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**THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND AND LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL
COUNCIL TO HOST INAUGURAL ICE SCULPTURE SHOW**

Governors Island celebrates its inaugural winter season with live ice sculpting

New York - (February 17, 2022) – The Trust for Governors Island and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) announced today they will jointly host the Island’s inaugural Ice Sculpture Show. The event will take place on Saturday, February 26, 2022, from 2-5p.m. at the Governors Island Winter Village. The event will provide New Yorkers and visitors alike an opportunity to experience all the open space, cultural, educational and historical resources and attractions Governors Island has to offer in all seasons—including, for the first time ever, live ice sculpting.

Earlier this year, the Trust and LMCC invited New York City-based artists to submit designs through an open call that, if chosen, would be carved live. Ten of these designs, selected by an esteemed panel of NYC cultural luminaries, will be brought to life in real time through an exciting live ice sculpture carving session by professional ice carvers from Okamoto Studio. The professional carvers masterfully use chainsaws to carve the ice, as thoughtfully and skillfully as a painter uses a paintbrush. The Governors Island Winter Village, including the 5,000-square-foot ice skating rink, seasonal food options, lawn games and more, will also be open to the public throughout the day.

“We are beyond excited to partner with LMCC to host the Island’s inaugural Ice Sculpture Show. Live ice sculpting is a wonderful addition to the engaging activities and experiences that the Island has to offer our visitors during our first winter season,” **said Clare Newman, President and CEO of The Trust for Governors Island.** “We encourage visitors to carve out some time to experience the Island during the winter months, and what better way to do that than to watch the modern-day Michelangelo’s of ice from Okamoto Studio fashion ice to life.”

“Arts and cultural exploration is at the core of Governors Island’s identity, and we couldn’t be more excited to present the Island’s first ever Winter Ice Sculpture Show with the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council,” **said Meredith Johnson, Vice President of Arts and Culture and Head Curator at the Trust for Governors Island.** “Island visitors of all ages will get a one-of-a-kind experience when they witness ice sculptures being carved in real time, bringing the visions of an extraordinary group of New York City artists to life.”

“Sharing Governors Island with our artists-in-residence in the winter months has been a unique privilege over the last decade. Now, we are thrilled to partner with the Trust for Governors Island to present fun and unexpected ways to experience the Island throughout all of the seasons,” **said Ana Fiore, Director of Artist Services at LMCC.** “The inaugural Ice Sculpture Show is an exciting opportunity for the public to see new artistic collaborations take shape and inventive visions come to life over the course of a wintery afternoon.”

The event will also feature pop-up performances by the acclaimed Ice Theatre of New York, which presents accessible ice dance that celebrates joy and collaboration in venues throughout the five boroughs. A full schedule will be released prior to the event.

Artists of all disciplines submitted proposals for their designs to be carved. A distinguished jury of New York City cultural leaders selected winning designs from 10 artists and artist teams. The winning designs received \$2,000 to participate and will be provided with tools and production materials at the live event. Participants were matched with a professional ice carver from Okamoto Studio to complete the work on the day of the event, and the audience will decide the winner in real time. The esteemed jury panel that selected entrants includes Amy Andrieux - Executive Director + Chief Curator at MoCADA, Jean Cooney - Director of Times Square Arts, Shaun Leonardo - a multidisciplinary artist, and Shintaro Okamoto - Founder/Creative Director of Okamoto Studio.

The Governors Island Ice Sculpture Open Call and Show is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council.

Governors Island is celebrating its inaugural winter season with a roster of cold-weather activities for the whole family—including our new Winter Village, sledding, the Winter Dog Days pilot program, and the Winter Ice Sculpture Show. The rain date for the event is Sunday, February 27.

Governors Island has undergone a tremendous transformation over the last decade, including the creation of a resilient 43-acre park, a growing arts and cultural program, and remarkable growth in audience. In 2019, nearly one million people visited the Island. The Island is home to a diverse number of year-round tenants, including the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the Billion Oyster Project, Shandaken Projects, Beam Center, and the Institute for Public Architecture, as well as the soon to open QC NY Spa and Buttermilk Labs — a new multi-tenant hub for coastal climate solutions announced in Fall, 2021. In June 2021, the Trust and the City announced a competition to attract an anchor educational and research institution for its plans to develop a Center for Climate Solutions.

In September 2021, the Trust and the City of New York announced that Governors Island would be open to the public year-round for the first time in history, with daily, year-round NYC Ferry

service on the South Brooklyn Route in addition to Trust-operated ferries from the Battery Maritime Building at 10 South Street in Lower Manhattan. For NYC Ferry service schedules, visit ferry.nyc. For general Governors Island visitor information, and for a full list of ferry service options, visit govisland.org.

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About LMCC

Founded as Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, LMCC serves, connects and makes space for artists and community. Since 1973, LMCC has been the champion for independent artists in New York City and the cultural life force of Lower Manhattan. LMCC envisions New York City as a place in which artists and community in dialogue are creating a more just, equitable and sustainable society. Learn more at www.LMCC.net

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 realize the full potential of Governors Island for the inspiration and enjoyment of all New Yorkers, demonstrating a bold vision for public space. For more information, visit www.govisland.org