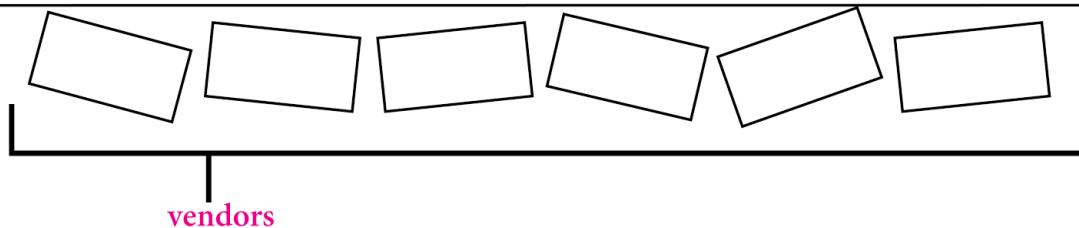
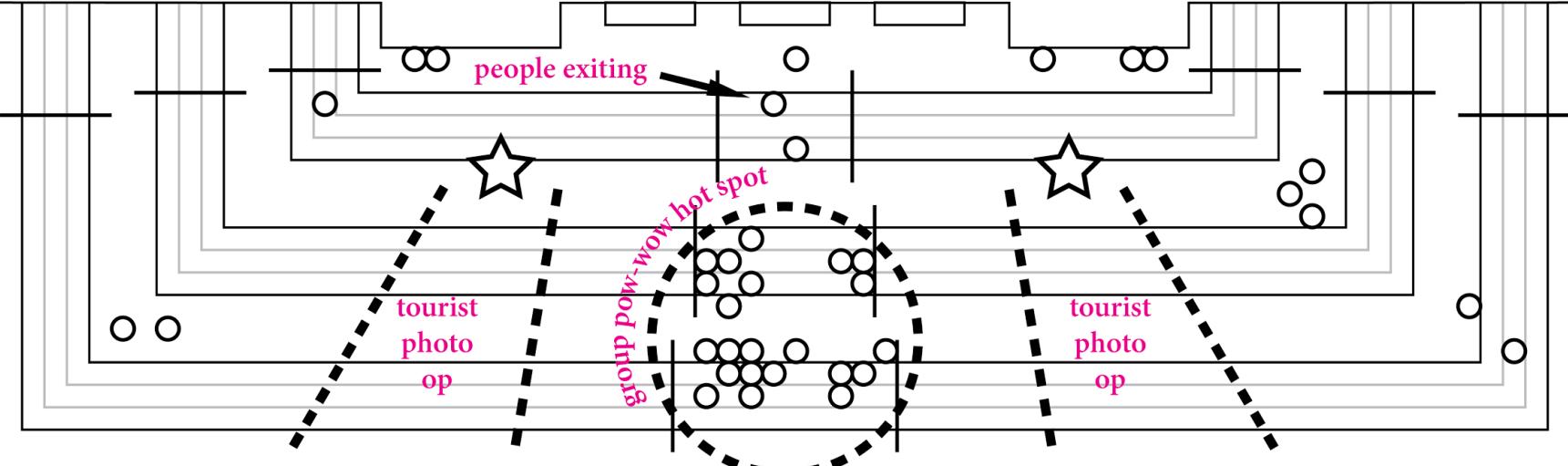


# Urban Observation

Christina Ann Holmes

# The Metropolitan Museum of Art



○ person

users exiting the museum  
- only exit open so heavy user flow



side view of museum  
- groups of people gather around the handrails



front view of museum  
- note family in front & groups of people in back.



angle view - shows groups & flow of users down the steps



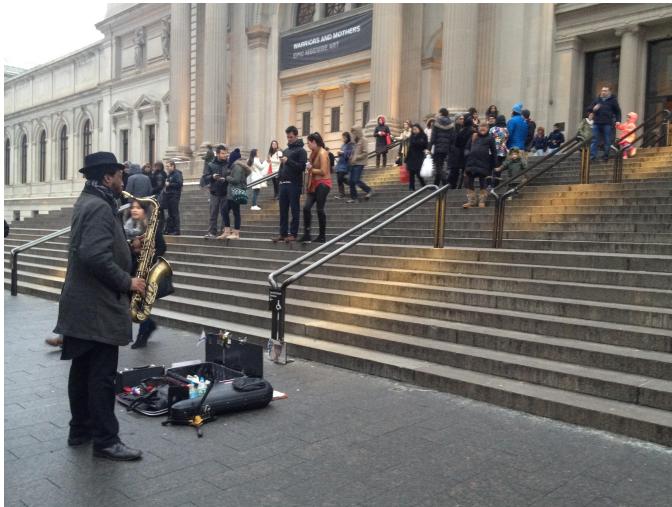
fun mini-attractions such as this brings passing strangers together to play and chat.



street view of the museum - see woman taking photo - common user pattern



shot of food vendors along front of museum - vendors would shout at passersby to buy food



front angled view of museum - see street musician playing sax and adding to the ambience

## **Users:**

Tourists



Families



Couples



Friends



Vendors



Street musicians



## **Use Pattern:**

Stand in front & take pictures

Take pictures together

Hang out/huddle for warmth

Gather in circles to chat

Yell from stands at people

Plays sax at bottom of steps



The steps leading to the Metropolitan Museum have become a space of their own; people from all over come to eat, have their picture taken, or just hang out on them. It is popular amongst both tourists and New Yorkers on their lunch break. Despite the steps' history as a classic NY hangout spot, they have only been around since 1975 when the museum's old back entrance was replaced.



The steps have been featured in many television shows, movies, and events. Perhaps most famous is their use as a sort of runway for the Met Gala, where stars such as Rihanna strut their outfits for the evening. The steps have also been featured on popular shows such as Warner Bros. *Gossip Girl*, where the main characters frequent the location for lunch and socializing. Prince William and Kate Middleton were also spotted on the steps after they attended the Met for an anniversary dinner.



Popular social media sites such as FourSquare, where users 'check in' to locations they frequent and leave tips or reviews, even have a page dedicated to the museum steps. Over 7,000 FS users have reported making a visit.

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