



This map applies public data to the act of seeing. It uses data of the elevation and footprints of buildings in New York City to calculate which rooftops have sightlines to the Statue of Liberty.

In ideal conditions, sightlines are reciprocal. For the purposes of this experiment, we say that the rooftops that have views of the statue also compose the view from the statue. In additional visualizations online, buildings visible from the statue are seen through the lens of Census data to show what is in a view.



Above: Map of Census Blockgroups containing visible rooftops. For visualizations of the population in these blockgroups, please visit <https://ijiia.github.io/sightlines/>

Data sources:

Building Footprints for New York City:
<https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Housing-Development/Building-Footprints>
Basemap map tiles:
Open Street Map Roads Layer provided by mapzen vector tile service
Statue of liberty:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statue_of_Liberty#Physical_characteristics

Current Method:

1. For each building, generate 20 random points within its footprint.
2. For each point, draw line between point and the statue.
3. For each line, determine if other building polygons intersect it.
4. For each intersection, determine if the building polygon is tall enough to block the view of the origin building.
5. If any point within the polygon has sightline to statue, building is classified as having a view of the statue

Website:

<https://ijiia.github.io/sightlines/>