



**DOWN
TOWN
ALLIANCE**

SUMMER 2021
ORIGINAL DOWNTOWN, EST. 1625



SUMMER SNAPSHOT

Brookfield Place celebrated Pride in June with two colorful art installations honoring the LGBTQ+ community. The photo-ready *Chroma*, featured here, is located on the Waterfront Terrace. The second piece, *Radiance*, is installed in the Winter Garden.

DID YOU KNOW?...

The Downtown Alliance designs and maintains seasonal plantings at green spaces and sidewalks in the neighborhood, including at Bowling Green, Mannhatta Park, Trinity Park and Liz Berger Plaza, and along Greenwich and Nassau streets. The summer blooms are particularly beautiful, and now's the time to check them out!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR NEIGHBOR



So much has changed since my last note to you in the spring. Thanks to New York's robust vaccination program, a significant portion of the city's inhabitants are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, and our much-awaited inoculated rebirth is in full swing. Like so many neighborhoods that spent the last year-plus waiting in the wings, Lower Manhattan has come back alive.

As employees trickle back into the office, the streets are lined with people again. There are lines outside halal carts, and local lunch spots fill up quickly at noon. Walking tours gather outside Federal Hall and the Stock Exchange. Bars and restaurants teem with diners and drinkers. The Open Streets program, on which the Alliance has worked diligently with the Department of Transportation, has given residents and visitors alike more opportunity to enjoy the outdoors as the weather improves.

Here at the Alliance, we've been giving our all to help nurture and grow Lower Manhattan's resurgence. In addition to operating and maintaining the Open Streets program, in May we teamed up with En Garde Arts and The Tank to present Downtown Live, a multi-weekend performing arts festival that brought musicians, spoken word artists, actors and (safe!) crowds to the neighborhood.

This summer, we'll be welcoming folks back to Lower Manhattan with a number of campaigns and special deals, including one that will reward workers for patronizing local restaurants and bars during lunch and happy hour — if you like eating out and getting cool swag, stay tuned.

Last but not least, our Explorer in Chief Josh Katz has spent the last two months filming and photographing the neighborhood, and in his time here he's uncovered a wealth of stories and images that speak to Lower Manhattan's history, electric energy and resilience in a pandemic-raged world. You can check out Josh's findings on our blog and social media platforms. He has one more month with us and we can't wait to see what he digs up next.

It has been wonderful to watch Lower Manhattan blossom again after such a dark period. I have delighted in walking around the neighborhood and seeing so many people patronizing our businesses, lounging in our parks and snapping photos at the Charging Bull and Fearless Girl again. As vaccinations continue to tick up and case numbers decrease, I am optimistic that the neighborhood and city will come back stronger than ever. I look forward to us meeting again in the fall — until then, have a safe, healthy and happy summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Leppin". The script is fluid and cursive.



WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN

Downtown Live Brings Life Performance, New Energy To Lower Manhattan

For two weekends in May, the Downtown Alliance teamed up with New York City-based theatre company En Garde Arts and non-profit arts presenter and producer The Tank to host Downtown Live, a free performance festival.

Whether it was a concert at a covered loading dock at 4 New York Plaza, a short play along the Stone Street Historic District at 85 Broad Street, or a contemporary performance with harbor views at 1 Battery Park Plaza, the event featured three-dozen live shows. The performers included 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 BR., among others.

The event earned a seal of approval from New York Magazine's theatre critic Helen Shaw who wrote "it feels glorious to be an audience again," while amNY's Dean Moses noted that the shows appealed not only to attendees by that the open-air arrangements meant that "outside diners and passersby couldn't help but also stop and marvel at the entertainment."

In total, about 1500 attendees from Lower Manhattan and beyond came to check out the performances, transforming the whole neighborhood into its own mini-Coachella, one where you could hop from stage-to-stage and stop by a local establishment for a pint or bite in-between.

Where To Have A Leisurely Lunch In Lower Manhattan



Lower Manhattan is Manhattan's prize neighborhood for the quick lunch spot — there are plenty of places to grab a salad or sandwich to take back to your desk if you're strapped for time. But if you're lucky enough to take a spell for one of those leisurely lunches from the days of yore/Europe, there are some standout sitdown spots. Here are a few favorites.



Casa Taqueria (40 Gold Street)

Whether you need some flavorful takeout or a sit-down burrito, this spicy standby at 40 Gold Street has lots of great, affordable options, including a range of tacos, burritos and tortas.



Ruchi

Ruchi (120 Cedar Street)

Enjoy traditional north and south Indian dishes amid simple brick-lined walls and festive hanging lanterns. Ruchi means “taste” — and with fresh ingredients and authentic ground spices, it delivers! The menu includes rogan gosh, exotic biryanis, spicy vindaloos, and a variety of kormas. For dessert, try the warm banana fritters with vanilla bean ice cream and honey.



Nish Nush

Nish Nush (41 John Street)

For some of the best falafel in the neighborhood, head to this unassuming John Street spot, which is rife with fresh hummus, falafel, veggies and other Middle Eastern delights.



La Parisienne Cafe

La Parisienne Cafe (9 Maiden Lane)

Lower Manhattan’s busy and bustling crowds may gravitate towards familiar chains, but those who are in the know recognize this hidden gem on 9 Maiden Lane. Helmed by husband/wife Adrian and Julie Bruyère, La Parisienne serves breakfast, lunch and weekend brunch. The menu is irresistible — favorites include a savory burrata, rich brioche French toast, their staple croque madame, avocado toast (a morning-commuter staple) and a sweet and creamy paris-brest.



Squire's Diner

Squire's Diner (80 Beekman Street, #1)

If you’re looking for an old-school diner situation, Squire’s dishes up all the classics: omelets, pancakes, burgers, you name it.



O'Haras

O'Haras Pub (120 Cedar Street, #4)

In 1992, O’Hara’s Pub survived a devastating fire that necessitated a six-and-a-half-month-long gut renovation. In 2001, the attacks on September 11 happened about 400 feet from the bar’s front door, turning the space into a permanent de facto memorial for the 2,750 New Yorkers whose lives were lost. And in 2012, Superstorm Sandy left its mark in the form of about four feet of water stagnating in the building’s basement. And now, O’Hara’s has survived yet another New York catastrophe, coming out of the pandemic intact and ready to serve up brews and pub fare to a hungry lunch crowd.



Blue Park Kitchen



Dorlan

Blue Park Kitchen (70 Pine Street)

This delicious walk-up establishment offers the rare combination of fast-casual convenience and locally-sourced produce, grains and proteins. You can take your bowl to go, or feast inside.



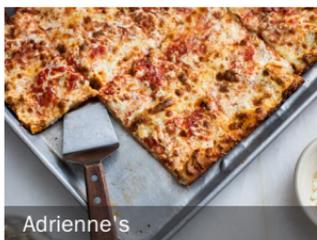
By Chloe

Dorlan (213 Front Street)

The Seaport's Dorlan's Tavern and Oyster Bar has oysters, burgers, brews and fried treats available for takeout, delivery and outdoor dining. Plus, they're located on historic Front Street, so you can feel like you're transported back in time during your lunch hour.

By Chloe (181 Front Street)

Vegan chainlet By Chloe has a wealth of plant-based lunch options, including burgers and sandwiches, pastas, salads and fries. You can order for delivery or pickup, or stop by the Front Street storefront for IRL dining.



Adrienne's

Adrienne's (54 Stone Street)

Adrienne's Pizza Bar offers old-fashioned pies on historic Stone Street, with a wealth of tasty pizza options in addition to salads, sandwiches and sides. They offer indoor and outdoor seating, so you can enjoy your lunch in the sunshine if you wish.



Broadstone Bar and Kitchen

Broadstone Bar and Kitchen (88 Broad Street)

Almost every seat in the house is along a balcony, and they have a bottomless brunch and chocolate chip pancakes to boot.



Benares

Benares (45 Murray Street)

The chefs at Benares come from all different regions of India, making it a bit of cuisinal melting pot. That's certainly to our benefit — tasty dishes include lamb vindaloo and eggplant curry, and you can dine in for lunch.



Wattle Cafe

Wattle Cafe (19 Rector Street)

This Rector Street spot is a lovely independent cafe, one that boasts excellent superfood waffles, organic bites and excellent coffee blends for all flavor profiles.

Meet The Man Who Wants To Change The Way You Think Of Chinese Food



Hegel Hei had two major revelations that led him to start Chinah, a fast-casual restaurant that recently opened a location in Lower Manhattan. The first came in college when he was eating fast food and craving the home cooking from his grandparents in Beijing. But he noticed Americans often treated Chinese food differently.

“Over here it would be something you indulge in, or something you feel guilty about,” he told the Downtown Alliance.

The second arrived when he was interning at a finance company and started tiring of the salads, burgers and wings that make up the typical office-worker lunch rotation. “It wasn’t hitting the spot,” Hei said. “It became apparent that there’s a need for a specific kind of cuisine, where there’s a healthier option for Chinese food.”

That idea led to Chinah, serving up bowls of healthy, Chinese home cooking. The first location opened in Jersey City in 2019. After a year of delays thanks to the pandemic, Chinah opened its Lower Manhattan location on March 10 at 100 Maiden Lane. The goal, Hei said, is to become the Chinese version of Sweetgreen or Chipotle. “What we wanted to do is not so much fit into the mold but to break it by serving dishes that are less familiar to mainstream diners,” said Hei, who grew up in Los Angeles and Beijing.

Those dishes include things like ma po tofu or meatballs with tomato and egg, in both chef-curated dishes and a build-your-own-bowl option. Hei also wanted the 900-square-foot space to feel more special for post-pandemic crowds.

“Pre-Covid, people didn’t really mind being herded through an assembly line,” he said. “Now, with people really needing a break from the office, we didn’t want to have that assembly line in the store. We wanted to find a comfortable and relaxed environment where the busy work gets done behind the scenes.”

Chinah is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day for pickup or delivery.



ALLIANCE UPDATES



Our biggest summer update? Explorer in Chief Josh Katz! After a lengthy delay thanks to the pandemic, Josh moved into his suite at Mint House in May and jumped right into the fray. In his two months on the job, he's been everywhere from the One World Observatory to Frances Tavern to the roof of the Four Seasons New York Downtown.



He's also caught some great candid shots of the neighborhood, and interviewed everyone from the staff at The Dead Rabbit to Columbia University historian Professor Kenneth Jackson. (More on that in a bit.) You can check out his

adventures on our social media pages, and if you've got tips or ideas for him to hit up during his last month Downtown, drop him a line at jkatz@downtownny.com.

Thanks to lifting restrictions, offices across Lower Manhattan are reopening. To welcome workers back Downtown, this summer the Alliance is launching a new program called Eat. Drink. Win., which will reward Lower Manhattan workers for patronizing local restaurants and bars during lunch and happy hour. You'll get sweet DowntownNYC gear for checking in to eat and drink at your favorite neighborhood spots.

And for those of you with green thumbs and some extra time on your hands, we're restarting our volunteer program to help keep up our seasonal plantings and green spaces. You can sign up for our email list to find out about planting events through the summer; tasks include weeding, street tree planting, repotting and park cleanups. Visit downtownny.com for more info.



Dine Around Downtown: Cooking At Home Edition To Celebrate Summer With Special Blue Smoke Episode



The Downtown Alliance's popular "Dine Around Downtown: Cooking at Home Edition" series concluded its fourth season in May, but no need for your tastebuds to suffer. On July 15, award-winning chef and author Rocco DiSpirito is back to host a special summer episode, featuring none other than Danny Meyer's hit barbecue spot, Blue Smoke. The event will benefit food distribution charity God's Love We Deliver; you can register for a spot at downtownny.com/dinearound.

Dine Around Downtown: Cooking At Home Edition launched in June 2020 and has produced 13 episodes in the months since, drawing several thousand registrants and live viewers. Participating restaurants have included neighborhood stalwarts like Casa Taqueria, Delmonico's and Keste, and each were able to direct donations toward a charity of their choice. Keep an ear out for more news about what the Dine Around team's got cooking up next in the months to come.

Learn to Cook with
Lower Manhattan Chefs!

DINE AROUND DOWNTOWN

A Cook-Along Series Hosted by Rocco DiSpirito

COOKING
AT HOME
EDITION



BLUE SMOKE

Thursday, July 15, 4:00pm

Register at Downtownny.com/dinearound

FREE!

Donations support God's Love We Deliver +
the Downtown restaurant community.

Presented by:

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FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN LOWER MANHATTAN



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FIVE QUESTIONS

How The LMHQ Staff Commutes To Lower Manhattan

Office workers are beginning to come back to Lower Manhattan, which means commuters are once again catching trains, crossing bridges and hitting up the Citi Bike racks. Want to know some of the best ways to get Downtown? The staff at our sister organization, nonprofit collaborative work, meeting and community space LMHQ, offered up their favorite routes and methods.

Daria Siegel, LMHQ Director and bike commuter



What I see on my commute

While I was always a city biker, I didn't start bike commuting until last year, and I'm never going back! (Well, unless it rains.) I get to cruise through no fewer than five Brooklyn neighborhoods before reaching the Brooklyn Bridge. I love taking in the sites, seeing

what restaurants are open or reopening, and getting my exercise in, all before 9am! Plus, those early-morning city and harbor views truly can't be beat and help me fall in love with New York City over and over again.

Elissa Verrilli, LMHQ's Director of Programs and Partnerships and PATH commuter



What I see on my commute

Taking the PATH is a quick and easy way to commute to LMHQ. If I can get a seat, I love to read a few chapters in my latest book. If I can't get a seat, I catch up on my favorite podcasts. Seeing the murals outside of the World Trade Center stop always

brightens my day, and from there it's just a quick three-minute stroll over to LMHQ. And, if I have a little extra time, I might include a stop at Blue Bottle Coffee!

Jihan Johashen, LMHQ's Meeting and Events Coordinator and subway commuter



What I see on my commute

My commute to LMHQ is full of old and new New York. With my favorite podcast or ebook playing I get to take in classic city architecture, vibrant graffiti, subway art and new buildings that stick out from the rest. I get to pass by the historic Cypress Hill

Cemetery and see its beautiful greenery. My route reminds me that New York is ever changing and staying the same.

Jarrod Grim, Director of Research, Economic Development at Downtown Alliance and scooter commuter



What I see on my commute

Before I got my scooter last summer, I commuted to the office via subway. Now, in the same commute time, I take in fresh air while travelling to the office — making commuting, dare I say it, fun. I'm able to rent my scooter monthly, so I can keep it for

the warm weather and return it in the winter months. The best part? My scooter folds in half, so I can easily carry it in the elevator and up to the 20th floor at LMHQ.

Ulla Lonngberg, Digital Communications Manager, LMHQ and ferry commuter



What I see on my commute

Is there anything better than taking a ferry ride along the Manhattan Island? The rush of the FDR Drive, the beauty of the UN campus, the calm readiness of NYU Langone - for half an hour, you're an observer, not a participant. And then, the ferry rounds the

Stuy Town corner and here it is: the incredible skyline, the Brooklyn Bridge and the Statue of Liberty in all its beauty. Looking for inspiration and Instagram-worthy shots? Take the ferry to Lower Manhattan!

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