

DAILY NEWS

A temporary bench placed in the South Bronx features overhead music from local musicians

In an effort to drown out the rumble of the elevated trains, "The Boogie Down Booth" was launched under the tracks of the Freeman St. subway station on Wednesday

BY [PETE BARRETT](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Wednesday, July 23, 2014, 9:15 PM



BILL FREDERICKS

The pilot Boogie Down Booth, a partnership between WHEDco, Design Trust, and NYCDOT, sits under the elevated tracks on Southern Boulevard at the Freeman 2/5 stop.

Forget the Highline. The Bronx has some tracks of its own — and a new place where people can congregate and enjoy them.

"The Boogie Down Booth," a four-sided bench installed Wednesday underneath the elevated tracks of the Freeman St. subway station at Southern Blvd., is equipped with loudspeakers that play a 25-song playlist featuring local Bronx musicians.

"Back in the days, people used to share music and it would create a community," said Reph, one-half of a duo called Circa '95 whose song, "All We Need," is featured in the loop.

"Now, it is more like iPod-based," added the 30-year-old Highbridge resident. "(The booth) is creating a community around music in real life."

The booth is the second of seven prototypes of the Under the Elevated Project spearheaded by the Design Trust For Public Space, a non-profit whose 2002 project, Reclaiming The Highline, led to the construction of the wildly popular Manhattan elevated walkway.

The group is now working to revitalize areas underneath the 700 miles of elevated train tracks, highways and bridges in the city.



Bill Fredericks

The Boogie Down Booth will feature 25 songs from local musicians around the clock until mid-September.

Design Trust fellows held community meetings last year to brainstorm ideas to improve the Freeman St. space.

“The ideas that came up were the issues of noise, and not enough light,” said the designer, Chat Travieso, 29.

The 12-foot-tall wooden booth, powered by solar panels, features four lights and two speakers, directed down to a seating area to mask the noise of the train.

The Design Trust worked with the city and the Bronx Music Heritage Center of the Women’s Housing and Economic Development Corp. to raise the \$18,000 for the prototype, a spokesman said. It will remain in place through Sept. 15.

Read more: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/bronx/boogie-el-article-1.1878061#ixzz39YWKXNnU>

