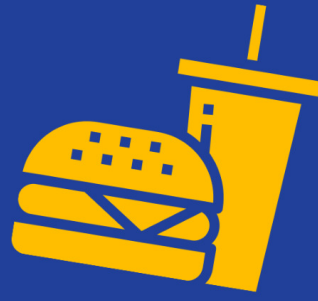


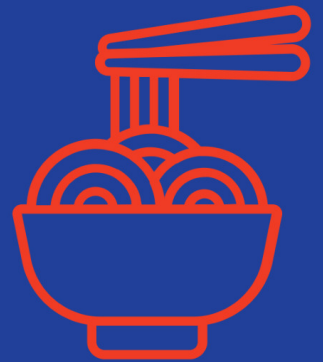
FOOD



IN THE



CITY



THE
GIANT
ROOM

LOOKBOOK

SPRING 2023

SPRING 2023



**PARTNER:
MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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INTRODUCTION

The Museum of the City of New York (MCNY) partnered with The GIANT Room to offer a series of Creative STEM workshops to families, inspired by their hit exhibition Food In New York: Bigger Than the Plate.

We invited the museum's younger visitors and their families, as well as GIANT kids and their families, to think, experiment and design for a more equitable, socially diverse, and delicious future of food in New York City! Families started their creative journeys at one of the three stations, each inspired by an installation or art piece from the exhibition:

Part I: Food Trucks & Street Food

Inspired by Miguel Luciano's "Pimp My Piragua" street cart, we invited families to design your own food trucks out of GIANT laser cut models, decide what to serve on their trucks and play!

Part II: NYC Food Maps

Inspired by Maira Kalman and Rick Meyerowitz's Sub-Culinary Map of New York City, we invited families to make a "Food Map" of the city and share their favorite spots!

Part III: DIY Urban Gardens

Inspired by Mary Mattingly's "Biosphere", we invited families to design their own mini urban gardens out of laser cut wood panels and learn about urban farming.



Participants were then encouraged to take their creative journeys further, creating new stories, new inventions, and prototypes of new ideas, and sharing their work by displaying it at the museum and publishing it in this book.

This lookbook invites families from all around the world to go on a similar creative journey, dream, experiment, and design for a more equitable, socially diverse, and delicious future of food in their own cities!

ABOUT THE MCNY EXHIBIT

FOOD IN NEW YORK BIGGER THAN THE PLATE



Food is a powerful social network binding New Yorkers to each other and with countless others across the globe. The city's raucous restaurant scene; its ubiquitous street food; the current activist efforts to source food locally; the world's largest food market in Hunts Point; and the artists, thinkers, and designers who are imagining new sustainable ways to relate to food, will all be part of Food in New York: Bigger Than the Plate.

The exhibition examines the challenging nodes and networks of the city's food systems. Anchored around issues of sustainability, labor justice, and equitable access to food, the show explores the ways in which artists and designers are developing solutions to these global and local challenges. First developed at London's Victoria and Albert Museum and now adapted and updated to look at eating and food systems in the Big Apple, Food in New York: Bigger Than the Plate is an invitation to feast for a more equitable and exciting future.





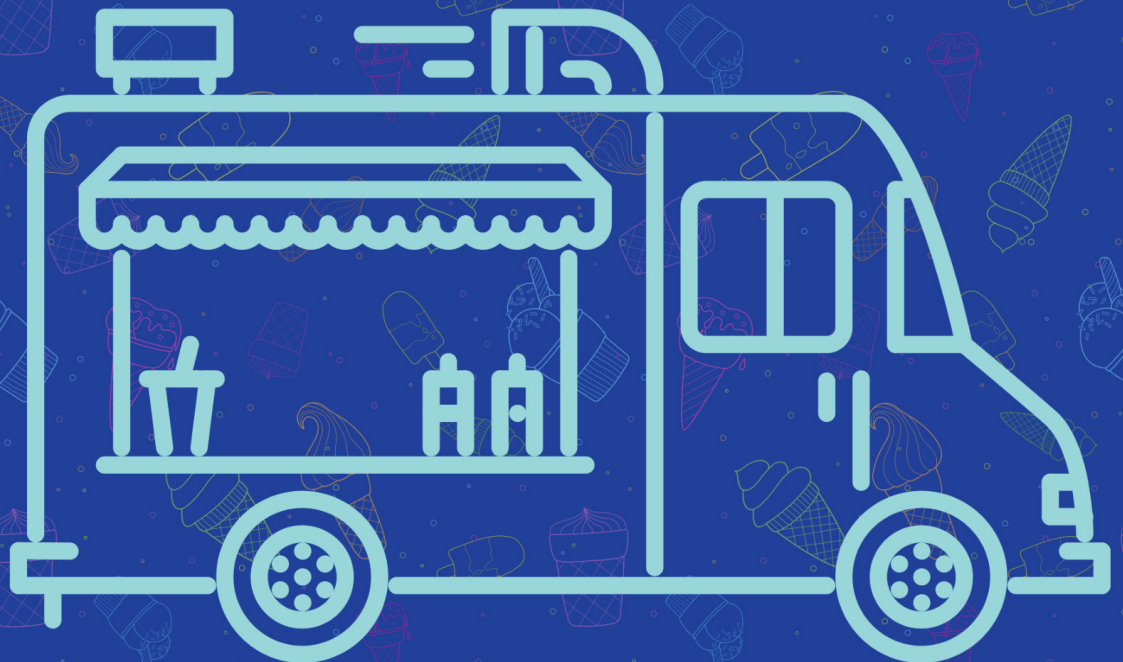
PART ONE

Dare to open up your very own food cart!

We'll start with building and designing ice cream trucks, hot dog stands, and maybe even a ramen cart! Then, we'll make the light them up and fill them with food.



LIGHT-UP FOOD TRUCKS & STREET FOOD



SPARK



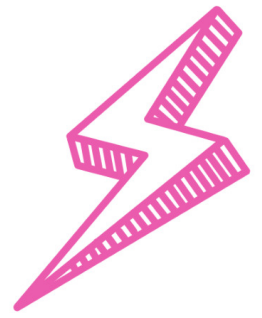
FOR FAMILIES WHO
COULD VISIT MCNY

ABOUT THE ART & ARTIST

Pimp My Piragua (2008-2009), designed by Miguel Luciano, is a mobile public art project that commemorates the innovations of Latino street vendors, transforming a traditional pushcart for selling shaved ice (piraguas) into a hyper-modified tricycle-pushcart with a hi-fi sound and video system. Miguel Luciano, born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, is a multimedia visual artist whose work explores themes of history, popular culture, and social justice through sculpture, painting and socially engaged public art projects.



SPARK



Get creative and learn about a restaurant making one of the biggest sundaes in the United States!



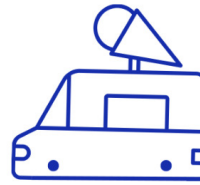
Click the image to watch this video.

**FOR FAMILIES ANYWHERE
IN THE WORLD**

CREATE

Design a cheerful ice cream truck with a laser cut wooden model, stickers, wheels, and axles!

MATERIALS



① Color your truck model. The more cheerful the better!

② Add stickers to your ice cream cone and make it fun.



③ Add front and back wheels with axles.

HOW IT'S MADE

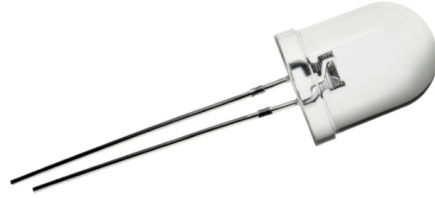
The truck model used in this CREATE is a small scale model designed in a 2D graphic design software & fabricated with a laser cutter. Laser cutting is a common practice in the design process. Designers always think about what feeling they want to evoke in their users. Ice cream trucks are all about happy childhood memories.



WHAT KIDS BUILT AT MCNY

CREATE

Let's light up our ice cream trucks with an LED!



MATERIALS

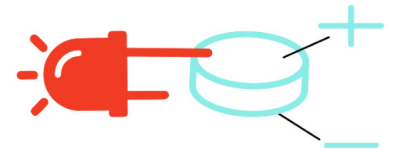


1

Slide the LED onto your coin battery with the longer leg on the + side of the battery and shorter leg on the - side. You should make a battery sandwich!

2

Add the LED to your ice cream truck to light it up! Experiment with adding multiple color LEDs to a single battery. How else can you use the lights in your design?



HOW IT WORKS

To turn on a light, you need a power source. Here, a coin battery is our source of power. Every battery has a + and a - side. When you touch the legs of the LED to the sides of the battery, you create a closed circuit for tiny electrons to travel from the - side to the + side of the battery. These tiny electrons are always there, waiting for a power source to give them energy and a closed path for them to travel through. While traveling along the path, they turn on everything in their way, as long as they have enough energy.



WHAT KIDS BUILT AT MCNY

CREATE

Make the yummiest ice cream in all sorts of flavors, shapes, and forms. Serve them on popsicles or on a takeout tray, add fruit toppings, and turn them into a sundae!

MATERIALS



1

Grab your modeling clay and start making different ice cream treats! You can use a bowl or popsicle sticks to serve them!

2

Grab some fruit models, color them, and turn them into yummy looking strawberries, blueberries, banana, pineapple, lemon slices, and watermelon. Add them to your ice creams as toppings!

3

Fold in the edges of the construction paper; make it look like a tray for your ice cream sundae.



DID YOU KNOW?

Fun facts you should know as an ice cream maker:

- The tallest ice cream cone was over 9 feet tall in Italy!
- The average number of licks to finish a scoop of ice cream is 50
- The most popular flavor is vanilla, then chocolate, but chocolate ice cream was invented before vanilla
- Some of the strangest flavors found are: avocado, garlic, chili, licorice, stilton cheese, and bacon.

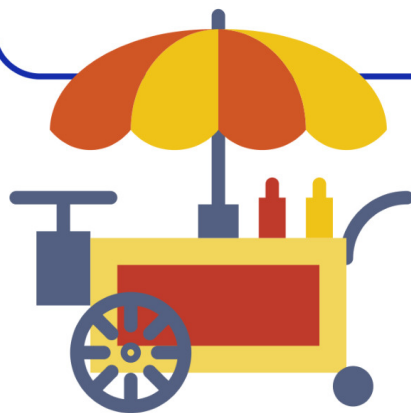
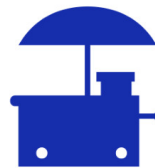


WHAT KIDS BUILT AT MCNY

CREATE

Design a mighty food cart with a laser cut wooden model, stickers, wheels, and axles! Bring your kitchen on the wheels to your dream city and feed everyone on your way!

MATERIALS



1

Color your food cart model.
The more cheerful the better!

2

Add stickers to your food cart
and design a special sign for it.

3

Add front and back wheels with
axles, and secure them in place
with small rubber bands.

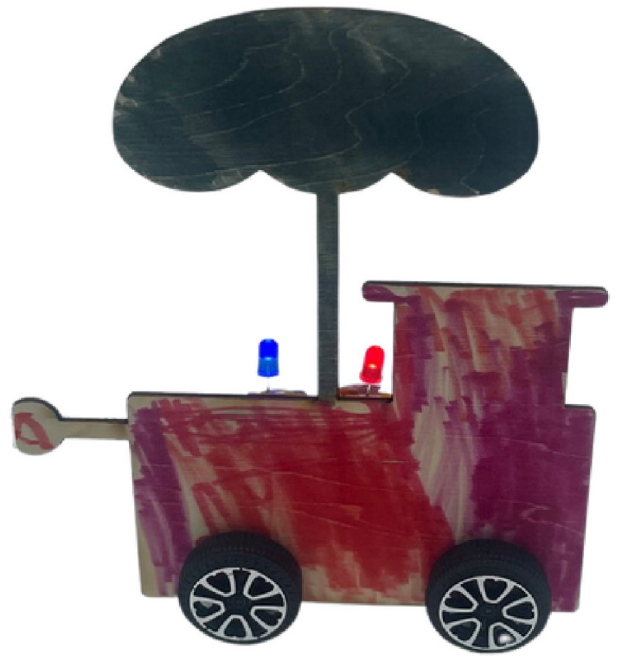


HOW IT'S DESIGNED

Designers often start with a very simple prototype of their new idea. Then they iterate, and repeat this cycle many times until they are happy with their design. When designing food carts, you want them to make people hungry and excited about the food you serve. Think of signs, images, and colors that would make your cart look appetizing and inviting!



WHAT KIDS BUILT AT MCNY

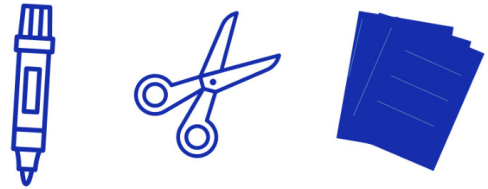




CREATE

Make delicious looking food out of paper, arts, and craft material. Make veggies with paper cut outs, fold paper to make fries, assemble them all together to make pizza, tacos, and anything else you can dream of!

MATERIALS



1

Color all of the yummy food ingredients. Tomato, cucumber slices, basil leaves, carrots, avocado, lettuce leaf, peppers, and patty (or egg!)

2

Grab the splashes and turn them into sauces. Ketchup, mayo, mustard, honey, jam? You decide!

3

Use a yellow piece of paper to create even more food. You can cut it into a slice of cheese, lemon, or perhaps yellow corn. You can fold the paper to make fries, taco shell, or... anything you're hungry for!

4

Make sandwiches using toast or prepare yummy pizza!



DID YOU KNOW?

Countries around the world have their own popular street food:

- Bangladesh: Beguni (fried eggplant)
- China: Chuan (skewered meat)
- France: Crepe (thin, pancake-like pastry)
- Germany: Currywurst
- England: Fish and Chips
- Greece: Gyro
- Mexico: Tacos
- Philippines: Banana Cue



WHAT KIDS BUILT AT MCNY

Think Like A Maker

- Make an ice cream truck with paper, LEGOs, cardboard, or something else!



Think Like A Techie

- Create a 3D model of ice cream on TinkerCad.
- Take a photo of your ice cream truck. Upload it to Scratch and make an ice cream game with it!



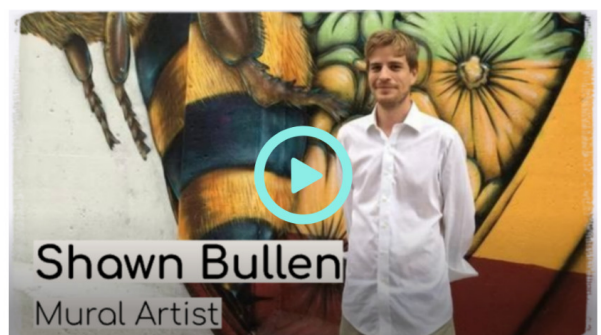
Think Like A Designer

- Design a new ice cream truck model.
- Design a logo for your ice cream business.
- Make your truck stand out by designing a theme song for it.



Think Like An Artist

- Draw a mural on the side of your truck to support an important cause or to make your customers feel excited, happy, cheerful, or something else.



Click the images to watch these videos.

Think Like An Inventor

- Invent the next version of an ice cream truck. Will it be more kid friendly? Will it be able to keep the ice cream colder for longer? How?



Think Like A Hacker

- Add a feature to your truck so it can fly to customers!
- Design and build AI robots that can make customized flavors on the spot!



Think Like A Mathematician

- Launch your ice cream truck as a business! Add prices to all your menu items. Calculate the cost of materials and make a budget!



Think Like A Scientist

- Experiment with the physics of wheels and friction. What wheel designs would make your truck faster?
- Develop a new ice cream recipe that is both healthy and delicious!





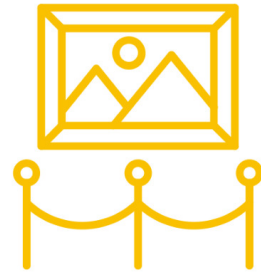
HOW KIDS TOOK IT FURTHER AT MCNY





Share Like An Artist

Exhibit your food carts in a museum show of your own!



Share Like An Engineer

Give a TED talk about how the use of LEDs improved your ice cream truck model.



Share Like A Storyteller

Play with your truck! Invite friends to be your customers and sell them yummy food!



SHARE



Share Like An Inventor

Announce the launch of your food trucks with a video demo.

Share Like A Designer

Showcase your ice cream truck design process in a zine!



Share Like A Techie

Have others experience tasting your ice cream and popsicles with virtual reality.

Share Like A Scientist

Present your delicious food recipes in a science journal publication.





HOW KIDS SHARED AT MCNY

They published photos of their trucks and foods in this lookbook!





They played with their trucks on a map of New York City.



PART TWO

Dare to design your dream city!

Where are all of these food trucks and ice cream carts going to go?! Let's place them around our shared city! We'll get inspired by the subway and use paper and markers to bring our city to life.



FOOD MAPS OF OUR CITY



SPARK



FOR FAMILIES WHO
COULD VISIT MCNY

ABOUT THE ART

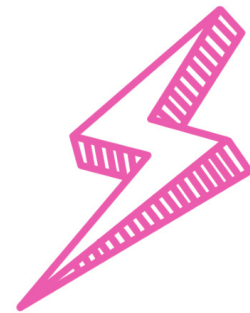
September 2003: Rick Meyerowitz was on an A train headed downtown. He was absentmindedly staring at the subway map and thinking about lunch, when all the station names on the map suddenly rearranged themselves in his mind to become food-related names. “That’s interesting,” he thought. “What if I redid the subway map to make it a food map?” It seemed a daunting prospect; so many places to rename! So he went to Maira Kalman, his brilliant partner in wordplay and funny names. “I love it but I don’t know if it’s doable,” he told her. Maira knocked the doubt right out of his head with characteristic subtlety: “You’re an idiot!” she told him. “It’s brilliant! We’re doing it, Mister, and we’re doing it right away.”



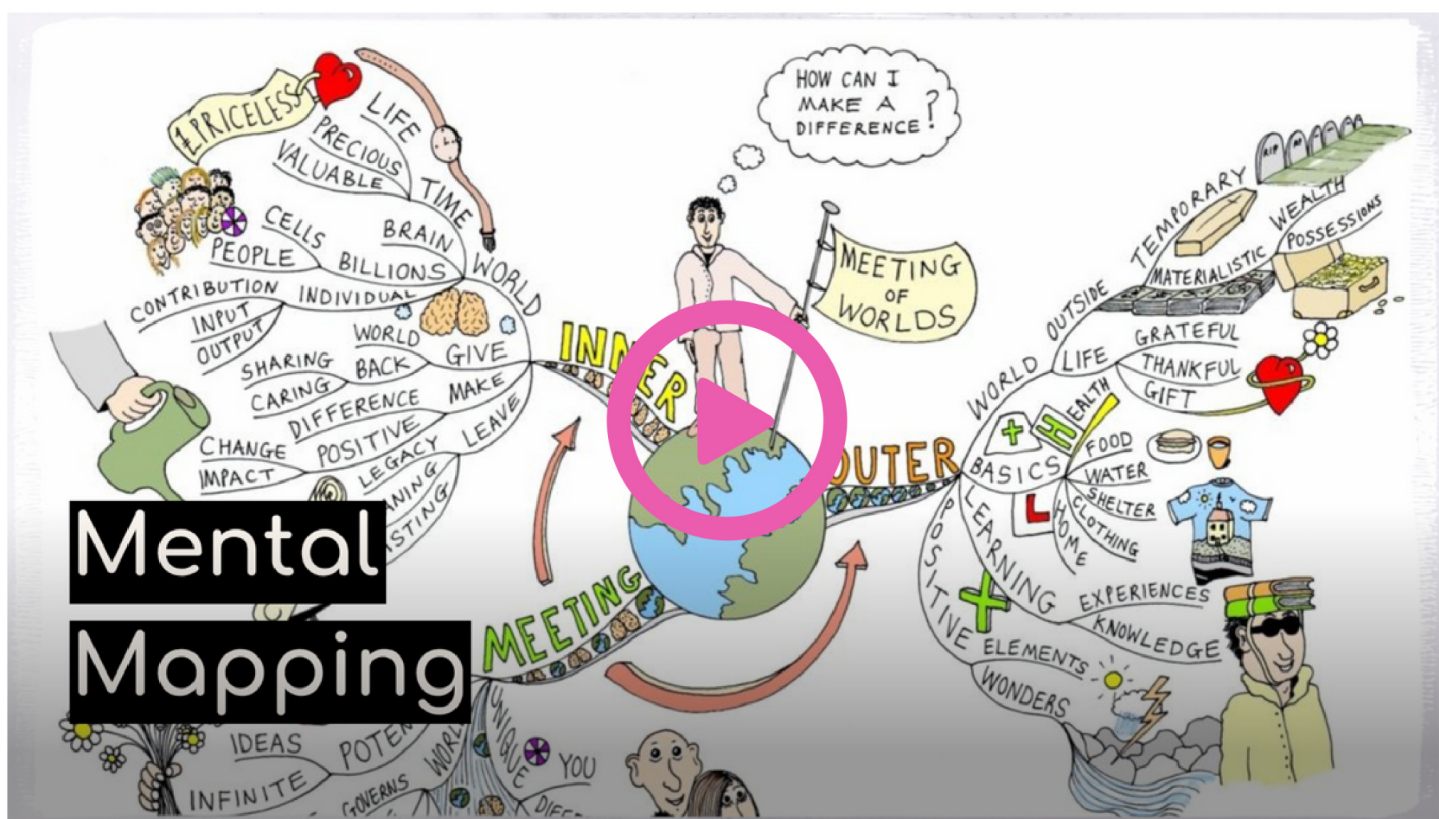
The New York City Sub Culinary Map

In the months that followed, they went to ethnic food stores all over the city. They made lists of funny foods they found. They ate in every type of restaurant they could find; taking copious notes on the strange dishes they ordered and sometimes ate. They consulted cookbooks and food encyclopedias and compiled their research into a list of over a thousand names. They spent months doing nothing but choosing the funniest names and moving them around a pencil sketch of the map. They renamed all 468 stations and added 16 for the Second Avenue line, which may never even be built. They renamed all the neighborhoods, parks, cemeteries and waterways – 650 names in all.

SPARK



Get creative by learning about mental mapping and then make your own mental map of your city or town!



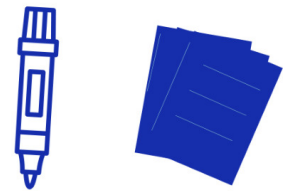
Click the image to watch this video.

**FOR FAMILIES ANYWHERE
IN THE WORLD**

CREATE

Draw a map of your city! Imagine you are taking a drive through your town. Look out the window -- what do you notice? Keep that in mind while creating your city map!

MATERIALS



1

Draw the outline of your city. You can use an existing map as a guide, or draw it just using your imagination.



2

Label the different neighborhoods, including where you live!



3

Doodle roads, subway lines, cars, pedestrians, houses, trees, parks, and shops. What's your favorite place in your city? Add it to the map!

DID YOU KNOW?

A cartographer (a person who makes maps) named John Spilsbury was actually the inventor of the jigsaw puzzle! In 1762, he attached one of his master maps onto a piece of wood and then cut around the countries. He gave it to children in the local school to help them learn geography. The original name he gave to them was "dissected puzzles." The term "jigsaw" comes from the name of the special saw that was later used to cut the puzzles, invented in the 1880's.



**WHAT KIDS
MADE AT MCNY**





Think Like A Maker

- Make your map come to life with 3D! Use paper, cardboard, or LEGOs to add buildings, houses and parks to your city map.



Think Like A Techie

- Create a 3D model of a house to add to your city in TinkerCad.



Think Like A Designer

- Get inspired by a famous architect and add new buildings in their style to your city.



Think Like An Artist

- Doodle emotions on your map based on how places in your city make you feel!
- Add art to your city in the most unexpected and surprising places!



Click the images to watch these videos.

Think Like An Engineer

- Use paper folding and cutting techniques to engineer 3D bridges, tunnels and elevated roads for your city map.



Think Like A Storyteller

- Use your map to tell a story about pirate treasure! Make characters and props to make your story come to life!



Think Like An Inventor

- Invent something to help animals thrive in your human city! How can we co-exist with animals while not ruining their habitats?



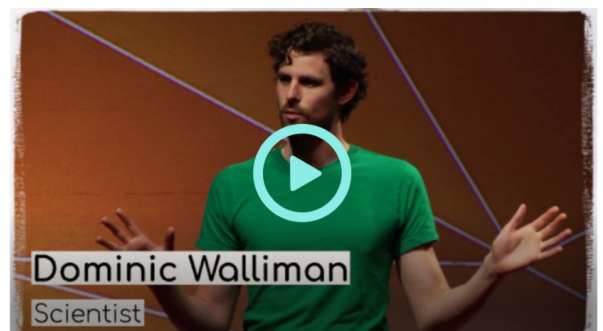
Think Like A Scientist

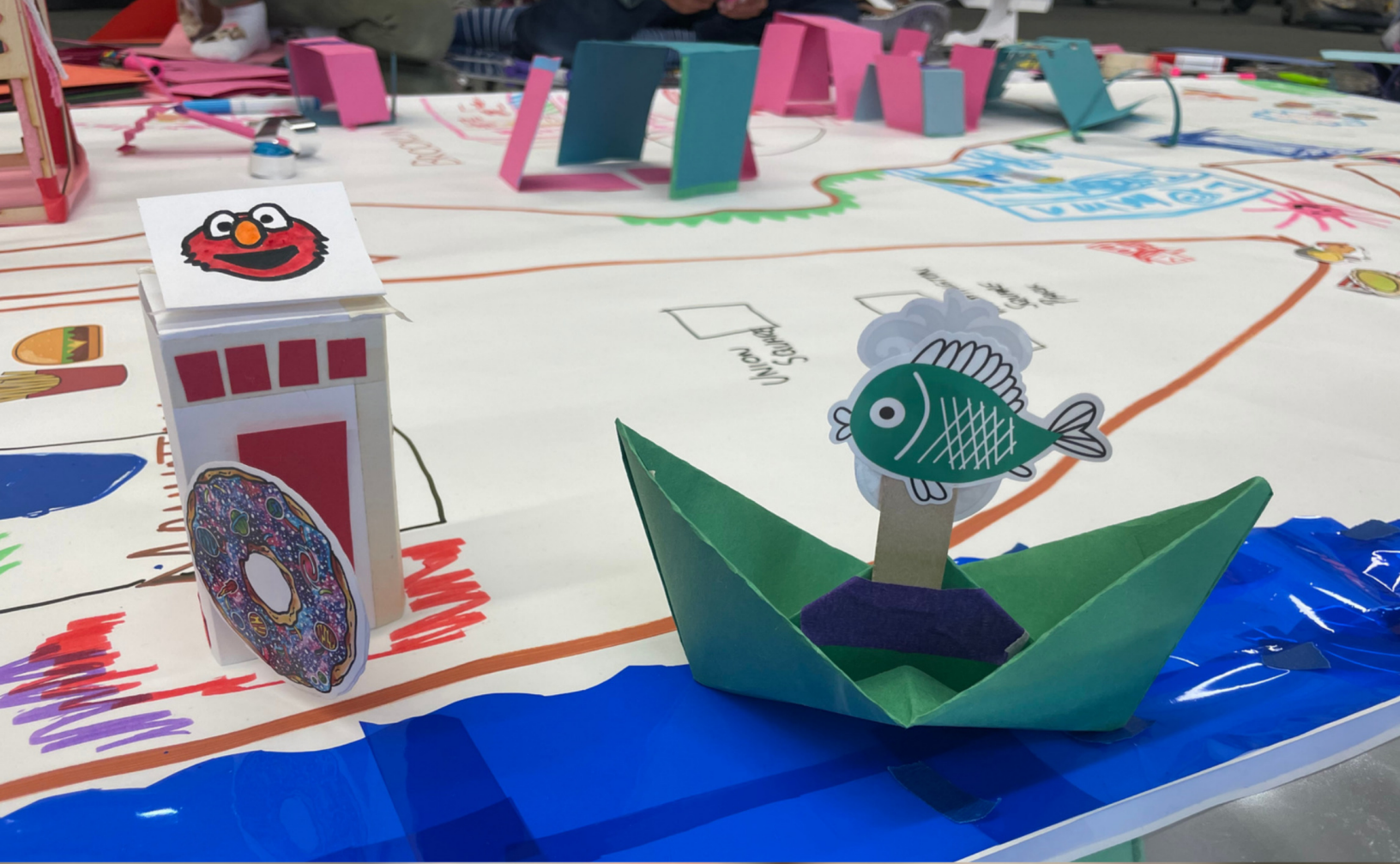
- What would your map have looked like in the past? What about in prehistoric times? Add dinosaurs and fossils to your map to show its history!



Think Like A Scientist

- Make a mind map -- a "map" of ideas or information! Use it to explain a science topic, like quantum physics.





HOW KIDS TOOK IT FURTHER AT MCNY





Share Like A Maker

Post an article on a DIY blog about the different techniques and materials you used to construct your 3D city map.

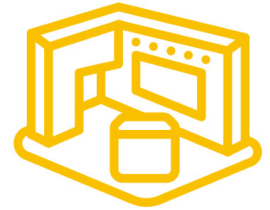
Share Like A Designer

Publish your architectural designs and models in a magazine.



Share Like A Techie

Showcase your 3D house models at a technology convention.



SHARE



Share Like An Artist

Display your maps in a public space and invite others to view them.

Share Like A Scientist

Announce your archaeological findings about your city in a TED talk.



Share Like An Inventor

Present your solution to helping animals thrive in human cities to the mayor to make a change!



Share Like A Storyteller

Premiere a stop motion animation about your city at a film festival!



HOW KIDS SHARED AT MCNY



They hung up their maps on display at the museum for others to see and get inspired.

Click the image to watch this animation.



They made a stop motion animation about the adventures of four friends around the city and shared it on social media and in this lookbook.

The museum's board had a meeting in the same room after the workshop and were delighted to see the maps the kids made.



**FUN
FACT**

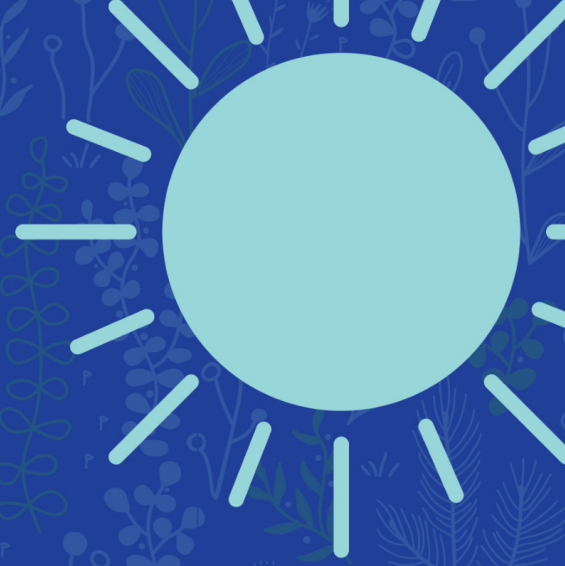


PART THREE

Dare to grow the most beautiful garden!

We'll construct a recycled greenhouse, plant seeds of our favorite flowers, fruits and vegetables, and design a planter to grow them in.

INDOOR GARDENS & GREENHOUSES



SPARK



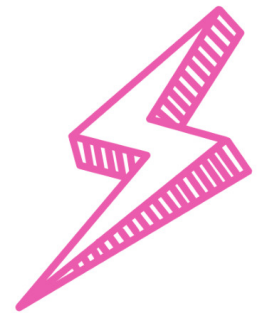
FOR FAMILIES WHO
COULD VISIT MCNY

ABOUT THE ART

Mary Mattingly is an interdisciplinary artist who creates large art and sculpture installations about the environment. The MCNY exhibit features her sculpture “Biosphere.” The biosphere is a recycled ecosystem structure that grows the amazing pickerelweed plant in saltwater. It's basically a live experiment! Mary designed the structure to address rising sea levels due to climate change.



SPARK



Get creative by learning about indigenous farmer and agricultural lawyer A-dae Romero-Briones and different indigenous farming techniques that promote sustainable gardening practices!

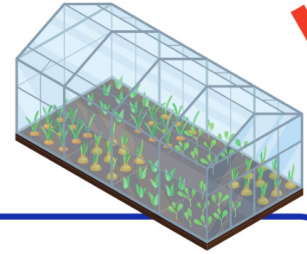


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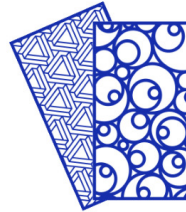
**FOR FAMILIES ANYWHERE
IN THE WORLD**

CREATE

Make a greenhouse to hold the coolest plants, using recycled wood!



MATERIALS



1

Use recycled pieces of laser cut wood and tape to build a house structure.

2

Cover the "windows" or holes in the wood with colored cellophane. Try to layer them to create your own color combinations. Blue on red, yellow on green, green on green... What other colors can you create?

3

Add some doodles to the wood surfaces to make your plant's home bright and colorful!



HOW IT WORKS

Greenhouses work by using the sun's rays to create thermal energy, keeping the plants inside warm and protected. Greenhouses are often made of transparent glass to allow as much light as possible to enter. The light heats up the air and everything in the greenhouse, like the plants, water, and soil. The glass walls also act as an insulator, not allowing the heat to escape and maintaining a stable temperature.



**WHAT KIDS
BUILT AT MCNY**

CREATE

It's time to garden! Plant seeds to grow flowers, fruits, vegetables or even leafy greens!

MATERIALS



- 1 Put soil in your pot.
- 2 Make a small hole in the soil, add in your seeds and cover them with soil fully.
- 3 Water your seeds so that the soil is damp, but not muddy.
- 4 Put your pot in a place where it will get lots of sun.



SCIENCE BEHIND IT

When plants receive the right amount of sun, water, and soil nutrients (like nitrogen and phosphorus) their cells multiply and divide, making the entire plant grow bigger and bigger! Each plant species requires a different balance of these elements. When not given the right balance, plants actually scream! They let out popping or clicking noises in ultrasonic frequencies outside the range of human hearing. These "screams" could also signal danger to other plants or attract animals to help with pests that are harming it. If we could hear these noises, we'd know when they needed more sunlight or water.

CREATE

Design your own planter! Give your plant the most fun, colorful, and exciting container to live in!

MATERIALS

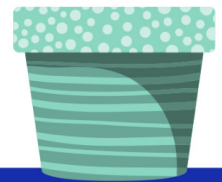
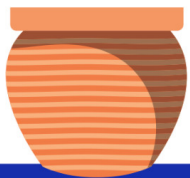


1

Draw on a white paper cup, adding doodles of rainbows, flowers, nature scenes or something abstract.

2

Then, glue on googly eyes, pipe cleaners and modeling clay to transform your planter into a sculpture of its own!



DID YOU KNOW?

Plant pots can be made from all different types of materials: clay, plastic, glazed ceramic, fiberglass, concrete, foam and metal. The amount you need to water your plant depends on the type of pot you grow your plant in. For example, terracotta clay pots are porous, so they dry out quickly, causing the plant to be more thirsty and require frequent watering.

**WHAT KIDS
BUILT
AT MCNY**





Think Like A Maker

- Did you know that some flowers can act as "hotels" for animals? Create a flower hotel for frogs!
- What other buildings or structures can you make using the same materials?



Think Like A Techie

- Go on a virtual tour of your greenhouse by coding in Twinery.



Think Like A Designer

- Design a tiny house that can attach to your greenhouse and be used to travel the world in!



Think Like An Artist

- Did you know that plants can sing? Listen for the music of plants and compose your own music to sing with them.



Click the images to watch these videos.

Think Like An Inventor

- Invent a farming method that makes your produce fresher, juicier and tastier!
- Invent a brand new fruit or vegetable using genetic engineering.



Think Like A Hacker

- Put your greenhouse on the top of a building! Use your greenhouse garden to improve the environment and make your city more sustainable.



Think Like An Engineer

- Make farming more efficient by using all of the land under the sea! Engineer an underwater garden to grow your produce.



Think Like A Scientist

- Move your garden to space! Grow food in a greenhouse on Mars.



Think Like A Scientist

- Explore the science of light and color using the cellophane on your greenhouse windows.



HOW KIDS TOOK IT FURTHER AT MCNY





Share Like A Scientist

Present your findings of growing food on Mars in an issue of an outer space newspaper.



Share Like An Artist

Publish photos of your greenhouses in a lookbook about color and light.

Share Like A Hacker

Distribute flyers and put up posters about your greenhouse roof garden to encourage other buildings in your city to do the same!



SHARE

Share Like A Techie

Upload your greenhouse tour to an app store and invite others to download it.



Share Like A Storyteller

Publish a comic book of the epic tales of your garden plants.



Share Like An Inventor

Submit a video demo of your improved farming methods to an agriculture competition.



Share Like A Engineer

Showcase your ingenious underwater garden at a farming and gardening fair.



HOW KIDS SHARED AT MCNY



They took photos of their greenhouses to be published in this lookbook.



They found a home for their creations on a map of New York City and contributed to a bigger cause.





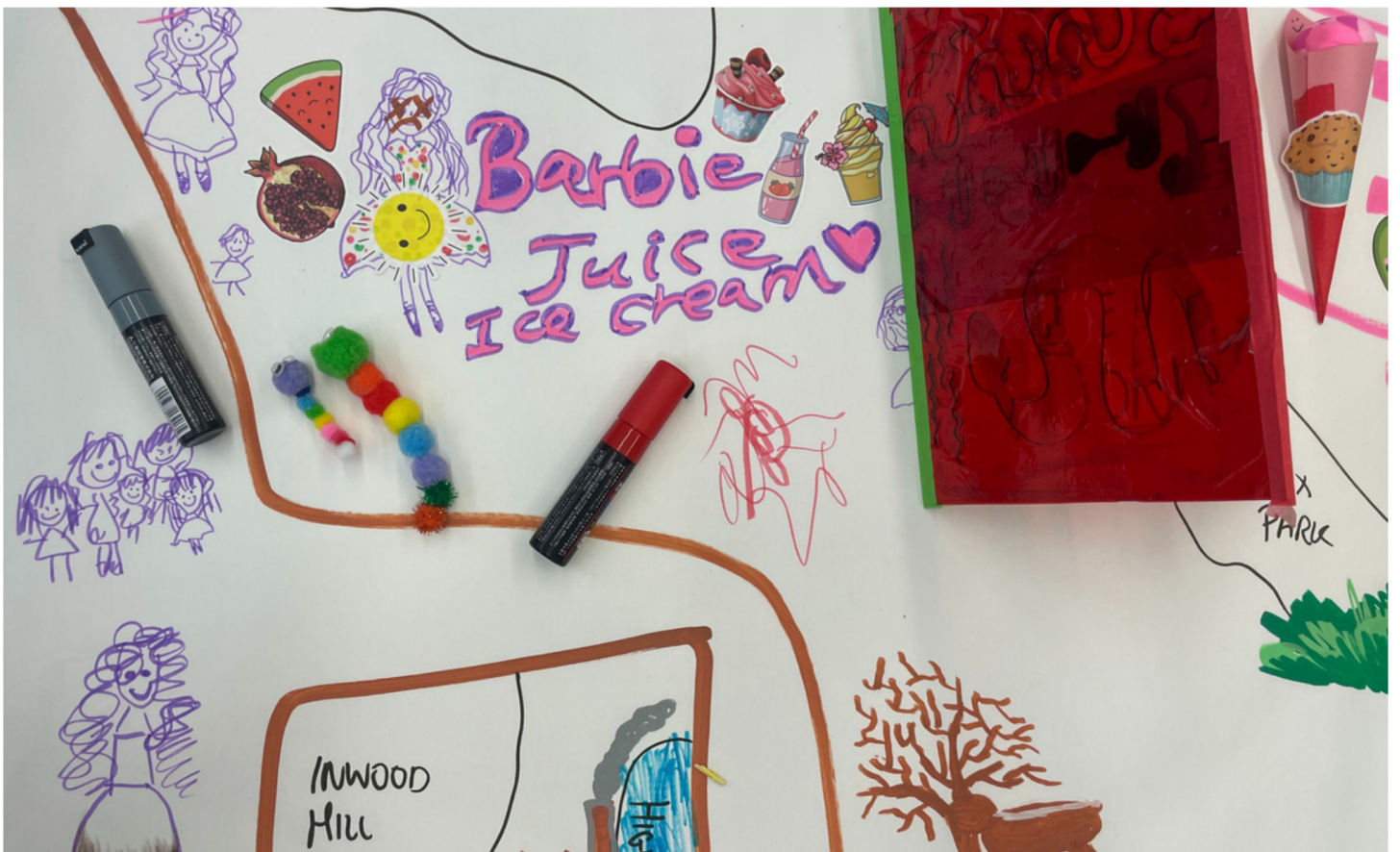
MIX IT

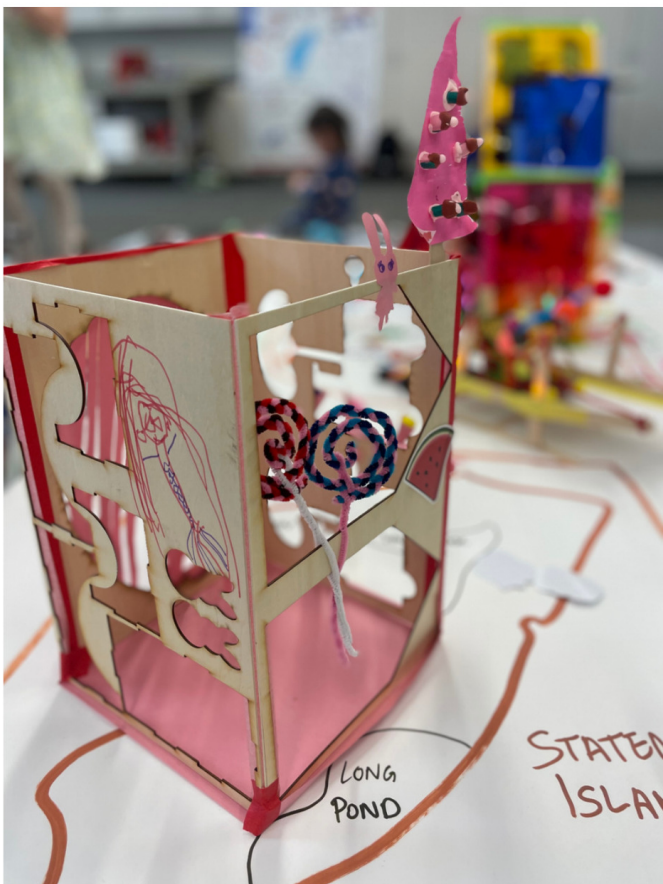
Dare to put it all together!

You've created ice cream trucks, food carts, sweet ice pops, the tastiest french fries and sandwiches, imagined and dreamt the most beautiful city, planted gardens all around, and shared your work! Now, it's time to put it all together...

Another way to **share** is by mixing and remixing your projects, contributing to a bigger collaborative work! Add your greenhouses to your city map. Place your food carts and ice cream trucks on different streets. Who will stop by your shops today? Use your toys as customers to walk around your city and enjoy all there is eat there! Give them a bite of your most famous ice cream cone or hot dog. What do they think of it? (And make sure they don't forget to pay you!)

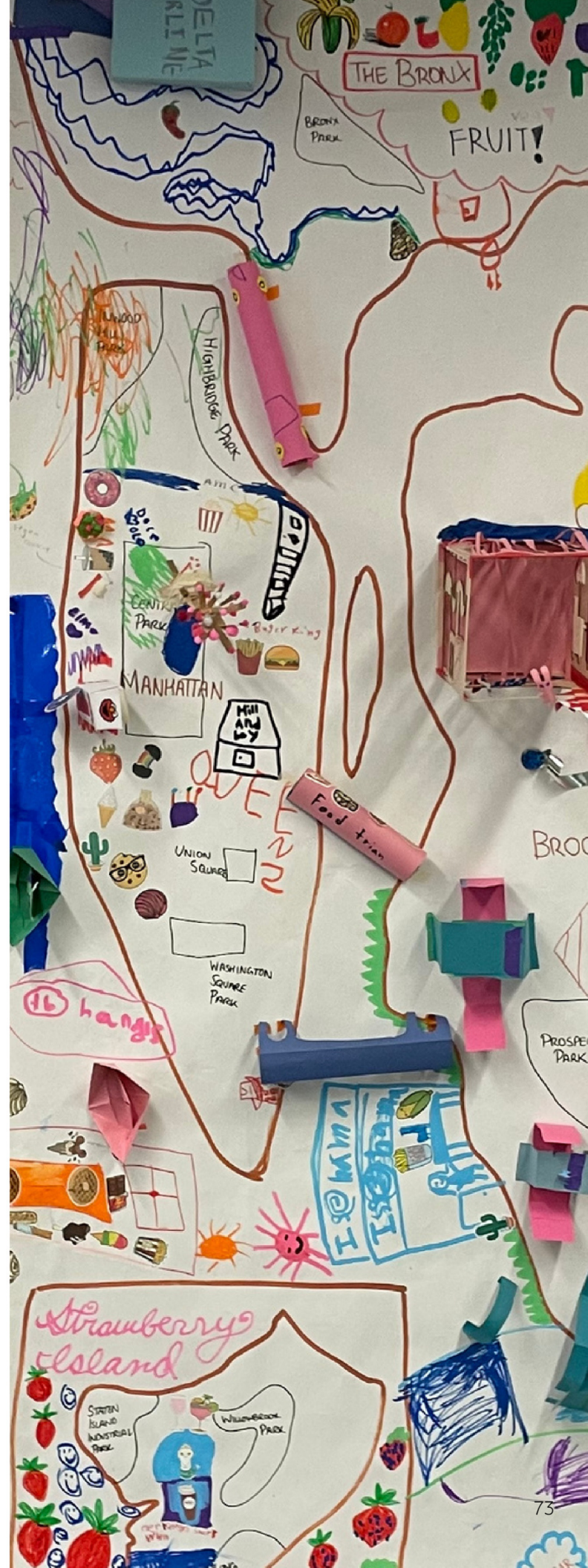
Turn the lights off at night and watch your city shine bright with LEDs! What will the city people do next? Go to a Broadway show? Check out a fashion show? Or maybe stop by their favorite museum? The possibilities are endless!











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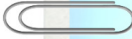
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ABOUT The GIANT Room

The GIANT Room is a creative STEM hub for kids with GIANT dreams who dare to act on them. We help kids to use STEM as a tool for self expression, creativity, and collaboration.

The GIANT Room offers after school programs, camps, family events, specialized co-design workshops with industry designers, and online creative bootcamp membership. Kids may join our programs online, in-person at our studio, or off-site at one of our partner locations in museums and schools.

Founded by two women with PhDs in education and backgrounds in science and engineering, we dream of a world where every child has the confidence to voice their ideas, have access to mentors and resources they need to build prototypes of their ideas, and the opportunity to share those ideas with their community... just like the GIANT kids who published their collaborative, creative work in this lookbook to be shared with millions of families around the world.

Make sure you are on our email list by signing up on our website, follow our work on Instagram (@thegiantroom), and send us any questions you may have via email to support@thegiantroom.com.



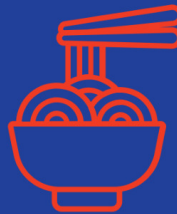
ABOUT MCNY

The Museum of the City of New York fosters understanding of the distinctive nature of urban life in the world's most influential metropolis. It engages visitors by celebrating, documenting, and interpreting the city's past, present, and future.

The Museum of the City of New York was founded in 1923 by Henry Collins Brown, a Scottish-born writer with a vision for a populist approach to the city. The Museum was originally housed in Gracie Mansion, the future residence of the Mayor of New York. Hardinge Scholle succeeded Henry Brown in 1926 and began planning a new home for the Museum. The City offered land on Fifth Avenue on 103rd-104th Streets and construction for Joseph H. Freedlander's Georgian Colonial-Revival design for the building started in 1929 and was completed in 1932.

During the next few decades, the Museum amassed a considerable collection of exceptional items, including several of Eugene O'Neill's handwritten manuscripts, a complete room of Duncan Phyfe furniture, 412 glass negatives taken by Jacob Riis and donated by his son, a man's suit worn to George Washington's Inaugural Ball, and the Carrie Walter Stettheimer dollhouse, which contains a miniature work by Marcel Duchamp.

Today the Museum's collection contains approximately 750,000 objects, including prints, photographs, decorative arts, costumes, paintings, sculpture, toys, and theatrical memorabilia.



FOOD IN THE CITY

LOOKBOOK