

SREOSHY BANERJEA

Architecture | Community Development | Organizational Leadership

+1 (973) 452-0956 · sreoshybanerjea@gmail.com

Leader at the intersection of design, justice, and public investment, with 15+ years delivering community-centered outcomes across NYC's largest capital projects. Known for advancing design excellence in complex environments and building scalable models that expand who design serves, including founding and scaling Design Corps. Uses design as a tool for equity, dignity, and long-term systems change.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NYC PUBLIC DESIGN COMMISSION

Executive Director

2022 – Present

New York, NY

Shaped design outcomes across NYC's \$40B+ capital portfolio, in partnership with 30+ city agencies and an 11-member commission to advance equitable, high-quality public realm projects. Led a multidisciplinary team and positioned the agency as a cross-sector partner in design excellence, community engagement, and implementation.

Leadership, Strategy & Systems Change

- Built and led a high-performing team across architecture, landscape, public art, and climate infrastructure; setting clear priorities, accountability structures, and a culture grounded in innovation, trust and rigor
- Removed systemic barriers in capital delivery by streamlining review pathways, accelerating community-serving projects while maintaining design quality
- Positioned design review as a strategic lever in capital planning by strengthening coordination across agencies and elevating design earlier in decision-making

Community-Centered Programs & Fundraising

- Secured \$3M Mellon Foundation grant for From Roots to Arts, a citywide artist residency program co-designed with NYCHA residents, centering cultural identity and community voice across five boroughs
- Translated input from 8,000+ New Yorkers into actionable design frameworks (Streetscapes for Wellness, Building a Family-Friendly City) adopted across agencies
- Established new engagement models, including partnerships with CUNY and Community Boards, expanding access to and transparency of design review processes, and public hearing procedures

Justice Infrastructure & Civic Impact

- Directed multi-year design oversight of NYC's \$3B+ Borough-Based Jails program and Horizon Juvenile Detention Facility — advancing dignity-centered design through daylight access, humanized environments, and integration with surrounding communities
- Held agencies accountable to long-term public commitments, including preservation and integration of public art and community-facing spaces within complex capital projects

Cross-Sector Leadership

- Convened and led a 10-agency Public Art Working Group to develop a multi-year framework for equitable stewardship and investment
- Navigated high-stakes approvals across politically sensitive projects through coalition-building with agencies, elected officials, and communities

SELECTED IMPACT

★ DESIGN CORPS- A SCALABLE MODEL

Founded Design Corps, mobilizing 100+ architects to support 70+ BIPOC-owned businesses; secured \$3M to scale citywide

★ JUSTICE-CENTERED DESIGN

Led design oversight of NYC's \$3B+ Borough-Based Jails program, embedding dignity, daylight, and community integration.

★ \$40B + CAPITAL PORTFOLIO

Rigorous design oversight across NYC's largest infrastructure, housing, recreation, sports and civic projects spanning 30+ agencies

★ \$6M+ IN FUNDING

Built fundraising capacity from zero at a small city agency, securing competitive grants from Mellon, state and federal sources.

★ CROSS-SECTOR COALITIONS

Convened 10+ agencies to align public art, infrastructure, and community priorities

★ COMMUNITY VOICE → POLICY

Led development of NYC's Family-Friendly City Design Guidelines, translating input from 8,000+ New Yorkers into adopted, multi-agency design standards

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

M.S., Architecture & Urbanism

Certificate in Urban Design from DUSP ·

GPA: 5.0/5.0, 2011–2013

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Bachelor of Architecture

Minor: Electronic Media Arts · GPA: 3.65/4.0

2005–2010

CORE EXPERTISE

Community-Centered Design & Engagement
Justice-Oriented Development
Architecture & Urban Design
Affordable Housing & Real Estate
Organizational Leadership & Team Building
Cross-Sector Collaboration
Fundraising & Grant Strategy (\$6M+)
Public-Private Partnerships
Procurement & Consultant Management
Policy to Implementation

NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Vice President, Urban Design — Neighborhood Strategies

2016 – 2022

New York, NY

Advanced design strategy across major city development initiatives, integrating planning, real estate, and community priorities to unlock equitable growth.

- Founded and led NYCEDC's first Urban Design advisory function, influencing executive decision-making and enabling major RFPs and capital projects across Hunts Point, Inwood, Coney Island, Far Rockaway, and beyond
- Directed consultant teams and procurement for large-scale master plans including Broadway Junction TOD, Manhattan Waterfront Greenway, and FiDi Climate Resilience
- Led cross-disciplinary coordination across public agencies and private partners to translate planning into implementable, community-responsive projects

Civic Innovation & Equity in Practice

- **Founded Design Corps during COVID-19 within NYCEDC**, mobilizing 100+ volunteer architects to support 70+ BIPOC- and immigrant-owned small businesses through design and technical assistance
- Secured \$3M in state funding to scale the model citywide, influencing permanent policy through NYC's Dining Out program
- Built a replicable framework for expanding access to design services, bridging gaps between professional expertise and underserved communities

DATTNER ARCHITECTS

Urban Designer, Associate Architect

2013 – 2016

New York, NY

- Led urban design and ULURP coordination for Lambert Houses Master Plan — a 1.98M SF phased affordable housing transformation in the Bronx.
- Directed urban design advisory services for Bush Terminal Campus adaptive-reuse with NYCEDC as a client, and Jonathan Rose as the prime subcontractor.
- Project managed NYU Ambulatory Care Facility and other civic projects as architectural designer.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A.T.L.A.S / Creative RFP Toolkit

Founder

2020 – Present

New York, NY

Built an educational platform and workshop series helping architects and emerging AEC firms compete more effectively for public-sector work by transforming how proposals are structured, communicated, and evaluated.

- Advised 10+ firms nationally through workshops, coaching, and RFP audits — strengthening positioning, storytelling, and win strategy
- Developed a design-driven approach to proposals, integrating narrative framing, visual communication, and client-centered value propositions
- Created a repeatable framework that demystifies procurement and expands access for smaller and underrepresented firms
- Reframed proposals as user experiences, enabling teams to move beyond compliance toward persuasive, reviewer-centered submissions

RECOGNITION

AIA State: Presidential Citation (2022)
AIA NY: Service to the City Award (2021)
Fast Company: Innovation by Design (2021)
Urban Design Forum: Forefront Fellow (2017)

LEADERSHIP

Urban Design Forum: Grant Review Jury
ArchiteXX: Board Member and CoChair
APA NY Metro: Urban Design Committee
Asia Initiatives: Advisor

SPEAKING & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

- Panelist: Advancing NYC Climate Action, RPI (2025) Industry City, CASE
- Panelist: Urban Futurescape, Center for Architecture, NY (2024)
- International Panelist: Institute of Urban Designers India (IUDI) (2024)
- Featured Guest: Person Place Thing with Randy Cohen (2023)
- Keynote Speaker: APA NY Metro Chapter Conference (2022)
- National Panelist: NACEDA — Politics & Policies on Communities of Color (2019)
- Panel Moderator: Housing Policy, NYC MOIA, HPD & Community Organizations (NOMA, 2019–2020)