



NYCDESIGN

NYC Public Design Commission
City Hall, Third Floor, New York, NY 10007
nyc.gov/designcommission

Annual Report
2022
NYCDESIGN

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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.



A Year of Transitions and New Beginnings

2022 was a year of evolution and new beginnings for the Public Design Commission (PDC). As our city transitioned to a new mayoral administration in 2022, the PDC welcomed a new Executive Director and developed a strategic plan to guide our agency's work going forward.

The PDC resumed in-person public meetings and continued to collaborate closely with partner agencies to advance projects and policies that will make our public spaces more resilient, equitable, and welcoming. PDC staff focused on learning from our City agency liaisons about how we can further streamline our project review process.

The PDC is an advocate for innovative, sustainable, and equitable design. Our team looks forward to partnerships that will help to demystify the design review process and that also recognize the power of good design and invite New Yorkers to discover the landscapes and structures that make New York City one of a kind. The PDC invites communities throughout all five Boroughs to lend their critical voices to shape our cityscape. The power of good design goes beyond aesthetics; it serves to ensure that all New Yorkers are represented in the spaces they experience as part of their daily lives.

1. PDC staff arrive at NYC Department of Parks & Recreation's Arsenal building in Central Park to take a tour with NYC Parks Director of Arts & Antiquities Jonathan Kuhn

2. PDC welcomed tour groups back to City Hall in 2022

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, the PDC aims to increase public awareness of the Commission's role in the City and to clearly define our value to the landscape of New York City. The PDC team will showcase our missions and values through diverse programming, new public tours of City Hall, and increased collaboration. Further streamlining design review while upholding excellence is a key priority, along with spearheading creative policies and interagency initiatives around pressing issues like equity, sustainability, and wellness in our public realm.

The PDC welcomes partnerships with civic organizations, non-profits and other agencies that share our agency's vision and mission to advocate for the innovative, sustainable and equitable design of public spaces, civic structures. Our team stands by our goal to improve the public realm and services for all New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs. We wish to demystify the PDC, and to encourage the public to learn more about the important work that is being done at the PDC to ensure that we can design an equitable, and beautiful New York, together.

1. PDC staff host a celebration for all the partners and contributors who supported and shaped the publication of *Designing New York: Streetscapes for Wellness*



Who We Are

Commissioners

Signe Nielsen, Former President, Landscape Architect* (resigned August 2022)
Deborah Marton, President, Lay Member
Philip E. Aarons, Former Vice President, Lay Member* (resigned January 2023)
Jimmy Van Bramer, Vice President, Lay Member (appointed 2023)
Manuel Miranda, Secretary, Lay Member
Kenseth Armstead, Painter
Isabel Castilla, Landscape Architect (appointed 2023)
Laurie Hawkinson, Architect
Bill Heinzen, Mayor's Representative (appointed 2023)
Karen Kiehl, Brooklyn Museum
Susan Morgenthau, The New York Public Library
Ethel Sheffer, Former Mayor's Representative* (resigned January 2023)
Dr. Merryl H. Tisch, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Mary Valverde, Sculptor

* Former Commissioner

Staff

Sreoshi Banerjea, Executive Director (appointed June 2022)
Keri Butler, Former Executive Director* (departed June 2022)
Grace Han, Senior Director of Capital Projects
Jenna E. Miller, Deputy Director, Urban Design & Policy
Rebecca Macklis, Deputy Director of Architecture, Urban Design & Special Initiatives
Carolina Llano, Senior Manager of Art, Conservation & Design
Ryu Kim, Project Manager (joined in 2023)
Julianna Monjeau, Archivist & Senior Records Manager
Mary Beth Betts, City Hall Tour Manager
Gail Cornell, Gary Deane, Gail Green, Deirdre LaPorte, and Patricia Orfanos, Docents

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.

Lucy Belloli, former Senior Conservator, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
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, The Municipal Art Society
Isabelle Duvernois, Associate Conservator, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Stephen E. Gottlieb, AIA and formerly of WASA
Kendra Roth, Associate Objects Conservator, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
John Willenbecher, Artist and former Art (PDC) 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 pre-schematic level.

Preliminary

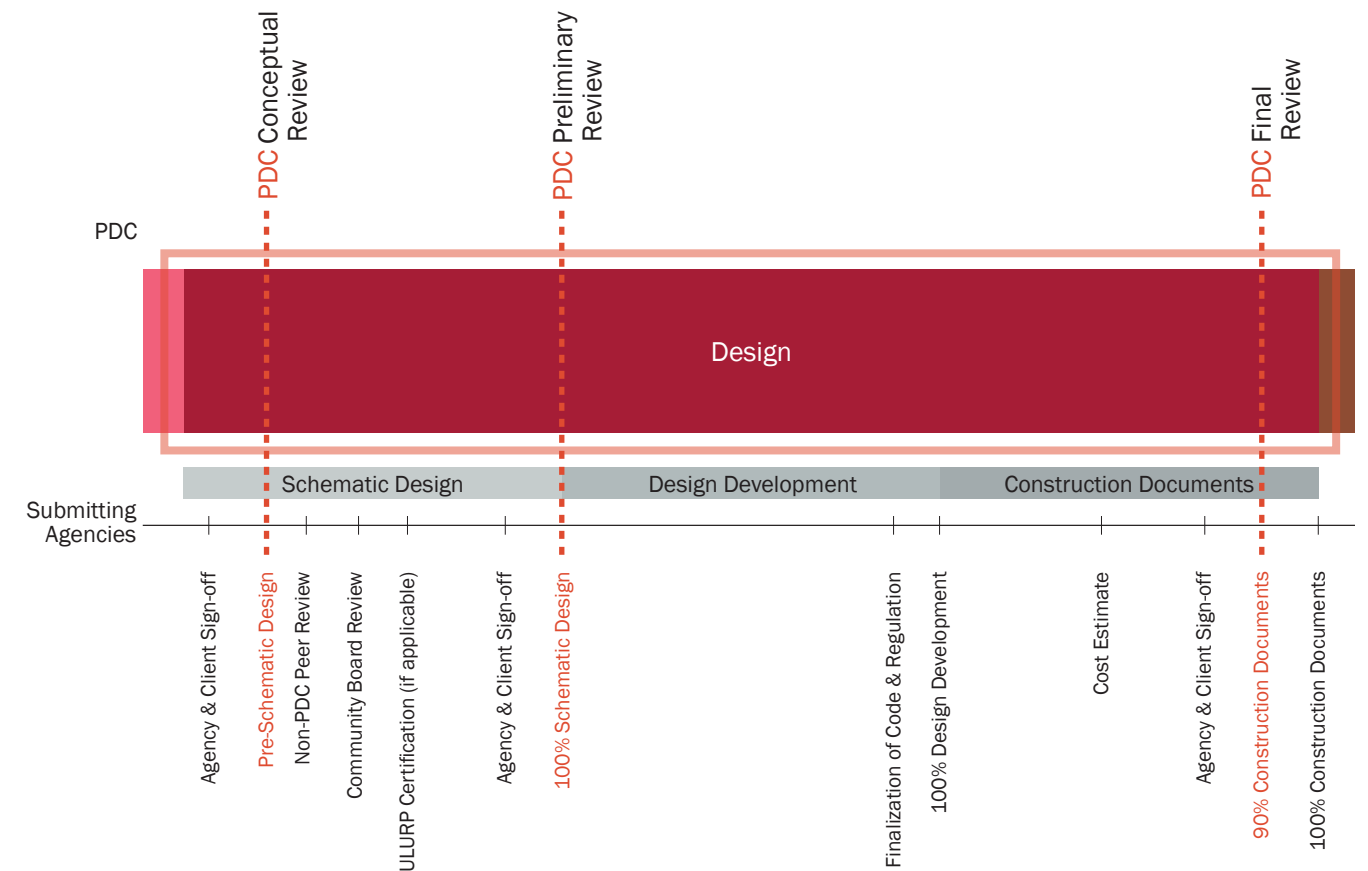
For structures and landscapes, preliminary review occurs at the end of the schematic design phase. For artworks, preliminary review occurs when the artist has completed fabrication drawings.

Final

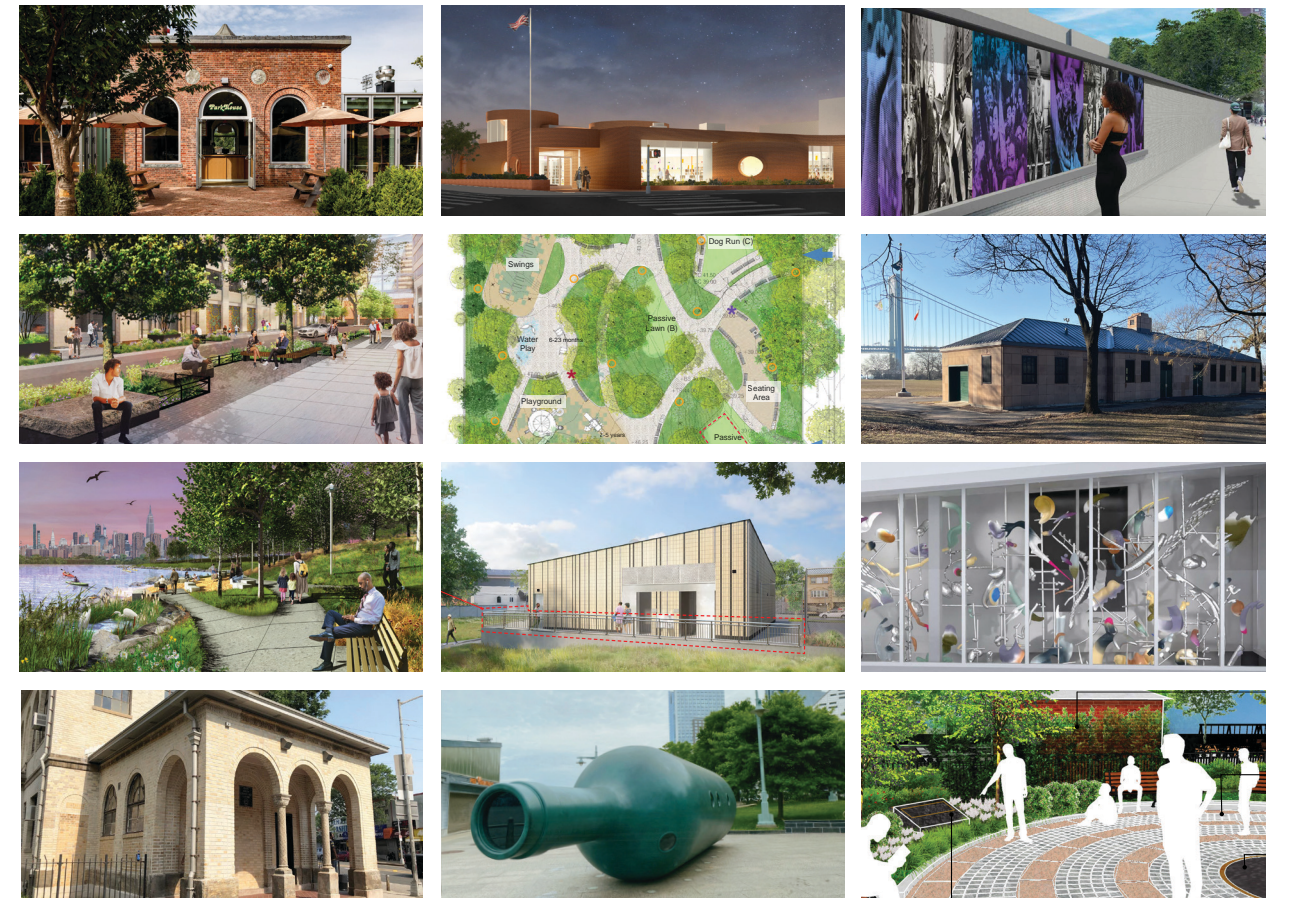
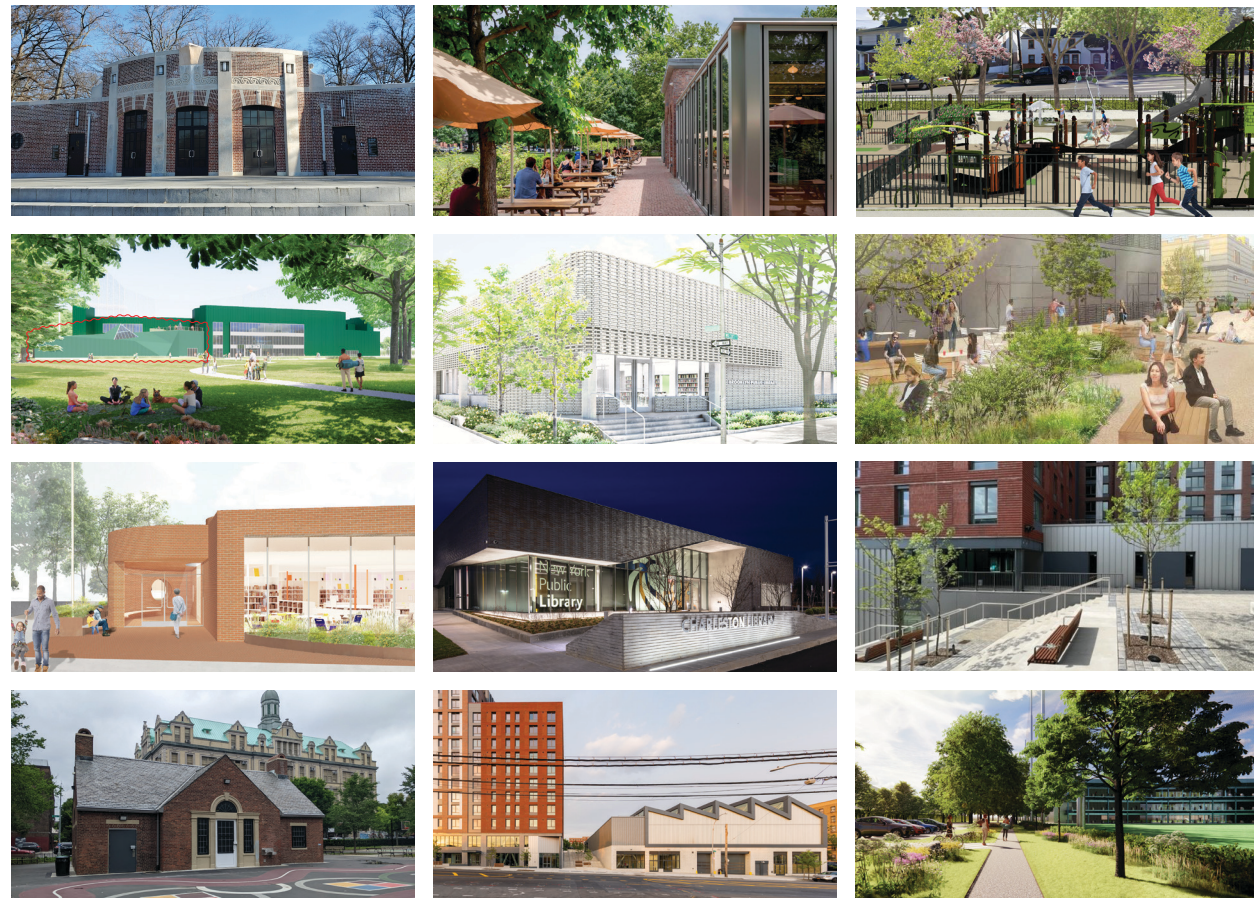
For structures and landscapes, final review and approval occurs at approximately 90% completion of construction documents. Once final approval is granted, construction can commence. For artworks, final review takes place after the artwork has been installed and includes the submission of photographs 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 2022



Total Number of Submissions by Type

The Public Design Commission typically reviews approximately 800 to 1,000 submissions (600 to 800 unique projects) every year. However, due to an emergency declaration to stop all nonessential construction during the COVID-19 pandemic, the PDC experienced a significant decrease in the number of annual submissions received during 2020. 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: 724



Total Number of Unique Projects Reviewed: 551

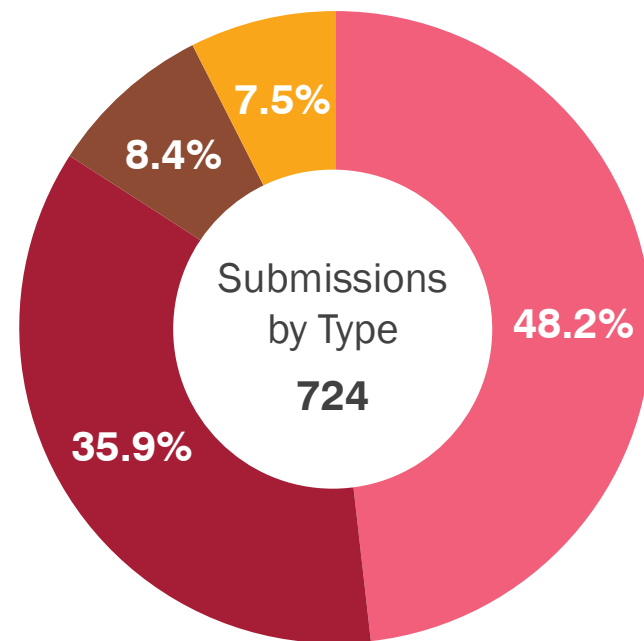


A **submission** is a package of review materials for a single project at a specific level of review.

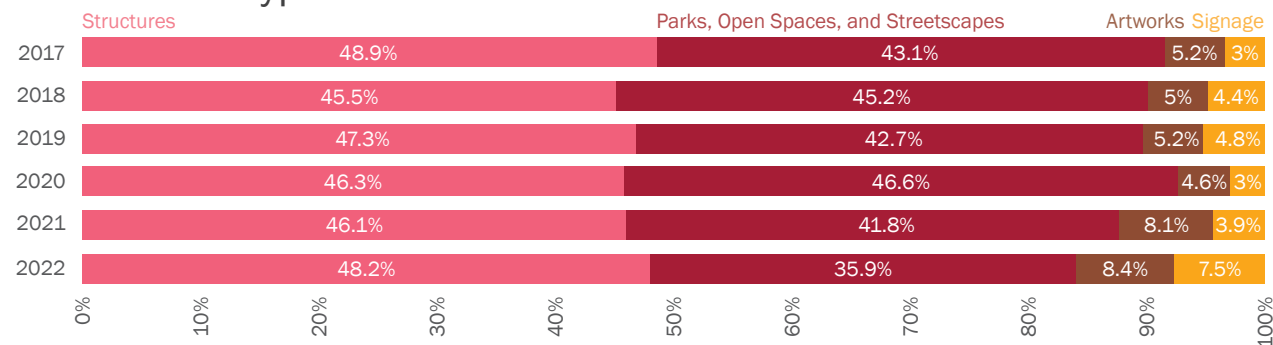
A **project** is a unique scope of work at a site. One project may have multiple submissions within one year, such as for different levels of review.

Structures	48.2% [349]
Parks, Open Spaces, and Streetscapes	35.9% [260]
Artworks	8.4% [61]
Signage	7.5% [54]

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



Submission Type Ratio Per Year



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, libraries, police stations, sanitation garages, and bridges as well as renovations or restorations of existing buildings or bridges and the installation of mechanical units or other equipment.

Building Modifications and Minor Structures

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

Reconstruction

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

Rehabilitation

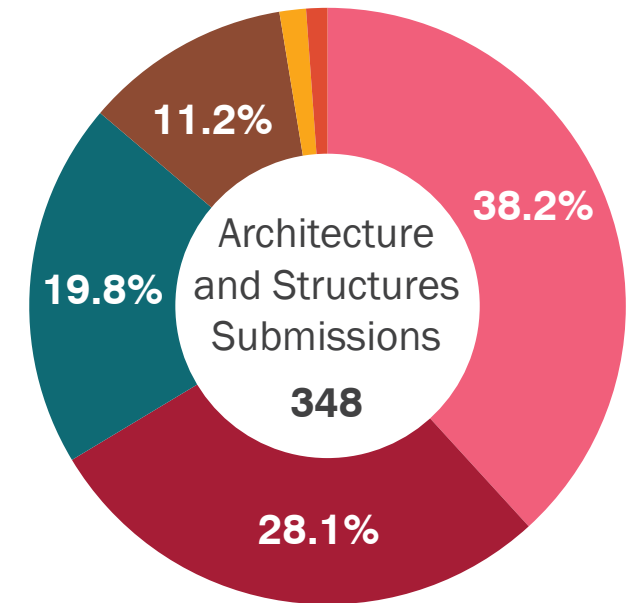
An upgrade for the purpose of making a building functional today, such as improvements to life safety and HVAC systems

Prototype

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

Renovation

Significant changes to an existing structure



Building Modifications, Minor Structures, Installs	38.2% [133]
Constructions	28.1% [98]
Reconstructions	19.8% [69]
Rehabilitations	11.2% [39]
Prototypes	1.4% [5]
Renovations	1.1% [4]

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

1. Greencroft Playground Comfort Station, Staten Island Department of Parks & Recreation; Leroy Street Studio

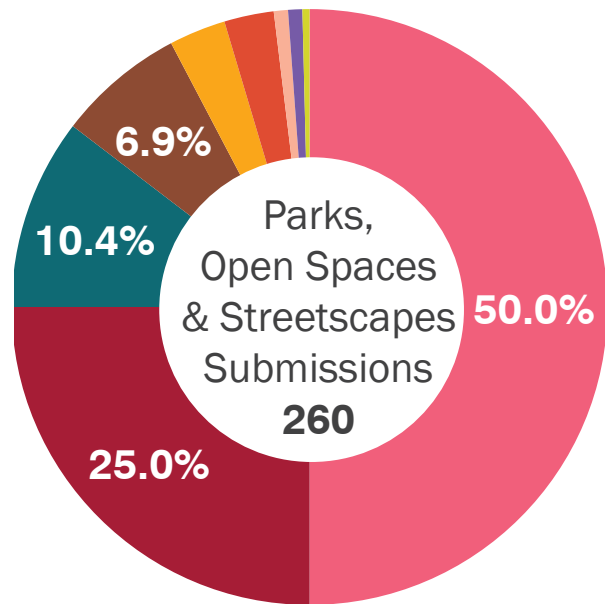


Public Restrooms for All

In 2022, the PDC approved 9 new public restroom facilities in parks, 6 rehabilitations of existing restroom facilities, 7 completed public restroom buildings, and reviewed the conceptual design of a restroom for installation in parks citywide.

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 parking lots, dog runs, path reconstructions, streetscapes, planter installations, esplanades, flood mitigation measures, and shoreline stabilizations.



Reconstructions	50.0%	[130]
Constructions	25.0%	[65]
Minor installations	10.4%	[27]
Street Furniture	6.9%	[18]
Distinctive Sidewalks	3.1%	[8]
Rehabilitations	2.7%	[7]
Distinctive Lighting	0.8%	[2]
Master Plans	0.8%	[2]
Stabilizations	0.4%	[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

Minor Installation

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

Street Furniture

Amenities installed on a sidewalk

Distinctive Sidewalk

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.



1. Streetscape Improvements at King Street, Manhattan Department of Transportation; Hines

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 sculptures, bas reliefs, engravings, paintings, mosaics, photographs, and electronic media.

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

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

Relocation

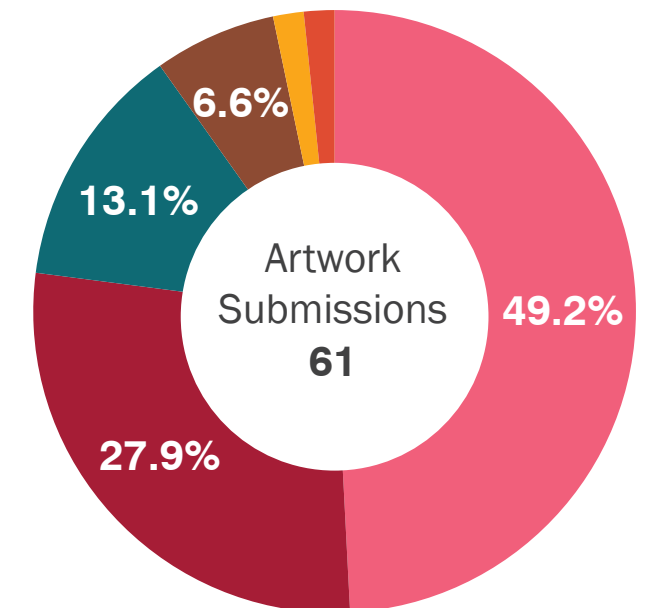
The moving of an artwork from one site to another site

Loan

The temporary transfer of an artwork from the City to another institution, typically for display

Restoration

Treatment procedures intended to return an artwork to its known or assumed original state



Installations	49.2%	[30]
Removals*	27.9%	[17]
Conservations	13.1%	[8]
Relocations	6.6%	[4]
Loans*	1.6%	[1]
Restorations	1.6%	[1]

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

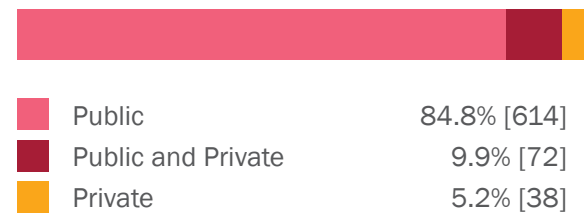
* Removals and Loans included artworks from the Manhattan Detention Complex, which is being demolished; the removal of a mosaic by Patrick Clark from Tribute Park in Far Rockaway, Queens; the demolition of *Design Team Project* (1994) by Scott Burton, as part of the reconstruction of Sheepshead Bay Piers in Brooklyn; and the long-term loan of *For the Women's House* by Faith Ringgold from Rikers Island to the Brooklyn Museum.

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.



1. Construction of the Bronx Animal Care Center, Bronx Department of Design and Construction; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Animal Care Centers of NYC; Marvel
2. Construction of a café, McCarren Park House, Brooklyn Department of Parks & Recreation; KTISMA Studio



In 2022, the PDC reviewed 38 submissions for private structures or installations on or over City-owned property.

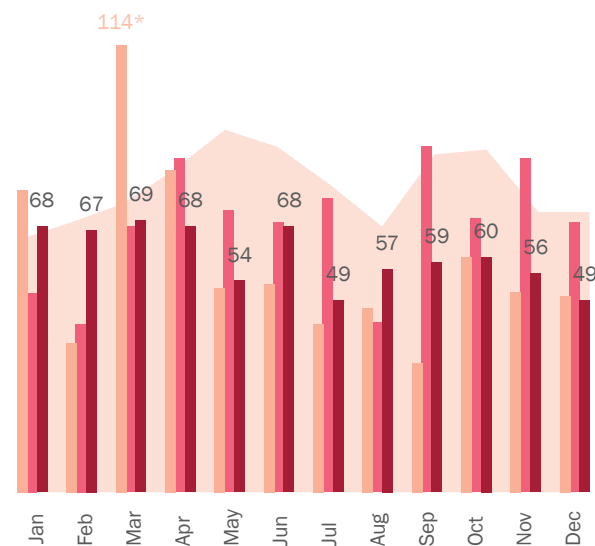
Carry-over Projects

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. In late March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic led to a New York State mandate that paused nonessential work. This resulted in a significant reduction in submissions for the remainder of the year. In 2021, the number of submissions per month increased to be more similar to pre-pandemic levels.

In 2021, 68 submissions were submitted in December for the January 2022 meeting. All of these submissions were either commented upon or approved in January 2022.

In 2022, 49 submissions were submitted in December and were then reviewed in January 2023.

* The number of submissions reviewed in March 2020 were higher than usual because 33 submissions were deferred from the February 2020 meeting due to a lack of quorum.



2022 Submissions by Month versus 2021, 2020, and Pre-Pandemic Mean

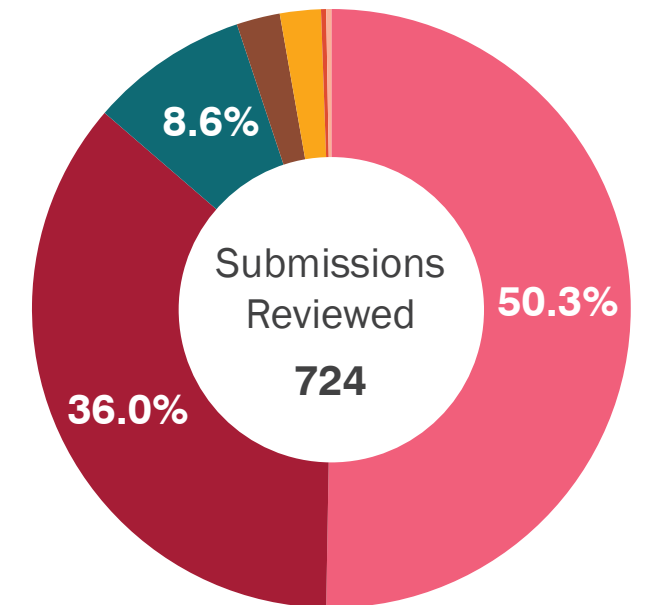
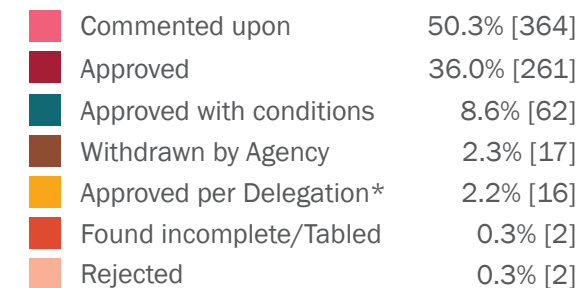
- 2022 Submissions
- 2021 Submissions
- 2020 Submissions
- Pre-pandemic Mean Submissions (2017-2019)

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.

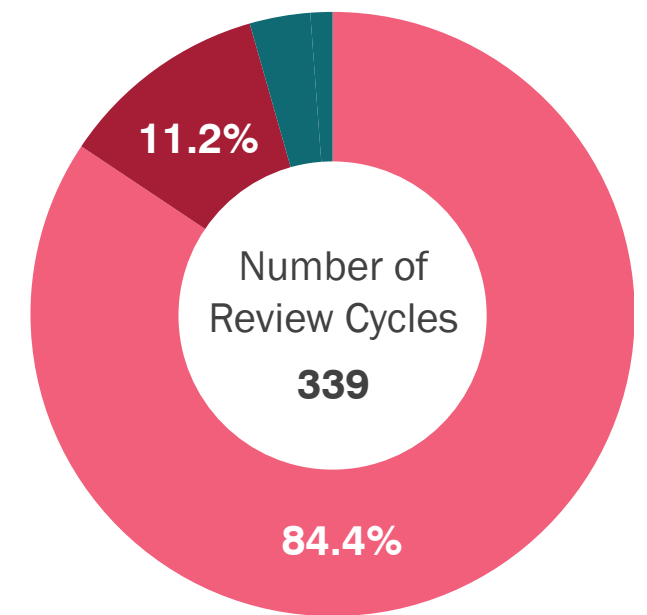


* Per the Resolution adopted by the PDC on October 11, 2022, regarding the delegation of certain duties and responsibilities, some projects may be approved by the PDC's Executive Director in lieu of the Commission. The review of projects by PDC staff began in November 2022, so this number captures only two months of data.

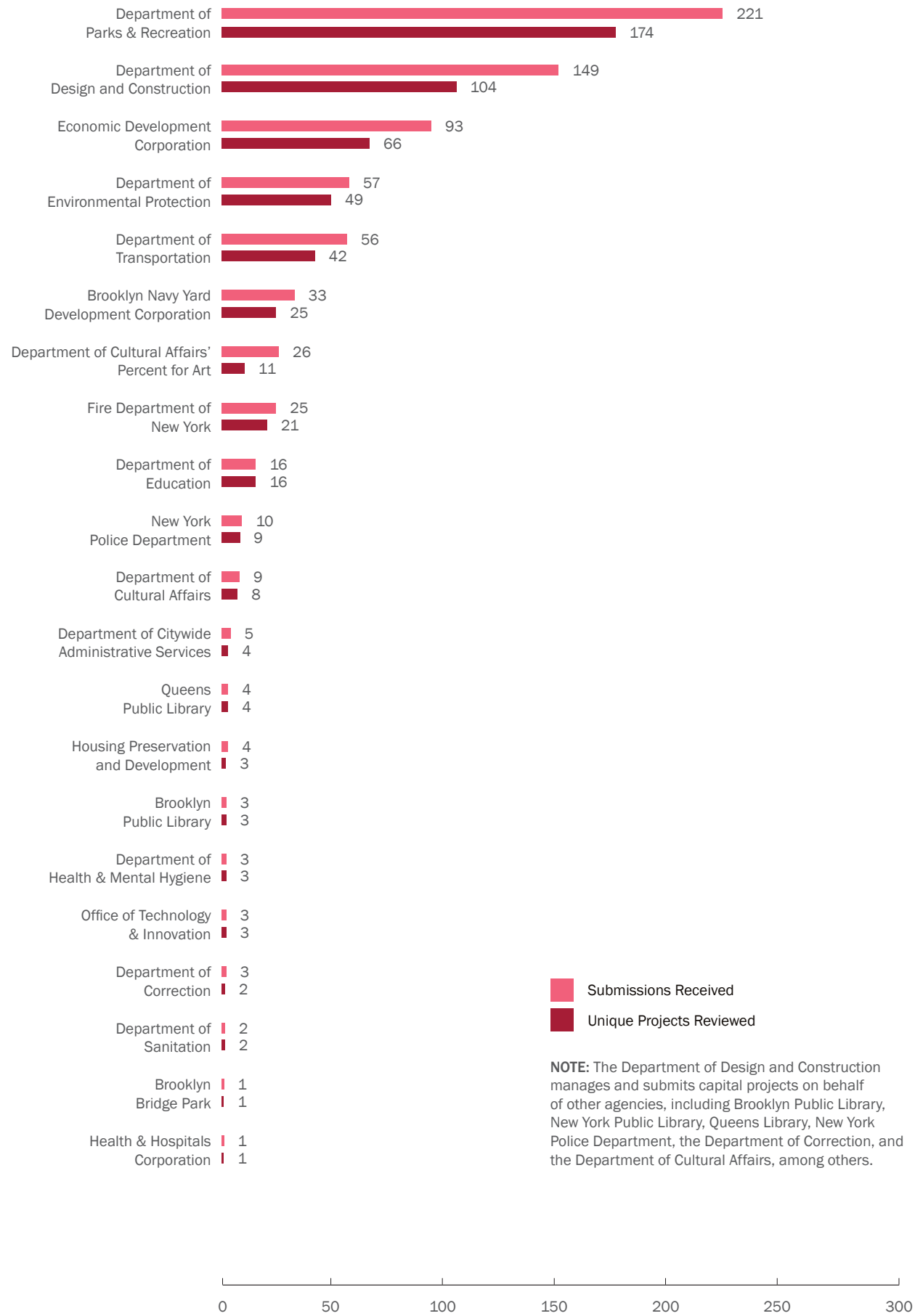
Review Cycles

The PDC reviewed 95.6% of the 339 acted upon projects in two or fewer cycles.

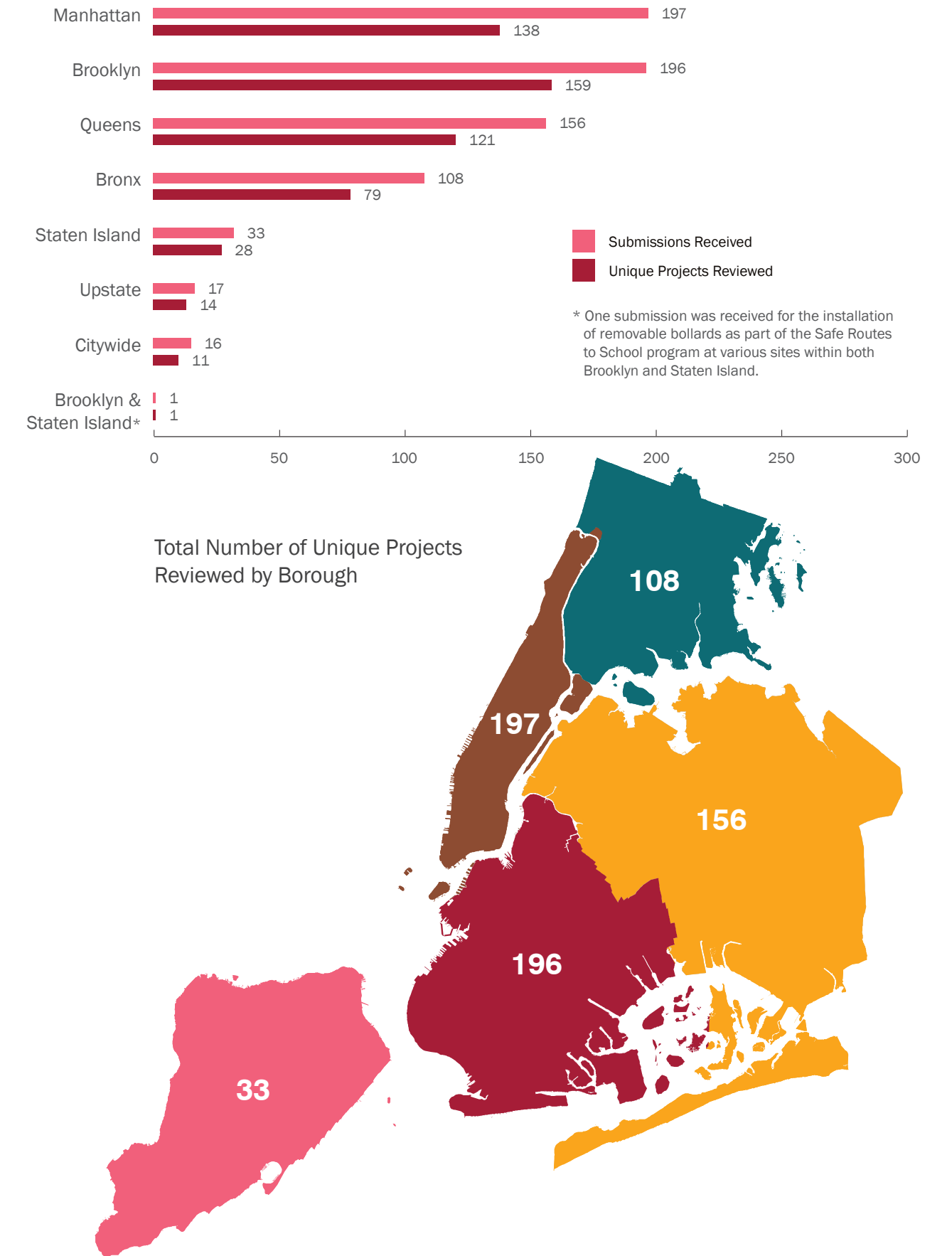
The term "review cycle" means the time between the deadline for the filing of a submission to the Commission and the scheduled date of the next public meeting of the Commission.



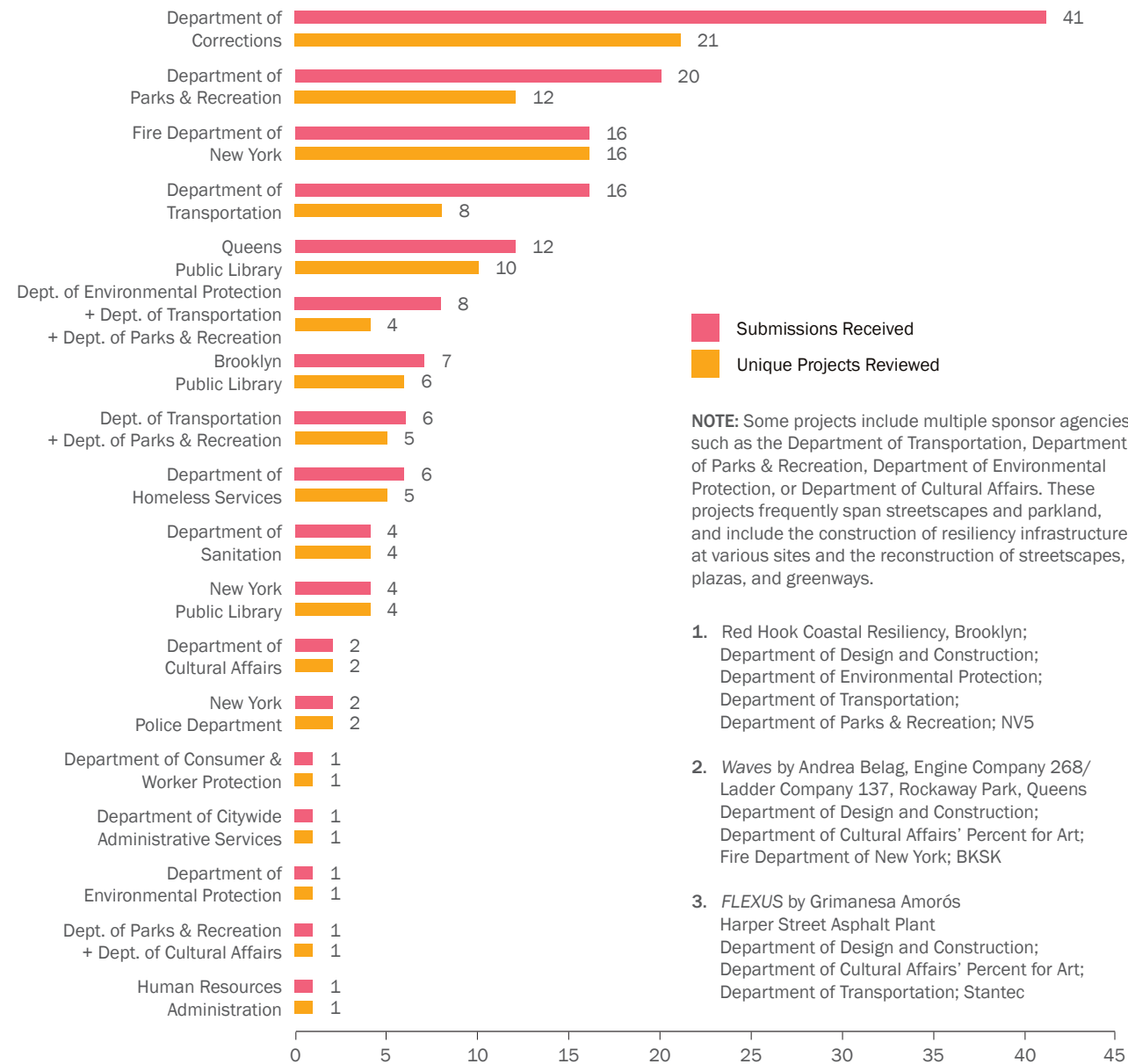
2022 Submissions and Projects by Lead Agency



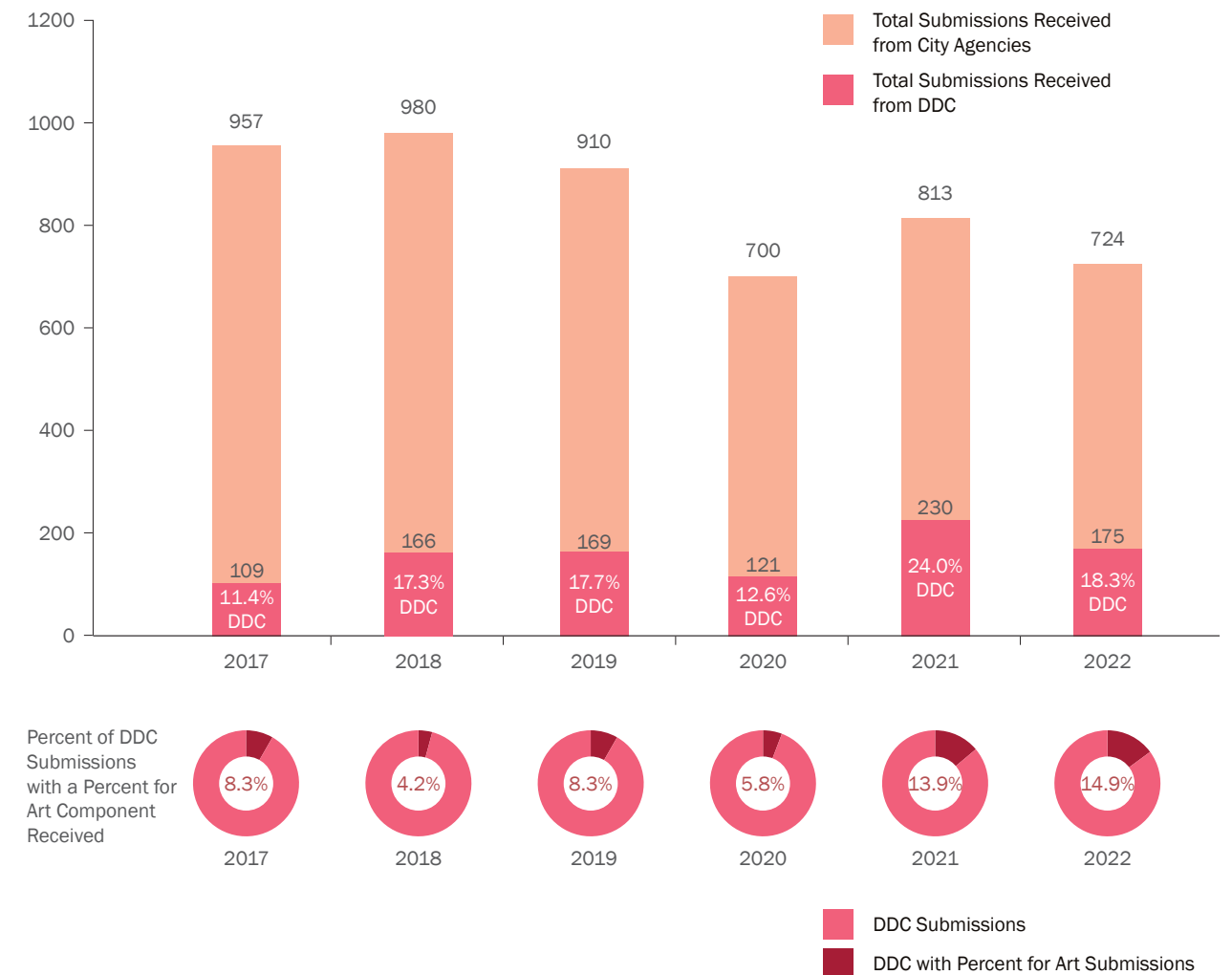
2022 Submissions and Projects by Borough



2022 Department of Design & Construction Submissions and Projects by Sponsor Agency



2022 Percentage of Total Submissions by Department of Design & Construction



Cross-Agency Coordination

The Department of Design and Construction, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Transportation, and Department of Parks & Recreation submitted the Red Hook Coastal Resiliency project in Brooklyn to PDC for review after closely coordinating the construction of a flood wall and resiliency infrastructure with existing parks and streetscapes.



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 2022, the PDC reviewed works including Waves by Andrea Belag and FLEXUS by Grimanesa Amorós.

2022 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 2022.



1 Crotona Park Comfort Station

Bronx

Department of Parks & Recreation
NYC Parks In-house Design



2 St. Mary's Park Comfort Station

Bronx

Department of Parks & Recreation
Li/Saltzman Architects



3 Shore Road Park Field House

Brooklyn

Department of Parks & Recreation
1100 Architect

4 McCarren Park House Concession

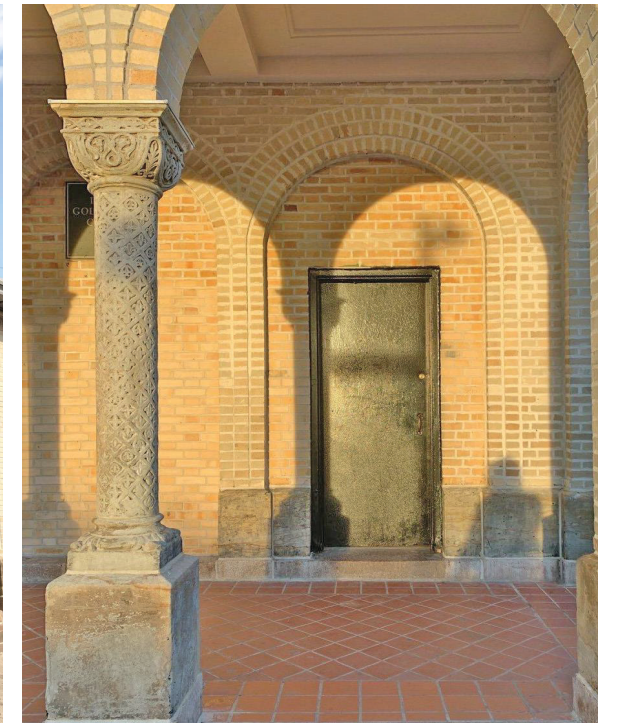
Brooklyn

Department of Parks & Recreation
KTISMAstudio





**5 The Peninsula Mixed-Use Development
Building 1A and 1B**
Bronx
Economic Development Corporation
bLA + WXY



6 Owen Dolen Recreation Center
Bronx
Department of Parks & Recreation
NYC Parks In-house Design



7 Charleston Branch Library
Staten Island
Economic Development Corporation
New York Public Library
ikon.5 Architects

40th 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.

Each winning project embodies the intrinsic link between design excellence, performance, and functionality — ensuring they not only meet the aesthetic aspirations of the city, but also serve the needs of its diverse neighborhoods. 2022's awarded projects enrich the lives of New Yorkers and foster a sense of belonging. The projects that were honored demonstrate the transformative impact design can have in the next chapter of the city's recovery in building a stronger and more inclusive New York. The winning teams were notified of their awards in 2022; however, the 40th Annual Design Awards event was postponed until 2023 due to delays related to the transition of PDC leadership.

2022 Award-Winning Projects

The Award-Winning Projects* are mapped here and numbered in the order listed on pages 26 through 27.

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

5* * The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Breakneck Connector Bridge is not mapped, as it is in Fishkill, New York, on City-owned property outside the five Boroughs.



Award Winning Projects

1 **LIFE COULD BE A DREAM** by Jeffrey Gibson
 40th Police Precinct, 549 East 149th Street, Bronx
 Department of Cultural Affairs
 Department of Design and Construction
 New York Police Department
 Jeffrey Gibson
 Bjarke Ingels Group



2 **Lower Concourse Park**
 413 Exterior Street, Bronx
 Economic Development Corporation
 Department of Parks & Recreation
 Stantec
 Sage and Coombe Architects
 Harriet Spear Studio



3 **McCarren Park House Café Addition**
 McCarren Park, Brooklyn
 Department of Parks & Recreation
 KTISMAstudio



4 **All-Electric Bus Charging Mast**
 Williamsburg Bridge Plaza, Brooklyn
 Department of Transportation
 New York City Transit Authority
 New York Power Authority
 Ciochini Design
 ABB
 Guth DeConzo



5 **Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Breakneck Connector Bridge**
 Fishkill, New York
 Department of Environmental Protection
 NY State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
 Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc.
 Gray Organschi Architecture
 Scape Landscape Architecture



6 **Triangle Fire Memorial**
 23-29 Washington Place, Manhattan
 Department of Transportation
 WY Studio
 Charles Lauster Architect
 Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition



7 **Queens Botanical Garden Education Building**
 Queens Botanical Garden, Flushing, Queens
 Department of Design and Construction
 Department of Parks & Recreation
 Department of Cultural Affairs
 Queens Botanical Garden
 BSKS Architects
 Oehme, van Sweden | OVS



8 **Rego Park Community Library & The Fore** by Katrín Sigurdardóttir
 91-41 63rd Drive, Rego Park, Queens
 Department of Design and Construction
 Department of Cultural Affairs
 Queens Library
 Katrín Sigurdardóttir
 Weiss/Manfredi



9 **Testbeds Pilot: The Garden by the Bay Multipurpose Structure**
 480 Beach 43rd Street, Edgemere, Queens
 Department of Parks & Recreation
 New Affiliates
 Testbeds
 NYC Parks GreenThumb
 The Garden by the Bay Community Gardeners



10 **The Hawk and the Heron** by Tatiana Arocha
 Music Hall, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, 1000 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island
 Department of Cultural Affairs
 Department of Design and Construction
 Tatiana Arocha
 Studio Joseph



11 **Sankofa Park African Burial Ground Commemorative Landscape**
 African Burial Ground Square, Livonia Avenue, Brooklyn
 Department of Parks & Recreation
 NYC Parks Capital Projects In-House Design





Special Projects
and Interagency
Initiatives

Strategic Planning



Advancing our Mission

In 2022, as part of a citywide interagency effort, the PDC worked to refine its strategic planning goals for the years ahead. Our agency defined three overarching goals, which contribute to a broader vision to promote a better quality of life for New Yorkers through the sustainable and resilient design of public spaces, civic architecture.

At its core, the PDC aims to utilize its unique birdseye view and perspective to benefit partner agencies and all New Yorkers. The PDC looks forward to building strategic partnerships to help amplify our mission, and advocate for creative policies that shape our public realm.

Alongside pursuing three key goals, PDC staff will collaborate with PDC commissioners to define a value proposition and to promote transparency, collaboration, and creativity. The PDC strives to be approachable, while upholding design excellence and moving critical projects forward.

This strategic plan marks an important milestone as PDC works to advance our mission. With a focus on streamlining processes, public engagement, and advocacy for innovative policies, we aim to design a more equitable, resilient, and welcoming New York.

Three Key Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Evaluate and further streamline the PDC's review process, and implement new resources for applicants and liasons

PDC staff participated in the Mayor's Office of Efficiency's Customer Experience Plan and the citywide Building Land Use and Streamlining Taskforce and identified strategies to further streamline its review process. An example of how PDC adapted its review process to provide time savings to applicants includes the Resolution adopted by the PDC on October 11, 2022, regarding the delegation of certain duties and responsibilities, in which certain projects may be approved by the PDC's Executive Director with oversight by the Commission.

Goal 2: Improve perception, and increase public awareness of the PDC through innovative and diverse programming at City Hall and beyond

PDC staff host public programming, including the Annual Awards for Excellence, and tours of City Hall and the PDC Archive. These programs provide any person with the ability to celebrate design excellence and to learn more about public design in New York City.

Goal 3: Establish special initiatives and greater interagency collaboration to promote, and advocate for creative policies and innovation in design of the public realm

In 2022, the PDC released the third publication in the *Designing New York* series: *Streetscapes for Wellness* in partnership with the New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Fine Arts Federation of New York, the Department of City Planning's Urban Design Office, a broad interagency working group, and dozens of outside contributors. PDC staff also continued to foster close relationships with City agency partners, the newly appointed Chief Public Realm Officer, and other stakeholders to creatively rethink our city's public realm.

1. Mayor Eric Adams presents remarks at the first City Hall Tour since March 2020
2. PDC staff engage with young community members in Washington Heights during a PARK(ing) Day event
3. The PDC Archive welcomed visitors back for tours in 2022
4. PDC staff enjoy a site visit to Hudson River Park Pier 97, a project that the PDC reviewed

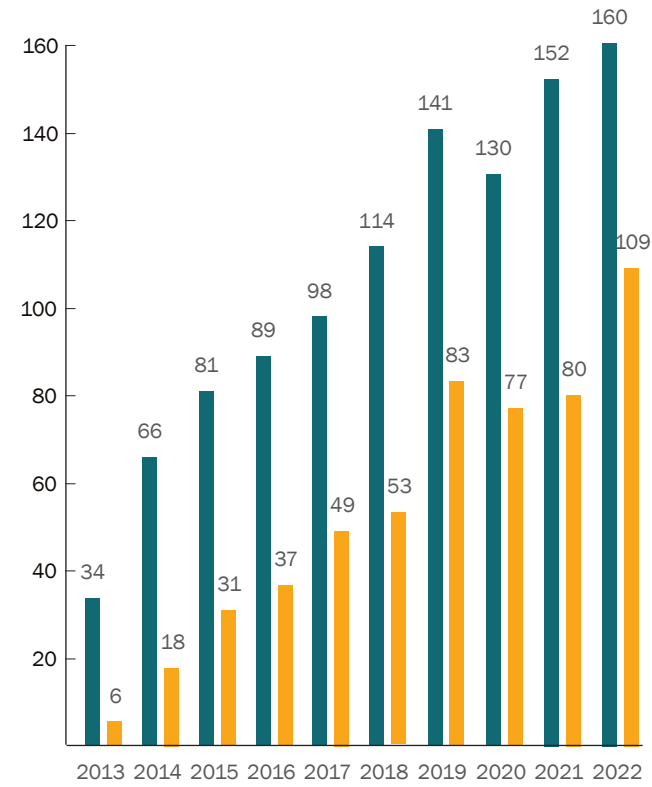


The Archive

The Public Design Commission maintains an archive of projects reviewed by the Commission since 1902, documenting more than 7,500 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 2022, the archive facilitated **160 research requests**, which was a **5.3% increase from 2021**.*

PDC Archivist & Senior Records Manager Julianna Monjeau facilitated a recent record number of research requests and began hosting in-person tours of the Archive again, following a suspension due to the pandemic.



Research Requests by Year

■ Total Requests Received
■ Requests Received by City agencies

City Hall Tour Program



2. Tour Manager and historian Mary Beth Betts leads a tour of through the historically landmarked rotunda at City Hall
3. Tour Manager Mary Beth Betts introduces a tour group to the local history from City Hall Plaza

Tours of City Hall officially restarted in August 2022 after being suspended for nearly two and a half years. One of the oldest continuously used City Halls in the nation that still houses its original governmental functions, New York's City Hall is considered one of the finest architectural achievements of its period, and PDC staff was grateful to be able to welcome members of the public safely back to City Hall.

Throughout 2022, City Hall Tour Manager and historian Mary Beth Betts continued research on a broader scope of historic events and people associated with City Hall, City Hall Park, and the surrounding environs.

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.



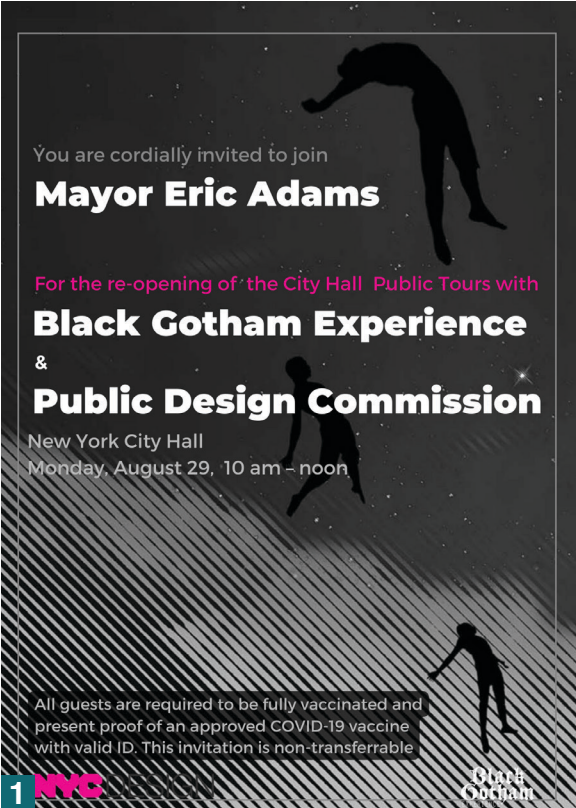
1. PDC Archivist & Senior Records Manager Julianna Monjeau leads a tour of the Archive in November 2022



Relaunching City Hall Tours

On August 29th, 2023, the PDC resumed public tours of City Hall, which give the public a chance to appreciate the design and history of our landmark building. Mayor Eric Adams introduced the special launch tour and event. Alongside community leaders, educators, and youth representatives, Kamau Ware of Black Gotham Experience led the kick-off in-person walking tour, which celebrates the African Diaspora's impact on City Hall and Lower Manhattan.

- 1. Invitation for the re-opening of the City Hall Public Tours with Black Gotham Experience & the PDC
- 2. Mayor Eric Adams presents opening remarks alongside Kamau Ware of Black Gotham Experience



Carolina Llano also worked in collaboration with Black Gotham Experience to expand the Epicenter tour program with a video series. This program will highlight the African Diaspora's impact on lower Manhattan and City Hall from the 1600s through the early 1800s.

- 3. Kamau Ware of Black Gotham Experience talks about the African Diaspora's impact on City Hall
- 4. Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer; PDC Executive Director Sreoshy Banerjee and Senior Manager, Art, Conservation & Design, Carolina Llano (left to right) attend the launch event
- 5-9. Snapshots from the event; Black Gotham Experience & Pubic Design Commission



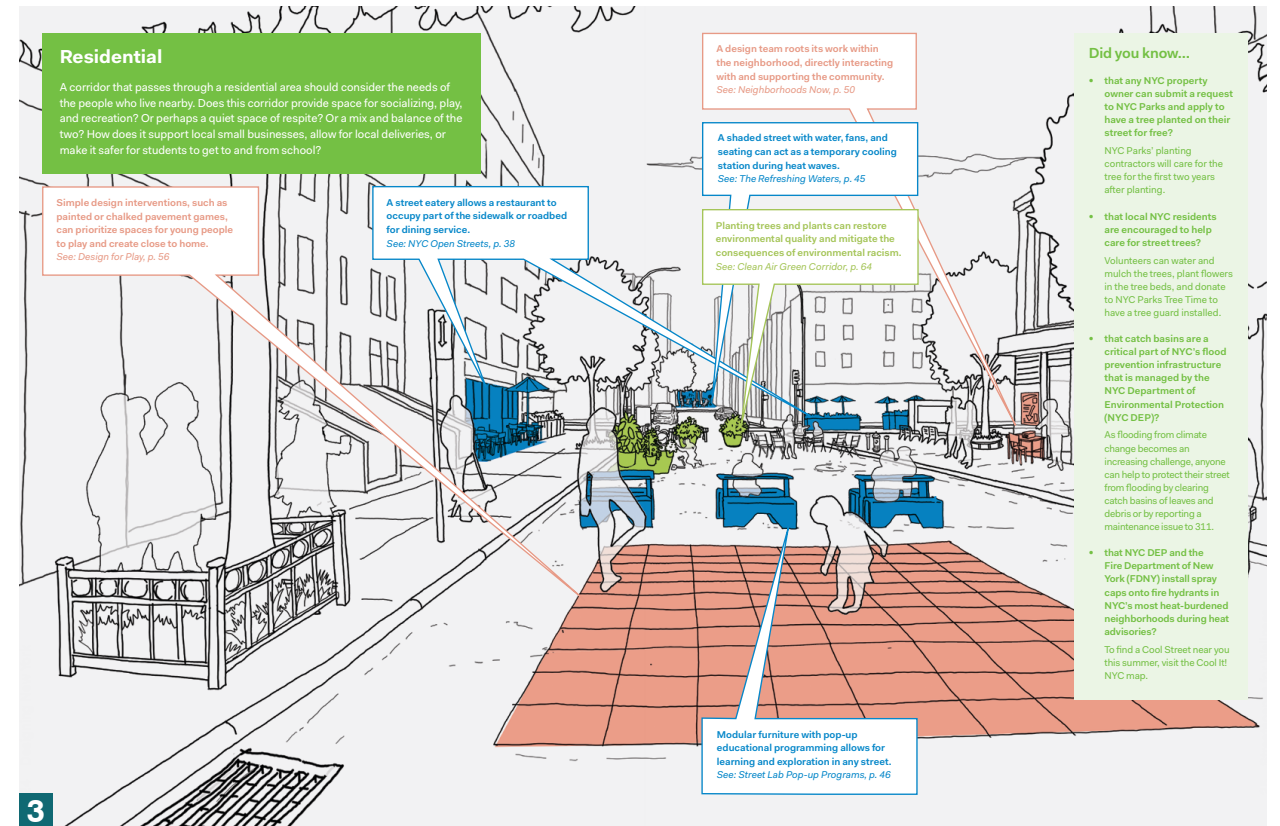
Streetscapes for Wellness

In 2022, PDC published *Designing New York: Streetscapes for Wellness*, a landmark study of how innovative public realm initiatives focused on wellness can inform and inspire the future of New York City's streetscapes.

Developed in collaboration with the New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Fine Arts Federation of New York, the New York City Department of City Planning's Urban Design Office, a broad interagency steering committee, and dozens of contributors who are involved in the planning, design, maintenance, and programming of streets, *Streetscapes for Wellness* reviews approximately 30 case studies from New York City and a handful of other communities to suggest ways of reimagining public spaces to further social and environmental justice while enhancing public health. An analysis of community health data, provided by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, underscores the importance of designing and building high-quality public spaces to address inequities across New York City.

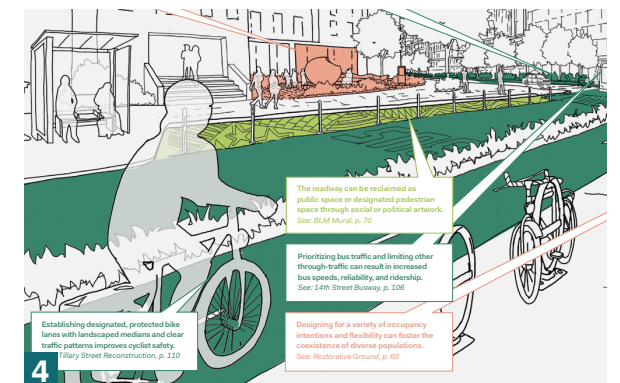
This initiative has spanned multiple years and three executive directors, and the publication showcases a breadth of creative ideas from across New York. The report was led and authored by PDC's Deputy Director, Urban Design & Policy, Jenna E. Miller, with the invaluable support of ASLA-NY Public Realm Research Associate Ariella Levitch and ASLA-NY Trustee Jennifer Nitzky; the graphic design prowess of MGMT. Design Principal Sarah Gephart; and the illustration abilities of Julien Sneek and the Department of City Planning's Urban Design team; the mentorship and guidance of PDC Commissioner Deborah Marton and former PDC Executive Director Justin Garrett Moore; and the vision (and editing skills!) of former PDC Executive Director Keri Butler and former President of the Fine Arts Foundation, the late Jeff Byles, to whom we dedicate this work.

Streetscapes for Wellness explores how a holistic, integrated approach for a safer public realm can help improve public health alongside aesthetics, usability, and public perception to support an inclusive and thriving urban environment and



public life. The sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic spurred city agencies to think creatively about how to provide areas for safe public recreation and support local businesses.

“Well-designed public space is a critical part of improving our collective physical, mental, and emotional health,” said New York City Mayor Eric Adams. “As the city continues to recover strongly, our administration is planning a city that is more resilient, not only to climate change but also to future public health challenges – and equity must be, and is, at the heart of that work. Every New Yorker, regardless of neighborhood or identity, deserves access to high-quality open spaces, and that’s what our administration is working to deliver.”



Though wellness is all too often associated with a commodified focus on personal growth that can be achieved with the help of a product or service, *Streetscapes for Wellness* reframes wellness through an urban design lens and poses the question, “Whose wellness are we talking about?” The case studies highlighted in the report showcase the importance of community-based initiatives and advocacy efforts, street stewardship, maintenance, and broad stakeholder engagement.

3 - 4. *Streetscapes for Wellness* includes vignettes that illustrate ways in which people can shape their streets

Continued on Following Page:
5 - 7. Excerpts from *Streetscapes for Wellness* case studies

8. PDC Executive Director Sreoshy Banerjea presents a statement of gratitude to contributors
9. PDC Deputy Director, Urban Design & Policy, Jenna E. Miller is recognized for the completion of the publication
10. Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer presents congratulatory remarks alongside DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez at the contributors' celebration event



1. *Designing New York: Streetscapes for Wellness* cover by MGMT. design with photo courtesy of Street Lab
2. *Streetscapes for Wellness* spanned the tenures of three PDC executive directors. Pictured below at the publication launch are: Former PDC Executive Directors, Keri Butler and Justin Garrett Moore; PDC Deputy Director, Urban Design & Policy, Jenna E. Miller, and current PDC Executive Director Sreoshy Banerjea

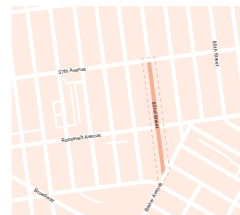




Design volunteers collaborating on the fabrication of planter bags. Courtesy of SO-IL. Clockwise from top left: Roadway seating barriers and planter bags at Thakali Kitchens; Photo by Sam Lohzo, courtesy of Urban Design Forum; Volunteers painting roadway seating barriers; Courtesy of SO-IL; Designers providing free consultation on City reopening policies and regulations; Courtesy of SO-IL.

“Being in the neighborhood taught us about the community’s real challenges and how intersections between policy and public realm design impacts people’s experiences and lives—important knowledge to gain as designers and planners.”

—Jing Liu, Co-Founder, SO-IL



Neighborhoods Now, Queens

Key Facts

In early fieldwork, the team identified 50% of local businesses were closed or nearly closed

NYC DOHMH reports that by Spring 2022, one out of every three people in Jackson Heights had been diagnosed with COVID-19, representing a case rate of nearly 2.4x the New York City rate

The initiative supported 20+ restaurants in participating in the city’s Open Restaurants program

The team designed 3 Open Space seating areas

Takeaways

Communities can be brought together by organizing around the streetscape as a shared resource

Technology and language accessibility is essential for City programs and communications about public health measures and program requirements

A field office model is a creative way to sustain community relationships in collaborative projects

When communities have shared decision-making power, local health needs are prioritized

3 Streets for Justice

Whether through collective demonstration or individual action, city streets can be used to express protest and raise awareness. The summer of 2020, the murder of George Floyd. These demonstrations follow a long history of people physically occupying outdoor and indoor public space to demand public space. Working with the spirit of the other urban protest movements and the power to increase or decrease the quality of public spaces.

The program in this chapter highlights diverse ways in which communities have made streets more accessible to social and environmental justice. A series of these cases, all in used as a powerful tool to mobilize public spaces for social engagement and expression. With the Open Space Center, a community-led organization that provides a platform for the design and implementation of the streetscape in front of their school. In California, a collaborative effort between a group of designers for children to design the public realm around a school. And, during the pandemic, community members across the country engaged with their government to build, distribute and install art materials to serve neighbors in need. Building upon these local efforts, how can our public spaces be designed to serve a democratic purpose and allow freedom of expression and movement?



7 Prospect Park Perimeter

A community-led initiative to improve the perimeter of Prospect Park in Brooklyn, New York. The project involved a series of interventions including the installation of a new fence, the creation of a new walkway, and the installation of a new bike lane. The project was led by a community-led organization and involved a series of public consultations and workshops.



Streetscapes for Wellness showcases just a few of the ways in which public-private partnerships and community-driven designs have positively impacted the physical health, mental well-being, community adhesion, and environmental sustainability and resilience of our city. The report reframes wellness through these four urban-design informed lenses of health and highlights how the holistic wellness of individuals, communities, and ecosystems can be improved through the design of public space. Further, *Streetscapes for Wellness* urges us to draw inspiration from the people and places surrounding us, to listen to local knowledge, to allow for flexibility and experimentation, to foster a continued sense of stewardship, and to design for wellness.

“If redesigning a street for wellness requires displacement of an unhoused neighbor, complex permit applications, finding funding for a roadblock, potential harm to small businesses, or worse, the risk of related legal enforcement—that redesign will not feel like it’s contributing to a community’s wellness,” stated **Deborah Marton, Executive Director of Van Alen Institute and NYC Public Design Commissioner.** **“Streetscape plans need to account for differences across more or less well-resourced communities. To achieve true and equitable wellness across our city, we must meet the need for increased funding and additional social services some communities will require with streetscape plans that honestly address differences across neighborhoods.”**

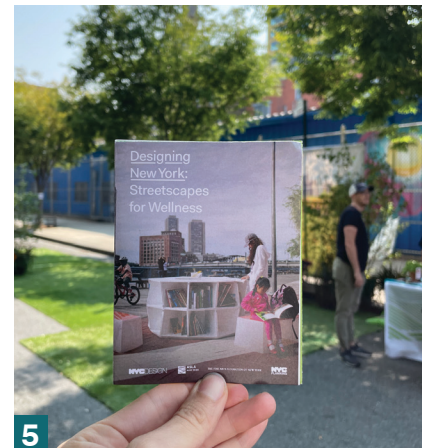
Contributors’ Celebration

In December 2022, PDC staff hosted a celebratory soft book launch and distribution party at City Hall for publication contributors and interviewees. Deputy Mayor for Workforce and Economic Development Maria Torres-Springer, Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez, and Department of Parks & Recreation Commissioner Sue Donoghue joined PDC Executive Director Sreoshy Banerjee in presenting remarks of gratitude.

“This publication shows the great value of public-private partnerships and community collaborations,” said **Deputy Mayor for Economic and Workforce Development Maria Torres-Springer.** **“The lenses of wellness highlighted in this book — physical health, mental well-being, social adhesion, and environmental resilience —should continue to inform how we plan, design, maintain, and program our public realm for years to come. Investing energy into these efforts is central to our administration’s goals of building a safer and more equitable and resilient city.”**



PARK(ing) Day 2022: Día de Calle Verde



In September 2022, PDC Deputy Director, Urban Design & Policy, Jenna E. Miller joined members of the New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA-NY) to organize the second annual Día de Calle Verde, an Open Streets activation organized with the Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (WHEELS) and Futures Ignite (formerly Friends of Wheels) at West 182nd Street in Manhattan.

The Día de Calle Verde theme for PARK(ing) Day 2021 celebrates the WHEELS youth-led “Clean Air Green Corridor” environmental justice initiative, which reimagines 182nd Street as a pedestrianized green pathway that safely

connects the five schools along the corridor to open space and community resources. PARK(ing) Day is an annual international event where residents, artists and activists collaborate to temporarily transform curbside parking spots into public spaces. Activations often take the form of creating temporary parklets for community use and providing opportunities for art and civic engagement. The mission of these happenings is to call attention to the importance of urban open space and generate a dialogue about the benefits of public green space to elevate the health and quality of urban life for the surrounding neighborhood.

Streetscape activations and programming at the Green Corridor included a pop-up park, games, obstacle courses, planting workshops, PDC staff led *Streetscapes for Wellness* miniature zine-folding activities, which featured the Green Corridor. This programming transformed the entire block between the school buildings of WHEELS and I.S. 143, setting the stage as a model for a future pedestrianized green space and demonstrating the need for a healthier, safer, and more engaging streetscape for learning, gathering, and play.

Local community members met the Día de Calle Verde event with great excitement. With the participation of a number of other local organizations, including the American Planning

Association New York Metro chapter (APA-NYM), the City College of New York Student ASLA Chapter, Street Lab, and with contributions from several other organizations, including Forms + Surfaces, the Urban Garden Center, Hardscrabble Farms, QCP, SPIN, Better Block and National PARK(ing) Day, the activation of the street created a lively pop-up linear park that the organizing team hopes will inspire the next generation of environmental stewards, landscape architects, and planners.

1 - 9. 182nd Street transformed into a colorful pedestrian space filled with community engagement activities that included planting workshops and zine folding; photos 1, 6 & 7 courtesy of Jennifer Nitzky and Génesis Abreu



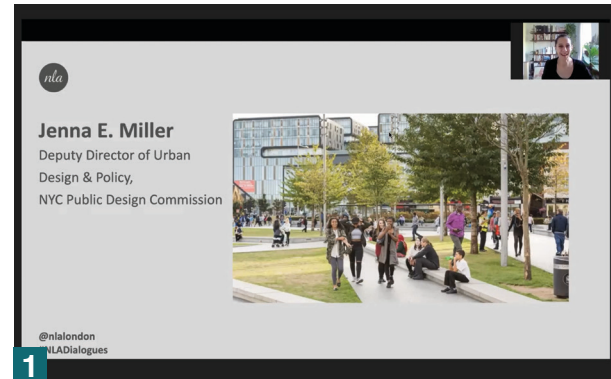
New York + London Events

In 2022, in addition to PDC staff having the opportunity to share their work with New Yorkers (such as at the Urban Design Forum’s “Streets for Care” event), they also had the opportunity to simultaneously share their thought leadership with speakers and audiences in both New York and London, representing an important opportunity for learning between cities.

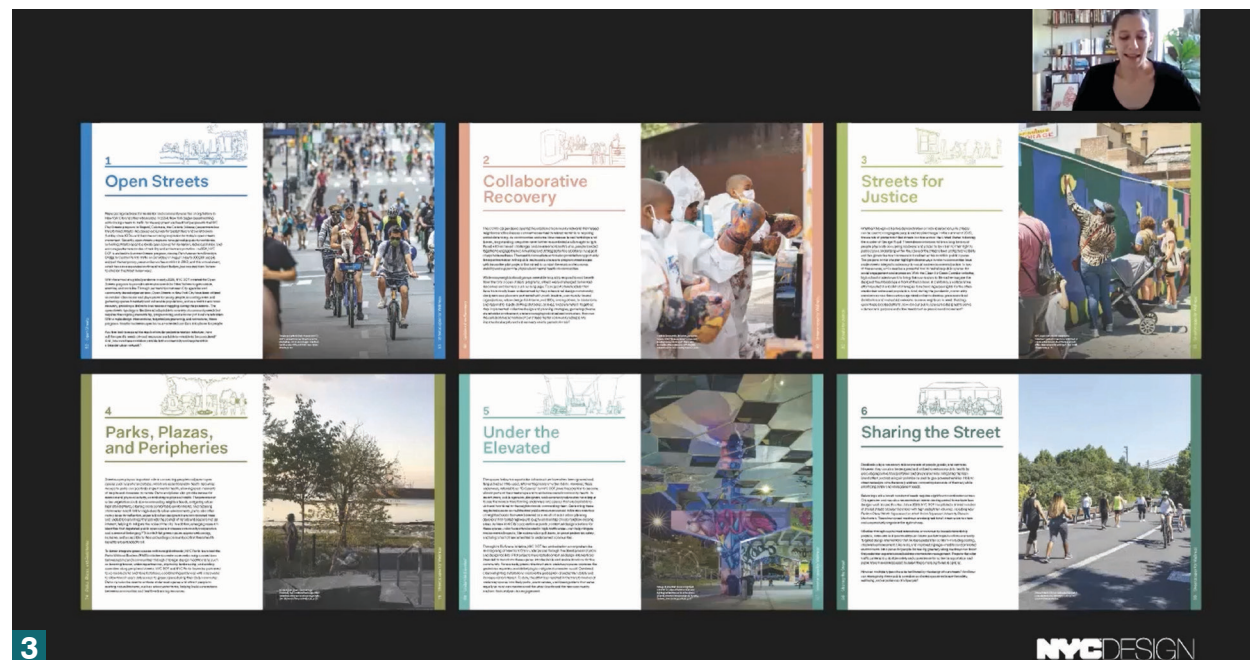
NYLON: Healthy Streets

In October 2022, New London Architecture hosted NYLON: Healthy Streets, part of its City Dialogues program between New York and London, in partnership with the Center for Architecture and Urban Design Forum. PDC Deputy Director, Urban Design & Policy, Jenna E. Miller, delivered key remarks on the planning approach that New York City has taken to create streets that support and promote the wellbeing of residents.

The cross-continental symposium focused on the significance of considering mental and physical health in planning, designing, and shaping policy for the public realm. Additional speakers included Bruce Fisher (Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates), David Weatherhead (HOK), Jennifer Nitzky (Studio HIP), and Alexander Longdon (TfL Transport Strategy & Policy), with moderation by Catherine Staniland (New London Architecture) and Guillermo Gómez (Urban Design Forum).



1. Jenna E. Miller, PDC Deputy Director, Urban Design & Policy, presents virtually at the NYLON: Healthy Streets event
2. Jenna E. Miller presents *Streetscapes for Wellness* at the June 2022 “Streets for Care” roundtable event at Stantec in New York
3. Excerpts from Jenna E. Miller’s virtual NYLON presentation



Public Housing, Practice, and Design

As part of PDC’s *Designing New York: Quality Affordable Housing* initiative, PDC Deputy Director, Architecture, Urban Design & Special Initiatives, Rebecca Macklis partnered with the AIA NY Housing Committee to organize Public Housing, Practice, and Design: New Municipal Cultures, Architecture and Process in New York and London. The half day symposium brought together architects, policymakers, and design advocates from both sides of the Atlantic to discuss how emerging cultures of municipal leadership and public/private partnerships can meet the ever-growing need for quality affordable housing and sustainable community development in both cities. The sessions unpacked key questions like what does a new municipal culture for housing look like? How

can we deliver it? How can we shift and evolve our understanding of wellbeing? And what role can our housing stock play in improving community health, resilience, and equity?

Keynote remarks included: NYC’s Chief Housing Officer Jessica Katz and London Deputy Mayor for Housing Tom Copley in conversation with David Burney. Additional panelists and presenters included Paul Karakusevic (Karakusevic Carson Architects), Andy Bernheimer (Bernheimer Architecture), Osama Shoush (Southwark Council), Pooja Agrawal (Public Practice), Matthew Charney (NYCHA), and Rebecca Macklis (PDC), moderated by Karen Kubey and Brian Loughlin. Video footage is available via PDC’s and AIA’s websites.

4. From left to right: David Burney, Andrew Bernheimer, Brian Loughlin, Peter Bafitis, Tom Copley, Ben Prosky, Osama Shoush, Rebecca Macklis, Karen Kubey, Matthew Charney, and Paul Karakusevic.
5. From left to right: Osama Shoush, Paul Karakusevic, Andrew Bernheimer, Matthew Charney, Rebecca Macklis



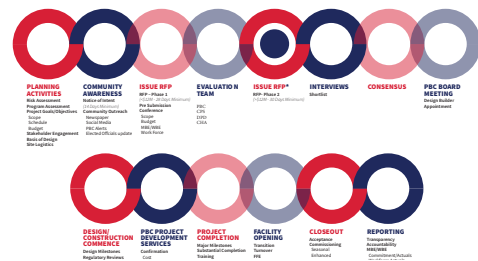
Design-Build Information Exchange

As New York City faces pressure to achieve greater cost and time savings and moves to increase the use of design-build for critical project delivery, how can agencies and designers work together to promote the thoughtful design and transparent processes that support our shared commitment to high-quality public projects and the public realm?

Continuing PDC's ongoing commitment to fostering interagency partnerships, PDC staff, led by Deputy Director, Urban Design & Special Initiatives, Rebecca Macklis, partnered with representatives from the Department of Design and Construction to launch an interagency information exchange to discuss design-build project delivery approaches and investigate these themes.



DESIGN BUILD DELIVERY METHOD



2

- Excerpts from the Design Build Method presentation by the Public Building Commission of Chicago
- Rendering of a design-build project reviewed by PDC: Queens garage and community facility, part of the Borough-Based Jails program; Department of Design and Construction; Department of Corrections; Marvel; Hunter Roberts

Over the course of 2022, the information exchange held bi-weekly sessions that included over 50 participants across ten City agencies. To center the role of design within the City's emerging design-build portfolio, the group worked to expand understanding across City agencies about who is doing what, and to establish reference points for benchmarks of successful design-build delivery. The group also worked to establish best practices for achieving high-quality design, thoughtful public-realm enhancements, and consistency of standards for agencies, stakeholders, and industry partners. To help facilitate the exchange, the group also invited presenters representing both the client and design/delivery team perspectives to discuss lessons-learned from as-built projects.



Other Collaborations and Initiatives



1

1. Cover of the report *Making New York Work for Everyone*; New New York Panel 2022

2-6. Snapshots from the NYC Parks Arsenal building tour in Central Park led by Jonathan Kuhn from NYC Parks

Launched in May 2022 by Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams, the New New York Panel created a set of 40 proposals to serve as a roadmap for the city's future in the post-pandemic era. PDC Executive Director Sreoshy Banjeria and Deputy Director, Urban Design & Policy, Jenna E. Miller participated in weekly calls to steer the development of 40 proposals, with the vision of making New York City the best place to work.

In August 2022, to introduce Executive Director Sreoshy Banerjee to the Art and Antiquities team at NYC Parks and give a tour of the historic NYC Parks Arsenal building in Central Park, Jonathan Kuhn from NYC Parks, led PDC staff on a tour of the building, giving a rich and storied history about the area and history of NYC Parks and its headquarters.



In October 2022, for professional development and team-building, PDC staff visited two piers in Hudson River Park, including Pier 97 and Gansevoort Pier. The projects under construction provided a comparative of different designs and gave staff an opportunity to evaluate what changes were made in the field.

Senior Manager, Art, Conservation & Design, Carolina Llano attended and spoke at the Heintz Monument dedication ceremony.

- 1-2. PDC staff attend a site visit at Hudson River Park
3. Senior Manager, Art, Conservation & Design, Carolina Llano presents remarks at the Heintz Monument Dedication, 2022
4. Snapshot from the ribbon cutting ceremony during the Heintz Monument Dedication, 2022



August 1st is National Night Out which is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

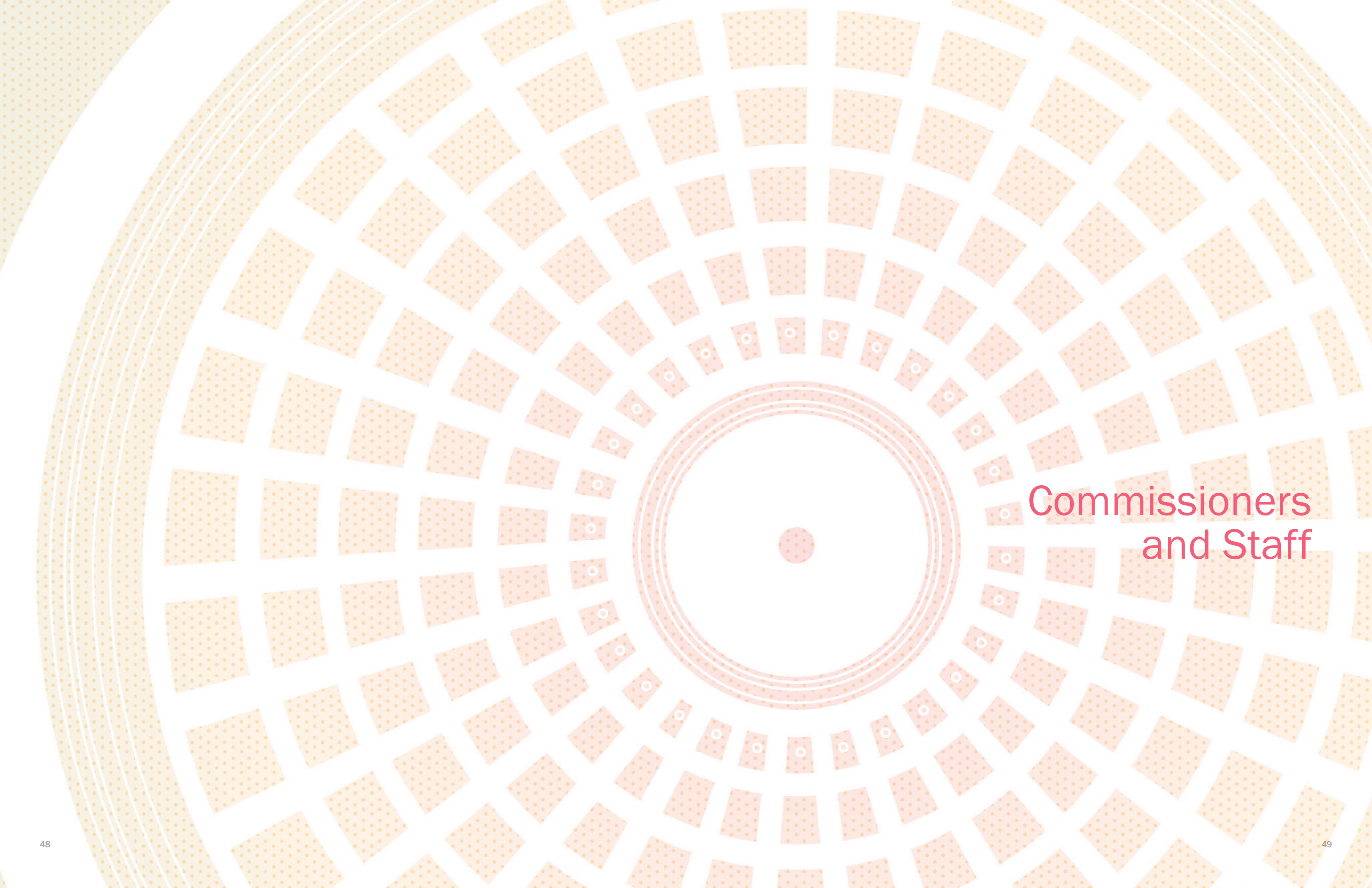


In December 2022, to better understand process and pain points in the PDC process, PDC staff convened a core group of PDC liaisons to workshop different ideas and areas for improvements. Staff worked with the NYC Service Design Unit on developing an agenda and visual aids and held working groups focused on streamlining forms, website changes, and process for reviewing artworks. The feedback from the charette is being used to make changes to all areas of the PDC review process.

In November 2022, PDC staff attended an exhibition and reception at Ildiko Butler Gallery at Fordham University that highlighted the groundbreaking role that NYC Department of Transportation's Street Design Manual has played in transforming New York's streets. Since NYC DOT published the first edition of the Street Design Manual in 2009, New York's roadways and adjacent open spaces have become more welcoming spaces for all users. PDC staff has provided content review for past editions of the Street Design Manual and looks forward to staying involved in the publication of forthcoming editions!

5. PDC staff attended NYC Department of Transportation's Street Design Manual exhibition, 2022
6. Executive Director Sreoshi Banerjee presents to liaisons at a workshop held in the PDC boardroom, 2022
7. Executive Director Sreoshi Banerjee celebrates the National Night Out event with community members in Harlem





Commissioners and Staff

Commissioner Biographies 2022

Signe Nielsen

Signe Nielsen was the Landscape Architect member and President of the Public Design Commission until August 2022. As founding principal of her firm for 25 years, she has designed and supervised the construction of more than \$240 million worth of projects, including waterfront parks, large campuses, urban design and transportation improvements, and corporate facilities in the United States and abroad. Her design work has received more than two dozen national design awards, has been published extensively in professional journals and books on landscape architecture and has been exhibited in New York, Washington, DC, and Chicago. A Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Signe holds degrees in Urban Planning from Smith College, in Landscape Architecture from City College of New York, and in Construction Management from Pratt Institute.

Philip E. Aarons

Philip E. Aarons was a lay member and Vice President of the Public Design Commission through January 2023 and a partner at Millennium Partners, a developer of large-scale, mixed-use properties in major cities throughout the country. Prior to co-founding Millennium Partners in 1990, he was President of the real estate subsidiary of the General Atlantic Corporation, a pioneer in the construction of low-income housing. From early 1978 until 1983, Phil worked in the Koch Administration, first as an Assistant to the Mayor, and then, in mid-1979, as President of the Public Development Corporation overseeing projects including the South Street Seaport and Carnegie Hall restoration. An avid art collector, Phil is active on the boards of a number of cultural and civic organizations, including Friends of the High Line, where he is Founding Board Chair, Creative Time, MoMA PS1, Printed Matter, The Museum of Modern Art's Library Council, and Ballet Tech. Phil graduated from Columbia College where he majored in Art History and the Columbia University School of Law where he was an Editor of the Law Review.

Deborah Marton

Deborah Marton is a lay member and President of the Public Design Commission. She is also Executive Director of Van Alen Institute, an independent non-profit working to create equitable cities through inclusive design. A leading voice on the intersection of environmental and social justice, she was previously Executive Director of New York Restoration Project, where she completed fulfillment of the private sector commitment to plant a million trees as part of New York City's MillionTreesNYC initiative and lead creation and/or renovation of more than 50 community garden spaces throughout New York City's most under resourced communities. In her previous role as Executive Director of the Design Trust for Public Space, Deborah launched the Taxi 07 program, resulting in a new purpose-built NYC taxi. As project director at James Corner Field Operations, she led the original Fresh Kills Master Plan team. Deborah was a program director for the New York City Dept. of Parks Natural Resources Group, and has lectured broadly, including as adjunct professor at the Univ. of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design. Early in her career, Deborah was an associate with the law firm Willkie Farr & Gallagher. Deborah holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania, a J.D. from New York University School of Law, and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

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. Her work concentrates on large-scale, transformative public realm projects with extensive community engagement and complex multi-agency approvals. She is passionate about the design of public spaces and their impact on local communities and cities at large. At Field Operations, 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.

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. Previously, she taught at Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Architecture, Southern California Institute of Architecture, Yale University's School of Architecture, the Institute for Advanced Architectural Studies in Venice, Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, Parsons School of Design's School of Environmental Design, and the University of Miami's School of Architecture. She has served on the Space Planning Committee of Columbia's Manhattanville Campus and on the Dean Search Committee of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. 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.

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.

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.

Manuel Miranda

Manuel Miranda is a lay member of the Public Design Commission and a graphic designer. His studio, MMP, works across an expansive media spectrum to make places and ideas visible, legible, and navigable to people. In addition to professional practice, Manuel is an adjunct faculty member in the graduate graphic design program at the Yale School of Art and Vice President of the AIGA New York board of directors. 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. Previously, Manuel was a design director at 2x4, Inc., 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.

Susan Morgenthau

Susan Morgenthau serves on the Public Design Commission as the representative of the New York Public Library, where she has been a Trustee since 2010. She has been a co-Chair of the Library Council since 2004, and is a member of the NYPL's Program and Policy Committee, Audit Committee, Development Committee, Finance Committee, and the Privacy and Policy Working Group. Susan's volunteer activity outside of the Library includes serving on the board of the Lehman College Foundation, The Riverdale Nature Preservancy, as well as a founding board member and past president of the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park. Susan currently serves on the Friends of Horticulture Committee at Wave Hill, a public garden in the Bronx, and is President of the Riverdale Sanitation Corporation, a private sanitary sewer serving over 300 properties in the North West Bronx. Susan is a former Head Teacher at the Brearley School, and served in the admissions office both at Brearley and at the Fieldston Lower School. She is an alumnus of Vassar College, where she received a BA in Philosophy, and completed her graduate work at the Bank Street College of Education.

Ethel Sheffer

Ethel Sheffer served on the Public Design Commission as the Mayor's Representative until January 2023. She is an urban planner, civic and community leader, and educator. Ethel heads Insight Associates, a small consulting group providing research services and advice in community planning and development, land use, and collaborations among government, nonprofits, and the private sector. In the 1990s, she headed the Columbus Circle Tri-Board Task Force of Community Boards 4, 5, and 7 and the Riverside South Task Force. Ethel also served as President of the New York Metro Chapter of the American Planning Association from 2002 to 2008. She is a Board Member of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council and a member of the Municipal Art Society's Planning Committee, and she teaches in Columbia University's Graduate Planning Program.

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 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, Dr. Tisch 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, including serving as co-chairperson of the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, a leading social services agency. Dr. Tisch also sits on the executive committees of The Washington Institute for Near East Policy and the Citizens Budget Commission. Additionally, she serves on the board of The International Rescue Committee, The Trust for Cultural Resources of the City of New York, and the Graduate School of Education's Board of Overseers at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Tisch earned a B.A. from Barnard College, an M.A. in Education from New York University, and received an Ed.D from Teacher's College, Columbia University.

Mary A. Valverde

Mary A. Valverde is the sculptor member of the Public Design Commission. She is an interdisciplinary artist who uses ephemeral materials to reflect upon sacred spaces and rituals and politics of production, exploitation, social roles, culture, and tradition. Mary teaches at Hunter College and was the 2011 MFA Lecturer at the ICA Philadelphia. She is the recipient of the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Design's Full Dean's Diversity Fellowship and in 2010 received the Artist Fellowship, Inc., Individual Artist Award and the Mayer Foundation Grant. Mary's work has been exhibited at El Museo del Barrio, Queens Museum, Jersey City Museum, Momenta Gallery, Abrons Art Center, and Cuchifritos Gallery, among others. She received her MFA from the University of Pennsylvania and her BFA from the School of Visual Arts.

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 MoMaPS1 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.

Staff Biographies

Sreoshi Banerjea

Sreoshi Banerjea was appointed Executive Director of the Public Design Commission in June 2022. She is a former Vice-President of urban design for the NYC Economic Development Corporation, 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, Banerjea 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 AIA NY 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, Banerjea worked as an architectural associate with Rafael Viñoly and Dattner Architects on multiple award-winning civic and institutional projects. Sreoshi 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.

Keri Butler

Keri Butler was Executive Director of the Public Design Commission until June 2022. She has 15 years of experience at the PDC in numerous roles, most recently as the Deputy Executive Director. As an advocate for excellence and equity in public art and design, she has developed and implemented policies and initiatives to guide the Commission's review of city projects and enhance the agency's mission. In addition to overseeing the PDC's design review process, Keri has represented the Commission on panels and public events that highlight the City's art collection and women designers. She has managed collaborative projects and events such as the Annual Awards for Excellence in Design, Women-Designed NYC, and Sustainable NYC. Additionally, Keri has worked with numerous agencies and private partners to preserve the City's art collection and expand the City Hall tour program to highlight Black history. She managed Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts and led the Commission through the abrupt transition to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic, developing online events that have increased public engagement and participation in the design review process. Keri holds a Bachelor of Arts in Art from the University of North Texas and a Master of Arts in Arts Administration from the Art Institute of Chicago.

Grace Han

Grace is an urban planner with over a decade of experience managing capital and planning projects, focusing on programming, place making, and civic vitality. Her projects have included cultural institutions, university campuses, and waterfront open space and development. As the Senior Director of Capital Projects, she oversees the design review process, working closely with agency liaisons. Grace received her Masters' in Urban Planning from Columbia University, where she has also taught, and has an undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

Ryu Kim

Ryu is a project manager at the Public Design Commission. Her work focuses on landscape architecture and urban park management in New York City's public realm. Prior to joining the Public Design Commission, Ryu served as Senior Operations and Project Manager at the Madison Square Park Conservancy and was responsible for capital maintenance projects, special events, and public services unique to the public-private partnership between the Conservancy and the City. Ryu has also worked as a landscape designer and contributed to various planning projects including the Baltimore Inner Harbor Master Plan 2.0 and UNESCO City Icheon Ceramics Village Cultural Master Planning project. She was a lecturer and critic at the Rhode Island School of Design, Boston Architectural College, and the University of Maryland. Ryu holds a Masters in Landscape Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and a Bachelors of Landscape Architecture from the University of Maryland.

Carolina Llano

Carolina is the Senior Manager of Art, Conservation & Design at the Public Design Commission. She reviews capital projects and proposals submitted by City agencies and manages 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 & Preservation, and a Bachelor of Design in Architecture from the University of Florida.

Rebecca Macklis

Rebecca is the Deputy Director of Architecture, Urban Design & Special Initiatives at the Public Design Commission. She is an interdisciplinary urban designer, and at the Public Design Commission, her work is concentrated on design policy and the design review of architecture and urban design projects, with a focus on complex mixed-use developments, affordable housing, and urban systems. She led the *Designing New York: Quality Affordable Housing and Prefabrication in the Public Realm* initiatives as well as Women-Designed NYC, and also manages the Commission's special projects such as the Annual Awards for Excellence in Design. Rebecca works to champion the holistic, equitable, and resilient design of the public realm and strives to promote collaborative cross-sector and multi-stakeholder processes. Her past experience spans architecture, anthropology, and community development, where she has worked at the intersection of planning, policy, and design of the built environment. Rebecca is a member of the Urban Design Forum (a 2019 Forefront Fellow) and holds a MArch in Urban Design from the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, and a BA in Architecture and Anthropology, with a minor in American Culture Studies, from Washington University in St. Louis. She has been a guest instructor, critic, and presented work at various institutions nationally.

Jenna E. Miller

Jenna is the Deputy Director, Urban Design and Policy, at the Public Design Commission. A LEED Accredited Professional in Building Design and Construction and co-founder of design firm, RUEd' ARCH, Jenna is a transdisciplinary designer with over 15 years of professional experience in architectural, urban design, policy, and research. Jenna has designed and managed a breadth of public and private design-build and architectural projects and exhibitions in U.S. and abroad. She is an Urban Design Forum Fellow and was Team Lead of the Streets Ahead 'Care' Working Group. At PDC, Jenna leads urban design research, policy, strategic initiatives, and working groups related to the public realm, new technology, security, and environmental justice. Jenna authored *Designing New York: Streetscapes for Wellness* and has presented to national and international audiences about advancing spatial and social justice in the public realm. She leads the agency's geospatial analysis and data visualization, including 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 previously served on the Wellesley Board of Trustees and Columbia University Senate, impacting institutional planning and policy. Jenna strives to inspire and develop creative strategies for improved equity, engagement and excellence in design.

Julianna Monjeau

Julianna is the Archivist and Senior Records Manager of the Public Design Commission. She holds a Master's Degree in Archives & Public History from New York University. At the Public Design Commission, she manages the accession and preservation of all public records reviewed by the Commission and provides research services. She also manages the digitization of Design Commission records and posts selections of digitized records on our social media accounts. She is a member of the Society of American Archivists, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, and the Archivist's Roundtable of the Metropolitan New York.