



// **CITY AS LIVING LABORATORY**  
Sustainability Made Tangible Through the Arts

CALL // 2016

## CALL // MISSION

CALL // CITY AS LIVING LABORATORY combines the skills and perspectives of artists and designers with those of scientists and citizens to create public programs and projects that increase awareness and potential for action around key environmental issues.

Internationally renowned artist Mary Miss founded CALL in 2009, with the goal of harnessing the creative vision of artists to combat the rapid deterioration of our environment. Trained as a sculptor, Miss has focused on creating works that reveal and explore a site's history, its ecology, and aspects of the environment that have gone unnoticed.

## CALL // UPDATE

This has been a momentous year for CALL // City as Living Laboratory. In Indianapolis we have continued programming and assessment of **STREAM/LINES**—engaging local residents at the installation sites and through performance, readings, tours, and workshops. Work has begun on the second phase of **WATERMARKS** in Milwaukee and a newly completed installation at Artpark has launched the **ARTPARK LABORATORY**.

Here in NYC **CALL/WALKS** have explored new issues and perspectives along Broadway around Columbia University, the Upper West Side, and in Chinatown. Research, planning, and design work on the kiosk in Harlem—now titled **EPIK** (Emergency Preparedness Information Kiosk) have been underway with a Working Group from WE ACT for Environmental Justice. The four projects in the Bronx hold exciting promise. As these projects advance, CALL is working with Social Ecologist Adrian Cerezo and curator Donald Russell, to document, synthesize, and contextualize CALL's Framework. We have also begun a conservation assessment of Mary Miss' works in storage and are developing a strategy to manage and make public her and CALL's extensive archive. The framework conservation and archive initiative has been made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

## ARTPARK LABORATORY

Completed this July 2016, **BOWER** (cover) is the first commissioned work facilitated by CALL to establish an experimental program for Artpark and contribute to an effort to revive the mission of Artpark as a leading center for creative experimentation and innovation.

**BOWER** (a leafy shelter or recess, an arbor, a rustic dwelling), created by artists Ellen Driscoll and Joyce Hwang, is an arrangement of architectural fragments, which host birdhouses, and etched glass windows in a skeletal structure designed to promote awareness of local bird species—including chickadees, wrens, flycatchers, nuthatches, bluebirds, and purple martins—and draw attention to the ever-increasing perils of bird-strike window collisions and deaths.

The outlines of the structures emulate the vernacular architecture of the Lewiston/Artpark area but could be stand-ins for homes almost anywhere in the country. Driscoll and Hwang consulted with University at Buffalo faculty and graduate researcher Katharina Dittmar, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences and Heather Williams, Ph.D Candidate, Department of Biological Sciences along with the Buffalo Audubon Society which offers public programs at the installation site.

CALL's next venture in realizing the multi-year **ARTPARK LABORATORY** will be a new work by William Lamson that will investigate Artpark's geological history and current conditions. His project will provide an opportunity to for students and locals to discover the park's past revealed in its rock formations that span millennia.

**BOWER** and Lamson's projects along with research, mapping, and planning by Mary Miss will serve as a platform to imagine a new vision for Artpark's future and inform a long-term strategy to conceptualize its cultural programming by focusing on the complex environmental challenges of our time including energy, waste, water, habitat, air quality, and climate change.

## HARLEM PROJECT

**EPIK**, by Elliott Maltby, grew out of a November 2014 CALL/WORKSHOP with community members at SoHarlem. Maltby's core concept aligned with WE ACT's Northern Manhattan Climate Plan published in 2015. WE ACT, responding to years of escalating social inequality in the City and the lack of a clear roadmap for addressing the mounting climate crisis, partnered with residents of Northern Manhattan to create their own plan to confront the impacts of climate change by addressing long-standing disparities in political and economic power.

To conceptualize **EPIK**, Elliott Maltby has been collaborating closely with WE ACT members and local citizens in monthly meetings, field trips, and neighborhood workshops. They have considered a wide range of precedents, inventoried goals, explored the neighborhood's open space for potential siting and vetted conceptual and physical design ideas. Importantly, they have considered how and by whom the kiosk will be programmed, operated, and maintained over time.

**EPIK** will be a replicable hub to build awareness and skills to expand emergency preparedness and climate resiliency. It will function as a place for exchange, education, and creativity between emergencies and operate as a focal destination in the event of an emergency. Through the possible incorporation of elements like solar energy, a vegetable garden, bioswales or a raingarden, composting, and environmental data collection such as temperature and air quality, it will model sustainable development practices. **EPIK** is conceived as a model that can be replicated and linked to multiple hubs in Northern Manhattan and potentially across the city.



EPIK: Emergency Preparedness Information Kiosk (Elliott Maltby)

## WATERMARKS: AN ATLAS OF WATER

Following the successful concept development for **WATERMARKS**, Marquette University has committed major funding and collaborative support, from the Museum and engineering departments and by providing space in the Global Water Center. This partnership is helping CALL move forward with design, testing, and implementation plans. **WATERMARKS** will demarcate point by point mapping of water topics in Milwaukee on the scale of the city. Specific locations throughout the downtown will be identified by a series of vertical markers.

An iconic centerpiece of these interventions will be the lighting of the the 350' high stack on the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District (MMSD) treatment plant. From the MMSD stack other specifically designed markers will radiate out from the downtown Harbor District. Each of these markers will act like oversize 'map pins' and indicate a piece of the water story particular to the site. Adjacent 'ripple marks' will note audio dial-up information where the viewer/listener will be made aware of other parts of the city's complex water story.

Originating at the Inner Harbor, this constellation of markers will extend out through surrounding neighborhoods creating visual and programmatic linkages across boundaries of geographic and social divides – making a ripple effect increasingly tangible. Each **WATERMARKS** site will be a hub for activation by other artists, scientists, experts, and local communities to continue the process of building awareness and engagement around water conservation and broader environmental protection.



WaterMarks: An Atlas of Water and the City of Milwaukee (Mary Miss)

**CALL/WALKS - CHINATOWN**

This fall **CALL/WALKS**, covered diverse perspectives and issues. With the Chinatown Art Brigade (Tomie Arai, ManSee Kong, and Betty Yu) and Samuel Stein we learned much about struggles, successes, and shifting terrain of existential challenges that Chinatown has faced in the past and those it faces in the immediate and long-term future. They helped us understand that to envision a livable Chinatown for those who have made it their home for many generations, environmental measures must be matched with zoning and legislation that will protect residences, jobs, and small business.

Jean Shin and Robin Nagle offered a tour of Chinatown through the lens of “canners” who hunt the streets of NYC for discarded bottles and cans. The “invisible” canners provide a tangible service to our entire community through redemption that returns these wasted castoffs to distributors. They also revealed the magnitude of the waste generated by business, industrial, and construction sources, which far exceed household refuse.

Ellen Driscoll, Joyce Hwang, and Mackenzie Younger started with a reflection on the history of Collect Pond, its eventual decline, and the role that the pond originally played in sustaining the Lenape and colonial settlers. Grossly polluted by the early settlers, the pond was eventually drained, paved over, and built upon. After recounting the Pond’s demise, Driscoll, Hwang, and Younger focused on the interplay between animal and human habitat as we walked from Collect Pond Park to Kennedy Park where participants were asked to draw a rat’s life.

Mary Ting, Paul Bartlett, and Sophie Plitt focused on the toxic health hazards from air pollution in Chinatown that were significantly exacerbated by post-9/11 dust fallout. We started at Canal and Broadway and wound our way south and east through the neighborhood where our attention was turned toward the opportunities and impediments to improve the surrounding hardscapes by planting trees and creating more green space.



CALL/WALKS: Chinatown (Chinatown Art Brigade)



CALL/WALKS: Chinatown (Ellen Driscoll, Joyce Hwang, and Mackenzie Younger)



CALL/WALKS: Chinatown (Chinatown Art Brigade)

## BRONX PROJECTS

Following artist/scientist led walks and workshop in 2015, four teams are developing concepts focused on local community priorities: daylighting Tibbett's Brook and expanding the scope and participation in community gardens. The four teams are led by SLO Architecture, Bob Braine, Mary Mattingly and Juanli Carrion. CALL has received two seed grants from the New York State Arts Council and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs to move these projects closer to completion and activation.

**Finding Tibbetts Brook:** Amanda Schachter and Alexander Levi of SLO Architecture, in cooperation with Theo Barbaganis, of eDesign Dynamics, will create a micro wetlands on three truck beds to be sited on the Target parking lot at 225th Street and Broadway, with active support from the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, and from other collaborating artists. The micro-wetland will function not only as a social space, but as a small-scale means to contain run-off from the parking lot and reintroduce native species back into the neighborhood.

**Habitat Fountains** (working title): Bob Braine will lead this effort to create two small water habitats in the guise of fountains, one in a publicly accessible, paved-over open space near Van Cortlandt Park and the other situated further south (downstream) closer to the Harlem River. These installations will focus attention and imagination on possibilities associated with the daylighting of Tibbetts Brook. Braine will be aided by George Jackman, a CUNY professor of fisheries biology, and by Rebecca Swadek, a botanist with the New York City Parks Department, to develop the project to by recreating elements of the lost riparian landscape, buried springs, and the brook itself.

**Outer Seed Shadow Marble Hill** (OSS#MH): Following successes in creating dialogues around social and environmental justice through art, gardening, and education in Manhattan and Brooklyn, Jaunli Carrión is bringing Outer Seed Shadow to the Bronx in the spring of 2017. This unique community garden project will be derived from

extensive video interviews with local residents who live in and around the Marble Hill Houses—a public housing project at 225th Street and Broadway. Carrión will capture stories about the lives and cultural backgrounds of local residents in order to create a garden for and by the community. Each interviewee will be asked to select an edible vegetable or flower to be planted in one of 11 garden beds—one for each of the Marble Hill apartment buildings.

Events, such as performances, pot-lucks, composting, cooking and other workshops will be scheduled to expand awareness and participation in the garden to encourage the community to sustain the garden in the years to come, and serve as a replicable model for other public housing projects.

**DeWitt Clinton Food Forest:** The Food Forest will be an edible forest on public land on the campus of DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, where community gardening and sustainability are well established practices. It will be built through the efforts of a diverse group of talents, among them: Mary Mattingly, an artist who has focused on environmental themes; Ursula Chanse, director of Bronx Green-Up and Community Horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden, and Raymond Pultinas, a teacher of English and school gardener at DeWitt Clinton, as well as author of the Witt Seminar on Sustainability in Schools. With the support of the high school administration, the team will utilize four areas on the high school grounds pre-approved for public gardens—approximately 1/4 acre in total.



Foraging Forest (Mary Mattingly)



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### ARTISTS & DESIGNERS

#### SPRING 2013

Jackie Brookner  
Marco Antonio Castro Cosio  
Kristin Jones  
Andrew Ginzler  
Elliot Maltby  
E.J. McAdams  
Eve Mosher  
Jan Mun  
Jody Pinto  
John Tauranac

#### FALL 2013

David Brooks  
Ellen Driscoll  
Kristin Jones  
Nina Lauren Bassuk  
Jan Mun  
Matthew Jensen

#### SPRING 2014

Josh DeBonis  
Bob Hansman  
Tyler Meyr  
Axi Ome  
MK Stallings

#### FALL 2014

Torkwase Dyson  
Iain Kerr  
Petia Morozov  
Victoria Marshall  
Tattfoo Tan  
Elliot Maltby

#### SPRING 2015

Juanli Carrion  
Heather Hart  
Joyce Hwang  
William Lamson  
Marshall Reese  
Amanda Schachter  
Alexander Levi

#### FALL 2015

Robert Braine  
Mary Mattingly  
Garnette Cadogan  
Howard Chambers

#### SPRING 2016

Garnette Cadogan  
Howard Chambers  
Marshall Reese

#### FALL 2016

Jean Shin  
Chinatown  
Art Brigade  
Ellen Driscoll  
Joyce Hwang  
Mary Ting

### SCIENTISTS & EXPERTS

#### SPRING 2013

Annaline Dinkelman  
Emily Drury  
Bob Fanuzzi  
Michael Levine  
Anthony Lilore  
Ro Sheffe  
Gabriel Willow

#### FALL 2013

Patrick Kinney  
Sabine Marx  
Benjamin Miller  
Franco Montalto  
Juliette Spertus  
John Waldman

#### SPRING 2014

Miriam Berman  
Dan Chitwood  
Lorin Crandall  
Scott Lamkin  
George Yatskievych

#### FALL 2014

Theo Barbagianis  
Adeola Enigbokan  
Cindi Katz  
Timon McPhearson

#### SPRING 2015

Theo Barbagianis  
Dalton Conley  
Chris Mason  
Mike Feller  
Gianpaolo Baiocchi

#### FALL 2015

Jonathan Tarleton  
Arline Bronzaft  
Sabine Marx  
Rebecca Swadek

#### SPRING 2016

Michael Feller  
Benjamin Orlove  
Jonathan Tarleton

#### FALL 2016

Paul Barlett  
Sophie Plitt  
Samuel Stein  
Robin Nagle  
Mackenzie Younger



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