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Women in the Design World: Work in Progress

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9-7-2014

Laura Starr, RLA, ASLA, LEED AP / B.A.  
Architecture, 1979

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts

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**Recommended Citation**

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, "Laura Starr, RLA, ASLA, LEED AP / B.A. Architecture, 1979" (2014). *Women in the Design World: Work in Progress*. 11.  
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THE BOSQUE | THE BATTERY PARK  
PARTNER-IN-CHARGE  
2007

Laura Starr modelled the design of the Bosque after the verdant marshes and towering forests that greeted Dutch explorers 400 years ago. The Bosque features a series of romantic garden “rooms,” joined by meandering soft-surface paths, densely planted with tall native grasses and perennials, conceived by Dutch garden designer, Piet Oudolf. A granite at-grade fountain serves as a sprinkler for children and a paved surface for events, elegantly incorporating air vents, utilities, and drainage, at times only one foot below the surface. Weisz+Yoes Architects crafted custom curved wooden benches and a horizontally slatted wooden snack kiosk. Tillett Lighting designed romantic “firefly” lights, tucked amidst the plantings. Through this multi-disciplinary collaboration, the Bosque has been transformed from a gritty extension of the urban environment to a luxuriant retreat with 4-acres of waterfront gardens—a catalyst in the City’s efforts to green and steward investment in Lower Manhattan.



Alumnae Biography

**BIOGRAPHY**

Landscape Architect Laura Starr has emerged as a champion for sustainability, collaboration, and design excellence. A founding partner of Starr Whitehouse, Ms. Starr has negotiated public/private partnerships internationally as well as locally, and her work has contributed significantly to Sandy recovery efforts, most

recently on The BIG U, for which she led numerous community design workshops. The design processes Starr learned at Washington University launched her on a career as Chief Landscape Architect for the Central Park Conservancy and founder of an innovative firm that re-envisioned exciting public spaces worldwide.

**AWARDS**

ASLA NY Chapter Honor Award  
ASLA Merit Award for Design  
The Waterfront Center’s Excellence on the Water Award  
Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence  
Parks Council Philip N. Winslow Award  
NYC Landmarks Preservation Award

**PUBLICATIONS**

Metropolis, November 1996, “By Design”  
Landscape Architecture Magazine, November 1995, “Turning the Circle: Help Design Frederick Douglass Circle: An Exhibition of the Community Process”  
New York Magazine, December 1994, “Meer Beauty”