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.

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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
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.

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.
2015 AT A GLANCE

THE WORLD’S PARK

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

OPENING THE EDGE
**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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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
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.

**PARTNER**
Staten Island Arts (SI Arts)

**SUPPORTERS**
National Endowment for the Arts
Design Trust Founder’s Circle
A fenced-in green space at a NYCHA development. Photo Credit: Dana Wall.
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.
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 Gardener’s 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 + LMQH’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


SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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
2015 EVENTS

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.

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

DESIGN TRUST COUNCIL

2015 EVENTS

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 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 Ilitus, 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
FISCAL YEAR 2015
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

NET $53,484

BEGINNING OF YEAR $500K
END OF YEAR $600K

$550K
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/