



Aerial photo 1969; Department of City Planning - City of New York

**COUNTER BALANCE**

The Three Main Players  
on the New York Stage:

- The Grid
- Central Park
- Broadway

The Grid keeps the city  
sane, solvent & successful

Broadway & Central Park  
Counter balance the Grid  
with flamboyance, fantasy  
fun & familiarity, found in  
the grounding of Nature

Manhattan & Central Park  
both have proportions 1:5  
Manhattan: 2.5 x 12.5 miles  
Central Park: .5 x 2.5 miles

The Main Drive in Central  
Park describes a shape that  
is similar to Manhattan

Manhattan has rectangle of  
Central Park at the center

Central Park had rectangular  
reservoir at the center  
(filled in during the 1940's)

Broadway of Manhattan  
parallels  
Promenade of Central Park

**CITY IN THE PARK**  
Metaphorical Manhattan  
embodied in the plan  
of Central Park

**PROPOSAL**

REINSTATE RESERVOIR  
in Central Park

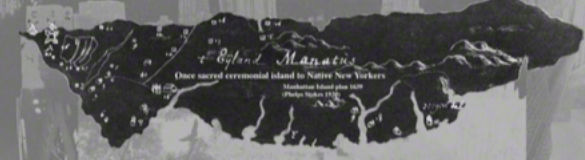
RECONSTRUCT MANATUS  
within rectangular reservoir

PLANT MINI MANATUS  
WITH ORIGINAL SEEDS  
Trees & plants of island origins

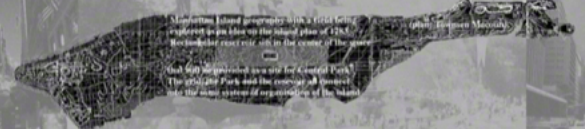
WANDER THE ISLAND  
with access via reservoir wall



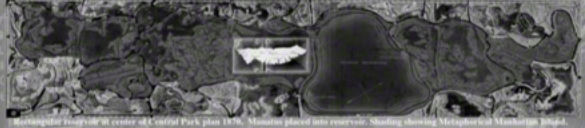
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Once sacred ceremonial island to Native New Yorkers  
Manhattan Island circa 1609  
(Photo taken 1970)



Manhattan Island geometry with a grid that  
is present in an idea with the island plan of 1785.  
Reconstructed street grid with the center of the island  
that can be overlaid on the Central Park  
The 1940's Park and the reservoir at Center  
is the main system of organization of the island



Rectangular reservoir at center of Central Park plan 1876. Manatus placed into reservoir. Shading showing Metaphorical Manhattan Island.  
(Photo 1940 by Frank O'Connell, Office of Park Commissioner)



**PROPOSAL:** To reinstate the rectangular reservoir.  
Reconstruct the original island of Manhattan (Manatus)  
Plant the Island with the original seeds of Manatus

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Photomontage background image of New York & Central Park; Lorna McNeur, Naomi Shaw, and Jeremy Greenman