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 rosters of 2019 and 2018 walks are 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!

Jane’s Dog Walk
Brooklyn, Gabriela Philo, 2019

Who let the dogs out? That would be none other than the Prospect Park Alliance and FIDO. Come join us for a dog walking tour of Prospect Park during off-leash hours. You will stroll through Prospect Park’s Long Meadow as we learn about the rich history of how Prospect Park, alongside FIDO, revitalized the park and fostered an enriching dog-friendly community. All four-legged friends are welcome!
Superstorm Sandy proved to be the most costly and destructive disaster to impact New York City public housing in its history. Join us on a walk through Rangel Houses to hear first-hand accounts from people who lived through the storm and see how NYCHA’s Recovery and Resilience Department is pushing design boundaries and building back stronger and smarter to make public housing safer for generations to come.

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!).

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.

This walk will focus on public art and environmental justice in Hunts Point in the South Bronx, the city’s heart of manufacturing and food distribution, a base of arts and activism, and the birth place of hip-hop. The tour explores how industry, community and nature intersect to fuse art, environmental and social justice in an inner-city neighborhood. After the walk, Tammy Wofsey will hold a FREE printmaking workshop at THE POINT’S Campus.

The deadline to submit a walk is Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Questions? Contact us at janesswalknyc@mas.org. Looking for additional tips for brainstorming, planning and leading a Jane's Walk? Visit the Jane's Walk NYC website.