

TYPES OF PUBLIC ART SITES

There is a wealth of public art and public space in New York City. To help artists interested in undertaking new public art projects in the area, we have identified several categories of sites that typically host these projects.

This page features a partial list of resources to help you identify, contact, and research each type of site. Use this list as a starting point to identify sites based on your specific artistic goals.

PUBLIC PARKS

The New York City Parks & Recreation Department hosts both performance events, and temporary art installations, in public parks. Note that the Parks Department is also in charge of playgrounds (look for the Parks logo on a playground fence to determine if it is managed by the Parks Department); greenstreets, concrete triangles and traffic islands converted into green spaces; and greenways, long stretches of parkland that link parks and communities around the city. All information about public parks can be found on the New York City Parks Department website, www.nycgovparks.org.

The NYC parks department has its own guidelines for temporary public art projects and a designated staff member to handle permit requests. For questions about temporary public art guidelines for visual arts, contact:

City of New York, Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park, Rm. 20
New York, NY 10021

artandantiquities@parks.nyc.gov

(212) 360-8163

http://www.nycgovparks.org/sub_things_to_do/attractions/public_art/public_art.html

SIDEWALKS

Sidewalks that are not associated with public parks, or privately-owned buildings or businesses, are also potential spaces for public art projects.

Note that the city forbids public art in the streets of New York (e.g., where there are moving vehicles).

For information about permits for sidewalk events, visit the New York City Department of Transportation.

TRANSPORTATION TERMINALS

Examples of transportation sites include ferry terminals (such as the Staten Island Ferry Terminal and Whitehall Ferry Terminal), docks and seaports (such as the South Street Seaport), bus terminals, and heliports.

Most permits for most transportation spaces can be obtained through the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT). Note that some waterfront spaces are operated by the New York City Parks Department or other agencies.

All projects in Subway stations must be administered by the MTA's Arts for Transit program.

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

Some public art projects take place in storefronts, on the steps or plazas of museums, or in other public areas of privately-owned institutions. Stores, restaurants, museums and other local businesses can be researched through local community boards and tourism websites. Public art projects must be organized in collaboration with their owners and in consideration of their patrons.

CORPORATE/PRIVATELY OWNED PUBLIC SPACES

Privately owned public spaces (POPS) are the result of a New York City zoning law that offers bonuses to developers if they agree to provide plazas, arcades, atriums, and other indoor and outdoor spaces, governed by Zoning regulation design standards, and accessible to, and usable by, the public.

Approval to present public art in POPS must be pursued on a case-by-case basis, with building management or owners. Some buildings actively pursue public programming in their POPS; others do not.

When designing a project for a privately owned public space, it is important to consider both the physical layout of the space, and how it is used. There are several official designations of privately-owned public space, including:

Destination space, which attracts employees, residents, and visitors from outside, as well as from, the space's immediate neighborhood. Users socialize, eat, shop, view art, or attend a programmed event, although they may also visit the space for individual activities.

Neighborhood space, high-quality public space that draws residents and employees from the immediate neighborhood for personal use, but does not contain any programmed activities.

Hiatus space, public space that accommodates the passing user for a brief stop, but never attracts neighborhood or destination space use.

Circulation space, public space whose principal purpose is to enable pedestrians to move faster from point A to point B, and/or to make the journey more comfortable by providing weather protection for a significant stretch.

CORPORATE/PRIVATELY OWNED PUBLIC SPACES (cont'd)

Marginal space, which, lacking satisfactory levels of design, amenities, or aesthetic appeal deters members of the public from using the space for any purpose. Usually such spaces are barren or have inhospitable climates.

There are also different physical layouts that constitute public space, such as open outdoor space, covered outdoor space, indoor space (such as a lobby or atrium) or arcade space (such as a covered walkway).

A map and listing of all privately owned public spaces in New York City, including their categorizations, is available on the POPS website, at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/priv/priv.shtml>