

# Site Selection Tips



# DOT Art program

## Selecting a Site

### Introduction

DOT Art presents temporary public art on DOT-owned plazas, fences, medians, triangles, sidewalks and step streets in all five boroughs. As part of the Site to Site and Arterventions programs, organizations and artists are invited to select DOT-owned sites within their community to beautify with artwork.

When selecting a potential site for art, consider the following guidelines:

- **Size and Safety:** Select a site that is large enough to accommodate both the proposed artwork and passersby to ensure artwork does not introduce a tripping or safety hazard.
- **Visibility and Accessibility:** Select a site that is visible to a diverse audience and accessible to the public.
- **Site Enhancement and Significance:** Select a site appropriate for the artwork that will also benefit from the addition of public art.

This document describes a) site types, b) typical elements found at a site, c) site type requirements and recommendations, and d) potential installations appropriate for site types.





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### Site Type: Plazas

DOT plazas are outdoor public spaces created by reclaiming and redesigning street segments as places for pedestrian use.

#### Typical Elements

- Street furniture (benches, tables, planters)
- Pedestrian lighting
- Drinking fountains
- Litter receptacles
- Utilities
- Landscaping
- Main amenity (permanent artwork, fountains)
- Bike racks
- Wayfinding

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- Plazas with integrated design elements (such as pavement art or distinctive benches) are appropriate for temporary art.
- The primary paths must be maintained at an acceptable width; ancillary paths within a plaza may be reduced to the ADA minimum where appropriate.
- An unobstructed path with a width of at least 8 feet between the art and the curb line must be maintained at all times for pedestrian use and vehicular safety.
- Plazas with main amenities (such as permanent artwork or large fountains) are not appropriate for temporary artwork.

For more information on the NYC Plaza Program, visit [www.nyc.gov/plazas](http://www.nyc.gov/plazas).

#### Potential Installations

- Sculpture/3-dimensional installations
- Art/light projections
- Art Display cases



58th Street and Columbus Circle, Manhattan  
Converge: Ghraib Bag, Michael Rees  
Presented with the Museum of Arts and Design

Broadway Plaza at 58th Street, Manhattan  
Vortex, Saint Clair Cemin  
In partnership with Paul Kasmin Gallery



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### Site Type: Triangles/Medians

Triangles and medians are raised divides separating traffic lanes, roadway directions or roadbeds within a street. Triangles/medians vary in size.

#### Typical Elements

- Litter receptacles
- Landscaping
- Street lighting
- Road signs
- Bike racks

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- Larger concrete triangles/medians are appropriate for artwork.
- Triangles/medians that are easily and safely accessible and/or visible to the public are appropriate for artwork.
- An unobstructed path with a width of at least 8 feet between the art and the curb line must be maintained at all times for pedestrian use.
- Triangles/medians owned by DOT but maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation (Greenstreets) must be reviewed by both agencies as a site for public art.

#### Potential Installations

- Sculpture/3-dimensional installations
- Art Display cases



4th Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets, Bklyn  
Unparallel Way, Emily Weiskopf  
In partnership with the Old Stone House

Lenox Avenue (Malcom X Boulevard) at 124th  
Street, Manhattan  
Pod, Pedro Villalta and Montserrat Daubón  
In partnership with the Mount Morris Park  
Community Improvement Association



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### Site Type: Sidewalks

Sidewalks are paved paths designed primarily for pedestrian use, which are located between the roadside curb and adjacent property lines.

#### Typical Elements

- Street furniture
- Litter receptacles
- Bike racks
- Bus shelters
- Signs and sign posts
- Street and pedestrian lighting
- Wayfinding

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- Wide, well-maintained sidewalks with a limited number of elements are appropriate sites for artwork.
- The primary paths must be maintained at an acceptable width; ancillary paths on a sidewalk may be reduced to the ADA minimum where appropriate.
- An unobstructed path with a width of at least 8 feet between the art and the curb line must be maintained at all times for pedestrian use.
- Sidewalks will not serve as canvases; therefore artwork cannot be painted directly onto the pavement but must instead be bolted to or mounted on the sidewalk.

#### Potential Installations

- Sculpture/3-dimensional installation
- Art/Light projections
- Art Display cases



York Street and Front Street, Brooklyn  
TALLY-HO, Allen Glatter  
In partnership with Two Trees Management Company



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### Site Type: Fence

A fence is a barrier that encloses an area and restricts movement in and out of a DOT-owned space.

#### Typical Elements

- Signs
- Gates
- Corrugated metal or chain-link (material)

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- Gates or other egress points on a fence must not be blocked by artwork.
- Fences must be able to support the weight of an installation to be considered an appropriate site.
- Fences will not serve as canvases; therefore artwork cannot be painted directly onto the surface but instead must be bolted to or mounted on the fence.

#### Potential Installations

- Murals/2-dimensional installation
- Vinyl Banners



Kent Avenue between South 5th and South 6th Streets, Brooklyn  
Plan Ahead, Magda Sayeg  
In partnership with the North Brooklyn Public Art Coalition and Open Space Alliance

Vernon Boulevard at Queens Plaza South, Qns  
When it opens like this, up is not over by Rena Leinberger  
In partnership with the International Studio and Curatorial Program



# DOT Art program

## Selecting a Site

### Site Type: Street Lighting Pole

Street lighting poles are street scape elements designed to provide light for pedestrian and vehicular use on bridges, walkways, bikeways, plazas and parks. The poles are located adjacent to the roadside curb. DOT maintains 250,000 street lights throughout New York City.

#### Typical Elements

- 30'-28' tall standard street pole and 16'-18' standard pedestrian pole
- Standard Street Lighting Pole includes: 1) the base, 2) the pole, 3) the lamp, and 4) the fixture.

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- Only midblock street lighting poles shall be considered for art installations.
- Artwork cannot be installed on traffic signal poles located at major intersections.
- Artwork cannot interfere with standard traffic safety signage and must be installed above or below signs.
- Artwork must be installed at 7 feet above the sidewalk due to public safety concerns; however, if the artwork dimensions match those of the pole (maximum of 8"x 8" square), the agency will consider installing at a lower height.
- Poles with existing DOT or ConEd markings must remain undisturbed; however, the agency will review these poles as locations for artwork.
- Installation method cannot permanently alter the surface of the street lighting pole; therefore, a temporary solution must be proposed for review by the agency. The agency recommends standard brackets or clamps and can provide details at site visit.

#### Potential Installations

- Signage
- Design Interventions (ie. yarn, zip ties, etc.)



Hudson Square, Manhattan  
Flaming Cactus by Animus Art  
Presented with the Hudson Square Connection

51st Street & Park Avenue, 25th Street & Park Avenue, Astor Place & Lafayette Street, Spring Street & Lafayette Street, and Duane Street & Centre Street, Manhattan  
Art Within One Mile by Bundith Phunsombatlert  
Presented with Summer Streets



# DOT Art program

## Selecting a Site

### Site Type: Bridge Anchorage and Archway

A bridge anchorage is composed of the two outer sides of a bridge, that are grounded on land, providing support for the structure as it spans across a body of water, a roadway, a railroad, etc.

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- The bridge structure cannot be altered; therefore artwork may only be projected onto the surface of the bridge.
- The anchorages and archways, any doors or gates, utility points, conduits, emergency fire valves and stand pipe systems of the bridge must not be blocked by equipment used to project artwork.
- The Anchorages' security system can not be interfered with by the art projections.
- Sites are appropriate for artwork only if the projected image is below the bridge roadway.

#### Potential Installation

- Art/Light projections



Manhattan Bridge Anchorage, Brooklyn  
CODEX Dynamic, Various Artists  
In partnership with Two Trees Management Company  
Photos by Jane Kratochvil



# DOT Art program

## Selecting a Site

### Site Type: Street Pedestrian Bridge

A pedestrian bridge is a small bridge grounded on land that allows pedestrians and vehicles to cross water, railway tracks or greenways.

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- During the installation and display period, the pedestrian bridge structure cannot be altered; therefore, a temporary solution must be proposed for review by the agency. The agency recommends standard brackets or clamps and can provide details at site visit.
- Artwork cannot interfere with pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk or walkway.
- Murals may only be painted directly onto concrete wall segments.
- Murals may not be painted directly onto corrugated metal or chain link fences.

#### Potential Installations

- Murals
- Vinyl banners
- When chain link is available, design interventions (ie. yarn, zip ties, etc.)
- Plywood or metal panels



Dorchester Avenue between E. 16th Street and Marlborough Road, Brooklyn  
Now and Then, Lev Zeitlin  
In partnership with the Flatbush Development Corporation

Lincoln Road, Brooklyn  
Foot Traffic, Crystal Gregory  
In partnership with LinRoFORMA



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## Selecting a Site

### Site Type: Step Street

A step street is a large concrete pedestrian staircase that rests on a hill and connects two streets.

#### Requirements and Recommendations

- During the installation and display period, the step street structure cannot be altered; therefore, a temporary solution must be proposed for review by the agency. The agency recommends standard brackets or clamps and can provide details at site visit.
- Artwork cannot interfere with pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk or steps.
- Murals may only be painted directly onto concrete wall or steps.
- Murals may not be painted directly onto metal railings unless approved by the agency.

#### Potential Installations

- Murals
- Design interventions



165TH Street and Carroll Place, Bronx  
ARTfarm by Varleria Bianco, Christian Gonsalvez  
and Justin Taylor  
Presented with Architecture for Humanity  
Studio and the Bronx Museum

Naples Terrace between Broadway and Goodwin  
Terrace, Bronx  
The Bridge and the Devil, Steed Taylor  
Presented with Visual AIDS