

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. 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. The arch design give an architectural look of the building from the side.

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 the City Hall small park which has two Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall Subway Stations inside of it, next to the exit area of the David Dinkins Municipal Building. The Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall Subway Station is surrounded by places, people and things that serve as a comfort zone to all those who visit this location. This small but busy city hall park has two small restaurants inside the space called “Koki & Vegi Korean BBQ & Mac & cheese” and “Tacos & Mexican Tamales”. Various vending carts are stationed outside of the park, lined up side by side with each other; selling items such as keychains, hats, jewelry, magnets, and Sabrett hotdogs, etc. The police information booth sits directly in front of the Municipal Building. I also observed Pace University building across the street from our location on the same side of City Hall’s larger park. The larger park across from our location had a crowd of people watching six men doing a street performance. However, our performance area has a

beautiful architectural structure inside of it. There are four 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 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. Sitting right in the heart of the small city hall park is an amazing waterfall fountain display that overflows into three sections within the display; the light and dark grey cement color provide an exotic look to the fountain. After viewing the surroundings and structure of the small City Hall Park space, my group members and I 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, tourists, students, bikers, government workers, office guys, and ladies. People move in and out in the city hall complex area because the city hall park is the traffic center of the downtown Manhattan, where is a City Hall subway station, one end of the Brooklyn Bridge. Tourists stay there for longer time taking photos. Government workers usually just walk through the park very quickly because they have to go to work. Also, there are office guys and ladies taking their lunch break over there.

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 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 we might have a string pulling the train to show that the train is moving. We are using the bench as the platform and as the train move to the back, it shows that the train is out of the station.

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:

Fitzsimmons, Emma G. "Crowds and Long Delays Fray Subway System and Riders' Nerves: M.T.A. Seeks Funds for Needed Repairs." *New York Times (1923-Current file)*, Mar 20, 2015, p. 2. *ProQuest*. Web. 25 June 2019.

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

The point of the article is stating that as the price for the fare goes up but all the repairs needed to be done is not done. MTA is getting money from the fare hike but instead of taking the money and putting it on the necessary repair to fix all the delaying that we have in our train system, they are taking the money and putting it into their own pockets.

MLA Citation for source 2:

Berger, Paul. "MTA Touts Drop in Subway Delays." *Wall Street Journal*, Eastern edition ed., Oct 23, 2018, *ProQuest*. Web. 25 June 2019.

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

The article states that even Andy Byford agree that the task to fix up the infrastructure is not completed. There is still work to be done. Usually, services are being done over the weekend but when Monday, commuters are expecting that all services and repairs are done and everything is operating as intended. Yet, MTA is known to be a letdown to Monday commuters and no one will ever have faith into MTA on making the system better.