

Skyline

Stop the traffic - there's a big hole in the road! Never fear, the workers are here to repair with gravel and plenty of cheer! Down the half-pipes hear it trickle, sweep it up and tap it down, fix the hole....then build the town!

Environment

Set the scene using New York traffic sound effects and a street sign lighting effect using a gobo (a metal insert that allows a light to project a pattern or design). Create buildings placed round the edge of the room using large white boxes and smaller ones with window holes cut out and press-on LED lights inside. Create a 'hole in the road' using a large blackboard on the floor. Also in the space:

- Coloured gravel
- Buckets, trays and sieves
- Trowels, shovels and brooms
- Half-pipes and boomwhacker tubes
- Projection of traffic/cityscape
- Bagels for taste element

Costume - high vis jackets and flat caps

Music - Urban environments are noisy and filled with the sounds of the street. There are many recordings of streets that you can use from all over the world. This workshop has the feel of New York about it and freesound.org has lots of downloadable files you can use. As the night settles on the city and the projection becomes visible you could use Philip Glass's soundtrack *Koyaanisqatsi*.

Activities

Hole in the Road – Get to work! Use pipes, trowels and buckets to fill the hole with gravel. See and hear it trickle down the pipes. Pour into sieves and trays. Feel the texture, spread it around, gather it together in piles and make patterns. Slide it around and shake on trays. Create rhythms whilst you work. Swing half-pipes around like cranes, introducing partner work and play. Add brooms to sweep and swirl the gravel, increasing movement and sound options.

Tamp it Down – Introduce boomwhackers as tools for tapping down the gravel. Roll them along the floor, tap them on each other's or on upturned buckets and sieves, encouraging group work. Develop into a rhythmic, movement section, as well as using them to call and answer. Encourage listening and vocalising.

Build Skyscrapers – Build a city using the white box 'buildings'; carry them around, build towers and knock them down. Work as a team to get the job done. As they are light, they can easily be lifted, carried and stacked, held on laps of wheelchair users, pushed along with feet, like bulldozers. Press on the lights, light up the city. Stack them on towers to focus attention and create a cityscape. Stroll through the city, in and out between towers. Add in the projection of the traffic/cityscape in this section. After all the hard work, enjoy bagels before clocking off for the day.

Links

Costume, Boxes

Video

Skyline

