

Big Apple Greeter welcomes you to New York City!



Big Apple Greeter
New York City

www.bigapplegreeter.org



The Big Apple Greeter Guide to

Hipster Williamsburg

ONCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CROWDED TENEMENTS described in Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, a coming-of-age novel set in Williamsburg in the era before World War I, today's Northern Williamsburg is now considered one of the "hippest" neighborhoods in the United States. Home to cutting edge art galleries, a vibrant nightlife and trendy restaurants, Hipster Williamsburg is the place to meet the young, artistic crowd.

TEXT BY MARIANNE GENNARI.
GRAPHIC DESIGN BY JOY MAKON.
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL KATCHER.

© 2010 Big Apple Greeter 4/2010

Big Apple Greeter
1 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007
Phone: 212-669-8159

Web: www.bigapplegreeter.org



The Big Apple Greeter Guide to Hipster Williamsburg



UNIQUE VIEWS OF MIDTOWN MANHATTAN



PIEROGI 2000

Where is Williamsburg and Hipster Williamsburg?

Located in Northern Brooklyn, Williamsburg is bordered on the south by Bedford-Stuyvesant and Wallabout Channel, on the west by East River, on the north by Greenpoint, on the east by Bushwick. Hipster Williamsburg is the area north of Grand Street and west of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

About Williamsburg and Hipster Williamsburg

The Dutch West India Company purchased the land that is today's Williamsburg in 1638, but Williamsburg did not come into its own until the 19th century when it became a wealthy industrial neighborhood with expensive housing for business magnates. In the early 20th century, thousands of immigrants fleeing the tenements of Manhattan's Lower East Side brought overcrowding to the neighborhood. The eventual decline in the area's industry led to economic downfall. By the 1930s, Williamsburg was considered to be an unrelieved slum. In the 1980s, artists seeking to escape the high costs of Manhattan living were attracted to Northern Williamsburg for its large loft spaces, cheap rent and convenient

GREETER'S SECRET

Hipster Williamsburg has numerous galleries and art events. To learn more, see the website at <http://www.freewilliamsburg.com/galleries.html>.

transportation. Northern Williamsburg today is known for its art galleries and its place in the international music scene.

It's Easy to Get to Hipster Williamsburg:

M BY SUBWAY: L train to Bedford Avenue.
BY BUS: Bus lines that service Hipster Williamsburg include the **B59** and **B61**.

Things to See and Do in Hipster Williamsburg

1 PIEROGI 2000 at 177 N. 9th Street between Driggs and Bedford Avenues is an innovative gallery that shows the works of both emerging and established artists and one of the first galleries to open in Williamsburg. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.pierogizoo.com>.

2 BROOKLYN BREWERY at 79 N. 11th Street at Wythe Avenue is one of America's top breweries and is famous for their Brooklyn Beer! Tours are offered on Saturdays and Sundays and Happy Hours are offered on Friday nights starting at 6:00 PM. With 8 different brews on tap, there is something for everyone. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.brooklynbrewery.com>.



BROOKLYN BREWERY



The Big Apple Greeter Guide to Hipster Williamsburg



CURRENT FASHIONS



DESIGNER SHOPPING

3 EAST RIVER STATE PARK between Kent Avenue and the East River and N. 7th and N. 9th Streets offers summer “pool parties” and outdoor concerts in season, as well as some terrific views of Manhattan. This 7 acres of greenery was built on a recovered shipping dock and is a great place to sun bathe.

4 GRAND FERRY PARK on Grand Street between River Street and the East River was where the ferries ran to Manhattan before the building of the Williamsburg Bridge. Sandwiched between the now-closed Domino Sugar Refinery Building and the smokestack of the old Pfizer Pharmaceuticals molasses plant, the park offers a wonderful view of Manhattan.

5 OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL at 275 N. 8th Street near Havemeyer Street is home to one of the largest Italian festivals in the city. The annual Festa dei Gigli (Feast of the Lilies) is held in July each year to honor St. Paulinus, a 5th century bishop and religious leader of Nola, Italy. The high point of the festival is the parade of the Giglio, a 65-foot, 4-ton tower covered with papier-mache saints, angels and flowers and carried through the streets by the men of the parish. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.olmcfest.com/history>.

GREETER’S SECRET:
The **Domino Sugar Refinery Building** was designated a New York City landmark in 2007.

Shopping

6 **BROOKLYN INDUSTRIES** at 162 Bedford Avenue at N. 8th Street

offers au courant fashions with a Brooklyn vibe for the whole family. Artist-owned and operated, the company prides itself on its socially responsible business model. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.brooklynindustries.com/brooklyn>.

7 **BEACON’S CLOSET** at 88 N. 11th Street between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue offers unique vintage clothing and accessories at fair prices. Online shopping is also available. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.beaconscloset.com>.

8 **BUILT BY WENDY** at 46 N. 6th Street near Wythe Avenue is owned by Chicago-bred designer Wendy Mullin and features her unique clothing and accessories. Online shopping is also available. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.builtbywendy.com>.

9 **ACADEMY RECORD ANNEX** at 96 N. 6th Street between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue deals exclusively in used, rare or hard-to-find records and CDs. Wonderful service and a wide selection covering all musical genres make this an audiophile’s haven. Online shopping is





The Big Apple Greeter Guide to Hipster Williamsburg



OUTDOOR DINING AT ACQUA SANTA





RADEGAST HALL

available. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.academy-records.com>.

MINI MINI MARKET

at 218 Bedford Avenue at N. 5th Street is a small mall housed in the old Realfarm Girdle Building and contains, among other things, **SPOONBILL & SUGARTOWN BOOKSTORE** and **EAR WAX RECORDS**.

When It's Time to Eat

 **11**  **ACQUA SANTA** at 556 Driggs Avenue at N. 7th Street is a candlelit trattoria offering rustic Italian cooking and a nice selection of wines. In good weather, dine al fresco in their outdoor garden under the grape arbor. Be sure to try the margherita pizza! To learn more, see their website at <http://www.acquasanta.com>.

 **12** **RELISH RESTAURANT** at 225 Wythe Avenue at N. 3rd Street is housed in an authentic 1952 stainless steel diner car and offers generous portions of food drawing on the traditions of French, Italian, Greek, Spanish, Middle Eastern and North African cuisines. Famous for their four cheese macaroni and their hamburgers, vegetarian offerings are




RELISH


GREETER'S SECRET:

Rosenwach Tank Inc. at Wythe Avenue and N. 9th Street has been in business for over 100 years and is the last company in New York to manufacture the wooden tanks found on rooftops all over the city which allow buildings taller than 6 stories to get decent water pressure. The business is still owned by the descendants of Harris Rosenwach who purchased the business in 1896 for \$55.00.

also available. And save room for the homemade desserts. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.relish.com/?page=home>.

 **13** **MIRANDA** at 80 Berry Street at N. 9th Street offers a fusion of Latin American and Italian cuisine housed

in a charming building that is over 100 years old. Try the risotto balls stuffed with chorizo or the mangu, a Dominican breakfast treat served only on the brunch menu. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.mirandarestaurant.com>.

 **14** **RADEGAST HALL & BIERGARTEN** at 113 N. 3rd Street near Berry Street is an authentic beer garden offering German and Austro-Hungarian cuisine as well as 12 beers on tap and 37 varieties of bottled beer. Entertainment is often available. Leave room for the strudel! To learn more, see their website at <http://www.radegasthall.com/index.php>.

 **15** **PETER'S SINCE 1969** at 168 Bedford Avenue near N. 8th Street offers traditional American cuisine and is acclaimed for its rotisserie chicken. And make sure to try the mac and cheese. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.peterssince.com>.



The Big Apple Greeter Guide to Hipster Williamsburg



Nightlife

16 SPIKE HILL at 184/186 Bedford Avenue between N. 6th and N. 7th Streets offers nightly live music and an open mic night on Wednesdays. Most shows are for free, the staff is friendly and jazz is offered on Saturday afternoons. A full menu, including late night dining, and a great selection of beer are available. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.spikehill.com>.



17 MUSIC HALL OF WILLIAMSBURG at 66 N. 6th Street between Kent and Wythe Avenues has a bar on every level and offers great acoustics for the cutting edge music scene. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.musicallofwilliamsburg.com>.

18 BROOKLYN BOWL at 61 Wythe Avenue between N. 11th and N. 12th Streets defines itself as the entertainment experience for the 21st century. This nightlife institution offers 16 lanes for bowling, live musical entertainment in a 600-capacity performance venue, and an eclectic dining menu. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.brooklynbowl.com>.

GREETER'S SECRET: Hipster Williamsburg has a very active nightlife. To learn more about the local watering holes, see the website at <http://www.freewilliamsburg.com/bars/index.html>.

19 ZEBULON at 258 Wythe Avenue near N. 3rd Street offers free music every night and is the ideal spot for meeting local residents and experiencing new sounds. A full bar and snack menu are available. To learn more, see their website at <http://www.zebuloncafeconcert.com>.

About Big Apple Greeter

Founded in 1992, Big Apple Greeter's mission is to enhance New York City's worldwide image while enriching the city experience for its visitors. Connecting with business and leisure travelers from all over the US and the world, Greeters take visitors on informal, unscripted walks through one or more neighborhoods in any of the five boroughs, promote tourism throughout the city, and help visitors discover the ease of using public transportation. Over 300 volunteer Greeters speak collectively almost 25 languages and enjoy giving their time and energy back to their hometown. Since its founding, Big Apple Greeter—a free public service—has welcomed over 90,000 visitors and been featured in thousands of newspapers, magazines, and television and radio programs all over the world, reaching an audience of over one billion potential visitors to New York City. Big Apple Greeter is proud to partner with NYC & Company, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Metro New York.

About the Global Greeter Network

Big Apple Greeter is proud to be part of the Global Greeter Network, a voluntary association of welcoming programs around the world, all based on the Big Apple Greeter model: free and open to all visitors; offer greeter services as an individual or very small group experience (no more than 6 visitors); and are characterized by enthusiastic, local residents who love their home city, love to meet people from around the world, and volunteer to conduct these visits.

The Global Greeter Network currently spans seven countries on four continents and includes the following members: Cicerones de Buenos Aires in Argentina; Adelaide Greeters and Melbourne Greeter Service in Australia; Tap in TO! (Toronto) in Canada; VisitBrighton Greeters and Kent Greeters in England; Paris Greeter, Les Greeters de Nantes, Greeters62 (Pas-de-Calais), Lyon City Greeters and Marseille Provence Greeters in France; Den Haag Greeters in the Netherlands; Big Apple Greeter (New York City), Chicago Greeter, and Houston Greeters in the United States.

You may learn more about Big Apple Greeter and its many services on our website: www.bigapplegreeter.org or by emailing us at information@bigapplegreeter.org



Hipster Williamsburg