



Municipal Library Notes

December 4, 2024

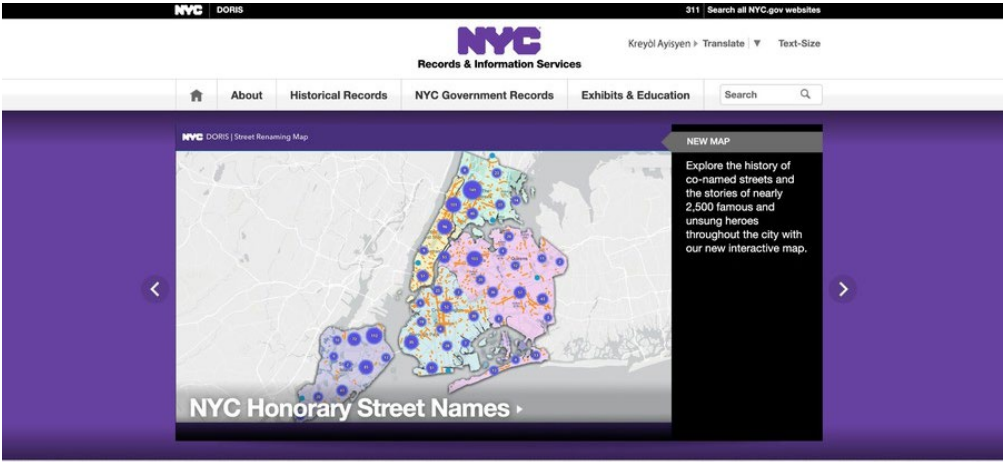
Spotlight on: Civic Education

By Julia Robbins, Deputy Librarian, Municipal Library

In her November 19, 1924 newsletter, Rebecca Rankin highlighted a new Handbook of the Visual Instruction Association of America, which she suggested for those interested in the subject of the use of the motion picture in civic education. Anyone who has referenced the contents of our WNYC Archives (<https://wnyc.org/series/archives-preservation>) is aware that NYC government produced a number of films about City government matters:

https://nycrecords.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/SO_1f1f7054-9894-405b-9a0e-e2bf97970ee6/.

And the December 3, 1924 newsletter highlighted resources relating to new City maps, water pollution and traffic congestion. Sound familiar?



<https://nyc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=7c667aa2fa224684962cac5fa10ec0fd>

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

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CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, (212) 788-2958

**MAYOR ADAMS, EPA BREAK GROUND ON \$1.6 BILLION PROJECT TO PROTECT
GOWANUS CANAL FROM SEWAGE OVERFLOW, ADD 3.6 ACRES OF PUBLIC
WATERFRONT SPACE**

*When Completed, Underground Storage Tanks Will Dramatically Reduce Pollution into the
Gowanus Canal*

*3.6 Acres of Public Waterfront Space to Include Waterfront Esplanades; Spaces for Community
Gathering, Performances, and Environmental Education; a Kayak Launch; and Ecosystem
Restoration*

NEW YORK – New York City Mayor Eric Adams, New York City Chief Climate Officer and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Rohit T. Aggarwala, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 Administrator Lisa F. Garcia today broke ground on the first of two underground storage tanks that will have the combined capacity to prevent up to 12 million gallons of sewer overflow during rainstorms, stopping it from polluting the Gowanus Canal. This groundbreaking marks an important alignment among city leadership and the EPA to get these projects on track after Gowanus was categorized as a [Superfund site in 2010](#). These two major infrastructure projects will make an estimated \$1.6 billion investment in Brooklyn’s waterways and public spaces, significantly improve the health of the canal, and create 3.6 acres of new public waterfront open space and amenities for the Gowanus community.

“Today’s groundbreaking will protect the Gowanus Canal from pollution and deliver acres of new public spaces and waterfront access to New Yorkers,” said **Mayor Adams**. “This project is a powerful statement about our city’s adaptability and determination, and we’re not stopping here in Gowanus. We want to make sure that every waterway in New York City is clean enough for the dolphins we saw in the Bronx River to swim in, and whenever we have opportunities to bring new public open spaces to communities that are crying out for them, we’re going to seize those chances.”

“People in Gowanus have been waiting for this day for a long time, and, today, we’re proud to say that the wait is over,” said **Deputy Mayor for Operations Meera Joshi**. “We’re breaking ground on 3.6 acres of new public space and two tanks that will protect the Gowanus Canal,

https://a860-gpp.nyc.gov/concern/nyc_government_publications/m613n2210?locale=en

Fiscal Brief

February 2024

Fare Play:

Considerations for Exempting Yellow Taxis From a Congestion Pricing Surcharge

Background

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)'s Central Business District Tolling Program (CBDTP) will be the nation's first area-wide congestion pricing program when it launches late this spring. By tolling drivers entering Manhattan south of 60th street, the program seeks to reduce traffic congestion in and around the tolling zone while raising recurring funding for capital improvements to the MTA system.¹ Specifically, the MTA plans to raise at least \$1 billion in annual revenues, which will be used to finance \$15 billion for capital projects—a sum required by the program's [2019 State authorizing legislation](#). The CBDTP is the largest single source of funding for the MTA's \$55.4 billion 2020-2024 Capital Program.² On December 6, 2023, the MTA board voted to begin the Authority's toll-setting process with a proposed [CBDTP toll schedule](#), which is now subject to a final round of public comment through March 11, 2024. The MTA board will then vote on the toll schedule, choosing to approve the plan, reject it, or approve with modifications.

Under the proposed schedule, taxis and for-hire vehicles such as Uber and Lyft are exempt from the congestion toll, and instead are subject to a per-trip surcharge paid by the passenger on any trips entering, exiting, or within the central business district (CBD). This surcharge represents a change from the per-day tolls studied in the program's Final Environmental Assessment—a change that the MTA has argued was necessary to avoid a significant daily cost to drivers and to more directly influence the transit choices of passengers.³ It is worth noting taxi

treatment varies across congestion pricing schemes enacted in other cities internationally. Taxis are exempted from London's congestion charge, while private-hire vehicles must pay a charge unless they are wheelchair-accessible and carrying a passenger. In Milan, taxis are fully exempt from the congestion charge. However, taxis are not exempt from congestion charges in Stockholm and Singapore. (In Singapore, high-occupancy taxi trips were originally exempt along with other vehicles with four or more passengers, but this exemption has since been eliminated.)⁴

The MTA's proposed surcharge is currently set at \$1.25 for yellow taxis, green cabs, and traditional for-hire vehicles such as livery cars.^{5,6} A higher surcharge of \$2.50 is set for high-volume for-hire services such as Uber and Lyft.⁷ These surcharge values are, by MTA estimates, equivalent to spreading a single daily toll across the average number of daily trips by these vehicles entering, exiting, or circulating within the tolling zone.⁸

How Much Would a Yellow Taxi Exemption Cost?

Changes to the preliminary tolling plan are likely to be limited at this point in the toll-setting process. However, just prior to the MTA board's vote to proceed with the preliminary plan, board member Midori Valdivia called on the MTA to consider a "deeply narrow" exemption for yellow taxis, echoing similar calls by Mayor Adams and the New York Taxi Workers Alliance.^{9,10,11} Based on current yellow taxi trip data—provided by the New York City Taxi and



New York City
Independent Budget Office
Louisa Chafee, Director

Prepared by
Emily Pramik

110 William Street 14th Floor
New York, New York 10038
Tel. 212-442-0632
www.ibo.nyc.gov • press@ibo.nyc.gov



https://a860-gpp.nyc.gov/concern/nyc_government_publications/qn59q7502?locale=en

GIVING
TUESDAY

NYC Department of Records
& Information Services

Support NYC history.
Donate today.

Support NYC History

A thriving city is built on understanding its past.

Giving Tuesday has passed but you can still make a tax-deductible donation to support the work of the Archives and Library by giving to the New York Archival Society. We invite you to join the [NYC Department of Records and Information Services](#) (DORIS) in preserving and sharing the stories that shape our city.

Your support can make a lasting impact.

- [Preserve NYC's History](#) through digitization and conservation of invaluable records.
- [Offer Educational Opportunities](#) that inspire the next generation of historians, artists, and engaged residents.
- [Provide Free Public Programming](#) to connect all New Yorkers with their city's rich past.

Ways to Support:

- [Make a Donation](#): Your gift fuels innovation at the Municipal Archives and Library, from digitizing historic records to creating impactful internship programs.
- [Adopt New York's Past](#): Help preserve NYC's unique history by supporting the conservation of archival treasures, including maps, drawings, and documents.
- [Buy a Bond](#): Own a piece of history by purchasing an original NYC vintage bond, signed by mayors like Fiorello LaGuardia or John Lindsay—a perfect holiday gift!

Every gift makes a difference—thank you for being part of our story. Together, we keep NYC's stories alive for future generations.

Recent Highlights from DORIS:

- **NYC Honorary Street Names Map**: Explore nearly 2,500 co-named streets honoring icons and everyday heroes. Our new interactive [map](#) lets you discover the remarkable New Yorkers who shaped our city
- **"100 Years of WNYC" at Photoville**: We celebrated the centennial of WNYC with an archival exhibit featuring historical photos, artwork, and

audio recordings at the 13th annual Photoville Festival.

- **40+ Public Programs and Community Events:** From Lunch & Learn sessions and building tours to our first Trivia Night, DORIS hosted engaging events connecting New Yorkers with their history.

Be Part of NYC's Story

Your generosity helps us preserve the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future.

[Make Your Gift Today!](#)



Celebrate a Woman Who Inspires You

HOLIDAY STORY EXCHANGE

Gift a story.



Preserve her story.



Receive a story.



Celebrate the season of giving by sharing a unique and unforgettable gift—the story of an inspiring woman who has shaped your life. On **Tuesday, December 10th**, join the NYC Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) for a **festive storytelling exchange** as part of the **WomensActivism.NYC** project

RSVP HERE: <https://on.nyc.gov/3Ba5OT7>.

Where: Our historic headquarters at 31 Chambers Street, Suite 103, NYC 10007

When:

- **Session 1:** 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- **Session 2:** 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

What to Expect:

- Sip on **hot cocoa** and nibble on **holiday cookies** in the cozy company of fellow New Yorkers.
- Share your memories of a woman who has deeply impacted your life—

whether a family member, mentor, friend, or teacher.

- **Preserve her legacy** by adding her story to the City's **WomensActivism.NYC digital** archive, ensuring it inspires generations to come.
- Leave with a **personalized gift certificate** and a **shareable link** to her story, perfect for spreading holiday cheer.

No writing experience needed! This live write-in event welcomes everyone—just bring your stories and your holiday spirit.

Give a Story. Receive a Story. Preserve Her Story.

Join us as we write women into history and celebrate the power of community and storytelling. Reserve your spot now!

[WomensActivism.NYC](#) is an open, crowd-sourced digital archive dedicated to commemorating the anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States. This project celebrates the inspiring contributions of women by preserving their stories and ensuring they are accessible for generations to come.

Our goal is to collect 10,000 stories of women who have made a difference, and we are currently just 270 stories away from reaching this incredible milestone. Your participation will help us make history by contributing to this vital collection.

This initiative is proudly led by the **[NYC Department of Records and Information Services/Municipal Archives](#)**, demonstrating our commitment to preserving and honoring the voices of women throughout history. Together, let's ensure their legacies live on.



WELCOME TO THE WORLD'S FAIR 1964-65

We recently opened a new exhibition the 1964-65 World's Fair in the lobby at 31 Chambers Street. The exhibit uses the treasure trove of brochures, reports and maps from the Municipal Library's vertical file collection.

The "vertical files" contain new clippings, handouts, media releases, leaflets and other documents that librarians compiled and stored in vertical file cabinets. The files on the 1964-65 World's Fair are extensive. File folders in alphabetical order ranging from Accommodations to Women document both the 1939 and 1964 Fairs. The exhibit includes a small number of items from the Municipal Archives and ephemera such as a Sinclair Oil dinosaur, which were donated to the Archives.

The Fair was organized by Robert Moses, who headed the World's Fair Corporation. The theme was "Peace through Understanding" which many commentators noted did not describe Moses's approach to the event. Attendees could visit pavilions from 80 countries, 24 states and 350 companies, trade

associations and religious organizations. Among the favorites were Futurama, sponsored by General Motors, the Women’s Pavilion sponsored by Clairol, and The Vatican pavilion which displayed Michaelangelo’s marble sculpture, the Pieta, along with modern religious art.

Remnants of the Fair still exist in Flushing Meadow Park including the Unisphere, the New York State Pavilion, the Hall of Science and Industry, the NYC Pavilion, now the home to the Queens Museum, the Terrace on the Park and the Marina, which was constructed especially for the Fair.

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