



Noteworthy arrival beneath the tracks

A \$18,000, solar-powered "Boogie Down Booth" located under an elevated subway station in the Bronx features music.

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Moscow, famously, has music in its subways. As of this summer, the Bronx features music under one elevated subway station—in a "Boogie Down Booth" on Southern Boulevard.

It is part of an experiment that backers want to see extended citywide. Finding locations is no problem. The city estimates that there is plenty of unused space below at least 700 miles of elevated subway lines. The question is, given the roar of passing trains and vehicular traffic, is music just more noise—or even something that can be heard?

News appears to be good on those scores.

"The booth is equipped with special directional speakers that allow people to hear when they are sitting there," said Susan Chin, executive director of the Design Trust for Public Space, which, along with the city's Department of Transportation and others, is involved in the effort. "The booth actually distracts people who use it while waiting for the bus ... and they enjoy the music."

The \$18,000, solar-powered booth features LED lighting, seating and music from local groups that is compiled by Bronx Music Heritage Center.

The initiative was spearheaded by the Women's Housing and Economic Development Corp.

The booth will close Sept. 16.

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