

Learning Places Summer 2019

SITE REPORT #3

MTA: Grumpy Delays

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



This water fountain is the park's iconic display in city hall park. It is located at the center of the park. The fountain is in operation during the spring, summer, and fall season. When the weather gets colder or in winter, the park staff will cover the fountain preventing the water or any part of the fountain to freeze.

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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.



Bloomberg building - NYCDCAS building is where all city employee get pay and their record is kept.



Korean Diner - a small Korean fast food chain on the left side of the park.



Pathway to subway - One of the entrance/exit to the busy MTA subway.

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.

Our performance will take place inside one of City Hall parks which has two entrances to the Brooklyn Bridge - City Hall train station. The area is called Municipal Plaza. One of the entrances is inside at the arch shape underpass of David Dinkins Municipal Building and the other entrance is at the back end of the plaza. Near the Municipal Plaza, you will find many building structures such as the Supreme Court building, David Dinkins municipal building, New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (NYCDCAS), main city hall park, Pace University, Mayor's office, and many more stores. In the Municipal Plaza, there are two food stands called "Koki & Vegi Korean BBQ & MORE" and "Vuelve A La Vida." There are various food

carts stationed outside of the park on the opposite side of the street, lined up side by side with each other.

On the entrance to the Brooklyn Bridge, we see mini shops of people selling items such as keychains, hats, jewelry, magnets, etc. Outside the NYCDCAS building, there is a police information booth and to the left, you will find the city store that sells the “I Love NY” products. At our performance site, we are able to see Pace University in the background, cars getting off the Brooklyn Bridge, exit to Park Row, tourists getting off and on the Brooklyn Bridge or crossing the street to get to the other side. Next to the subway entrance in the David Dinkins Municipal Building, you can see the side entrance to the NYCDCAS building and two sets of bike racks. Outside City Hall park, a street performance was taken place where there are loud music playing to attract a large crowd of people to participate. However, our performance area have beautiful architectural structure inside of it. There are four round wooden benches with tree in the middle, two round wooden benches without tree, total to six round wooden benches for people to sit on in addition to the regular shaped bench that can be seen in most NYC parks. The park is surrounded by a steel gate that form a magical hat shape or a dorsal fin shape that has an open and exit for people to come and go. The train station sits outside underneath a beautiful dome like shelter with high ceilings, giving it an old historical presence. After viewing the surroundings and structure of the Municipal Plaza space, my group were intrigued by all the rich history it has to offer.

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)?

At the Municipal Building subway entrance, there are a lot of commuters such as tourists, students, New Yorkers, bikers, government officials workers, lawyers, and office workers. Government officials workers, office workers, and lawyers use the space as a place to sit down and have a quick lunch without going too far. Also a place to sit down and get some fresh air instead of sitting in their office for a break. Tourists use to the space as a meeting place to meet up with their friends or family before continue exploring. The Municipal plaza is a small area where people can find each other very easy without having going all over the place to find each other. The space lies between

two entrances of the train station, commuters are coming out of the station, either to sit down or move in and out of the Municipal Plaza. If you are sitting facing the subway entrance facing the David Dinkin subway entrance, you will see people walking from the right side (NYPD federal plaza) to the left side (Centre Street/City Hall) and people walking from the left side to the right side. People use the space as a rest area to relax a bit before continuing on whatever they are doing, whether going home, going to school, or continuing exploring. You will see some tourists will stop there and take some pictures of the area or selfies. Since it is close to Pace University, graduates will come here and have their picture taken before going into the train station. Their ideal background can either be the municipal building or the scenery of Brooklyn Bridge or the nature of the park.

3. How do the man-made / architectural structures inform how people use and move through the space?

In the park near the municipal building subway entrance, there are round wooden benches where tourists can take a break and NYC workers can grab a seat taking their lunch. And this park is facing towards the entrance/exit of the municipal building subway station. If we do our performance in this location, the potential audiences would be the people who get out of the subway. They probably suffer from the train delay problem too. For example, we will act throwing garbage and see their reaction of us doing it. It is because garbage is one of the reasons of train delay.

4. How will your performance respond to the people and patterns of movement that are already happening in that space?

Hopefully as we are doing our performance in the afternoon, there will be tourists and workers sitting in the park having lunch. Our puppet show will catch their attention and they will be curious enough to see what's going on. We will start with a little drama and humor regarding train delays. Additionally, we will ask them if they have had similar train problems before. One of our main objectives is to inform the audience that train delays can have negative effects on the everyday commuters.

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 stationary but we will have movement as we control the puppets or interactive with the train. In the area, we see a couple of circle benches that we can use to set up our stage. Our performance space is a semi-circle shape outside the train station at Brooklyn Bridge - City Hall. We are setting up the scenario on the street level instead of on the train platform and in order to get people an idea of what is going on. We created a train using cardboard and cover the train with cloth that we got from the Material of the Arts. We are using the bench as the platform and as the train move to the side, it shows that the train is out of the station. We have a playing of Thomas' theme song from Thomas and Friend tv show as an opening scenario. Since there are people in the area, we will try to interact with them when we perform.

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):

Question: What infrastructure that MTA can change or improved to prevent delays in train systems that affect daily commuters going to work, school, or socialize?

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:

"Gov. Pataki Supports \$2.9 Billion "Rebuild and Renew New York" Transportation Bond Act."
New Voice of New York, Inc., Sep, 2005, pp. 4. *ProQuest*,
<https://search-proquest-com.proxy.wexler.hunter.cuny.edu/docview/368066281?accountid=2749>
5.

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

The point of the article is to revise the Transportation Bond Act to provide the MTA money to rebuild their infrastructure by distributing funds evenly amount all the branches in the MTA from transit systems to roads and highways and to make a better environment for New

Yorkers to live. The goal of the bond act is to improvement the MTA infrastructure by creating more job opportunities and promote smart economic growth and energy conservation. In order to make improvements on delays by creating a new system including adding new subway lines like the second avenue line on the East side of Manhattan, rail condition for the LIRR, and updating their technology to meet modernization.

MLA Citation for source 2:

Mahler, Jonathan. "The Case for the Subway." *The New York Times Magazine*, 7 Jan. 2018, p. 35(L). Literature Resource Center, http://link.galegroup.com.proxy.wexler.hunter.cuny.edu/apps/doc/A521687002/LitRC?u=cuny_hunter&sid=LitRC&xid=7dc5726c. Accessed 29 June 2019.

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

The article states that in order for people to start pointing fingers at whoever's fault is to make the system go bad. They have to see what work needs to be done before making any changes to the MTA infrastructure. People in the MTA is aware of the subway system is falling apart but they just don't know how and where to start. Since they don't know where to start, they stated that all events that happen in the NYC subway system are considered "incidents." Currently, a civic group called Regional Plan Association was created to do research on the NYC subway system infrastructure to see how can they create a plan to rebuild the subway system.