



Arts & Culture

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Untapped Cities Guide to NYC's 2013 Summer Streets

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Summer Streets route map showing the seven miles of open streets, plus the six main rest stops.

In 2008, New York City kicked off the [first ever Summer Streets](#), an event designed to get city-dwellers out of their cars and onto the streets. The Department of Transportation closed off routes usually meant for vehicles, stretching from Wall Street all the way up to Central Park, and opened them up to runners, bikers, bladers and walkers. Six years later it's still going strong as an annual event held on three consecutive Saturdays in August. Back with the same [route](#) (Lafayette Street to 4th Avenue to Park Avenue), the 2013 Summer Streets

has some very new art to check out.

The Voice Tunnel



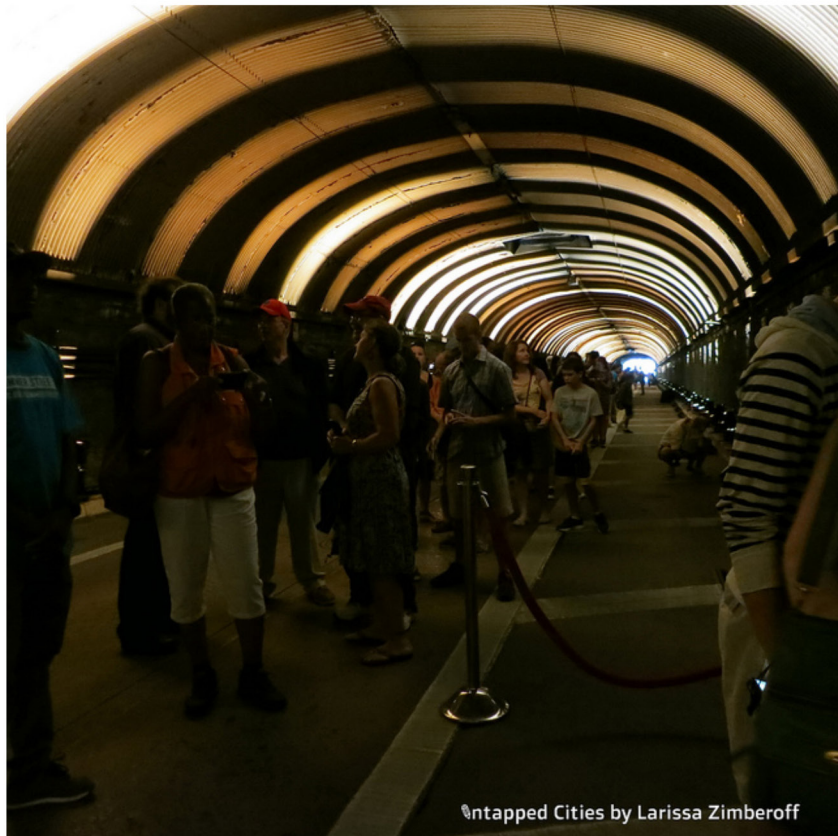
The entrance to the Park Avenue Tunnel at 33rd Street.

The star of the celebration is also the most worth your hard-earned weekend hours, despite the long lines. The “[Voice Tunnel](#)” was created by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, an electronic artist who lives and works in [Montréal](#). You’ll enter into a world of both darkness and brightness, your eyes will dart everywhere, taking in the speakers on the ground and the lights pointed up to the curved ceiling. Sometimes the sounds will pop out enough that you can hear a sentence, and at others they’ll just fade to a blend of auditory wonder. In the center of the tunnel is a voice-activated intercom where guests can influence the intensity of the lights.

If you don’t feel like waiting, you can watch other people step up between the red velvet ropes and listen in. Exit the tunnel at 40th Street or you can weave your way back to the 33rd Street entrance to get your bike if you rode.



Lights fan out from the center of the Voice Tunnel.



Guests wait in line to speak into a microphone that controls the intensity of the lighting.



The spotlight is on Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, the artist of the Voice Tunnel, as he is filmed while manning the show.