

BROADWAY: 1000 Steps

West Harlem Climate Action Kiosk

PROJECT SUMMARY

West Harlem Climate Action Kiosk is a collaborative project, building on and strengthening community engagement, creativity, and resilience.

PROJECT DETAILS

GOALS

The kiosk will:

- Be a hub for local community issues related to climate resiliency, including emergency preparedness
- Be the destination for community-specific information before and after an emergency
- Demonstrate climate resiliency ideas with innovative components integrated into the kiosk structure
- Serve as a platform for other topics defined by the community, such sharing information about current social and political issues, highlighting relevant historical events, creating a resource exchange program
- Create an activated public space and potentially be a link in a series of hubs throughout the neighborhood

PROCESS

Elliott Maltby will collaborate with community members to create a dedicated space for climate action information and solutions. Design charrettes will advance the hub ideas generated by WE ACT's North Manhattan Climate Action Plan. The charrette process will also determine the goals and content of the kiosk and investigate ways for it to be a part of a larger neighborhood network of public information exchange sites. WE ACT and CALL will provide support and assistance for the project's development and execution.



Concept collage for the kiosk
[not intended to illustrate a specific design]

MALTBY & THE WORKING GROUP WILL

- Define community-specific goals for the kiosk
- Look at precedents to understand how others have approached this idea, including visiting local projects in person
- Research and physically explore the neighborhood's open space looking at both historical and existing ecologies
- Explore conceptual and physical design ideas
- Imagine how ideas of climate resiliency can be integrated into the kiosk structure itself
- Discuss and shape activities and programs housed in the kiosk
- Determine the location of the first kiosk, and consider possible future locations
- Consider how and by whom the kiosk will be maintained over time

BACKGROUND

The Kiosk grew out of a November 2014 CALL/WORKSHOP with community members at SoHarlem. Its core concept was inspired by WE ACT's Northern Manhattan Climate Plan published in 2015. After years of growing social inequality in the city and no clear plan for addressing the mounting climate crisis, residents of Northern Manhattan, in partnership with WE ACT for Environmental Justice, have created their own plan to confront the impacts of climate change by addressing long-standing disparities in political and economic power.

THE PEOPLE



Topography map of Manhattanville with grant + Manhattanville NYCHA campuses

Elliott Maltby is a founding partner of thread collective and a Visiting Associate Professor in the Graduate Architecture and Urban Design program at Pratt Institute. thread collective is an multi-disciplinary design studio that explores the seams between building, art, and landscape, stitching the diverse elements of the built environment to their ecological and social context. Elliott has a Master's in Landscape Architecture. She believes that art and design can improve the sustainability and vitality of urban public space; she is particularly interested in how communities can transform and take ownership of overlooked and peripheral sites throughout New York City.

Her current work includes lowlands, a research and design proposal looking at improving the

social and ecological performance of the Red Hook House's open space through green infrastructure. A lowlands built project, she designed the first farm on NYCHA property, and is working two others in Brownsville and Bayview. Additionally, she has been an active board member of iLAND [interdisciplinary Laboratory for Art Nature and Dance] since 2009. With founder Jennifer Monson, she has been developing an innovative platform for cross-disciplinary collaboration to research New York City's urban ecology. **Other collaborators** include research scientists from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health Dr. Patrick Kinney, Diana Hernández, PhD, Gina S. Lovasi PhD, as well as Columbia Earth Institute's Dan Bader, PhD.

WE ACT for Environmental Justice is a Northern Manhattan community-based organization whose mission is to build healthy communities by assuring that people of color and/or low-income participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. As a result of our ongoing work to educate and mobilize the more than 630,000 residents of Northern Manhattan on environmental issues affecting their quality of life, WE ACT has become a leader in the nationwide movement for environmental justice, influencing the creation of federal, state and local policies affecting the environment.

ABOUT CALL

CALL/City as Living Laboratory combines the skills and perspectives of artists and designers with those of scientists and citizens to create public programs and projects that increase awareness and action around key environmental issues. Internationally renowned artist Mary Miss founded CALL in 2009, with the goal of harnessing the creative vision of artists and designers to combat the rapid deterioration of our environment. Trained as a sculptor, she has focused on creating works that reveal and explore a site's history, its ecology, and aspects of the environment that have gone unnoticed.

MARY MISS has reshaped the boundaries between sculpture, architecture, landscape design, and installation art by articulating a vision of the public sphere where it is possible for an artist to address the issues of our time. She has developed the "City as Living Lab", a framework for making issues of sustainability tangible through collaboration and the arts. She has collaborated with architects, planners, engineers, ecologists, and public administrators on projects as diverse as creating a temporary memorial around the perimeter of Ground Zero, marking the predicted flood level of Boulder, Colorado, revealing the history of the Union Square Subway station in New York City or turning a sewage treatment plant into a public space. A recipient of multiple awards, Mary Miss has been the subject of exhibitions at the Harvard University Art Museum, Brown University Gallery, the Institute of Contemporary Art in London, the Architectural Association in London and many more.