

# JM New York Arts Adventure

## Spring Break 2019

### April 16-20

JMArts created the New York Arts Adventure to give our young musicians, actors and visual artists an opportunity to experience the pinnacle of their art. So they know what “world-class” looks like — and learn how they might get there themselves. Also so they can gain new experiences and different cultural and artistic perspectives that will shape their lives and work.

#### **Why This Trip? Experience the City!**

Many school 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 will fly to La Guardia Airport, stay in a three-star hotel in Midtown Manhattan and explore the city by walking and subway. And, we will move around the city in small groups, so we can go places larger groups cannot.

The trip will be led by Rose and Chip Pate. Rose is media coordinator at Jordan-Matthews and president of JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation. They visit New York City several times each year and their son, Kirby, is a Jordan-Matthews and NYU alumnus who lives in the city and produces “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 an early flight from Raleigh-Durham International, allowing us to arrive at our hotel and get settled in time for lunch in the city, and a late-afternoon return flight from LaGuardia Airport, so we’ll have some time in the city the day we depart, but still won’t get home too late. Our flights have already been booked (flight numbers and times could change slightly):

RDU ▶ LGA	D-7:00 a.m.	A-8:47 a.m.	Delta 5871
LGA ▶ RDU	D-4:30 p.m.	A-6:25 p.m.	Delta 6057

#### **Staying in the City: Accommodations**

With a limit of eight upperclass students, we have reserved two student hotel rooms, each with two queen-sized beds. We currently have reservations at the Hilton Garden Inn New York/Manhattan-Chelsea, a three-star Hilton hotel in the Flower District, a vibrant neighborhood, 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). Our average nightly rate is well below the typical Manhattan rate

for this time of year. But we constantly monitor hotels to find the best combination of price and location, so we may change hotels before our trip.

### **Arts Adventures: Exploring World-Class Arts**

While there will be plenty of time for other fun activities, our main focus is to experience the best of the arts, which is why our plans include an art museum visit, jazz club session, street art experience, opera performance and four different kinds of theater performances.

For some performances, we will arrange two options, with students choosing which show they would like to attend. We anticipate attending at least one Broadway musical, Broadway play and Off-Broadway performance. ("Off-Broadway" refers to the size of the theater, not the neighborhood or quality of performance.) Traveling students will help select performances as the new season takes shape, 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.

To help students understand how world-class artists develop their skills, create their work and achieve success, we are arranging opportunities for JM students to meet and learn from some of the most successful professionals anywhere. They include:

- *Life in the Arts*, a wide-ranging discussion over lunch with Jessie Austrian, a Broadway actor, stage director, NYU faculty member, and co-artistic director/co-founder of the renowned Fiasco Theater.
- *Inside "Tootsie,"* a performance of the new Broadway musical followed by a private discussion about the musical and a look backstage and onstage with actor Andy Grotelueschen, who plays the role of Jeff Slater.
- *Street Art and Graffiti Culture*, a private street art tour of the Lower East Side followed by a hands-on graffiti workshop with noted artist JCORP, AKA Justine Wong.
- *All About Broadway*, a wide-ranging discussion over lunch with Pulitzer Prize recipient and Washington Post chief theater critic Peter Marks.
- *Life in the City*, an informal discussion over dim sum with *Three On the Aisle* theater podcast producer and JM alumnus Kirby Pate.

### **City 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 even for several visits. 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 • Berlin Wall Section • 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 • Ghostbusters Firehouse • 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 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 with Winnie the Pooh and Friends • New York Transit Museum • Rockefeller Center • St. Mark's Place • St. Patrick's Cathedral • Staten Island Ferry (Statue of Liberty view) • Tenement Museum • 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, NYU or one of many other universities in the city) • 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 more.

## Current Itinerary

some events could change

### Tuesday

Morning: Flight to New York City and Hotel Check-In  
 Afternoon: The Empire State Building and Midtown Manhattan  
 Evening: *Sleep No More* (immersive theater)

### Wednesday

Morning: Museum of Modern Art  
 Lunch: *Life in the Arts*: Lunch with Actor-Director-Producer Jessie Austrian  
 Afternoon: *Tootsie* and Post-Show Discussion with Actor Andy Grotelueschen  
 Evening: *La Traviata* with Plácido Domingo (Metropolitan Opera)

### Thursday

Morning: *Street Art and Graffiti Culture*: Tour and Workshop with Artist JCORP  
 Afternoon: Lower East Side/Washington Square Park/Greenwich Village/NYU  
 Evening: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Off Broadway play)

### Friday

Morning: New York Downtown  
 Late Lunch: *All About Broadway*: Lunch with Washington Post Critic Peter Marks  
 Evening: *Chicago* (Broadway musical)  
 Late Night: Dinner and Jazz Session featuring Trumpeter Bruce Harris  
 Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Jazz at Lincoln Center

## Saturday

- Morning: Farewell Dim Sum, Nom Wah Tea Parlor, Chinatown  
with Podcast Producer Kirby Pate
- Early Afternoon: Chinatown and Final “Must-Sees”
- Late Afternoon: Check Out and Flight to Raleigh

## Estimated Price

The *estimated* price of this trip, based on current expenses and projections, will be about \$1,800 (*which includes most meals*), depending on final costs and fundraising income.

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 on \$100 for meals and snacks not included in the trip.

We will provide fundraising options to reduce the cost to families. They include the Pig Out for JMArts, Big Apple Raffle, Sing and Play musical competition and possibly a few smaller projects. We also are seeking contributions specifically for the New York Arts Adventure from individuals and organizations.

Several individuals and community organizations have already made significant contributions. They include the Jordan-Matthews PTA for general expenses, The Wren Foundation for one full scholarship and the Galloway Ridge Charitable Fund for Plácido Domingo’s performance at The Metropolitan Opera and our private street art tour and hands-on graffiti workshop.

## 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 in conjunction 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 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!

We have created a private Facebook group to share travel tips, trip updates and updated information about our activities. Travelers may invite family members to join the group, as well, and post photos and comments during our trip for everyone to enjoy.

### **Making Your Reservation**

A \$250, non-refundable deposit was required to reserve your spot. The deposit covered the entire price of airfare, so we could reserve seats as soon as flight schedules offered a good itinerary at an attractive price. (Our \$250 air fare is much less than group travel options usually used for trips like these that would cost more than \$600 for a similar itinerary.)

We booked 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. We need to consider airport traffic (which is *never* good). And we want to fly better aircraft, since RDU-NYC flights are on smaller, commuter jets. (One airline uses smaller, less comfortable commuter jets 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 919.742.2916 or [rpate@chatham.k12.nc.us](mailto:rpate@chatham.k12.nc.us).