



JMArts Presents

New York Arts Adventure '24

An Arts-Intensive Experience in New York City

Spring Break • April 2-6, 2024

JMArts created the New York Arts Adventure to give our young musicians, actors, dancers and visual artists an opportunity to experience the pinnacle of their art and learn directly from world-class professionals working in the city. The experience also provides new cultural and artistic perspectives that can shape their lives and work.

Why This Trip? Experience the City!

Many student groups visiting New York City arrive exhausted after long rides, stay outside of Manhattan, drive from location to location in busses and move around the city in large groups. But we want students not only to see one of the world's great cities, but to *experience* city life as well. So, we fly to John F. Kennedy International or LaGuardia Airport, stay in a three- or four-star hotel near midtown Manhattan and explore the city by walking and subway. And, we move around the city in small groups, so we can go places larger groups cannot.

The trip is led by Rose and Chip Pate. Rose worked for decades as media coordinator at Jordan-Matthews and is president of JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation. They visit New York City several times each year and their son, Kirby, lived in the city while attending NYU and later producing "Three on the Aisle," a podcast starring national theater critics Peter Marks, Terry Teachout and Elisabeth Vincentelli.

Getting to New York City: Flights

We take a very early flight from Raleigh-Durham International, allowing us to arrive at our hotel and get settled in time for brunch, and a late-afternoon return flight from New York City, so we'll have some time in the city the day we depart, but still won't get home too late, even if there are minor delays. We book flights as soon as we receive deposits from the entire travel party and airfares are favorable. The non-refundable trip deposit of \$250 per person is used to purchase the round-trip airfare.

This year's flights go in and out of JFK Airport. While schedules may change, here are our flights for this year's trip:

Tuesday, April 2	D-RDU	6:05 a.m.
Delta 5239	A-JFK	7:57 a.m.
Saturday, April 6	D-JFK	4:25 p.m.
JetBlue 1185	A-RDU	6:22 p.m.

Staying in the City: Accommodations

With a limit of eight upperclass students, we have already reserved two student hotel rooms, each with two queen beds, at an average nightly rate below the typical Manhattan rates for this busy time of year. But we continue monitoring hotels and rates, rebooking until our trip to secure the best combination of price and location.

Our current hotel is the [Hilton Garden Inn New York/Manhattan-Chelsea](#) in the vibrant Flower District, a short walk from some of the city's major attractions and convenient to many subway lines (1/2/3/N/Q/R/W/B/D/F/M).

Arts Adventures: Exploring World-Class Arts

While there will be plenty of time for other fun activities, our purpose is to experience the best of the arts, which is why our plans usually include an art museum visit, street art tour and workshop, and five theatrical, dance or musical performances — all selected after consulting with the students and focusing on some of the "hot" and award-winning productions that may not be touring for several years and will be contending for Tony and Off Broadway awards. ("Off Broadway" refers to the size of the theater, not the neighborhood or quality of performance.)

To help students understand how world-class artists develop their skills, create work and achieve success, we are arranging opportunities for JM students to meet and learn from some of the most successful professionals anywhere. Because of the professional artists' volatile schedules, these events are always subject to change:

- *Theater in New York and Beyond: Conversation with Peter Marks.* Lunch and conversation with [Peter Marks](#), longtime drama critic for The Washington Post and four-time chair of the Pulitzer Prize drama jury, at [Joe Allen Restaurant](#), the famed destination for theater patrons and professionals. Peter, who received his own Pulitzer Prize in 1992 as part of a spot-news reporting team, is a JMArts member and informal advisor who meets regularly with our students visiting New York. So, this extended, candid, trip-ending conversation goes in many different directions, but usually begins with shows the students saw in the city and continues with the theater scene in New York, Siler City and beyond. After that, it's wherever our students want to take it.
- *Life in the Arts: Conversation with Jessie Austrian.* Lunch and conversation with [Jessie Austrian](#), a founder and co-artistic director of the renowned [Fiasco Theater](#) company who describes herself as a "multi-hyphenate-theater-maker." In addition to her work with Fiasco — which included collaborating with theater-legend Stephen Sondheim on a new, Off-Broadway version of his musical, "Merrily We Roll Along" — she is a Broadway actor, theater director and adjunct faculty member at NYU's Gallatin School. Jessie has long been a JMArts supporter and advisor. While directing "Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood" at PlayMakers Repertory Company in Chapel Hill, she helped arrange a dazzling evening of backstage tours and post-show talkbacks for a large group of JM students attending the play. After taking Fiasco's nationally acclaimed production of "Into the Woods" to London, she shared her insight via video conference with the entire JM cast as they prepared their own production. And, Jessie regularly participates in this extended, candid, free-flowing conversation at [Joe Allen Restaurant](#), the famed destination for theater patrons and professionals, about navigating and enjoying a life in the arts.
- *Opening Night on Broadway.* For our first night in New York, we will be on Broadway for shows students selected. Some will see "[The Outsiders](#)," a new musical, from orchestra seats 13 rows from the Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre stage. Others will be across the street at the Marquis Theatre for the new revival of "[The Wiz](#)" with orchestra seats 12 rows from the stage.
- *"The Funniest Musical on Broadway."* We begin an absolutely epic day of musical theater at the St. James with matinee seats, ninth-row center, for the current revival of [Monty Python's "Spamalot"](#), a production that Washington Post theater critic Peter Marks has proclaimed "The Funniest Musical on Broadway." We hope to share more about this performance in weeks to come.

- *A Night at the Kit Kat Club.* After recovering from an afternoon of hysterical and (vaguely) historical laughter in medieval England, we take a sharply different journey for the evening: into pre-Nazi Berlin for the latest Broadway revival of "[Cabaret](#)." Perhaps the most-anticipated show of this New York theater season, the musical starring Eddie Redmayne and Gayle Rankin takes place in a completely transformed August Wilson Theatre with music and dance performances beginning an hour before the musical, and we'll encounter it all from seats just eight rows from the circular, central stage. *Premium seats are not always possible, but thanks to a special contribution, we were able to give students this chance to see world-class performances in detail.*
- *Thursday Choices.* Our week continues on Thursday night with some students on the first tier at Lincoln Center, overlooking the New York Philharmonic, for "[Alice Sara Ott Performs Ravel](#)." Others will be back on Broadway, 11th row center at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre, for the new, highly-acclaimed musical, "[& Juliet](#)," which received nine Tony nominations last season including one for Best Musical. *Premium seats are not always possible, but thanks to a special contribution, we were able to give students this chance to see world-class performances in detail.*
- *Stepping Off Broadway.* Performances on this year's New York Arts Adventure conclude with front-row center seats for "[The Play That Goes Wrong](#)," a raucously funny farce that performed on Broadway before moving to New World Stages to continue its run Off Broadway. This long-running play is always a huge hit with JM students and the perfect way to conclude a busy week exploring world-class arts.
- *Perspectives: Art on the Street.* The New York Arts Adventure is not only about performance art. We'll take a deep dive into visual art beginning with a private street-art tour of Brooklyn's artistic Bushwick neighborhood, most likely led by noted street-art guide Audrey (AKA Bytegirl). The tour will be followed by a hands-on graffiti workshop, most likely conducted by world-famous graffiti writer [Leaf](#).
- *Perspectives: Art in the Museum.* After encountering some of the city's best street art, we'll have lunch before moving into the museum for some of the world's most famous contemporary works at the [Museum of Modern Art](#) — including Vincent van Gogh's "The Starry Night," Salvador Dali's "The Persistence of Memory," Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. M.)" and Andy Warhol's "Campbell's Soup Cans" and Frida Kahlo's "Self-Portrait with Cropped Hair." *We prepared a list of "MoMA's Greatest Hits" to help students shape their own journey through the museum.*

Urban Adventures: Exploring One of the World's Great Cities

The arts are our primary focus, but there's much more to explore in one of the world's great cities. In fact, *far* too much for any single visit. But as our trip approaches, we'll discuss options with students and build city adventures into our five days. As with the arts performances, we may offer two options for each city adventure. Here is a sample of possible options:

1 World Trade Center • 9/11 Memorial • 9/11 Museum • African Burial Ground National Monument • American Museum of Natural History • Brooklyn Bridge Walk • Brooklyn Museum • Canal Street Shopping • Carnegie Hall • Central Park • Chinatown and Columbus Park • Ellis Island • Empire State Building • Federal Hall National Memorial • Federal Reserve Bank Tour • Fraunces Tavern • Frick Collection • Grand Central Terminal • Guggenheim Museum • High Line Park • Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Tour • Macy's and Herald Square • Mahayana Buddhist Temple • Metropolitan Museum of Art • Museum at FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology) • Museum of Arts and Design • Museum of Broadway • Museum of Chinese in America • Museum of the City of New York • Museum of Illustration • Museum of Jewish Heritage • Museum of the Moving Image • NBC Studio Tour • New Museum • New York Public Library Exhibitions • New York Transit Museum • Rockefeller Center • St. Patrick's Cathedral • Staten Island Ferry (Manhattan and Statue of Liberty views) • Tenement Museum • SUMMIT One Vanderbilt • The Cloisters • Times Square at Night • Trinity Church and Alexander Hamilton Burial Site • TV Show Taping • United Nations • University Tour (Barnard College, Columbia University, Cooper Union, Fashion Institute of Technology, Fordham University, Hunter College, New School University or NYU) • Wall Street, Charging Bull and Fearless Girl • Washington Square Park • Whitney Museum of American Art • Wicked: Behind the Emerald Curtain tour • And there's much, much more.

In consultation with participants, here's what we included in this 2024 New York Arts Adventure:

- *Perspectives: Historic Downtown New York.* Lower Manhattan has a long social history as a Lenape homeland, Dutch settlement, English colony, first capital of the United States, center of world finance and location for one of the worst terrorist attacks in American history. We will spend one morning exploring Downtown New York. One focus is a round trip on the [Staten Island Ferry](#) to see the Statue of Liberty and the tip of historic Manhattan by water. But other stops will likely include the [9/11 Memorial](#), [African Burial Ground](#), [Trinity Church Cemetery](#) with burial sites for Alexander Hamilton and Robert Fulton, [Wall Street](#) and the New York Stock Exchange, and two notable sculptures: [Fearless Girl](#) and [Charging Bull](#).
- *Perspectives: A Different View of Our World.* JM artists will get an extraordinarily different perspective of our physical world from more than 90 floors above Manhattan at [SUMMIT One Vanderbilt](#), exploring mirrored observation decks and even viewing platforms that extend from the building over the streets far below.

- *Perspectives: Cultural Tastes.* Because food is such an essential expression of the local history and culture, we select dining experiences that showcase the city's best (and world's best) in affordable cuisines. *Most dining arrangements remain fluid during the trip to accommodate changes in our schedule and student requests.* But, thanks to a special contribution from a JMArts supporter, we hope to return this year to experience [Blue Ribbon Brasserie](#), an iconic restaurant known for its late-night dining scene where the country's top chefs often congregate and eat after closing their own kitchens. Other current plans include a trip-ending celebration over dim sum at Chinatown's historic [Nom Wah Tea Parlor](#), a trip-beginning excursion to [Ellen's Stardust Diner](#), an evening of New York specialties at [Junior's](#) and meals or quick tastes from [Breads Bakery](#), [Ess-a-Bagel](#), [Bushwick Pita Palace](#), [NY Pizza Suprema](#), [The Doughnut Project](#) and more.

2024 Current Itinerary

This is our current itinerary, developed around performances students selected and special opportunities to meet with world-class professionals. Some possible activities are still in the planning stages and some current plans could change.

Tuesday

Morning: Flight to New York City, Hotel Check-In and Brunch at Ellen's Stardust Diner
 Afternoon: Midtown Manhattan, SUMMIT One Vanderbilt and Free Time
 Evening: Broadway Musical: "The Outsiders" or "The Wiz"

Wednesday

Morning: Free Time
 Lunch: "Life in the Arts: Conversation With Jessie Austrian"
 Afternoon: Broadway Musical: "Monty Python's 'Spamalot'"
 Evening: Broadway Musical: "Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club"

Thursday

Morning: Street Art Tour and Graffiti Workshop
 Afternoon: Museum of Modern Art and Free Time
 Evening: Thursday Choices: "Alice Sara Ott Performs Ravel" with the New York Philharmonic or "& Juliet" on Broadway

Friday

Morning: Urban Adventure: Historic Downtown New York
 Lunch: "Theater in New York and Beyond: Conversation With Peter Marks"
 Afternoon: Free Time
 Evening: Off-Broadway Play: "The Play That Goes Wrong"

Saturday

Morning: Chinatown and Free Time
Brunch: Dim Sum at Nom Wah Tea Parlor
Afternoon: Check Out and Flight to Raleigh

What's the experience like for students? Here are some recent publications featuring the New York Arts Adventure:

- [Chatham Life magazine article](#) about the 2022 trip, a short read about what the trip does for students.
- [Chatham News + Record feature](#) about the 2022 trip, a longer article with plenty of photos and student reaction.
- [Chatham News + Record student diaries](#), a day-by-day look at the 2019 trip written by students.

Estimated Price

The *maximum* trip price for participants is \$1,275, *which includes all meals*, a price that was significantly reduced by a generous grant from the Galloway Ridge Chatham County Charitable Fund for all of the performances and arts activities.

Additional financial aid for participating students was provided by The Wren Foundation, so JM artists could participate in this once-in-a-lifetime adventure regardless of their family's current financial circumstances. JMArts also arranges opportunities for individual students to raise money for their trip; they include Raffle for the Arts, assisting with our annual Sing and Play student music competition and service at the PTA Thrift Shop.

Food is an essential part of the New York City experience, an expression of the local history and culture. Our meal plans are flexible, but will feature the best examples of the city's traditional, budget-friendly foods that are not too far out of students' comfort zone — pizza, bagels and ethnic specialties. Plan for \$100 for snacks not included in the trip.

Important Notes About the JM New York Arts Adventure

This is *not* an official school trip sponsored by either Jordan-Matthews High School or Chatham County Schools, but is offered with JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation.

We will be using the New York subway to get around the city. The subway is safe and reliable; but, as in any large city, riders should stay alert and travel in groups.

We will prepare release forms that will give us permission to seek emergency medical attention in the unlikely event that it's necessary and will require a photocopy of the student's insurance card. We cannot take students who have no medical insurance.

There will be a lot of walking and April weather is very unpredictable. Everyone should be prepared to walk — which, honestly, is how New Yorkers get around and the best way to experience the city — and bring layered clothing and a small folding umbrella.

Making Your Reservation

A \$250, non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a spot. The deposit covers the cost of airfare, so we can reserve seats as soon as a good itinerary is available at an attractive price. (Our \$200 air fare is much less than the group-travel options usually used for trips like these that would cost about \$630 for the same itinerary.)

We book flights early to get the best possible price while balancing several other factors. We want to keep our group together on the plane. We want flights that give us enough time in the city on the days we arrive and depart. And we want to fly better aircraft, since most RDU-NYC flights are on smaller, commuter jets. (One airline uses tiny, less-comfortable commuter jets than other airlines on these routes.)

Questions? We Have Answers!

If you have any questions about the JM New York Arts Adventure, feel free to contact Rose Pate at 919.721.1305 (mobile) or info@jmarts.org.