NYCTimes

BY GEORGE

NEW YORK / SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2026

Shared spaces. New stories.

Public design. Care for drivers. A Saturday of rhythm, clay and cinema.



Original AI-assisted editorial art / OPC by George / Imagined public plaza, not a real project rendering

CITY / DESIGN FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

What makes a shared place work? New York celebrates public design across the five boroughs.

TONIGHT / RHYTHM AND CINEMA

Ju Percussion at Lincoln Center. A sold-out Rossellini screening with a standby option.

CITY. CULTURE. CONTEXT.

November 21 / Announcements, plans and continuing exhibitions / Follow the dated sources

THE LEAD / A city made for sharing

New York’s Public Design Commission celebrated its annual design awards on November 20, recognising ten winning projects and five additional projects restoring public spaces. City Hall’s announcement spans libraries, recreation facilities, public art and more resilient waterfronts across the five boroughs.

The distinction matters: an award celebrates a design or project, but does not establish that every facility is already open. Readers should check each site’s current access information before planning a visit.

Our editorial view: the best public place earns its value through everyday use. A library that welcomes you, a comfortable bench or a waterfront path can change how a neighbourhood feels. The useful question is how design serves the people who share it.

NYC Mayor’s Office. Published November 20, 2026; awards announced November 20. Checked November 21.

Source / full details

CITY WATCH / The Rikers roadmap

The mayor released a plan on November 20 targeting the closure of Rikers Island by 2032. City Hall says it envisages four borough-based jails, with Brooklyn first in 2029, alongside investment in therapeutic care and measures to reduce case delays.

These are the administration’s published targets, not completed facilities or independently verified future outcomes. The announcement also includes planning for the island’s eventual reuse.

Our editorial focus will be delivery: the construction milestones, the services provided and what changes for people in custody and the staff working with them.

NYC Mayor’s Office. Plan published November 20, 2026. Announced milestones: Brooklyn 2029; four jails and Rikers closure by 2032. Checked November 21.

Source / full details

LOCAL BRIEF / Care where drivers work

City Hall announced Driver Health Hubs at JFK and LaGuardia on November 20, a partnership involving the Taxi and Limousine Commission, MetroPlusHealth and the Port Authority. The release describes preventive screenings, help enrolling in insurance and SNAP, and same-day doctor appointments.

A mobile services van is also planned for places with large concentrations of drivers. This is a report of the announced service; the release is not a complete timetable for every location. Check current arrangements before travelling.

NYC Mayor’s Office. Published and launch announced November 20, 2026. Checked November 21.

Source / full details

ART / Small works, many voices

The GHP Artists Exhibition continues at Jane Hartsook Gallery, 16 Jones Street, through December 13. Greenwich House’s listing describes small ceramic pieces, from functional objects to sculpture, made by the pottery’s students, members, faculty and staff.

The opening reception was November 19; it is not happening again today. Confirm gallery opening hours before visiting.

Our editorial suggestion: choose one small object and give it a long look. Shape, surface and the traces of a maker’s hands can reward slower attention.

Greenwich House exhibition page; publication date not displayed. Exhibition November 19-December 13, 2026. Checked November 21.

Source / full details

BY GEORGE / LOOK CLOSER

Our editorial question: where do you feel welcome in your city? Think about the public places that help an ordinary day feel better.

YOUR SATURDAY IN THE CITY.

November 21 / New York local time (EST) / Entry arrangements can change

7:30 P.M.

Ju Percussion / Lincoln Center

David Rubenstein Atrium

TONIGHT / A room full of rhythm

Ju Percussion performs at Lincoln Center’s David Rubenstein Atrium tonight, November 21, at 7:30 p.m. The Taiwan-based group brings contemporary percussion and a theatrical approach to its 40th-anniversary engagement. The venue is at 1887 Broadway.

Lincoln Center lists this as a free event. At the time checked, Fast Track was no longer available; general admission remained first-come, first-served. The venue recommends arriving at least an hour before the performance, and admission is not guaranteed.

This is tonight’s advertised programme, not a review of a performance already given.

Lincoln Center event page; publication date not displayed. Performance November 21, 2026, 7:30 p.m. EST. Checked November 21.

Source / full details

CINEMA / Rossellini, with the family

Film Forum lists Rome, Open City introduced by Ingrid and Isabella Rossellini tonight, November 21, at 7:20 p.m., at 209 West Houston Street.

Important availability update: the official event page says this screening is sold out. A standby line is scheduled to form at the box office thirty minutes before showtime; that does not guarantee entry. Follow the venue page for any changes.

Our editorial suggestion: if you cannot get in, use the wider Rossellini 120 programme to plan another screening rather than assuming seats will appear.

Film Forum event page; publication date not displayed. Screening November 21, 2026, 7:20 p.m. EST. Sold-out notice checked November 21.

Source / full details

SPORT / A two-point finish in Brooklyn

Orlando beat Brooklyn 113-111 on November 20. Sportsnet’s highlights report credits Franz Wagner with 35 points and Desmond Bane with 21.

At the bar: what makes a better shared Saturday evening - a close game or live music? Tell the room what you would choose.

Sportsnet highlights, published November 20, 2026. Game November 20. Checked November 21.

Source / full details

ČESKY / RANNÍ SOUHRN

New York včera ocenil veřejné projekty od knihoven po nábřeží. Město oznámilo zdravotní centra pro řidiče na JFK a LaGuardia a zveřejnilo plán uzavření Rikers Island do roku 2032. Dnes večer: Ju Percussion v Lincoln Center od 19:30; vstup zdarma, místa nejsou zaručena. Film Rome, Open City s úvodem sester Rosselliniových od 19:20 je podle kina vyprodaný, možná je pouze čekací fronta. Keramická výstava GHP pokračuje do 13. prosince. Brooklyn včera podlehl Orlandu 111:113. Časy jsou newyorské.

Independent NYCTimes by George. Original digest prepared with AI assistance from linked sources checked November 21, 2026. Times are New York local time (EST). Confirm access and entry with organisers. Cover is fictional AI-assisted editorial art, not a photograph or a rendering of an award-winning project. Newyorkers magazine and the OPC Reality supplement remain separate publications.