

Migration Paths

View North



Migration Paths

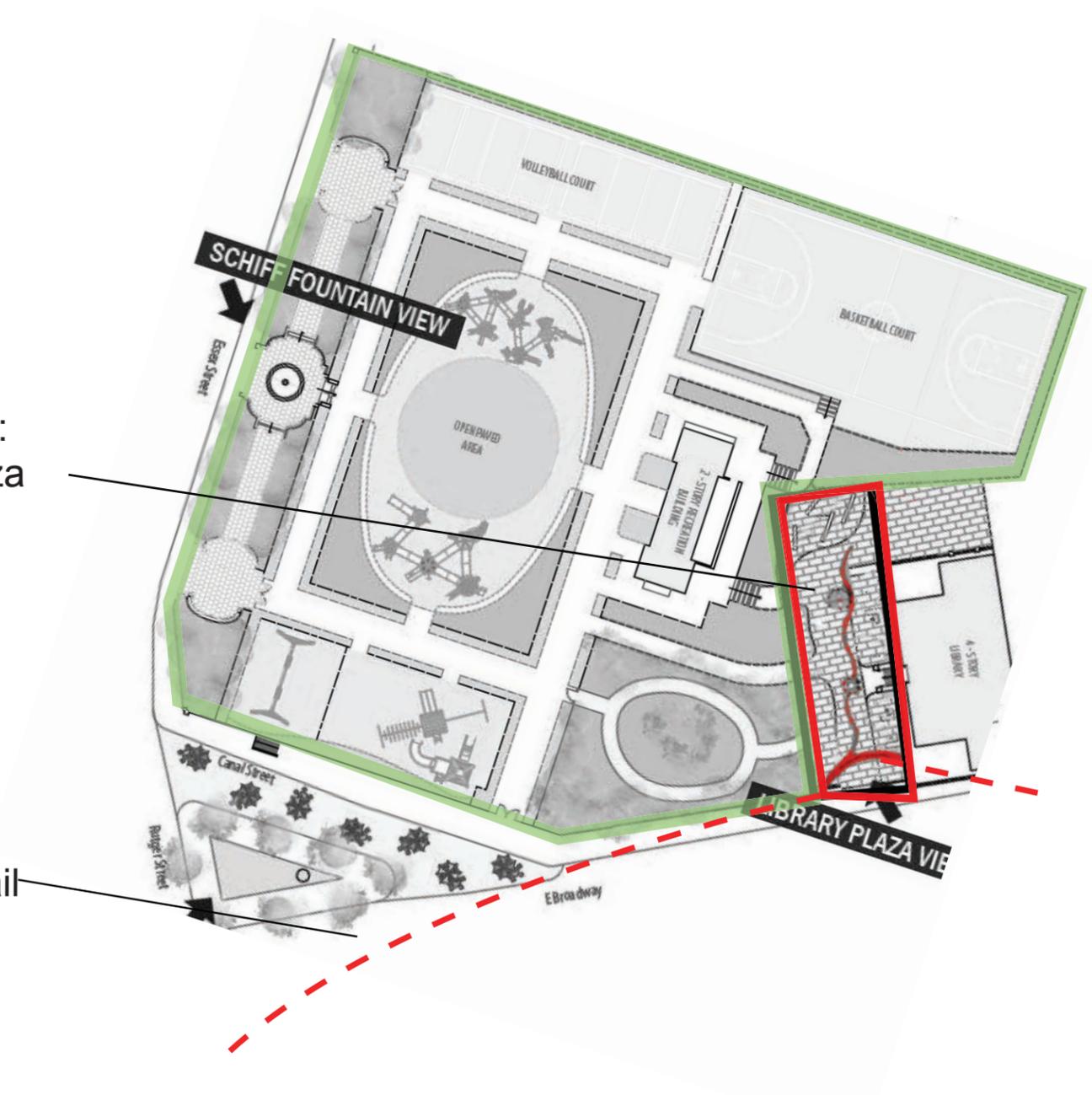
Anina Gerchick

Seward Park Public Art Project



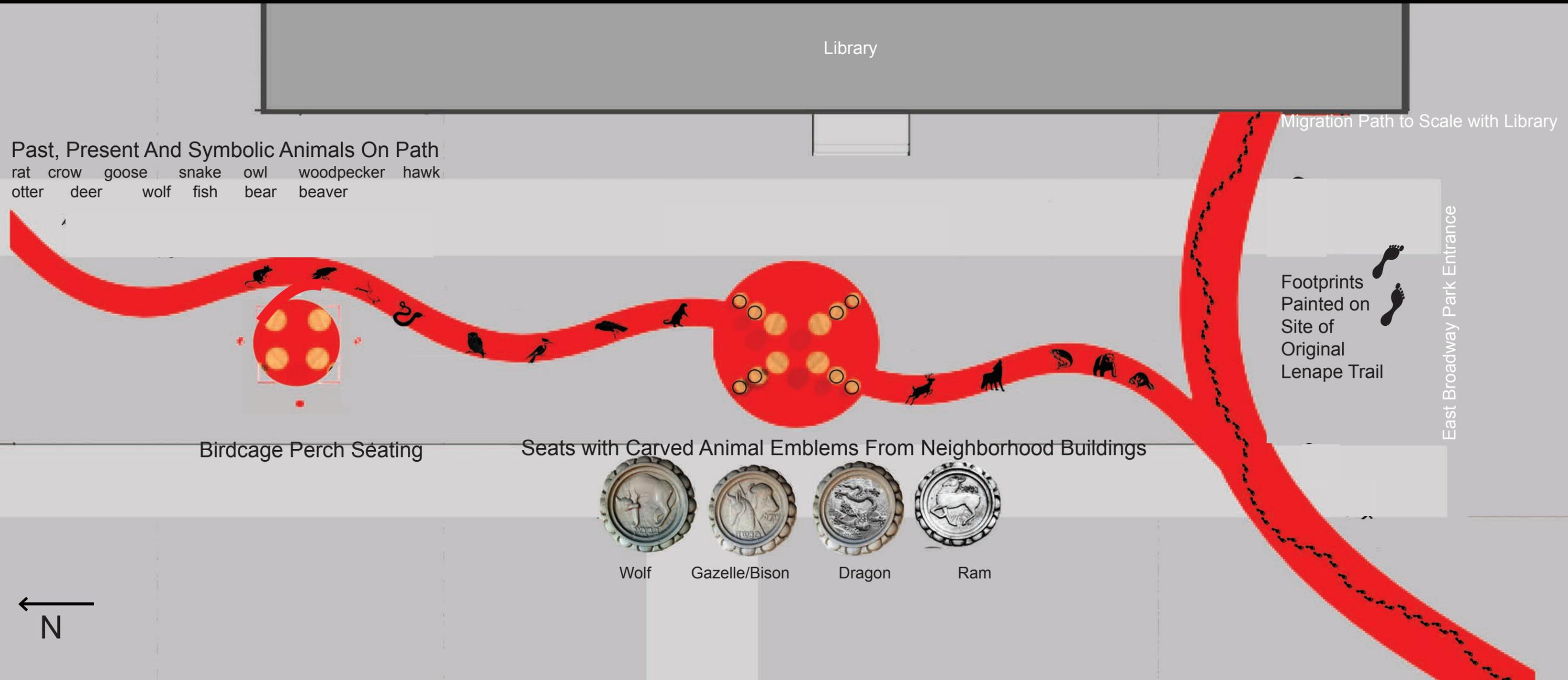
Project Site:
Library Plaza

Lenape Trail



Migration Paths

Plan View

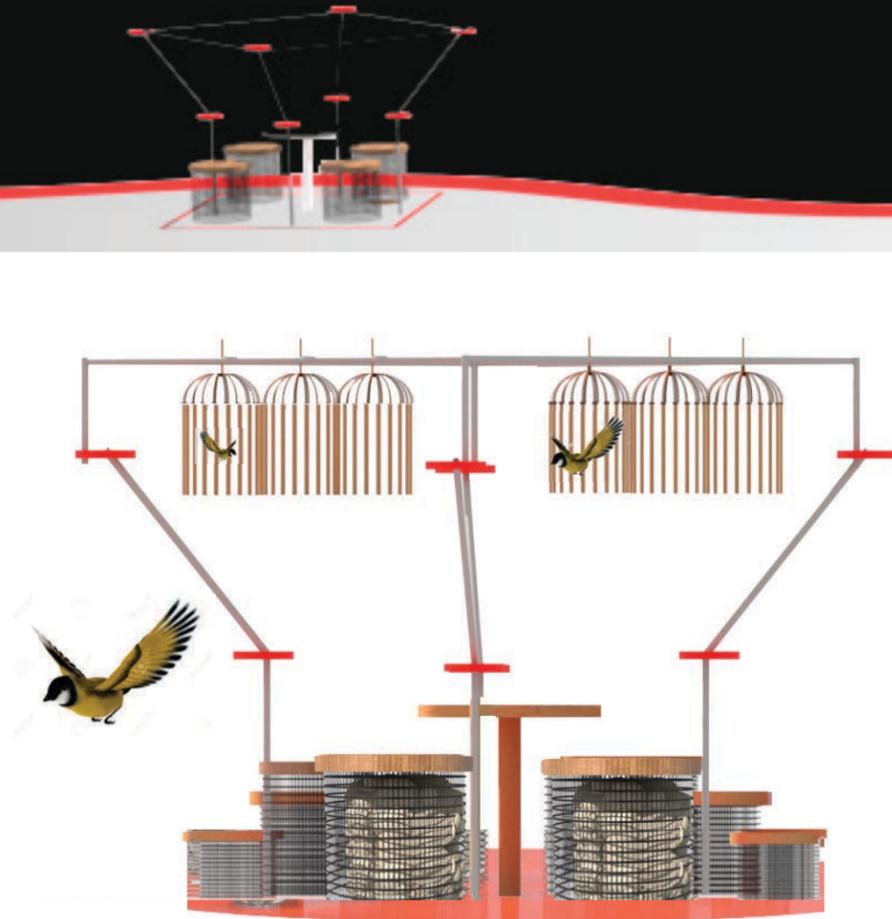


Living Songbirds (Brought By People)

Carved Animal Symbols (Seats)

Painted Native Animal Silouettes(Paths)

You can enter the Library Plaza from East Broadway, or from the north or west sidewalks through the park. From the East Broadway entrance you first encounter the footprint covered red path and then follow the next curvy path painted with silouhetted native animals. There will be labels to name them. Walking towards the library steps you encounter seats and tables on a red circle. Four of these are covered with carved images of exotic animals found on neighborhood facades. Proceeding north on the painted path you see the next red circle of seating. This one has a metal armature that rises above the seats and if you are there in the morning you may find people hanging their birdcages for songbirds sitting around or playing games. After school students congregate here as they come and go from the library or cross the park. All is designed to invite people to linger in this gathering place and enjoy the cultures, histories and shared space



Birdcage Perch with Seating
Encouraging Community gathering
Bringing songbirds to park in the morning is a Chinese tradition and neighborhood practice



Seating and Tables
Traditional Chinese and Hebrew animal emblems carved into cedar seaing camel, tiger,dragon, ram, cobra

Two Red Ground Paths

1. Footprints trace the original Lenape hunting trail-
2. Discover native animals past and present as you walk through the library plaza



Migration Paths

Chinese and Hebrew Animal Symbols on Neighborhood Facades



Hebrew Tribal Symbols

Chinese Zodiac Animal Symbols



Mountain Goat



Dragon



Rat



Tiger



Bialystoker building doorway 228 East 6th Broadway

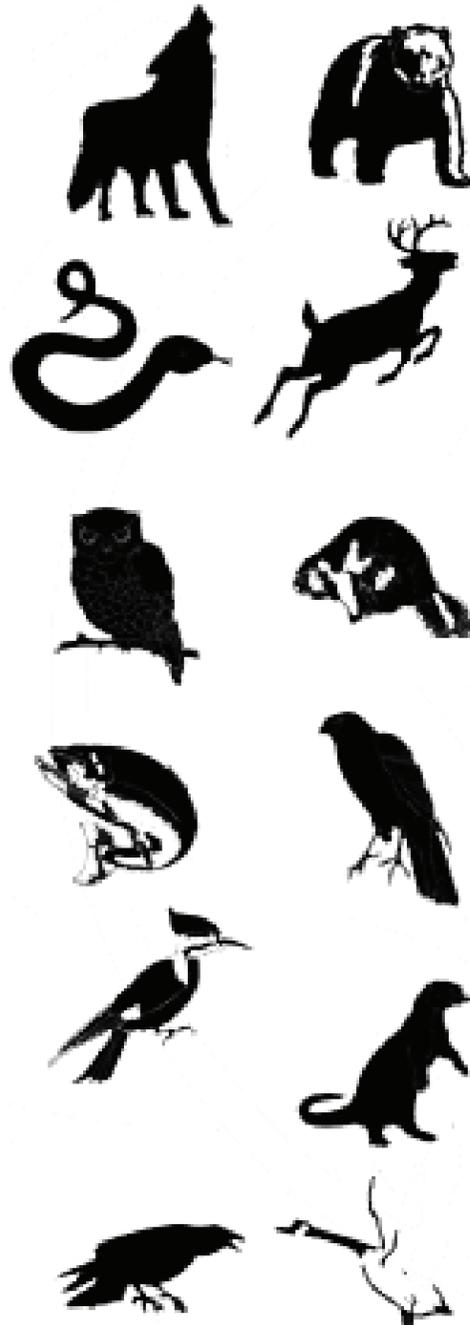


Mahayana Buddhist Temple Canal Street

Migration Paths

Natural History in Animal Imagery

Native Lenape Indian Zodiac Animals



Pre-colonial Native Animals

Native Mammals

- Meadow Vole
- White-footed Mouse
- Deer Mouse
- Southern Flying Squirrel
- Eastern Gray Squirrel
- Masked Shrew
- Eastern Cottontail
- Raccoon
- Beaver
- Eastern Chipmunk
- Big Brown Bat
- Red Bat
- Hoary Bat
- Striped Skunk
- Eastern Mole
- White-tailed Deer
- Dog

Native Amphibeans

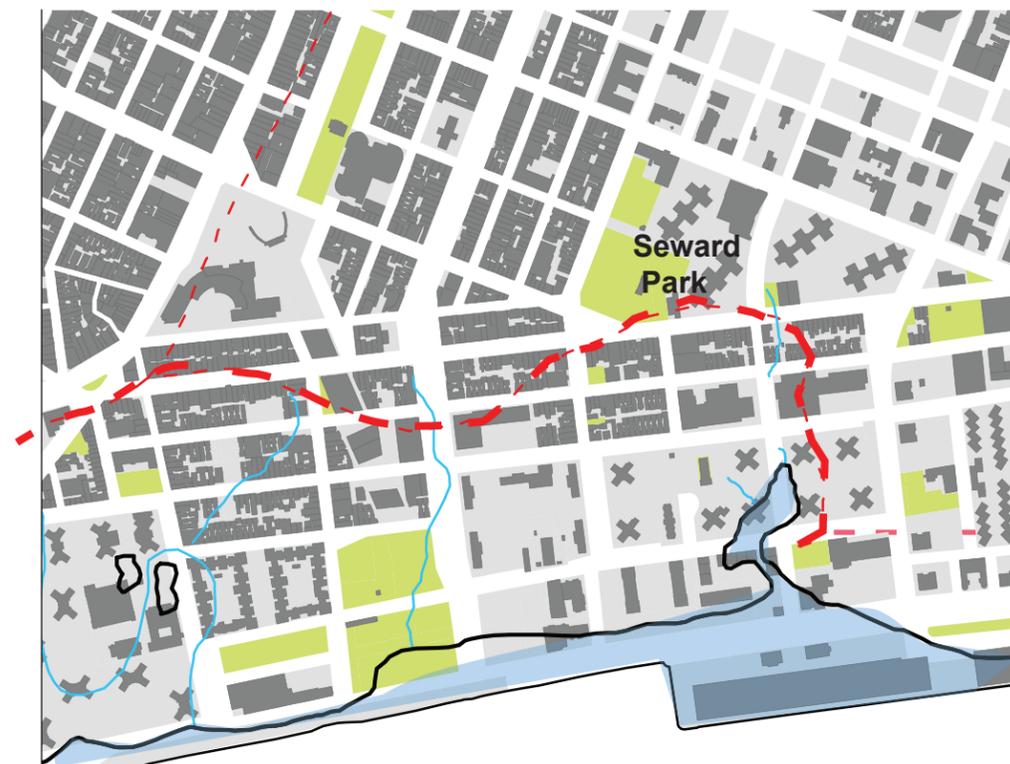
- Redback Salamander
- Green Frog
- Bullfrog
- Spring Peeper
- Red Spotted Newt
- Eastern Spadefoot Toad
- Marbled Salamander
- Two Lined Salamander
- Spotted Salamander
- Northern Gray Treefrog
- Wood Frog
- Blue Spotted Salamander
- Southern Leopard Frog
- Dusky Salamander

Native Birds

- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Northern Flicker
- American Crow
- Common Raven
- Passenger Pigeon
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Brown Thrasher
- American Robin
- Wild Turkey
- Cedar Waxwing
- Ruffed Grouse
- Canada Warbler
- Purple Finch
- American Kestrel

Native Reptiles

- Snapping Turtle
- Northern Water Snake
- Brown Snake
- Eastern Milk Snake
- Eastern Painted Turtle
- Eastern Worm Snake
- Spotted Turtle
- Eastern Hognose Snake
- Eastern Box Turtle
- Eastern Ribbon Snake
- Timber Rattlesnake
- Northern Ringneck Snake
- Common Musk Turtle



Lenape Hunting Trail

Common Contemporary Animals



Song Birds at Hua Mei Bird Garden in Sara D. Roosevelt Park



Songbirds give this culture opportunity for Community gathering

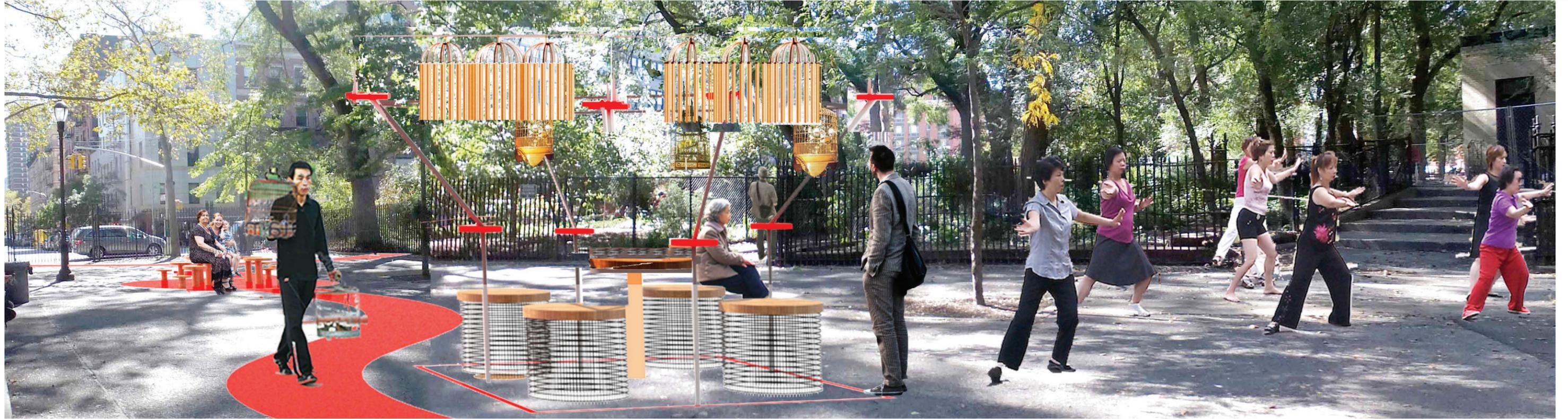


Chinese residents gather in the morning to hang their song birds in bamboo cages
The birds are in training for singing competitions
Migration Paths will provide a designated area for cherished tradition while providing seating for others during the day



Migration Paths

South View Morning and Afternoon

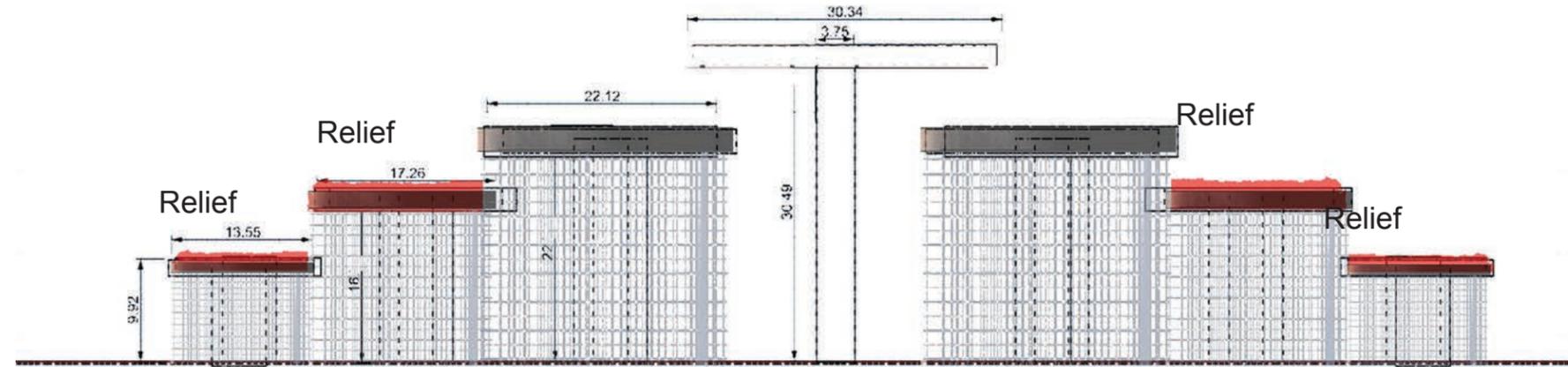


Migration Paths

Structures and Dimensions

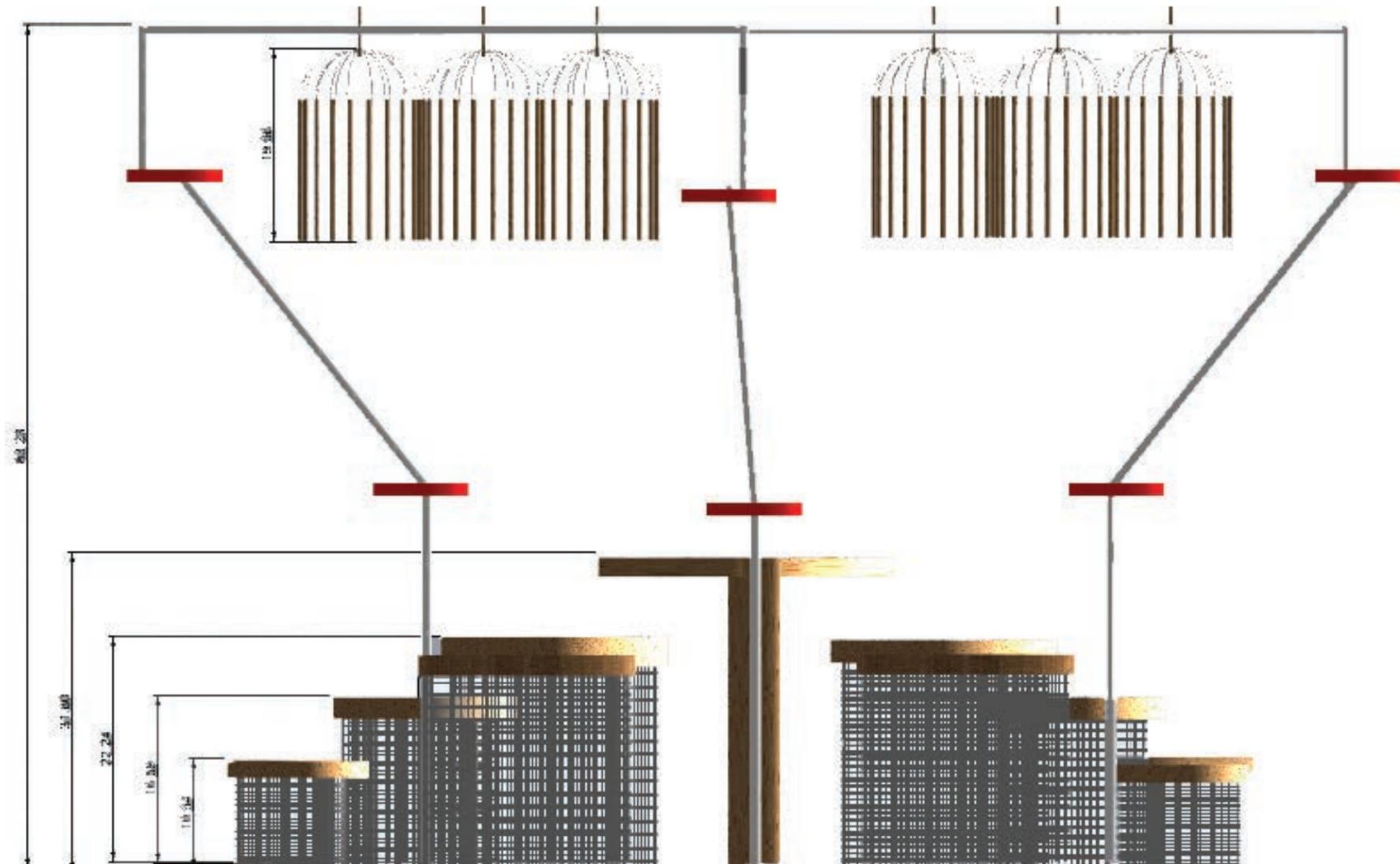
Seating and Tables

Four Carved Cedar Seats One Table
Four Flat Cedar Seats Over Gabions



Birdcage Perch Seating and Armature

Four flat cedar seats and one table
Metal tubing armature for Birdcages



Gabions: Stone-filled wire mesh
Support for seats
Easy Installation and Removal

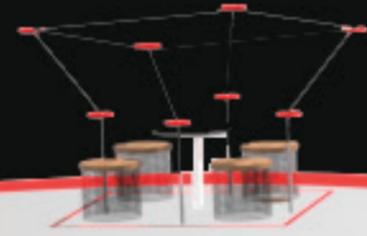
Migration Paths

Perspective View



Migration Paths

Elevation Panorama



Migration Paths Seward Park Public Art Proposal

Anina Gerchick 11/13/2016

The convergence of natural and cultural history in Seward Park neighborhood is the driving force of my public art proposal for Seward Park. This project creates a narrative with culturally iconic animals that represent the convergence of histories of the Lower East Side. The came to my attention several years ago when I realized that this neighborhood is part of my own history. I was called upon to testify at the Landmarks Commission hearings when they were considering the fate of the Bialystocker Building at 228 East Broadway, because that building's architect was my grandfather, Harry Hurwit. (During that period beginnig in the 1930s he also designed the Chinese Pagoda located at Mott and Canal Street). I got to know the building and saw its amazing doorway with carved depictions of the twelve tribes of Israel, full of desert animals. I noticed that the neighborhood is full of animal representations from the diverse cultures that reside here. First I saw the buildings, then signage, then the people who come out in the morning with their songbirds, the way others come out with their dogs. I consulted the Mannahatta Project maps of the area and discovered that the native Lenape Indian hunting trail crosses Seward Park at the library plaza. I thought about all the animals who lived here in the Lenape era. and those who live here now. That culture has left representations of its own twelve 'zodiak' animals consisting of those native to this region. Nearby Chinese buildings have signs and carvings of their zodiak animals along with their signature dragons. These overlap with the Hebrew representations of their twelve tribes. All these are symbols imported from immigrant cultures. Considering the convergence of so many histories on this site I decided to manifest them in this public art project as a means to create a cultural hub and to enliven the space. In this part of Seward Park that has no seating, I plan for seats and tables, flexible usage and areas that invite congregation. The large set of imported and native animal representations in the neighborhood, past, present and symbolic, presents a means to weave a narrative of place that includes and interests many people in the park.

Migration Paths, spans the site in front of the Seward Park Library. The length of the ground plane is defined by red pathways and two seating locations. There is flexibility of usage for people of different ages and backgrounds. Many children with parents, and students come through here to enter the library and hang out after school. Older people will be encouraged to use this plaza for their recreation too, with the offering of seating and tables for games. The place for hanging songbirds in the morning might also be used by other people for chinups in the afternoon. The creation of a usable public space imprinted with multi-cultural animal imagery prompts thoughts about shared nature and culture. The unique urban fabric of a neighborhood, dense with signs and symbols of history, is united through animal imagery. In this project, painted, carved and living animals inhabit this site together and invite people's congregation here.

My Proposal for Migration Paths consists of three elements. It uses the idea of the animals of the neighborhood, both real and recalled, to represent a variety of traditional cultures that have immigrated to this location. The animal theme provides an accessible way to engage the public of all ages and backgrounds in Seward Park. It highlights the convergence of natural and cultural history in contemporary life on the Lower East Side.

The first element is a pair of painted red pathways. On top of these are black foot prints traversing a curving path near to the East Broadway entrance. These trace the the original Lenape Indian hunting trail that passed through this location after coming up from the nearby East River. The second red path diverges from the first and travels the length of the plaza in front of the library to link the entire site. This one is painted with silhouettes of native animals painted in black, as well as those of contemporary animal residents.

The second element rises from the ground as a circle of wooden seats/tables across from the library steps. Some of the surfaces have shallowly carved representations of animal imagery which are taken from building ornaments in the neighborhood, originating in traditions of communities like the Chinese and the Hebrew. This is an area where people can sit and congregate and can also use the surfaces as tables on which to play games or eat.

The third element, with a smaller circle of seating on the northern end of the site rises to a higher elevation by adding a perch for songbird cages. This is an invitation to practice the Chinese tradition of carrying songbirds outside in this neighborhood. The morning ritual here can be thought of as similar to the morning dog-walk in other cultures that creates its own society.

Migration Paths is a public art project unique to Seward Park. It provides seating and tables where there are none, flexible usage of the elements provided, and invitations to varied useage by people of all age groups and cultural backgrounds. The animal imagery included here reveals natural and cultural history and can engage congregation by many park users.

List of Proposed Supplemental Programs and Events:

1. A song event inviting birders of the neighborhood to present their bird's songs
2. An event with children to walk the neighborhood and mark/map the full extent of the original Lenape Indian trail that passes through the Seward Park site, as well as the 1609 coastline
3. An event to locate the animals that can be seen in the neighborhood- both real and in imagery
4. An event to make rubbings on paper from the relief carving symbols that are on seat surfaces

Materials

Paint for the pavement-
 Cedar wood with supporting metal plates for seats/tables
 Wire mesh for gabions filled with stones anchored to the ground.
 Wood surfaces will be bolted into them
 Metal tubes

Dimensions

1. Painted strip is 60 feet long and 3 to 4 feet wide
2. The diameter of the seating circle group 1 is 14 foot diameter.
 Seat dimensions are 13,17, and 22 inches.
 There are 13 seats/ tables. Four to Eight of them are covered with relief carvings
 The largest one is 30 inches in height and in 30 inch diameter
3. The second seating circle is 7 foot diameter
 With four seats with a 22 inch diameter and a table 30 inches high and in diameter
4. Eight steel rods.
 Four rods will be seven feet in height above the ground.
 Four rods suspended above the ground at seven feet elevation will be 5 feet long each

Weight

Gabions filled with stone=approx 200 - 300 lbs each
 Wood surfaces 25-50 pounds each

Installation recommendations

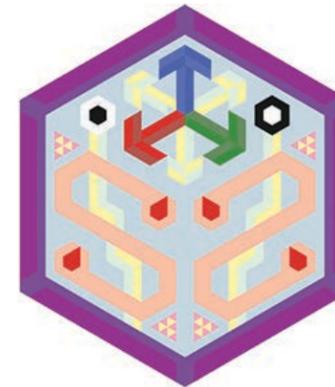
Contractor will pressure wash pavement to be painted
 The pathways will be painted with outdoor paint.
 I will paint the black animal and footprint silouhettes on top
 Contractor will install stone-filled gabions
 bolt precut wooden surfaces to their supports
 Estu Company will fabricate the animal relief discs by milling wood with a CNC router.
 They will be pre-assembled and delivered on-site
 The fabrication-shop will mill the wooden tops and construct the entirety of the project.
 Metal rods which will be anchored into cement footings to support weight of
 people who might see them as chin-up bars
 NO Birdcages provided

Maintenance recommendations

The materials and the structure will be stable for the year and could last several years.
 If any touch-ups needed, I live and work here in NYC and will make them

Proposed Budget

Zahner Company will donate engineering and the 3D scanning of the imagery
 ESTU NYC will do milling work and installation
 I will paint the images of animals in black on top of the red painted path



ESTÜ

Design Build

Seward Park Public Art at Library Plaza

Medallions- 4 pieces (metal backed linseed oiled cedar)	\$350 each
Tabletops- 2 pieces (metal backed linseed oiled cedar)	\$250 each
Stooltops- 8 pieces (metal backed linseed oiled cedar)	\$200 each
Wire and Rock Bases- 14 pieces	\$200 each
Painted Path- 350 square feet	\$1700
Birdcage Apparatus- 1 piece	\$1000
Installation-	\$1000
Anina Gerchick Artist Fee to paint Animal Silouhettes	\$1000
Total-	\$10,000.

Statement Describing Artist's Work In General

Anina Gerchick

My work as an artist spans several disciplines and media. I have been a painter throughout my life, often using a classical oil technique to paint portraits and scenes combining people, animals and landscape. I have also painted outdoor murals in this city for Public School 166, and have made mural paintings for theater and display. Several years ago I decided to take my work further out of the studio confines and into the public arena. I started to design public art projects for urban settings. I wanted to know more about issues of public space so I went through the three year program at the Spitzer School of Architecture at The City College of New York and earned a Master of Landscape Architecture degree. This education has helped me to understand the process of designing public space.

Instead of the “plop and drop” approach to putting sculpture into public space, I am interested in choreographing the experience of an enlivened place. As a painter, I now enjoy “painting” real space that can be occupied. I find my long-time interests as a painter returning to my work as a designer and sculptor. Several years ago I made a series of paintings inspired by the “Grottesque” carvings on buildings. These are images of transformations, creatures like griffins and winged horses and plants that sprout heads and feet. They were originally an invention of Ancient Rome, but you often see them in carvings and architectural ornaments all over New York City's older buildings. The Lower East Side has many examples of these to be found on carvings and bannister railings, on old theaters, brownstones and banks. The ideas driving my design as a painter and public artist have been influenced by thinking about how the convergence of cultural and natural history has shaped the city.

Currently, I work as a painter as well a designer of public art and landscape. My newest paintings, expand my longtime interest in portraiture and envision urban plazas crowded with assemblies of people. Whether they stand in protest or in solidarity is a question. I also paint outdoors on location- both in the city, and, as I did last summer, in a canoe or a rowboat on an Adirondak lake. This type of work is spontaneous and fast and is a balance to the time consuming, carefully researched and designed projects I propose for public art.

References

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Associate Professor The City University of New York
Phone: 212-650-8751
Email: denise@hoffmanbrandtprojects.com
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www.aninagerchick.com aninagerchickdesign.com

Painter
Public Artist
Landscape Designer

Education

- 2015 **Masters of Landscape Architecture** [The Spitzer School of Architecture](#) [The City College of New York](#)
1990 **Masters of Fine Art** [Milton Avery School of Art](#) [Bard College](#) Annandale-on-Hudson NY
1977-80 [The Art Students League](#) New York, NY Undergraduate work in Painting
1972-74 [Princeton University](#) Princeton, NJ Undergraduate Work in Liberal Arts

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Exhibition Career in Painting and Printmaking

Selected Exhibitions

- 2015 [Anina Gerchick Portraits](#) Gallery@ Rockefeller University New York NY
2014 [The Last Brucennial](#) 837 Washington Street New York NY
2012 [New Art](#) Hat Tavern Gallery Summit NJ
2011 [Thresholds and Guardians](#) Chasama 461 Gallery New York NY
2010 [Beauty for Ashes](#) Whitney Museum [Undercurrents](#) The Kitchen New York NY
2009 [Art Table](#) Woodward Gallery New York NY
2005 [Art in Ancient Palaces II](#) Camaver Kunsthau Torree Viscontea, Lecco, Italy
2000 [Masked Motives](#) The Durst Gallery New York NY
2000 [Rock Stars](#) DOC Gallery Athens GA
1999 [New Paintings](#) Caelum Gallery New York NY
1998 [Conversation Piece](#) Caelum Gallery New York, NY
1997 [The Velvet Coffin](#) Fay Gold Gallery Atlanta, GA
1995 [Artist in Residence Exhibition](#) Pallazzo Vagnotti University of Georg Cortona Program Cortona Italy
1994 [Faculty Show](#) Lamar Dodd School Of Art Gallery, University of Georgia Athens GA
1993 [Anina Gerchick Paintings](#) Union League Gallery New York NY solo
1992 [Faculty Show](#) Gallery of the Ohio University School Of Art Athens OH
1990 [MFA Exhibition](#) Sally Avery Gallery, Bard College Annandale NY
1986 [Young Realists](#) The Harbor Gallery Cold Spring Harbor NY
1985 [Bacchantes](#) Ariel Gallery, curated by Judd Tully, New York NY
1984 [Drawings](#) East Seventh Street Gallery New York NY
1982 [Anina Gerchick Paintings](#) Centro Cultural Do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
1981 [Salon Show](#) Salamagundi Club, New York NY
1980 [Salon Show](#) National Academy of Design New York NY

Public Art Murals and Design For Public Space

- 2016 **National Grant Award For Emerging Professionals in Landscape Architecture**
2006 [Reading Garden Mural](#) The Richard Rodgers School of Arts and Technology PS166 New York NY
2010 [Rejuvenation Staiions](#) Public Art proposal for 125th Street 2010 Lower Manhattan Community Council
2012 [Yoga Park Design](#) Baisley Park Queens NY
2014 [Stream Daylighting](#) design project for NYCHA Wagner Housing New York NY
2015 [Recreation/ Drainage](#) project for NYCHA Gowanus Houses New York NY
2016 [Yoga/Meditation Community Platforms](#) Flux Art Fair Marcus Garvey Park Harlem NY

Landscape Architecture

- 2014 **The Morningside Area Alliance:** research mapping, planning
2015 **The Gowanus Canal Conservancy** internship: research, mapping, graphics
2013 & 2015 **Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architecture** : renderings for project proposals, graphics
2015 **Wisniewski Landscape Architecture** : CAD construction drawings

University Teaching

- 2002-2006 **New York Academy of Art** New York, NY Instructor of Painting
2002 **PS 87 Art Instructor** New York NY
1992-1994 **The Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia** Athens GA Adjunct Professor of Painting and Drawing
1991 **Ohio University, School of Art,** Athens,OH Adjunct Professor of Painting and Drawing

Scenic Painting for Theater and Display

- 2010 **Henri Bendels Fifth Avenue** New York NY window display painting
2009 **Juilliard School Theater** New York NY Scenic Painting for Theater
2009 **US Air Headquarters,** Phoenix AZ Hudson River Landing Banner
2008 **Woodward Gallery/Gourmet Garage** New York NY Window paintings display
2006 **P.S.166 The Richard Rodgers School of Arts and Technology** New York NY *Reading Garden Mural*
2004 **F.Scott's Restaurant** New York NY Mural
2000 **Shore House,** Athens, GA Mural
1989 **Darden House** Montclair NJ Mural

Artist Residencies

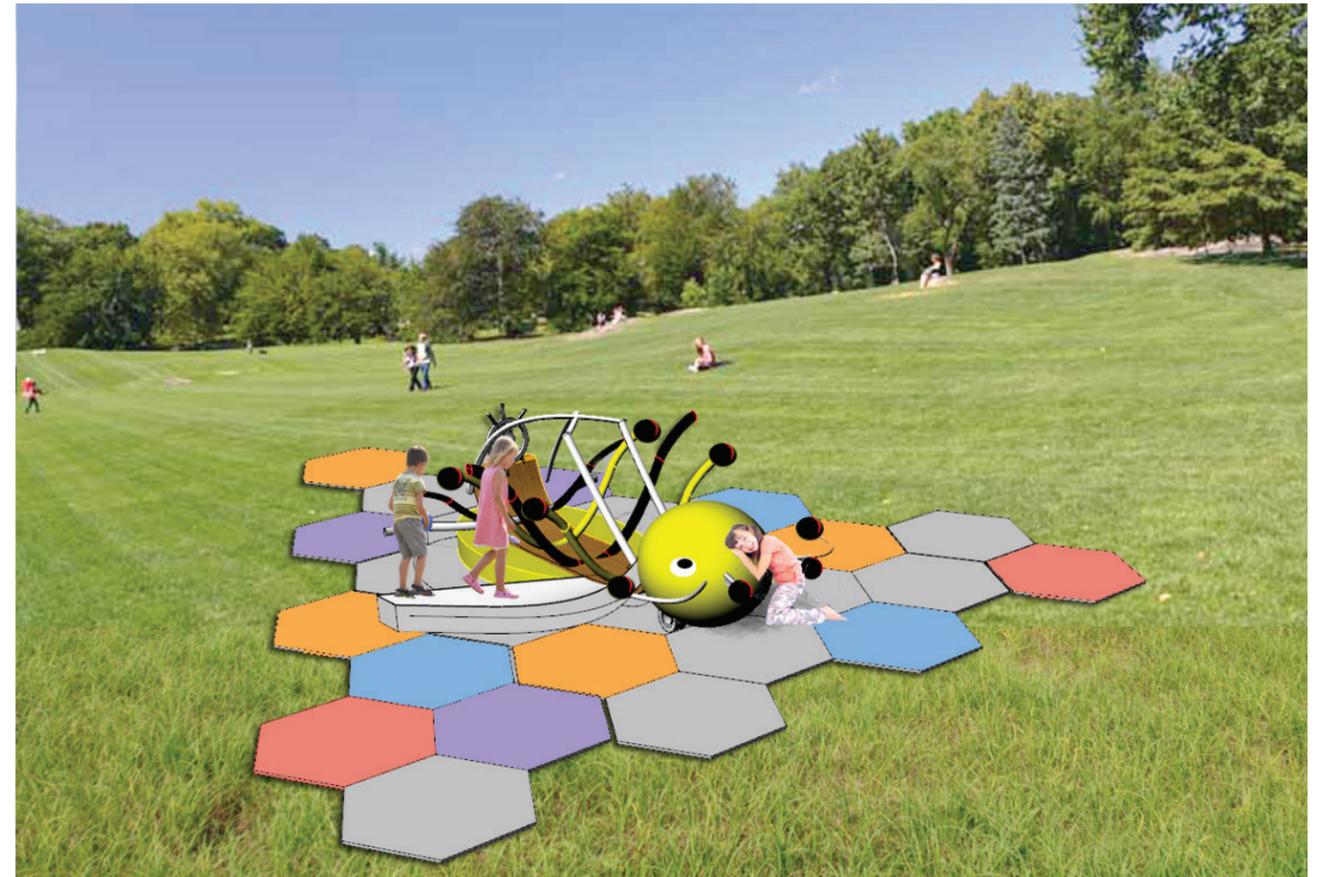
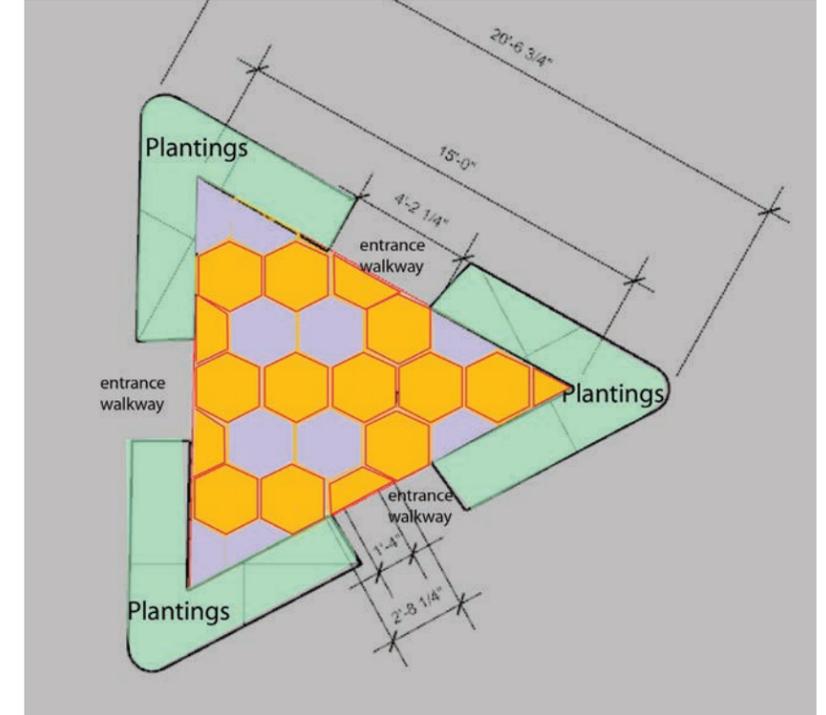
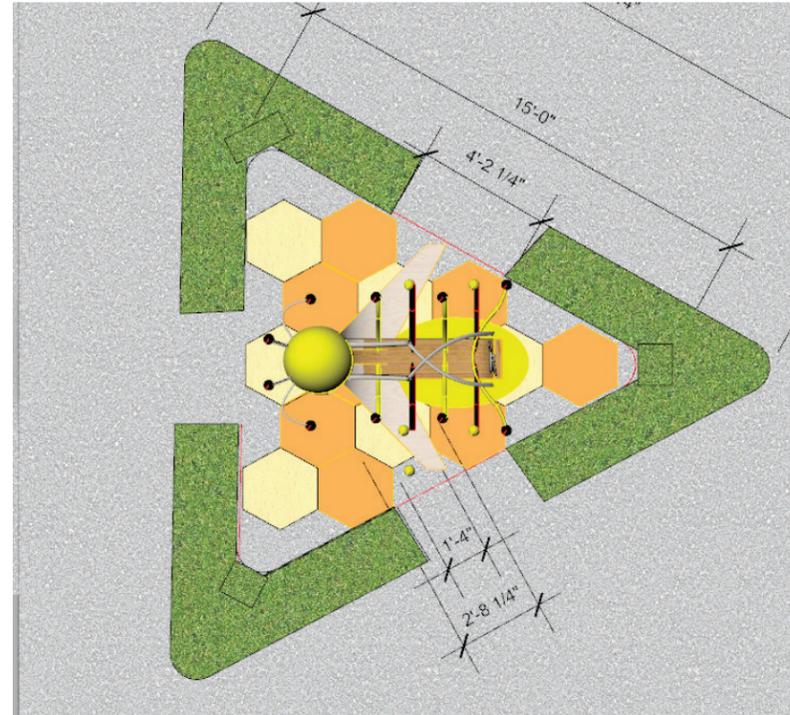
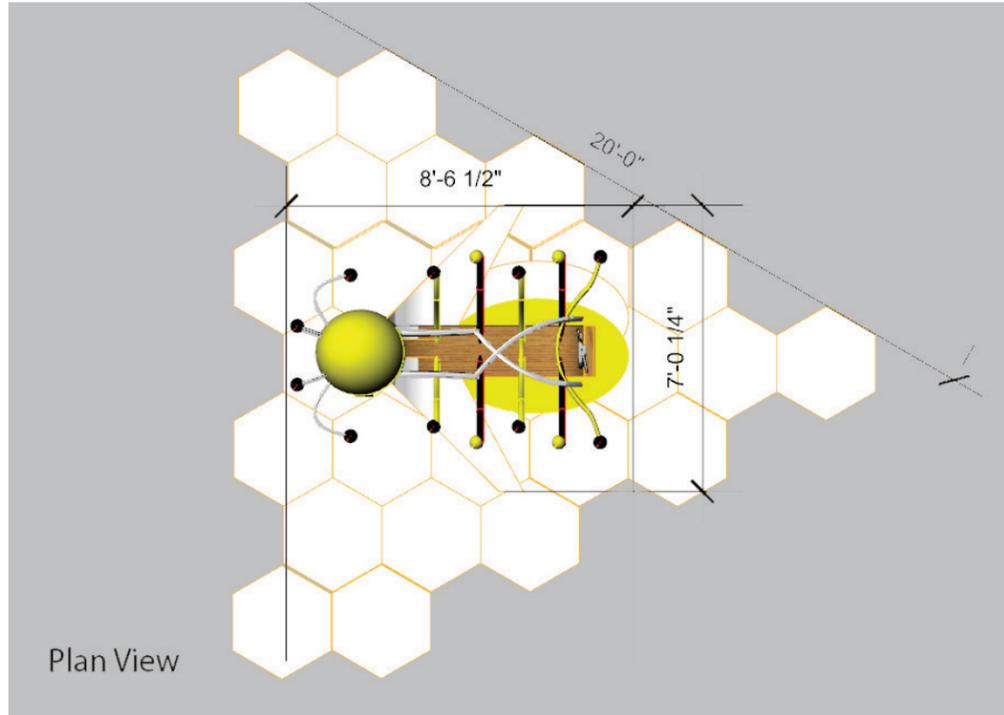
- 2010 The American Academy in Rome, Rome, Italy,
1995 University of Georgia, Cortona Program, Cortona Italy,

Selected Publications

- 2014 ***The Last Brucennial***
<http://www.artinamericamagazine.com/news-features/interviews/the-last-brucennial-the-interview>
2011 ***Bed Check: Everything's tip-top at New Jersey's Grand Summit Hotel*** [The Washington Post: Lifestyle July 22.](#)
2010 ***Thresholds and Guardians Exhibit Anina Gerchick***
<http://www.goartkids.com/2011/06/anina-gerchick.html>, June, 16.
2010 ***Beauty for Ashes, Undercurrents: Experimental Ecosystems in Recent Art***, curated the Whitney Independent Program
[Pablo Helguera Archive blog.](http://pablohelguera.net/2010/05/beauty-for-ashes-2010/) <http://pablohelguera.net/2010/05/beauty-for-ashes-2010/>, May

Anina Gerchick Public Art Projects

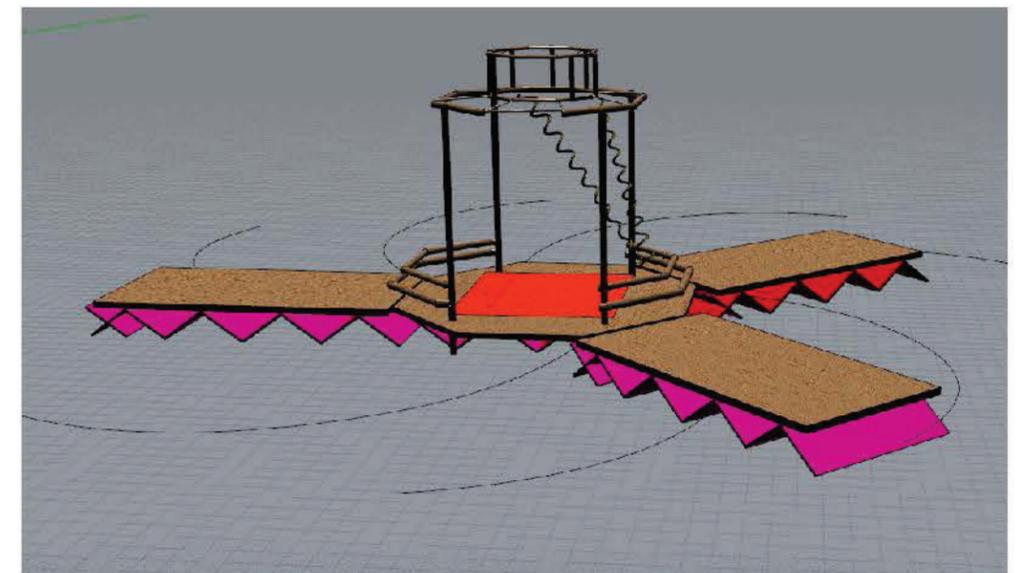
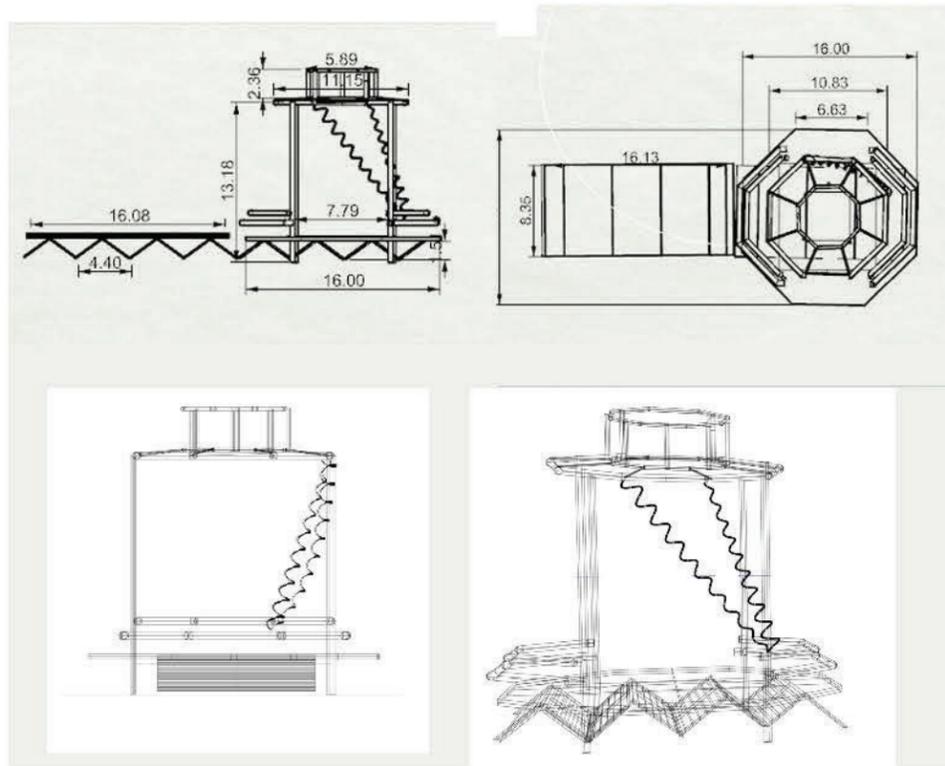
Children's Bumble Bee Triangle Athens Georgia 2016



Anina Gerchick Public Art Projects



Design for Flux Fair Public Art Projects
 artinfluxharlem.com 2016



Anina Gerchick

Anina Gerchick Public Art Projects

Rejuvenation Stations
Morningside Park NYC 2015



Design for Group Practice Platform and Public Recreation Space for NYC Project
2012



Yoga Park in Queens Housing



Anina Gerchick Paintings



Adirondaks Lake oil on wood 16 x 20 inches 2016



Broadway Bridge 2008 oil on canvas 20 x 24 inches



Simoe and Hubert oil on canvas 2004 30 x 36 inches



CCNY Student Portraits oil on canvas 20 x 24 inches each 2015

Anina Gerchick Paintings



Birdseye oil on canvas 36 x 48 inches 2016



Air Guitar 24 x 20 oil on canvas 2008



Leopards 60 x 48 inches oil on canvas 2013



Drone Catchers oil on copper 18 x 24 inches 2016



Departure: Arrival 50 x 24 in oil on canvas 2007