2020 SITE SELECTION GUIDE:
ELIGIBLE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PUBLIC ART

Pedestrian Patterns by Mark Salinas
I am Here by Harumi Ori

NEW YORK CITY DOT ART
The New York City Department of Transportation’s Art Program (DOT Art) partners with community-based, nonprofit organizations and professional artists to present temporary public artwork on DOT infrastructure throughout the five boroughs. Asphalt, bridges, fences, jersey barriers, medians, plazas, sidewalks, step streets, streetlight poles and triangles serve as canvases and foundations for temporary murals, projections, sculptures and interventions.

This guide defines transportation infrastructure eligible for public art installations. Infrastructure is categorized into distinct classifications known as site types. Each definition includes the following supplemental information:

- typical elements found at a site;
- site requirements and recommendations; and
- potential artwork installations associated with each site type.

Organizations and artists are invited to select DOT-owned infrastructure within their communities as potential sites for temporary art. Appropriate sites for art are evaluated based on the following criteria:

**SIZE + SAFETY**

The site is large enough to accommodate artwork, and the addition of artwork will not impede pedestrian circulation or introduce any public safety hazards.

**VISIBILITY + ACCESSIBILITY**

The site is accessible to a diverse audience, in close proximity to public transportation, and adjacent to a mixed used corridor.

**SITE ENHANCEMENT + SIGNIFICANCE**

The site is in need of beautification and is historically or geographically relevant to the community.

As new priority initiatives arise at the agency as well as policies on a regional and national level, DOT Art may introduce new site typologies eligible for public art. The streets of New York are ever-changing and so too is the public art landscape. DOT Art hopes to inspire organizations and artists to uncover unique sites within their communities in New York City and beyond.
SITE TYPE: ASPHALT PEDESTRIAN SPACE

Asphalt pedestrian spaces are car-free street segments reclaimed to improve pedestrian safety and increase accessibility (i.e. larger curb extensions and slip lane closures).

TYPICAL ELEMENTS

- Citi Bike stations
- Planters
- Granite blocks
- Flexible delineators

REQUIREMENTS + RECOMMENDATIONS

- Murals may only be painted on closed asphalt surfaces. Epoxy resin, ruby glass or gravel surfaces are not eligible.
- 2-D artwork may be digitized and printed onto approved vinyl adhesive material for installation.
- Sites must be in close proximity to business districts, schools, community centers, parks, art institutions or other commercial corridors.
- Appropriate asphalt pedestrian spaces for art must be a minimum of 1,000 square feet.
- Installation method must allow for safe pedestrian flow within spaces during implementation.

POTENTIAL INSTALLATIONS

- Asphalt Art
- Vinyl Adhesive
A bridge allows pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles to cross over or under water, railway tracks, greenways or highways. Concrete walls enclosing the bridge may be utilized for art.

**TYPICAL ELEMENTS**
- Corrugated fence attachment
- Signs

**REQUIREMENTS + RECOMMENDATIONS**
- The bridge structure cannot be permanently altered; therefore, a temporary solution must be proposed for review by the agency. The agency recommends standard brackets or clamps.
- Art cannot interfere with pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk or walkway.
- Murals may only be painted on concrete wall segments.
- Murals may not be painted on corrugated metal or chain link fences.

**POTENTIAL INSTALLATIONS**
- Murals
SITE TYPE:
BRIDGE ANCHORAGE & 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.

TYPICAL ELEMENTS

- Corrugated metal fence or chain-link fence
- Signs
- Gates
- Stonework

REQUIREMENTS + 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 can not be blocked by equipment used to project art.
- The anchorages’ security system can not be interfered with by the art projections.
- Sites are appropriate for art only if the projected image is below the bridge roadway.

POTENTIAL INSTALLATIONS

- Art/Light projections only
Concrete jersey barriers are safety divides placed along bike lanes or pedestrian walkways to separate and protect cyclists and pedestrians from vehicular traffic. The dimensions of each barrier are approximately twenty (20) feet in length by three (3) feet in height.

**TYPICAL ELEMENTS**
- Metal fence attachment
- Drainage holes
- Metal hardware

**REQUIREMENTS + RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Designs may only be painted on concrete jersey barrier surfaces facing cyclist or pedestrian pathways.
- 2-D artwork designs may be digitized and printed onto approved vinyl adhesives for installation.
- Appropriate jersey barrier sites for art must measure a minimum of 500 linear feet.
- The bike lane or pedestrian walkway must be temporarily reduced during design implementation using an approved safety set-up.
- Metal safety elements secured to the top of jersey barriers may not be painted or altered in any way.
- Jersey barriers installed as part of private construction projects are ineligible. Only DOT owned sites are eligible for art.

**POTENTIAL INSTALLATIONS**
- Painted design
- Vinyl Adhesive
SITE TYPE: FENCE

A fence is a barrier that encloses an area and restricts movement in and out of a DOT-owned space. Corrugated metal or chain-link fences enclose these spaces.

TYPICAL ELEMENTS

- Corrugated metal fence or chain-link fence
- Signs
- Gates

REQUIREMENTS + RECOMMENDATIONS

- Gates or other egress points on a fence must not be blocked by art.
- Fences must be able to support the weight of an installation.
- Art cannot be painted directly onto the surface of a fence. Instead, it must be bolted or mounted to the structure.

POTENTIAL INSTALLATIONS

- Murals
- Vinyl Banners
- Design Interventions (i.e. yarn, zip ties, etc.)
- Art Panels (plywood or metal)
DOT plazas and Seasonal Streets are vibrant, social public spaces created by reclaiming and redesigning underutilized street segments as places for pedestrian and cyclist use. DOT partners with community groups to operate, maintain and manage these spaces.

**SITE TYPE:**

**PLAZAS + SEASONAL STREETS**

**TYPICAL ELEMENTS**

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

**REQUIREMENTS + RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Plazas with permanent art or large fountains are not sites for temporary art.
- The paths must be maintained at an acceptable width of eight feet; ancillary paths within a plaza may be reduced to the five-foot ADA minimum when necessary.
- An unobstructed path with a width of at least eight feet between the art and the curb line must be maintained at all times for pedestrian use and vehicular safety.
- Murals are not permitted on paved or epoxy gravel surfaces.
- Organizations and artists must partner with the plaza maintenance partner to install art.

**POTENTIAL INSTALLATIONS**

- Sculpture/3-Dimensional
- Art Display Cases
- Vinyl Adhesive
- Asphalt Art (Seasonal Streets)

For more information on the NYC Plaza Program, visit www.nyc.gov/plazas and on Seasonal Streets, visit www.nyc.gov/seasonalstreets.
### 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
- Bike shelters
- Signs & sign posts
- Street & pedestrian lighting
- Wayfinding

### REQUIREMENTS + RECOMMENDATIONS

- A sidewalk must be a minimum of twenty feet in width from the building line to the curb line to be considered for a sculpture.
- Wide, well-maintained sidewalks with a limited number of elements are appropriate sites for artwork.
- In accordance with ADA regulations, a clear path of eight feet must be maintained around a sculpture at all times and a sculpture must be installed at a minimum of eighteen inches from the curb.
- Art cannot be painted directly onto the sidewalk, but must instead be bolted or mounted to the concrete.

### POTENTIAL INSTALLATIONS

- Sculpture/3-Dimensional
- Art Display Cases
SITE TYPE:
STEP STREET

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

TYPICAL ELEMENTS
- Landings
- Metal railings

REQUIREMENTS + RECOMMENDATIONS
- The step street staircase and walls cannot be permanently altered; therefore a temporary solution must be proposed for review by the agency. The agency recommends murals.
- Art cannot interfere with pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk or walkway.
- Murals may only be painted on the concrete walls or steps.
- Murals may not be painted on metal railings unless approved by DOT.

POTENTIAL INSTALLATIONS
- Murals
SITE TYPE: STREETLIGHT POLE

Streetlights provide light for pedestrians and vehicles on bridges, walkways, bikeways, plazas and parks. The poles are located adjacent to the curb. DOT maintains 250,000 streetlights throughout the city.

TYPICAL ELEMENTS

- 28' - 30' standard street pole
- 16' - 18' standard pedestrian pole
- Standard street light poles include:
  1) base  2) pole  3) lamp  4) fixture
- Standard street signs

REQUIREMENTS + RECOMMENDATIONS

- Only midblock street light poles shall be considered for art installations.
- Art cannot be installed on traffic signal poles at intersections.
- Art cannot interfere with traffic safety signs and must be installed above or below signs.
- Art must be installed at seven feet above sidewalk due to public safety concerns; however, if the art dimensions match those of the pole (maximum of 8" width), DOT will consider installing at a lower height.
- Installation method cannot alter the surface of the street light pole. Standard brackets or clamps must be used.

POTENTIAL INSTALLATIONS

- Signs
- Design Interventions (ie. yarn, zip ties, etc.)
SITE TYPE:
TRIANGLES & MEDIANS

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

TYPICAL ELEMENTS

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

REQUIREMENTS + RECOMMENDATIONS

- Larger concrete triangles/medians are appropriate for artwork.
- An unobstructed path with a width of at least eight feet between the art and the curb line must be maintained at all times if intended for pedestrian use.
- Triangles/medians that are easily and safely accessible and/or visible to the public are appropriate for artwork.
- Triangles/medians owned by DOT, but maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation (Greenstreets) are not eligible through DOT Art.

POTENTIAL INSTALLATIONS

- Sculpture/3-Dimensional