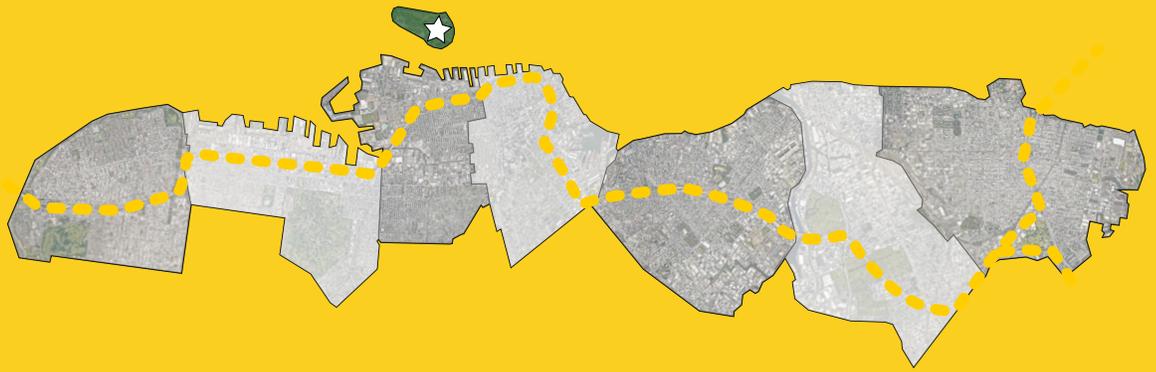


Institute for  
Public Architecture



# RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES Across the BQE

Call for Applications  
Fall Fellowship  
2022

# 2022 Fall Fellowship Call for Applications

## Reconnecting Communities across the BQE: Unraveling Moses' Legacy

Seeking community stakeholders and interdisciplinary design teams working in Brooklyn & Queens: The IPA will help match teams of experts with community partners to assist in visioning plans for a post BQE neighborhood. See next page for details on how to bring this opportunity to your community this fall 2022!

*“The Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (BQE) represents the paradox of famed highway builder Robert Moses’ legacy. The roads, parks, bridges, and housing he constructed that reshaped New York City and Long Island to serve the public resulted in the displacement of thousands of families, destruction of tight-knit neighborhoods, and overall were built at the expense of innumerable people and communities of color. The BQE is no exception. Today, as the aging highway crumbles, New York City needs to decide if there’s a better way forward.”*

— Congress for the New Urbanism’s Freeways Without Futures 2021. Read the report [here](#).

*“Talking to communities, allowing them to think what is possible, and bringing them along in the process, is going to be key to any of this happening.”*

— Amy Breedlove, 2020 IPA Fellow, Former President Cobble Hill Association, currently pursuing an MS in Environmental Policy at The New School

# Introduction

For too long now, New York City government officials have been struggling with what to do about the crumbling infrastructure of the BQE corridor, with the looming question of how to justify pouring billions of dollars into repairing only the Brooklyn Heights triple cantilever portion of the Expressway at the expense of stabilizing other sections that cut through less well-heeled communities. While NYC Department of Transportation and the Mayor's office are currently undertaking a strategic review of the BQE Corridor, the **IPA continues its parallel investigation into what can be done with this aging piece of Moses infrastructure, including the possibility of removing it in total or in part.**

Other cities have seen highway deconstruction as a means to redress the challenges of climate change, environmental justice, quality of life, and urban development in one fell swoop: San Francisco's Octavia Boulevard, The Harbor Drive Freeway in Portland, Oregon, Boston's Big Dig, Rochester's Inner Loop, and most recently, Syracuse's Interstate 81. **Why can't we?**

With the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and Inflation Reduction Act, which include over \$4 billion for reconnecting communities negatively affected by urban highways, New York City has a "once-in-a-generation" opportunity to completely rethink our approach to the problem of decaying infrastructure, redirect our focus away from car-centric culture towards universal energy efficient transportation and "tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justices, and invest in communities that have too often been left behind." Read the full White House statement on President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law [here](#).

**The IPA invites community engagement professionals, urban activists, urban planners, and designers, in partnership with local stakeholders, to select one of the seven catchment areas associated with Community Boards along the BQE (Brooklyn CB 10, 7, 6, 2, & 1 and Queens CB 1 and 2),** in which to facilitate community discussions about the potential transformation of the BQE corridor. This fellowship opportunity builds upon the IPA's very successful and well attended 2020 Fall Fellow Residency "To Be or Not to BQE: A Post-Moses Community Vision."

## About the Fellowship

During the **first stage in Fall 2020, "To Be or Not to BQE"**, five teams of Fellows developed pragmatic solutions as well as imaginative "blue-sky" proposals for transforming this anachronistic urban highway. See more [here](#).

For this **second stage in Fall 2022, "Reconnecting Communities across the BQE"**, the IPA asks teams to consider that sections of the roadway might be removed, reconceived as boulevards, or decked-over, with an opportunity for communities to decide which programs—housing, community space, urban farms, recreation, schools, green industries—might occupy this potential "land bank" along the BQE corridor.

During the eight-week Fellowship, selected teams of Fellows and their community partners will have access to workspace and shared amenities at the IPA's Block House on Governors Island and will be invited to participate in several public presentations to share their findings. At the conclusion of the Fellowship, teams will assemble all catchment areas into a single mosaic that maps the various aspirations of communities along the BQE.

Fellows will:

- Facilitate community discussion around this “once-in-a-generation” opportunity
- Meet weekly with guest lecturers and experts
- Share team meals
- Collectively problem solve

Work produced by the teams during the Fellowship will be exhibited publicly at the Block House and published as a volume of the IPA Fellowship series.

Planning is currently underway for the IPA’s Summer 2023 BQE Symposium on Governors Island, a culminating event bringing all voices to the table from both the first and second stages, along with government agencies, elected officials, policy makers, and transportation experts.

## Application

Please apply via the application page at [the-ipa.org/apply](https://the-ipa.org/apply).

Ways to Apply:

- Design Team + Community Partners
- Design Teams seeking Community Partners
- Community Partners seeking Design Teams

Applicants will be asked to complete a Statement of Commitment:

Design team members are asked to commit a minimum of 20 hours per week to include design, community sessions, team meals, and public presentations, as well as facilitating inclusive discourse during the 8 week Fellowship.

Community Partners are asked to participate for the duration of the 8 week Fellowship.

## Selection Criteria

The IPA is seeking multidisciplinary teams that include community engagement professionals, urban designers, urban planners, in partnership with community groups working within a specific Community Board catchment area. Teams should demonstrate innovative contributions to discourse on urbanism, environmental justice, racial justice, affordable housing, urban agriculture, ecology, resilient infrastructure, and community engagement.

Note: The Selection Committee intends to choose only one full team—Design Team + Community Partners—within each Community Board catchment area (to address the entire length of the BQE) but will consider partial teams—either a design team or a consortium of community groups within a catchment area—who apply to be matched with another partial team, with selection of final teams at the Committee’s discretion.

# Selection Process

An independent Selection Committee of design professionals, including architects, urban planners, and urban designers will review applications and select teams.

# Benefits & Expectations

Selected teams of Fellows and their community partners will have access to workspace, exhibition space, library, kitchen, computer workstations, high-speed internet, and other shared amenities at the IPA's Block House on Governors Island. They will also have access to the IPA's network of professionals and design advocates, and the opportunity to present their work-in-progress publicly and at the conclusion of the Fellowship.

Fellows receive:

- Recognition as Institute for Public Architecture Fellows
- Access to shared space for collaboration and exhibition for eight weeks
- Access to experts in design, architecture, planning, and policy
- Participation in facilitated public events
- Promotion through the IPAs various media platforms

# Schedule

*subject to change*

October	6	Fellowship Kickoff
	13	Guest Speaker/Team Dinner
	20	Working Session
	27	Public Program/Panel Discussion
November	3	Guest Speaker/Team Dinner
	10	Working Session
	17	Public Program/Panel Discussion
December	1	Fellowship Conclusion

# Note

Materials submitted for and resulting from the Fellowship may be retained for use by the IPA for exhibition, publication, and promotion purposes, without compensation to the Fellows. Each team will retain full copyright of all materials resulting from the Fellowship unless otherwise stated. The IPA will not be held liable for any damages, errors or omissions.

# Key Information

**Location:** Block House, 9 Nolan Park, Governors Island, New York Harbor

**Fellowship Period:** October 6th - December 1st 2022

**Selection:** Independent Selection Committee to be announced shortly.

Visit [the-ipa.org/apply](https://the-ipa.org/apply) for more information, the application and the deadline to apply.

Questions should be submitted to [info@the-ipa.org](mailto:info@the-ipa.org) no later than September 9th 2022.

## Resources

More resources are available on the application page at [the-ipa.org/apply](https://the-ipa.org/apply).

**2022 Fall Fellowship Application Page**

**NYC Community Districts Map**

**Congress for the New Urbanism: Freeways Without Futures 2021**

**Coalition for the BQE Transformation**

**NYC Department of Transportation: BQE Atlantic to Sands**

**Brooklyn Eagle: Brooklyn without the BQE? Exhibit explores possibilities**

**Architectural Record: IPA's To BE or Not to BQE Exhibition**

**Community Boards:**

- **Brooklyn Main Page**
- **Brooklyn Board 1**
- **Brooklyn Board 2**
- **Brooklyn Board 6**
- **Brooklyn Board 7**
- **Brooklyn Board 10**
- **Queens Main Page**
- **Queens Board 1**
- **Queens Board 2**

# About the IPA

The Institute for Public Architecture believes in a future in which design is used as a tool for facilitating social justice and the public has a voice in all decisions that shape our built environment.

We use design to challenge social and physical inequities in our cities. We address urgent issues of design and policy by mobilizing our network of design activists, professionals, government professionals and community stakeholders. IPA's collaborative process involves a focused place-based design residency and related public programming that engages specialists in the field and members of the public, alike. In addition, the IPA records and promotes this work through exhibitions and publications.

Learn more at: [the-ipa.org](http://the-ipa.org).

# About the Block House

The Block House is a landmarked, stone-trimmed Greek Revival building designed in the 1840s by architect Martin E. Thompson. The Block House serves as the new headquarters of the IPA where a variety of programs, both themed Fellowships and Independent Project residencies, are conducted throughout the year.



*View of the Block House, Building 9, Nolan Park. Source: Trust for Governors Island*

