Panorama of the City of New York

On Long-Term View

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The Panorama

The model was conceived by Robert Moses and constructed by Lester & Associates of West Nyack, N.Y. It was paid for by New York City.

Original Purpose of the Panorama: The Panorama was built as New York City’s display at the 1964-1965 World’s Fair. After the Fair it served as an urban planning tool.

Dates of Construction: July 1961–April 1964

Number of workers: It took more than 100 full-time workers to construct the Panorama.

Cost: $672,662.69 in 1964 U.S. Dollars


Scale: 1” = 100 feet (1:1200)

Total Area: 9,335 square feet

Length at Longest Point: 154 feet 6 inches from the Bronx city line at Westchester to tip of Staten Island at Perth Amboy.

Width at Widest Point: 137 feet from the west side of Manhattan to Nassau county line.

Special Features of the Panorama

3,172 colored lights showing the location of municipal facilities.

Moving airplanes that land every minute at La Guardia Airport.

Fun Facts

Approximate size of Manhattan – 70 x 15’
Approximate size of Bronx – 40 x 40’
Approximate size of Brooklyn – 50 x 50’
Approximate size of Queens – 60 x 75’

Statue of Liberty – 1 7/8” w/base 3 1/4”
Central Park – 27 ¾” x 11’ 3 ¼”
Verrazano-Narrows Bridge – 20’ 11” x 4’ 1”, Tower height 13’
George Washington Bridge – 22’ 5” x 4’ 1”, Tower height 10’
Brooklyn Bridge – 25’ 6” x 4’ 1”, Tower height 16’
Bronx Whitestone Bridge – 46’ x 11’ 6”, Tower height 16’
Queensboro Bridge – 33’ x 4’ 11”, Tower height 10’
Manhattan Bridge – 20’ 5” x 6’ 7”, Tower height 10’
Empire State Building – 15’

Estimated Weight: 45,000 lbs.

Number of Buildings: When the Panorama was originally completed in 1964 there were approximately 830,000 buildings; as of 2013 there are approximately 900,000 buildings.

Material Used: The base of the Panorama is constructed out of urethane foam mounted on Formica flakeboard framed by pine boards; the bridges are brass.

Panorama Trivia

The Panorama is constructed in 273 sections.

Two workers left their names spelled in shrubbery. Look for Bill and Ed on two islands in Jamaica Bay.
The Park is also a singularity unto itself is called simply The Panorama of the City of New York. The 9-minute ride provided a “God’s eye” view of the complex topography of the five boroughs and their waterways, allowing sight-seers to view the city at sea level and from a simulated 20,000 feet elevation. The “helicopters,” molded plastic tracked cars that encircled the model, also came with a guided tour, “The City of Opportunity,” read by broadcast legend Lowell Thomas. The ride was a bargain at 10 cents per person while the design and construction of the entire Panorama cost $672,662.69 in 1964, the equivalent of approximately $5 million today. In the spring of 2009, the Museum launched its Adopt-A-Building program aimed at securing the future of the model. For as little as $50, real estate on the Panorama can be “purchased,” with property owners receiving a tax depreciation credit in return for adoption. Funds raised support the overall upkeep of this treasure and education programming that brings the magic of New York to date locations, elementary schools, first homes, and parents’ businesses by adopting a building. Funds Raised support the overall upkeep of this treasure and education programming that brings the magic of New York to date locations, elementary schools, first homes, and parents’ businesses by adopting a building. Funds raised support the overall upkeep of this treasure and education programming that brings the magic of New York to date locations, elementary schools, first homes, and parents’ businesses by adopting a building. Funds raised support the overall upkeep of this treasure and education programming that brings the magic of New York to date locations, elementary schools, first homes, and parents’ businesses by adopting a building. Funds raised support the overall upkeep of this treasure and education programming that brings the magic of New York to date locations, elementary schools, first homes, and parents’ businesses by adopting a building. Funds raised support the overall upkeep of this treasure and education programming that brings the magic of New York to date locations, elementary school...