

THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

Governors Island Opens Call for Proposals for Indoor Programming and Exhibition Space for Organizations Working in Arts, Culture and Education

150,000 square feet of space in historic former officers' homes awarded to non-profit organizations for the 2019 season and beyond

Proposals for multi-year use encouraged

October 3, 2018. New York, NY. The Trust for Governors Island (The Trust) today launched its annual proposal process for free indoor exhibition space, open to organizations working in the arts, culture, education and environmental science. Organizations and non-profits are invited to propose public programming during Governors Island's 2019 season and beyond, including exhibitions, workshops, performances, film screenings, talks and more. The Island's platform for public programming positions Governors Island as a citywide resource for emerging arts, cultural and educational organizations to engage and share their work in front of a diverse and growing audience. Starting today, the Trust will accept both season-long and multi-year proposals for indoor space beginning with the 2019 public season which runs May 1-October 31.

"Since opening to the public in 2005, free opportunities to experience arts, culture and learning has brought life to Governors Island's historic houses, inviting New Yorkers to delight in the unexpected" said **Michael Samuelian, President of the Trust for Governors Island**. "As the Island's public season and audience grows, we're thrilled to continue to expand our place as an affordable and unique citywide resource for the arts and invite organizations to submit their most engaging proposals for the 2019 season and beyond."

Governors Island's platform for public programming offers an incredible opportunity for both emerging and leading independent organizations to produce experimental programming in free, unique space in front of new audiences in one of New York City's fastest-growing cultural communities. Since the Trust's platform for public programming launched when the Island opened to the public in the mid-2000s, the number of organizations utilizing free space on Governors Island has grown from less than a dozen per season to nearly 60 organizations from across New York City in 2018.

"Governors Island provides an unprecedented opportunity for artists, scholars and cultural organizations to deeply engage in ideas at a diversity of scale, duration and content," said **Meredith Johnson, VP of Arts and Culture for the Trust for Governors Island**. "We are dedicated to increasing the opportunities for the cultural community from the five boroughs to use the Island as a resource for exploration, presentation and prolonged study with the visitors during the public season as an integral partner."

This season, visitors enjoyed more than 65 free events and exhibitions throughout the Island, including art exhibitions, community events, educational programs and festivals from returning organizations, including the 11th year of the 4heads Governors Island Art Fair, NYC Audubon, Holocenter's Center for Holographic Arts, the New-York Historical Society, NYC Poetry Festival, *Escaping Time: Art from US Prisons* and more. The Trust also hosted free public programs by a range of new organizations on Governors Island for the first time, including *Rare Air*, a women-run collective displaying neon art in Nolan Park; *Works on Water*, a residency of over 50 multi-disciplinary artists and cultural producers working on, in and with water; *Swale*, an indoor extension of artist Mary Mattingly's floating food forest examining issues of food security; *Close Quarters*, the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA)'s first non-fair exhibition featuring the works of 10 artists in Colonels Row; and the Climate Museum's Hub, an exhibition in their first-ever temporary space housed within the historic Admirals House during Climate Week.

An application, as well as additional information about hosting indoor public programs on Governors Island, is available at govisland.org/permits. Space will be offered inside at least 25 historic former officer's homes in the Island's Historic District, both in Nolan Park and Colonels Row. The Trust encourages organizations to place an emphasis on diverse public participation when proposing programs. Proposals will be evaluated based on the overall quality of the proposed program; fit and alignment with the Island's dynamic arts, cultural and educational programming; track-record of conceptualizing, producing and organizing other programs and events; commitment to connecting with diverse audiences; and engagement with the Island as a site, including its history, ecology, architecture and relationship to the rest of New York City.

This year, both season-long and multi-year proposals will be accepted in order to allow organizations to plan further ahead for programming that extends across multiple seasons, as well as to accommodate for installation planning and updates they may wish to make to their permitted space.

Qualifying proposals received before November 15, 2018 will be contacted about their submission by the end of 2018. Due to the high volume of interest, organizations are highly encouraged to submit proposals by this date. After November 15, proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis if space allows. House assignments will be selected by the Trust based on the scale, layout of proposed program and audience engagement.

The permit process for outdoor spaces is currently open at www.govisland.org/permits. The Trust will open an additional permit process for food vendors and sports field use in the coming months. For more information on spaces managed by the Trust for Governors Island, visit govisland.org. For information on the 22-acre Governors Island National Monument managed by the National Parks Service, visit nps.gov/gois.

In 2019, Governors Island will be open every day from May 1 through October 31. The Island is open from 10AM to 6PM on weekdays and from 10AM to 7PM on weekends, Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day and until 10PM on select summer evenings.

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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