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DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE AND STATEN ISLAND ARTS ANNOUNCE
FUTURE CULTURE: CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACE ON STATEN ISLAND’S NORTH SHORE

The interactive exhibition showcases the cool cultural world of the North Shore, featuring public art pilot projects, community initiatives, and new ideas from visitors.

Opening reception: Thursday, September 14, 7 to 9 pm. On view through December 9, 2017

NEW YORK, NY (Wednesday, August 30, 2017) – The Design Trust for Public Space and Staten Island Arts will open Future Culture: Connecting People and Place on Staten Island’s North Shore on September 14, at ArtSpace @ Staten Island Arts, 23 Navy Pier Court, Staten Island. The exhibition surveys six interdisciplinary public art projects, including renderings and concepts, which were proposed as part of the recent Future Culture call for pilot projects to activate public space in Staten Island’s North Shore. Two of these six finalist proposals were recently selected for piloting: Sonic Gates, a group of interactive sound sculptures; and Court Yard Fridays, a series of weekend concerts, will launch in the summer of 2018. Interviews with the finalists will be displayed on multiple screens to provide an insider’s look at the creative processes for the six proposals.

Other cultural initiatives that Staten Islanders are undertaking in the St. George, Tompkinsville, and Stapleton communities and beyond are also on view. Visitors are asked to post their projects and events on a map and to add a picture on Instagram with the hashtag #connectingcultureSI. The aggregated online pictures will be incorporated into the exhibition. The show identifies further opportunities for public realm in the North Shore and fosters connections between community initiatives.

In speaking of the exhibition, Staten Island Arts Executive Director Elizabeth Bennett commented, “The work that Staten Island Arts has accomplished with Design Trust has been some of the most satisfying accomplishments. Future Culture has led to deep levels of dialogue with the community. Our recent call for public art pilots provided a platform for artists to envision cultural and civic engagement on the North Shore. The upcoming exhibit will bring the project to life in a tangible way that will also provide even more avenues for thought.”

“This exhibition will jumpstart a dialogue among the Staten Island community, developers, and public agencies to strengthen the network of cultural practitioners and to create inclusive and vibrant public spaces in the North Shore,” said Susan Chin, FAIA, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director, Design Trust for Public Space.
Staten Island’s North Shore waterfront, home to hundreds of artists and arts organizations, is rapidly developing with projects, such as the New York Wheel, Empire Outlets, Lighthouse Point, 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 in partnership with Staten Island Arts, aims to shape and communicate a vision for culture that supports and promotes the area’s unique 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 neighborhood revitalization, sustainability, and equitable economic development, released in March 2017. Staten Island Arts then issued a call for pilot projects to test ways of promoting exploration of the waterfront and Bay Street corridor, organizing unique events of scale and regularity, and activating existing, underutilized public space, among other strategies spelled out in those recommendations. Staten Island Arts and Design Trust announced in July 2017, to pilot two of the six finalist proposals from this call. See below the list of all six finalist projects featured in the exhibition, including the two winning proposals chosen for piloting.

**SELECTED FUTURE CULTURE PILOT PROJECTS**

**Court Yard Fridays**
Kevin Washington, Lynn Washington, and Homer Jackson

Court Yard Fridays is a concert series held in the Court Yard Garden of the old Supreme Court Building that will engage Staten Islanders through cultural sharing, and will activate this underused space to reveal opportunities for further cultural, social, and educational engagements. By bringing together notable artists of varying musical backgrounds, this event will engage diverse communities and build connections across the North Shore as a whole.

“There’s something more going on than retail malls, the wheel, or hotels they’re going to build. With some creativity we can find really positive activities,” said Kevin Washington.

**Sonic Gates**
Volker Goetze with Alassane Drabo, DB Lampman, Lina Montoya, Jeremy Munson, Sam Samore, Arthur Simms, and Scott Van Campen

Sonic Gates connects North Shore locations between the St. George Ferry Terminal and the Clifton SIRR station by way of interactive sound sculptures that help people navigate and appreciate the spaces they occupy. The sculptures promote exploration into the St. George, Tompkinsville, and Stapleton through an exciting multisensory experience and intuitive way finding between the sites.

“Staten Island has around 500,000 people but it’s a small town. Everybody knows each other and they help. I don’t think any other borough could create this kind of thing because it’s too big,” said Volker Goetze.

**FUTURE CULTURE PILOT PROJECT FINALISTS**

**Flyaway Home**
Diane Matyas and Kristi Pfister

Flyaway Home, a three-part project, progresses large-scale metal nests attached to buildings, two dimensional birds silhouetted on facades, and a sunflower planting site along Bay Street in order emphasize the parallels between the coming and going of birds and people. Flyaway Home is conceived and designed to emphasize Staten Island’s unique characteristics of nesting (home space), nature (greenspace and fauna), and the daily movement/flocking of commuters, visitors, and Islanders.

“Being part of a process of nurturing your neighborhood, making it beautiful, following up on the history of other people who tried to do that, saying that this is your neighborhood and you should care about it…You can make a difference,” said Diane Matyas.
For Birds, Bees, Butterflies, and Busses
Kaja Kühl, Zhen Quan, Dissa Raras, and Paul Wang

*For Birds, Bees, Butterflies, and Busses* celebrates biodiversity on Staten Island through four installations along Bay Street that would raise awareness about species that populate the area and encourage more biodiversity by serving as a hospitable urban habitat. Built with sustainable materials near bus stops, each sculpture would represent a unique species and encourage humans to learn more about the ecosystems of Staten Island.

“A lot of the times you don’t see what you’re losing until you realize it’s too late. Then you have to relocate the things back that were originally displaced by urbanization. And that takes even longer than how you kicked them out originally,” said Paul Wang.

**New Earth Resiliency Training Module (NERTM)**
Tattfoo Tan

NERTM promotes the education and development of individuals and communities through workshops that emphasize the improvement of skills and spirit. Focusing particularly on youth engagement, the Rites of Passage workshop would help the North Shore community to rethink their relationship to place by highlighting how an individual’s transition between moments in life connects to the development of the community at large.

“Development doesn’t have to be tangible, development could be making the space better, making the community stronger, tighter instead of just keep on building and building. You could be reusing and repurposing and opening up spaces that have been tightly controlled,” said Tattfoo Tan.

**The Mystic Portals of MERC**
Kelly Vilar and Ray Zwaryc

*The Mystic Portals of MERC* connects the creativity of working artists and the imagination, memory, and hopes of community members to build and design boats at eight locations along the North Shore. The boats emphasize the community’s rich history as a Maritime corridor and voyage forward to promote inclusive and sustainable development along the shore. This proposal will meet the objectives of the MERC (Maritime, Education, Recreation and Cultural corridor) plan.

“I really believe that Staten Island can be a model in the future for a lot of things. We can be a model for private development for public-private partnerships where we really do something that contributes to the education, well-being, and economic development of the people that live here already,” said Kelly Vilar.

**Programs in Conjunction with The Future Culture Exhibition**

*Tompkinsville Cleanup & Yoga Event*, at Tompkinsville Park
Saturday, September 23, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

*Walking Tour: North Shore, an exhibition of photographs by Gareth Smit*, at Alice Austen House
Saturday, October 14, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

*Sonic Gates Community Forum*, at ArtSpace @ SI Arts
Wednesday, October 18, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

*New Earth Resiliency Oracle Card Reading*, at ArtSpace @ SI Arts
Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

*Court Yard Fridays Listening Party*, at Maker Park Radio (tune-in)
Monday, November 20, time to be announced soon

*How to Realize Your Project on a Grassroots Level*, at ArtSpace @ SI Arts
Thursday, November 30, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

To learn more about each event, please email to [info@statenislandarts.org](mailto:info@statenislandarts.org).
The *Future Culture* exhibition runs concurrently with *North Shore*, a photography exhibition by Gareth Smit on view at Alice Austen House, September 16 to December 23, 2017.

**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/](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, 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/](http://designtrust.org/)

*Future Culture: Connecting Staten Island’s Waterfront* is made possible in part by support from:

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