FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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JOIN THE DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE AND NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AT THE LAUNCH OF EL-SPACE TOOLKIT: THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO RECLAIMING SITES BENEATH ELEVATED TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The event will take place at the Center for Architecture on Tuesday February 4th at 6pm, attended by representatives from NYCDOT, NACTO, and Design Trust, and includes a panel discussion of practitioners from Boston, Toronto and New York City.

NEW YORK, NY (Jan 30, 2020) – The Design Trust for Public Space, Inc. and the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) will celebrate the launch of the El-Space Toolkit, the first-ever comprehensive guide to reclaiming spaces under elevated infrastructure, on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at the Center for Architecture at 6 pm. The event produced in collaboration with the AIANY Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, will feature leading practitioners and city representatives from New York, Boston, and Toronto discussing how to reimagine el-spaces citywide and internationally through a panel conversation about innovative strategies for advancing design, planning, and programming for el-space sites.

The El-Space Toolkit features 11 case studies across North America that demonstrate approaches to various typologies of el-space, including linear pathways, crossings, and commercial corridors/market spaces. The Toolkit highlights the range of potential of el-space, from enhanced infrastructure to destination parks and trails. The toolkit also covers the lifecycle of developing and implementing el-space projects, highlighting lessons learned for this emerging field from pilot sites in New York city, with
exemplary practices and considerations on how to improve el-space conditions. The toolkit launch is a culmination of the second phase of this partnership which began with the Under the Elevated project in 2013.

“For far too long, the 300 miles of sidewalk space under transportation overpasses across New York City were ignored -- dismissed as dark, uninviting, or even dangerous, where pedestrians should hurry through and escape as quickly as possible,” said NYC DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg. “We are proud of our collaboration with our partners at the Design for Public Trust to change the way we think about these complex and previously neglected sites. Our work together has allowed us to test creative strategies, from new lighting to creative artwork and green infrastructure, that allow pedestrians to appreciate -- and even enjoy -- their journeys through these spaces.”

Leslie Griesbach Schultz, Interim Executive Director of the Design Trust for Public Space said, “The El-Space Toolkit epitomizes how Design Trust’s 25-year commitment to partnership-based urban design continues to foment creative and essential thinking about New York City’s public spaces. We are delighted to launch this Toolkit as a guide to reimagining spaces under elevated transportation infrastructure.”

“We hope that this launch event, where partners from multiple cities and design disciplines will be represented, will enrich the important work of the burgeoning network of el-space advocates across North America,” she added.

The event will feature the following participants:

**Introduction:**
Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation

**Toolkit Presentation:**
Samira Behrooz, Director of Programs at Design Trust for Public Space

**Moderator:**
Margaret Newman, Principal of ARUP

**Panelists:**
- Dan Adams, Founding Principal of Landing Studio design firm
- Skye Duncan, Director of the Global Designing Cities Initiative at the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)
- Neil Gagliardi, Director of Urban Design, NYC Department of Transportation
- Adam Nicklin, Co-Founder and Principal of PUBLIC WORK design firm
- Linnaea Tillett, Founding Principal of Tillett Lighting Design Associates

El-Space Toolkit: Strategies for Reclaiming Sites Beneath Elevated Transportation Infrastructure

ISBN: 978-0-9716942-4-8
The El-Space Toolkit is a publication of the Design Trust for Public Space in partnership with the NYC Department of Transportation.

**Available at** [http://www.designtrust.org/publications/el-space-toolkit/](http://www.designtrust.org/publications/el-space-toolkit/)

**Under the Elevated Fellows**

A team of Fellows, each an expert in her/his own field, has led the research, design, and planning work for *Under the Elevated*. They are: Neil Donnelly, Graphic Design Fellow; Susannah Drake, Urban Design Fellow; Krisanne Johnson, Photo Urbanism Fellow; Chat Travieso, Participatory Design Fellow, and Douglas Woodward, Policy Fellow. [http://designtrust.org/projects/under-elevated/team/](http://designtrust.org/projects/under-elevated/team/)

**NYC Department of Transportation**

The New York City Department of Transportation’s mission is to provide for the safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible movement of people and goods in the City of New York and to maintain and enhance the transportation infrastructure crucial to the economic vitality and quality of life of our primary customers, city residents. [http://www.nyc.gov/dot/](http://www.nyc.gov/dot/)

**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. Design Trust’s projects jumpstarted the [High Line’s conversions](http://designtrust.org/), from derelict railway to a green corridor of open space, activated innovation for the first custom-built [Taxi of Tomorrow](http://designtrust.org/), and developed the sustainability guidelines that became the precursor to New York City’s Local Law and PlaNYC. [http://designtrust.org/](http://designtrust.org/)

**Credits and Acknowledgement**

The El-Space forum and Toolkit are supported in part by an award from the [National Endowment for the Arts](http://designtrust.org/) and public funds from [New York City Department of Cultural Affairs](http://designtrust.org/) in partnership with the [City Council](http://designtrust.org/) and the [New York State Council on the Arts](http://designtrust.org/) with the support of [Governor Andrew M. Cuomo](http://designtrust.org/) and the [New York State Legislature](http://designtrust.org/).

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Additional support for the El-Space pilots and the first phase, Under the Elevated provided by 

Atelier Ten, Silman, Stantec, Gary Wayne/Wells Fargo Advisors

The El-Space initiative would not have been possible without the leadership of:

El-Space Forum participants representing featured projects across North America

Dan Adams, Founding Principal, Landing Studio

Meg Daly, Founder, Friends of The Underline

Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes, Director, Strategic Neighborhood Development, New Orleans Business Alliance

Vivian Garcia, Manager of The 606, Chicago Park District
Walter Hood, Creative Director and Founder, Hood Design Studio

Adam Nicklin, Principal and Co-Founder, PUBLIC WORK

Caroline O’Boyle, Director of Programs and Partnerships for The 606, The Trust for Public Land

Stacy Patton, Real Estate and Asset Management Director, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.

Nyree A. Ramsey, Director, Cultural Innovation District, Foundation for Louisiana/Ujamaa Economic Development Corporation

Roberto Remes Tello de Meneses, General Coordinator, Public Space Authority of Mexico City

Marc Ryan, Principal and Co-Founder, PUBLIC WORK

Deborah Weintraub, AIA, Chief Deputy City Engineer, Bureau of Engineering, City of Los Angeles

Jessica Smith, Communications & Community Engagement Manager, 11th Street Bridge Park