

# Chelseanow

YOUR WEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CHELSEA, HUDSON YARDS & HELL'S KITCHEN

## Have Your Say: Participatory Budgeting is Back

BY YANNIC RACK

What if you could step into the shoes of local legislators and decide what improvement projects to greenlight for your neighborhood? That possibility is becoming real, once again, as the Participatory Budgeting process kicks off — after last year's inaugural effort awarded funds to, among other things, a new park on W. 20th St. and an ADA [Americans With Disabilities Act]-compliant bathroom for Jefferson Market

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## Vendors Push to Lift Permit Cap

BY ZACH WILLIAMS

Acquiring one of the 5,100 permits issued by New York City to sell food on the street can take a long time, but Mohammed Attia found a relatively simple way: through a guy who knew a guy who knew a guy.

Attia is one of thousands of food cart operators who rent someone else's permit in order to avoid trouble with the law and hefty fines. He pays a permit-holder \$6,000 each year to operate in his name from April until

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### ALIEN INVASION THREATENS MANKIND



And now that we have your attention, be sure to catch the "Honeycomb Trilogy" — which takes its audience on a journey from the first manned mission to Mars, all the way through the aftermath implied by our alarmist headline. See page 19.



Photo by Rowa Lee courtesy of Friends of the High Line

## Halloween Fun for Great Pumpkins and Little Sprouts

Not so long ago, the "Death Avenue" section of West Chelsea was downright scary! On Oct. 24, The High Line's family-friendly Haunted Halloween event revisits this era, when characters from the railway's industrial past are resurrected for a living history lesson that comes with music, snacks, puppets, and spooky surprises. See page 2.

## CB4 Mulls Air, Street, Pier Matters

BY WINNIE McCROY

Nearly 100 community members came together on the evening of Oct. 7 at Fulton Auditorium in Chelsea for the monthly full board meeting of Community Board 4 (CB4). The watchword for the meeting was development — particularly, the petition for transfer of unused development rights for properties on W. 24th St. to Extell Development and chef Anthony Bourdain's rumored opening of an international food hall at Pier 57.

First Vice Chair Delores Rubin led the Public Hearing session, where the community weighed in on the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) application for the transfer of unused development rights to 136 W. 24th St.

"Normally air rights would be transferred if they were in the same zoning district. They would have requisite congruity," explained land use lawyer Jay Segal, who spoke

at the meeting on behalf of Extell Development. The real estate company is attempting to secure the 29,000 floor area ratio (FAR) of unused air rights from the co-op at 136 W. 24th St., and tack it on to their property at 142 W. 24th St., so that they can build up.

"Extell entity, which is one building away, wants to use these 29,000 feet. The co-op wants to sell it to them. But in order to do it, two things need to happen. The BSA must okay it, and because of the variance, we have to form a 'chain' between the buildings, Segal told Chelsea Now after the meeting.

He explained that the in order to transfer development rights in New York City, properties have to be contiguous within 10 linear feet. So if the FAR rights are transferred

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# COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Photo by Rowa Lee, courtesy Friends of the High Line

**So fun it's scary: Oct. 24's High Line Haunted Halloween has food, puppet shows, music, and mild mayhem.**

## HIGH LINE HAUNTED HALLOWEEN

Ghosts of the past come to life for a fall afternoon of mild frights, sweet surprises, and haunted history lessons that harken back to when freight trains ran at street-level on 10th Ave. — causing so many collisions that the area became known as “Death Avenue.” To prevent pedestrians from becoming ghosts, “West Side Cowboys” used to ride their horses in front of trains, to warn of approaching traffic. Some of them will return on Oct. 24, along with other historical characters from the neighborhood’s industrial era (and instead of giving warnings, they’ll be handing out treats). So come in costume and get into the spirit, as you trick-or-treat and participate in frighteningly fun free activities that include face painting, a photo booth, a puppet show by Penny Jones & Co., horn-powered tunes from The Rad Trads, the spooky storytelling of April Armstrong, Caribbean-influenced brass hip-hop music by Bombrasstico, and sweet treats (Day of the Dead cookies! Hot chocolate! Pumpkin pie ice cream!) from fiendishly creative vendors La Newyorkina, Melt Bakery, and Terroir at the Porch.

Free. Open to all ages (costumes encouraged!). Sat., Oct. 24, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. on the High Line (btw. W. 14th St. & W. 17th St. Enter via the stairs or elevators at W. 14th or W. 16th Sts.). For info, visit [thehighline.org](http://thehighline.org) or call 212-206-9922.

## WIN TICKETS TO “THE VELVETEEN RABBIT”

The Atlantic Theater Company begins its 2015/2016 “Atlantic for Kids” season with a world premiere musical adaptation of “The Velveteen Rabbit.” Long before the days of Woody and Buzz Lightyear, the nursery toy characters of author Margery Williams Bianco helped children explore matters of longing, loss, wisdom, and friendship. A young cast brings life to the book’s beloved tug boat, wooden lion, porcelain doll and sawdust-stuffed rabbit, as they explore what it means to be real. A talkback session after each performance offers kids the chance to interact with cast members and discuss the themes of the play. For the chance to win four tickets to the Nov. 1 show, send an email to [Scott@ChelseaNow.com](mailto:Scott@ChelseaNow.com). Include a daytime contact number. The winner will be notified on Oct. 26.

Best suited for ages 3 to 9. Sat. & Sun. at 10:30 a.m., through Nov. 1. At Atlantic Theater Company’s *The Linda Gross Theater* (336 W. 20th St. btw. Eighth & Ninth Aves.). Not content to take your chances on our raffle? Call 866-811-4111 or visit [atlantictheater.org](http://atlantictheater.org) to purchase tickets (\$15 for ages 10 and under, \$20 for adults, with group discounts available).

## BLESSING OF ANIMALS AT CHELSEA COMMUNITY CHURCH

The nondenominational Chelsea Community Church (CCC) is really serious about that “all are welcome” policy



Photo by Ahron R. Foster

**Enter our raffle for the chance to win four tickets to the Nov. 1 performance of Atlantic Theater Company’s “The Velveteen Rabbit.”**



Photo by Peggy Vance

**Eric Barsness of Puppies Behind Bars (here, with Dudley) will speak at Chelsea Community Church’s Blessing of Animals service (Oct. 18).**

— especially when it comes to their annual Blessing of Animals service, where the pews are full of paws (and feathers, and even scales). The guest speaker is Eric Barsness, of Puppies Behind Bars — a program that trains prison inmates to raise service dogs. Tenor Otto Walberg, the service’s longtime lay leader, will perform a new song composed by singer-songwriter and guitarist Phil Marsh, who will accompany Walberg. On Nov. 1, the church celebrates its 40th year with a service that includes special music and an overview of CCC’s history.

The Blessing of Animals service takes place on Sun., Oct. 18 at 12 p.m. at St. Peter’s Chelsea (346 W. 20th St. btw.



Courtesy High Line Open Studios

**Maria Fragoudaki’s workspace, seen here, is one of the destinations on your High Line Open Studios self-guided tour (Oct. 17 and 18).**

Eighth & Ninth Aves.). Free (a collection will be taken). Visit [chelseachurch.org](http://chelseachurch.org) and [puppiesbehindbars.com](http://puppiesbehindbars.com).

## HIGH LINE OPEN STUDIOS SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Finding out how the hamburger’s made will be as much fun as having it for lunch — when over 60 artists peel back the curtain to reveal their creative process, and allow you to walk away with a deal on stuff from their studio inventory. The High Line Open Studios event provides the chance to get a rare glimpse of artist workspaces, along the High Line between the Westbeth Artists building and the West Chelsea Arts building.

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 17–18, 12–6 p.m. The self-guided tour starts at the West Chelsea Arts building (508–526 W. 26th St. btw. 10th & 11th Aves.), where visitors can pickup tour maps and info on participating artists. Visit [highlineopenstudios.org](http://highlineopenstudios.org).

—SCOTT STIFFLER