

# THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

President's Report  
January 22, 2019





# FRIENDS OF GOVERNORS ISLAND AGREEMENT

- The Trust is entering into a one-year, non-exclusive agreement with the Friends of Governors Island
- Agreement sets out fundraising goals for park operations, marketing efforts and arts and culture projects
- Friends will continue to support the Island with visitor services and volunteer programs
- Both organizations will collaborate in marketing the Island as a destination in New York City



# GOVERNORS ISLAND 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW





# GOVERNORS ISLAND

Governors Island is a 172-acre island in New York Harbor, nestled between Lower Manhattan and the Brooklyn waterfront. A former military base closed to the public for nearly two centuries, the Island today is a popular seasonal destination. More than 120 acres of expansive open space is complemented by dozens of unique historic buildings, educational facilities, a rich arts and culture program and a 22-acre National Monument managed by the National Park Service.

Unlike anywhere else in the city, Governors Island offers lush, tranquil surroundings with sweeping views of New York Harbor, the Lower Manhattan skyline and the Statue of Liberty. Looking ahead, the Island will be transformed into a year-round campus for learning, innovation, art and culture with extraordinary open space.

Governors Island is New York City's easiest way to get away.

## THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

The Governors Island Corporation, doing business as The Trust for Governors Island, is the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization created by the City of New York and charged with the planning, redevelopment and ongoing operations of 150 acres of Governors Island.

The Trust's mission is to transform Governors Island into a vibrant resource for New York City, making the Island a destination with extraordinary public open space as well as educational, nonprofit and commercial facilities.

## THE FRIENDS OF GOVERNORS ISLAND

The Friends of Governors Island is an independent nonprofit that works to ensure the Island's continued growth and accessibility as a vibrant public resource. As the designated fundraising partner of The Trust for Governors Island and the National Park Service, the Friends stewards the Island's green spaces, enhances the visitor experience and builds a community dedicated to the Island's future.

# EXPANDING ACCESS TO NEW YORK CITY'S ESCAPE

From May to October, Governors Island is where New Yorkers get away. This year, visitors saw later nights with more sunsets and celebrations, more ferry trips and harbor breezes, more art and more to discover.



# EIGHT MINUTES TO FAR AWAY

Governors Island is for everyone. A shared part of the city, the Island is an open, inclusive and diverse destination for New Yorkers.

Governors Island ferries are free weekend mornings, and are always free for IDNYC holders, children under 14 and active and former military personnel.



## TRANSPORTING NEW YORKERS TO AN ISLAND OASIS

The Trust not only cares for a great park and dozens of historic buildings - we operate a fleet of ferries from Manhattan and Brooklyn!

Operated by the City of New York, additional service via NYC Ferry helped bring over 40,000 passengers to Governors Island from Astoria, Queens to Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

**NEARLY 750,000 PEOPLE**  
visited during the 2018 season – double the visitation from just five years ago.

**75% OF OUR VISITORS ARE  
NEW YORKERS**

and an additional 13% come from the New York City metro area.



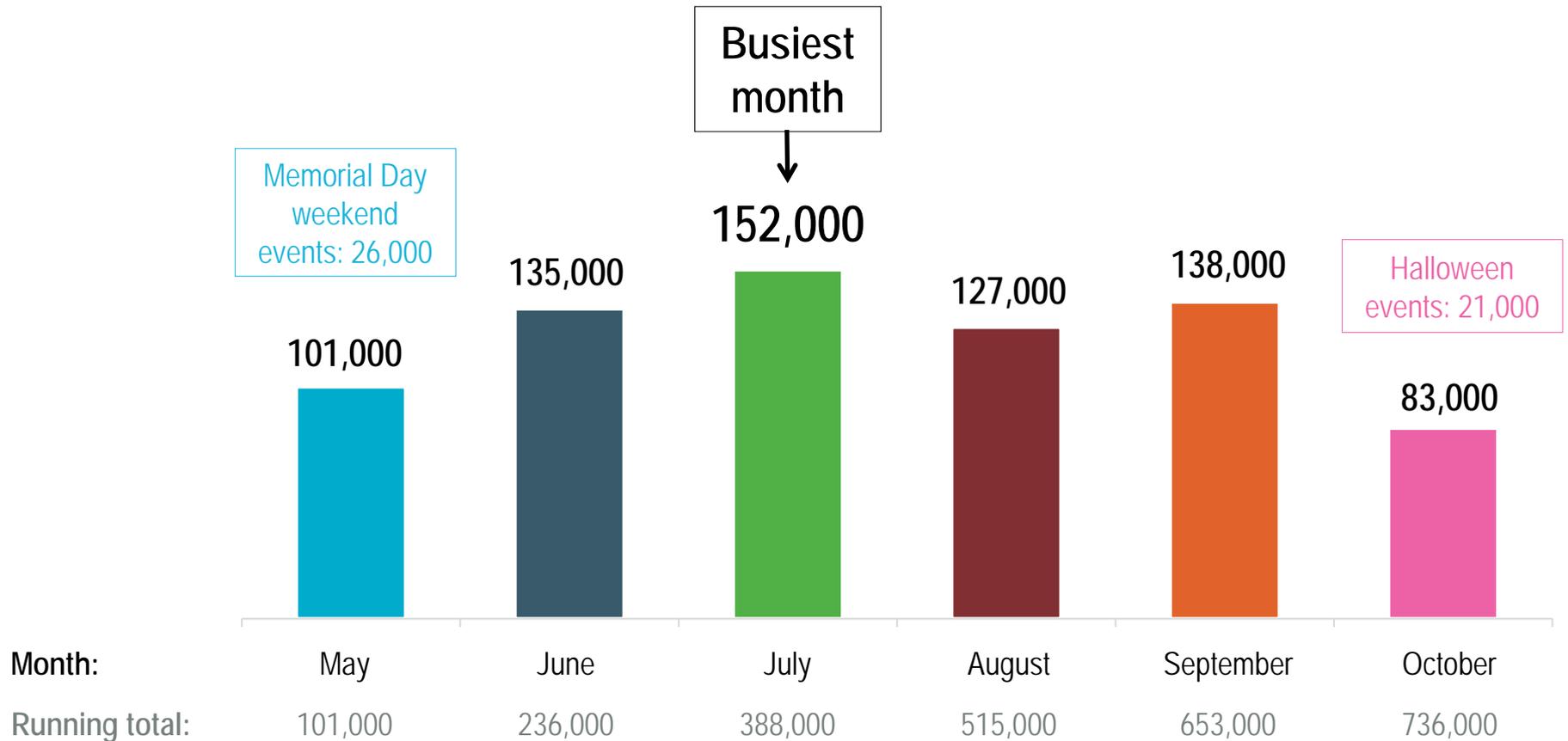
**OUR VISITORS COME FROM  
ALL FIVE BOROUGHS,**

reflecting the true diversity of New York City, with 90% of all city zip codes represented and no more than 3% from any one zip code.

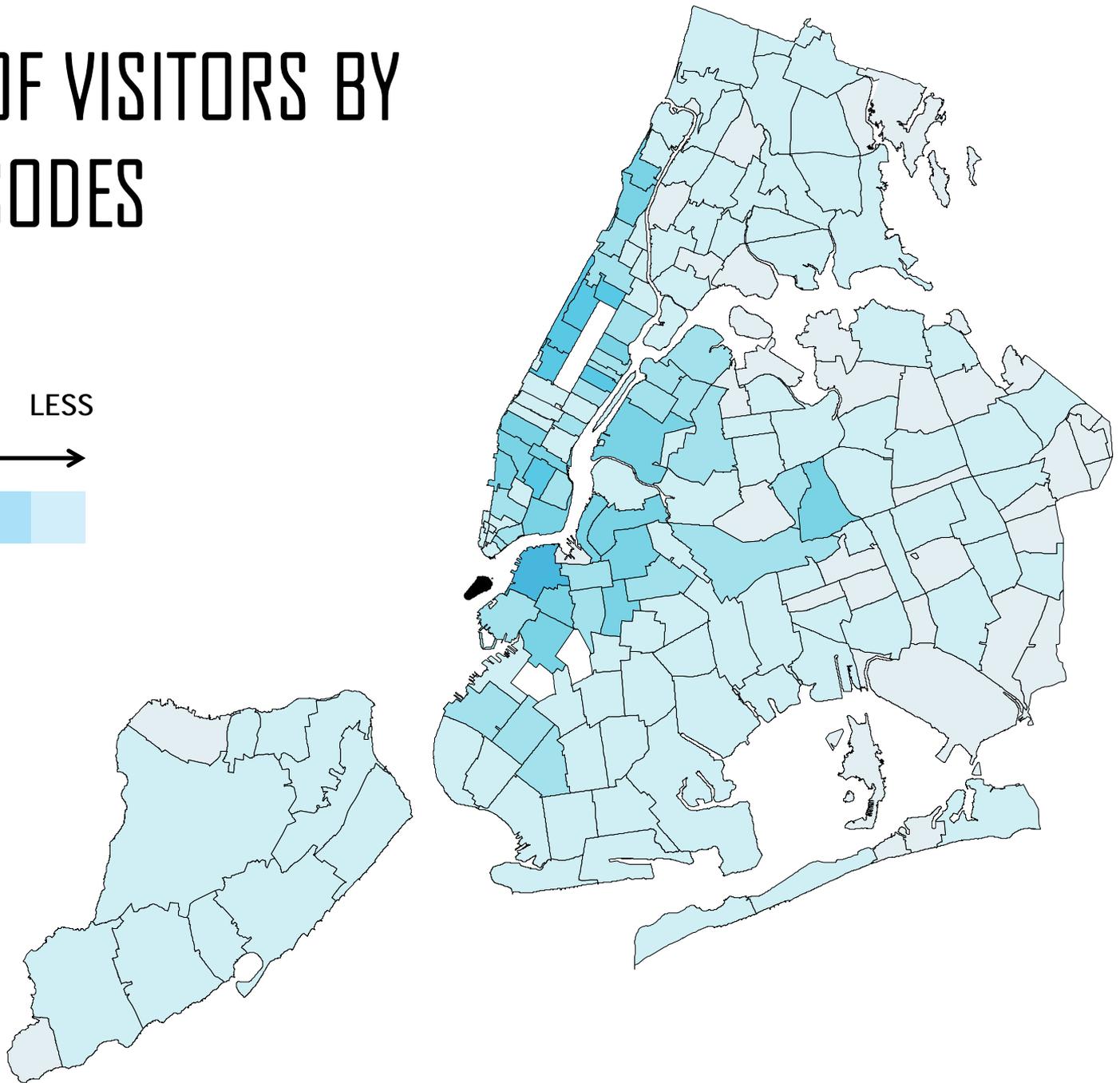
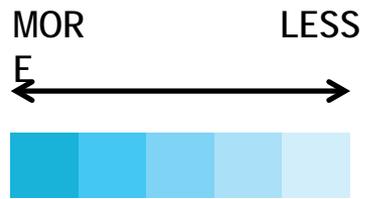
We saw a big increase in visitors from Queens in 2018, who made up 17% of our NYC-based visitors!



# VISITOR COUNT BY MONTH



# DENSITY OF VISITORS BY NYC ZIP CODES



# UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER NIGHTS

Governors Island came alive at night this summer with new, extended hours on Fridays and Saturdays from late May to mid-September.



Extended hours created new, special opportunities for visitors to enjoy Governors Island like never before.



## ESCAPE IN NEW YORK: OUTDOOR FILMS

In partnership with the Film Society of Lincoln Center, Governors Island hosted its first free film series on the historic Parade Ground. Over 6,000 visitors enjoyed a curated selection of classic movies inspired by the Island's unparalleled views of the city's iconic skyline.

In partnership with



## THE BEST SUNSET IN TOWN

Extended hours gave nearly 20,000 visitors the opportunity to roam the Island's new and historic landscapes at night, enjoying spectacular harbor sunsets and sampling cocktails and bites at Island Oyster, Taco Vista and other dining destinations.



## NEW OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

For the first time, visitors could spend the night on Governors Island at Collective Retreats, an overnight experience set against the backdrop of the Statue of Liberty that took "camping" to the next level. A season-long partnership with the YMCA of Greater New York also welcomed kid campers and their families to enjoy magical nights under the stars.

In partnership with





# CARING FOR THE PARK

Governors Island boasts more than 120 acres of open space, from the Historic District's shady lawns to the southern end's new, award-winning park designed by West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architects. Behind the beauty of our newest landscapes is a diversity of native plants, trees and shrubs, carefully selected for their resilience and ability to thrive in New York Harbor's unique environment.

Each year during the season and through the winter, our team stewards the park through innovative horticulture practices and a robust volunteer program, ensuring its growth, health and vibrancy for years to come. Here's a snapshot of how we cared for the park in 2018.



## 1,300 LINEAR FEET OF PATHWAYS

were established on Discovery Hill, enabling visitors to explore diverse flowering plants as well as Rachel Whiteread's *Cabin*, one of our permanent, site-specific artworks.

## 20 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF WILDFLOWERS

were cultivated in Hammock Grove and the Hills from a specialized seed mix, and more than 6,000 square feet of new pollinator gardens were added, attracting 22 species of bees and 15 species of butterflies.

## OVER 200 LINEAR FEET OF SEAWALL

was cleaned by our team and volunteers, removing nearly 1,600 pounds of debris from the rip rap revetment along the Island's edge, which serves as a defense from storm surges.



## 5 FULL-TIME GARDENERS

increased the level and consistency of care, maintaining a diversity of plants throughout the Island's acres of rapidly growing landscapes and forests.

## 2,500 VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN 14,000 HOURS OF LANDSCAPING

assisting with planting, cutback, mulching and removing invasive plants, dramatically increasing the capacity of our horticulture team.



## 6,500 SQUARE FEET OF NEW GROWING SPACE

was established within a new horticulture operations hub, including a greenhouse for winter plant propagation, raised beds filled with Island-sourced plants and more tool storage.

## 4 WORKING DOGS HELPED PROTECT OUR "GEESE-FREE ZONE"

Max (8), Quinn (2) and the newest additions to the team, Chip (1) and Aspen (still a puppy!) helped keep the park clean and free of invasive plants by humanely chasing the geese away.

# ENHANCING THE ISLAND THROUGH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

## GOVERNORS ISLAND, CONNECTED

What if one gigabit per second of high speed, free wireless service could be installed across 172 acres in less than a week — and cost less than \$100,000? Governors Island did just that this year, in partnership with the New York City Mayor's Office of Technology and Innovation. The Governors Island Connectivity Challenge invited the world's most inventive thinkers to bring high-speed, low cost internet to the Island, demonstrating affordable ways to deploy wireless connectivity.

With Fiberless Networks selected to deliver the new service, free WiFi became available in July, enabling hundreds of thousands of visitors, Island tenants, vendors and program organizers to stay connected with next generation, 5G-enabled service.

As part of New York City's *Broadband for All* effort, led by New York City's Chief Technology Officer, the project will serve as a model for delivering internet connectivity and hardened infrastructure to other places vulnerable to climate change, as well as for delivering next generation network infrastructure for cities, campuses, parks and other urban areas.



## MONITORING THE PARK WITH NYU'S CENTER FOR URBAN SCIENCE AND PROGRESS

With new WiFi technology enabled, the Trust kicked off a new partnership this year with New York University's Center for Urban Science & Progress (NYU CUSP). Deploying nine sensors throughout our new landscapes and in key points throughout the Historic District, NYU CUSP is helping us discover more about the Island's natural surroundings, including that the Island has cleaner air, cooler temperatures and less noise than other parts of the city. Through this partnership, we're developing a better understanding of how public space contributes to the overall well-being of our visitors.

In partnership with  **NYU** | Center for Urban Science + Progress

GOVERNORS ISLAND HAS...

17% BETTER  
AIR QUALITY

AND IS

5 DECIBELS  
QUIETER

AND

2 DEGREES  
COOLER

THAN OTHER PARTS OF NEW YORK CITY

# A LIVING LAB FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Through expanded programming in our urban farm and with the help of our programming partners, Governors Island engages the public hands-on in the fundamental environmental issues that shape the experience of living in New York City.

## CREATING A ZERO-WASTE ISLAND

Every month, over 125,000 pounds of compost from food vendors, yard waste and events (plus imported food scraps from green markets across New York City) is processed on Governors Island by Earth Matter NY. Through its Compost Learning Center, Earth Matter introduces visitors to the benefits of composting (along with an introduction to their resident goats and chickens). Earth Matter also works with the entire Island to promote zero-waste business practices. Thanks to their efforts, more than 44,000 pounds of organic materials sorted from vendors, events and public waste stations were diverted from landfills!

Governors Island is one of the first New York City destinations to ban single-use plastics and styrofoam containers.



FROM SORTING —————> TO COMPOSTING



**WHY COMPOST?**  
Composting organics helps reduce our carbon footprint and turns waste into a productive resource for parks, gardening and more!



Take Back the Harbor — a following Harbor School students for a year — premiered on the Discovery Channel Dec 18.

## GROWNYC TEACHING GARDEN

A one-acre working urban farm growing against the backdrop of the New York City skyline, the Teaching Garden engages and excites visitors in all aspects of urban agriculture. This year, the Teaching Garden expanded in size as well as outreach, welcoming 5,000 public school students to hands-on demonstrations in urban farming. Hundreds of day campers got their hands dirty during field trips, while 12,000 Island visitors and 52 senior groups enjoyed workshops on flower bouquets, hot pepper drying and more.



## THE NEW YORK HARBOR SCHOOL

At the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, 550 public high school students from all five boroughs receive a groundbreaking education, focused on learning skills associated with careers on the water. This year, students celebrated the Harbor School's 15th anniversary by welding more than 400 oyster reef structures, growing more than one million oysters in their on-Island hatchery, learning to scuba dive and operate vessels, advocating for better marine policies and performing marine biology research.



Thanks to 70+ restaurants from across the city, BOP has collected 1 million lbs of shells! Every shell can be a home for up to 20 baby oysters.

## BILLION OYSTER PROJECT

Headquartered on Governors Island, the Billion Oyster Project (BOP) is reviving New York's waterways, one oyster at a time — using powerful public education programs and collaborating with students from the Harbor School, restaurateurs and a community of volunteers. This year, BOP completed its largest restoration projects to date, creating new reef systems in the Hudson River, Canarsie and Coney Island. The organization also reached a milestone of 28 million oysters planted in New York Harbor.



## COMING SOON: THE LOOP LAB

In partnership with Parsons School of Design, we will deliver a new, shared learning classroom to the urban farm in 2019 for visitors to connect with the Island's partners in environmental stewardship. Named for the Island's closed-loop, zero-waste environment, the Loop Lab was designed by architecture students and will be constructed using sustainably sourced materials.

# A CITYWIDE DESTINATION FOR THE ARTS,



One of over 80 installations as part of 4heads' Governors Island Art Fair.



Japan Performing Arts, Inc. presents Orochi, an Iwami Kagura folk tale and dance.



One of ten citywide installations of *Climate Signals* by Justin Brice Guariglia in partnership with the Climate Museum on view at Castle Williams.



A piece by Kate Hush on view at the experimental neon art gallery *Rare Air* in Nolan Park.



Young visitors experiment with holograms at the HoloCenter.



Visitors interact with augmented reality flamingos on display at Harvestworks' *the TEAM Lab*.



*Never Comes Tomorrow* by Jacob Hashimoto on view in Liggett Archway.

# MORE VIBRANT THAN EVER

# 2018 ARTS & CULTURE

**NEARLY 70 FREE**  
exhibitions, festivals, celebrations and  
workshops between May and October.



New York City Poetry Festival



Children's Museum of the Arts' Free Arts Island Outpost

## OVER 60 ORGANIZATIONS

accessed free indoor and outdoor space on  
Governors Island, engaging an expanded  
audience in one of the most unique cultural  
destinations in New York City.

## MORE THAN TWO DOZEN HOUSES

were made available to 25 organizations  
who created residencies, youth  
programming, exhibitions and  
environmental learning opportunities in  
Nolan Park and Colonels Row.



Alfred University's Art Force 5



Rare Air

## COMING SOON: CREATIVITY YEAR-ROUND

Governors Island continues to cultivate long-term partners in the arts who serve New York City's cultural community year-round.

### LMCC ARTS CENTER AT GOVERNORS ISLAND

The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), one of the Island's first year-round tenants, will reopen its Arts Center during the 2019 season with a newly expanded artist residency facility, serving more than 100 artists a year and delivering new public exhibitions, performances, workshops and more.

### SHANDAKEN: GOVERNORS ISLAND

This new residency program offers five New York City based cultural practitioners the opportunity to access free workspace on the Island and create site-responsive programs to be presented publicly in the summer of 2019.

Shandaken offers a sister residency at Storm King Art Center in Mountainville, New York.

### SPACEWORKS

Coming soon, this 21,000 square foot multi-disciplinary creative hub in a former elementary school building will feature studios, galleries and spaces for performance and rehearsal.

# PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Family-friendly fun is part of the Island's DNA. Through unconventional playgrounds, programming that encouraged self-expression and other celebrations, kids ruled the Island this year.



This year, play:ground NYC won the "Best of NYC" award for the borough of Manhattan, as voted by the Mayor's office!

## PLAY:GROUND NYC'S THE YARD

"Your children are fine without your advice or suggestions" reads the sign at play:ground's *The Yard*, a junk yard where kids have complete control over what gets built, destroyed and enhanced in the space. Over 1,600 children played in New York City's only adventure playground this year, spurring imagination and teaching important risk evaluation skills.



## CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE ARTS

At the *Free Arts Island Outpost*, more than 1,100 young artists participated in free art-making workshops in painting, sculpture, filmmaking and more. The Children's Museum of the Arts also hosted one of the Island's day camps, inspiring creativity for New York City kids.



## ART FORCE 5

Led by students and faculty from Alfred University, Art Force 5 engaged young visitors in creating superhero figures to explore issues of equality, violence, history, community and empathy, drawing parallels between comic books and civil rights events.



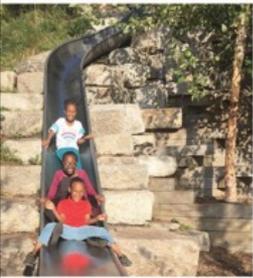
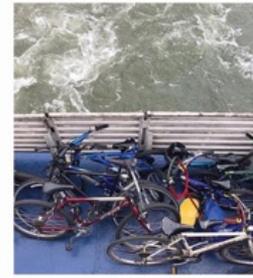
## TRICK OR TREAT! HALLOWEEN IN THE HARBOR

Governors Island was the go-to destination this year for free, family friendly fall fun in historic Nolan Park. More than 17,000 visitors wandered through a sea of orange at one of New York City's only pumpkin patches, enjoying autumn-themed snacks, arts and crafts with the Children's Museum of the Arts and free live music. Young ghouls and goblins also donned their best costumes and went porch-to-porch amongst the Island's historic houses to enjoy free trick-or-treating.



THE ISLAND  
IN YOUR  
PICTURES

#GOVERNORSISLAND



PHOTOS & RENDERINGS COURTESY OF  
4heads, Art Force 5, Billion Oyster Project,  
Bloom! Boats, Children's Museum of the Arts,  
CIBBOWS, Climate Museum, Collective  
Retreats, Earth Matter NY, Escaping Time,  
Film Society of Lincoln Center, Friends of  
Governors Island, GrowNYC, Harvestworks,  
HoloCenter, Japan Performing Arts, Inc., Jazz  
Age Lawn Party, Little Sun, Lower Manhattan  
Cultural Council, Andrew Moore, New Art  
Dealers Alliance, National Park Service,  
New York Historical Society, NYC Audubon,  
NYC Bhangra, Outpost, Parsons School of  
Constructed Environments, Trey Pentecost,  
play:ground NYC, Cécile Ragot, Rare Air,  
Timothy Schenck, The Street Vendor Project,  
West 8, West Harlem Art Fund, Works on Water  
All photographs © the photographer.  
Cover: The Friends of Governors Island

# PUBLIC WIFI UPDATE

WELCOME TO GOVERNORS ISLAND!

VISITOR INFO

VISITOR MAP

FERRY SCHEDULE

THINGS TO DO

**We hope you enjoy your visit!**

**Love Governors Island?** Please consider helping us support the free public WiFi, maintain our landscapes and grow free public programming by making a donation.

DONATE

# WIFI SERVICE ON GOVERNORS ISLAND

SERVICE  
AVAILABLE  
JUNE 29

7

SSIDS  
PURCHASED  
BY VENDORS  
ON ISLAND

+3

SSIDS  
PURCHASED  
BY EVENT  
PRODUCERS

USED BY  
16,000+  
VISITORS

15,450

MOBILE

11,100  
IPHONE

4,350  
ANDROID

550

DESKTOP

430  
APPLE

120  
WINDOWS

# PHASE 1 COVERAGE MAP





# CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

# NEW FERRY BOAT

**Why we are building a new 400 passenger ferry boat:**

- **Improve run times between BMB & Soissons**
- **Carry an additional 1,000 passengers per hour**

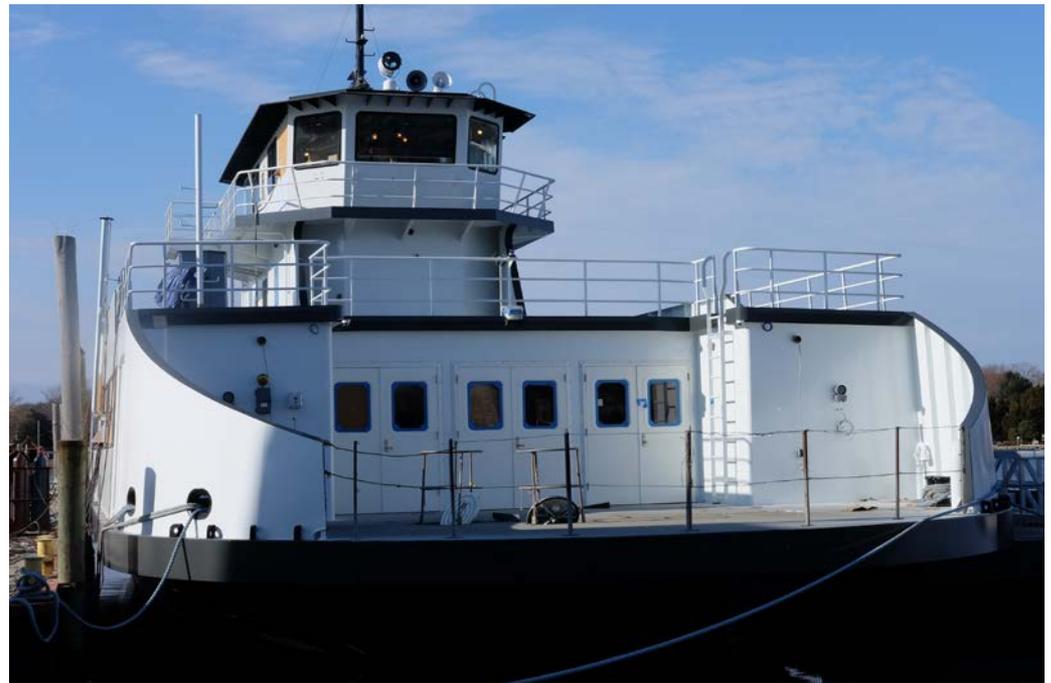
**Current Phase**

- **Interior Mechanical System Installation**
- **Interior Finishes Build-out**
- **Systems Testing and Sea Trials**

**Expected Completion**

- **Mid May 2019**

**Budget: Approx. \$11.5 million**



# BUILDING 110 EXTERIOR RESTORATION

## Why we are restoring Building 110 Exterior:

- Exterior brick was deteriorated and allowed water infiltration into the building
- Building had been stuccoed historically
- LMCC will reopen 48,000 SF Arts Center in 2019, completing an ongoing interior renovation

## Expected Completion

- April 2019

## Budget

- Approx. \$5.5 million (exterior only)



# 20 NOLAN PARK RESTORATION

## Why we are restoring 20 Nolan Park:

- Increase Programming Capacity in Nolan Park
- Understand Cost Metrics of Restoring Nolan Park Houses

## Current Phase

- Schematic Design Phase
- Determination of Sustainability Initiatives
- LPC Review of Design Approach

## Expected Completion

- June 2020

## Budget

- Approx. \$2.7 million





# SOUTH ISLAND REZONING

# TIMELINE FOR SOUTH ISLAND DEVELOPMENT



## EARLY 2018

Engage community in planning framework and guiding principles for development

## FALL, 2018

Environmental review and scoping

- Scoping meeting on 9/26
- Comments on the draft scope of work due 10/9

## SPRING, 2019

- Draft environmental review complete
- Target ULURP certification

## END OF 2019

ULURP completion

## 2020

RFP for new development on the South Island



[govisland.org](http://govisland.org)