

# THE NEW YORK CITY WATERFALLS

GUIDE FOR CHILDREN  
AND ADULTS



# WELCOME

## Welcome to **THE NEW YORK CITY WATERFALLS!**

*The New York City Waterfalls* is a work of public art comprised of four man-made waterfalls in the New York Harbor. Presented by Public Art Fund in collaboration with the City of New York, they are situated along the shorelines of Lower Manhattan, Brooklyn and Governors Island. These Waterfalls range from 90 to 120-feet tall and are on view from June 26 through October 13, 2008. They operate seven days a week, from 7 am to 10 pm, except on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when the hours are 9 am to 10 pm. They are lit after sunset. If there are extreme winds, storms or a heat wave, the Waterfalls may be temporarily turned off until conditions are more favorable. The exhibition is open to the public and is free.

This guide is meant to help young people (and you!) enjoy *The New York City Waterfalls*. It includes instructions for preparing groups of children to visit, and activities to do once they are at the Waterfalls. Pages 5–7, 17 and 18 contain facts about the Waterfalls and information about visiting them; pages 8–16 include activities for children to do on their own, and at home. At the end of your visit, children can keep this brochure as a reminder of this unique experience.

*The New York City Waterfalls* call attention to the city's extensive natural and built environment, as well as to our relationship to the waterfront. The activities in this guide were created for young people to observe and experience the Waterfalls and to encourage them to discover this work of public art and the Harbor.

## PLANNING YOUR TRIP

*The New York City Waterfalls* are sited in four locations, and can be viewed from many places. They provide different experiences at each site, and the artist hopes you will visit all of the Waterfalls and see the various parts of New York City they have temporarily become part of. You can get closest to the Waterfalls at Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park in DUMBO; along the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway, north of the Manhattan Bridge; along the Brooklyn Heights Promenade; at Governors Island; and by boat in the New York Harbor.

A great place to go with a large group is Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park in Brooklyn, which is comprised of 12 acres of green space, a playground, picnic benches, as well as great views of *The New York City Waterfalls*. Please see the map on page 18 for other locations.

You can listen to comments by the artist about the Waterfalls before your visit at [www.nycwaterfalls.org](http://www.nycwaterfalls.org) (in the podcast section), or during your visit by calling 311 (212-NEW-YORK outside of New York City).

### Boat Tours

All of the Waterfalls are visible from special 30-minute boat tours operated by Circle Line Downtown, which leave from Pier 16 at South Street Seaport daily between 9 am and 9:30 pm. For tickets and schedules, please visit [www.circlelinedowntown.com](http://www.circlelinedowntown.com). The tours are specially-priced and a limited number of free tickets are available by calling 866-9CLINE1 (1-866-925-4631).

### Bike Routes

Bike routes, organized by the New York City Department of Transportation in collaboration with Public Art Fund, are marked with a waterfall icon on the streets around the waterfront in Manhattan and Brooklyn. The route begins at City Hall, goes through Brooklyn and ends at Staten Island Ferry Terminal. Bike route maps are available at [www.nycwaterfalls.org](http://www.nycwaterfalls.org).

### What to bring:

- ➡ Enough brochures for each child  
(the brochure can be downloaded from [www.nycwaterfalls.org](http://www.nycwaterfalls.org))
- ➡ A pen or pencil for each child
- ➡ Binoculars
- ➡ Sunscreen
- ➡ A sense of adventure!

## MAKE A DAY OF IT!

*The New York City Waterfalls* are surrounded by fun things to do:

### Brooklyn

- ➔ Enjoy Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park's green space, picnic grounds and playground
- ➔ Take a walk on the Brooklyn Heights Promenade and enjoy iconic views of Manhattan, Governor's Island, the New York Harbor and the Statue of Liberty
- ➔ Walk over the Brooklyn Bridge
- ➔ Take a tour of the DUMBO neighborhood's art galleries, cafes, restaurants and the Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory on the Fulton Ferry Landing
- ➔ Visit museums, galleries, restaurants and shops in Brooklyn

### Manhattan

- ➔ Visit the South Street Seaport's many shops and restaurants
- ➔ Visit the Seaport Museum and historic ships on Pier 16
- ➔ Walk or bike along the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway for stunning views of the Waterfalls and the Brooklyn skyline
- ➔ Visit Battery Park's numerous green spaces, restaurants and museums
- ➔ Take a tour of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island
- ➔ Ride the Staten Island Ferry

### Governors Island

- ➔ Take the free ferry on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays to visit this historic island
- ➔ Pack a picnic and enjoy beautiful views of New York City
- ➔ Enjoy the numerous activities and family programming scheduled on Governors Island all summer (for more information visit [www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com))

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Here are some suggestions for starting a conversation with your child or group before or on your way to *The New York City Waterfalls*:

- ➔ Have you ever seen a waterfall?
- ➔ Where was it?
- ➔ Could you touch it?
- ➔ Did you swim in it?
- ➔ Did you stand under it?
- ➔ How big was it?
- ➔ How is a waterfall formed? **Answer:** A waterfall is formed when water falls off of a cliff. In the *The New York City Waterfalls* the water is not falling off of a cliff but from large, built structures called scaffolding. These are not "natural" waterfalls but a work of art that has been made to resemble a waterfall. They utilize water from the East River and the water is really falling!

## ACTIVITIES

Here are some group activities to try with young people while visiting *The New York City Waterfalls*. (For counselors traveling with more than one adult, try breaking your camp group up into smaller groups.)

1. Tell the children to close their eyes for one minute, be silent, and listen to the sounds that they hear. After a minute, ask each child to recreate a sound they heard. Then ask them to make the noises at the same time.
2. Ask children to each find a partner and to spend one minute looking left and right along the river. Then ask how many different colors they see on the water. How many different ways are people using the water today? How many boats can they count?
3. Ask each child to think of a word that best describes the Waterfalls. Collect the words as children shout them out.
4. What other materials could have been used to make the structure that supports the Waterfalls?

## ABOUT THE WATERFALLS

**WHAT** Commissioned by Public Art Fund, *The New York City Waterfalls* is a new work of public art by artist Olafur Eliasson. It consists of four monumental, man-made waterfalls on the shores of the East River in New York City.

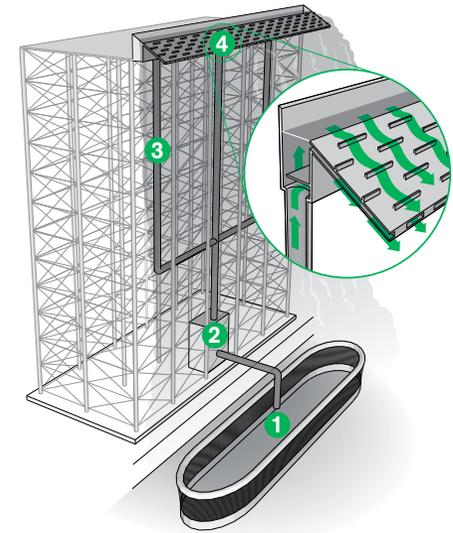


**WHY** Olafur Eliasson has been visiting New York City since he was a student in the late 1980s, and he is interested in the manner in which the waterways surround and flow through the city. He hopes that the experience of the Waterfalls encourages us to stop and reconsider the natural and built environment and our relationship to it.

**WHO** *The New York City Waterfalls* was conceived by artist Olafur Eliasson, who was born in Copenhagen in 1967, and grew up in both Iceland and Denmark. Throughout his career, he has taken inspiration from natural elements and phenomena, such as light, wind, fog and water to create sculptures and installations that evoke sensory experiences.

**WHERE** Sited in the historic New York Harbor, *The New York City Waterfalls* introduce a work of art into the heart of New York's waterfront, temporarily transforming the City. Olafur Eliasson chose to locate *The New York City Waterfalls* on the waterfront to provide an opportunity for people to come together and experience New York City in a way that they never have before.

**HOW** The Waterfalls are made of common building materials, mainly scaffolding, pumps and piping. Water from the East River is collected in "intake filter pools" (1), which are covered in fine mesh and placed underwater. These pools, which filter the water, protect the fish and aquatic life because they cannot penetrate the fabric. Pumps (2) pull water out of these pools and raise it from the river to the top of the scaffolding through pipes (3). Water is then pushed over a "trough" (4), and falls back into the river creating a waterfall effect.



**WHEN** *The New York City Waterfalls* are on display in New York City from June 26 to October 13, 2008. They operate from 7 am to 10 pm daily, except on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when the hours are 9 am to 10 pm. They are lit after sunset.



### WHAT IS PUBLIC ART?

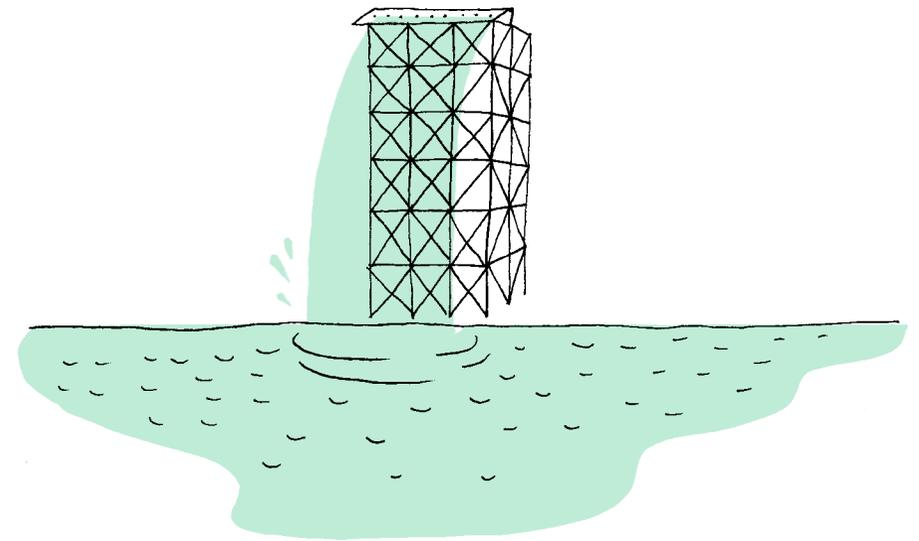
Art takes many forms including paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs, music, dance and installations in the environment. This project is a monumental scale work of public art that responds to a series of sites along the East River. The waterfront and the city itself acts as a backdrop for the Waterfalls.

**Other current Public Art Fund projects** include James Yamada's *Our Starry Night* at Doris C. Freedman Plaza at the southeast entrance to Central Park (through October 28), and *Everyday Eden* at MetroTech Center in Brooklyn (though September 7). For more information, visit [www.publicartfund.org](http://www.publicartfund.org)

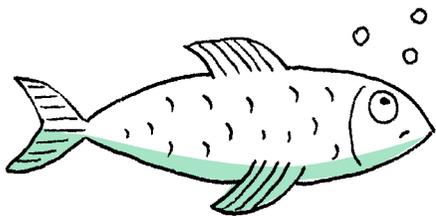
## FUN FACTS

- 1** → The Waterfalls are 90–120 feet tall. **The tallest is almost as tall as the Statue of Liberty!** She is 111 feet from her heel to the top of her head.
- 2** → The scaffolding used to construct the four Waterfalls together weighs **270 tons. That is heavier than a blue whale!** (A blue whale weighs 200 tons.)
- 3** → Together the four Waterfalls churn 35,000 gallons of water per minute; **2,100,000 gallons per hour.**
- 4** → The East River is not really a river. **It is a “tidal strait,”** or a water body that connects two larger bodies of water (in this case, the Long Island Sound and the Upper New York Bay).
- 5** → **There are over 200 species of fish** that live in or migrate through New York City’s waterways each year.
- 6** → **The East River is part of the New York Harbor Estuary System.** That means it is a place where fresh water (from the Hudson River) and salt water (from the Atlantic Ocean) meet, making it a habitat that can host an incredibly diverse population of animals and plants.
- 7** → All of the electricity used during the operation of the Waterfalls is **100% “green power”**—electricity generated from renewable resources, such as wind power.
- 8** → **90% of the construction materials** used in the project—scaffolding, pumps, and pipes—will be reused in other construction projects after the Waterfalls ends in October 2008.

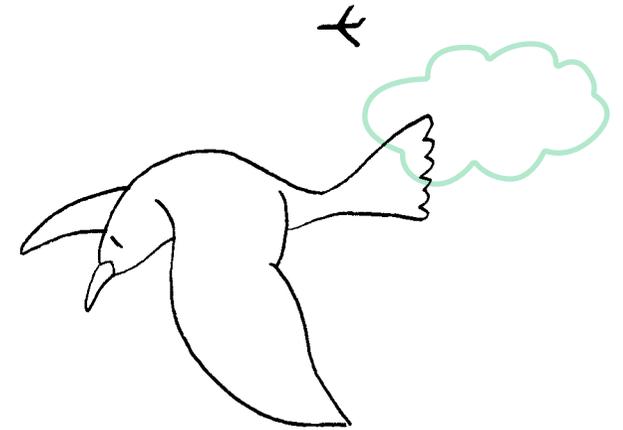
Find a Waterfall across the river from you. Sketch the buildings surrounding this Waterfall. What shapes do they form? What do you think is in the water *beneath* the Waterfall?



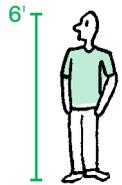
Imagine you are a fish looking at the Waterfall from just below the surface of the river. What do you see?



Imagine you are a bird looking at the Waterfall from above. What do you see?

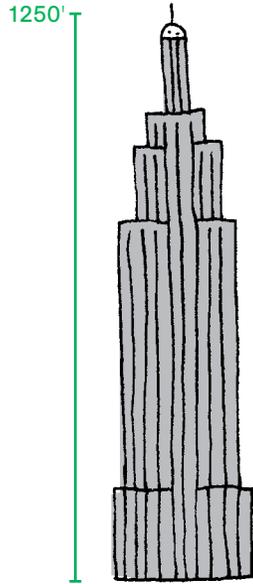


Take a guess! Draw the Waterfall you are looking at in relation to the size of:



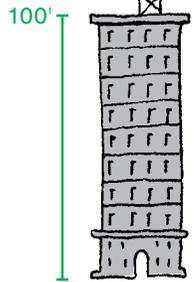
a human

Waterfall



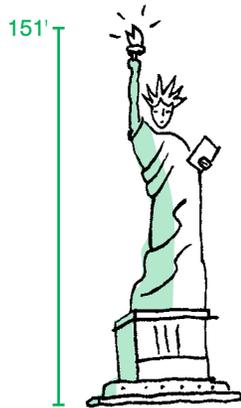
the Empire State Building

Waterfall



a 10-story building

Waterfall



the Statue of Liberty

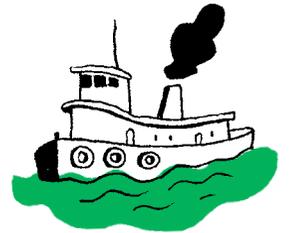
Waterfall

How many boats do you see on the East River today? \_\_\_\_\_

Which one is your favorite and why? Describe and draw the boat here.

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What do you think it is carrying? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you think it is coming from? \_\_\_\_\_

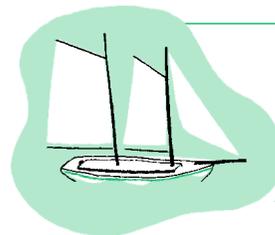
Where do you think it is going? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like to do on or in the water? Sail Swim Catch fish

What else?

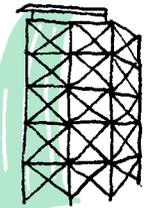
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Find a quiet place to sit and reflect. What do you want to remember about *The New York City Waterfalls* and your journey to see them?

I WANT TO REMEMBER...



# BACK AT HOME

Try some of the following activities to extend your visit to *The New York City Waterfalls* :

## Observe the world around you

Take a walk in a park or in your neighborhood to observe the natural world. Record your thoughts and reflect upon your experience in a nature journal that you can create on your own.

### Create a nature journal

Buy or make a journal with blank pages and a cover (available at many art supply stores, or can be made with white paper and cardboard). Write your name on the first inside blank page. On each of the following pages you can write notes and make sketches with crayons or colored pencils of the things you saw on your journey, such as flowers and leaves.

### Use your nature journal

Record your impressions and observations of nature. Remember, nature is all around you. Look closely at the blades of grass poking through cracks in the sidewalk, birds perched on the tops of trees and lamp posts and the tiny insects scurrying across our path.



## Make a work of art

Olafur Eliasson conceived *The New York City Waterfalls* in relation to a specific location — the New York Harbor. He thought about the project as it related to individual buildings, structures and views of the East River.

### Consider the environment around you

Select a site in your home, camp or school and imagine you have been asked to create a work of art for that particular location. Think about:

1. What do you do in this area of your home or camp?  
(Do you eat there? Sleep there? Play there?)
2. What kinds of materials are found there?
3. How large or small should a work of art be to fit the space?

### Make a sketch

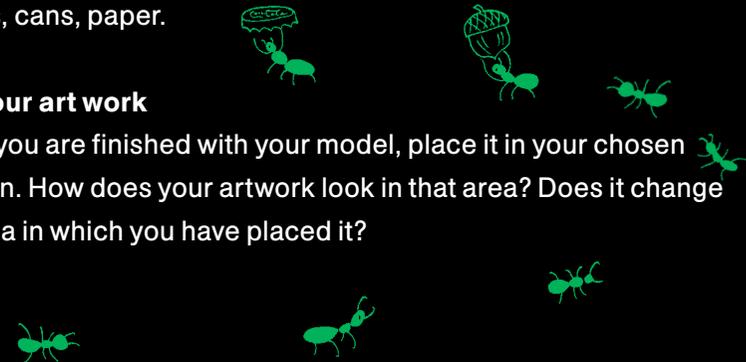
Make a list of materials you would want to use for your artwork, then draw a sketch of what you would like your artwork to look like. Use colored pencils or crayons.

### Make a model

Collect some natural and man-made materials and try to make a model of your artwork. See if you can find any of the following items: leaves, acorns, twigs, flowers, tree bark, soda bottle tops, plastic bottles, cans, paper.

### Site your art work

When you are finished with your model, place it in your chosen location. How does your artwork look in that area? Does it change the area in which you have placed it?



# LOCATIONS/MAP

## THE NEW YORK CITY WATERFALLS ARE LOCATED AT

**Brooklyn Bridge** on the Brooklyn Anchorage

**Brooklyn Piers** between Piers 4 and 5 (west of the Brooklyn Heights Promenade)

**Pier 35 in Manhattan** adjacent to South Street at Rutgers Street (north of the Manhattan Bridge)

**Governors Island** on the North Shore

## SUGGESTED VANTAGE POINTS

### 163 Battery Park, Manhattan

Located at the southern tip of Battery Park  
Subways: 1 to South Ferry Station, walk southeast into Battery Park; 4 or 5 to Bowling Green Station, walk one block west on Battery Place to Battery Park; R or W to Whitehall Street-South Ferry Station, walk one block west on State Street to Battery Park

➔ See *Governors Island Waterfall*

### 463 Pier 11, Manhattan

Located at South Street and Gouverneur Lane  
Subways: 2 or 3 to Wall Street Station, walk four blocks east on Wall Street to South Street; J, M, or Z to Broad Street Station, walk five blocks east on Wall Street to South Street

➔ See *all four Waterfalls*

### 3163 Piers 16 & 17 South Street Seaport, Manhattan

Located at Fulton Street and South Street  
Subways: 2, 3, 4, 5, A, C, J, Z or M to Fulton Street Station, walk six blocks east on Fulton Street to South Street

➔ See *all four Waterfalls*

### 4163 Manhattan Waterfront Greenway, Manhattan

This section of the Greenway is located at South Street between the Brooklyn Bridge and Manhattan Bridge  
Subways: F to East Broadway Station, walk four blocks east on Rutgers Street and two blocks south on South Street; J, M, Z, 4, 5, or 6 to Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall/Chambers Street-Brooklyn Bridge Station, walk east on Frankfort Street or Wagner Street along the Brooklyn Bridge to South Street, walk two blocks north on South Street

➔ See *Waterfalls at Pier 35 (Manhattan), Brooklyn Bridge and Governors Island. See also all four Waterfalls from various points along the southeast section of the Greenway*

### 5163 Governors Island

Directions: Governors Island is open to the public every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until October 12th. (Friday: 10 am to 5 pm; Saturdays and Sundays: 10 am to 7 pm). Ferries: Free ferries leave from the Battery Maritime Building, at the corner of South Street and Whitehall Street. Ferry schedules vary by day; please visit [www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com)

➔ See *Waterfalls at Governors Island and Brooklyn Piers*

### 6163 Brooklyn Heights Promenade, Brooklyn

Located at the end of Montague Street, above the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway  
Subways: 2 or 3 to Clark Street Station, walk three blocks south on Henry Street and three blocks west on Montague Street; M or R to Court Street Station, walk 5 blocks west on Montague Street; 4 or 5 to Borough Hall Station, walk two blocks north on Court Street, five blocks west on Montague Street; A, C, or F to Jay Street-Borough Hall Station, walk three blocks west on Willoughby Street, two blocks north on Court Street, and five blocks west on Montague Street to the Promenade

➔ See *Waterfalls at Brooklyn Piers and Governors Island*

### 7163 Pier 1, Brooklyn Bridge Park

Located at Furman Street, south of Old Fulton Street  
Subways: A or C to High Street Station, exit onto Cadman Plaza West/Old Fulton Street and walk west two blocks to Furman Street and then one block south to Doughty Street

➔ See *all four Waterfalls*

### 8163 Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park/Main Street Park

Located at Main Street and Plymouth Street  
Subways: A or C to High Street Station, exit onto Cadman Plaza West/Old Fulton Street and walk west two blocks to Water Street and north one block on Water Street; F to York Street Station, walk two blocks north on Jay Street to Water Street and four blocks west to Main Street

➔ See *Waterfalls at Brooklyn Bridge and Pier 35 (Manhattan)*

We hope you enjoyed your visit to *The New York City Waterfalls*, and that this guide helped you to learn more about New York City. For more information about the Waterfalls, visit [www.nycwaterfalls.org](http://www.nycwaterfalls.org)



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# THE NEW YORK CITY WATERFALLS

by Olafur Eliasson

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Text by Rebecca Krucoff, with Kim Estes-Fradis,  
Rochelle Gandour, Min Kan, Ellen McCarthy, Karen Rosner  
Edited by Caroline Chin, Abigail Clark, Rochelle Steiner  
Designed by Naomi Mizusaki, Supermarket  
Illustrations by Nicholas Blechman and Jason Lee

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Public Art Fund  
One East 53rd Street  
New York, NY 10022  
tel: 212 980 4575  
[www.nycwaterfalls.org](http://www.nycwaterfalls.org)  
[www.publicartfund.org](http://www.publicartfund.org)