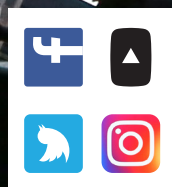


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WINTER 2021
ORIGINAL DOWNTOWN, EST. 1625



WINTER SNAPSHOT

In December, New York had its biggest snowstorm in years, with as much as 10 inches of snow recorded in Central Park. Lower Manhattan looked briefly like a winter wonderland, just in time for the holiday decorations to go on display. Our Sanitation team members ensured the streets were cleared so the community could enjoy the snow safely.

DID YOU KNOW?...

Times Square is internationally known as New York's New Year's hub, but that wasn't always the case. In the 19th century, crowds came to Lower Manhattan to hear Trinity Church's bells at midnight on New Year's Eve, though unfortunately Ryan Seacrest probably wasn't there to broadcast at the time.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR NEIGHBOR



We have a challenging few months ahead of us. With indoor dining shut down and dropping temperatures limiting the outdoor activities that enlivened this past summer, our local businesses need our help more than ever. But the Lower Manhattan community is a strong one. I have full confidence that even in tough times, we can band together to support the bars, restaurants and retailers that serve as our neighborhood's lifeblood.

There is much we can do to ensure we have our local businesses' backs, even amid rising COVID cases and economic uncertainty. With a holiday season altered by the pandemic, we encouraged and continue to encourage residents and visitors alike to come up with more creative ways to support their favorite spots, like investing in post-pandemic experiences by purchasing gift cards for future spa visits and special meals at Lower Manhattan restaurants. We can order goods online from the stores we love, and we can still patronize our favorite eateries using takeout and delivery.

Here at the Downtown Alliance, we've done our best to help our community navigate these difficult times. Our partnership with retail consultant Streetsense has provided dozens of local businesses with one-on-one consultations on reconfiguring their spaces for COVID-19, as well as implementation funding to help mitigate their costs. Restaurants are continuing to create their own delivery and takeout platforms through our Online Ordering Sponsorship Program with BentoBox.

With public spaces becoming essential in a world moved outdoors, we've helped enliven ours with art installations like last fall's Ziggy, and two light art installations, "C/C" and "Talking Heads", that will be on view at 85 Broad starting in February. And we invested over \$100,000 to help local arts and cultural organizations struggling without the same pre-pandemic stream of visitors.

Hope is on the horizon. With two vaccines approved for use in the United States, New York's mass vaccination program is already underway. Some federal aid is on its way. Spring is coming. Until then, I am thankful we have this community to weather this together.

Sincerely,

Jessica Lappin



WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN

Two New Art Installations To Light Up Lower Manhattan This Winter

In February, Lower Manhattan is adding even more Downtown Alliance-sponsored public art to its growing, colorful portfolio. Two light-based installations, “C/C” and “Talking Heads”, on loan from the Amsterdam-based Light Art Collection, will be on view at the POPs at 85 Broad for about six weeks.

“C/C”, designed by Singaporean artist Angela Chong, is an interactive structure that serves as a creative bench, with thick sheets of transparent acryl held together by stainless steel bolts and nuts forming a seat. At night, LED lights attached to the structure change color in a rhythmic and dynamic way, making for both a delightful spectacle and a creative spot to sit.

Hungarian artist Viktor Vicsek is the force behind “Talking Heads,” comprising two massive heads dotted with 4000 LED lights. The lights

change to reveal different facial expressions, and each head’s changes in response to the other, creating a conversation of sorts and conveying a wide range of human emotion.

“C/C” and “Talking Heads” will be on view round-the-clock from February 3 to March 21.

The installations join Ziggy, which went on view at 200 Water Street in October. Created by design studio Hou de Sousa, Ziggy’s colorful lights, steel cords, and creative benches add funky outdoor seating and some whimsical spectacle to Lower Manhattan. The installations are all part of an ongoing series of art activations in the neighborhood; expect more to add color and whimsy to Downtown in the months to come.

Lower Manhattan Says Goodbye To Century 21



The pandemic and the shutdowns intended to curb the spread of the virus have hurt businesses large and small across the country, and Lower Manhattan lost many stalwarts in the last ten months. Each loss to the neighborhood is like a puncture wound. And one of the most acute losses was Century 21, whose Downtown flagship, a special part of Lower Manhattan’s history, shuttered in December along with the rest of the company’s stores.

New Yorkers are fiercely loyal to their brands while also becoming accustomed to loss in recent years, as the forces of gentrification and online retail tear up brick-and-mortar shopping habits. But the loss of Century 21 news hit differently because the store embodied the very essence of making it in New York: the hustle.

Shopping at the flagship in the Financial District felt like a microcosm of city living: jostling for buried treasures like seats on the subway and hunting for deals like that back-alley dumpling place no one else knows about. The deep discounts on Gucci bags or Moschino pants were plenty, but the environment still sparkled with New York glamour.

This was no strip mall bargain bin: The four-story, 150,000-square-foot Downtown location was ostentatious in the Old New York way — filling an art deco former bank building with deals up to its vaulted ceilings, as shoppers traversed marble floors or up a majestic staircase under mahogany wall fixtures and gold-lined light fixtures.

The store was many New Yorkers' first introduction to the world of fashion, and an entry point for aspiring Carrie Bradshaws. It was a place that punctured the outsider notion that New York was only a playground for the rich, and the fancy labeled-treasures you'd find hunting in it were the key to the struggle of making it in New York. It, and its legendary designer deals, will be missed.

Downtown Alliance Remembers Anthony Notaro



Anthony Notaro pictured to the far left. Photo credit: Matthew Fenton

The Downtown Alliance remembers longtime Lower Manhattan community leader and former CB1 Chair Anthony Notaro, who died at age 69 on December 30 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Anthony was a member of the community board since moving to Lower Manhattan in the mid-1990s, and was an integral part of the neighborhood's cleanup and rebirth after 9/11.

"Anthony was a fearless champion for Lower Manhattan, a steady, insightful and temperate leader of the community board and great friend to the Alliance," Downtown Alliance President Jessica Lappin said. "We extend our deepest sympathies to his family. We will miss him very much."

A Moment Of Thanks For The Essential Workers Who Kept Lower Manhattan Ticking In 2020



We are just off a season of reflection and giving thanks, and few members of the Lower Manhattan community deserve more reflection and thanks than our essential workers. The 7 p.m. clap is long gone, but the essential workers are still there, driving trains, delivering your food orders, cleaning the streets, collecting trash, stocking the shelves at grocery stores and keeping the bodegas running all night long. And of course: all the medical professionals working to keep us safe, swabbing our noses and keeping the lines at the COVID testing sites moving along. As New York tilts into a second wave of the pandemic, there's still time to thank all these behind-the-scenes workers who have been keeping the city humming for ten months.

We profiled several of these workers in the neighborhood over the summer, to give you a sense of what they've been going through. "Since people are home now more often, the weight of the garbage has gotten a lot heavier," sanitation worker Anthony Paolicelli told the Downtown Alliance. "I handle it, and let me tell you, I can feel it."

They're not the only ones: restaurant workers are dealing with an uncertain future and a potential loss of jobs, and even salons are trying to stay afloat as office traffic in the neighborhood has dried up.

So tip a little extra to your delivery person (remember that cash tips are always better!), be extra patient with the long line at the grocery store, say thank you to a mail carrier and absolutely do not get an attitude with the nice nurse sticking the swab up your nose. Yes it's supposed to hurt that much. And most importantly: wear a mask whenever you thank them. We're going to need them more than ever in the next few months.

Can't Travel? Book A Staycation Downtown



With the pandemic continuing to surge around the country, you might be looking to limit your out-of-state travel. But that doesn't mean you can't take a little trip, even if it's just a subway ride to Lower Manhattan.

Here, you'll find plenty of safe and luxurious places where you can base your stay. The Beekman, The Four Seasons and The Conrad, for instance, are all still dedicated to serving their guests while taking every precaution to minimize the spread of COVID.

Lower Manhattan is also home to some first-rate dining, offering up everything from culinary luminaries like The Fulton, Crown Shy and Brooklyn Chop House to more casual standbys like Pisillo and Blue Park Kitchen.

And if you're looking for world-class attractions and culture: there's history at Fraunces Tavern Museum, incredible views at One World Observatory, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, and access to Liberty Island and the Statue of Liberty, along with shopping at the Oculus and Brookfield Place, where you can browse high-end couture, funky small brands and everything in between.

Curious to see what a 36 hours in Lower Manhattan might look like? Check our website for an extensive suggested itinerary, and keep an eye out for more in the future.



ALLIANCE UPDATES

The Alliance's partnership with StreetSense, launched in August to provide local businesses with one-on-one consultations to help reconfigure their spaces to meet social distancing and new hygiene guidelines, has taken a step further, providing 27 local businesses with implementation funds. The program is closed to new applications, though grants are still being distributed on a rolling basis.

The Alliance has also invested over \$100,000 to support local arts and cultural organizations in Lower Manhattan, and in December grants were awarded to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, 9/11 Tribute Museum, Battery Dance Company, China Institute, Fraunces Tavern Museum, Gibney Dance, the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, Poets House, Skyscraper Museum, South Street Seaport Museum and Statue of

Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation.

And history buffs should keep an eye out in the neighborhood for refreshed Heritage Markers, placed outside historic locations all over Downtown; those will begin to roll out in the coming months. Through them, you'll learn the story of Lower Manhattan, and also get clued in to some of the neighborhood's hidden gems and secrets.

Dine Around Downtown: Cooking At Home Launches New Lineup



In the pandemic, the Alliance's popular Dine Around Downtown festival has transformed into Dine Around Downtown: Cooking At Home, a weekly web series hosted by award-winning chef and TV personality Rocco DiSpirito that features full cooking demonstrations and follow-along-at-home recipes from some of the neighborhood's most celebrated restaurants. The series continues into 2021, kicking off with popular eatery Crown Shy and continuing in February with Nobu and Fraunces Tavern. Attendees also have a chance to win a free 30-minute private cooking class with the chef if they post their plate after the demonstration.

LMHQ Offers Flexible Work Spaces For Teams And Individuals Alike



For remote employers and employees looking for an alternate solution to working from home, nonprofit Lower Manhattan workspace LMHQ offers a safe, flexible space with no long-term commitments. At LMHQ, you can safely convene a team to hash out a project, or book your own space to change up the scenery. Memberships are custom-built, so you can trust that you'll only get what you need, and meeting rooms are plug-and-play for maximum flexibility. Head to LMHQ.nyc to learn more.

Learn to Cook with
Lower Manhattan Chefs!

DINE AROUND DOWNTOWN

A Cook-Along Series Hosted by Rocco DiSpirito

COOKING
AT HOME
EDITION



NOBU Downtown

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FOUR QUESTIONS



LESLIE KOCH

Leslie Koch, President Of The Perelman Center, On 'How We Come Back As Lower Manhattan And As A City'

Fifteen years ago, former Trust for Governors Island president and chief executive Leslie Koch helped transform a largely empty stretch of land full of military structures into one of New York's most celebrated outdoor spaces. She is now the driving force behind the upcoming Ron O. Perelman Center, the much-anticipated multidisciplinary performing arts venue. The center is still under construction, but we spoke with Koch about its significance, and supporting arts and culture institutions amid the pandemic.

What Can We Expect From The Perelman Center Once It's Open To The Public?

The Perelman Center completes the vision for the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site, which began with the master plan in 2003 to have performance as part of the life of the site, and the life of Downtown Manhattan. Just as the 9/11 Memorial & Museum memorialize what happened and the Trade Center campus is a bustling place of work and shopping in normal times, the Perelman Center will add the element of performance. We will celebrate all that is New York in the fields of dance, music, theater and everything that happens live.

After 9/11, an incredibly comprehensive civic involvement process culminated in a master plan that was published in 2003. And in that master plan was the dedication of part of the World Trade Center campus site for a performing arts center. We actually began raising the steel for the building that's now under construction in September 2019, and now the building has topped out, which means it's reached its full height. Then we're pouring concrete. It's both a symbol of the revitalization of Lower Manhattan after 9/11, and now that we're experiencing the pandemic, it's again a symbol of New York's renaissance, 20 years later, as we all collectively face new challenges in 2021.

What Challenges Has Come To Your Attention While Developing The Center During The Pandemic?

One of the reasons we live in cities is because of culture and the ability to gather in public spaces. So the challenge for the performing arts center is the challenge we all face together, which is, how we come back as Lower Manhattan and as a city. New York really embodies the role of culture, not only in economic development but in what makes New York New York, as a place to live, as a place to work and as a place to visit. We're universally recognized around the world as one of if not the leading cultural capitals, and we have all learned as individuals what we've missed in not being able to fully participate, certainly in the performing arts, if not culture more broadly, during the pandemic.

Why Is It So Important To Support Arts Institutions Right Now, And How Can We Do It?

When we think about what makes a city a city, the arts are part of what makes us a people. At this time, we're also deeply concerned about the basic needs and civil liberties of our fellow New

Yorkers. There are many competing demands for attention and our support, and I think that as we all work together with the vaccine coming online, and then the rebuilding of New York, that we not forget the role that the arts plays in making us human, as we reach into our pockets ourselves as individuals to support our neighbors in what has been a really challenging time.

What's Your Favorite Thing To Do Downtown?

The street that I miss is Cortlandt Alley, because it's part of the World Trade Center campus and it's such a beautiful spot. To me it's a sign of how Lower Manhattan came back in ways that were beyond my hopes and imagination. I think of Cortlandt Alley, as much as Tower One, as a memorial to New York coming back in a new way after 9/11. That's what gives me confidence that we'll come back again.