



dl
designing lighting

The LightFair Issue
VOLUME V • ISSUE 5

THE DAZZLING *Reinvention* OF
THE PALACE THEATER

MAY 2025

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Light for All: Honoring the 2025 Light Justice NOW Awards Winners

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The 2025 Light Justice NOW (LJN) Awards celebrated lighting design as a force for equity, dignity, and community engagement. The awards honored projects that elevate marginalized voices, enhance public safety, and foster identity through light. From international dark sky towns to inner-city fences and

public parks, this year's winners demonstrate how light can promote justice and human connection.

The awards, generously sponsored by QTL, will be presented at LightFair. The judging panel praised this year's submissions for their authenticity, cultural relevance, and community-centered approach.

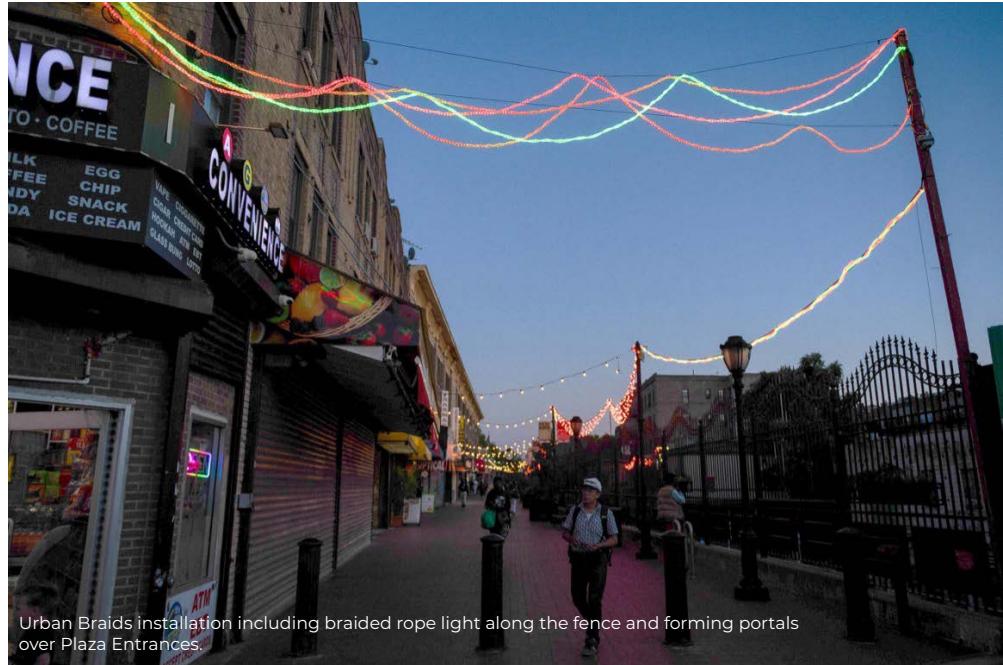
Award of EXCELLENCE **Urban Braids**

Chris Bocchiaro and Leni Schwendinger Light Projects (LSP), in partnership with Flatbush Development Corporation

Photo Credit: Leni Schwendinger and Light Projects

Urban Braids reimagined Brooklyn's Newkirk Plaza, blending braided rope lights with cultural symbolism rooted in Afro-Caribbean hair styling. Over 30 local residents helped create more than 40-foot strands during braiding workshops, producing a glowing public artwork that celebrates community identity.

Judges described the project as "a standout that embodies Light Justice values—both visually and socially." One noted its "admirable commitment to community involvement and regulatory agency interaction," while another praised the blend of "clever design with community engagement principles."

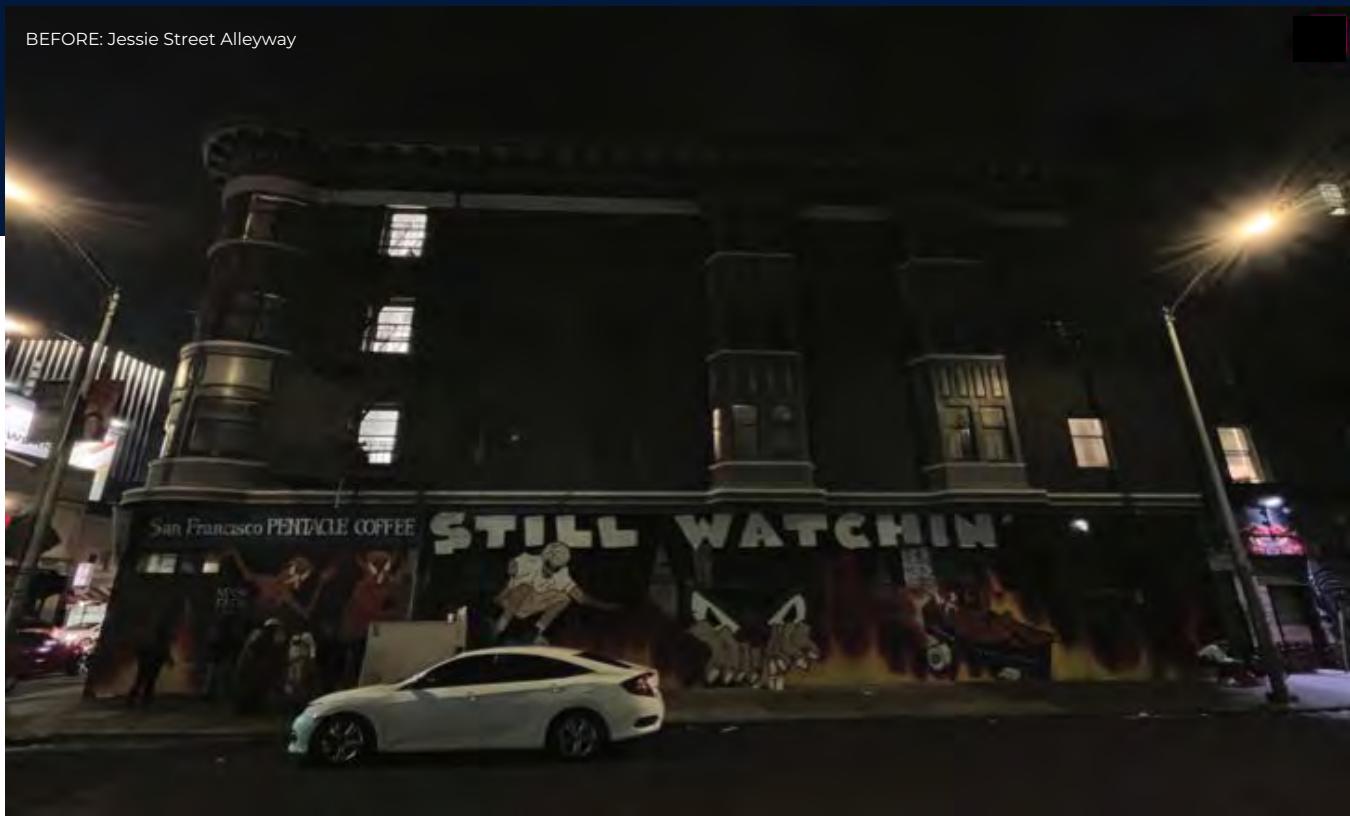


Urban Braids installation including braided rope light along the fence and forming portals over Plaza Entrances.



Participants at the Braiding Workshop work together to form four-way plaits using multiple colors of rope-light.

BEFORE: Jessie Street Alleyway



AFTER: Jessie St Alleyway. Facade lighting, cornice lighting



Neha Sivaprasad- Sol Light Studio

Mark Bonsignore- Urban + Environmental Design.

Photo Credit: Neha Sivaprasad

This façade lighting project revitalized a forgotten corridor in San Francisco's Tenderloin, honoring the area's Filipino heritage with murals and artfully integrated light. Jessie Street alley, once dim and unsafe, now boasts warm, culturally sensitive lighting that draws residents and visitors alike.

"This project addresses every aspect of Light Justice principles in a way that gives lighting professionals courage to tackle this sort of work," one judge noted. The before-and-after visuals "powerfully demonstrate how light can restore dignity and vitality."

Award of
EXCELLENCE
San Francisco 6th Street

Award of MERIT

San Francisco Tenderloin Fence



BEFORE: View of entire street corner with the chain link fence and overgrown vegetation.

Neha Sivaprasad- *Sol Light Studio*

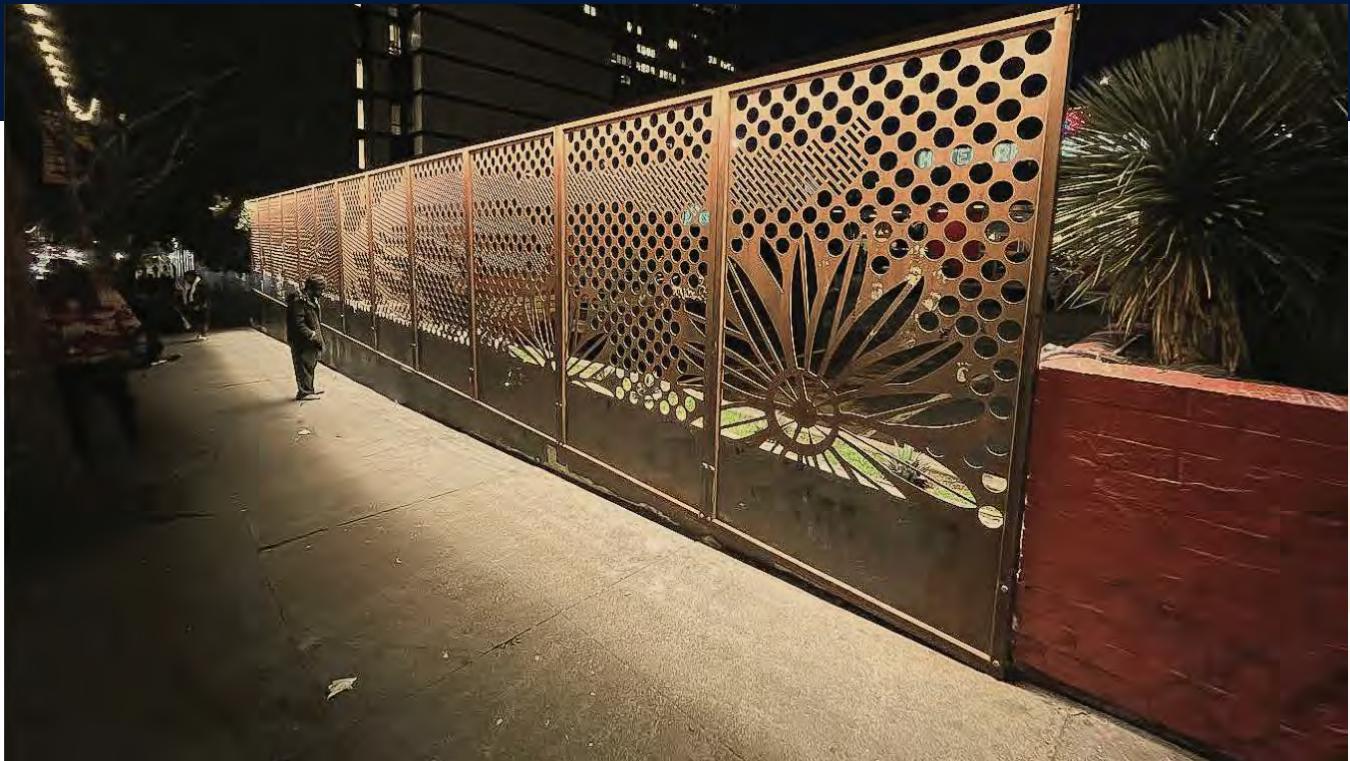
Mark Bonsignore- *Urban + Environmental Design*.

Photo Credit: Neha Sivaprasad

A deteriorating chain-link fence outside the Phoenix Hotel was replaced with an illuminated Corten steel screen, complete with narrow-beam grazing lights and accent floods. The transformation dramatically improved the safety and aesthetics of a previously dangerous corner.

“A spot-on submission that demonstrates the principles of Light & Justice,” one judge commented. “The artistic fence and reassuring lighting have anecdotally reduced objectionable activity,” added another.

Each of these projects demonstrates how lighting can be more than decorative—it can foster safety, uplift culture, and reflect community pride. The 2025 Light Justice NOW Award winners show that when designers engage authentically with their communities, lighting becomes a tool for transformation.



AFTER: The lighting creates an illuminated vertical backdrop to the side walk while also lighting it.



After: Recreation staff utilize the lighting fixtures in their holiday decorations.

Award of MERIT
**Ziehler Playground - Philadelphia
REBUILD Program**



Pedestrian scale walkway lighting to create a "park-like" atmosphere. Fixtures are on throughout the night, on motion sensors, dimmed to 50% until someone enters then light level rises to 85%. Exterior exit door lights are shielded, wall mounted, "sconces" used instead of typical wall-packs.

Miller Design

Photo Credit Robin Miller and Greg Benson Photography

The renovation of this 7.1-acre park included high-quality, energy-efficient lighting that brought safety and nighttime usability to a long-overlooked neighborhood asset. LED strips, dimmable pendants, and warm tones deliver "champagne lighting on a beer budget."

"This initiative exemplifies Light Justice principles, resulting in real benefits for a community specifically asking for better lighting," stated one judge.

**Light Justice NOW
thanks QTL for their generous support
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