

James Hoffman

Hello fellow GANYC members,

First off, I would like to thank everyone who offered to nominate me or encouraged me to throw my hat into the ring.

For those who don't know me, I'd like to give a little background about myself. I first became a licensed NYC tour guide in 2009, like many other guides, getting my start working on double-decker buses. About a year later, I started doing boat tours around the NYC harbor in addition to leading bike tours throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn (often biking up to 60 miles a day!)

Around 2015, I began organizing my own personal walking tours in addition to being hired at Big Bus Tours. During my time at Big Bus, I was involved with a TWU Local 100 union election campaign. After we won the union election, I served on the contract organizing committee and later became the first elected tour guide shop steward at Big Bus.

Shortly after the first wave of COVID shutdowns, Big Bus decided to lay off all of its live tour guides in favor of pre-recorded narration. As a result, in 2021, independently of TWU, I organized protests to bring awareness about the elimination of live guides. I ended up collaborating with Government Relations on these protests a few months before officially joining GANYC in November 2021. Currently, I am still a member of the Government Relations Committee and also the Membership Committee.

I would like to quickly thank all the GANYC members who supported these protests, whether it was in person or in spirit. It meant a lot to me, and I assure you it meant a lot to the tour guides who were laid off.

At the moment, as an independent contractor, I do my own tours under the name of Right Foot Tours with a specialty of distillery, brewery, and cocktail tours. Some of you may have attended my Green-Wood Cemetery Cocktail Walk, which I did as a FAM tour. I also do other "dry" sightseeing walks with companies such as The Bowery Boys, NY Adventure Club, Brooklyn Brainer, Devour Tours, Like a Local Tours, in addition to a few more organizations.

I would be excited to make a larger commitment to GANYC if elected as Board Member at Large. If elected, I promise to address the concerns of the membership, to serve the board to the best of my ability, and (as I have always done in the past) promote live tour guides with the dedication this amazing profession deserves.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.