Hello, BAA Parents!

We are looking forward to seeing you very soon!

New York City is an exciting place to live. The city is a different experience for everyone who lives here. Whenever we have friends visit, we never know what kind of "New York" activities to do, since we’re not tourists! Since we know many of you will have a lot of time to kill here in NYC, we asked our staff how they would spend an obligation-free day off in the city and where they like to go. Our answers are below. As you plan for your stay in New York, we thought this might be helpful. Please feel free to contact any of us with questions!

At the bottom of this e-mail, please find information about getting around in the city. The subway is your friend!

These are a few of our favorite things!

Jessica Doherty (jdoherty@broadwayartistsalliance.org)

If you had a day off with no obligations, how would you spend it? I love going on walks throughout the city, you’ll never know what you’ll find! I’d probably go gallery hopping in Chelsea and sit by the water and journal, maybe stopping for some coffee or venturing to Union Square to The Strand.

Favorite restaurant for brunch: Cafeteria in Chelsea is one of my all-time faves, they’re open 24 hours and have a little something for everyone! If you’re looking for something closer to Ripley Grier, Parker and Smith is cute for brunch and Penelope’s over in Murray Hill is as well!

Favorite restaurant for dinner: Momofuku’s ramen is legendary for a reason. Sauce is a great cozy Italian food spot and Parm has a great chicken or meatball parm sandwich. Delicatessen is like Cafeteria but more for dinner and has a wide range of options. S’MAC has both make your own mac n’ cheese and also signature combos that are heavenly. If you’re a BBQ love Mighty Quinn’s has a location pretty close to Ripley. Also, I usually go to Room Service for pre-theatre pad thai!

Favorite restaurant for dessert/sweet snacks: Ok get ready I have a LOT!

Italian Pastries and cheesecake: Vineiros
Ice Cream: Ample Hills Creamery in Brooklyn or by the Highline and Morganstern's has a bunch of subtle and sophisticated flavors (the creme brûlée ice cream comes with an actual burnt sugar top!)
Cupcakes: Billy’s Bakery in Chelsea
Donuts: The Donut Pub on 14th, Dough on 18th st, and Doughnut Plant
Brownies: Fat Witch Bakery and City Bakery

Favorite place to shop: I thrift in Williamsburg and the LES a lot! You can find a lot of fun and unique pieces that way!
Favorite park: Bryant Park is a beautiful respite from Midtown Madness.

Favorite workout: Walking around NYC!

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Jessica Hondel (jhondel@broadwayartistsalliance.org)

Favorite restaurant for brunch: I have never really had a BAD brunch in NYC. (It's one of the things we do best!) But, I love going to Horchata for Mexican brunch in the village. It's affordable and super yummy! I also love MOM'S. They have a location conveniently on 9th Avenue in Hell's Kitchen.

Favorite restaurant for dinner: Dos Caminos. They have many locations throughout the city! (I love Mexican food if you couldn’t tell!)

Favorite restaurant for dessert: Georgetown cupcakes in SoHo. Ample Hills Creamery for ice cream! Dō in the village for edible cookie dough!

Favorite place to grab a snack: Cosi. (Its right next to Ripley!)

Favorite place to grab a coffee: Gregory's!

Favorite Broadway show: Currently....Dear Evan Hansen!

Favorite neighborhood to walk around: SoHo/TriBeCa! Downtown Manhattan is the best!

Favorite park: Central Park. Check out Sheeps Meadow on a beautiful day and have a picnic! It’s full of people reading, hanging out, playing frisbee, etc.

Favorite workout: Dance class at Broadway Dance Center!

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Ashleigh Junio (ashleigh@broadwayartistsalliance.org)

Favorite restaurant for brunch: If you want the best pancakes you've ever had in your LIFE, go to Saggio in Washington Heights. It's a quick trip on the A train to 181st Street and then you can take a stroll to Fort Tryon Park. www.saggiorestaurant.com

Favorite Fried Chicken: I have a relationship with fried chicken, and Jacob's Pickles does it RIGHT. Get the Honey Chicken Biscuit Sandwich. You're welcome. www.jacobspickles.com/

Favorite Oysters and Beer: I love both and Fish in the West Village has the most amazing deal. It's called the "Red, White, and Blue", and it's half a dozen oysters and a beer (or glass of wine) for $9.99. www.fishrestaurant.nyc

Favorite Adult Beverage: Bathtub Gin is my favorite bar in the city. It's a swanky speakeasy disguised by a functional coffee shop on the ground floor and they make FABULOUS cocktails. I'm especially fond of the "Aviation", which may or may not be on the menu when you go, but which you can always order. If you like burlesque, they have great shows on Tuesday and Saturday nights. http://bathtubginnyc.com/

Favorite restaurant for dessert: Rice to Riches. It's like an ice cream parlor but with tons of flavors of crazy good rice pudding. The decor looks like a space ship and there are all of these snarky little signs all over the place. It's a hoot! www.ricetoriches.com

Favorite Broadway show of the moment: Go see Once on This Island. The concept is so creative and the cast is awesome!
Favorite place to shop: Century 21 is so much fun to paw around in! It's a discount department store that carries everyday brands as well as high end runway couture. [www.c21stores.com](http://www.c21stores.com/)

Favorite massage that won't break your bank: Angel Hands in the Lower East Side. This is a no-frills Chinese massage spa spot that is clean, pleasant and affordable. You can get an hour long massage for about $35! [http://www.yelp.com/biz/angel-hands-wellness-new-york](http://www.yelp.com/biz/angel-hands-wellness-new-york)

Favorite park: Fort Tryon Park is in the upper part of Manhattan and it's GORGEOUS! [https://www.forttryonparktrust.org/](https://www.forttryonparktrust.org/)

Favorite workout: Cycling down the Hudson River. You can rent wheels and a helmet at Bike and Roll stations throughout the city and away you go! [http://bikenewyorkcity.com/](http://bikenewyorkcity.com/)

Best NYC Bagel: Murray's Bagels is the BEST! Don't ask them toast your bagel because they won't do it and they will give you judgemental scowls. Just order your favorite bagel with a schmear or lox and enjoy! [http://www.murraysbagels.com/](http://www.murraysbagels.com/)

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Tyler Knauf (tyler@broadwayartistsalliance.org)

If you had a day off with no obligations, how would you spend it?
I'd go to Beard Papa's pastry shop on the Upper West Side to buy some Mochi ice cream. Then, walk to central park near Strawberry Fields and walk through the park eating Mochi.

Favorite restaurant for brunch: HK Lounge (hell's kitchen)

Favorite restaurant for dinner: El Centro (Mexican) (hell's kitchen)

Favorite restaurant for dessert: Amy's Bread (hell's kitchen)

Favorite place to grab a coffee: Kahve

Favorite Broadway show: Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time

Favorite place to shop: Any thrift store in Greenwich Village

Favorite neighborhood to walk around: Greenwich Village or Hudson Piers

Favorite park: North side of Central Park

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Jimmy Larkin (jimmy@broadwayartistsalliance.org)

Favorite restaurant for brunch: The Smith. (if you go to the one in Midtown East, ask for Tricia my roommate!)

Favorite restaurant for dinner: The Smith... the spicy salmon tartar and the mussels.

Favorite restaurant for dessert: The Smith... I really like this restaurant.

Favorite restaurant that you should go visit Jimmy at: I work at Ellen's Stardust Diner in Times Square. It's open from 7am-12am daily, and all of us servers are performers who will sing show tunes at you while you eat! ;)

Favorite place to grab a coffee: I don't drink coffee! I know... I don't know how I do it either.

Favorite Broadway show: Hairspray, I never get sick of it. Currently on Broadway? Once On This Island (also a forever fan of Wicked.)
Favorite place to shop: Top Man (there's also Top Shop), if you're small like me they have great sizes for us munchkins.

Favorite neighborhood to walk around: Probably the West or East Village.

Favorite park: I could spend days exploring Central Park.

Favorite workout: Barry's Bootcamp! I love this place; I go to the Chelsea location and typically take Alec's classes.

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Michelle Lehrman (michelle@broadwayartistsalliance.org)

Favorite restaurant for brunch:
- **Spring Natural Kitchen** on the Upper West Side. Their dinner menu is also fantastic. For anyone with dietary restrictions, they have quite a few gluten free and vegan options on the menu.
- **Fairway** on the Upper West Side. Am I sending you to the grocery store? YES! There is a full restaurant on the second floor that only the locals know about! The brunch and dinner menus are great.
- Please refer to Scheherazade's answer :

Favorite restaurant for dinner:
- **Gene's** in the West Village. It's old NYC and I just love the atmosphere! You can have a full dinner or order a la carte. The scallops are heaven.
- **Cafe du Soleil**. It's right near my apartment and I end up here almost weekly. Monday is mussels night. They're delicious. They also make great steaks!
- **Sushi Yasaka** on the Upper West Side. The BEST sushi! There is always a line, so make a reservation!

Favorite restaurant for dessert: OK, I need to do this one in categories.
- Cookies: **Levain Bakery** on the Upper West Side. Please bring me a chocolate chip cookie. Ashleigh probably wants one too.
- Cupcakes: **Molly's Cupcakes** in the West Village. The cake batter cupcake is A-MAH-ZING!
- Ice Cream: ANY soft serve truck! Mister Softee is the original.
- If you're not sure what you're in the mood for and you want a bunch of options, **Cafe Lalo** on the Upper West Side is the place to go. You may recognize it from the movie You've Got Mail!

Favorite place to grab a snack: **Juice Generation**! The Peanut Butter Split is my go-to. It's SO GOOD!

Favorite place to grab a coffee: **Baked**. Their pastries are also kind of incredible. They sell a chocolate chip cookie that is baked into a brownie. Yes, you heard me. A chocolate chip cookie that is baked into a brownie! The savory snacks are also delicious.

Favorite Broadway show: I'm a sucker for **FROZEN**! Everyone deserves to hear Caissie Levy sing "Let it Go" live.

Favorite neighborhood to walk around: I love getting lost in the West Village. After all of my years in the city, I still find side streets I haven't been on before. There are tons of shops to browse and plenty of restaurant options.

Favorite park: Riverside Park. I spend a lot of time here with my Yorkie puppy, Apollo! I love walking along the water.

Favorite workout: Lyons Den Power Yoga. This is my home base. In a non-BAA week, I go 4-5 times. It's a hot, **Baptiste-style** (power flow) yoga studio. All of the teachers are amazing, but definitely take class with co-founder Bethany Lyons. I also assist classes throughout the year, and I did my 200-hour teacher training there in 2016.
**Favorite adult-only venue:** Bathtub Gin. It's a speakeasy! You enter through a functioning coffee shop to a super swanky bar, complete with a copper bathtub. We had a BAA bachelorette party there and had a blast!

Laura Mehl ([lmehl@broadwayartistsalliance.org](mailto:lmehl@broadwayartistsalliance.org))

**Favorite restaurant for brunch:** The Grange - Hamilton Heights. This restaurant is full of locals, perhaps because of the location. It's a little expensive ($$), but the food is fantastic! [http://thegrangebarnyc.com](http://thegrangebarnyc.com)

**Favorite restaurant for dinner:** Chop Shop! If you like asian at all, this place is AMAZING. Nice decor, excellent food, fabulous service, and the price isn't bad at all! I recommend the Lo Mein. [https://www.chopshop.co/location/chop-shop-flatiron/](https://www.chopshop.co/location/chop-shop-flatiron/)

**Favorite restaurant for dessert:** Silver Moon Bakery. - I LOVE bakeries and pasteries. You could give me a baguette from here and I would eat it in an instant, but if you're kind, you'll bring me the orange and chocolate baguette because baguettes with all of that goodness are even better than regular ones! [https://silvermoonbakery.com](https://silvermoonbakery.com)

**Favorite place to grab a coffee:** The Doughnut Plant... Mostly for the doughnuts... The coffee is delicious! But also vegan doughnuts. [http://doughnutplant.com](http://doughnutplant.com)

**Favorite place to grab a snack:** Can I put the Doughnut Plant again?... No? Best Bagel and Coffee. They have a GREAT New York Bagel at a logical price. The cinnamon raisin is literally beautiful. [http://www.bestbagelandcoffee.com](http://www.bestbagelandcoffee.com)

**Favorite place to grab a coffee:** The Doughnut Plant... Mostly for the doughnuts... The coffee is delicious! But also vegan doughnuts. [http://doughnutplant.com](http://doughnutplant.com)

**Favorite Broadway show:** I am OBSESSED with The Band's Visit, and not just because of all of the Tony awards it received. The story is beautiful, slow moving and enrapturing. If you have a chance, GO SEE IT. Your heart will be made full.

**Favorite neighborhood to walk around:** Soho or China Town, both for very different reasons. Soho is great for any fancy shopping you might like to do, particularly if you're feeling bougie, but China Town is just plain fun. The bright colors, fans, chopsticks and food make my day every time! Just make sure that you bring a little cash because some restaurants do not accept cards.

Drew O'Bryan ([drew@broadwayartistsalliance.org](mailto:drew@broadwayartistsalliance.org))

**If you had a day off with no obligations, how would you spend it?**
I would wake up and enter the Hamilton lottery online first of all. Plan a picnic in Central Park, followed by a stroll through MoMA. Grab a quick drink on my way to see Hamilton (because in this scenario, winning the Hamilton lottery is possible), and then end my night with Lin-Manuel Miranda and friends at Marie's Crisis in the West Village.

**Favorite restaurant for brunch:** Westville West (210 W 10th St.)

**Favorite restaurant for dinner:** S'Mac (345 E 12th St.)

**Favorite restaurant for dessert:** Ben & Jerry's (W 44th St.)

**Favorite place to grab a snack:** Duane Reade (any of ’em)

**Favorite place to grab a coffee:** Starbucks (any of ’em)

**Favorite Broadway show:** Kinky Boots

**Favorite place to shop:** I could literally wander in and out of shops in Soho all day
Favorite neighborhood to walk around: Greenwich Village

Favorite park: Central Park

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Scheherazade Quiroga (schehe@broadwayartistsalliance.org)

If you had a day off with no obligations, how would you spend it?
Whether it's a busy day, or a day off, I like walking NYC a lot! My favorite stroll continues being Lincoln Center and the Lincoln Square area, in addition to Rockefeller park (where the Irish Hunger Memorial is), Central Park AND the High Line!
As a Lincoln Center lover, I enjoy sitting across the the fountain and just watch it at the top of the hour, when the water explodes really high into the air ;-) Don't forget about the Hypar Pavilion, with its a beautiful grass roof to lay defying the laws of physics, right next to Lincoln Center Theatre and my favorite nerdy place in New York: The Library of Performing Arts!

Favorite Broadway show
My Favorite Broadway show is actually "Peter And The Starcatcher". While that finds its way back to Broadway via a revival, I always recommend "Kinky Boots" as well as "Jersey Boys", which is now Off-Broadway!
Also, while you're in town, enter the Friday Forty for tickets to "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" the Friday before you come (and take ME if you win!)

Favorite restaurant for brunch
Take Michelle Lehrman's suggestions for this question!

Favorite restaurant for dinner
I still won't say not to a Shake Shack burger. My favorite Shake Shack is now the one in the Upper West Side, by the Museum of Natural History :-) https://www.shakeshack.com/
If you are more into the "fancy burger" thing, go to Burke and Wills Australian Bistro on the Upper West Side for an Kangaroo Burger. (Does that make me sound mean?) http://www.burkeandwillsny.com/

Favorite restaurant for dessert
If you haven't still: Try an egg cream! One of the best native Brooklyn inventions at The Farmacy, and old fashion Soda Fountain hidden in the midst of a residential area in Brooklyn. A 10 minute walk from the F train (President St. Stop), The Farmacy is not only homey in menu, but awesome in style. Soda jerker and all (makes me think of "Gee, Officer Krupke" form West Side Story :-)) http://www.brooklynfarmacyandsodafountain.com/

Favorite place to grab a coffee
Breads Bakery on Broadway and 60th! They have the best coffee... And the best croissants... And the best cheese sticks... https://www.breadsbakery.com
Also, Petrossian Boutique Cafe on 7th (right before your Central Park stroll... https://www.petrossian.com/new-york-boutique-cafe

Favorite Workout
Free kayaking on the Hudson at Pier 96! https://hudsonriverpark.org/explore-the-park/activities/kayaking-at-pier-96

Have fun in NYC! :)

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Christina Ramirez (christina@broadwayartistsalliance.org)
If you had a day off with no obligations, how would you spend it?
My favorite thing to do on a day off is to pack a picnic and head to the park. The Brooklyn Heights Promenade is a perfect spot, with great views of the Manhattan skyline and the statue of Liberty! http://www.nyharborparks.org/visit/brhe.html After spending an afternoon relaxing there, I'd walk across the Brooklyn Bridge and enjoy a nice dinner in the Financial District before heading to a show.

Favorite restaurant for brunch: The Grey Dog!!! https://thegreydog.com/ With locations in Chelsea, Union Square, West Village, and Nolita it's super convenient and the menu offers something for everyone. They have equal amounts of healthy and indulgent options as well as awesome baked goods. Super allergy friendly (gluten, dairy, etc!)

Favorite restaurant for dinner: Bareburger! Bareburger has locations all over the city including Restaurant Row and Columbus Circle so it's incredibly convenient. Tasty burgers, filling salads, and awesome house-made sodas/shakes. Super vegetarian friendly, and an easily accommodating menu for anyone with dietary restrictions (which is surprising for a burger joint!)

For something more adventurous: Try Injera in the Village for the best Ethiopian food you've ever had. http://www.injeranyc.com/

Favorite restaurant for dessert: Peacefood Cafe (UWS and Union Square locations) - this vegan establishment has some of the best desserts in town! I highly recommend the Strawberry Shortcake, Cookie Sandwiches, and the Tiramisu.

Favorite place to grab a snack/Favorite place to grab a coffee: I combined this question since my favorite snack/coffee shop is Brooklyn Bagel and Coffee Company (surprisingly, not located in Brooklyn.) You'll find it in Chelsea (8th ave between 24th and 25th.) Consider it the Baskin Robbins of Bagels with tons of flavored cream cheeses including 1 rotating flavor of the week. Many dairy-free cream cheese options as well. Their coffee is just as good as the bagels. I love the iced Hazelnut!

Favorite Broadway show: Carousel and Come From Away

Favorite place to shop: Union Square or Soho in the morning! The trick is beating the crowds!

Favorite neighborhood to walk around: The West Village

Favorite park: Fort Tryon Park and the Cloisters Museum! http://www.metmuseum.org/visit/met-cloisters

Favorite workout: SoulCycle (especially the themed-rides. There's nothing like sweating it out to some bumpin' Hamil-tunes!) KORE (great body resistance class, lots of kettle bells, and great music.) Shrink Session (a fun mix of dance, cardio, kick-boxing, and more, made easier by affirmations to keep you powering through each movement.)

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Emmeline Wood (emmeline@broadwayartistsalliance.org)

Favorite restaurant for brunch: Blue Stone Lane. Maybe it's because I miss good coffee and avocado toast when I leave Melbourne, but this Australia-style cafe hits the spot! https://bluestonelane.com/

Favorite restaurant for dinner: Because, only in New York! Skillet Macaroni and Cheese restaurant called S'Mac, short for Sarita's Mac and Cheese. I love the Masala (macaroni and cheese with Indian spices!) Gluten and dairy free options as well! http://www.smacnyc.com/

Favorite restaurant for dessert: Easy. https://www.bakedbymelissa.com/ Tiny cupcake treats you can grab all over the city. Also https://www.erinmckennasbakery.com/ for allergen-free sweets. Delicious. And for a guilt free treat on a hot day, https://www.chloesfruit.com/ in Union Square is like ice cream but made from mostly fruit. Yum! Okay, I'm not done. https://insomniacookies.com/ for a late night treat. Because someone else already mentioned LeVain and Schmackery's, because they're served warm, and because they deliver. I like sweets :)
Favorite place to grab a snack: I love an open air food market! You may be lucky and stumble across one in one of New York’s many neighborhoods, but if you take a trek to Brooklyn there's one on every weekend. [https://www.smorgasburg.com/](https://www.smorgasburg.com/) Tons of local vendors and a fun way to spend the day. Get into it :)

Favorite place to grab a coffee: Gregory’s has really good iced coffee.

Favorite place to shop: I really like a shop called Catbird in Williamsburg. It's mostly accessories and fine jewelry, but I love their thin rings and it's fun to have an excuse to head to Brooklyn. [https://www.catbirdnyc.com/](https://www.catbirdnyc.com/) It can also be a great afternoon heading to the Chelsea Market. I'm a sucker for the Anthropologie located there, but it also has a bunch of food and some unique shops. [http://www.chelseamarket.com/](http://www.chelseamarket.com/)

Favorite park: Prospect Park.

Favorite workout: Yoga and Laughing Lotus. It's colorful and sparkly and full of good vibes.

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**Getting around NYC!**

We recommend using the [MTA Trip Planner](https://www.mta.info/) to figure out your route! You may also download the MyTransit app for subway schedules and scheduled construction.

You'll need a MetroCard to get around on the subways. Depending on how much traveling you intend to do, you may want to purchase a weekly unlimited card (you will only want to do this if you're planning to be on the subway 4 or more times each day). Otherwise, you can purchase a card and pay as you go (start with $20 and add on if you need to). **IMPORTANT:** If you buy an unlimited MetroCard, you can only swipe it once every 20 minutes, so you can't share it with someone else. ([http://web.mta.info/metrocard](http://web.mta.info/metrocard/))

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions!

Best,
Michelle

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