

Learning Places Summer 2019

SITE REPORT #3

Flatbush

NAMING PROTOCOL. When saving and posting your site reports on OpenLab, please follow the following format: SiteReport#.LastnameFirstname. Here's an example: SiteReport2.SwiftChristopher.



Select a meaningful image that captures your perception of the site and provide a caption explaining what the image is.

STUDENT NAME: Touray Bokum, Roma Ramawad, Bryant Vera, Jonathan Leon

SITE OBSERVATIONS

Insert 3 **photographs or drawings** and provide a **creative** title for each image. The title should be a word or short phrase that suggests **a theme or conceptual association** related to the photo.



General instructions:

- a. Be sure to draw meaningful connections between what you observed and the purpose of the performative intervention. In other words, how does the performative intervention respond to, or integrate directly with, the specific material conditions of the site.
 - b. Pay attention to the criteria for the sources you select. One source can be an internet source but other **MUST** be a newspaper source, archival source, academic source.
 - c. Your sources should be Relevant and Credible.
-
1. Describe the area where your performance will take place. What architectural structures are present? Describe the different shapes / forms and dimensions.
 - The performance will take place in downtown Brooklyn in front of the Apple store located at the intersection between Flatbush Avenue and Ashland Place. The store's façade is made of glass panels with a sloping canopy starting at 30 feet high outside the store.

2. Who are the people you observe in this space? What are some patterns of movement of people (are they passing through, stopping, moving in a single direction, moving in multiple directions)?
 - When observing people around Fulton I noticed how chaotic it felt, many people were in a rush, moving in several directions. There were people on benches on their phones instead of speaking to one another. As I was walking around Fulton I felt like I had to rush and get out of the way of those around me because of how hurried most people were. I space felt overwhelming and anxiety ridden, it is definitely not a space I would go to relax. Flatbush receives tourists as a result of Fulton, but it is not as congested in comparison.
3. How do the man-made / architectural structures inform how people use and move through the space?
 - The timber canopy above the Apple store is very important because it grasps people's attention causing them to walk inside the store and it also creates shade for people walking past by or customers as well making this site very dynamic. There are areas of Fulton that are going through construction and as shown on the images above buildings that are abandoned, the space seems unfinished and barren, which justifies passersby rushing through the space.
4. How will your performance respond to the people and patterns of movement that are already happening in that space?
 - Our interactive prop will move with the passersby helping to garner attention from them. On our site we have the advantage of getting passersby from the Fulton area headed toward our site in Flatbush and space to set up our performance without the congestion of Fulton. The people interacting with our performance will have a more intimate and welcoming experience as a result of our space.
5. How can you take advantage of the built spaces to create a staging area for your performance? Is your performance stationary or does it move throughout the space? It is interactive?
 - Our performance is in Fulton, which is an area with lots of people walking from multiple directions. The performance will be interactive because we will get our audience to take an active role in educating themselves about their rights as tenants. A member of our group will be a prop and informative tool for the audience, the prop will move up and down the site gaining the attention of passersby. Fulton is a space that will provide ample people and relevance to our cause given its history and impact on Flatbush and surrounding areas.

RESEARCH

Central Research Question related to your performance topic (as you understand it based on conversations with your group and the research you've conducted--this doesn't have to be uniform across group members and your questions can inform each other's perspectives):

What impacts were made in Downtown Brooklyn that affected communities like Flatbush?

Find, cite, and write a critical summary for 2 sources (**1 internet source / 1 newspaper, archival, or academic source**) related to your question.

Sources might be about the central issue your performance is responding to, the place where your performance takes place, tactics or strategies from similar performances, or the community that you hope to engage with your performance. Whatever the sources you choose, you should describe what the main point of the source is and **HOW IT RELATES TO YOUR CENTRAL RESEARCH QUESTION**.

MLA Citation for source 1:

Woo, Rosten, TenHoor, Meredith, and Rich, Damon. Street Value : Shopping, Planning, and Politics at Fulton Mall. 1st ed. New York: Princeton Architectural, 2010. Print. Inventory Books (Princeton Architectural Press) ; 01What is the main point of the source? How does it relate to your project?

This archival source discusses the historic importance of Fulton Mall area and the changes redevelopment of the area had on residents currently living there. The 2004 rezoning of Downtown Brooklyn made it so small businesses sell their spaces to the rezoning efforts, this in turn caused an influx of wealth residents and businesses. The article states that Fulton "...is the third most profitable retail district in all of New York City.", however there have been many endeavors to remake the space. The article relates to my project because it speaks on the reasons behind the transformation of Fulton

Mall and the impact it still has on small businesses and surrounding communities. Other site is Flatbush near Fulton, Fulton being the central part of not just Brooklyn, but New York City gives it relevance to our performance and cause.

MLA Citation for source:

“Gentrification.” *The Peopling of Flatbush*,
eportfolios.macaulay.cuny.edu/moses2015/2015/05/07/2000-current-gentrification/.

What is the main point of the source? How does it relate to your project?’

The main point of the source discusses major and controversial aspects in Flatbush’s development. Gentrification is a major part in the area around the surrounding communities because of the increased anger of the lower class and disregard to the neighborhood’s culture. Brooklyn neighborhoods such as Fort Greene, Bedford-Stuyvesant and Flatbush have witnessed the racist process in which the wealthy whites are driving lower black out of the neighborhood. This relates to our project because people are being thrown out and discriminated against their own cultures for their homes. The article states, “Why did it take this great influx of white people to get better schools?” Also, “Why is there more police protection?” The questions are asked around the neighborhood and disrespecting the culture of the original people who are from there. The project discusses how gentrification is putting people out of their neighborhoods and raising rent prices to accommodate for the wealthier people moving there.