

Mark Parsons



Mark Parsons is an entrepreneur, designer, educator, and technologist. He is the founder and Executive Director of New Bedford Research & Robotics (2022) and previously Founded the Consortium for Research & Robotics in New York City (2014), as well as serving as the Director of the Science and Technology Entry Program (NYSED), and the Director of Production Technologies for Pratt Institute Architecture, where he taught advanced design studios and materials seminars. Parsons sits on several industrial and educational advisory boards, including an appointment by the US Department of State as a US Speaker on Creativity, Innovation and Technology.

Parsons has held teaching positions in design and art at Cornell University, Pratt Institute, and Hunter College. He has lectured at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, China, SUNY Purchase, University of Massachusetts, ISE Cultural Foundation, Grounds for Sculpture, and presented a TEDx Talk titled *"Making a Thing. Discovering a Space."*

With projects ranging from residential to commercial, Parsons architectural designs often focus on tensile structures. Parsons was the lead designer and principal of the Haiti SoftHouse, a 2010 transitional shelter for Haitian communities after the 2010 earthquake. He has led teams to award winning designs at the Architectural Digest Home Design show (DIFFA Dine by Design), the Brooklyn Food and Wine Festival (UrBarn), and with New York City Parks projects (Putnam Pavilion).

As an artist, Mark Parsons is the recipient of the Jacob Javits National Fellowship (1997), is a VSA International Fellow (2004), is a two time winner of the FIPSE Grant (Fund for Improvement of Post Secondary Education, 2009, 2011), recipient of the Wynn Newhouse Award (2012), 3 Faculty Development Grants at the Pratt Institute, and two Tectonic Fellowship Awards (2014, 2015) for community projects in Brooklyn, NY. He is a (2016) recipient of the President's Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects for his environmental sculpture *Big BURR* in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Parsons has exhibited artwork at the United Nations, Kennedy Center for the Arts, Seaport Museum, New Bedford Art Museum, Springfield Art Museum, Provincetown Art Museum, Williams College Museum of Art, and private galleries in New York and abroad.

Before coming to New York City, Parsons rebuilt a 41 foot hurricane-destroyed boat named Lazarus, and sailed for 3 years and 30 thousand miles around the Globe; down the Atlantic Ocean, west across the Caribbean Sea, Pacific Ocean, Tasman Sea, Indian Ocean, around Africa, across the Atlantic, a hundred miles up the Amazon River, and home again. He returned to working as a carpenter in the northeast before heading to Cornell University to pursue an MFA, and then moved to New York for 24 years before returning home to New England in 2022.

www.ResearchAndRobotics.org
www.linkedin.com/in/mark-parsons-629b7a101/

MARK C. PARSONS

Professional Preparation

Masters of Planning/ Urban Placemaking, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY (in process)

Masters of Fine Arts (Sculpture), Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 1998

Bachelors of Fine Arts (Sculpture), University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Dartmouth, MA 1992

Appointments

Cornell University, lecturer, 1998

Pratt Institute, Adjunct Assistant Professor, 1999-2022

Hunter College, lecturer, 2002-2005

Products

2024 - 2022 Founder, Executive Director, New Bedford Research & Robotics, MA

2022 - 2014 Founder, Executive Director, Consortium for Research & Robotics, NYC

2015 - 2010 Principal and Lead Designer, HaitiSoftHOUSE Group

2022 - 2004 Director of Production Technologies, Pratt Institute Architecture

1995 - 1992 30k mile, 3 Yr Circumnavigation of the world, SV Lazarus (41 foot sailboat)

Boards and Advisory

2022 - 2019 US Department of State, U.S. Speaker Program

2021 - 2019 NYU RLab Faculty Advisory Board

2021 - 2017 Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Innovation Council

2021 - 2017 STEAM Advisory Board, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation

2019 - 2017 Board of Trustees, Pratt Institute

2021 - 2017 American Institute of Architects (AIA), Technology Committee

2020 - 2017 Advisory Board, Toggle Industries

2019 - 2014 SAVI Advisory Board, Spatial Analysis and Visualization Initiative

Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity

2022 - 2016 Principal Investigator, STEP Grant, \$2,060,000

2016 Taconic Fellowship Grant. Clifton Public Garden, NY, NY

2015 Taconic Fellowship Grant. Putnam Plaza Pavilion, NY, NY

2015 - 2012 Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, national juror

2014 Pratt Faculty Development Grant. CartoGraphiPOP

2014 Grant Committee, Wynn Newhouse Award

2013 - 2012 Grounds for Sculpture, artist in residence, lecture, installation

2012 University of Massachusetts, guest critic

2011 University of Massachusetts, lecture, guest critic

2011 Pratt Institute, "Green Week" lecture, Haiti Softhouse

2010 Pratt Institute, "Mapping as a Critical Practice" presenter

2010 Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, national juror

2009 SUNY New Paltz, lecture, visiting critic

2009 Wynn Newhouse Award, grant creation consultant

2008 Central Academy Fine Arts (CAFA) PHD program, Beijing, China

Lecture and development of collaborative drawing project

2008 Tulsa Oklahoma, public school lecture, residency

2008 Grand Rapids, Michigan, public school lecture, residency

2008 Arlington Art Museum, lecture, residency

Select Presentations and Publications and Citations:

2021 "Future Tech" video Vox Media Interview

2021 "Shakers and Movers" radio and podcast interview

2020 "Robological Topologies" DATA Design Matter, Routledge, NY, p166-175

2019 "Data and Art" presenter/ panelist, Camp David Industry City, Brooklyn

2019 "Activating Workplace with Art" presentation, Q and Turning Art, NY, NY

2019 Drawing from the Model, Frank Melendez, Wiley, London, UK, 2019, p273-4

2018 "Robotics in the AEC Industry" Curator & Moderator, Center for Architecture, NYC

2017 NYSED STEP Regional Keynote "Strength, Diversity and Technology"

2016 TEDx Talk "Making a Thing. Discovering a Space."

2014 Fabric Architecture Magazine, "Ethereal Threshold"

2013 NYC Economic Development Corporation, "Industry Trends and Insights"

2012 Interior Design, DIFFA Dine by Design

2009 Fabric Architecture Magazine, "Light Canopy"

2008 National Public Radio, Tulsa, "FreeField"

Academic and Public Service:

- 2016 Led team of Graduate Students to create functional design elements with 596 Acres for public gardens composting in Brooklyn
- 2015 Design, build, install pavilion structure for public plaza, worked closely with Department of Transportation, BID Director, and community organizations
- 2011 Led a team of interdisciplinary students (industrial design, architecture) to design the "UrBarn" - a steel pavilion erected at the Brooklyn food and wine festival.
- 2012 DIFFA: Led a team of interdisciplinary students (industrial design, architecture) to design and construct Pratt's submission to "Dine by Design" at the Javits Center Architectural Digest Home Design Show. Our design was awarded "Top Pick" by the American Society of Interior Designers and published in Interior Design Magazine.

Academic Administration

- 2019 Fulbright Advisory Panelist, Pratt Institute
- 2019 - 2017 Board of Trustees, Pratt Institute
- 2019 - 2017 Pratt Institute Finance Committee
- 2020 - 2016 PI, Director STEP program, Pratt Institute (NYSED)
- 2020 Research Recognition Award Committee, Pratt Institute
- 2003 Campus Environmental Concerns Committee, task force chair, Pratt Institute
- 2008 Technology Advisory Committee, Pratt Institute
- 2017 - 2013 Buildings and Grounds Committee Member, voting, Pratt Institute
- 2014 - 2013 Architecture Research Report Chair, Pratt Institute
- 2014 Architecture Research Committee member, Pratt Institute
- 2014 Design Dean Search committee, Pratt Institute
- 2014 MSCHE report, Facilities committee, Pratt Institute
- 2018 - 2010 Governing Committee Member, Pratt School of Architecture

Professional Experience

- 1998 - Present MCP Art & Design: Mark Parsons designer fabricator and artist in private practice and in collaboration with architecture firms. Design and construction of several commercial and residential spaces. Parsons has also designed several tensile canopy structures.
- 2010 - 2015 Haiti SoftHouse: Designed & raised funds for 22 Softhouse transitional shelters to be erected in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake. The Softhouse is a fabric structure engineered to category 3 hurricanes and is virtually earthquake proof.

Awards & Honors

- 2022 - 2016 Principal Investigator, NYSED STEP Program, \$1,940,000.00
- 2016 Taconic Fellowship Grant, Public Garden
- 2015 Taconic Fellowship Grant, Light Canopy
- 2014 Pratt Faculty Development Grant, "CartoGraphiPOP"
- 2012 Wynn Newhouse Foundation Award
- 2010 FIPSE grant, Haiti Transitional Housing
- 2010 Pratt Faculty Development Grant, "Choreographic Traces"
- 2009 FIPSE grant, Fabric Form & Performance, sustainable structures
- 2004 International Fellow, VSA Arts
- 2003 Pratt Faculty Development Grant, "Object/ Product"
- 1998 Jacob K. Javits National Arts Fellow

Teaching Responsibility

Cornell University

Hunter College

Pratt Institute School of Architecture, 2021 - 1999

- Advanced Seminars; Methods and Materials (variable applications)
Fabric Form and Performance (tensile structures)
Frame and Membrane (tensile structures)

Industry Sponsored Design Studios (11)

- NASA XHab (x2), 400 advanced architectural design
- DesignTex (x2), 400 advanced architectural design
- Hunter Douglas, 400 advanced architectural design
- Global Wrap, 400 advanced architectural design
- Sperry Fabric Architecture (x2), research seminar
- Fabric Images (x3), 400 advanced architectural design