



in collaboration with



**Jane's Walk - Four Freedoms Park, Roosevelt Island  
and the New Urban Agenda  
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Saturday, 6 May 2017  
Roosevelt Island, New York City**

Key Contact and Tour Guide:

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**About the Walk:**

In 1969, there was an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York called: THE ISLAND THAT NOBODY KNOWS. It presented the Johnson/Burgee Master Plan for Roosevelt Island for the first time. After a century of being the home of several hospitals, a lunatic asylum and a prison, Welfare Island renamed Roosevelt Island would now become a New Town In Town, built under the auspices of the newly created New York State Urban Development Corporation (UDC). Nelson Rockefeller was Governor and John Lindsay was Mayor. Rockefeller brought Edward J. Logue, who had headed the redevelopment of New Haven and Boston to head the UDC. The island was leased for 99 years. The concept for this New Town was to create a residential community with 50% low-income residents, a unique mini-school system, a car-free island with the entire waterfront and its many parks to open to the public. The plan was to restore the landmark structures and employ a pneumatic garbage collection system for the entire island. A subway connection to the center of this two mile long and 800 foot wide island was anticipated to be ready for the new residents by 1976. Because it was then delayed during the construction of the first two thousand units of housing (called Northtown), UDC constructed the aerial tramway, which has become a beloved feature of Roosevelt Island. In 1973, at the southern tip of the island, directly across from the United Nations complex, it was decided to build a memorial to Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Louis I. Kahn, one of the most important architects of the 20th Century was hired to design this memorial. In 1973, all funds for affordable housing were frozen by President Nixon, which greatly affected the future of UDC. In 1975, as Roosevelt Island was beginning to see a new thriving community emerge on the island, UDC and New York were in a severe financial crisis. UDC's leadership changed and Roosevelt Island's plans had to adapt. Roosevelt Island still has a mixture of low, middle and market rate housing, but the percentages have changed. The community is thriving and will always be an island separated by water, yet within the great city of New York.

Roosevelt Island in the last decade now has the completed Four Freedoms Park, which attracts visitors from everywhere in the world. The Island's newest arrival, which brings great change and enormous energy to Roosevelt Island, is the new Cornell Tech University, which will be a graduate school of applied science, a place of innovation. THE ISLAND THAT NOBODY KNOWS now a dynamic future and we await the next museum exhibition to show Roosevelt Island's achievements: A SUCCESSFUL RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY WITHIN AN ISLAND OF INNOVATION.

**Programme:**

11:00 a.m. - Meet at the Roosevelt Island Tramway station on the Island.

11:15 a.m. - We will use the free bus to go as far north as the Octagon complex

11:45 a.m. – Take the bus back and look at the different housing along Main Street and will

12:15 p.m. – End of the tour at Four Freedoms Park at the southern tip of the island.