



**DOWN
TOWN
ALLIANCE**

WINTER 2022



WINTER SNAPSHOT

When we get snowfall in Lower Manhattan, our Sanitation team members work hard to clear the streets so pedestrians can enjoy the snow without having to trudge through it. Here, a Sanitation team member cleans up after a 2020 snowstorm.

DID YOU KNOW?...

The biggest snowfall in Lower Manhattan's recorded history was from January 22 to 23 in 2016. We got 27.5 inches dumped on us — that's over two feet of snow!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR NEIGHBOR



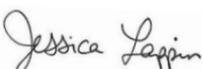
For the last two years, we have been living in a time of uncertainty, as new Covid-19 variants and surges intermittently puncture periods of relative normalcy and joy. And as we move in and out of this current crisis, we face another challenge — climate change, which is real, here, and poised to create even more uncertainty in the years to come.

Lower Manhattan has seen firsthand the devastation climate change can wreak, having sustained significant damage in 2012's Superstorm Sandy. Here at Alliance, we're doing our part to help mitigate the effects of a changing climate and create a more sustainable world. We have launched a free public composting program in conjunction with NYC Department of Sanitation, environmental technology company emz and Brookfield Properties — you'll find more detail in this newsletter, but the main gist is that there are now 10 composting bins installed around the neighborhood that you can access via a free and easy app on your smartphone. We're hoping the program will serve as a model to other neighborhoods and cities looking to make composting more accessible. With more collective action, our food waste can serve a better purpose.

There's more big news on the climate-fighting front in Lower Manhattan, not the least of which is that the Mayor's Office of Climate Resiliency and New York City Economic Development Corporation recently released their master plan to help combat the effects of climate change Downtown — more on that in a bit. And speaking of the Mayor's Office, the new year began with a new city government. We look forward to seeing Mayor Eric Adams's vision for a more sustainable New York, and to working with him in many capacities in the coming months.

As for other Alliance news this winter, after a brief hiatus, our Downtown Connection bus is back in service and helping Lower Manhattanites around the neighborhood free of charge. We also have a couple of new grant opportunities coming down the pipeline, including our Lower Manhattan Jump Start program. Working with consultancy Streetsense, the program provides 20 new retailers and restaurateurs with customized business plans and consultancy sessions to put them on the right path. It's a great way for budding entrepreneurs to get their foot in the door Downtown. With that, I'll leave you until the spring. Stay cozy, safe and healthy this season — and remember that warmer days are ahead.

Sincerely,





WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN

Help Save The Planet By Dropping Off Your Food Waste At Our Free Composting Bins

While coordinated global government action is crucial to mitigating rising sea levels and temperatures, individual action matters, too. Recycling, transitioning to solar power, and taking public transit or carpooling are all ways to cut down on your own carbon footprint. Another great way to help the planet? Composting.

To help Downtown New Yorkers up their compost game, the Downtown Alliance has teamed up with the NYC Department of Sanitation, environmental technology company emz and Brookfield Properties to launch a new public composting pilot program that'll make depositing your food scraps accessible and easy.

There are 10 compost bins located south of Chambers Street — meaning that 90% of the neighborhood can find a bin within a five-minute walk. The bins are accessible through the mobile app eGate Digi, which allows users to unlock specific receptacles through a Bluetooth connection.

Here's how to use them:

1. Scan the bin's QR code
2. Download the eGate digital app
3. Sign up
4. Tap the bin to open
5. Ta-da! Place your compost in the bin and shut the lever closed



For a detailed look at how the bins work, check out this video:

You can access these bins 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

So if you've got old food, dirty containers, a dying houseplant that you just can't revive no matter how many humidifiers you've set up in your apartment — you just take it on a little stroll with you to one of the bins, use your phone to unlock it and deposit your waste. Later, DSNY will pick it up and bring it to local and regional composting facilities, where it'll either be composted and brought back to use in NYC parks and gardens, or made into renewable energy through anaerobic digestion.

It's an exciting new program and we hope you'll help make it a success, one that inspires other neighborhoods, cities and municipalities to their composting game, too. The planet needs a little boost. Let's show our home we're here for it.

A Guide On All The Ways To Save Your Old Stuff From The Landfill



Winter is a great time to toss things like old sweaters, broken-down couches and holiday gifts you just don't want to keep. But that trash needs to go somewhere, and the last place it should go is a landfill. This city generates a lot of waste that contributes to our climate footprint: the Department of Sanitation estimates 77% of the garbage we create could be recycled or reused, including compostable food waste (hint hint: join our new pilot program!). And yet, little makes it to a recycling facility.

Luckily here in New York City, there are myriad ways to make sure your old goods get upcycled, recycled or find a new home. The Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board has just published a huge database with hundreds of organizations (<https://www.manhattanswab.org/donate-reuse-repair>) that will accept your unwanted items. The board calls this the most extensive guide ever produced, showing where New Yorkers can keep their good-condition items in circulation — and find great deals on previously-used free and cheap stuff.

The database lists stores, charities, organizations and drop-off sites along with what kinds of goods they accept, from clothes and electronics to plumbing equipment and wallpaper. It also lists where you can get items repaired, so you can purchase fewer replacement items. The Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board is a volunteer citizens' advisory board dedicated to helping NYC achieve its goal of Zero Waste, and getting people to embrace the ethos of “buying less stuff” is key to that goal.

“Just about every New Yorker has walked by a pile of garbage at the curb and seen items that could be reused, but they didn't know what to do about it. Or they have similar items at home that they don't want to put in the garbage,” said the board's database creator, Allison Allen. “We invite them to explore this new resource and help us encourage a culture of sharing and #sharecycling.”

The database covers not only waste, but things like sharing libraries, equipment rentals, repairs and street-find sites like [@stoppingnyc](#) on Instagram.

Here's The Lower Manhattan Plan To Combat Climate Change



A new plan to protect Lower Manhattan from rising waters and the effects

of climate change was unveiled in December, one calling for flood walls, improved stormwater infrastructure, new open spaces and a drastic reshaping of the shoreline.

The master plan from the Mayor's Office of Climate Resiliency and New York City Economic Development Corporation aims to defend the one-mile stretch from the Brooklyn Bridge to the Battery from future storms like Superstorm Sandy and intense rainfall, like the soaking the city got from the remnants of Hurricane Ida last summer. The plan would dramatically reshape the neighborhood's relationship to the waterfront — adding more soft spaces to absorb water and extending the shoreline into the East River via a walkway. It calls for a multi-level construction that would add a water-level esplanade underneath the extended shoreline, where flood walls would absorb waves from coastal storms. Piers and terminals for the NYC Ferry would also be reinforced.

The problem the plan is addressing is one that much of the borough, and the city, is facing in the climate crisis: Manhattan is made of hard surfaces, which give rain and flood waters nowhere to go. The new plan would fix that via new stormwater pumps and green spaces that sponge up the water, while creating coves to protect wildlife.

The project is expected to cost between \$5 to \$7 billion and would take an estimated 15 to 20 years to design and build. That's already a tight timeline: according to the New York City Panel on Climate Change's projections, rising tides have long been expected to flood Lower Manhattan on a monthly basis by the 2050s; in another 30 years after that, floods could become daily. Some frequent tidal flooding might occur as early as the 2040s, less than 20 years away.

This master plan is the last link in an overall Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency Strategy that has already proposed makeovers to shore up the rest of the tip of Manhattan. This particular stretch of neighborhood holds extra challenges because the built infrastructure — like subway tunnels, roads and shipping ports — provides less green space and less wiggle room than other stretches of the waterfront. The plan used input from the Climate Coalition for Lower Manhattan, which includes the Alliance for Downtown New York, New York City Community Boards 1 and 3, the Waterfront Alliance and the Seaport Coalition.

The Best Tours For Learning About All Things New And Historic In Lower Manhattan



Lower Manhattan's rich history dates back to the very founding of the country, and is dotted with major moments spanning from the American Revolution to how New York lost Congress. You can learn about all these events and everything in between thanks to the cornucopia of walking tours offered in the neighborhood.

These aren't just for tourists, either. Tours cover the hidden remnants of New Amsterdam, the fight for reproductive freedom in Lower Manhattan and the real history of Five Points that Martin Scorsese left out of "Gangs of New York." You can even take a tour themed around the 2008 financial crisis! Here's a rundown of the best tour walking, biking and boating options below Chambers Street.

Remnants of New Amsterdam Tour (Untapped Cities)

Untapped Cities specializes in the hidden and forgotten parts of Gotham, and this tour will take you where it all started. You can tour Lower Manhattan's original coastline before it was extended, see the remains of the first City Hall, discover the original Dutch fort and trace the original 1667 streets of the borough. \$29 to \$35.

untappedcities.com/tours/NYC/dutch-new-york/

Hidden Gems of the Financial District Walking Tour (Untapped Cities)

This tour takes you a little deeper, literally. It includes decoding a cryptic grave site at Trinity Church, plus visits to the oldest standing structure in Lower Manhattan, a 19th century candy store hidden in an office building and the site of the city's market for enslaved people. \$29 to \$35.

untappedcities.com/tours/NYC/financial-district/

Lower Manhattan Walking Tour (Free Tours By Foot)

This tour is the "shut up and play the hits" of neighborhood sightseeing. It covers all the classics that tourists love, including the Charging Bull statue, the Stock Exchange, Battery Park, Zuccotti Park, the World Trade Center, the Woolworth Building, Fraunces Tavern and more. This one is pay-what-you-wish, too.

freetoursbyfoot.com/lower-manhattan-tours/

Alexander Hamilton Tour (Free Tours by Foot)

If you still can't snag tickets for the musical, or want to relive it, walk in Hamilton's shoes with this tour that takes you through Revolution-era Manhattan. It covers sites that were part of Hamilton's life, including St. Paul's Chapel, Federal Hall and Trinity Church, which are some of the oldest remaining historic sites in New York City. \$40.

14553.partner.viator.com/tours/New-York-City/Alexander-Hamilton-Walking-Tour/d687-21505P4

Revolutionary War Walking Tour (Patriot Tours)

This is a look at when Manhattan was the "island at the center of the world;" well, it still is of course, but the world was a bit smaller back then. You'll hear about feuding families that pitted neighbor against neighbor during the Revolution; and listen to stories about people like John Holt, the "Liberty Printer," Alexander McDougall, leader of the Sons of Liberty, The Wicked Triumvirate and the Odious Six. Sites include St. Paul's Chapel, built in 1766 and still intact today, and the spot where George Washington's army escaped the Battle of Long Island. \$40 for adults, \$25 for children.

patriottoursnyc.com/

Financial Crisis Tour (The Wall Street Experience)

The most dramatic financial collapse in our lifetimes is only a decade-and-a-half old, but it was so significant it already qualifies for a historic tour. This tour, led by actual Wall Street traders and bankers, will teach you how the financial crisis unraveled and how some traders walked away with billion-dollar profits as banks, and the overall American economy, collapsed. It covers what really brought down the “too big to fail” banks, and gets into the historical origins of the New York Stock Exchange, Federal Hall, the House of Morgan and more. \$50.

thewallstreetexperience.com/financial-crisis-tour/

Wall Street Insider Tour (The Wall Street Experience)

This outing covers 400 years of history that shaped today’s Wall Street, including its origins as a Dutch trading post. You’ll see where high-powered meetings that determine the fate of our economy take place, learn about the immigrant roots of large financial institutions and get a glimpse of where the “captains of industry” live and work. \$35.

thewallstreetexperience.com/wall-street-insider-tour/

Social Justice Tours

This tour company aims to engage New Yorkers in “critical dialogue about the past, present and future of our city from the perspective of marginalized populations,” with the goal of assisting movement building and exposing inequality. Current tours offered include a Reproductive Freedom in Lower Manhattan Tour, a People’s History of Wall Street and a tour about Policing Public Space in NYC. Sliding scale.

socialjusticetours.com/current_tours.html

Brooklyn Bridge bike tours

The Brooklyn Bridge has a brand-new bike lane, which means you can finally bike to Brooklyn and back without dodging 100 engagement photo shoots and tourists wandering into the bike lane. Lots of other bike tours are offered around the neighborhood and the rest of Manhattan, including some e-bike tours that will make seeing the city a real breeze. Tours start at \$40.

Financial District (Big Onion)

Start at Trinity Church and wind through the streets of banking giants and historic figures, with stops at the Federal Reserve, Stock Exchange and

sites associated with Alexander Hamilton, John Rockefeller and Victoria Woodhull. \$30, \$20 seniors and full-time students.

bigonion.com/tour/the-financial-district/

Forging the Historic Metropolis (Big Onion)

Take a trip in the footsteps of George Washington, Alexander Hamilton and more on this broad-reaching tour of today's Financial District. The tour will explore just how New Amsterdam became New York, and how New York lost Congress, but gained Wall Street. \$30, \$20 seniors and full-time students.

bigonion.com/tour/historic-lower-manhattan/

Gangs of New York Walking Tour (Big Onion)

Explore the legends of Five Points and Herbert Asbury's 1927 classic "The Gangs of New York", — later adapted to the screen by Martin Scorsese — on this tour that tells the real history of the first multi-ethnic urban neighborhood in America. Stops include: Paradise Square, "Murderer's Alley," the African Burial Ground, the lost intersection of Five Points and sites associated with Bill "the Butcher" Poole, Pierre Toussaint, William M. Tweed, "Master" Juba and the 1857 police and 1863 draft riots. \$30, \$20 seniors and full-time students.

bigonion.com/tour/gangs-of-ny/

Secrets and History of Lower Manhattan (Metro Tours)

The small group sizes here give you more time to walk around sites like the 9/11 Memorial and other landmarks, as well as enjoy a slice of pizza. \$45.

metrotoursusa.com/tour/secrets-history-of-lower-manhattan/

Boat Tours

If you don't feel like walking but still want to see some sights, you can't really beat the Staten Island Ferry. Not only is it free, but the snack bar is one of the most underrated (and cheapest) dive bars in the city. The 25-minute trip passes right by the Statue of Liberty and offers a great view of the skyline. The NYC Ferry will cost you \$2.75 a trip but also offers great views, and will take you all over the city.



ALLIANCE UPDATES

There are some exciting new things coming down the pipeline here at the Alliance. First and foremost, after a brief hiatus, the Downtown Alliance's free Downtown Connection Bus is back in action and operating every day. Our Sanitation team continues to keep the big red rig extra clean, and, with five state-of-the-art buses and 36 stops around the perimeter of Lower Manhattan, the Downtown Connection is NYC's only free circulator bus service.

We still have openings available for our new grant program — Lower Manhattan Jump Start: A Free Program Providing a Path Toward Small Business Success. Working with consultancy Streetsense, the program will provide 20 new retailers and restaurateurs with customized business plans and consultancy sessions to put them on the right path, a \$10,000 value provided by the Alliance. Applications are open on the Alliance's website.

And we've got an exciting lineup at LMHQ, with an upcoming slate of late-winter events that include a workshop on how to write a killer cover letter. Check out lmhq.nyc for more.

Dine Around Downtown: Cooking At Home Edition

The Downtown Alliance's popular "Dine Around Downtown: Cooking at Home Edition" series, hosted by award-winning chef and author Rocco DiSpirito, airs its 18th episode this winter with an upcoming Valentine's Day Special featuring Italian ristorante Da Claudio. That special airs February 10, and you can RSVP on the Alliance's website.

Since its inception in June 2020, the Alliance has produced 5 three-episode seasons and 2 seasonal specials. The program has engaged 4,150+ registrants, raising funds for 12 unique charities, selected by each of the 17 featured restaurants.

Presented by:
DOWN TOWN ALLIANCE

Learn to Cook with
Lower Manhattan Chefs!

**DINE
AROUND
DOWNTOWN**

**COOKING
AT HOME
EDITION**



A Cook-Along Series Hosted
by Rocco DiSpirito

DA CLAUDIO RISTORANTE
Thursday, February 10, 4:00pm

FREE!
All donations support God's Love We Deliver
+ the Downtown restaurant community.





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FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN LOWER MANHATTAN



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BACKPAGE INTERVIEW:



Five Questions With DSNY'S Debra Sheintoch

Composting is an essential component in making New York a more sustainable city and the world a more sustainable place. But getting started can be a little daunting if you've never composted your food waste before. How does it work? What can you compost? And what are the city's plans to make composting easier? We spoke with Debra Sheintoch, Director, Composting Programs and Partnerships at the Department of Sanitation's Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability, to find out more about composting and how we can work together to make ADNY and DSNY's new composting pilot program a success.

How does composting work?

Microorganisms break down organic matter and turn it into humus, a natural soil amendment. Once fully broken down, the material is considered "finished compost" and can be added to garden beds and street trees. The full decomposition period usually takes approximately 3-6 months.

What items in my household are compostable?

All food waste, including:

- coffee grounds and tea bags,
- shells (seafood, nut, and egg),
- bones,
- spoiled and expired food, food-soiled paper (napkins, towels, uncoated plates, bags, trays, boxes)

Plant Waste including flowers, houseplants, and small amounts of potting soil. BPI-certified compostable items.

What are the benefits of the lockable bins? (i.e. pest control)

The lockable bins keep your neighborhood clean and healthy by:

- Placing food waste in our sealed bins instead of in bags at the curb
This reduces the chance of bags breaking open, causing spillage or litter.
- Reducing rodents and pests' access to food waste.

The smart bins make it harder for pests to get at the food waste than if it were in a bag at the curb.

Are you looking into expanding the program into other districts?

DSNY was funded to run the Smart Composting pilots until June 2022. The program will be evaluated at the end of the FY22 fiscal year.

What are some other ways people can more sustainably dispose of their food scraps and yard waste?

DSNY has a range of different opportunities for residents to divert their food scraps from landfill disposal.

Residents in certain community boards can sign up for curbside composting via nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting.

If you are not eligible to sign up for curbside composting, you can bring your food scraps to a food scrap drop-off site. See nyc.gov/dropfoodscraps.

And, if you have a backyard, terrace, or community garden you can try your hand with at-home composting. See our community composting educational resources here: makecompost.nyc/makecompost

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