

MASNYC JANE'S WALK

100+ free guided walks celebrating New York

May 4-6

Planning to Join the Jane's Walk Movement? Here's Some Inspiration!

When planning your Jane's Walk, the sky is the limit! Walks can focus on the history of a neighborhood or an area's ongoing evolution. They can help raise awareness about a particular issue or just serve to bring urban explorers to a different part of the city. Whether place-based, issue-based, activity-based or a combination of the three – we welcome creative themes and formats. But don't feel like you have to be an expert—adding local voices and a variety of perspectives make for an even more dynamic walk. Below are a series of examples from previous years to demonstrate the festival's range and offer some inspiration for your Jane's Walk.

A Look Into the Past

A Brewing History of Bushwick

Brooklyn, Chris Heuberger, 2016

Believe it or not, the neighborhood of Bushwick, Brooklyn was once the brewing center of America. On this walk, we'll see some historic 19th century landmark brewery buildings still standing and walk along Brewer's Row. Hear stories of the breweries, the beer, and the people that made Bushwick a thriving brewing powerhouse. And of course, we'll end by enjoying a pint in the tradition of Bushwick's once and future glory.

History and Mystery in Charleston

Staten Island, Laura Barlament, 2016

With seven historical sites, an abandoned shipyard, a forgotten cemetery, and acres of undisturbed land, Charleston is practically an oasis of local history, nestled right in the shadows of the Outerbridge. However, with expanding developments at the Bricktown Mall and the proposed Riverside Galleria, change is on the horizon. On this walk, we will explore Charleston's deep past and discuss its uncertain future. Afterwards, feel free to join us for dinner at Killmeyer's Old Bavarian Inn.

Out of the Ordinary!

The Secrets of Death Avenue

Manhattan, Monica Hunken, 2016

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Through conventional exposition, street theater and song — Your participation is welcome! — you will learn about how the clash of commerce with humanity once earned one West Village street the name "Death Avenue". A vibrant blend of immigrants, artists, financiers, gay and straight, affluent and hardscrabble, the area has been one of the world's most fertile grounds of creativity, social change, and protest.

About Advocacy

Community Land Trusts, Environmental Justice and Hyper-Gentrification

Bronx, Mychal Johnson, Monxo Lopez, & Libertad Guerra, 2017

The Mott Haven-Port Morris neighborhood in the South Bronx is a diverse and vibrant community. Today, it is simultaneously struggling to overcome decades of environmental injustice and economic neglect, while fortifying itself against the loss of culture and community in the face of hyper-gentrification. This walk will explore local community land trust initiatives to take real estate off the speculative market, contrasted with the volume of luxury developments on the verge of completion.

Gay Bars That Are Gone

Manhattan, Kyle Supley & Michael Ryan, 2016-2017

During this walk, we'll be observing the shifting typology of the gay bar in the name of sparking conversation about how to preserve and spotlight these important "lavender landmarks." Covering everything from the raids to the raves, ballrooms to discos and piano bars, we'll focus on the Chelsea and Village haunts. Come hear from "those who were there" and indulge "those who wish they were" (like your hosts!).

An Urban Exploration

Discovering New York Underfoot

Manhattan, Michele Brody, 2017

Explore New York City as you've never done before with artist Michele Brody, as she introduces the art and design of manhole covers and how they tell the story of the development of New York City's infrastructure. Tour guide JoAnn Fynke will also join to highlight the architecture and history of the Meat Packing District.

Walking the Ridgewood Reservoir

Queens, Matt Malina, 2017

The Ridgewood Reservoir in Highland Park is a 50+ acre natural oasis that straddles the border of Brooklyn and Queens. Built in 1859 to supply the once independent City of Brooklyn with high quality water, it became obsolete with the addition of new reservoirs in the Catskills in the 1950s and was decommissioned in the 1980s. Since then, nature took its course in a perfect case study of ecological succession. We'll walk the lush and dense forest that has grown in its two outside basins and along the freshwater pond with waterfowl that sits in the middle basin.

The deadline to submit a walk is April 2, 2018. Questions? Contact us at janeswalknyc@mas.org.

