

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feeding the City:
The Unpublished WPA Federal Writers' Project Manuscript, 1935-1942
September 7, 2018 – March 2019



Waiting on Customers in an Italian Grocery Store, NYC, 1937. WPA Federal Art Project Photo. Credit: NYC Municipal Archives.

NEW YORK, August 31, 2018 — The New York City Department of Records & Information Services opens a new exhibit: *Feeding the City: The Unpublished WPA Federal Writers' Project Manuscript, 1935-1942*.

“New York City never stop eating,” wrote the authors of *Feeding the City* in 1940—as true then as it is today. Vintage recipes and photographs, bold and colorful advertising brochures, and excerpts from the unpublished *Feeding the City* manuscript are featured in this exhibit of materials from the NYC Unit of the Depression-era Works Progress Administration (WPA) Federal Writers' Project.

One of the boldest of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's initiatives, the WPA alleviated massive unemployment during the 1930s. The WPA gave work to more than 700,000 New Yorkers in construction and improved thousands of public facilities. It also preserved the skills of white-collar professionals in art, theatre, music and writing programs. “They have to eat like other people,” said Harry Hopkins, the WPA Director.

Each of the 48 states as well as Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and New York City hosted a Federal Writers' Project. They were instructed to write about America. The NYC Unit was one of the most prolific. The Municipal Archives collection includes manuscripts and research files for 64 titles ranging from the popular *New York Panorama* and *New York City Guide*, to *How We Keep Our City Clean*, *History of WNYC*, and *Architecture of New York*. *Feeding the City* documented what New Yorkers ate and where the food came from. It was never published. In 1993, the National Endowment for the Humanities provided generous support to the Archives to preserve and microfilm the collection.

Feeding the City: The Unpublished WPA Federal Writers' Project Manuscript, 1935-1943.

On View: September 7, 2018 – March 2019

Location: NYC Municipal Archives 1st Floor Gallery, 31 Chambers Street, Manhattan.

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Media preview: Thursday, September 6, 2018, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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