

FIVE4

THE MAGAZINE OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT • ISSUE #21 • 2019

THE
SMART
PARTNERS
AMAZING
RACE



Smart Partners is the after-school mentoring program of The 52nd Street Project. *Fivey* is the program's annual magazine.

**THE 52ND STREET PROJECT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lisa Benavides	Valerie Kay
Rachel Chanoff	Noël Mihalow
Cathy Dantchik, <i>co-chair</i>	Roseline Michael Neveling
Carolyn DeSena	Carol Ochs
Wendy Ettinger, <i>chair emeritus</i>	Willie Reale, <i>founder</i>
Louis P. Friedman, <i>co-chair</i>	Gus Rogerson
Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros	Shirley Rumierk, <i>alumni member</i>
Robert Goldberg	José Soto, Jr., <i>alumni member</i>
Stephen Graham, <i>chair emeritus</i>	Merritt Tilney
Annie Hausmann	Wendy vanden Heuvel
Natalie Hirsch	Mark Whatley

THE 52ND STREET PROJECT STAFF

Kat Almirañez, Associate Artistic Director
 Ahmed Attia, Development Associate*
 George Babiak, Director of Design and Production
 Liz Bell, Clinical Consultant
 Jasmine Correa, Office Manager*
 Kali Crandall, Development Director
 Caylyn Creager, Education Associate
 Natalie Hirsch, Artistic Director
 Garrett Kim, Program Director
 Carol Ochs, Executive Director
 Gus Rogerson, Producing Director
 Sayantee Sahoo, Production Manager
 John Sheehy, Director of Institutional Advancement
 Johanna Vidal, Director of Education*
 Iris A. Brown, Graphic Design Consultant

**Project Alumni*

FIVEY EDITORS

Johanna Vidal and George Babiak

PHOTOGRAPHY, DESIGN, & LAYOUT

George Babiak

SMART PARTNERS 2018-2019

Gabriel Acevedo	Jose Gamo
Jayden Alvarado	Jose Durán
Jayla Alvarez	Marinda Anderson
Nikolai Alvarez	Alex J. Gould
Sevan Asencio	Sean Kenealy
Justin Bannister	Eric March*
Kaylee Chester	Naomi Lorrain
Melanie Correa	Angie Toledo
Natasha Davis	Arielle Goldman
Lakshmi DeJesus	January LaVoy
Xavier Espinal	Ronald Peet
Magalis Viñas Fabian	Chelsea Hackett
Kiara Nicole Figueroa	Kerry Warren
Ivan Garcia	Neil D'Astolfo
Thiana Goode	Eliza Huberth
Ginajia Hires	Charly Evon Simpson
Aramis Jimenez	Jeremy Stoller
Love Jones	Molly Carden
Carlos Manuel Jimenez II	Cody Wilson
Hannah Leon	Helen Cespedes
Bryan Lopez	Nick Mills*
Sarah Lopez	Lynne Rosenberg
Stephanie Macias	Erin Felgar
Ayman Musa	Stephen Stocking
Darby O'Donnell	Sarah Johnsrude
Bryanna Ohene-karikari	Alexandra O'Daly
Wilhelmina Ohene-karikari	Lindsay Torrey*
Valeria Oliva	Mikhaela Mahony*
Walter Olivares	Grant Harrison
Aaron Ordinola	Michael Propster
Nathaniel Ortiz	Marco Formosa
Ethan Perez	Josh Moody
Nicole Quiles	Joanna Parson
Lovely Ramirez	Therese Barbato
Yovely Ramirez	Stephanie Lane
Derek Rey	Jose-Maria Aguila
Gilbert Rosario	Micah Stock
Rodery Rosario	Michael Braun
Rosneyri Rosario	Ashley Marie Ortiz
Christian Santoni	KeiLyn Durrel Jones
Evaluna Santoni	Carrigan O'Brian
Sofia Santoni	Grace Rex
Ahmed Shabana	Ruffin Prentiss III
Morgan Smalls	Jenelle Chu
Alexander Torres	Mitchell Winter
Stevens Velasquez	Sathya Sridharan
Jayleen Velez	Daiva Deupree
Faith Villanueva	Annabelle Cousins
Coleman Williams	Max Posner
Kaylee Zambrano	HannaH Allen
Ethan Zenteno	Frankie Alvarez

**Graduating from SP Program this year*

FROM THE EDITORS' DESKS

Welcome to the 21st edition of **Fivey Magazine!** This year, we did something a little different. We staged a competition which encouraged our Smart Partners to get out of their comfort zone, leave their screens, and roam all over the city to make, find, and collect memories. We called it the **Smart Partners Amazing Race**. The activities ranged from looking for the Central Park mandarin duck, to locating the largest wine bottle in the city, to making a slingshot, and to seeing a show at the marvelous **Five Angels Theater**.

Our Education Associate **Caylyn Creager** came up with the idea and our trusty helper **Alicia Moeller** helped her execute it. Read Alicia's article about the race on page 2 and see the full list of wacky and serious challenges on page 6.

But there's more than racing in this issue! One article you don't want to miss is **Valeria Oliva** and **Mikhaela Mahony's** farewell piece *Mangu and Memories* which is both funny and poignant. It will give you a taste of what their Smart Partnership has been about these last eight years. You also don't want to miss the excerpts from **Garrett Kim's** Radiomaking program, including **Derek Rey's** *School: Like it or Dislike It?*

Where was I, **Johanna**, when all this was taking place? Take a look at the photo to the right!

So enjoy! I think you're in for an adventure as exciting as the ones the Amazing Racers experienced. 🍷 — *Johanna Vidal*



DALLAS DOWLING

While Johanna was quietly having her baby Nova...



GRB

...George was racing to finish this issue.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SMART PARTNERS AMAZING RACE SECTION

<i>Race Recap</i> by Alicia Moeller.....	2
<i>The Amazing Challenge List</i>	6
<i>Amazing Art</i> by Xavier Espinal and Ronald Peet	7
<i>Our Amazing Race Experiences</i> by Nikolai Alvarez and Alex J. Gould.....	8
<i>Riding New York City Carousels</i> by Sarah Lopez and Lynne Rosenberg.....	10
<i>Extreme Foosball for Stress Relief</i> by Sevan Asencio and Sean Kenealy.....	12
<i>"Bossypants" Book Review</i> by Jayleen Velez and Daiva Deupree	14
<i>Fancy-Schmancy Restaurant Review IV</i> by Ethan Zenteno and Frankie Alvarez.....	16
<i>8-Hour Rush Hour</i> by Sevan Asencio.....	18
<i>Smart Partner Skyline</i> - art by Melanie Correa and Angie Toledo	20

RADIOMAKING SECTION

<i>Interview with a New York Ranger</i> by Sevan Asencio.....	22
<i>School: Like It or Dislike It?</i> by Derek Rey	25
<i>Interview with Actor Roger Clark</i> by Ethan Zenteno	28
<i>Articles of Faith</i> by Faith Villanueva	30
<i>Joe's Shanghai Restaurant Review</i> by Melanie Correa and Angie Toledo.....	32
<i>Magalis and Me</i> by Chelsea Hackett.....	34
<i>Is This Restaurant Thiana and Eliza Approved?</i> by Thiana Goode and Eliza Huberth	35
<i>Mangú and Memories</i> by Valeria Oliva and Mikhaela Mahony.....	36
<i>Nature Girl</i> - Artwork by Wilhelmina Ohene-Karikari	40

THE FIRST ANNUAL SMART PARTNER

AMAZING RACE

A RECAP OF THE EVENT CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SMART PARTNER PAIRS!

BY ALICIA MOELLER

Early in 2019, Johanna and Caylyn came up with the idea of the Amazing Race, a mammoth quest list designed to encourage Smart Partners to try new things together. And who doesn't love healthy competition among friends? It began with 55 pairs at the starting line. The rules were simple: when a pair completed a task, they won points for their team. Activities from the official list ranged from collecting a sticker from the Metropolitan Museum of Art to performing a random act of kindness.

With top-notch prizes and bragging rights on the line, the big question at the beginning was: who would come out victorious? These are the highlights.



Johanna marvels at Caylyn's idea.

GRB

The start was a bit turtle-like. Partners wandering by Amazing Race signs in the clubhouse were thinking, "Will this be the week we begin? Will this be this week we find a Y-shaped stick and turn it into a slingshot?"

One of the first activities that Hannah and Helen completed was trying food that was new for both of them. In their case, it was sushi!

All throughout the race, one of the most popular activities was making a piece of artwork inspired by the city (for 20 points). Check it out:

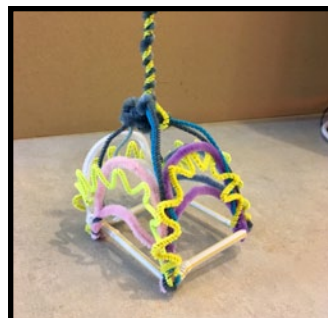


Hannah tries a "new food." Sushi!

HELEN CESPEDES



ALICIA MOELLER



From left to right, city-inspired art by Jayleen & Daiva, Hannah & Helen, Faith & Annabelle, and Love & Molly.

On March 6th, the first update on the standings was released. Nikolai and Alex led the pack (they tell their own story on pages 8 and 9 of this issue), while Aramis and Jeremy held a strong second place. Wake up call! A fire was lit under the teams and the race took off! Through all of March, The Project was a-tizzy with juggling, art-making, and attempting to speak in German. It became commonplace for out-of-breath partners to burst through the doors panting “Caylyn...please check off...our points.”



ANGIE TOLEDO

Angie and Melanie experimented with being Mean Girls.

Jayleen and Daiva used the Amazing Race as an opportunity to reconnect. They created some stellar artwork together and roller skated their way through the Project’s offices (for 20 points).



ALICIA MOELLER

Making your own slingshot was worth a solid 20 points, and Annabelle and Faith made the SMALLEST one we’ve ever seen.

Unfortunately it wasn’t on the list.

Several Smart Partners also got to see the new Broadway musical *Beetlejuice*.

On April 5th, the second update was sent out. Alex and Nikolai were still in first while Lynne and Sarah grabbed second place. Cody and Carlos sat solidly in third.

Cody and Carlos were champion racers, scooting all around the city to gather points. Picture in front of the Flatiron Building? No problem. Mailing a postcard to a friend? On it. And to your right, a double whammy photo of this pair with Snapple slogan bottle caps (3 points) in front of a giant bottle (30 points)!

Another popular task on the list was to submit playbills or ticket stubs from a play seen together.

Angie and Melanie went to see *Mean Girls*... and this was Melanie’s first Broadway play! To make it even more special, Tina Fey was there on the night they went and she talked to the audience for a little while.

I was curious about their experience so I asked Melanie for a comment. She looked at me, paused, and said “Will commenting get us more points?” Wowza! If that isn’t proof of the stakes at play in this competition, I don’t know what is. Melanie followed up by saying that *Mean Girls* is “very funny. It’s not one of those olden-days plays. It feels very now, very 2019.” I wish we could’ve given these two extra points, but



CODY WILSON



On the find list: giant bottles, Snapple fun-fact caps, and faces on buildings. Meanwhile, Love Jones found the SKINNIEST Y-shaped stick we've ever seen.

At this point in the game, several teams had gotten around to making slingshots. I asked Faith about finding the perfect stick for her and Annabelle's masterpiece. She told me that "there were a lot of geese in the park (where the sticks were). So I played loud geese sounds on my phone to see how they would react." Apparently the geese were not enthused. But that didn't stop this team from making a perfect mini-slingshot!



A TEAM MATHLETES MOMENT

Lynne and Sarah (aka Team Mathletes) took on activities from the Amazing Race list with lots of creativity. For instance, instead of competing in the Project's Annual Ping Pong Tournament (for 30 points), they served as the event's commentators. Another example is how they took on the task of wearing their favorite team's jersey in front of Madison Square Garden. I talked to the pair to get their take.

Alicia: What inspired you guys to wear Team Mathletes jerseys in front of MSG?

Sarah: Ooh! Yes. (to Lynne) You tell it.

Lynne: Well, we're not exactly what you'd call "sports people." At first I thought we might wear Team Ravenclaw jerseys for the photo. (to Sarah) Because that's where you were sorted when you took the quiz on Pottermore.com. And I brought that option. But then I thought "Wait... what's our favorite team? Us. Team Mathletes."

And that's how they came up with the idea for the home-made jerseys seen in the selfie photo at left!



In April, the game was ~lit~ and the question on everyone's mind was: will Team Mathletes beat Nikolai and Alex? With 5 days left in the race, I caught up with the current leaders on maintaining First Place.

Alicia: So Alex, how does it feel having only 7 activities left on the Amazing Race list?

Alex: Well actually, it's 5! Because today we are going to record for the Projcast. After that, we're going to find a place to volunteer together. Then it'll be 5.

Nikolai echoed this sentiment when I chatted with him an hour later.

Nikolai: It's 5 now. We only have 5 left.

ShaPOW! 5 activities left? That's some major racing.

The deadline to submit all points was on Monday, May 20th.

The end of this competition was a nail-biter AND a hair-raiser. You could almost smell the suspense in the clubhouse!

Are you ready for this? Here are the final standings:



1st Place
Lynne Rosenberg
Sarah Lopez
647 points



2nd Place
Alex J. Gould
Nikolai Alvarez
637 points



3rd Place
Cody Wilson
Carlos Jimenez
387 points



4th Place
Angie Toledo
Melanie Correa
280 points



MVP's
Faith Villanueva
Annabelle Cousins



Best Effort
Jayleen Velez
Daiva Deupree



Team Spirit
Helen Cespedes
Hannah Leon



Lotsa Heart
Molly Carden
Love Jones



Good Sports
Jeremy Stoller
Aramis Jimenez

For those of you keeping score at home, there were 707 points available in total on the official list. (See the full list of challenges on the next page.) The first year of the Amazing Race was a total success. Until next year! 🍌

THE AMAZING CHALLENGE LIST

Wondering what else the teams were running around to find in our Amazing Race? Here's the full list.

THE CHALLENGES

- Go to any museum with modern art in it and pose with your favorite piece 10 pts
- Visit a neighborhood in the city you have never explored before! 20 pts
- Try a sport or physical activity that you usually don't do..... 20 pts
- Take a ride on a boat or ferry..... 10 pts
- Learn to have a basic conversation in another language..... 30 pts
- Pet some animals :) 10 pts
- Compete in the Ping-Pong Tournament! 30 pts
- Strike a pose with a dinosaur at the Museum of Natural History 10 pts
- Volunteer at the Project or another organization together..... 30 pts
- Write an article for Fivey Magazine 40 pts
- Bring a broken thing to the Project and fix it in the workshop with George..... 10 pts
- Perform a random act of kindness..... 10 pts
- Sing and/or dance in front of Radio City Music Hall 20 pts
- Go to a 52nd Street Project Mainstage show 40 pts
- Send a postcard to a friend or relative in another state and take a picture of you mailing it 15 pts
- Do a Smart Partner Interview for the Projcast..... 30 pts
- Go to a New Platforms show 30 pts
- Pretend to be tourists at a NYC landmark 10 pts
- Go on a bike ride 10 pts
- Help hold up the Earth with Atlas at Rockefeller Center 20 pts
- Wear your favorite team's jersey outside Madison Square Garden 30 pts
- Take an artistic picture of the Flatiron building 20 pts
- Make a piece of artwork inspired by the city..... 20 pts
- Try a new food (new for both of you!) :) 10 pts

THE SCAVENGER HUNT

Roam your neighborhood and other parts of the city with your Smart Partner to collect these items and bring them in!

- A penny from the year 1950 or earlier 5 pts
- A flyer or brochure from a local business that has the word "SALE!" on it..... 5 pts
- A sculpture of a human on the facade of a building (photo required)!..... 5 pts
- Find a y-shaped stick and make a slingshot out of it..... 20 pts
- Find a lost or discarded photo or image. Extra points if it's framed! 5 + 5 pts
- A napkin, business card, or menu from your favorite pizza joint..... 10 pts
- A snapple bottle cap with a fun fact 5 pts
- Playbills or ticket stubs from a play you see together! 5 pts
- Stickers from visiting the MET museum 15 pts
- A comic strip from a newspaper or magazine 4 pts
- A bendy straw 3 pts
- Write out the quote on the Alice in Wonderland statue in Central Park (and take your picture with the statue, please)..... 15 pts
- Bring in a rock that looks like a face 15 pts

BONUS CHALLENGES!

- A photo of yourself with a larger-than-life bottle .. 30 pts
- Take a selfie with the famous Mandarin Duck in Central Park!..... 30 pts



AMAZING ART



BY XAVIER ESPINAL AND RONALD PEET



OUR AMAZING RACE EXPERIENCES

STORY AND PHOTOS BY NIKOLAI ALVAREZ AND ALEX J. GOULD

ALEX'S RESPONSE:

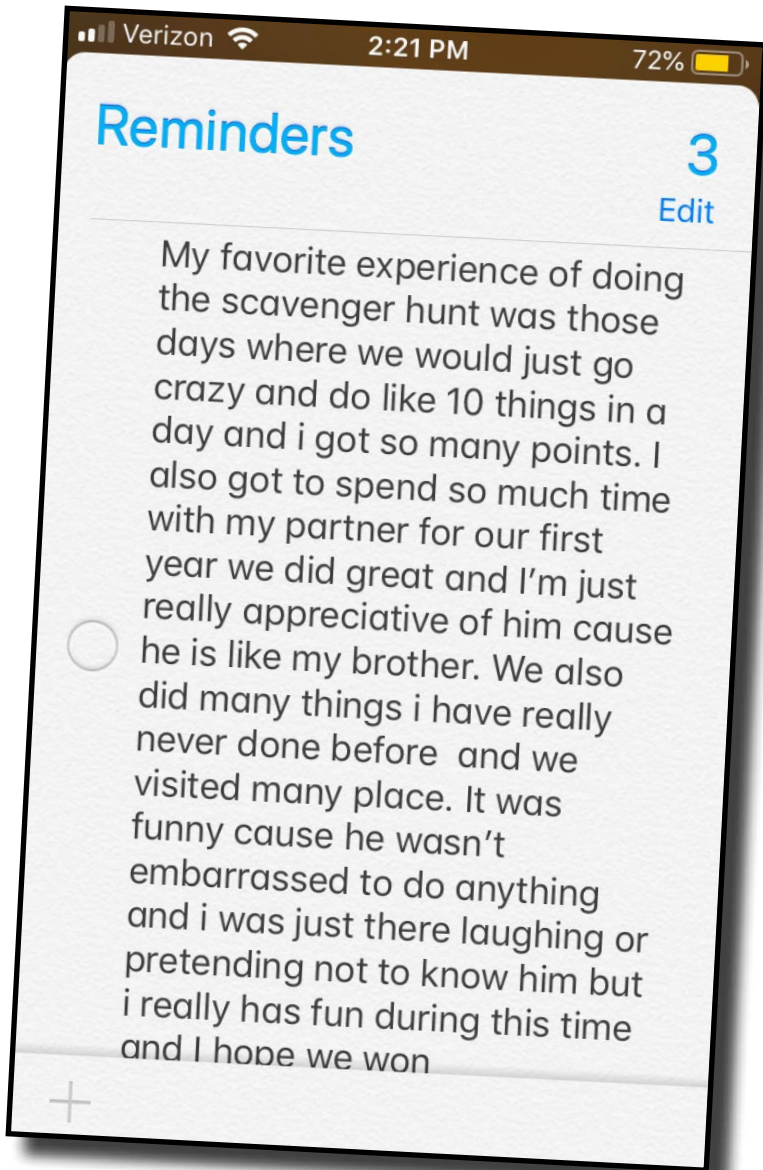
The 52nd Street Project's Amazing Race has been nothing short of amazing. Nikolai and I have seen the world and had numerous experiences. Been to prehistoric times. Did you know they sold pretzels and hot dogs back then? Hung out with a Greek god. Greece looks a lot like Rockefeller Center. Weird. We dined in Ethiopia. Had a rivalry outside of Madison Square Garden. Conversed in another language. Ping-ponged our hearts out, dressed in our best.

Two experiences that really stuck with me were riding bikes and acting like tourists. What each of these experiences had in common was that I got to see Nikolai pushed outside his comfort zone. Nikolai didn't have a lot of experience riding a bike and he practiced by riding along the West Side Highway. I was so proud of his drive to keep going even after he fell. (He had a helmet on! Don't worry.)

And as tourists we each went up to people and asked for directions. Even though Nikolai was nervous, he went up to that finance bro and asked for directions! They were wrong by the way. So I wasn't proud of that dude, but I was absolutely proud of my Smart Partner! 🍷



NIKOLAI'S RESPONSE:



RIDING NEW YORK CITY CAROUSELS

AN EXPERIMENT BY SARAH LOPEZ AND LYNNE ROSENBERG



JANE'S CAROUSEL



SEAGLASS CAROUSEL

Note: *This experiment involves a data set of only two carousels.*



PHOTOS BY SARAH AND LYNNE

Sarah: The two carousels that we rode were The Seaglass Carousel in Battery Park and Jane's Carousel which is located in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Jane's Carousel is extremely old, which leads me to think that it shouldn't be operating anymore, even though Lynne doesn't agree with me. During our ride in the Seaglass Carousel I thought that it was actually plastic, but in fact it's fiberglass, which makes it look like plastic, according to Lynne.

Lynne: I greatly preferred the experience of the Seaglass Carousel to Jane's Carousel in lighting, music, design, and overall experience, as well as motion. Jane's Carousel would be ideal for a Carousel Traditionalist, whereas Seaglass is more fitted to the modern day, alternative rider.

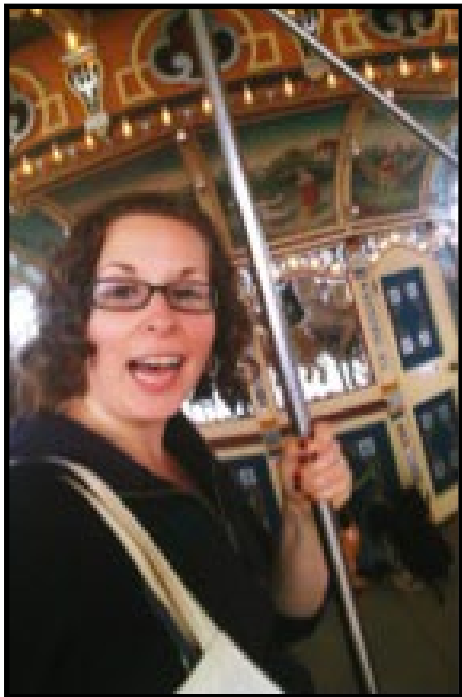
Sarah: Back to Jane's Carousel, the ride itself was very astounding because when you think about it, the idea of a carousel was very ahead of its time, which was the 1920's. The ride was very old, yet it still had the 1920's touch. Compared to the Seaglass, which was very modern and whimsical, Jane's seemed very classic with the elegant color scheme and a vintage 20's appearance.



Lynne: It should be noted that my experience on Jane's Carousel was hampered by a poor horse-choosing decision, wherein I mounted a non-moving horse, and was relegated to a great lack of vertical carouseling, which I later regretted.



Sarah: In relation to Lynne's poor judgement of carousel horse choosing, I chose a MOVING horse. Therefore, my point of view wasn't affected and I had clear judgment. No matter whether it's moving or not, it's still old and traditional to the 20's. With that said, I came to a conclusion that this is a great place for someone who is living under a rock and has not seen what the modern 21st century has to offer.

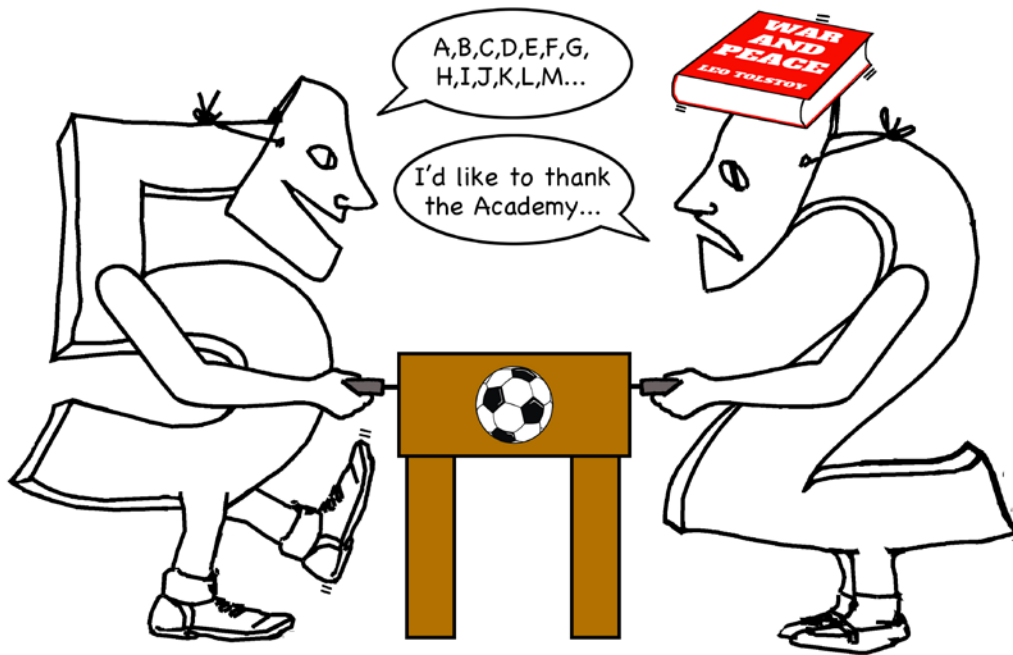


Lynne: No matter what your opinion is on carousels, our adventuring to Battery Park (and subsequent Staten Island Ferry ride), and to Brooklyn Bridge Park made for excellent ways to spend a couple of Friday afternoons. 🍷

EXTREME FOOSBALL FOR STRESS RELIEF

BY SEVAN ASENCIO AND SEAN KENEALY

Last year, one of our Smart Partner pairs decided to spice up their Foosball sessions by adding a host of extra rules to the game. Sevan and Sean claim that it reduces stress. That, we're not so sure about. We invite you to try it and let us know. - The Editor



Step 1) Go to Foosball table.

Step 2) Proceed with normal rules.

Step 3) Once someone reaches 5 points, that's when the real fun begins...

Step 4) The victim of the point gets to pick a task for their opponent.

➤ ALL tasks continue through the entire point!

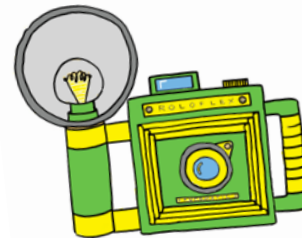
AND/OR

➤ ALL tasks must be completed before the player can resume play!

Tasks include...

EASY

- ⊙ Balance book on head.
- ⊙ Play with one hand.
- ⊙ Can only use defenders or offense.
- ⊙ Every 3 seconds clap or spin around.
- ⊙ Every time ball touches a defender or offense, snap a picture with a 52nd Street Project prop camera (located conveniently near the Foosball table).



MEDIUM

- ⊙ Every time ball touches a defender or offense, recite half the alphabet.
- ⊙ Every 5 seconds do 3 air squats.
- ⊙ Every 7 seconds sit down for 3 seconds.
- ⊙ Play standing on 1 foot.
- ⊙ Every 10 second do 5 pushups.

HARD

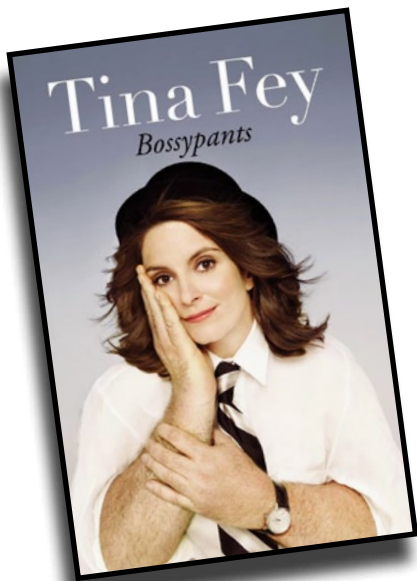
- ⊙ Every time ball touches defender or offense, read a line from a book.
- ⊙ For the rest of the game, every time the ball is returned to the field, spin the globe and whatever your finger lands on you have to say a fact about that place.
- ⊙ For 20 seconds the victim gets to take control of the field. If the opponent survives it gives them a take over.
- ⊙ At any moment during the point, victim can call "Speech!" and the opponent has to grab a 52nd Street Project trophy (also near the Foosball table) and make a speech, thanking at least 3 people.
- ⊙ Play with your eyes closed!



AND MANY MORE! MAKE UP YOUR OWN!

And finally...

Step 7) Must win by 2 points. 5



Book Review

By "Javia"

(Jayleen Velez and Daiva Deupree)

"Bossypants" by Tina Fey

"Either way, everything will be fine. But if you have an opinion, please feel free to offer it to me through the gap in the door of a public restroom. Everyone else does."

Bossypants by Tina Fey was, hands down, the funniest book I've ever read. I was laughing with every chapter while there were also some serious lessons in there. Tina Fey is the hilarious writer of the movie Mean Girls and has done the best job at writing not only a hilarious book, but a book that teaches you the best lessons. We're here to let you know what to expect from this book so you can decide if you want to read it yourself...read it... it's really good. – Jayleen

Jayleen: If you had to rate the book on a scale from 1-10 (10 being the best), what would you rate it?

Daiva: 7... Maybe because I thought it was gonna be a different book. I thought it was gonna be about being a woman boss but it turned out to be funnier. I enjoyed the parts where she talked about being a boss. What about you?

Jayleen: I would probably rate it an 8 because it was really funny and, like you said, it was different than I expected. It would be hilarious a majority of the time then switch to a serious life lesson which kinda killed the fun mood but I didn't really mind it. What was your favorite part?

Daiva: The "I don't care if you like it" chapter. She talked about the first time she met Amy Poehler and instead of her being funny she was vulgar and Jimmy Fallon said "ew" and she said she doesn't care if you like it. The chapter said to not care what people say. It's not saying to be a jerk but to not care what people like and do what you want basically. You?

Jayleen: My favorite part was probably when she talks about the cruise she and her husband went on for their honeymoon and how she would never go on one

again. There was a fire onboard which kinda ruined the trip. But yeah, the way she was explaining everything that was wrong with that trip was amazing.

Daiva: Is there anything, as a young woman, that you'll think about after reading this book?

Jayleen: Just to not be what other people want because that's not gonna benefit you in the long run. And that just gives people the okay to control what you're like, what you like, how you act, etc. Anything you'll take away?

Daiva: It made me, as an older person, appreciate my weirdness when I was a kid. I wish I would've read it when I was your age.

Jayleen: Who was your favorite character described in the book?

Daiva: The receptionist she worked with in Chicago, the crazy lady. She described that one in a really funny way.

Jayleen: Yeah, she was funny. I think my favorite character, or more like a group of characters, is the little group she used to hang out with after that summer at the kids' theater program. It was two brothers, Tim and Tristan, who she made very clear were gay, and two 25 year-old women who she also made very clear were lesbian. But their little group hang-outs were fun, especially considering she was in the 11th grade and she was hanging out with older people.

Jayleen: I think my favorite thing she said was "Never tell a crazy person he's crazy." It was so simple yet funny to think about what would happen in that situation. She also says things so casually which makes what she's saying that much more funny. ☺



JAVIA

Fancy-Schmancy Restaurant Review

Episode IV: Blue Ribbon Fried Chicken, Hell's Kitchen (749 9th Ave.)

by Jean-Paul Paul-John and Federico S. Delicioso



to see what you have in store for me this time, my... acquaintance.

FD: I'm pulling out all the stops, amigo. I'm taking you to... BLUE RIBBON FRIED CHICKEN. We 'bout to go ham on some poultry!

JD: How absurd. Nevertheless, let's go already.

FD: As we enter this newly-opened yet already-classic establishment, we are embraced by its modern yet throwback atmosphere. It's quite spacious, but can still hold up to 60 people, somehow, in its various booths, as well as the charming centerpiece of its long, central communal table with many stools.

JP: But as our mouths were watering at the menu options, we saw exactly what we needed: a four piece combo with a chicken breast, thigh, drumstick, and a wing. Plus, a buttermilk biscuit. And coleslaw.



Furthermore, we got fries. When we approached the cashier to order, we were greeted by Yinka, our extremely warm and helpful server, who hails from Nigeria.

FD: Ahhh, Yinka. I found her to be beyond knowledgeable, steering us in the right direction as we ordered, and later, found her to be very attentive. She truly wanted us to have a special dining experience.

JP: After we placed our order, she handed us a pager, which after just 7 minutes told us that our order was ready!

FD: To be clear, the pager buzzed on the table. It didn't actually tell us, "Your food's ready, bros!"

JP: <eyeroll> When I brought the order back to our table we dove right into the fries. I thought they had a perfect amount of salt with a good crunch and a nice soft interior, which I was fond of.

FD: Next, we lined up the six sauces provided for us by Blue Ribbon.

1. **Heinz Ketchup** - Reliable. Dependable. Loyal.
2. **BBQ Sauce** - Tangy but not without a kick, this was a good mix of sweet and spicy.

JP: And so, today I begin my new job as Master Food Reviewer. I wonder who my partner will be...?

FD: Well, well, well. How the turntables...

JP: Oh god — please don't tell me —

FD: My my my, how the turntables have... turned! Looks like we'll be reunited again, my favorite foodie fool.

JP: Foodie fool, what even is that? Also you're not even using that saying correctly! Reunited? With you? No, no, no, no! UNACCEPTABLE!!!

FD: Wow. That is no way to treat a true friend. Jean-Paul, I relish the opportunity to collaborate together on this year's Fivey Food Review. Who better than my bestest mensch, the Dwight to my Jim, my biggest friend and archest rival, the GREAT Jean-Paul Paul-John?

JP: Well, thank you for the compliment: I *am* great. But I think you've got your facts wrong. The "archival part" I get, but "true friend," not so much. I would say, however, that we have moved up a bit in that area after you took me to BarBacon last year, so I am indeed interested

3. **Hot Sauce** - Very hot. Really delivers the heat. Nobody warned us that the hot sauce would be hot. Nobody.
4. **Wildflower Honey** - A standard in the honey varietals, Wildflower packs a sweet punch, with an unparalleled freshness and brightness.
5. **Wasabi Honey** - Not as spicy as we would've liked, but definitely flavorful.
6. **Chipotle Honey** - Easily the best of the honeys, it had the perfect mix of sweetness and spice. Chipotle, you chipot-bae.

JP: Next we ate the biscuit, which Yinka had suggested. It reminded me of a pancake in its fluffiness and the butter that came with it made it all the better and there was a nice little crunch. It was also a nice little break between foods for me.

FD: True, bro, we needed it. After, we decided to get it over with and just have a bit of the coleslaw. Normally, I do not — DO NOT — like coleslaw.



JP: I don't know about you, Federico, but honestly I had never eaten coleslaw. My first time trying it made me realize that maybe it was a good thing I hadn't. It just wasn't for me.

FD: I did find it somewhat refreshing that they didn't overdue it on the mayo, but besides that silver lining, SLAW SUX.

JP: Wow. We actually agree.

FD: That's not all we agree about, my Brother From Another Set of Parents (Nailed it.), because we saved the best for last: the piece de resistance, THE FRIED CHICKEN.

JP: After just my initial bite my first thought was, "Wow, this seasoning is amazing." It was a nice surprise and the crunch of the fried part was sublime. But when I got into the inside of the chicken it was even better: it was juicy and the way fried chicken should be. It is best complemented with the BBQ sauce.

FD: It was insanely well-seasoned, juicy and tender, and was still hot even after we ate everything that came before it. That batter was so next-level! The outside of the chicken was just as good as the inside.

JP: After all that food you would think the price was high, especially for the amazing quality chicken, but it was only \$23.91. That's a great value for the amazing food we got!

Blue Ribbon: The Ratings

Ambience: 8/10 Toaster Strudels
 Customer Service: 10/10 Yinkas
 Sauces: 7/10 Starbursts
 French Fries: 9/10 Sweet Potato Fries
 Biscuit: 8/10 Buttermilks
 Coleslaw: 1/10 Cabbages
 Friend Chicken (sic): 10/10 Gordon Ramseys
 Price: 9/10 Bitcoins

FD: That reminds me, you're gonna Venmo me for half, right?

JP: "Sure."

FD: I left Blue Ribbon with the knowledge that three things were absolutely true:

1. This is THE BEST FRIED CHICKEN in Hell's Kitchen.
2. It's so good, I'm calling it FRIEND CHICKEN.
3. This meal reinforced for me that now, after years of much trial and tribulation, our relationship is stronger than ever, so thank you for being a friend (chicken).

JP: I left Blue Ribbon with some different knowledge:

- 1: You make bad puns.
- 2: Due to fact 1, you have been bumped back down from "acquaintance" to "archival." No longer are you the Dwight to my Jim...you are the Toby to my Michael.
- 3: Blue Ribbon is the best fried chicken place in Hell's Kitchen.

FD: <sad face> Toby is the slaw of "The Office" 🍷

Biographies of the Critics

Jean-Paul Paul John: After this review, Jean-Paul went home and binged the whole series "The Office". After all those references, he thought to himself, "Hey Federico IS like my Dwight. But I'll never tell him that." Jean-Paul is one of the most richest, most famous food reviewers in the world and is glad to have the opportunity to write for The 52nd Street Project. (First page material right here, folks!)

Federico S. Delicioso is Assistant Master Food Reviewer for the 52nd St Project's Fivey Magazine. He lives beyond his means in an 8-floor walkup in New York's trendiest neighborhood: BROHO.*

JP, here. Actually, he's the Assistant TO the Master Food Reviewer.*

***Editor, here: Mr. Paul-John and Mr. Delicioso were introduced to us by their friends Ethan Zenteno and Frankie Alvarez. Also, SLAW RULEZ. 🍷*

8-HOUR RUSH HOUR

STORY BY SEVAN ASENCIO; PHOTOS BY SEAN KENEALY

Sevan and Sean roughly met around 5:30 pm, August 7th, in front of The 52nd Street Project. Those first steps started their route...

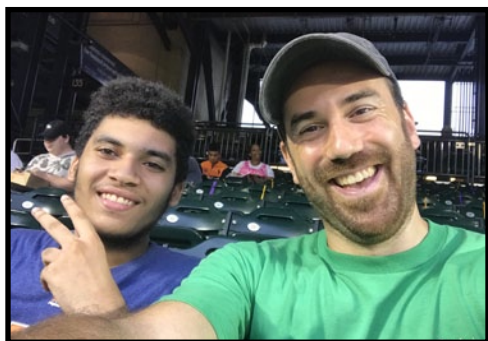
The E train came in 4 minutes after they arrived at the station at 5:45 pm. As there were no problems on the E, they surfaced between the walk from the E to the 7 train. At this point, it was around 6:30 pm, and that's when they started to see dark clouds approaching.

Sean said, "Don't worry, it's not going to rain."

And Sevan said, "It will 100% rain."

They talked about this rain situation silently to each other so they didn't freak out other people on the train going to the game. By 6:45 pm, they arrived at the stadium, and with all the lines and the commute to their seats, they were officially seated by 7 pm.

At 7:05 pm, Sean insists on taking a few pictures, as this is how they celebrate a year's end of Smart Partner meetings. At 7:10 pm, the first pitch is thrown, and then by 7:14 pm the lighting starts creeping up on them and the rest of the fans. At 7:19 pm is when the lighting creeps up just enough to scare the umpires, and they don't call a Rain Delay, but they call a Severe Weather Alert.



Then Sevan turns to Sean and says, "I told you it was going to rain."

After a minute, the rain starts coming down, and Sevan and Sean are just barely protected by the second deck. Just to play it on the safe side, as it was a severe weather alert, they decide to move up with the rest of the people on the concourse. This is when Sevan pulls out his phone and looks at the weather radar. The radar states that the storm will not end until roughly 9:20 pm...

At 8:00 pm, the rain subsides for about 10 minutes, and Sevan and Sean decide to go back to their seats. Then they realize their seats are a little damp, so they move up 2 rows. Not even 5 minutes after they sit, the rain starts coming down even heavier. Sevan and Sean start to wonder how long they could be waiting before the game starts again!

At 8:30 pm, Sevan finds out that the longest rain delay in history was 7 hours and 23 minutes on August 12th, 1990 between the White Sox and Rangers. Sean then starts to get anxious about if they should leave or not, but Sevan says, "Let's just wait it out, there's no way it could be that long!"

At 9:00 pm the rain doesn't look like it's going to stop, and the guys in the control booth start playing the game between the Marlins and the Cardinals. 20 minutes later the rain feels like it's almost done, and Sevan sees on the Big Board that the game is scheduled to resume play at 9:25 pm.

As the game restarts, Sevan sees something that shocks him. The Mets took their starting pitcher out after only 9 pitches! And the stadium seats around them are now almost completely empty, as the rain soaked many of the foul territory seats.



Sevan says that they should move to those seats, but Sean has different ideas.

At 10:30 pm, the Mets are getting absolutely demolished. They only have 1 run, which came in the second inning, and the Reds are leading 5 to 1, and the Reds' starting pitcher has gone 7 innings strong throwing 74 pitches.

It's reaching towards midnight, and the Mets send in their Triple A call-up Jacob Rhame to take the mound for the 9th inning. And up to bat is the former Mets player, Dilson Herrera!

There is barely anyone to the sides of where Sevan and Sean are sitting, and they're completely ready for a home run ball...

As Jacob Rhame is winding up, Sevan is on his phone not paying attention, but luckily he puts his phone away just in time. All you hear is a loud crack of the bat and the ball flies through the air. Then someone yells, "It's a homer." And well, it was a homer, which landed two rows up to the section over the side that Sevan and Sean were sitting in, but it takes a lucky bounce and drops to the same row of the section they're in.

At this point, the ball is in a prime destination for anyone to race to it, and Sevan and Sean both stand, and Sean is telling Sevan to go get it! And he does! But so do other people! But there was one advantage that Sevan had that no one else did, and that was his speed...

So while everyone has to go up and down the stairs to get to the ball, Sevan just needs to run across a section, and as people are starting to just get to the ball, little do they know that Sevan already has the ball in his hands!

At 11:30 pm is when Sevan gets back to his seat holding the baseball. Sean decides to take a few pics to commemorate this moment. After all, this was the most exciting point of the night! As the Mets ended up losing this one, 6-1, because of a stellar pitching performance by Sal Romano, this put their overall win-lose record (when Sevan and Sean go to Mets games) at 1-2.

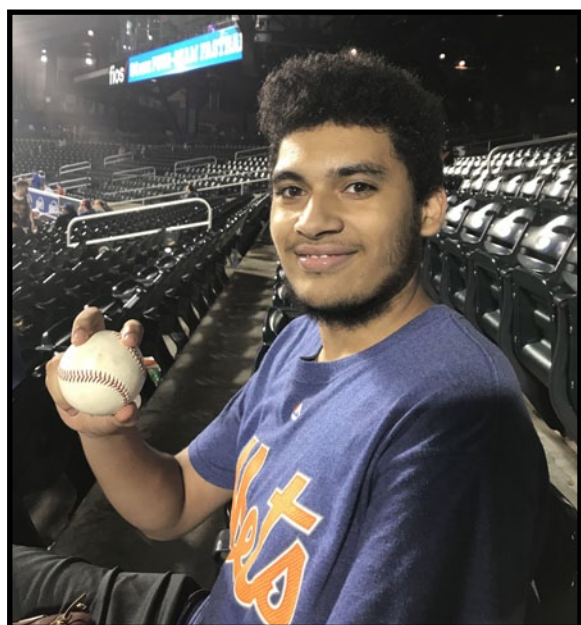
As the game ends, the time is 12:15 am, meaning it lasted for a combined 305 minutes. Now they start to catch the train, and Sevan and Sean are also re-watching the home run over and over again on MLB.com. And, of course, by doing that they get off at the wrong subway stop...

So then Sevan and Sean are just getting off the train by Sevan's house at 1:15 am, and Sean has almost passed out from the time he's been up and all the adrenaline leaving his body.

As Sevan gets to his door, it is exactly 1:30 am.

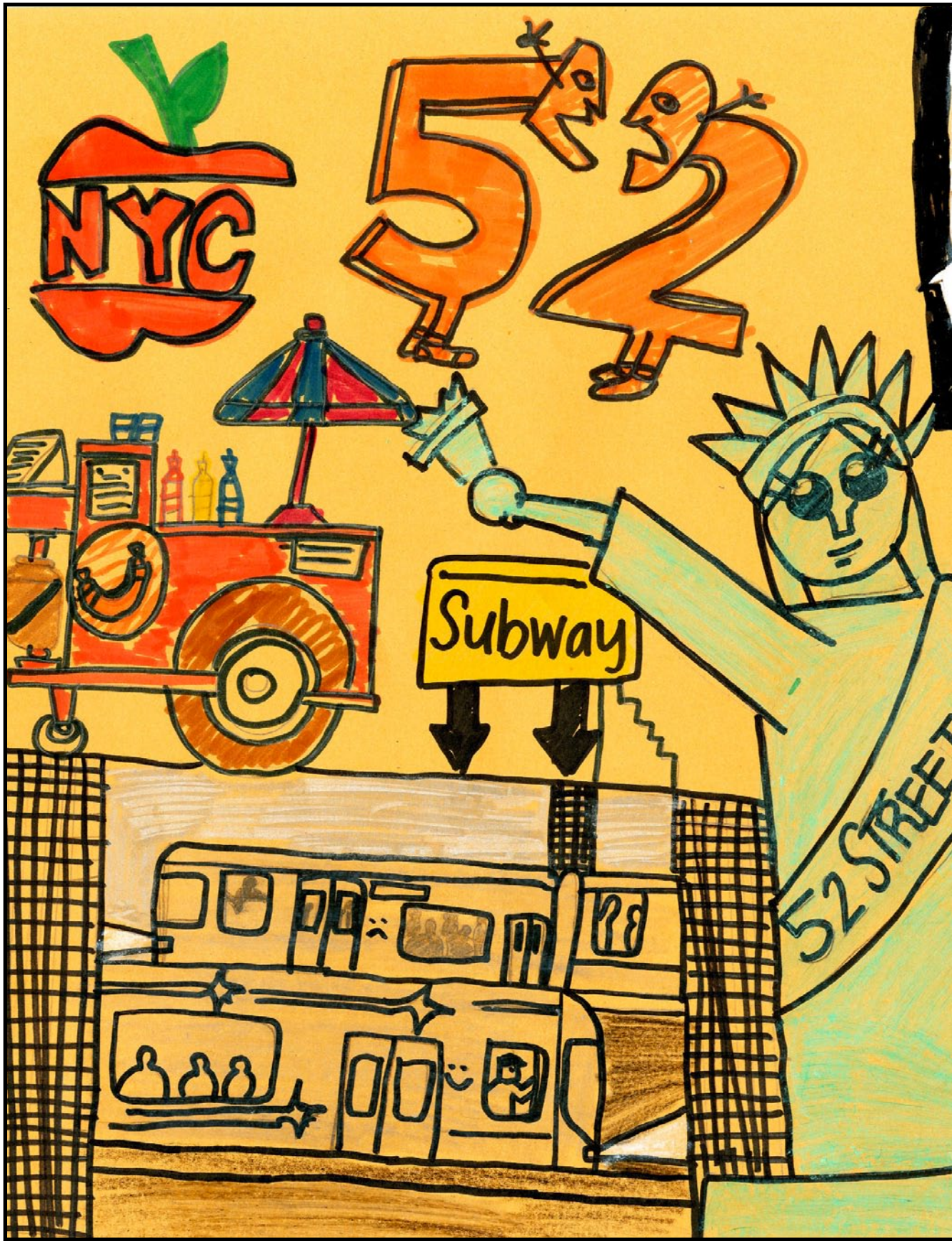
From start to finish, this was all in all an 8-hour activity, which spanned from 5:30 pm to 1:30 am.

I really hope next year's game is shorter! ⑤



Sevan with the ball he retrieved.

SMART PARTNER SKYLINE by Melanie Correa and Angie Toledo



OME

Melanie & Angie



BROADWAY

2019
TOPHIBA



Have a
Happy
New Year
New York

SP
MEANIE
AND
ANGIE
♡



Central
Park



In February of 2019, several of our young people participated in Garrett Kim's Radiomaking workshop. The purpose was not only to learn about how to make interesting audio pieces, but also to provide content for the 52nd Street Project's podcast (known as "the PROJcast"). On the next few pages are some excerpts from the pieces.

INTERVIEW WITH BRETT HOWDEN, NEW YORK RANGER

BY SEVAN ASENCIO



In sports, you have to expect the unexpected. That's why I've always been interested in a player's mindset when the unexpected does hit. What does go on in an athlete's head? Today, I'm finally gonna figure it out. We have 20 year-old center Brett Howden from Canada, who was traded from the Tampa Bay Lightning to the New York Rangers. I'm ready to ask him hard-hitting questions about being traded and how it affected him.

Brett is one of the most accomplished young Canadian hockey players there is. He has won two gold medals. One in 2015 in the Ivan Hlinka Memorial Tournament, and the second one just last year in the World Juniors Ice Hockey Championships. He also won one bronze medal in 2015 in the IIHF World Under 18 Championships. With all of these accomplishments, Brett Howden was selected in the first round with the 27th overall pick by the Tampa Bay Lightning. And in his first professional AHL season, he was named number 7 out of the top 25 under 25 in both the AHL and the NHL.

Sevan: Hello Brett.

Brett: Hey, how you doin' bud?

I'm good, how bout you?

I'm doing good.

First off, I would like to thank Brett for taking time out of his day and recovery process to join me for this interview. So the first question I have for you is, what was your first reaction to being traded?

I was pretty shocked to be honest with you. I wasn't really expecting it. I think it was pretty much right as the deadline was coming to an end. I just, I really had no idea that I was gonna be traded so I was pretty much in shock. I didn't really know what to say, but after talking to my parents, and talking to my agent, we all felt it was a really good move for me, and you know in the end it was probably the best thing that could have happened to me.

Where were you when you found out you were traded?

The funny thing is I was actually on the bus going to a different city where I was playing in juniors. I was actually lying down, sleeping, I had my headphones in, my buddy in the seat behind me tapped me on the shoulder. He showed me on Twitter that I'd been traded and I had no idea. So, it just goes to show how crazy social media is and how fast everything gets out.

That has to be one of the funniest and worst ways to find out you've been traded.

Yeah, it was different.

Who was the first person you told after you found out?

I called my Dad right away because I really wasn't sure if it was true or not. Because I had just seen it on social media. I hadn't been called by anyone. After I talked to my Dad I

hung up the phone and about ten minutes later I got a call from my General Manager in Tampa Bay and then the General Manager for the New York Rangers, so it all happened within a half an hour.

When you found out you were traded what emotion hit you first?

It was a pretty crazy moment, especially because I wasn't expecting it so I'd say I was shocked. I was pretty surprised to see it. I envisioned myself playing with the Tampa Bay Lightning one day, being a part of their organization and... having it happen just like that was pretty shocking. Obviously I'm not holding anything against anyone for that. That's just the way it is. It's a business as well. So, yeah, I'd say I was shocked.



What was the hardest thing you had to adapt to?

Well, I think for me I was put in a different situation – I wasn't playing for the Tampa Bay Lightning yet, so when I got traded, I really didn't have to go anywhere. I stayed playing with my junior team. Nothing really changed for me. It really didn't sink in until I went to development camp in the summer, and I got all of my NY Rangers gear and met all of the staff and everyone... That's when I started adapting and started feeling more comfortable and like I belonged here. So it was a pretty drastic change for me.

Is it harder to perform in front of a different fan base?

No, I don't think it's harder. It's awesome playing here at Madison Square Garden. Having the fan base that the Rangers have, honestly, it's incredible. There's fans all over that are diehard fans for the Rangers. Every away-game that we go to, we get out for warm-up, a majority of the time we have more fans than the home team fans for warm-up, surrounding the glass, with signs and jerseys

and everything like that so it's definitely really special to be able to play here.

What was your first reaction to walking into Madison Square Garden?

It was pretty amazing. The first time I walked in there, there was no ice in there because it was the summer, so I got to walk in there and see the building, see the dressing rooms, and pretty much just check everything out for the first time. The first time I actually got to skate in there was at main camp which was in September, so that's when it really hit me how cool the building was, to be able to see the ice, and then to see everything lit up- the lights, the roof, you know, it's a really special building. It's a very unique one.

Did you ever envision yourself playing as a member of the New York Rangers?

No, I mean, like I said, I was drafted by Tampa Bay. I, you know, envisioned myself playing with that team and growing with that organization. When I did get traded, everyone told me that the best organization you can go to is The Rangers. So that made me feel more comfortable, coming to this organization and hearing all of the good things from everyone around.

What is the hardest thing that fans don't know about being traded?

I think the hardest thing is trying to feel comfortable right away, cause you're not really in your comfort zone. So you're meeting a ton of new people, kind of leaving a part behind you...

Do players ever read about themselves when it's near the trade deadline or do they try to avoid it?

I guess everyone is different in their own ways. I can't speak for everyone else. For me, I try to stay off social media. I deleted Twitter, I don't have an Instagram account. I try to stay away

from all of that. Obviously you're gonna see stuff when you're watching highlights in the morning on the TV, just hearing things around, just rumors and stuff. Like I said, I just try to stay away from all of that.

If you had the chance to relive the day you got traded, would you?

I don't know, dude. It was a pretty weird day. Probably not, because it was a lot of emotions that day. It was a long day for me and I really didn't know what to think when it first happened. It took me a couple days to kind of settle in, and kind of understand what was going on, and finally talking to some other guys and people that I know with both organizations to kind of make it easier for me. I probably wouldn't go back, but I'll never forget that day.

It's easy to forget that sometimes our favorite athletes are also real people. For instance, Brett Howden's nickname is Howdy, and at a very young age, he taught himself guitar. He also has three dogs named Marley, Oliver, and Baxter.

I know you have three dogs, how hard was it for them to adapt to the trade?

My dogs?

Yeah.

I don't have my dogs with me, they're my family's dogs so they're back home in Winnipeg, so they didn't have to go through anything, luckily. It's always fun to go home and see them in the summertime.

You're originally from Canada, is that right?

Yes.

How hard was it to adjust from Canada to the States?

Well I think the biggest thing for me was, where I'm from in Canada, it's a small town just outside of Winnipeg. So, I think there were two parts of it. A quiet, small town and coming to a big city where there's so much energy and all the tall buildings, just how busy the city is

in general. It's one of the coolest cities I've ever been to. It's good for me because I'm starting to know my way around a lot better. I feel a lot more comfortable here.

As Ranger fans might know, you do have a current MCL sprain. How is that recovery process going?

It's been going good. It's never fun to be injured, and it's never fun to be apart from your teammates. I feel like I'm on a different schedule than they are. I'm not really around that much and when they go out on the road I'm staying back here to make sure I'm getting my rehab in. It's been a little tough mentally but I've come a long way in the last couple of weeks and still working hard to get back to practicing with the team and eventually playing.

As of Thursday, February 21st, Brett was placed on the injury reserve as he continued to rehab from his knee injury, thus creating a spot for another player.

If you get traded again, would you expect it?

No, I wouldn't. I don't think any player expects to get traded unless there's obviously some situations where some players might. For me, right now, I don't expect it at all so I wouldn't see that coming if it were to happen again but obviously things change in the future. There's

different situations for everyone, but for me right now, no.

What is your favorite thing about New York?

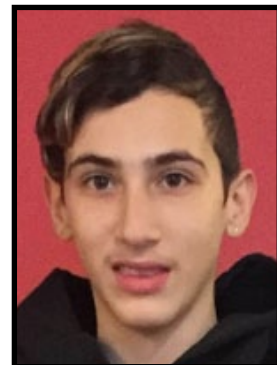
The Rangers fans are so supportive, it's honestly incredible. Every night we're getting so many people to the games and so much support... Everybody is all about The Rangers or the Knicks and supporting sports which is so special. Just being a part of the city is crazy. It's one of the coolest cities in the world, like I said. So it's pretty special to be a part of it and live here. 5



RADIOMAKING



As part of the Radiomaking sessions, Project member Derek Rey sat down with two fellow members, Sarah Lopez and Chyanne Pena, for a serious talk about how they felt about the education process.



SCHOOL: LIKE IT OR DISLIKE IT?

A DISCUSSION LED BY DEREK REY

Hi, my name is Derek. Today, I'm going to be talking about how some like school or dislike school. I want to do this so people in the middle can choose a side and I am doing this because I am in the middle. There is a bad side and a good side, and it's very hard to choose one.

SARAH



Derek: Hi, Sarah. Sarah, do you like school or not like school?

Well, I guess it depends on what part of school because I would say school is divided into the educational part, and the academics which I wouldn't say is the best

part, and then the part where you're with your friends so I guess... I partially like it.

What are you more into? Education or social?

Well, I'm a very social person I guess. I mean, honestly, half the things they're teaching us I doubt we're going to need in the future.

What grade are you in?

I'm in sixth.

Does school change over time for you?

Um, well, there's a difference between elementary school and middle school but then over time I mean I guess your classes are the same unless you're like...well, honestly, no.

What is your favorite subject?

I guess... Well, I mean unless you count lunch as a subject I would say lunch, but if you don't

count it I guess it would be... I guess it would be INS, which is like social studies.

What made you like social studies?

Well, for starters it's the only class where I'm not completely failing or my grade is the highest, and I'm actually able to not be bored, and my table isn't terrible.

Why isn't your table terrible?

Um, well, some of my friends are there and they keep me from going to sleep or something.

Makes sense. Do you think school is hell?

Um, define hell.

Like it's very horrible.

Is it the stereotypical hell? Like the flames and the fire from paintings in the renaissance or we talking 'hell' like... I don't know, like adults telling you what to do?

Both.

I mean it's not terrible, horrible... I mean, unless you combine the fires and smoke and ashes from people before you. Plus, um, terrible people telling you what to do... I mean, it's not hell.

How does school make you feel?

You know, you get used to it after a while and there isn't much to feel about school.

Do you feel stressed in school?

It's stressful if you don't pay attention, which honestly, I end up paying attention, so I guess it's not stressful.

Do you think school is interesting or not?

Oh it's definitely not interesting. Honestly, it's the same thing every single day. It just gets boring after a while.

Okay. Well, thank you Sarah. That's all I needed to know.

No, thank you, Derek.

CHYANNE



Hi, Chyanne. So right now, I'm going to be talking about how she likes school or not like school. Chyanne, do you like school or not like school?

Um, yes and no.

What are you more?

No.

Why not?

Um, it's stressful and I'm tired of waking up early.

I agree. What grade are you in?

I'm in eleventh grade.

Jeez. What do you do in school?

I wake up, I go to school at nine. I go to my first period class, then my second period class, then my third, then I have lunch, then I go to my fourth and my fifth. I think that's it.

Has school changed over time for you like when you were younger until now?

Yes, it has.

Like how much?

A lot.

Because you're in eleventh grade?

Um, I guess, yeah.

Do you think school is hell?

Yes!

Why?

Because it is stressful, and there is a lot of work, and a lot of determination and consistency.

Do you think you are part of education or social?

Um, both.

What is your favorite subject?

I would say math.

Why?

It's just straightforward, and it makes sense... sort of, whereas everything else you have to analyze and make sense of things... Math is one answer and that's it.

So you get more in math than the other subjects.

Yeah, I always get higher usually.

What is one thing you like about school?

Um, I think I like my friends probably.

So you like hanging out with your friends?

Yeah.

Do you sit with them in school?

Usually no, because if we sit together we don't get anything done.

So you get distracted.

Yeah.

Wow... I thought you guys were supposed to be helping each other.

I mean we do, sometimes, but the teachers move us because they already know, you know?

How do you think school is interesting?

I think it's interesting to hear other people's opinions and hear about other people's experiences.

How does school make you feel?

Um, anxious.

Why does it make you feel anxious?

Um, there's always things to worry about and deadlines to meet and just work to do in general, and sometimes I feel like there's not enough hours in the day to do it. And so that

makes me feel stressed out because I want to get everything done and also have time for myself and for family and for friends.

So you try to do everything and to finish in time.

Yes.

Do you get a lot of work?

I think it depends on the day. Sometimes it could be two, three hours of work. Sometimes it's an hour of work. It just depends on what day of the week it is.

What makes you interested in school?

I like learning new topics.

What type of topics?

In my school, we learn about different things like origins of life. Like, my freshman year, we learned about the Big Bang. And then this year, we're talking about the Bible but not as... like nonfiction as fiction, and so that's interesting to look at and hear other people's opinions and hear the history behind the literature and things like that.

Do you focus in class?

For the most part, yeah.

Which class you focus on more?

Hmm, probably English just because it's interesting and if I don't focus I'll miss out and probably won't get the best grade.

Kind of like social studies you mean...

I hate social studies. That's my least favorite. I'm in AP U.S. and it's the worst for me. I don't know why, but it's hard to get again because it's a lot of analyzing, a lot of reading documents, a lot of reading, a lot of tests, and I'm "I don't want to do that. I'm tired."

If you could change school, what would it be?

I think I would change the ideas of the college process and about work in general just because I feel like instead of stressing out kids when they're in their junior and senior year, maybe we should prepare them in freshman year with SAT courses and PSAT courses from the beginning instead of pushing it all on them when they're in their last two years when they

have extracurricular things to do and extra classes to take in general.

I think that I learned that, especially this year, when I have a lot going on, it just feels like when one thing is added on it feels like it's ten times worse. Like, just having a lot of classes and then dealing with the SAT and then dealing with "Okay, college! You're two years away. What are you gonna do?" And that kind of thing. I look at my freshman and sophomore years and I was just kind of like "This is fun! This is cool! I'm gonna take a nap at 3 p.m. and it's fine because I have no work." But now it's like you can't take naps.

So you want less work or like the freshman year and the other years?

I think it's more like helping kids manage their time and preparing them earlier. That's what I think.

Okay. Thank you, Chyanne.

Thank you, Derek.

I learned that Chyanne's friends keep her distracted and Sarah's friends keep her focused. I'm guessing the older you and your friends are, the more you get distracted. I wish I learned more about what they thought about education.

I'm also intrigued that Chyanne wants to change the freshman and sophomore year to apply to college early. I am still in the middle because one of them said that their friends keep them focused and the other said they make her distracted, and they both are true. One of them likes social studies and the other dislikes social studies. Well, that makes me in the middle, because I'm in the dislike more, but I like social studies. They both sound like they're in the dislike more, but I'm still in the middle but more to the dislike.

I know some of y'all will agree or disagree. It's up to you to decide, and I can't make y'all decide. 5

EXCERPTS FROM

RADIOMAKING



INTERVIEW WITH ACTOR ROGER CLARK

BY ETHAN ZENTENO

My name is Ethan Zenteno and I had the pleasure of interviewing Roger Clark from the game "Red Dead Redemption 2." He plays Arthur Morgan, and we had a chance to talk about his motion captures, his experience with the game, recording his voice lines and also his experience with theatre and the 52nd Street Project.

Rockstar is the company that made "Red Dead Redemption 2." They also made the original game which released in 2010. As a game set in an old western style type of setting, this time around Arthur Morgan is the main character whereas in the previous game it was John Marsten.

Thank you for giving us your time to let us interview you. So The 52nd Street Project is an acting program. What do you know about it?

I've stuck my head there a few times and I've spoken with some of the wonderful organizers.

Do you think that you, as a parent, that it's a good program? Would you let your kids do this?

Absolutely. Hell yeah, absolutely. Theatre is vital for growing. It's a vital way to gain confidence, to gain social skills. It's a great way to interact and empathize. You know, in this country we're seeing schools prioritize academia in not the best way, I find. The arts are usually the ones taking the hit. The data clearly shows that kids that have the opportunity to do theatre, to do music, to do anything artistic, you know, it's always benefitted them later on in life when they've gone on to start and begin their own professions. So yeah, absolutely.

So when you were a kid, did you do any theatre or any type of programs like this?

Oh, nothing but! I was doing theatre the whole time, from about the age of five or six. I never stopped.



How much do you think all that experience has helped you now in life in getting like big jobs like this or helping you socialize?

It was invaluable, yeah. I wish my parents were still alive so I could tell them how playing video games actually went on to help my professional career, because they never would have believed it.

Congratulations on winning the award for Best Game Performance.

Thank you, thank you very much.

How did you feel when you won, because you beat out actors from games like "Spiderman," "Detroit: Become Human," and "God of War."

Yeah, it was a really solid year for video games, 2018... and I thought there was some real solid performances there, so to be chosen amongst them, it was an even bigger honor. And I wasn't expecting it, to be sure. I remember when I sat there, some usher kept coming up to me and my wife to check that I hadn't gone to the bathroom, and I was thinking, 'I wonder why they keep doing that?' I thought 'They probably wanted to make sure that the cameras aren't filming an empty seat when they announce the nominees.' But then once they



Arthur Morgan, from "Red Dead Redemption 2", and his portrayal, Roger Clark.

called out my name, it was like 'Wow!' I didn't consider my performance as beating theirs, you know, it was just more of a recognition than anything else.

Well, how was it watching all the motion captures that you did and all the voice recordings that came together for the final product of "Red Dead Redemption 2?"

Well, first of all, thank you so much for knowing that it was motion capture. A lot of people these days, still even now, still call it 'voice acting,' which is an understandable mistake, you know, because up until maybe 5, 10 years ago that was the main way that performances for video games were recorded.

I worked 5 years on that project, and I didn't really get to see what we had done in the full, grand aspect of things until the game had come out. It was... amazing to see the way our work integrated with the work of all the thousands of other employees at Rockstar, how everything just kind of gelled and formed to be this one, big game that is the sandbox of "Red Dead Redemption 2." So yeah, it was really weird, and obviously Arthur... there's some resemblances between me and him, and everything you see Arthur do was me, apart from major stunts. A lot of actors will tell you they don't like to see their work. It's very difficult to look at it with sterilized eyes, but the fact that Arthur is a little bit different from me, it gave me this objectivity.

So you saw it as a different point of view than I would see it.

Yeah, what I mean is when I see Arthur I don't automatically see myself. There is enough of

a difference between him and me that when I view my work, there's enough of a divide, a boundary if you will, between myself and Arthur that I can look at it and regard it more objectively than if it were me listening to an audiobook that I've done or watching myself on film, you know.

Yeah, because of all the... Well, they had to make the character a little different to fit into that kind of world.

Yeah, yeah. The animators did an amazing job. They built that world from the ground up. Obviously some of it was based on the previous game, Red Dead, but most of it was a brand new map. They built that world from scratch, so when you look at it from a purely design aspect like that it is kind of overwhelming.

So after working on a game like this with Rockstar, do you think in the future you're going to work on more games?

I love performance capture. I think it's a fascinating medium. On "Red Dead" I was able to see the technology develop in front of my very eyes. I love doing it and I would love to carry on doing it with other projects in the future, yeah, absolutely.

Do you think that after you worked on such a big game like this, do you think you understood more things?

It really changed the way I learned to interact with people and how to act with fellow artists... It really opened my eyes on how to make people feel welcomed and comfortable. When an actor is comfortable, you'll most likely get a better scene out of them, and once you learn that it can't help but improve your own work, I think.

Well it was a pleasure. See you soon, and it was very nice to meet you, Ethan.

You too, thank you. 🍷

Subscribe to **The 52nd Street Project Projcast** to hear the uncut original recordings of these three pieces. Just go to iTunes and type "52nd Street Project" or "PROJcast" in the search box.



BEHIND THE SCENES OF CHRISTY ALTOMARE

BY FAITH VILLANUEVA

Early this year, Faith and her Smart Partner Annabelle Cousins got a chance to see "Anastasia" during its Broadway run. They also got to hang around afterward and meet the star. Here are Faith's impressions of the event.



Christy Altomare, also known as Anya, or Anastasia, is not only a great actress but also fun to be around. She is a kind and patient person who not only on her last day of performing did she sign over 100 copies of playbills for her fans but she also sang and gave out candy from her dressing room to anyone who wanted a piece.

Speaking of candy, Christy Altomare is the BIGGEST CANDY FANATIC that I have ever known. She has a mini cotton-candy machine and other candies from around the world. Also another fun fact is that she loves owls and has over 100 stuffed mini-owls just in her dressing room.

Christy is one of my biggest role models because she taught me to always follow my dreams. I hope she will come back and keep following her passion to act. I hope that you can see her and see how amazing of an actress she is. 🍩



Below: Faith and Annabelle on the stage, in Christy's dressing room, and meeting cast member Penny Fuller.



GOING TO SEE PROJECT PLAYS

BY FAITH VILLANUEVA



These plays were both interesting and fun, but also original and energetic. In *Out of the Blue*, as you can see in the first picture, a young ten year-old named Loyal Jones (here with his sister Love and author Faith. - Ed.) wrote a play called *Bully to Nerd*. This play included two original characters named Bully (aka Faith) and Nerdy Boy. This was a funny play that I enjoyed very much.



In the second picture you can see that Aaron and Michael, a Smart Partner team, were in stage combat and had just finished performing their play. This play was also very funny and also taught you a lesson never to bring a lazy person with you!



The last picture is us (Faith and Annabelle) with our pizza from when WE did Stage Combat!!!!!! (What a coincidence!) 5



RESTAURANT REVIEW

JOE'S SHANGHAI

TWO LATINAS IN CHINATOWN!

BY MELANIE CORREA AND ANGIE TOLEDO



ANGIE AND MELANIE

Melanie: On February 28th, 2019, Angie and I went to a Chinese restaurant called Joe's Shanghai in Chinatown! It was not that long of a commute by train even with Angie getting confused with the streets (Siri was not helping us out either.) It was located on Pell Street right by a spa. When you open the door to the restaurant the first thing you see is a giant fish tank with orange goldfish.

Angie: I was very excited to take Melanie to Joe's Shanghai. I've heard many positive reviews about the restaurant and I thought it would be great for us to try a new place together. In my defense, the streets were confusing! Melanie likes to make fun of me and my sense of direction. Pell Street is very cute. It was decorated with lights.

Melanie: The waiter sat us down and on the table there were clean tea cups and a very hot tea kettle (it was pink!). Angie drank most of the tea; I barely had mine. In my opinion, it tasted like plain water. I didn't get it, but I am not a tea person. I am a coffee person.

We opened the menu and I IMMEDIATELY wanted to order the pork fried rice with NO vegetables. I don't like vegetables. As a protein we ordered the General Tso's chicken.

Angie: I, on the contrary, loved the tea. It was nice and warm, exactly what I needed after being in the cold. I did encourage Melanie to try it but she was not as much of a fan. I was on board for the rice with no vegetables (even though I love veggies) and the chicken. I firmly believe in trying new things, so, I somehow convinced Melanie to order the dried string beans with minced pork.

Melanie: I LOVEDDDDD the pork fried rice. It was my favorite thing. The rice was fresh, tasty, had great flavor and a great color. The pork in the rice was delicious and salty. Together they were the dream team. The chicken was very tasty. It was breaded and covered in a saucy, tangy, spicy glaze. I liked the crunchiness of the chicken. Angie made me try the string beans and I did not like it. It tasted like burnt salt. I will admit, I am just not a fan of vegetables.

Angie: I loved everything we ordered. I think we did well! The rice was fantastic. I mean, you can never go wrong with rice. The chicken was perfectly crispy on the outside and tender on the inside. I also liked that it was a little spicy. The string beans with minced pork were my favorite! It was salty but still had the freshness and greenness of the veggies. I am not sure what Melanie meant by burnt salt but I was very happy to have her try a vegetable. Although she didn't like it, it was still a win for me.



Melanie: I would rate this restaurant a 9.5/10 only because when we were seated we had to share a table with other people. I prefer being alone with my party at a table. Nonetheless, the food was Amazing!

Angie: I think I would give this restaurant a 8/10. The food was excellent and I think the location is great. I would bring anyone here if they were in the mood for Chinese food. 6

MAGALIS AND ME

BY CHELSEA HACKETT

Magalis Fabian and I have had an atypical Smart Partnership for a while now, but we have found ways to make it work! She moved away from the neighborhood which meant we would meet later and less often, but we still enjoyed our time together and sometimes met away from the Project to save her travel time from Queens.

In December of 2018, I moved to Denver which made our friendship even longer-distance. But WhatsApp has been a blessing that lets us check in, and let her and her mom send me videos of the Project's Two-on-Two's that she performed in January! When I knew I was coming back for my doctoral graduation, we arranged to have a Smart Partner hangout and get our nails done (matching!) It's nice to know that even though we are both far away from the Project in distance, we are still close at heart! I plan to keep checking in and doing our favorite things: ice skating, eating Chipotle, and making sweets at the Project whenever I am in town. I hope I can come back for her graduation in just a few more years! 🍷



PHOTOS BY CHELSEA AND GRB

IS THIS RESTAURANT ELIZA AND THIANA APPROVED?

BY THIANA GOODE WITH ELIZA HUBERTH

Eliza and I went to **Ageha Sushi** on 52nd and 9th to find out if their sushi was "Eliza and Thiana approved." When we walked in, the lady showed us to a table near the wall. There was nice music, it wasn't too soft or too loud. It was just loud enough that you could hear it, but also talk to the person you're with. I feel like the lighting was a little dark, but since there were big windows, there was a lot of natural light, which I guess is good.

The lady asked what we wanted to drink, and I always ask for a lemonade and Eliza asked for a Diet Coke, but then the lady had the audacity to say we have no lemonade! What kind of restaurant has no lemonade? A sad restaurant. So, I was like, okay. So, she told me the drinks they actually had, and since I don't like soda, I asked for a sweetened iced tea, which by the way, didn't even taste good.



GRB



GRB

We didn't have to wait that long for our drinks, but while we were waiting we were looking at the menu. I liked how the menu had pictures of the food, so you know what it looks like and how much you're getting because that's important, too. There were a lot of options and everything looked delicious. I even had a hard time picking out what I wanted, and I usually don't take a long time. Finally, I got the Magical Roll, which had spicy crunchy tuna and cucumber topped with smoked eel, shrimp, avocado, tobiko and scallion with chef's sauce.

Eliza had the Hawaii Roll, which had tuna, salmon, yellowtail, avocado inside and ikura on top, and I know we have good taste in sushi.

When the waiter handed us our meals, I thought to myself, "Wow, this is beautiful." I took a bite and it was better than what I expected. It was soooo good! But I did have trouble using the chopsticks so I had to get a fork. And I also had trouble dipping the sushi without it collapsing. But overall, it was really good and I'd love to buy that again the next time I'm there.

I would recommend it to anyone who is a sushi lover. They had other options too, but we didn't see the other options. So, I give it a 4 out of 5. They didn't have lemonade. I swear we were there. We just didn't take any pictures because my hair was a mess. Sorry. 🍣

Note: Not long after this meal, we were able to photograph Thiana and Eliza and their hair looked just fine. - Editor.

MANGÚ AND MEMORIES

Reminiscences on a Smart Partnership

BY VALERIA OLIVA AND MIKHAELA MAHONY

According to Wikipedia, Mangú is a Dominican traditional dish served for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Mangú is made up of boiled plantains. The plantains are then mashed with butter, margarine or oil in the water in which they were boiled. The dish is topped with sautéed red onions that have been cooked with vinegar. - The Editor



Valeria and Mikhaela at the SP Picnic in May, 2019.

We are writing this on Tuesday, June 4th, 2019. We just finished making Mangú. We didn't know if we would have enough time to write for *Fivey*, but luckily George came up and demanded an article.

"Your public is desperate to hear from you!" he pleaded and begged, "All of your articles are world famous! Your exposé of the Empire State Building (*Fivey* #14, 2012), your stunning critique of s'mores (*Fivey* #15, 2013) and your way of storytelling with *The Birthday Bash* (*Fivey* #16, 2014) - so brilliant! So disturbing! - they are all legendary! Your writing is just what the world needs right now!"

"Calm down, George," we said. "We'll do it."

"But what will we write about?" we asked each other, out loud.

Caylyn said, "You should write about all of your Smart Partner meetings!"

(We don't know if you heard, but we're graduating from Smart Partnering. Mikhaela doesn't want to talk about it, she's too emotional. Valeria is in denial. WE'RE DOING WELL!)

Mikhaela proposed that we write about our first and last cooking adventures. We'll see if that structure holds up!

It all started in 2011. That was the day when history was made. The day Valeria was getting her new Smart Partner. (We don't know the actual date. But that's OK.)

Valeria busted in through the 52nd Street Project doors. She was very energetic. She was just herself — gone with the wind. She was SO excited that she ran right past her Smart Partner. Mikhaela! Mikhaela was sitting on a table. When we started writing this article, both of us described Mikhaela as nervous in this moment. What was she nervous about? Maybe the WHOLE FUTURE OF THEIR SMART PARTNERSHIP? Valeria was like, "I'm so excited! Where is she?" And Mikhaela was like ????? Liz Bell (the Education Director at the time) said, "She's sitting right there, go say hi!"

And then Valeria forgets what happened after that.

Mikhaela does not forget, though!

*Archival artifact #1:
We think it is a binder cover insert.*





Plantains in the pot!

Mikhaela was so nervous — how would she be as a Smart Partner? Would she and Valeria get along? But Valeria did this thing that she doesn't do so much anymore but still does sometimes, which was: when Valeria would get an idea, she would be, like, GASP! and point one finger up in the air like a Eureka! moment, but then would forget what she was going to say. (When we were writing this, Valeria clarified that she didn't forget, she just would keep her thoughts secret from everyone. [Evil laugh from Valeria - hee hee hee] She also revealed she didn't know what a Smart Partner was. Jade and Edelys had Smart Partners though, and Valeria wanted one too.) But in that moment, Mikhaela knew that Valeria was truly the best and stopped being so nervous. Being a Smart Partner was going to be just fine.

As we write this, we're realizing that we have so many memories! And also so many secrets. This article has become an exposé. WHAT IS THE TRUTH BEHIND VALERIA AND MIKHAELA'S SUCCESSFUL, WORLD-CLASS SMART PARTNERSHIP? Read more to find out!

Valeria remembers that we used to read *Goosebumps* books. Valeria remembers hating the ending of one we read out loud together. Mikhaela doesn't even remember the ending. The owner was a vampire or something? And they didn't know if he was or he wasn't? They ended up in a graveyard and didn't know if he was dead? Valeria wasn't scared, because she's never scared. But she also remembers that there was a character who was in publishing and hated his job. At the time Mikhaela was ALSO in publishing, so Mikhaela found this book truly scary.

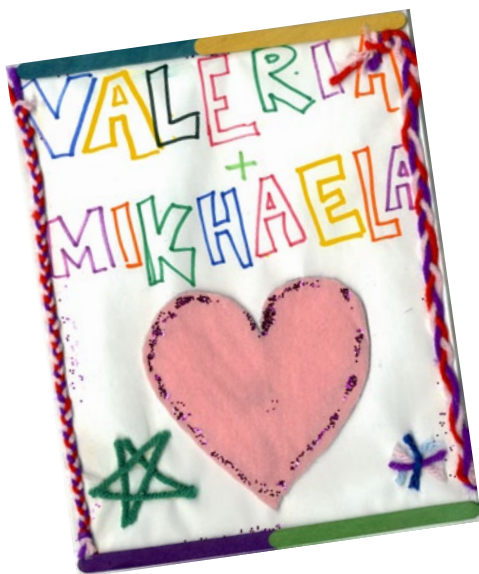
We decided to write our own story, BETTER than a *Goosebumps* about publishing and vampires. We wrote *The Show*, which was about superheroes... or, no, kids with powers! And they were in a circus and the guy who ran the circus was trying to kill them, making them fight to the death. But then they killed him instead. You can read this in Fivey. What year, you ask? Do some research! Don't ask us! We've been Smart Partners for 8 years! Give us a break. (The Editor will give everyone a break! It's in Fivey #17, 2015.)

What else do we do? We play board games like Sorry and Battleship. Valeria just confessed that she didn't really know how to play and was sort of "cheating." Unbelievable! We would also play that farm animal game that we don't remember the name of where you would guess the kind of farm animal in your opponents tiny barn (That one is called "Snorta" - the patient Editor). Mikhaela was also very bad at that game. We played Jenga, we played Guess Who, and we did puzzles. The puzzle Mikhaela remembers best was the one with all the multicolored houses. Valeria remembers the one with the animals. Mikhaela also remembers the one with the flowers. The one with the animals took us like, two days.

We would go to Central Park a lot. And eat a lot. And we did a lot of scavenger hunts! We would type up a list on the computer of things we wanted to see or hear on our walks through the city. Some of them were easy to find: Flags! A boat! Someone dancing! Someone wearing sandals even in the winter! A clown! And some things were truly impossible. Things that are still on our list are: Someone saying the word "Food,"



The onions are ready.



Archival artifact #2: Pretty sure it's another binder cover insert.

someone saying the word “Butterfly,” a coconut, and a person taking a selfie. Seems like we would have seen these things over the course of 5 years. But no.

We also did the Two-on-Twos together, and had the best trip of ALL TIME. Mikhaela didn't eat the sandwiches, she just ate a banana and peanut butter. And Valeria drank the orange juice faster than anyone there. Faster than anyone there could even IMAGINE. People would blink and Valeria would be finished. Valeria played an old woman and spent all weekend practicing in the wheel chair, and she would call George “Grandson George.” Mikhaela and Valeria went roller skating with the group and were VERY bad. Valeria fell twenty times but was very resilient and cheerful. Mikhaela fell once and quit. But it was a very big fall. And she is a very old lady and has fragile bones. We went sledding and bowling and Valeria



Very close, now! Ve-e-e-ery close!

We also just spent some time reminiscing about our star turn at the Open Mic Night of 2014. And we remember that we did a play in lab coats that was really a real estate PowerPoint presentation, claiming that we had invented the 52nd Street Project. But then in a surprise twist, it turned out we were dead. This was our one performance in the Open Mic. Our performance was so good, we could never top it. Our other creative endeavors include weird drawing games where you need to guess what your partner is drawing — we look at them now and still have no idea — and making weird cards celebrating fake holidays that we made up. Holidays like Differents Day, National Spinach and Eggplant Cooperation Day, and Game Day, a day where you have to play a game and if you lose, you die.

We also played in the Ping Pong tournament, maybe three times. We never won. But we did



Sausages and fried cheese, too? Sure, why not?

win...Best Attitude? In the Foosball tournament? We really loved the empanadas though. We know our priorities. Our priority is food.

Over the course of 8 years, we've eaten Thai food, Ethiopian food, Italian food, Indonesian food, Colombian food, homemade sushi, not-homemade sushi, German or Belgian waffles, hot chocolate, spaghetti tacos in blue shells, just straight up regular spaghetti BUT with homemade tomato sauce, Mexican chocolate pie, pumpkin pie, homemade oreos, latkes, sugar cookies, s'more cookies, just straight up regular s'mores, artisanal s'mores, milkshakes (by far the WORST thing we've ever made), gelato, ice cream, frozen yogurt, paletas, mochi (we're really into frozen desserts. We got the green tea ice cream flavor and it was really good.)

And so, it seems fitting that we are having one of our last Smart Partner meetings where we had our first - in the kitchen. In 2011, our very first meeting, we made pancakes. At a very weird time of day to eat pancakes. It was probably 5:30-7:00 p.m., because we used to meet really late on Wednesdays. We made them from scratch. We did banana pancakes and blueberry pancakes. Mikhaela remembers getting flour everywhere. Valeria agrees about the flour, and remembers not wanting to do the dishes. Whenever we cooked

Valeria always complained about the dishes we had to clean. But only in her head, apparently, because Mikhaela doesn't remember that happening. Mikhaela remembers Valeria always being a really good helper, even if she was secretly resentful.

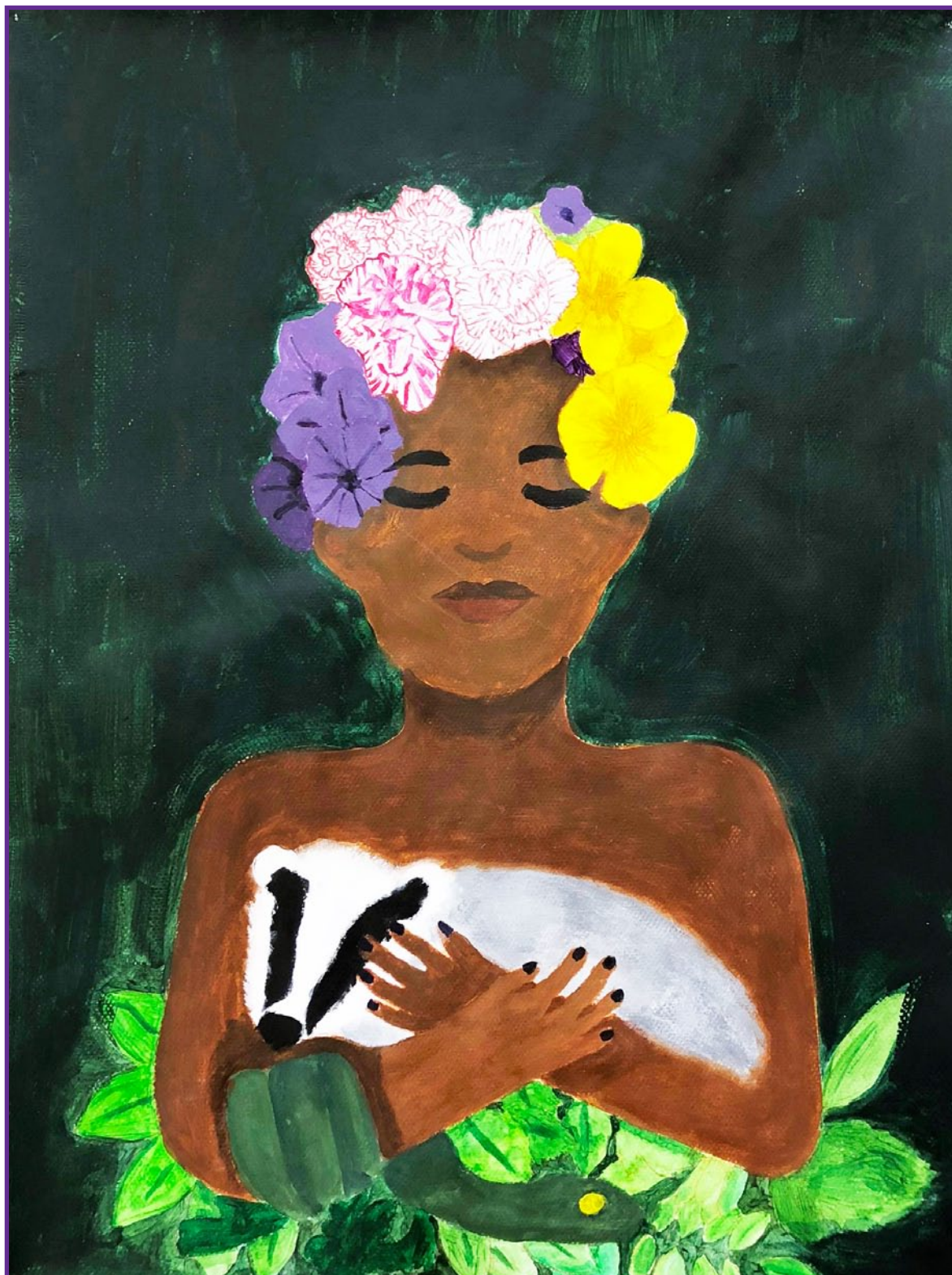
The pancake recipe was the only special, from-scratch recipe that Mikhaela knew. Valeria says that Mikhaela taught her everything she knows about how to cook - Mikhaela says that she would never know how to cook anything if she and Valeria didn't cook together.

Our last kitchen adventure was this one: making Mangú. Valeria remembers this breakfast from childhood. We wanted to make it the way Valeria remembers it — so the plantains aren't too hard. We knew we had to add some cold water to the plantains, but couldn't agree on when to do it. So we just went for it. And it was delicious, even if maybe not correct. Just like so many of our adventures! Breakfast food at night, campfire food in a microwave, hand-made kites that don't fly but look great and bring you new friends.

As you can see, we've had many adventures. And we will continue to have many adventures. Even when our Smart Partnership is up. (Valeria and Mikhaela are crying.) ⑤



NATURE GIRL art by Wilhelmina Ohene-Karikari



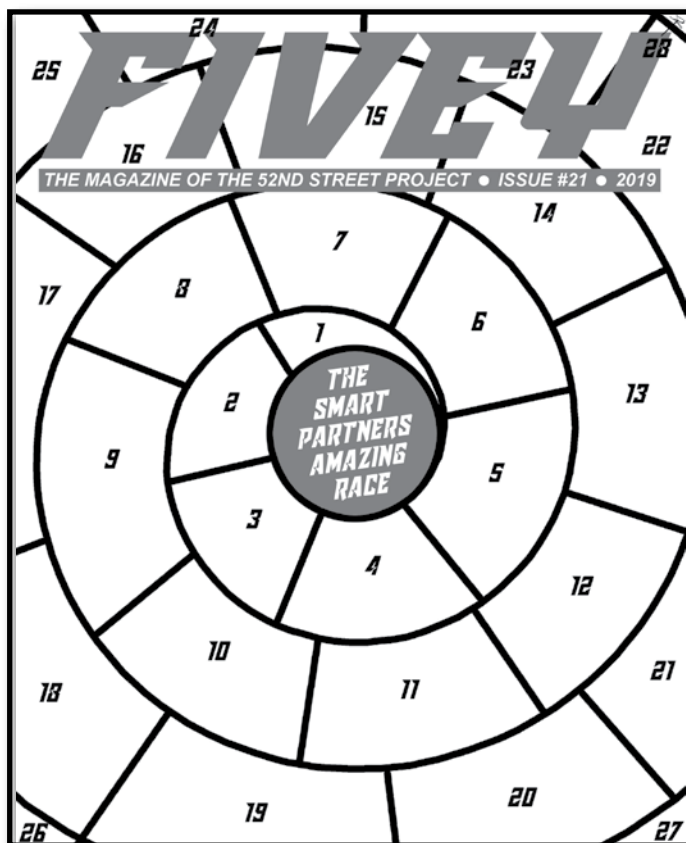
WHO'S WHO IN THE AMAZING RACE ON THE COVER?

There are a whole lot of people running to and fro on the cover. There are also pictures of places and things. What's the deal with all the frenzied activity and arbitrary photos?

Well, if you haven't yet looked at the first 10 pages of this magazine, you should know that the cover represents the great chase we held this year to collect experiences, objects, and photographs that we called "The Smart Partners Amazing Race."

See the key to the right and below to find out who the Smart Partner pairs are and identify some of the things they had to find.

Then, go to the list on page 6, start racing around, and see how high YOU can score!



1. A World War II era penny
2. Ashley Marie Ortiz and Rosneyri Rosario
3. Ronald Peet and Xavier Espinal
4. Daiva Deupree and Jayleen Velez
5. Faith Villanueva and Annabelle Cousins
6. Ahmed Shabana and Ruffin Prentiss III
7. Sarah Lopez and Lynne Rosenberg
8. Michael Propster and Aaron Ordinola
9. Sofia Santoni and Grace Rex
10. Carlos Jimenez and Cody Wilson
11. Ivan Garcia and Neil D'Astolfo
12. Carrigan O'Brian and Evaluna Santoni
13. Sathya Sridharan and Stevens Velasquez
14. Alex O'Daly and Bryanna Ohene-Karikari
15. The Staten Island Ferry
16. Josh Moody and Ethan Perez
17. The NYC Subway Map
18. Love Jones and Molly Carden
19. Valeria Oliva and Mikhaela Mahony
20. Nikolai Alvarez and Alex J. Gould
21. Therese Barbato and Lovely Ramirez
22. Sushi (try a new food)
23. Dogs (pet some animals!)
24. Rocks with faces
25. The Atlas statue at Rockefeller Center
26. The Mandarin duck of Central Park
27. A Yankees jersey
28. A tiny slingshot

Cover photography, design, and layout by George Babiak.

To see this issue (and all previous ones!) in full color, download it from our website: www.52project.org.



LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK



FOLLOW US ON
TWITTER



FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM



@52ndStProject



Fivey Magazine is a publication of

The 52nd Street Project

789 10th Avenue

New York, NY 10019

