

RWA
ARTWORKS
VISUAL ARTS 2015

PORTFOLIO
OF PAST PROJECTS,
PUBLIC ART
COMMISSIONS

+

COLLABORATIONS



DDP 2.0 (DIGITAL DIRT PROCESSOR) by ethan long

YEAR:
2008

SITE:
Beach 30th Street +
the Boardwalk
Rockaway, Queens

PARTNERS:
Ethan Long (artist),
Rockaway Waterfront
Alliance +
NYC Department of
Parks and Recreation

'The eight-foot earth sculpture sits along the open stretch of beach at Beach 30 Street and is one of the first times that area has been used for public art. The sculpture, which was commissioned by the Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, was done as part of the organization's mission to utilize the public waterfront for the greater good of the community.... The sculpture took two months to construct on the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation site and required the help of many local residents... in compressing dirt into this sculpture. During the two month process, Long met with Jo Anne Ellis' art classes from PS 43 to teach them about the process required to build the piece and discussed public art and the purposes behind it. The sculpture...drew the attention of many of the local kids and community members, with many keeping a careful eye to protect the piece. They regularly came to speak with Long about the work.... Surprisingly the police were the ones who were most curious about the piece. At times they watched Long and the crew for hours to figure out what they were building. "What is it?" they would ask. When Long would tell them art, they couldn't fathom putting a sculpture outside for the public to enjoy.' - *The Wave*

This piece was instrumental in catalyzing the PlaNYC Rockaway Park completed on the site four years later at a budget of \$30M. It demonstrates the power of an evocative piece of art and artistic excellence in shifting community and political perception. ART UNDERNEATH THE ELEVATED can have similar power for the Underway.



THE AEOLIAN RIDE

by jessica findley

YEAR:
2012 + 2013

SITE:
Rockaway, Queens

PARTNERS:
Jessica Findley
(artist) +
Rockaway Waterfront
Alliance

'The Aeolian Ride -- Aeolian means "carried by the wind" -- is a wind-propelled bicycling experience, started by artist Jessica Findley, who was inspired when her jacket inflated behind her while she was riding her bike. She wanted to expand the experience and also to do something happy in the wake of 9/11, "to bring senseless joy to a world that had experienced senseless pain." ...The Aeolian Ride, which can best be described as a moving work of art, celebrated its 10th birthday with rides in cities all over the world, from Montreal to Rio.' - The Village Voice

In 2012 and again 2013, the Rockaway Waterfront Alliance commissioned artist Jessica Findley for the Aeolian Ride for two separate annual events—the 2012 Bike Parade and the 2013 Earth Day. Rider collaborators rode through the Rockaway Peninsula from end to end in bellowing costume for inspiration and whimsy, drawing attention for the need for better bicycling infrastructure in Rockaway.



WASHED ASHORE

by beth perkins et al + rwa

YEAR:
2012

SITE:
Beach 86th Street,
Rockaway, Queens

PARTNERS:
Beth Perkins,
Brandon D'Leo,
Claire Hilger, the
Rockaway Beach Surf
Club Artist Collective
(artists) + Rockaway
Waterfront Alliance

In the summer of 2012, RWA led a systems thinking campaign to connect the Rockaway community to the impact of trash and the waste stream on the local environment. Local youth collaborated with Rockaway artists Beth Perkins, Brandon D'Leo, Claire Hilger and the Rockaway Beach Surf Club Artist Collective to create a series of 8-foot murals from trash they themselves collect off of the shores of Jamaica Bay and Rockaway Beach. The final murals were spectacular constellations of reused debris. They were also vivid emblems to the power of a few environmental stewards working in their community. The murals, with the exception of a few washed away during Hurricane Sandy, were exhibited at the Queens Museum of Art along with the video documenting the project in November 2012.

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFMXXpzfXTg>

This project demonstrates the systems thinking and unique issues to the Rockways that RWA would like ART UNDERNEATH THE ELEVATED to engage.



EXPO 1: NEW YORK

by moma ps1, rwa, raa + nycdpr

YEAR:
2013

SITE:
VW DOME 2
Beach 94th St &
Shore Front Pkwy
Rockaway, Queens

PARTNERS:
PS1 +
Rockaway Waterfront
Alliance +
Rockaway Artist
Alliance +
NYC Department of
Parks and Recreation

The devastation of Hurricane Sandy (October 2012) in the neighborhoods occupying the Rockaway Peninsula was made apparent the fragility of the area's infrastructure. The weeks without electricity and damage to the public transportation system compounded the loss of life and property. The social fabric of local communities was rendered tenuous, a situation further exacerbated by the destruction of public spaces.

For EXPO 1: New York, MoMA PS1 constructed a temporary geodesic dome that served as a center for culture, education, and community in the Rockaways programmed by PS1, RWA, and other local partners. The flexible space was a venue for lectures and conversations, rotating art exhibitions, film and video screenings, performances, youth programming, and community events that helped reimagine the future of a resilient and sustainable Rockaway. Artist collaborators included Agnes Denes and Terreform ONE.

This project demonstrates the caliber of partnerships RWA can successfully engage to provide creative and innovative community programming.



PROJECT
UNDERWAY

YEAR:
2013 - now

SITE:
Rockaway Freeway
between Beach 116th
Street and Mott Ave,
Rockaway, Queens

Since 2013, Rockaway Waterfront Alliance has led a community initiative called Project Underway to engage residents, business owners, transit advocates, and government agencies in working together to develop a plan to better utilize the Rockaway Freeway roadbed under the MTA elevated structure. Large portions of the five-mile stretch have been demapped, some privatized and others inaccessible to the public—while other portions could be further sold to private owners. Project Underway seeks to plan and design the space so it can benefit communities on the east and west end of the Peninsula, provide a safer and more equitable and active route for all ages to school, work or home, and serve as a vibrant public space for all.

ART UNDERNEATH THE ELEVATED will build on the momentum of Project Underway, its series of community programs, and community design workshops for the space to realize this grassroots community initiative.



Rise above the noise to keep Rockaway beautiful and sustainable through education programs, arts exhibitions and support of the local economy.
 OPENING FALL 2015



YEAR:
 Opening October 2015

SITE:
 5803 Rockaway Beach Blvd, Rockaway, Queens

RWA is] converting the former Engine Company 265 Ladder 121 Firehouse into RISE: Rockaway Institute for Sustainable Environment, a center for community-based programs and cultural activities. This marks a big step forward for the Rockaway community as RWA plans to partner with community-based organizations and local businesses throughout the redevelopment process.

A growing arts scene is taking shape in Rockaway. RISE will convert the firehouse’s Great Hall into a gallery to exhibit various forms of art, film, and live performances and create a well-equipped studio/lab on the 2nd floor, where emerging artists and scientists will lead community-led projects, lectures, and classes.

RISE will help make the Rockaways a public tourist destination for the greater NYC community, bringing economic development, jobs, and resources to one of New York City’s most underserved communities. ART UNDERNEATH THE ELEVATED associated youth and public programs will be hosted in this much awaited community space.



LIVING CLASSROOM

by rwa

YEAR:

2005 - ongoing

SITE:

Rockaway, Queens

PARTNERS:

Rockaway Waterfront Alliance with collaborating teaching artist + Scholars Academy, Goldie Maple Academy, PS 43, PS 104, PS 105, PS 106, Kappa VI, Channel View HS, Fredrick Douglass HS

Living Classroom is an Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) for K-12 classes to provide students with hands on experiential learning. The program offers public school teachers the opportunity to work with RWA educators who have experience in a variety of science and art related fields, to foster an appreciation for the natural environment and enable students to explore challenging social and environmental issues. Topics include Environmental Resiliency/Climate Change, Recycling Arts, Marine Science, Community Planning, Gardening & Healthy Cooking, Water Safety, Energy Conservation, and Careers in STEAM related fields.

ART UNDERNEATH THE ELEVATED will engage students through the Living Classroom program to learn about the power of the arts to create community change while engaging with artists and their practice.



ROCKAWAY STORIES

by rwa shore corps

YEAR:
2013

SITE:
Rockaway, Queens

PARTNERS:
Nick Nehez, Amy Sultan, Cynthia Carrion, Matthew Septimus, Marcus Burnett, Iemanja Brown (film mentors)
+
Rockaway Waterfront Alliance Shore Corps

Rockaway Stories is a documentary that captures lessons learned from Storm Sandy. The film was done to elevate local voices, especially those of Rockaways youth and document progress made in rebuilding efforts. As part of this project, young adults from the RWA Shore Corps program worked with professional writers, filmmakers and photographers to collect both written and visual interviews of residents, business owners, and city workers about their personal experiences before, during and after the storm to assess what steps can be taken to make the Rockaway community more resilient to future storms. Rockaway Stories premiered at MOMA PS1 and at the Harvard University's Graduate Program for Urban Planning where the students presented the film to a panel of experts focused on rebuilding and planning efforts in NYC. The project was featured in "The Rockaways" (Concord Press) about the aftermath of Storm Sandy. ART UNDERNEATH THE ELEVATED, as Rockaway Stories, can support creative art literacy in local youth.

Full video available at: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/65439184?autoplay=1>

RWA
ARTWORKS
VISUAL ARTS 2015

EXAMPLES
OF THE TYPE OF
TEMPORARY
ART WORKS
+ COLLABORATIONS
FOR
CONSIDERATION



BOOGIE DOWN BOOTH

by chat travieso

- YEAR:**
2015
- SITE:**
Southern Boulevard
and Freeman Street
Bronx, NY
- PARTNERS:**
Chat Travieso, Design
Trust for Public
Space, WHEDco,
BMHC, + the Southern
Boulevard Merchant
Association
- The Boogie Down Booth is a temporary site-specific installation underneath the elevated 2/5 subway tracks in the Bronx. The installation is part of Under the Elevated: Reclaiming Space, Connecting Communities that looks at ways to maximize the function and spatial qualities under New York's elevated transit infrastructure. The installation is meant to test out ideas for more permanent solutions in these spaces. Working closely with the community collaborators, the team sought to address many of the concerns heard from local residents and business owners who participated in a community workshop or were interviewed. The Booth provides seating and lighting, and plays music that originated in the Bronx (curated by BMHC). This music both celebrates the rich musical heritage of the borough and covers up the train noise from above.
- ART UNDERNEATH THE ELEVATED would like to draw on Travieso's amplification of the area's musical history while creating a place for people to sit, rest and learn in collaboration with the local community.



PAINTING REALITY – A BRUSHSTROKE BY SOCIETY

by iepe

YEAR:
2012

SITE:
Rosenthaler Platz
Berlin, Germany

PARTNERS:
Jessica Stockholder
(artist) + Chicago
Loop Alliance

Five hundred liters of waterbased environmentally-friendly paint were dumped in the intersection of Rosenthaler Platz in Berlin, Germany. A different color was spilled at each traffic light: chimney red, purple violet, cyan blue, and lemon yellow. From there, the vehicular traffic supplied the “brushstrokes” that brought the image together. For months citizens wondered whether it was artwork or a guerilla advertising campaign. It was in fact the work of Dutch performance artist IEPE, with an anonymous crew.

ART UNDERNEATH THE ELEVATED would like to draw on the unexpected, spontaneous, and interactive aspects of this piece which engages all who pass the intersection in its creation. Additionally the focus the art work draws on flow and the treatment of the ground pavement would similarly work well in the Underway.



RECOVERY DIASPORA: BOWERY MURAL DEDICATION

by swoon + groundswell

YEAR:
2013

Groundswell, Goldman Properties, and Swoon unveiled a temporary site-specific mural on the famed Bowery Mural wall, highlighting healing and recovery on the one-year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy.

SITE:
Bowery and Houston,
New York, NY

As a response to the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy, Groundswell unveiled a series of murals addressing healing and recovery in New York City communities among the neighborhoods most affected by the storm. Groundswell youth artists, in partnership with Master Artist Swoon and Groundswell artists Yana Dimitrova, Angel Garcia, Jazmine Hayes, and Misha Tyutyunik, created a visual narrative that captures the concerns, hopes and overall spirits of these communities. The murals are testament to both resilience and vulnerability, and engaged the public in its design to highlight the importance of continued relief efforts by and for Sandy's victims.

PARTNERS:
Groundswell,
Goldman Properties,
and Swoon

Similarly, for ART UNDERNEATH THE ELEVATED, RWA would like to engage established artists to work with local teens and the greater public to make art out of their unique experiences while drawing beauty to the Underway.



COLOR JAM

by jessica stockholder

YEAR:
2012

SITE:
Intersection of State
and Adam Streets
Chicago, IL

PARTNERS:
Jessica Stockholder
(artist) + Chicago
Loop Alliance

American artist jessica stockholder's 'color jam' installation sees a Downtown Chicago intersection awash with color. The artist envisioned a 'three-dimensional painting', with color spilling out of windows, through doors, and onto the buildings and sidewalks of the crossroads of State and Adams. 'Color Jam' is Chicago's largest public art project to date and was commissioned by the Chicago Loop Alliance.

The site specific installation draws attention to the intersection slowing down cars and pedestrians alike to look at the public realm around them with new eyes. This project draws on the type of scale and excitement ART UNDERNEATH THE ELEVATED can create in the Rockaways.