

April 25, 2013

## CALL FOR FELLOWS

### Under the Elevated: Reclaiming Space, Connecting Communities

Application Deadline: May 23, 2013

The Design Trust for Public Space, in partnership with New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), will award three fellowships for *Under the Elevated* in urban design, policy and graphic design.

#### Project Overview

The Design Trust for Public Space and the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) have partnered to launch *Under the Elevated: Reclaiming Space, Connecting Communities* a project that will explore opportunities to create new dynamic public spaces below NYC's elevated transit infrastructure. Working with community leaders, planners, architects, artists, and cultural organizations, the Design Trust and DOT will develop strategies to maximize the function and use of the millions of square feet of space underneath NYC's bridges, and elevated highways, subways, and rail lines. The project will produce design guidelines, as well as programming and policy recommendations that will inform the transformation of spaces citywide and around the world.

*Under the Elevated* will build on the success of the Design Trust's 2001 project, *Reclaiming the High Line*, in partnership with Friends of the High Line. This planning and feasibility study was credited with rescuing the structure from demolition and advanced strategies for transforming an abandoned elevated railway structure on Manhattan's West Side into the vibrant public space it is today.

#### Key Project Activities

##### *Study Sites / Propose Guidelines and Recommendations*

Using survey maps and a typological inventory developed by the Design Trust and DOT, the project team will select and study a sub-set of types of space beneath elevated transit infrastructure. Through research, analysis, and on-site documentation and interviews, the team will develop draft design guidelines, and programming and policy recommendations.

##### *Test Guidelines and Recommendations*

The project team will develop a means of testing the draft design guidelines, and programming and policy recommendations, through on-site community programs and temporary design interventions to gather public feedback. The team will use this feedback to finalize the guidelines and recommendations.

##### *Communicate Guidelines and Recommendations*

The project team will compile research, writing, and graphic documentation for inclusion in a final project publication. The team will promote the findings through speaking engagements.

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## Fellowship Overview

Design Trust Fellows are leading professionals in their field, and are chosen for their expertise, experience, and strong qualifications. Fellows must have demonstrated ability to work both independently and collaboratively as well as have direct experience producing deliverables similar to those of the Fellow Description. Once selected, Fellows will play a lead role on projects that will have a real impact on the City. Design Trust projects require significant time commitments from Fellows to work with multiple stakeholders, develop implementable strategies and recommendations, and produce final deliverables. Fellows will be expected to devote approximately 1-2 days per week to the project, from early June to early November. A stipend will be awarded to the Fellow, commensurate with prior experience.

Firm principals and sole proprietors are encouraged to apply, understanding that the fellowship is time consuming and the compensation is modest. Professionals with full-time positions may apply if they have the support of their employers; recognition of firms can be arranged. Pairs of professionals may also apply to share a single fellowship. Students are not eligible to apply.

All applicants must have the legal ability to work in the United States and must be located in the New York City area for participating in meetings and events.

The Fellows for *Under the Elevated* will work closely with the Design Trust and DOT staff and interface at key milestones with the project's Advisory Committee. The work of the Design Trust's current Photo Urbanism Fellow will serve as an additional resource for the *Under the Elevated* Fellows.

## Fellowship Descriptions, Responsibilities, and Qualifications

### **Urban Design Fellow**

The Urban Design Fellow will be responsible for the research study of space under and adjacent to elevated transit infrastructure in collaboration with the Policy Fellow. This entails developing a subset of the typological site inventory into a set of detailed site studies for the purpose of proposing design guidelines and programming recommendations. The Fellow will be expected to conduct on-site documentation of the subset of sites and interviews with community stakeholders, as well as produce detailed drawings. Candidates should have at least five years of relevant work experience and a degree in architecture, urban design, or a related field. Preference will be given to candidates who have conducted research and developed projects related to public plazas, streetscapes, and infrastructure. Knowledge of lighting systems and the field of public art is a plus. Additionally, candidates should have significant experience in: graphically communicating and writing about complex issues for a broad public audience; working directly with and presenting to clients (public-sector clients preferred); working on collaborative projects or in teams. Proficiency in CAD Software and Adobe Creative Suite is required.

Final deliverables will include design guidelines and programming recommendations, articulated in writing and supported by drawings. Process deliverables may include detailed documentations drawings, memoranda from interviews, visual presentations, and draft guidelines and recommendations articulated in the form of an outline for a site specific program and/or plans for an on-site temporary design intervention.

### **Policy Fellow**

The Policy Fellow will be responsible for the studying the current legal and regulatory structure of space under and adjacent to elevated transit infrastructure, to assist the Urban Design Fellow in developing the design guidelines and programming recommendations.

Additionally, the fellow will develop a set of policy recommendations for the future of spaces under elevated infrastructure citywide, taking into account varying community contexts. The Fellow will be expected to conduct research with all the agencies that have jurisdiction within the site inventory and conduct interviews with NYC government and community stakeholders. Candidates should have at least five years of relevant work experience and a degree in urban planning or a related field. Preference will be given to candidates who have conducted research and developed projects related to public plazas, streetscapes, and infrastructure. Additionally, candidates should have significant experience in: writing about complex issues for a broad public audience; working directly with and presenting to clients (public-sector clients preferred); working on collaborative projects or in teams.

The Policy Fellow's final deliverable will be a set of policy recommendations that articulate strategies for maximizing public use of space under elevated infrastructure. Process deliverables may include detailed outlines of legal and regulatory structures, memoranda from interviews, visual presentations, and draft policy recommendations.

### **Graphic Design Fellow**

The Graphic Design Fellow will be responsible for developing a graphic identity system for the project, supporting the Urban Design Fellow's programming and temporary design interventions with signage and other environmental graphics, and designing the final project publication. The Fellow will be expected to collaborate closely with the full project team from the start. Candidates should have at least five years of relevant work experience and a degree in Graphic Design or a related field. Preference will be given to candidates who have experience working in the public realm and at multiple scales, ranging from book design to wayfinding. Additionally, candidates should have significant experience in: graphically communicating complex issues for a broad public audience; working directly with and presenting to clients (public-sector clients preferred); working on collaborative projects or in teams.

Final deliverables will include programming materials, the final project publication, and related promotional material. Process deliverables may include design concepts, interpretations and visualizations of Urban Design and Policy Fellows' work, and draft designs for the programming materials, final publication, and related promotional material.

### Fellowship Benefits

Design Trust Fellows receive benefits that impact their immediate and long-term career:

- The opportunity to contribute their intellect and skills to producing real change in New York City's built environment.
- Introductions to and opportunities for significant engagement with policymakers, community leaders, and professionals from other disciplines
- A modest honorarium, typically around \$10,000, depending on the scope of work and experience of the Fellow
- Publication of their work (print and digital). Each Fellow will be given 20 copies of the print publication for their personal and professional use
- Participation in speaking engagements associated with the project or related topic (Design Trust events and programs organized by peer organizations)
- Credit as a Design Trust Fellow for life, including ongoing recognition on the Design Trust website (project/Fellowships pages) as well as invitations to Fellows events
- Honorary Membership in Design Trust Council, the leadership circle of the Design Trust for Public Space, for a year, including invitations to Design Trust Council events. For more information: <http://designtrust.org/about/council.html>

# DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE

## How to Apply

Candidates should send a cover letter specifying the Fellowship category they are applying for, a curriculum vitae and a sample of relevant work (PDF format) to [fellowship@designtrust.org](mailto:fellowship@designtrust.org). **The deadline to apply is May 23, 2013.**

Interviews will be scheduled May 28-31, 2013. Please note: candidates under consideration will be contacted by e-mail. No phone calls, please.

Selected applicants should be available to begin work the week of June 3, 2013, and remain available through early-November 2013.

## **About the Design Trust for Public Space**

The Design Trust for Public Space is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing design innovation to New York City's public spaces to make a more dynamic, livable and sustainable city. We create collaborations between city agencies, community groups and private sector experts to work on emerging design and policy projects that result in effective urban strategies. Learn more about [what we do](#) or [help make our work possible](#).

## **About the NYC Department of Transportation**

New York City Department of Transportation's mission is to provide for the safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible movement of people and goods in the City of New York and to maintain and enhance the transportation infrastructure crucial to the economic vitality and quality of life of our primary customers, City residents.