

2025
SPRING
EDITION



DESIGN BY HIGH SCHOOL OF FASHION INDUSTRIES
STUDENT HEIDI JUAREZ GARCIA

THE DISTRICT TEA



2025
SPRING
EDITION

DESIGN BY HIGH SCHOOL OF FASHION INDUSTRIES
STUDENT LAURA ARELLANO JUAREZ

THE DISTRICT TEA



The News of the World Deserves Witnesses

WITNESS / OSKAR BARNACK



Leica - Witness to a Century

Leica Centennial Celebration | Presented by the Meatpacking District | Gansevoort Plaza | May 3, 2025

DEAR READER:

This issue of the Tea is hot and chock-full of all that's happening in the district: Amy Sherald's "American Sublime" at the Whitney and a Centennial Celebration for Leica; fashion trends — florals for spring! — and cultural celebrations, party recaps, and announcements of what's to come for the nabe.

I'm delighted to retire my winter coats — finally — and start showing some ankle again. One of my favorite signs of spring is the daffodil that's showing itself in our hex planters after a long break. The variety, Mount Hood, is distinct for a few reasons. When its white petals first open, they reveal a center cup that's a buttery, albeit traditional yellow. After a week or two, that cup turns white to match its petals. In gardening speak, it's known as a reverse bi-color.

I love it because it's also utterly on brand for the District: it opens to the season boldly with its contrast in yellow and white; as time passes, its center cup changes to white, setting the stage for the next evolution of the planter's garden. The following blooms are the unruly yet eyepopping purple nepeta (catmint). Our planters throughout the neighborhood, and there are many, come alive bringing gardens to our concrete corner of the city, along with a slew of pollinators and birds, too.

Besides this iconic daffodil — not to mention the icons of the district, Leica, Ivy Brown, and Chef Jonathan Waxman — we're building a new icon on 14th Street.

Later this spring, West 14th Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues will be transformed as a new Pedestrian Promenade is built. It's a first-of-its-kind project for a neighborhood in New York City: approved by the City, but 100% BID-funded. The investment reflects the Meatpacking District's commitment to being a trailblazer in public realm innovation and creating streets as exceptional as everything else found in the district: art on the walls of our galleries, bags on store shelves, food served at our restaurants.

There's a lot going on everywhere (interpret that as you may). But please take a moment to enjoy the change in season — the Red Umbrellas are back, iced coffee orders are up! You're in a great place.

Cheers,

Jeffrey LeFrancois
Executive Director



MEET MEATPACKING

The Meatpacking District is a neighborhood like no other: a fusion of grit and glam, where old New York meets the frenetic pace of the 21st Century. It has a magnetic appeal. Nestled into the western corner of Lower Manhattan, before the chic boutiques and upscale bars, it was home to industrial slaughterhouses, public markets, and a bustling working waterfront. Its evolution has been layered, giving the district a rich, interesting, yet – often contradictory charm. And while we have the best guides for whichever journey you choose in the Meatpacking District, a curious wander might be the best way to experience it. Day and night, the cobblestone streets are alive with culture. You're bound to stumble onto something delicious, stylish, thought-provoking, and very likely – all of the above.

SPRING SCHEDULE

More information about each program, including the cost, RSVPing, and event times, can be found at meatpacking-district.com and [@meatpackingny](https://twitter.com/meatpackingny).

FRIDAY, APRIL 25 - THURSDAY, MAY 1

What: High School of Fashion Industries Industry Art Show

Where: 75 Ninth Ave

In partnership with Chelsea Market

TUESDAY, MAY 6

What: Business Improvement Day

Where: Chelsea Triangle

In partnership with NYC Small Business Services

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

What: High School of Fashion Industries 37th Annual Fashion Show + Fundraiser

Where: Gansevoort Plaza

In partnership with the Whitney Museum of American Art and Lucid Motors

MONDAY, JUNE 2

What: Movies on the Cobble

Where: Gansevoort Plaza

In partnership with Rooftop Films, NewFest Pride, and New York City Council Member Erik Bottcher

LOOK UP!



This past January, we met with 70 junior Visual Arts students from the High School of Fashion Industries and challenged them to design banners inspired by the Meatpacking District. Starting in May, the selected designs will be displayed on light poles throughout the area.

SANITATION SPOTLIGHT

In the Meatpacking District, we love talking trash but hate seeing it on our sidewalks. So, we tagged along with Jacqueline Amhi, Crew Supervisor, while on her route and asked a few questions.

Meatpacking District (MTPK): How long have you been working in Meatpacking, and can you tell us a bit about your role?

Jacqueline Amhi (JA): *I've been in Meatpacking for about a year, and I help with snow removal, run the crew, get supplies, and make sure all the workers are safe.*

MTPK: What do you think first-time visitors should know about the Meatpacking District to appreciate it truly?

JA: *The red umbrellas. I mean, it's just a beautiful district. Everyone's so nice, it's fashion, you just look around and see everything. And the cobblestones, you know.*

MTPK: We hear you have a dog, what type and what's their name?

JA: *Ooh, his name is Theodore, aka Teddy, and he is a Shiba Inu.*

MTPK: What's your favorite way to spend a day off?

JA: *My favorite way to spend my day off would be to walk with my dog. I take like two-hour walks every day when I come home. And then, you know, make him chicken. That's my life. Oh, and Jeopardy.*

MTPK: Ok, pick one: Egg and Cheese on a Roll or Bagel with Cream Cheese

JA: *A bagel with cream cheese.*



AMERICAN SUBLIME

Experience *Amy Sherald: American Sublime*, Amy Sherald's first major New York museum exhibition. Featuring fifty luminous paintings—including her iconic portrait of former First Lady Michelle Obama—this landmark show presents Sherald's signature large-scale paintings, from rarely seen early works to striking new pieces created for the exhibition. Don't miss this powerful exploration of Black life, identity, and everyday beauty by one of the most acclaimed artists working today.

Visit the Whitney Museum of American Art at 99 Gansevoort Street.



CARRY ON

Sometimes, it's the little things in life. The MUJI Jute Bag Mini (size A6) is the quintessential bag for packing the essentials and showcasing a bit of personal flair.

MUJI Market at Chelsea Market is a new concept space that cultivates discovery, creativity, and connection.

Visit MUJI Market at 75 Ninth Avenue.



NEW TO THE NABE

CRANE CLUB
85 Tenth Avenue

EMPRESSA
829 Washington Street

GOLDEN GOOSE
812 Washington Street

LILYSILK
654 Hudson Street

SAINT LAURENT
72 Gansevoort Street

DENIM MOMENTUM

Spring has sprung in the Meatpacking District, and so has a new crop of denim trends. From Zimmermann's effortlessly chic Batwing Denim Top, perfect for a stroll along the High Line, to Sandro's Rhinestone and Beaded Jeans, which will add some sparkle to your night out (or to a certain concert that we all will be raving about this spring), there's a denim look for everyone this season.



ZIMMERMANN BATWING DENIM TOP

Dress it up or keep it casual, the Batwing Denim Top from Zimmermann is the perfect spring blouse for a stylish day walking around the city.



ZADIG & VOLTAIRE SUNNY & MOODY BAG

The Sunny & Moody bag from Zadig & Voltaire brings style and statement to the classic denim look. With patterned patchwork and an adjustable strap, this new arrival is the perfect accessory for all your spring adventures.



SANDRO RHINESTONE AND BEADED JEANS

Sandro's Rhinestone and Beaded Jeans bring a silver shine to a familiar light wash style. This flashy twist on a classic denim staple is the perfect look for a fun and festive walk around the Meatpacking District.



FRAME VINTAGE DENIM JACKET

This denim jacket has a cool, worn-in vibe with its distressed details and frayed cuffs. It's got contrast stitching, chest pockets, and a standout collar that's a different color that make it ideal for the in-between weather.



VINCE COTTON BLEND DENIM SHIRT DRESS

Combining a pleated design and relaxed loose fit, Vince's Cotton Blend Denim Shirt Dress is essential for a breezy spring day on the High Line.

GROUNDBREAKING FLORALS

Miranda Priestly would not approve.

The Meatpacking District is in full bloom, and we're not just talking about tulips. From statement sculptures and soothing scents to floral-infused teas and the softest silks, these finds are anything but garden variety.



ALICE + OLIVIA ANDREW PANTS

Floral chic meets business classy in the new Andrew Pants from alice + olivia. Pair this creative piece with the Denny Boyfriend Blazer to make a bold spring statement.



SOAPOLOGY ROSE SOAP BAR

Nothing says spring like the smell of roses. Soapology's Rose Soap Bar is the soothing essential for soft skin this spring.



LLADRÓ LOVE II (BLOSSOMS) SCULPTURE

Celebrate spring and new beginnings with Lladró's Love II (blossoms) sculpture. This decorative piece is the perfect seasonal sculpture for a spring love in bloom.



CHELSEA MARKET BASKETS QI FLOWER TEA RITUAL GIFT

Savor the scents of spring with Chelsea Market Baskets' The Qi Flower Tea Ritual Gift. This package includes three varieties of flowers and makes a special spring gift for your favorite tea lover.



LILYSILK ROSETTE SILK COLLAR

Make every outfit a spring outfit with the Rosette Silk Collar Necklace from LILYSILK. This new statement piece adds a touch of elegance to any classic outfit.

PLANT PERSONALITIES

We asked Old Yew’s August Laska and Cris Vasquez to introduce us to their favorite spring plants. From the grounded Ficus Ginseng Bonsai to the elegant Myrtle Topiary, there’s a plant for everyone. **Visit The Old Yew Plant Shop at 1 Horatio Street.**



CHINA DOLL PLANT

The China Doll Plant (*Radermachera sinica*) is a tropical evergreen shrub popular for its elegant appearance and ease of care. It is known for its glossy, dark green leaves that are finely textured and arranged in a graceful, arching manner. This plant’s lush, delicate foliage gives it an almost bonsai-like look, making it a favorite for indoor spaces. The China Doll Plant can grow into a small tree-like shape with multiple stems, but can also be pruned to maintain a compact, bushy form.



DONKEY’S TAIL SUCCULENT

The Donkey’s Tail Succulent (*Sedum morganianum*) is a striking plant known for its cascading, fleshy leaves that resemble a tail, creating a dramatic, trailing effect. Its bluish-green foliage is thick and plump, offering a soft, almost velvety texture that contrasts beautifully with its elegant, hanging stems. This low-maintenance plant thrives in bright, indirect light and requires minimal watering, making it perfect for those seeking a beautiful yet easy-to-care-for addition to their indoor space. The Donkey’s Tail Plant’s unique form and lush appearance make it an eye-catching choice for hanging baskets or elevated planters, adding a touch of natural elegance to any room.



AUSTRALIAN BOTTLE TREE

The Australian Bottle Tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*) is a striking and unique addition to any indoor or outdoor space, renowned for its unusual, bottle-shaped trunk and vibrant green foliage. This evergreen tree is native to Australia and is celebrated for its dramatic, swollen base that stores water, giving it a distinct, sculptural form. The Bottle Tree’s glossy, deep green leaves grow in clusters at the ends of its branches, creating a striking contrast with its thick, swollen trunk. This resilient and low-maintenance tree can grow to impressive heights, though it can be pruned to maintain a manageable size for smaller spaces.



FICUS GINSENG BONSAI

The Ficus Ginseng Bonsai is a captivating miniature tree that brings elegance and natural beauty to any indoor space. Known for its unique, swollen trunk and lush, dark green leaves, this bonsai exudes a sense of strength and resilience. Its gnarled, knotted roots and thick, smooth trunk give it a striking, sculptural appearance, while its small, glossy leaves add a touch of refinement. Perfect for those looking to add a bit of zen to their environment, the Ficus Ginseng Bonsai is a low-maintenance plant that thrives in bright, indirect light and adapts well to indoor conditions.



MYRTLE TOPIARY

The Myrtle Topiary (*Myrtus communis*) is a stunning ornamental shrub that brings an air of timeless elegance to any space. Known for its lush, aromatic foliage and ability to be shaped into intricate forms, this plant is perfect for adding a refined, sculptural touch to gardens or indoor spaces. The Myrtle Topiary’s rich, dark green leaves are complemented by small, fragrant white or pink flowers that bloom in the summer, adding a dash of delicate beauty to its already charming presence.



JEWEL ORCHID

The Jewel Orchid (*Ludisia discolor*) is a truly exquisite plant that brings a touch of luxury and sophistication to any space. Known for its striking, deep burgundy leaves adorned with intricate patterns of shimmering silver veins, this orchid exudes elegance and charm. The rich, dark foliage creates a stunning contrast with its delicate, white or pink flowers, making it a captivating addition to any indoor setting. The Jewel Orchid thrives in low to moderate light, making it ideal for homes with less direct sunlight. It requires minimal care, making it perfect for those seeking beauty with ease.

KAYLA’S BOOKISH CORNER



A Selection of New Releases Curated by Kayla Douglas, Founder of the West Village Book Club.

Dream Count by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Out March 4th. Adichie’s first novel in over a decade, this highly anticipated book was nearly instantly shortlisted for the 2025 Women’s Prize for Fiction upon its release. The transcendent story weaves the narratives of four women’s lives by detailing their longings and desires. Particularly poignant as we cross the five-year mark since the onset of the pandemic, this novel takes place during the isolation spurred by COVID, forcing the four Nigerian women the story depicts to scrutinize their chosen paths.

The Tell by Amy Griffin
Out March 11th. The only memoir to make my list of recommendations in this roundup, this true story is so spellbinding that it practically reads like fiction. In her debut (notably, an Oprah’s Book Club pick), Griffin explores how, at the yearning of one of her daughters to know her better, she was able to turn inward with the help of psychedelic therapy and, in turn, uncover painful childhood

memories she’d long buried. Her search for truth spurs the confrontation of trauma, perfectionism, and what it means to free ourselves from the constant maintenance of appearances.

Just Want You Here by Meredith Turits
Out March 11th. This debut novel explores what happens when you’re derailed from what you thought was destined. After being broken up with by her fiancé, Ari leaves New York for a fresh start in Boston, only to become entangled in a relationship with the married CEO of her new company. Despite their 12-year age difference and the enmeshment of herself into his family’s life, Ari must go explore the question so many search their entire lives to answer: can you love someone without dragging them under?

Summer in the City by Alex Aster
Out March 25th. The ideal summer read, the West Village Book Club selected this one as our April pick to get us into the breezier mood that the season requires. This enemies-to-lovers story finds Elle back in New York City on a deadline to write the screenplay for her big-budget movie. Sharing a wall with a billionaire bachelor with whom she’d had a dalliance years prior wasn’t on her bingo card. Still, in the way all good romances have to have forced proximity, these two find themselves in a mutually beneficial fake relationship that just might have real potential.

People Are Talking by Amanda Eisenberg
Out April 22nd. This debut novel poignantly addresses sexual assault and the ever-changing gender and sex politics that influence how we talk about these difficult topics differently across generational divides. Two best friends have hatched a secret society that tracks alleged rapists, only to find out that one of their friends is accused of sexual assault. Their disagreement about how to address it creates a thought-provoking narrative woven by the author.

Set Piece by Lana Schwartz
Out May 6th. The latest novella from 831 Stories, an imprint created to share romance novels with a fresh approach, *Set Piece* follows a rising TV star and bartender after they share a night that leaves them both wanting more. When they find each

other again five years later, working on a movie set for the adaptation of *The Great Gatsby*, they must decide whether there’s room in their lives for this second chance at making it work.

Maine Characters by Hannah Orenstein
Out May 13th. If you grew up a lover of *The Parent Trap*, you’ll fall head over heels for this love letter to lake life, where two half-sisters meet in Maine for the first time after their father’s unexpected death. Vivian’s refined New York City life is in shambles after a complicated breakup when she arrives at the house she visited every summer with her dad, only to find out he’d been keeping a love child he had with a local woman a secret for three decades. What unfolds is two young women left to decide if it’s too late for them to be a family.

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
April 10th marks the centennial of the publication of this iconic novel, and it felt even more fitting to include it after having one of our modern romances (*Set Piece*) recommended above have a nod to it. While many of us read this novel in high school, what better time to return to it than its 100th birthday? So many of Fitzgerald’s themes age beautifully: the elusiveness of the American Dream intertwined with the impossibility of repeating the past. This poignant novel is a reminder to us all that no matter our demons, we must move forward.

About Kayla Douglas
A writer, storyteller, and West Village resident, Kayla’s deep love for books that spark meaningful conversations led her to found the West Village Book Club. Each week, she also pens *The Sunday Series*, a weekly newsletter that explores culture and literature through her downtown New York lens; in it, she spotlights must-read stories alongside interviews with compelling authors and creators. By day, her role as Director of Content at SmartFlyer finds her shaping the travel brand’s editorial voice. When she’s not boarding a plane or deeply immersed in a book, you can find her running on the West Side Highway, frequenting her favorite local businesses in the Meatpacking, and most definitely getting a little sweet treat on the walk home.



THE BITE

February’s Taste the Local event at Chelsea Market was a foodie’s dream, showcasing a tantalizing array of flavors from local vendors! Even vegetarians had reason to celebrate, with two delectable meat-free options, including a bite-sized delight from Saxelby Cheesemongers. This savory treat featured a creamy Firefly Farms Plain Chevre atop a crunchy Potter’s Cracker (in either Classic White or Carmelized Onion), finished with a dollop of either SPREAD-MMS Olive Tapenade or Savory Orange Marmalade – a flavor explosion in every bite!

Visit Saxelby Cheesemongers at 75 Ninth Avenue.

BLOOMING/TO_BLOOM

Our resident AV expert, Addison Hillman, curated this seasonal playlist. Check out his thoughts on the playlist below.

Bloom/to bloom: a state or time of beauty, freshness, and vigor; to mature into achievement of one's potential. The winter season has ended, and nature is inviting us back into its realm. Embrace the opportunity to be outside and around others. This playlist opens with a large, cinematic theme that recedes to a smaller, more intimate moment. As the mood picks up, allow yourself to feel refreshed for the warmer seasons.

- 1. *Dr. Johann Averages* by Daneshevskaya
- 2. *A Lot's Gonna Change* by Weyes Blood
- 3. *The Wind - String Epilogue* by Nick Leng
- 4. *One for sorrow, two for Joni Jones (ITEIAD Sessions)* by The Japanese House
- 5. *Only You Know* by Cornelia Murr
- 6. *Just Us* by Billie Marten
- 7. *City-Crazy* by Bridget St John
- 8. *When We Get Home* by Evangeline, Logan Bowden
- 9. *SHELL (OF A MAN)* by Saya Gray

- 10. *Neighborhood* by Evangeline
- 11. *Better* by Alice Phoebe Lou
- 12. *My Girl* by Memoriy
- 13. *My Bones* by Hannah Jadagu

About Addison Hillman:

Addison Hillman is a producer and songwriter with a fondness for the slower moments in a busy lifestyle. Food, art, and friends create the pockets of intimacy that make living in the city worth it.

LISTEN NOW!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLACE AN AD IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE DISTRICT TEA?

PLEASE EMAIL HELLO@MEATPACKING-DISTRICT.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.

AANHPIHM FESTIVITIES

In anticipation of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AANHPIHM) this May, we asked our friends at Pearl River Mart to share how they plan to celebrate.

For the past several years, our AANHPIHM festivities have spanned beyond our stores, reaching throughout Chelsea Market and into the Meatpacking District, and ranging from art and community to food and beverage to entrepreneurship and innovation.

Food and beverage activations — As part of an ongoing series at Pearl River Mart Foods (located on the lower level of Chelsea Market), we'll be hosting free demos and tastings from a variety of AAPI-owned consumer goods businesses. Past participants have included Anna Ye Tea, Mama Lam's, OMA seaweed soup, Reprise Health, Tasting India, and many more. The tasting series will culminate in a festive event in mid-to-late May in the beautiful top-floor space of Chelsea Market.

While this year's event may look a bit different than previous years, it will still feature innovators and entrepreneurs in the AAPI food and beverage industry (including chefs, restaurant owners, and consumer goods founders), delicious bites and sips, and lots of fun. More details to come! Please visit pearlriver.com, sign up for our newsletter, or follow us on social to get the latest info and for advance tickets.

Art exhibition of AAPI comic book and graphic novel artists — The show will be accompanied by outdoor tabletop installations throughout the Meatpacking District and a companion exhibition in our Soho flagship store at 452 Broadway, which will feature the artists' contemporary interpretations of the Chinese legend, the Monkey King, in NYC Chinatown today.

Curated by graphic novel artist Jerry Ma (*Monkey King, Conan the Barbarian, the New York Mets*), this group show will showcase the work of esteemed graphic novel and comic artists, including Bernard Chang (*Batman Beyond, Wonder Woman, Daredevil/Deadpool*), Sean Chen (*Iron Man, Elektra*), Soo Lee (*Maleficent, Cheetara, Star Wars*), Howard Ma (*YunYi Design*), Jerry Ma, Jerome Opena (*Wolverine, The Avengers, Spawn*), and Kimberly Wang (*Of Thunder and Lightning*).

Products from AAPI-owned small businesses — As always, we'll have new products in our Chelsea Market retail store, Pearl River Mart Foods, and our Soho flagship, many of which will be from AAPI-owned small businesses.

Visit Pearl River Mart and Pearl River Mart Foods at 75 Ninth Avenue.



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PARIS

YOU ARE INVITED

Discover Sisley's NEW make-up, a 2-in-1 COLOR CLOUD for lips and cheeks.

Indulge in complimentary sweet treats, makeup touch ups & colorful surprises

MAISON SISLEY
652 Hudson St, New York

Saturday, May 3rd 1 pm-6 pm
Sunday, May 4th 1 pm - 6 pm

Lipstick is the new blush

Ivy Jeanne, the Meatpacking Queen

This past March, we celebrated Ivy Brown’s legacy in Meatpacking—40 years of art, vision, and community at the iconic Little Triangle Building at 675 Hudson Street. From artist and resident to gallery owner, Ivy has left an incredible mark on the District. As she put it, “There’s nothing like living in the middle of the road.” Read on about Ivy’s legacy in the Meatpacking District.



Meatpacking District (MTPK): You’ve been in Meatpacking for 40 years. What initially drew you to the district, and how has it shaped your career and artistic vision?

Ivy Brown (IB): The architecture of the area and the light were a huge draw for me. Not being crowded by tall buildings, being able to see the sky, and feeling the sun is unique in NYC. And the buildings themselves have so much character. There was a romantic sensation about living in an area considered ‘No Man’s Land.’ Not many people lived here, and those that did were primarily artists so we were a very tight-knit community. If I were cooking and needed an egg, I would call Phoebe. If I needed to get something fixed, I would call Jeff; if I couldn’t get into my place, I would call Ed. If my dog were sick, I would call Coco, and so on.

The meatpackers would start to arrive around 9 pm, around midnight they started to unload the trucks, the meat hung on large hooks attached to a conveyor belt, the carcasses would come flying out of the trucks, casting shadows on the surrounding buildings from the fires the meatpackers had going in large oil cans to keep their hands warm. They wore white coats that were blood stained, quite the look, really, and very film noir. It definitely influenced my aesthetic, how could it not?

Your gallery has been a staple in Meatpacking’s cultural landscape. Can you share a defining moment or story that captures its essence over the years?

IB: The gallery was initially an extension of my previous life as a photographer, stylist and set designer, and make-up artist representative. When I started in that industry, it was an analog, it then became digital, and many aspects that I enjoyed went away. Building sets, renting

animals, and street casting were all done in post-production so as not to spend the time or money doing it in real life. My thought was to open the gallery as a creative playground for me and the artists to offset this new relativity.

The initial plan was to open in 2002, then September 11th happened and I felt it very important to do something for the community, so on November 8th, 2001, we had our first show. The gallery was nowhere near ready, the walls weren’t built or painted, the track lighting wasn’t up, the floors weren’t done. It was a raw room. The artists grouped together, went to Material for the Arts, got bolts of red velvet fabric and tubing, and then created red curtain walls. They made an environment that looked like Pee Wee Herman Playhouse meets Bordello. One of the photographers had a series of pictures of his childhood toys with a painted blue sky and clouded background and Easter grass foreground. We printed them up to 6ft and framed them in gold baroque frames. We had the actual toys on shelves next to each image. On opening night we had nine performance artists, Bob the wall girl (slightly X-rated). Bob was topless with her chest protruding from the wall and her feet on roller skates sticking out. She sassed people as they walked by. Dirty Martini was one of the performers and seven other angry clowns who interacted with the crowd.

It was the first time many people had gone out for a social occasion since the events on 9/11, and we wanted to have enough happening so you did not have to talk about the events but experience what was before you. 600 people attended that night. It was our first event and we did not have the gallery space separated from our living space, so people were everywhere, we found people in our bathtub, in our bed, etc. Let’s just say it was a learning experience.

MTPK: You’ve worked with countless artists throughout your career. Are there any standout collaborations or artists who have particularly influenced you or the gallery’s evolution?



IB: That is a hard question, there are so many amazing artists I have had the honor to work with. From artists to performers, musicians, singers, and dancers that we have worked with over the

years, I wouldn’t want to name one or a few that stand out more than the others, but I have evolved and my aesthetic has matured over time. Each exhibition offers new challenges. It is exciting and inspires me.

MTPK: This 40th anniversary is a major milestone. What does this celebration mean to you personally and professionally?

IB: This milestone is a true celebration of the area and this isosceles triangle I have been blessed with as my home and my workplace. It is where I have been my entire adult life. They say our brains are not totally formed until we are in our mid-twenties, so this place has formed me in so many ways inside and out. As I have witnessed its evolution and had my own evolution, we have grown together and formed each other. Who knows what my life would have been like if I had not lived in the middle of the road.



MTPK: Can you share one of your favorite memories—an exhibition, event, or encounter—that truly embodies your time in the district?

IB: Jeff, who lived across the street on the ground level, used to BBQ on Sundays on the sidewalk. His friends would come by and play musical instruments, and we would have a live concert every weekend.

We had a big party on the roof during our first summer here. We brought everything from the loft upstairs: the rugs, chairs, lamps, TV, beds, and spent the weekend on the roof with friends, cooking, hanging out, and dancing. We really did whatever we wanted and no one minded or bothered us. It was a wonderful place to be young and adventurous.

MTPK: As an artist and curator, you’ve witnessed waves of change in both the art world and the city itself. What excites you



most about the future of art in New York, and how do you see your role evolving?

IB: Change is a wonderful aspect of the city, and there has been a tremendous amount of change in this area over the years. Staying fluid is an essential part of benefiting from this lifestyle. That and taking what works for you, leaving the rest at the door, and not absorbing the parts that are not as appealing as others. Not all changes are welcome ones, but change is inevitable; it’s best to embrace it. I try to take it all in and incorporate it into the exhibitions. Each show reflects an aspect of the city and our various experiences. What is exciting is that we never know exactly what might happen next. Staying open to it all is my best defense.

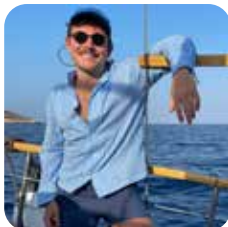
MTPK: Looking ahead, what’s next for Ivy Brown? Any upcoming projects, visions, or goals that you’re particularly excited about?

IB: Good question, I love curating and would like to spread my wings a bit more and curate at several types of locations. I have a few bucket list exhibitions that I would like to see come to fruition. There are a few other mediums of work I would like to have on my roster. And I would like to do public art and bring art to people rather than people to art. I love working with students and if there is a way I can help inspire the next generation, I would be honored to do that.



WORTH THE WAIT

This January, we launched a new newsletter series called *Worth the Wait*. This monthly newsletter series showcases a collection of items + experiences we've been loving. Readers can expect monthly selections from the Meatpacking staff and picks from those who live and work in the neighborhood. While we always hope our work resonates with the community and highlights the neighborhood we all love, we were grateful, if not a little shocked, for the overwhelming positive feedback and love in response to our first issue so we decided to share a bit of the series with you, our dear District Tea reader.



DILLON NORRIS

Related Companies +
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SARDINES EN CONSERVE FROM PASTIS

Breton sardines, served alongside Bordier butter. Painfully simple, and my favorite dish in the District.



CITY SLICKER TALLOW SOAP FROM DICKSON'S

Pure tallow soap made by my butcher. Ladies will love you, men will fear you, dogs will follow you home.



MIDDLEBROW

I met one of the hosts at a party. At first, it felt strange listening to a podcast hosted by a peer, but I have since made peace with it.



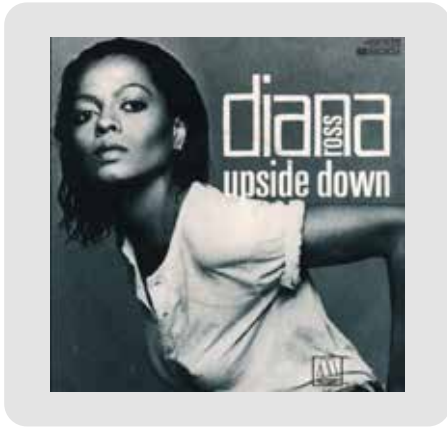
PATHY LOAFER FROM BALLY

I was recently gifted these, which feel like the mature footwear progression for a mid-Atlantic native raised in Sperry topsiders.



TAHRA KHANUJA

Marketing + Operations Intern
Meatpacking District BID



UPSIDE DOWN BY DIANA ROSS

My spring song on repeat. It's full of movement and fun to listen to while I'm on the go - walking or biking to class, through the Meatpacking District, or running on the West Side Highway.



SUNNY MOODY BAG FROM ZADIG & VOLTAIRE

I can bike with it and put all my school stuff in it while looking super stylish.



PARROT WALL LIGHT FROM LLADRÓ

I have nowhere to put this, but it's so fun to me.



ANN KASSY

General Manager
of Serafina



PETROSSIAN

I love going for a casual tasting at Petrossian before I get a tin or two. My favorites are the Smoked Trout, and a tin of Royal Kaluga Huso Hybrid Caviar.



KREWE

I love the store's aesthetic and their glasses. They also have a little wine bar, &Holiday, in the back of the store, where you can go for a glass of bubbles or wine.



HAPPY HOUR AT SERAFINA

We started Happy Hour at Serafina Meatpacking, and I personally enjoy being behind the bar and doing the service. Monday - Friday from 3 - 6pm. Happy hour specials Monday through Friday from 3 pm to 6 pm. We offer \$7 beers, \$9 wines, and \$12 cocktails. You can pair your drinks with \$8 snacks, \$10 little bites, or \$12 pizza.



RACHEL CHANOCH

Founder/Creative Director
of Cherry Orchard



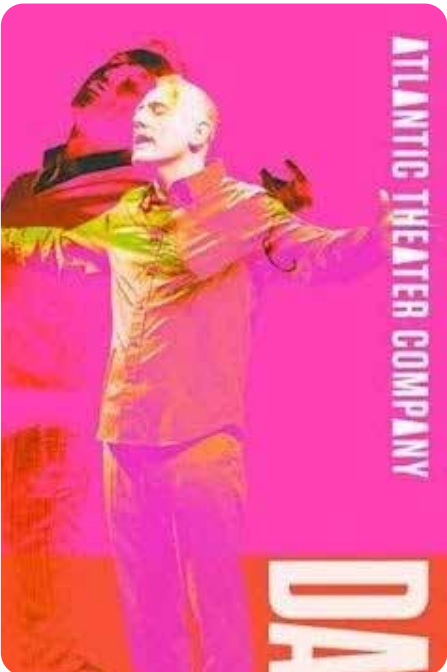
FAVORITE BITE

The fatty tuna + caviar roll from Maki a Mano.



FAVORITE (NOT HIDDEN) BUT SLIGHTLY LESS FREQUENTED GEM

Genesis House for tea or cocktails overlooking the west side.



FAVORITE ART

Plays at the Atlantic Theater Company's underground black box theater - Stage 2.



FAVORITE BEAUTY SPOT

Maison Sisley - I keep coming back to the black rose cream mask.

MORNING MOVEMENT - 3 WORKOUTS IN ONE MORNING



On the first warm Friday in March, Julia Bailey, Kevin Capuno, and Tahra Khanuja of the Meatpacking BID set out to accomplish the seemingly impossible: fit in three different fitness classes in Meatpacking over the course of one workday. Armed with reusable water bottles, layers of gym clothes, and a determination to crush their goals, the trio set off with unshakable enthusiasm. But in a surprising twist, Julia, the mastermind behind the excursion, fell suspiciously ill, leaving Kevin and Tahra to carry on and conquer the challenge on their own.

8:00 AM SOUL CYCLE: THE MORNING ENERGY BOOST

First up was SoulCycle, where the energy was high from the get-go. Viper, the instructor, was as motivating as you’d want someone to be at 8 in the morning. The class had a Fred Again-themed playlist. Now, while Kevin and Tahra would probably argue that there are better artists out there (no offense to Fred, but there’s no beating the Wicked soundtrack), the beats were actually the perfect way to get the pedals moving and the heart pumping. Viper teased a track they had been working on...

And let’s not forget the SoulCycle facilities, which are top-tier. From the spacious locker rooms to the showers that made post-workout cleanup feel like a breeze, they’ve got everything covered for a solid start to your day.

Kevin and Tahra grabbed some breakfast burritos at Los Tacos No. 1 in Chelsea Market to fuel up before the next class. Note that these burritos are only available from 8 AM to 11AM, Monday through Friday. So, yeah, the early bird really does get the burrito.



10:30 AM BODYROK: MIDDAY RECHARGE

After an intense SoulCycle ride, the next stop was BODYROK, where the vibe was a welcome

change of pace, especially with the studio bathed in natural sunlight. BODYROK blends low-impact reformer Pilates with high-intensity cardio, so it’s a solid mix of challenging but restorative. While the classes are open to beginners, it’s definitely helpful to have a basic understanding of Pilates to keep up with the flow.

The class itself? No walk in the park. When they say “full-body workout,” they mean it. Every minute of the class was tough, hitting all muscle groups without the impact. If you’re looking to work every inch of your body while being kind to your joints, this is the place to be.

An obvious need for an after-class treat, the BODYROK studio is a few steps away from Juice Generation, where we grabbed smoothies.



12:30 PM LIFTONIC: ENDING ON A STRONG NOTE

Last on the workout list was a visit to LIFTONIC. LIFTONIC is the kind of class you sign up for when you want to end your day feeling accomplished. Walking down the steps into the basement studio definitely gives you that “this is where the magic happens” vibe... It’s a little intimidating, but you can tell hard work is about to go down.

The instructor? Super welcoming and friendly. Rachael took the time to walk through each exercise, making sure everyone was comfortable and ready to push themselves. It was a perfect



balance of tough, yet approachable, and by the end of the class, Kevin and Tahra were definitely feeling like they had earned their post-workout snack (or maybe a nap).



Suppose there’s one thing that’s clear after spending a Friday in Meatpacking hopping between three fitness classes: it’s that getting a solid workout in this neighborhood is definitely doable - and actually kind of fun. The District offers a range of workouts that can accommodate many fitness levels. Plus, doing it with friends or coworkers is even more rewarding. There’s no excuse not to try something new and see how much you can accomplish in a single day. And hey, if you’re doing all this for a “sweet treat reward,” then so be it. You may feel a little different a couple of hours later...



PASTELS + PETALS

This spring, awaken your eyes with color! Sephora’s wide selection of eyeshadow shades and pigments has something for everyone – find the perfect look to unleash your creativity and make a bold statement. Visit the store on select days in April for unique beauty experiences.

Visit Sephora at 21-27 Ninth Avenue.



MERIT ~ SOLO SHADOWS
This cream-to-powder matte formula makes the eye look effortless. The shades can be worn alone for easy everyday looks or combined for elevated vision. Create the ease of everyday beauty with Merit on April 10th.



ILIA ~ EYE STYLUS SHADOW STICK
These long-wearing shadow sticks come in a wide array of shades in both matte and shimmer finishes to accentuate any eye. Discover the beauty of clean cosmetics with Ilia on April 11th.



ARMANI BEAUTY ~ EYE TINT LONG-LASTING LIQUID EYESHADOW
The Armani eye tints come in three finishes: matte, shimmer, and metallic. These pigmented, long-lasting eyeshadows have a buildable color payoff to customize any look and can double as an eyeliner. Classic beauty can be yours with Armani Beauty on April 9th.



PRADA ~ DIMENSIONS MULTI-EFFECT REFILLABLE EYESHADOW PALETTE
Prada’s eyeshadow palette places artistry from the runway into your hands with multi- dimensional shades that give you 10-hour high-impact color. Rethink beauty with Prada on April 10th.

COMING SOON: WEST 14TH STREET PROMENADE

This May, the Meatpacking District’s public space revolution evolves yet again. The West 14th Street Promenade installation will reinforce the neighborhood’s commitment to creating vibrant urban environments where visitors and locals alike meet to enjoy the District’s unique character.

The Promenade is an innovative project that will significantly expand pedestrian space along West 14th Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues. The promenade features five distinct public decks, creating a total of 3,500 additional square feet of public space. Each deck offers unique seating arrangements and amenities designed to enhance the streetscape and visitor experience.

Identified as part of the BID’s ambitious Western Gateway Public Realm Vision, which was unveiled in 2022, this is the second project achieved in the vision plan in as many years. The first project, Gansevoort Landing, was installed in 2023 as part of this initiative and is located along Tenth Ave just south of the Whitney Museum.

MEETING GROWING DEMAND

West 14th Street has evolved dramatically over the past ten years. Following the openings of several landmark destinations, including Little Island, Genesis House, Pier 57, and Gansevoort Peninsula, the corridor has emerged as a critical neighborhood thoroughfare. This evolution has transformed the street from simply a shopping corridor into a vital connection to the booming Hudson River waterfront.

The numbers tell a compelling story: In 2024 alone, approximately 2 million people used West 14th Street to access Hudson River Park—a remarkable 200% increase from just a few years ago. Rather than forcing these growing crowds of shoppers, school groups, tourists, and others onto already congested sidewalks, the 14th Street Promenade will offer passersby more space by reclaiming an underutilized roadway and converting it into much-needed pedestrian amenities.

MORE THAN JUST A WALKWAY

The promenade is designed to be a destination in itself, not merely a path to somewhere else. Visitors will discover thoughtfully designed seating areas, engaging furniture installations, and dedicated spaces for rotating public art displays. In the future, the area will welcome small concessions such as coffee carts and wine bars, further enriching the street’s experience that complements the Ninth Avenue plazas.

For those who have experienced the frustration of waiting for a table at the popular Gansevoort Plaza, the West 14th Street Promenade offers an alternative. With tables and seating, it will allow even more people to enjoy outdoor public spaces throughout the district.

WORLD-CLASS DESIGN MEETS HISTORIC CHARACTER

True to the Meatpacking District’s reputation for excellence, the BID has partnered with internationally acclaimed Scandinavian furniture designer Vestre to create the promenade’s distinctive atmosphere. The collaboration will result in custom wood and metal decks complemented by sleek, contemporary furniture—a modern touch that will harmonize beautifully with the neighborhood’s historic cobblestone streets.

The West 14th Street Promenade is a testament to the Meatpacking District’s ongoing commitment to thoughtful urban design that respects the area’s rich history while boldly embracing its future. When complete, this new public amenity will offer yet another reason to visit, linger, and experience the unique character that makes the Meatpacking District one of New York City’s most beloved neighborhoods.

NYC IN FOCUS



We asked our favorite neighbor photographer, Max Guliani, to share his selection of his favorite photographs of the city. Read on about Max's passion for capturing urban life.

A proud West Village native, Max Guliani's journey behind the lens began in the heart of New York City, where his passion for photography has captured the vibrant pulse of urban life. Max served as the official photographer for Hudson River Park starting in 2015, documenting community events—from lively fitness classes and spirited street festivals to serene waterfront

moments. His work played a pivotal role in engaging the park's community, growing its social media presence to over 50,000 followers.

Max's talent and vision have not gone unnoticed. He earned the grand prize in the Empire State Building's 2020 photo contest and was also the category winner of the Empire State Building's 2023 Annual Photo Contest. His compelling cityscapes and storytelling have resonated across respected outlets such as ABC News, NBC, Time Out New York, and The Weather Channel.

Growing up, Max also played for Downtown United Soccer Club, an experience that deepened his connection to New York's vibrant community life.

Today, Max continues to shape New York's narrative by serving as the Digital Media Director in the District Office of Council Member Erik Bottcher, where he leverages his creative expertise to engage and inform the community.

For a glimpse into his portfolio, visit his Instagram @maximusupinnyc.



PAVING THE WAY ON THE COBBLESTONES OF MEATPACKING



The Meatpacking District is proud to continue its partnership with the High School of Fashion Industries (HSFI) for the third year. This unique high school is the only one in the United States to offer a curriculum that encompasses fashion, art, and business.



We're eagerly anticipating the 37th Annual Fashion Show & Fundraiser at Gansevoort Plaza, one of our most beloved events. HSFI Senior Michelle Bassedas Galvez has shared some insights into this year's show, and we can't wait to share them with you.

Meatpacking District (MTPK): Please tell us about yourself. How did you become interested in fashion?

MICHELLE BASSEDAS GALVEZ (MBG): While many kids typically receive gifts like a new doll or a tablet for Christmas, I was fortunate enough to receive a Magnetic Fashion Barbie book. This gift sparked my fascination with fashion and solidified my desire to pursue it as a career. Growing up in a Hispanic household, where there is often pressure to follow traditional paths like law or medicine, I am grateful that my mom encouraged my passion for fashion. She even bought me my first sewing machine, and her unwavering support has been instrumental in my journey within the fashion industry.

MTPK: This is the third year the Meatpacking District is hosting the fashion show on Gansevoort Plaza. Last year's show theme was Dark Academia. What is this year's theme?

MBG: This year, the seniors at the High School of Fashion Industries are designing garments centered around the theme "Amazon Sanctuary."

MTPK: What inspired your work in the senior showcase this year?

MBG: This year, my work has been profoundly influenced by the captivating beauty of dragonflies and water lilies. Reflecting on my childhood visits to the Botanical Garden in Queens, I recall being mesmerized by the graceful presence of dragonflies, which have always intrigued me. Their delicate movements and vibrant colors left a lasting impression, inspiring my fashion exploration this year.

MTPK: How have you interpreted this year's theme?

MBG: I approached the theme with an optimistic perspective, emphasizing the beauty of water lilies and dragonflies. I highlighted their vibrant colors and delicate intricacies, showcasing their importance in the Amazon Sanctuary. However, I discovered that 16% of the 6,016 dragonfly species are at risk of extinction, primarily due to wetland habitat destruction. In South America, forest clearing for construction threatens their homes, while in North America, pesticides and climate change pose significant risks.

MTPK: What does it mean to you to present your work live in the Meatpacking District?

MBG: This is an incredible opportunity that I've eagerly anticipated since my sophomore year. The Meatpacking District is one of my favorite places to visit, so being able to present my work live there is truly a tremendous honor and a dream come true.

MTPK: What designers or creators in the world are currently inspiring you? If it's not a person, where do you draw your inspiration?

MBG: Mugler and Coco Chanel are two designers currently inspiring me with their exceptional ability to convey femininity through their garments. I admire how each designer has a distinctive signature style that makes their work easily recognizable. For instance, Mugler's Spring 1998 Haute Couture fashion show stands out as one of the most striking displays of creativity and boldness in fashion, showcasing his innovative approach and unique aesthetic.

MTPK: What are your goals in fashion? Where would you like to see your career grow post-high school?

MBG: My aspirations in fashion include making a significant impact at the Meatpacking Industry Show. Although I don't plan to pursue a fashion career after high school, I aim to captivate audiences with my creations at the show in May. Ultimately, I hope to transition into elementary school teaching, inspiring children while continuing to sew as a hobby. This balance will allow my passion for fashion to thrive alongside

my commitment to education.

MTPK: What are some of your favorite moments during the process of bringing your art to life?

MBG: One of my favorite moments during the process was crafting my dragonfly wings. It was a meticulous yet rewarding experience, watching them come to life and feeling a sense of satisfaction from my hard work.

MTPK: Given it's your senior year, you are probably busy with everything going on, what do you like to do in your spare time to relax?

MBG: As a senior, my free time is quite limited. However, when I do find the opportunity to relax, I often indulge in reading or watching "Invincible." I also cherish going out and spending quality time with my loved ones.





THE RECIPE

GNOCCHI WITH DELICATA SQUASH, TROMPETTES DE LA MORTE, & HAZELNUT PESTO

RECIPE BY
Chef Jonathan Waxman, Barbuto

SERVES 4

For the Gnocchi (yields 64 gnocchi):

Sea salt
4 medium russet potatoes
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 eggs, beaten
1 1/2 cups (180 g) all-purpose flour

FOR THE DISH

64 frozen gnocchi (above)
1 cup seeded and sliced delicata squash
4 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 cup sliced green onions
1 cup trompettes de la morte
1/2 cup hazelnut pesto (your favorite recipe or bought)
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

1. Make the gnocchi: Place the potatoes in a large pot of cold, salted water. Bring to a simmer and cook for 45 minutes. Remove and let cool.

2. In a ricer, rice the potatoes, removing the peels as you go, onto a work surface. Sprinkle the riced potatoes with the one tablespoon oil, one teaspoon salt, the beaten eggs, and flour.

3. Gently but quickly gather the ingredients into a very tender dough and shape it into a mound.

Cut the dough into six portions. Roll out each one at a time, into a rope 3/4-inch thick. Cut into 3/4-inch lengths and freeze the gnocchi for at least 2 hours or until ready to be used.

4. In a large sauté pan, add the delicata squash, one tablespoon butter, and one tablespoon of olive oil. Sauté the squash for about 5 minutes. Remove from the pan and let cool.

5. Cook the dish: In the same pan, heat one tablespoon of olive oil and one tablespoon of butter over medium heat; add 32 of the gnocchi (yes, still frozen!). Sauté the gnocchi until lightly brown, about 5 minutes, turning to ensure that all sides get an equal color. Remove the cooked gnocchi and keep warm.

6. Repeat step 5 with the remaining 32 gnocchi, then add onions, delicata squash, and the mushrooms. Add the previously cooked gnocchi to the pan and toss well.

7. Add the pesto and 1/2 cup of cold water.

8. Add 2 tablespoons of butter and the grated cheese.

9. Toss well and season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot!

Watch the latest episode of Meatpacking Unpacked featuring Chef Jonathan Waxman at [youtube.com/@meatpackingny](https://www.youtube.com/@meatpackingny).

Visit Barbuto at 113 Horatio St.



THE LOBSTER CLASP, REINVENTED

Renna Brown-Taher, the Founder and Creative Director of RENNA, drew inspiration from the lobster clasp to design an innovative and beautiful new functional design.

“The standard clasp mechanism for a necklace or a bracelet has been called a lobster clasp. I was walking down the beach one day, and I found a little lobster claw or crab claw, and I started playing with it, and it clicked with me why it’s called the lobster claw clasp. I immediately started designing this clasp. It is actually our lobster claw. It has little teeth in there. This [clasp] has a reverse set of diamonds. So when you touch it, it really feels kind of spiny. Not only is the clasp functional, it’s also really beautiful. Its utility can be worn to the front so you can really see the clasp in action. When I designed them, I immediately started looking online, and I said, well somebody has obviously done this before. It’s a lobster clasp, but upon research, nobody has actually done it before. We submitted them for a patent, and we received a patent, which is really exciting.” - Renna Brown-Taher

Visit the RENNA Studio at 416 West 13th Street, Suite 206.



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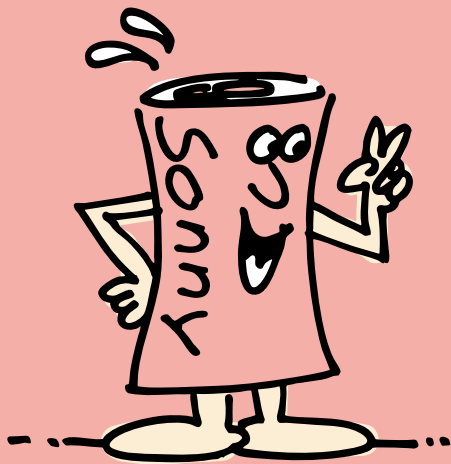
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SAY CHEESE



The cheesiest happy hour in the district can be found in the lower level of Chelsea Market at Saxelby Cheesemongers. Enjoy \$3 off grilled cheese sandwiches at Saxelby every day from 3-5 PM. You're likely to find at least one Meatpacking staff member there each week!



Tequila tastes better when it's Sonny 🌵

DRINKSONNY.COM

THE DISTRICT TEA