

# The Bowtie Project

## Education Program

With questions, call or email:

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## Program Summary

The Bowtie Project Education Program is designed to introduce students to site-specific artworks and the Los Angeles River. The Clockshop education team uses Visual Thinking Strategies to encourage student-driven site exploration, discussion based processing and creative response.

As a pilot program, we work directly with teachers to develop their pre and post site activities. All programs can be adapted to meet specific curriculum needs. New proposals for activities and lessons welcome!

### One Day Lessons & Activities:

#### General Bowtie Project Fieldtrip:

(1 - 3 hours)

This exploratory field trip serves as an introduction to the Bowtie site, including contemporary artworks and architectural projects commissioned by Clockshop, as well as an overview of the Glendale Narrows section of the historic Los Angeles River. The walk is led by a Clockshop Education Specialist and a CA State Parks Ranger.

Discussion topics may include:

- Artworks: *The Unfinished*, *The LA River Interpretive Signage Program*, *C/S*
- Native environs and species
- Urban land use
- Public art, land art, site-specific art, environmental art
- City Park Design

#### Visiting Artist Talk:

(45 min.)

Clockshop will arrange for a collaborating artist to present their work in the classroom and to provide students with feedback on current projects. The visiting artist will focus on their Clockshop collaboration and provide an overview of their larger practice. Artist will bring all necessary materials including slideshow, videos, books or objects. Includes Q&A.

#### Plein-Air Drawing & Painting the LA River:

(1 - 2 hours)

Students are invited to use the site as a subject for painting and drawing exercises. The site offers expansive views from multiple vantage points, as well as an array of architectural details and native plants. A Clockshop education specialist will lead a brief overview of the site upon arrival. Stools available for use on site.

#### Landscape Photography:

(1 - 2 hours)

Students are invited to hone their landscape photography skills using the scenic Bowtie Project as subject. Upstream, downstream, towards the mountains, and across the railroad tracks, the site is a rich location for practicing the use of framing, depth of field and perspective. A Clockshop education specialist will lead a brief overview of the site upon arrival.

# Multi-Day Lessons & Activities:

✕ Each activity includes one day in class & one day at the Bowtie Project

## Land Art & Site Specificity Unit:

### Description:

Students will collaboratively create 1 - 3 site specific artworks (depending on size of class) to be temporarily installed on the Bowtie Project.

### Pre-Visit Lesson:

Clockshop Education Specialist will join students in the classroom for 1 day to present a brief history of Land Art and site specificity as well as an introduction to the Bowtie Project using images and videos. Includes brainstorming activity and close viewing of historically significant monumental works.

### Activity:

Students will brainstorm and create small scale earthworks or site specific artworks to be temporarily installed on the Bowtie Project. They complete the total creative process including drafting plans, maquettes, and tests, gathering materials and discussing documentation.

### Field trip:

Students visit the Bowtie Project to install their artworks, document the installations and reflect.

### Discussion topics may include:

- Working outside of the gallery space
- Commodification of objects
- Temporal and ephemeral experiences
- Multi-sensory viewing experience
- Political and cultural significance of location
- Impact of scale and relating to the body
- Documentation strategies

### Resource Links:

- [Land Art Overview](#)
- [Land Art at MOCA](#)
- [Land Art at CLUI](#)

## Monument Building:

### *The Unfinished* by Michael Parker

### Description:

Using *The Unfinished* as a starting point students study the history of monuments from an artistic perspective and engage in thoughtful discussions on why we build monuments and to whom or what they honor.

### Pre-Visit Lesson:

Students are shown examples of public monuments in the US and abroad for close reading and are asked to consider their aesthetic and architectural value, as well as their emotional effect.

### Field trip:

Students visit the Bowtie Project to experience a unique monument and for a close reading of the work. The obelisk can be read as a monument to the LA River, honoring the significance of the water to Los Angeles by equating it with the Egyptian Nile. Here students are encouraged to think about how people engage and interact with public monuments.

### Activity:

Students are challenged to design a monument to something or someone they wish to honor. They complete the full process: sketching the monument, modeling it in clay or cardboard, articulating its purpose, and selecting materials. This lesson can also be tied in to studies of Ancient Egypt.

### Resource Links:

- [History of Monuments](#)

# Multi-Day Lessons & Activities (cont'd):

✕ Each activity includes one day in class & one day at the Bowtie Project

## Information Design/Audio Tour:

### *LA River Interpretive Signage Program* by Rosten Woo

#### Description:

Students look at the ways in which factual information is distributed to the public and how design influences the way people receive information.

#### Pre-Visit Lesson:

Students do close readings of posters, pamphlets, flyers, billboards, trailers and other informational materials, identifying effectiveness and describing their response.

#### Field trip:

At the Bowtie Project students visit the *LA River Interpretive Signage Program*, considering the tactics of the four signs and breaking into groups to explore different parts of the audio tour. They reconvene for a debrief of their findings

#### Optional Activities:

- Students are tasked with expanding the tour by researching a component of the site, the river or the adjacent area they find compelling. Full activity includes mapping, writing and designing a booklet page and creating an audio component.
- Students collectively create and map an audio tour of their school campus, their neighborhood, or other significant location. Rosten Woo will join them in class to help establish and explain the research process of creating the tour. Includes defining their audience, designing a user experience, and creating the components.
- Students develop a campaign to disseminate information relative to their curriculum i.e. history, social awareness, math problems etc.. Campaign could include posters, pamphlets, signs, or more.

#### Resource Links:

- [Bowtie Walk Audio Tour](#)

## Public Park Design:

### *Viewing Platform & Fire Pit* by Woodbury Architecture + Civic Engagement Center (ACE Center) Students

#### Description:

Students will develop innovative projects and designs for public facilities and gardens that could one day exist at the Bowtie Project.

#### Pre-Visit Lesson:

Students will think about their favorite public spaces and view images of public parks across the globe, describing what makes an enjoyable public space work.

#### Field trip:

Students will tour the Bowtie Site with a Clockshop Education Specialist, a CA State Parks Ranger and a designer/architect to study the site. During their visit students will break into groups to explore the site, answering questions about the location and discussing how the site could be improved. They will visit the viewing pod and the fire pit for inspiration.

#### Activity:

Students are challenged to design new structures and landscape interventions for a public park along the LA river. They complete all steps of the process including drawing, mapping and modeling.

- ✕ Transportation arrangements are made on a case by case basis.
- ✕ Please note Ranger and Artist participation depends upon availability and of the specific program requirements.
- ✕ Clockshop does not offer LA River or environmental education programs exclusively; all programs focus primarily on art, design and architecture. Please visit our friends at FOLAR to learn more about LA River specific opportunities.