



Jane's Walk FAQ

What is MAS?

For more than 125 years, the Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS) has lifted up the voices of the people in the debates that shape New York's built environment, leading the way toward a more livable city from sidewalk to skyline. In addition to organizing Jane's Walk, we advocate on planning, preservation, and policy issues that shape New York's built environment and offer many public programs and walking tours throughout the year.

What is Jane's Walk?

Jane's Walk is an annual festival of free, volunteer-led, neighborhood walks that generate conversation about the city and celebrate its vibrant past, present, and future, taking shape in a collection of in-person and virtual experiences.

How often is Jane's Walk?

Jane's Walk takes place the first weekend in May every year, to coincide with Jane Jacobs' birthday on May 4. For 2022, the festival will be May 6-8.

How is Jane's Walk adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Jane's Walk leaders will have a variety of opportunities to host walks in virtual and socially distanced formats, including in-person guided group walks, self-guided in-person walks, virtual talks, social media activations, and more. MAS asks walk leaders and attendees to remain masked for any guided group walks, to practice social distancing, and to have proof of vaccination on-hand. For the first time, MAS will be requiring registration, capping attendance at 30 people, and only holding walks outdoors for safety reasons.

Who was Jane Jacobs?

Jane Jacobs was a famous urban activist and writer who lived from 1916-2006. She is best known for galvanizing New Yorkers to stop Robert Moses' project that would have built an expressway through Greenwich Village. She believed in the power of individuals to influence their city. Today, her principles represent the participatory planning approaches that have been embraced in communities around the world.

Who can lead a Jane's Walk?

You can! Anyone is welcome to lead a Jane's Walk, whether you are affiliated with an organization or just an impassioned individual. Jane's Walk is an opportunity to share your knowledge with fellow urbanists. Don't feel like you have to be an expert—adding local voices and a variety of perspectives makes for an even more dynamic experience.

Does MAS vet and approve Jane's Walks?

MAS is committed to promoting healthy dialogue about issues affecting the city. We support the principles of self-organization and civic engagement that Jane Jacobs so fervently upheld. The festival is crowdsourced, not curated. Therefore, inclusion in Jane's Walk does not imply MAS endorsement of the specific perspectives or proposals put forth by individual Jane's Walks or by their respective leaders.

However, MAS reserves the right to withdraw a walk if the subject, location, or leader poses any harm or danger to participants, makes use of hate speech, or defames or excludes specific individuals or groups, or was not created for the original purpose of inclusion in Jane's Walk festival. Jane's Walk is also a non-partisan initiative, thus, any political campaigning or walks hosted on behalf of a candidate seeking office is not permitted as a part of the festival.

MAS also reserves the right to edit a walk's title and description on our website for the sake of clarity, brevity, and grammatical consistency.

Can a Jane's Walk take place on private property?

If a guided or self-guided walk instructs participants to enter private property, walk leaders also must provide written permission from property owners via email to janeswalknyc@mas.org. MAS is not liable for any violations of trespassing on private property.

Can I seek compensation for leading a walk?

Jane's Walk is free and open to the public, and therefore leaders are also prohibited from soliciting compensation (including monetary tips) from attendees.

How is Jane's Walk paid for?

The cost of the festival is underwritten by MAS, a registered 501c3 non-profit organization. We receive support from individual donors, government grants, private foundations, and sponsorship. For more information on MAS and our financials, please visit mas.org. If you are interested in donating to help underwrite the costs of producing the festival, contact Britt Densmore, Vice President of Development, at bdensmore@mas.org.

Can I use Jane's Walk as a promotional opportunity?

Distribution of marketing materials outside of those provided by MAS is prohibited. However, the festival can serve as an opportunity to share information about a particular project, initiative, or event with fellow urbanists as it relates to your walk.

How will registration work for live guided group walks and those taking place on a virtual platform?

MAS will be taking registration for any live walk. For virtual platforms, walk leaders must submit a join link for Zoom or social media, and MAS will share it directly with registrants. For guided group walks, walk leaders must submit details and instructions for the meeting and ending locations, and any other relevant information for registrants to be notified of upon signing up. For privacy reasons, MAS cannot provide registration lists to walk leaders, but we can share registration numbers upon request.

How are Jane's Walks promoted?

MAS promotes the festival as a whole, but participating individuals and organizations agree to identify themselves as part of Jane's Walk through inclusion of the event logo and language in their respective communications (e.g. email, social media, printed collateral) leading up to the event.

What Will MAS Help with? What Won't MAS Help with?

For support in your research and planning, we will be hosting a variety of training opportunities on Zoom before the festival in May. We are also available for brief rehearsal bookings during the month of April using Zoom meeting, where you can share your plans for your walk, practice, and ask questions. A link to sign up for rehearsals will be shared with confirmed walk leaders once submissions close on March 31.

However, MAS is a small team. We are not able to set up or manage your walk on your chosen virtual platform or provide staff for all guided group walks, even though we do our best to pop-in and attend as many walks as possible.

What if I need to cancel my walk?

As we have learned this past year, things can happen in life that are beyond our control. As much as possible, it helps to have a plan in place if you no longer can lead a Jane's Walk activity. Do you have someone who can lead it for you? Can you post an update on the platform or meeting location for your walk to help notify people? Are you able to reschedule for another time during Jane's Walk week? Please contact the Jane's Walk NYC team at janeswalknyc@mas.org to share any necessary cancelations or scheduling changes so the online roster can be updated accordingly and registrants can be notified.

Where can I find more information about Jane's Walk and learn about other walks happening during the festival?

The full list of walks is available on our website at www.mas.org/janes-walk-nyc starting in mid-April. It's easy to find a walk using the search, date, theme, format, and borough filters. The website also features helpful information and resources for the festival.

How do I stay involved with MAS year-round?

MAS is a membership organization that offers events, programs, and tours throughout the year. Visit our website at www.mas.org for more information.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

We're here to help! Contact the Jane's Walk team at janeswalknyc@mas.org with any questions you may have.

The deadline to submit a walk is Thursday, March 31, 2022