

THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

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Governors Island Opens Call for Proposals for Indoor Programs and Exhibition Space for Artistic, Cultural and Educational Organizations for 2020 Season

Programming space inside more than two dozen historic former officers' homes to be awarded to non-profit organizations

Organizations are invited to submit proposals at govisland.org/permits

October 10, 2019. New York, NY. The Trust for Governors Island (the Trust) today issued its annual call for proposals for free indoor exhibition space, open to artistic, cultural, environmental and educational organizations for the 2020 public season. Unique programming space within over two dozen historic former officers' homes will be offered to qualifying non-profit organizations proposing free public programs, including art and educational exhibitions, performances, workshops, screenings, talks and more. As of today, the Trust will accept proposals for indoor programming space during the 2020 public season, which will run from May 1 to October 31 of next year.

“Each season, arts and cultural organizations from across New York bring Governors Island’s historic district to life with groundbreaking and experimental arts, environmental and educational programming for all ages,” said **Clare Newman, President and CEO of the Trust for Governors Island**. “Governors Island provides an unforgettable venue for cultural organizations and non-profits to present work in front of a highly engaged, diverse public audience.”

Attracting a growing number of New Yorkers and visitors of all ages, Governors Island offers an unprecedented opportunity for arts, environmental cultural and educational organizations to reach the public in a singular setting. In 2019, 30 organizations presented exhibits, workshops, performances and talks, and hosted artists-in-residence in the historic houses of Nolan Park and Colonels Row, once home to military officers and their families during Governors Island’s nearly two-century history as a military base. Past presenting organizations in the visual arts include the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA), Pioneer Works, the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA), the American Indian Community House and 4heads. The program has also hosted organizations directly engaging in issues related to the environment, sustainability and climate resiliency, including the Climate Museum, NYC Audubon, the Billion Oyster Project, Swale and the New York Virtual Volcano Observatory, facilitated by volcanologists from CUNY. Participating educational institutions have included SVA, Syracuse University and the Cooper Union.

“Governors Island has the rare combination of unparalleled historic space, rich ecology and an ever growing local, national and international audience at the center of our country’s largest metropolis,” said **Meredith Johnson, VP of Arts and Culture at the Trust for Governors Island**. “The cultural community is the heart of New York City, and we are thrilled to be able to share the Island’s unique resources with leading cultural organizations from across the city.”

Indoor programs hosted on Governors Island are contained within the Island's historic houses in Nolan Park and Colonels Row. Originally built to house military officers and their families during the Island's history as a base for the U.S. Army, and later, the Coast Guard, these homes dating from the late nineteenth century provide multiple rooms of various sizes, often across two floors, that can be used for installations, exhibitions, artist studios, intimate performance venues or spaces for small workshops and educational programs.

The application and additional information on hosting indoor programs is available at govisland.org/permits. Proposing organizations will be required to present continuous, free public programming during the Island's core public programming hours of 11am to 5pm on weekends during the public season (May 1–October 31, 2020). Full- or half-season programs will be accepted. Organizations who apply are encouraged to propose programs that emphasize diverse public participation and engagement. 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.

Qualifying proposals received by November 29, 2019 will be contacted about their submission by the end of 2019. Due to the anticipated high volume of interest, organizations are highly encouraged to submit proposals by this date. After November 29, proposals will be reviewed and 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.

For more information on spaces managed by the Trust for Governors Island, including sites for outdoor events, visit govisland.org/permits. For information on the 22-acre Governors Island National Monument managed by the National Parks Service, visit nps.gov/gois.

In 2020, Governors Island will be open every day from May 1 through October 31. The Island is open from 10 AM to 6 PM on weekdays and from 10 AM to 7 PM on weekends, Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day.

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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