

*Open Office Hours with the Commissioner: Public Art 12/9/16*

*Notes*

*Resources:*

- *Department of Transportation: Weekend Walks, DOT Art Program: Can permit some spaces beyond SAPO*
- *Times Square Alliance, Make Music New York – Successful models. Scale them.*
- *Models for public space (projecting onto walls) in Sao Paolo, South Africa, etc.*
- *Public access media/social media should also be considered as public spaces*
- *A percentage of time on digital signs used for advertising should be used for art*

*Suggestions regarding solutions:*

*Sharing information:*

- *RECURRING MOTIF THROUGH ALL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS: Need centralized place for exchange of information/resources/needs*
- *Website?*
- *How is this legible? Legible for whom? City agencies/Geography/Discipline/Agency dominion*
- *Hire a staffer who functions as a kind of ombudsman who helps public art to happen across agencies- Support to secure permits, etc. MOME has this model for film that helps with permitting across agencies, etc.*
- *One central databased like Spacefinder that tells:*
- *Space*
- *Agency for each function in a space – food, power, etc.*
- *Permitting process*
- *Contact information for each agency*
- *Public art opportunities like the Plaza Program*

*NOTE: Make Music New York is developing a data-base kind of like this for musicians*

*Process Support:*

- *Cornell Arts Worker Institute: Spaces, health care, housing, professional development – All centralized in one space and have people stationed to help artists*
- *Create a Public Art District, wherein permits not necessary or streamlined and coordinated*
- *Create a “public art/public cultural programming” category for all permits at all permitting agencies including Transportation, Parks and Recreation and SAPO.*
- *Create a solitary “Public Art Permit” that cuts across agency designations including Transportation, Parks and Recreation and SAPO.*
- *Create a new position like a “Public Cultural Programming Ombudsman” who works with all who call to help them navigate the process of permits, etc. to create public cultural programming. Use the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment model for film.*
- *Certify organizations to be conduits to for artists to work through to create public art/ cultural programming*
- *Work with the NYPD to develop a shared understanding and response to public art/ cultural programming*
- *One central databased like Spacefinder that tells:*

- *Space*
- *Agency for each function in a space – food, power, etc.*
- *Permitting process*
- *Contact information for each agency*
- *Can an agency provide umbrella insurance into which artists pay?*
- *Example by a non-profit: Times Square Alliance uses an umbrella policy for low-liability projects*

*Collaboration:*

- *Support from DCLA to support capacity building/mentoring program between big and small organizations. Think about exchange as a two-way street. (Came up in Brooklyn Borough Workshop)*
- *Have Ghana Think Tank do a workshop/training for small organizations to mentor big organizations*
- *Brooklyn Botanical Garden: Have had success in partnerships/programs between small and medium/big organizations. BBG is interest in this and attended CreateNYC Open Office Hours as a networking opportunity.*
- *Co-fund projects with other governments, embassies, etc.*
- *Integrate artists into public agencies' processes – for outreach, engagement, design of processes and outputs*
- *How can artists develop processes through which agencies apply to host the artist-in-residence and collaborate on a project?*
- *Develop a way to equitably resource all the Plazas*
- *Combine this support with capacity-building for the BIDs and Merchant Associations or the Libraries*
- *Develop a challenge grant for the Mayor, Council Members, Borough President to all put into public cultural programming*
- *Give Parks a cultural budget*
- *Expand Transportation's cultural budget*
- *Have City building and other space RFPs integrate culture, artists and cultural strategies into the required proposal*

*Conceptual framing:*

- *Frame artists as helpful to the city*
- *Frame public art as inciting dialogue and thus connecting people to each other*
- *Frame public art as creating a dialogue (possibly a contentious one) about public space and our relationship to public space as well as our to each other and our relationship to the government*
- *Develop a vision for a specific percentage of public space being required to be used for public good (cultural or otherwise)*

*Question: How to evaluate the Cultural Plan's effectiveness/impact?*

- *Replicate the Social Impact of the Arts study five years later? Has social impact increased?*