

Bonnie Ora Sherk

*A Living Library is Cultivating the Human & Ecological Garden*

*A Living Library is a planetary genre with the goal of establishing place-based, Branch Living Library & Think Parks in diverse communities—locally and globally—to be linked through Green-Powered Digital Gateways, so we can share commonalities and diversities of cultures and ecologies—near and far.*

–Bonnie Ora Sherk

Since the 1970s, Bonnie Ora Sherk has produced environmental projects in San Francisco and New York through the exploration of the relationships between art, ecology, and society. One of her most important projects is a multi-year and multi-faceted undertaking that the artist refers to as *A Living Library (A.L.L.)*, which she began in 1981 in Bryant Park, a few steps from the New York Public Library. The artist proposed to transform the park, which was in poor condition at the time, into an open-air library, a natural space in which to reconcile culture, ecology, and technology. Conceived as a space of social interaction, *A.L.L.* gathered specialists from various fields, bringing together interdisciplinary in knowledge from the fields of ecology, history, culture, technology and economics.

**Artist's Glossary and Meanings of Terms:**

The **Life Frame** literally frames life so we can see it and experience it more profoundly.

The **Think Park** is meant to make us think, feel, and be more empathetic.

Everyone and everything on earth and in space is part of **A Living Library** of Diversity: people, birds, trees, air, water, and all the things we create, such as parks, gardens, schools, libraries, curricula, artworks, networks, communities, and celebrations. **A.L.L.** demonstrates that culture and technology are part of nature. It is all nature. What is important is to create a more balanced and ecological way for all of us to live and create harmoniously on the planet.

**Installation Guide:**

Yellow Wall: Overview

Blue Wall: Bernal Heights Living Library & Think Park Nature Walk

Yellow Green Wall: OMI/Excelsior Living Library & Think Park - San Francisco

Grass Green Wall: Roosevelt Island Living Library & Think Park – New York City (includes video)