



ANA FISYAK

Urban Planning & Community Engagement Consultant

Ana Fisyak is an urban planner, researcher, and nonprofit strategist dedicated to a community-based approach. She has provided technical assistance (TA) for NYC communities and CBOs for over a decade, especially collaborating with organizations in low-income communities of color, environmental justice, and waterfront areas. She teaches at Parsons/New School and SUNY. Her work intersects human ecology, climate change, public space, social determinants of health, and the arts. She is a Faculty Fellow at the Urban Systems Lab, The New School and an Urban Design Forum Fellow.

In 2019, Ana launched her own planning apothecary ensuring NYC neighborhoods and their CBOs are empowered to take action for a more equitable and climate-resilient city. She became an affiliate of CCCE in 2020 and a member in 2021. Ana designs and executes civic engagement processes, secures funding for ambitious projects; researches new strategies to make healthier neighborhoods; and collaborates across disciplines to address a wide range of technical assistance needs at the community level.

She crafted the winning proposal from the NFWF's National Coastal Resilience Fund for the \$372K Rockaway Dune Enhancement Plan and secured capital funding for a \$3.4M community hub, the RISE Center. She has facilitated community-led plans on health and the arts with NYC DOHMH and NYC DCLA, respectively, and evaluated the NYC DOT plaza program through a social justice lens. She has contributed and written multiple reports throughout her career including for city agencies, community-based organizations, and advocacy groups. These include the *Rockaway Parks Conceptual Plan* (with WXY for NYC Parks), *Building Community Capacity in Far Rockaway* (with RISE for NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs), and *Measuring Public Life & Urban Justice in NYC's Plazas* (with Gehl Studio and J Max Bond Center).

As an immigrant from the former Soviet Union, the importance of a vibrant civil society is at the forefront of her work. Her passion is to design and implement collaborative projects that address social and environmental challenges through an equity lens. She aims to engage diverse partners and to build healing and inclusive spaces that grow a sense of civic responsibility and a shared vision. Her projects grow social connection, community self-determination, and stewardship of nature and places. She prioritizes local knowledge, community-based and nature-inspired solutions, and engaging voices historically left out of the process, especially young people, immigrants, and people of color.

She is a member of WE ACT for Environmental Justice and the APA New York Metro Chapter's Diversity Committee. Ana graduated from New York University with a BA in Comparative Literature and Pratt Institute with a MS in City & Regional Planning. She speaks French and Russian. Her work has been covered by *World Architecture*, *The Grist*, *Resilience.org*, and *The Wave* and is the coeditor of *Beyond Zuccotti Park: Freedom of Assembly and the Occupation of Public Space*.