



# Lower Manhattan.info

Information to Build On



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LowerManhattan.info provides news and information about Lower Manhattan through a free newsletter and website: [www.LowerManhattan.info](http://www.LowerManhattan.info). This effort is led by the City of New York in partnership with the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, New York State and the federal government.



## REDISCOVERING LOWER MANHATTAN'S WATERFRONT

The Lower Manhattan waterfront -- gateway to one of the deepest natural harbors in the world -- was indispensable to the City's early growth. The Dutch colonists who founded *Nieuw Amsterdam* believed that a thriving port would guarantee their success and lay the foundation for the great metropolis that would eventually rise around it.

In ensuing decades and centuries, New York expanded on the strength of not only shipping commerce, but also the collateral industries that flowed from it -- insurance, the commodities markets and many others. These sectors would diversify the City's economic base and, eventually, grow more important to the area than the industry that spawned them.

Even so, the mammoth Port of New York, of which Lower Manhattan was a vital part, was the nation's biggest port for most of the 1800s. By the onset of the 20th century, it had grown to be the world's largest -- a position it would occupy for another 50 years. Beginning around 1960, the modernization of cargo packing led to the departure of the industry in favor of massive modern facilities in the outer boroughs and tri-state region.

In remarkably short order, commercial shipping would abandon Lower Manhattan completely. The departure of the industry, however, provided the opportunity to revitalize the area's obsolete terminals and warehouses, clean up polluted waters and turn the waterfront into an attraction for all. Mindful of the proximity of the traditional Financial District and, later, the World Trade and Financial Centers, the City strove to create a waterfront inviting to workers, residents and visitors to the area -- an idea that was also embraced by other cities across the nation, such as Baltimore, Boston and Seattle.

As a result of several decades of cleanup, redevelopment and ambitious plans, today's waterfront is more inviting and accessible than ever. From Battery Park at the island's tip, one can travel through a network

of paths and parks up the west side all the way past Canal Street. Amenities include playgrounds and ball fields for children, areas for bicycling, in-line skating and a host of other outdoor activities, and water-related sports like fishing, kayaking and canoeing.

The creation of Battery Park City confirmed that an appealing waterfront helps drive a thriving residential community. Development of the recreation-oriented Hudson River Park followed, and now nears completion. Over on the East River, the South Street Seaport continues



*Tour boats travel along the downtown waterfront*

to draw tourists and locals alike to its striking waterfront site; next door, the adjacent Fulton Fish Market, scheduled to relocate to Hunt's Point, will soon offer additional tracts for development. As elsewhere in the City, former commercial buildings in the area have been converted to apartments and condominiums -- a trend that continues.

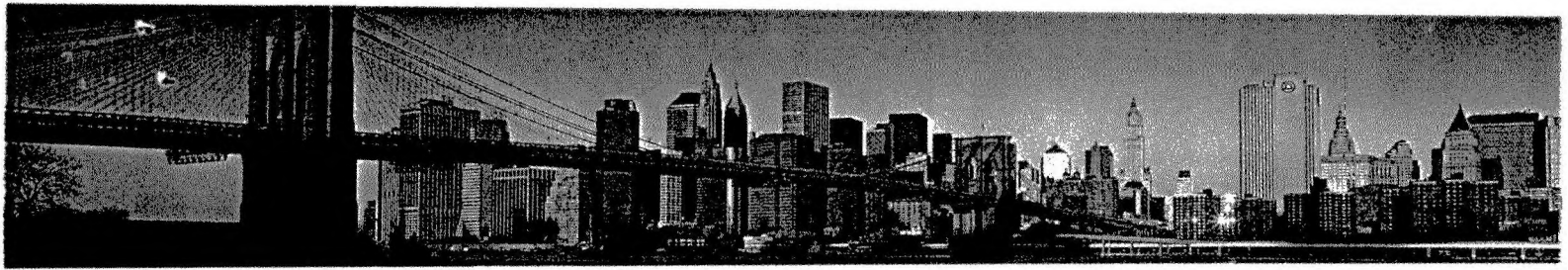
The East River waterfront still offers an opportunity to develop a mix of residential, recreational and cultural uses. In the future it may be home to facilities ranging from museums to outdoor performance areas, as well as to apartments, shopping, restaurants and small businesses.

The Whitehall Ferry Terminal, home of the Staten Island Ferry, is currently being rebuilt, and when completed will provide additional resources for commuters and visitors who want to enjoy the waterfront. In addition, ferry networks already link Lower Manhattan to midtown, upper Manhattan, the outer boroughs and New Jersey, and there are plans for further regional expansion. As a result, the area offers direct connections to countless points in this region of 25 million people.

Downtown also offers stunning vistas of New York Harbor and the City skyline; links to Liberty, Ellis and Governor's Islands; and easy connections to the City's transit network. With such a variety of assets, the Lower Manhattan waterfront is indeed poised to reclaim its status as a major focus of downtown activity. 

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## WATERFRONT FUN FACTS

- THE HUDSON RIVER CHANGES DIRECTION EVERY 6.5 HOURS AS A RESULT OF TIDAL CURRENTS. A RISING TIDE, WHICH FLOWS NORTH TOWARD TROY, ALTERNATES WITH A FALLING TIDE, WHICH FLOWS SOUTH TOWARD THE SEA.
- EIGHT DIFFERENT HORSEBOAT FERRY ROUTES OPERATED FROM DOCKS IN LOWER MANHATTAN DURING THE EARLY 1800S, SUCCESSFULLY COMPETING WITH STEAMBOATS TO CARRY PASSENGERS TO BROOKLYN AND NEW JERSEY. THE HORSES WALKED IN CIRCLES ON THE DECK AROUND STATIONARY POSTS, GENERATING POWER TO DRIVE PROPULSION DEVICES BENEATH THE SHIPS.
- LONG BEFORE THE HOT DOG BECAME A SIDEWALK STAPLE, LOWER MANHATTAN'S WATERFRONT WAS DOTTED WITH OYSTER CARTS.
- THE HUDSON IS THE ONLY TRUE RIVER IN NEW YORK. THE HARLEM AND EAST RIVERS ARE ACTUALLY CHANNELS THAT PUSH AND PULL WATER TO AND FROM LONG ISLAND SOUND AND THE HUDSON RIVER.
- THE SHORT-NOSE STURGEON, A FISH THAT HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE BEFORE THE DINOSAURS, CAN BE FOUND IN THE HUDSON RIVER AT THE SOUTHERN TIP OF LOWER MANHATTAN.
- CANAL STREET RUNS OVER WHAT WAS ONCE A 90-ACRE MARSH THAT IN HEAVY RAINS BECAME SO FLOODED THAT MANHATTAN WAS DIVIDED IN TWO AND BOATS WERE NEEDED TO CROSS. IN THE EARLY 1800S, THE FLOODED AREA WAS DRAINED TO MAKE A CANAL, LEADING TO THE STREET'S EVENTUAL NAME.
- PEARL STREET WAS LOWER MANHATTAN'S ORIGINAL EASTERN SHORELINE, WHICH WAS EXTENDED TO WHERE IT IS TODAY WITH THE COMPLETION OF FDR DRIVE IN THE EARLY 1960S. THE ORIGINAL WESTERN SHORE LAY ABOUT WHERE GREENWICH STREET IS NOW; IT WAS EXTENDED IN 1976 TO CREATE BATTERY PARK CITY OUT OF LANDFILL EXCAVATED DURING CONSTRUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL WORLD TRADE CENTER.

## ARTS AND CULTURE FROM RIVER TO RIVER

If Lower Manhattan's waterfront doesn't make you think of the performing arts, it should. From May through September, the East and Hudson Rivers will provide a breathtaking backdrop to thousands of artists performing in events scheduled for the second annual Downtown NYC River to River Festival.

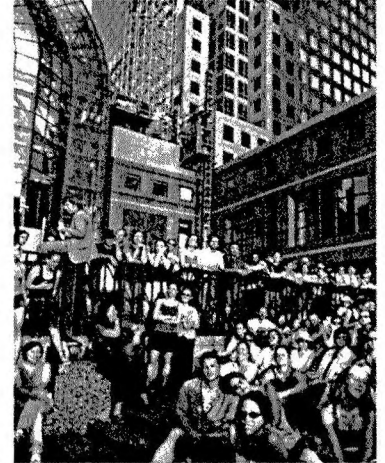
Sponsored by American Express in partnership with the Alliance for Downtown New York and other organizations, River to River is the largest free arts festival in the City's history. The festival's first year drew 1.2 million people to events along the water, and organizers expect similar success this summer.

"Last year was about welcoming the world back downtown," said Alliance marketing vice president Valerie Lewis. For many, the festival provided much-needed healing after the events of 9/11, she said. "This year it's more about bringing the community together and bringing new people into our community."

Hoping to draw people from all over the tri-state area, festival organizers have scheduled close to 500 events this year -- most of them free -- ranging from performances by international dance troupes and Grammy-winning songwriters to basketball competitions featuring NBA stars. Beginning May 27, headliners will include singer Ryan Adams, poet/singer Patti Smith, bilingual New York septet si\*se and the Twyla Tharp Dance Company.

Festival events are held at downtown venues like the South Street Seaport, Castle Clinton and the World Financial Center (WFC). "People seem to forget that Lower Manhattan is surrounded by water," said WFC program associate Miguel Lopez. "The River to River Festival provides the perfect opportunity to remind them how wonderful the waterfront is."

For a full listing of events, visit [www.rivertorivernyc.org](http://www.rivertorivernyc.org).



## ON THE WATERFRONT

For those of you who think Lower Manhattan's waterfront activities consist only of a commute to Staten Island or feeding seagulls at Battery Park, it's time to take notice of the dozens of activities in, on or near downtown waters.

• **Kayaking:** The New York City Downtown Boathouse, at Pier 26 in Tribeca, offers introductory and advanced kayaking classes from May 15 through October 15. The Boathouse also offers "kayak polo" and youth sailing programs. All programs are free, although the organization asks for a \$50 annual donation to maintain facilities and equipment. Visit [www.downtownboathouse.org](http://www.downtownboathouse.org) for more information.

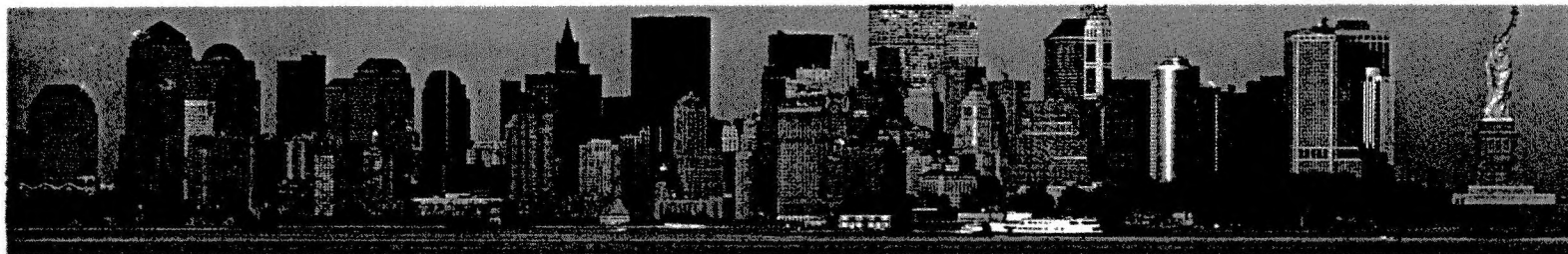


• **Fishing:** Who says fishing is reserved for rural anglers? The Hudson River Park Trust demonstrates otherwise with a special summer catch-and-release fishing program from Pier 25 in Tribeca. Along with an introduction to Hudson River ecology and water quality, you'll learn about different fish species. The group can lend you a rod and reel, too. Find out more at [www.hudsonriverpark.org](http://www.hudsonriverpark.org).

• **Rowing:** Have you ever dreamt of rowing across the Hudson River in a wooden boat? Join Floating the Apple, a nonprofit group of area residents dedicated to restoring small-craft access to public waterways. The group operates from Pier 40 (at West and Houston Streets),



For news and information updated daily,  
visit [www.LowerManhattan.info](http://www.LowerManhattan.info)



and encourages anyone interested in rowing around New York City in its wide-bottom, multi-person boats to join in the next row. More information is available at [www.floatingtheapple.org](http://www.floatingtheapple.org).

• **Trapeze:** If you've ever wanted to fly, Trapeze School NY in Lower Manhattan is your chance. Located at Hudson River Park, just south of Canal Street between Piers 34 and 26, the school teaches beginners the "basic swing" and advanced flyers more complicated maneuvers. Visit [www.trapezeschool.com](http://www.trapezeschool.com) for information.

• **Skate Park:** Skateboarders and rollerbladers of all ages are welcome to visit the Hudson River Park skate park to hit the bowl (or pool), street course and mini-half-pipe at no charge. Come summer, the park is open every day from 10 a.m. until dusk, weather permitting; call 212.533.PARK to check conditions. More details are at [www.hudsonriverpark.org](http://www.hudsonriverpark.org).



• **Golf, Volleyball and More:** Pier 25 is the anchor of Hudson River Park, located at North Moore and West Streets. A mini-golf course, beach volleyball area (complete with sand) and other recreational facilities keep both kids and adults busy with warm-weather activities. The Hudson River Park Trust's website, [www.hudsonriverpark.org](http://www.hudsonriverpark.org), has all the information about the pier, including plans to rebuild it and make room for boats' short-term docking. Visit [www.manhattanyouth.org](http://www.manhattanyouth.org) for other downtown activities for kids. 

## KEEPING IT CLEAN

The preservation and revitalization of Lower Manhattan's waterfront are essential to rebuilding the downtown community. Here are some organizations that offer opportunities to get involved with waterfront conservation.

Located on Pier 26, the **River Project**, a nonprofit marine biology field station, helps to raise awareness of the New York Harbor Estuary and encourage preservation of its species and their habitats through activities that bring visitors in direct contact with the Hudson River ecosystem. Go to [www.riverproject.org](http://www.riverproject.org) or call 212.233.3030 for a list of volunteer opportunities and summer events.



The **Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance** (MWA) is a network of organizations and individuals dedicated to helping reclaim the region's greatest natural resources -- the harbor, rivers and estuaries of the New York and New Jersey waterfront -- through education, grassroots initiatives and media advocacy. For further information, visit [www.waterwire.net](http://www.waterwire.net) or call 800.364.9943.

The **Waterfront Park Coalition** (WPC) is an alliance of environmental, civic and

community groups that promotes public access to New York City's waterfront and waterways, financing for waterfront public space, and protection and improvement of waterfront habitat. The WPC publishes the Waterfront Blueprint, a list of opportunities for citywide protection of waterfront open space and habitats. For more information, call 212.361.6350, extension 209.

The **Working Waterfront Association** (WWA), an environmental advocacy group, provides ongoing education programs and develops initiatives that foster smart waterfront planning, safety and access for the New York Harbor Estuary. The association also offers arts-on-the-waterfront programs and water festivals to raise awareness of public access to the waters. For more information, call 212.505.0694 or visit [www.workingwaterfront.org](http://www.workingwaterfront.org). 

## DOWNTOWN DINING WITH A VIEW

QUENCH YOUR VISUAL THIRST FOR WATER VIEWS AT THESE LOWER MANHATTAN RESTAURANTS. YOU CAN HAVE COCKTAILS WITH FRIENDS, BRUNCH WITH THE FAMILY OR EVEN A FORMAL BUSINESS DINNER.

• **AMERICAN PARK AT THE BATTERY**, BATTERY PARK, ACROSS FROM 17 STATE STREET, 212.809.5508

SERVING SEAFOOD AND ECLECTIC AMERICAN FARE, THIS FAMILY-FRIENDLY SPOT ALSO PROVIDES LIVE MUSIC AND UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS OF ELLIS ISLAND AND THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.

• **CABANA NUEVO LATINO**, SOUTH STREET SEAPORT AT PIER 17, 212.406.1155

THIS COLORFUL RESTAURANT OFFERS LIVE CARIBBEAN MUSIC, ICE-COLD TROPICAL DRINKS AND MOUTHWATERING CUISINE "FROM CUBA TO ARUBA." EVERY TABLE HAS A WATER VIEW. 

• **F. ILLI PONTE RISTORANTE**, 39 DESBROSSES STREET, 212.226.4621

FEAST ON ITALIAN FARE OR SAMPLE THIS LUXURIOUS RESTAURANT'S EXTENSIVE WINE SELECTION WHILE BASKING IN THE WARMTH OF THE SUN SETTING OVER THE HUDSON RIVER.

• **GRILL ROOM**, 225 LIBERTY STREET, 212.945.9400

WALL STREET BANKERS AND VISITORS ALIKE CAN ENJOY PANORAMIC SUNSET-VIEWS WHILE SAVORING AMERICAN HAUTE CUISINE AT THIS CELEBRATED WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER RESTAURANT.

• **RITZ-CARLTON NEW YORK**, BATTERY PARK, 2 WEST STREET, 212.344.0800

BREATHTAKING VIEWS OF NEW YORK HARBOR AND THE STATUE OF LIBERTY GO WELL WITH COCKTAILS AT THE 14TH-FLOOR RISE BAR -- OR WITH MODERN AMERICAN CUISINE AT 2 WEST RESTAURANT ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

• **14 WALL STREET**, 14 WALL STREET, 212.233.2780

FORMERLY THE PENTHOUSE RESIDENCE OF J.P. MORGAN, THIS ELEGANT CONTINENTAL RESTAURANT IS 31 FLOORS ABOVE WALL STREET AND BOASTS STUNNING VIEWS OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY AND BOTH RIVERS.

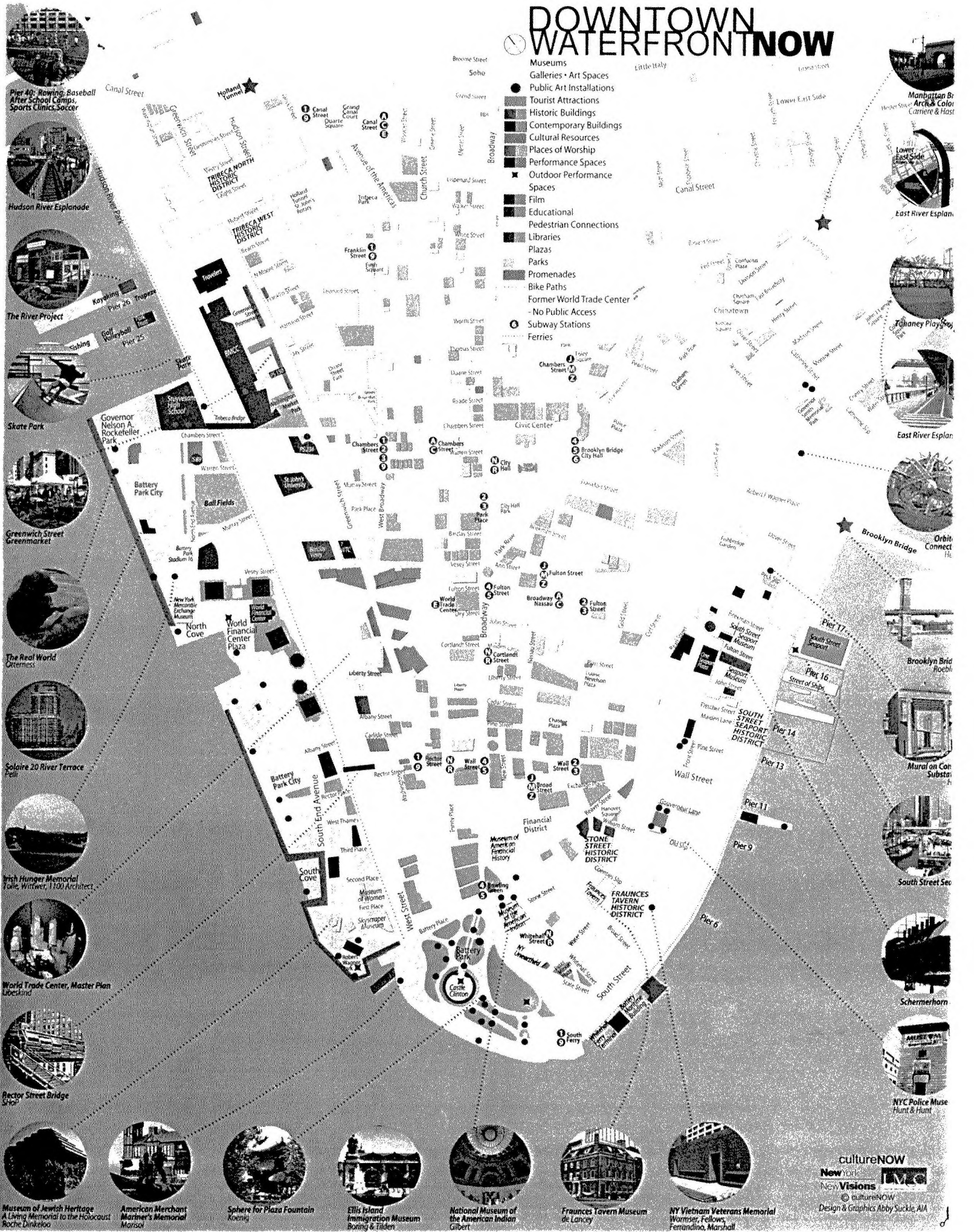


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# DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT NOW



- Museums
- Galleries • Art Spaces
- Public Art Installations
- Tourist Attractions
- Historic Buildings
- Contemporary Buildings
- Cultural Resources
- Places of Worship
- Performance Spaces
- Outdoor Performance Spaces
- Film
- Educational
- Pedestrian Connections
- Libraries
- Plazas
- Parks
- Promenades
- Bike Paths
- Former World Trade Center - No Public Access
- Subway Stations
- Ferries



Pier 40: Rowing, Baseball After School Camps, Sports Clinics, Soccer

Hudson River Esplanade

The River Project

Skate Park

Greenwich Street Greenmarket

The Real World Outcomes

Soloire 20 River Terrace Pelli

Irish Hunger Memorial Talle, Wittwer, 1100 Architects

World Trade Center, Master Plan Ubersink

Rector Street Bridge Skjott

Museum of Jewish Heritage A Living Memorial to the Holocaust Rache Dinkeloo

American Merchant Mariner's Memorial Marisol

Sphere for Plaza Fountain Koenig

Ellis Island Immigration Museum Boring & Tilden

National Museum of the American Indian Gilbert

Fraunces Tavern Museum de Lancy

NY Vietnam Veterans Memorial Worringer, Fellows, Ferrandino, Marshall

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