

Bridge 4 Final

Yejun Yoon



## Swing over the rainbow

In this Essay, I will discuss and explain the messages and intentions for building my project ‘Swing over the rainbow’ in the center of Christopher street and Greenwich Avenue. I have looked through all the potential statues, art projects and installations that I could build through this project but nothing could beat the idea of a swing. This is because I liked the idea of two people sitting together no matter what gender, age they are because the place, Christopher street was famous for Gay liberation and gender equality. When I first went to Christopher street and Greenwich avenue, I noticed that there weren’t any signs or banners indicating the unique history behind the place. A lot of people were just passing by, too busy to notice anything surrounding them. So I wanted something that could involve the people to be active as well as to catch people’s attention by adding colors that stands for LGBTQ community. Swings will have two seatings because no matter who seats with who, the swing will still go up and down. It has a meaning that no matter who is with who, life will go on.

Swings were invented by Charles Wick-steed who also invented slides. Although some similar design play equipments as swings have been created since ancient times, he was the first person to actually put swings in the playground where children can freely go on.<sup>1</sup> Nowadays, all kinds of swings are created. From the wide variety, I am going to discuss only the Tandem swings and Porch swings. The reason why I chose Tandem swings is that it is designed for two people to be used at the same time. Most common Tandem swings are often with sits face to face with the bench perpendicular to its frame’s

---

<sup>1</sup> "World's First Children's Slide - CBBC Newsround." BBC News. Accessed April 17, 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/17747678>.

center cross bar.<sup>2</sup> The Tandem swings fit my idea and intention towards the final project because these swings were first invented for mother to swing with the child for safety. This idea reflects on the mother's love towards the child and this infinite love also fits into my idea of love shared between two people. I looked closely at the Porch swings because the project will be built in the center of the public, safety is very important. Porch swings require less action and this ride doesn't swing too violently. Also Porch swings are often at people's gardens for families to use which can give comfort to the people from the neighborhood and the passer-by.

Left: Tandem Swing  
Right: Porch swing



There will be eight swings in total where it is going to be constructed at the center of little playa between Christopher street and Greenwich avenue. The reason for the number being eight is that each one of them will be in the color of LGBTQ flag. They are also widely known as the rainbow flag and the colors are hot pink, red, orange yellow, green, turquoise, indigo and violet. Each individual colors have meaning of hot pink = Sex, Red = Life, Orange = Healing, Yellow = Sunlight, Green = Nature, Turquoise = Magic/Art, Indigo = Serenity, Violet = Spirit. Gilbert Baker who made came up with this flag in 1977, was inspired by Inspired by Judy Garland's "Over the Rainbow" which I got my title from as well.<sup>3</sup> By making the swings colorful not only will catch people's attention, but it will educate them more by questioning these colors and the LGBTQ society. Each of the swings will be designed with words from the meanings. It will entertain adults and children with vibrant colors and the fact that they can choose which ride they could take according to their preference.

---

<sup>2</sup> "Swing (seat)." Wikipedia. April 06, 2019. Accessed April 17, 2019. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing\\_\(seat\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing_(seat)).

<sup>3</sup> Pride\_site. "The Complete Guide to Queer Pride Flags." OUT. June 13, 2018. Accessed April 17, 2019. <https://www.pride.com/pride/2018/6/13/complete-guide-queer-pride-flags-0#media-gallery-media-1>.

LGBTQ flag  
(hot pink = Sex, Red = Life, Orange = Healing, Yellow = Sunlight, Green = Nature, Turquoise = Magic/Art, Indigo = Serenity, Violet = Spirit.)



The plaza between the Greenwich avenue and Christopher street is a great place for my swings to be installed. It is shaped like an isosceles triangle and today, there are some benches for the public to share.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, the place is very good for public to easily get in contact because around the plaza, there are the Jefferson market Garden, Library, theaters, Washington Square Park and also Greenwich Elementary School. When I visited this place, although the plaza was quiet open and big, it was rather dull and the roads were too busy with people just walking by, and cars under the red lights. If my swings are constructed at this place, there will be more enthusiasm and energy added to it.

Plaza between Greenwich avenue and Christopher Street, from the street and bird eye view.



<sup>4</sup> Google Maps. Accessed April 17, 2019. [https://www.google.com/maps/place/Christopher St & Greenwich Ave, New York, NY](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Christopher+St+Greenwich+Ave,+New+York,+NY)

The swings will not only educate people about the LGBTQ pride but it will act as a recognition for those who fought for the gay liberation through riots and parades. Close to this plaza, there were gay bars and one of the well know place was Stonewall Inn, although it was publicly known for private bar, having conflicts with corrupt cops, there began the pride riot. Though this uprising did not start the ‘gay rights movement, it was a galvanizing force for LGBT political activism’.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, through the swings, people will be inspired and will take more respect towards the history and people within.

Left: Stonewall Inn, Right: Stonewall Riots



Another reason why I chose swings for my final project is that my favorite ride when I was young was swings. My love for swings have grown until now and I always felt sad when adults were not allowed to ride swings and were often aimed for little children. If my swings are constructed in this area, I hope to see more adults to share the feelings of being a child: the innocence and naive self and being completely careless. Through this project, I want to convey the idea of no matter who you are with, love should be accepted. Like the swing, there are ups and downs to our world. There are people who are in the LGBTQ community and those who don't. At the end, like the swing, there will be a middle point where it stops. People will finally accept the fact that we are just like each other, willing to express love.

---

<sup>5</sup> Editors, History.com. "Stonewall Riots." History.com. May 31, 2017. Accessed April 17, 2019. <https://www.history.com/topics/gay-rights/the-stonewall-riots>.

## Bibliography:

"Christopher Street." Wikipedia. February 02, 2019. Accessed February 20, 2019. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher\\_Street](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Street).

"New York City: Gays & Lesbians and Christopher Street." TripAdvisor. Accessed February 20, 2019. <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g60763-c61985/New-York-City:New-York:Gays.And.Lesbians.And.Christopher.Street.html>.

Douglass, Doug, Gary, Stephanie, Steve Smith, Yusef El-Amin, Joseph Ditta, Joseph Ditta, Jeff B., Bea, Hugo F. Melo, Al Heitzer, Len Krasner, Alee, Stuart Lee, Robbie Michaelis, Ray, and Igor Scwozvoskiji. "TJD." Forgotten New York. Accessed February 20, 2019. <https://forgotten-ny.com/2014/10/christopher-street-greenwich-village/>.

Codrea-Rado, Anna. "A Timeline of Christopher Street, New York LGBTQ Nightlife's Most Storied Thoroughfare." Vice. June 26, 2016. Accessed February 20, 2019. [https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/d7jdnv/christopher-street-timeline-pride-2016-history](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/d7jdnv/christopher-street-timeline-pride-2016-history).

"LGBTQ History: Around Christopher Street." GVSHP | Preservation | Off the Grid. January 09, 2015. Accessed February 20, 2019. <https://gvshp.org/blog/2015/01/08/lgbtq-history-around-christopher-street/>.

"NYC History of Streets: More than Just Pride & Liberation at Christopher & Gay Streets." Untapped Cities. May 01, 2018. Accessed February 20, 2019. <https://untappedcities.com/2013/07/10/nyc-history-of-streets-more-than-just-pride-liberation-at-christopher-gay-streets/>.

Seliger, Mark, and Mark Seliger. "The Trans Community of Christopher Street." The New Yorker. June 18, 2017. Accessed February 20, 2019. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/08/01/the-trans-community-of-christopher-street>.

Editors, History.com. "Stonewall Riots." History.com. May 31, 2017. Accessed April 17, 2019. <https://www.history.com/topics/gay-rights/the-stonewall-riots>.

Google Maps. Accessed April 17, 2019. [https://www.google.com/maps/place/Christopher St & Greenwich Ave, New York, NY](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Christopher+St+%26+Greenwich+Ave,+New+York,+NY)

Pride\_site. "The Complete Guide to Queer Pride Flags." OUT. June 13, 2018. Accessed April 17, 2019. <https://www.pride.com/pride/2018/6/13/complete-guide-queer-pride-flags-0#media-gallery-media-1>.

"Swing (seat)." Wikipedia. April 06, 2019. Accessed April 17, 2019. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing\\_\(seat\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing_(seat)).

"World's First Children's Slide - CBBC Newsround." BBC News. Accessed April 17, 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/17747678>.