

DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE IS RECOGNIZED BY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS NEW YORK STATE HONOR AWARDS AND FAST COMPANY'S 2016 INNOVATION BY DESIGN AWARDS

NEW YORK, NY (Monday, October 3, 2016) – The Design Trust for Public Space received the 2016 Frederic Schwartz Community Development Award from The American Institute of Architects (AIA) New York State for its over 20 years of positive impact on NYC, transforming public space into a vibrant and integral part of the community. Design Trust also became a finalist in the “Spaces, Places & Cities” category of *Fast Company*'s 2016 Innovation by Design Awards for *Laying the Groundwork: Design Guidelines for Retail and Other Ground-Floor Uses in Mixed-Use Affordable Housing Developments*.

“The Design Trust for Public Space’s impact of shaping New York City’s public realm from parks and plazas to streets and public buildings with our City and community partners and Fellows continues to grow. We’re proud to receive the “Fred” from AIA New York State, one of the largest state associations of architects in the U.S. at its Saratoga Design Conference themed on Collaboration—the heart of how we work, and to have been nominated by AIA New York Chapter. Moreover to be notably acknowledged by *Fast Company*, one of the most influential media outlets in design for our ground floor design guidelines, is gratifying. This recognition encourages us to strengthen our catalytic work in NYC and expand our influence as a nationally-recognized incubator,” said Susan Chin, Executive Director, Design Trust for Public Space.

The AIA New York State Honor Awards – 2016 Frederic Schwartz Community Development Award

This award was established in 1985 to recognize and acknowledge projects and individuals who have had a substantial impact on the built environment within the various localities of New York State or on the State as a whole. This award is made to any individual, community or civic organization, governmental agency, or private corporation whose efforts have resulted in a significant and positive improvement to the built environment. Design Trust’s numerous project achievements contributed to receipt of this award. Among them include:

- [*Under the Elevated: Reclaiming Space, Connecting Communities*](#), in partnership with the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT), is the first major urban initiative to develop a comprehensive approach in revitalizing New York City’s hundreds of miles of elevated infrastructure. Reimagining these millions of square feet often dark, noisy, uninviting spaces beneath our city’s subway lines, highways, and bridges, the project aims to transform these underused areas and adjoining neighborhoods by creating civic awareness, a permanent DOT program and toolkit.
- [*Made in Midtown*](#), conducted in partnership with the Council of Fashion Designers of America, documented the Garment District’s continued vitality as a critical research and development hub, and made the case for its preservation at a time when the neighborhood’s status as the center of New York City’s fashion industry was threatened by rezoning.
- [*Times Square: Problems and Possibilities*](#), in partnership with the Times Square Alliance, recommended strategies for improving pedestrian mobility in New York City’s most iconic and crowded public space. Following the release of the report, the NYC Department of Transportation and the NYC Department of City Planning embarked on a bold plan to realize one of the key recommendations of the study—closing Broadway to cars and turning it into a pedestrian plaza.

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- [High Performance Landscape Guidelines](#), in partnership with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, has guided the design and management of countless celebrated parks and helped to institutionalize the idea of parks as green infrastructure and resilient open space. These guidelines led to the City's *OneNYC* plan.

Fast Company 2016 Innovation by Design Awards:

The Innovation by Design Awards program, now in its fifth year, honors the most innovative and disruptive design solutions to today's business problems. This year's judging panel, which was once again comprised of the world's best design minds, selected the finalists from more than 1,700 international submissions from 41 different countries across 11 categories—the most ever. *Fast Company* is one of the world's leading business media brands, with an editorial focus on creativity and innovation in technology, ethical economics, leadership, and design.

[Laying the Groundwork: Design Guidelines for Retail and Other Ground-Floor Uses in Mixed-Use Affordable Housing Developments](#), a finalist in the "Spaces, Places & Cities" category, is highlighted in *Fast Company's* October print issue and online: <https://www.fastcodesign.com/product/laying-the-groundwork>

Fast Company calls the guidelines, "a design bible on how to help create better neighborhoods by designing better retail and community spaces on the ground floor, where locals come to gather."

Affordable housing is at the top of New Yorkers' minds more than ever with Mayor de Blasio's new ten-year plan to create or preserve a total number of 200,000 affordable units across the five boroughs. *Laying the Groundwork: Design Guidelines for Retail and Other Ground-Floor Uses in Mixed-Use Affordable Housing Developments*, a project of the Design Trust for Public Space in partnership with the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development, is the first-ever tool to ensure that these new housing developments, with nearly 80,000 new units, also help to create an active street life and healthy neighborhoods. Well-designed ground-floor space that can accommodate a variety of amenities—local restaurants, small businesses, pharmacies, banks, day care facilities, senior centers, health clinics, and supermarkets—is key to vibrant streetscape, increasing leasability and generating job opportunities.

The American Institute of Architects New York State

AIANYS is the state component of the American Institute of Architects and is composed of 13 components representing over 8,500 architecture professionals statewide. <http://www.aianys.org/>

Fast Company

Fast Company is the world's leading progressive business media brand, with a unique editorial focus on innovation in technology, ethnomics (ethical economics), leadership, and design. Written for, by, and about the most progressive business leaders, *Fast Company* and FastCompany.com inspire readers and users to think beyond traditional boundaries, lead conversations, and create the future of business. <https://www.fastcompany.com/>

Design Trust for Public Space

The Design Trust for Public Space, founded in 1995, 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](#), jumpstarted NYC's first custom-built [Taxi of Tomorrow](#), 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/>