DOWN TOWN ALLIANCE

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DOWN TOWN ALLIANCE

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SPRING 2021

ORIGINAL DOWNTOWN, EST. 1625

SPRING SNAPSHOT

Ring in a season of renewal with the Alliance for Downtown New York's annual shred-a-thon, where we invite Lower Manhattan business owners, residents and workers to safely dispose of their private documents and old clothing. This year's shred-a-thon runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 17; you can find our shredding truck parked on Fulton Street (between Cliff and Gold Streets).

DID YOU KNOW?...

The first official park in New York City is Bowling Green. Initially a cattle market and parade ground — and next to the Dutch Fort Amsterdam — the Common Council of New York City established the public park in 1733. In the 18th century, the park had an actual "bowling green," where park visitors could engage in a game of lawn bowling.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR NEIGHBOR

It has been a long and difficult winter. The pandemic deprived us of our usual seasonal delights, and many of us had to weather a winter without family holiday gatherings, cozy indoor bars and restaurants, and even the simple pleasure of sitting on a friend's couch. But winter has come to an end. The sun has returned. Trees and flowers are starting to bloom. More importantly, New Yorkers are getting vaccinated against Covid-19 at increasing rates, case numbers are decreasing after a January spike, and long-shuttered businesses like indoor restaurants and movie theaters are now permitted to reopen. The city is coming back to life in more ways than one.

I'm proud of the Lower Manhattan community for all the strength, fortitude and love we've shown one another. I know we're all looking forward to finally emerging from hibernation, hugging our friends and neighbors and breaking bread together once again. In the meantime, our local businesses need our support. Our cultural centers are struggling to find their footing. Our artists, dancers, actors and musicians need to get back to work.

At the Downtown Alliance, we're ready to restore the neighborhood to its full, pre-pandemic glory. We have a few exciting programs cooking for the spring and summer. To celebrate our performing arts, we've teamed up with En Garde Arts and The Tank to launch Downtown Live!, a multi-day series of socially-distanced, outdoor live theatre, music and contemporary performances staged in public spaces around Lower Manhattan.

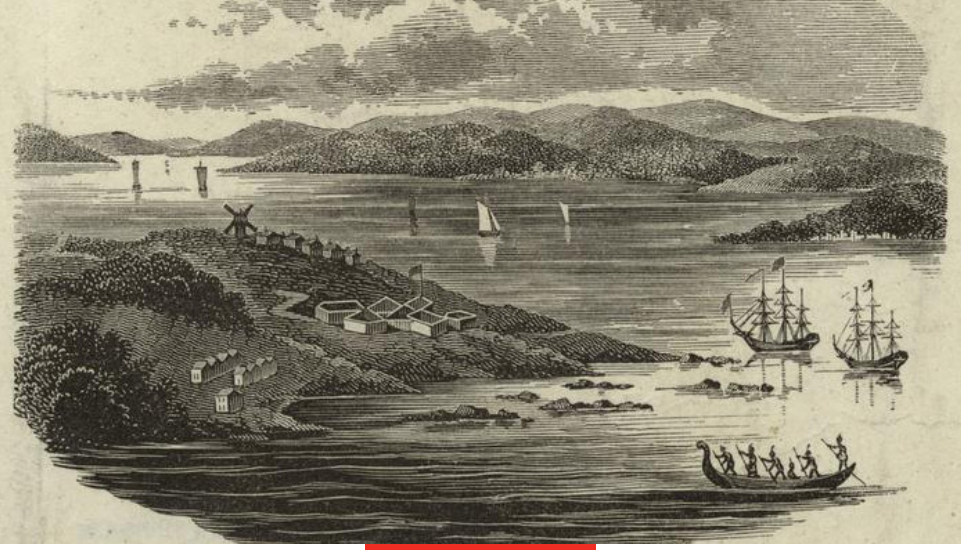
And starting in May, Josh Katz, our Explorer-in-Chief, is headed to Lower Manhattan to spend three months immersed in the neighborhood. He'll be checking out local bars and restaurants, doing man-on-the-street interviews with business owners, residents and workers and highlighting all the fun spots and hidden gems Downtown has to offer.

More change is on the horizon, as this year's municipal elections bring with them a major sea change. A swath of elected positions are open, including mayor, comptroller, Manhattan District Attorney, Manhattan Borough President and nearly two-thirds of the City Council. To help Lower Manhattan voters navigate the ballot — now with ranked-choice voting — we've partnered with LMHQ, the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association and the League of Women Voters to host a series of workshops dedicated to understanding this year's election and the impact it will have on the city.

It's an exciting time for the city and Lower Manhattan, and I couldn't have asked for a better community with whom to welcome in this much-needed season of rebirth. Until we meet again in summer, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Jessica Lappin



WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN

Uncovering Lower Manhattan's Black History With Black Gotham Experience's Kamau Ware

Lower Manhattan is rich with visible history, from the gleaming skyscraper totems to long-gone Wall Street titans to the cobblestone streets that recall New York's early colonial days. But there is more to Lower Manhattan's diverse past than meets the eye. For Black History Month in February, Kamau Ware, founder of the Black Gotham Experience, authored a series of dispatches illuminating the stories of the African Diaspora in New York, helping to show us exactly what ground we stand upon.

In eight installments, Ware shared often-overlooked stories about New York's early Black history, tying them to their specific geography. The history he shared was difficult but essential for us to remember. It included the Slave Market at Pearl and Wall Streets, which was established by the Common Council of the City of New York; the Great Negro Plot, an 18th century collaboration between enslaved Africans and poor whites to set fires across Manhattan in protest of New York's slave economy; and the story of Downing Oyster House, a restaurant for Manhattan's elite by day and a stop along the Underground Railroad by night.

You can learn more about Lower Manhattan's Black History and the Black Gotham Experience at our website.

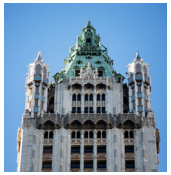
Have A Day Off In Lower Manhattan? Here's What To Do

As the vaccination effort ramps up, staycations are still the safest way to spend a day off. If you're a Lower Manhattan resident and have some extra time to explore your own background, we've compiled an easy itinerary you can complete in one day.

A Top Ten Tour Of Things To See Downtown In One Day

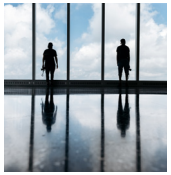
1. City Hall Park (Broadway and Chambers Street)
2. The Woolworth Building and St. Paul's Chapel (233 Broadway to 209 Broadway)
3. 9/11 Memorial & Museum (180 Greenwich Street)
4. One World Observatory (117 West Street)
5. The Oculus (50 Church Street)
6. Brookfield Place (230 Vesey Street)
7. Trinity Church (89 Broadway)
8. New York Stock Exchange and Federal Hall (corner of Wall and Broad Streets)
9. Stone Street (Broad Street to Hanover Square)
10. The Battery (State Street and Battery Place)

First Stop: City Hall Park (Broadway And Chambers Street)
Start in City Hall Park, an elegant green space that doubles as home to the city's seat of power. You can often find rotating public art located by the park's historic fountain, and it's a nice resting spot that puts you right in the middle of the buzz of office workers and municipal employees criss-crossing at the center of city government.



Second Stop: The Woolworth Building And St. Paul's Chapel (233 Broadway To 209 Broadway)
One of the city's most important architectural landmarks, the Woolworth Building was the tallest building in the world at its inception in 1913 until it was dwarfed by 40 Wall Street in 1930. Continue on to St. Paul's Chapel, which dates back to 1766 and is Manhattan's only standing pre-Revolutionary church. The chapel was President Washington's first stop after taking his oath of office at Federal Hall and, after 9/11, served as a refuge for many of those affected by the tragedy.

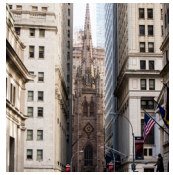
Third Stop: 9/11 Memorial & Museum
At the World Trade Center site, you'll find the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and the Reflection Pools. Set aside two hours for a visit inside the museum, an emotional, moving tribute commemorating the September 11 attacks. Outside, the memorial includes the largest manmade waterfall pools in North America at an acre each in size, surrounded by bronze parapets with the names of the victims.



Fourth Stop: One World Observatory
Just north of the Memorial plaza, you will find the tallest building in the western hemisphere and the symbol of a revitalized district. Head inside for a trip on the SkyPodElevators, which climb 102 stories in 47 seconds to reach the One World Observatory. Take in the city, and surrounding states, with views for up to 45 miles in all directions.

Fifth Stop: The Oculus (50 Church Street)
While on the World Trade Center campus, you can't miss the striking Oculus building, designed by Santiago Calatrava. While the white wings above ground will catch your eye, most of the buzz is taking place inside. In addition to housing a major transportation hub (12 train lines!), the Oculus is home to over 100 shops at the Westfield World Trade Center, everything from high-end couture to candy shops to an Apple Store. Go for the browsing, stay for the intricate rib-like interior architecture, which makes you feel like you're walking inside a whale.

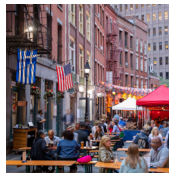
Sixth Stop: Brookfield Place (230 Vesey Street)
With both underground and overground entrances, Brookfield Place is Downtown's escape for fashion, food and art along the Hudson River. Its palm tree-filled Winter Garden and marble grand staircase provide a calming backdrop for an exclusive collection of shops, public exhibits and some of the city's most talked-about food purveyors and restaurants. You can grab quick, quality to-go meals at the Hudson Eats food hall or relax and dine at one of the sit-down restaurants on the ground floor. Most have waterfront patios with Hudson River views.



Seventh Stop: Trinity Church (89 Broadway)
Trinity Church was, at the time of completion in 1846, the tallest building in Manhattan, but is famous for its graveyard, which serves as the final resting place for the likes of famous New Yorkers Alexander Hamilton and Robert Fulton.

If visiting on a Sunday, keep your ears open for the sounds of church bells ringing throughout the streets of Lower Manhattan. The church's steeple houses the nation's only 12 change-ringing bells which rotate 360 degrees. (Note: the interior of the building is under construction. Only the graveyard and grounds are currently open to the public.)

Elghth Stop: New York Stock Exchange And Federal Hall (Corner Of Wall And Broad Streets)
No visit to Lower Manhattan is complete without stopping by the New York Stock Exchange, which, in addition to being the world's largest stock exchange, is one of the places Bane tried to rob in *The Dark Knight Rises*. While access to the building's interior is limited to special tours, the facade, public IPO celebrations and surrounding attractions are worth the visit. Be sure to say hi to Fearless Girl, who faces down the Stock Exchange from her perch across the street. You can't miss Federal Hall — a huge statue of George Washington prominently guards the front. Inside is a small, informational museum dedicated to the nation-shaping events of postcolonial New York, including the first U.S. Congress and the inauguration of America's first president.



Ninth Stop: Stone Street (Hanover Square To Broad Street)
This cobblestone street is lined with restaurants to please everyone's tastes. Dine outside in a decidedly European vibe — a clear testament to New York's past (and indoors if the weather is not cooperating with your trip.) The pedestrian-only passage is usually a vibrant happy hour spot filled with office workers from the nearby Wall Street area.

Tenth Stop: The Battery (State Street And Battery Place)
At this park located at the very southern tip of Manhattan island, you can look out across the water to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. In fact, boats* depart every hour, but to thoroughly enjoy the statue, the museum and Ellis Island, we recommend setting aside three hours for the round-trip adventure.

For more itineraries, visit our website.

The Alliance For Downtown New York And En Garde Arts Welcomes Back Live Entertainment With The Downtown Live Performing Arts Festival

It's been a tough year for live performers and their fans. To support and celebrate them as the warm weather rolls in and New Yorkers look to get outside safely, Downtown Live will bring 30 in-person performances to unexpected outdoor spaces around Lower Manhattan on May 15-16 and 22-23. After a year of lockdowns, the performing-arts festival offers locals a long-awaited chance to see live theatre, music and contemporary performance from a lineup that features many Obie- and Pulitzer award-winning artists.

Confirmed artists include Pulitzer Prize finalist and celebrated writer and performer Eisa Davis with Kaneza Schaal; Obie Award-winning, Off-Broadway favorite playwright and actor David Greenspan and composer Jamie Lawrence; hip-hop, spoken-word and performance artists Baba Israel & Grace Galu; and award-winning New York-based Brazilian Theater Company, Group.

Keep your eyes peeled for more information about performance times and locations, and check out the local restaurants and shops between performances.

Josh Katz, Explorer-In-Chief, Moves In This Summer

Street photographer Josh Katz — the lucky winner of the Alliance for Downtown New York's Explorer-in-Chief contest — will take his rightful place as Lower Manhattan's official documentarian.

Starting in May, Katz will live and work in the neighborhood, where he'll use his multimedia talents to capture Lower Manhattan's public art, visitors, residents, hidden gems and local businesses.

The Explorer-in-Chief's job includes a stipend, top accommodations and a once-in-a-lifetime experience for an online storyteller, but in the wake of Covid-19, Katz is also tasked with documenting the recovery of a major urban neighborhood. The Alliance will use the Explorer's reporting efforts to tell stories of people and businesses as Lower Manhattan stirs and recovers from its latest challenge.

One of Katz's major photographic achievements stems from New York's stay-at-home orders in the spring: from the safety of his Brooklyn rooftop, Katz documented the rooftop culture that emerged during lockdown. Katz documented rooftop dinners and first dates, neighbors tending pigeon coops and new friends meeting for the first time (all with permission, of course). We look forward to Katz capturing the same kind of intimacy and local lifeblood in Lower Manhattan. So if you see him fiddling with his phone downtown, say hello!

ALLIANCE UPDATES

If you've paid a visit to the Downtown Alliance's website in the last few weeks, you might have noticed it got a facelift. The new site has a fresh and bold look while making it easier for you to find your favorite blogs, business listings and all your other essential Downtown resources — especially from your phone. If in the coming weeks you find something you're missing, let us know! We love to hear from our neighbors.

We're hard at work on refreshing our Heritage Markers, placed outside historic locations all over Downtown; those will begin to roll out later this year. Through them, you'll learn the rich, diverse and occasionally dark stories of Lower Manhattan. If you study up, you might even be able to lead your own tours around the neighborhood.

The Downtown Alliance's annual dual shred-a-thon and clothing drop-off makes its return on Saturday, April 17. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., bring your sensitive documents, tax receipts, junk mail and old bills to our shredding truck parked on Fulton Street (between Cliff and Gold Streets); we'll safely and securely dispose of them for you. And if you've got old clothes to toss, the Alliance is also partnering with Wearable Collections, which is providing a bin to collect all dry, used clean clothing including shoes, sneakers, belts and hats, as well as household items such as linens, towels and handbags. We'll be there rain or shine.

And as a reminder, New York City has a big municipal election this year, and the primary on June 22 will likely determine essential leadership like our next mayor, Manhattan Borough President, comptroller and a significant chunk of the City Council. To prepare Lower Manhattan residents for this immense civic responsibility, the Alliance, LMHQ, the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association and the League of Women Voters will host a series of election-related workshops. Topics include breaking down the open seats and their roles in city government, and navigating ranked-choice voting, which will be appearing for the first time on New York City ballots. For more details and registration instructions, visit our website.

Dine Around Downtown: Cooking At Home Edition Returns For Season 4

Season 4 of the Downtown Alliance's popular "Dine Around Downtown: Cooking at Home Edition" series, featuring Lower Manhattan chefs demonstrating some of their signature recipes, premieres on April 8 with another free three-episode series.

The schedule for spring is below:

- **Thursday, April 8:** Harry's with Executive Chef Joseph Mallol
- **Thursday, April 22:** Keste Wall Street with Executive Chef Roberto Caporuscio
- **Thursday, May 6:** The Fulton with Executive Chef Noah Poses

Hosted by award-winning chef and author Rocco DiSpirito, the virtual cook-along series launched in June 2020 to support Lower Manhattan restaurants, their employee-relief funds, and food-security charities. Prior to April 8, the program spotlighted 10 local restaurants and directed donations to nine different food charities, engaging over 2,500 registrants. All episodes of "Dine Around Downtown: Cooking At Home Edition" can be viewed on the Downtown Alliance YouTube Channel.

Learn to Cook with Lower Manhattan Chefs!

DINE AROUND DOWNTOWN

COOKING AT HOME EDITION

A Cook-Along Series Hosted by Rocco DiSpirito

HARRY'S Thursday, April 8, 4:00pm

KESTÉ WALL STREET Thursday, April 22, 4:00pm

THE FULTON Thursday, May 6, 4:00pm

Register at Downtownny.com/dinearound

FREE!
Donations support food security charities
+ the Downtown restaurant community.

Presented by:
DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE

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FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN LOWER MANHATTAN

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FIVE QUESTIONS

ALEXANDRA MONTALBANO

LMHQ's Alexandra Montalbano On Sharing Workspaces In The Age Of Covid

As soon as they reopened back in the summer, LMHQ, our sister organization at 150 Broadway, did some rearranging at their 20th floor workspace to accommodate the age of Covid. To get social distancing in place, they've moved around a ton of furniture and greatly reduced capacity. They're not hosting events in the event space, instead moving standouts like the Women's Breakfast series online. They've increased cleaning and air flow.

As LMHQ's Director of Membership (and performer, aspiring ceramic artist and keeper-of-all-things) Alexandra Montalbano can attest, "We have sanitizers freaking everywhere." LMHQ is prepared.

We (virtually) sat down with Montalbano and chatted about safety protocols and maintaining community in the social-distance era.

You Often Hear Anecdotes About Individuals In The Workforce That Aren't Taking Covid Seriously — Some Even Mock Others Over Taking Precautions. Have You Run Into That Issue With Any Members Or Colleagues At LMHQ?

Honestly we've been so unbelievably lucky. I was thinking about this earlier, because I'm aware of those stories in general — you know you see people trying to get around the mask mandates and you get scared it's going to happen in your space. But it's been so nice to come back here and know it's never a problem.

What Does The Crowd At LMHQ Look Like These Days?

We have a fluctuating group of people. It's not necessarily the same people all the time, but all of them are so unbelievably good about obeying the rules. The other day I had a member who was the *only person* in the back workspace for the entire day. It's like 6,000 square feet back there, they were still wearing their mask.

This Is Cliche, But It Sounds Like You're Describing A Situation Where Everyone Understands They're All In This Together.

Yeah, everyone is being super-overly-cautious, because I think people know we really try to communicate as much as possible what our rules and regulations are, and people are really working within that. They realize, *Oh, it's easy to do this safely. Like, It's easy for me to go into work and be safe at work if I follow these rules*.

This Is A Little Personal, But How Is Your Anxiety Holding Up In All Of This?

I've honestly been very lucky throughout Covid with my friends and loved ones — knock on wood — not getting ill. I've been coming back to the office since June, so I've adjusted to where I can experience a little normalcy. The first time you ride the subway back to work it's terrible, but once you realize, *Oh, I can do this safely*, it becomes easier every time. And that's the thing, where now, I feel really comfortable and safe. I feel as normal as anyone can in these super-abnormal-insane times, trying to take it day by day.

How Can Someone Try Out The LMHQ Space?

We give free day passes. Use the promo code ONEDAY when you sign up. There's also the Membership page on our website that has all the information anyone needs, but if anyone has questions they can always email me.