NYC AQUARIUM
& PUBLIC WATERFRONT
International open ideas competition

arch out loud

# contents

WHY AN AQUARIUM IN NYC?

New York City is a complex edifice constantly evolving and regenerating from its former conditions. Following the great recession of 2008, the city has seen rapid redevelopment and has capitalized on previously undesirable locations. Sitting at the top of these locations are the sites that have access to waterfront. Most of the ventures in these areas are private economical interests that only address public value when there is a direct return on profit. If not taken into consideration, many of these waterfronts will be absorbed by private developers and, with the constant return of people to the urban core, the need to create public and cultural infrastructure becomes more prevalent.

But what kind of easily accessible public space does NYC not already have? The city is filled with numerous icons, parks, theatres, and museums.

arch out loud's proposal - an aquarium. This cultural and public commodity is present in the Manhattan area, but only so as small additions and exhibits . A new aquarium would create a destination easily accessible from the city's five boroughs.

CHALLENGE

arch out loud proposes the implementation of **an intertwined public aquarium and park** for the borough of Queens and the surrounding city, thus allowing valuable waterfront spaces to be used by the public. Although NYC itself has a very distinct iconic identity, a public aquarium would help create an iconic destination within Queens itself. **arch out loud** challenges designers to experiment with conventional interpretations of the program and investigate how it can create a more appropriated relationship to its context.
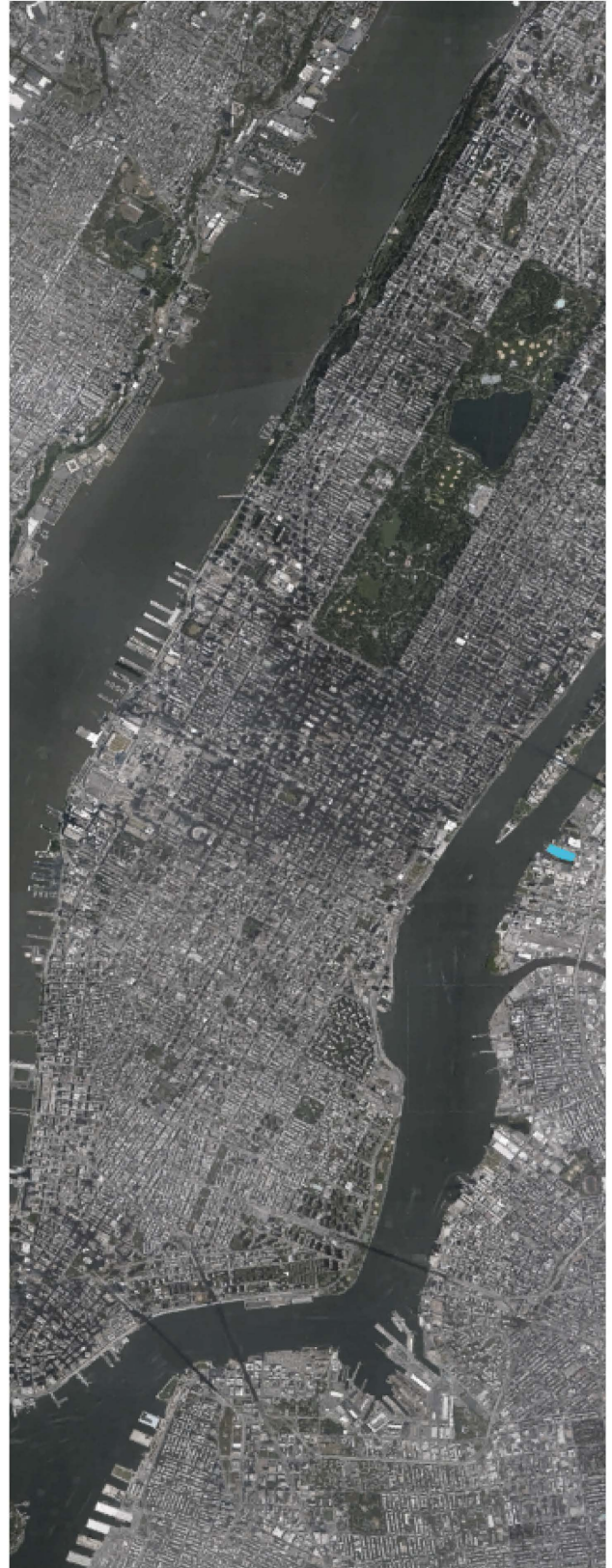
QUEENS & LONG ISLAND CITY

With almost 2.5 million residents, Queens is the second largest borough of New York City. The population of Queens is greater than every city in the United States with the exception of Los Angeles, Chicago, and the overall population of New York City. Increasing populations have caused the downtown district in New York City to reach beyond its previous Manhattan border, thus bolstering the growth of other boroughs such as Queens. With the current urban revival trends, the population of Queens is growing at its fastest rate in the last 10 years.

The redevelopment of the waterfront in Long Island City has grown from an initial spark of renewal to a continuing trend. New waterfront parks and residential towers rise from Hunters Point towards Queensboro Bridge. These new high-end apartments provide elite views of the Manhattan skyline for new residents. However, contemporary public institutions are not currently taking advantage of centralized waterfront in the triborough area.

SITE

The selected site for this competition lies at **the edge of Queens along the East River**, almost directly across from the southern tip of Roosevelt Island. The southern portion of the site is bordered by an underutilized canal that stems from the East River. The East River is directly accessible from the western edge of the site. In recent years, most of the **real estate surrounding the site has been built up or redeveloped**. Waterfront real estate to the north and south of the site has been or will be redeveloped into commercial and residential buildings. The portion of Roosevelt Island south of the Queensboro Bridge is being redeveloped to become a tech campus for Cornell University.
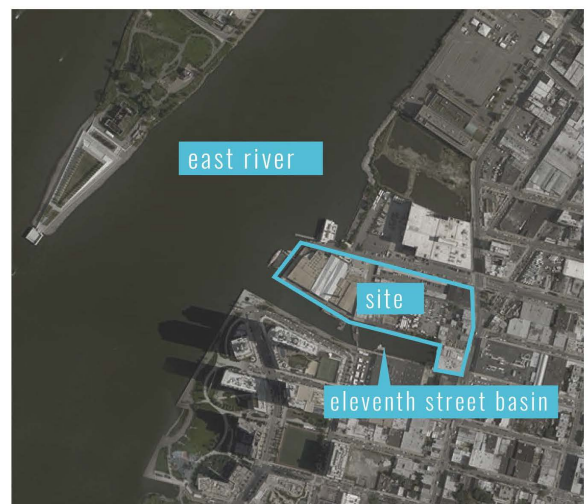
The site is **easily accessible** by metro with the Court Square station located within a 10-minute walk. Rail lines from all over New York come into the Hunterspoint Avenue and Long Island City train stations. Both are about a fifteen minute walk away from the site. A ferry line currently runs through the East River and connects Manhattan with Hunters Point just south of the proposed site, about a 15-minute walk away.

long island gantrys

MANHATTAN
QUEENS
BROOKLYN
boroughs map

east river
site
eleventh street basin
site map

location

central park

MANHATTAN

roosevelt island

ferry line

site

QUEENS

long island city

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New York City | view looking west

BROOKLYN

world trade

MANHATTAN

empire state building

QUEENS

T

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site

ferry line

roosevelt island

central park
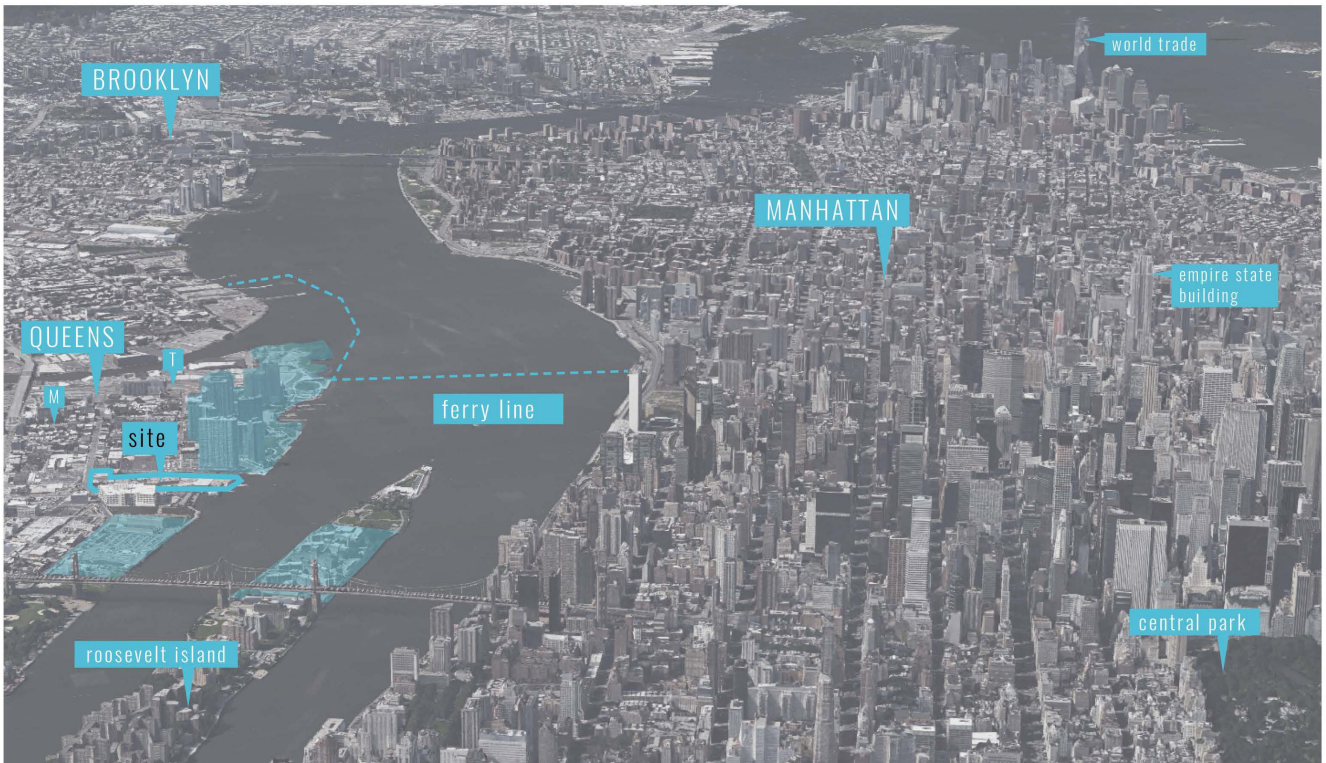
New York City | view looking southwest

AQUARIUM

HISTORY IN NYC

Although not as evident today, New York City holds claim to having the first public aquarium in the United States. In 1856, the famous American showman, PT Barnum, created one of the first aquariums in the country at his American Museum on Broadway. Unfortunately, this aquarium burned to the ground years later.

In 1896 another aquarium was opened in New York City, this time located at Castle Garden in Battery Park. The Battery Park Aquarium was easily accessible by both the population of those living in Manhattan and those in surrounding areas. However, in 1957 the aquarium moved to Coney Island. This shift from the heart of the city made a great public and cultural piece less accessible for the locals living in Manhattan, the Bronx and Queens, and for the millions of tourists coming to NYC every year.

MODERN AQUARIUMS

Today, aquariums have become a new platform for cultural architecture and experimentation. Designers of late are exploring how this program can be realized in different forms and functionalities.

The aquarium today has become a key cultural destination for visitors of large cities while simultaneously serving as a public icon to surrounding communities.

ny aquarium at battery park

georgia aquarium

PUBLIC & CULTURAL ANCHOR

A key element to the aquarium and use of the site is how it builds an inclusive environment that is identifiable and useful to the public. Aquariums should not be just another formal icon, but should generate strong social conditions where the users can connect to each other. As the city continues to evolve, it is vital that it provides recreational, educational, communal, and sustainable opportunities for its residents and visitors. As these spaces are developed, designers can create proposals that take on a level of flexibility to allow for the city's continuous change.
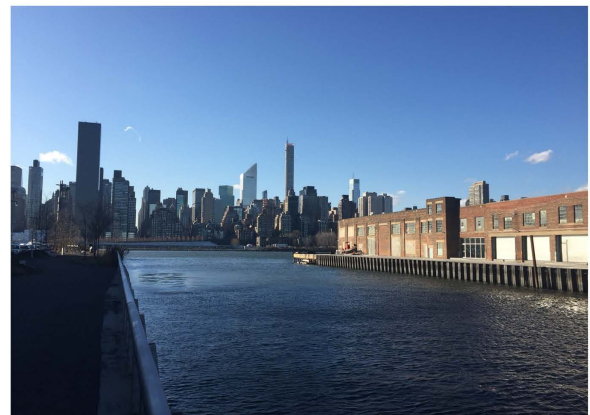
WATERFRONT PARK

Since Hurricane Sandy, waterfront land surrounding NYC has come to the forefront of many discussions. Architects like BIG and OMA have proposed bold new ideas that explore new ways to create inclusive environments which serve as both water control and social spaces.

The aquarium attempts to continue this discussion by implementing an element of usable space surrounding the building which serves both the public and environment. This public space can be intertwined and inseparable from the proposed program.

east river & eleventh street basin

manhattan & eleventh street basin

waterfront path

PROGRAM

In order to allow for general typological exploration and unique approaches, the program requirements have been roughly defined. The design for the site should, at a minimum, incorporate the following components:

Main Lobby Space
A gathering space through which users enter the rest of the aquarium, it should build a dialogue with the exterior conditions and surrounding site.
Approximately 10% of interior program.

Exhibit Areas
At least four different exhibit spaces should be shown in the proposal. Specific exhibit types and sizes are left to the discretion of the designers. For example, designers may develop a program focusing on species from a particular region or may develop a program that brings together species from all over the planet. In addition to live animal exhibits, interactive exhibits can also be included. Designers should include additional service spaces that are approximately one third (1/3) the size of each exhibit.
Combined area- approximately 50% of interior program.

Marine Research
Designs should include some elements to promote marine research and education in order to address sustainable futures and issues with post Hurricane Sandy. This can include labs facilities, lecture halls, classrooms, etc. but is left to the discretion of the designer.
Approximately 25% of interior program.

Service Spaces
Administration, Restrooms, Storage. These spaces are separate from exhibition services.
Approximately 15% of interior program.

Integrated Waterfront Park
Equally important to the aquarium program is public park space. Designers are to look deeply into the relationship between the exterior waterfront areas and the interior conditions of the aquarium.

Designers may incorporate additional program elements as they feel necessary. If additional programs are introduced, the project and documentation must give clear reasoning as to why.

OBJECTIVES

1 investigate new programmatic interpretations of an aquarium

2 create useful public space

3 create a dialogue between the program and the urban context

4 utilize the site's waterfront location

5 provide opportunity for education on sustainable marine practices

6 create a cultural destination for the community and city

Project submissions are not required to meet each of the above objectives. However, doing so may give the entry an advantage over others which do not include all the objectives.

JURY

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STUDIOS ARCHITECTURE
CEO, PRINCIPAL, AND FOUNDER OF NYC OFFICE

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SOCRATI SERETIS
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SENIOR DESIGN ASSOCIATE | EDUCATION & AQUARIUM

DANNY HA
THE JERDE PARTNERSHIP
VICE PRESIDENT, DESIGN PRINCIPAL

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The jury will evaluate projects based on communal conditions, program innovations, and overall appearance.

Projects will be examined for their experimentation with programmatic elements and the meaning of the aquarium typology. It is equally important for an entry to have a thorough understanding of the site's context and its many complex factors.

The jury reserves the right to add additional criteria that they determine to factor into the program and the project's site. Additionally, the jury reserves the right to select projects that do not meet all of the brief's criteria as long as they justify the selection.

JUDGING PROCESS

The judging process will consist of two rounds with the same jury members. During the first round, judges will independently select projects they believe to most adequately address the competition parameters. Entries will then be ranked in the order of most selected by the jury. From the ranking, the top 10 projects will advance to the second round of judging. If two or more projects are tied for the last spot, all projects of that rank will advance to the next round. The jury will jointly discuss each of the finalist projects in the second round and will decide on the winners based on the competition parameters and any additional parameters the jury determines. The jury's decision is final and sovereign in determining the first, second, and third places in addition to five honorable mentions. The jury has the right to add additional honorable mentions as they feel necessary.

Director's choice award will be determined by the **arch out loud** competition organizers. The award will be given following the jury's announcement of winners.

AWARDS

FIRST PLACE	**$2,000**
SECOND PLACE	**$1,000**
THIRD PLACE	**$500**
DIRECTORS CHOICE AWARD	$100
5 HONORABLE MENTIONS	

Depending on the country in which a team lives and pays taxes in some prizes may be subject to withholding in order to meet corresponding legal regulations.

PUBLISHING

If possible, winning projects will be published both nationally and internationally on different websites, blogs, and magazines.

Each finalist's project will be featured at various times on arch out loud's social media and the out loud journal.

Following the competition **all projects submitted** will be published on the **arch out loud** website. Each project feature will list authors and links to the author's personal website or portfolio.

COMPETITION DETAILS

CALENDAR

Nov 15th, 2015	Competition opens and Advance registration begins
Dec 31st, 2015	Advance registration closes
Jan 1st, 2016	Early registration begins
Feb 14th, 2016	Early registration closes
Feb 15th, 2016	Regular registration begins
Apr 4th, 2016	Registration & submission deadline
Apr 18th, 2016	Finalists announced
Apr 25th, 2016	Winners announced

SUBMISSION MATERIALS

Each team is required to submit one (1) ARCH E size board (36in x 48in or 914mm x 1219mm) oriented landscape or portrait. Teams must place their given confirmation number in the upper left corner of their board in Arial 24 pt font.

The content of the board is left open to each team to decide what best communicates their concepts and solutions to the jury. On a separate document all teams must also provide a one paragraph explanation of the project for publishing purposes.

Possible board content may include, but is not limited to, plans, sections, elevations, rendered perspectives, diagrams, and images of physical models.

www.archoutloud.com/submit

PLEASE NOTE:
All text on submission boards MUST be in English. Text written in a different language will not be considered during judging. For publishing purposes winners will be asked to submit individual images within one week of the announcement.

PAYMENT

advance registration: $55
early registration: $70
regular registration: $85

Payments for registering teams in the competition are made through the arch out loud web page portal. A team is not officially registered until they complete the payment process.

Credit or Debit Cards
The following major credit cards may be used and will be handled by Weebly checkout to ensure web security: VISA, MasterCard, American Express, & Discover. Please provide the cardholder's name and cardholder information exactly as shown on the card. arch out loud will not have access to any credit card or personal

REGISTRATION

Following registration **each team will receive an email with a confirmation number**. Make sure to keep track of this number as this is your teams personal identification and the only means of identifying teams. The number will be necessary for the project submissions. Once the registration process is complete there are no refunds of fees.

www.archoutloud.com/register

RULES AND REGULATIONS

ELIGIBILITY

Teams may be formed by one (1) individual or up to four (4) members. Team members can come from different universities and countries. Additionally, interdisciplinary teams are allowed, although it is recommended that at least one member have an architectural background.

Under no circumstances will members of the jury, members of the organization, or persons with a direct personal or professional relationship with members of the jury be allowed to participate in this competition.

FAQ

During the competition participants are allowed to send, through email, questions to **arch out loud** in order to help them better understand certain aspects of the project or any unspecified details.

Questions will then be posted and answered on the competition FAQ webpage in order to ensure that all participants have access to the same information.

www.archoutloud.com/faq

OWNERSHIP AND COPYRIGHT

All material submitted to the competition will become property of **arch out loud** and therefore give arch out loud all rights to publishing the material for promotion of the competition. Any materials that are published will be given appropriate attributes to authors. **arch out loud** maintains the right to modify any information in its files in order to better adapt it to any publishing platforms.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

arch out loud reserves the right to make any changes to this document. All modifications will be emailed to each registered team at the time of the change and posted on the **arch out loud** facebook page. It is the responsibility of the team to check provided email addresses and the **arch out loud** website.

There is currently existing infrastructure located on the competition site. It is assumed, for this competition, that the land would be acquired and participants have an empty site to design as they please.

This competition is an ideas competition and at the time of release will not result in any realization of an actual building. **arch out loud** does not own the area used for the competition site nor will the site be altered in any way as a result of this competition.

arch out loud is not responsible for any in-person research done on the competition site. Please abide by local private property laws.

arch out loud was not hired or contracted to organize this competition. Every aspect of this competition was fully developed by arch out loud.

Breaking of rules and regulations set in this competition brief or on the **arch out loud** website will result in the disqualification of the given team without any refund of registration fees.

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