

# What to Expect at The Public Theater



*The Public Theater, photographed in 2023*

## A Social Narrative Guide

This guide is designed to outline what to expect at The Public Theater.

It will share information about arriving at the theater, getting settled at the theater, and expectations during the performance.



*The Public Theater, photographed in 1986 by Martha Swope*

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## **WELCOME TO THE PUBLIC THEATER!**

We are happy that you are joining us for a performance.

The Public Theater is located at 425 Lafayette Street, New York, NY, 10003. The Public Theater is an open building, and you are welcome here whether you have tickets to a show or not! We acknowledge the land on which The Public and its theaters stand—the original homeland of the Lenape people— and the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory. [Read our full Land Acknowledgement.](#)

Our typical Box Office hours are 5-10PM on Mondays and 2PM-10PM on Tuesdays through Sundays. We have public bathrooms, free charging stations near the entrance to Joe's Pub, free wifi, and multiple seating areas. **The WiFi Network is PT-Guest, with no password.**

## **BEFORE YOUR VISIT**

We recommend purchasing tickets ahead of time. You can try to purchase tickets on the day of the show, but they may not be available. You can purchase tickets for any show before your visit by:

- Going to the Public Theater's website:  
<https://publictheater.org/>
- Calling Audience Services:  
212.967.7555
- Visiting the Public Theater's Box Office at 425 Lafayette Street.

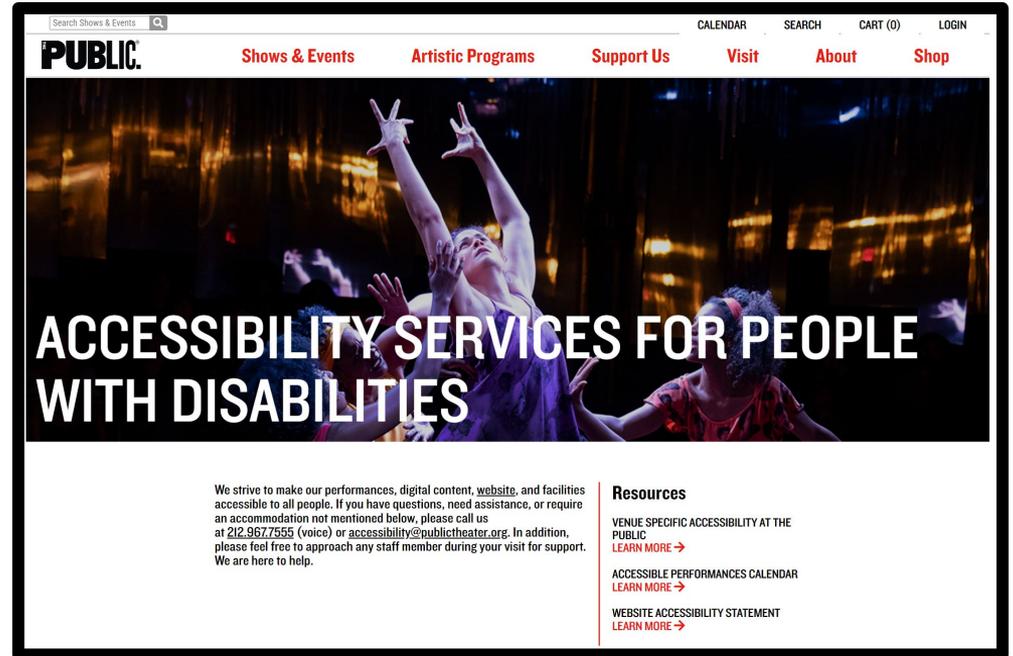


## **BEFORE YOUR VISIT**

We recommend you read through [our page about Accessibility Services](#).

To see a calendar of our upcoming Accessible Performances, either look at the [Accessible Performances Calendar Page](#) or on each individual show page, next to the calendar of performances.

[Click here to learn more about venue accessibility at The Public Theater.](#)



The screenshot shows the top portion of the Public Theater website. At the top, there is a search bar labeled "Search Shows & Events" and navigation links for "CALENDAR", "SEARCH", "CART (0)", and "LOGIN". Below this is a main navigation menu with "PUBLIC." in large letters, followed by "Shows & Events", "Artistic Programs", "Support Us", "Visit", "About", and "Shop". The main visual is a dark photograph of performers on stage with their arms raised. Overlaid on this image is the text "ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES" in large, white, bold, sans-serif font. Below the image, there is a white background with two columns of text. The left column contains a paragraph about accessibility: "We strive to make our performances, digital content, website, and facilities accessible to all people. If you have questions, need assistance, or require an accommodation not mentioned below, please call us at 212.957.7955 (voice) or accessibility@publictheater.org. In addition, please feel free to approach any staff member during your visit for support. We are here to help." The right column is titled "Resources" and lists three items: "VENUE SPECIFIC ACCESSIBILITY AT THE PUBLIC" with a "LEARN MORE →" link, "ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES CALENDAR" with a "LEARN MORE →" link, and "WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT" with a "LEARN MORE →" link.

When you purchase a ticket, you can select your seat based on the seats that are available.

If you have sound, light, or content sensitivities, there are warnings on each show page based on the show design. **You can also always call the Audience Services team and ask for more details at (212) 967-7555.**

If you already purchased tickets and need to change your seats, please call Audience Services at (212) 967-7555. They will do their best to move your seat.

**For Non-Sensory Adapted Performances:** If you like to take breaks during an event, you may want to pick a seat close to an exit. If you expect to take a break during an event, please check with the usher before the show starts to understand when you will be able to re-enter.

## **Extended Accessible Performances**

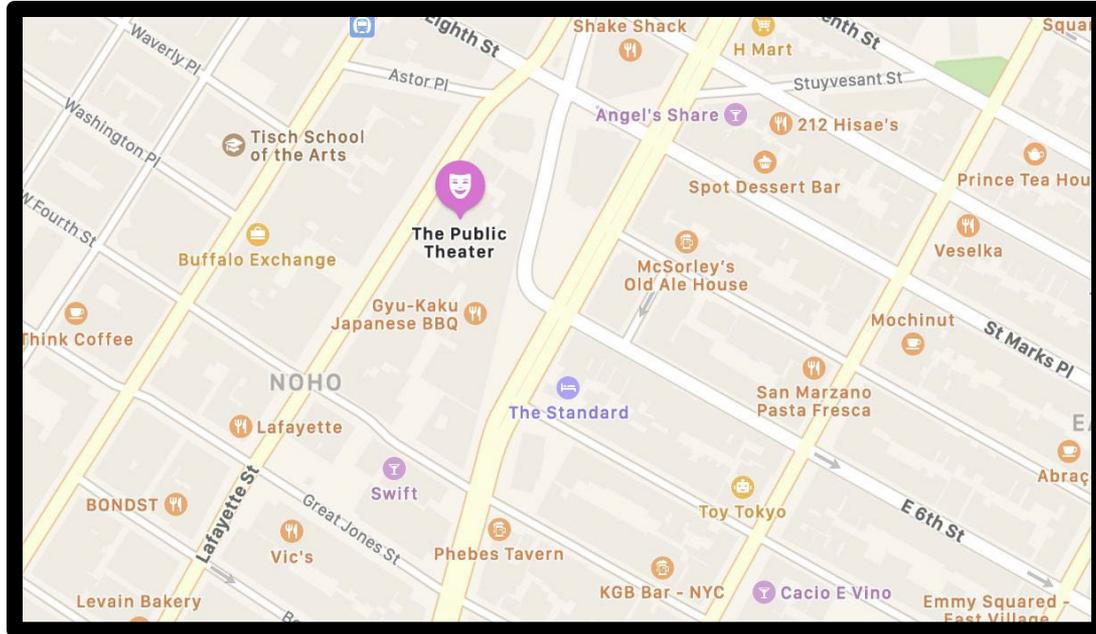
The Public Theater works with [TAP at TDF.org](#) and [Hands On](#) to contract interpreters, captioners, and audio descriptors for accessible performances.

We try to offer Open Captioned Performances, Sign Interpreted Performances, Mask Required Performances, Audio Described Performances, and more for every show.

Review the scheduled upcoming accessible performances on the [Accessible Performance Calendar](#).

## 2. GETTING TO THE THEATER

The Public Theater is located at 425 Lafayette St in The East Village in Manhattan.



**The theater is on Lafayette Street between Astor Place and East 4th Street.**

If you are taking a car to The Public Theater:



If you are taking a car service (Taxi, Uber, Lyft) or using Access a Ride, you may be dropped off directly in front of the theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

If you are walking to The Public Theater:



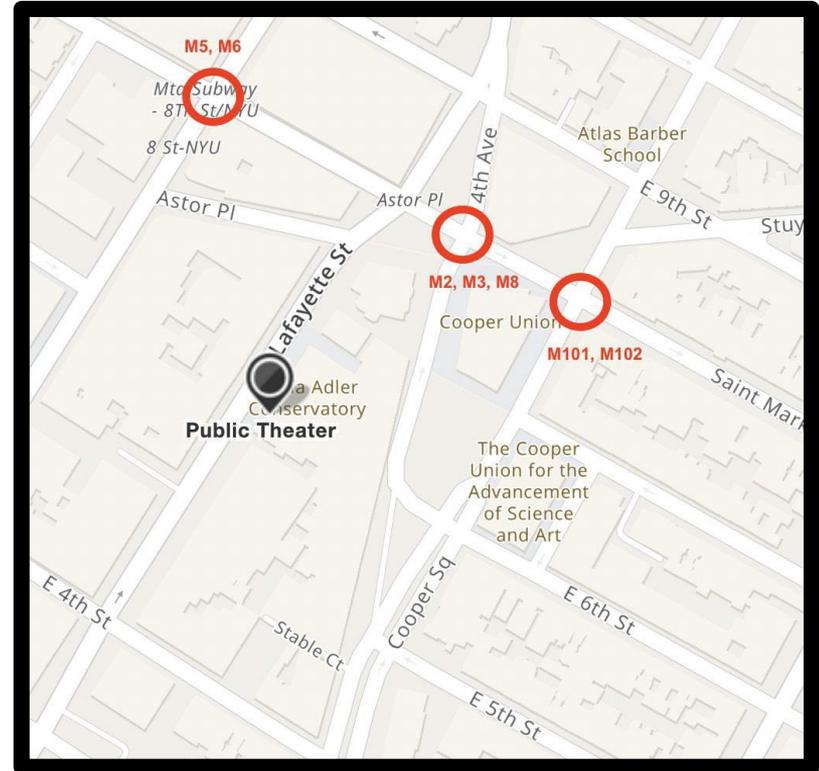
The Public is just south of the [Wegmans](#) on Astor Place and the [Astor Place Cube](#).

If you are taking the bus to The Public Theater, the following bus stops are nearby:

M2, M3, or M8 to 8th Street and 4th Avenue (2 min walk)

M5 or M6 to 8th Street and Broadway (3 min walk)

M101 or M102 to 8th Street and Cooper Square (3 min walk)

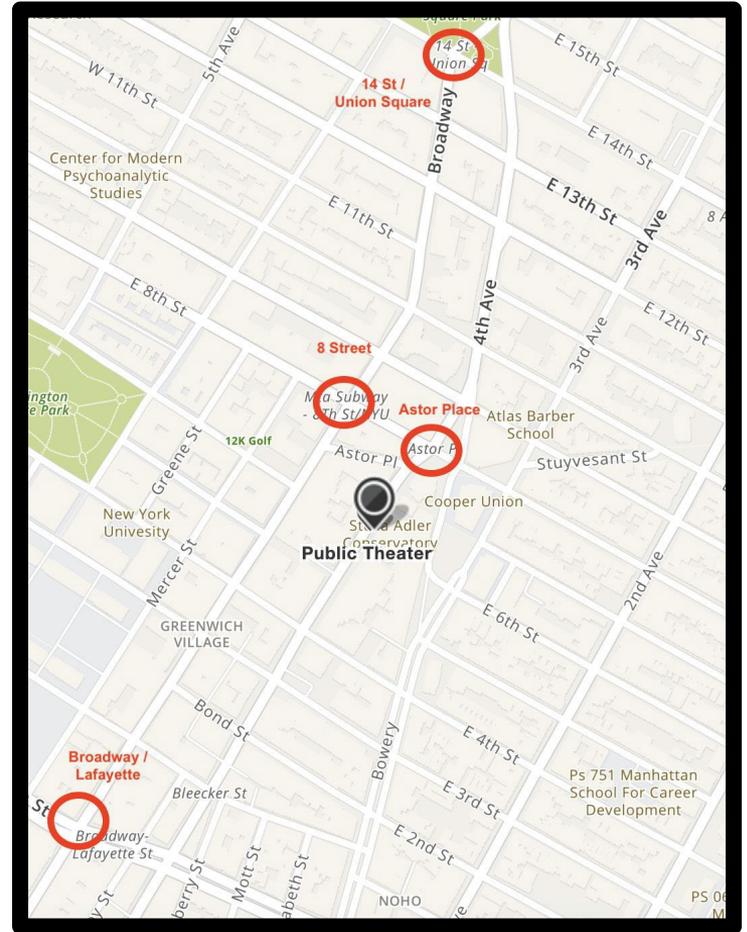


If you are taking the subway:

The closest subway stations are the **6 train at Astor Place** (2 min walk) and the **R W train at 8th Street** (3 min walk).

These subway stations are not wheelchair accessible.

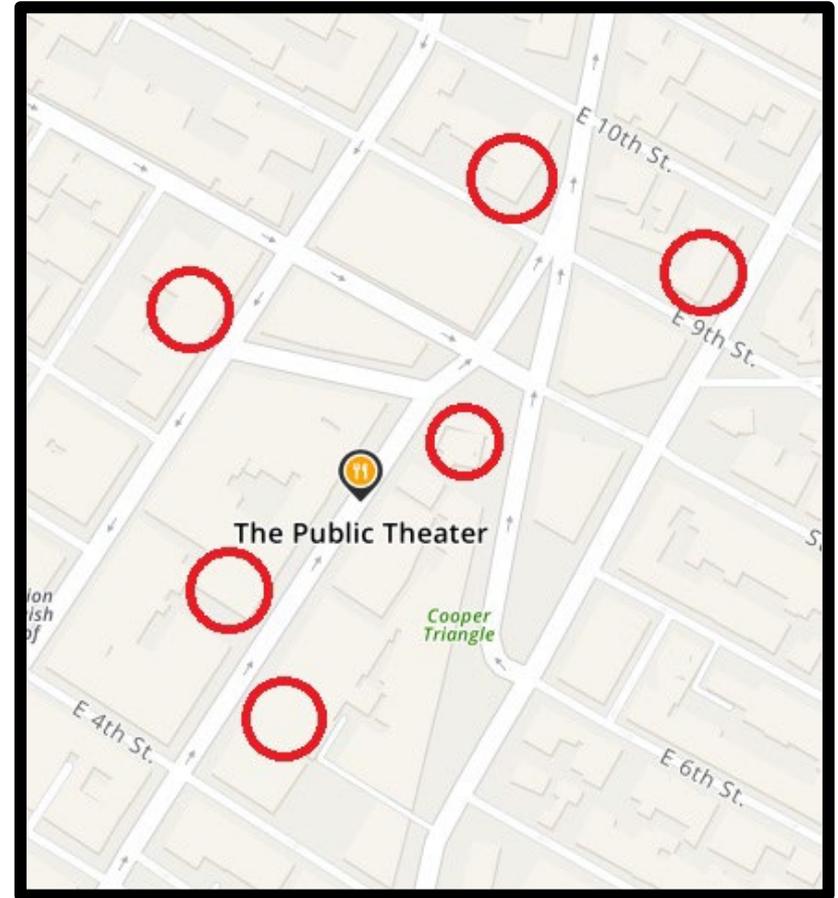
Broadway Lafayette (7 min walk) and 14th Street Union Square (9 min walk) subway stations are also nearby. **These stations are wheelchair accessible.**



If you are driving:

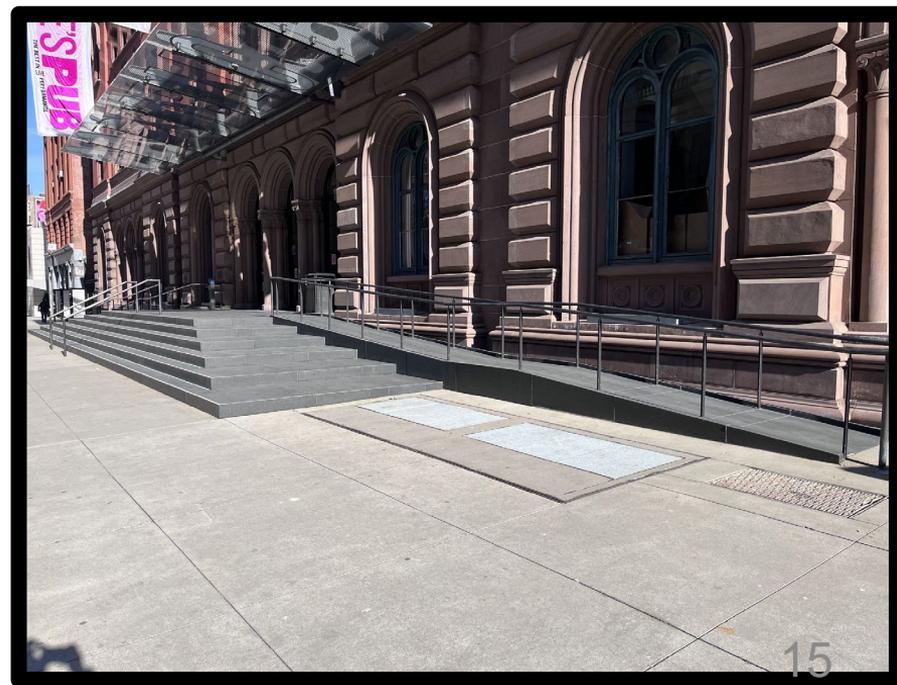
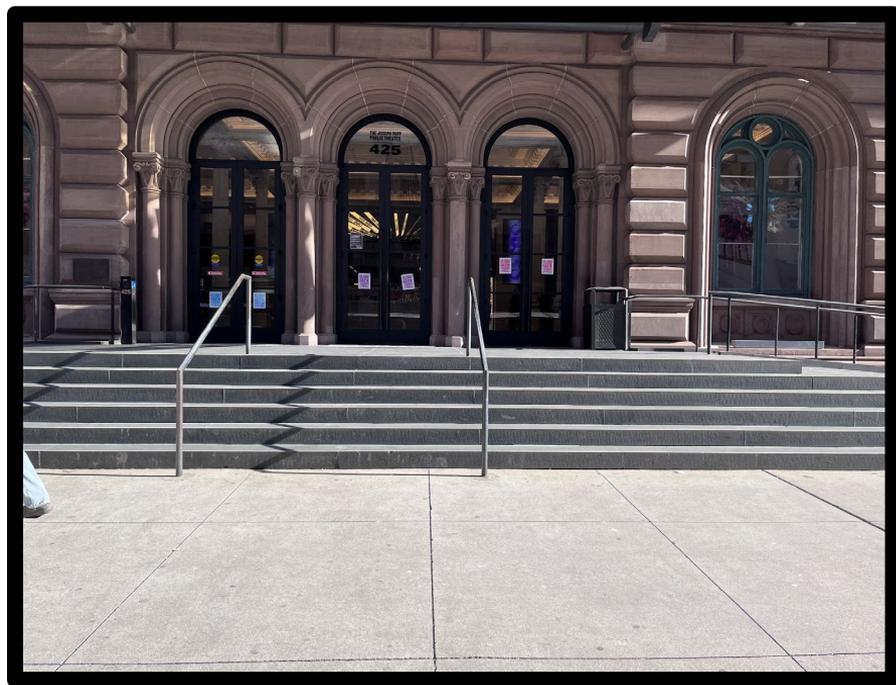
There are several parking lots in the area, circled in red on the map.

They charge a variety of costs and may or may not be available at any given time, please check beforehand if you plan on driving.

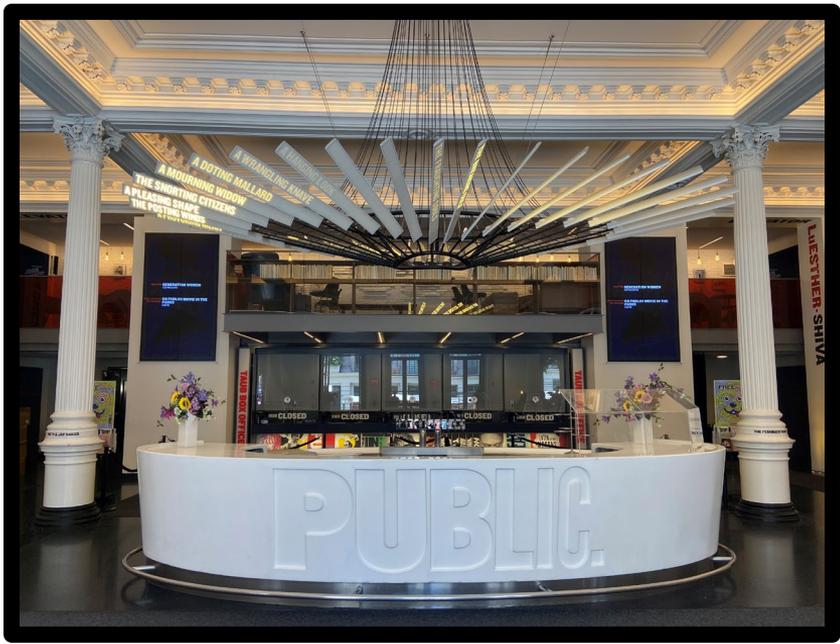


# **ARRIVING AT THE THEATER**

When you arrive, you can enter the building using the stairs or the ramp. There are is a ramp on either side of the stairs.

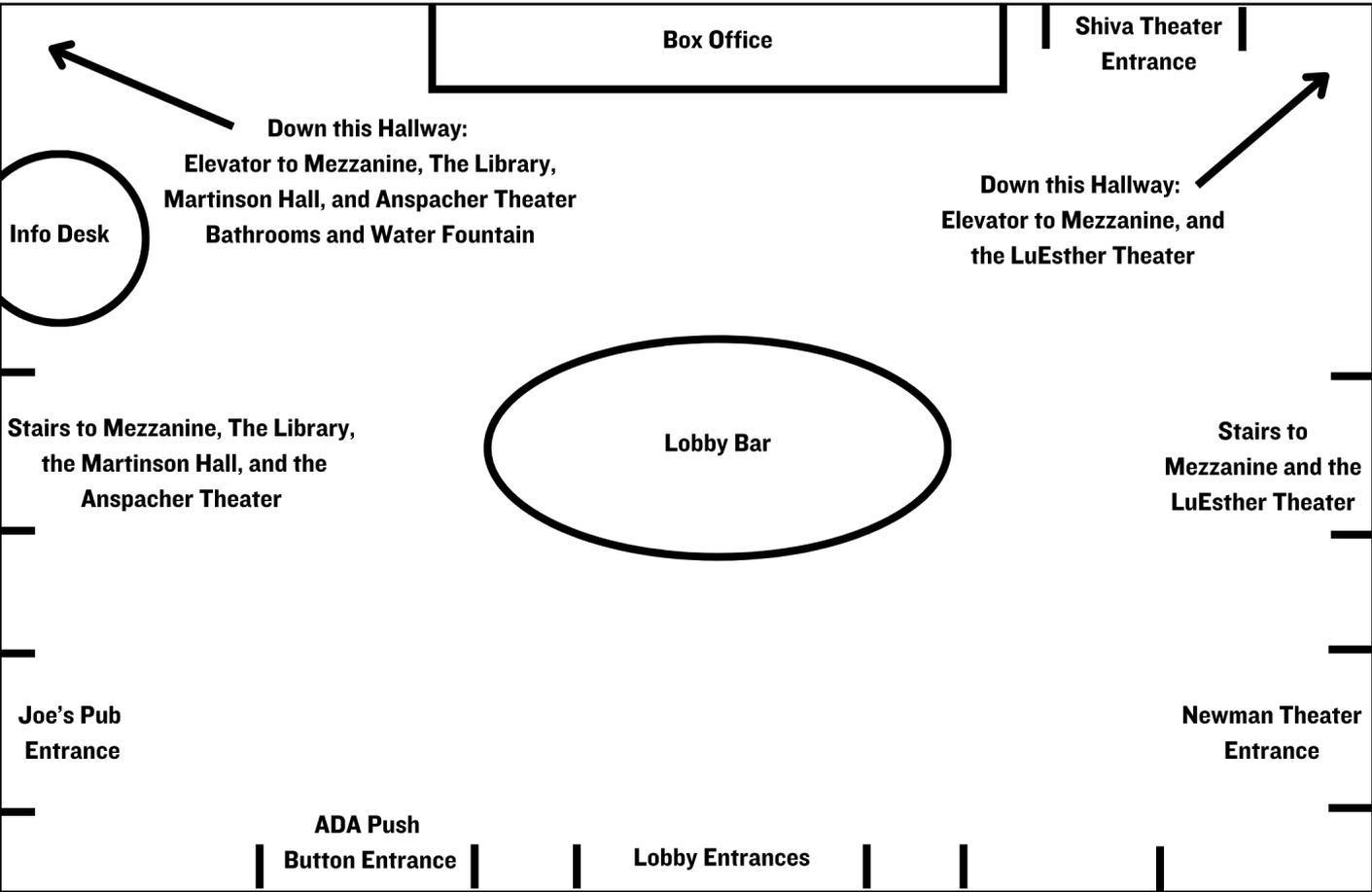


**The lobby is a big open space. The sound in the lobby echoes.**



If you'd like a pair of noise canceling headphones or earplugs, you may get them from an usher. There are also headphones, earplugs, and fidgets available at the Box Office.

**You can refer to this map to understand where important spaces are in relation to the lobby.**



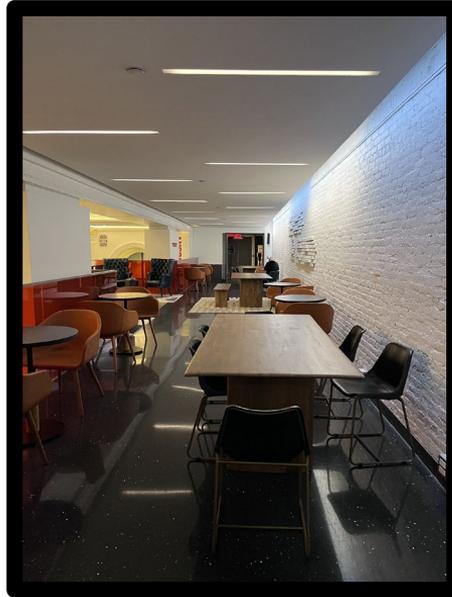
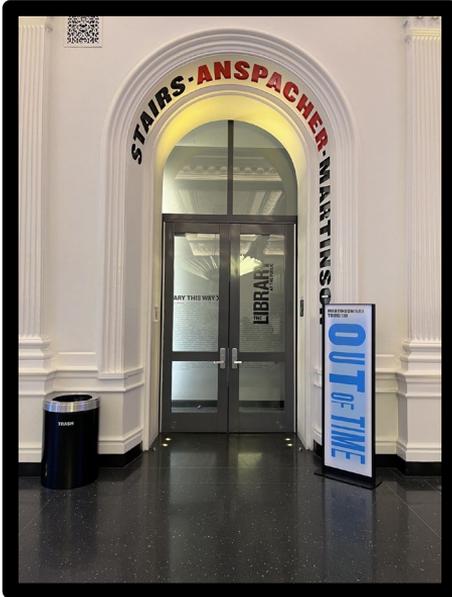
The Public Theater has five different theaters, a restaurant called The Library, a venue called Joe's Pub, and a lobby bar.

There may be other shows starting around the same time as yours. If you need help finding your theater space, please feel welcome to ask a staff member for directions.



## **BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE**

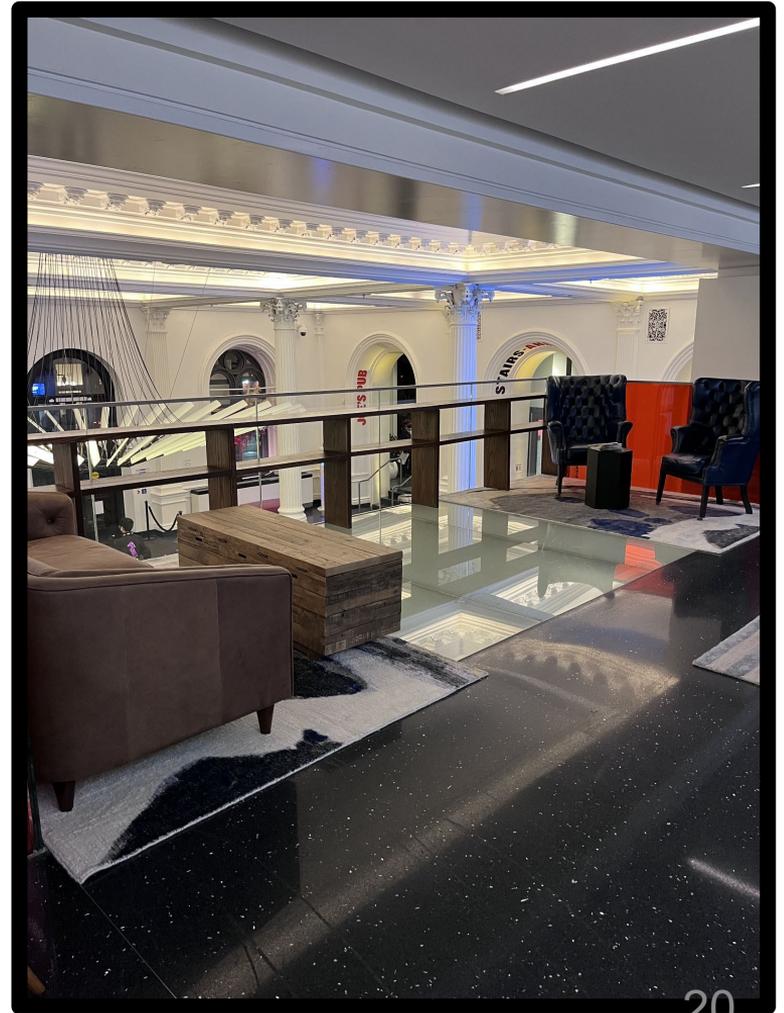
If you arrive early, you can go to the mezzanine on the second floor. There are plenty of seating options on the mezzanine where you can spend time.



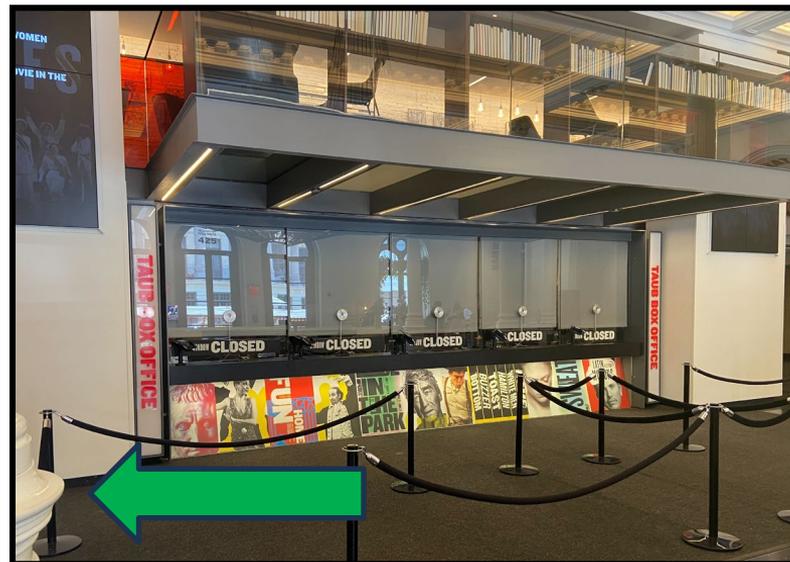
You can get to the mezzanine by going up the stairs one flight to level 1M or by pressing 1M in the elevators.

The mezzanine is a good place to have a snack or drink before the show.

The Library restaurant and the lobby bar may be open. In case you would like to eat food or get a drink, you will want to come early.



You may want to visit the restroom before the show. The restrooms are past the info desk, through the hallway, to the left of the elevator.



There are signs that will direct towards the restroom. You can also ask a staff member if you need help finding the restroom or anything else.

## The restrooms on the lower lobby are wheelchair accessible.



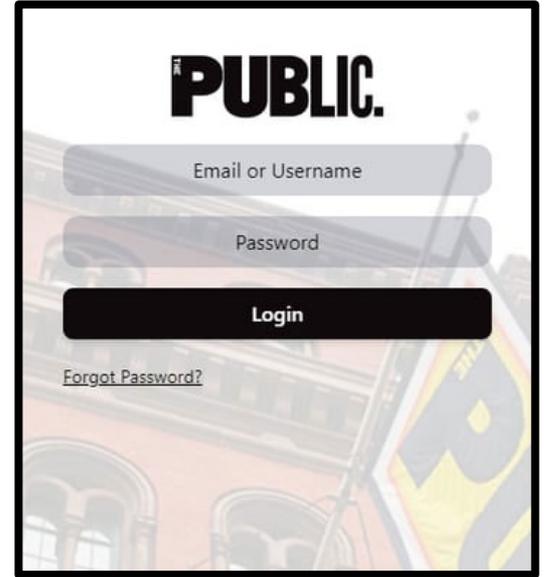
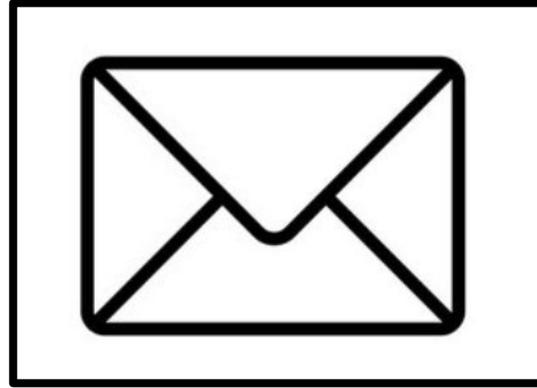
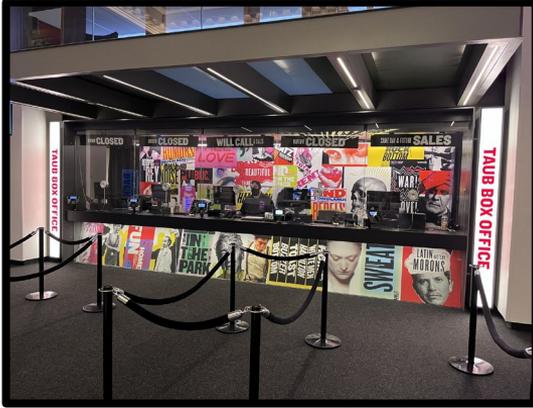
There are also all-gender restrooms available with four private stalls, including an accessible stall. There are also companion care restrooms available. **You must ask a staff member if you'd like to access them, as they are not publicly available.**

There are water fountains in the lobby near the bathrooms.



Water fountains will have disposable cups available for you or you may use your own refillable bottle.

# ACCESSING YOUR TICKETS

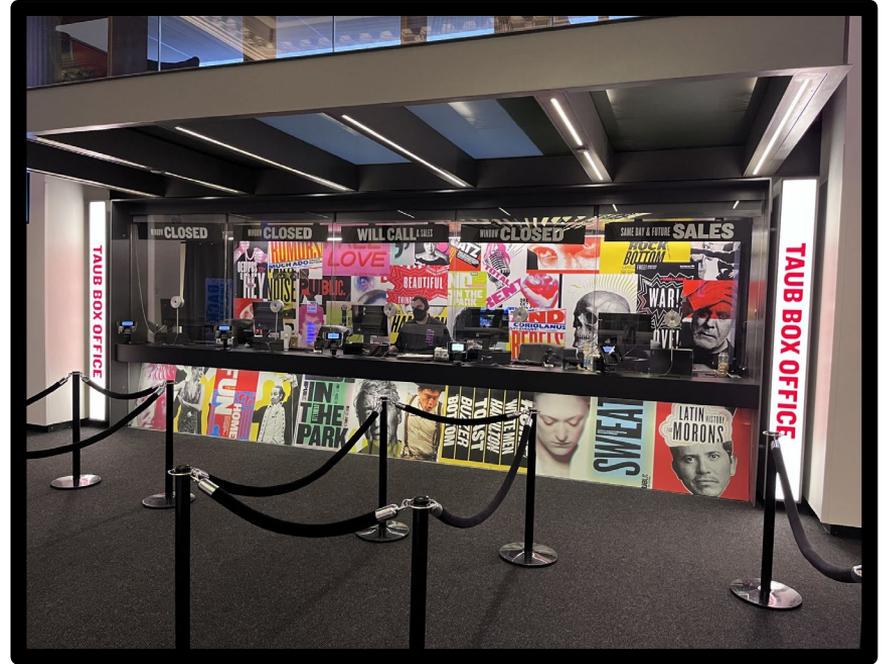


When you bought your ticket, you chose one of these Delivery Methods:

1. Hold at Box Office
2. Mail to Home
3. Access through the [Public Theater Digital Wallet](#)

When you are ready to go into the theater, you can get your tickets.

If your ticket was mailed to you, bring it out for the usher. If you requested it be held at box office, navigate to the box office windows. If you chose for it to be added to your digital wallet, you can open your digital ticket on your device.



If you are confused by how to access your ticket, please ask a staff member and they will assist you.

You can enter the theater starting approximately 30 minutes before the performance starts. An usher will scan the barcode on your ticket as you enter.

The usher will direct you inside the theater to your assigned seat. This is the seat that you chose when you purchased your ticket.

If your ticket says General Admission, you can choose any open seat.



*An example theater space*

Once you are seated, you may have to wait in your seat for a little while before the show begins. **The theater is above the subway so sometimes you may hear and feel the subway rumble. This may happen every 2-10 minutes.**



## Program / Playbill

While you wait, you can read the program, sometimes referred to as a Playbill.

We offer alternative formats for the Playbill including Large Print, Braille, and online for screen readers.

To request a document in an alternative format, please email Audience Services at [accessibility@publictheater.org](mailto:accessibility@publictheater.org) before your performance date.

The program shares more information about the company and may include a director's note and interviews.



# NAVIGATING TO YOUR PERFORMANCE SPACE

## **The Shiva Theater**

You can enter the Shiva Theater from the lobby, directly to the right of the Box Office.



# NAVIGATING TO YOUR PERFORMANCE SPACE

## **The Newman Theater**

You can enter the Newman theater on the right side of the lobby, near the front windows.



# NAVIGATING TO YOUR PERFORMANCE SPACE

## **The LuEsther Hall**

The LuEsther Hall is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on the right (or south) side of the building.

By elevator: Take the elevator on the right side of the lobby and press 3.

By stairs: Take the stairs on the right side of the lobby and go up 6 flights of stairs



# NAVIGATING TO YOUR PERFORMANCE SPACE

## **The Anspacher Theater**

The Anspacher Theater is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor on the left (north) side of the building.

By elevator: Take the elevator to the left of the box office and press 2.

By stairs: Take the stairs to the left of the box office and go up 4 flights of stairs.



# NAVIGATING TO YOUR PERFORMANCE SPACE

## **The Martinson Hall**

The Martinson Hall is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on the left (north) side of the building.

By elevator: Take the elevator to the left of the box office and press 3.

By stairs: Take the stairs to the left of the box office and go up 6 flights of stairs.



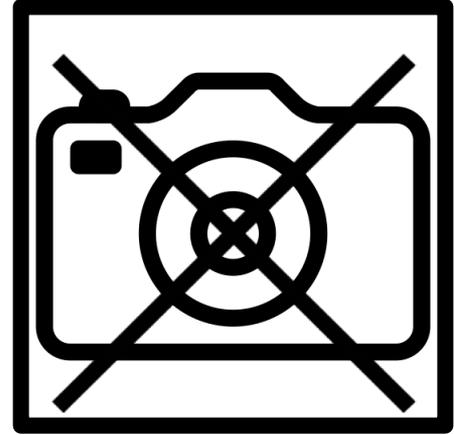
# NAVIGATING TO YOUR PERFORMANCE SPACE

## **Joe's Pub**

You can enter Joe's Pub on the left side of the lobby, close to the front windows.

## **DURING THE PERFORMANCE**

During the show, you may not take pictures or videos of the performance.



For Sensory Adapted Performances: Slight technical adjustments are made to accommodate audience members. The lights will not turn off completely, and specific production effects may be lessened.

For all other performances, the lights will turn off completely. There may be flashing lights or loud sounds.

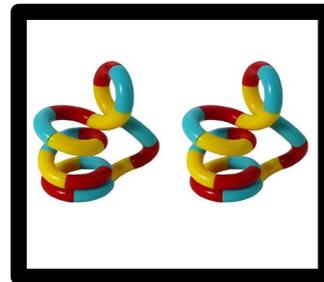
If you have any questions or want to know more, we encourage you to email us at [info@publictheater.org](mailto:info@publictheater.org) or call us at 212.967.7555.

Our audience services team can give specific details about production effects (strobing lights, gunshots, smoke, fog, haze, etc.).



No matter your journey to The Public Theater—whether you're a first-time attendee, new to our theaters, or reconnecting with live performance after a break—you are warmly welcome.

**It is OK to feel nervous, excited, or overwhelmed.** Feel free to engage with the show genuinely: react, vocalize, laugh, or cry. If you need to make some noise, take breaths, stim, or move about a little bit, that is OK.



**Ushers will have a variety of fidgets available.** Fidgets may help you feel calm or focus. The ushers will also have noise canceling headphones, sunglasses, and earplugs for you to borrow for the performance.

If you need to move around more during the show, you can leave the theater through the doors marked EXIT.

If you need support during the show, you can find an usher or staff member. They will be wearing a Public Theater shirt and a badge that says, "Here to Help". They can take you to a space where you can move around while still watching to the performance on a screen.

**The ushers and staff are friendly, open, and welcoming.**



## **AFTER THE PERFORMANCE**

When the show is over, everyone will applaud and cheer. It may get a bit loud. People may decide to stand and clap, called a standing ovation. You are welcome to join in, but you do not have to.

Then, you will exit the theater.

This may take a few minutes and be a little crowded because the whole audience may try to leave the theater at once. The ushers help make this process smooth.

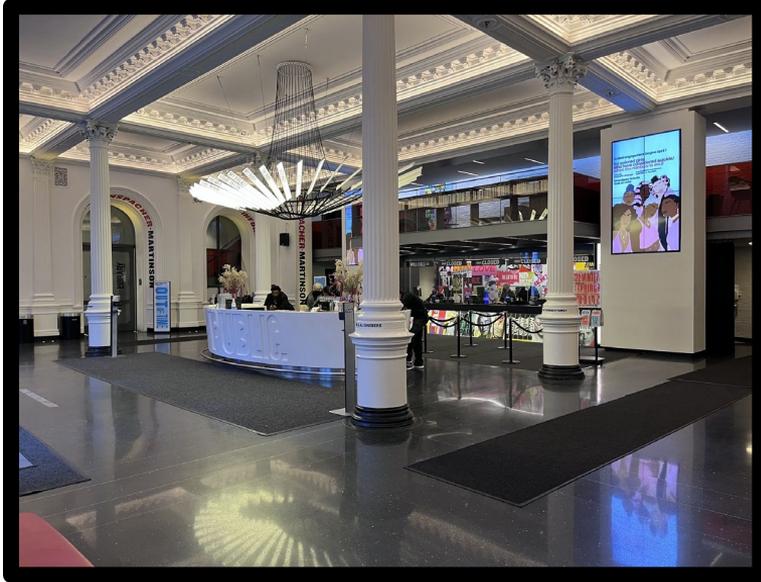


If you took a fidget or earplugs, you may keep them with you.



**If you borrowed noise canceling headphones, please return them to an usher before you leave.**

**You may spend some time in the lobby or mezzanine before you leave.**



If you are waiting for Access a Ride you may wait in the building until they arrive.

**We hope that you have a good experience and will join us for another performance in the future!**



Learn more and explore what's coming up: <https://publictheater.org/>