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Andrea Preschle,
Director of Recreation and Events

Get to know the HRPT’s Staff

Andrea Preschle, Director of Recreation and Events, joined Hudson River Park Trust in June 2000 bringing with her six years of program experience gained by working on operations at the New York Renaissance Festival, being a producer at a Baltimore based events firm, and conducting fundraising events at a NYC not-for profit serving the homeless.

Though she has only been with the Hudson River Park project for less than a year, she is amazed at how much it has changed in that short amount of time. “When I started here

it was interesting to be working in a strange version of a ‘park’ – 550 acres of concrete and rubble. Now we have an actual grass field for the local kids to play on and a beautifully landscaped bikeway/walkway which is already packed with cyclists and joggers!”

Andrea is usually on the run in the park checking on the Recreation Fields at Pier 40 and Chelsea Waterside Park, visiting the food vendors spread along the five-miles of waterfront, helping photographers and film producers find perfect views, and coordinating

visiting events with HRPT’s Operations Staff.

But her favorite part of the job is helping Fraidy Aber, Director of Public Programs, produce free events for park users. “You can’t compare showing a movie 500ft out on the river with doing an event in a windowless ballroom. It is wonderful to see kids and adults come out from the concrete heart –and heat– of the city to enjoy the breezes and views along the river. The other day I heard someone say they had never played soccer on real grass before! Isn’t that incredible?”

Hudson River Park Trust



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Photo of Balachandran/Preschle/Education Fair: Crist Figueras
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Hudson River Park Happenings

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 3 • MAY 1, 2001

President’s Letter: A WALK IN THE PARK

Spring is here, and just as the plants are coming into bloom, so too is the Hudson River Park. The great architect Eliel Saarinen once commanded: “Always design a thing by considering it in its next larger context—a chair in a room, a room in a house, a house in an environment, an environment in a city plan.” The Hudson River Park Trust is moving towards the fulfillment of a decades long vision for the city—an environment that brings New York City residents and visitors closer to open space and the waterfront. The five miles from Battery Park to 59th Street on Manhattan’s west side will be 550 acres of new public park and marine sanctuary. Right now many of the “chairs” are in place, some “rooms” are opening, as is the Greenwich Village “house”.

In Spring and Summer 2001, the Hudson River Park has more events, activities and more facilities to do them in. Savvy New Yorkers come to explore the Park; they take advantage of what it is now, and can feel the buzz of what it will be. We at the Trust are working hard to make the Park a destination that appeals to the varied interests of New Yorkers today and provides a taste of the exciting promise of the park in the future.

The park offers opportunities to relax, learn and have fun. In March we held an Education Fair, bringing in teachers from around the city to learn how the park can serve as an educational resource for their students (read more about the Education Fair on page 2). At the end of April we hosted a beach volleyball tournament at Pier 25. Everyone watched the dazzling spikes, dinks and digs of the East End Volleyball league all weekend long. At Pier 25 on May 6th we held a “Kids Do Art” day, sponsored by the Manhattan Youth program. Manhattan Youth provided supplies and instruction; the kids supplied the vision as they painted and sculpted their own masterpieces.



Robert Balachandran
on the bikeway
at Battery Park City

In addition to these events, we have been busy putting the final touches on the Summer 2001 events calendar, which promises to be even more spectacular than last year’s. I won’t give away too much here, but our 2nd Annual Blues, Barbeques and Fireworks extravaganza is going to be a showstopper. So mark your calendars because there’s no place in New York to be but

Pier 54 on August 26th. We will be posting the Summer 2001 calendar on our web site (www.HudsonRiverPark.org), in the next issue of Happenings and mailing out copies, so be sure to check the site and your mailboxes.

While we are looking forward to this year’s events, we are also busy constructing the remainder of the Hudson River Park. Our designers are currently working on landscaping plans for the West 30s, Midtown Maritime District and Clinton