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For Immediate Release:

MAS ANNOUNCES MAY PUBLIC PROGRAMS

*Panel Discussion on NYC Infrastructure and Moynihan Station
and a New York City Trivia Night Among Highlights*

New York, April 10, 2009--The Municipal Art Society of New York, a non-profit membership organization that fights for intelligent urban planning, design, and preservation, has announced its public programs and tour schedule for the month of May.

Among the highlights are a panel discussion on the city's infrastructure, transportation and major projects like Moynihan Station; a related walking tour surrounding the Moynihan Station area and the West 30s; a bus and walking tour of the storied Brooklyn Navy Yard; and a New York City Trivia Night with the "Bowery Boys" of podcast fame. MAS will also host several book events including *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York* with author Eric Sanderson and illustrator, Markley Boyer.

All programs will be held at The Municipal Art Society of New York at 457 Madison Avenue, unless otherwise noted. Due to limited seating, reservations are strongly recommended. More information and a complete list of upcoming events in May are below:

Friday, May 1, 3:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Navy Yard Bus & Walking Tour

Take a bus and (rare) walking tour of New York Harbor's most storied maritime site, now filled with diverse businesses and manufacturers and committed to industrial retention and environmental sustainability. (Transit: F train to York Ave. Meet outside the subway station.) \$15, \$10 MAS members. RSVP. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Saturday, May 2, 11:00 a.m.

Manhattan Bridge Walking Tour

Reach new heights above the East River and discover cinematic views of the Downtown skyscrapers, the tenements of Chinatown, and the cobble-stoned streets of DUMBO as we walk across this great suspension bridge. This year is the one-hundredth birthday of this beautiful structure. Leader: **John Kriskiewicz**, architectural historian. Meet at the corner of Canal St. and Bowery, in front of the HSBC Bank. Tour will end in DUMBO. \$15, \$10 MAS members. No reservations. Pay on tour.

Sunday, May 3, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

City of Art: Lower Manhattan & St. George

Included will be the remarkable *Irish Hunger Memorial* and works by such varied artists as Noguchi, Marisol, and Daniel Chester French. We'll take the ferry to Staten Island to visit the elegant September 11 Memorial and more. Leader: **Justin Ferate**, architectural historian. Meet on the interior steps of the Winter Garden in the World Financial Center. Entrance on Vesey St., near West St. \$15, \$10 MAS members. No reservations. Pay on tour.

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Monday, May 4, 6:30 p.m.

Unpacking My Library: 12 Architects and their Books

Opening reception.

Urban Center Books formally launches this book-lovers exhibition with a party and moderated “conversation” between two renowned architects, **Peter Eisenman** and **Michael Graves**. This is a rare opportunity to hear these lively conversationalists talk about their favorite books. \$25, \$15 MAS members. RSVP. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Tuesday, May 5, 6:30 p.m.

Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York

Reception to follow.

Eric Anderson, author, and **Markley Boyer**, illustrator.

The Lenni Lenape called it Mannahatta, “land of many hills.” For more than a decade landscape ecologist Eric Anderson has been reconstructing, in words and images, the wild island as it existed when Henry Hudson arrived 400 years ago. The astounding result will give readers a window into the past and inspiration the future. Book event with Urban Center Books: The MAS Bookstore. FREE. Reservations required. Reserve online at MAS.org or call 212 935 3960.

Wednesday, May 6, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Investing in Infrastructure: Transportation and New York’s Future

Reception to follow.

Transportation experts explore the challenges ahead while analyzing the status of major projects in this area and examining the role Moynihan Station can play in a reconfigured rail network linking the northeast corridor. What role does transit-oriented development play in the creation of livable and sustainable communities?

Moderator: **Kate Slevin**, Tri-state Transportation. Panelists: **Susan Bass Levin**, Port Authority; **Linda Bailey**, New York City Department of Transportation; **Jeffrey Zupan**, Regional Plan Association; **Martin Robins**, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, Rutgers University. \$15, \$10 MAS members. RSVP. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075

****Related tour***Saturday, May 9, 11:00 a.m.*

Moynihan Station and the West 30s

National Train Day

Intersecting transit routes combined with underutilized real estate make the West 30s a neighborhood in transition. Visit handsome structures associated with the old Pennsylvania Station and hear about plans for the future, including stops at the James A. Farley Building, slated to become Moynihan Station.

Leader: **Matt Postal**, architectural historian. Meet at the N.W. corner of Sixth Ave. and 30th St. \$15, \$10 MAS members. No reservations. Pay on tour.

Saturday, May 9, 10:00 a.m.

Broadway Geometry Bike Tour

Where the massive rectangular grid of Manhattan is crossed by Broadway, unique spaces result. Starting at Columbus Circle, this guided tour will pedal south, stopping to discuss the squares of Times, Herald, Union and Madison, and ending at City Hall Park. Along the way learn about some of the City’s greatest design features and much more. Leader: **Carter Craft**, civic advocate and urbanologist. Bring water. Helmets required. Rain cancels. Meet at Merchant’s Gate, Columbus Circle. \$15, \$10 MAS members. RSVP. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075. Co-sponsored by Bike Month NYC.

Sunday, May 10, 11:00 a.m.

Mother’s Day in DUMBO

Take a Mother’s Day stroll through historic DUMBO, including parts of three Historic Districts: Fulton Ferry, DUMBO, and Vinegar Hill. Atmospheric streets of beautiful old factory and warehouse buildings combine with stunning riverfront vistas to make this a uniquely appealing area. DUMBO is also home to interesting stores and restaurants that you may wish to explore after the tour. Leader: **Francis Morrone**, architectural historian. Meet at York and Jay streets, upstairs from subway. The tour will end near the Fulton St. Pier. (Transit: F train to York St.) \$15, \$10 MAS members. RSVP. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

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Monday, May 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

New York City Trivia Night: Part II

The Musical Box, 219 Ave. B (13th Street)

Greg Young and **Tom Meyers**, hosts of the popular New York City history podcast, “The Bowery Boys,” are your masters of ceremony for the second lively MAS evening of New York City trivia: history, architecture, culture, and more. Put together a team of experts (four to a team) and join us! Winner takes home the eight DVD set of *New York: A Documentary Film* by Ric Burns. (Transit: L train to First Ave., walk two blocks.) \$5, MAS members free. Reservations strongly recommended. Reserve online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Livable Neighborhoods

Saturday, May 16, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Hunter College, West Building

Lexington Ave. and 68th St.

Livable Neighborhoods connects you and your community with 20 years of the MAS Planning Center’s technical assistance expertise. Via a toolkit, in-person training, and an on-line network, you’ll have current, New York City-specific information on a wide range of planning topics: organizing, using census data, reviewing environmental impact statements, creating neighborhood plans and more. FREE, but reservations required. For more information and to register, visit www.mas/lnp or call Sideya Sherman at the MAS Planning Center at 212 935 3960.

Sunday, May 17, 11:00 a.m.

Snyder Schools in Central Brooklyn

Superintendent of School Buildings Charles B. J. Snyder is widely recognized for his transformation of City school design during his tenure from 1891-1923. We’ll walk along streets within the Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant historic districts, and look particularly at three schools designed by Snyder between 1903 to 1909 plus the legendary Boys’ High School and the former Girls’ High School, both with 1912 Snyder additions.

Leader: **Jean Arrington**, Snyder scholar. Meet on the N.W. corner of Fulton and Nostrand streets (Transit: A train to Nostrand). \$15, \$10 MAS members. No reservations. Pay on tour.

Monday, May 18, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Inside View: MAS Work in Progress

Learn about recent work from **Vanessa Gruen**, director of special projects, and **Phyllis Cohen**, director of Adopt-A-Monument/Mural. Projects include the “Light Fight” (as *The New Yorker* magazine dubbed the street lighting debate) and the exemplary MAS public art program that has restored scores of New York murals and monuments. FREE. Reservations strongly recommended. Reserve online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Friday, May 22, 2:00 p.m.

Look for the Union Label: The Garment District

New York’s apparel industry traces its beginnings to Henry Hudson. On this tour you’ll learn about the evolution of the industry, including mass production and the development of ‘sizes’ as well as the human story of those who work in the industry. The stops include (as possible) inside a showroom and a factory and a fabled fabric store. Leader: **Mike Kaback**, for 35 years a “garmento.” Meet at 1411 Broadway (39th St.) \$15, \$10 MAS members. RSVP. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Saturday, May 23, 11:00 a.m.

New to Brooklyn Heights

This green and leafy historic district contains not only marvelous Victorian-era row houses and churches, but also a fascinating collection of late 20th, early 21st century buildings. We’ll consider diverse strategies of contextual design, with works designed by Ulrich Franzen, Alfredo de Vido, and Smith-Miller Hawkinson.

Leader: **Matt Postal**, architectural historian. Meet on the N.W. corner of Clark & Henry streets, outside 2,3 subway station. (Transit: #2, 3 trains to Clark St.) \$15, \$10 MAS members. No reservations. Pay on tour.

Sunday, May 24, 2:00 p.m.

Art Deco in the Fabulous Fifties

We start with the spectacular and beautifully restored General Electric Building; continue with the Waldorf-Astoria, New York's preeminent skyscraper hotel; and finish at Midtown's miraculously urbane urban wonderland: Rockefeller Center. Leader: **Tony Robins**, architectural historian. Meet in the courtyard at MAS, 457 Madison (at 51st St.). \$15, \$10 MAS members. No reservations. Pay on tour.

Wednesday, May 27, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Urban Parks in the Twenty-First Century: Creating a New Model

The ambitious expansion of New York City's park system is characterized by an innovative intertwining of natural and designed environments. This program will focus on three new and exceptional projects: Riverside Park South, Freshkills and Concrete Plant parks. The panel will examine the design, financing, and programming as they seek to highlight the politics, philosophies, and practices that shape urban parks today. Moderator: **Vin Cipolla**, Municipal Art Society. Panelists: **Eloise Hirsh**, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation; **Thomas Balsley**, Thomas Balsley Associates; **Linda Cox**, Bronx River Alliance; **Peter Harnik**, Center for City Park Excellence, Trust for Public Land. \$15, \$10 MAS members. RSVP. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Saturday, May 30, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (plus optional lunch)

South Street Seaport Walking Study Tour

Examine the South Street Seaport Historic District in depth with **John Kriskiewicz**, architectural historian, **Melissa Baldock**, The Municipal Art Society's Kress/RFR Preservation and Public Policy Fellow, and **Madeline Rogers**, public historian. We will explore the knotty past and uncertain future of this significant district, with particular attention to its potential as a destination for New Yorkers. Tour is followed by optional lunch and informal discussion. \$15, \$10 MAS members (Not including lunch). RSVP. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Sunday, May 31, 11:00 a.m.

Riverside Park South

This boldly modern park celebrates the specific natural and industrial past of the site, bringing back indigenous plants and keeping rusting reminders of its history as a massive railroad yard. This is a new sort of park landscape for New York, one in which tall grasses and leafy trees predominate. Here, abstract arrangements and geometric planes are preferred to the more frequent naturalistic approach. Leaders: **Tom Balsley**, FASLA, and **Michael Koontz**, ASLA, Balsley & Assoc. Meet at top of stairs at entrance on 73rd St. and Riverside Drive. \$15, \$10 MAS members. RSVP. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

The Municipal Art Society of New York, founded in 1893, is a non-profit membership organization that fights for intelligent urban planning, design and preservation through education, dialogue and advocacy. For more information, please visit www.mas.org.

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