



Museum of the City of New York Announces 2025 New Series on Public Art, Criminal Justice Reform, and the NYC Mayoral Race

New York, New York (January 21, 2025) – The Museum of the City of New York (MCNY) is pleased to share details about the 2025 programs for *The Menschel Lecture Series for NYC History, Arts, and Culture*. The series brings together leading voices across sectors to engage in important discussions about New York City’s political, cultural, economic, and social landscape. Programs within the series foster dialogue on issues that impact the future of New York City.

“The Menschel Lecture Series is designed to spark important conversations about the cultural and political landscape of our city and offer attendees an opportunity to engage with thought leaders in ways that will shape the future of NYC. We thank MCNY Trustee Ronay and Richard Menschel for their generous support of this opportunity to bring timely and important conversations to our community,” shared Vice President of Education & Engagement, Nick Martinez.

Please find details on the series below:

The Role and Influence of Art in Three Major Public Spaces

Thursday, January 30, 2025

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Public art has the power to shape our environment, raise awareness, and bring beauty to the urban landscape. MCNY will host a panel discussion featuring experts from the MTA, the High Line, and Times Square Alliance, alongside two artists whose work is featured in subways stations. This event will explore how public art expresses cultural values, challenges perceptions, and is an important part of New York City’s identity.

Panelists:

Sandra Bloodworth, Former Director, MTA Arts & Design

Jean Cooney, Director, Times Square Arts, Times Square Alliance

Derrick Fordjour, Artist and Educator

Saya Woolfalk, Artist and Educator

Moderator: Cecilia Alemani, Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator, High Line Art

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Redefining Justice: Tackling Wrongful Convictions and Reforming the Criminal Justice System

Thursday, March 27, 2025

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

New York City has the third-highest number of wrongful convictions in the nation. This panel will discuss the urgent need for reform and explore ways to create a more reliable and accurate criminal justice system. The event will feature elected officials, attorneys, and those who have been exonerated, shedding light on how the justice system can be reformed to prevent future injustices.

Panelists:

Lucy Lang, New York State Inspector General

Yusef Salaam, New York City Councilmember, Exonerated Five

Christina Swarns, Executive Director, Innocence Project

Moderator: Soledad O'Brien, Journalist

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The Road to Gracie Mansion: The NYC Mayoral Race of 2025

Thursday, April 24, 2025

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The mayoral race in New York City is one of the most watched elections globally, with the Mayor of New York City often referred to as “The Nation’s Mayor.” As the city prepares for the 2025 election, this panel will explore the candidates, policies, and key issues that will shape the race and impact the future of the city.

Panelists:

Brigid Bergin, Senior Reporter, WNYC

Errol Louis, Political Anchor, Spectrum News NY1

Dana Rubenstein, Reporter, *The New York Times*

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About the Museum of the City of New York:

The country’s first and largest city museum, the Museum of the City of New York fosters an understanding of the distinctive nature of urban life in the world’s most influential metropolis. Through history, popular culture, and art, the Museum explores New York City’s influence nationally and globally. Named the "Best Museum" in *Time Out New York's* "Best of the City 2021," MCNY holds a 750,000-object collection and hosts two permanent exhibitions, two immersive films, and four rotating exhibitions in its historic building at the top of Museum Mile.

Media Contact: Chris Gorman, cgorman@mcny.org