NYC SUBWAY

By Alyssia Chok

History

- Pre 1925: Started with 2 private transit companies
  - IRT: Interborough Rapid Transportation Company
  - BMT: Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit Corporation
- 1925: BMT introduced its 1-16 numbering system
- 1932: IND (Independent Subway System) - the first city-run subway service launched and used letters A to H, and S for special
- 1940: all 3 systems merged and got taken over by the city
- 1948: IND introduced a numbered system but got confused with BMT
- 1960s: BMT changed to using letters J to H, and SS for shuttle services; IND retained letters A to H letters
- 1979: colors were introduced to subway lines

Fun fact: lettered subways are wider and longer than numbered subways

Why am I interested?

- The subway system is one of the oldest and most complex architecture
  - Non New Yorkers get lost/confused taking the subways or looking at the subway map
- The subway is as iconic as NYC attractions such as the Statue of Liberty and Empire State Building
- New Yorkers, including students and adults take this public transportation everyday
- The subways are integrated into our “system” and it’s a big part of New Yorker’s life

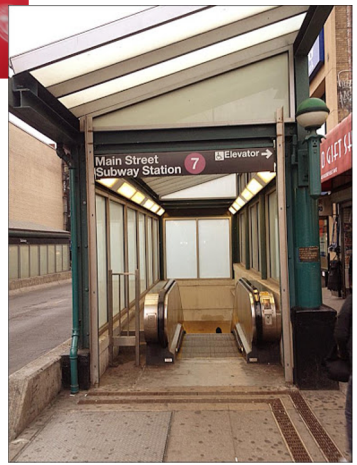
How does this artifact relate to the themes we have discussed in class?

- **This artifact relates to gentrification.**
- **The further the area is from the subway line, the cheaper it is to live there and it is more expensive to live near subway-dense areas**
  - Causes "overcrowding" in cheaper areas
  - Those who live in the outskirt have to commute longer hours
- **There's been an increased in subway ridership in North Brooklyn and Long Island City because these are the city's most quickly gentrifying districts --- causes delays**
  - Mayor Michael Bloomberg's stated goal was for "transit-oriented development"
  - Rezoning strategy: gentrifying working-class neighborhoods of color while protecting wealthier white neighborhoods

Continue...

- **The Second Avenue Subway Station in East Harlem is part of Mayor Bill de Blasio's rezoning program to address the city's shortage of low-cost housing.**
- **The Hudson-Yard 7 train extension built at a cost of $2 billion is located in the biggest private real estate**
  - This development is built in a rich neighborhood
  - Located near The Vessel, The Highlands

Comparison of Hudson Yard station and Flushing station



These are the same line for 7 train and there is a big difference due to being located in different areas.

How does this artifact contribute to your understanding of urban life ?

- ★ **It is a common thing that New Yorkers use everyday - it is essential to live in NYC.**
- ★ **The City relies on subways in order to function.**
  - **The 24 lines run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year**
- ★ **Without the subway system, NYC wouldn't be the same because it is the most used transportation method.**
- ★ **Gentrification is not always a good thing as we saw that it causes overcrowding and delays in subway stations.**

Interesting Fact: Awkwafina, the first Asian-American to win Best Actress at the Golden Globes took over the conductor announcements on the 7 train for a week in January 2020 to promote her new show “Awkwafina is Nora from Queens.”

Examples:
“This is 69th Street, which is definitely, definitely not funny in any way.”
“This is Times Square 42nd street, where New Yorkers go to relax.”
“Please remember, poles are for *hands only*.”