executive Director

The last two years have marked a pivotal moment for New York City's public space movement. As we emerge from pandemic recovery, the importance of viable and accessible public space has never been more clear. In response to this moment, Design Trust devised a new strategic plan to lead the future of the organization and propose a new vision for broadening definitions of public goods and expanding participation.

The success of "emergency" programs like Open Restaurants and Open Streets demonstrates the need for long-term investment and a blueprint for creative reimagining of how we use our city streets. Design Trust's recent transformational projects represent a new way of thinking about what public space is and can do for New Yorkers.



Eve Klein
Eve Klein
Assoc. AIA, Chair

Turnout NYC activated public spaces across the five boroughs, from under the Metro North train tracks to a de-mapped street in Queens, and transformed them into accessible venues for local arts and culture. **Neighborhood Commons** provided small businesses and place-based organizations with tools to leverage commercial corridors, while our **Alfresco NYC** coalition worked to ensure that outdoor dining programs are available to all New Yorkers,

beneficial for the local communities, and continue to exist into the future. We worked with public housing developments in a participatory design process on our **Green Space Connections** and **Opening the Edge** projects to leverage the link between proximity to open green space and overall community health. Through **The Neurodiverse City**, a network of disability advocates have partnered on a new initiative to reimagine New York City public spaces—streets, playgrounds, plazas, and more— to better support neurodivergent communities. In a powerful moment combining the lessons of these projects' impact, our 2023 **Restorative City** convening brought together urban planners, city officials, neighborhood advocates, and public health experts to center health equity in the design and planning of New York City. As a thought leader on responsible urbanism, Design Trust continues to advocate for policies that will shape the future of the city and support the well-being of all New Yorkers.

We are deeply grateful to our Board and Staff for their guidance, and to our friends and donors for their passion and dedication to protecting and evolving public space.

As we move forward, **The Design Trust will keep fighting to make NYC more dynamic, equitable, and public for all.**



PHOTO: TURNOUT BRONX HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK AT THE POINT CDC BY NEON PHOTOGRAPHER ANDRE WHITEHEAD

PROJECT

TURNOUT NYC: NEW VENUES FOR HYPER-LOCAL ARTS

PARTNERS

SITU

J. Ember Design

Susannah Laramee Kidd, Evaluation

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

Alice Austen House

Brownsville Community Justice Center

National Black Theatre

Queensboro Dance Festival

Queens Theatre

The Point CDC

Uptown Grand Central

FELLOW

Natalie Romero-Marx

Communications &

Storytelling

SUPPORTERS

Mellon Foundation

ConEdison Arts AlFresco

TURNOUT "KIT OF PARTS"

Image Credit: SITU

Turnout NYC is transforming arts access across the five boroughs, in partnership with SITU Studio, an unconventional architecture practice. Special thanks to our Artist Advisory Council. Meet the members at turnoutnyc.org. While you're there, watch Natalie's video series documenting our collaborative model!



Backdrop



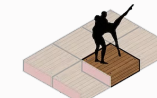
Site Marker



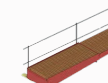
Signage



Bench



Modular Stage



Ramp



Furniture



Sound and Lighting



Shading

Prior to the pandemic, people living in vulnerable areas already had limited access to cultural opportunities. Today, those scarce opportunities are at a higher risk of disappearing. **Turnout NYC** is providing infrastructure and administrative support for community cultural organizations and expanding access to the arts across the city. Supported by a \$2 million grant from the Mellon Foundation, the venture prototyped a flexible and adaptable outdoor performance space "kit-of-parts," as well as promoted and paid local artists, and supported administration and permitting.

In its inaugural Summer 2022 season, Turnout NYC activated different types of public spaces and transformed them into accessible cultural venues, including a cul-de-sac in Brooklyn, a historic park in Staten Island, a de-mapped street in Queens, a plaza under the train tracks in Harlem, and an outdoor community campus in the Bronx. Turnout NYC hosted over 100 free public events, supporting over 500 artists and bringing community-led programming to thousands of audience members. The Turnout stage was home to open mics, live bands, breakdance battles, graffiti demonstrations, yoga classes, and more, all summer long and into 2023.

In the long-term, Turnout has inspired a cross-borough network of organizations, aiding small organizations to continue producing cultural events in public space. The kits were donated to The Point CDC and the Brownsville Community Justice Center.

PHOTO: CORONA PLAZA, STREET LAB



PROJECT

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMONS: PLAZAS, SIDEWALKS, & BEYOND

PARTNER

NYC Department of Small Business Services

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

Brownsville Community Justice Center
I AM CaribBEING
Cultural Collaborative Jamaica
165th Street Mall
BlaQue Resource Network
King Manor Museum

FELLOWS

Nur Asri, AICP
Urban Policy Fellow
Valeria Mogilevich
Engagement Fellow
Isaac Gertman
Communications Fellow
Alexandra Gonzalez
Design Fellow

SUPPORTERS

National Endowment for the Arts
Alloy Development

Downtown Alliance

Downtown Brooklyn Partnership
DUMBO Improvement District
Grand Central Partnership
M&T Bank Foundation
Times Square Alliance

*Small businesses play a unique and central role in the livelihood of neighborhoods and public spaces. **Neighborhood Commons** is a timely initiative, supported by a grant from the NYC Department of Small Business Services, providing small businesses and place-based organizations with tools and strategies to recover as community anchors that support our main streets.*

Special thanks to our Advisory Committee & Community Collaborators listed at neighborhoodcommons.nyc

Working with Business Improvement Districts, Community-Based Organizations, and local businesses, **Neighborhood Commons** is leveraging public space initiatives surrounding commercial corridors to support local economies, develop representative place-based governance models for NYC streets as public space, and produce a guide of better practices for both the City's and community partners' stewardship of public spaces. To accomplish these goals, the Design Trust released the policy toolkit, "**Neighborhood Commons: Re-imagining Public Space Governance and Programming in Commercial Districts**," providing research and recommendations on ways the City of New York can reshape its approach to the management of public spaces located in the right-of-way, and how different models of local governance, stewardship, and service delivery can impact the economic resilience of small businesses.

Two pilot projects were developed and launched in Summer 2022 to test out these recommendations and bring creative new programming to New York neighborhoods. Neighborhood Commons partnered with I AM CaribBEING and the Brownsville Community Justice Center to launch the Watkins Public Space, a new community corridor bringing local makers, vendors, and family-friendly events to Brownsville. In Queens, the "What's up, Jamaica!" exhibition highlighted how art and commerce can support each other in public spaces, featuring photojournalist Nat Valentine's captivating work showcasing events and people around the neighborhood.



The Future of Outdoor Dining in NYC

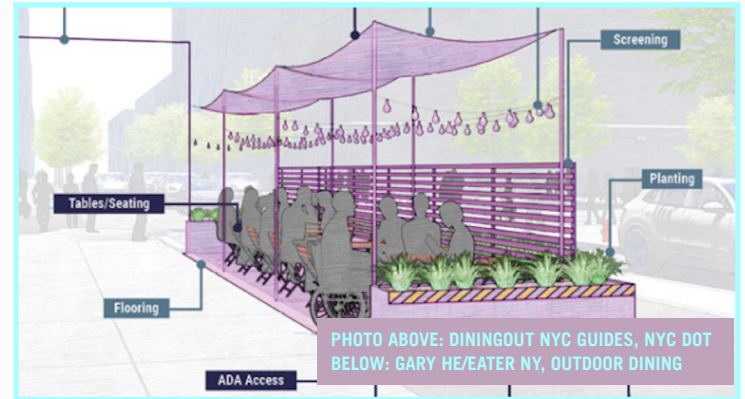
12 Recommendations for Open Restaurants

1. Ensure Phased Transition to Permanent Program
2. Plan for Integrated Streets
3. Create “Kit of Parts” Menu
4. Right-Size the Review Process
5. Build One-Stop-Shop Portal
6. Sliding Scale Fees for Permits
7. Prioritize Education Over Penalty-Based Enforcement
8. Grow Capacity for Community Engagement
9. Establish Public-Private Partnerships for Stewardship
10. Increase Universal Accessibility
11. Create Ample Sidewalks
12. Democratize the Parking Lane

Alfresco NYC

PROJECT

ALFRESCO NYC: SUPPORTING OPEN RESTAURANTS AND OPEN STREETS



Alfresco NYC is guiding the future of the Open Restaurants and Open Streets programs. Design Trust, Regional Plan Association, and Tri-State Transportation Campaign are working together to ensure that Open Restaurants and Open Streets programs are accessible to all New Yorkers, beneficial for the local communities, and sustainable in the long term.

PARTNERS

Regional Plan Association
Tri-State Transportation Campaign

SUPPORTERS

The New York Community Trust



Alfresco NYC is celebrating street life in New York City, advocating for businesses and community groups, and working to expand open streets and outdoor dining programs to more neighborhoods.

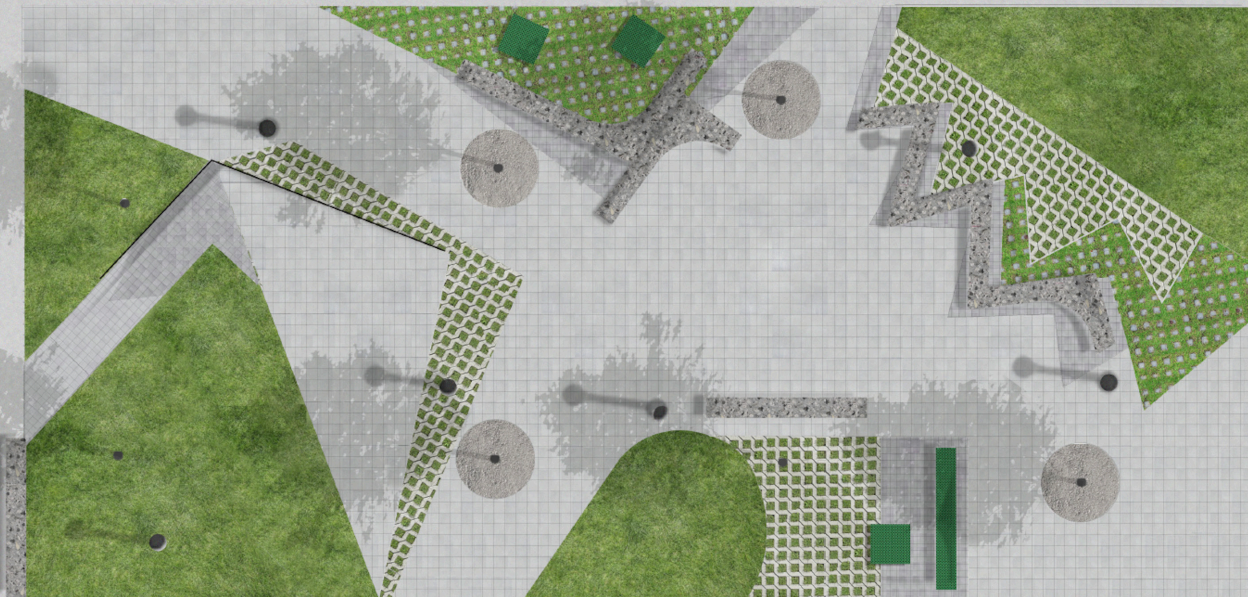
Following the 2021 Alfresco awards to recognize the city’s best outdoor dining spaces, Alfresco NYC led a series of personal interviews, site visits, and round-table conversations with stakeholders including open street operators, restaurant owners, designers, volunteers, and accessibility and mobility advocates to work through the design challenges and opportunities associated with New York City’s Open Restaurants and Open Streets program. The coalition launched a mini-grant program to provide all restaurants and organizations an opportunity to improve their outdoor dining set-up or fund community programming.

In November 2022, Alfresco NYC released a new report, “The Future of Outdoor Dining in New York City,” informing design guidelines and policy recommendations for outdoor dining installations. As the city moved forward with making the emergency Open Restaurants program a permanent New York City policy in 2023, Alfresco continued to advise the city on best practices and standardized designs.

Explore the recommendations at alfresco.nyc

PHOTO BELOW: COMMUNITY DESIGN RENDERING, DAVIES TOEWS ARCHITECTS

RIGHT: EQUITABLE PUBLIC SPACE FELLOW CATHERINE BETANCES ENGAGES COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON UPCOMING SPACE DESIGNS



PROJECT

OPENING THE EDGE PHASE III: COMMUNITY DESIGN AT NYCHA

PARTNERS

New York City Housing Authority
(NYCHA)

FELLOWS

Jane Greengold

Participatory Art Fellow

Emmanuel Oni

Active Design Fellow

Mollie Serena

Community Engagement Fellow

SUPPORTERS

NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson

NYC Council Member Carlina Rivera

NYC Department of Cultural Affairs

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

PARC Foundation

Trinity Church Wall Street Foundation

Public Housing Community Fund

National Endowment for the Arts

New York State Council on the Arts

NYC Building Congress Foundation

Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

Lillian Wald Houses residents and
Lower East Side community members

Opening the Edge is in partnership with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). Artist Jane Greengold proposed this project to remove the fence and redesign an underutilized grassy area of Lillian Wald Houses on the Lower East Side with residents



In Phase III of **Opening the Edge**, we've been continuing the development of a lively resident-designed open space at the Lillian Wald Houses on the Lower East Side and inspired other NYCHA developments to implement similar programs (See our **Green Space Connections** project on the next page!) The pandemic may have slowed some things down, but most of all, it showed us how vital public spaces are for communities who don't have access to parks and open shared spaces. Over the past year, we've been working with our team of residents, fellows, and Davies Toews Architects on finalizing the design of the new park space and working through the city procurement process to bring the space to life.

Opening the Edge has been reviewing design drawings, as well getting our paperwork ready for the city's approval to take down the fences and build the new open space. We held Community Design Team meetings and space activations to engage residents and keep the neighborhood updated on the project status, including a community art party, where we outlined what the future space will look like with chalk paint, and events like Lillian Wald Houses Family Day and an ArtBridge exhibit at the nearby Baruch Houses. We also created an updated rendition of "**Lighting the Edge**," a plexiglass art installation designed by Community Engagement Fellow, Mollie Serena, bringing color and beauty to the space, previewing the exciting potential for the neighborhood.

PHOTO BELOW: PATTERSON HOUSES' OLD TIMERS DAY/ COMMUNITY MURAL PAINTING WITH ARTOLUTION

RIGHT: 2023 DESIGN WORKSHOP WITH CASTLE HILL HOUSES CREATING A VISION FOR A RESIDENT-PROPOSED COMMUNITY DOG PARK WITH KIPS BAY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB AND GRAIN COLLECTIVE



PROJECT

GREEN SPACE CONNECTIONS: TRANSFORMING NYCHA OPEN SPACE

PARTNER

Public Housing Community Fund
New York City Housing Authority
(NYCHA)

SUPPORTERS

Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley
Charitable Trust

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

Center for Justice Innovation
Marlboro Houses
Roosevelt Houses
Castle Hill Houses
Patterson Houses

*In 2022, the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust announced a grant of \$3.2 million for a new project, **Green Space Connections**, creating and activating community-designed green space at four NYCHA public housing developments for 14,000 residents in Brooklyn and the Bronx.*

Meet the Advisory Committee: [bit.ly/
GreenSpaceConnections](https://bit.ly/GreenSpaceConnections)

1 out of every 17 New York City residents lives in NYCHA developments. Public housing is an integral part of the city's landscape. Better public space in these communities contributes to a more connected, sustainable, and green future for all New Yorkers. Led by the Public Housing Community Fund in collaboration with NYCHA's Asset & Capital Management Division, and managed by The Design Trust, **Green Space Connections** is utilizing NYCHA's "Connected Communities" participatory design process to create and activate green space at four NYCHA public housing developments over the next three years. Project development and programming is supported by the Center for Justice Innovation.

As we've seen at **Opening the Edge**, open spaces should be by and for residents who know their communities' needs best. The four developments – Marlboro Houses and Roosevelt Houses in Brooklyn and Castle Hill Houses and Patterson Houses in the Bronx – were selected due to their documented high need in health indicators as well as climate vulnerability. Green space is a critical environmental justice tool to combat climate change and prepare vulnerable neighborhoods for climate resilience. Creating strong resident networks empowers communities to continue to advocate for public housing improvements beyond these initial sites. In the first phase of the project, residents decided what improvements they would like to see in their outdoor spaces through outreach events and design workshops.





PHOTO ABOVE: LUTHER GULICK PLAYGROUND SENSORY AUDIT WITH VCA

RIGHT: STREETSCAPES AUDIT WITH WITH WIP

PROJECT

THE NEURODIVERSE CITY: RETHINKING PUBLIC SPACE ACCESS

PARTNER

Verona Carpenter Architects
WIP Collaborative

SUPPORTERS

National Endowment for the Arts

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

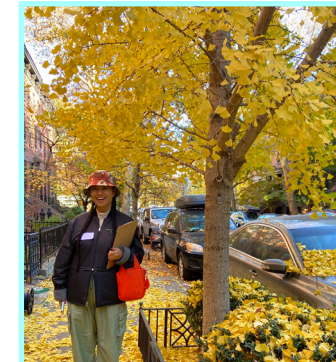
Center for Independence of the
Disabled-NY
INCLUDEnyc

Meet the Advisory Committee at
bit.ly/neurodiverscity

*A network of disability advocates have partnered on a new initiative, **The Neurodiverse City**, to reimagine New York City's public spaces – streets, playgrounds, plazas, and more – to better support neurodiversity.*

*This project is a winner of DT's most recent Request for Proposals, **The Restorative City**, themed around building community wellness through public space*

The Neurodiverse City



Neurodiversity is the diversity of human minds, the infinite variation in brain functioning that exists in our world. Neurodivergent people – including people with autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyspraxia, dyslexia, intellectual disabilities, and mental health conditions like anxiety, depression, and PTSD – are often excluded from public space access because the planning and construction of our communities does not take into account the cognitive, sensory, and social variation inherent in our neurodiverse world.

The Neurodiverse City seeks to celebrate and support neurodiversity by building a broad-based coalition of self-advocates and partners, identifying ways to quantify and qualify neuroinclusive space, prototype tactical improvements, and advocate for meaningful policy change in key areas where these ideas can be scaled and broadened.

To shed light on the disabling and enabling aspects of public spaces and imagine ways of doing better, the project kicked off in 2023 by conducting audits of the sensory and spatial characteristics of a streetscape and playground. The findings from the audits will be used to create assessment tools and design prototypes for more inclusive practices that support the greatest range of physical and neurological differences. Design strategies that are essential to some will create environments that work better for everyone, and where the widest range of people can thrive. (See "**Restorative City**" for more RFP updates).

PHOTO: BARNABAS CROSBY, "HOLDING COURT"



PROGRAM EXHIBITION

PHOTO URBANISM: NEIGHBORHOOD NARRATIVES

PARTNERS

Neighborhood Opportunity Network
(NeON) Photography
Museum of the City of New York
Brooklyn Public Library

FELLOWS

Barnabas Crosby
Photo Urbanism Fellow

Napolean Bond
Youth Fellow

Elizabeth Michael
Youth Fellow

Jadalynn Millington
Youth Fellow

SUPPORTERS

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

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

Learn more: photourbanism.org

In 2022, Photo Urbanism Fellow Barnabas Crosby documented how small businesses are leveraging and using public spaces in innovative ways.



The **Photo Urbanism** program offers fellowships to local photographers to create a new body of work illuminating the public spaces of NYC. In connection with the Neighborhood Commons project, 2021-2022 Photo Urbanism Fellow Barnabas Crosby transformed a public handball court into a photo studio, photographing Black business owners in a series of compelling portraits. Limited by costs and social distancing requirements, COVID-19 proposed a challenge to Barnabas and fellow business owners. In response to this challenge, many entrepreneurs created innovative uses of public space to continue operating their businesses and to serve their communities. The final exhibition, "Holding Court," is a depiction of the resilience and ingenuity of entrepreneurs and the power of public space. The series was showcased in Times Square at 1500 Broadway, starting on Christmas Day through New Year's Eve.

The work was then on view at the Brooklyn Public Library Central Branch from May 1st – May 29th, 2022. In connection with the exhibition, Design Trust hosted an opening and artist talk, as well as a panel conversation with entrepreneurs and creatives who had to re-imagine their businesses during the pandemic.

The program expanded in partnership with NeON photography to include youth fellowships, providing mentorship and professional development, and a public photo skills workshop led by Barnabas and the youth fellows for over 20 participants at MCNY.

PHOTO: ELLIOTT GOLDEN, "THREE LOTS"



PROGRAM EXHIBITION

PHOTO URBANISM: THREE LOTS

PARTNERS

Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) Photography
Museum of the City of New York
Brooklyn Public Library
East New York Community Land Trust

FELLOWS

Elliott Golden
Photo Urbanism Fellow
Loulou Bradshaw
Youth Fellow
Myron Mitchell
Youth Fellow
Bradley Mota
Youth Fellow

SUPPORTERS

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

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. Learn more at bit.ly/3LotsBPL

In 2023, Photo Urbanism Fellow Elliott Golden conducted a case study of three vacant lots in East New York, using mixed-media collage and photography to advocate for more restorative uses of the land.



Design Trust selected our 2022-2023 **Photo Urbanism** Fellow Elliott Golden to document health equity initiatives alongside The Restorative City initiative. (See "**Restorative City**" for more RFP updates).

"**Three Lots**" is a consideration of unevenly distributed vacant land and what alternative relationships to public space can and do exist. Focusing on three vacant and underutilized plots in in Brooklyn's East New York neighborhood, Brooklyn blocks 4034 - 29, corner of Sutter Ave and Linwood St.), 3801- 01/3802-01 (corner of Livonia Ave and Williams Ave), and 4557-01 (corner of Stanley Ave and Emerald Street), the project layers and contrasts documents that have described the spaces – deeds, tax maps, historical photographs, satellite images of land – with photographs of the lots as they stand today. East New York and Brownsville residents mobilized to form the East New York Community Land Trust (ENYCLT) to take community ownership of land to repurpose it for affordable housing, community centers, parks, art spaces, health clinics and businesses that offer residents high quality jobs.

Three Lots was on display at the Brooklyn Public Library New Lots Branch in July 2023. The youth fellowship with NeON continued this year as well, hosting a week-long workshop that explored the built environment through new photo skills and cyanotype printing methods at the Museum of the City of New York.

PHOTO ABOVE: DESIGN TRUST STAFF AND FELLOWS INSTALL NEIGHBORHOOD COMMONS PILOT PROJECT SIGNAGE

RIGHT: CATHERINE BETANCES (ABOVE) AND JOURNEE HARRIS (BELOW)



FELLOWS

EQUITABLE PUBLIC SPACE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The **Design Trust Equitable Public Space Fellowship** Program, established in 2016, supports the next generation of urban designers, architects, landscape architects, and planners in contributing to complex public space challenges in our global city. The Fellows join the Design Trust team as full-time paid staff members for an intensive one-year fellowship, and become a part of the Design Trust community, interacting with project fellows, partners, and collaborators. Catherine Betances and Journee Harris joined the 2021–2022 EPSF Cohort in Fall 2021. As part of their fellowship at the Design Trust, each fellow completes an independent research project.

Catherine’s final project is a zine that works to reimagine Hart Island’s public cemetery through design, incorporating artistic collage and inspiration from African and Indigenous burial grounds to

map this public space towards the future. Journee moderated a Youtube Live panel conversation, “Public Sanctuaries: A Case For Redefining the Black Church as Public Space,” in partnership with Bricks and Mortals to bring together the perspectives of religious leaders and real estate professionals and discuss the ways Black Churches can operate as public spaces.

Catherine now works at the Urban Design Forum as their Forefront Fellowship Program Manager. Journee is pursuing a Masters in Urban Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and working on Affordable Housing issues.

The Design Trust Equitable Public Space Fellowship Program support is provided in part by the Regional Economic Development Council and New York State Council on the Arts.



FELLOWS

FELLOWS FORUM SALONS

Design Trust Fellows are top professionals who join our project teams and lead research, design and planning work. Our **Fellows Forum** is a community network of fellows past and present with access to special events, grant programs, and opportunities to amplify their current work!

2022

JAN 20 **Kimberly Mota and Jasmin Tepale, Equitable Public Space Fellows (2020-2021)**, presented their publication, **“Empowered x Design,”** a deep dive into critically analyzing design and planning practices through the experiences of teenage youth and multilingual communities.

APR 7 **Glen Cummings, Graphic Design Fellow (2009-2010)**, and his studio MTWTF, discussed the development of their new pamphlet, **“Towards a Public Imagination,”** highlighting the role of PSAs (Public Service Announcements) in collectively imagining and creating a restorative city.

APR 28 **Lee Altman, Urban Planning Fellow (2012-2014)**, presented her project **“Highway | Erasure,”** developing an academic framework for researching the use of highway construction as a planning tool to erase and displace Black and

Brown communities and perpetuate health disparity.

MAY 19 **Gita Nandan & Elliott Maltby, Design Fellows (2009-2012)**, unveiled their efforts to expand the research and development of the **BlueBlocks Floating Gardens** to incorporate aqua-culture, such as mussel ropes, kelp lines, and sea-beans, thus connecting to a BlueCarbon future and BlueGreen Economy, and allowing the gardens to support a unique public commons asset in low-lying frontline communities.

2023

MAR 30 **Alexa Gonzalez, Neighborhood Commons Design Fellow (2020-2022)** and **Immanuel Oni, Opening the Edge Active Design Fellow (2018-2022)** presented their work **“Weaving Paths // Beyond Memorial.”** Beyond Memorial was a design workshop series addressing community trauma in public space to reclaim sites of loss. Weaving Paths invited neighbors on the 34th Ave Open Street in Queens to share local stories.

JUN 22 **Jah Elyse Sayers, Equitable Public Space Fellows (2016)**, presented **“Expanding the ‘Scope of Significance’ at Jacob Riis Park,”** on historic preservation efforts for Queer community on at the People’s Beach.



PHOTO ABOVE: DESIGN BLUEBLOCKS FLOATING GARDENS | BELOW: EMPOWERED X DESIGN



FELLOWS

FELLOWS FORUM MINI GRANTS

DT’s most recent Request for Proposals, **The Restorative City**, called for projects at the intersection of health equity and the built environment. Alongside the RFP, our mini-grants series was made available to past and current DT fellows to support ongoing work connecting public space to community health.

Alexa Gonzalez: Centering BIPOC Stories in Public Space (Neighborhood Commons **Design Fellow**, 2020-2022)

Jah Elyse Sayers: Protecting Queer Community Space at Jacob Riis (**Equitable Public Space Fellow**, 2016.)

Immanuel Oni: Healing in the Wake of Gun Violence (Opening the Edge **Active Design Fellow**, 2018-2022)

Kate Dodd: Connecting Climate Change to Community Health (Designing For Children In Community Gardens **Design Fellow**, 1997– 1998)

Dr. Mollie Serena: Celebrating Public Art at NYCHA (Opening the Edge **Community Engagement Fellow**, 2021-2022)

EVENTS

DESIGN TRUST COUNCIL

The Design Trust Council is a leadership circle of civic-minded professionals who support the Design Trust's mission to make a lasting impact – through design – on public space in NYC. Design Trust Council members, in recognition of their vital support, also enjoy a number of special opportunities, including invitations to a diverse roster of exclusive events providing an inside look at the projects, people, and organizations who focus on the activation and challenges of public space.

2022

MAR 24 STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION LIBRARY TOUR DT Council members took a first look at the newly renovated library with Elizabeth Leber, architect and Managing Partner of Beyer Blinder Belle, Justin Den Herder, Senior Associate at Silman, and Billy Parrott, the SNF Library Manager.

MAY 19 BLUEBLOCKS FLOATING GARDENS Gita Nandan & Elliott Maltby, Design Fellows (2009-2012), unveiled their efforts to expand the research and development of the BlueBlocks Floating Gardens to incorporate aqua-culture, such as mussel ropes, kelp lines, and sea-beans, thus connecting to a BlueCarbon future and BlueGreen Economy, and allowing the gardens to support a unique public commons asset in low-lying frontline communities. Combined Fellows Forum and DT Council Event!

OCT 10 NYC WATERFRONT BOAT TOUR With sunset views and cocktails, DT Council explored NYC's waterfront architecture, infrastructure, and urban planning on the historical Manhattan II Yacht.

2023

FEB 13 SUSTAINING NEW YORK: WATER, LAND & CARBON DT council members gathered for round-table discussion about what's at stake for New York's long-term resilience, featuring panelists Laura Humphrey, Director of Sustainability at L+M Development Partners; Jason Langer, Group Managing Director at the Robert Bird Group; Daphne Lundi, Deputy Director for Living Streets and Public Spaces



PHOTO ABOVE: STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION LIBRARY TOUR BELOW: GOWANUS CANAL TOUR



at NYC Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice; Yasmin Rehmanjee, Partner & NY Co-Office Director at Buro Happold; and Barbara Wilks, Founding Principal of W Architecture + Landscape Architecture and Design Trust Board Member.

MAY 24 GOWANUS CANAL TOUR DT Council walked along the waterfront following green infrastructure projects connected to the Gowanus Canal and Watershed, a new source of inspiration for what the next frontier of green infrastructure will be, led by Gowanus Canal Conservancy, SCAPE Studio, and James Lima Planning and Development

OCT 4 BEHIND-THE-SCENES AT PIER 57 The team behind the historic renovation of Pier 57 guided DT Council Members through NYC's newest public rooftop park, inside new open community spaces, down to see the storied caissons supporting the structure, and for a sneak peek at Google's newest campus on the site. Thank you to RXR, Silman, Jamestown, Handel Architects, the Hudson River Park Trust and Higgins Quasebarth & Partners.

PHOTO LEFT: FRED CERULLO, PUBLIC SPACE LEADERSHIP AWARD

RIGHT: 2023 REMARKS BY DT BOARD CHAIR EVE KLEIN



EVENTS

BENEFIT FOR PUBLIC SPACE

JUN 15, 2022 We were thrilled to host our Annual Benefit in person again (now rebranded as the Benefit for Public Space) at Tribeca Rooftop with cocktails, live music, a paddle raise led by Erin Ward, and cityscape views, supporting our catalytic work in making NYC's public realm more dynamic, equitable, and accessible for all. Friends of Design Trust — our Fellows, community partners, design professionals, civic leaders, and fellow public space lovers — gathered to celebrate our project work and honor leaders guiding the future of public space in NYC.

Our 2022 **Public Space Leadership Honorees** were:

- **Alfred "Fred" Cerullo III**, CEO/President of Grand Central Partnership for a lifetime dedicated to public service in New York City, and;
- **Dattner Architects** for its six-decade legacy of civic infrastructure and their extraordinary impact on NYC's built environment.

JUN 14, 2023 In 2023, the Benefit for Public Space was held at the newly designed NYPL Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library, featuring live performances by Queensboro Dance Festival artists Chieh Hsiung and Yu-Wei Hsiao and a paddle raise led by Lucas Hunt Auctioneer!

Our 2023 **Public Space Leadership Honorees** were:

- **LaGuardia Airport Terminal C: Delta Air Lines & The Queens Museum**, for prioritizing accessible and locally sourced public art in the redesign of the airport.
- **New York City Council Member Carlina Rivera** for her work championing NYC's public spaces.



OUTREACH & IMPACT

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- AIANY Panel at the Center for Architecture: *Turnout NYC, Building New Public Spaces For Artists.*
- Neighborhood Commons team presented at the National Planning Conference 2022 and at the American Planning Association NY Metro Chapter Annual Conference in 2023 on public realm governance.
- Turnout NYC named finalist in *Fast Company's 2023 Innovation By Design Awards*
- Public Space Potlucks return in 2023 at Gotham Park and Uptown Grand Central!

- AIA Book Talk at the Center for Architecture: *Why Public Space Matters To New York*, in conversation with Ya-Ting Liu, Matthew Clarke, and Quilian Riano.
- Community mural unveiled at Bronx NYCHA campus with Green Space Connections
- DT joins Mayor Adams signing of Outdoor Dining Bill and unveiling of Broadway Vision.
- Design Trust testifies in support of MTA congestion pricing, public space management oversights and *Making New York Work for Everyone.*

80 MEDIA MENTIONS

Our work was featured in: *New York Times, Fast Company, Gothamist/WNYC, AMNY, ABC7, Timeout NYC, Bloomberg CityLab, Crain's New York, Archinect, Brooklyn Reader, Bronx Times, The Architects Newspaper, Staten Island Advance, StreetsBlog NYC, Queens Chronicle, New York Business Journal, Patch, Surface Magazine, Pix 1,* and more!

SOCIAL MEDIA

- 12,000** Twitter followers
- 10,500** Facebook followers
- 6,000** Instagram & Threads followers
- 30,000** Website visitors
- 8,200** Public space newsletter subscribers

[BIT.LY/PUBLICSPACESIGNUP](https://bit.ly/publicspacesignup)

4 QUOTED

BLOOMBERG CITYLAB

"Public spaces in cities were a lifeline for small businesses during the pandemic, and local leaders should continue to allow access to them."

TIMEOUT NYC

"Turnout NYC is one of the best things to do in the city this summer. It's all about creating equitable arts access across the five boroughs."

CRAIN'S NEW YORK BUSINESS

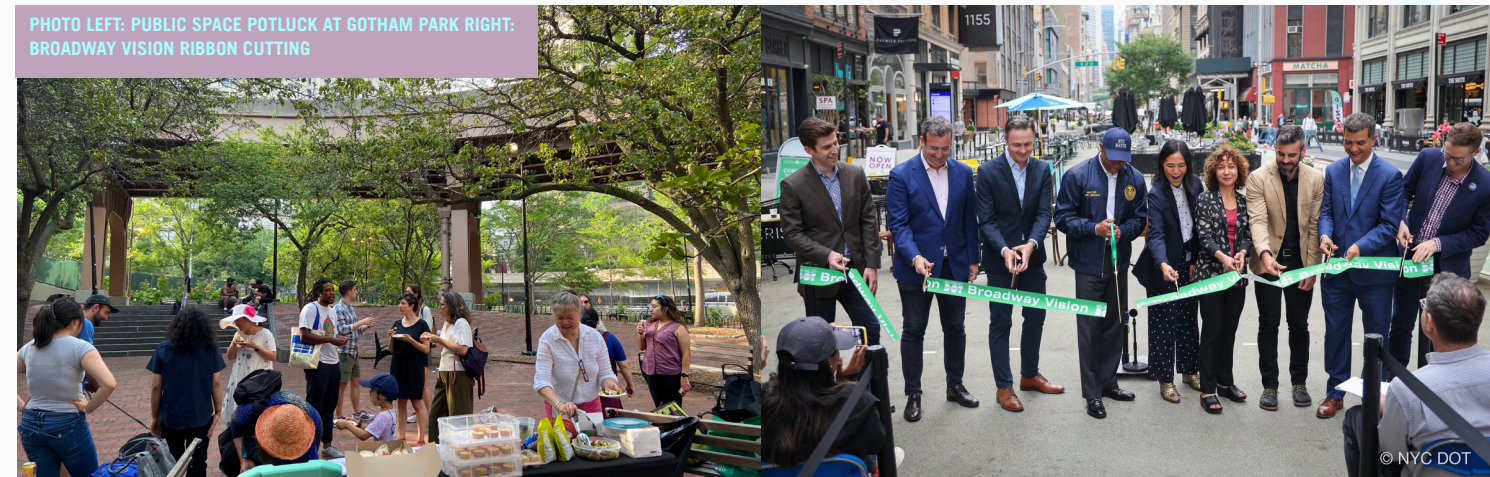
"Outdoor dining is just one program that demonstrates the potential of NYC's street life."

GOHAMIST

"Design excellence has a proven record of making New York a safe, welcome, and exciting place to live and visit."

NEW YORK TIMES

"As demand for open space soars, New York gets a public realm czar."

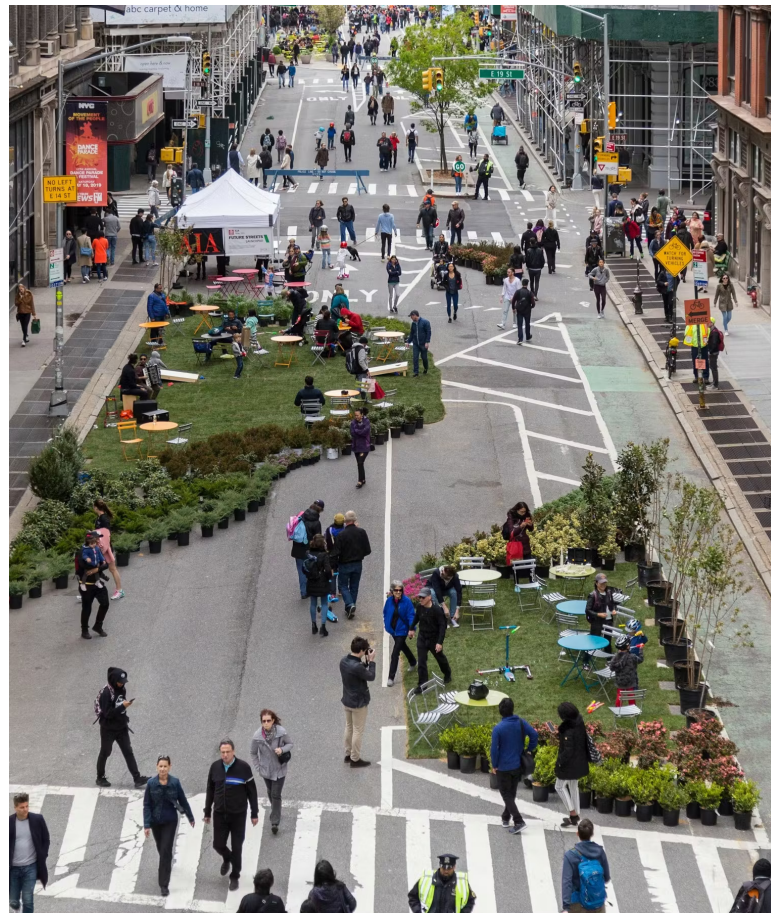


STRATEGIC PLAN

LOOKING AHEAD: THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC SPACE IN NYC

On the heels of a global pandemic, political instability, and emerging crossroads for intersectional social justice movements, the Design Trust for Public Space released a **new strategic plan in 2023** to lead the future of the organization and propose a new vision for public space as a critical tool for equality. Engaging our staff, partners, peers, board, and friends, we built a framework that outlines the challenges and opportunities guiding New York City, investigating how the organization can set an ambitious new agenda for public space projects that create equitable access to resources and the public goods that can and should make our lives better. Dive into our goals at bit.ly/dtstrategicplan.

Our 2021 Request for Proposals, **Restorative City: Building Community Wellness through Public Space**, culminated with an incredible public convening (see next page). As of April 2023, Design Trust is no longer partnering with the Design as Protest Collective on the Healing Hostile Architecture project. The **Neurodiverse City** project, also chosen as a winner of the RFP, will continue in 2024.



RESTORATIVE CITY CONVENING

DESIGNING NEW YORK CITY WITH HEALTH AT THE CENTER

The Restorative City was a one-day convening at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice, bringing together 200+ urban planners, city officials, neighborhood advocates, and public health experts to center health equity in the design and planning of New York City.

This special event elevated important conversations about community health, environmental justice, social resilience, and design excellence as core drivers of how New Yorkers, especially those most vulnerable, can thrive. Watch the recorded panels and learn more at restorativecity.org featuring guest speakers from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of City Planning, NYC Mayor's Office, Make the Road New York, the Design Trust for Public Space, special performances by local artists, and more!

A publication of findings from the conference will be published in 2024 during NYCxDesign Week.



PHOTO LEFT: CAR FREE EARTH DAY 2019 IN MANHATTAN BY NYC DOT
RIGHT: RESTORATIVE CITY CONVENING PANEL SESSION

DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE

Thank you to all of our 2022-2023 donors! We rely entirely on your generosity to help foster thriving, shared spaces. The Design Trust is grateful for our NYC partners that make this work possible:



Council on
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Affairs

40 WORTH STREET, SUITE 603, NEW YORK, NY 10013, 212.695.2432
DESIGNTRUST.ORG FACEBOOK, TWITTER, INSTAGRAM: @DESIGNTRUSTNYC