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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

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Susan Chin, FAIA, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director
Rosamond Fletcher, Director of Programs
Ozgur Gungor, Communications Manager
Joseph Huennekens, Program Manager
Maureen Millmore, Development Assistant
Jourdan Sayers, Equitable Public Space Fellow 2016/17
Martha Snow, Executive Assistant/Special Projects Associate

*as of June 2017
Our 20th anniversary year launched us into a new trajectory; 2016 was a year of evolution and experimentation. Our beloved Founder Andrea Woodner handed the baton to our new Board Chair Eric Rothman, demonstrating her confidence in our strategic direction and ability. Her leadership and vision led to our unique tactics that have improved New York City’s public spaces and the lives of all who live here.

The Design Trust “process” starts by soliciting project ideas from the public; we then choose the fellows who lead the analysis and design of projects in collaboration with community and agency partners. In 2016 we completed our first two Energetic City projects:

- **The World’s Park** — a visioning process for connecting Flushing Meadows Park with its neighbors - generated a replicable process that we promulgated in the Building the Community Design School publication in English and Spanish.

- **Laying the Groundwork** — design guidelines for ground floor retail and community spaces in affordable housing will increase community vitality and employment opportunity.

We led **Under the Elevated / El-Space** pilot projects in Sunset Park, Brooklyn and Rockaway, Queens to test methods of transforming neglected spaces under elevated transportation infrastructure. They reconnect communities, create bike routes and provide recreational space. NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner Trottenberg created a new unit in response to our **Under the Elevated** project, offering a one stop **El-Space** program.

As part of our evolution, we reached into new communities, sectors and approaches to continue to ensure that the City’s public spaces remain democratic and inclusive for all New Yorkers:

- **Launched Future Culture** in partnership with Staten Island Arts, and **Opening the Edge**, with NYC Housing Authority

- **Prepared for 2017 Call for Project Ideas — Public for All: Rethinking Shared Space in NYC**

- **Inaugurated the Equitable Public Space Fellowship** to increase the diversity of our team, deepen our understanding of other cultures, and create opportunities for advancement in our allied professions

We are deeply grateful to our Board for its leadership, and to our friends and supporters for their passion and dedication; together we are reclaiming and transforming public spaces for the lasting benefit of all.
2016 AT A GLANCE

PHOTO CREDIT CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Samuel Lahoz; Sam Holleran; Claudio Pappapietro; Jourdan Sayers; Martha Snow
BELOW Rendering of the Sunset Park Pilot by Design Trust Fellows Tricia Martin, Quilian Riano, and Leni Schwendinger.

OPPOSITE TOP Pop-up demonstration at Sunset Park pilot site. Photo credit: Claudio Pappapietro. BOTTOM Light Walk Demonstration with Community Advisory Board. Photo credit: Liz Ligon
In this second phase of the project, work commenced on two of three pilot locations, 1) Sunset Park beneath the Gowanus Expressway at 36th Street and 3rd Avenue, and 2) the Rockaways, along a 5-mile corridor under the elevated A subway line.

In Sunset Park, a Community Advisory Board was convened to help inform the pilot design. In August, the Project Team, in collaboration with Industry City, engaged 30 key agency and partner stakeholders (including New York State Department of Transportation, NYC Public Design Commission, NYC Mayor’s Office, NYC Department of City Planning, and NYC DOT) at a three-day pop-up demonstration to build further buy-in for the pilot designs. Stakeholder feedback was enthusiastic about the green infrastructure aspects of the project and other functional improvements to the space that are in keeping with the ‘working waterfront’ character of the community. The pilot design was completed in December and will commence construction in Summer 2017.

The Project Team also continued scoping the Rockaways pilot with NYC DOT and the Rockaway Waterfront Alliance. Project Fellow Tricia Martin began site documentation and conceptual design, with the aim of commencing construction in late Summer 2017.

*El-Space* is a project in partnership with NYC DOT to transform the underutilized space beneath elevated transportation infrastructure into valuable community and City assets.
Executive Director Susan Chin greets the audience for “Affordable Housing and the Public Realm,” at the Center for Architecture/AIA NY, officially launching the Laying the Groundwork guidelines. Photo credit: Samuel Lahoz.

Laying the Groundwork guidelines publication. Registration table manned by Design Trust Staffers Martha Snow and Joseph Heunnekens. Photo credit: Samuel Lahoz.

Panelists: Executive Director Susan Chin, Project Fellows James Slade, Hayes Slade, and Fiona Cousins, Board member R. Darby Curtis, AIA, Penny Hardy, and Eric Wilson, former HPD Assistant Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability. Photo credit: Samuel Lahoz.
Our public program, “Affordable Housing and the Public Realm,” at the Center for Architecture/AIA NY officially launched the Laying the Groundwork guidelines in February. Nearly 200 people attended the event, moderated by The Architect’s Newspaper Editor-in-Chief William Menking, featuring project Fellows, Board member R. Darby Curtis, AIA, and Eric Wilson, former HPD Assistant Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability. The event illustrated how to create quality ground floor spaces, basic services, and street life.

Two additional programs promoted the guidelines to community-based developers, BIDs, architects, and engineers at 1) “The Power of Good Design: Creating High-Quality Retail and Community Space”, organized with the International Council of Shopping Centers, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, and NYC Small Business Services; and 2) “Mechanical Matters: Successful Ground-Floor MEP Design,” presented at Arup, led by Fiona Cousins, Engineering Fellow and Arup Principal.

HPD project partner Arielle Goldberg, and Fellows Fiona Cousins and Hayes and James Slade will present the Laying the Groundwork project on a panel with HPD at the National AIA Conference on Architecture in Orlando, Florida in April 2017.

Laying the Groundwork is a project in partnership with NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (NYC HPD) to improve the design of ground-floor space in mixed-use affordable housing developments, supporting active and vibrant streets.
Initially, I thought it would be like most design sessions or charrettes. Some participation and then it disappears. What happened here? Our voices were really heard and we were respected as part of the community in creating the park. It was—We’re here. Real people in Queens. And our voices are being heard and respected and we’re part of the creative process with access to the whole process. So we can go back to our community and keep it going.

—Anandi Premall, Community Advisor
THE WORLD’S PARK

PARTNERS
Queens Museum
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

FELLOWS
Sam Holleran
Participatory Design
Sarah Lidgus
Design Education
José Serrano-McClain
Community Organizing

SUPPORTERS
National Endowment for the Arts
Design Trust Founder’s Circle
New York State Council on the Arts
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs

The Building the Community Design School at Flushing Meadows Corona Park digital publication was released in February. A Spanish version of the publication, Desarrollo de la Escuela para el Diseño Comunitario en el Parque de Flushing Meadows, was released in September to broaden outreach and advocacy for the Community Design School model.

Project Fellows presented “The World's Park Community Design School” at the Open Engagement 2016 – POWER conference in Oakland, California in May.

Participatory Design Fellow Sam Holleran presented The World's Park project at the Practivism 9: Designing for the Inclusive Future conference organized by the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada in Vancouver, British Columbia in November.

The World’s Park is a project in partnership with NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks) and the Queens Museum that formed an educational Community Design School where Queens residents developed proposals to improve access to and circulation within Flushing Meadows Corona Park (FMCP).
ABOVE Fenced in green space at Wald Houses. Photo credit: Jourdan Sayers.

OPPOSITE TOP Community Design Team meeting. Photo credit: Jourdan Sayers/Joseph Huennekens. BOTTOM Wald Houses model used at Community Design Team meeting. Photo credit: Jourdan Sayers/Joseph Huennekens.
After extensive outreach, the Design Trust selected Lillian Wald Houses on Manhattan’s Lower East Side as the NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA) project site, based on the receptiveness of residents to project goals, and their commitment to the engagement and design process.

In September, the Design Trust announced the selection of the Fellows with expertise in community organizing, landscape architecture, active design, lighting, and art. The Project Team immediately began outreach and engagement at Wald to convene a Community Design Team.

The first meeting of the Community Design Team, held in late November, began by identifying shared values to guide the design process. Subsequent meetings were held at the Boys & Girls Republic to develop program ideas and to select a specific site location at Wald for the public space prototype.

Continuing into 2017, the Design Trust Fellows will meaningfully engage with residents and neighborhood stakeholders to develop a schematic design for an open, active public space at Wald, with the potential for adaptation at other NYCHA sites.

*Opening the Edge* is a project, with NYCHA, proposed by artist Jane Greengold to design a prototype of a lively public space at the edge of Wald Houses, in collaboration with residents.
ABOVE Future Culture Open House event at SI Arts. Photo credit: Jourdan Sayers/Joseph Huennekens.

OPPOSITE TOP First edition of the Future Culture newspaper. BOTTOM Future Culture Working Group meeting. Photo credit: Martha Snow.
In partnership with the Alice Austen House and Staten Island Arts (SI Arts), the Design Trust held a jury in February to select Gareth Smit as the Photo Urbanism Fellow. Smit has been working to document the North Shore’s cultural community in this time of transformation.

In August, the Design Trust expanded Fellows Team, comprised of expertise in participatory art, urban design, policy, and graphic design. The Future Culture Working Group convened for six interactive design sessions. Fellows also met with the local community, elected officials, and developers. The Fellows are now working toward a set of recommendations for how to strengthen the local cultural community and activate public space along Staten Island’s North Shore waterfront.

The first issue of the Future Culture Newspaper was published in English and Spanish, and distributed across Staten Island in December. The newspaper was also made available online in other languages prevalent on the North Shore, including Bengali, Sinhala, Tamil, and Urdu. In 2017, the Future Culture project team will release its recommendations for the North Shore, with exhibitions at SI Arts and the Alice Austen House. Work will also begin on a series of pilot projects.

*Future Culture* is a project in partnership with SI Arts to engage local artists and community members, area developers, and NYC agencies in planning the public realm of Staten Island’s rapidly developing North Shore waterfront together, resulting in a set of recommendations with strategies for cultural activation, sustainability, and equitable economic development.
Equitable Public Space Fellow Jourdan Sayers at a public event launching our 2017 Call for Project Ideas. Photo credit: Claudio Papapietro.
In June, the Design Trust launched the Equitable Public Space Fellowship Program to provide support and training to emerging design professionals from diverse backgrounds who want to contribute to solving public space challenges in New York City. By offering yearlong fellowships with the organization, we sought to create a model for bringing more voices, skill sets, and life experiences into the practice of design for public space.

In its inaugural year, over 85 interested candidates applied, showing both the significant interest and need for this unique Fellowship program.

Jourdan Sayers, the inaugural Fellow, contributed to Design Trust projects Future Culture and Opening the Edge, and played a crucial role in the 2017 Call for Project Ideas Public For All, along with providing research and action steps to further the organization’s commitment to diversity and inclusion.
2016 ART + DESIGN BENEFIT AUCTION

NOV 1 Nearly 500 loyal supporters joined us at the stunning, new Dune Studios in NYC’s Financial District for our annual benefit, which raised a record $347,603 in support of the Design Trust and its pioneering work to improve the daily life of New Yorkers in all five boroughs. The spirited silent auction featured 50 fine art and design objects and experiences by seasoned and emerging talent. Many thanks to our magnificent event chair Cindy Allen, our generous underwriters Andrea Woodner and Camila Pastor and Stephen Maharam, and our dedicated sponsors, Interior Design, Newmark Holdings, and Richter+Ratner.

FELLOWS

2016 FELLOWS FORUM SALONS

MAR 8 Laying the Groundwork Fellows Fiona Cousins, Penny Hardy, and Hayes & James Slade led a discussion and shared the process of creating a comprehensive set of guidelines at the J. Max Bond Center on Design for the Just City.

SEP 28 Design Trust’s first Project Fellow Louise Harpman shared her perspective on the challenges and opportunities of libraries in NYC, and led a discussion on public trust and private investment at the Cornell University School of Architecture, Art & Planning.

NOV 10 Photographer Elizabeth Felicella led a tour of her exhibit “Reading Room: A Catalog of New York City’s Branch Libraries” at the AIANY Center for Architecture and continued the discussion on libraries as public space.

ABOUT THE FELLOWS FORUM

The Fellows Forum is an interdisciplinary group of past and present Design Trust Fellows, including designers, policy experts, artists, journalists, and community organizers. The Design Trust holds quarterly salons as an opportunity for Fellows to connect, learn about current work, and discuss pressing public space challenges.

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PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Design Trust for Public Space presented the following public programs at various venues across the five boroughs:

**JAN 26**  “The Energetic City Forum: Rethinking NYC’s Edges” at BRIC House — A multi-disciplinary panel of Project Partners and Fellows highlighted efforts to reimagine uses of physical, social, and cultural assets and public space in all five boroughs, while exploring connections and differences between ongoing projects.

**MAY 12**  “Arts Connecting Staten Island: Powerful Civic Tools for Transformation” for NYCxDesign Week at Cooper Union — A discussion about how the arts can be a powerful civic tool in this time of transformation on Staten Island’s North Shore.

PUBLIC SPACE POTLUCKS

Free and open to all, our popular program series gathers urban enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds together for a shared meal, temporarily transforming New York City’s public spaces into communal dining rooms.

**JUN 23**  Co-hosted by Advocated for Privately Owned Public Space (APOPS) on the Water Street POPS in NYC’s Financial District.

**JUL 20**  At Gantry Plaza State Park in Long Island City, with tour led by landscape architect Thomas Balsley.

**AUG 23**  Co-hosted with Untapped Cities at Morningside Park in Harlem.
ANNUAL FOUNDER’S CIRCLE DINNER

FEB 23 Founder’s Circle members gathered at the stunning private residence of longtime Design Trust supporters and Founder's Circle members, Camila and Stephen Maharam for our second Annual Founder's Circle Dinner. Members were treated to a delectable home-cooked meal prepared by Chef Nick Anderer of NYC’s popular Maialino and Marta restaurants.

CURRENT MEMBERS
Hugo Barreca, J.D.  Sophia W. Healy  Camila Pastor & Stephen Maharam  Andrea Woodner, Chair
Agnes Gund  Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc.  Claire Weisz, FAIA
Kitty Hawks

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 issues facing NYC.

ABOUT THE FOUNDER’S CIRCLE
The Founder’s Circle, chaired by its namesake Andrea Woodner, is a growing group of supporters who are passionate about the urban environment and 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.

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2016 EVENTS

APR 20 Breakfast Talk: Exploring NYC Real Estate with Blackstone. At a breakfast event hosted at Park Hill Real Estate Group’s office in Midtown, Blackstone Real Estate’s Managing Director Wesley LePatner and Principal Qahir Madhany discussed how they view the NYC market, particularly in light of increasing urbanization trends.

MAY 11 Breakfast Talk: Learn about LinkNYC with Intersection. At a breakfast event hosted in Intersection’s office in the Woolworth Building, LinkNYC’s General Manager Jen Hensley provided an inside look at LinkNYC, a first-of-its-kind communications network that is bringing the fastest free public Wi-Fi ever offered to millions of New Yorkers and visitors.

SEP 28 Talk & Tour: Turnstyle. Following a reception and in-depth discussion with Turnstyle’s design teams, including Susan Fine, President of Oases Development; Jeffrey Rosen, MTA Director of Real Estate; Penny Hardy, Founding principal of PS New York; and Marta Sanders, Principal at Architecture Outfit, Design Trust Council members toured NYC’s newest retail development that transformed a century-old subway passageway into a vibrant marketplace.
OUTREACH & IMPACT

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Staff represented the Design Trust to diverse audiences, including:

→ AIA New York State 2016 Saratoga Design Conference (Received AIANYS Frederic Schwartz Community Development Award), Saratoga Springs, NY
→ ASLA/APA/AIANY Seeding Urban Transformation
→ Boutique Design NY Trade Fair, Wild by Design with Margie Ruddick
→ Cornell AAP Studio Review w/ Snøhetta, Craig Dykers, Mia Kang & Karli Molter
→ Dance/NYC Symposium 2016 | Dance/NYC, Gibney Dance Center
→ Free Space in the City | XI Seminario Internacional, Escola da cidade, São Paulo, Brazil
→ Grow Together

132 MEDIA MENTIONS

Our work was featured in:


SOCIAL MEDIA

11,960 Twitter followers
8,649 Facebook likes
2,953 Instagram followers
## ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

**RESTRICTED PROJECT FUNDING** $35,893  
   a. Contributions & Grants $170,000  
   b. Satisfaction of Program Restrictions $205,893  

**UNRESTRICTED INCOME** $1,049,614  
   c. Contributions & Grants $349,397  
   d. Government $124,860  
   e. Special Events (Net) $263,260  
   f. Earned Income $106,204  
   g. Net Assets Released from Restrictions $205,893  

**TOTAL INCOME** $1,013,721  

**H. PROGRAM SERVICES** $597,290  
   i. General Program $284,847  
   j. 20th Anniversary $12,533  
   k. Advisory Services $39,856  
   l. Future Culture $83,549  
   m. Laying the Groundwork $30,338  
   n. Opening the Edge $39,009  
   o. The World’s Park $13,012  
   p. RFP/New Projects $7,397  
   q. Under the Elevated II $86,749  

**R. GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION** $113,911  

**S. FUNDRAISING** $212,682  

**TOTAL EXPENSES** $923,883  

**NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR** $580,439  
**NET ASSETS END OF YEAR** $670,277  
**NET** $89,838
2016 DONORS

The Design Trust’s work is made possible by the generous foundations, corporations, and individuals who share our passion for public space.

308 TOTAL DONORS IN 2016

To see a full listing of our supporters, please visit desigintrust.org/people/supporters/