

**BROOKLYN**

**CONNECTIONS**



# Coney Island History

Professional Learning Workshop For Educators  
June 7, 2018 | 10:00AM – 3:30PM



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**Activities Booklet**

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**Coney Island History Primary Source Packet Booklet**

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**Observations and Inferences Lesson Plan Booklet**

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**Claim and Counterclaim Lesson Plan Booklet**

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**Coney Island History  
Professional Learning Workshop For Educators**

**DATE:** June 7, 2018 **TIME:** 10:00AM – 3:30PM

10:00AM	<b>Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</b>	Coney Island Library
10:15AM	<b>Warm Up &amp; Introduction</b>	
10:30AM	<b>Coney Island History Project</b> <i>Charles Denson</i>	
11:15AM	<b>Break</b>	
11:30AM	<b>Coney Island History Project &amp; Walking Tour</b> <i>Charles Denson</i>	
1:00PM	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:30PM	<b>Curricular Connections &amp; Teaching Resources</b> <i>Brooklyn Connections</i>	
2:45PM	<b>Coney Island Branch Offerings</b> <i>Coney Island Branch Librarian – Lisa Borten</i>	
3:15PM	<b>Wrap Up &amp; Evaluations</b> <i>CTLE certificates &amp; Exit Surveys</i>	
3:30PM	<b>Closing</b>	

**OBJECTIVES:** To strengthen the teaching and research skills of K-12 educators.

- to find, access and utilize archival and library resources for their classrooms
- new grade/age appropriate skills for teaching history
- new curriculum knowledge in standards based history subjects
- to incorporate traditional research strategies into classroom learning activities and curriculum

**LEARNING METHODS:** This blended learning methods workshop includes: Instructor-led training/lectures, digital presentation, group discussions, document based questions handouts and graphic organizers, hands on skills based activity and instruction (ex: map reading, observation and inferences, internet research), historical themed tour and Q & A session.

**CTLE ACTIVITY HOURS:** 5

# About Brooklyn Connections

## Brooklyn Connections

10 Grand Army Plaza  
Brooklyn, NY 11238  
(718) 230-2715  
connections@bklynlibrary.org

Brooklyn Connections is the school outreach arm of Brooklyn Public Library's Brooklyn Collection. Our signature partnership program offers classes rare access to original archival materials while completing a customized, standards-based project. In addition, Brooklyn Connections supports NYC educators and students through professional development workshops, after-school visits and online resources.

*Funding for Brooklyn Connections is made possible with generous support from The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund, Tiger Baron Foundation, Epstein Teicher Philanthropies and the Brooklyn Eagle*

## Our Educators

**Kaitlin Holt** is Brooklyn Connections' program manager. Prior to joining Brooklyn Public Library in 2013, Kaitlin worked as a public programs facilitator at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne, Australia where she helped patrons track down illustrious immigrant pasts, and as an educator at the British Museum in London, England where she frolicked with mummies and the Elgin Marbles. She earned an M.A. in Museum Studies from the University College London and B.A. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Kaitlin spends her free time (and money) traveling to far corners of the earth with her Aussie husband and little girl.  
**kholt@bklynlibrary.org**

**Jen Hoyer** is an Educator with Brooklyn Connections. She joined the team after running a music outreach program in South Africa, working as a school librarian in Montreal, and organizing the archives of the oldest public lending library in Canada. Jen loves helping people realize how amazing the history of their community is, and when she's not talking about the neat material in the Brooklyn Collection, she volunteers her time to organize programming at Interference Archive in Gowanus. As the team's resident Canadian, Jen firmly believes that the alphabet ends with the letter "zed".  
**jhoyer@bklynlibrary.org**

**Julia Pelaez** is Brooklyn Connections newest educator. She holds a M.A. in Teaching History from Bard College and previously worked as an educator at the American Museum of Natural History. Julia advocates for the learning-disabled community, which she is a part of, to ensure that teachers are trained to integrate engaging materials and techniques to create inclusive classrooms. A true Brooklynite, Julia worked in both the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the New York Aquarium as a teen and grew up admiring her historical hero, Lady Deborah Moody, the founder of Gravesend where she has lived most of her life.  
**jpelaez@bklynlibrary.org**

## Brooklyn Collection Archive Tour

The Brooklyn Collection offers school tours for 4th – 12th grade classes, colleges and private groups pending availability. Programs include archival tours or curated research sessions. To book a tour contact us via email at [bcref@bklynlibrary.org](mailto:bcref@bklynlibrary.org) or by calling 718.230.2762

## Brooklyn Collection Open Hours

Feel free to walk in during our open hours to visit our browsing collection, view our exhibits and familiarize yourself with our materials

**MON: CLOSED**

**TUES: 12:30PM – 8:45PM**

**WED: 12:30PM – 6:00PM**

**THURS: 12:30PM – 8:45PM**

**FRI: 9:00AM – 3:00PM**

**SAT: 1:00PM – 5:30PM**

**SUN: CLOSED**



### Contact

CONEY ISLAND  
HISTORY PROJECT  
c/o Deno's Wonder Wheel Park  
3059 West 12th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11224  
[info@coneyislandhistory.org](mailto:info@coneyislandhistory.org)  
(347) 702-8553  
[www.coneyislandhistory.org](http://www.coneyislandhistory.org)

The History Project is open weekends and holidays from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day from 1-7pm. We will also be open on Palm Sunday (March 25, 2018) which is Coney Island's opening day of the season, and Easter Sunday (April 1, 2018) from 1-6pm.

Admission is free of charge!

## Presenter Contact Information

The Coney Island History Project, founded in 2004, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that aims to increase awareness of Coney Island's legendary and colorful past and to encourage appreciation of the Coney Island neighborhood of today. Our mission is to record, archive and share oral history interviews; provide access to historical artifacts and documentary material through educational exhibits, events and a website; and honor community leaders and amusement pioneers through our Coney Island Hall of Fame. Emphasizing community involvement, the History Project teaches young people about local history and develops programs in conjunction with local schools, museums, and other organizations.

The History Project's public programs began in 2005 with the opening of the Coney Island Hall of Fame, an exhibit that honors influential figures in history, and Coney Island Voices, an oral history archive that preserves the stories and memories of people who visited or lived and worked in Brooklyn's famous playground. Our Exhibit Center is located on West 12th Street near the Boardwalk. We want to hear your Coney Island stories! Share and preserve your Coney Island memories by recording an interview in person or over the phone.

We are also recording interviews, both in English and other languages, with immigrants who live or work in Southern Brooklyn. The Coney Island History Project's exhibition center is located on West 12th Street at the entrance to Deno's Wonder Wheel Park, just a few steps off the Boardwalk. View historic artifacts, photographs, maps, ephemera and films of Coney Island's colorful past.

### ABOUT WALKING TOURS:

Coney Island History Project Walking tours are offered year-round on Saturdays and Sundays. From April 9 through September 3, 2017, Coney Island History Project Walking Tours are offered at 1:30 pm. From September 10, 2017 through the fall and winter, tours start at 12:30 pm.

A tour is confirmed when we have a minimum of 3 reservations. Advance purchase of tickets through our event reservation website is required since tours are limited to approx. 12 people. If a tour is confirmed and has not sold out online, the remaining tickets will be available for cash purchase on the day of the tour when the History Project opens at 1:00 pm, (from May 28-September 4, 2016) or prior to the tour (spring, winter and fall).

All tours begin with a private visit to the History Project's exhibition center under the Wonder Wheel's iconic entrance sign on Denos D. Vourderis Place (West 12th Street), just a few steps off the Boardwalk. The 1-1/2 hour tour includes a talk on the exhibits, photographs and artifacts on display, including an original Steeplechase horse from the legendary ride that gave Steeplechase Park its name; the Cyclops head from Spook-A-Rama, Coney Island's oldest dark ride; and Coney's oldest surviving artifact, an 1823 Toll House sign dating back to the days when the toll for a horse and rider to "the Island" was 5 cents!



[www.coneyislandhistory.org](http://www.coneyislandhistory.org)

## Coney Island history is more than amusement parks!

- **The Town of Gravesend:** Coney Island was part of the first colony founded and led by a woman: Lady Deborah Moody, 1645.
- **Science and technology:** Incubators, escalators, a perpetual motion machine, transatlantic cable, the first hydraulic beach, electric lights, building the yellow submarine.
- **Politics:** John McKane's corruption; Robert Moses and Urban Renewal; Mayor Giuliani and the Thunderbolt; Fred Trump's demolition of Steeplechase Park.
- **Amusement Manufacturing and immigrant craftsmanship:** Coney Island was the manufacturing center and the testing ground for the amusement industry. William Mangels, Pinto Brothers, Marcus Illions, Dan Casola, La Marcus Thompson.
- **The Natural World:** Thousands of acres of salt marsh and sand dunes were the first attractions at Coney Island.
- **Archeological:** Native American shell mounds and middens on Coney Island Creek.
- **Psychological:** Steeplechase founder George C. Tilyou breaks down Victorian inhibitions.
- **Business and real estate:** Coney Island was once considered, inch for inch, the most valuable land in world.
- **Urban Renewal:** A failed experiment that destroyed lives and a community.
- **Transportation:** Ferries, monorails, steam trains, and the largest subway terminal.
- **Art and literature:** Coney Island as the subject of great writers and artists.
- **A blue-collar resort:** Summer bungalow colonies for the working class.
- **Healing:** Children's Aid hospitals and retreats at Coney Island. "The Fresh Air Cure."
- **Crime:** Abe Reles goes out the window of the Half Moon Hotel; Al Capone runs a bar on the Bowery; the modern Mafia is founded after the assassination of Joe "The Boss" Masseria at a Coney Island restaurant in 1931.

# Resources From The Brooklyn Collection

Brooklyn Public Library's Brooklyn Collection documents the history of Brooklyn from pre-colonial times to the present. A unique resource for the study of Brooklyn's social and cultural history, the Brooklyn Collection is a distinct division of Central Library, and is BPL's only collection of archival and rare book material. Founded in 1997 as a small book collection attached to the Library's History Division, it has become the world's largest public archive for the study of Brooklyn's social and cultural history in the 19th and 20th centuries. For a comprehensive overview of the Brooklyn Collection's holdings visit [bklynlibrary.org/brooklyncollection](http://bklynlibrary.org/brooklyncollection)

## Newspapers & Magazines

Newspaper & Magazine holdings include, the full run of *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* which was published as a daily newspaper for 114 consecutive years, as well as society magazine *Brooklyn Life* (1890-1931), the Park Slope Food Coop (PSFC) publication *Linewriters' Gazette* and numerous other neighborhood periodicals and publications containing general interest stories as well as borough, city, and national news.

## Ephemera

[Ephemera Collection](#): catalogs, postcards, business cards, fliers, circulars, and other remnants of daily Brooklyn life.

[Letterhead Collection](#): Letterhead stationery from Brooklyn businesses and institutions, spanning two hundred years of Brooklyn history.

[Fulton Street Trade Card Collection](#): Digitized advertising cards from Fulton Street businesses featuring colorfully illustrated and often humorous images. [Brooklyn Bridge Postcard Collection, c.1900-1984](#): Nearly 300 postcards featuring the Brooklyn Bridge.

## Audio Visual

[Black Brooklyn Renaissance Digital Archive](#) 1960-2010 (BBR) was a landmark, two year-long research, planning, and public presentation initiative by Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), in partnership with Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation. This digital archive contains 73 playable DVD discs with content from the BBR initiative. [Brian Purnell Civil Rights in Brooklyn Oral History Collection](#): Recorded interviews with former members of the Brooklyn Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), with ephemera, notes and news clippings. [Brooklyn Film & Arts Festival Collection](#): Five films that were presented at the 2011 Brooklyn Film Arts Festival on DVD.

## Photos

Brooklyn Collection's Historic Photo collection contains more than 20,000 photographs from Brooklyn dating from the mid-1800s to present. The collection includes photos from the archive of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle - Brooklyn's influential hometown newspaper for over a century-, a collection of photographs of local subway stations, as well as prints depicting historic people, structures and events in Brooklyn from the era before the rise of photography. Many of these prints come from popular magazines and journals of the 19th century.

[Betsy Head Farm Garden Photo Collection](#)

[Photographs from the Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#)

[Prints Collection, 1839-1968](#)

## Maps & Atlases

The Map & Atlas collection provides a wealth of information about Brooklyn geography, building, transportation routes, and other city planning factors from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century. Businesses, factories, churches, synagogues, schools, police and fire departments, parks and other municipal buildings are often specifically identified and labeled.

Earlier atlases and maps have tremendous research potential with some showing farm lines and the names of land owners. Highlights of the maps & atlases collection include Prospect Park planning maps (1855 – Present) and Sanborn Insurance Maps (1886 – 2005).

[Atlas Collection, 1855-1969](#)

[City Directories and Telephone Directories on Microfilm, 1796-1986](#)

[Digitized City Directories, 1856-1967](#)

[Maps Collection, 1666-2002](#)

## Other Highlights

[Class Photograph Collection](#): This small collection documents graduating classes at various public and private schools in Brooklyn. Additionally, there are two photographs of the staff of Boys' High School's student publication, the "Recorder."

[High School Newspaper Collection, 1853-1975](#): A collection of publications from Brooklyn schools, covering life in the schools as well as events in their communities.

[Yearbook Collection](#): An ever-expanding collection of yearbooks from Brooklyn schools, from middle school to college level and dating from 1849-2008.

[Black News Table of Contents](#): A list of the articles that appear in the run of Black News that is part of the Rioghan Kirchner Civil Rights in Brooklyn Collection.

[Brian Purnell Civil Rights in Brooklyn Oral History Collection](#): Recorded interviews with former members of the Brooklyn Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), with ephemera, notes and news clippings. [Rioghan Kirchner Civil Rights in Brooklyn Collection](#): A collection documenting the civil rights movement in Brooklyn. The collection was compiled and donated by Rioghan Kirchner, a member of the Brooklyn chapter of CORE (the Congress of Racial Equality).

[Coney Island House Register, 1848-1852](#): A leather bound register, about half the pages of which are filled with signatures of visitors to the Coney Island House hotel from 1848-1852.

[Froebel Society Records](#): Minutes, yearbooks and other documents relating to the activities of the Froebel Society, a Brooklyn women's club that promoted cultural activity among its members, who were originally drawn from the mothers of children attending the Froebel Academy.

# Coney Island History Resources

## Further Reading at Brooklyn Public Library

Denson, Charles. *Coney Island and Astroland*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2011.

Denson, Charles. *Coney Island: Lost and Found*. Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press, 2002.

Immerso, Michael. *Coney Island: the People's Playground*. Rutgers University Press, 2002.

Robin Jaffee, Frank. *Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland*. New Haven: Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art and Yale University Press, 2015.

## Brooklyn Public Library Articles & Databases

**American History** - Primary and secondary sources, including overview essays, biographies, government and court documents, photos, maps, audio/video clips, and statistics.

**Brooklyn Daily Eagle** – The digitized *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Brooklyn's daily newspaper from 1841 to 1955.

## Brooklyn Collection

**Photographs from the Brooklyn Daily Eagle:** This collection comprises files containing images from the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* depicting anything and everything that was covered in the paper, including many images of the various amusement parks located at Coney Island as well as the surrounding beachfront and neighborhoods.

**Ephemera Collection:** A collection of catalogs, postcards, business cards, fliers, circulars, and other remnants of daily life in Brooklyn. Folders of ephemera from Coney Island include postcards, brochures, ride tickets, and other souvenirs.

**Coney Island House Register, 1848-1852:** A leather bound register, about half the pages of which are filled with signatures of visitors to the Coney Island House hotel from 1848-1852.

**Maps and Atlases** This collection contains maps of Brooklyn, New York City, and Long Island spanning the years 1666 to 2002. Specifically regarding Coney Island, they show the evolution of Coney Island from farmland to a beachside resort and amusement park, and they track the development of transportation to this part of the borough.

# Teaching & Learning With Brooklyn Connections

Brooklyn Connections' comprehensive teaching and learning materials are designed to help students cultivate 21st Century learning skills through the lens of local Brooklyn history. Our educators and archivist have compiled letters, speeches, photographs, journal entries and unique ephemera from the Brooklyn Collection to develop engaging learning materials and lesson plans.

## Primary Source Packets

Each packet includes approx. ten primary sources from the Brooklyn Collection and other reliable collections institution. Each packet includes custom document based questions (DBQs). The sources and corresponding questions can help students gain brand new perspectives about Brooklyn's historical people, places and events.

### Neighborhoods

- Bay Ridge
- Bed-Stuy
- Borough Park
- Brooklyn Heights
- Brownsville
- Bushwick
- Canarsie
- Crown Heights
- Cypress Hills
- Dyker Heights
- East Flatbush
- East New York
- Gowanus
- Greenpoint
- Park Slope
- Sheepshead Bay
- Sunset Park
- Williamsburg

### Society & Culture

- Brooklyn & The Civil Rights Movement
- Child Labor
- Civil War
- Draft Riots
- Eminent Domain
- Environmentalism
- German Immigration
- Great Depression
- Housing
- Bed-Stuy Immigration
- Bushwick Immigration
- Italian Immigration
- LGBT Rights
- Revolutionary War
- Slavery & Abolition
- Women & The Civil War
- Women's Rights

### Places & Landmarks

- Brooklyn Academy Of Music
- Brooklyn Bridge
- Brooklyn Navy Yard
- Coney Island Amusement Parks
- Dreamland Park
- Ebbets Field
- Green-Wood Cemetery
- Luna Park
- New York Aquarium
- Newtown Creek
- Plymouth Church
- Prospect Park
- Steeplechase Park
- The Roeblings & Their Bridge

## Skills Based Lesson Plans

Brooklyn Connections supports teachers as they develop skill-based instruction for their classrooms. Our lesson plans are written by teachers for teachers and can be adapted for elementary, middle & high school students. Use them as they are or modify them to create your own.

- Cornell Method Notetaking
- Essay Structure
- Claim & Counterclaim
- Conducting An Interview
- Thick And Thin Questions
- Developing An Argument
- Crafting A Strong Thesis
- Effective Internet Research
- Crafting A Research Question
- Source Citations
- Annotated Bibliography
- Citing & Plagiarism
- Map & Atlas
- Atlas Reading
- Introduction To Research
- Steps To Effective Research
- Observations & Inferences

**Contact Brooklyn Connections for complimentary copies of any of the materials listed. Don't see a topic you are looking for or have a suggestion for a Brooklyn history topic? With over 100 packets in our database ask us about topics not listed here!**

# Activities





"The Edge of Splendor," Brooklyn Daily Eagle. 15 June 1952. Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Collection.

Caption: "The dim edge of splendor-- The famous shore dinners at Feltman's were known the world over at the turn of the century. Charles Feltman, the founder, whose portly figure and magnificent mustache easily identified him to his clientele, was seen three times daily making personal inspections of the spotless kitchens."

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**OBSERVATIONS – INFERENCES – QUESTIONS**

**OBSERVATIONS**

*What do you see?*

*What do you notice first?*

*What details do you notice?*

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**INFERENCES**

*What do you think, based on*

*what you see?*

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**QUESTIONS**

*What else do you want to know?*

*What questions do you have*

*about what you've observed?*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Coney Island Restaurant Activity**

List three food items that you would expect to see on a menu in Coney Island in the year 1940. Estimate how much you think each would cost.

**Item One:**

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Estimated Cost:

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**Item Two:**

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Estimated Cost:

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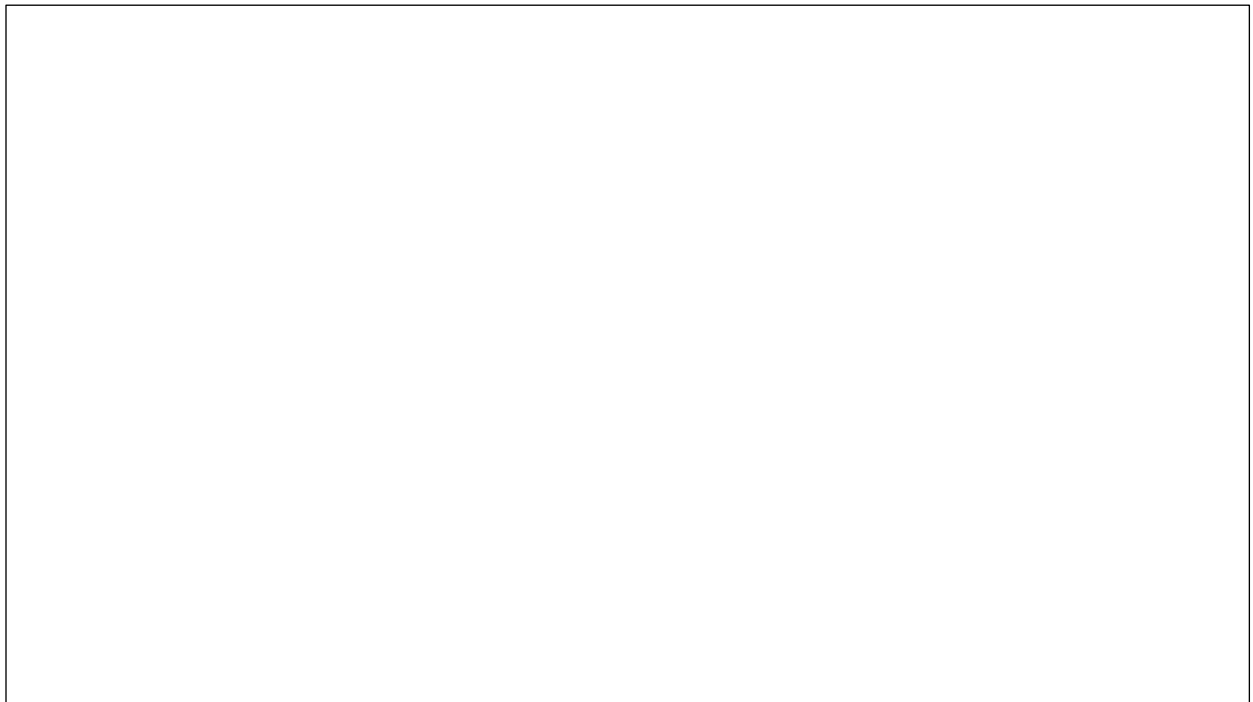
**Item Three:**

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Estimated Cost

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Draw a picture of something you think you would eat at Coney Island in 1940:



# FELTMANS

## ARCADE RESTAURANT

### ENJOY A COCKTAIL BEFORE DINING

Cherrystone or Little Neck Clams.....	.25	Crab Meat Appetizer .....	.25
Cocktail Sauce .....	.05	Chilled Tomato Juice .....	.10
Clam Juice Cocktail .....	.15	Sea Food Cocktail .....	.20
Fresh Shrimp Cocktail.....	.25		

Clam Broth .....	.15	Chicken Broth with Rice.....	.15
Little Neck Clam Chowder.....	.15	Vegetable Soup .....	.15

(If no other food order, 10c will be added to above prices.)

### SHORE DINNER MENU ON OTHER SIDE

* Steamed Soft Clams, Drawn Butter.....		.50	
Broiled Mackerel with Grilled Tomato, French Fried Potatoes.....		.55	
Stuffed Deviled Crab with Cook's Salad.....		.50	
* Poached Filet of Sole, Cream Sauce and Spinach.....		.55	
Fried Scallops, Cole Slaw, French Fried Potatoes.....		.60	
* Diced Lobster, Cream Sauce, on Toast.....		.65	
Broiled Whole Lobster, French Fried Potatoes, Salad.....		1.00	
* Fresh Lobster Salad.....		.80	
Fried Soft Shell Crab with French Fried Potatoes (1).....	.50	(2) .90	
* Roast Young Lamb with String Beans and Browned Potatoes.....		.65	
* Minced Creamed Chicken on Toast.....		.55	
* Meat Balls, Spaghetti, Tomato Sauce.....		.45	
* Browned Stew of Young Lamb, Assorted Vegetables.....		.55	
* Pot Roast with Assorted Vegetables, Potatoes.....		.60	
* Boiled Beef Tongue, Spinach, Boiled Potatoes.....		.60	
* Frankfurters with Sauerkraut.....		.40	
Broiled Plump Chicken (half), String Beans, Potatoes.....		.85	
Chopped Prime Beefsteak, Vegetables and Potatoes.....		.50	
Broiled Lamb Chop, Fresh Peas, French Fried Potatoes (1).....	.60	(2) 1.00	
* Chicken Salad .....		.80	
* Chef's Green Salad with Julienne of Boiled Beef, Special Dressing.....		.45	
* Fresh Vegetable Dinner .....		.50	
Chicken Sandwich .....	.45	Club Sandwich .....	.55
* Fresh Shrimp Salad .....		.60	
* Assorted Cold Cuts .....		.65	
One Pound Sirloin Steak, French Fried Potatoes.....		1.30	

(Dishes marked \* are ready)

Ice Cream .....	.15	Home Made Pie .....	.10
Coffee Ring .....	.10	Cream Cheese .....	.15
Cold Rice Pudding .....	.15	Cocoa .....	.15
Swiss Cheese .....	.20	Milk .....	.10
Cup of Custard .....	.15	Coffee .....	.10
Pound or Raisin Cake.....	.10	Tea .....	.15
		Iced Coffee .....	.15
		Iced Tea .....	.15

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR  
HATS, WEARING APPAREL

YE OLDE TIME MOVIES on ARCADE  
EVENINGS AT SEVEN 10c CHILDREN 5c



Make three observations about this menu:

What do you notice? What do you see first? What's interesting to you?

1.

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2.

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3.

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What **surprised** you when you looked at this menu? Explain your answer.

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You have decided to eat at Feltman's Restaurant three times this week. You have saved \$1.00 for each meal. You can't eat the same thing twice, and you need a main course and dessert for each meal. What are your three meals? Why did you choose them?

**Meal One:**

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**Total Cost of Meal One:**

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**Why did you choose these items for meal one?**

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**Meal Two:**

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**Total Cost of Meal Two:**

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**Why did you choose these items for meal two?**

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**Meal Three:**

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**Total Cost of Meal Three:**

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**Why did you choose these items for meal three?**

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# HDC@LPC – Designation Testimony – Coney Island Boardwalk & Central Harlem HD – April 17, 2018

Posted by Historic Districts Council on Monday, April 16, 2018 · Leave a Comment

Statement of the Historic Districts Council

Designation Hearing

April 17, 2018

[Item 1](#)

LP-2583

BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

**CONEY ISLAND (RIEGELMANN) BOARDWALK** (Scenic Landmark)

The Coney Island Boardwalk is arguably the most famous boardwalk on Earth and an obvious landmark. The Historic Districts Council strongly supports its designation as a New York City Scenic Landmark since by any measure, an accounting of New York City's landmarks which does not include the Boardwalk would be irreducibly incomplete. We question, however, any other purpose which this designation might serve.

As HDC understands it, current administrative interpretations of the Landmarks Commission's policing power abrogates almost all authority the agency might exercise over this property. All future changes to the actual boardwalk, in style, material or even form will be reviewed in an advisory capacity without public testimony to help guide the Commissioners' advice. The Public will have the opportunity to weigh in about existing buildings that fall within the bounds of the Scenic Landmark, but that was the case previously when the Art Commission had sole design review over the property. Issues of the historic context of this public property – the very Boards of the Boardwalk – still fall under the binding authority of the Art Commission and are ultimately controlled by the Parks Department, the very agency which replaced them with concrete in the first place. This is not even a case of closing the barn door after the horse has fled. Rather, this is an instance of putting up a sign identifying the empty building as a barn in the first place and calling it a job well done. Yes, we agree – the Coney Island Boardwalk is a landmark. Now please, treat it like one.



## **Planks for the memories! Locals slam landmarks agency for threatening to rip up Coney Boardwalk's iconic wood**

Call it a wood-be landmark.

Coney Islanders blasted the city Landmarks Preservation Commission at a Feb. 14 public meeting, complaining that landmarking the iconic Coney Island Riegelmann Boardwalk would do nothing to protect its signature wooden structure. Agency reps promised that alternate materials such as concrete and recycled plastic would still recall the appearance of the 2.5-mile, 95-year-old Boardwalk, but one local insisted that idea was preposterous, and those materials would change the essence of the walkway forever.

“If the boards can be replaced by concrete that has a board-like pattern, are you seriously suggesting that that should suffice in terms of recalling what the Boardwalk was but no longer is?” asked Rob Burnstein, the president of the Coney-Brighton Boardwalk Alliance. “What makes it a Boardwalk is having boards.”

## What Does It Mean to Landmark the Coney Island Boardwalk?

Architecture

Coney Island

by Craig Hubert



Apr 18, 2018 • 09:00am

If the Coney Island boardwalk is designated a historic landmark will the honor be in name only?

This is what was under discussion at a public hearing at the Landmarks Preservation Commission on Tuesday, where both commissioners and members of the audience who provided testimony said they were confused, not to mention concerned, about what it means to make the boardwalk a scenic landmark.

“Coney Island boardwalk is a landmark,” said Simeon Bankoff of the Historic Districts Council, during his testimony. “Now please, treat it as one.”

The designation, according to the presentation that opened the hearing, would include the boardwalk structure and walkway, conference stations, railings, benches, light fixtures, stairs and ramps to the beach, the steeple chaise pier and the beach beneath those elements.

Seven people testified, including Council Member Mark Treyger and a representative for Council Member Chaim Deutsch, all in favor of designating the waterfront icon.

But the commission would only have an advisory role in deciding on any changes to the boardwalk, including the replacement of materials. The final decision would be made by the Public Design Commission, because the city-owned boardwalk would be classified as a scenic landmark.

“The material of the boardwalk is absolutely central to its identity, its use and its experience,” said a resident of Coney Island. He suggested people run on the boardwalk, smell it after a rainstorm and take a look at its grandeur — all reasons the wood should remain, he said. “We are concerned that the parks department does not take these things into account.”

# Coney Island Boardwalk May Officially Become a Landmark

NEWS



amusement park

coney island

iconic landmark

By Andreea G. | 2018-03-23 11:21:20

scenic landmark

roller coaster

coney island boardwalk

riegelmann boardwalk



On March 20, the first formal step towards recognizing the boardwalk as a scenic landmark was taken, in a procedure that is commonly known as calendaring.

“The Landmarks Preservation Commission (has) voted in favor of calendaring the Coney Island (Riegelmann) Boardwalk in recognition of its cultural and historical significance. The Coney Island Boardwalk, which extends 2.7 miles along Coney Island and Brighton beaches, is considered one of the best-known waterfront pedestrian promenades in the world and a memorable destination for New Yorkers and visitors alike,” a representative of the Landmarks Preservation Commission said

At first, the boardwalk was meant to rejuvenate the neighborhood and beach, and it was named after Brooklyn Borough President Edward J. Riegelmann, who played an important role in the creation of the soon to be scenic landmark. Public officials were inspired by the earlier boardwalks in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and thought that doing the same in Coney Island would turn it into a year-round resort.

The iconic landmark was planned and designed by engineer Philip P. Farley; it is an elevated deck supported by concrete piles and girders. The first section that measures 80 feet-wide and 9500 feet-long was opened in May 1923.

Even though the most famous amusement parks no longer exist, the boardwalk still hosts the Coney Island Cyclone roller coaster, as well as the Wonder Wheel Ferris wheel and the New York Aquarium.

NEW YORK

## Coney Island's Boardwalk Could Become a NYC Landmark

Author: Ada Levine 03/21/2018



*The Preservation Commission indicated on Thursday March 16th, that it may designate the historic Coney Island Boardwalk as a city landmark.*

The city's Landmarks Preservation Commission indicated on Thursday March 16th, that it may designate the historic Coney Island Boardwalk as a city landmark. As reported by Crain's New York, LPC chair Meenakshi Srinivasan, said the change in status may take place sometime this spring or summer. The proposal has yet to undergo the standard approval process. The Commission will need to vote to put the boardwalk on its calendar of items, hold a public hearing, and then vote to designate it. Landmark status will mean that any repairs or renovations would need to be reviewed and approved by the commission to make sure historical air is maintained. The added costs of doing so would be paid for by city taxpayers. The boardwalk's maintenance is currently the responsibility of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The iconic South Shore walkway, which first opened in 1923 , stretches 2.5 miles from West 37th Street to Brighton 14th Street adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean in Brighton Beach. It was named Riegelmann Boardwalk after politician Edward J. Riegelmann. It is the second-longest boardwalk in the entire world, surpassed in length only by the boardwalk in Atlantic City. The city undertook renovation of the boardwalk in 2010, following Superstorm Sandy, replacing many of the tattered wooden planks with concrete and plastic. Over the years, the boardwalk has lost many of its amusement parks, but it proudly boasts the Coney Island Cyclone roller coaster, Wonder Wheel Ferris wheel, and the New York Aquarium. In 2016, the Ford Amphitheater, a live performance venue, opened there as well.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Step 1: What's Your Position? Create your Argument For / Against Landmark Status

Define the word **LANDMARK** in your own words:

The argument:

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*(name of building/structure)*

**SHOULD / SHOULD NOT**

*(circle one)*

receive landmark status, because it

**IS / IS NOT**

*(circle one)*

historically significant.

## Step 2: Support Your Position

Provide three pieces of **EVIDENCE** from the sources provided to support your argument that this site should or should not be a Landmark:

1.

2.

3.

List three reasons an opponent might use to argue against your position:

1.

2.

How would you **REFUTE** your opponent's reasons?