



Beyond Zuccotti Park: Freedom of Assembly and the Occupation of Public Space

Edited by Ron Shiffman, Rick Bell, Lance Jay Brown, and Lynne Elizabeth with Anastassia Fisyak and Anusha Venkataraman
 Foreword by Michael Kimmelman

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New Book Takes Hard Look at Public Space Freedoms in the Wake of Occupy

The Occupy Wall Street movement has put a spotlight on US Constitutional rights to freedom of assembly. Where and how can people congregate publicly today? Whose voices are heard? What factors limit participation of minorities? Forty social scientists, planners, architects, artists, and civil liberties experts explore the definition, use, role, and importance of public space for the exercise of democratic rights to free expression in a time of profound social change. This original, foundational work puts issues of democracy and civic engagement back into the center of dialogue about the built environment.

Key Features:

- Timely resource for activists, policymakers, professionals, students, and educators interested in issues of free speech, public space, equity, and democracy.
- Contributors reflect on Occupy Wall Street presence in New York and beyond.
- Professionals and policymakers counter the repressive and violent responses to legitimate public protest with a reasoned outcry and suggest practical and openhearted alternatives.
- Book is tied to a national policy initiative that includes a traveling exhibit, public forums, academic projects, and study groups supported by two dozen institutions.

Contributing Authors:

Ronald Anglin, Caron Atlas, Thomas Balsley, Terri Baltimore, Shirin Barghi, Rick Bell, Marshall Berman, Julian Brash, Wendy Brawer, Paul Broches, Carlton Brown, Lance Jay Brown, David Burney, Brennan Cavanaugh, Susan Chin, Alex Cooper, Arthur Eisenberg, Lynne Elizabeth, Karen Franck, Michael Freedman-Schnapp, Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Gan Golan, Jeffrey Hou, Te-Sheng Huang, Lisa Keller, Brad Lander, Peter Marcuse, Jonathan Marvel, Signe Nielsen, Michael Pyatok, Michael Rios, Jonathan Rose, Janette Sadik-Khan, Saskia Sassen, Paula Segal, Sadra Shahab, Benjamin Shepard, Gregory Smithsmon, Michael Sorkin, Nikki Stern, and Maya Wiley.

Book Foreword:

- **Michael Kimmelman**, chief architecture critic of *The New York Times* and a contributor to *The New York Review of Books*. He was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2000.

About the Editors:

RON SHIFFMAN, FAICP, Hon. AIA, Director Emeritus, Pratt Center for Community Development; Professor, Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment. **RICK BELL**, FAIA, Executive Director, American Institute of Architects, New York Chapter. **LANCE JAY BROWN**, FAIA, ACSA Distinguished Professor, School of Architecture, City College of New York, CUNY. **LYNNE ELIZABETH**, Director, New Village Press. With **ANASTASSIA FISYAK**, Master's Candidate, City and Regional Planning, School of Architecture, Pratt Institute; Urban Planning Fellow, Pratt Center for Community Development, and **ANUSHA VENKATARAMAN**, Assistant Director, El Puente Green Light District.

Advance Praise for *Beyond Zuccotti Park*:

"What was it about Zuccotti Park, and other public spaces around the world, that helps explain their success? And how can we preserve and strengthen such spaces as places of protest? This book, like Zuccotti itself, is a site of vigorous conversation, hard thinking, and bold proposals on such issues."

—Mike Wallace, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian

"*Beyond Zuccotti Park* is an insightful and relevant book that challenges us to think differently about the role of public space for civic engagement. If you believe in the First Amendment's right to freedom of assembly, then this is the book to read."

—Mitchell Silver, AICP, President, American Planning Association

"A free and open public discussion is well understood to be fundamental to a democracy. *Beyond Zuccotti Park* confirms how important accessible open space is to that public discussion and illuminates the policy issues raised by the Occupy Wall Street movement. The diverse collection of voices here raise important questions about how to define a genuine public space."

—Roberta Brandes Gratz, author of *The Battle For Gotham: New York in the Shadow of Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs*

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Greater Initiative:

Beyond Zuccotti Park is a key component of a larger initiative—**Democracy, Equity, and Public Space**—which also includes a traveling multimedia exhibition, public forums, popular and academic study groups, policy advocacy, and a website. Book tours, forums, and exhibits are slated for New York, Newark, Oakland/Berkeley, Chicago, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Washington DC, and Boston. Together, the book and initiative aim to engage the public in questioning democracy and equity, building understanding, and improving the design, use, and access to public spaces for social inclusion and free creative expression.

The book and initiative will launch mid September at the Center for Architecture in New York, coinciding with the eleventh anniversary of 9-11 tragedies and the anniversary of Occupy Wall Street. *Beyond Zuccotti Park: Exhibition as Occupation* runs at the Helfand Gallery September 6–22, with an performance art opening September 6, a book launch program September 10, and a public symposium and workshop September 16.

Beyond Zuccotti Park and the greater initiative are a collaboration of the Center for Architecture, City College of New York School of Architecture, and the Pratt Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment together with New Village Press and its parent organization, Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility. Project coordinators and collaborators are each distinguished, life-long supporters of participatory civic process. The initiative was spawned by free public forums—Freedom of Assembly: Public Space Today—held at the Center for Architecture in response to the forced clearance of Occupy activities from public plazas throughout the country.