

Spectropolis: Mobile Media, Art, and the City

October 1 -3 from 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM, City Hall Park, Lower Manhattan

Organized in collaboration with NYCwireless and the Alliance for Downtown New York *Spectropolis* is a three-day event that features projects that use cell phones, laptops, wireless internet, radio broadcasts and PDAs to create playful forms of social interaction, and innovative ways to experience the invisible networks we use everyday. The event explores what is possible when wireless communications (both new and old), mobile devices and media converge in public space. In addition to the projects presented in the park, there will be several hands-on workshops and two panels free to the public. Spectropolis is curated by Wayne Ashley and artists Yury Gitman and Brooke Singer, and produced by Dana Spiegel of NYCwireless and Jordan Silbert and Jordan Schuster.

Spectropolis projects include a portable hearing device that transmits a soundscape responding to immediate surroundings, an artificial flower that indicates the availability of wireless internet activity through luminescent color patterns, a wired bicycle that chalking text messages from the web onto city streets and a computer station for free downloading of digital art objects. For calendar and more information, visit www.spectropolis.info

Spectropolis Artists: Julian Bleecker, Jonah Brucker-Cohen and Katherine Moriwaki, The DSP Music Syndicate (Ethan Bordeaux, Ben Recht, Noah Vawter, and Brian Whitman), Carlos J. Gomez de Llarena, Joshua Kinberg, Jeff Knowlton and Naomi Spellman, Karen Lee, Akitsugu Maebayashi, Eric Paulos, free103point9 transmission artists (Damian Catera, Matt Mikas, Michelle Nagai, and Tom Roe), Trebor Scholz

Spectropolis is organized in collaboration with NYCwireless, the Alliance for Downtown New York, artists Yury Gitman and Brooke Singer, the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at the New School University, and Pace University.

Spectropolis Workshops

Spectropolis workshops offer an up-close look at wireless communication technologies and opportunity for hands-on play and participation. The workshops aim to educate a non-technical public and demystify a range of technologies through engaging presentations. Participants can learn how to set up an open wireless internet access point with a community bulletin board, make GPS drawings using the city as a canvas or construct a keychain device to detect radio frequency identification (RFID) technology that is on the verge of mass deployment.

For complete details about registration and locations, please visit www.spectropolis.info

Drawing over Lower Manhattan with Jeremy Wood

October 2 and 3, 12:00 and 2:00 pm, City Hall Park

This workshop transforms a journey into a mark-making medium by using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. Audiences are invited to create pictorial walks around the city's streets and parks. Participants will each receive their individual results along with a compilation GPS map of all the tracks collected during the day.

Umbrella.net with Jonah Brucker-Cohen, Ken Greene, and Katherine Moriwaki

October 2, 1:00 pm

Participants will create a wireless network through the simple act of opening umbrellas. This project will illustrate how these “ad-hoc” networks can cause sudden, striking, and unexpected connections between people in public and urban space. More information is available at www.undertheumbrella.net.

Neighbornode Demo with John Geraci and Dana Spiegel

October 2 and 3, 2:00 pm

Neighbornodes are group message boards on wireless nodes, placed in residential areas and open to the public. These nodes transmit signal for about 300 feet, creating a local network for posting messages, planning events, and discussing neighborhood issues. Neighbornodes can be linked together, making up a “node network” to enable information to travel on a street-by-street basis throughout the wider community. Participants will learn how to set up their own Neighbornodes.

Zapped! with Beatriz da Costa, Jamie Schulte and Brooke Singer

October 3 at 3:00 pm

Learn about Radio Frequency Identification technology (RFID) that industry is embracing for product tracking, that the government is using for automatic identification and border control and that even public libraries use to automate checkout. After a brief overview, participate in a hands-on workshop to build your own RFID keychain detector. It will ring, vibrate or light-up when a RFID reader is within range and scanning the airwaves to read data.

Oscillating Windows with Ken Greene and Katherine Moriwaki

October 3 at 3:00 pm

Oscillating Windows uses group interaction to move a digital image from one location to another. Audiences learn how the way people sit and orient themselves while socializing, or the way their movement in a public space is directed/constrained can become a tool for moving information.

Spectropolis Panels

**Hot Enough? Art, Activism, and Wireless Technology during the RNC
September 27, 7:00 pm, Lang Center at The New School, 55 West 13th Street**

This panel examines how artists employ wireless technology to reach unprecedented masses, increase collaboration, redefine and politicize the urban environment and achieve unparalleled levels of immediacy. The 2004 Republican National Convention (RNC) in New York City gave rise to a wave of artistic projects employing wireless technology to make specific political statements. The RNC provided a common focus and purpose to diverse and divergent initiatives which, participate in this discussion that assesses their effectiveness and efficiency. Participants: **Yury Gitman** (*Magicbike*), **Natalie Jeremijenko** (*The Bureau of Inverse Technology*), **Joshua Kinberg** (*Bikes Against Bush*), **neuroTransmitter**, and others

Organized by the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at the New School in conjunction with Spectropolis. Co-sponsored by the Design and Technology Department, Parsons School of Design, and the Department of Film and Media Studies, The New School.

**Victory of the Commons: The Case for a Public Airwaves Movement
September 29, 7:00 pm, Multi-Purpose Room at Pace University, 3 Spruce Street**

This panel will evaluate the case for a widespread social movement advocating open spectrum policies led by community wireless groups. Panelists will present the successes and failures of earlier media and technology movements including media reform, low-power FM, public access television, and open source software. In the past year, two million people filed FCC comments to oppose a change in the media ownership rules that would have increased the market share of corporate

broadcasters. Similarly, large hardware manufacturers and corporations have begun using open source software, which was developed through the collaborative efforts of a huge number of volunteer programmers. Currently, we are in the midst of another social movement that threatens to disrupt the status quo. Local wireless groups have begun to offer free Internet access to their communities using WiFi, thereby creating an alternative to commercial services. Present obstacles to the development of a widespread social movement advocating open spectrum policies will also be discussed.

Participants: TBA. Panelists will be from the media reform, low-power FM, public access television, community wireless and open source communities.

This event is ticketed. Admission is \$5; free for Pace students. To order tickets or for box office hours, visit www.pace.edu/culture. Both Pace University's Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts and the Multi Purpose Room can be found by entering on Spruce Street between Park Row and Gold Street, just east of City Hall Park.

Downtown Dialogue with Spectropolis Artists

October 4, 7:00 PM, The Schimmel Center at Pace University, 3 Spruce Street

This panel takes a closer look at the works and themes of the Spectropolis event: the peculiarity of the urban/technological environment, how people can insert themselves into this larger power structure or find ways to exercise choice and control, what can be known of this invisible information system and how, and what possibilities do wireless technologies hold for aesthetic play and cultural production in the urban environment.

Participants: Julian Bleecker, Jonah Brucker-Cohen and Katherine Moriwaki, and Trebor Scholz and others

This event is ticketed. Admission is \$5; free for Pace students. To order tickets or for box office hours, visit www.pace.edu/culture. Both Pace University's Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts and the Multi Purpose Room can be found by entering on Spruce Street between Park Row and Gold Street, just east of City Hall Park.