

Learning Places Fall 2016
Chin/Swift

SITE REPORT [part II: Manhattan, NY]

LADY LIBERTY PERFORMERS



STEDROY BRAND

10TH.09.2016

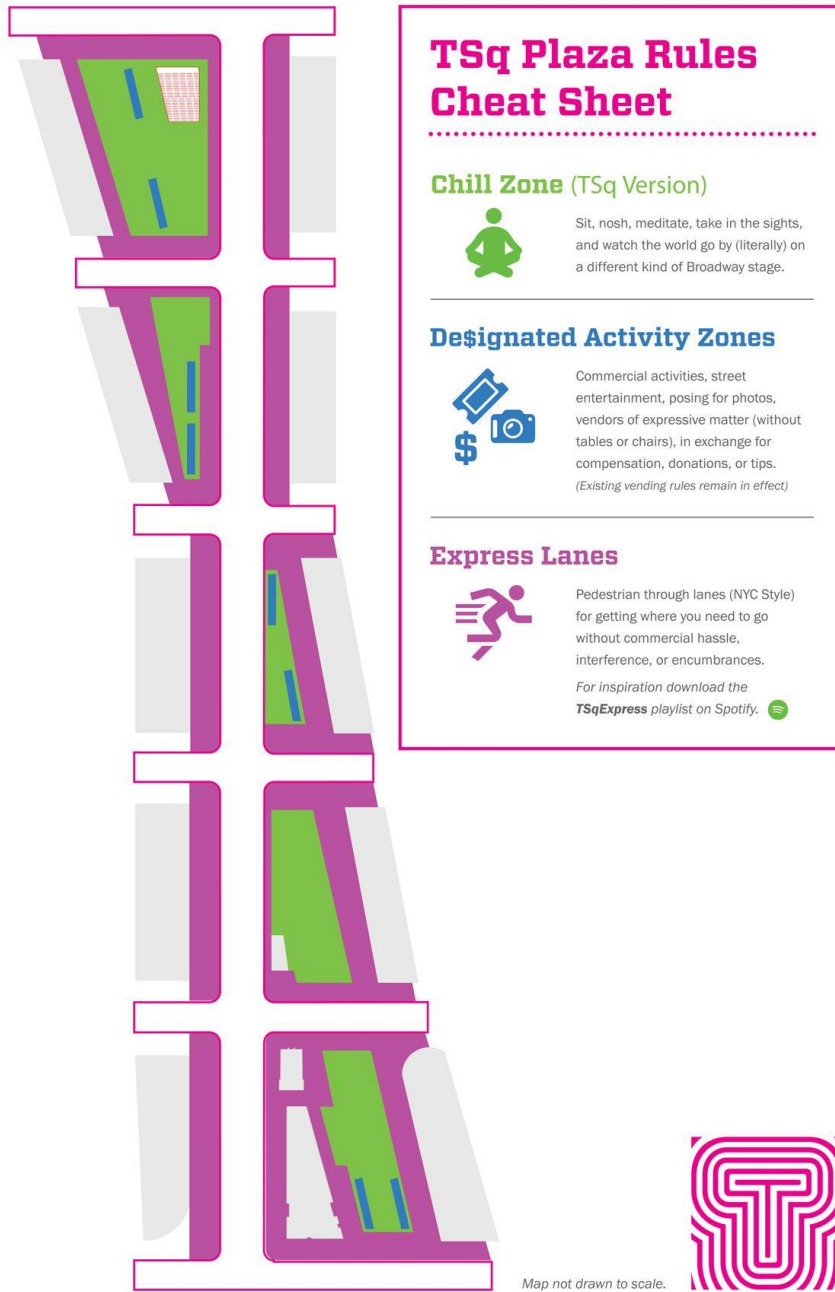
INTRODUCTION

The scope of this activity was to pick a performance in Times Square, NYC. Then we had to observe the performers' actions as well as the audience actions towards each other. Then we had to take pictures, do research on the performance, and research the area that is allowing said performance to happen.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

What I expected to see or learn prior to the site visit was many new performances in comparison to last week however that wasn't the case. Additionally, I was expecting heavy pedestrian traffic which would have made it difficult to take pictures from a distance because it was a Friday afternoon.

SITE DOCUMENTATION



I picked this image above to show the Designated Activity Zones in Times Square.



This image shows the Lady Liberty Performers in the Designated Activity Zone.



This image shows the Lady Liberty Performers inviting pedestrians over to take pictures.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. The lady liberty performers were wearing long green and silver shiny costumes with green crowns on their heads. Their faces were also covered in green body paint. I noticed that they were both standing on step ladders to be taller. Additionally, I noticed that they had the United States of American flag in hand.
2. My observation of the choreography of performance was that they were standing and waving hands at the audience inviting them over to take pictures.
3. The performers were limited to Times Square designated activity zone.
4. The audience was both static and moving, but the direction of attention was mostly in front of the performers looking towards 7th Ave.
5. The audience community identity was mostly tourist of various race and geographic location.
6. The dynamics of the performance was very engaging because the performers gave the audience crowns like their own before taking the pictures. Additionally, both the performers and audience was doing different poses together to get the best picture out of the bunch.
7. One other observation is that the performers was making eye contact with the passing crowd and inviting them over by hand signs (waving) to get possible audience to take pictures with them.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Size of performance space	The performers zone is 10 feet x 50 feet.
Size of spectator space	Spectators boundaries seemed to be between Broadway and 7 th Ave.
Range of dynamic change	The range of the audience involvement is small because only those who take pictures with the performers get the full experience of the performance.
# of points of focus	I observed two points of focus.
Number of spectators (range)	From by observation at least 1 spectator to upwards of 1000s.
Time period of performance	I found that some performers work about 7 hours, but unknown minimum and maximum hours.
# of repetitions	I noticed four types of poses when they were taking pictures.
Cost of performance (if any)	(Before) \$75 - \$150 in tips after 7 hours. (After) \$1 in tips after 2 hours. <i>"One source said."</i>
Other data	The performers can be fined up to \$500 and circumstantially serve jail time if the designated zone rules are violated.

QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH FURTHER

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the motive behind creating “Designated Activity Zones?”
2. What organization(s) ruled on the rules and regulations made in Times Square?
3. When was rules and regulations implemented in Times Square?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Crimes being committed such as force touching, assaults, and grand larceny.
 - b. The superman impersonator was fighting with a tourist.
 - c. The cookie monster impersonator attacked a toddler after the parents didn't tip him, and the Mickey Mouse impersonator was holding out his/her hands to pedestrians asking for tips.
2. Question 2
 - a. The New York City Council had a hearing on the issues and passed a legislation to fix the issues.
 - b. Major Bill de Blasio signed the Bill to regulate Times Square.
 - c. The legislation gave more power to the Department of Transportation which created the new “Designated Activity Zones.”
3. Question 3
 - a. On the 8th of June 2016, painting of the Designated Activity Zones began.
 - b. On the 21st of June 2016, the new laws to regulate Times Square went into effect.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

In closing, I learned a lot about the cause, procedure, and the execution of the new implemented Designated Activity Zones. Additionally, while observing the performance I realized that some people stayed back about 20-30 feet to take pictures of the performance to avoid paying tips. I see this as a down side to the performers because they are now confined like a jail cell, and creating entertainment with little to no pay sometimes. Lastly, I believe that I was making two men seated on either side of me uncomfortable because they were clearly looking at my notes to see what I was doing!