

GLORIA LAU

Landscape Architect
Urban Designer
Storyteller



Public Spaces and Infrastructure

Page 3

Landscape architecture and urban design projects, with a focus of public spaces and infrastructure, from 13 years at various design and engineering companies.

Associate, Stantec, New York. 2019 - Present
Project Planner & Landscape Architect, HNTB, New York. 2016-19
Landscape Architect, SWA/Balsley, New York. 2013-16
Landscape Designer, SWA Group, San Francisco. 2010-13

Community-Based Design and Initiatives

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Design projects in close partnership with community groups and non-profit. Fellowship and conference planning that focus on justice and equity.

Director of Projects, Open Architecture/New York, New York. 2018-21
Design Coordinator, Hindsight Conference, New York. 2017-21
Forefront Fellow, Urban Design Forum, New York. 2019-20

Storytelling and Visual Art

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Exhibition and storytelling projects that document and illustrate undervalued and ignored stories in the built environment to amplify self-determined narratives.

Create Change Fellow, Laundromat Project. 2023
Co-Founder, Laudi CoLab. 2021 - Present
Co-Founder, Sunken Lab. 2021 - Present
Bandung Residency, Asian American Arts Alliance and The Museum of Contemporary Diasporan Arts, New York. 2022
NEW INC, New Museum, New York. 2021-22

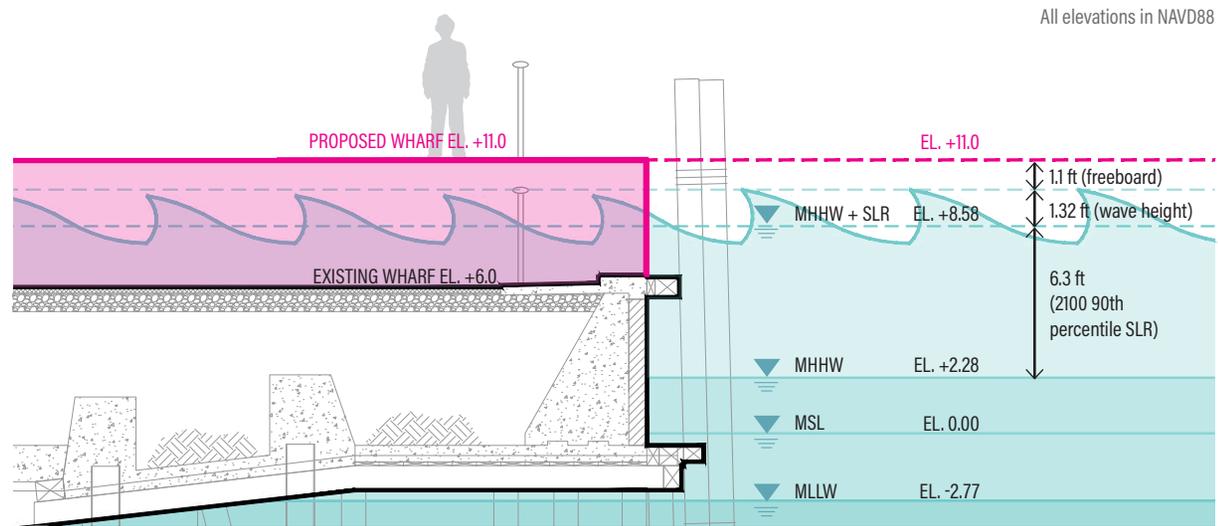
LOWER MANHATTAN COASTAL RESILIENCE - THE BATTERY

Location: New York, NY
 Client: NYC Economic Development Corporation
 Phase: Concept to Construction
 Construction Budget: \$129 million
 Duration: 2021-Present
 Role: Landscape architecture lead. Art conservation and signage coordinator (at Stantec)
 Landscape Team: Amy Seek, Elizabeth Wu, Gavin Figurelli

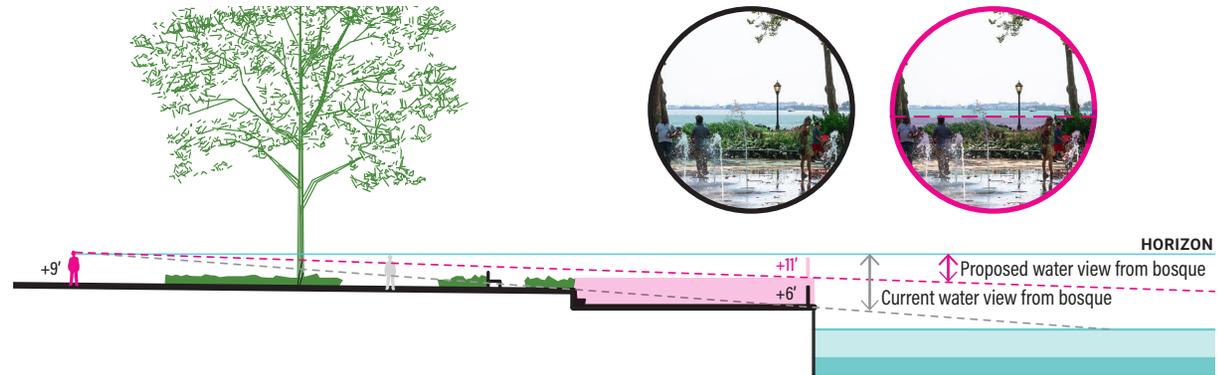
This \$129 million project is a critical component of this post-Hurricane Sandy Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency (LMCR) project. LMCR-Battery spans north-south along the waterfront edge of Battery Park. To the north, the project intersects with the South Battery Park City Resiliency project, and to the south with the Financial District and Seaport Climate Resilience Master Plan. The Battery currently sits at an elevation that will be submerged as sea levels rise. Stantec civil and landscape team led the design plans to reconstruct the wharf structure and raise the waterfront esplanade approximately 5 feet above its current elevation (11 feet above Mean Sea Level) to protect the park and nearby community. The design addresses several complex issues - 1) reintegration of the wharf into the 25-acre Battery Park, which is home to a wealth of historic artifacts, gardens and artworks, 2) interior drainage, and 3) maintaining access to vessels through construction and without interruption for tidal conditions today. The project will ensure usability of this iconic public space for millions of yearly visitors over the next 80 years and play a critical role in resiliency reinforcements.

The project is managed by Stantec Civil Department with the Landscape Department playing an equally important part in driving and facilitating the design process internally and externally. I am the landscape technical lead, and in addition, coordinate the salvage, art conservation, and signage design components with several sub-consultants. I also managed developing materials for public design approval, outreach, and stakeholder engagements.

Design Elevation



Preserving View of Water

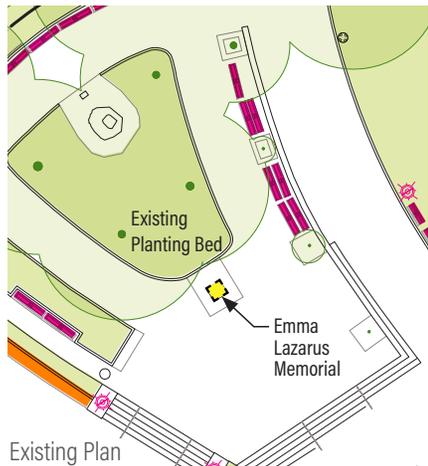


Design Principles

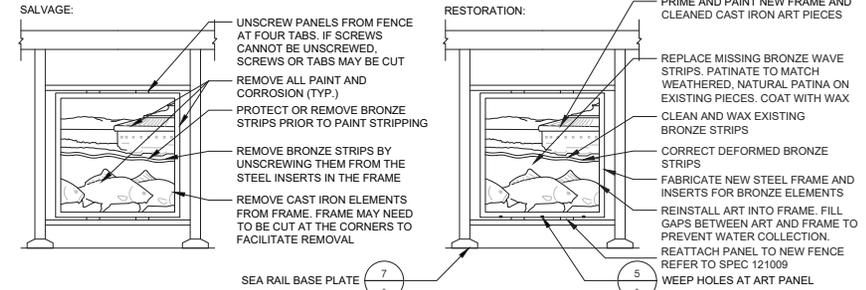
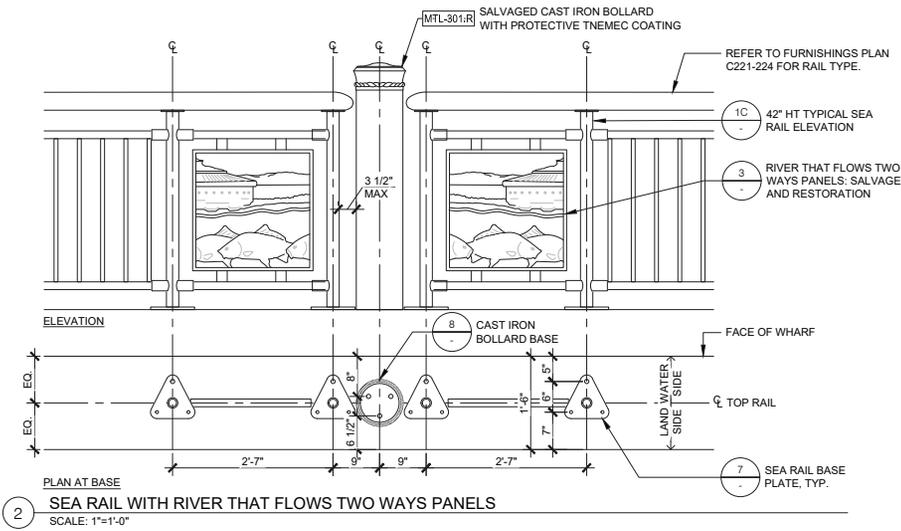




Preserving and relocating existing memorials



Restoring art panels and incorporating in new sea rail

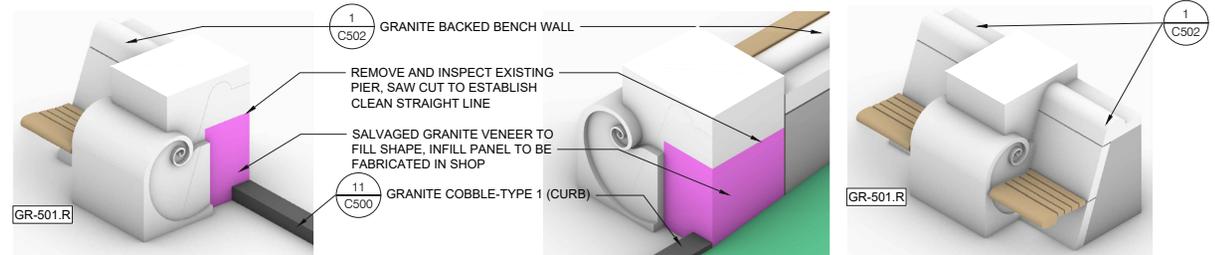


3 THE RIVER THAT FLOWS TWO WAYS PANELS: SALVAGE AND RESTORATION
SCALE: NTS
MTL-302.R

Exploring and salvaging existing materials

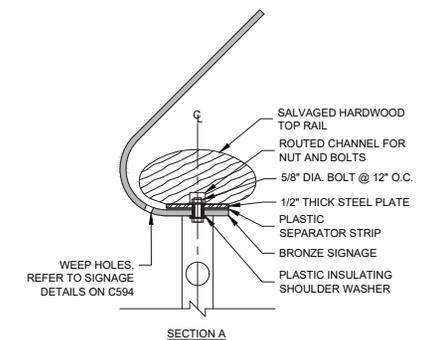


Determining reuse of historic granite fascia



Salvaging granite elements in Garden of Remembrance

Introducing new signage for memorial



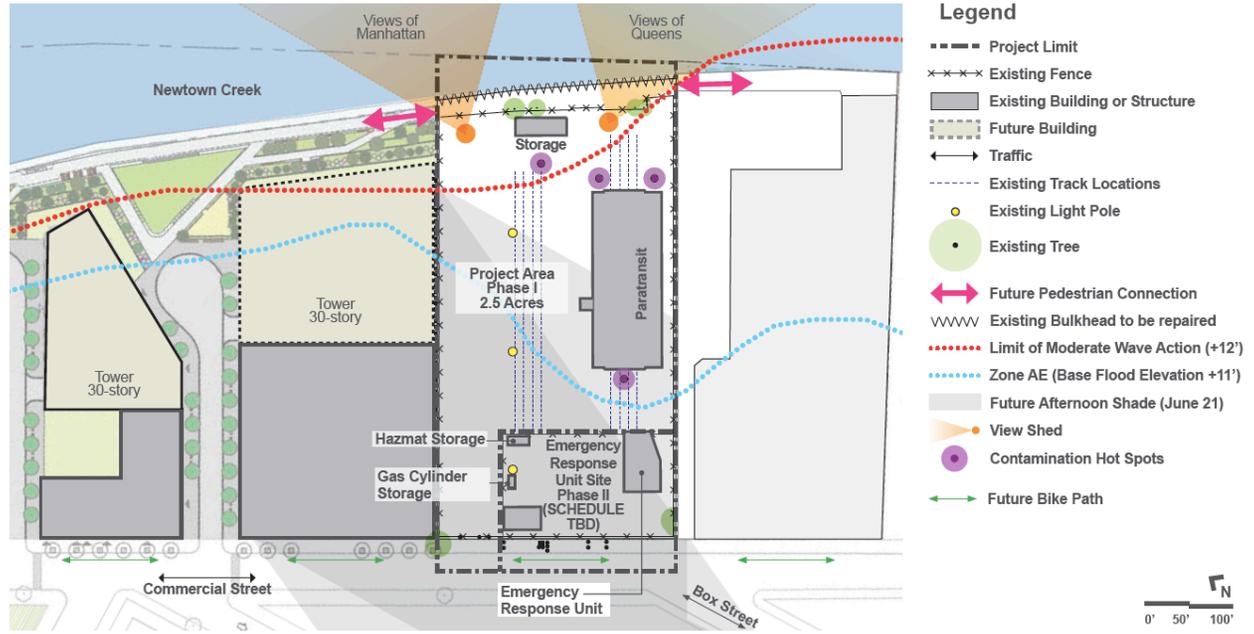
BOX STREET PARK

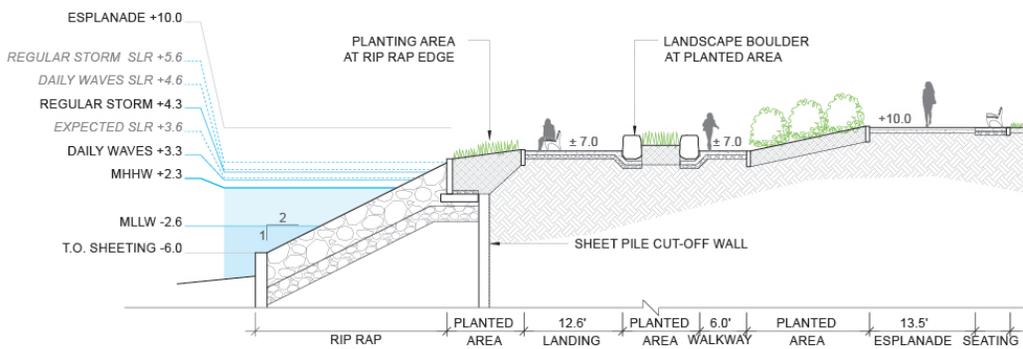
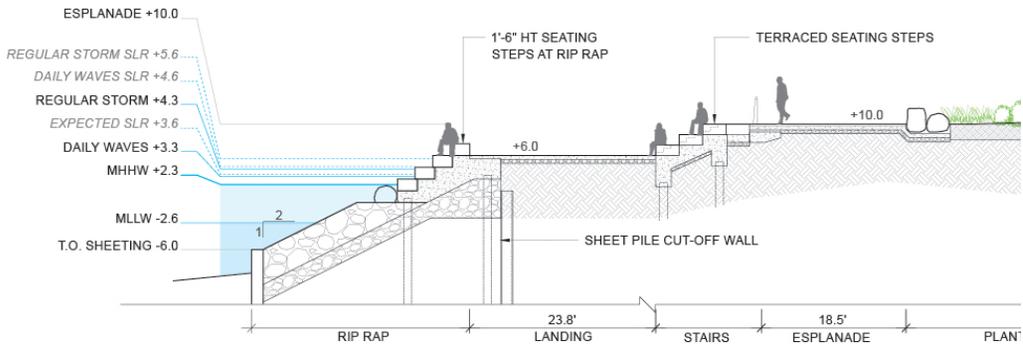
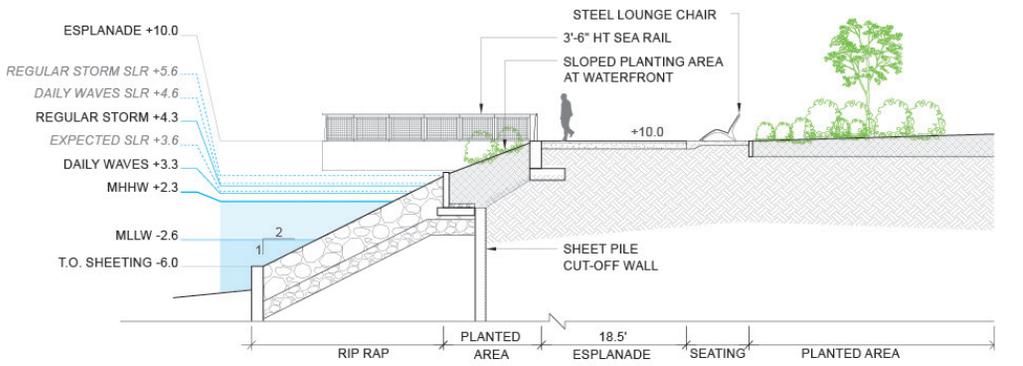
Location: Brooklyn, NY
 Client: NYC Economic Development Corporation
 Phase: Schematic to Construction
 Construction Budget: \$17 million
 Duration: 2019-Present
 Role: Landscape Architecture Lead (at Stantec)
 Landscape Team: Elizabeth Wu

Located at the confluence of Newtown Creek and the East River, the project transforms a MTA facility into a 2.5-acre waterfront park with waterfront access. Planning for long-term coastal resilience, the site is elevated to take into consideration approximately 28" in anticipated sea level rise. The primary landing area at the water's edge is intended to have limited inundation and a secondary set of stone steps interact with the tidal zone, descending below the mean high water. Dune plantings are integrated into the slope edge to enhance the experience of a soft shoreline.

The gently sloped central lawn tilted toward the waterfront celebrates views while maintaining a continuous elevation of 12.0, locating the central portion and high point above the Limit of Moderate Wave Action and the minimum FEMA Advisory Base Flood Elevation for a 100-year flood. In the center of the site are additional passive amenities include an ADA-accessible picnic area surrounded by shade trees. A seating zone between the picnic area and the lawn is characterized by narrower pathways and more planting variety to create a more intimate, garden-like space. The more active zones are located towards the ERU and Commercial Street, where a dog run and full-size basketball court are proposed.

The project is managed by the Stantec Civil Department. I am the landscape architecture lead and steer the overall park design. I took over this project at 80% and have led the project through several rounds of re-design. Responsibilities include advancing construction drawings, specifications, and estimates, as well as staffing and design and approval coordinations with clients and municipal agencies. The project is currently undergoing 90% revisions in response to new local laws.





BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

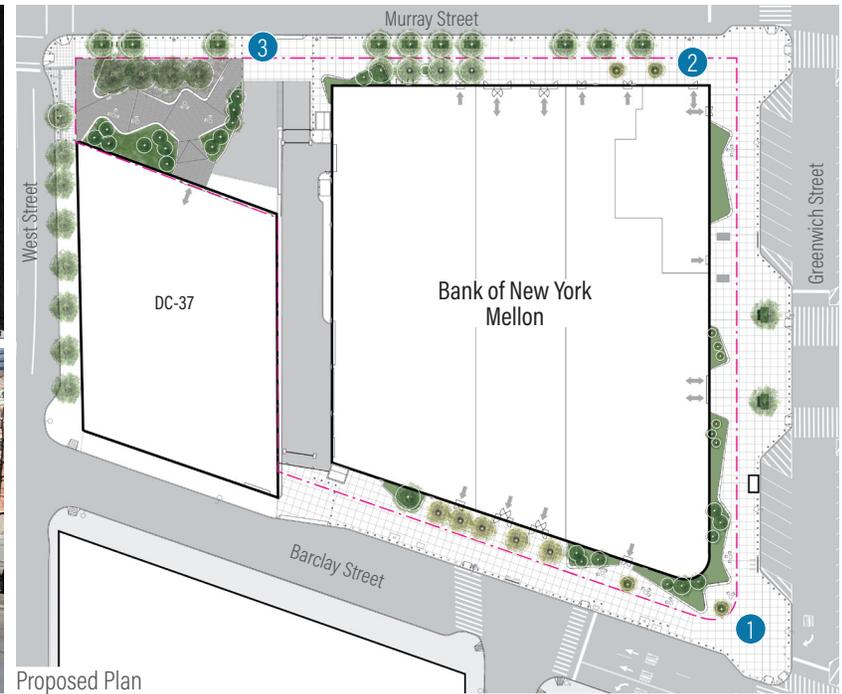
Location: New York, NY
 Client: Bank of New York Mellon
 Phase: Schematic to Construction
 Construction Budget: \$25 million
 Duration: 2019-Present
 Role: Landscape Architecture Lead (at Stantec)
 Landscape Team: Xavier Rumph, Elizabeth Wu

The project introduces a series of unique and welcoming public spaces for Bank of New York Mellon headquarter in Manhattan financial district. The building was constructed in the 1970s and the surrounding streetscape and plaza are predominantly hardscape. The design introduces a series of undulating curvilinear seatwall, stitching together public spaces that wrap around three city blocks. The element creates a vast area of planting and pockets of seating. The underutilized plaza on the northwest corner of the site is raised to the level of the surrounding sidewalk, transforming it into a quiet respite underneath groves of trees. An education signage referencing Alexander Hamilton as the founder of the Bank was designed for the plaza. Planting was selected to thrive in often shaded and windy area. In addition, security bollards and fencing were added around the site to provide security measures for the headquarter. The project also has extensive agency coordination and community outreach, as well as incorporating the constraints of existing infrastructure and utilities at the site.

The project is managed by the Stantec Civil Department and I manage the public realm design as the landscape architecture lead. I took over this project at 30% and have advanced the project to 100% and through the City Planning Commission and Public Design Commission process, and various rounds of stakeholder outreach. Responsibilities include presenting to client, technical design, specifications, and estimates, as well as staffing, subconsultants, contractual and bidding coordination. The project is currently in pre-construction administration.



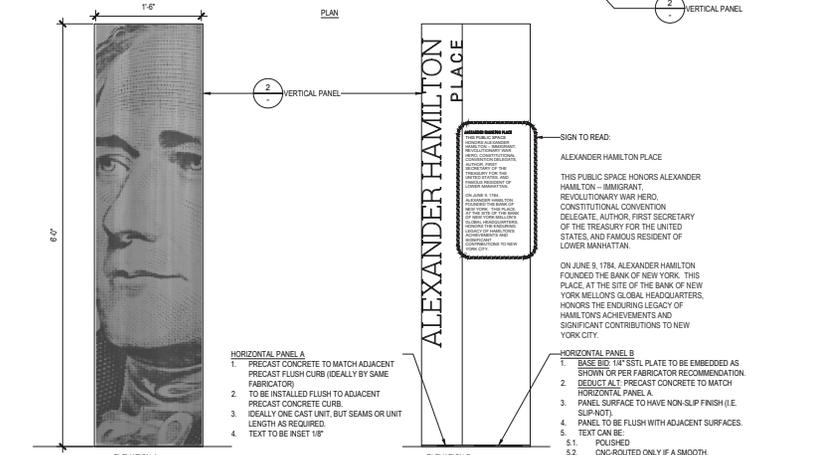
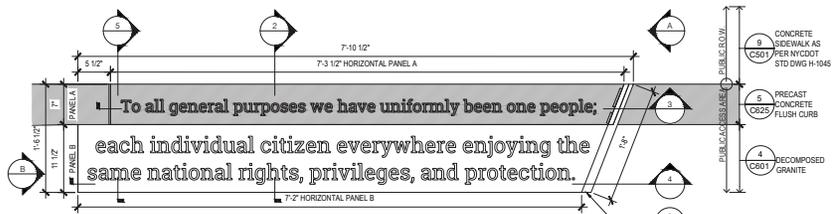
Existing Conditions



Proposed Plan

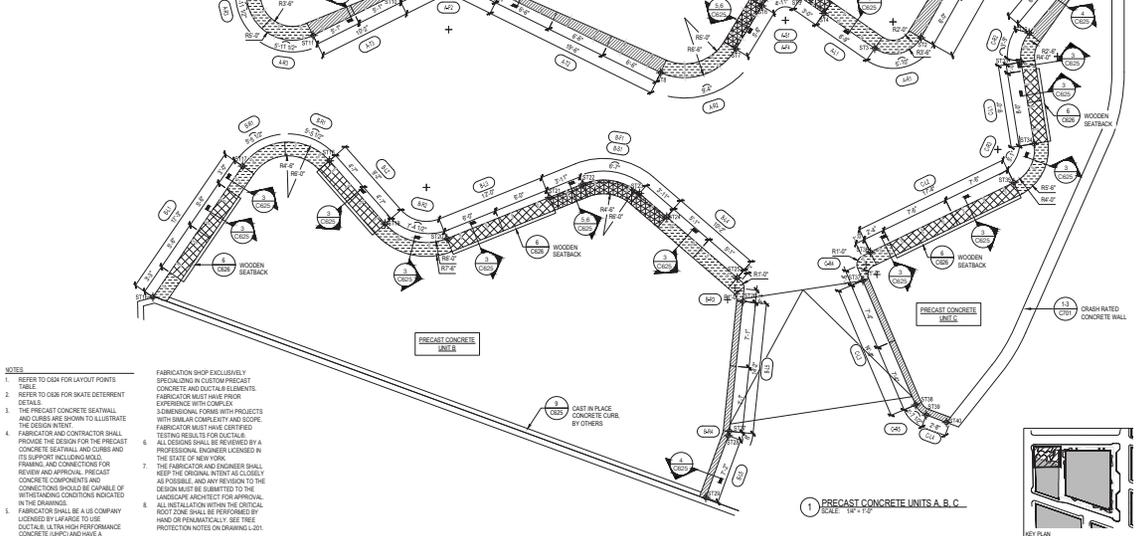


Branding and Unique Site Elements for Plaza



- 1 PUBLIC ACCESS AREA (PAA) ARTWORK AND EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE**
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

- LEGEND**
- 1.3 PRECAST CONCRETE SEATWALL
 - 1.4 PRECAST CONCRETE SEATWALL WITH BACK
 - 1.5 PRECAST CONCRETE SEATWALL - SUSPENDED SECTION
 - 1.6 PRECAST CONCRETE CURB - RAISED
 - 1.7 PRECAST CONCRETE CURB - FLUSH
 - 1.8 CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE CURB
 - 1.9 SKATE DETERRENT
 - 2. PRECAST UNIT
 - L - LEANER
 - R - RISEL
 - S - SUSPENDED
 - T - TYPED
 - 3. LAYOUT COORDINATE POINT



1 PRECAST CONCRETE UNITS A, B, C
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

MELROSE SITE 62

Location: Brooklyn, NY

Client: NYC Parks

Phase: Construction

Construction Budget: \$6.3 million

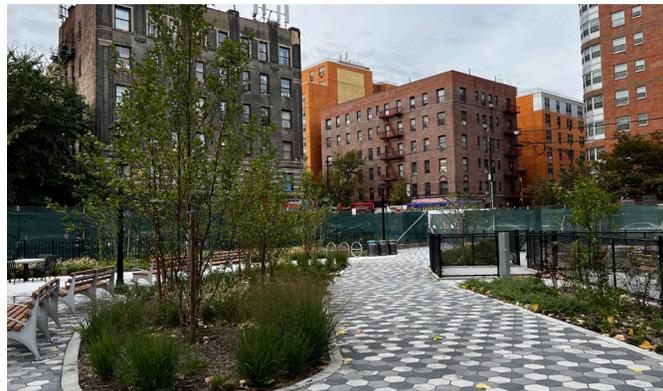
Duration: 2022

Role: Project Manager (at Stantec)

Landscape Team: Tom Hammerberg, Haikun Xu

The purpose of this project is to design and construct a vibrant community park on underutilized City owned properties in the Bronx. Site 62 is a brownfield site and park construction will follow a phase of remediation during which contaminated soils will be removed from the site and replaced with clean fill. The proposed open space improvements will be constructed adjacent to an existing community garden, El Coqui and additional space will be allocated for the garden. Park programming includes a multi-purpose synthetic turf field, adult fitness area, misting station, dog run with separate zones for large dogs and small dogs, a seating area with benches, game tables/chairs, park lighting, pathways with seating, and ornamental plantings.

I served as the Project Manager after taking over the project after 100% design. I managed the procurement and construction administration process. Responsibilities include coordinating with client and contractors, reviewing RFIs and submittals, routine site visits, and managing staff on the team.



42ND AND 46TH STREET RE-VISIONING

Location: New York, NY
 Client: Times Square Alliance
 Phase: Conceptual Design
 Duration: 2022-Present
 Role: Project Manager (at Stantec)
 Urban Design and Mobility Team: Astrid Mayak, April Schneider

Stantec was retained by Times Square Alliance to re-imagine two important street segments. The conceptual package will then be used by the Alliance to advocate the visions in front of their stakeholders and elected officials. I serve as project manager for both tasks, coordinating with our mobility, traffic, and infrastructure teams while leading the urban design task.

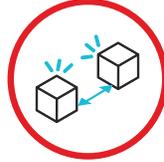
42nd Street (between 7th and 8th Avenue)

The main design goals are to maximize and reorganize pedestrian space for its many uses (theater, street vendors, and heavy pedestrian traffic), to improve pedestrian safety and bus efficiency, and to provide flexibility for limited vehicular street uses. Incorporating feedback from the Alliance, its stakeholders, and DOT, Stantec proposed a bold vision to significantly widen the sidewalks, designate travel lanes as bus-only, provide security bollards, and delineate vendor areas and zones for theater and delivery access. Currently, DOT has requested additional mobility data collection and analysis for this proposal. Our team is in the process of incorporating the more recent data to further advance the conceptual design.

Restaurant Row

46th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenue, is full of restaurants. During the pandemic, parking spaces in front of restaurants have been occupied by sheds and dining platforms under the then temporary NYCDOT Open Restaurant Program. The necessary but short term effort caused disorganization at the street, causing safety concerns and privatized sidewalk spaces. As NYCDOT is introducing a permanent Open Restaurant Program, the Alliance wants to use this opportunity to introduce a shared street and collective outdoor dining. Stantec team proposes interim and long term concepts, taking into consideration outdoor dining configuration, activating streetscape, pedestrian safety, and the needs for loading access and waste collection.

A 42ND STREET



MAXIMIZE PEDESTRIAN SPACE AND SIDEWALKS

Maximize pedestrian space and reduce pedestrian obstructions on the sidewalks



STREET VENDORS AND OTHER SPACE USES

Provide an organizational structure for the many uses of pedestrian space (including street vendors)



IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

By incorporating security-grade bollards along curb and bulb outs to improve pedestrian safety



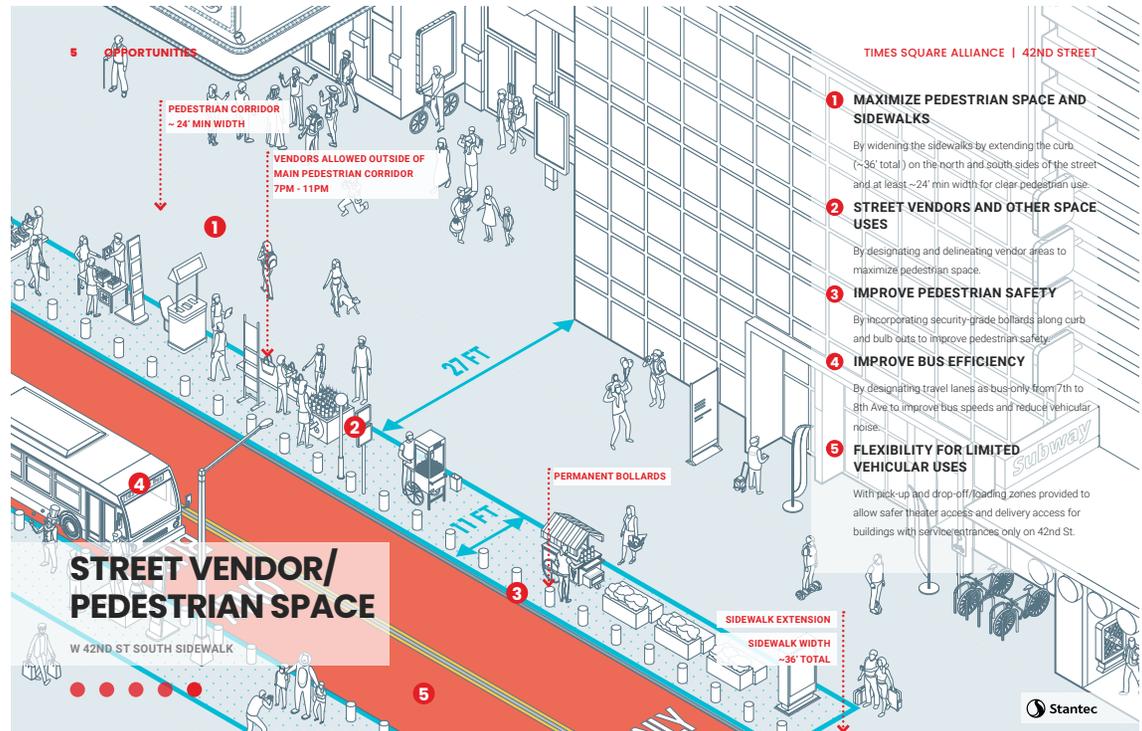
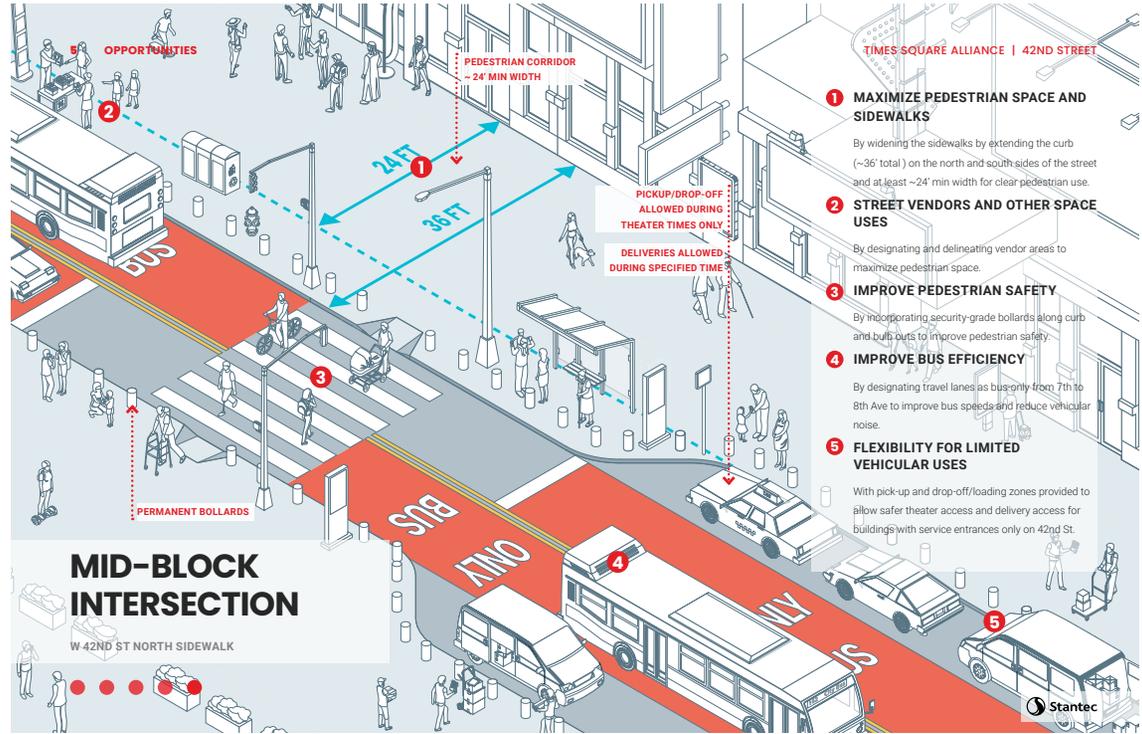
IMPROVE BUS EFFICIENCY

By designating travel lanes as bus-only from 7th to 8th Ave to improve bus speeds and reduce vehicular noise

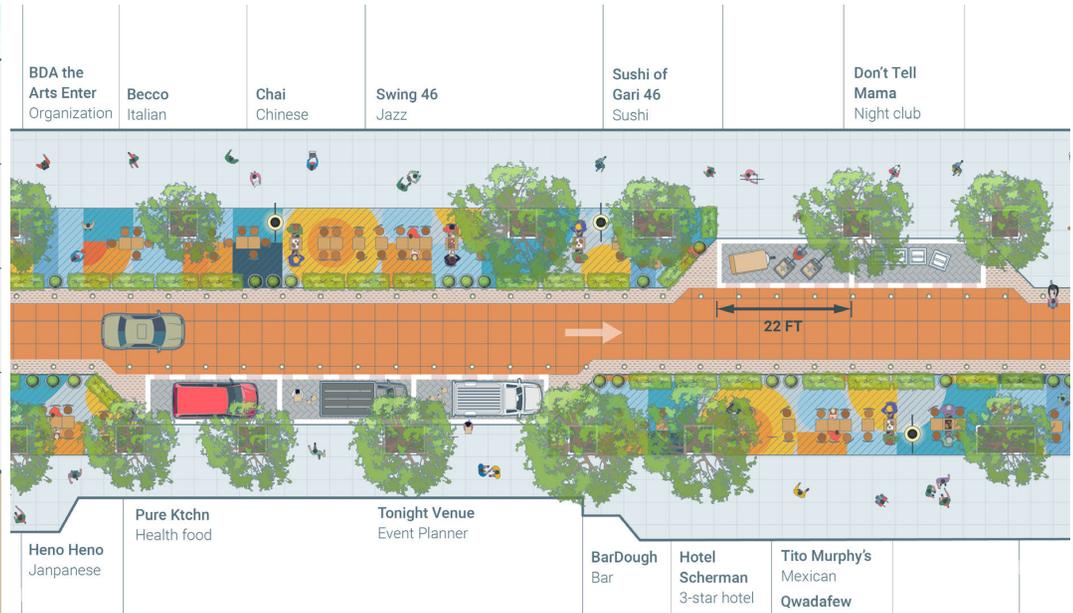
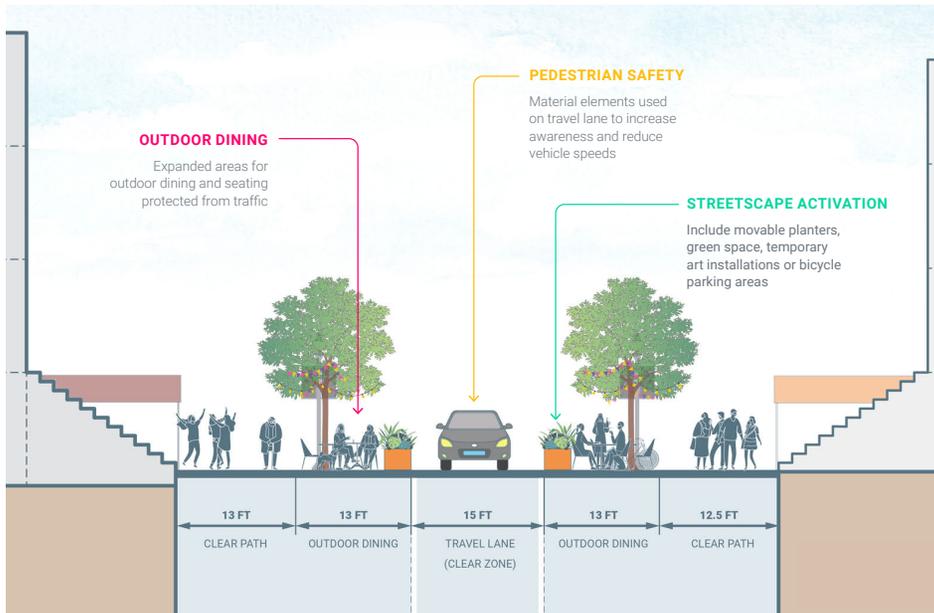
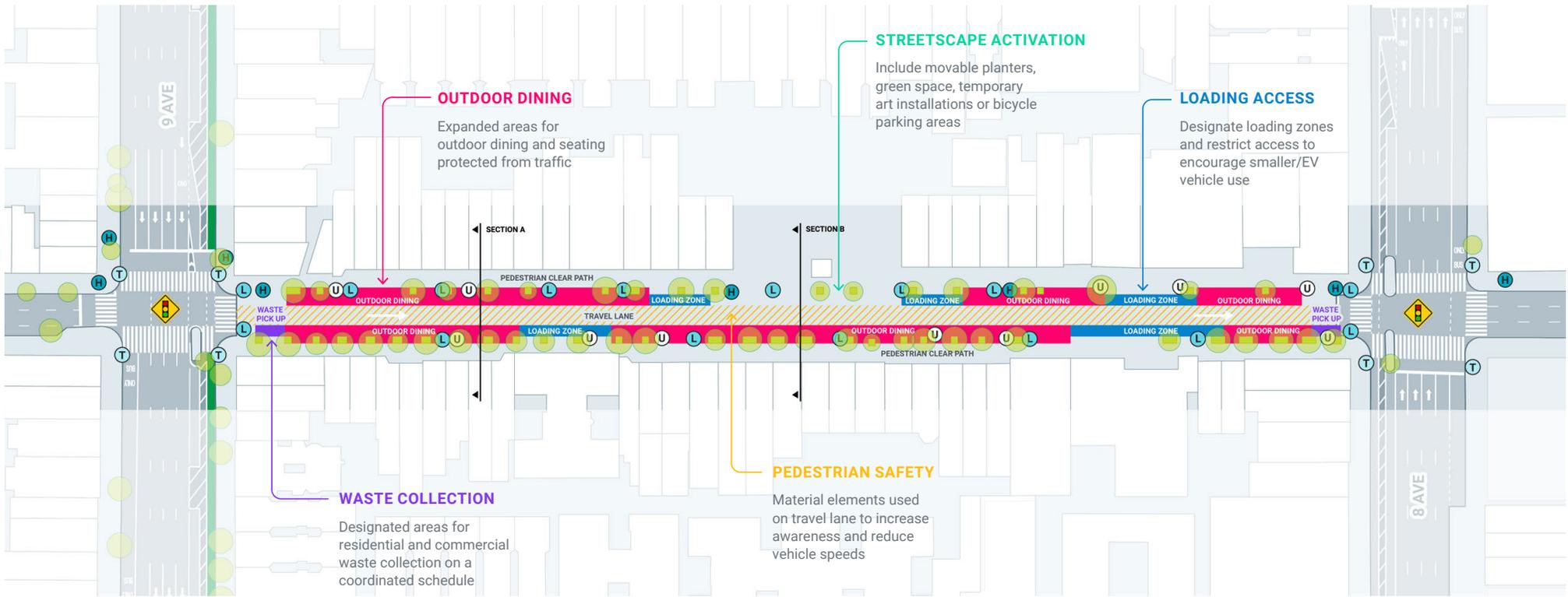


FLEXIBILITY FOR LIMITED VEHICULAR USES

Provide flexibility for limited vehicular street uses, including pick up / drop off functions, sanitation, and deliveries



B RESTAURANT ROW



NYCDOT PLAZA PROGRAMS

Location: New York, NY

Client: NYC Department of Design and Construction

Phase: Conceptual to Construction Document

Duration: 2013-2016

Role: Landscape Architect (at SWA/Balsley)

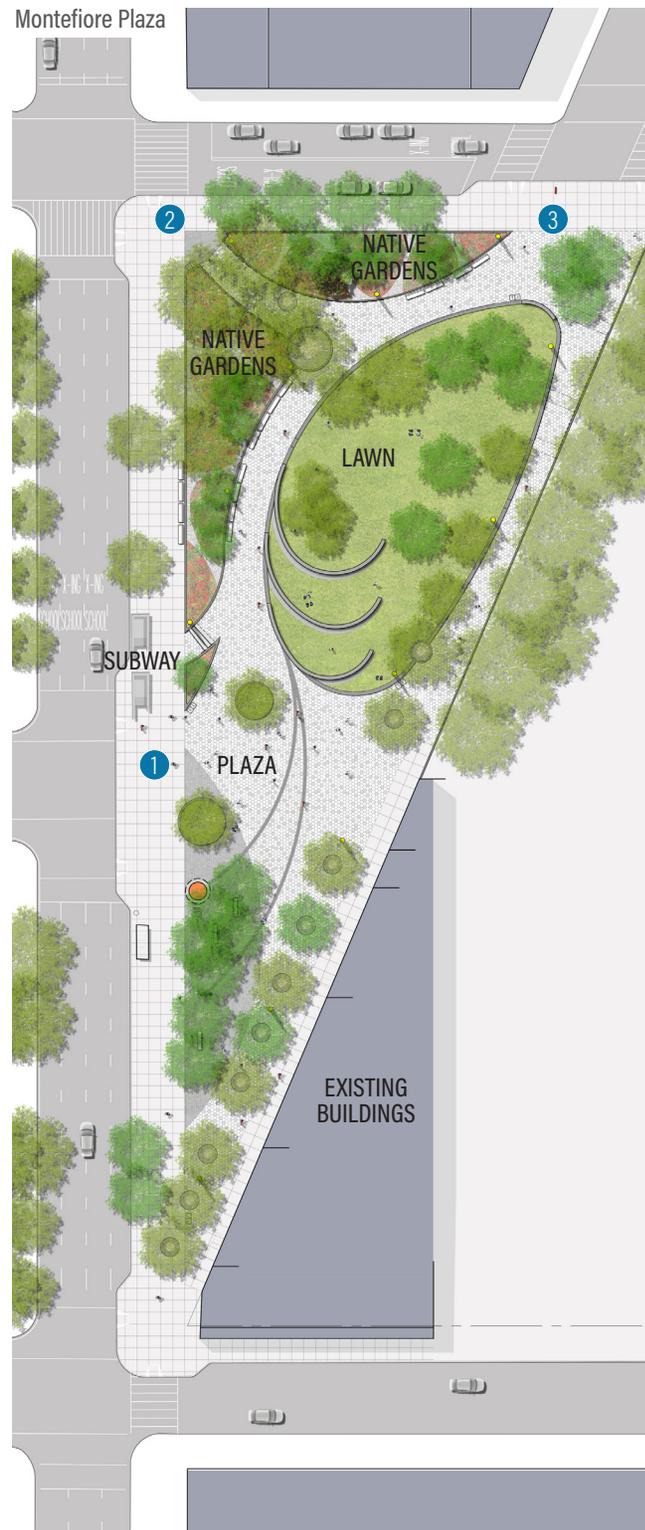
Landscape Team: Jim Welsh

I was the main landscape designer and assisted on project management tasks for 4 NYC Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) Plaza Program projects while I was at SWA/Balsley. The Plaza Program transformed underused streets into neighborhood plazas, partnering with selected community organizations. The capital projects are managed by the Department of Design and Construction (NYCDDC). I included this work because it built the foundation of my professional focus in public spaces and infrastructure projects. I worked closely with NYCDDC and NYCDOT (clients), coordinated with other public agencies and sub-consultants in a multi-disciplinary team. I prepared and facilitated presentations for community workshops and approval processes through community boards, Public Design Commission, and other local and state agencies. In this portfolio, I have chosen to showcase Montefiore Plaza in Hamilton Heights.

Montefiore Plaza

The design utilizes the closing of Hamilton Place to vehicular traffic as an opportunity to expand Montefiore Park and transform part of the area into a community-oriented and flexible plaza.

The park is a pedestrian thoroughfare between mass transit stops, City College, and the nearby Riverside and Riverbank Parks. The proposed space is divided into three primary areas: an open lawn, planted gardens and a paved plaza. The design of the park will improve the sustainability of the community by increasing the pervious areas and provide a variety of open spaces. The design was selected for a Public Design Commission Excellence Award.



OPEN ARCHITECTURE / NEW YORK

Location: New York, NY

Client: Various Community and Non-Profit Organizations

Role: Director of Projects and Project Coordinator

Phase: Conceptual to Installation

Duration: 2015-2021

A just future in my mind must include equitable access of resources for all neighborhoods. Even though I have worked on different public projects, I strive to share my technical skills to help communities build the spaces they desire and feel belong. For six years, I served as project coordinator then Director of Project for Open Architecture/ New York (OACNY), a volunteer-run organization that provides pro-bono design services to underserved communities. As Director of Projects, my responsibilities include scoping and implementing projects, supporting a team of project coordinators, maintaining relationships with current and potential clients. I implemented thirteen new projects as director between 2018-2021 and led three additional projects as project coordinator between 2015-2018.



BLACK JOY FARM



JEROME GUN HILL BID



CONCRETE SAFARIS OFFICES



PINK HOUSES OPEN SPACE VISIONING



WASHINGTON GARDEN



BARD HIGH SCHOOL / EARLY COLLEGE



STREET LAB POP-UP TABLE



WESTSIDE CLUSTER HOUSE



CONCRETE SAFARIS JUNGLE GYM

A CONCRETE SAFARIS
East Harlem, New York, NY

For 6 years, I worked closely with Concrete Safaris, a non-profit whose mission is to prepare youth in East Harlem and beyond to lead healthy lives and shape their environment through outdoor education, play, exploration, and community engagement. I first met the amazing people at the organization when they reached out to OACNY on creating an obstacle course together with their students. Since then, I have continued to form volunteer teams for their different needs and serve as an advisor.

Jungle Gym (2017 and 2018)

Project designed obstacles for a series of summer fairs in East Harlem with a group of 8-12 years old children. Led two different teams of volunteers for two annual fairs. [Project Coordinator: Myself]

Jungle Gym



Washington Garden

Washington Garden (2018 - 2019)

Redesigned and installed universally accessible elements at one of Concrete Safaris gardens at New York City Housing Authority campuses. The design team integrated feedback from children and adults who frequent the garden. Supervised a group of 7 volunteers. [Project Coordinator: Christine Berry]



Office Renovation (2020)

As the organization has started to expand, Concrete Safaris hoped to renovate and reorganize their office to accommodate growth. OACNY partnered with MBB Architects to implement the project. I serve as liaison between the architects and Concrete Safaris and to make sure the design would be transformed smoothly into installation by OACNY. The project unfortunately did not get to be installed due to the pandemic and the organization need to move to another building. [Project Coordinator: MBB Architects]

Office Renovation



B WALT SHAMEL COMMUNITY GARDEN (2015)
Crown Heights, Brooklyn, NY

I led a 3 person team to design and construct a 4-bins compost for a community garden who need a system that is sturdy, easy to use, and rodent-proof. We incorporated inputs from the garden board and members. We also researched and visited various compost systems in other gardens. The team sourced materials through donations, fundraiser, developed working schedule, and installed the compost bins in three build days. [Project Coordinator: Myself]



C STREET LAB TABLE DESIGN (2019-2020)
New York, NY

Street Lab, a nonprofit that activates public space across the city, needed a table that is sturdy, packable, easy to set up, and works for all ages and abilities. The design team created a knock-down table that interlock and can be reconfigured at two different heights. Project coordinator Hannah continues to work with Street Lab individually and designed more playstreet elements that brought joy to many children. [Project Coordinator: Hannah Berkin-Harper]



D PINK HOUSES OPEN SPACE VISIONING
(2019-2021) East New York, Brooklyn, NY

OACNY partnered with East New York Restoration and the Tenant Association to visualize a grassroots-initiated design for a new senior fitness hub. Using feedback gathered from the community during a public visioning session and survey, the team created a design to assist our partners to gather funding and coordinate with the public housing authority. Architectural firm Studio 397 and construction firm Equest Builders Corp made this vision a physical reality after funding was secured. [Project Coordinator: Nate Heffron]



URBAN DESIGN FORUM FOREFRONT FELLOWSHIP

Location: New York, NY
 Organization: Urban Design Forum
 Duration: 2019-2020
 Role: Forefront Fellow
 Capstone Project Team: Digser Abreu, Rhonda-Lee Davis, Dorraine Duncan, Lydia Gaby, Manuela Powidayko

Forefront Fellowship brought together a group of emerging leaders in urban design, development and policy to explore how urban practitioners can advance climate justice principles across New York City. The work was structured through two phases: a group capstone project and a fellowship publication.

Capstone Project
 Together Resilient is a women-led organizing effort to marshal creative community-centered financial, organizing, and design strategies. The project's intention is to uplift and support those most at risk who are taking action to build resilience in their communities. We have chosen to focus on New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) public housing campuses as these residents are often vulnerable to environmental risks, health crises and racial injustice. The policy recommendations are as follows:

- Use collective purchasing to reduce economic stressors through delivery of discounted goods and services
- Implement community currency to pay for labor that is valued by the community but often unpaid
- Create centralized resilience hubs to enhance existing NYCHA community spaces
- Increase resident power by seizing opportunities to build, share and own community funding and resources

Fellowship Publication

Forefront Fellows worked together to develop a set of recommendations addressing the threat of extreme heat through the built environment. The strategies were published in the report - *Turning the Heat: Resiliency in New York City's Heat-Vulnerable Neighborhoods*.

A TOGETHER RESILIENT Capstone Project

Policy Brief

Use **COLLECTIVE PURCHASING** to reduce economic stressors through delivery of discounted goods and services

By aggregating demand across a large population of individuals, co-ops can negotiate with suppliers for lower prices and other benefits. Purchasing co-ops are especially beneficial to low-income communities who experience multiple cost burdens, including rent, energy, health, and food, often simultaneously. The economic power of a co-op can be applied to any good or service, such as food, emergency resources, pest control, HVAC maintenance, or even weatherization.

What is the Impact on NYCHA and the City?

- Creates opportunities to improve to rent own utility by assessing their consumer rights
- Supports the expansion of community organizing to bring a broad base of residents to the table
- Creates partnerships between businesses and NYCHA residents, as procurement contracts are made
- Generates shared understanding, trust and reciprocity among participants of the co-op
- Residents build confidence in business and regulatory skills
- Cost reductions on everyday items, such as food, allow residents to reallocate savings to other more important costs

*Urban Design Forum, "Turning the Heat: Resiliency in New York City's Heat-Vulnerable Neighborhoods" - Forefront Fellowship Publication - Forefront Fellowship, December, 2020



Implement **COMMUNITY CURRENCY** to pay for labor that is valued by the community but often unpaid

Communities can establish a virtual currency to facilitate the exchange of services among individuals, and potentially across local businesses and institutions, by establishing an Earning and a Redeeming Menu. With this system in place, individuals can earn credits for performing tasks that help others or the community as a whole while exchanging those credits for items and services that they personally need. This system is flexible and adaptable, and its scale varies upon the availability of individuals to perform tasks and the number of participating stakeholders.

What is the Impact on NYCHA and the City?

- Directly reflects the needs of individuals and the community
- Compensates and quantifies exchange services that always get paid but stressors in communities with strong bonds
- Help increase power within communities by bringing social capital to different groups, businesses, and other institutions
- The manual nature with the currency can be added to moments of crisis or new needs arise
- The database of services and expertise can assist with disaster response
- NYCHA's vast network of residents (~400,000), together with vendors, contractors, and organizations that already provide goods and services can have a greater impact on rebuilding a post-disaster network
- Alternate currency can still operate when the economy is down and resources become scarce



Create centralized **RESILIENCE HUBS** to enhance existing NYCHA community spaces

Build upon existing and often underutilized NYCHA community spaces so they can function as third places - a physical space that provides centralized and localized resources for residents every day and during times of shock. Provide an opportunity for residents to effectively interface with and advocate for work that positively affects their communities. Ultimately, Resilience Hubs provide spaces where residents can bond, strengthen trust across different groups with shared goals, and become better acquainted with local and City stakeholders.

What is the Impact on NYCHA and the City?

- Strengthen community organizations' ability to work with residents and offer opportunities for new collaborations
- Residents gain better access to everyday services
- Facilitate resident communication strategies to address mobility and safety issues on NYCHA campuses by providing virtual hubs of information for residents unable or unwilling to visit physical spaces
- Resilient operations such as well and emergency on-site design features
- Support and provide care for other neighborhood activities, from the management of community NGOs and businesses to spaces for wellness and community planning events led by stakeholders with technical expertise
- Serve as sites for emergency coordination and communication in times of shock
- Provide vital services before, during and after a disaster, such as food, water and medicine storage



Increase **RESIDENT POWER** by seizing opportunities to build, share and own community funding and resources

Leverage management and ownership transfers or new investments — in infrastructure, real estate, other community assets such as solar panels, or retail sales — to provide new and potentially permanent funding for resident use. Residents can apply resources towards physical improvements to NYCHA campuses or other discretionary supports for community members.

What is the Impact on NYCHA and the City?

- Residents can independently organize and establish new revenue streams through investment in new assets such as ownership title
- Residents can advocate for ownership or management rights, profit-sharing agreements, and other strategies that generate revenue for residents' use
- For example, the City is pursuing several deals to transfer NYCHA properties to private operators — over \$2,000 units. Residents' role is ensuring financial details and legal frameworks support a fair opportunity for residents to voice control of their own future by increasing the power they hold over their buildings and campus assets
- In a time of crisis, discretionary resources that can be controlled by residents are a critical asset for those most at risk. They have the power to supply emergency goods and services quickly to their neighbors based on their needs.



B TURNING THE HEAT Fellowship Publication

Community Event



Website

TOGETHER RESILIENT

PEOPLE-POWERED SOLUTIONS TO BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Together Resilient is a women-led organizing effort to marshal creative community-centered financial, organizing, and design strategies to uplift and support those most at risk who are taking action to build resilience in their communities.

Who We Are

We are six urbanists and designers brought together through the Urban Design Forum's Forefront Fellowship *Turning the Heat*. We are interested in social justice and investigating community resilience within neighborhood networks throughout the city. We have chosen to focus on public housing campuses as these residents are often vulnerable to environmental risks, health crises and racial injustice. We know that ongoing conversations with New Yorkers like

Turning the Heat • Resiliency in New York City's Heat-Vulnerable Neighborhoods • Design

TRANSFORM CITY STREETS INTO COOL CORRIDORS

While NYCHA campuses are rich with outdoor trees, landscaping, and greenery, the lack of tree canopy and landscaping often makes them heat islands. Transform these areas into green corridors that provide shade, cool air, and improve air quality and public safety.

Turning the Heat • Resiliency in New York City's Heat-Vulnerable Neighborhoods • Community Resiliency

DESIGN COOL-DOWN POP-UPS

A rich network of cooling centers and shade structures can help reduce heat stress and improve public safety. Design cool-down pop-ups to be located in high-traffic areas in the City's most heat-vulnerable neighborhoods. These structures can be designed to be mobile and all-ages with inclusion for the community. Cool-down structures can be designed to be mobile and all-ages with inclusion for the community.

Turning the Heat • Resiliency in New York City's Heat-Vulnerable Neighborhoods • Design

FLEXIBLE SHADING FOR PUBLIC HOUSING

Creating a new set of flexible shading structures can help improve public safety and reduce heat stress during the hot summer months and provide needed relief during extreme heat events. Flexible shading structures can be designed to be mobile and all-ages with inclusion for the community.

HINDSIGHT - A CONFERENCE ON URBAN PLANNING THROUGH THE EQUITY LENS

Location: New York, NY

Organization: Diversity Committee, American Planning Association New York Metro Chapter

Duration: 2017-2021

Role: Core Leadership and Design Coordinator

Other Core Leadership Team Member: Daphne Lundi, Catherine Nguyen, Tiffany-Ann Taylor, Giovania Tiarachristie

Hindsight is an urban planning conference that focuses on diversity and social equity not solely as a topic, but as a lens through which all planning and community development should be implemented. The conference is established and presented by the Diversity Committee of the American Planning Association New York Metro chapter, for which I am part of the executive leadership.

As the core planning team, we select a theme for Hindsight each year. The theme is often around a significant urban planning and equity-related milestone, to not only shed light on the discriminatory history of planning and its role in shaping today's inequitable places, but also to highlight planning as a means of achieving more inclusive, just, and equitable communities. In 2019, its third year, the conference attracted approximately 700 participants. During the pandemic, the 2020 and 2021 conferences were held virtually.

The core conference team directed the conference based on BIPOC and equity centered tenets listed on the right hand side. My main responsibilities as Design Director include:

- Developed and guide the character and content of the conference
- Designed the branding, graphic materials, and mementos for each year's theme. Coordinated production and packaging of materials with MWBE vendors and volunteers.
- Organized exhibit, mobile library, and common spaces to provide a joyful and restful space for gathering and learning (in person and virtually).
- Partnered closely with Crux, a Black-owned production team, to create an inclusive virtual conference experience.

Core Tenets of Hindsight

CENTER EQUITY IN THE FRAMEWORK AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

Make it the core of the conference and a requirement for all sessions, not just a niche topic or track.

CENTER ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS FOR AND BY HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES. Actively recruit and call for sessions led by BIPOC, people with disabilities, immigrants, LGBTQ+, immigrants/refugees, youth, and other intersectionalities; require a diversity in speakers.

ENSURE OPENING AND KEYNOTE SPEECHES PROVIDE A PLATFORM AND VISIBILITY for historically marginalized voices. Representation matters on the main stage.

STRIVE TO BE AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, AND INCLUSIVE. Everyone needs access to the table, regardless of income or differing physical, sensory, and neuro-abilities. Allow for a sliding scale or free admission to seniors, students, recent graduates or the unemployed.

EMBRACE THE NON-TRADITIONAL IN YOUR CONFERENCE STRUCTURE. Create space for intersectional conversations, healing, and encourage proposers to think outside of the traditional presentation format.

CENTER LOCAL MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES for all vendors or outsourced tasks. Be sure to highlight their businesses in conference programs and on social media for the event.

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE VISIBILITY AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OF PLANNERS OF COLOR by supporting volunteers as they step into roles that may differ from their traditional employment. Help them stretch their leadership muscles.

RAISE MONEY AND AWARENESS BY SUPPORTING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BIPOC AND/OR LOCAL MUTUAL AID GROUPS. Donate a portion of conference revenue to organizations in your community doing good work.

BE CREATIVE WITH SPONSORSHIPS. Not all support needs to be monetary. Incorporating in-kind donations of staffing, technical assistance, etc, will reduce the cost of production and allow for a diversity of organizational support.

SUPPORT YOUTH PARTICIPATION. Be intentional by encouraging high school students (or younger) to both submit session proposals or attend the conference. It is important for young adults to see themselves as practitioners early in their education and in a positive light.



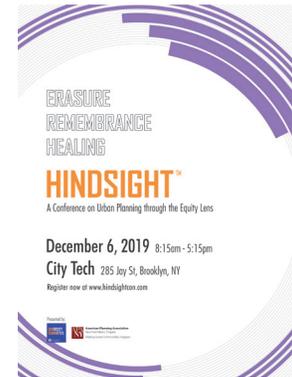
Develop Justice-Centered Theme and Design Branding

2017 - 100th Anniversary of Buchanan v Warley
(invalidation of racial zoning)



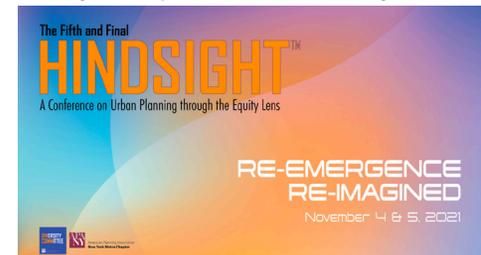
2018 - 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act
(fair housing)

2019 - Erasure, Remembrance, Healing
(erasure of history, collective amnesia, the movement of remembrance, and community healing)



2020 - Our Health, Our Future
(health and environmental inequities)

2021 - Re-Emergence Re-Imagined
(re-imagine an equitable future for re-emergence)



Amplify Undervalued Voices and Topics



Exhibit: Ellis Prep Academy ESL High School Students Planning Project

Curate Joyful, Restful, Inclusive Spaces for Learning and Interactions



Exhibit: Museum of Remembrance

Translate In-Person Connective and Intimate Moments into Virtual Space during Pandemic



Instruction Guide to Navigate Different Rooms in Digital Platform



Panel: Transgender/Gender Nonconforming Professional/Communities: Talking Future!



Partnered with the Uni Project, a mobile library, with a curated book list



Hosted Collective Remembrance: Mourning and Honoring Losses



Panel: What Creates Health: Race, Place, & Public Space

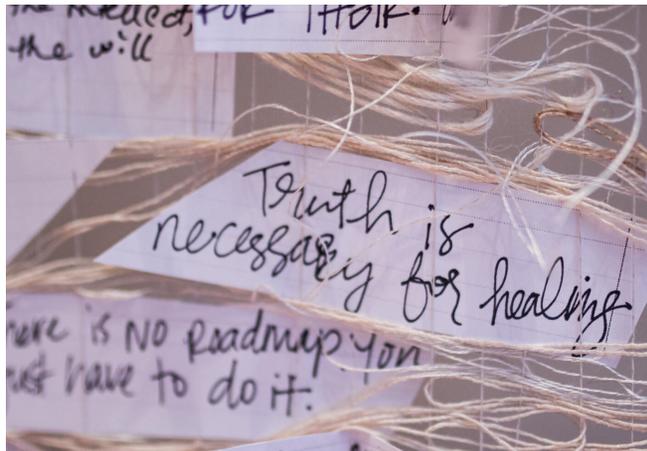


Exhibit: Experiments in Social Listening



Incorporated Keynote Graphic Recording by Tiaré Jung

99 CENTS & UP & UP

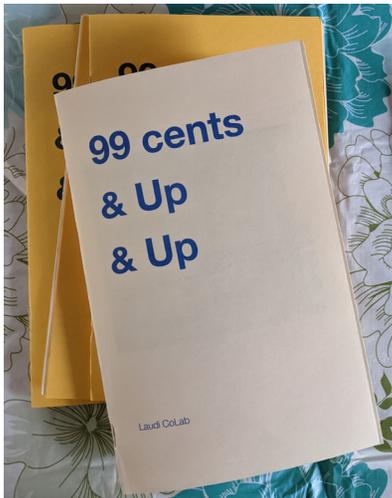
Medium: Exhibit

Year: 2022

Collaborator: Daphne Lundi, as part of Laudi CoLab

Storytelling is a medium for me to depict everyday places and objects that have been undervalued and ignored, and to break away from the technical and supposedly objective language of our professional accreditations. I deeply believe in the power of self-determined narratives for past, present, and future to build a collective just future. In addition to individual work, I co-founded art collaboratives that document and illustrate undervalued stories in the built environment.

Laudi CoLab, one of my collaborations, was selected as part of the Data Through Design 2022 group exhibition. 99 cents store was our focus and our inspiration. We made visible discount stores - a ubiquitous but oftentimes invisible part of New York City's landscape - through their textures and products, and examined how we value, display, and see 99 cents objects through data mapping and visual interplays. The exhibit elements include riso and offset prints, zine, 99 cent objects, textile work, and a zine-making workshop.



The two window pieces portray two common items in 99 cents stores - detergent and tupperware. Inspired by the repetition and uniformity of Pop Art objects, the illustrations evoke the repetition and abundance of items in 99 cent stores and accentuates the playful and colorful displays.



While chain dollar stores have set layouts and merchandise, mom-and-pop stores tend to have more variety. Given the racial/ethnic diversity of 99 cents business owners and the neighborhoods that their stores are located in, owners can curate the items they stock. Not only to meet the needs of the communities they come from, but the communities they've opened in. This display of objects purchased in mom-and-pop stores in various neighborhoods provide a glimpse of the variety.



In 1966, the luxury brand Gucci™ introduced the Flora Scarf, designed by Gucci textile designer Vittorio Accornero in honor of Princess Grace Kelly. The original scarf features an array of florals and has been continually re-imagined over the past 50 years. The "Deals Deals Deals Scarf" pays homage to the ubiquitous floral print by re-imagining a luxury scarf with one of the most ubiquitous items in dollar stores: fake floral bouquets.



Items in discount stores are often stacked densely next to and on top of each other, typically on floor to ceiling shelves. The display style creates a textured pattern of objects with various sizes and uses. This grid of risograph prints, sewn together, attempts to evoke the density and texture of 99 cents store aisles and the potential of DIY, while also documenting the vast array of objects on display.



This map displays the density of 99 cents stores in the city using placemats, contact paper, and vinyl runner mats from discount stores in Flatbush. A point data shapefile of store locations was used to extrapolate elevation data. The peaks on the map show which neighborhoods have the highest concentration of stores. There are 17 neighborhood tabulation areas (NTAs) in the city that have 20 or more 99 cents stores. Of the 17 NTAs, 15 are predominantly Black, Latinx, or Asian.



As part of the exhibit, we hosted a zine workshop for people to explore objects from 99 cents store. Participants made zines based on the prompts - Is there a 99 cents store item that you like to buy? Are you curious about where it's from, or drawn to its color and texture?

INDUSTRIAL CHINATOWNS

Medium: Exhibit and Zine

Year: 2022 and 2023

Collaborator: Louise Yeung, as part of Sunken Press

Industrial Chinatowns is a virtual exhibit and zine project through my other collaborative Sunken Press. The project re-imagines the dominant narrative on Chinatowns as places of consumption, illuminating the "hidden" materials, labor, and economies that enable New York's manufacturing and construction industries. People often think about Chinatowns as playgrounds for consumption. Guidebooks and articles describe Chinatowns as exotic cultural buffets to be devoured, peppered with phrases like "fantasyland for foodies." Yet, beyond the food stalls and gift shops are a less visible array of adjacent Chinese-owned industrial businesses, critical to the systems that shape New York City. Louise and I visited different neighborhoods with high concentrations of industrial land uses and observe the Chinese-operated industrial companies. The works are sketches layered on photograph and printed as 2-color riso zine.



Flushing - Just beyond Northern Boulevard, a few blocks away from the aromatic food courts and glassy hotels of downtown Flushing, is a dense network building material purveyors each boasting the best supply of granite and stone. These buildings clad themselves in their wares, displaying elaborate mosaics of tiles, roofing, stone carving, and ironwork on their building façades for all to see.



Sunset Park - Nestled between the Belt Parkway to the east and the working waterfront to the west, Sunset Park's industrial zone bustles with activity. A network of auto body mechanics, beauty suppliers, cabinetry, food wholesalers, and a nail worker association highlight the behind-the-scenes functions that support thriving neighborhoods.



Maspeth - While Maspeth is not often thought of as one of NYC's core Chinatowns, this neighborhood is home to a sizable Asian population alongside a concentration of businesses that support wholesale import/export of consumer goods. Billboards advertising everything from toys and Christmas trees to clothing and handbags line the streets with sights of everyday products.