Thirty-eighth Annual Awards for Excellence in Design

Toward a Sustainable New York City
October 28, 2020

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to the New York City Public Design Commission’s 38th Annual Awards for Excellence in Design.

My administration is dedicated to ensuring a healthier, fairer future for all New Yorkers, and as part of our efforts to achieve this goal, we are building affordable housing, planning sustainable infrastructure, and creating beautiful artwork across the five boroughs. In this mission, we rely on the leadership of the New York City Public Design Commission and its work to improve our built environment by advocating for innovative, resilient, and equitable design.

For nearly four decades, the Commission has presented awards to those who exhibit tenacity and talent in producing projects that bring immeasurable improvements to the lives of all New Yorkers. This year’s winning projects include a much-needed rehabilitation of a recreation center, an effort to preserve wetlands while also improving public access, renovations and enhancements to library branches, and so many other outstanding works that will leave an indelible mark on our city for years to come.

Today’s virtual event will also recognize projects that have contributed to our city’s efforts to fulfill the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals by working to advance our OneNYC 2050 Plan. I applaud all of the design professionals, artists, and leaders being honored today for their dedication to forging a greener, brighter tomorrow.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to this year’s award recipients. I offer my best wishes for a wonderful event and continued success.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Public Design Commission of the City of New York

The Public Design Commission (PDC) is an advocate for innovative, sustainable, and equitable design of the public realm. As New York City’s design review agency, the PDC reviews hundreds of proposals each year, including permanent buildings, parks, open spaces, and art on City-owned property. The PDC comprises 11 members who serve pro bono and meet monthly to review and vote on projects that are submitted by City agencies. Members include an architect, landscape architect, painter, sculptor, and three lay members, as well as representatives from the Brooklyn Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New York Public Library, and the Mayor. When reviewing designs, the PDC considers an array of design parameters such as the unique history and context of the site, durability and resiliency of materials, and how to successfully achieve the desired function and programs so that the built project can best serve New Yorkers.

Annual Awards for Excellence in Design

Since 1983, the Public Design Commission has recognized well-designed public projects with its Annual Awards for Excellence in Design. The winning projects are selected from the submissions reviewed by the Commission the previous year and exemplify best practices in public design. These projects range in size from large scale mixed-use developments to prototypical bioswales, and incorporate green infrastructure, waterfront resiliency, accessibility, innovative materials, creative planning, and sustainability.

What Sustainability Means for New York City In 2020

Since 2015, New York City has been committed to becoming an international role model for resiliency, sustainability, and equity. With the OneNYC strategy, the de Blasio Administration laid the groundwork for achieving this goal, outlining local actions that overlap with the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by global leaders through the United Nations. In 2019, New York City launched OneNYC 2050 and formally committed to submitting a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) to the United Nations every year, highlighting the city’s sustainable development achievements. In 2020, with the global COVID-19 pandemic, we have at times lost sight of the goals we set five years ago. Communities and lives have been devastated, bringing new attention to fragile and inequitable economic and healthcare systems. Budgets have been cut and projects put on hold while cities struggle to contain a virus and keep their citizens safe. However, during this time we’ve also seen an inspiring level of innovation and creative problem-solving, including temporary designs like shared streets that promote health, well-being, and safe recreation. Ultimately, this crisis is a call to action, and designers and civic workers are taking up the challenge. How can urban design promote equality, provide opportunity, build community and strengthen democracy? The Public Design Commission looks forward to working collaboratively with our colleagues to identify new ways of designing Toward a Sustainable New York City.

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Public Design and the SDGs

The New York City Public Design Commission supports the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the global blueprint adopted by all countries at the United Nations to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, encompassing strategies to end poverty, improve health and education, reduce inequality, spur economic growth, and tackle climate change.

Learn more about the SDGs online at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs
OneNYC 2050: Building a Strong and Fair City

OneNYC 2050 is a strategy to secure New York City’s future against the challenges of today and tomorrow. With bold actions to confront our climate crisis, achieve equity, and strengthen our democracy, we are building a strong and fair city.

**A Vibrant Democracy**
New York City will involve every New Yorker in the civic and democratic life of the city, welcoming immigrants, advancing justice, and leading on the global stage.

**An Inclusive Economy**
New York City will grow and diversify its economy so that it creates opportunity for all, safeguards the American dream, and addresses the racial wealth gap.

**Thriving Neighborhoods**
New York City will foster communities that have safe and affordable housing and are well-served by parks, cultural resources, and shared spaces.

**Healthy Lives**
New York City will reduce inequities in health outcomes by addressing their root causes in residents’ daily lives, guaranteeing health care and facilitating both healthy lifestyles and a healthy physical environment.

**Equity and Excellence in Education**
New York City will have a diverse and fair school system that delivers a high-quality education to children of all backgrounds and serves as a national model.

**Efficient Mobility**
New York City will enable reliable, safe, and sustainable transportation options so that no New Yorker needs to rely on a car.

**A Livable Climate**
New York City will lead a just transition to achieve carbon neutrality and adapt to the city to withstand and emerge stronger from the impacts of climate change.

**Modern Infrastructure**
New York City will invest in reliable physical and digital infrastructure that is ready to meet the needs of a 21st century city.

By demonstrating directly how OneNYC 2050 aligns with the SDGs, we strengthen our efforts to build a strong and fair city. OneNYC consists of eight goals and thirty related initiatives.

Learn more about OneNYC 2050 online at: https://onenyc.cityofnewyork.us
I.

38th Annual Award-Winning Projects
Bronx Point
Mixed-use Development

575 Exterior Street, Major Deegan Expressway, 141st Street Bridge, East 150th Street, and the Harlem River, the Bronx

A project of the Economic Development Corporation, the Department of Parks & Recreation, L+M Development Partners, and TypeAProjects.

59 Architecture
Marvel Architects
Abel Bainnson Butz

This mixed-use neighborhood development along the Harlem River replaces a long-vacant industrial site with approximately 542 units of permanently affordable housing, retail and community facilities—including a dedicated home to the Universal Hip Hop Museum—and three acres of public open space. The bustle of vehicular traffic on the expressway and bridge, freight trains, the tidal river, and pedestrians surround the site. The design echoes these urban rhythms with varying facade shifts, terraced massing, and framed cutouts. The materials—brick, stone, metal, and concrete—were chosen for their durability and reference to the texture of the neighborhood and vernacular of the South Bronx.

At the base of the building, a grand landscaped staircase opens up to a waterfront park and esplanade with resilient vegetation and ample shade under canopy trees. Through a series of community workshops, several key program activities and needs were identified for the open space. The improved BBQ picnic area, playground, restored shorelines, and get-down to the water reflect this input while striking a balance between public water access and ecological restoration along the water’s edge. Taken all together, the development will serve as a cultural anchor and focal point of community activity.

Design Team

59 Architecture
John Clifford, Founding Principal; Pascale Sablon, Founding Principal (In Memoriam); Paul Can, Principal; Pascale Sablon, Senior Associate; Ramon Ghods, Senior Associate; David Gagne, Senior Associate; Marvel Architects
Jonathan Marvel, Principal; Yadid Rivera-Diaz, Landscape Architect; Tyler Silverthorn, Landscape Architect; Yadiel Rivera-Diaz, Landscape Architect
Marvel Architects
Jonathan Marvel, Founding Principal; Yadiel Rivera-Diaz, Founding Principal; Paul Carr, Principal; Pascale Sablon, Senior Associate; Jennifer Fatos, Senior Project Manager; Julia Leung, Project Manager; Ken Hube, Project Manager; Cosentini Associates
Michael Maybaum, Executive Vice President; Greg Maccorona, Vice President; Ermir Bux, Vice President; Tom Clifford, Senior Associate; WSP
Susan Boddy Horne, Senior Vice President; Katrina Poly-Hopp, Senior Associate; Fisher Marantz Stone
Enrique Garcia-Carrera, Associate Principal; Carla Ross Allen, Landscape Architect; Yadiel Rivera-Diaz, Landscape Architect; Abel Bainnson Butz
Terri-Lee Burger, Principal in Charge; Daniel Weissman, Project Manager; Langlois Chris Villalobos, Principal; Mimi Regalia, Senior Associate; Jennifer Fatos, Project Manager; Nidal On, Project Manager; Langan
Chris Vitolano, Principal; Mimi Raygorodetsky, senior Associate; Jennifer Fatos, Project Engineer; Julia Leung, Project Engineer; Ken Hube, Project Manager; L+M Development Partners
David Dishy, President; Josue Sanchez, Senior Director; John Mazzeo, Preconstruction Project Manager; Michael Maybaum, Executive Vice President; Ceclio Kussman, Executive Vice President; Susan Goldfinger, Senior Vice President; Bryan Lee, Vice President; Nicole Campos, Vice President; Nate Grav, Vice President; Charlie Sambrook, Vice President; Gata Bohit, Senior Vice President; Vawatra Mandah, Senior Project Manager, Dougals Land; Atkins
James Patchett, President & Chief Executive Officer; Seth Myers, Executive Vice President; Hester Mui, Executive Vice President; Cecilio Kussman, Executive Vice President; Susan Goldfinger, Senior Vice President; Bryan Lee, Vice President; Nicole Campos, Vice President; Nate Grav, Vice President; Charlie Sambrook, Vice President; Gata Bohit, Senior Vice President; Vawatra Mandah, Senior Project Manager, Dougals Land; Atkins
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Para Roberto by Melissa Calderon

Melissa Calderon, Garrison Architects

Para Roberto is a site-specific memorial artwork in honor of the late Roberto Clemente, Hall of Fame outfielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates, humanitarian, and Latin American icon. Located within the newly opened Roberto Clemente Plaza in the South Bronx, the artwork incorporates familiar elements that speak to the memories and history of Clemente’s life and the shared experiences of the many Bronxites that have come to New York City from Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and beyond.

The sculpture’s central feature is a bronze chair typical to one an abuelo (grandfather) might use in Puerto Rico, where Clemente was born. Artist Melissa Calderon imagines that Clemente would have sat in a similar chair reminiscing and telling stories. Surrounding the chair, an arbor of sugarcane stalks stand like quiet sentinels, representing the hardships Clemente and his family faced working in the sugarcane fields, a common experience in the colonial history of the Caribbean.

The memorial is a reminder that history shapes the future and provides the foundation to move forward and achieve success. Together, the artwork and plaza promote healthy living and equity by providing inclusionary green open space and commemorating an immigrant and local hero.

“I believe that every human being is equal, but one has to fight hard all the time to maintain that equality.”
- Roberto Clemente

Design Team

Melissa Calderon, Artist; Jake Alfieri, Project Manager; Maria G. Escalera-Joy, Architectural Draftsman; Chancey Fleet, NYPL Assistive Technology Coordinator; Christine Wright, Project Coordinator, Pollock Talas/UAH; Anthony Santoro, Toccam; Carl Monte, Prestige Powers; Patrick Alan, Transport and Installation; Garrison Architects: James Carlson, Principal, Sit Traching; Senior Associate Department of Cultural Affairs: Gonzalo Casas, Commissioner; Kendall Henry, Percent for Art Director; Reina Sriboda, former Percent for Art Deputy Director; Koya Coleman, Percent for Art Deputy Director; Sergio Pardo Lopez, Percent for Art Program Manager; Department of Design and Construction: Laraine Grillo, Commissioner; Jamie Torres-Springer, First Deputy Commissioner; Eric Macfarlane, Deputy Commissioner; Thomas Foley, Deputy Commissioner; Michaela McCallo, Director of Project Excellence; Becky Fia; Senior Design Liaison; Eric Boroony, Associate Commissioner; Margarite Castillo, Chief Architect; Card Clark, Director; Naro Pielme, Deputy Director of Public Art; Nora Bouff, Public Art Manager; Mohsen Jargaleldr, Associate Commissioner; How Sean Pou, Assistant Commissioner; Ali Mallick, Assistant Commissioner; Jorge Tua, Executive Director; Lambert Monoh, Director; Leslie Devine, Deputy Director; Timothy Lynch, Senior Design Liaison; Glorybee Taveras, Engineer in Charge; Fares Abdulrazzak, Engineer in Charge; Anthony Nieves, PA Borough Director; A.H.A. Choudhury, Senior Project Manager DOT Department of Transportation: Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner; Joseph Loria, Executive Deputy Commissioner; Margarite Forgone, Chief Operations Officer; Ninardo Lopez, Bronx Borough Commissioner; Keith Kalb, Deputy Bronx Borough Commissioner; Elizabeth Franklin, Associate Commissioner; Richard Egan, Executive Director; Leslie Wolf, Executive Director; Christopher Hamby, Co-Director; Gavin Bartley, Co-Director; Hanna Bajewski, Director; Hayden Benjamin, Assistant Director; Eric Beaton, Deputy Commissioner; Sean Quinn, Assistant Commissioner; Emily Weidenhof, Assistant Director of Public Space; David Beem, former Deputy Director; Wendy Rizer, Assistant Commissioner; Emily Colascio, Director DOT Art & Event Programming; Nina Momen, Senior Program Manager; Melissa Lazor, Project Manager; Neel Jagjwala, Director of Urban Design; Nicholas Patrillo, Deputy Director of Urban Design Third Avenue BID: Michael Brody, Executive Director; Andrea Mohr, Chief of Staff
Red Hook Library Renovation

7 Wolcott Street, Brooklyn

A project of the Economic Development Corporation and the Brooklyn Public Library

LevenBetts
SCAPE

This comprehensive renovation transforms a one-story 1970s-era library into an iconic neighborhood resource with multi-generational programming to meet the needs of the surrounding community. Enlarged windows bring light into the building and open up views to the surrounding landscape, providing equitable and healthy workspaces within. The relocated entrances enhance site circulation, pedestrian safety, and connectivity. The perforated pattern of variegated light gray concrete brick facade integrates the building with the materiality of the neighborhood, and establishes a civic identity that is distinct yet complementary of the residential, commercial, and industrial buildings nearby.

Given the library’s location in the floodplain, the project incorporates resilient design by integrating flood mitigation strategies in both the architecture and the landscape. The green outdoor spaces include a bioswale garden and shaded areas for classrooms and experiential learning. At the new entrance, existing gates are removed and seating is added to create a more open and welcoming library presence. Altogether, the Red Hook Library will become a source of community pride and inspiration.

Design Team

LevenBetts David Leven, Partner; Stella Betts, Partner SCAPE Lin Pham, Senior Designer Silman Nat Copenheaver, Principal; Thomas Reynolds, Associate Plus Group Consulting Engineering Irina Mulla, Principal; McLane Engineering Group Brendan Kelley, Associate Tillotson Design Associates Suzan Tillotson, Principal; William Vielce Associates Joe DeCeglie, Senior Vice President Armand Corporation Shamsul Adabi, Associate Vice President Economic Development Corporation James Patchett, President & Chief Executive Officer; Seth Myers, Executive Vice President; Len Greco, Senior Vice President; Raksha Ghulati, Associate Vice President; Gabe Rothstein, Vice President Brooklyn Public Library Linda E. Johnson, President & Chief Executive Officer; Nick Higgins, Chief Librarian; Karen Sheehan, Executive Vice President; Finance & Administration; Chief Financial Officer; David Woloch, Executive Vice President; External Affairs; Fidel Helika, Vice President; Capital Planning & Fiscal Management; Angeline Quirona, Project Director; Brian Cornish, Capital Projects Coordinator and Public Design Commission liaison

Economic Development Corporation James Patchett, President & Chief Executive Officer; Seth Myers, Executive Vice President; Len Greco, Senior Vice President; Raksha Ghulati, Associate Vice President; Gabe Rothstein, Vice President; Len Green, Executive Vice President; Len Greco; Raksha Ghulati; Fidel Helika; Brian Cornish; Capital Projects Coordinator and Public Design Commission liaison
Colorful Companions by Olalekan Jeyifous
Brooklyn Animal Care Center, 832 Shepherd Avenue, Brooklyn

A project of the Department of Cultural Affairs’ Percent for Art Program, the Department of Design and Construction, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Animal Care Centers of NYC

Olalekan Jeyifous
Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects

Integrated throughout the exterior and interior of the new Brooklyn Animal Care Center in East New York, Colorful Companions features larger-than-life-sized dogs, cats, and rabbits in vibrant colors that reference the playful relationship between people and their pets. Responding to the scale of Linden Boulevard, a major east-west connector, the bold graphics on the façade are visible from afar by drivers and pedestrians. The size of the artwork is reduced to a human-scale as people approach the entrance, drawing visitors into the site and engaging them while they are inside.

The graphics were derived from a library of visual assets that Olalekan Jeyifous developed early in the process to enable design flexibility as the project evolved. The imagery is applied in durable materials, including aluminum panels and glass mosaics, and in colors ranging from a bold primary palette to cooler tones of greens and blues that subtly complement the building’s wayfinding. While the imagery is both striking and whimsical, it serves to emphasize the importance of animal adoption, reinforcing the primary objectives of the Brooklyn Animal Care Center.

Design Team
Olalekan Jeyifous, Artist, Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects
Henry Smith-Miller, Partner; Alexander Cornhill, Project Architect; Alexander Alm, Project Architect; Emily Po, Senior Architectural Designer; Beso Akukli, Junior Architectural Designer; Sarah Bujnowski, Junior Architectural Designer
Nancy Owens Studio: Nancy Owens, Principal; Amy Sommer, Senior Landscape Architect; Sandy Wei, Junior Landscape Architect
Department of Cultural Affairs: Gonzalo Casals, Commissioner; Kendal Henry, Percent for Art Director; Reina Shibata, former Percent for Art Deputy Director; Koya Coleman, Percent for Art Deputy Director; Sergio Parodi, Deputy for Art Program Manager
Department of Design and Construction: Lorraine Grillo, Commissioner; Janice Torres-Springer, First Deputy Commissioner; Thomas Foley, Deputy Commissioner; Christine Funk, Director of Program Administration; Michaela Metcalfe, Director of Project Excellence; Becky Funk, Senior Design Liaison; Dephne Losky, Design Liaison; Eric Bonin, Associate Commissioner; Margaret Castillo, Chief Architect; Carol Clark, Director of Public Art; Mania Diente, Deputy Director of Public Art; Dora Bourn, Public Art Manager; Sol Coll, Associate Commissioner; Nancy Owens, Studio Principal; Amy Sommer, Senior Landscape Architect; Sandy Wei, Junior Landscape Architect
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: Dave A. Chokshi, Commissioner; Sheila Benjamin, Assistant Commissioner
Animal Care Centers of NYC: Risa Weinstock, President & Chief Executive Officer; Jennifer Piibe, General Counsel; Emmanuel Rivera, Facilities Supervisor
Originally completed in 1914, this classically detailed Carnegie Library is one of the finest examples of its type. However, as one of Brooklyn Public Library’s busiest location that over time has been subject to sub-standard renovations, demands for additional space and upgrades to existing interior spaces were at the forefront of this project. The expansion and renovation will comprehensively address programming, operations, and infrastructural needs while returning the original structure to its former beauty.

Nestled discretely at the southern edge of the site, the addition defers to and complements the existing structure while also providing light-filled spaces that improve connections and flow throughout the library. Double-height reading rooms, mezzanines, and a suite of spaces serve a range of programs. By reorganizing the functional components of the building, such as restrooms and vertical circulation, the design encourages equity, good health and well-being, while removing barriers to access.

Designed for efficiency and longevity, the project includes ample daylighting, an extensive green roof, reduced energy costs, wise use of materials and resources, and adaptive building systems. The design honors a civic treasure and provides generous inclusive space for patrons of diverse ages, abilities and backgrounds, and the flexibility to accommodate new needs and activities for years to come.
Primary Settling Tanks
Pre-houses Rehabilitation

3rd Drive between B Road and H Road, Wards Island Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility, Wards Island

A project of the Department of Environmental Protection
DEP In-house
CDM Smith

Every day, New York City’s 14 wastewater resource recovery facilities treat over a billion gallons of wastewater to remove pollutants and release clean water into the surrounding waterways. The Wards Island facility has been in operation since 1937, and today it serves over a million New Yorkers in the Bronx and Manhattan. The Wards Island pre-houses enclose the electrical and mechanical equipment that support one of the first steps in the wastewater treatment process: primary settling, wherein heavier solid organics sink down and are removed from the water.

The design for the rehabilitation draws from the material, texture, and color palette of the facility’s existing architecture, which ranges from WPA-era to contemporary, in order to establish a fresh yet contextual design. The rehabilitated pre-houses are re-clad in a lightweight rainscreen system of blue face brick and pearlescent metal paneling, delineated by a strong red stripe running across the parapet and down the façade in the form of the downspout. The ratio of brick to metal panel cladding alternates from one pre-house to the next to create a visual valley down the battalty of tanks, and each structure is numbered with an impactful supergraphic.

Design Team

Department of Environmental Protection
Vincent Sapienza, Commissioner; Ana Barrio, Deputy Commissioner for Engineering, Design & Construction; Michael DeLeoach, Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs & Communications; Lindsay DeQuardle, Executive Program Manager; Punima Dharla, Executive Director, In-House Design; Kenneth Morality, Executive Director of Wastewater Capital Program; Michael Leahy, Deputy Director, In-House Design; Nayankumar Shah, Portfolio Manager; Matthew Lihman, Chief, Process Mechanics Engineer; Bobby Kurikose, former Electrical Section Chief; Selene Welletta, Accountable Manager; Robert Quezas, Architectural Section Manager; Anthony Thompson, Architectural BIM Designer; Nina Rafiee, Assistant Architect; Jorge Santiesteban, Electrical Engineer; Niha Habib, Electrical Engineering Intern; Oif hud, Assistant Mechanical Engineer; Eric Moy, Assistant Mechanical Engineer; You Chong Chan, Mechanical Engineering Intern; Amrit Bhatnagar, Mechanical Engineering Intern; Maria Master, Civil Engineering Intern; Omar Shah, CAD Operator; Spencer Sallberg, Senior Permit Manager; Alicia West, Director of Public Design Outreach
CDM
Paul Bedigian, Senior Structural Engineer; Tim Montgomery, Structural Engineer; Darcy Rosenthal, Senior Civil Engineer; Keith Willams, Senior Architect; Ryan Dreese, Architectural Designer; Dennis Burge, Architectural Specifications Writer
Monsignor Kett
Playground Reconstruction

West 204th Street between Nagle Avenue and Tenth Avenue,
Manhattan

A project of the Department of Parks & Recreation

DPR In-house

Also known as Dyckman Park, Monsignor Kett has been a crucial community space in Inwood since 1949. This design enhances spaces for long-standing events such as the yearly bazaar that raises funds for reinvestment in the neighborhood and the popular Dyckman streetball tournament.

In the spirit of NYC’s Parks Without Borders program, the design lowers perimeter fencing and establishes a welcoming entrance while enveloping the playground in greenspace. At the ball courts, colorful cushioned surfacing and permanent high-rise bleachers enhance the game-watching experience. Nearby, areas for fitness equipment and calisthenics expand the range of activities for adults and teens while a separated calm area provides for the needs of children with autism.

The resilient design addresses climate change by relocating critical infrastructure above projected high-water levels and including flood-resilient materials in low-lying areas. The comfort station is relocated to a natural high point of the site that has been re-graded to maintain universal access for visitors with disabilities. These measures, along with increased permeability, will allow the site to recover quickly from storm events. This project marks the largest reinvestment the City has made in this vital open space and ensures the continuation of this cultural resource into the future.

Design Team

Department of Parks & Recreation: Mitchell J. Silver, Commissioner; Thérèse Braddick, Deputy Commissioner; Capital Projects: William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner; Nancy Prisco, Chief of Landscape Architecture; Steva Simon, Chief of Staff, Manhattan; Desmond Spillane, Team Leader, Manhattan; Leslie Peoples, Director of Landscape Architecture, Manhattan; Jon Embesager, Deputy Design Director; George Bozmer, Deputy Design Director; Jennifer Hoppa, Administrator, North Manhattan Parks; Kevin Moulthrop, Specifications Writer; Ina Lee, Associate Urban Designer; Sheena Brown, Public Design Commission Liaison; LiRo Group: Anthony Weber, Project Manager and Civil Engineer; Taras Kisheluk, Plumbing Engineer; Francisco Gomez, Electrical Engineer
Michaelis-Bayswater Park Reconstruction

Bay 32nd Street, Beach Channel Drive, Beach 35th Street, and Norton Avenue, Far Rockaway, Queens

A project of the Department of Parks & Recreation

NVS

Located within the Rockaway Peninsula, this 30-acre park is an essential resource for the surrounding residential neighborhood and was badly damaged by Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The reconstruction protects the park from future flood damage anticipated from rising sea levels with a resiliency strategy based on research and field studies conducted on site and at Jamaica Bay. The design includes a stabilized and elevated shoreline along the bay that protects the inland site and reduces shore erosion. Furthermore, reconstructed utilities throughout the site provide a green infrastructure stormwater collection and discharge system.

Developed with the direct engagement of local groups, the design addresses community needs with passive and active recreation spaces for a variety of users. Open lawns and an observation hill showcase views of Jamaica Bay while picnic areas offer enhanced capacity and seating. A walking loop through the park connects to an adult fitness area while playgrounds provide activity space for kids of all ages. Additionally, reconstructed athletic facilities include courts for basketball, tennis, and handball, and sports fields that double as events space for performances and festivals. A future phase of the project will include a comfort station and maintenance building with green roofs, designed by WXY architecture + urban design.

Design Team

NVS: Jackson Wankes, Director of Landscape Architecture; Takuma Odo, Senior Landscape Architect; Alexander Remman, Principal Landscape Architect; Emma Goode, Assistant Landscape Architect; Tapun Dong, Assistant Landscape Architect; Cary Segner, Senior Landscape Architect; Chido Strong, Assistant Landscape Architect; Bla Lehmann, Assistant Landscape Architect; Wendy Snow, Principal Engineer; Justin Huang, Engineer; Elio Jung, Senior Engineer; Muhammad Kohn, Engineer; Jocelyn Rottmann, Senior Engineer; Yara Ebral, Assistant Engineer; Jacob Moren, Assistant Engineer; Peter Ogornik, Assistant Engineer; Monique Phillips, Senior Engineer; Lam Matter, Director of Survey; Edward Zafmann, Senior CADD Technician; Richard Parker, Director of Cultural Resources; Jean Hewson, Cultural Resources Specialist; Jan Brandon, Cultural Resources Specialist; Lynn Brass-Smith, Senior Ecologist; Ashley Melfi, Senior Ecologist; Department of Parks & Recreation: Mitchell J. Silver, Commissioner; Jennifer Borden, Deputy Commissioner; Thérèse Braddick, Deputy Commissioner; Capital Projects; Michael Docke, Queens Borough Commissioner; Nancy Prince, Chief of Landscape Architecture; Joanne Armagrande, Chief of Staff; Queens; Sarah Nislow, Chief of Policy and Long-Range Planning; Eric Maffes, Team Leader, Queens; Diane Dasser, Director of Landscape Architecture; Queens; Jorge Prado, Director of Architecture; Ruby Wei, Director of Specifications and Estimating; Doug Sassler, Director of Landscape Construction; David Cuff, Director of Environmental Review; Kristen King, Director of Natural Areas Restoration and Management; Eric Paterson, Rockaway Administrator; Nicholas Miglionico, Deputy Director of Landscape Architecture; Queens; Raymond Patmore, Deputy Director of Engineering; Kouichi Komuro, Consultant Project Manager; Heidi Maschino, Senior Civil Engineer; Sandy Sanis, Assistant Civil Engineer; Gregory Losapio, Capital Projects; Mike Aikio, Assistant Project Manager; Mitchell Cushing, Senior Project Planner; Rebecca Swedler, Senior Wetlands Restoration Program Manager; Ross Diamond, Natural Resources Review Coordinator; Kristen Alexander, Ecological Restoration Project Manager; Elizabeth Jordan, Senior Design Manager; Novem Auyeung, Senior Scientist; Sheena Brown, Public Design Commission Liaison.
Curiouser by Mark Reigelman

Curiouser by Mark Reigelman
Charleston Branch Library, Tyrrellan Avenue and Bricktown Way, Staten Island

A project of the Department of Cultural Affairs’ Percent for Art Program, the Economic Development Corporation, and the New York Public Library

Mark Reigelman II
ikon.5 architects

Located within the newly constructed Charleston Branch library, Curiouser is a collection of bronze sculptures placed throughout the facility, encouraging visitors to explore and immerse themselves in the library’s collection. The objects – ranging from a bear to crow – capture the essence of important literary moments and are strategically placed within the library’s architectural habitats.

A distracted cat greets visitors and lazily guards the entryway, a play on connotations of the all-knowing sphinx. In the foyer, golden bricks tile the floor, referencing Staten Island’s brick manufacturing heritage and the Yellow Brick Road by which patrons travel along their journey. The teen room showcases a lustrous shell, an object traditionally used as ceremonial decoration among Staten Island’s indigenous peoples, while also referencing nautical coming-of-age books like Lord of the Flies. Buried throughout the stacks in the main room are three golden apples, mythological markers of immortality. Meanwhile, a giant decorative key adorns the circulation desk, granting all visitors access to knowledge.

Much like the books within the library, these cast sculptures are meant to become portals to other worlds to explore and inhabit. As a collection, Curiouser honors the history of Staten Island while elevating interactive components of literary history and the shared experience of education.

Design Team
Mark Reigelman II, Artist, ikon.5 architects
Anind Tiku, Managing Principal; Joseph Tattara, Design Principal; Charles Mora, Technical Principal; Michael Zareva, Project Architect; Jovanova Manrogo, Project Architect; Andrew Skry, Project Architect; Nancy Owens Studio
Nancy Owens, Principal; Anna Berman, Landscape Architect; Dima Tao, Landscape Designer; Lamon Josep Secarxi, Associate; Amy Beil, Senior Engineer
LEBA Consulting Structural Engineers
Elios Mathis, Principal; Yue Zhao, Associate; Rafael Ronan; Joseph Lembo, Partner; Christopher Kalling, Principal; Jerry Maronval, Senior Engineer; Cerami & Associates
Benjamin Joseph, Associate Principal; Carmen Danescu, Associate Principal; Caitlin Ornside, Senior Associate; Atelier Ten
Larry Jones, Principal; Eion Grossi, Environmental Designer; Norton Less Brompton Lighting Design
Barbara Horton, Principal; Michelle Douglas, Associate; Kathryn Forbes, Designer; T-Squared Design
Yahia Tomanaki, President, Department of Cultural Affairs
Gonzalo Coscar, Commissioner; Kendal Henry, Percent for Art Director, Reina Shabata, Former Percent for Art Deputy Director, Kavita Coleman, Percent for Art Deputy Director, Sergio Pardo, Lopes, Percent for Art Program Manager; Economic Development Corporation
James Patchett, President & Chief Executive Officer; Liz Arndt, Executive Vice President; Len Grico, Senior Vice President; Carl Rothschild, Vice President; Wil Fisher, Assistant Vice President; Emily Rubenstein, Senior Vice President; Alison Landry, Vice President; Zack Aders, Assistant Vice President; David Smucker, Project Director; Alyssa Fernandes, Senior Project Support Analyst; Aneesa Bangaree, Project Support Analyst; The New York Public Library
Kerry Gould, Director of Planning, Capital Planning & Construction; Rico Hong, Vice President, Capital Planning & Construction; Marie Coughlin, Associate Director, Staten Island Neighborhood Library Network; Yolanda Renee Berson, Borough Director, Staten Island & Manhattan Neighborhood Library Networks; George Mihaltses, Vice President for Government and Community Affairs
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Department of Cultural Affairs’ Percent for Art Program

For its dedication to quality and equity in the City’s public art collection.

Established in 1982, the Percent for Art Program has commissioned more than 400 artworks that enhance civic spaces throughout the five boroughs of New York City. Facilitated through the City’s capital construction process where one percent of the budget for eligible City-funded construction projects is allocated towards artwork, the site-specific pieces are installed within public projects such as parks, plazas, streetscapes, libraries and schools with a focus on serving underrepresented communities and under-resourced and growing neighborhoods.

Guided by the principles of the OneNYC strategy to build a strong and fair city, the Percent for Art Program utilizes a fair and equitable artist selection process that reflects the diversity of New York City. The process is collaborative and iterative, resulting in artworks that have been created in a variety of materials, including mosaic, glass, textiles, and bronze. All of the installations are site specific, with some works completely integrated into infrastructure or architecture.

By bringing artists into the design process through this program, the City’s civic and community buildings are enriched beyond measure. Located in accessible venues outside of the traditional museum or gallery settings, Percent for Art installations serve as expressions of their communities and inspiration to all New Yorkers.

Design Team

Department of Cultural Affairs
Tom Finkelpearl, former Commissioner; Gonzalo Casals, Commissioner; Shirley Levy, Chief of Staff

Department of Cultural Affairs’ Percent for Art Program
Kendall Henry, Director; Reina Sibatzu, former Deputy Director; Kayla Coleman, Deputy Director; Sergio Pando Lopez, Program Manager; Ottavia Crucitti Alloisio, Curatorial Fellow; Wesley Goodrich, Intern; Sara Rainman, former Director; Kelly Pjaje, former Deputy Director; Lisa Kim, former Director; Charlotte Cohen, former Director; Cathie Beirne; former Deputy Director; Jennifer McCaugher, former Director; Karen Hvis, former Deputy Director

Department of Design and Construction
Lorraine Grillo, Commissioner; Margaret Castillo, Chief Architect; Carol Clark, Director; Xeniis Diaz, Deputy Director of Public Art; Dora Blount, Public Art Manager

Department of Transportation
Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner; Wendy Feuer, Assistant Commissioner, Urban Design + Art + Wayfinding; Nina Manara, Senior Program Manager; Melissa Lazoz, Project Manager

Economic Development Corporation
James Patchett, President & Chief Executive Officer; Leonard Greco, Senior Vice President; Gabe Rothfran, Vice President

Department of Parks & Recreation
Mitchell Silver, Commissioner; Sam Biederman, Senior Advisor and Assistant Commissioner; Jonathan Kuhn, Director; Art & Antiquities; Jennifer Lantzas, Deputy Director; Art & Antiquities; Colombina Valera, former Monuments Coordinator

School Construction Authority Public Art Program
Tania Duvergne, Director; Jennifer Macdonald, Project Manager; Molly Dilworth, Project Manager

Public Design Commission
Justin Garrett Moore, Executive Director; Karin Butler, Deputy Executive Director; Carolina Zano, Project Manager
SPECIAL RECOGNITION
Hunter’s Point South
Waterfront Park & Streetscape

50th Avenue, Second Street, Newtown Creek, and the East River, Long Island City, Queens

A project of the Economic Development Corporation, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Parks & Recreation

SWA/Balsley
Weiss/Manfredi
ARUP

Transforming a former industrial site along the Long Island City waterfront, this ambitious development has become a model of urban ecology and a laboratory for innovative sustainable design.

The curvilinear form of the park was created using existing infill from the site and allows for meandering paths and berm-like grassy areas for passive recreation. The landscaped forms provide storm buffers that also stifle the noises from the nearby streets. The water’s edge was returned to a natural wetland habitat with salt marsh plants that also clean the river, and the adjacent streetscapes were improved with new infrastructure and plantings.

At the northern edge, a sports field provides active recreation space and is in easy reach of the pavilion that offers concessions and shaded areas for respite. Pedestrian and bike paths lead to the Peninsula, a grassy oval that features the photoluminescent art installation, Luminescence, by Nobuho Nagasawa depicting the seven phases of the moon.

In full, the 11-acre park provides a community anchor to serve the adjacent largely affordable residential buildings and school with critical open space, as well as visitors from all over New York City, many of whom arrive via the City’s new ferry system, with an unrivaled destination including views of the Manhattan skyline and East River.

Design Team

SWA/Balsley
Thomas Balsley, Managing Principal; Christian Gabriel, Senior Associate; Brian Staresnick, Associate; Dale Schaller, Senior Associate; Jacob Glaser, Associate; Shigako Kawasuki, Senior Associate; Weiss/Manfredi
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Tom Kennady, Principal; James DeMarco, Senior Engineer; Louis Ellis, Associate; Shaina Saporta, Associate; Chris Rush, Associate; Victoria Valencia, Senior Engineer; Judy Vukos, Senior BM Designer; Christoph Gial, Senior Consultant
Economic Development Corporation
James Patchett, President & Chief Executive Officer; Leonard Greco, Vice President; Dale Pollak, Vice President; Elizabeth Bird, Assistant Vice President

Economic Development Corporation
James Patchett, President & Chief Executive Officer; Leonard Greco, Senior Vice President; Gale Rothstein, Vice President; Brigid Keating, Assistant Vice President

Department of Transportation
Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner; Joseph Janis, Executive Deputy Commissioner; Margaret Furgone, Chief Operations Officer; Nicole Garcia, Queens Borough Commissioner; Dalila Hall, former Queens Borough Commissioner; Vikram Sinha, former Queens Borough Commissioner; Samantha Dolgoff, Director of Strategic Projects; Ghanshyam Patel, former Director of Street Lighting; Yelena Minevich, former Director, Buildings Pavement Plan; Chingi Amin, Deputy Director; Matthew Fidalgo, Chief of Urban Design; Nicholas Pappas, Deputy Director of Urban Design

Department of Parks & Recreation
Mitchell J. Silver, Commissioner; Thérèse Braddick, Deputy Commissioner for Capital Projects; Alyssa Cobb Konon, Deputy Commissioner for Planning and Development; Dorothy Lewandowski, former Queens Borough Commissioner; Michael Dockeett, Queens Borough Commissioner; Nancy Prince, Chief of Landscape Architecture; Nicholas Maloof, Chief of Planning and Neighborhood Development; Eric Mottrs, Queens Team Leader; James Mituzas, Queens Director of Landscape Architecture; Nicholas Magilton, Deputy Director of Landscape Architecture; Koushi Kurono, Consultant Project Manager; Sheena Brown, Public Design Commission Liaison
II. Toward a Sustainable New York City
Five Years of Public Design
Greenpoint Library and Environmental Education Center

107 Norman Avenue, Brooklyn
A project of the Brooklyn Public Library

Marble Faibanks Architects
SCAPE Landscape Architecture

The Greenpoint Library and Environmental Center replaces an existing, outdated one-story library, providing significantly enlarged indoor and outdoor space to house everyday library use and programming for the exploration of the environment. The facility includes reading rooms for all ages, small public meeting rooms, lab space for interactive projects, and a large community event space. Exceeding LEED Gold goals, the center also aligns with many of the OneNYC initiatives, promoting equity and excellence in education, and demonstrating innovative approaches to sustainable design.

The transparent glass facades on the southern and western approaches direct visitors to the entrance and reveal the activities within the building. The outdoor plaza offers an engaging public space that demonstrates sustainability with native plants and bioswales and reinterprets the environmental history of the region with glaciated rock outcroppings. Two rooftop gardens feature outdoor gathering and workspaces, demonstration planters, and a rainwater harvesting tank. Additionally, the branch will leverage its proximity to Newtown Creek and the growing group of environmentally-focused, community-based organizations to highlight its education programs.

This library serves as a public demonstration of sustainable building design and contributes to the resiliency of our built environment. It is a project that strengthens the local community, provides critical social infrastructure, and addresses the health and wellness of the public, embodying many of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, through its efforts to provide safe, inclusive access to green and public spaces and to safeguard our city’s natural heritage.
In January 2018, the Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers submitted its final report to the City of New York, establishing guiding principles for the critical review of the City’s public art collection. Created by Mayor de Blasio in the wake of national uprisings against Confederate monuments, the Commission held a series of public hearings and meetings over the course of four months, offering opportunities for public dialogue, engagement, and debate.

Committed to a process of historical reckoning, the Commission members came to this project with a nuanced understanding of the complicated histories of our country. They gave thoughtful consideration to the various time periods and methods of acquisition that led to the current collection of public monuments and markers, which celebrates some histories and ignores others. While the project was locally-focused on New York City’s monuments and markers, the Commission undertook its work upholding global values of justice, inclusion, transparency and equity. One key recommendation was to proactively invest in the addition of new public works, dialogues, and educational initiatives around historical moments and figures to ensure that public spaces are inclusive for all New Yorkers. In response, the City initiated She Built NYC, a public arts campaign that honors pioneering women and their contributions to the City with permanent monuments.
Designed in close consultation with residents of the Third Street Men’s Shelter and completed in 2018, this project transformed an underutilized East Village lot into a welcoming and productive green space. The garden and greenhouse provide educational spaces for Project Renewal’s culinary training, horticultural therapy, and wellness programs along with a communal open area for shelter residents.

The garden features brightly colored seating, a shade structure, raised planting beds, and permeable paving. A greenhouse with rainwater collection extends the growing season and supports educational and social services programs. Shelter residents participating in Project Renewal’s Culinary Arts Training Program will cultivate herbs and vegetables in the garden and greenhouse that will ultimately be prepared by City Beet Kitchens, a social enterprise linking low-income and formerly homeless adults with food service industry training and jobs. By providing equitable access to healthy food and career training, this project supports OneNYC’s Inclusive Economy initiatives and Sustainable Development Goals related to hunger reduction and fostering decent work for all people.
Dock 72

Brooklyn Navy Yard, Market Street between 6th Street and Assembly Road, Brooklyn

A project of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, Boston Properties, Rudin Development, and WeWork

ARCHITECTURE

Dock 72 embraces rapidly emerging technological and creative industries in Brooklyn with a work environment that encourages and enables hundreds of new and maturing creative startups to flourish. The building’s design celebrates the maritime and industrial history of the Brooklyn Navy Yard while providing 21st-century shared work spaces that allow tenants to contribute to the yard’s renewed life as a growing industrial hub.

V-shaped columns lift the ship-like structure above the floodplain as the building steps up and away from Wallabout Bay, creating terraces with views of the surrounding Navy Yard, the East River, and Manhattan. Paths trace through the gridded façade, suggesting ant farm-like communal spaces and activities within.

Creating 4,000 living-wage jobs, this development supports a key effort of the de Blasio administration’s plan to double employment at the Navy Yard by 2020 and OneNYC’s goal to build a more inclusive economy. The building’s open and flexible workspaces encourage the interaction and foster the sharing of ideas, both of which align with Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth and are critical to entrepreneurship and the development of innovative creative communities.
Parks Without Borders and the Community Parks Initiative

Citywide

A project of the Department of Parks & Recreation

Through Parks Without Borders and the Community Parks Initiative, the Department of Parks & Recreation is working to improve the interface between New York City parks and their surrounding neighborhoods. Supporting both OneNYC initiatives and Sustainable Development Goals, these multi-faceted capital programs reimagine the smaller public parks that New Yorkers use every day throughout the five boroughs. The design principles showcased in these initiatives will be incorporated into a wide range of capital projects, changing the face of hundreds of public parks.

Each Parks Without Borders design concept begins at the park edge, with lower fences and gates, wider and more porous entrances, and improved sightlines into the park. Informed by a wealth of public input, including more than 6,100 nominations for nearly 700 parks, and taking into account physical conditions, context, and overall accessibility, the Parks Department selected eight sites to showcase the Parks Without Borders principles. Furthering the goal of making parks more welcoming, accessible, and active, Parks Without Borders is rooted in the idea that the design of the public realm – streets, sidewalks, and open spaces – should be cohesive and integrated.

The Community Parks Initiative is also transforming many bleak, paved yards surrounded by high chainlink fences into vibrant green parks with playgrounds for children, animated water play spaces, multi-use courts and fields, and sitting areas. This program will strengthen New York City’s network of parks and public space in historically under-served, high-poverty, densely populated and growing neighborhoods, reducing inequalities and promoting universal access to safe, inclusive, green spaces. Developed with community input from more than 2,500 members of the public, the designs will ultimately transform 70 acres of urban parkland and reach nearly half a million people who live within a walk of these parks and multi-generational community gathering places. The initiative also includes five new and 23 reconstructed comfort stations and incorporates green infrastructure to manage on-site and street stormwater runoff.
Brownsville Recreation Center

1555 Linden Boulevard, Brooklyn

A project of the Department of Parks & Recreation

1100 Architect

MNLA

The rehabilitation of the Brownsville Recreation Center will transform an outdated 1950s structure into a vital neighborhood resource. The distinctive signage on the portico at the main entrance pays homage to the original building design, while also enhancing the building’s public-facing presence. Improved circulation and increased transparency will create more inviting and secure spaces for the public and updates to HVAC systems, electrical, and plumbing will render the facility more energy efficient and comfortable. To enhance the pedestrian experience and improve the connection to the outdoor recreation space, the road between the recreation center and the adjacent park will be closed to vehicular traffic and replaced with two welcoming entry plazas with planting and seating. The project supports a range of OneNYC and Sustainable Development Goals through its inclusive and equitable educational and fitness-related programming that promote lifelong learning opportunities and well-being for all. With renovated fitness areas, a pool, a basketball gymnasium, and a range of different multi-purpose classrooms and spaces, the revitalized center will provide the community of Brownsville with enhanced programming and recreation for years to come.
Van Name Van Pelt Plaza/
Richmond Terrace Wetlands

Fresh Kills, Muldoon Avenue and West Shore Expressway,
Staten Island

A project of the Department of Parks & Recreation and the Department of Transportation

Department of Parks & Recreation In-House Design

Designed through the lens of social and environmental sustainability, Van Name Van Pelt Plaza/Richmond Terrace Wetlands transformed a deteriorated waterfront site on Staten Island’s North Shore into a community asset that links the residential neighborhood to the waterfront. Richmond Terrace Park begins at the street where the park contends with a busy truck route. Here, the street edge will be tamed through the installation of wooden guard rails. From the entrance plaza, an ADA accessible path leads visitors through the site passing a classroom-sized gathering area, designed to be programmed for educational use, and then through existing mature trees with seating areas and historic maps depicting the evolution of the shoreline. Finally, the path leads to an overlook pier which extends toward the water and opens to expansive views of the Kill Van Kull, Bayonne Bridge and the remnant wetlands preserved within the parks’ tidal edge.

Using durable, floodable materials, native and resilient coastal plants, and familiar streetscape elements, Van Name Van Pelt Plaza creates a safe streetscape and a resilient coastal edge. The design supports both Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Life Below Water and Goal 15 – Life on Land, balancing the prioritization of public access to the waterfront with the preservation of wetlands and avian habitat, promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, and halting land degradation and biodiversity loss.
Vision Zero Great Streets
Queens Boulevard

Queens Boulevard from Roosevelt Avenue to Union Tpke, Queens

A project of the Department of Design and Construction and the Department of Transportation

AECOM
NV5

Stretching five miles through the most vibrant and diverse neighborhoods in New York City, Queens Boulevard intersects with cultural institutions, shopping centers, four major highways, ten subway stations, and over a dozen bus lines. However, even as the borough of Queens flourishes, its central boulevard remains one of the most dangerous corridors in the city. The Vision Zero Great Streets initiative aims to transform Queens Boulevard into one of the grand thoroughfares of the Eastern Seaboard. One of the key programs of OneNYC’s Efficient Mobility strategy, Vision Zero projects have improved the quality of life in New York City by making city streets more navigable and pleasant places to be and increasing our use of sustainable modes of transportation.

The design for Queens Boulevard will calm traffic by widening the service road medians and provide raised bike paths, pedestrian walkways and broad, tree-filled medians with lush landscaping, bicycle racks, and comfortable seating areas. The bus stops will be relocated to let off passengers onto the widened service road medians, providing generous, accessible circulation areas for pickup and drop-off. The design creates environmental conditions that support public health and well-being, supporting OneNYC’s Healthy Lives initiative and transforming a dangerous, car-oriented corridor into a thriving multimodal connector and a destination enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.
Downtown Far Rockaway Streetscape

Central Avenue, Mott Avenue, Beach 20th Street, Beach 21st Street, and Beach 22nd Street, Queens

A project of the Department of Design and Construction, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Parks & Recreation

W Architecture and Landscape Architecture

The Downtown Far Rockaway Streetscape project is an ambitious collaborative effort between numerous City and State agencies, community groups, and elected officials. After Hurricane Sandy in 2012, it became imperative to redevelop the Downtown Far Rockaway central business district and transportation hub to better serve the diverse neighborhoods of the Rockaway Peninsula. The street reconstruction plan signifies a focus on environmental sustainability and resiliency in the wake of extreme weather events, contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, which supports the use of risk reduction strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and holistically increase resilience to disasters. The overarching goals of the design are to reinforce Mott Avenue as a “village main street” that connects to existing neighborhood assets and public improvement projects, such as the reconstruction of the Far Rockaway Queens Public Library.

Incorporating Vision Zero strategies, this comprehensive streetscape design will foster a safe, inviting, and inclusive pedestrian experience, improve access to mass transit, and employ sustainable, energy-efficient, and visually appealing streetscape elements such as varied street trees with connected tree beds, native planting, and permeable pavers. The scope includes the full reconstruction of streets and sidewalks, new plaza and public open spaces, wayfinding, and installation of storm and sanitary sewers throughout the downtown area. The project provides the flood-prone Rockaway Peninsula with new resilient infrastructure and shared spaces that enhance safety and livability for all.
Located in a low-lying 13.7-acre site in Freshkills Park, this facility will serve two sanitation districts with vehicle storage and repair, office and personnel spaces, a household recycling center, and salt storage. The garage features two stacked, offset volumes with metal above and concrete below, establishing a sense of human scale across the expansive façade. At the front of the garage, bright orange tiles mark the ground floor entry, above which a glazed staff cafeteria offers views out onto a vegetated roof. Capitalizing on its 120,000-square-foot roof, the project includes a sprawling array of rooftop photovoltaic panels, contributing to the City’s goals of achieving carbon neutrality, shifting to renewable energy sources, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050, commitments detailed in OneNYC’s “A Livable Climate” report.

At the southern edge of the site, the sculptural salt shed prominently displays the DSNY logo. On the northern edge, the household recycling center offers a welcome community resource and supports the Department of Sanitation’s goal of keeping recyclables from reaching landfills. The landscape is designed for safe and efficient vehicular circulation and comprehensive storm water management while integrating native ecological systems – grasslands, woodlands, and wetlands – to support habitat, enhance the visitor’s experience, and tie into broader local ecosystems. This project demonstrates the ambitious environmental sustainability goals of the OneNYC plan while also achieving over 50% of the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 13 – Climate Action.
The Bluebelt Program
Staten Island and Queens
A project of the Department of Environmental Protection

The Department of Environmental Protection pioneered the Bluebelt system over 20 years ago as a means to manage stormwater runoff through natural drainage corridors including wetlands, ponds, and streams. These natural features are enhanced to better convey, store and filter stormwater before it is discharged into the local waterway and contribute to Sustainable Development Goals that protect and restore water-related ecosystems, improve water quality, and provide resilient and efficient infrastructure. To date, over 80 Bluebelt projects have been completed in Staten Island and Queens, efficiently reducing flooding in communities and removing pollutants that might otherwise enter New York’s surrounding waterways.

In order to realize these projects and preserve open green space in Staten Island, the City acquired over 400 acres of property. In addition to reducing urban flooding and improving local water quality, the Bluebelts replace invasive plant species with native ones and provide an ecosystem for the reemergence of diverse wildlife such as turtles and birds. As New York City prepares for heavier rains due to climate change, Bluebelts offer a natural and effective toolkit for stable and sound stormwater management that can be employed through the city, setting an example of local actions that ultimately help sustainably manage and protect surrounding marine ecosystems.
New York City’s Department of Environmental Protection delivers more than one billion gallons of pristine drinking water to nine million New Yorkers every day. New York City is one of only five municipalities in the country allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency to maintain an unfiltered water supply—a testament to the strength and effectiveness of the City’s efforts around watershed protection. Using green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff within the upstate watershed is a critical component of maintaining high quality drinking water.

Recent innovative solutions in upstate sites surrounding the Croton River, Croton Falls, and Kensico Reservoirs include the restoration of creek alignments and wetlands; construction of drainage swales, stormwater detention systems, and catch basins with filter treatment systems and bypass channels; and the installation of riprap along stream banks. Each project is thoughtfully designed for the specific site context and supports Sustainable Development Goal 6—Clean Water and Sanitation, which aims to improve water quality through: reducing pollution, dumping, and the release of hazardous chemicals; protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems; and ensuring equitable access to clean drinking water for all.

Sustaining a safe and affordable water supply has always been key to New York City’s resilience, and green infrastructure strategies work in tandem with myriad protective measures to ensure continued access to clean water for drinking and hygiene for all New Yorkers.
Gowanus Combined Sewer Overflow Facility and Open Space

Gowanus Canal, Butler Street, Nevins Street, and Degraw Street, Brooklyn

A project of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Parks & Recreation

Selldorf Architects
DLANDstudio

Continuing the City’s work to limit combined sewer overflows into the Gowanus Canal, this proposed 8-million-gallon underground tank and associated headhouse will intercept and store combined sewage during wet weather events. The massing of the headhouse is guided by the equipment and processes within, creating an assemblage of volumes that are unified by an exterior scrim of terracotta baguettes. The aperture and orientation of the baguettes are manipulated to create areas of visual permeability, establishing a sense of depth and revealing elements of the facility’s interior operation. To complement these subtle glimpses of infrastructure, the headhouse affords visitors the opportunity to learn through digital graphics about the inner workings of the facility and the history of Gowanus.

The 1.6-acre open space offers multipurpose passive recreation and a waterfront esplanade while allowing for maintenance access to the tanks below. Inspired by the canal’s natural and industrial past, the landscape design features hardy plantings, granite pavers, concrete seating elements, and Cor-ten steel edging. Throughout, seat walls serve double duty as retaining walls to maximize soil volume and greenspace. This critical water management infrastructure supports Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation and the city’s OneNYC goals to address a growing population and climate change through modernized infrastructure. Overall, the project raises the bar for civic architecture while providing critical protection for the Gowanus Canal.
Waterfront Nature Walk
by George Trakas

Newtown Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility, 329 Greenpoint Avenue, Brooklyn

A project of the Department of Cultural Affairs’ Percent for Art Program, the Department of Design and Construction and the Department of Environmental Protection

George Trakas

Located along Newtown Creek and Whale Creek, George Trakas’ Waterfront Nature Walk was envisioned as a critical component of the awarded master plan for the Newtown Creek Water Pollution Control Plant. The project revives a long-inaccessible industrial shoreline for public use as a waterfront promenade and kayak launch.

The first phase, completed in 2007, explores the rich history of the waterway from its use by the Lenape, to the bustling 18th- and 19th-century waterfront industries, to its current context abutting New York City’s largest wastewater resource recovery facility. These themes unfold as dramatic site features, like the 170-foot-long “Vessel” passage to the waterfront that evokes the angled timber construction of ships, trash receptacles designed to look like barrels, carefully selected plant material, and integrated didactics.

The second and third phases, nearing completion, extend the walk over Whale Creek, connecting to the street grid on either side of the plant, and explore a broader history of ecology and human existence. The artist imbues public amenities with thought-provoking language, materials, and historical artifacts, such as the 385-million-year-old tree fossils unearthed at the Gilboa Dam in the upstate watershed.

Through its deeply engaging artistic interpretation, lushly planted open spaces, and waterfront connection, the Waterfront Nature Walk contributes to the goals of healthy living and sustainable, thriving neighborhoods.
The Peninsula
Mixed-use Development, Phase I

Tiffany Street, Spofford Avenue, and Manida Street, Bronx

A project of the Economic Development Corporation, Hudson Companies, Gilbane Development Company, and MHANY Management

WXY architecture + urban design
Body Lawson Associates Architects & Planners
Elizabeth Kennedy Landscape Architect

Closely aligned with the OneNYC Thriving Neighborhoods goals, the Peninsula is a development that is anchored by 740 units of affordable housing and is well-served by cultural resources, parks, and shared spaces. These include a light industrial hub, creative production and rehearsal spaces, a daycare, a health and wellness center, and a supermarket. Each building within the development provides spaces for local partners in health, food systems, and arts and culture, creating economic opportunities, as well as ensuring community access to safe affordable housing and basic services and contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Building placement, massing, and circulation were carefully considered to create sight lines and destination points in the public space, connecting this new development with the neighborhood. Materials for the development were guided by the character of the residential and industrial fabric of Hunts Point. Three of the residential buildings are brick and vary in color, while another is a combination of glass fiber-reinforced concrete and metal panels. Materials employ subtle variations in color and pattern to give each building its own identity, while maintaining a cohesive aesthetic. The industrial, commercial, and community spaces feature concrete, steel, and glass to create a link with the neighborhood’s industrial character.

A network of publicly accessible open spaces connects the new development with the surrounding neighborhood, while negotiating the site’s sloping topography. The landscape blends engineered hardscape with a sense of local nature, using native groundcovers, shade trees, and salvaged rock to recall the natural ledge formations found in the Bronx. When complete, this project will transform the 4.75-acre site of the former Spofford Juvenile Detention Center into a vibrant, mixed-use community where locals can find healthy and affordable homes and jobs.
Public Design Commission of the City of New York

Signe Nielsen, President
Landscape Architect

Phillip E. Aarons, Vice President
Lay Member

Laurie Hawkinson
Architect

Manuel Miranda
Lay Member

Richard Moore
Brooklyn Museum

Susan Morgenstern
The New York Public Library

Ethel Sheffer
Mayor’s Representative

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The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Shin-pei Tsay, Secretary*
Lay Member

Mary Valverde
Sculptor

Hank Willis Thomas**
Painter

Justin Garrett Moore, Executive Director

Keri Butler, Deputy Executive Director

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Rebecca MacKils, Senior Urban Design Manager

Jenna Miller, Urban Design & Policy Manager

Juliana Monteiro, Archivist & Senior Records Manager

Carolina Llano, Project Manager

Mary Beth Bufs, Tour Manager

Gail Carrell, Gary Deane, Gail Green, Dewira LaPorhe, and Patricia Orfanos, Docents

* Shin-pei Tsay served on the Commission through September 2019.
** Hank Willis Thomas served on the Commission through March 2020.