



Annual Report  
**2023**  
**NYC** DESIGN



# Contents

About the Public Design Commission	2
Executive Director's Letter	3
Commissioners	5
Staff	5
Conservation Advisory Group	5
Design Review	6
2023 Year in Review	9
Submissions by Type	10
Carry-over Projects	11
Submissions and Projects by Lead Agency	12
Submissions and Projects by Borough	13
Architecture and Structures	14
Parks, Open Spaces, and Streetscapes	15
Artworks	16
Capital Construction and Projects with Percent for Art	17
Submissions Acted or Commented Upon	18
Review Cycles	18
Private Structures on or over City-owned Land	19
Delegated Staff-Level Review	20
Citywide Blanket Approvals	23
Completed Projects	25
Annual Awards for Excellence in Design	28
Streamlining Processes and Gaining Alignment	35
Stakeholder Survey	36
Commissioner Retreat	37
Streamlining Recommendations	38
Special Projects and Interagency Initiatives	41
The Archive	42
City Hall Tours	43
Epicenter Video Tour	44
Streetscapes for Wellness	46
(PARK)ing Day	52
From Roots to Arts	54
Other Collaborations and Updates	55
Commissioner Biographies	58
Staff Biographies	62

# 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 visit the PDC Archive to take a tour with Senior Archivist & Information Specialist Julianna Monjeau
2. PDC staff enjoyed a team excursion to Red Hook for kayaking and a public beach clean-up





## A Year of Reflection and Seeking Stakeholder Input

2023 was a pivotal year for the PDC as our team focused on introspection, increasing public awareness of our review procedures, and actively seeking input from city agency partners and applicants.

We welcomed two new commissioners who brought valuable expertise to our team; at the same time, we bid farewell to two long-standing commissioners, whose dedication and contributions were invaluable over the years. After nearly a decade, the PDC held a commissioner retreat, bringing together all 11 commissioners and the NYC Service Design Studio to facilitate a comprehensive discussion about the agency's design review process and mission. This retreat provided a platform for reflection, evaluation, and strategic planning, enabling us to align our efforts and set a clear vision for the future.

Throughout the year, our team continued to foster partnerships aimed at demystifying the design review process and engaged in public policy discussions. We brought the NYC Parks and Department of Transportation commissioners together to collaborate with Open House NY on their first public policy talk, showcasing our latest

publication, "Designing New York: Streetscapes for Wellness," which explores the intersection of urban design and wellness.

The PDC worked closely with the New York Building Congress to issue an industry-wide stakeholder survey. We also partnered with multiple agencies, including the NYC Department of Design and Construction, to meticulously study components of our project review procedures, to revisit internal policies to streamline our review. As a result of these six-month-long collaborative efforts, we released joint recommendations focused on streamlining the design review process for non-complex projects, easing the approval path for complex projects, and enhancing public-facing resources to make the design review process more accessible and transparent.

As we move forward, the PDC remains steadfast in its belief that design excellence does not have to come at the expense of efficiency. The PDC is a proponent of innovative, sustainable, and equitable design, and is committed to fostering a built environment that not only meets the needs of our diverse communities, but also pushes the boundaries of what is possible in public design.

## Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, the PDC aims to deliver on our joint recommendations to increase public awareness of the Commission’s role in the City and to clearly define our project review procedures. We look forward to launching new design review resources and clarifying our project review procedures. We support the call for better construction tools to expedite the delivery of high-quality facilities to the communities that need them. As the administration has sought methods to expedite capital project delivery, PDC has committed to soliciting feedback from stakeholders, working with City agency partners, and identifying ways to fine-tune its project review procedures—all while carrying forward equitable design principles. We look forward to continuing this work into the years ahead.



1. PDC collaborated with Open House New York to host a Public Policy Talk about “Streetscapes for Wellness,” which included commissioners from NYC Department of Transportation and NYC Parks.
2. PDC commissioners and staff convene for a Public Meeting.



# Who We Are

## Commissioners

**Deborah Marton**, President, Lay Member  
**Jimmy Van Bramer**, Vice President, Lay Member (appointed 2023)  
**Manuel Miranda**, Secretary, Lay Member  
**Kenseth Armstead**, Painter Member  
**Isabel Castilla**, Landscape Architecture Member (appointed 2023)  
**Laurie Hawkinson**, Architecture Member  
**Bill Heinzen**, Mayor's Representative (appointed 2023)  
**Karen Kiehl**, Brooklyn Museum  
**Carey Maloney**, The New York Public Library (appointed February 2024)  
**Susan Morgenthau**, The New York Public Library (resigned January 2024)  
**Dr. Merryl H. Tisch**, The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
**Mary Valverde**, Sculptor Member

**Philip E. Aarons** (former Vice President and Lay Member) and **Ethel Sheffer** (former Mayor's Representative) resigned in January 2023.

## Staff

**Sreoshi Banerjea**, Executive Director  
**Jenna E. Miller**, Director, Urban Design & Policy  
**Carolina Llano**, Director, Art, Design & Technology  
**Julianna Monjeau**, Senior Archivist & Information Specialist  
**Ryu Kim**, Project Manager  
**Chelsea Chaug**, Project Coordinator

**Mary Beth Betts**, City Hall Tour Manager  
**Gary Deane**, **Deirdre LaPorte**, Docents

**Apurva Jhamb**, Mayor's Office Graduate Intern (Summer 2023 – Spring 2024)  
**Amanuel Hailu**, Art Policy Fellow (Summer 2023)

**Grace Han** and **Rebecca Macklis** departed the PDC team in 2023.

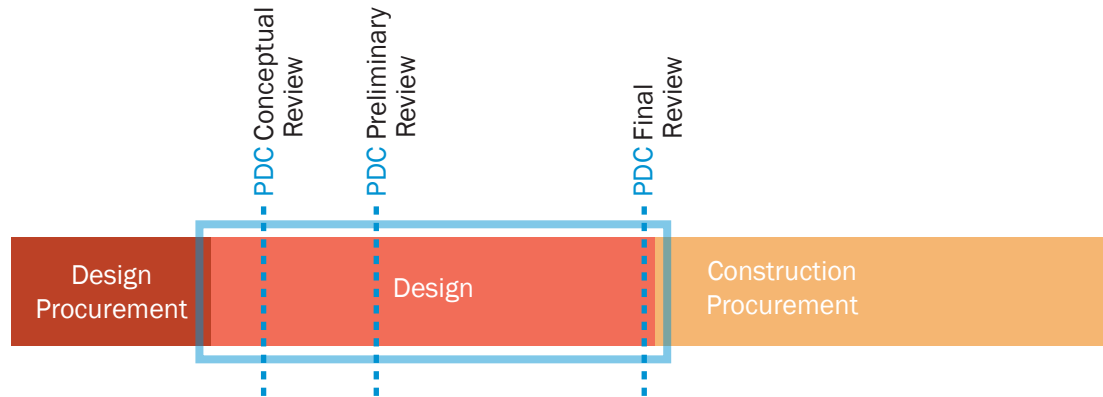
## Conservation Advisory Group

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 (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 indicates 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.

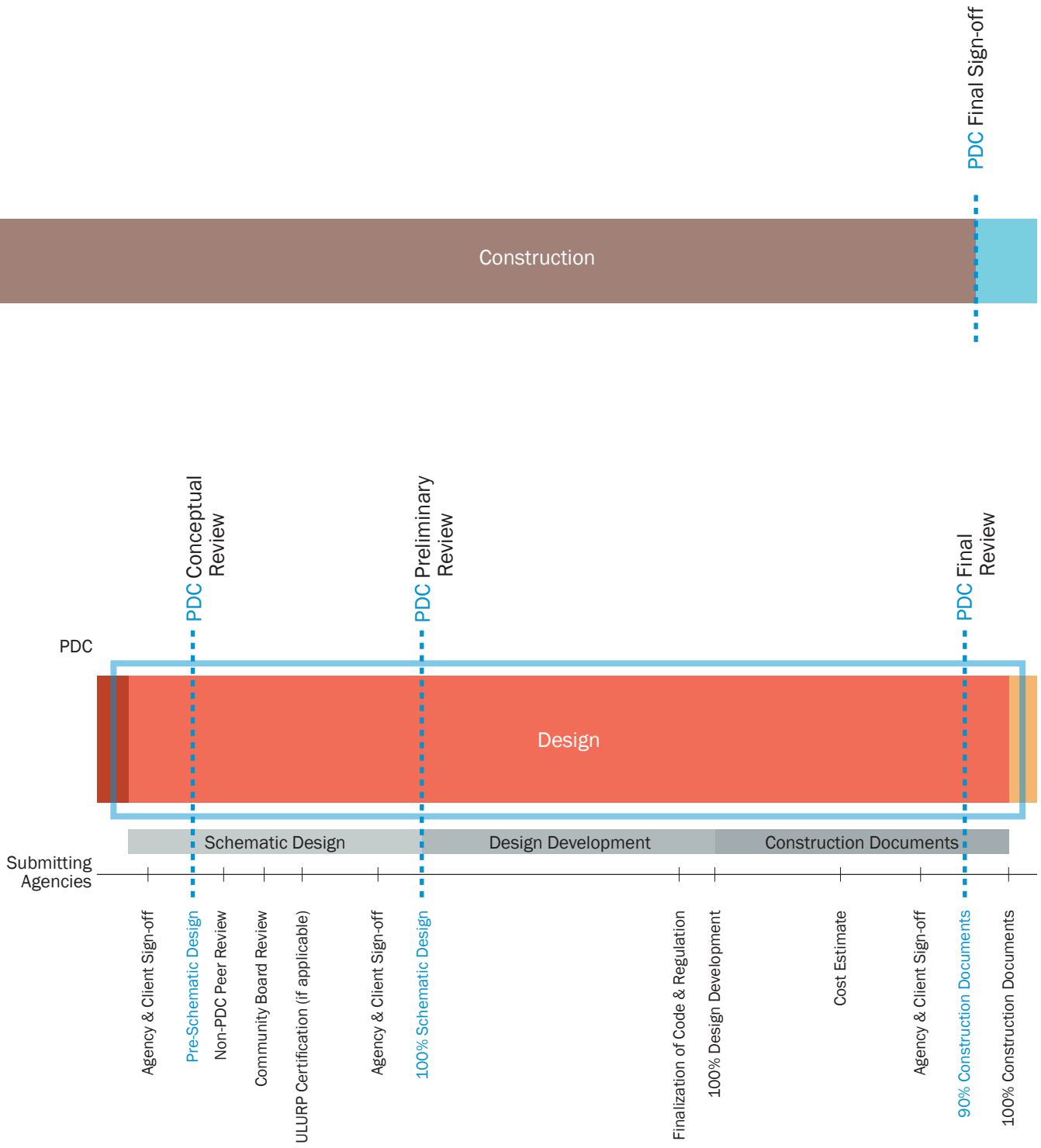
## Final

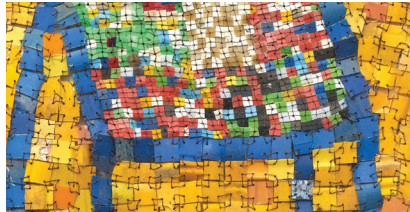
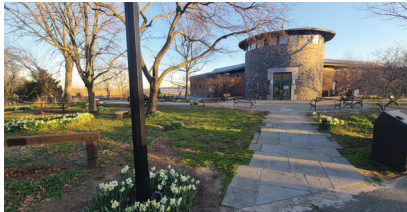
For structures and landscapes, final review and approval occurs at approximately 90% completion of construction documents. Once final approval is granted, construction can commence. For artworks, final review takes place after the artwork has been installed and includes the submission of photographs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

## Final Sign-off

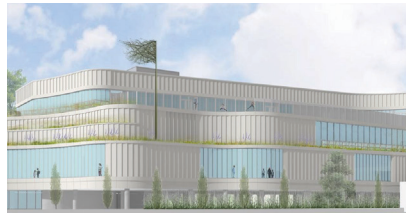
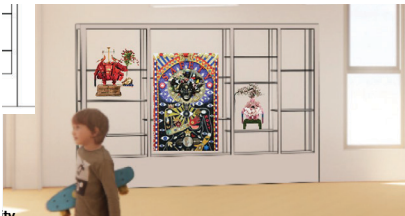
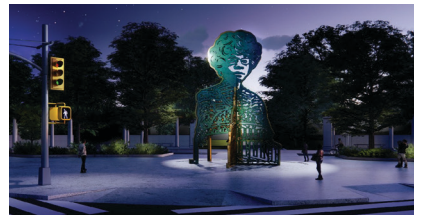
Final sign-off occurs after a project has been completed and photographic documentation has been submitted.







# Year in Review 2023



# Total Number of Submissions by Type

The Public Design Commission typically reviews approximately 700 to 900 submissions (500 to 700 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. Though the number of submissions rebounded slightly in 2021, the PDC reviewed approximately 15% fewer unique projects and received approximately 23% fewer annual submissions during the three years since 2020 than in the three years prior to 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: **668**



## Total Number of Unique Projects Reviewed: **539**

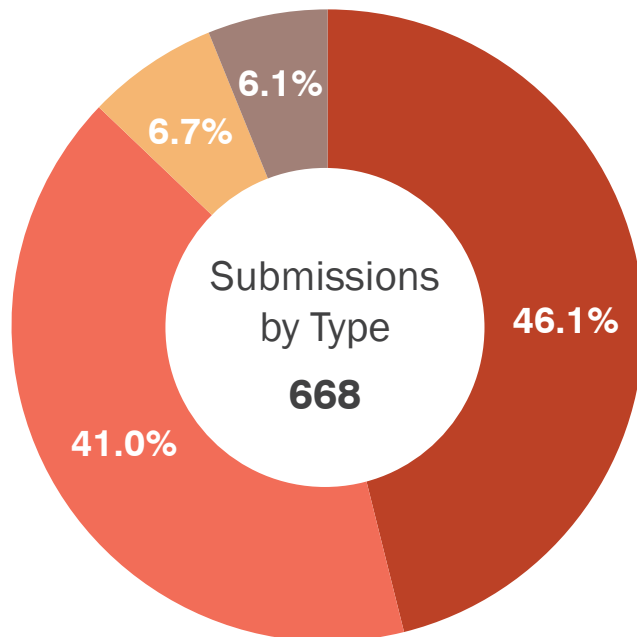


A **submission** is a package of review materials for a single project at a specific level of review.

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.

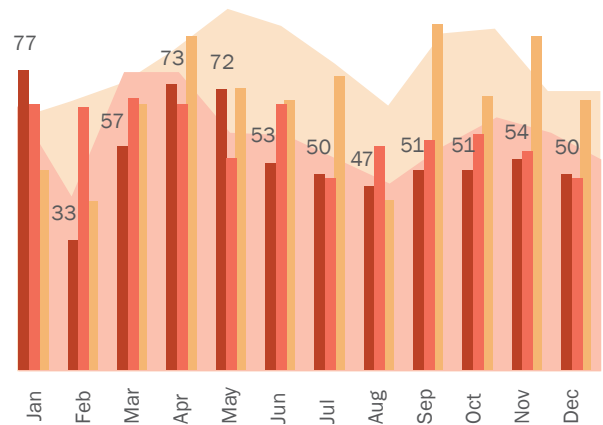
<span style="color: #8B4513;">■</span> Structures	46.1% [308]
<span style="color: #D9534F;">■</span> Parks, Open Spaces, and Streetscapes	41.0% [274]
<span style="color: #E6C08C;">■</span> Artworks	6.7% [45]
<span style="color: #A08080;">■</span> Signage	6.1% [41]

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



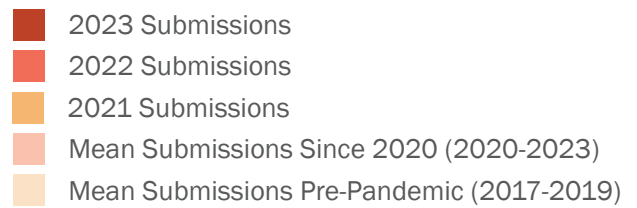
# Carry-over Projects

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. 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. Though submissions per month increased to be more similar to pre-pandemic levels in 2021, the mean number of submissions since 2020 (approximately 61 submissions per month) continues to be lower than the pre-pandemic mean number of submissions.



## 2023 Submissions by Month

v. Previous Year, Recent & Pre-Pandemic Means



*In 2022, 49 submissions were submitted in December for the January 2023 meeting. All of these submissions were either commented upon or approved in January 2023.*

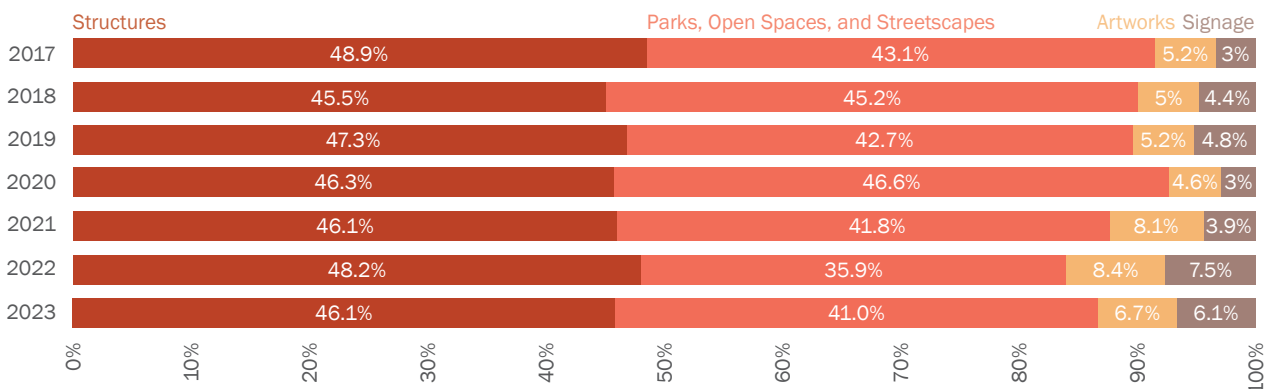
*In 2023, 50 submissions were submitted in December and were then reviewed in January 2024.*

Dinosaur Playground was one of 50 projects submitted in December 2023 for review in 2024.

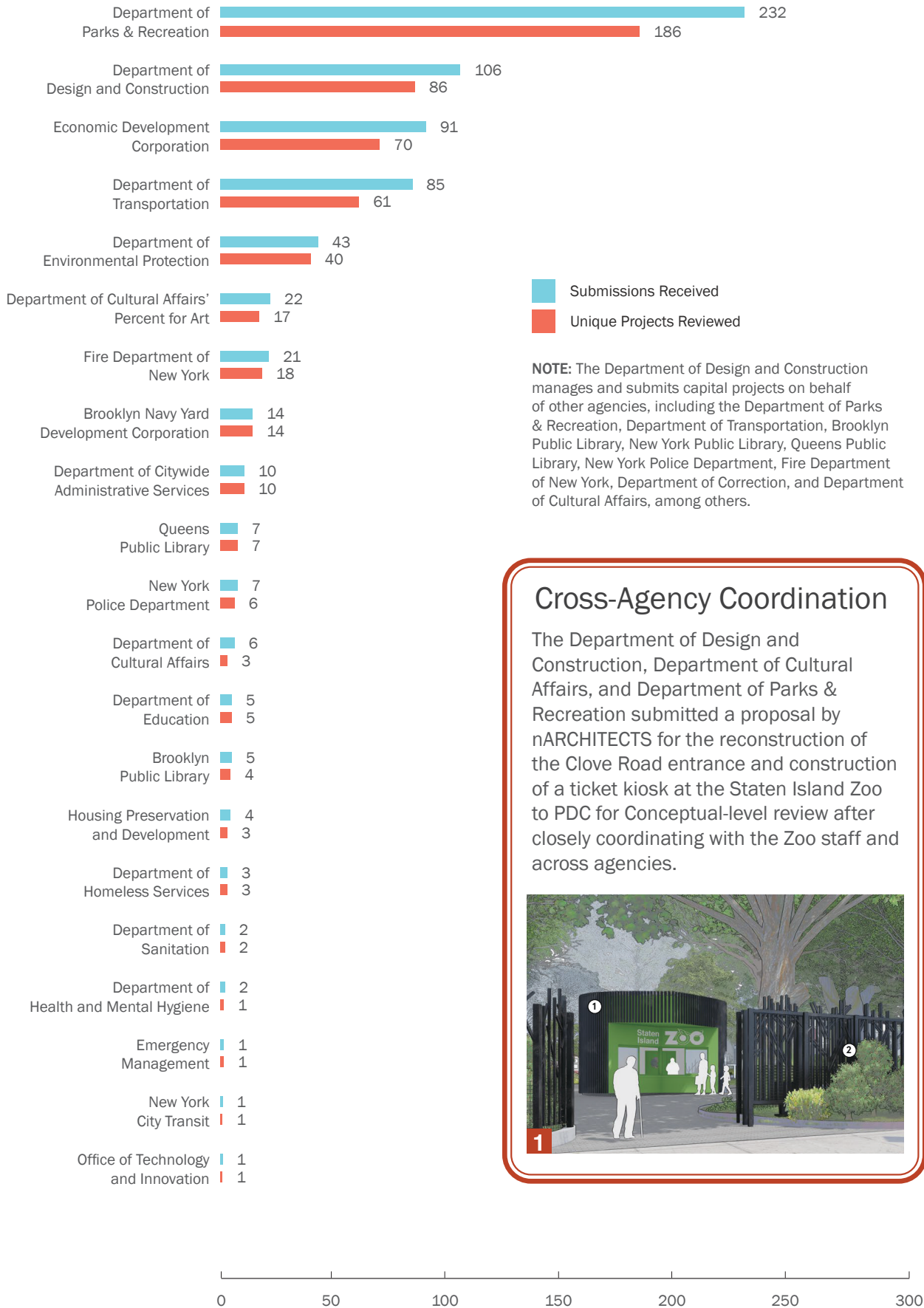
1. Dinosaur Playground at Riverside Park, Manhattan; Department of Parks & Recreation; Starr Whitehouse



## Submission Type Ratio Per Year



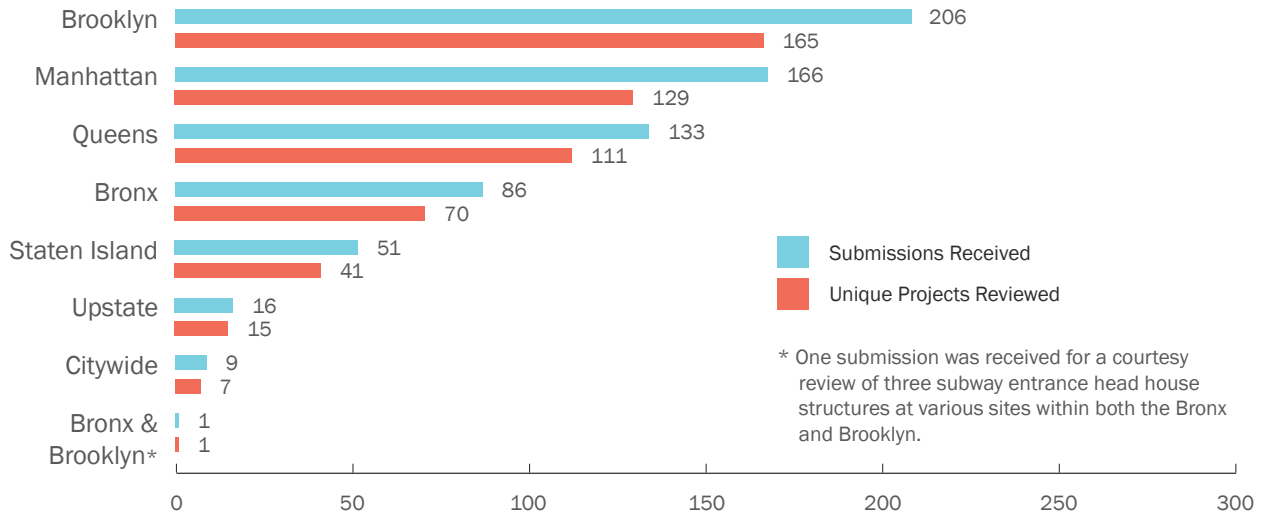
# 2023 Submissions and Projects by Lead Agency



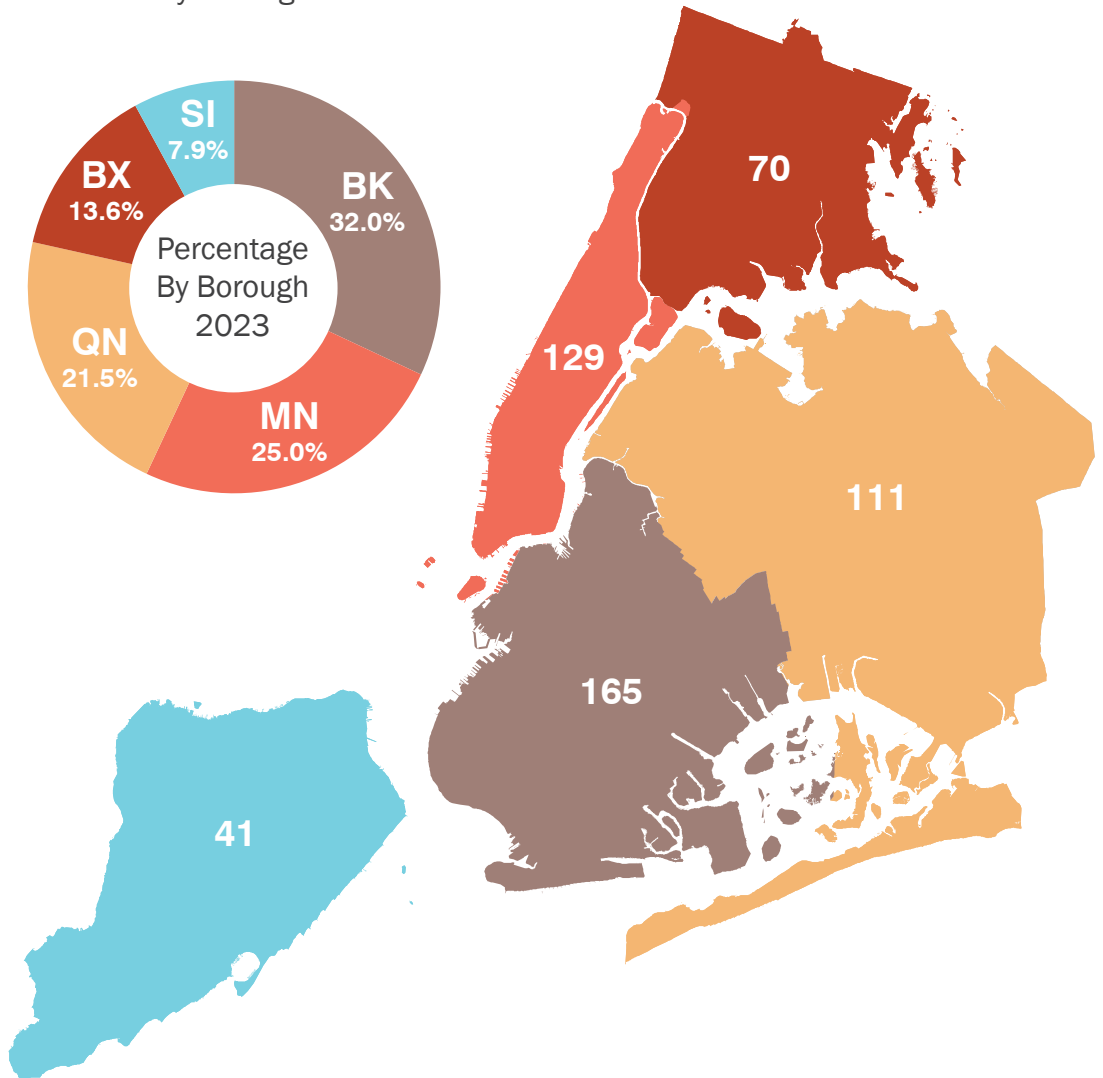
## Cross-Agency Coordination

The Department of Design and Construction, Department of Cultural Affairs, and Department of Parks & Recreation submitted a proposal by nARCHITECTS for the reconstruction of the Clove Road entrance and construction of a ticket kiosk at the Staten Island Zoo to PDC for Conceptual-level review after closely coordinating with the Zoo staff and across agencies.

# 2023 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, 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.

## Construction

An entirely new building, bridge, or other structure

## Installation of Specific Elements

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

## Reconstruction

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

## Rehabilitation

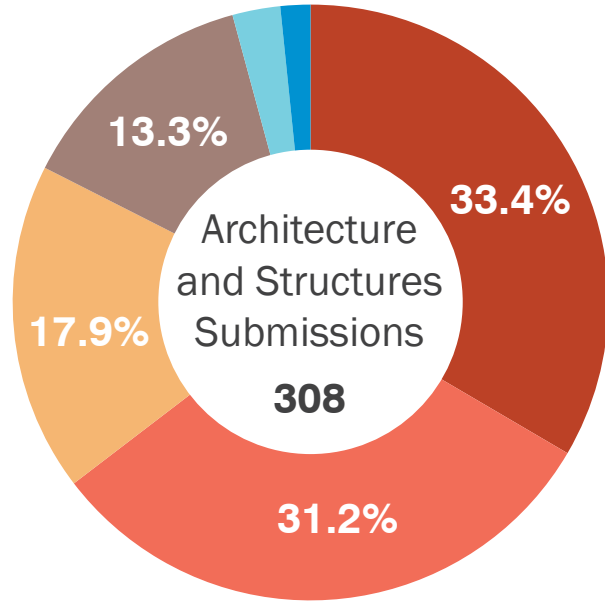
An upgrade for the purpose of making a building functional today, such as improvements to life safety and HVAC systems

## Prototype

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

## Renovation

Significant changes to an existing structure



Constructions	33.4%	[103]
Installations	31.2%	[96]
Reconstructions	17.9%	[55]
Rehabilitations	13.3%	[41]
Prototypes	2.6%	[8]
Renovations	1.6%	[5]

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

1. Prefabricated "Portland Loo" at Thomas Jefferson Playground; Department of Parks & Recreation



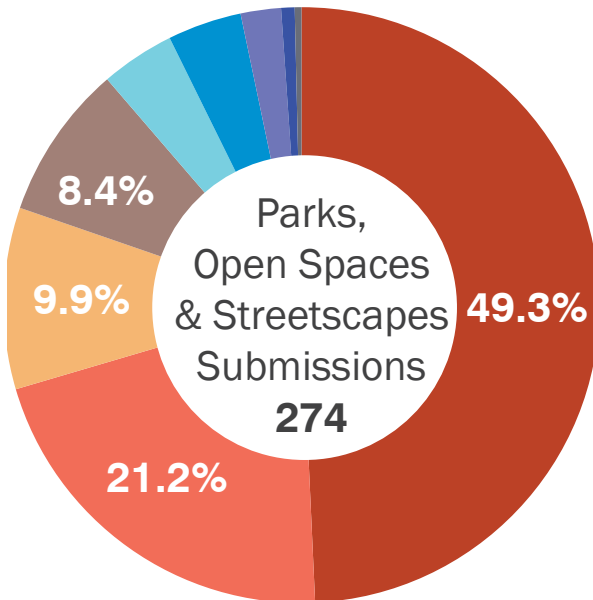
## Public Restrooms Citywide

In 2023, the PDC reviewed 34 public restroom submissions, including unique proposals for 6 new public restrooms in parks, 2 rehabilitations of existing restrooms, 12 completed public restroom buildings, the installation of 2 prototypical automatic public toilets, a modular public restroom building, and prefabricated public restroom designs for installation at multiple sites throughout the city.



# 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	49.3%	[135]
Constructions	21.2%	[58]
Minor installations	9.9%	[27]
Street Furniture	8.4%	[23]
Rehabilitations	4.0%	[11]
Distinctive Sidewalks	4.0%	[11]
Distinctive Lighting	2.2%	[6]
Master Plans	0.7%	[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

## Rehabilitation

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

## Distinctive Sidewalk

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

## 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

2. Distinctive Tree Guard, as part of the master plan for the reconstruction of Union Square, Manhattan; Department of Parks & Recreation, Department of Transportation; Union Square Partnership; Starr Whitehouse

PDC reviews permanent designs proposed on or over City-owned streets, including distinctive streetscape furnishings.



# 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

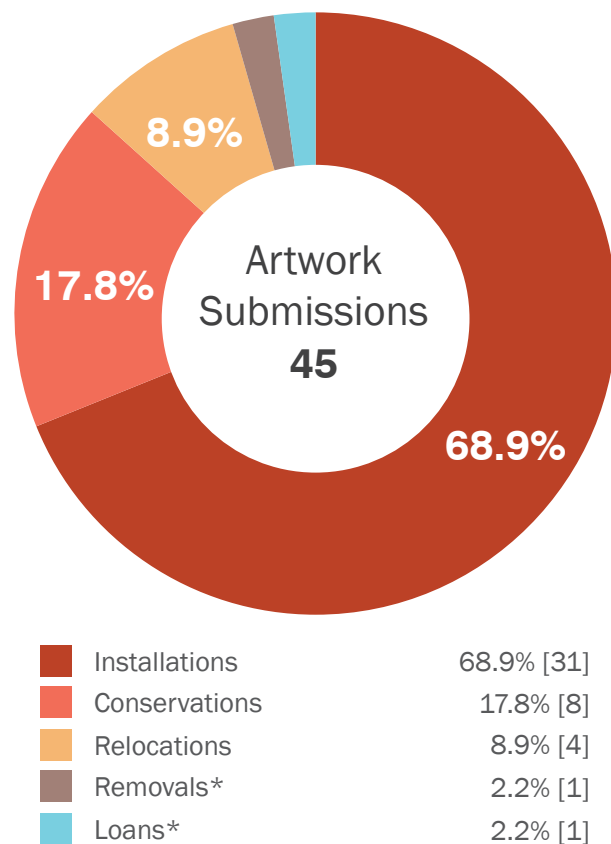
The moving of an artwork from one site to another site

## 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



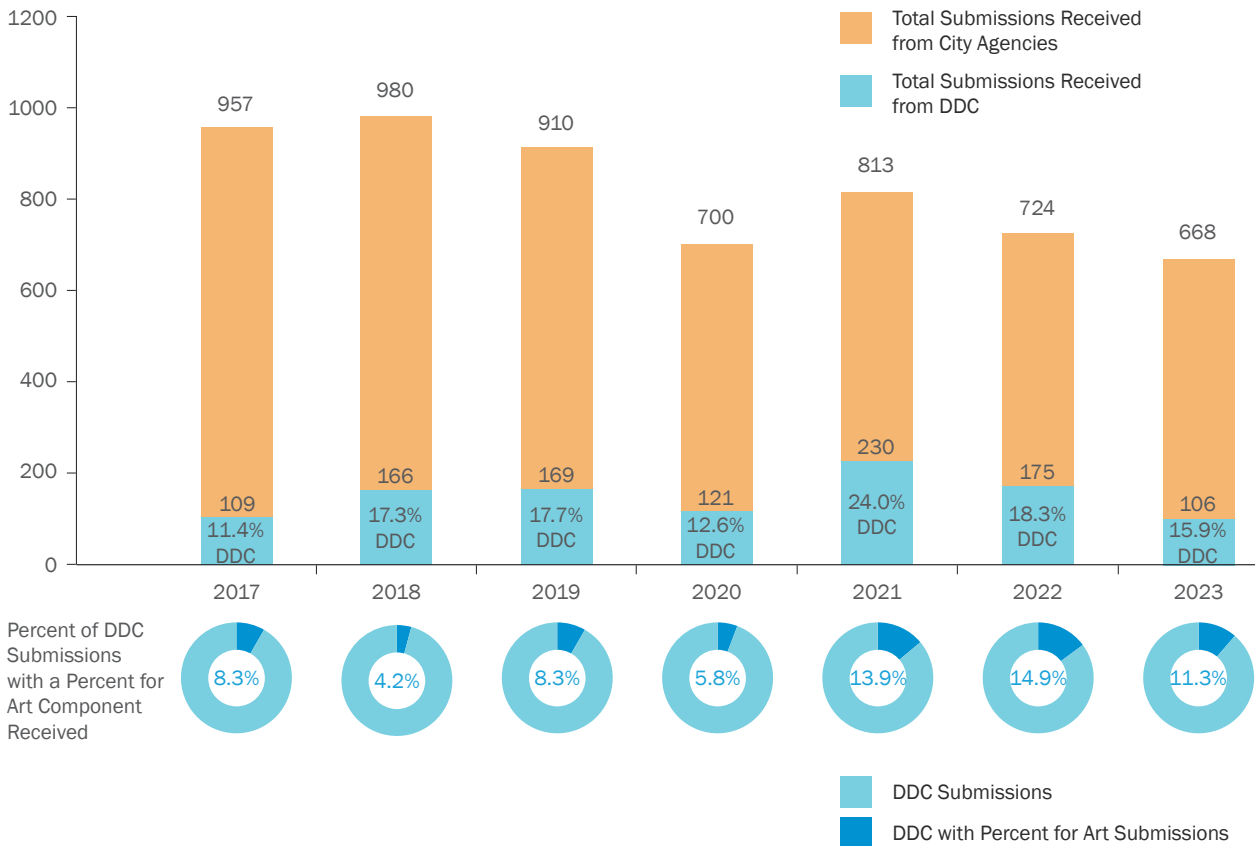
**NOTE:** All numbers have been rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

\* Removals and Loans included the loan of the Theodore Roosevelt Monument (1940) by James Earle Fraser to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library and the removal and temporary storage of *The Tempest* (1966) and *Romeo and Juliet* (1977) by Milton Hebard while the Delcorte Theater in Central Park undergoes a reconstruction.

# Capital Construction & Percent for Art

Because 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 2023, the PDC reviewed 17 Percent for Art works including a work by Serge Attukwei Clottey in Baisley Park Library, Queens, and the Shirley Chisholm Monument by Amanda Williams and Olalekan Jeyifous at Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

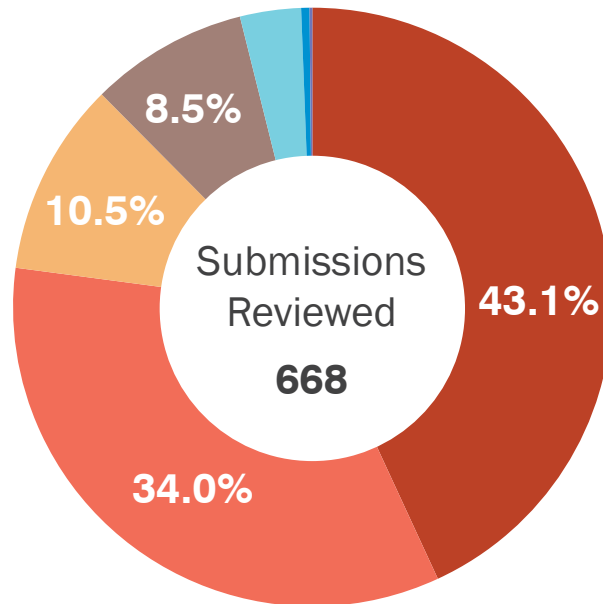
# Number of Submissions Acted or Commented Upon

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.

<span style="color: #8B4513;">■</span> Commented upon	43.1% [288]
<span style="color: #E9967A;">■</span> Approved	34.0% [227]
<span style="color: #F4A460;">■</span> Approved per Delegation*	10.5% [70]
<span style="color: #A08080;">■</span> Approved with conditions	8.5% [57]
<span style="color: #ADD8E6;">■</span> Withdrawn by Agency	3.3% [22]
<span style="color: #00B0F0;">■</span> Found incomplete/Tabled	0.4% [3]
<span style="color: #483D8B;">■</span> Rejected	0.1% [1]



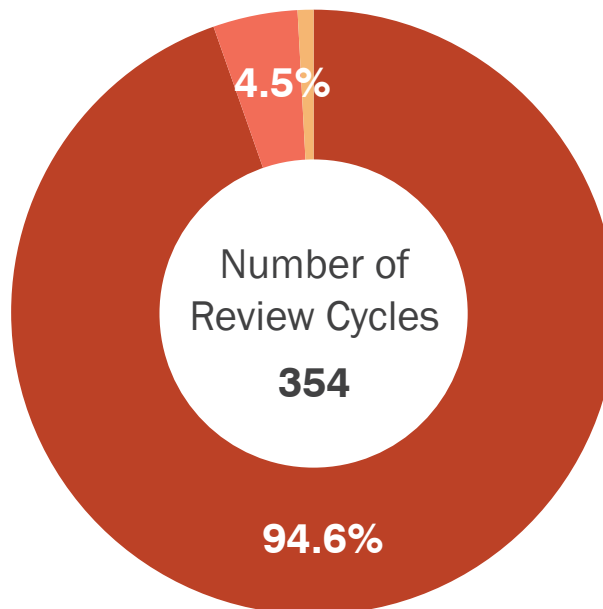
\* Per the Resolution adopted by the PDC on October 11, 2022, regarding the delegation of certain duties and responsibilities, some projects may be approved by the PDC's Executive Director in lieu of the Commission. 2023 captures the first full year of data for this staff-level review process.

# Review Cycles

The PDC reviewed 99.2% of the 354 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.

<span style="color: #8B4513;">■</span> One Cycle	94.6% [335]
<span style="color: #E9967A;">■</span> Two Cycles	4.5% [16]
<span style="color: #F4A460;">■</span> Three or More Cycles	0.8% [3]



# 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.



Public	83.1% [555]
Public and Private	10.9% [73]
Private	6.0% [40]



*In 2023, the PDC reviewed **40 submissions for private structures or installations on or over City-owned property.***

1. Modifications to a plaza, as part of construction of a new academic building, Fashion Institute of Technology, Manhattan; Department of Education; SHOP; MNLA Dormitory Authority of the State of New York
2. Construction of soundstage buildings, rehabilitation of industrial buildings, and adjacent site work, Steiner Studios Sequel, Brooklyn; Economic Development Corporation; Steiner Studios; MVVA; Dattner Architects
3. Final photo of the reconstruction of streetscapes and installation of amusement rides, Coney East, Coney Island, Brooklyn; Economic Development Corporation; Department of Parks & Recreation; Zamperla; Lenart Architecture



# 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. 2023 marked the first full year in which projects were approved per this delegated staff-level review process, and projects reviewed at a staff-level comprised 10.9% of the 354 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 HVAC equipment, emergency generators, exhaust fans, vents, flues, ducts, conduits and related supports, louvers, access hatches, alarms, sound attenuation screens; and other structures, such as utility boxes, RPZs, stair or elevator bulkheads, access ladders, parapet guardrails, and rooftop photovoltaic arrays, provided that such projects meet criteria related to:

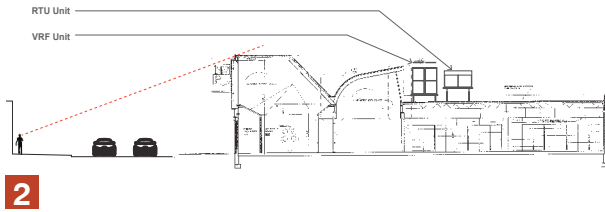
- being invisible or minimally visible to the general public from the public right-of-way;
- not changing the distinguishing qualities or character of the building or site in which they are located;
- not removing or altering any significant architectural feature;
- maintaining the visual integrity of 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 .

1. Minor modifications to a fence and planted area as part of the construction of the Alley Pond Environmental Center, Queens; Department of Parks & Recreation

2. & 3. Sight line diagram and site photo for installation of rooftop HVAC equipment at New Dorp Library, Staten Island; Department of Design & Construction; New York Public Library



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



2

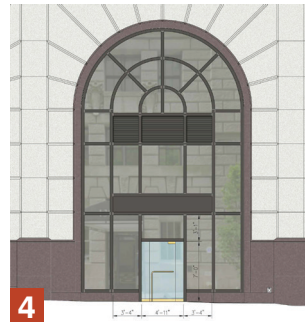


3

## Certain Minor Installations and Alterations

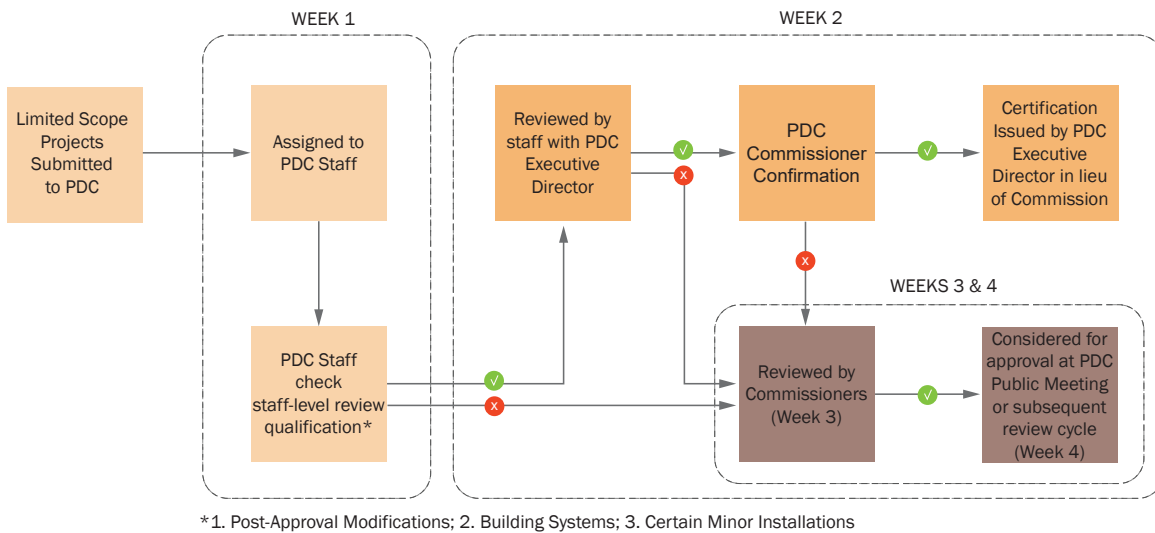
Review of tenant signs, access ramps, ballfield pole lighting, fenced-in areas and alterations to storefront entrances, provided that such projects meet criteria related to:

- 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.



4. Existing and proposed storefront modification at One Pierrepont Plaza, Brooklyn; Economic Development Corporation
5. Existing and proposed signage at Two Bridge Mall, Chinatown, Manhattan; Economic Development Corporation
6. Installation of ADA ramps, Prospect Avenue, Bronx; Department of Transportation
7. Site photos for a fenced-in areaway, Brooklyn; Department of Transportation
8. Site photos, lighting fixture, and pole for replacement of sports lighting, Manhattan; Department of Parks and Recreation





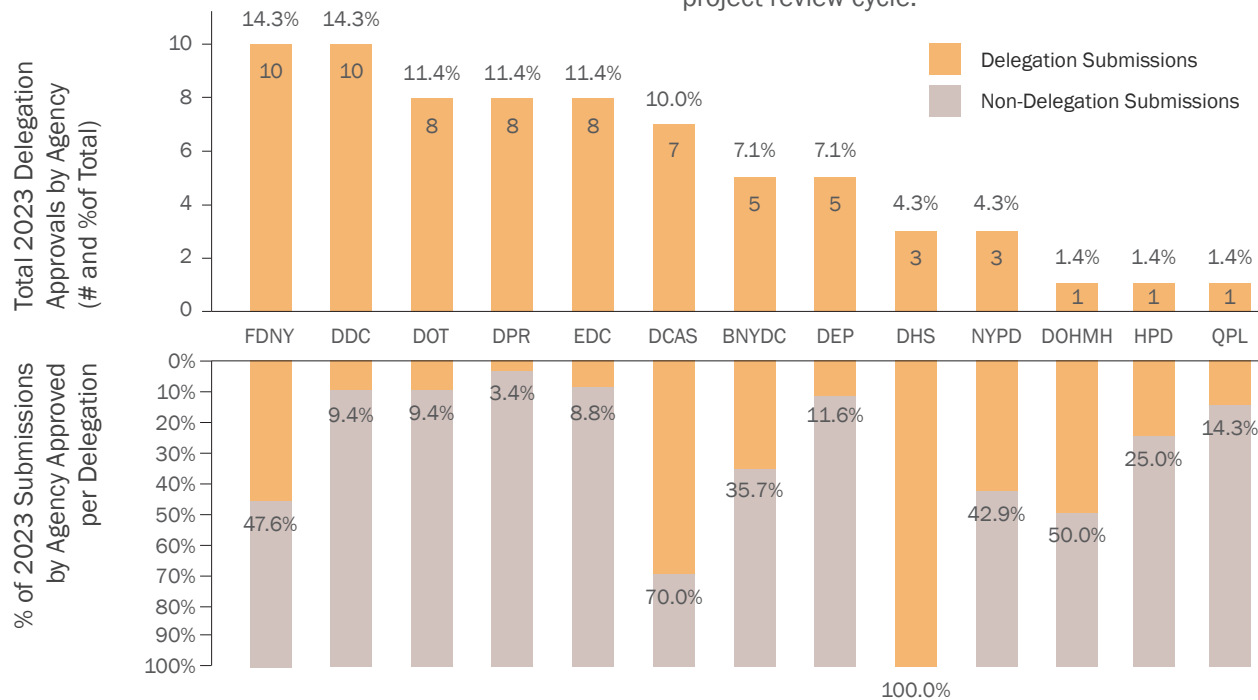
## Staff-Level Review Process

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 PDC public meeting date.

In the first year since the PDC adopted the Resolution to delegate projects for staff review, 20% of all approved projects that would otherwise have been included on the consent agenda were approved via staff-level review. Approvals for these projects are sent to City agency liaisons an average of 16.5 days faster than standard PDC approvals during each project review cycle.





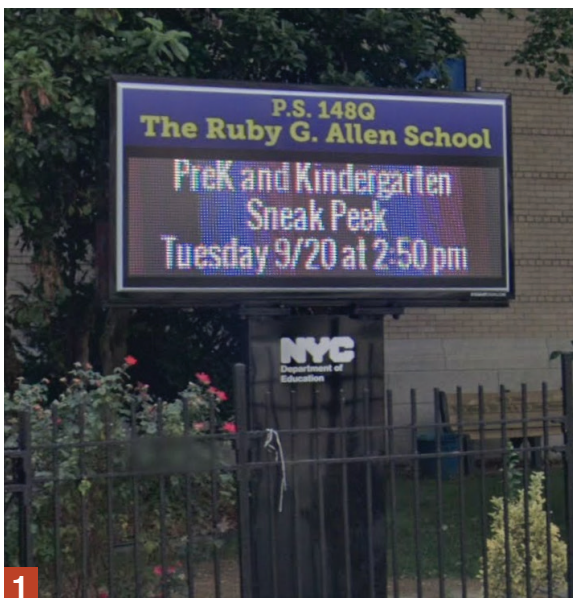
# Citywide Blanket Approvals

Certain standardized and prototypical designs have been granted approval for installation citywide and may no longer require the PDC to review their installation on a case-by-case basis. Project types that have been granted blanket approvals include the designs of prototypical street furnishings, such as CityBenches, CityRack bicycle racks, WalkNYC wayfinding signage, and bus shelters. In 2023, the PDC approved several additional citywide blanket approvals, including but not limited to the designs or installations of the following:

## Prototypical School Signage

Since 2019, the PDC has approved over 30 public school signage proposals, each of which generally followed a design standard established by the Department of Education (DOE) and based on PDC feedback. In 2023, the DOE requested a blanket approval for a prototypical school sign that typically:

- is a freestanding or wall-mounted 'Black' metal sign that measures approximately 4'-0"H x 8'-0"W and is located near the front of the school or near a primary entrance; and
- includes the school's name, a 'White' NYC DOE logo, and a digital LED display screen for the announcement of school events.



1

## Rooftop Photovoltaic Flat-Mounted Panels

Since 2017 when the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) launched its Energy Management Solar Program, the PDC has approved many standard rooftop solar panel installations on schools and other municipal buildings over three stories tall. In 2023, DCAS requested a citywide approval for standardized rooftop photovoltaic panels installations, which typically include:

- photovoltaic panels mounted on an aluminum frame on the rooftop, typically set back a minimum of 6' from parapets and not visible from the street;
- inverter boxes and electrical boxes; and
- conduit that runs through interior courtyards and lightwells or is located to be as minimally visible as possible.

Any photovoltaic panels that are canopy-mounted, visible from the public right-of-way, or not mounted close to the roof surface shall be submitted to the PDC for review.

1. A photograph of a prototypical school sign in Queens
2. A prototypical array of photovoltaic flat-mounted panels installed on a rooftop of a DCAS building



2

## Standardized Tank and Fueling Stations & Related Equipment

The PDC has approved dozens of similar standard upgrades to fueling equipment and components associated with below-grade fuel storage tanks at police precincts, firehouses, and various municipal maintenance and operations facilities throughout New York City. The Department of Design & Construction requested a citywide blanket approval for these installations, as they are required for operations and regulated by code. These typically include a combination of:

- a manhole cover to conceal and provide access to subgrade storage tanks;
- a fueling station, sometimes with a canopy;
- required signage, shut-off switches, and alarms for the fueling activity;
- yellow concrete bollards; and
- paving to match existing.

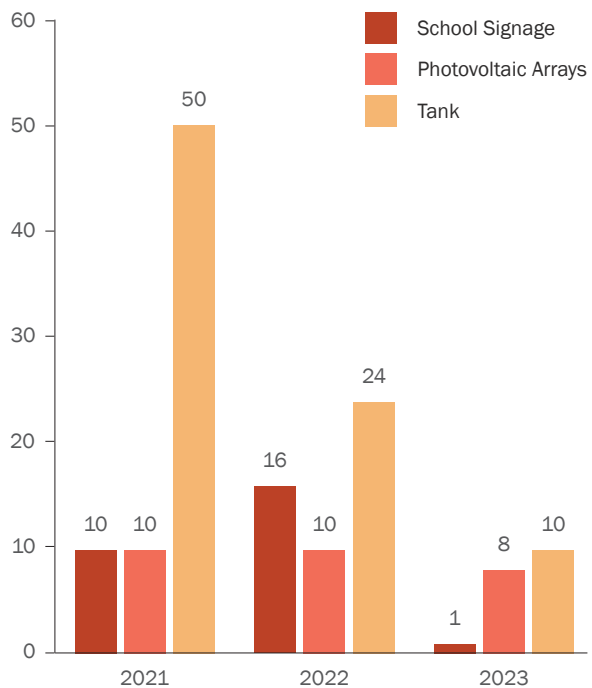


3. A standardized fuel tank access hatch and associated signage, switches, and alarms outside a Fire Department of New York Engine Company building

*“As new technologies and project management processes evolve over time, we need to ensure how we collaborate across agencies is responsive to that evolution,” stated PDC President Deborah Marton.*

The PDC has noticed a reduction in the overall number of submissions received. This is likely in-part due to the number of submissions that were previously reviewed on a case-by-case basis, which have since received citywide blanket approvals. This has allowed PDC to re-focus its review time and energy on more complex design projects.

## Number of Submissions Reviewed by Typology per Year Prior to Blanket Approval



# 2023 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 2023.



## 1 St. Mary's Park - Phase II Reconstruction

Bronx  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
Starr Whitehouse



## 2 Grand Concourse Boulevard - Phase V Reconstruction

Bronx  
Department of Design and Construction  
Department of Transportation



## 3 Rockaway Performance Space

Queens  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
QRP; Sage and Coombe Architects



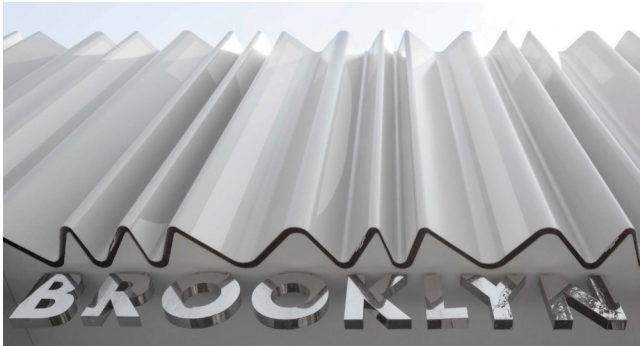
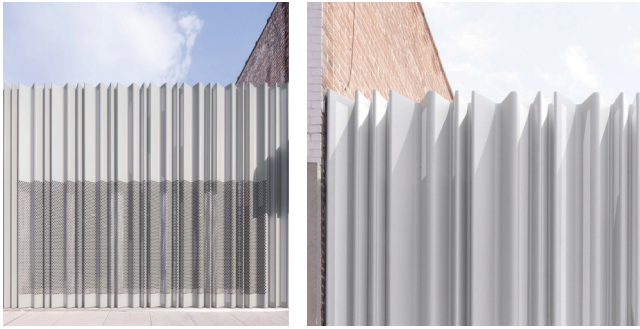
## 4 Fox Playground Comfort Station

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



## 5 Marcy Green Park

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



**6 East Flatbush Library**

Brooklyn  
 Department of Design and Construction  
 Brooklyn Public Library  
 LevenBetts Architects



**7 Alley Pond Environmental Center**

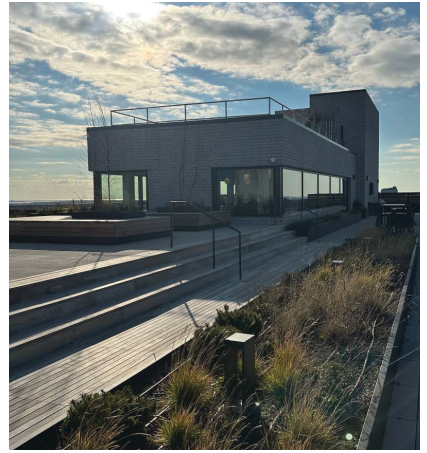
Queens  
 Department of Parks & Recreation  
 Leroy Street Studio  
 DLANDstudio



**8 Rochdale Public Library**

Brooklyn  
 Department of Design and Construction  
 Brooklyn Public Library  
 Prendergast Laurel Architects





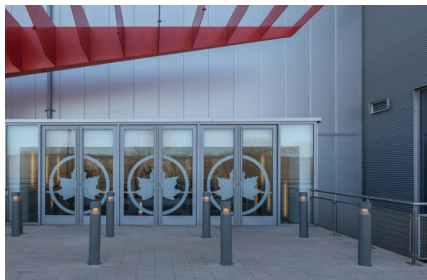
**9 Bedford Union Armory Residential Buildings**

Brooklyn  
Economic Development Corporation  
Marvel Architects



**10 Riverside Park South**

Manhattan  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
Abel Bainnson Butz



**11 Ocean Breeze Athletic Center**

Staten Island  
Department of Design and Construction  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
MKW; Sage and Coombe Architects

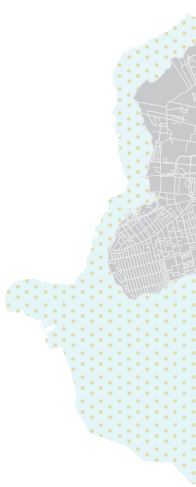
# 41st Annual Awards for Excellence in Design

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. 2023'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.

*“Design excellence transcends the realm of aesthetic values — it encompasses a holistic approach to creating environments that not only captivate the senses but also promote equity, sustainability, and social cohesion,” said **Mayor Eric Adams**. “As we envision a future that values inclusivity and harmony, we must ensure that every borough has equitable access to thoughtfully designed public spaces, neighborhood civic buildings, and inspiring artwork that resonates with individuals across generations.”*

*“Design excellence is about more than what — what material or color or form. It's about the who — who are we designing for, and did they have meaningful opportunities to contribute their perspective?” said **PDC President Deborah Marton**. “Today's projects demonstrate the Adams administration's strong commitment to ensuring public buildings and civic spaces welcome and serve every New Yorker — congratulations!”*



### 2023 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



# Award Winning Projects

## 1 Osborn Plaza

Osborn Street, south of Belmont Avenue, Brooklyn  
Department of Design and Construction  
Department of Transportation  
Abel Bainnson Butz



## 2 Haffen Park and Pool Complex

Haffen Park, Bronx  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
NYC Parks Capital Projects In-house



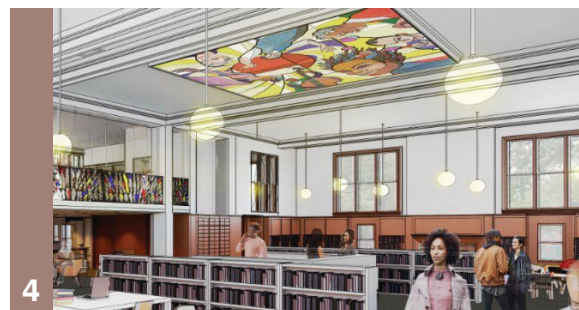
## 3 Horseshoe Playground

Hall Place and Rogers Place, Bronx  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
NYC Parks Capital Projects In-house



## 4 Resonances by Christopher Myers

Brownsville Library, 61 Glenmore Avenue, Brooklyn  
Department of Cultural Affairs' Percent for Art  
Department of Design and Construction  
Brooklyn Public Library  
Christopher Myers, Artist



## 5 Ruppert Park

Ruppert Park, East 90th Street, Second Avenue,  
and East 91st Street, Manhattan  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
NYC Parks Capital Projects In-house







6

**6 Gate of the Exonerated**

110th Street between Central Park West and Fifth Avenue, Central Park, Manhattan

Department of Parks & Recreation  
Central Park Conservancy In-house Design



7

**7 Streetscape Improvements as part of the Safe Routes to School Program**

Broadway Malls and Columbia University Medical Center, various sites, Manhattan

Department of Design and Construction  
Department of Transportation  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
DLANDstudio  
Thornton Thomasetti



8

**8 Baisley Park Community Library**

117-11 Sutphin Boulevard, South Jamaica, Queens

Department of Design and Construction  
Queens Public Library  
LevenBetts  
EKLA



9

**9 Lemon Creek Playground**

Lemon Creek Playground, Johnston Terrace and Seguine Avenue, Staten Island

Department of Parks and Recreation  
NYC Parks Capital Projects In-house



10

**10 Flexus by Grimanesa Amorós**

Harper Street Yard, 30-01 Harper Street, Corona, Queens

Department of Cultural Affairs' Percent for Art  
Department of Design and Construction  
Department of Transportation  
Grimanesa Amorós, Artist

# 41st Annual Awards for Excellence in Design

## The 2023 Event



In 2023, Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer, PDC President Deborah Marton, and PDC Executive Director Sreoshi Banerjea announced the 21 winning teams of both the 40th and 41st Annual Awards for Design Excellence in the New York Public Library’s Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library in Manhattan. The 40th Annual Design Awards event had been postponed from 2022 until 2023 due to delays related to the transition of PDC leadership.

*“Investing in design excellence yields significant economic benefits for our city and enhances the quality of life for all residents,” said Deputy Mayor for Economic and Workforce Development Maria Torres-Springer. “I am grateful to our dedicated city agencies and consultant teams that are working tirelessly to ensure our capital projects embody the values of equity, sustainability, and aesthetics. Your collective efforts ensure our city will continue to be a thriving, welcoming, and culturally rich metropolis.”*

*“Each awarded project embodies the intrinsic link between design, performance, and functionality, ensuring they not only meet the aesthetic aspirations of our city, but also prioritize the needs and aspirations of our diverse communities and inspire all those who call New York City home,” said PDC Executive Director Sreoshi Banerjea.*



# Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library

For over 125 years, The New York Public Library has been a free provider of education and information for the people of New York and beyond. With over 90 locations—including research and branch libraries—throughout The Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, the Library offers free materials, computer access, classes, exhibitions, programming and more to everyone from toddlers to scholars. Located at the site of the former Mid-Manhattan Library, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL), is now a completely transformed, state-of-the-art library following a full-scale renovation which was completed in 2021. The branch building was designed by architects Mecanoo and Beyer Blinder Belle, with generous support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) and the City. Thank you to The New York Public Library for their generous support of this year’s Annual Awards for Excellence in Design program.



5

1. & 2. Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer and PDC President Deborah Marton congratulated the 21 winning teams.
3. PDC Commissioner Susan Morgenthau and PDC Executive Director Sreoshi Banerjea enjoyed the event at the New York Public Library’s new Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library.
4. PDC President Marton and PDC Executive Director Banerjea announce the winning teams.
5. Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library event space
6. – 9. PDC staff and invited guests, including City agency staff, design teams, and collaborators, enjoy the venue.



6



7



8



9





# Streamlining Processes & Gaining Alignment

# Stakeholder Survey

In 2023, PDC engaged with City agency liaisons and various civic design organizations, including Van Alen Institute, the Municipal Art Society of New York, the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and the New York Building Congress Architects Leadership Council, to better gauge stakeholders' perceptions and understanding of the PDC's public design review process.



The Architects Leadership Council worked with PDC staff to convene a stakeholder task force of architects, engineers, landscape architects, urban designers, and other design professionals. Together, these stakeholders joined PDC staff for a roundtable to brainstorm and refine questions for a citywide industry stakeholder survey. Over 100 design professionals and City agency staff responded to questions about the PDC review process, public meetings, required deliverables, and available resources.

The PDC recognizes that project management processes evolve over time and is using the feedback from the surveys to inform operational adjustments and enhance public-facing resources in an effort to make processes more accessible and transparent.

1. & 2. Task force members from the Architectural Leadership Council meet with PDC staff in City Hall.
3. Feedback from the stakeholder survey underscored the importance of high-quality public projects and design review.

## The importance of high-quality public projects

“When PDC approval is required on a project, the **project's design trajectory is elevated from the very start**. This has a profound effect on the project and both empowers the design team to reach higher, and **guards against poor short term decision-making** that can result in very negative, sometimes irreversible outcomes for our city aesthetically and urbanistically.”

Source: PDC Survey

“The PDC is **uniquely positioned to critique projects without bias**, and from this position can maintain design excellence - this is their sole purpose and it ensures that **ALL public projects, large and small, are reviewed and held to the highest design standards. Without PDC or with a limited PDC, there would simply be no true, independent check on what is built in the City.**”

Source: PDC Survey

“Promotes **equitable development**, and considers **community voices** and values in city work, and **holds the city accountable**”

Source: PDC Survey

3

# Commissioner Retreat

PDC Staff and commissioners gathered at Van Alen Institute for a retreat to discuss PDC processes and stakeholder survey results and to revisit the PDC mission statement. The goal was to analyze and understand shared values and define what matters most. After establishing foundational knowledge, we held workshops on integrating our core values into PDC operations to both streamline and strengthen our impact. The Service Design Studio facilitated a brainstorming session with our commissioners, aiming to identify ways to evaluate projects in alignment with our mission.

PDC Staff presented details of the project review process to commissioners, highlighting week-by-week activities that occur behind the scenes before monthly Public Meeting. Additionally, PDC Staff shared results from the stakeholder survey.

Commissioners revisited the PDC mission statement and further defined what innovative, sustainable, and equitable design means for New York City.



- 4. & 5. PDC commissioners and staff convene for a retreat in Van Alen Institute's Gowanus office.
- 6. NYC's Service Design Studio collaborated with the PDC to facilitate a brainstorming session about the PDC's values and mission.



# Streamlining Recommendations

In 2023, as the administration sought methods to expedite capital project delivery, PDC staff and commissioners collaborated closely with two Deputy Mayors' teams and multiple agencies, including the Department of Design and Construction, to carefully evaluate the success of existing project review processes and to identify ways in which various procedures may be further fine-tuned without compromising high-quality design. Together, a dedicated working group undertook an intensive series of workshops to better understand the process and experience of design review from multiple perspectives, to identify what is working well and where challenges lie, and to brainstorm ways to improve. The year of in-depth engagement and collaborative work resulted in the publication of the following six recommendations to streamline the design review process, which the PDC will work to implement in 2024 and beyond in partnership with the City's capital agencies.



***“At the heart of the PDC’s mission lies a commitment to promote exceptional and equitable design for every New Yorker,” stated PDC Commissioner Isabel Castilla. “It is our role to not only ensure design excellence but also to facilitate the timely delivery of impactful public projects. In recent months, the PDC team has actively collaborated with DDC, in crafting innovative recommendations to streamline the design review process and better align it with project design phases. This strategic approach will allow design firms to prioritize innovation and creativity, ensuring the continued delivery of groundbreaking public work, without compromising the distinctive quality and design excellence that characterize our City’s public spaces.”***

## Clarify the Approval Path for Different Project Types

Certain non-complex projects related to building systems or minor modifications qualify for a single, consolidated design review. PDC will amplify how to navigate this review path. Examples of how a delegated staff-level review process and citywide blanket proposals are already contributing to this streamlining of the PDC project review process are included on pages 20 through 24 of this Annual Report.

## Streamline the Review Process for Non-Complex Projects

PDC will create a single set of submission requirements for non-complex projects, and DDC and PDC will continue to raise awareness of prototypical citywide blanket approvals, such as the installation of standardized rooftop photovoltaic flat-mounted panels citywide or the installation of standardized tank and fueling stations and related equipment citywide. PDC will also raise awareness about its recently expanded PDC staff-level delegated review process that has cut design review time for certain projects in half.

1. Cover image from a report of streamlining recommendations co-authored by the PDC and DDC teams.



## Make the Design Review Process More Accessible

The design review process can feel unclear to designers and agency staff; and stakeholders have expressed concerns that it can be difficult to know when feedback and approval will happen and when design changes may be required, creating uncertainty around project schedules and budgets. In response to stakeholder feedback about challenges that designers face when trying to understand and navigate the PDC review process, PDC will improve public-facing materials and resources available on its website to supplement guidance from City agency liaisons and further clarify the current design review process. The PDC will ensure its mission will feature prominently in external communications and at public meetings, to remind people what design review aims to achieve.

## Ease the Approval Path for Complex Projects

Complex projects, on the other hand, require a different set of supports. Large projects require many approvals from diverse stakeholders, including other City agencies, technical experts, and community boards. Capital agency project review timelines don't always line up well with PDC submission deadlines or other milestones. In addition, many applicants do not know about the various ways in which PDC can provide early or informal guidance to ensure a smoother approval process. DDC seeks to better align its project schedules with PDC design reviews to get design teams the design feedback they need, when they need it. This includes establishing regular strategy and forecasting meetings, further aligning agency milestones and requirements to PDC's monthly public meeting schedule and expanding engagement between designers and PDC via agency liaisons to support fast problem-solving and to keep projects moving.

## Formalize Ongoing Evaluation of the Design Review Process

PDC reviews hundreds of project submissions every year, but currently, there is no formalized process in which City agencies present their internal design review data, best practices and lessons-learned to the PDC. The PDC will establish a recurring process for interagency exchange, in which City agencies may discuss the data on how design review procedures are working within their agencies. This allows PDC to evaluate whether procedural changes may be needed to simplify or refine parts of the process, while also considering the benefits of incorporating technology solutions into the design review process.

## Amplify Opportunities for Public Input

PDC approval represents a guaranteed touchpoint for the public to provide input into capital projects. Opportunities for additional engagement, outside of PDC, may not always be apparent to members of the public, and PDC review timelines at times get extended to allow for public hearings. To continue to allow for an appropriate public input process, PDC and DDC will better communicate to the public the various opportunities to engage with the process. Additionally, DDC will schedule its Community Board reviews earlier in the design schedule, so community feedback is incorporated sooner and will communicate subsequent design changes to the Community Board and schedule follow-up meetings as necessary. The two agencies will clarify for applicants that Community Board meeting minutes may be substituted for formal Community Board letters, or in addition to the letter if the Community Board wishes to provide one.





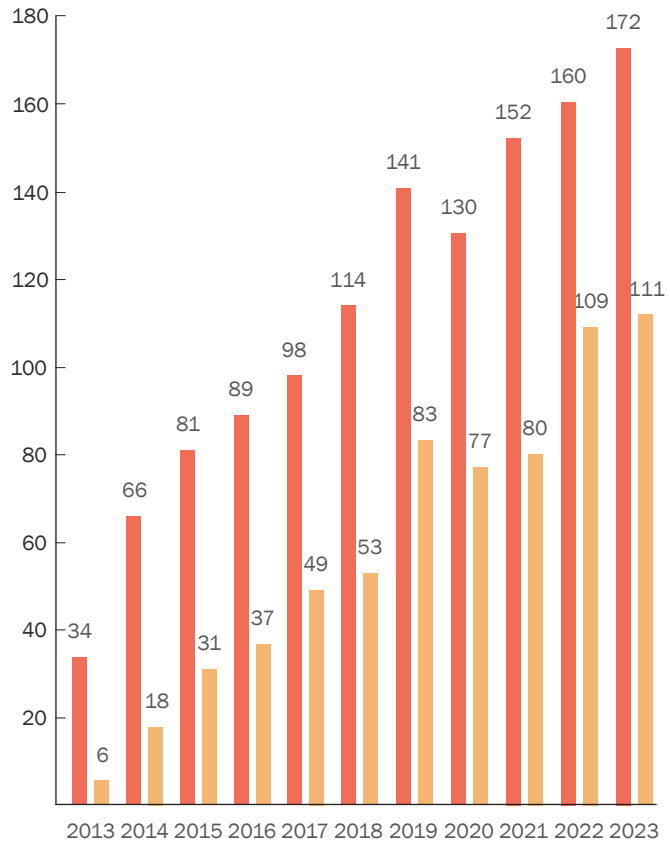
# Special Projects and Interagency Initiatives

# The Archive

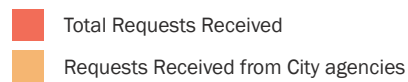
The Public Design Commission maintains an archive of projects reviewed by the Commission since 1902, documenting more than 7,500 sites throughout New York City and providing a unique view into the history of the City’s public works. Containing original documents, drawings, and architectural plans, the 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 2023, the archive facilitated **172 research requests**, which was a **7.5% increase from 2022** and over **5 times the number of requests received a decade ago!***

In 2023, PDC Senior Archivist & Information Specialist Julianna Monjeau facilitated in-person tours of the Archive and processed another record number of research requests. 47% of the requests resulted in digital files being sent to the researcher. PDC sent over 2,300 digital records to researchers in 2023!



## Research Requests by Year



# 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 Senior Archivist & Information Specialist Julianna Monjeau shares historic, archived projects with PDC commissioners in September 2023



# City Hall Tour Program



*In 2023, the PDC's City Hall Tour Manager and volunteer docents led **134 tours** for **1,560 people** visiting from near and far.*

2. Tour Manager and historian Mary Beth Betts shares artifacts, such as George Washington's desk, during a tour through the Governor's Room at City Hall
3. Visitors to City Hall may look up at the City Council Chamber ceiling murals by Taber Sears, dating back to 1903



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.

Following the official restart of the tour program in August 2022, after a suspension due to the pandemic, the City Hall Tour Program returned to its typical operations and hosted 134 tours of the building in 2023. 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.

*In 2023, the PDC hosted a diverse range of tour groups, including:*

OEM Staff;  
DCAS Civil Service Pathways Fellows;  
Duke University in New York;  
Innovation Charter High School;  
PlaNYC;  
Mayor's Office Interns;  
CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute;  
OMB interns;  
SBS interns;  
New York Times High School;  
DOI interns;  
MOCS staff;  
Mayor's Office Fellows;  
City Hall Fellows;  
New York City Law Department staff;  
Transylvania University of Brasov;  
Manhattan College;  
Spring Arbor University of Michigan;  
U. S. Civic Officials;  
Open House New York; and  
EPA Emerging Leaders.

# Epicenter Video Tour

On February 3, 2023, the Public Design Commission celebrated the release of *Epicenter: The Black Experience Through the Eyes of City Hall*, a video tour that celebrates the achievements, struggles, and the historical resonance of the African Diaspora's impact on New York City within the built environment of City Hall.

City Hall is not just the epicenter of New York City's government – it is a portal through which to understand the history of New York, America, and the world. Enslaved Africans played a critical yet underappreciated role in this history. With the Epicenter tour, Black Gotham reveals some of their stories through an interactive exploration of the African Diaspora's impact on lower Manhattan from the 1600s through the early 1800s. Participants will learn about the lives of enslaved and freed Black people under Dutch and British rule, the early days of our Republic, the rebellions of 1712 and 1741, and the hidden stories of revolutionary New York.



1. & 2. Screening of *Epicenter* film within the City Hall Governor's Room





Carolina Llano, Director of Art, Design, and Technology, led the collaboration between NYC & Company and Kamau Ware of Black Gotham Experience in planning and organizing the screening. In addition, the video tour within City Hall, PDC Tour Manager Mary Beth Betts and Kamau co-led tours about the African Diaspora's impact on City Hall and Lower Manhattan.

- 3. & 4. PDC staff and guests celebrate the film launch.
- 5. Former PDC Executive Directors, Justin Garrett Moore and Keri Butler, join PDC Executive Director Sreoshy Banerjea and Black Gotham Experience Founder Kamau Ware for the event at City Hall.

- 6. & 7. PDC Tour Manager Mary Beth Betts and Black Gotham Experience Founder Kamau Ware lead tours through City Hall.



# Streetscapes for Wellness

In 2023, PDC publicly presented and celebrated the publication of *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.

*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. *Streetscapes for Wellness* serves as a source of inspiration for policymakers, practitioners, and community advocates seeking to reimagine streets and promote public health. In 2023, to promote the publication and discuss the importance of this work, PDC staff and commissioners presented *Streetscapes for Wellness* at multiple public-facing events and symposia.

## Rethinking the Public Realm

In March, PDC Director of Urban Design & Policy, Jenna E. Miller, was an invited speaker for "Rethinking the Public Realm," a moderated panel for the Brooklyn Heights Association (BHA) at Packer Collegiate Institute. The expert panel also included representatives of Van Alen Institute and the Meatpacking Business Improvement District. Together, the panelists discussed public realm innovations within New York City and how public spaces could be more human-centered, support the local economy and our collective well-being.





The Architect's Newspaper

# Outdoor Spaces 2023

Landscape | Sustainability | Remediation

Virtual Event | April 27, 2023

Earn up to 6 PDH, LA CES/HSW, AIA/HSW

**Outdoor Spaces 2023**  
Landscape | Sustainability | Remediation

**SPOTLIGHT**  
**Streetscapes for Wellness**

Thursday, April 27  
Virtual Event

**Jenna E. Miller**  
NYC Public Design Commission

1. *Designing New York: Streetscapes for Wellness* publications
2. Architect and Landscape Architect, Susannah Drake, moderates the BHA's "Rethinking the Public Realm" panel with panelists Andrew Brown of the Van Alen Institute, Jeffrey Lefrancois of the Meatpacking District BID, and Jenna E. Miller of the Public Design Commission
3. Event attendees took home copies of the *Streetscapes for Wellness* publications
4. Event publicity material from The Architect's Newspaper Outdoor Spaces 2023 Virtual Conference
5. *Designing New York: Streetscapes for Wellness* cover by MGMT. design with photo courtesy of Street Lab

## A Spotlight on Streetscapes

In April 2023, as primary author of *Streetscapes for Wellness*, Miller also presented the Spotlight Presentation at The Architect's Newspaper 2023 Outdoor Spaces virtual conference, sharing the findings and design recommendations from the *Streetscapes for Wellness* report to a broad international audience and underscoring the importance of making New York's streetscape more attuned to the demands of public health, mental wellbeing, environmental sustainability, and longevity.



# Public Policy Talk

In May 2023, PDC staff and commissioners collaborated with Open House New York (OHNY) to host its inaugural Public Policy Talk: Learning From *Streetscapes for Wellness*. Tailored for the general population, the Public Policy Talk was intended to demystify how the city functions and to illuminate how public sector investments in the physical realm are improving New York’s resilience, cultural vitality, social cohesion, and economic opportunity.

In celebration of the publication of *Streetscapes for Wellness*, this Public Policy Talk included an introduction to the publication and presentation of select case studies and three panel discussions with City agency commissioners, staff, and collaborators.

- 6. Event publicity material from the “Learning from Streetscapes for Wellness” Public Policy Talk
- 7. PDC’s Jenna E. Miller and ASLA-NY Trustee, Jennifer Nitzky, introduce *Streetscapes for Wellness* and select case studies from the publication.
- 8. Pamela Puchalski of OHNY moderates the Commissioners’ Discussion: “Post-Pandemic Agency Priorities for Community-Driven Streetscapes” with PDC Executive Director Sreoshy Banerjee, NYC Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue, and NYC DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez.



6



7

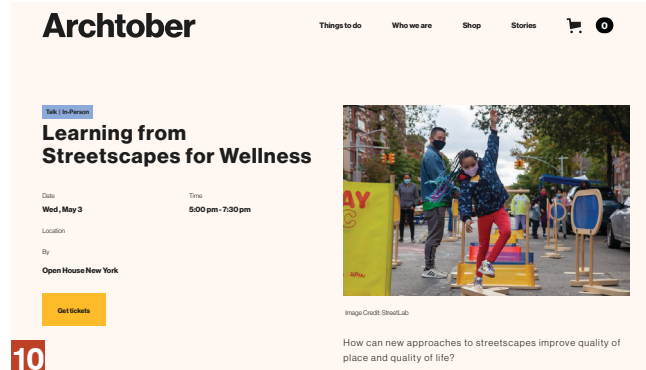


8



9

9. The PDC was featured on the marquis of the SVA Theatre.



10

10. Archtober advertised the Public Policy Talk event.



11

11. Cassim Shepard of City College’s Spitzer School of Architecture moderated a discussion with City agency leaders: “Collaborating on Community-Driven Design,” which included Nancy Prince of NYC Parks, Neil Gagliardi, of NYC DOT, and Erick Gregory of NYC Department of City Planning.

The event began with an introduction to *Streetscapes for Wellness* and several case studies from the publication. Jenna E. Miller of the PDC, and publication partner, Jennifer Nitzky of ASLA-NY and The Fine Arts Federation of New York presented various challenges and success achieved by design teams and communities and set the stage for the forthcoming discussions about policymaking and streetscape design.

For the first moderated discussion, attendees heard from Department of Parks & Recreation Commissioner Sue Donoghue and Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez, alongside Sreoshi Banerjea, Executive Director of the PDC, about how this

comprehensive resource will guide decision making and priority setting for projects in their relevant agencies.

The second panel continued with a discussion that included City agency staff leaders who had contributed to this groundbreaking resource including representatives from the Department of Parks & Recreation, Department of Transportation, and Department of City Planning. They discussed the importance of collaborating on community-driven streetscape design and shared ongoing efforts within their agencies to improve streetscapes and adjacent open spaces for wellness.

The final Public Policy Talks panel was moderated by Cassim Shepard from City College of New York's Spitzer School of Architecture and focused on the importance of community-driven design and how that shaped *Streetscapes for Wellness*. PDC Commissioner and President, Deborah Marton, PDC Director of Urban Design & Policy, Jenna E. Miller, and ASLA-NY and The Fine Arts Federation Trustee, Jennifer Nitzky, for the discussion. Together, they had an animated conversation about whose wellness we're talking about when we plan for *Streetscapes for Wellness*. The three speakers discussed the importance of trusting community voices and reducing barriers to community-driven innovation and intervention.

## Restorative City

Subsequently, in May 2023, PDC staff joined Design Trust for Public Space at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice for the one-day Restorative City convening of urban planners, city officials, neighborhood advocates, and public health experts to center health equity in the design and planning of New York City. Jenna E. Miller spoke on one of the convening's five panels, "A Vision for a Healthy New York." Moderated by Tamara Greenfield of Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, the panel included New York City government officials and examined opportunities to create a comprehensive plan

11. Cassim Shepard moderates "The Importance of Community-Driven Design," with panelists PDC Commissioner Deborah Marton, Jenna E. Miller of PDC, and Jennifer Nitzky of ASLA-NY and The Fine Arts Federation.





12



13



14

for health equity in New York City. The convening included a plenary session and multiple panel discussions, presentations, and performances that delved into health equity, environmental justice, the culture of wellbeing, and the importance of an active and engaged citizenry to the design of healthy communities.

The PDC is appreciative of all the organizations that have included our team at the table in discussions surrounding the public realm and wellness, and our team looks forward to continuing these conversations.



15

12. Tamara Greenfield moderates "A Vision for a Healthy New York," with panelists John Douglas of the Brooklyn Borough President's Office, Julie Bero of the Department of Transportation, Jenna E. Miller of the PDC, and Kim Kessler of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

13. Event publicity material from The Restorative City Convening

14. PDC's Jenna E. Miller responds to a question during a panel at The Restorative City Convening.

15. The Restorative City event was hosted at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice in Manhattan.

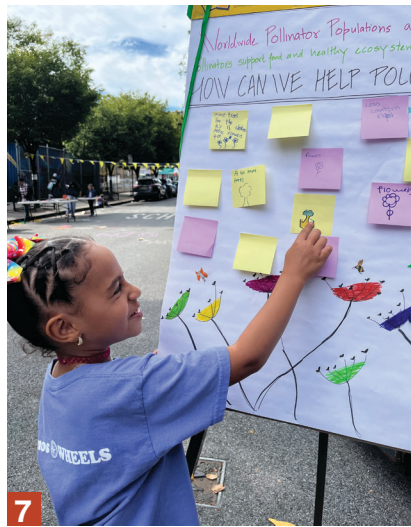
# PARK(ing) Day 2023: Pollinating Community



In September 2023, PDC staff joined members of the New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA-NY) to organize the third annual Día de Calle Verde for PARK(ing) Day 2023 at West 182nd Street in Manhattan, in partnership with the Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (WHEELS) and Futures Ignite. 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 to the health and quality of life of urban communities. The activation celebrates the WHEELS youth-led “Clean Air Green Corridor” environmental justice initiative, one of the

case studies featured within *Streetscapes for Wellness*, which reimagines West 182nd Street as a pedestrianized green pathway that safely connects the five schools along the corridor to open space and community resources. Activations and programming included a pop-up park, games, and planting workshops.

PDC staff distributed *Streetscapes for Wellness* books and embraced the “Pollinating Community” theme, leading engagement activities and crafts related to improving pollinator habitats within our city’s public realm. PDC staff taught youth how to fold origami butterflies and worked with students to decorate the school’s sidewalk shed.



1. WHEELS students celebrate the feature of the Clean Air Green Corridor within *Streetscapes for Wellness*  
 2 - 8. PDC staff led pollinator-themed engagement activities and crafts.

9. NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez joined community members for a conversation about the Clean Air Green Corridor. Photos 1 & 4 courtesy of Kimona Dussard



With a visit from NYC DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez and the participation and contributions of many local organizations, including the American Planning Association New York Metro chapter (APA-NYM), the City College of New York Student ASLA Chapter, Street Lab, 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 and demonstrate the need for a healthier, safer, and more engaging streetscape for learning, gathering, and play.

# From Roots to Arts

In 2023, in partnership with the Public Housing Community Fund (PHFC), the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), and the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), PDC staff, Carolina Llano, Director of Art, Design & Technology and Amanuel Hailu, Art Policy Summer Fellow, worked to shape and coordinate the Mellon Foundation-funded initiative, *From Roots to Arts: Celebrating NYCHA's Cultural Heritage*.

This groundbreaking 20-month artist-in residence pilot program aims to promote community and art engagement within NYCHA housing complexes by creating public works of art and programming that reflect the unique and rich cultural heritage and lived experiences of NYCHA residents.

Leveraging the presence of DYCD's Cornerstone Program at NYCHA Community Centers throughout the city, which provides year-round programming for adults and young people, the *From Roots to Arts* pilot program will offer spaces for artists to work within five of these community centers across the five boroughs. There, the five selected artists will be able to engage and work collaboratively with NYCHA residents to conceive public art programming and installations that celebrate the enormous cultural value of NYCHA communities.



**1**

*“Participatory Public Art has an extraordinary ability to vitalize, inspire and strengthen communities,” stated **Sreoshy Banerjea, Executive Director of NYC PDC**. “The Public Design Commission is thrilled to partner on *From Roots to Arts*, an initiative that harnesses this transformative power to empower, and uplift NYCHA communities. This innovative artist -in-residency program aligns with the Commission’s mission to champion quality design that connects with communities and meaningfully engages residents in shaping their environments to reflect their unique spirit and heritage. We are deeply grateful to the Mellon Foundation for their visionary support in making this impactful program possible.”*

1. Image from the *Cornerstone* program website, courtesy of the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development
2. Image from the *From Roots to Arts* program website, courtesy of the Public Housing Community Fund





# Other Collaborations and Updates

In 2023, the PDC prioritized team building and staff engagement through memorable activities. A highlight was our kayaking excursion to Red Hook, which provided a unique perspective of the city's waterways while fostering teamwork. PDC staff participated in a beach clean-up, aligning with our commitment to environmental stewardship and allowing our team to contribute directly to preserving the city's natural spaces. These outings offered valuable opportunities for team members to bond outside the office and gain fresh perspectives on our urban environment. PDC also invited graduate students from Columbia University to learn more about PDC and our agency's special initiatives, sharing our expertise and inspiring the next generation of urban designers.

The year brought significant changes to our team composition. We bid farewell to two longstanding staff members, Grace Han and Rebecca Macklis, whose contributions were instrumental in shaping the PDC's work. We also welcomed two new team members who have already made significant impacts: Ryu Kim, trained in landscape architecture, helps to bring fresh insights to this crucial area of our portfolio, and Chelsea Chaug, helps to carve out a new interagency coordination role and supports PDC's streamlining efforts. As we move forward, we remain committed to fostering a work environment that values teamwork, innovation, and shared purpose, ensuring that the PDC continues to serve our city with the highest standards of design excellence.

1. PDC staff gathered for the City Hall Thanksgiving celebration with other Mayor's Office staff.
2. PDC staff hosted welcomed Urban Design graduate students from Columbia University for a seminar and presentation about the PDC and Streetscapes for Wellness.
3. PDC staff kayaked in Red Hook, Brooklyn.







# Commissioners and Staff

# Commissioner Biographies 2023

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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. 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.

## 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's 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.

## 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.

## 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.

# Staff Biographies

## Sreoshy Banerjea

Sreoshy Banerjea is the Executive Director of NYC's Public Design Commission. She previously served as 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, 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 Coordinator at the Public Design Commission. She reviews capital projects within the urban design portfolio and assists with the review of public artwork and conservation projects. She also works on strategic initiatives, developing engagement strategies and facilitating coordination for large-scale design projects. As a native New Yorker herself, Chelsea is dedicated to improving the lives of New Yorkers by providing quality public spaces and a vibrant public realm. She is also passionate about fostering equitable design outcomes and making government processes accessible to all. Chelsea has experience working on large scale planning initiatives at NYCEDC and as an urban designer for Queens at NYC's Department of City Planning, in addition to experience working in architecture on residential and commercial projects. She holds a BA in Architecture with a concentration in Design from Yale University.

## Ryu Kim

Ryu is a project manager at the Public Design Commission. She reviews capital projects, submitted by City agencies, and manages the review of landscape architecture projects. 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 urban design 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 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. 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.

## 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 REd' 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 manages 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.





# Worldwide Pollinator Populations

Pollinators support food and healthy ecosystems

## HOW CAN WE HELP POLLINATORS?

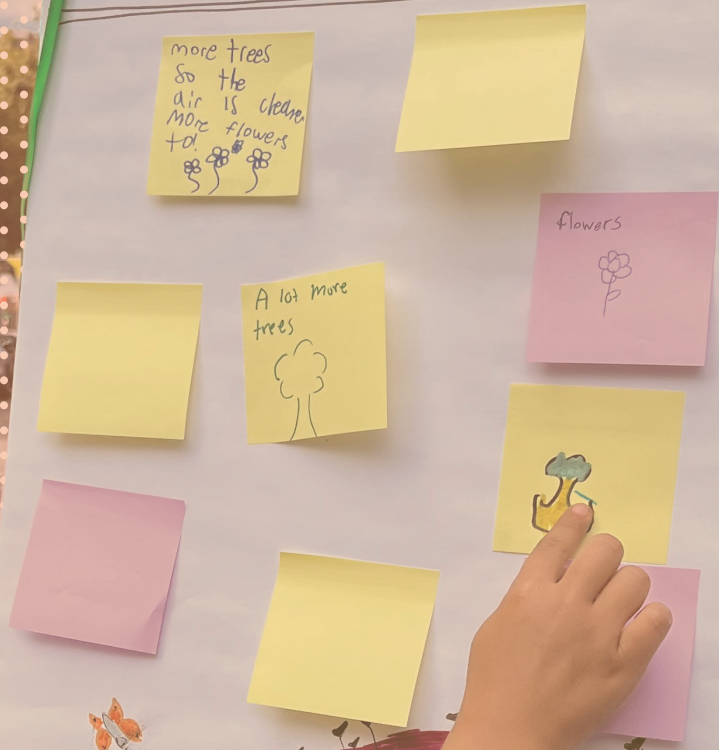
more trees  
so the  
air is cleaner  
more flowers  
to

Less  
Lantern  
Flies!

flowers

A lot more  
trees

Flower



**NYC**DESIGN

NYC Public Design Commission  
City Hall, Third Floor, New York, NY 10007  
[nyc.gov/designcommission](http://nyc.gov/designcommission)