



# Artist's Guide to NYC Parks Public Art Sites



## Artist's Guide to New York City Parks Public Art Sites

Virtually any park in New York City can host a public artwork, and nearly one in ten parks has done so. This guide represents a small selection of our venues in an ever-expanding resource for artists wishing to exhibit in our parks.

We are especially interested in directing your attention to sites little programmed in the past, but which demonstrate promise and potential as community art hubs. These parks are in highly visible and well-trafficked locations, but exist in neighborhoods that have been underserved by cultural programming.

We seek vibrant and thought-provoking artistic projects that will beautify, energize, and enhance a space, and create social interactions while respecting existing uses. Artworks that are site-sensitive and responsive have proven to be especially effective.

The list within this guide is by no means definitive, and is the beginning of our effort to improve and serve all communities.

**To learn more or apply, visit the [NYC Parks Art & Antiquities website](#).**

## About NYC Parks' Art in the Parks Program

In 1967, the City first demonstrated its commitment to public art when Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs (then united as one agency) organized the group outdoor exhibit *Sculpture in Environment*. The intent was to use public space as an outdoor museum, letting works of art "loose in the city, to set them under the light of day where they intrude upon our daily walks and errands."

In the intervening decades, a pair of significant trends emerged. Previously untapped public spaces became coveted outdoor galleries in which to display contemporary art. The new forum provided a stage for emerging artists to display their work and reach wider audiences. Thousands of artists have exhibited their works in New York City parks, demonstrating an astonishing array of styles, forms, materials and conceptions.

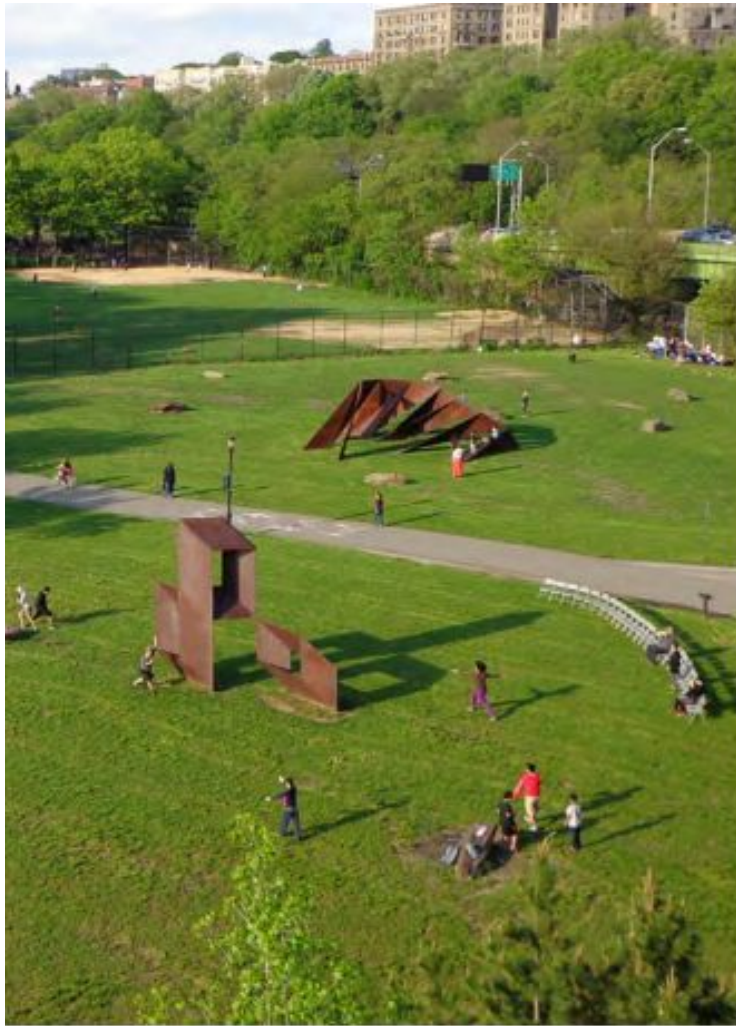
Their works range from steel constructions to installations made from an assortment of organic biodegradable media. These public installations have helped launch careers, and they have also showcased the work of long-established artists.

NYC Parks' Art in the Parks program has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art in parks throughout the five boroughs. Through collaborations with a diverse group of arts organizations and artists, we bring to the public both experimental and traditional art in many park locations. The works may be displayed in prominent flagship parks, neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and traffic islands. Temporary installations are defined by an exhibition period of less than one year, typically remaining on view for three to six months.

### **COVER, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**

Gus and Lina Ocamposilva, *Dancers of the Wind*; George Sanchez-Calderon, *MONOLITH / PLINTH / STOOP*; Ben Snead, *Fish Farm (Brooklyn Snappers)*; Padilla-Harris, *MistWave*; Katherine Daniels, *Ornamental Paths*; Art Students League, *Flock*; Gimhongsok, *Bear-Like Construction*; Fanny Allie, *Serendipity*; Bundith Phunsombatlert, *Wayfinding: 100 NYC Public Sculptures*.

Manhattan



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:  
Chuck Ginnever, *Medusa* and  
*High Rise*; Gus and Lina Ocamposilva,  
*Dancers of the Wind*; Gimhongsok,  
*Bear-Like Construction*.