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## DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE AND STATEN ISLAND ARTS LAUNCH THE SONIC GATES SOUND SCULPTURE WALK ON THE NORTH SHORE OF STATEN ISLAND

The public art series features seven sound sculptures and a mural  
at locations in St. George, Tompkinsville, and Stapleton

The accompanying online guide [SonicGates.com](http://SonicGates.com) provides  
a downloadable map for the sculpture walk and information on associated local cultural events

*#SonicGates #connectingcultureSI*



*Float, Float, Float On* by Arthur Simms is a floating sculpture collaged with nautical buoys and bells that will create chords as waves splash through and around it.



*DNA (Dynamic Nature Art)* by DB Lampman is a helix of wind chimes.  
Photos by Sam Samore.

**NEW YORK, NY (Tuesday, July 10, 2018)** – Staten Island Arts and the Design Trust for Public Space will launch the *Sonic Gates* sound sculpture walk created by artist Volker Goetze on **Saturday, July 14, 2018**, with a **ribbon-cutting ceremony at 1:00 pm** at the St. George Ferry Terminal, followed by **performances** at sculpture sites on Bay Street, and an **opening reception from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm** at ArtSpace @ Staten Island Arts, 23 Navy Pier Court, Staten Island. The **seven sound sculptures and a mural**, on view for a year, are located along a wide-ranging stretch of landscape in St. George, Tompkinsville, and Stapleton, spanning Bay Street's diverse storefronts, lively Tompkinsville Park, and the expansive waterfront.

The installations vary from nautical buoys covered with bells on the waterfront along Front Street, to "talking" PVC pipes at the Barrett Triangle, to a self-playing wind harp on Thompson Street, to a drum totem for weekly drum circles in Tompkinsville Park, to calming wind chimes in Tappen Park, to a 90-foot-long mural of the endangered Right Whale at a bus shelter that pays homage to Staten Island's maritime heritage.

A team of Staten Island-based artists directed by **Volker Goetze** created the artworks with **Staten Island MakerSpace** as an integral community partner. The team includes **Scott Van Campen, Alassane Drabo, DB Lampman, Jeremy Munson, Lina Montoya, Arthur Simms, and students from PS 78. Sam Samore** is the artistic advisor.

The opening performances by **Dawn Crandell, James Shipp, Xi. Me. Na, Yacouba Sissoko, and Martita Abril** at each public art piece will lead the audience along this walk.

“We hope to attract visitors as well as our fellow Staten Islanders from the ferry down through the neighborhoods of the North Shore to see all the cool and amazing things that we are doing here. *Sonic Gates* is one of the many exciting projects created by the prolific artists who live and work on Staten Island – thanks in great part to the local organizations such as Staten Island MakerSpace and Staten Island Arts that support us,” said artist **Volker Goetze**.

The accompanying online guide **SonicGates.com** features detailed information on the artworks, the artists, and the related events, and provides a downloadable map to easily walk or bike from one installation to another. “This one-stop portal is a visitors’ gateway to the *Sonic Gates* public art series created by Staten Island artists and located throughout the North Shore of Staten Island. SonicGates.com is an all-in-one resource for visitors and Staten Islanders to plan an enjoyable day with their friends and family,” said **John Schettino**, designer of SonicGates.com and a Design Trust Fellow.

*Sonic Gates* is an initiative of **Future Culture** developed by Staten Island Arts and the Design Trust for Public Space to foster community connections and shape a vision for culture on the North Shore of Staten Island. The *Future Culture* project is supported in part by the **NYC Department of Small Business Services’ Neighborhood 360° Grant** program, which has invested \$1.54 million for revitalization projects in Downtown Staten Island in partnership with local stakeholders.

“Strong neighborhoods are the backbone of our city, and the \$1.54 million in investments to Staten Island through our Neighborhood 360° grant program are already going a long way towards revitalizing key commercial corridors,” said **Gregg Bishop**, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Small Business Services. “By working with Staten Island Arts, we are responding to local needs to support small business growth and build more vibrant neighborhoods for all New Yorkers.”

“Just over the last few years, nearly \$2 billion has been invested in new real estate and the public realm on the North Shore of Staten Island, including a new mall, an observation wheel, and hundreds of units of housing. Our *Future Culture* project is bringing the local community and developers to the table to plan their future during this changing time. We’re working together to preserve the area’s uniqueness and strengthen its connection to its waterfront,” said **Susan Chin**, FAIA, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director, Design Trust for Public Space.

“Staten Island Arts is here to support our diverse cultural community ensuring that it remains as such. Our borough had the largest increase in home sales prices within New York City over the last year (according to the *State of New York City’s Housing and Neighborhoods in 2017*, published by the NYU Furman Center). Community members worry about the long-term availability of affordable housing, artist studio space, and venues for other cultural uses. This public art series is part of our *Future Culture* planning initiative to promote and sustain the existing cultural assets on the island’s North Shore,” said **Elizabeth Bennett**, Executive Director, Staten Island Arts.

The artist team shared their experience in creating the *Sonic Gates* public art series and thoughts on how this sound sculpture walk contributes to the Staten Island community:

“I started making public sculptures incorporating found objects in Burkina Faso with the idea of taking art outside the gallery and reaching more people through unplanned encounters on the street. With *Sonic Gates*, I’m taking my practice to an exciting realm where active audience interaction is my primary focus. For my ‘Drum Totem’ piece, I used timber that I had found on the shore of Staten Island. The ocean is an intrinsic part of life and it was important for me to represent that in my sculpture,” said artist **Alassane Drabo**.

“When Volker asked me to participate in *Sonic Gates*, I loved the idea of integrating sound into sculptures and the many possibilities it could open up for interaction. I collaborated with students from PS 78 on ‘DNA (Dynamic Nature Art)’, one of the two pieces that I created for this series. It is very exciting to put an installation in a spot so unassuming, like behind a bus shelter in the case of my other piece, ‘Talking Tubes’. You could just be walking on the street and hop upon this assemblage of colorful PVC pipes sticking out at you that also makes a sound! Through this project and Staten Island MakerSpace, we envision the activation of the North Shore in a positive way so that people are more creatively and economically empowered and that we build on our community,” said artist **DB Lampman**, Co-Founder and Associate Director, Staten Island MakerSpace.

“I want to make a difference and create a meaningful message for my community through art. This project shows that we *can* make a change by transforming our environment little by little. Music is a big driver of ideas for me. Every Christmas in Medellin, Colombia, where I grew up, we make these bells out of can lids tied together with wire. I used the same technique to make three dolphin figures for my ‘Dolphis del Fin’ sculpture. My other piece is a mural depicting a Right Whale with a family of baby whales. The Spanish title ‘Ballena & Vallenato’ means ‘Whale & Calf’. Vallenato is also a genre of Colombian music similar to Cumbia. Sonic Gates is just the tip of what’s happening in Staten Island and more to come,” said artist **Lina Montoya**.

“I’ve been a resident artist at Staten Island MakerSpace, through which I’ve got to know a great community of local artists; I met Volker and started working on this unique project. St. Louis’ iconic Gateway Arch, designed by Eero Saarinen, was my inspiration in conceptualizing for *Sonic Gates* and led me to create ‘Nested Bells’ as a gateway to the North Shore. Most visitors who ride the ferry to Staten Island don’t step beyond the ferry terminal. They don’t realize how much it’s here. Our installations will draw people out of the ferry terminal and take them along Bay Street and the waterfront to Stapleton. Viewers can physically interact with and activate some of the sound sculptures in the series,” said artist **Jeremy Munson**.

“Staten Island is called ‘the forgotten borough’ but there’s a lot happening here. People will pleasantly be surprised by our project. I’m particularly excited about creating a sculpture that floats on water while it makes a calmingly beautiful noise. When I was a little kid in Jamaica before immigrating to this country, I remember watching with awe the dexterous workers in the local market who were busy constantly making and fixing things. Those wonderful people inspired me to start making objects from a very early age. I hope these installations inspire children as well as grown-ups about the possibilities of art. Come and see what we’re doing!” said artist **Arthur Simms**.

“We’re very much trying to dig our heels into the North Shore with the development along the Bay Street corridor, because there is not a lot of industrial space where we can do what we do. The idea of creating a ‘maker space’ was born after our sculpture studio was flooded during Hurricane Sandy. With some help from the City of New York, we started Staten Island MakerSpace as a business incubator for people who want to develop their ideas into viable creative ventures... To realize ‘Wind Harp’ for *Sonic Gates*, I did a lot of research on how the phenomenon ‘von Kármán vortex street’ actually works and to figure out making strings that vibrate in a certain way in the wind to create that effect. It’s fun to listen to ‘Wind Harp’, as it makes this very subtle sound through the summer breeze,” said artist **Scott Van Campen**, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Staten Island MakerSpace.

## SONIC GATES ART INSTALLATIONS



*Nestled Bells*, 7' 2" long, 3' wide, 7' 2" tall, by **Jeremy Munson** at the St. George Ferry Terminal is a metal arch with three movable bell tubes that create a three-note harmony.



*Talking Tubes*, 7' 9" long, 5' 55" wide, 8' tall, by **DB Lampman** at the Barrett Triangle is a composition of colorful PVC tubes that can be played to create percussive sounds.



*Ballena & Vallenato (Whale and Calf)*, 90' wide, 10' tall, by **Lina Montoya** in partnership with 100 Gates Project is a colorful mural on the bus shelter at Barrett Triangle that depicts the endangered Right Whale and her calf.



*Wind Harp No. 7*, 17' long, 2'6" wide, 12' tall, by Scott Van Campen, in Maker Park is an Aeolian wind harp with steel strings that will "sing" as a result of the "von Kármán Vortex Street," a repeating pattern of swirling vortices.



*Drum Totem*, 3' wide, 16' tall, by **Alassane Drabo**, in Tompkinsville Park is a structure of oil drums accented with found driftwood and skinned drums that can be played to form a drum circle.



*Dolphins del Fin*, 6' long, 1' 6" wide, 4' tall, by **Lina Montoya** on a Bay Street median is a series of dolphin and wave shaped sculptures built from recycled bottle caps that will rattle with the wind.



*DNA (Dynamic Nature Art)*, 10' long, 12' tall, by **DB Lampman** in Tappen Park is a helix of wind chimes assembled by **students from PS 78** floating above the heads of its viewers.



*Float, Float, Float On*, 3' in diameter, 7' tall, by **Arthur Simms** in the harbor off the Stapleton Esplanade, is a floating sculpture collaged with nautical buoys and bells that will create chords as waves splash through and around it.

### **Future Culture: Connecting Staten Island's Waterfront**

Staten Island's North Shore waterfront, home to hundreds of artists and arts organizations, is rapidly developing with residential, commercial and urban planning projects such as the Empire Outlets, Lighthouse Point, New York Wheel, Urby, and the proposed Bay Street Corridor rezoning. In the midst of this change, [Future Culture: Connecting Staten Island's Waterfront](#), a project of Design Trust for Public Space in partnership with Staten Island Arts, supports and promotes the area's cultural communities, develops art and cultural initiatives, and strengthens the relationship between the cultural sector and owners and stewards of property.

Design Trust and Staten Island Arts, working with local residents, artists, civic activists and small business owners, developed an initial set of [design and policy recommendations](#) outlining strategies for equitable neighborhood revitalization and sustainability, released in March 2017. In conjunction with the recommendations, Staten Island Arts issued a [call for pilot projects](#) to activate and connect the publicly- and privately-owned common spaces in the North Shore. This call resulted in two pilot projects, *Sonic Gates* and *Court Yard Fridays*, which encourage exploration of and enliven underused public spaces on the North Shore of Staten Island.

To download the *Future Culture* Initial Recommendations, visit <http://designtrust.org/projects/future-culture/activities-and-outputs/>

To learn more about the *Future Culture* project, visit <http://designtrust.org/projects/future-culture/>

### **Staten Island Arts**

Staten Island Arts (formerly known as The Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island, or, COAHSI) is Staten Island's arts council, a service organization that provides resources to individuals and organizations in the arts, cultural, and humanities sector. Our mission is to cultivate a sustainable and diverse cultural community for the people of Staten Island by making the arts accessible to every member of the community; supporting and building recognition for artistic achievement; and providing artists, organizations, and arts educators the technical, financial and social resources to encourage cultural production. <http://statenislandarts.org/>

### **Design Trust for Public Space**

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. Our work can be seen, felt and experienced throughout all five boroughs—from parks and plazas to streets and public buildings. The Design Trust [saved the High Line structure](#), developed the [Community Design School for Flushing Meadows Corona Park](#), and created the city's first comprehensive [sustainability guidelines](#) that became the precursor to Local Law 86 and PlaNYC, now OneNYC. <http://designtrust.org/>

### **Neighborhood 360°**

The NYC Department of Small Business Services' Neighborhood 360° program identifies, develops, and launches commercial revitalization projects in partnership with local stakeholders. Through proactive planning and targeted investments, Neighborhood 360° supports projects that strengthen and revitalize the streets, small businesses, and community-based organizations that anchor New York City neighborhoods. For more information on Neighborhood 360°, please visit [www.nyc.gov/neighborhood360](http://www.nyc.gov/neighborhood360).

### **NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS)**

SBS helps unlock economic potential and create economic security for all New Yorkers by connecting New Yorkers to good jobs, creating stronger businesses, and building vibrant neighborhoods across the five boroughs. For more information on all SBS services, go to [nyc.gov/sbs](http://nyc.gov/sbs), call 311, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**NYC DOT Art**

Launched in October 2008, the New York City Department of Transportation's Art Program invigorates the City's streetscapes with engaging temporary art installations. The Program partners with community-based organizations and artists to present murals, sculptures, projections and performances on plazas, fences, barriers, bridges and sidewalks for up to 11 months. Projects are presented within four program tracks: Arterventions, Barrier Beautification, Community Commissions and Art Display Case. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/dotart](http://www.nyc.gov/dotart).

**NYC Parks**

For over 50 years, NYC Parks' public art program Art in the Parks has brought contemporary public artworks to over 200 of the city's parks, collaborating with arts organizations and artists to produce over 2,000 works by 1,300 notable and emerging artists. For more information on works currently on view, and for tips on how to exhibit with Parks, visit our [website](#).

**Sonic Gates Community Partners**

- 100 Gates
- Citizens Committee
- Island Voice
- Projectivity
- PS 78
- Staten Island MakerSpace
- Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness
- Universal Temple of the Arts

**Sonic Gates New York City and State Partners**

- NYC Department of Small Business Services
- NYC Department of Transportation
- NYC Parks
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Office of the Staten Island Borough President

*Sonic Gates*, a pilot project of the *Future Culture* initiative, is made possible through the generous support of:

