



F O R D H A M U N I V E R S I T Y P R E S S
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“With hundreds of photos spanning the years before, during and after the site’s construction, the book lends context to the reclaimed urban space that has become one of the city’s most popular attractions.”

Wall Street Journal

“Fascinating... A must for anyone who plans to visit the High Line.”

Chicago Tribune

15 Years After the High Line’s Opening, Acclaimed Guidebook Chronicles the Many Changes and Impacts of the Beloved, Influential Park

Feb. 14, 2024

New York – It was 25 years ago that New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani called the High Line, an abandoned elevated freight railroad that ran through Manhattan’s Far West Side, an eyesore and signed an order for its demolition. That, in turn, spurred activists to rally the community to save the structure and turn it into a “park in the sky.”

Ten years later, on June 8, 2009, that dream became a reality when the first section of the High Line opened as a walkable public space and an urban oasis of green, transforming the entire neighborhood. Since then, the High Line has become one of New York’s most popular destinations, attracting more than 8 million visitors a year, and has served as an inspiration to cities around the world.

Now, visitors can learn more about the history and details of this unique destination in the newly released third edition of *On the High Line: The Definitive Guide*, (Fordham University Press, May 2024), by Annik LaFarge.

Originally published in 2012 and updated in 2014, *On the High Line* is organized into short entries that each cover about two city blocks, providing rich details about everything in view on both sides of the park. Illustrated with more than 115 black and white photographs, it explores historic and modern architecture; plants and horticulture; and important industries and technology innovations that developed in the neighborhoods the park traverses.



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This new edition also features in-depth coverage of newly opened sections of the park; changes in the gardens and horticulture; new architecture along both sides of the park; new historical details like the connection between the Whitney Museum site and the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire; expanded sections on fascinating and little-known historical subjects such as the industrial enclave known as Thirteenth Avenue and the Lighterage System of transportation, in which railroad boxcars were floated across the river on barges to massive warehouses that parallel today's Hudson River Park. LaFarge also includes the High Line's new neighbors: innovative parks like Little Island, the Pier 57 roof deck, and Gansevoort Peninsula.

LaFarge also engages in a new conversation about the more controversial side of the High Line's story: how it became a poster child for the most grievous manifestations of gentrification and inequity in public spaces. She provides a frank discussion on how the park's leadership created a platform for discussing these issues and for advising other adaptive-use projects on how to work more inclusively and from a social justice and equity perspective. In the process, she helps us understand the true, and global, impact the High Line and its leadership have had.

For this edition, LaFarge built a companion website that mirrors the book's organization and provides hundreds of photos — more than 650 rooftop, aerial, historic and contemporary images — and includes page numbers for handy reference. In essence the website, HighLineBook.com, serves as a pictorial history of the many landscapes the High Line traverses, and is an ideal companion for the reader who wants to engage more deeply with the history of this place.

On the High Line serves as an educated travel companion, someone invisibly perched on a visitor's shoulder who can answer every question, including what was here before, moving back in time through the early 20th century, the Industrial Revolution, and the colonial and pre-European times when this stretch of what we call Manhattan was home to the Lenape people, and much of it was covered by the waters of the Hudson River.

The book has garnered praise for its fascinating details. *Publisher's Weekly* called it, "Engrossing... Bursting with insights on history, botany, geography, architecture, and the arts.... A marvelous guidebook for visitors and readers interested in New York City history or urban planning."

And *Library Journal* said, "Reading this... guide will make the casual tourist, and perhaps even an oblivious Manhattanite, seek out a section of the park (or maybe even the entire route) for a stroll... Recommended for those living in or planning to visit New York City."

LaFarge is a photographer, editor and author who has been writing about the High Line since 2009, beginning with the blog LivinTheHighLine.com. In 2019 her blog was selected by the Columbia University Libraries Web Resources Collection Program for inclusion in the Avery Library Historic Preservation and Urban Planning web archive to ensure its continuing availability to researchers. For many years LaFarge



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has served on the Board of Trustees for the Waterfront Museum in Red Hook, Brooklyn, most recently as Chair. She is author of *Chasing Chopin: A Musical Journey Across Three Centuries, Four Countries, and a Half-Dozen Revolutions* (Simon & Schuster, 2020 and 2021); the companion music site can be found at WhyChopin.com.

To schedule an interview with LaFarge or to request a copy of the book, please email Lauren Carrane at Lauren@sharppencilmarketing.com.

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