

## **Zaq Landsberg**

### *A-Train Sea Serpent*

This project is segments of an organic looking subway train, which looks like it has jumped off the elevated tracks and has dove underground. Segments of the cars break above the asphalt as if the train were a sea serpent swimming in the water or an earthworm moving through the soil.

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## **Project Proposal**

The A train is an integral part of the Rockaways, and waiting on the platform for that glowing blue “A” is a unifying experience of residents of all ages, races and backgrounds. This project is an organic looking subway train, which looks like it has jumped off the elevated tracks and has dove underground. Segments of the cars break above the asphalt as if the train were a sea serpent swimming in the water or an earthworm moving through the soil.

The heights and shapes of the segments will vary, and the shapes of the cars will be stylized and more cartoonish than a real train. The project is flexible in that depending on the final budget and level of detail, there can be many segments of the “serpent” extending the reach of the imaginary creature hundreds of feet. The pieces will be 2-4’ tall and can vary from aprox 5’ x 8’ to 3’ x 5’ or smaller. Depending on how “sunk” into the ground the pieces can vary from large platforms to small visible corners. The pieces will be framed out in dimensional lumber and skinned in plywood. These will be large sheets of plywood that can be removed, salvaged, and used for other projects after the piece is deinstalled.

Each section will be an opportunity for interaction; providing a place to sit and rest, to hang out, to gather. It can also be a stage or platform to perform on top of. The pieces will be an anchor for with gatherings, events, murals, and other art projects can revolve around.

I’ve proposed projects in the Rockaways though Percent for Art and I have done some small art related projects for RISE in the past. I’m familiar with the neighborhood, the

community and the organization. The bread and butter of my art practice is large, site-specific, public sculpture. Tailoring a concept and aesthetic to a location is vital for me. This project directly addresses the Rockaways and takes a universally recognized object and twists it to put it in a new context. I specialize in art pieces that attract viewers, children, old people and everyone else. The project would draw people toward the in between space that is underneath the elevated and might not be permanent but serve as a demonstration of that space could be.

I have almost 10 years of experience making public art that receives heavy use from the general public. I’m confident that the design and construction will be sturdy enough for this. The fact that the level of detail is flexible, (realistic look, actual headlights, light up “A” laminate metal skin, etc vs a more cartoony silver painted plywood look), the exact number and size of the segments and how “sunk” they are will be, allow for the project to be feasible in the \$6000 range. The more realistic the detail, the fewer and smaller the pieces, vice versa for less detail equals, more, larger pieces.

The front of the train will be eye catching piece, with signage, the front door, light sockets, etc, but the additional segments can be much simpler, enough so that Shore Corps/teens/volunteers can help with the assembly, install and finish work of the piece. This would be both an educational opportunity and a way to stretch the budget. Maintenance should be minimal, as wear and tear or even graffiti would make the “train” look more authentic.



























