



For Immediate Release

HIGH LINE NETWORK'S ACCELERATOR INITIATIVE AWARDS \$162K FOR INNOVATIVE TECH AT FOUR PUBLIC PARKS, WITH POTENTIAL TO SCALE

Parks in Detroit, Toronto, Philadelphia and NYC will use funding for innovative AR visitor education, real-time sensors, virtual programs and data policies that could become national models

New York, NY (October 15, 2022) – The High Line Network is awarding \$40,500 each to four public parks looking to implement innovative new technology into their infrastructure reuse projects thanks to a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. A total of \$162,000 has been awarded to the Detroit River Conservancy, Toronto's Bentway, Philadelphia's Rail Park and New York City's High Line.

The High Line Network, a program that supports underutilized urban spaces transitioning into public parks, is providing the grantees with access to their Accelerator Initiative of the Tech & Public Space Program in addition to the direct funding. The Accelerator program focuses on the development of new or existing technology that support community in public spaces.

The four grantees will have continued access to consulting by UrbanSense, a NYC-based technology and public realm consultancy specializing in helping companies, organizations, and governments plan for the thoughtful application of technology in shared spaces. UrbanSense has been supporting the Tech & Public Space program participants, as they complete their projects.

"The High Line Network is always working to enhance the experience of parks built from underutilized urban spaces, and these projects will test how the latest technology can be adapted to improve visitors' experience, protect privacy and expand the reach of education programs. We hope to see these parks develop national models that can be scaled across dozens of public spaces within the Network. We are so appreciative of the Knight Foundation for providing us with this grant," said **Asima Jansveld, Managing Director of the High Line Network**.



“Knight invests in transformational public spaces that attach and connect community to each other and place. We are exploring the intersection of technology and public space which we believe, when done right, can support better decision-making, community engagement and resiliency” said **Lily Weinberg, Senior Director, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**

The four grantees were selected based on their project’s impact, the potential for their project to be scalable for other public spaces across the country, and the applicant’s readiness to execute an innovative, technology-based project. The four projected funded are:

Detroit Riverfront Conservancy (Detroit, MI): Expand the ways that data gathered from public infrastructure such as light poles or cameras can be utilized, including building capacity for parks to better understand and use the data extracted from these sensors. The goal of this grant is to equip organizations to better leverage the data coming out of this infrastructure.

Bentway (Toronto, CA): The development of a range of immersive experiences for visitors and could include everything from mobile augmented reality-enabled experiences that overlay with the physical landscape to curated art tours, real-time notifications about flora and fauna, and multi-sensory interactive art installations.

Rail Park (Philadelphia, PA): The development of a set of new policies, standards, and KPIs around tech, data, and broadband within the park, including clear standards around how visitor information is gathered, shared and used.

The High Line (New York, NY): The development of a pilot program that extends physical programming with a new virtual component in the areas of Art, Community Engagement, and Education to improve accessibility.

The Accelerator program is approximately six months long, and at the conclusion of each the four projects the Network will publish a report summarizing the results. The report will also include recommendations for future technology development and implementation in other infrastructure reuse projects.

ABOUT HIGH LINE NETWORK

Presented by the High Line, the High Line Network is a group of infrastructure reuse projects—and the people who help them come to life. As cities become denser and land for traditional parks becomes more scarce, residents are finding creative ways to bring greenspace to their neighborhoods. Projects in the High Line Network transform underutilized infrastructure into new urban landscapes. Redefining what a park can be, these hybrid spaces are also public squares, open-air museums, botanical gardens, social service organizations, walkways, transit corridors, and more.

For more information about the High Line Network, please visit network.thehighline.org.



ABOUT THE JOHN S. AND JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION

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