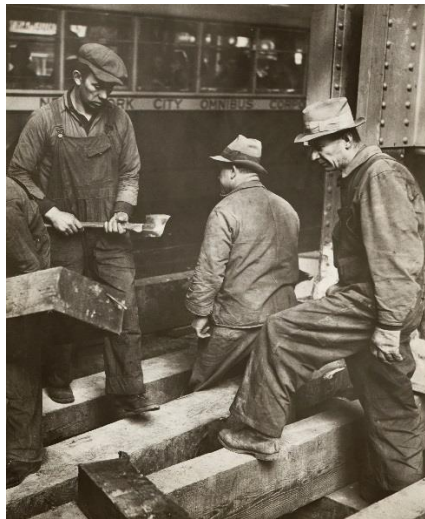


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***NYC: Work and Working
WPA Photographs***

PHOTOVILLE - September 13-16; 20-23, 2018



Subway excavation workers, 1941.

Photographer: Andrew Herman WPA Federal Writers' Project.

Credit: NYC Municipal Archives.

NEW YORK, September 13, 2018 — The New York City Department of Records & Information Services-Municipal Archives opens a new exhibit at **PHOTOVILLE** in Brooklyn Bridge Park: ***NYC: WORK AND WORKING – WPA Photographs.***

Large-format prints of rarely, or never-before-seen Works Progress Administration (WPA) photographs depicting working New Yorkers—bartenders and carny barkers, wrestlers and garment workers, blacksmiths and tattoo artists, fishmongers and pretzel vendors—in an unsentimental portrait of 1930s New York City are on display at the Municipal Archives' new **PHOTOVILLE** exhibit.

One of the boldest of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's initiatives, the WPA alleviated massive unemployment during the Great Depression. It 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 (FWP).

The photographs in this exhibit were selected from more than 5,000 images assembled by the NYC Unit of the FWP to illustrate 64 publications. Works of well-known photographers Dorothea Lange and Berenice Abbott are in the exhibit, alongside others of equal talent including Sam Brody, Ralph DeSola, Charles Eiseman, Andrew Herman, Sol Horn, Sol Libsohn, Aubrey Pollard, David Robbins, Clifford Sutcliffe, James Suydam, Daniel Treistman, and Jack Rosenzweig.

At the conclusion of the FWP program in 1943, the working files and photographs of the NYC Unit were transferred to the New York City Municipal Reference Library; they were later accessioned by the Municipal Archives. This display was inspired by an exhibit curated by Barbara H. Millstein in 1980. It highlights many images from the collection that previously had been overlooked or were from negatives not yet available in 1980. In 1993, the National Endowment for the Humanities provided generous support to the Archives to preserve and microfilm the collection.

Work and Working: WPA Photographs at PHOTOVILLE

When: September 13-16; 20-23, 2018

Location: PHOTOVILLE, Brooklyn Bridge Park, at the corner of Water and New Dock Street in Dumbo

Opening hours: <http://photoville.com/hours-of-operation/>

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