

Innovative Public Art

CNY Arts | Onondaga County Public Art Project



What is Public Art, and what makes a project “*innovative*?”

The [Syracuse Public Art Plan](#) defines Public Art as art works that “occur in the public realm – usually outdoors – are specific and relevant to their site, and seek to engage the public.”

Innovative projects should reflect their constituents’ aspirations for their communities, acknowledge their site’s past, present and future, and encourage thoughtful conversations among visitors.

Immersive projects are those which seek to incorporate the visitor into the project experience. This might include occupiable spaces, photo opportunities, or interactive displays.

Title: Immersive Cloud

Project Designer: Daekwon Park, MATR Studio

Location: S. Townsend and E. Genesee St.,
Syracuse NY

Year: 2017

When **immersed** in the installation, the surrounding environment including the trees, people, sky and the city are reflected, distorted, and multiplied before the eyes. The variety of spaces, formed under and above the undulating disks, can also function as a canopy or street furniture for the public to **rest, contemplate, converse, and play**. The sculpture's reflections, surface texture, and appearance **changes with the seasons**.

More information can be found [here](#).



Title: Threshold

Artist: Takafumi Ide

Location: Stone Quarry Hill Art Park

Year: 2007

Threshold uses thin metal wire to **frame views** and create an **immersive experience** of arrival to one's past and future. An LED light and speaker were installed in the lampshade, playing audio recorded in Utica during the artist's residency at Sculpture Space. The artist used an old mansion door as a reference to **remind visitors of the city's glory days**.

"The audience can't open the door, however, they **see through their future in the window** inside the sculpture." - Takafumi Ide (2011)

More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



Title: Clinton Serenade

Artist: Corky Goss, Chip Miller

Location: 100 Clinton Square/126 N. Salina St., Syracuse NY

Year: 2010

“Clinton Serenade” depicts downtown Syracuse in the early 20th century. The illuminating blues of the mural are **bright and eye-catching**, giving the illusion that the work is **glowing from within**.

The site of this Erie Canal-themed mural was specifically selected for **durability**. The North-facing wall is relatively protected from sun and weather exposure.

More information can be found [here](#).



Title: Lipe Cross-Arc

Artist: Brendan Rose, EchoMakes; Gear Factory;
Zeke Leonard

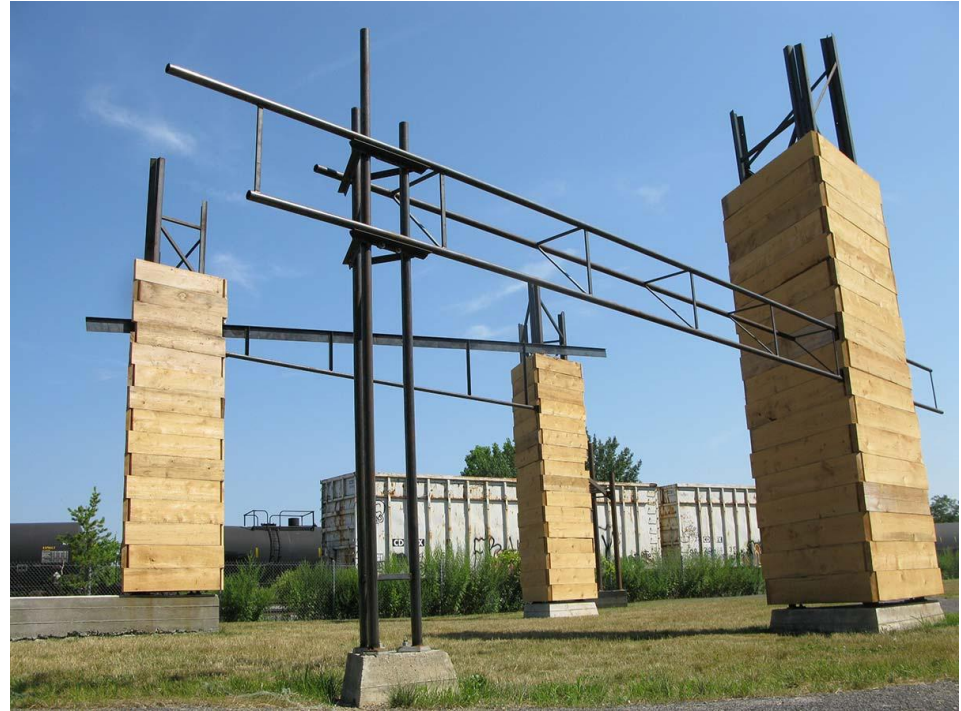
Location: Lipe Art Park, Syracuse NY

Year: 2017

“Cross-Arc” is meant to be climbed on and swung from by park-goers. The sculpture provides a **workout infrastructure** while **keeping with the art park’s post-industrial roots**.

“The design delineates a **multi-use space** with raw steel trusses and timber-board towers. Crossfit elements include pull-up bars, medicine ball toss walls, monkey bars, and jump-up benches.” - EchoMakes

More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



Title: Nature Scenes

Artist: TinyWPA

Location: Love Park, Philadelphia PA

Year: 2019

“Nature Scenes” is an **interactive mobile cart** installation holding dozens of books that families can access for free. The location in Love Park and seating provides an **easily accessible** opportunity for families to **come together, read, and enjoy the weather** outdoors.

More information can be found [here](#).



Title: On the Day They Come Home; Staying Power

Artist: Courtney Bowles, Mark Strandquist

Location: Fairhill-Hartranft, Philadelphia PA

Year: 2021

The project artists **collaborated with five women** whose lives were ensnared by long prison sentences. The monument “**highlights the struggles of the present**, while imagining the day when all women serving life are set free.” The crown-shaped wooden sculpture features monumental portraits produced with their collaborators, encircled by **etched poems and fragments of text** in which they recall or imagine liberatory days of release.

More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



Title: City Thread

Artist: SPORTS Collaborative: Greg Corso, Molly Hunker

Location: Chattanooga, TN

Year: 2018

“City Thread” is a **social connector**, creating opportunities for **informal leisure, communal gathering, and connection** among visitors. The zig-zagging structure ‘**implies a variety of smaller spaces** within the alley, breaking down the overall space into a series of more intimate spaces, or “**urban rooms**”, which are reinforced by a system of painted graphic shapes onto the alley surfaces.’

More information can be found [here](#).



Title: In every language there is Land

Artist: Nicholas Galanin

Location: Brooklyn Bridge Park, NYC

Year: 2023

Crafted out of the **same steel tubing used to build the U.S.-Mexico border wall**, Galanin's 30-foot-tall sculpture inspires viewers to **contemplate colonization and our relationships with Land** across generations, cultures, and communities. The letters are comprised of four layers of metal bars that create a **shape-shifting effect** as you view the sculpture from different angles. This **ambiguity** "illuminates the lack of borders and division in Galanin's Indigenous view of a united natural ecosystem and way of life."

More information can be found [here](#).



Title: China Gate

Artist: Sabrina Soong and Chinese Artisans

Location: 10th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia PA

Year: 1984

The “China Gate” is a symbolic entrance for Philadelphia’s Chinatown that **reflects a traditional Chinese architectural style** of the Qing dynasty. Philadelphia’s **sister city of Tianjin**, China, provided the ornamental roof tiles, while a team of Chinese engineers and artisans built pieces of the arch. Officials from Philadelphia and Tianjin dedicated the gate in early 1984 as a **commemoration of the friendship** between the two cities and as a **tribute to the cultural and economic contributions** of Philadelphia’s Chinese community.

More information can be found [here](#).



Title: El Gran Teatre de la Luna

Artist: Rafael Ferrer

Location: Fairhill Square Park, Philadelphia PA

Year: 1982

“El Gran Teatre de la Luna” depicts **vividly colored** aluminum acrobats tumble and cavort. The moon is recalled in the wheels and balls used as the acrobats’ props, and it becomes a symbol for the inspiration behind the performance. Observers have seen both **joy and frenzy in the postures and the extravagant epoxy colors**. Located in Fairhill Square Park, the work invigorates the space with a **sense of movement and playfulness**.

More information can be found [here](#).



Title: Creek Lines

Artist: Bridge Projects

Location: Plaza de Fundacion, San Antonio, TX

Year: 2022

Creek Lines **celebrates the path of the San Pedro Creek**. The line carved by these waters is represented by a cut in the sculpture canopy and on the ground in stainless steel. The 30 curved poles supporting the canopy represent the same line. Each pole represents one decade of Bexar County and San Antonio's 300-year modern history. At the base of each pole, a **plaque describes a single historical event** from the sequential decades. The canopy's faceted mirror finish **reflects its surroundings and activity beneath**, creating a **playful and contemplative sequence of color, imagery and motion**.

More information can be found [here](#).

