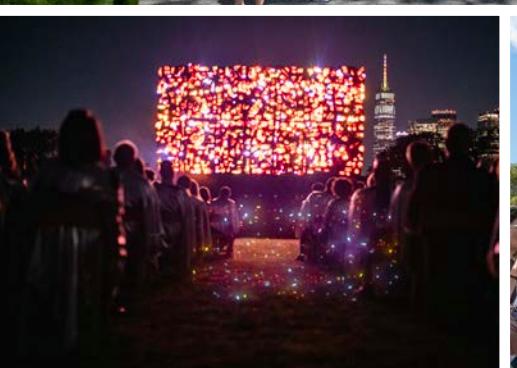


GOVERNORS ISLAND YEAR IN REVIEW



2025

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear friends,

2025 marked a transformative milestone for Governors Island as we celebrated 20 years open to the public. This anniversary reflects how far Governors Island has grown as a remarkable public resource for New Yorkers and sets the stage for an exciting new chapter ahead.

We are honored to share notable highlights from our twentieth year open to the public, including:

- **Debuting the Harbor Charger**, our new hybrid electric ferry and the first of its kind in New York State. This greener, state-of-the-art vessel helps us transport hundreds of thousands of riders on a more sustainable journey to the Island.
- **Growing the Island as a hub for climate innovation** in partnership with organizations like The New York Climate Exchange, Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, and more, and through our impactful Climate Piloting Program, which has supported more than two dozen emerging companies.
- **Creating memorable cultural experiences** that delight visitors throughout the year. From a light show spectacle of Touki Delphine's FIREBIRD to the group exhibition Rest/Play, this year's program enhanced our public spaces with sculpture and performance and further established the Island as a destination for artists and audiences.

As we look to the year ahead, we are excited to deliver on even more of what you love about Governors Island—whether as a place to enjoy a day away, a place to create or enjoy public art, a place to learn, a place to work, or a place to be with family and friends.

We could not do this work without your support, and we thank you for being a part of our growth as a vibrant and essential part of New York City's civic and cultural life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of the name Clare Newman.

Clare Newman
President and CEO

THE TRUST FOR
GOVERNORS ISLAND

A handwritten signature of the name Patti Davis.

Patti Davis
Executive Director

GOVERNORS
ISLAND FOUNDATION

CHARTING 20 YEARS OF PROGRESS

For more than four centuries, Governors Island has been part of New York's story.

Following the end of its 200 years as a military installation, its future was uncertain: what could this extraordinary place become? Thanks to visionary planning and investment, the answer was clear—return it to the people of New York as a vibrant public place unlike any other.

This year we proudly celebrated 20 years of Governors Island serving as a beloved retreat, cultural destination, and innovation hub for New Yorkers. Join us as we look back at the milestones that shaped two decades of public access before diving into the story of 2025.



2003

Governors Island sold to the people of New York for \$1



2005

Welcomed our first visitors on June 11, 2005



2010

Master Plan providing roadmap for Island's open space released



2012

Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School join as year-round tenants



2012

Island cemented as destination for public art with Mark di Suvero exhibition, presented by Storm King Art Center



2016

43-acre, climate resilient park opens to the public



2020

Vision announced for Center for Climate Solutions on Governors Island



2021

Island opens to the public year-round for the first time in its history



2022

Governors Island Arts presents Charles Gaines's *Moving Chains*, Island's largest commission to date (co-presented with Creative Time and Times Square Arts)



2023

The New York Climate Exchange announced as anchor institution for Island's climate initiatives



2024

Most people to ever visit the Island in a single year



2025

Island makes maritime history with debut of Harbor Charger hybrid electric vessel

GROWING A YEAR-ROUND COMMUNITY

Over the past 20 years we have grown public access from just 8 days a year to 365, with more people than ever taking the ferry to work, learn, retreat, and create year-round.



OUR VISITORS

Since 2005, Governors Island has welcomed nearly 10 million individuals to our shores. That's 10 million people who have come here to retreat, work, learn, eat, play, relax, explore, research, and create. We are honored to celebrate two decades of New Yorkers and visitors from around the world discovering new ways to connect with nature, with culture, and with one another, right here in New York Harbor.

Highlights from 2025 include:

- The Island remains a top destination for all New Yorkers; this year, we welcomed visitors from **nearly every residential zip code in New York City**.
- We partnered with **475** community-based organizations, public schools, and NYCHA communities across the city to emphasize the Island's accessibility.
- We continued to provide **free ferry access** to NYCHA residents, IDNYC holders, community groups, nonprofit organizations, military servicemembers, older adults, children under 12, and all visitors on weekends before 11am.

2025 VISITOR SNAPSHOT

45% were first-time visitors

53% report that they visit more than once a year

TOP REASONS FOR VISIT:

- ◆ Escape the city and relax in nature
- ◆ Recreational activities
- ◆ To see public art or attend an exhibition



Arrival at Soissons Landing



Picnicking along the waterfront



Summer at the top of Outlook Hill

TENANTS AND PARTNERS

Governors Island is home to a growing number of educational, cultural, and commercial tenants. Since the Island first opened to the public, this community has expanded dramatically, encompassing everything from grassroots organizations like Billion Oyster Project to destination amenities like QC NY and The New York Climate Exchange's transformational investment in building a 400K SF research campus. Highlights from 2025 include:

- **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC)** held 16 public events, workshops and open studios; presented two major exhibitions from Works on Water and New York Latin American Art Triennial (NYLAAT); welcomed 20 artists in residence; and hosted the immersive Death of Rasputin at the Arts Center.
- **The Institute for Public Architecture (IPA)** welcomed 18 fellows across three cohorts of their overnight residency program on the Island, along with exhibitions, events, and open houses.
- **Beam Center** utilized their maker space to give youth program participants hands-on experience working on artistic and STEM projects and hosted their second annual OtherWorlds Fair, a free festival designed and ran by youth.
- Construction progressed on the expansion of the **Urban Assembly New York Harbor School**, announced by the Trust, New York City Public Schools, and the School Construction Authority in 2023, to grow the school's footprint and allow 500 additional students to attend this first-of-its-kind high school.
- Construction is set to begin on historic **Building 140**, a new year-round food and beverage concept from the team behind longtime seasonal vendor **Taco Vista**.

BY THE NUMBERS

15 year-round tenants and partners

More than half working in climate

17 seasonal and year-round concessionaires



NYLAAT at LMCC's Arts Center



Institute for Public Architecture



New York Harbor School

NEW YORKERS GIVE BACK

Governors Island is bolstered by the efforts of our dedicated volunteers. Volunteering on Governors Island offers New Yorkers an extraordinary opportunity to give back to one of our city's most unique places. Our incredible community of volunteers play a vital role in stewarding the Island.

This year, volunteers contributed across two key areas:

Visitor Services

- Leading walking tours centered around history, arts, and horticulture
- Helping staff the Island's Welcome Centers
- Supporting the Island's free public programs

Horticulture

- Supporting our teams to clear invasive species and care for the Island's landscapes through impactful gardening and ecological horticulture projects.

BY THE NUMBERS

3K total volunteers,
across individuals and
corporate groups

14,420 total
hours of service
contributed



Corporate volunteers from Bloomberg gardening in Liggett Terrace



Volunteer tour guides welcome visitors to the Island



Tree care on the Parade Ground with corporate volunteers from Con Edison

EXTRAORDINARY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

With 120 acres of open space, including a 43-acre climate-resilient park, 12 acres of athletic fields, 7 miles of car-free bike paths, and unique natural areas, Governors Island is a remarkable resource for New York City.



AN ISLAND ALIVE WITH NATURE

This year, we continued to apply state-of-the-art ecological horticulture practices to steward this landscape, strengthening biodiversity, supporting vital habitats, and creating rich, nature-filled experiences for all Island visitors. Highlights from 2025 include:

- Planting **50 new trees** around the Island, making progress on our Community Forest Management Plan and helping to grow a more resilient citywide canopy.
- Propagating and planting **7,000 different perennials, grasses, and other plants**, continuing to grow our native habitats to support wildlife and pollinators.
- Removing more than **6,400 cubic yards of harmful invasive plants** using innovative methods, including soil solarization and landscaping sheep.
- Holding **more than a dozen free educational programs** including ecological celebrations, nature walks, and community science events.
- Expanding **digital engagement** with resources like an online Plant Watch, interactive tree map, and guided nature tours via Bloomberg Connects.

TREE TOURS TAKE OFF



We held **21 guided tree tours** over the past year, which gave hundreds of visitors an up-close look at the Island's impressive contribution to our city's urban forest.

Made up of 3,600 trees comprising 164 unique species, Governors Island's vast canopy provide essential benefits like capturing and removing pollution from the air, absorbing and sequestering carbon dioxide, reducing runoff and flooding during weather events, helping cool our communities, and fostering critical biodiversity.



Discovery Hill



South Island Park



Liggett Terrace gardens

YEAR-ROUND RECREATION

With 120 acres of open space, a National Monument, and all-season recreational opportunities, Governors Island is a remarkable resource for New Yorkers and visitors from around the world looking to get outside.

- Hundreds of thousands of visitors enjoyed our **43-acre climate-resilient park, 7 miles of car-free bike paths, playgrounds, and more** this year.
- The Island's **12 acres of athletic fields** were used for more than **230 games, practices, and events** by youth and adult leagues, schools, and nonprofit organizations.
- **650 groups** held barbecues and other gatherings across the Island's two outdoor grilling areas.
- We welcomed dogs to the Island during the off-season for the fourth year in a row **Winter Dog Park** in Colonels Row, allowing visitors and their canine companions the opportunity to enjoy the Island's open space off-leash during the off-season months.
- **Governors Island National Monument**, which includes historic Castle Williams and Fort Jay and is operated by the National Park Service, welcomed visitors for guided tours, historic exploration, and special events and programs.



Frisbee at Picnic Point



Castle Williams



Biking along the waterfront

A PLATFORM FOR CITYWIDE EVENTS

Along with partners and organizers from throughout the five boroughs and around the world, we hosted nearly 95 events on the Island this year—the majority of which were free to attend. Highlights from 2025 include:



4th Annual Governors Island Ice Sculpture Show

February



NYCRUNS 5K & 10Ks

March-November



Earth Day Celebration

April



Mubadala New York Sail Grand Prix

June



The Great Nosh

June

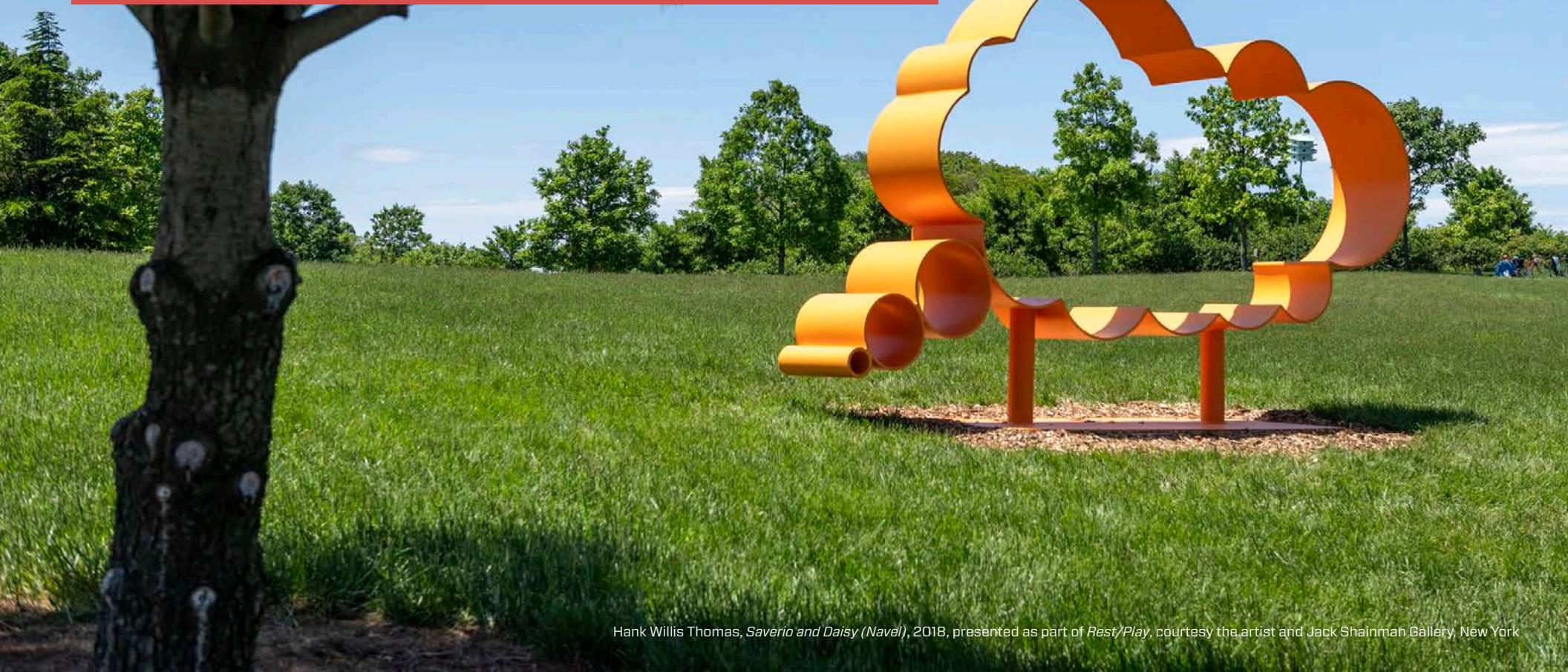


African Film Festival Family Day

September

A LEGACY OF TRANSFORMATIVE ART

From immersive installations and site-responsive performances to bold public artworks, Governors Island has a 20-year legacy of inviting artists to experiment at a scale found nowhere else in the city. Audiences travel from across the five boroughs—and the world—to encounter some of New York City's most compelling cultural experiences in all seasons.



Hank Willis Thomas, *Saverio and Daisy (Navel)*, 2018, presented as part of *Rest/Play*, courtesy the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

THE YEAR IN PUBLIC ART

In 2025, Governors Island Arts debuted an ambitious group show spread across our open space that celebrated two popular activities that have drawn visitors to the Island over the past 20 years: rest and play.

Rest/Play was curated by Lauren Haynes, Head Curator of Governors Island Arts and Vice President at the Trust, and featured works by Nina Chanel Abney, Lenka Clayton & Phillip Andrew Lewis, Arlene Shechet, and Hank Willis Thomas.

Also on view this year:

BIRD MMXXIII

Sheila Berger

Brick House

Chakaia Booker

The Field Station of the Melancholy Marine Biologist

Mark Dion

Yankee Hanger

Mark Handforth

Church

Shantell Martin

Not for Nutten

Duke Riley

The Open Orchard

Sam Van Aken

Cabin

Rachel Whiteread



Lenka Clayton & Phillip Andrew Lewis, *A Sudden Gust of Wind*, 2025. Presented as part of *Rest/Play*.



Arlene Shechet, *Pleat Seats*, 2024. Presented as part of *Rest/Play*, courtesy the artist and Pace Gallery.



Duke Riley, *Not for Nutten*



"Open Orchard is part art installation, part history project... The growing movement to revive New York's fruit growing tradition is a living reminder that some roots still run right beneath our feet."

CBS News New York, October 2025

INTERVENTIONS 2025

Governors Island provides an unparalleled backdrop for outdoor performances, allowing artists and creatives the opportunity to directly engage with our unique landscapes since its launch three years ago. Highlights from 2025 include:

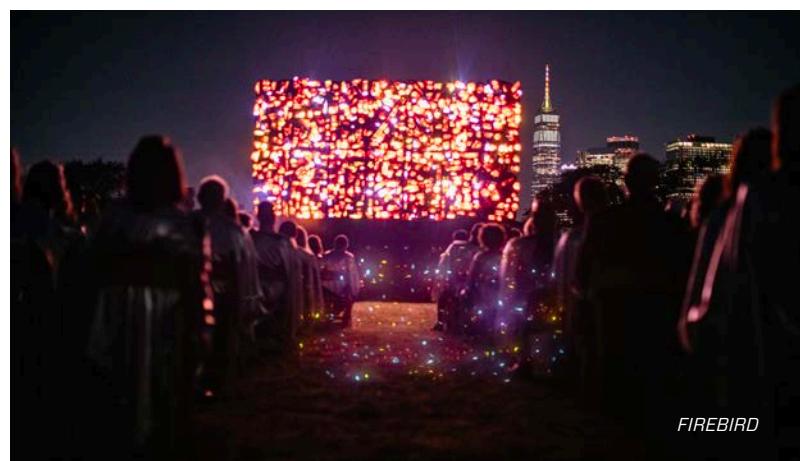
- **How the Land Lies**, a choreographed piece by **Laura Cemin** and **Bianca Hisse** that featured five dancers—all of whom carry experiences of migration—moving alongside scrolling LED signs.
- **delicate people**, **Ruth Childs** and **Cécile Bouffard**'s collaborative project that combines dance and sculpture. Co-presented by L'Alliance New York as part of the Crossing the Line Festival.
- **FIREBIRD**, **Touki Delphine**'s totally singular symphony of light inspired by Stravinsky's Firebird Suite. The piece, presented on the Parade Ground with the Lower Manhattan skyline as backdrop, made *INTERVENTIONS* history, welcoming our largest audience to date.

IN THE NEWS



“Encountering a sea of taillights in New York City typically isn’t a good thing. That usually means traffic, gridlock and frustration. But this weekend on Governors Island, those red and white lights will be a welcome sight during the immersive art installation Firebird.”

Time Out, September 2025



2025 ORGANIZATIONS IN RESIDENCE

This year, **22 NYC-based arts and cultural nonprofits** utilized space in the historic houses of Nolan Park and Colonels Row to host residencies and exhibitions, along with **more than 130 performances, workshops, and public programs** that directly engaged Island visitors. Select highlights from the 2025 cohort include:



ArtCrawl Harlem presented several solo exhibitions as well as their annual “Boundaries and Connections” residency program.



Dancers Unlimited presented indoor and outdoor exhibition that boldly celebrated Pacific, Indigenous, and diasporic narratives.



Escaping Time: Art from U.S. Prisons exhibited artworks created within prison walls and hosted workshops led by formerly incarcerated artists.



Forest for Trees Collective offered four rotating group exhibitions from emerging and established artists whose work responds to the climate crisis.



KODA presented two major solo exhibitions from mid-career artists spanning photography, film/video, performance, drawing, sculptural installation, and text.

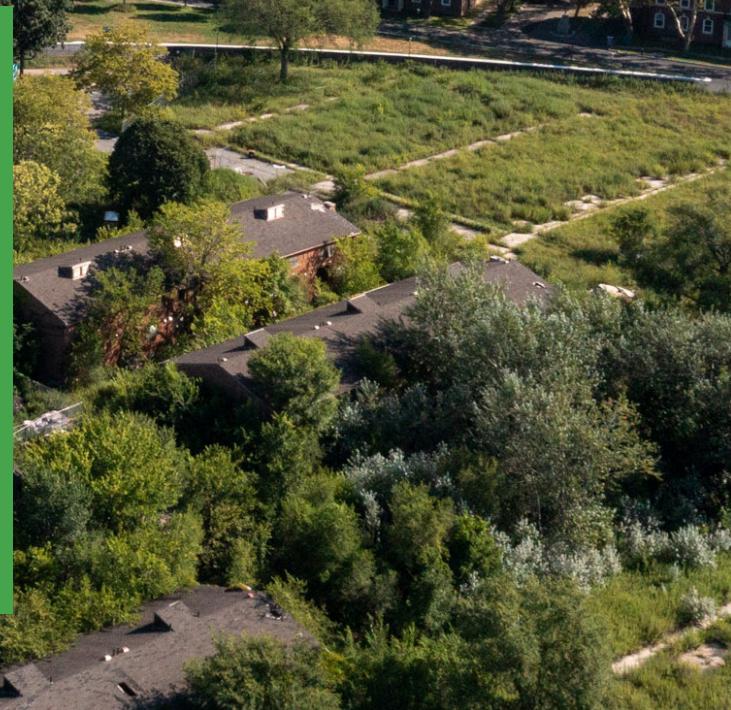


Taiwanese American Arts Council exhibited “Eco Art on Island,” a rotating group show exploring intersections of art and the environment.



CREATING A CENTER FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

In the five years since the City of New York and the Trust for Governors Island unveiled a vision to create a community on Governors Island dedicated to preparing cities for climate change, the Island has become home to a thriving ecosystem of partners advancing equitable solutions to the climate crisis.



AN INNOVATION TESTBED

The Governors Island Climate Piloting Program offers early-stage companies and innovators the opportunity to test and scale climate products and services in a real-world environment. Companies gain access to valuable technical support, visibility through events and marketing, and networking opportunities designed to connect participants with funders, investors, customers, and the public.

Highlights from 2025 include:

- Welcoming the program's **second cohort**, a group of eight companies working on low-carbon and circular construction, waste reduction and landfill diversion, and air quality.
- Holding several **major public events**, including the annual Climate Solutions Showcase, a guided Climate Tech Crawl, and Climate Week Trivia, directly engaging industry leaders and visitors alike.
- Releasing the **third annual Climate Solutions Challenge** seeking urban adaptation solutions to help communities adapt to climate challenges facing New York City like chronic flooding, extreme heat, and water shortages.



3 YEARS OF IMPACT

26

piloting projects supported since 2023

- 17 active projects
- 5 pilots completed
- 4 in development

\$14.5M

raised by participating companies since launching their Governors Island pilots

“ This pilot helped build a repeatable waste-tracking program that we could scale to other cities, municipalities, and businesses. The Trust helped validate our ability to solve complex waste challenges and provided a public case study that gave new clients the confidence they needed to work with our platform.”

- Josh Mastromatto, Co-Founder and CEO, Rego

Rego is a digital utility meter for waste management. During their 6-month pilot on Governors Island, they added more than 70 new commercial sites.

OUR CLIMATE COMMUNITY

From ecological restoration to urban composting, more than half of the tenants and partners on Governors Island are working to tackle the climate crisis head-on. Highlights from 2025 include:

- **The New York Climate Exchange** made significant advancements toward its transformational investment as an anchor institution for climate work on Governors Island. Highlights include launching flagship programs including their Climate Tech Fellowship, opening a new environmental observatory on the Island, and nearing completion of their design, moving towards breaking ground on a state-of-the-art 400K SF research campus anchored by Stony Brook University in late 2026.
- **Billion Oyster Project** continued their vital restoration work around New York City, building oyster reefs across 17 different sites and partnering with more than 80 restaurant partners to recycle 285,000 pounds of oyster shells.
- The Island continued to serve as a model for urban composting, with composting partner **Earth Matter NY** processing hundreds of thousands of pounds of organic material from all Island tenants, vendors, partners, and event operators.
- **GrowNYC** hosted thousands of students from across the city for field trips at their teaching garden and donated more than 5,000 pounds of produce grown on Governors Island to NYC-based community groups combatting hunger and food insecurity.
- **Buttermilk Labs** broke ground to create a new multi-tenant hub for small businesses, non-profits, and emerging entrepreneurs working at the nexus of climate tech and adaptation design.

A HUB FOR CLIMATE EVENTS



In 2025, Governors Island became host to the broader New York City climate community through a vibrant lineup of events. Highlights include the annual **Youth Climate Summit** hosted by New York City Public Schools, **Billion Oyster Project's Student Symposium**, **DERVOS's energy conference** and **solar-powered music festival**, and the Bee Conservancy's annual **World Bee Day festival**.



Stony Brook University President Andrea Goldsmith speaks at a Climate Week event held by The Exchange



Billion Oyster Project



GrowNYC Teaching Garden

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE



The Harbor Charger, New York state's first hybrid electric ferry, docked at Yankee Pier after arriving to Governors Island

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Since opening to the public in 2005, the Island has seen more than \$400M in investment in sustainable infrastructure. This year built upon decades of planning, strategy, and investment, with major progress made on real estate and capital projects that will help the Island grow as a resource for the next 20 years and beyond.

Highlights from 2025 include:

- Launching the **Harbor Charger**, the Island's new hybrid electric ferry and the first of its kind in New York State. This historic vessel reduces the Island's emissions by nearly 600 tons each year, allowing us to come even closer to achieving our net-zero emissions goals.
- Completing the **North Island lighting infrastructure project**, illuminating the Island's Historic District and providing the infrastructure for a safer, more welcoming environment.
- Growing Nolan Park as a **year-round arts campus**—completing renovations on Building 20, welcoming Billion Oyster Project and NYU Gallatin as the district's newest year-round tenants, and beginning construction on the restoration of historic Building 19.
- Breaking ground on one of the most significant sustainability projects in the Island's history: **a new 27kV electrical substation** in the Eastern Development Zone, which will electrify the Island's operations and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Once completed, the project will include year-round public amenities and will model sustainable design through passive ventilation, rainwater harvesting, and a green roof.



Christening the Harbor Charger



The Harbor Charger



Nolan Park Building 20

GOVERNORS ISLAND GALA

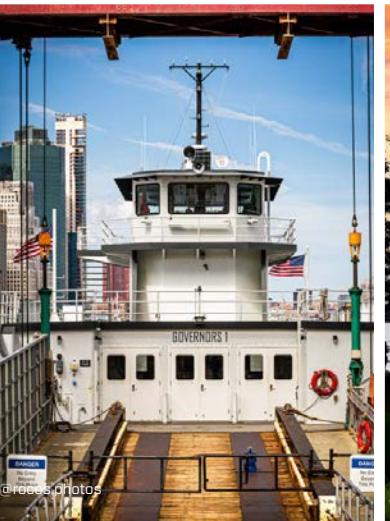
We capped off our 20th anniversary celebrations with the annual Governors Island Gala at Tribeca Rooftop, which honored longtime Island friends and advocates Tom and Cindy Secunda, Trinity Church NYC, and Sam Van Aken. The gala made history, raising **more than \$1.3 million** for Governors Island's extraordinary open space, trailblazing public art, and work supporting climate solutions.



Pictured from top left: Governors Island Gala at Tribeca Rooftop; Congressman Dan Goldman, Trust for Governors Island President and CEO Clare Newman, and Trust for Governors Island Chief of Staff Sarah Krautheim; honorees Cindy and Tom Secunda; The Rev. Phillip A. Jackson of honoree Trinity Wall Street; Christopher Grosso, Laura Fox, Anthony Koithra, and Valerie Grosso; Shantell Martin and Behar Behbahani; Preservation Hall Jazz Band performs at the gala; Nanette Smith, David McCabe, Cindy Secunda, Seth Unger, Allison Jaffin, and Terri Carta; Kambui Olujimi and Hank Willis Thomas; honoree Sam Van Aken

THROUGH YOUR LENS

Visitor Photos



OUR SUPPORTERS

Donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations are critical to helping Governors Island thrive as an accessible, vibrant, year-round resource for all New Yorkers.

Listings are accurate as of December 29, 2025. Thank you to the thousands of additional supporters who made additional donations throughout the year, including while purchasing ferry tickets. For audited financial statements, please visit govisland.org.

\$500,000+

Empire State Development
New York City Council
U.S. Federal Transit
Administration

\$100,000 - \$499,999

Amazon
Anonymous (2)
The Blackstone Charitable Foundation
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Charina Endowment Fund
Con Edison
Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine
The New York Community Trust
New York State Senator Andrew Gounardes and New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
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Secunda Family Foundation
Trinity Church NYC

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Corient
Goldman Sachs
Nancy and Duncan MacMillan
S&P Global Foundation
Zachary and Xiaoning Smith
Surgo Foundation US
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Zegar Family Fund

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Achelis and Bodman Foundation
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Anderson-Rogers Foundation
Anonymous
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Kerry & Ron Moelis Foundation
New York State Council on the Arts
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Ripple Foundation
Simons Foundation
Sterling Project Development

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Brookfield Properties
BXP
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\$10,000 - \$14,999

AECOM
Anonymous
Hannah Blumenthal and Quentin Chu
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New York City Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment
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Marc Ricks and Elisa Strauss
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Seaport Entertainment Group

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Marc Treviño and Camille Orme
Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield

\$5,000 - \$9,999

AECOM
Anonymous
Bank of America
Albert Bollard and Sonia Mittal
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City Experiences | Hornblower Group
Clarion Partners
Cowles Charitable Trust
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Janis Foo and Matthew Eisenson
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Frieze Art Fair
Jim and Lisa Ginsburgh
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The Hiscox Foundation
Lazard
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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Valerie Blechar
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Special thanks to our elected officials for their support of Governors Island:

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Adolfo Carrión Jr., Deputy Mayor of New York City for Housing, Economic Development and Workforce
Senator Chuck Schumer
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Congressman Dan Goldman
Governor Kathy Hochul
Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine
City Council Member Christopher Marte
State Senator Andrew Gounardes
Assembly Member Charles Fall
Manhattan Community Board 1

LEADERSHIP

The Trust for Governors Island works together with its fundraising partner the Governors Island Foundation and in close collaboration with the National Park Service/Governors Island National Monument to ensure the Island is a beloved destination for New York City.

THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

The Trust for Governors Island is the 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization created by the City of New York responsible for the planning, operations and ongoing development of Governors Island. The Trust's mission is to realize the full potential of Governors Island for the inspiration and enjoyment of all New Yorkers, demonstrating a bold vision for public space.

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Carl Weisbrod

Clare Newman, *President and CEO*

GOVERNORS ISLAND FOUNDATION

The mission of the Governors Island Foundation is to secure philanthropic support to strengthen Governors Island as a vibrant resource for all New Yorkers. As the dedicated fundraising partner to the Trust for Governors Island, the Foundation works with visionary supporters to fund inspiring public art projects and cultural experiences, enhance our award-winning park, generate solutions to the climate crisis, and advance broader initiatives that support the Island's continued role as a public destination.

Board Members

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