

Learning Places Fall 2019

SITE REPORT #1

Gowanus



STUDENT NAME: Bezai Encarnacion

PART 1: SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. What are some general observations about the character of this neighborhood? What does it remind you of? How does it make you feel?

Like many beautiful and up and coming spots in Brooklyn Gowanus fits into that category. Being my first time in Gowanus I got a great impression of the neighborhood. The moment I got out of the train the first two things popped up in my head were young and hipster. walking down through the neighborhood it reminded me of three different places in the city, the first part of the neighborhood gave a sense of the Upper West Side because of the town houses and the atmosphere of family, the second part reminded me of the Meatpacking district because of the old warehouses turned into residential apartments and the third part pass the canal gave me a sense of East Village because of the bars and places to eat. The neighborhood makes me feel at welcomed mainly because my neighborhood in East Harlem has a typical feel.

2. How is the natural world contained or shaped by human activity or architecture? In what ways does the natural world invade or disrupt human activity, planning or architecture?

The natural world is held by the new infrastructure, Building systems and means of transportation that we as humans create. For example the Gowanus Canal became polluted due to human infrastructure that was not well designed.

3. What people did you observe in the neighborhood and what activities are they engaged in?

In the beginning of the tour I saw more a lot more families and kids most people seemed to pick up their kids from school and others were taking a walk. On the other side of the Gowanus canal there were younger mainly working or hanging out. Something that caught my eye was that Regardless of what side of Gowanus I was in, the neighborhood was comforting.

4. Reflect on a specific place you viewed in this neighborhood. A specific place means a single building, or an intersection, or an individual built structure, etc.

- a. **Insert 1 photograph and/or sketch and provide a *creative* caption for the image. The caption should be a word or short phrase that suggests a theme or conceptual association related to the photo or sketch.**



“Every place needs a little Green”

- b. **What is the *program* of the space? How are people meant to interact with one**

another and with the environment?

- The Green Building was originally constructed as a brass foundry and now It has been restored and turned into an elegant mixed-use event venue. This Building is a pretty cool looking building mainly because of the color of the outside of the building. There are many ways to interact with people mainly because the building is so welcoming the spot is used for events like weddings, photoshoots and private events.
- c. describe a possible creative reuse of this specific space for a performance:**
- a) Which areas are best for performers/activists and which areas are good for observers? Do these spaces overlap? Mention specific objects and structures in your answer.**
- I think both the interior and exterior of the building can be used for performers/activist because the area is dense in terms of people circulation. If I had to pick a place to perform, I would be on top of the pickup truck because its currently being used as a prop for people to take creative pictures. Making this type of bold move can be controversial and would create a conversation between people in the area.
- b) What kinds of performance would work best (intimate or grand; processional or stationary; text and/or music; interactive or passive audience; etc.)?**
- In my opinion, an interactive performance would be best in this case. I think that using music and text would be a great way to get people's attention and create awareness to a problem.

QUESTIONS for FURTHER RESEARCH. These should follow directly from your analysis section and be complex and specific enough to serve as the basis of a research project.

Questions might relate to architectural or environmental observations, socio-political problems and/or solutions, demography, history, zoning, civic processes, performance strategy, etc.

1. Question?

Why is Gowanus being rezoned?

2. Question?

Why hasn't the city of New York acted on the pollution problem with the Gowanus Canal?

3. Question?

How does Race and Income impact the rezoning of the Gowanus neighborhood?

PART 2: RESEARCH

Choose and revise one of your research questions for further research.

Revised Research Question:

How does Race and Income impact the rezoning of the Gowanus neighborhood?

Find and cite 2 sources that address your question in MLA format. Respond to the questions below.

CITATION 1:

Why did you select this source? How does it address all or part of your research question?

“New York City's Zoning & Land Use Map”<https://zola.planning.nyc.gov/about#9.72/40.7125/-73.733>

Zola was developed by the City of New York using NYC open data and other public data Zola provides a simple way to research zoning regulations. This site shows different graphics when it comes to land use in New York City and the different zoning regulations and new amendments.

Is the source credible? Why or why not?

This source is credible because it was made by the City of New York.

What further information would you need to answer your question? Where would you look for additional sources?

Brooklyn Daily Eagle

CITATION 2:

Why did you select this source? How does it address all or part of your research question?

<https://censusreporter.org>

This site has information on race and economic status of the people living in Gowanus.

Is the source credible? Why or why not?

The site gives you charts of Demographics, Economics, Families, Housing and Social based on what neighborhood you search.

What further information would you need to answer your question? Where would you look for additional sources?

Brooklyn Newsstand

PART 3: Performance Reflection (after second site visit)

Write a 200 word reflection about how you felt during the second visit to the space and during the performance activities. How did this visit change your perception of the place and your relationship to the natural and built environments? Did the experience of 'performing' in the space (i.e., moving your body) teach you anything new about the landscape or architecture?

For the second site visit we visited Thomas Greene park it was definitely a totally new experience because I really got out of my comfort zone. I honestly had fun when the EPA instructor walked us through the park all the way to the canal having us focused on smell made me realize the variety of smells that we don't catch on to our daily lives and it was also challenging to map out smells or call them personal or private. Performing was really interesting because it had been the first time I've ever done it. Being a reflection of any object is really difficult, My part was to perform how a cloud would act or move my interpretation of performing like a cloud had to do with really slow movements and fluidity. The performing experience taught me a lot on how to relate to things in my surroundings.