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'JANE JACOBS AND THE FUTURE OF NEW YORK' PANEL DISCUSSIONS EXPLORE DIRECTION OF NEW YORK CITY DEVELOPMENT, STATE OF CIVIC ACTIVISM

The Municipal Art Society of New York, through sponsorship from the Rockefeller Foundation, has launched a multi-faceted project to highlight the relevance of activist and author Jane Jacobs and the urban design principles presented in her classic text, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.

The project, titled "Jane Jacobs and the Future of New York," includes an exhibition and programming that apply Jane Jacobs' principles to contemporary New York City while seeking to initiate a dialogue concerning the future of the city.

"Jane Jacobs and the Future of New York" will feature a series of public programs and events throughout the fall that explore the direction of development within the city and the state of community involvement and the need for civic activism.

Panel discussions include:

IS NEW YORK LOSING ITS SOUL?

Date: Wednesday, October 3
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Donnell Library Center, 20 West 53rd Street (East Entrance)
Cost: \$12 non-members, \$8 members & students

Where does the life of the city come from? Is New York on the verge of losing its creative edge? What can be done to ensure the city's ongoing vitality? Join a celebrated panel for a provocative discussion on whether the texture of the city—the tangible and intangible components that create its soul—is eroding or evolving.

Clyde Haberman, *The New York Times* — moderator
Rocco Landesman, Jujamcyn Theaters
Alison Tocci, *Time Out New York*
Darren Walker, Rockefeller Foundation

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NEW MEDIA, NEW POLITICS?: JANE JACOBS AND AN ACTIVIST PRESS

Date: Tuesday, October 9
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Housing Works Used Books Café, 126 Crosby at Houston
Cost: \$12 non-members, \$8 members & students

This panel will consider the lineage of activist journalism, from pamphletting and the early *Village Voice* to today's online investigative journalism and community organizing.

Sewell Chan, *The New York Times* — moderator
Gay Talese, author
Norman Oder, Atlantic Yards Report
Alberto Vourvoulias-Bush, *El Diario*
Jane Hamsher, Firedoglake.com

A CIVIC ACTIVIST BOOT CAMP: WORKING WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE SYSTEM

Date: Tuesday, October 16
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Municipal Art Society, 457 Madison Avenue at 51st Street
Cost: \$12 non-members, \$8 members & students

In the spirit of Jane Jacobs, this panel not only will explore ways to open up urban planning processes but will detail concrete ways that individuals can acquire the tools necessary to make their voices heard. Participants will outline ways to make stands, including basic organization, media relations, community relations, government relations, and the use of legal action.

Richard Kahan, Urban Assembly — moderator
**Alexie Torres-Fleming, Southern Bronx Watershed River Alliance/
Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice**
Reverend Billy, Church of Stop Shopping
Joshua David, Friends of the High Line
Marshall Brown, Atlantic Yards Development Workshop

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CAN ONE WOMAN (STILL) MAKE A DIFFERENCE?: JANE JACOBS AND NEW YORK

Date: Wednesday, October 31
Time: 7 PM
Location: St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, 131 E. 10 St.
Cost: \$12 non-members, \$8 members & students

This panel will explore the social and historical context in which Jane Jacobs emerged, while examining the ways in which she has influenced urban design and planning today. What factors contributed to the paradigm shift she abetted? Are her principles still applicable and efficacious? To what extent has the world changed to match her vision, and to what extent are today's challenges of a different caliber?

Joe Giovannini, architect and critic — moderator
Roberta Brandes Gratz, urbanist
Chris Klemek, co-curator, *Jane Jacobs and the Future of New York*
Julia Vitullo-Martin, Manhattan Institute
Samuel Zipp, Brown University

WHEN THE BIG GET BIGGER:
NEW YORK UNIVERSITIES AND THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS

Date: Tuesday, November 6
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Benjamin and Irma G. Weiss Research Building at Rockefeller University,
1230 York Avenue (66th Street)
Cost: \$12 non-members, \$8 members & students

More than 50 years ago, Jane Jacobs opposed the construction of New York University's monolithic Bobst Library on Washington Square South. The world has changed since then, but institutional expansion remains a major force in cities. Plans by Columbia University, New York University, Cooper Union, and the United Nations have all met with considerable controversy. This panel will address the specific cases but also the larger issues of urban investment, preservation, and regeneration.

James Traub — moderator
Hilary Ballon, New York University
Kent Barwick, Municipal Art Society
Lee Bollinger, Columbia University
Judith Rodin, Rockefeller Foundation

THE OVERSUCCESSFUL CITY, Part 1: DEVELOPERS' REALITIES

Date: Tuesday, November 27
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: *The New York Times* Stage Auditorium, 620 Eighth Ave.
Cost: \$12 non-members, \$8 members & students

The economic logic of development today—and the regulatory climate in which it occurs—seems to favor high-density, high-revenue developments. How has this reality affected the fabric of the city as a whole? What motivates developers and what constrains them?

Charles V. Bagli, *The New York Times* — moderator
Douglas Durst, developer
Eugenie L. Birch, University of Pennsylvania
Greg O'Connell, developer
Carlton Brown, Full Spectrum NY

THE OVERSUCCESSFUL CITY, Part 2:
NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER IN THE FACE OF CHANGE

Date: Tuesday, December 4th
Time: 7 PM
Location: Municipal Art Society, 457 Madison at 51st Street
Cost: \$12 non-members, \$8 members & students

How can neighborhoods guard against the pitfalls of “oversuccess,” not least of which are gentrification and displacement? Who gets to say “Enough!” and when? This panel will look at recent controversies over specific large developments and tangle with the complexities of development’s benefits and its considerable perils and inequities.

Matt Schuerman, *New York Observer* — moderator
Rev. Calvin Butts, Abyssinian Development Corporation
Errol Louis, *New York Daily News*
Ron Shiffman, Pratt Center
Michelle de le Uz, Fifth Avenue Committee

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A series of walking tours led by architectural historians, and a special interactive tour for youth, called Urban Detectives, will be offered. The walking tours will view certain neighborhoods – including Greenwich Village, Midtown, Forest Hills, Greenpoint and Brooklyn Heights – through the eyes of Jane Jacobs.

The following is a full list of the Walking Tours:

HER VILLAGE

No place is more closely associated with Jane Jacobs and her perceptive writings than Greenwich Village. Visit the sites and streets that inspired her ideas, with stops in Washington Square, at the West Village Houses, and at her Hudson Street home.

Date: Saturday, September 22nd

Time: 11 AM

Leader: Matt Postal, architectural historian.

Location: Meet outside the Center for Architecture, 536 LaGuardia, near Bleeker St.

Cost: \$15 non-members, \$12 MAS Members

Reservation required. Call 212-935-2075.

CITIES ARE FOR PEOPLE

Jane Jacobs cycled to her job in midtown at *Architectural Forum* during the 1950s. See the area as she did, considering her views of 20th century urban planning, from the creation of Rockefeller Center to the Seagram Building, as well as Paley Park, an urban oasis that both challenged and validated her philosophy.

Date: Saturday, September 30th

Time: 11 AM

Leader: Matt Postal, architectural historian.

Location: Meet by statue of Atlas on Fifth Ave., between 50th and 51st streets.

Cost: \$15 non-members, \$12 MAS Members

Reservation required. Call 212-935-2075.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS: America's First Suburb

Jane Jacobs and Lewis Mumford both lived in Brooklyn Heights, New York City's first historic district, at one time, and both found virtues in "New York's first suburb."

Date: Sunday, October 14th

Time: 2 PM

Leader: Francis Morrone, architectural historian.

Location: Meet on steps of Brooklyn Borough Hall, Court at Remsen streets.

Cost: \$15 non-members, \$12 MAS Members

Reservation required. Call 212-935-2075.

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FOREST HILLS: Garden City in the City

Recently ranked the no. 1 “cottage community” in the U.S. by *Cottage Living* magazine, Forest Hills Gardens exemplifies the “garden city” planning that Jane Jacobs criticized. But are there also Jacobsean virtues to greater Forest Hills?

Date: Saturday, October 20th

Time: 2 PM

Leader: Francis Morrone, architectural historian.

Location: Meet at Austin and Continental, near 71st St./Continental subway station.

Cost: \$15 non-members, \$12 MAS Members

Reservation required. Call 212-935-2075.

GREENPOINT: Transforming a Working Class Haven

Near the end of her life Jane Jacobs was outspoken against the rezoning of Greenpoint’s waterfront. Is this working-class neighborhood a victim of its own success?

Date: Saturday, October 27th

Time: 2 PM

Leader: Francis Morrone, architectural historian

Location: Meet at Manhattan and Greenpoint avenues, upstairs from G train station.

Cost: \$15 non-members, \$12 MAS Members

Reservation required. Call 212-935-2075.

GRAMERCY PARK: Retaining Identity Amid Constant Change

A classic Manhattan neighborhood, Gramercy Park embodies many of the values Jane Jacobs espoused. It also exemplifies the early 20th-century roots of “gentrification” in New York.

Date: Saturday, November 3rd

Time: 2 PM

Leader: Francis Morrone, architectural historian

Location: Meet at S.W. corner of Third Ave. and 17th St.

Cost: \$15 non-members, \$12 MAS Members

Reservation required. Call 212-935-2075.

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BATTERY PARK CITY: A New Neighborhood Rises

The planners of Battery Park City knew all about Jane Jacobs. But can a successful New York neighborhood be created from scratch?

Date: Saturday, November 17th
Time: 2 PM
Leader: Francis Morrone, architectural historian.
Location: Meet at S.W. corner of West and Vesey streets.
Cost: \$15 non-members, \$12 MAS Members
Reservation required. Call 212-935-2075.

LOMEX REMEMBERED

Imagine it, an elevated eight-lane highway slicing through the heart of SoHo, Little Italy, and the Lower East Side. Walk the proposed route, visiting sites and structures associated with Jane Jacobs, Robert Moses, and the events that led to its demise.

Date: Sunday, November 25th
Time: 11 AM
Leader: Matt Postal, architectural historian.
Location: Meet at the N.E. corner of Grand and Chrystie streets.
Cost: \$15 non-members, \$12 MAS Members
Reservation required. Call 212-935-2075.

Youth-Oriented

VILLAGE DETECTIVES

In the spirit of Jane Jacobs, children ages 8-12 can go and explore Greenwich Village- the neighborhood she called her home and fought to save. Equipped with detectives' notebooks, junior detectives will investigate the city fabric, secretly observe people moving through town, discover the history of older buildings, learn to read building facades and ghost walls, search for an underground brook, and maybe even make sense of Village street patterns! During this fun and interactive tour, children will gain some understanding of the huge impact that urban planning has on our lives and the importance of being involved.

Date: Saturday, November 10th
Time: 10 AM
Leader: Sylvia Laudien-Meo, art historian
Location: Washington Square Arch in Washington Square Park,
Fifth Ave. at Waverly Pl.
Cost: \$15 non-members, \$12 MAS members (one fee covers *both* adult and child).
Children must be accompanied by an adult, one fee covers both adult and child.
Reservation required. Call 212-935-2075.

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The Rockefeller Foundation was established in 1913 by John D. Rockefeller, Sr., to "promote the well-being" of humanity by addressing the root causes of serious problems. The Foundation works around the world to expand opportunities for poor or vulnerable people and to help ensure that globalization's benefits are more widely shared. With assets of more than \$3.5 billion, it is one of the few institutions to conduct such work both within the United States and internationally. The Foundation made a series of grants to Jane Jacobs in the 1950s that resulted in the publication of The Death and Life of Great American Cities. In 2007, the Foundation created of the annual Jane Jacobs Medal, The inaugural winners, Barry Benepe and Omar Freilla, will be awarded their medals and a prize of \$100,000 each on September 24, 2007. Visit www.rockfound.org for more information.

The Municipal Art Society of New York is a private, non-profit membership organization whose mission is to promote a more livable city. Since 1893, the organization has worked to enrich the culture, neighborhoods and physical design of New York City. It advocates for excellence in urban design and planning, contemporary architecture, historic preservation and public art. For more information, please visit www.mas.org.

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