

News



Q: What's going on here?

A: We created NYC's largest public Urban Farm down at The Battery

More than 300 hardworking volunteers “got their hands in soil” to create a one-acre urban farm—the first in Manhattan since the Dutch settlement of 1625. It all began with eight students from Millennium High School and their request to plant a vegetable garden in the park. This garden literally grew into a working farm, educating more than 680 students, K-12, from neighboring schools, including magnet schools that draw students from all five boroughs. The students had hands-on education in plant biology, soil ecology, and nutrition as they planted, harvested, and tasted the vegetables they had grown.

The farm is a beautiful addition to The Battery's existing gardens, with its 90 rows of abundant vegetables and its stunning fence constructed of “re-purposed” bamboo from the Sarn Brothers' acclaimed Big Bambú installation at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In 2012, we begin construction of the Battery Bikeway Gardens, which will cover a section of the current farm. Farming has enriched the soil in preparation for these new gardens in ways that money can't buy. The arrival of the Bikeway Gardens doesn't mean the end of the Urban Farm. It will move to the adjacent Woodlawn, ensuring that our enthusiastic student farmers will continue to experience the joy of seeding, cultivating, cooking—and best of all—EATING great food that only their hands, along with The Battery's soil, can produce.

L to R: Students from Lower Manhattan Community Middle School harvest their carrots and tomatoes; Farmers from John V. Wildcat Charter School admire their first squash; Rachael Ray visits the Urban Farm on June 29, 2011, and films a segment with Warrie Price for her *Rachael's Neighborhood* series.



Designer Scott Dougan and architect Shane Neufeld donated the design and construction of the fence.



Peter Minuit Plaza

One of the most radical new works of architecture built in the City's recent history!

When The Battery Conservancy began 17 years ago, we set out to present the highest standards in design, horticulture, and sustainability in rebuilding this storied landscape. For 400 years, The Battery has responded to the needs and aspirations of its citizens. The new Peter Minuit Plaza exemplifies and fortifies this legacy.

The Plaza and the New Amsterdam Plein & Pavilion, a gift from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, recall the beginning of our city while heralding the future with cutting-edge architecture, modern amenities, and 21st century technology. This rare park/transit plaza defines a new era in public space design and construction. It welcomes daily more than 150,000 commuters, students, and visitors who come via subways, ferries, buses, bicycles, and on foot to intersect with cultural offerings in a singular expression of daring but lyrical design. They converge on the plaza to experience the beautiful gardens, stop for a snack at Merchants Market, cycle on the first segment of the Battery Bikeway, or learn more about Lower Manhattan from the Downtown Alliance-staffed information booth.

We are proud of the results. We invite you to come and experience it for yourself. Let us know your first, second, and lasting impressions at www.thebattery.org.



All who come to *SeaGlass*, the extraordinary ride to the depths of the sea, will embark on a magical voyage of excitement, wonder, and “fantastic” FUN. *SeaGlass* integrates art, music, video, education, and entertainment. It revives the experience of interactive performance art and the awe-inspiring emotions generated by the first New York Aquarium, which opened at The Battery in 1896.

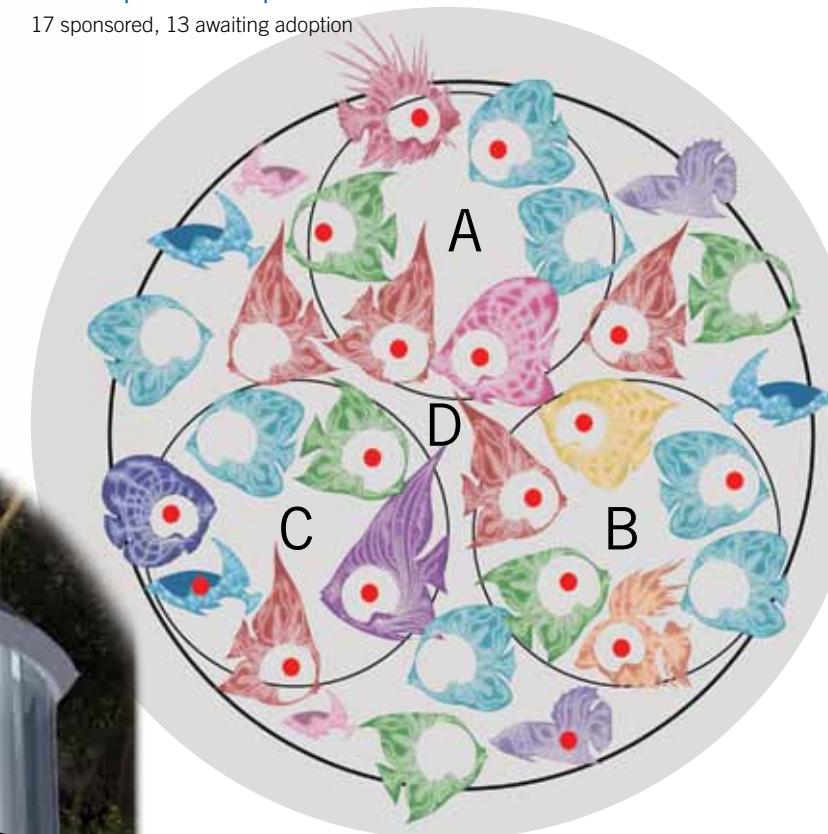
The Battery Conservancy raised \$14 million in private and public funds for *SeaGlass*, and construction is now underway in the park and at three offsite locations. WXY architecture conceived of *SeaGlass* and designed its striking nautilus shell pavilion. Generous private donors have already sponsored 17 of the 30 fish, designed by the acclaimed set designer of *The Little Mermaid* and *Spider-Man* musicals, George Tsy-pin Opera Factory.

SeaGlass will open in fall 2012 and be a destination for the growing number of Downtown residents, more than half of whom are projected by 2014 to be families with children. All New Yorkers and our millions of international visitors who experience *SeaGlass* will become aware that our oceans are a fragile part of nature that demand protection and preservation.



Fish Sponsorship

17 sponsored, 13 awaiting adoption



● Sponsored Fish

○ Donor recognition location

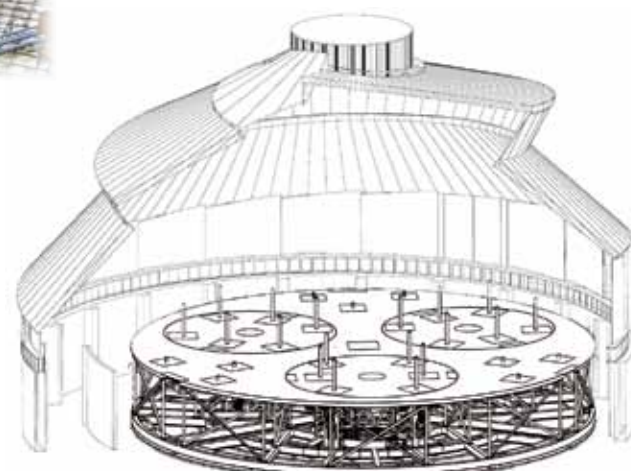
To sponsor a fish in honor of your family, grandchildren, or a special birthday/anniversary, please contact kcurrey@thebattery.org



FOUNDATION

General Contractor: Pavarini McGovern
The Battery, New York City

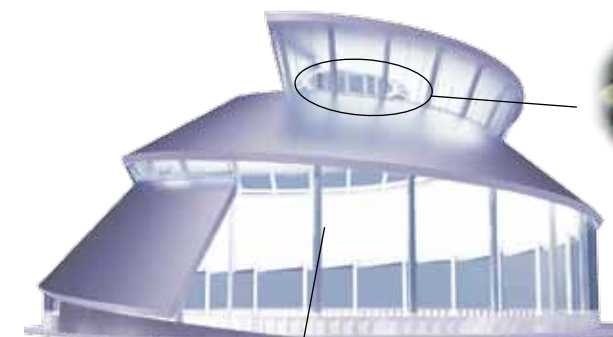
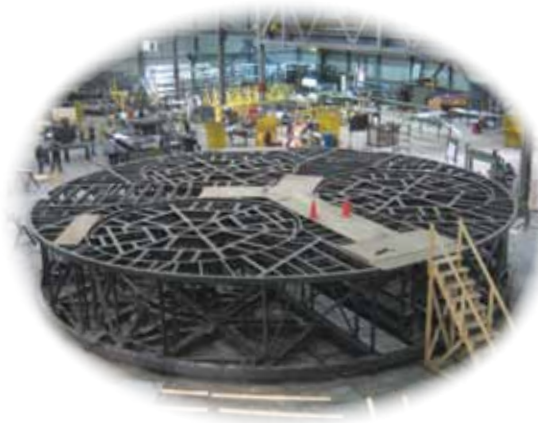
Excavation began in spring 2011. The foundation “bathtub” is 12 feet deep and 85 feet in diameter. The concrete slab will be completed in November.



RIDE MECHANISM

Contractor: Show Canada
Laval, Quebec, Canada

Show Canada is constructing the four rotating turntables. Known for their expertise in motorized stage elements, Show Canada is the prime contractor for Cirque du Soleil.



PAVILION STRUCTURE

Contractor: American Architectural
Bensalem, PA

The oculus ring and the 23 steel framing supports are fabricated and awaiting assembly. American Architectural will also install the pavilion’s 43 curved glass panels.



FISH FABRICATION

Contractor: WestWorks
East Norwalk, CT

Photo at left shows George Tsy-pin reviewing the first prototype fish. His design process begins with sculpting a scale model, shown on the right, which is then reproduced full size in fiberglass. Each fish will glow with fiber optics and change color during the ride, as many fish do in nature.

President's Message



You have just finished reading about our Urban Farm, Peter Minuit Plaza, and the amazing *SeaGlass* carousel. Together they begin to define The Battery's future as it engages and interacts with the public to communicate the principles of land and sea conservation and their critical interdependence.

This is the age of the green and blue planet. New York's first waterfront park—which The Battery Conservancy is honored to rebuild and steward—is the physical realization of this concept. Land meets the sea at The Battery—25 acres of beautifully planted landscape meet 11,000 acres of historic New York Harbor. It inspires us to protect these irreplaceable natural resources for all our citizens and the millions of visitors we welcome annually. The Battery Conservancy is engaging students, residents, and Downtown workers with our land, through the Battery Urban Farm and our vast perennial gardens, and with our harbor, through the experience of *SeaGlass*.

As you can see from the progress map below, our dynamic work continues in 2012.

We will construct the **Garden Bikeway**, the critical link connecting the west and east sides of Manhattan. The seven-acre **Woodlawn** will be reconditioned to host the *SeaGlass* Tiffany Gardens and the Urban Farm, including outdoor "classroom" spaces for the Farm and *SeaGlass* educational programs.

The three-acre **Battery Green** will be constructed to give Downtown a central meeting place. The Battery Conservancy is sponsoring a design competition for an iconic moveable chair to ensure that all are welcomed with comfort and innovation. And speaking of innovation, a new **Playspace** design has been completed by famed architect Frank Gehry, and we are now raising funds for construction.

A rebuilt Battery is in sight and this keeps us moving at a spirited pace.
You, our donors, friends, and partners, make this possible.

We are most grateful, thank you.

Warrie Price

Warrie Price
President, The Battery Conservancy



The Battery Conservancy Supporters

The Battery Conservancy gratefully acknowledges our generous donors who made gifts from October 15, 2010 to October 15, 2011.

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Lucy Day and Sharon Casdin admiring auction items | Josh Viertel, president of Slow Food USA, presented the Battery Urban Farmer Award to Fred Rich | Battery Patriot Award honoree Robert M. Morgenthau and Ophelia Rudin | The Battery Conservancy Board member Liz Atwood and Melvyn Kaufman | Farm-fresh fashionable hat brigade: Edwin Goodman, Ann Buttenwieser, Carl Pforzheimer, Fred Ellman and Peggy Finerty

16th Annual Battery Gala

- | | | | |
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Mac Hyman, Sharon Davis, Willoughby Bain, Martha Morgenthau, and Robert P. Morgenthau



Paul and Jeanette Sarkisian Wagner



Giselle Martin-Kniep with Russell and Marilyn Albanese



Gala master of ceremonies Ralph Gardner Jr. and Joan Davidson



At the Battery Gardeners Luncheon: Charlotte Pinson, Karen Pinson, and Luncheon speaker Page Dickey

Battery Council Amsterdam 2012 Floriade Trip



The Battery Conservancy invites its Battery Council Leadership members to join Warrie and James Price on an exclusive, garden-packed adventure to the Netherlands, June 23-30, 2012, as honored guests of the Ministry of Culture and the Dutch Consulate in New York. Highlights include: a visit with Piet Oudolf and tour of his new gardens; invitations to Amsterdam's private Canal Mansions and gardens; a visit with artist Theo Jansen at his studio to see his Strandbeest sculptures in action; tea and tour of the private gardens of Bingerden with the owner; a private tour of the once-a-decade Floriade horticultural expo. To join us, contact jemilah@thebattery.org.

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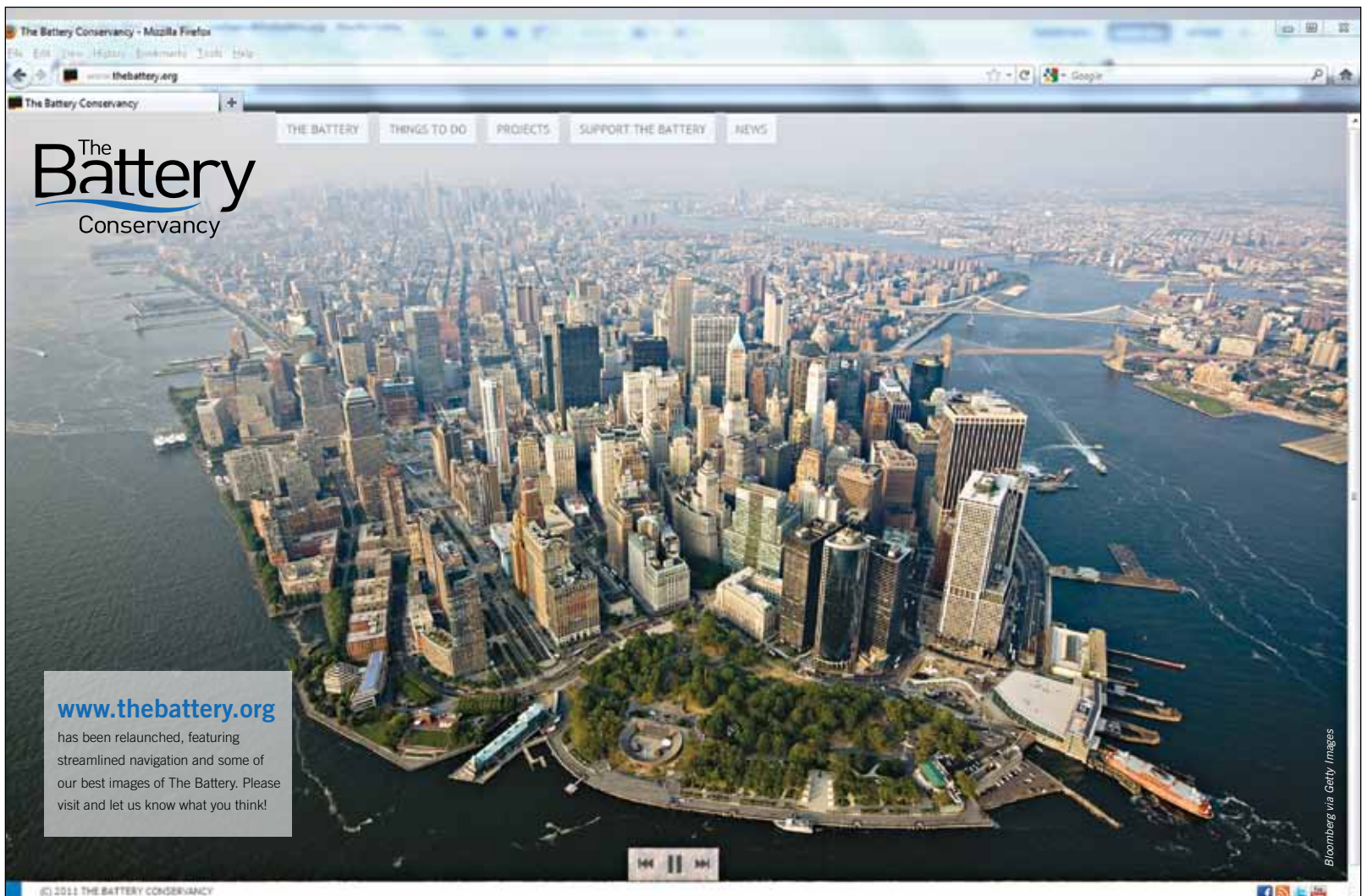
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The Battery Conservancy

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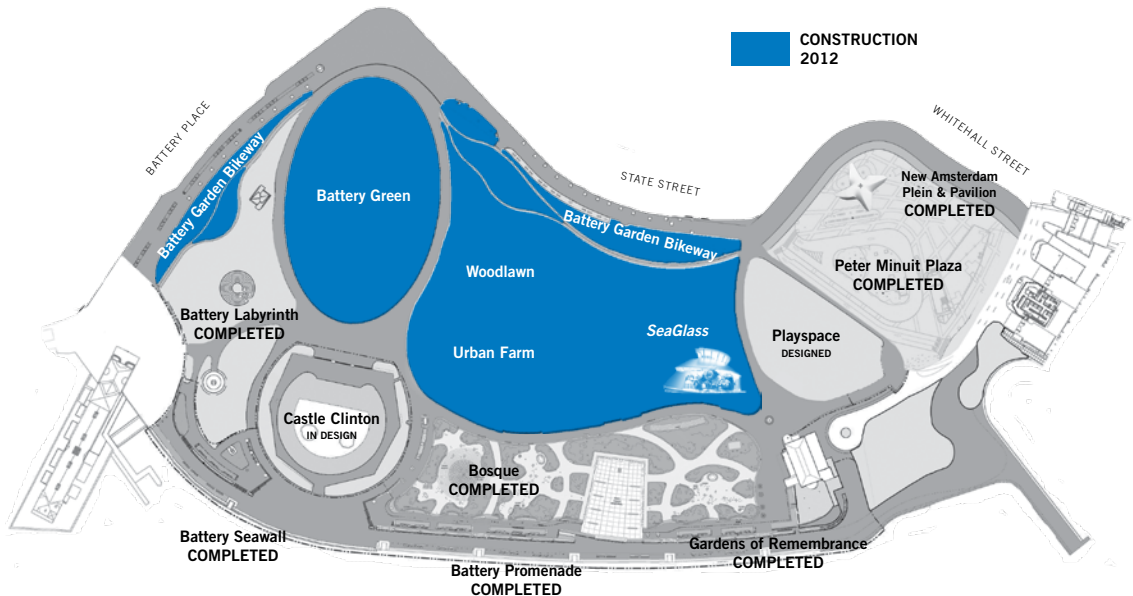


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Bloomberg via Getty Images

The Battery Rebuild



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