

# PANHANDLE BAND SHELL

CMG Landscape Architecture with Finch Mob, Rebar and many dedicated community members

As a temporary intervention the Bandshell creates a bit of gravity in an otherwise ambiguous space; a moment in place-time. From the delivery of pre-fabricated components to the completion of the structure and its three-month occupation of the site, the Bandshell, reoriented, and reprogrammed the movement, use, and social interaction within the park. The physical form of the structure, its open source program as a public stage; and the highly collaborative design/construction process enabled people to participate directly in the making of the space; changing the social milieu of the site, its physical condition, and creating an ephemeral community with lasting tendrils.

As a linear park, the Panhandle is essentially a place of movement, but is well used for a variety of passive and active recreational activities and community events. Its design is indicative of 19th century picturesque parks, with typically ambiguous spatial conditions defined by random tree plantings, winding paths, and large lawns. The project addressed the political and physical context of the site by utilizing the iconic form and program of traditional bandshells that populated, civic greens, and large urban parks from 1860 – mid 20th century.

The Bandshell project builds on strategies and ideas from a long thread of artists and reflects the potential of participatory art and networked creative production as methods for urban renewal and reinterpretation. In contrast to other forms of art making, architecture, or urban design, participatory art pieces are not fixed, and evolve according to the contributions of the participants. This kind of art opens a space for critical collaboration, in which the public mediates political and cultural disputes through the creation of the work. The performance and event-based aspect of the project and the design and construction process challenged the political stasis that governs most contemporary public spaces and raised the question of who and what they are for?

