NEW YORK, NY (May 13, 2014) – The Design Trust for Public Space announces The Energetic City: Connectivity in the Public Realm, a new request for project proposals to redefine public space. The kick-off event will take place on Monday May 19, from 7-9 pm, at BRIC House, 647 Fulton Street in Brooklyn.

The Energetic City is an initiative to seed and develop new forms of connectivity among the diverse people, systems, and built, natural and digital environment of New York City. This public call invites proposals for research, design and planning projects to improve the experience of urban life by connecting people through ‘great’ design informed by the needs and aspirations of community users.

This year the Design Trust places a special emphasis on opening the project call to individuals, in addition to community groups and public agencies. We will offer seed funding so the projects can begin immediately. Projects may include the production of a clearly defined deliverable—a design prototype, pilot intervention, beta app, publication, video, or public artwork, among other possible formats—or be structured as the research, planning, or public outreach stage of a potentially larger project, where the process will inform the ultimate deliverable.

“Public space is all around us, yet for many New Yorkers it remains invisible and unchangeable. The Design Trust is committed to unlocking the potential of NYC’s public spaces. With The Energetic City, we will continue to push for design innovation. We’re open to revolutionary ideas that change ways that public space is conceived in many different areas, ranging from sustainable design, transportation and communication to art, product design, and technology initiatives. We want to help ordinary and extraordinary citizens make a difference in their own communities and in the life of their city,” says Susan Chin, FAIA, executive director of the Design Trust.

The Energetic City will turn ideas into actions and pave the way for transformative solutions, following the Design Trust’s legacy of enabling some of the most successful civic projects in NYC over the years. Design Trust’s projects jumpstarted the High Line’s conversions from derelict railway to a green corridor of open space, activated innovation for the first custom-built Taxi of Tomorrow, and developed the sustainability guidelines that became the precursor to New York City’s Local Law and PlanNYC.

After receiving project submissions in two stages: first, ‘ideas’ by June 30, and second, ‘full proposals’ by July 7, 2014; the Design Trust will select a group of finalists. These proposals will then be presented to an independent jury, who will select a limited number of projects for the Design Trust and the proposer to develop. The jury includes: Margaret Anadu, Urban Investment Group (UIG) at Goldman Sachs; Kemi Ilesanmi, The Laundromat Project; Natalie Jeremijenko, xDesign Environmental Health Clinic at NYU; Jeff Merrit, NYC Mayor’s Office (invited); and Damon Rich, City of Newark. Further details will be announced soon. Follow us at #EnergeticCity.

About The 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.
The Energetic City is made possible in part by the Design Trust Founder’s Circle, including Agnes Gund, Kitty Hawks, Sophia W. Healy, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Camila Pastor & Stephen Maharam, and Kelly Posner, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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