



TOWN +GOWN: NYC

May 2023 Newsletter

Dear Members of Town+Gown,

We have completed 19 of 21 experiential learning projects this year—with the last two projects to be completed in the summer semester. To check out these projects, please see https://www.nyc.gov/assets/ddc/downloads/town-and-gown/2022-2023_Experiential_Learning_Projects_3.pdf.

Town+Gown is working on several project ideas for the next cohort of experiential learning students across a number of schools. If you have project ideas for next year, please email matthewte@ddc.nyc.gov.

We also hosted five Symposium events this year, with the last one on 5/11/23. To see what we covered at these events, please go to <https://www.nyc.gov/site/ddc/about/Symposia.page>.

More than 2/3 of these projects were done for Town+Gown's working groups. Most of them are now posted under the Working Groups at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/ddc/about/town-gown-working-groups.page>. Our working groups have much to work with as they go forward.

Town+Gown Story #1: NYU/Tandon's National Science Foundation's SCC-CIVIC-FA **U**nification for **U**nderground resilience **M**easures (UNUM) project (for which Town+Gown was a named collaborator) included "Underground Periscope", a sculptural film installation located at the Brooklyn Army Terminal on Saturday, October 1, 2022, to make visible, for a day, the invisible subsurface. This educational art installation repurposed a concrete catch basin so that people could view, from holes made in the concrete object, a multi-channel projection of a film the artist, Emilie Clark, shot with an endoscopic camera that explored the urban underground as a living organism with its own systems, made up of many interconnected and interdependent parts.



Since the installation required permanent changes to the catch basin, it could not be re-used by contractors for a future sewer project, leaving NYU/Tandon with a large concrete infrastructural object in need of a good home. Town+Gown introduced NYU/Tandon to the NYC Department of Sanitation’s donateNYC program. Tasked with promoting reuse activity around the city, their online reuse platform, the donateNYC Exchange, helps businesses, nonprofits, and school exchange reusable goods instead of sending them to landfill, and can be found at nyc.gov/donate. Thanks to the hard work of the donateNYC staff, the Adventure Playground at Governor’s Island www.play-ground.nyc was able to re-use the catch basin in its playground.



Town+Gown Story #2. Every year, Town+Gown develops and supports a number of experiential learning project engagements, including projects in the design fields. NYC DEP sought help from Town+Gown in the design of a coloring book about NYC’s water system aimed at the

elementary school level. Town+Gown connected NYC DEP with the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), which ultimately led to a two connected successful studio projects—one at the undergraduate level and the other at the graduate level—that provided students with real-life design experience and created Drippy as the persona of NYC’s water travelling throughout the NYC water story in a coloring book that NYC DEP will use in its ongoing educational efforts. See https://news.fitnyc.edu/2023/04/17/a-coloring-book-that-teaches-kids-about-water-conservation/?mc_cid=4e2f5f82d4&mc_eid=3fee9bd73e, <https://thecitylife.org/2023/04/26/new-york-city-partners-with-the-fashion-institute-of-technology-to-create-educational-interactive-coloring-book-about-new-york-citys-water-story/>, and [NYC Partners With FIT to Create Educational, Interactive Coloring Book About NYC’s Water Story | City of New York](#).

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