

Annual Report  
**2024**  
**NYC**DESIGN





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# The Public Design Commission

## About the PDC

As New York City's design review agency, the Public Design Commission (PDC) has jurisdiction over permanent structures, landscape architecture, and art proposed on or over City-owned property. The mission of the PDC is to advocate for innovative, sustainable, and equitable design of public spaces and civic structures, with a goal of improving the public realm and therefore related services for all New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs.

The Commission is made up of 11 members who serve pro bono and meet once per month to review and vote on projects submitted by City agencies. Members include an architect, landscape architect, painter, sculptor, and three lay members, as well as representatives of the Brooklyn Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York Public Library, and the Mayor. The PDC staff assists the Commission members in their duties and guides submitting agencies through the design review process.

The PDC also acts as caretaker and curator of the City's public art collection, which is located throughout the City's buildings and open spaces, and maintains an extensive archive documenting the history of New York City's public works.

The Commission's purview and rules are outlined in Chapter 37 of the New York City Charter and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

1. PDC commissioners and staff visit the New York State Pavilion Observation Towers in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, Queens to take a tour led by NYC Parks
2. PDC commissioners and staff view the installation of *Life Could be a Dream* by artist Jeffrey Gibson installed at the 40th Police Precinct in the Bronx during a tour led by the Department of Design and Construction.





# Reflecting and Looking Ahead

Dear Friends and Partners,

As I look back on 2024, I am filled with pride and gratitude for what we have accomplished together at the Public Design Commission (PDC). This has been a transformative year that has reinforced our belief that high-quality design review and design excellence can create safer, more vibrant neighborhoods that uplift families across all five boroughs. Throughout this year, we demonstrated that good design and transparent public processes are not just ideals, but necessities for building a more equitable city.

## Delivering Results Through Streamlined Review

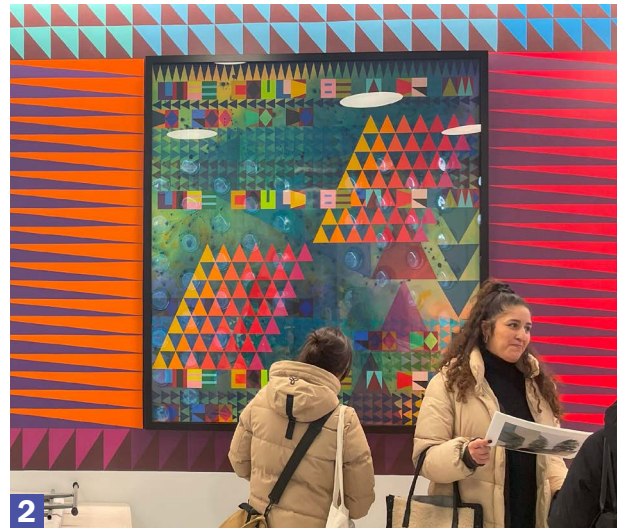
One of our most significant accomplishments was the continued success of our streamlined staff review process. In its second year, about 20% of projects we approved in 2024 went through this faster track, cutting approval times by over 18 days. We reviewed over 99% of submitted projects in two or fewer monthly cycles. We achieved these results by engaging with teams earlier in the design process. Our staff and commissioners have seen first-hand how this approach not only speeds up timelines, but improves submission quality. It's proof that efficiency and excellence can go hand in hand.

## Simplifying Our Process for Everyone

Throughout 2024, we worked with our agency partners to tackle a major challenge: making our submission process more accessible. We convened multiple working groups to reduce complexity and administrative confusion through collaboration between PDC staff, agency liaisons, and applicants. We consolidated our submission checklists from 21 to five and created a submission instructions guide, a searchable collection of award-winning example projects, and a presentation style guide. These new resources are beginning to make a real difference for everyone working with us.

## Launching Our Most Ambitious Public Art Initiative

This year, our partnership with the Public Housing Community Fund (PHCF), NYCHA, and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) resulted in *From Roots to Arts: Celebrating NYCHA's Cultural Heritage*, a 20-month artist-in-residence program supported by the Mellon Foundation. PDC staff advised on



program design and managed the artist selection process through close collaboration with our partners and community members. The year culminated with the selection of artists, who will be creating art that celebrates the cultural heritage and lived experiences of the people who live at each of the five selected sites across the city.

## Celebrating Design Excellence at Gracie Mansion

On October 30th, we hosted our 42nd Annual Awards for Excellence in Design at Gracie Mansion alongside former First Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer. We recognized 12 exceptional projects reviewed in 2023. These projects—from community centers to climate resiliency infrastructure—show what's possible when thoughtful design meets community engagement and sustainability.

## Looking Ahead

As we move into 2025, PDC remains convinced that design excellence and efficiency are not competing priorities. This year has proven that transparent processes, community engagement, and high design standards can work together to serve our diverse communities. We thank you for your continued partnership and support. These achievements are only possible because of the dedication of our team and collaboration with agency partners and applicants. Together, we're building a more beautiful, equitable, and sustainable New York.

With gratitude and excitement for the year ahead,

Sreoshy Banerjee, Executive Director



1. PDC Executive Director, Sreoshy Banerjea, and Director of Urban Design & Policy, Jenna Miller, receive an honor award in the Community Impact category for *Streetscapes For Wellness*, the latest publication in the Designing New York Series.
2. PDC Director of Art, Design & Technology, Carolina Llano, joined by former PDC Executive Directors, Keri Butler and Justin Garrett Moore, introduces the From Roots to Arts Artist-in-Residence Program at an event celebrating the selected artists.





# Who We Are

## Commissioners

**Deborah Marton**, President, Lay Member  
**Jimmy Van Bramer**, Vice President, Lay Member  
**Manuel Miranda**, Secretary, Lay Member  
**Kenseth Armstead**, Painter Member  
**Isabel Castilla**, Landscape Architecture Member  
**Laurie Hawkinson**, Architecture Member  
**Bill Heinzen**, Mayor's Representative  
**Karen Kiehl**, Brooklyn Museum  
**Carey Maloney**, The New York Public Library (appointed February 2024)  
**Dr. Merryl H. Tisch**, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

**Susan Morgenthau** (former New York Public Library Member) resigned in January 2024 and **Mary Valderde** (former Sculptor Member) resigned in February 2024.

## Staff

**Sreoshy Banerjea**, Executive Director  
**Jenna E. Miller**, Director, Urban Design & Policy  
**Carolina Llano**, Director, Art, Design & Technology  
**Julianna Monjeau**, Senior Archivist & Information Specialist  
**Ryu Kim**, Senior Project Manager  
**Chelsea Chaug**, Project Manager  
**James Francisco**, Project Manager  
  
**Mary Beth Betts**, City Hall Tour Manager  
**Gary Deane**, **Deirdre LaPorte**, **Lisa Vogl** Docents  
  
**Madina Khasanboeva**, Mayor's Office Intern (Summer 2025)  
**Othniel Cassie Jr.**, Moynihan Center Fellow (Summer 2025)  
**Mércia Guilherme**, Mayor's Office Design Fellow (Fall 2024 – Spring 2025)  
**Christa May**, Mayor's Office Graduate Intern (Summer 2024)  
**Juan Esteban Jimenez Giraldo**, Moynihan Center Fellow (Summer 2024)  
**Apurva Jhamb**, Mayor's Office Graduate Intern (Summer 2023 – Spring 2024)

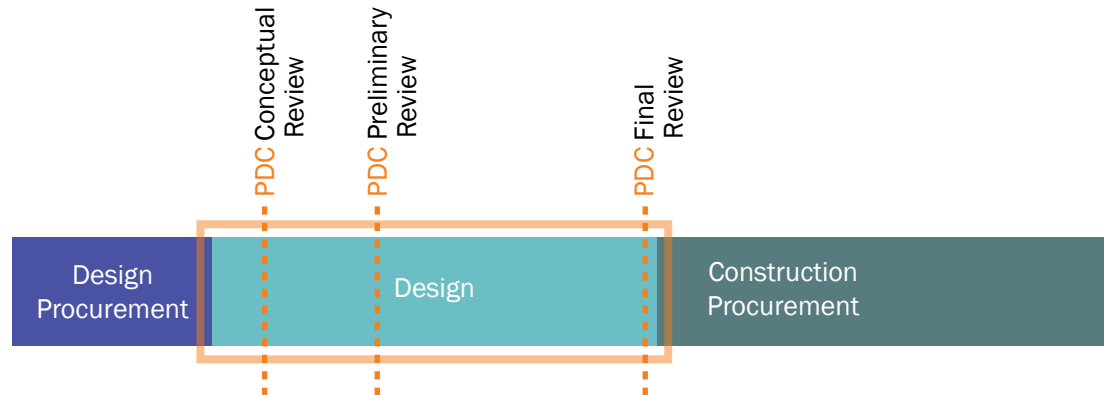
## Conservation Advisory Group

The Conservation Advisory Group (CAG) includes professionals in the fields of art, conservation, preservation, and history who volunteer their time providing guidance to the PDC on art conservation and preservation projects.

**Dr. Michele H. Bogart**, Professor, Department of Art, SUNY Stony Brook  
**Lauren Bradley**, Associate Conservator of Paintings, Brooklyn Museum  
**Lisa Bruno**, Carol Lee Shen Chief Conservator, Brooklyn Museum  
**Phyllis Samitz Cohen**, Director of Adopt-a-Monument, Mural Programs, Municipal Art Society  
**Isabelle Duvernois**, Associate Conservator, Metropolitan Museum of Art  
**Tina March**, Objects Conservator, David Booth Conservation Department, The Museum of Modern Art  
**Jorge Otero-Pailos**, Professor and Director of Historic Preservation, Columbia University  
**Kendra Roth**, Associate Objects Conservator, The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
**John Willenbecher**, Artist and former Art Commission member

# Design Review

## A Typical Capital Project Schedule



When determining whether to approve or reject proposals, the Commission considers a diverse range of design parameters, including the unique context of the site and surrounding area, the history of the site and project, the durability and resiliency of the materials, the sustainability and maintainability of the design, the appropriateness of the design in terms of how it will facilitate the desired function and program, and how to best serve the public through long-term planning and innovative solutions.

The PDC has developed guidelines for certain types of projects, which are intended to provide a general sense of designs the Commission supports, clarify requirements, provide guidance to applicants, and streamline the review process. In addition, staff has worked with City agencies to develop expedited review strategies for prototypical and standardized designs and projects with small scopes.

Due to the iterative nature of design development, the PDC has established multiple levels of review – Conceptual, Preliminary, and Final – that are integrated into typical project schedules established by City capital agencies. The charts on these two pages indicate where the different levels of PDC review fit within a typical capital project schedule. Individual projects may be submitted multiple times within a year as the design progresses through the levels of review.

## Conceptual

Conceptual review is required for all artworks, ground-up buildings, major infrastructure projects, master plans, other large-scale or complex projects, as well as projects that are subject to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). Submissions are made early in the design process when drawings are at the schematic level.

## Preliminary

For structures and landscapes, preliminary review typically occurs between the end of the schematic design phase and early design development. For artworks, preliminary review occurs when the artist has completed fabrication drawings.

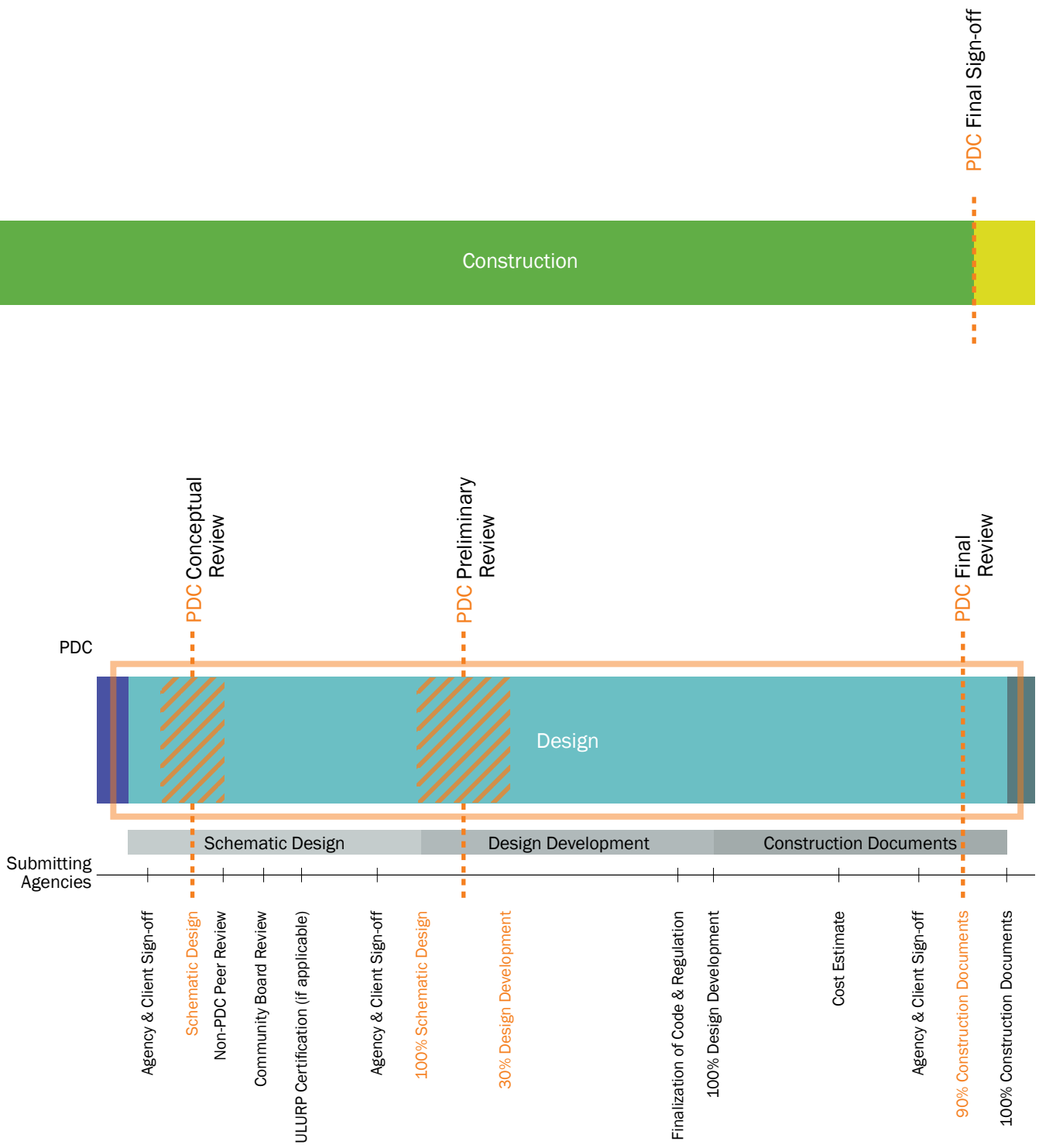
## Final

For structures and landscapes, final review and approval occurs at approximately 90% completion of construction documents. Once final approval is granted, construction can commence. For artworks, final review takes place after the artwork has been installed and includes the submission of photographs documenting the installed artwork.

## Final Sign-off

Final sign-off occurs after a project has been completed and photographic documentation has been submitted.

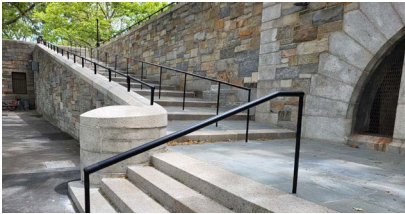
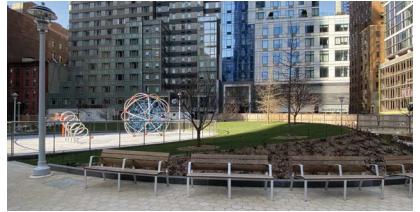
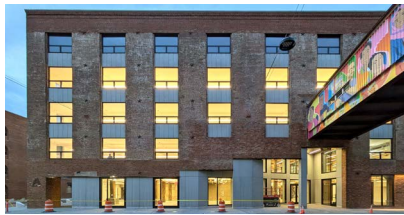








# Year in Review 2024



# Total Number of Submissions by Type

The PDC reviews approximately 800 to 1,000 submissions (600 to 800 unique projects) every year. Most of the projects that the PDC reviews fall under the major categories of structures, parks, open spaces, and streetscapes, and artwork. These main categories are further broken down and described in the following pages.

## Total Number of Submissions Received: **704**

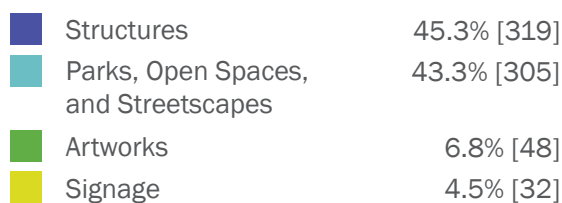


## Total Number of Unique Projects Reviewed: **526**

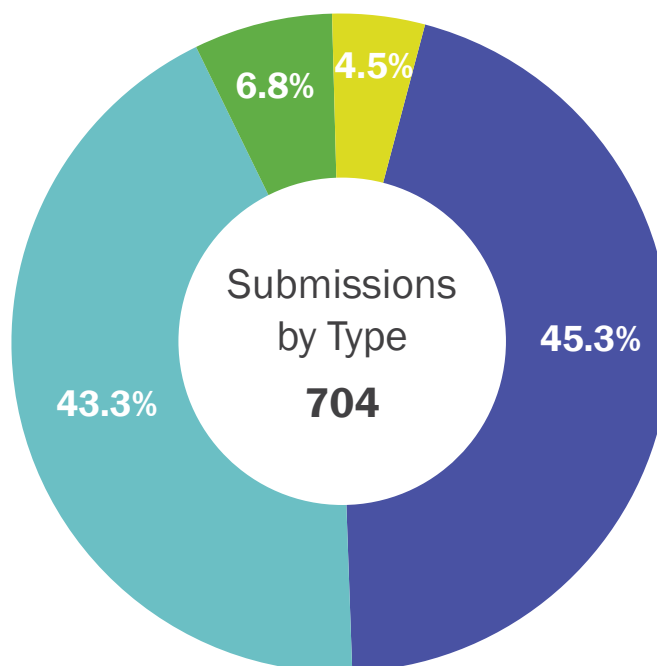


A **submission** is a package of review materials for a single project at a specific level of review.

A **project** is a unique scope of work at a site. One project may have multiple submissions within one year, such as for different levels of review.



**NOTE:** All numbers have been rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.



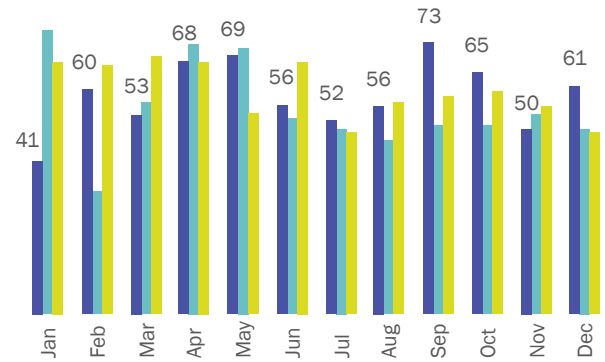


# Carry-over Projects

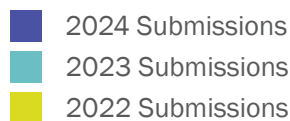
The PDC works year-round and typically the submission deadline for the January meeting is in December, so this one-month review cycle extends into the following year. PDC received the greatest number of submissions during the Spring and Fall of 2024.

*In 2023, 50 submissions were submitted in December for the January 2024 meeting. All of these submissions were either commented upon or approved in January 2024.*

*In 2024, 61 submissions were submitted in December and were then reviewed in January 2025.*



2024 Submissions by Month  
v. Previous Years

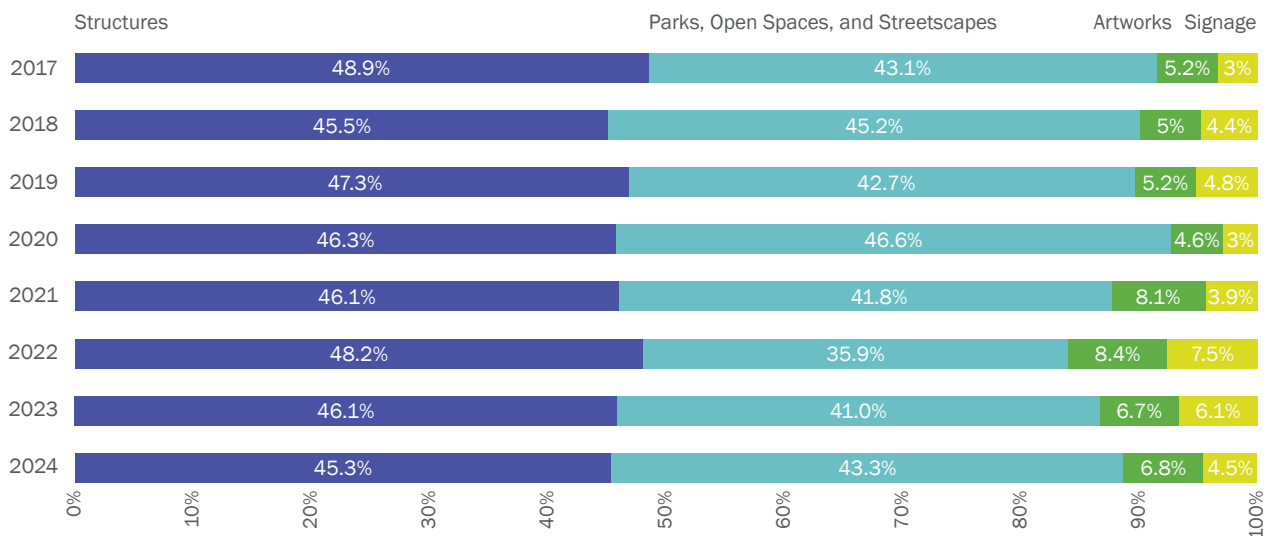


Harding Park was one of 61 projects submitted in December 2024 for review in 2025.

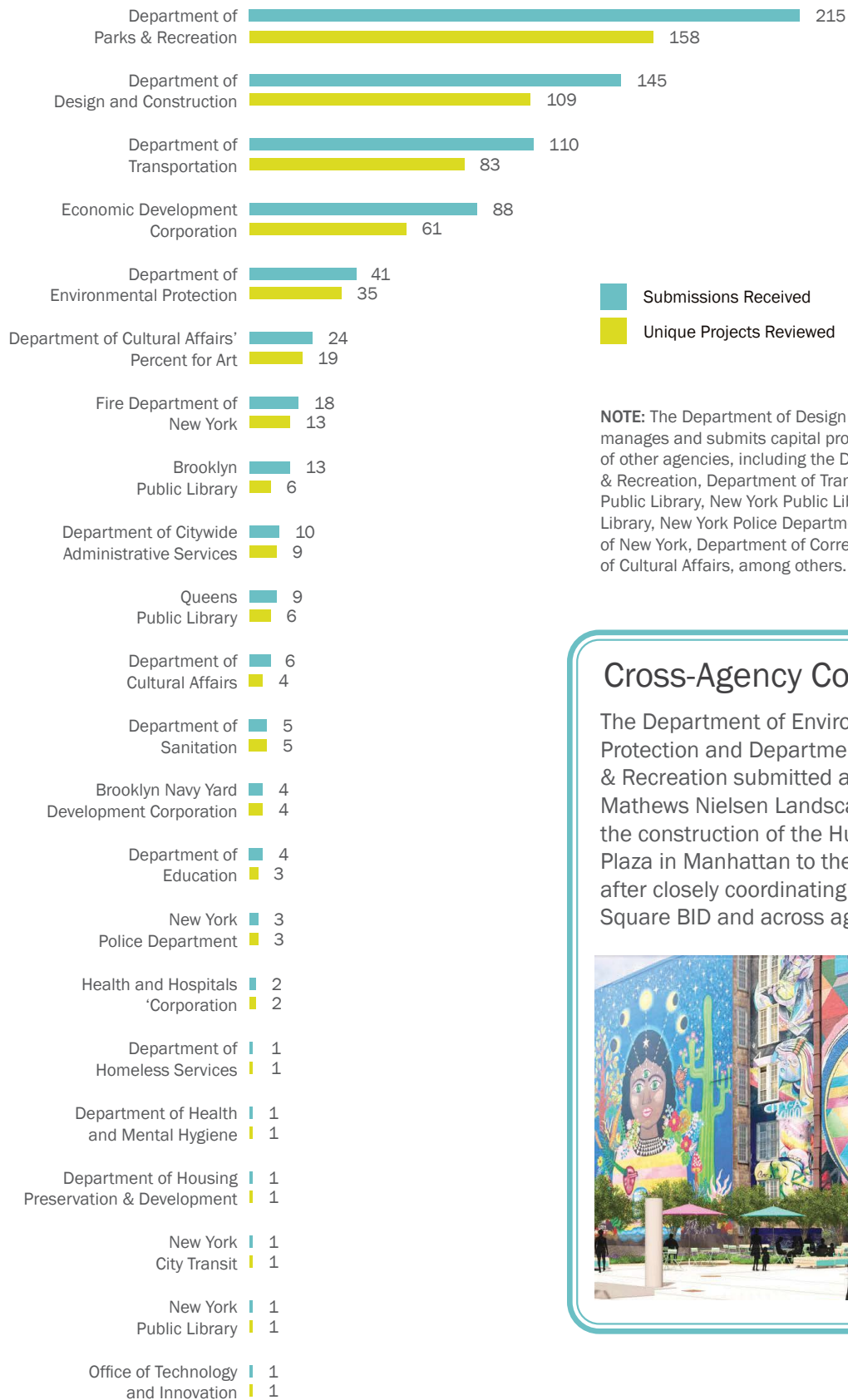
1. Harding Park in the Bronx; Department of Parks & Recreation; Marvel



## Submission Type Ratio Per Year



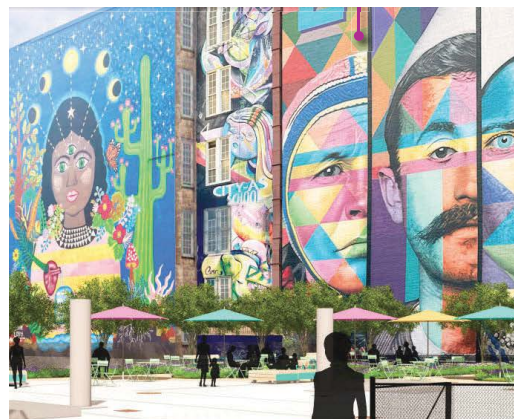
# 2024 Submissions and Projects by Lead Agency



**NOTE:** The Department of Design and Construction manages and submits capital projects on behalf of other agencies, including the Department of Parks & Recreation, Department of Transportation, Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library, Queens Public Library, New York Police Department, Fire Department of New York, Department of Correction, and Department of Cultural Affairs, among others.

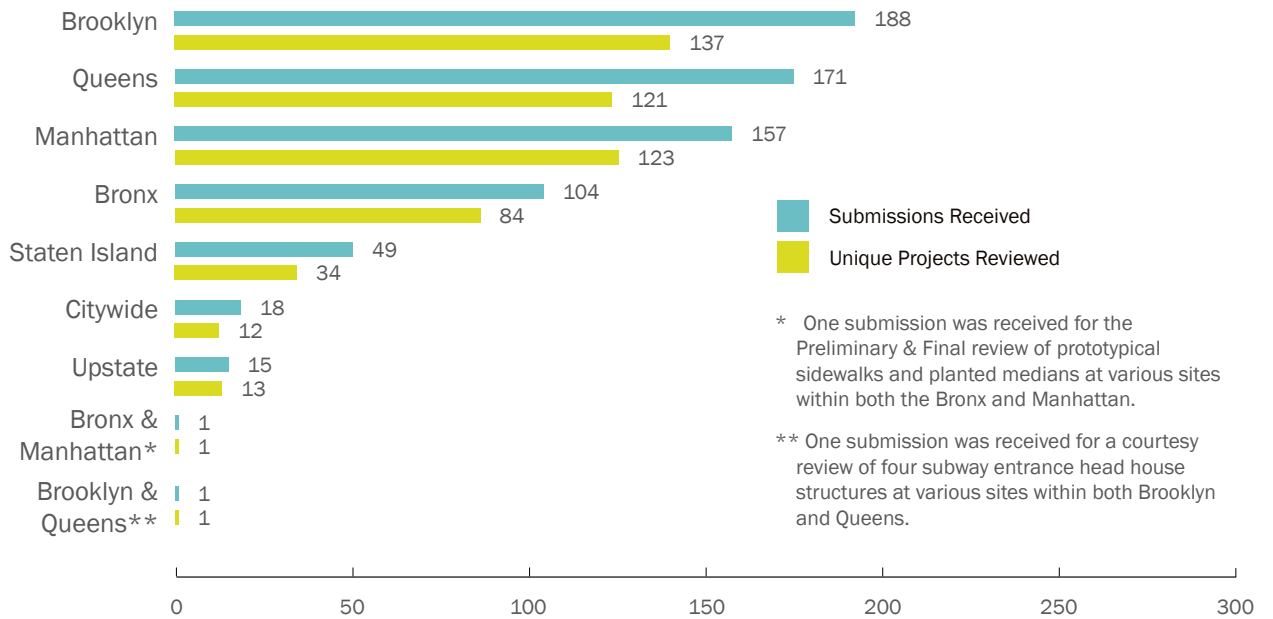
## Cross-Agency Coordination

The Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Parks & Recreation submitted a proposal by Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects for the construction of the Hudson Houston Plaza in Manhattan to the PDC for review after closely coordinating with the Hudson Square BID and across agencies.

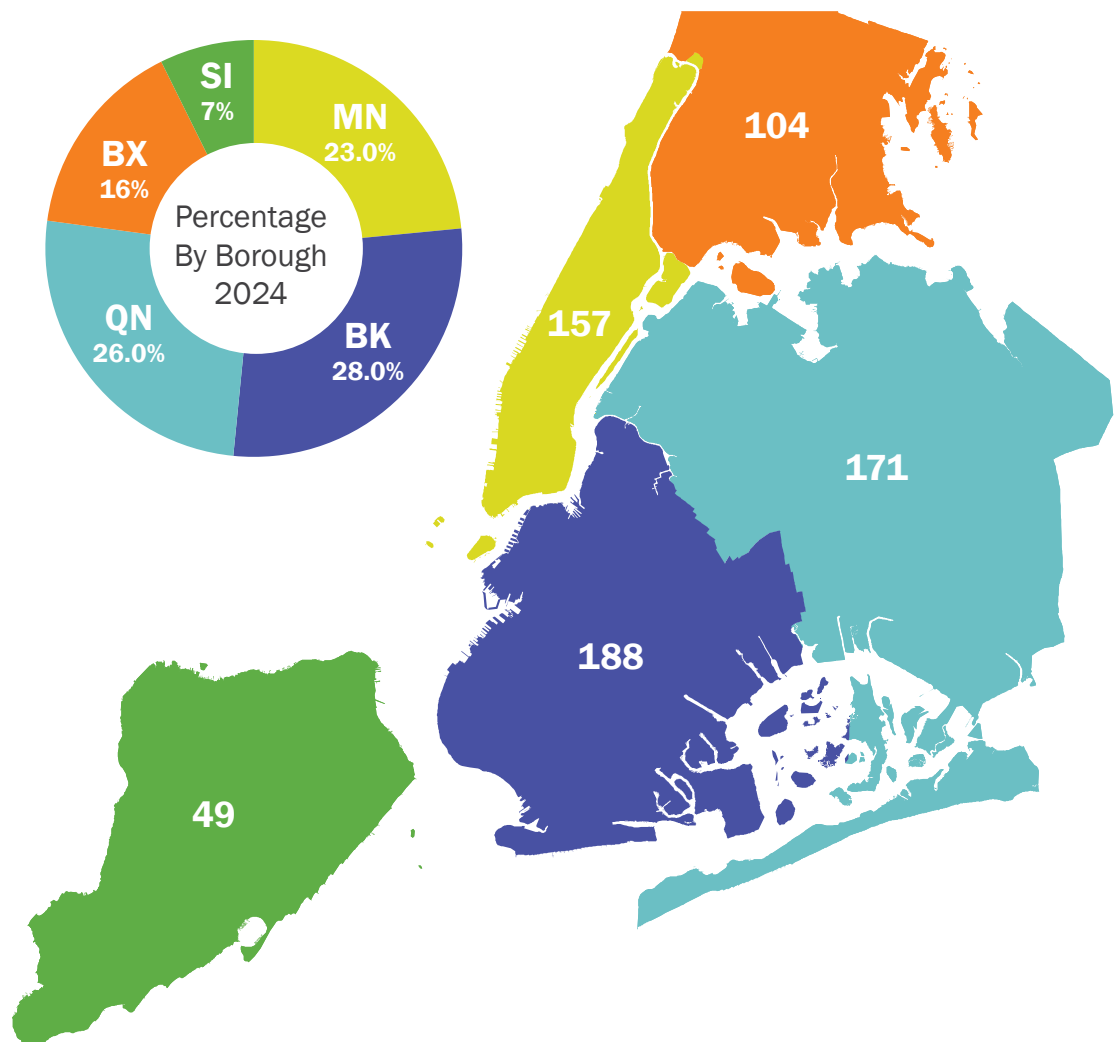




# 2024 Submissions and Projects by Borough



Total Number of Unique Projects Reviewed by Borough



# Architecture and Structures

Architectural projects range in size and scope from large-scale multi-building developments to small-scale building improvements such as HVAC installations. Projects may include new affordable housing, bridges, libraries, police stations, and sanitation garages, as well as renovations or restorations of existing buildings or bridges and the installation of mechanical units or other equipment.

## Installation of Specific Elements

Installation of prefabricated structures or small-scale additions of specific elements such as photovoltaic panels, HVAC units, or lighting

## Construction

An entirely new building, bridge, or other structure

## Rehabilitation

An upgrade for the purpose of making a building functional today, such as improvements to life safety and HVAC systems

## Reconstruction

Replacement of an existing structure with a new one of the same function

## Renovation

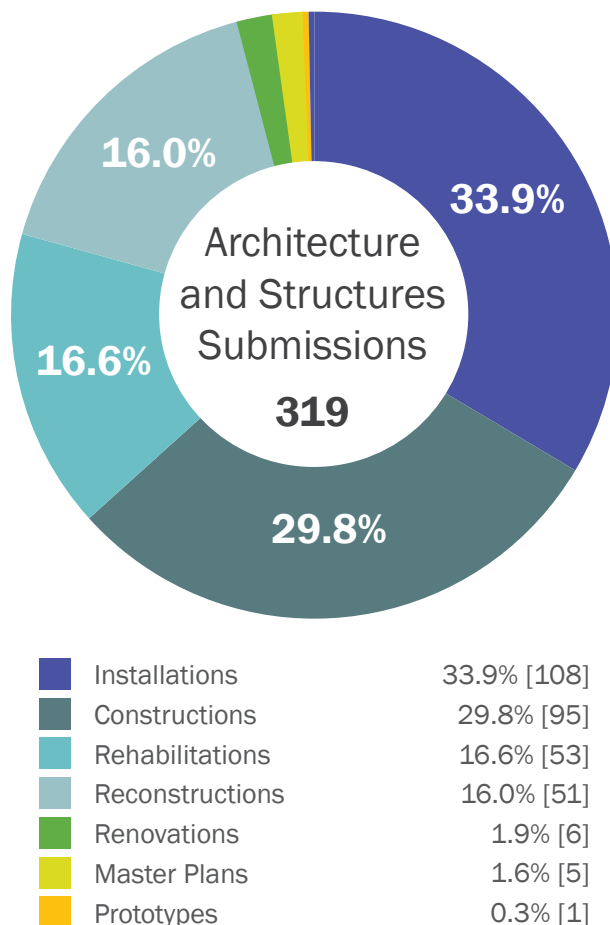
Significant changes to an existing structure

## Master Plan

A framework for a large site that often includes landscape as well as structures

## Prototype

A typical design that can be replicated at multiple locations, requiring only minor site specific adjustments



**NOTE:** All numbers have been rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.



## Public Restrooms Citywide

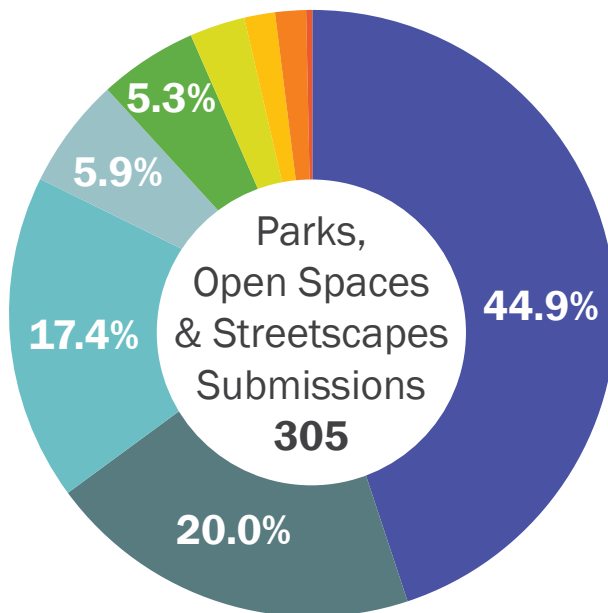
In 2024, the PDC reviewed 21 public restroom submissions, including unique proposals for 1 new public restroom in a park, 4 reconstructions of existing restrooms, 3 rehabilitations of existing restrooms, 1 renovation of an existing restroom, 10 completed public restroom buildings, and the installation of 2 prototypical automatic public toilets.

1. Pilot modular comfort station at Luis Lopez Playground in Staten Island; Department of Parks & Recreation



# Parks, Open Spaces, and Streetscapes

Landscape projects range in scale from master plans for large-scale open spaces and streetscapes to the installation of specific site furnishings, such as benches or newsstands. The most common type of landscape architecture submission is the reconstruction of parks, including playgrounds and athletic fields. Projects may also include dog runs, esplanades, flood mitigation measures, parking lots, path reconstructions, planter installations, shoreline stabilizations, and streetscapes.



Reconstructions	44.9% [137]
Constructions	20.0% [61]
Street Furniture	17.4% [53]
Minor Installations	5.9% [18]
Distinctive Sidewalks	5.3% [16]
Rehabilitations	3.0% [9]
Distinctive Lighting	1.6% [5]
Master Plans	1.6% [5]
Stabilizations	0.3% [1]

**NOTE:** All numbers have been rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

## Reconstruction

Replacement of an existing park, plaza, or streetscape with a new one

## Construction

An entirely new park, plaza, or streetscape

## Street Furniture

Amenities installed on a sidewalk

## Minor Installation

The addition of specific elements, such as artificial turf or adult fitness equipment

## Distinctive Sidewalks

Non-standard sidewalk treatments, materials, scoring patterns, or tints

## Rehabilitation

An upgrade for the purpose of making an open space functional today, such as improvements to pathways, and site furnishings

## Distinctive Lighting

Light fixtures distinct from the typical poles for a neighborhood

## Master Plan

A framework for a large site that often includes landscape as well as structures

## Stabilization

Modification of a steep hillside or embankment to increase stability and mitigate erosion

PDC reviews permanent designs proposed on or over City-owned streets, including step streets, which are thoroughfares fitted with steps for pedestrian traffic



2. Davidson Avenue Step Street, Bronx; Department of Design and Construction, Department of Transportation; CES Consultants, WXY. Including *A River (Can't Stop Won't Stop)* by artist C.J. Chueca.

# Artworks

Artwork projects include the installation of new artworks as well as the conservation, relocation, and removal of existing artworks. Artworks may be installed within buildings, on the facades of buildings or structures, or outside in public plazas or parks. Artworks may include but are not limited to bas reliefs, engravings, electronic media, mosaics, paintings, photographs, and sculptures.

The City typically commissions artworks for City-owned property through the Department of Cultural Affairs' Percent for Art Program. The sponsoring City agency and the Percent for Art Program are jointly responsible for the selection of the artist and the development of the work of art. A member of the Public Design Commission serves as an advisor on the Percent for Art artist selection panel. Once the proposal is approved by both the sponsoring agency and the Percent for Art Program, it is submitted to the Commission for review.

For projects that are not going through Percent for Art, the PDC requests that applicants follow the Percent for Art process, where a panel including art professionals selects the artist.

## Installation

Commissioning of a new artwork for a site, usually through the Percent for Art program

## Relocation

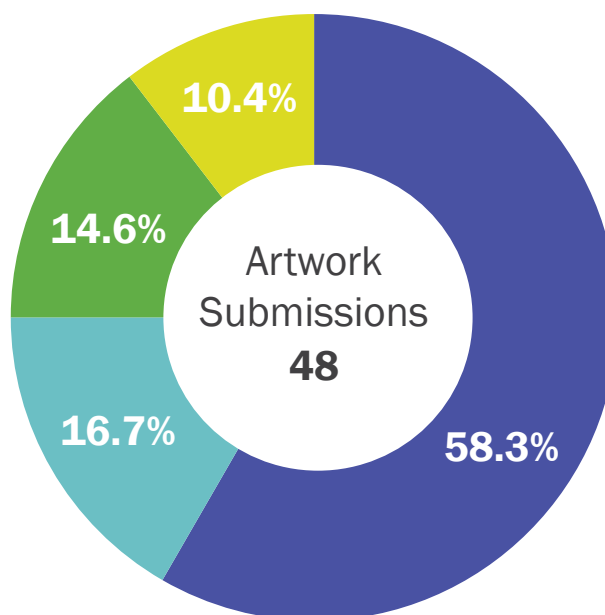
The moving of an artwork from one site to another site

## Removal

The removal of an artwork from its existing location to storage or the deaccessioning of an artwork

## Conservation

The treatment by a conservator to preserve an artwork, including but not limited to cleaning, recreation of missing elements, crack repairs, stabilization, repainting and repatination



Installations	58.3% [28]
Relocations	16.7% [8]
Conservations	14.6% [7]
Removals*	10.4% [5]

**NOTE:** All numbers have been rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

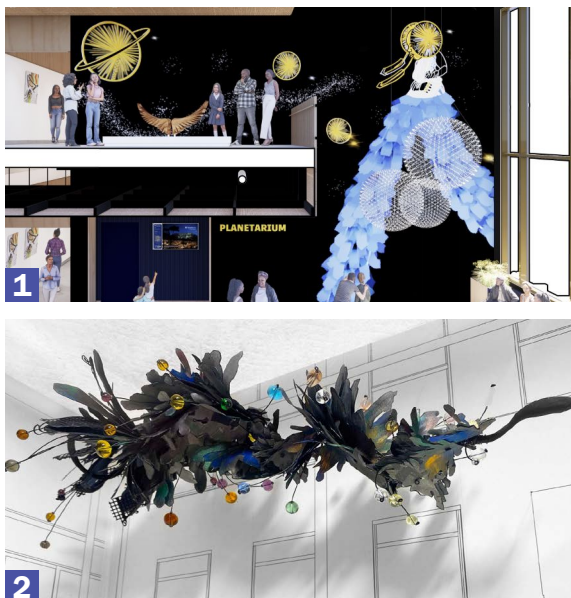
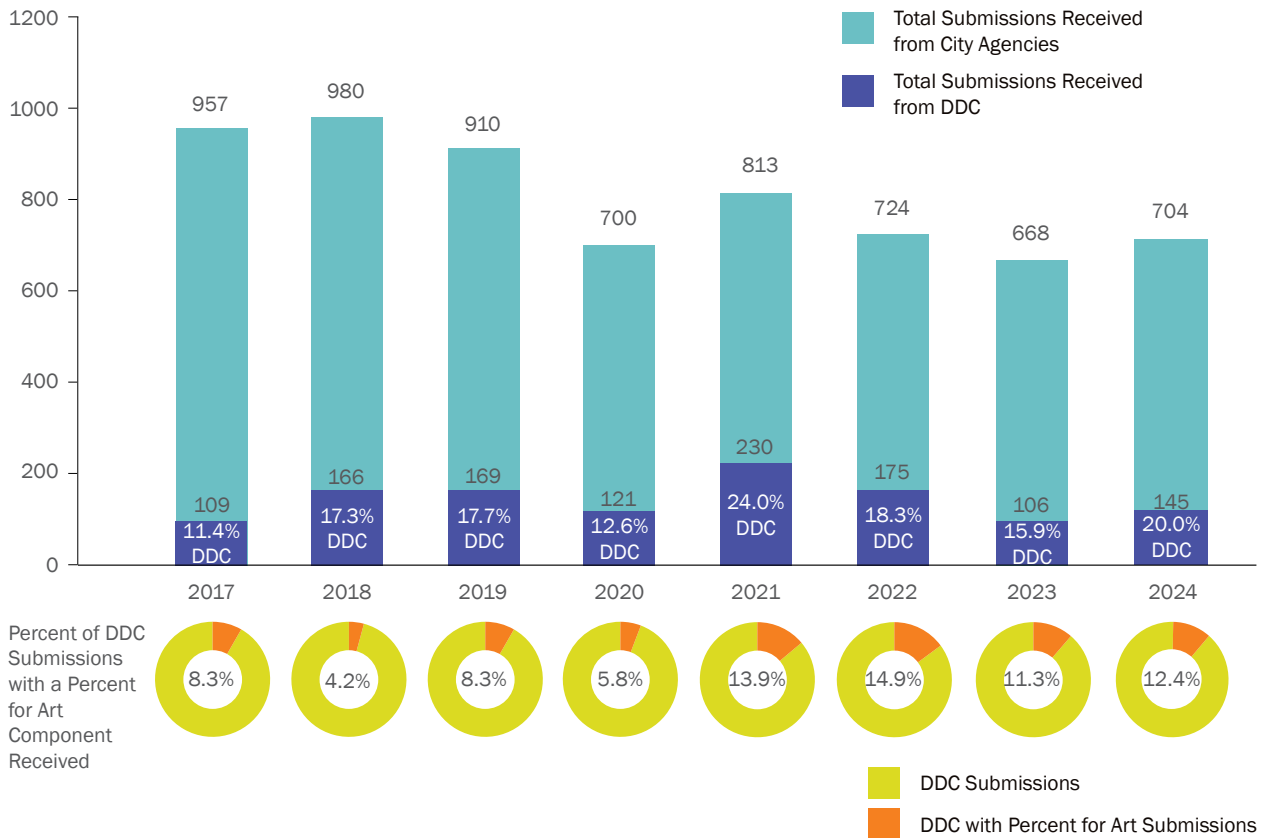
\* Removals included the the removal and temporary storage of *Enlightenment and Arms of the City of New York* (1940) by Rene Paul Chambellan, *The Judgement of Pao Kung and The Judgement of Solomon* (1989) by Richard Haas, and *The Seven Columns of the Temple of Wisdom and Solomon's Throne* (1992) by Kit-Yin Snyder, and the removal of *Immigration on the Lower East Side of New York* (1989) by Richard Haas and *Upright* (1992) by Kit-Yin Snyder from the Manhattan Detention Complex.



# Capital Construction with Percent for Art

Since the Department of Design & Construction serves as New York City's primary capital construction project management agency, it submits capital projects on behalf of other sponsor agencies and builds many facilities that incorporate artwork from the Percent for Art program.

## Percentage of Total Submissions Managed by NYC Department of Design & Construction



## Percent for Art

Since 1982, the Percent for Art law has required that one percent of the budget for eligible City-funded construction projects be spent on public artwork. Managed by the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Percent for Art program commissions site-specific artworks for City-owned property and brings artists into the design process. PDC reviews these artworks throughout the commissioning process. In 2024, the PDC reviewed 19 Percent for Art works.

1. *I am Protected* by artist Jazmine Hayes at the Brownsville Multiservice Center and Community Hub, Brooklyn; Department of Cultural Affairs' Percent for Art; Department of Design and Construction
2. *Wings of Everchange* 易之翼 by artist Jennifer Wen Ma at the 70 Mulberry Street Community Center, Manhattan; Department of Cultural Affairs' Percent for Art; Department of Design and Construction; Department of Citywide Administrative Services

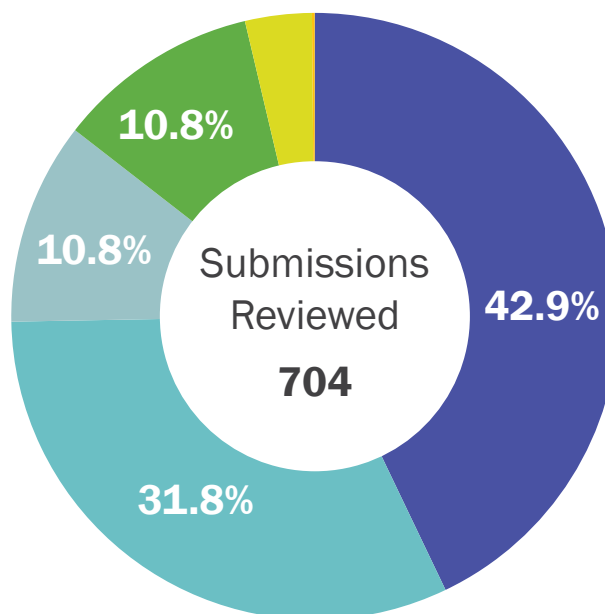
# Number of Submissions Acted or Commented Upon

Design review is an iterative process and the PDC works to provide applicants with feedback and guidance so that their submissions can be approved in the shortest number of review cycles. Even if a submission is not formally acted upon by the Commission within a cycle, the PDC typically provides feedback that will help the agencies revise their proposal so that it may be approved the following month. Submissions that were commented upon but not acted upon may have been submitted for Conceptual level review or informal review and include final sign-off and amendments to approved designs.

The term *“acted upon”* means an action was made by the Commission on a submission in the form of an approval, approval with conditions, or a rejection.

The term *“commented upon”* means written comments were provided to the sponsoring agency by the Commission, or a special committee within the Commission.

Commented upon	42.9% [302]
Approved	31.8% [224]
Approved per Delegation*	10.8% [76]
Approved with Conditions	10.8% [76]
Withdrawn by Agency	3.6% [25]
Found Incomplete	0.1% [1]



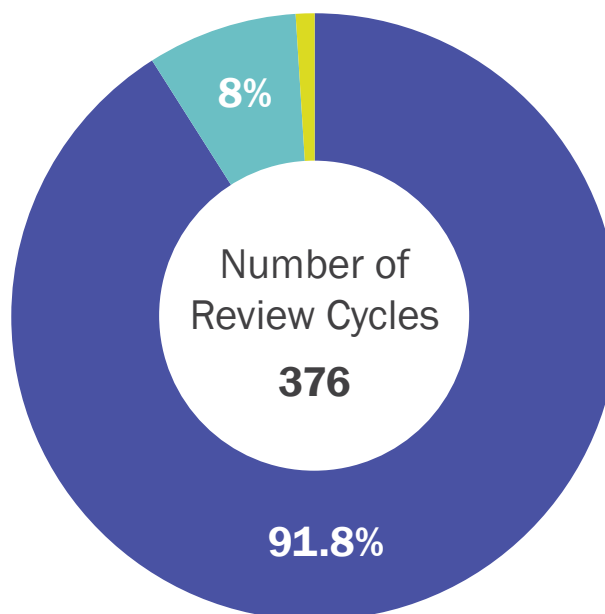
\* Per the Resolution adopted by the PDC on October 11, 2022, regarding the delegation of certain duties and responsibilities, some projects may be approved by the PDC's Executive Director in lieu of the Commission.

## Review Cycles

The PDC reviewed 99.8% of the 376 acted upon projects in two or fewer cycles.

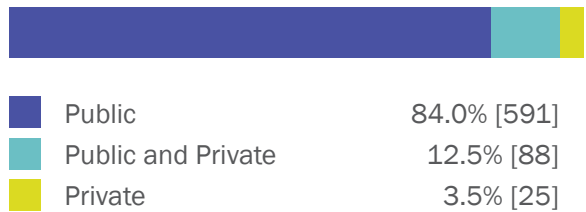
The term *“review cycle”* means the time between the deadline for the filing of a submission to the Commission and the scheduled date of the next public meeting of the Commission.

One Cycle	91.8% [345]
Two Cycles	8.0% [30]
Three or More Cycles	0.3% [1]



# Private Structures on or over City-owned Land

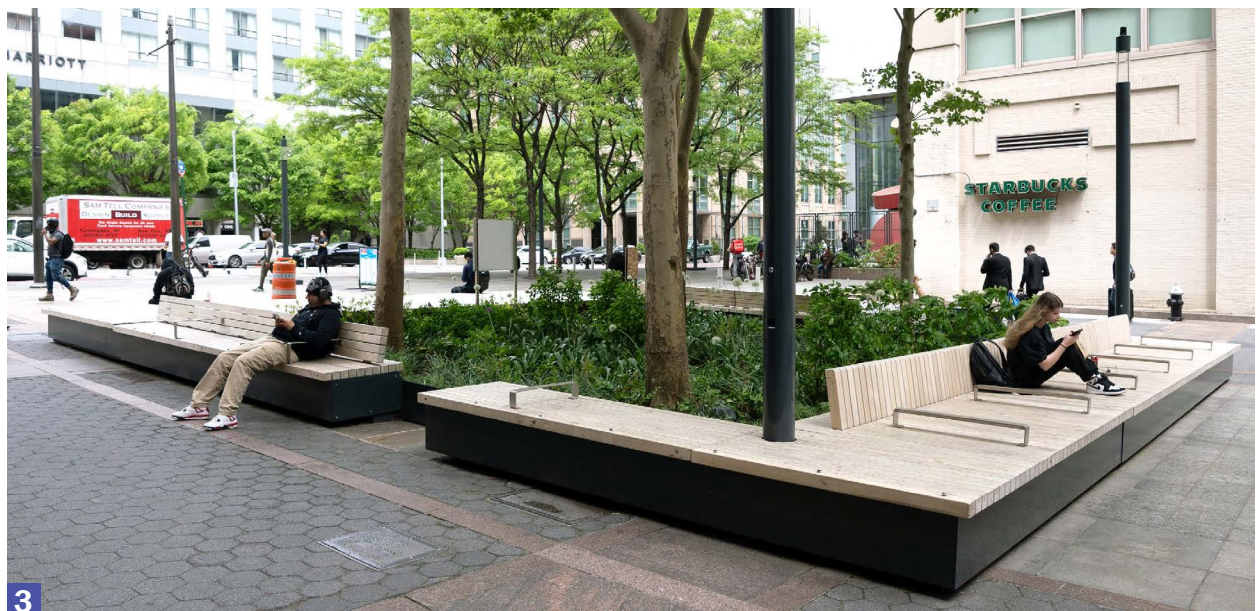
The PDC reviews privately-owned and/or operated structures and installations sited on or over City-owned land. Examples may include a concessionaire such as a restaurant or a recreation facility within a park, a mixed-use development on leased City-owned land, a newsstand, a distinctive sidewalk, or a stoop that extends onto the public right-of-way.



*In 2024, the PDC reviewed **25 submissions for private structures or installations on or over City-owned property.***



1. Reconstruction of the Battery Field House, including a ticket office and public restrooms, Battery Park, Manhattan; Department of Parks & Recreation; Battery Park City Authority; WXY
2. Construction of a soccer stadium and adjacent site work, as part of Phase II of Willets Point, Corona, Queens; Economic Development Corporation; NYCFC; HOK; MPFP
3. Final photo of the construction of open space improvements at MetroTech Center, Myrtle Avenue Promenade and MetroTech Commons between Jay Street and Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn; Economic Development Corporation; Brookfield Properties; Field Operations





# Delegated Staff-Level-Review

On October 11, 2022, PDC voted to adopt a Resolution regarding the delegation of certain Commission duties and responsibilities. Per the Resolution, some projects may be approved by the PDC's Executive Director in lieu of the Commission. 2024 marked the second year in which projects were approved per this delegated staff-level review process. Projects reviewed at a staff-level comprised 20.2% of the 376 total projects that were acted upon during the year.

Three categories of project types may be eligible for delegated staff-level review\*:

## Minor Modifications After Final Approval

Review of minor modifications to projects after PDC's final-level approval provided that such modifications meet certain criteria related to:

- maintaining consistency with the approved design intent of such project and maintaining the visual integrity of the project;
- not altering any element of such approved project that was a subject of public controversy as evidenced by hearing testimony or media reporting;
- not contradicting any limitation of specification of approval made explicit in the certificate issued or previously requested by the PDC during the review process;
- not altering design elements previously positively noted or commended by the PDC;
- not altering any significant existing architectural or landscape feature.

## Building Systems and Minor Structures

Review of building systems, including but not limited to Access hatches, alarms, conduits and related supports, ducts, emergency generators, exhaust fans, flues, HVAC equipment, louvers, sound attenuation screens, vents; and other structures, such as access ladders, parapet guardrails, rooftop photovoltaic arrays, RPZs, stair or elevator bulkheads, and utility boxes, provided that such projects meet criteria related to:

- being invisible or minimally visible to the general public from the public right-of-way;
- not changing the distinguishing qualities or character of the building or site in which they are located;
- not removing or altering any significant architectural feature;
- maintaining the visual integrity of the exterior walls of the building on which the project is located;
- minimally detailing any through-wall mechanical installations and not detracting from the facade or any significant architectural features .



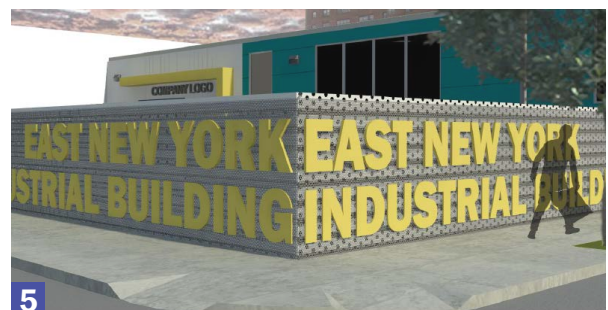
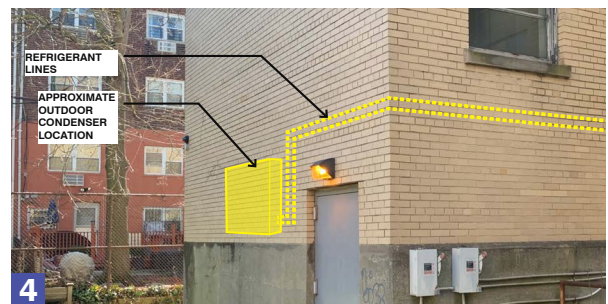
\* NOTE: Refer to the PDC website to review the full text of the Resolution adopted by the PDC on October 11, 2022.

1. Minor modifications to the construction of a bulkhead and addition, Hunts Point Distribution Center, Bronx; Economic Development Corporation

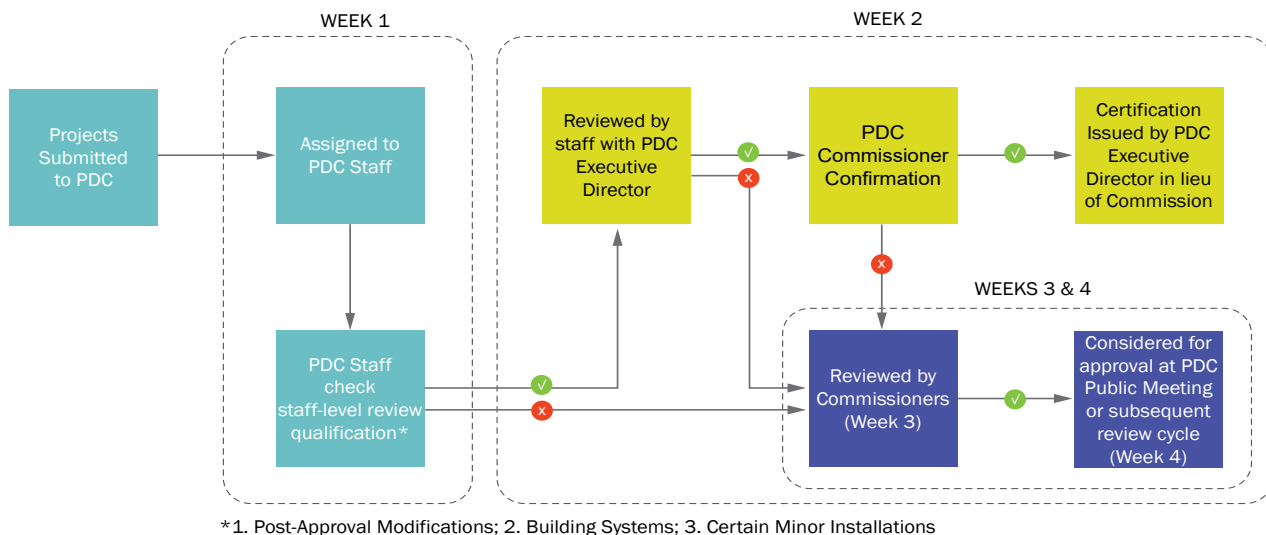
## Certain Minor Installations and Alterations

Review of tenant signs, access ramps, ballfield pole lighting, fenced-in areas and alterations to storefront entrances, provided that such projects meet criteria related to:

- the alteration of a storefront entrance, such as with the installation of new doors, windows, or filler panels, keeping the character of the facade of the storefront;
- the installation of tenant signage being proposed in the same location as the existing signage;
- the installation of an access ramp being in keeping with ADA guidelines and intended to improve accessibility at the site, and being consistent with the materiality and character of the modified building and similar counterpart components;
- the installation of a fenced-in area not extending beyond the adjacent properties' areaway fences, being aligned with the adjacent fence(s), being similar in materiality with other fences along the block, and not detracting from or otherwise resulting in the removal of significant architectural features of the building on which the project is located or adjacent buildings;
- ballfield pole lighting being in keeping with athletic field illumination standards and being shielded to focus its light on the ground, rather than the open sky or surrounding areas.



2. & 3. Existing and proposed tenant signage at Citi Field, Corona, Queens; Department of Parks & Recreation
4. Site photos for the installation of HVAC equipment, Allerton Branch Library, Bronx; Department of Design and Construction; New York Public Library
- 5 & 6. Minor modifications to the East New York Industrial Building, Brooklyn; Economic Development Corporation

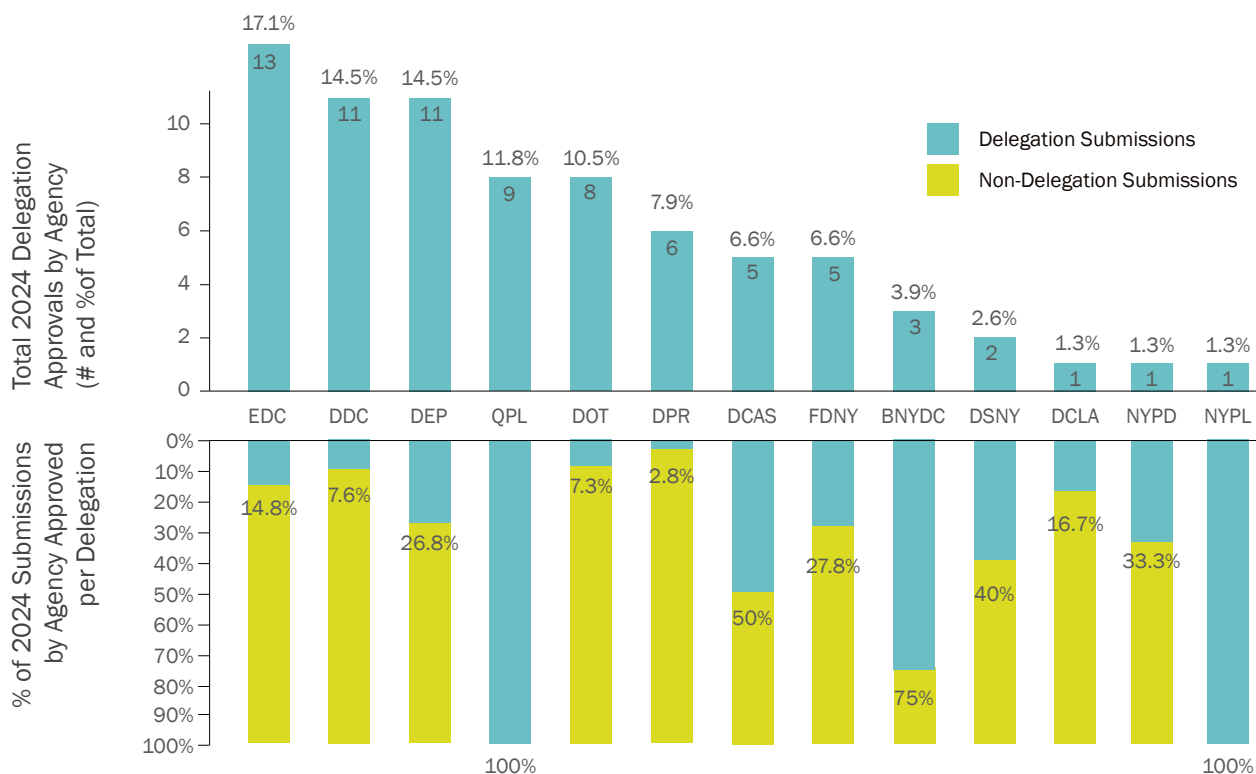


## Staff-Level Review Process

City agencies submit minor or limited scope projects to the PDC on the designated submission dates listed in the PDC calendar per the standard project submission process. If projects are internally confirmed eligible for a delegated staff-level review, these projects are processed by PDC staff on an expedited timeline that is independent of the standard project review timeline.

Projects reviewed by PDC staff are issued certificates of approval upon completion of review and do not appear on the monthly PDC meeting agendas. These certificates of approval are posted publicly with the monthly meeting minutes to the PDC Meetings webpage, typically within one week of the public meeting date.

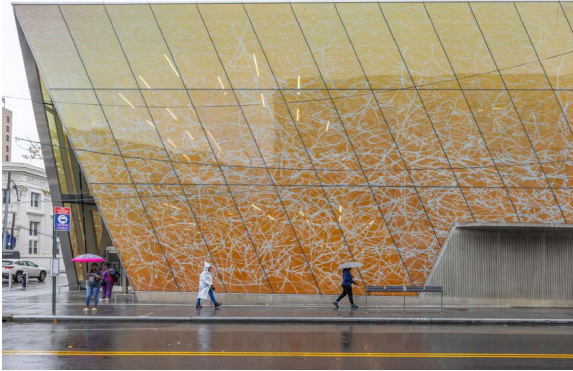
Approvals for these projects were sent to City agency liaisons an average of 16.5 days faster than standard approvals during each project review cycle.





# 2024 Completed Projects

As part of the PDC's design review process, photographs of completed projects are submitted for final review and sign-off. Here are some highlights from 2024.



## 1 Far Rockaway Library

Queens  
Department of Design and Construction  
Queens Public Library  
Snøhetta



## 2 Kelly Park Playground

Brooklyn  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
NYC Parks In-house Design



## 4 Frederick Johnson Park Comfort Station

Manhattan  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
NYC Parks In-house Design



## 3 North Park Phase I, Fresh Kills Park

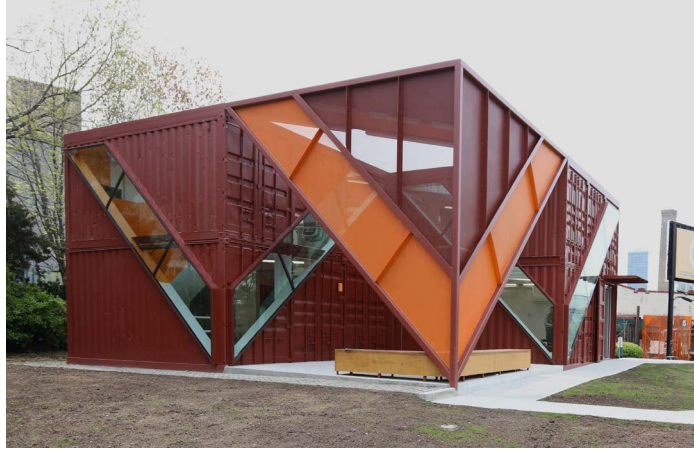
Staten Island  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
Field Operations



## 5 Starlight Park Comfort Station and Garage

Bronx  
Department of Design and Construction  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
Gray Organschi Architects



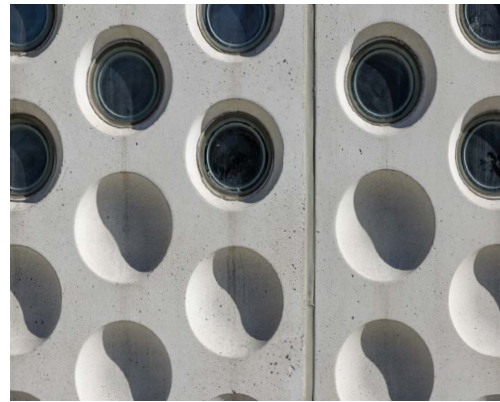


## 6 The Cubes, Socrates Sculpture Park

Queens

Department of Parks & Recreation

LOT-EK



## 7 40th Police Precinct

Bronx

Department of Design and Construction

New York Police Department

BIG; Starr Whitehouse



## 8 Charging Mast as part of the "All Electric Bus" Program

Brooklyn

Department of Transportation

Ciocchini Design

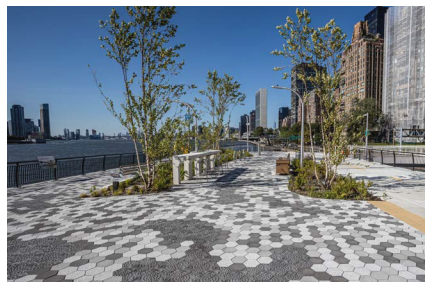




**9** **Canarsie Park Comfort Station**  
 Brooklyn  
 Department of Parks & Recreation  
 NYC Parks In-house Design



**10** **Tallman Island Water Pollution Control Plant Landscape Reconstruction**  
 Queens  
 Department of Environmental Protection  
 DEP In-house Design



**11** **East Midtown Greenway and Diatom Walk**  
 Manhattan  
 Economic Development Corporation; Department of Parks & Recreation  
 Stantec; Rosales+; Stacy Levy (artist)



# 42nd Annual Awards for Excellence in Design

Since 1983, the Public Design Commission has recognized outstanding public projects with its Annual Awards for Excellence in Design. The winning projects are selected from the hundreds of submissions reviewed by the Commission the previous year. An award ceremony is typically held in a recently completed building that embodies what we hope can be achieved by all public architecture: spaces that inspire us towards a better future.

2024 marked the 42nd anniversary of the Annual Awards for Excellence in Design, a testament to the enduring commitment to outstanding public design in New York City. The projects that were honored demonstrate the transformative impact of planning multipurpose spaces, designing impactful artwork and monuments, and creating innovative landscapes that are accessible, welcoming, and reflective of the needs and aspirations of New York City's diverse communities.

*"The award-winning projects showcase how innovative urban planning and thoughtful design enhance vibrancy and livability for all New Yorkers," said former **First Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer**. "I commend our city agencies and design partners for creating spaces that foster community, prioritize sustainability, and reflect the diverse needs of our residents."*

*"At PDC, we balance each project's unique constraints and opportunities while amplifying the voices of New Yorkers who help shape their communities," said **PDC President Deborah Marton**. "Whether it's a carefully crafted handrail or a monumental skyscraper, good design shapes our shared story — reflecting our history, defining our present, and inspiring our future. The award-winning projects showcase how design excellence emerges from collaboration between talented designers and dedicated public servants who work together to enhance our city's built environment."*



### 2024 Award-Winning Projects

The Award-Winning Projects are mapped here and numbered in the order listed on pages 28 through 29.

- Structures
- Parks, Open Spaces, and Streetscapes
- Artworks



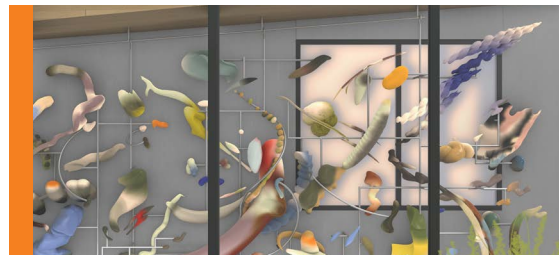


# Award Winning Projects

## 1 **A Bit of Everything by Misha Kahn**

Douglaston-Little Neck Library, Queens

Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art  
Department of Design and Construction  
Queens Public Library  
Misha Kahn, Artist  
BKSK Architects



## 2 **Aesop Park**

Page Avenue and Bartow Avenue, Staten Island

Department of Parks & Recreation  
NYC Parks Capital Projects In-house Design



## 3 **Borough Park Library**

1265 43rd Street, Brooklyn

Department of Design and Construction  
Brooklyn Public Library  
LEVENBETTS



## 4 **Owls Head Combined Sewer Overflow Facility Headhouse and Open Space**

Gowanus Canal, 2nd Avenue and 6th Street, Brooklyn

Department of Environmental Protection  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
Selldorf Architects; SCAPE; Hazen; Brown and Caldwell



## 5 **Manhattan Greenway Harlem River**

Harlem River Drive between East 125th Street and East 132nd Street, Manhattan

Economic Development Corporation  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
Langan  
Starr Whitehouse



## 6 **Orchard Beach Maintenance and Operations Facility**

2 Orchard Beach, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx

Department of Design and Construction  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
nARCHITECTS







## 7 Prospect Park Upper and Lower Vale

Northeast end of Prospect Park between Grand Army Plaza and the Prospect Park Zoo, Brooklyn

Department of Parks & Recreation  
Prospect Park Alliance  
NYC Parks Capital Projects In-House Design  
Prospect Park Alliance



## 8 Queensbridge Baby Park

Vernon Boulevard and Queensbridge Park Greenway, adjacent to the Queensboro Bridge, Long Island City, Queens

Department of Parks & Recreation  
NYC Parks Capital Projects In-House Design



## 9 Shirley Chisholm Monument, *Our Democracy, Our Destiny* by Amanda Williams and Olalekan Jeyifous

Prospect Park, Parkside Avenue and Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn

Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art  
Department of Parks & Recreation; Prospect Park Alliance; Department of Transportation  
Amanda Williams and Olalekan Jeyifous, Artists



## 10 Walter Gladwin Recreation Center

Walter Gladwin Park (formerly Crotona Park, then Tremont Park), East Tremont Avenue between 3rd Avenue and Arthur Avenue, Bronx

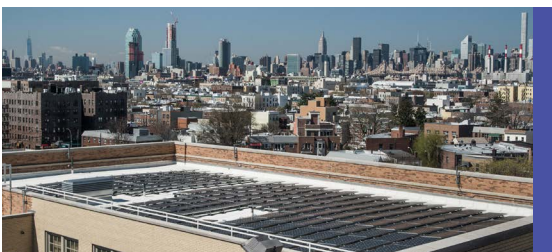
Department of Design and Construction  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
Marvel Architects



## 11 *What do I See to be Except Myself* by Oasa DuVerney

Eastern Parkway Library, 1044 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn

Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art  
Department of Design and Construction; Brooklyn Public Library  
Oasa DuVerney, Artist  
Allied Works Architecture



## 12 Special Recognition: Rooftop Photovoltaic Program

Citywide Project

Department of Citywide Administrative Services  
Department of Citywide Administrative Services  
In-house Design

# 42nd Annual Awards for Excellence in Design

October 30th, 2024



In 2024, former First Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer, PDC President Deborah Marton, and PDC Executive Director Sreoshy Banerjea announced the 11 winning teams and one special recognition at the 42nd Annual Awards for Design Excellence at the Gracie Mansion in Manhattan. In addition to honoring the teams behind these projects, the 42nd Annual Awards highlighted the invaluable contributions of current and past commissioners towards shaping New York City's public realm.

*"These award-winning designs showcase the power of collaboration in transforming our city," said PDC Executive Director Sreoshy Banerjea. "Through the extraordinary partnership between our agencies, designers, and communities, we're creating spaces that go beyond aesthetics to foster sustainability, inclusivity, and community vitality. Each project represents our collective commitment to building a more resilient and equitable New York where every resident can thrive."*

*"The work of the Public Design Commission helps drive a New York City that inspires through great architecture and innovative design in the public realm," said PDC Vice President Jimmy Van Bramer, "and the Design Awards is a unique opportunity to celebrate and showcase the best of the best – libraries, parks and other important projects that will make our great City more sustainable and joyful for generations to come."*

1. Former First Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer provided opening remarks and congratulated the 11 award winning and special recognition teams.
2. & 3. Invited guests, project teams, and City Agency staff enjoy the event.
4. PDC President Deborah Marton and PDC Executive Director Sreoshy Banerjea announce the awarded teams.



## Gracie Mansion

In 1799, a prosperous New York merchant named Archibald Gracie built a country house overlooking a sleepy, scenic bend in the East River, five miles north of what was then New York City. More than two centuries later, Gracie Mansion remains a historic treasure in the heart of one of the world's largest and most vibrant cities. It is one of the oldest surviving wood structures in Manhattan, a member of New York's Historic House Trust, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1896, the City of New York appropriated the estate due to the non-payment of taxes from the then owner, incorporating its 11 acres into East River Park, later renamed Carl Schurz Park. In 1942, Fiorello H. La Guardia and his family moved into Gracie Mansion, at which point it became the official residence of the Mayor. The Gracie Mansion Conservancy, founded in 1981, is a private not-for-profit organization whose goal is to preserve and honor Gracie Mansion's historical elements originating from the Federal Period, while also offering new programming that speaks to the diverse backgrounds and experiences of all New Yorkers.



5. PDC commissioners and staff join for a group photo.  
6. – 9. Invited guests, project teams, and City Agency staff enjoy the event.











# Streamlining and New Digital Resources



# Streamlining Recommendations

In December 2023, the PDC and the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) released six joint recommendations to streamline capital project review, establishing the foundation for a comprehensive evaluation of design review processes. This collaboration emerged from working group sessions and a citywide industry stakeholder survey and created a framework for addressing longstanding challenges in capital project delivery while maintaining design excellence.

The recommendations identified the need to improve public-facing materials and resources to make the design review process more accessible to applicants and the public. Building on this foundation, the PDC launched a year-long initiative in 2024 to develop more accessible, efficient, and user-friendly digital resources.



## A Year of Stakeholder Engagement



In 2024, the digital resource development process drew from extensive user need analysis and stakeholder engagement. This required coordination with agency partners to address agency-specific challenges and align with capital project management processes. The initiative expanded input on review processes through direct engagement with agencies like NYC Parks, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Department of Environment Protection (DEP).

The PDC also continued collaboration with the New York Building Congress Architects Leadership Council, which brought in valuable applicant insights, helping to shape user-friendly tools for both city agencies and external design professionals.

1. Cover image from the report of streamlining recommendations co-authored by the PDC and DDC teams.
2. PDC commissioners and staff attended a site visit to Flushing Meadows-Corona Park followed by a meeting with NYC Parks leadership and staff to better understand Parks' internal design review and community engagement processes.
3. PDC commissioners and staff attended a site visit to Battery Park with DOT and the design team for the Battery Park Coastal Resiliency project.



# New Design Review Resources

The year-long collaborative development process resulted in three key digital resources that directly addressed gaps in design review workflows while maintaining submission requirement standards.

## Restructured Submission Checklists and Instructions

Checklists and instruction guides clarify submission requirements and provide step-by-step guidance to assist applicants with preparing submission packages for PDC review.

## Searchable Example Presentation Collection

The example presentation collection provides a collection of exemplary presentations submitted to PDC from various city agencies, including a variety of project types at different review levels and Annual Awards for Excellence in Design winning projects.

## Presentation Style Guide

The presentation style guide offers visual guidance for organizing project presentations, including best practices for formatting requirements, drawing sequencing, and annotation.



4. & 5. PDC staff and agency liaisons and staff participated in charrettes to discuss updates to PDC submission checklists. Two in-person charrettes were held, with a focus on built environment projects and artwork projects.
6. Graphic shared during charrettes highlighting the method for restructuring and updating existing PDC submission checklists.

## Restructured PDC Submission Checklists

### Existing: 21 Checklists

- C, P, F Artwork Installation
- P, F Artwork Relocation and Conservation
- P&F Building Systems
- P&F Distinctive Lighting
- P&F Distinctive Sidewalks
- P&F Newsstands
- C, P, F, P&F Parks, Open Spaces, and Streetscapes
- C, P, F Signage
- C, P, F, P&F Structures
- EX Extensions of Approval

### Restructured: 5 Checklists

- Artwork Installation C, P, AP, EX, F
- Artwork Relocation or Conservation P, AP, EX, F
- Limited Scope P&F, AF, EX, Sign-Off
- Signage C, P, AP, P&F, F, AF, EX, Sign-Off
- Built Environment C, P, AP, P&F, F, AF, EX, Sign-Off

Key: C = Conceptual; P = Preliminary; F = Final; P&F = Preliminary & Final; AP = Amended Preliminary; AF = Amended Final; EX = Extension





The background features a large, curved, light blue band that sweeps from the top left towards the bottom right. To the left of this band is a grid of yellow squares, each containing a small blue dot pattern. The top right corner of the page is a solid light blue color.

# Special Projects and Interagency Initiatives

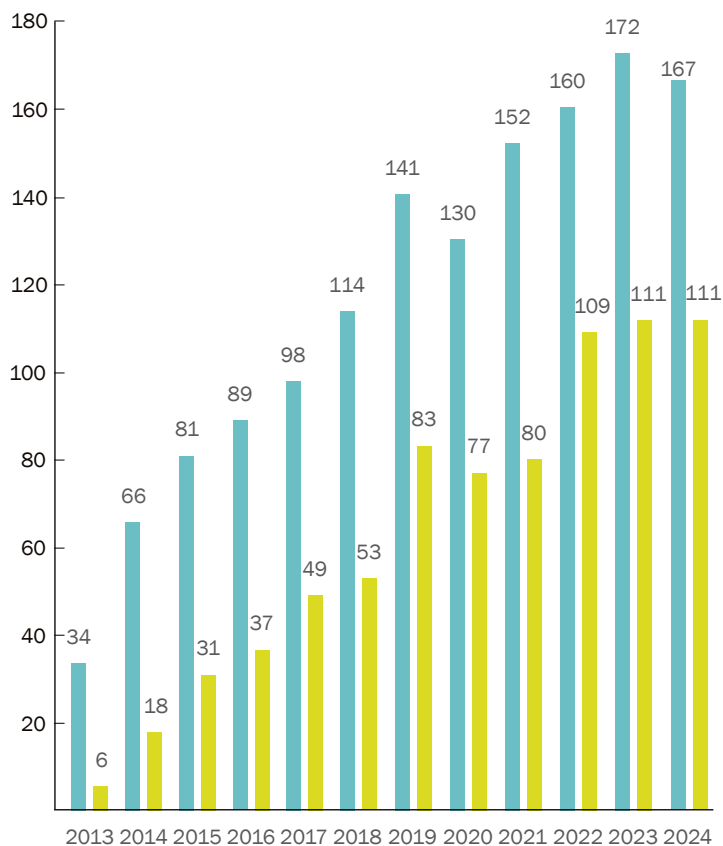


# The Archive

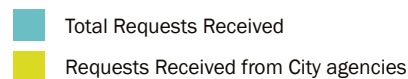
The Public Design Commission maintains an archive of projects reviewed by the Commission since 1902, documenting more than 7,700 sites throughout New York City and providing a unique view into the history of the City's public works. Containing original documents, drawings, and architectural plans, the Archive informs the Commission's review of current projects and provides a valuable resource to other City agencies as well as to researchers from around the world. In addition, the Archive holds special collections that were acquired by Commission members and staff. These photographs, postcards, letters, books, and artifacts provide additional insight into the history of the public spaces and buildings of New York City.

*In 2024, the archive facilitated **167 research requests**, which was over **2.5 times** the number of requests received a decade ago!*

In 2024, PDC Senior Archivist & Information Specialist Julianna Monjeau facilitated 11 in-person tours of the Archive and processed 167 research requests. 66% of the requests resulted in digital files being sent to the researcher. PDC sent over 2,100 digital records to researchers in 2024.



## Research Requests by Year



1. PDC Senior Archivist & Information Specialist Julianna Monjeau shares historic, archived projects during a public tour of the archive.



## Open Data

NYC Open Data is an online portal where the public can gain access to data generated by various New York City agencies and City organizations. As part of the initiative to improve the accessibility, transparency, and accountability of City government, NYC Open Data offers access to a repository of government-produced, searchable data sets available for download. The PDC submitted a list of projects that were reviewed by the Commission on a monthly basis, a list of projects that were submitted to and reviewed by the Commission on an annual basis, and a list of outdoor public artworks.

# City Hall Tour Program



*In 2024, the PDC's City Hall Tour Manager and volunteer docents led **164 tours** for **2,071 people** visiting from near and far.*

*In 2024, the PDC hosted a diverse range of tour groups, including:*

Open House New York;  
Goldman Sachs Foundation;  
Stuyvesant High School;  
Black Gotham;  
The Global Learning Collaborative High School;  
Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities Staff;  
City as School High School;  
Department of Housing & Preservation Development Staff;  
Duke University in New York Students;  
Columbia Alumni Association;  
City College of New York Moynihan Fellows;  
Queens Jewish Center Seniors;  
Department of Citywide Administrative Services Urban Fellows;  
Andong South Korea City Hall Staff;  
Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment Staff;  
Student Youth Employment Program;  
Department of Transportation Street Furniture Unit; and  
Girl Scout Troop 3197.

New York's City Hall is one of the oldest continuously used City Halls in the nation that still houses its original governmental functions, and it is considered one of the finest architectural achievements of its period.

Since the PDC was founded as the Art Commission by the 1898 City Charter, the PDC has been located within City Hall and has exercised curatorial advisory supervision over all works of art belonging to the City of New York. With its unique position and mandate, the PDC closely manages City Hall's collection of artworks, antiques, and decorative objects. The PDC also organizes regular tours of City Hall to highlight the building's architectural history, function, and unique historic collection.

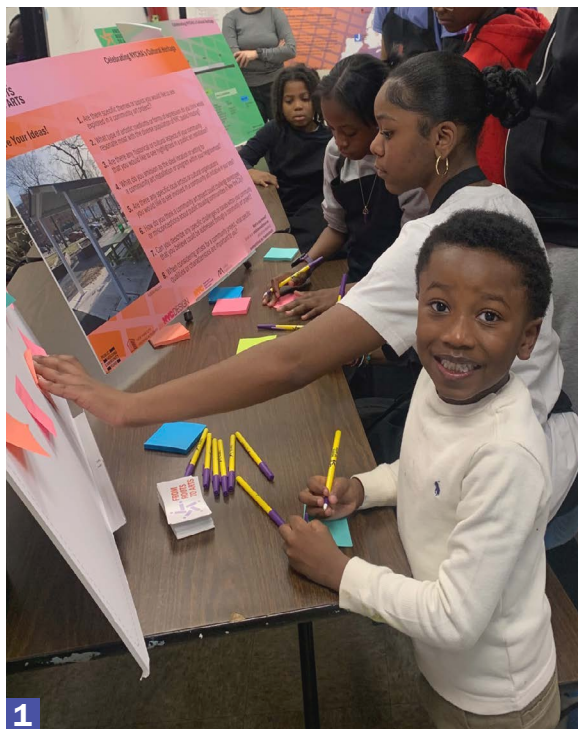
In 2024, City Hall Tour Manager and historian Mary Beth Betts also continued research on a broader scope of historic events and people associated with City Hall, City Hall Park, and the surrounding environs.

2. Tour Manager and historian Mary Beth Betts shares artifacts, such as George Washington's desk, during a tour.
3. Visitors to City Hall may enter the Governor's Room and view the portrait collection and antique furniture.
4. Visitors to City Hall are guided through the rotunda and may peer up at the dome.





# From Roots to Arts: Celebrating NYCHA's Cultural Heritage



In 2024, the PDC and PHCF kicked off *From Roots to Arts: Celebrating NYCHA's Cultural Heritage*, an artist-in-residency pilot program designed to enrich and expand culture, heritage, and art narratives within public housing. In partnership with the DYCD Cornerstone Program across five NYCHA campuses spanning all five boroughs, this 20-month artist residency offers spaces for art within community centers. In March and April 2024, PHCF and PDC staff hosted community days at Astoria, Bronx River, Bushwick, King Towers, and Richmond Terrace Houses to hear from NYCHA residents about the types of public art programming they wanted in their communities. These interactive sessions engaged nearly 200 residents, and over 170 surveys were collected to help inform the artist-in-residence open call.

1. Community members of all ages attended a Paint and Chill event at Astoria Houses, where residents shared their ideas for public art in their community.
2. Artists selected for the first of its kind Artist-in-Residence program. From left to right: Kemi Karim, Dominique Robinson, Corey Harrison, Tamra Cosby, Tina Thompson Pope, and Crystal Clarity.







3



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3. Artist Kemi Karim, a sixth artist serving as the NYCHA Art Liaison to document the program and provide an archival record of the impact of the project, photographs the community day event at Astoria Houses.
4. The community day event at Richmond Terrace Houses engaged the community with a bingo activity, games, and polaroid cameras for exploring photography.
5. Former PDC Executive Directors, Justin Garrett Moore and Keri Butler joined by artist Kemi Karim and PDC Executive Director Sreoshy Banerjee, Director of Art, Design, & Technology Carolina Llano, and Project Manager Chelsea Chaug at the kick-off event.
6. Community members learn about the program.



6

Crafted around the art mediums identified by each community, including creative technology, dance, fashion, music, painting, performance, and visual arts, the open call received interest from over 180 New York City-based artists. In June 2024, PDC staff members led the artist selection process for all five sites, bringing together agency and resident stakeholders and neighborhood arts professionals to select and place five artists, one within each community.

At **Astoria Houses**, Tamra Cosby, a poet and current resident of Astoria Houses, uses her art to challenge stigmas surrounding residents of public housing, reshaping the narrative and proving that art has the power to transform lives and communities.

At **Bronx River Houses**, Dominique Robinson, a dancer, choreographer, producer, is leading a mentorship and performance program to mentor youth.

At **Bushwick Houses**, Crystal Clarity, illustrator, muralist, and teaching artist, is engaging with residents, brainstorming and creating designs for the reimagining of the community center entrance and hallways.

At **King Towers Houses**, Corey Harrison, a nature conservationist, is expanding the language of art within nature and helping create new gardens and food justice initiatives within the community.

At **Richmond Terrace Houses**, Tina Thompson Pope, an artistic director, educator, teaching artist, dancer, choreographer, and fitness ambassador, is uplifting the intergenerational legacy of public housing residents, using dance as a powerful tool for self-expression and cultural celebration.

# Streetscapes for Wellness

In 2024, PDC was thrilled to receive the American Society of Landscape Architects New York Chapter's (ASLA-NY) Honor Award for Community Impact for *Streetscapes for Wellness: A Changing Course for Streets in New York*. At the heart of this initiative, the PDC's landmark study, *Designing New York: Streetscapes for Wellness*, is the result of collaborative, community-centered research and diverse community engagement. The report offers a broad perspective on the importance of empowering communities in shaping the future of their streets to benefit all people.



In May 2024, PDC Executive Director, Sreoshy Banerjee, and the primary report author and project lead, Jenna E. Miller, were invited speakers for “Designing for Wellness,” an Urban Design Salon hosted by the American Institute of Architects’ (AIA) New York Chapter. Together, they presented the findings and design recommendations to fellow urban designers and discussed the importance of integrating lenses of wellness into the planning and design process for our public realm.

PDC continues to share the work publicly, offering *Streetscapes for Wellness* as a source of inspiration to those seeking to foster healthier public spaces. In March 2024, Miller presented the initiative to students at the Pratt Urban Placemaking & Management Lab, discussing the work in the context of public design policy and practice with a future generation of urban policymakers, practitioners, and community advocates. In November 2024, she also was invited to present the initiative to participants in the Civic Leadership Program at the AIA’s New York Chapter.





4

## Nightscapes for Wellness

During the 2023-2024 school year, PDC staff worked closely with Columbia University Master of Science in Urban Planning professional capstone student, Shannon Onlam Hui, on her development of *Designing New York: Nightscapes for Wellness*, a report that expands on *Streetscapes for Wellness* and that explores the transformative potential of electric lighting and nighttime programming in leveraging infrastructure, health, and environmental equity within the public realm.

PDC Senior Archivist & Information Specialist, Julianna Monjeau, assisted Hui with public design records and data, and Director of Urban Design & Policy, Jenna E. Miller, served as Hui's primary point of contact at PDC throughout the project. Miller presented the initiative with Hui and lighting designer, Leni Schwendinger, at the 2024 American Planning Association New York Metro Chapter Annual Conference at New York University, and the report will be published in 2025.



5

1. *Streetscapes for Wellness* publication team accepts the Honor Award for Community Impact from the New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.
2. Event publicity materials for the "Designing for Wellness" Urban Design Salon hosted by the American Institute of Architects' New York Chapter.
- 3 – 5. The project team presented *Designing New York: Nightscapes for Wellness* at the 2024 American Planning Association New York Metro Chapter Annual Conference.



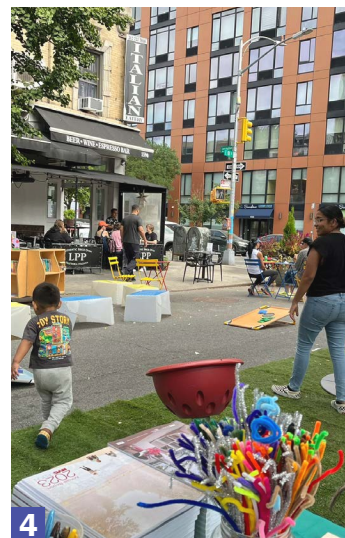
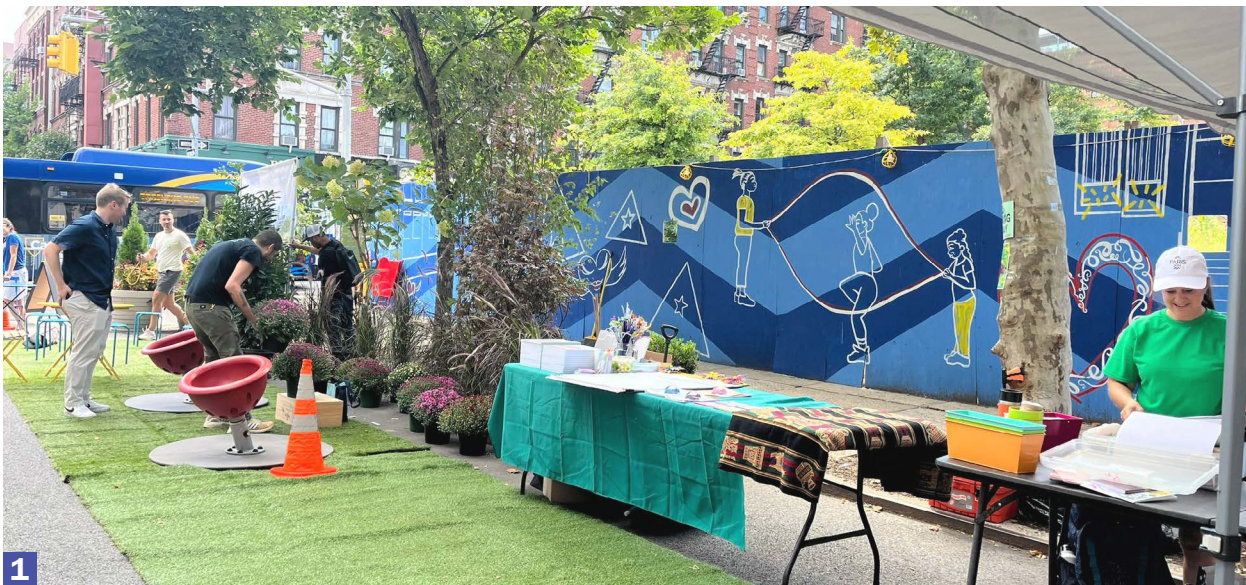
# PARK(ing) Day 2024: East Harlem

In September 2024, PDC staff joined members of the ASLA-NY to organize their fourth annual NYC PARK(ing) Day event together. The event took place at East 101st Street and Lexington Avenue in East Harlem, in collaboration with local community-based organization, Uptown Grand Central—one of the organizations whose work was featured as a case study within *Streetscapes for Wellness*.

PARK(ing) Day is an annual international event where residents, artists and activists collaborate to temporarily transform curbside parking spots into public spaces, calling attention to the importance of public green spaces and outdoor play spaces to the health and wellbeing of urban communities.

PDC staff were joined by the Department of City Planning's (DCP) Urban Design team, along with multiple other community organizations and public space advocates, including OpenPlans, Kompan, Malcolm X Pollinator Corridor, the Parking Reform Network (PRN), Civitas, and the Urban Garden Center. Community members (including local preschoolers) enjoyed a beautiful day of outdoor recreation, games, crafts, and engagement activities related to improving our city's public realm for families and youth.

1. - 8. PDC staff joined by the DCP's Urban Design team taught community members to fold origami butterflies and sought ideas on how to create more family-friendly streets.







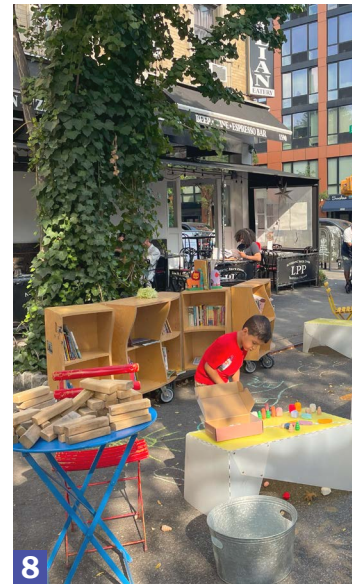
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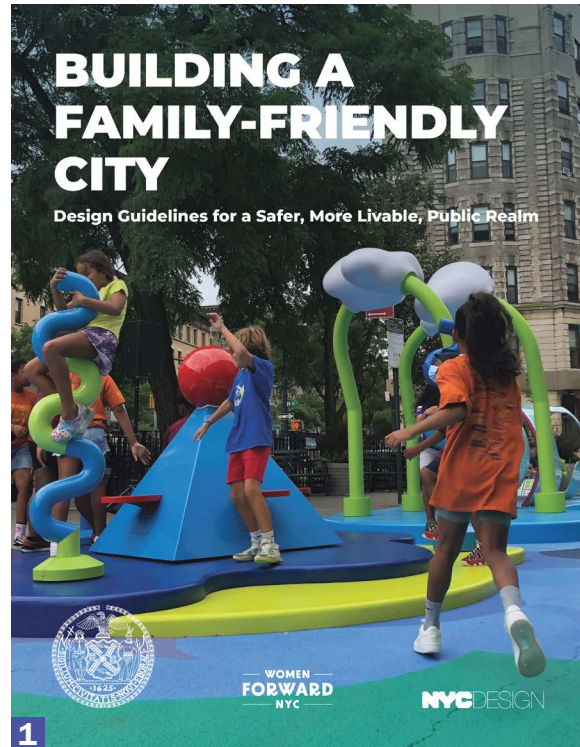
# Family-Friendly Design Guidelines

In alignment with the Women Forward NYC commitment to support family-friendly design in the public realm and improve safety and accessibility, a joint steering committee comprising the Deputy Mayor of Operations team, Deputy Mayor of Housing Economic Development and Workforce team, Chief Public Realm Officer's team, and PDC launched an ambitious initiative to create New York City's first comprehensive set of family-friendly design guidelines.

Throughout 2024, Ryu Kim, Senior Project Manager at the PDC, led the day-to-day coordination across all participating agencies, including those with jurisdiction over child and youth services, health and safety departments, and the public realm, to ensure the guidelines reflect a comprehensive consideration of family needs across all aspects of public space design.

The process aimed to develop the City's inaugural family-friendly design guidelines as a comprehensive resource that will serve both public agencies and private developers, while simultaneously identifying implementation projects that will activate public spaces with families at the center of the design process.

A cornerstone of the process involved public engagement through innovative survey methods, which captured nearly 8,000 responses from New York City Residents about their experiences and priorities in public spaces.



1 - 2. *Building a Family-Friendly City: Design Guidelines for a safer, More Livable Public Realm* report.



## Other Collaborations and Updates

In 2024, the PDC focused on strengthening connections with our agency partners through collaborative working meetings and site visits across the city. These meaningful points of engagement helped align priorities, improve coordination, and support our goals of streamlining and bringing greater transparency and public awareness to the design review process. Site visits allowed staff to stay closely connected to the city's diverse urban environments and meaningfully engage with the neighborhood context. Internally, we focused on fostering a strong and supportive team culture through group outings and shared experiences that encouraged connection beyond the office. From shared meals to neighborhood walks, these moments offered opportunities to engage with the city in new ways while reinforcing our collective commitment to thoughtful, inclusive urban design.

Throughout the year, the PDC had the privilege of working with a talented group of interns and fellows who brought fresh perspectives in support of our mission. They contributed to a wide range of projects, including original research on the PDC's design values and impact on the public realm, the development of public-facing resources to support agency partners in the design review process, publication support for the annual design awards, and a new initiative to build greater public awareness of the PDC among community boards. As we look ahead to the next year, we remain committed to our shared purpose of ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to an equitable, welcoming, and well-designed public realm.

1. PDC Directors Jenna Miller and Carolina Llano join PDC President Deborah Marton at the Van Alen Bond Street Bash.
2. PDC staff and commissioners take a group photo in front of the Unisphere in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.









The background features a series of concentric circles composed of small squares, each containing a dot. The colors transition from light green in the center to yellow, then orange, and finally to a light blue/teal at the outer edges. The squares are arranged in a grid-like pattern within each circle, creating a textured, mosaic-like effect.

# Shaping the Public Realm: Special Recognitions

At the PDC, we are proud to collaborate with dedicated public servants across City agencies who bring design excellence to New York's public realm. This year, we're especially honored to highlight two members of NYC Parks, whose creativity and leadership exemplify the impact of public design. We also recognize our Conservation Advisory Group (CAG) members, who lend their deep expertise in conservation, preservation, and public art to help protect and celebrate the city's historic and cultural assets. Together, these individuals reflect the care, commitment, and talent that is required to shape a more beautiful, equitable, and sustainable New York City.



# Shaping the Public Realm: NYC Parks



Nancy Prince, MLA, MUP, FASLA

Chief of Landscape Architecture, 2011 - 2025  
NYC Parks

Nancy Prince led landscape architecture design at NYC Parks from 2011 to 2025. Throughout her 40-year career with the agency, Nancy's leadership directly impacted the daily lives of all New Yorkers. She focused in-house and consultant landscape architects on design responsiveness to social and environmental change that prioritized accessibility, equity, and inclusive design.

As Chief of Landscape Architecture, Nancy set the standard for designs to feature improved park accessibility, inclusive play spaces, and multigenerational features. These changes across NYC Park's portfolio improved park safety and provided more open community destinations in all five boroughs. Countless designs transformed unwelcoming paved spaces into centers of community activity set within significant new greenspace and trees.

Nancy actively advanced the profession of landscape architecture and developed a culture of excellence in design that will continue at NYC Parks and positively impact public spaces in NYC for years to come. Her thoughtful perspective while providing NYC Parks review on city projects has enhanced allied professionals', elected officials', and the public's understanding and appreciation of the importance of green space and sensitivity to context. While her impact on the aesthetics, environmental benefits and practicality of public spaces benefits New Yorkers every day, her influence on the many landscape architects and allied professionals at NYC Parks and elsewhere will expand these benefits into the future.



*"Several recent NYC Parks initiatives stand out for their significant and enduring impact. **Parks Without Borders** changed parks throughout the city to be more welcoming and safer. **Anchor Parks** gave us the unique opportunity to thoughtfully and comprehensively plan and renovate several of our historically important large parks. The **Community Parks Initiative** projects dramatically transformed paved yards into green multi-use spaces that engaged communities of all ages and interests. I hope my frequent comment to so many designers will continue to echo through the halls of the Olmsted Center: 'More trees please!'"*



1. Luther Gulick Park, Manhattan, constructed as part of the Community Parks Initiative; NYC Parks; MKW + Associates. Photo courtesy of MKW + Associates.
2. Van Alst Playground, Queens, constructed as part of the Community Parks Initiative and Parks Without Borders program; NYC Parks.





## Thérèse Braddick

Deputy Commissioner for Capital Projects,  
2008-2025  
NYC Parks

*“All parks are special, but this one struck me for its creativity in design, especially how the handball wall is transformed into something truly beautiful and representative of proximity to the neighboring beach. The playground also opened amid the COVID-19 pandemic and exemplified the importance of our neighborhood parks to the entire community, including the adjacent school. **Almeda Playground** is an excellent example of the success of the Community Parks Initiative in reimagining our city’s parks and playgrounds.”*



Thérèse Braddick retired in 2025 as the Deputy Commissioner for Capital Projects for NYC Parks, where she served for 17 years. During her tenure, she managed an annual portfolio of over 600 capital projects operating within a \$9B 10-year budget to renovate and build new parks, playgrounds, historic houses, and recreation facilities in the five boroughs of New York City.

From 2002-2008 Thérèse served as the Executive Director of the Historic House Trust of New York City (HHT). Through close collaboration with the NYC Parks Capital Division and nonprofit museum partners, Thérèse pioneered a more holistic approach to capital improvements at the sites by strengthening the relationship between the buildings and the urban landscape around them and involving local communities in their stewardship and care.

Prior to leading the HHT she served as Deputy Director and Director of Development for the City Parks Foundation, Chief of Staff to the NYC Parks Queens Borough Commissioner and Director of the NYC Parks Natural Resources Group. Thérèse first joined Parks in 1983 as an Urban Park Ranger in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, ending her career in the same park 42 years later.”



3. Play equipment in Almeda Playground, Queens; NYC Parks. Photo courtesy of Daniel Avila, NYC Parks.
4. Ribbon cutting for Almeda Playground, Queens; NYC Parks. Photo courtesy of Daniel Avila, NYC Parks.



# Shaping the Public Realm: Conservation Advisory Group

In 2024, PDC staff continued their collaborative work with CAG members and agency stakeholders on multiple conservation efforts. This included the restoration of a portion of the Taber Sears mural, *The City of New York, As the Eastern Gateway of the American Continent, Receiving Tributes of the Nations* (1903), 10 murals from the *Alice and Friends* (1938) mural series by Abram Champanier, and the Clemente Spampinato bas-reliefs installed on the façade of the Brooklyn Public Library Brooklyn Heights Library in 1962 and removed in 2018.

The *Alice and Friends* (1938) murals were commissioned under the Federal Works Progress Administration program to decorate the children's ward in the old Gouverneur Hospital in Manhattan's Lower East Side. The hospital closed in 1962 and as the building fell into disrepair, the murals sustained considerable damage. In 1981, the murals were salvaged and subsequently stored for over three decades. In 2019, the Health and Hospitals Arts in Medicine program engaged Foreground Conservation to retrieve and restore the murals. The PDC's archival records of the murals, documenting the initial installation and later conservation and storage of the murals, and the support of CAG members were instrumental in bringing these murals back to their original condition. In May 2024, PDC staff and CAG member Isabelle Duvernois attended a site visit to the conservator's studio in Chatham, New York, to review the works and discuss the preservation efforts. PDC staff is looking forward to seeing the murals re-installed within a NYC hospital in the near future to be enjoyed by all New Yorkers.

In addition to the members highlighted on the following pages, Lauren Bradley, Tina March, and Kendra Roth serve on the Public Design Commission's Conservation Advisory Group.



1



2



3



4

1. & 2. PDC staff oversaw the art handling, transportation, and storage of the Taber Sears mural.
3. & 4. PDC staff and CAG members Michele Bogart, Phyllis Cohen, and Tina March attend a site visit to the Brooklyn Heights Library to view the reinstallation of bas-reliefs by Clemente Spampinato.
- 5 – 8. PDC staff and CAG member Isabelle Duvernois attend a site visit organized by the Health and Hospitals Corporation to view the restored Alice and Friends mural series.





# Shaping the Public Realm: Conservation Advisory Group



## Dr. Michele H. Bogart

Professor Emeritus of Art History and  
Visual Culture, Stony Brook University

Michele H. Bogart has served on the PDC's Conservation Advisory Group since 2003. Her areas of expertise include urban design and commercial culture, and she has published on animation, illustration and advertising, landscape and garden history, memorials, photography, and public art. Bogart is author of *Public Sculpture and the Civic Ideal in New York City, 1890-1930* (1989/1997); *Artists, Advertising, and the Borders of Art* (1995); *The Politics of Urban Beauty: New York and Its Art Commission* (2006), and *Sculpture in Gotham: Art and Urban Renewal in New York* (2018). She was the Leon Levy Senior Fellow at the Frick Center for the History of Collecting in America (2020), has held fellowships from the Smithsonian Institution, National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, Norman Rockwell Center for Visual Studies and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. From 1999 through 2003 she was Vice President of the Art Commission of the City of New York (since renamed the PDC). Bogart has served on the board of directors for the New York Preservation Archive Project. She is author of recent articles on Brooklyn's *Lafayette Memorial*, on the early statues of Central Park, and on the mural *The City of New York, As the Eastern Gateway of the American Continent, Receiving Tributes of the Nations*, in the City Council chamber of New York's City Hall.



**"My favorite project of all has been the decades-long saga of the mayorally-commissioned *Civic Virtue*, both the efforts to see it conserved and, ultimately the oversight of its relocation to Green-Wood Cemetery. A fascinating historical case study in its own right, this monument is also a wonderful example of how public private partnerships can advance the municipal conservation process and transform a monument's meanings in an affirmative new way. Somebody had to be watching and tracking that process, and that was the members of CAG."**

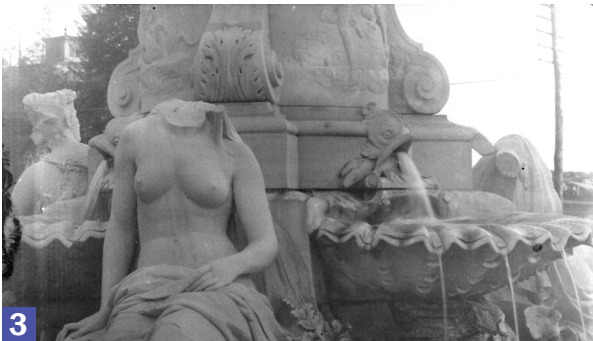


1. *Civic Virtue* following the completed conservation treatment, including signage, at the Green-Wood Cemetery, the site of the relocation.
2. Due to the serious degree of staining and the apparent lack of cleanings in the past, conservators decided to use steam vapor cleaning; Department of Citywide Administrative Services; Kreilick Conservation.



## Phyllis Samitz Cohen

Director of Adopt-a-Monument,  
Mural Programs, Municipal Art Society



*“One of my favorite projects was the complicated restoration of the **Heinrich Heine Fountain** in the Bronx. Sculpted by Ernest Herter and erected in July 1899 in Joyce Kilmer Park, years of neglect, graffiti, and deterioration took its toll on the fragile marble. In 1998, a gift to the MAS “Adopt” program from the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation was the catalyst for matching city funds that saved this endangered historic fountain. The team of conservators replaced and repaired the missing and injured pieces, as well as meticulously cleaned the marble. The restored monument was relocated to the original site at the South end of Joyce Kilmer Park. Yearly maintenance by conservators from Cultural Heritage Conservation ensures that the fountain remains a much beloved centerpiece by the South Bronx neighborhood community.”*

Phyllis has served as a member of the Conversation Advisory Group since its inception. She has been the Municipal Art Society’s (MAS) Director of Public Art and the Adopt-A-Monument/Mural program since its creation in 1987 and 1991, respectively. Partnering with the former Art Commission (now PDC) and NYC Parks, this program was established to restore public artworks that had incurred damage due to the environment, vandalism, and neglect. Phyllis was instrumental in raising over four million dollars to support 54 restorations in all five boroughs and overseeing both the conservation stewardship and critical annual maintenance with endowed funds, which leveraged private conservators and the NYC Parks Monument Crew.

Prior to her MAS position, she was Archivist and Assistant to the Curator of American Literature and Art, at Yale University’s Beinecke Library for a decade. She also taught on the faculty of the Art History Department of the University of Cincinnati. Phyllis studied conservation technique under the Committee to Rescue Italian Art (CRIA), Biblioteca Nazionale, Florence, Italy, and pursued that interest at Yale. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and earned an M.A. in Art History from Bryn Mawr College.



3. Over time, many of the fountain’s sculptural elements, including arms, legs, and heads were damaged and lost.
4. Phyllis joins conservators, who replaced and repaired the missing and injured pieces, as well as meticulously cleaned the marble during the restoration process.



# Shaping the Public Realm: Conservation Advisory Group



## Lisa Bruno

Lisa Bruno is the Carol Lee Shen Chief Conservator at the Brooklyn Museum, where she has worked for over 30 years. Lisa returned to New York City from Chicago's Art Institute where she worked as a project objects conservator after receiving a MS in Art Conservation from the University of Delaware. New York City is where Lisa got her undergraduate degree in Fine Arts from New York University. Having grown up in a rural area of Pennsylvania, the number of public spaces in NYC filled with museums, monuments, and great architecture was staggering. Lisa is proud to participate in the PDC's Conservation Advisory Group. She believes well designed and well-maintained public art and monuments make and keep the city welcome and open to all.

Lisa's favorite structure to get a Design Award from the PDC is the Spring Street Salt Shed, which she believes underscores the importance of art and design for even the most basic of things.



## Isabelle Duvernois

Isabelle Duvernois is a conservator within the Department of Paintings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MoMA), where she has worked since 2005. She works on paintings from the Modern and Contemporary collection, the Leonard A. Lauder Collection, and other curatorial departments. Her work focuses on the treatment, examination, and research of artists materials and techniques. She recently collaborated with curators on MoMA exhibitions, *The Vertigo of Color: Matisse, Derain, and the Origins of Fauvism* (2023), *Picasso: A Cubist Commission in Brooklyn* (2023), *Cubism and the Trompe L'oeil Tradition* (2022), as well as on projects outside the Museum: *Matisse: The Red Studio* (MoMA 2022), *Modigliani Up Close* (Barnes 2022). She received her training at the Conservation Center and the Institute of Fine Arts, NYU in 2003..



## Jorge Otero-Pailos

Jorge Otero-Pailos is a Spanish-American artist, preservation architect, educator, and scholar renowned for pioneering experimental preservation practices. Alongside his artistic practice, he serves as Director and Professor of Historic Preservation at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation (GSAPP), where he also directs the Columbia Preservation Technology Lab and founded the first PhD program in Historic Preservation in the United States. He is a licensed architect who studied architecture at Cornell University and earned a doctorate in architecture from M.I.T.

Otero-Pailos employs artistic methods—informed by advanced technologies, materials research, and interdisciplinary collaborations—to expand the range of objects valued as cultural heritage and to develop new ways of caring for those objects. As a preservation architect, Otero-Pailos collaborates on the creative restoration and interpretation of landmark sites. Notably, he achieved award-winning restorations of New Holland Island in St. Petersburg, Russia, in partnership with WorkAC (2013), and the former U.S. Embassy in Oslo in collaboration with Langdalen Arkitektur (2023).



## John Willenbecher

John Willenbecher has been an artist for over sixty years, previously having studied art history at Brown University and NYU's Institute of Fine Arts. He is thankful that he's been able to make art for so many decades, especially in New York City.

In the 1980's, John served as the Sculptor Member on the Art Commission (now PDC). During his tenure on the commission, he valued learning about the city – its art, its buildings, its parks, and its streetscapes, and more so from fellow commissioners who shared their invaluable expertise and input while reviewing proposals. John believes the PDC is one of the least-known but most important of all the city agencies because of its great power to do good.

After leaving the Commission, John was also involved with The Associates of the Art Commission, a group made up of retired commission members that supported the PDC by raising funds to support operations and special initiatives via a yearly gala. In 2007, he designed the "Bedrock Award", a chunk of Manhattan schist mounted on a base, which was presented to Lowery Stokes Sims at that year's gala.







# Commissioners and Staff



# Commissioner Biographies 2024

## Deborah Marton

Deborah Marton is President of the Public Design Commission and a lay member. Previously she served as executive director of the Van Alen Institute, New York Restoration Project (NYRP), and the Design Trust for Public Space. A leading voice at the intersection of environmental and social justice, notable achievements include repositioning Van Alen to create equitable cities through inclusive design, and at NYRP, completion of the private sector commitment to plant a million trees as part of NYC's MillionTreesNYC initiative. At Design Trust for Public Space, she launched the Taxi 07 program, resulting in a purpose-built NYC taxi, and at James Corner Field Operations, she led the original Fresh Kills Master Plan team. Previous roles include program director for the NYC Parks Natural Resources Group, and adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design. Early in her career, Deborah was associated with the law firm Willkie Farr & Gallagher. Deborah holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania, a J.D. from the NYU School of Law, and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

## Manuel Miranda

Manuel Miranda is a lay member of the Public Design Commission and a graphic designer. His studio, MMP, works on identities, publications, signage systems, and websites for public space and cultural projects. In addition to professional practice, Manuel is a Senior Critic in the graduate graphic design program at the Yale School of Art, and has given talks and served as guest critic at schools across the country. Previously, he was Vice President of the AIGA New York board of directors, and in 2015, he led a team that created the winning proposal for Van Alen Institute's "National Parks Now", a competition to imagine new audience engagement strategies at urban parks for the National Park Service. Additionally, Manuel was a design director at 2x4, and a senior designer at Brand Integration Group at Ogilvy. He earned a BFA from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, and an MFA in Graphic Design from the Yale University School of Art.

## Jimmy Van Bramer

Jimmy Van Bramer began serving as a lay member of the Public Design Commission in 2023. He is a lifelong resident of Queens and a product of our public schools. A graduate of St. John's University, he has been involved in city government and public service for three decades. Jimmy served as a member of the New York City Council for 12 years where he chaired the committee on cultural affairs and libraries. In this role, he had oversight of the Public Design Commission (PDC) and thousands of cultural organizations and institutions across the five boroughs. Prior to his election in 2009, he served as the Chief External Affairs Officer for the Queens Public Library for over a decade. Jimmy is a past president of the Queens Council on the Arts and a current trustee of the Queens Public Library. He is a former board member at MoMA PS1 and the Museum of the Moving Image. Currently serving as the Chief Growth and Strategic Partnerships Officer of the Girl Scouts of Greater New York, Jimmy lives in the Sunnyside Gardens historic district with his husband, Dan Hendrick.

## Kenseth Armstead

Kenseth Armstead is the painter member of the Public Design Commission and an artist whose works have been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Brooklyn Museum and Guggenheim Museum, among numerous others. Over the last three years, he has served as a member of the New York State Council on the Arts, Visual Arts Panel which awards grants to support the visual arts statewide. This year he will be a Lecturer at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Preservation and Planning. He will also be a guest lecturer at Oberlin College and Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Armstead studied at the Corcoran College of Art & Design, the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program, and the NYU Tandon School of Engineering.

## Isabel Castilla

Isabel Castilla is the Landscape Architect member of the Public Design Commission. She is an associate partner at Field Operations where she has been practicing landscape architecture for over 15 years. Isabel specializes in large-scale, transformative public realm projects that involve extensive community engagement and complex multi-agency approvals. Her passion for public space design and its impact on communities informs her unique perspective. At Field Operations, Isabel is leading the renovation of Manhattan's iconic Fifth Avenue and the design of The Bentway Islands in Toronto. She has led the design and implementation of notable projects including phases 1 and 2 of New York's High Line Section 3; the High Line's 18th Street Plaza, and the High Line x Moynihan Connector; Dallas' West End Square; the master plan and renovation of the historic Lincoln Road District in Miami Beach; and the master plan and implementation of various phases of The Underline in Miami. Isabel holds Master of Landscape Architecture and Master of Architecture degrees from the University of Pennsylvania School of Design and a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Puerto Rico. In addition to her work at Field Operations, Isabel frequently lectures at universities and symposiums across the United States.

## Bill Heinzen

Bill Heinzen began serving on the Public Design Commission as Mayor Eric Adams' representative in 2023. He is currently Special Counsel in the Office of Chief Counsel to the Mayor and City Hall. He has served in several government roles, including Deputy Counselor to the Mayor and Counsel to the Public Design Commission from 2007-2013, Senior Vice President and General Counsel to the Hudson River Park Trust, Deputy Commissioner and Acting Commissioner at the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission and General Counsel at the New York City Board of Correction. Bill has a B.A. in history from Haverford College and a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin, and serves on the Board of the Ballet Tech Foundation, which operates the New York City School for Dance.

## Laurie Hawkinson

Laurie Hawkinson is the Architect member of the Public Design Commission. She is a partner at Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects (SMH+); Professor of Architecture at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation; and serves on Columbia University's Professional Schools' Diversity Council. She has served on the Space Planning Committee of Columbia's Manhattanville Campus. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture from The Cooper Union, a Bachelor of Fine Arts from UC-Berkeley, a Master of Art in Department of Art Practice from UC-Berkeley and was a participant in the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program. She led the design for the recently completed Energy Advancement Innovation Center, an experiential hub for energy research and technology incubation at The Ohio State University. The facility will support research and development of the next generation of smart energy systems, renewable energy and green mobility, and will be designed as a beacon of high-performance, energy-efficient design anchoring the new West Campus.

## Karen Kiehl

Karen Kiehl serves on the Public Design Commission as the representative of the Brooklyn Museum. From 2008 to 2011, Karen Kiehl was a Senior Vice President within the Investment Banking Division at Barclays Capital, where she was responsible for the creation of customized taxonomies for online storage and retrieval of institutional knowledge as well as automatic downloads of financial data into presentation format. From 1995 to 2008, Ms. Kiehl worked at Goldman Sachs, where she served as the CIO of the Merger Department and eventually became head of the Investment Banking Division's Knowledge Management group. Prior to Goldman Sachs, Ms. Kiehl was a consultant and Director of Training at FactSet Data Systems. Ms. Kiehl holds a B.A. from Colgate University and an M.S. from Columbia University. She is a mother of two boys and served as the Co-Chair of the Poly Prep Spring Gala from 2014 to 2018 at their school.



## Carey Maloney

Carey Maloney serves on the Public Design Commission as the representative of the New York Public Library. His career has encompassed finance, the art auction world, interior design and architecture, writing, and public service. He is currently on the Board of Trustees of The New York Public Library, where he has been an active volunteer and supporter for over forty years. He and his husband, architect Hermes Mallea, founded the Library's LGBTQ+ Initiative which has raised over \$4 million and mounted multiple exhibitions. He served as a board member and treasurer of the MAC AIDS Fund, one of the largest funders of AIDS/HIV services and prevention, from 2008 until 2018. His firm, M(Group)'s, projects have been published extensively and the firm was often included in the Architectural Digest AD100. He has published a monograph on the firm's design work, "Stuff: The M(Group) Interactive Guide to Collecting, Decorating with, and Learning About Wonderful and Unusual Things" (Pointed Leaf Press, 2013) and has written travel and design pieces for "Architectural Digest", "Elle Décor", and "House Beautiful" magazines. Carey, a native Texan, received an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management (Arizona) and a BA from Trinity University (Texas). He divides his time between New York City and the Hudson Valley.

## Dr. Merryl H. Tisch

Dr. Merryl H. Tisch serves on the Public Design Commission as the representative of the Metropolitan Museum of Art where she is a trustee. She was appointed Chair of the State University of New York in September of 2019, after serving as Vice-Chair since 2018. Dr. Tisch is one of the nation's leading voices on education, having served at the helm of New York State's governing body for education from 2009 to 2016. As Chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents, she was responsible for setting the State's education policy and overseeing both public and private education throughout New York. She currently holds a number of philanthropic and civic positions in New York and beyond. She sits on the executive committees of The Washington Institute for Near East Policy and the Citizens Budget Commission, serves on the board of The Trust for Cultural Resources of the City of New York, the New York Public Library Board of Trustees, and the Graduate School of Education's Board of Overseers at the University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, she serves as the Chair of the Rhodes Scholarship District Selection Committee, is a member of the NYC Charter Revision Commission, and is Chair Emeritus of the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, a leading social services agency. Dr. Tisch earned a B.A. from Barnard College, an M.A. in Education from NYU, and received an Ed.D from Teacher's College, Columbia University.

# Staff Biographies

## Sreoshy Banerjea

Sreoshy Banerjea is the Executive Director of the Public Design Commission. She previously served as Vice-President of urban design for EDC where she was responsible for establishing and leading the Urban Design Unit housed within the Planning Division. She has helped shape consultants' visions for renovation of EDC assets and large-scale master plans. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sreoshy founded Design Corps, and formulated partnerships with AIA and NYCxDesign to create a network of 100 volunteer architects that assisted over 70 restaurants in design related to needs that had arisen during COVID-19. She is a former forefront fellow of the Urban Design Forum, as well as the 2021 winner of the AIANY chapter's Service to the City award, formerly George S. Lewis award, which recognizes those who have made tangible design contributions, or participated in impactful collaborations with designers, to make New York City a better place to live. Prior to her public sector experience, Sreoshy worked as an architectural associate with Rafael Viñoly and Dattner Architects on multiple award-winning civic and institutional projects. Sreoshy received a Bachelor of Architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Master's degree in urban design from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## Mary Beth Betts

Mary Beth Betts is the Tour Manager at the Public Design Commission. She plans tours of New York City Hall, manages a team of four docents, and researches the diverse history of City Hall and its collections. She is an architectural historian and has worked at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, The New-York Historical Society and taught architectural history at The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture, The Cooper Union. She organized exhibitions on McKim, Mead & White, and New York City Hall and has published essays on Cass Gilbert, New York City Hall and the New York City waterfront. Mary Beth holds a Ph.D. in Art History from the Graduate Center, CUNY and a B.A. in Art History from the University of Virginia and is active in the Society of Architectural Historians and the Vernacular Architecture Forum.

## Chelsea Chaug

Chelsea is a Project Manager at the Public Design Commission, where she oversees projects across the architecture, urban design, and public art portfolios. In addition to project review, she leads strategic initiatives focused on public engagement and interagency coordination for complex, large-scale design projects. A native New Yorker, Chelsea is committed to enhancing everyday life in the city by promoting high-quality public spaces and a vibrant, inclusive public realm. She is particularly passionate about advancing equitable design outcomes and making government processes more transparent and accessible to all communities. Before joining the Commission, Chelsea served as an urban designer for Queens at DCP and worked on neighborhood-scale planning and open space initiatives at EDC. She also has experience in architecture, contributing to both residential and commercial projects. Chelsea holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture with a concentration in Design from Yale University.

## James Fransisco

James is a Project Manager at the Public Design Commission with a focus on master planning, urban design, and delivering complex capital works projects. He is a Certified American Planner (AICP) with complimentary LEED and ENV SP certifications, and a M.Arch from the University of Sydney, Australia. He is passionate about global best-practices and problem-solving complex challenges within the built environment. James was previously at Arup, a global engineering and design firm, where he led the New York City based Master Planning & Urban Design practice. For 15 years at Arup, James led multidisciplinary teams of architects, landscape architects, engineers and planners to deliver technically complex projects. His strategic leadership unlocked public space, maximized public investment, and delivered quality public realm. In New York City, James has had the honor of delivering projects in the city's uniquely complex environment with the DOT, EDC, DEP, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and several BIDs, Parks and Waterfront organizations. Notable projects include leading the 'Reimagining the Brooklyn Bridge' competition, the pedestrian-priority 'Vision for Broadway', and the 'Future of the BQE corridor'.



## Ryu Kim

Ryu is a Senior Project Manager at the Public Design Commission. She oversees the review of Landscape Architecture projects and manages key initiatives, including the Annual Design Awards and interagency collaborations. She recently led the development of *Building a Family-Friendly City: Design Guidelines for a Safer, More Livable Public Realm*, to improve public spaces for families. With a background in Landscape Architecture, Ryu managed capital maintenance projects at Madison Square Park Conservancy and contributed to planning projects including the Baltimore Inner Harbor Masterplan 2.0 and the UNESCO City Icheon Ceramics Village Masterplan. Ryu was a lecturer and a critic at the Rhode Island School of Design, Boston Architectural College, and the University of Maryland. She holds an MLA from Harvard GSD and a BLA from the University of Maryland. She is a certified Park and Recreational Professional and holds a certification in Urban Park Management from the City University of New York and Central Park Conservancy's Institute for Urban Parks.

## Jenna E. Miller

Jenna is the Director of Urban Design & Policy at the Public Design Commission. A Registered Architect and LEED Accredited Professional in Building Design and Construction, Jenna is co-founder of design firm RUEd' ARCH and an Urban Design Forum Fellow, and she has designed and managed a breadth of public and private design-build and architectural projects and exhibitions in the U.S. and abroad. At PDC, Jenna leads the capital project review process and authored the award-winning *Designing New York: Streetscapes for Wellness*. She also leads various strategic initiatives and oversees the publication of the PDC Annual Report. Jenna holds a Master's Degree in Architecture from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and a B.A. in Architecture and Environmental Studies from Wellesley College, and she previously served as a member of the Wellesley College Board of Trustees and the Columbia University Senate. Jenna has presented extensively about centering local knowledge and advancing spatial justice in the public realm.

## Carolina Llano

Carolina is the Director of Art, Design & Technology at the Public Design Commission. She reviews capital projects and proposals submitted by City agencies and oversees the review of public artwork and conservation projects. Working alongside the Executive Director, she also oversees initiatives related to the maintenance and preservation of the City Hall portrait collection, as well as special projects and artwork loans. Carolina is committed to supporting the artists' visions to contribute public artworks that add intangible value to the City's art collection, and which reflect the unique identity of New York City and its values of tolerance, resilience, and humanity. She has prior management experience on institutional, residential, and museum projects at award-winning architecture firms in New York City and abroad, and she continues to pursue her interest in the intersection of art, architecture, landscape, and urban design. She holds a Master's Degree in Architecture from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and a Bachelor of Design in Architecture from the University of Florida.

## Julianna Monjeau

Julianna is the Senior Archivist and Information Specialist of the Public Design Commission. Julianna maintains PDC administrative and archival records, oversees data collection and distribution for the Annual Report and the NYC Open Data portal, provides research services for staff, city agencies and the public, manages PDC's social media platforms and content and organizes and leads tours of the PDC Archives. She holds a Master's Degree in Archives & Public History and a Bachelor's in History from NYU.







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