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 makes 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. The full roster of 2018 walks is also still on the Jane’s Walk NYC website to showcase the diversity of walk topics and locations.

A Look Into the Past

**History and Mysteries of Snug Harbor**  
*Staten Island, Melissa Perez, Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, 2018*

Join us for a walk lead by our educators through Snug Harbor’s 83-acre campus. This free tour will set the history of the 19th century campus as the backdrop and reveal some odder history and mysteries. Hidden time capsules, duplicate statues, murder, ghost sightings and more.

**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.

Out of the Ordinary!

**The Secrets of Death Avenue**  
*Manhattan, Monica Hunken, 2016*

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, 2016-2018

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.

Diversity Blooms in a Garden Community
Queens, Adrienne Onofri, 2018

Between its convenient location, historic district and culinary scene, Jackson Heights is one of NYC’s most desirable neighborhoods. Come explore this ethnically diverse community and see how thoughtful urban planning of a century ago lives on in its streets of lovely prewar apartment buildings with their own gardens. You’ll also learn about Jackson Heights’ surprising place in American history and pop culture!

The deadline to submit a walk is Monday, April 1, 2019. Questions? Contact us at janestwalknyc@mas.org. Looking for additional tips for brainstorming, planning and leading a Jane’s Walk? Visit the Jane’s Walk NYC website.