

THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

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[Photos](#)

Governors Island Announces Arrival of New Ferry Vessel

'Governors 1' will go into service weekends beginning June 15

Arrival of new vessel will increase service from Lower Manhattan to approximately every 20 minutes on weekends

June 13, 2019. New York, NY. The Trust for Governors Island (The Trust) today announced the arrival of its new passenger ferry, the 'Governors 1'. Built by Rhode Island-based Blount Boats, Inc., the new ferry will serve 400 passengers per trip between Lower Manhattan and Governors Island, increasing capacity to deliver an additional 1,000 passengers per hour. The new vessel will officially go into service beginning June 15 and will make trips between Lower Manhattan and Governors Island, increasing service to approximately every 20 minutes on Saturdays and Sundays during the public season.

The Governors 1 was purpose-built to serve Governors Island's continued transformation and will expand the Trust's capacity to transport an additional 1,000 passengers per hour. The ferry will be initially deployed on Saturdays and Sundays during the public season summer and will provide quick, efficient service to Governors Island for visitors between Lower Manhattan and Governors Island. Looking ahead, the ferry will serve both current and future year-round tenants of the Island including students at the New York Harbor School, and residents and staff of the soon to open Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Arts Center at Governors Island.

Adding an additional trip per hour to the existing schedule, the Governors 1 will primarily serve a route between the Battery Maritime Building and Soissons Landing on Governors Island. The 132 feet long and 40 feet wide single passenger deck vessel is powered by two 800 horsepower engines and will travel at speeds up to 14 knots, shortening dock to dock travel time between Lower Manhattan and Governors Island to approximately five minutes. The Governors 1 will make its inaugural run at 10:20AM on Saturday, June 15 and will initially go into service on weekends during the public season.

"Governors Island is the jewel of New York Harbor, and more people than ever want to enjoy it," said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. "This new ferry will help get them there."

"We're excited to kick off the summer with a brand-new Governors Island Ferry," said **Vicki Been, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development**. "I hope more New Yorkers will take advantage of the new schedule and hop aboard to visit the bustling restaurants, idyllic public spaces, and innovative cultural attractions on Governors Island."

"A new ferry means more opportunities for New Yorkers to discover the culture, creativity, and green space that makes Governors Island the place to be in New York City this summer and beyond," said **Alicia Glen, former Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development and incoming Chair of the Trust for Governors Island**. "This new

investment is just the latest step in unlocking the potential of Governors Island as a hub for creativity and innovation that is accessible all year long.”

“The addition of a new ferry vessel is an important milestone in the remarkable, ongoing transformation of Governors Island,” said **Carl Weisbrod, Chair of the Board of the Trust for Governors Island**. “We are proud to expand transportation options, which will allow more New Yorkers to discover Governors Island and will help seed its growth as a hub for learning, creativity and innovation.”

“With the arrival of our new ferry, it has never been easier to experience all that Governors Island has to offer, from extraordinary, car-free open space to a diverse lineup of free arts, cultural and educational programming,” said **Clare Newman, incoming President and CEO of the Trust for Governors Island**. “This latest investment in the Island's transformation will provide faster, expanded service for visitors on weekends this season and will enhance access for both current and future tenants.”

“The addition of a new passenger ferry will mean hundreds of more New Yorkers will be able to enjoy the valuable array of cultural and educational programming, outdoor events and recreation activities that can be found at Governors Island,” said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. “As the Council Member representing Governors Island, I thank The Trust for Governors Island, and I look forward to working with them to continue improving access to this crown jewel in New York Harbor.”

“CB1 is happy to hear of the new ferry servicing Governors Island and the extra trips that it will provide to all,” said **Anthony Notaro, Jr., Chairman of Manhattan Community Board 1**. “Getting to the gem in Lower Manhattan is now easier and even more fun.”

“Blount Boats is honored to have been chosen by the Trust to build another iconic vessel for New York Harbor,” said **Marcia Blount, President of Blount Boats, Inc.** The Governors I joins eight other Blount built vessels currently operating in the waterways of New York City.”

“We are looking forward to this additional transportation option for our visitors!” said **Shirley McKinney, Superintendent, Manhattan Sites, National Park Service**.

“The new ferry will make it even easier to enjoy a quick getaway to Governors Island,” said **Merritt Birnbaum, Executive Director of the Friends of Governors Island**. “With more frequent service, more visitors will be able to make the 8-minute trip to experience our car-free roads, diverse dining options, and incredible views.”

Earlier in June, in preparation for the new ferry going into service, students from the vessel operations class from the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, located on Governors Island, and their instructors joined ferry crew members aboard the Governors 1 to shadow training exercises and learn all aspects of daily operations, including start-up procedures in the engine room, safety drills, and public service announcements from the pilot house. The students, all in their sophomore year, have been engaging directly with maritime operators throughout the semester as part of their hands-on curriculum.

“The Urban Assembly New York Harbor School community, which includes 525 high-school students training in the field of Maritime Education, is excited to be involved in the process of launching this amazing vessel,” said **Jeff Chetirko, Principal of the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School**. “The addition of Governors 1 to the Governors Island fleet is a sign of

things to come and continues to provide uninterrupted and frequent access to Manhattan's quick escape from city life. Our students have benefitted from our experiences and partnership with Governors Island and this vessel helps continue to steer us in the right direction.”

The arrival of the new passenger ferry marks the latest investment in the ongoing transformation of Governors Island. Since 2010, over \$400M has been invested in Governors Island by the City of New York, beginning with the construction of a new 43-acre park and infrastructure upgrades. The de Blasio administration is currently investing over \$100M to upgrade and improve transportation and utility infrastructure to support the Island's next phase of development. Since 2014, Governors Island's visitation has nearly doubled from 400,000 to over 750,000 in 2018.

The project team is led by Blount Boats Inc., a family-owned shipyard led by Marcia Blount, based in Warren, Rhode Island and celebrating their 70th anniversary in business this year. Blount Boats partnered with Elliott Bay Design Group in a design/build contract and Glosten served as Owner's Representative, completing the vessel's initial Basis of Design and developing the Shipyard Procurement Request for Proposals on behalf of the Trust for Governors Island. Blount and Elliott Bay Design Group were awarded the contract for design and construction services in July, 2017.

The new ferry will make its inaugural run from the Battery Maritime Building, located at 10 South Street in Lower Manhattan at 10:20AM on Saturday, June 15. Members of the media are invited to join the inaugural ferry run to capture b-roll and photographs. Please email Sarah Krautheim at skrautheim@govisland.org for more information and to RSVP.

Visitor Information

Governors Island is open every day from May 1 through October 31. On weekdays, the Island is open from 10 AM to 6 PM. On weekends and holidays, the Island is open from 10 AM to 7 PM. On Friday and Saturday evenings between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend, the Island is open until 10 PM.

Ferries run from Lower Manhattan every day from the Battery Maritime Building at 10 South Street. Direct service from Brooklyn runs from Pier 6, Brooklyn Bridge Park on Saturdays, Sundays, Memorial Day and Labor Day. Governors Island ferries are \$3 round-trip for adults and children 12 and over, and \$1 for senior citizens. Children under 12, IDNYC holders, military personnel (former and active) and Governors Island members receive free ferry rides at all times. Ferries before noon are free for all visitors on Saturdays and Sundays from Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn. For ferry schedules and more information, visit www.govisland.org.

NYC Ferry Governors Island shuttle operates between Pier 11/Wall Street and Yankee Pier on weekends. For ticketing information and schedules, visit ferry.nyc.

About The Trust for Governors Island

The Trust for Governors Island is the nonprofit corporation created by the City of New York that is responsible for the redevelopment and operation of 150 acres of Governors Island. The Trust's mission is to transform Governors Island into a vibrant resource for New York City, making this island at the center of New York Harbor a destination with extraordinary public open space, as well as educational, not-for-profit and commercial facilities.

For more information, visit www.govisland.org.

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