



From: Hudson River Park Trust

Contact: Chris Martin

Hudson River Park Trust

(212) 627-2020

cmartin@hrpt.state.ny.us

John Marino

The Marino Organization Inc

(212) 889-0808 john@themarino.org

NEW SECTION OF HUDSON RIVER PARK OPENS IN TRIBECA

-- Latest Section of 550-Acre Waterfront Park Funded with \$70-million in Federal 9-11 Funds --

NEW YORK, July 23, 2008 – The newest section of Hudson River Park, the largest recreational amenity to be built in Manhattan since Central Park more than 150 years ago -- opened to the public today. Stretching from Tribeca's Laight Street to Houston Street, the \$16.3 million, 4.6-acre area includes basketball courts, tennis courts, waterside overlooks and landscaped gardens that include 29,941 different types of plant life, naturalized grasses, lawns and specially commissioned public art. The gardens also include a meandering boardwalk that allows visitors to stroll through uneven terrain in a tranquil setting.

This part of the Park, situated near Ground Zero, was built with a portion of the \$70 million from the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) which is funded through Community Development Block Grants from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Construction continues on the two piers within the Tribeca section of the Park -- Pier 25 at N. Moore Street and Pier 26 at Hubert Street. Pier 25 and the upland park extending south to Battery Park City are scheduled for completion in spring of 2010.

"As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the enactment of the Hudson River Park Act, it is exciting to see the progress that is being made on Hudson River Park," said Diana Taylor, chair of the Hudson River Park Trust (HRPT). "While the entire park is truly magnificent, the Tribeca section is particularly special inasmuch as it was built to help this neighborhood's recovery from the 9-11 World Trade Center attacks."

With the opening of the new Tribeca areas, the 550-acre Hudson River Park has reached the 50-percent completion milestone. The recently approved state and city budgets each include \$21 million for the continued construction of both Tribeca and Chelsea Cove. These appropriations are the largest commitment of capital funding to the Park in the past five years and allow for the surge in construction that will enable another 30 percent of the Park to open in 2010. The entire Hudson River Park is being built by the Hudson River Park Trust, the state-city entity responsible for the design,

construction, operation and maintenance of the new 5-mile waterfront park that is revitalizing the west side of Manhattan.

"We are grateful that Governor David A. Patterson, the state legislature, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the City Council have provided a total of \$42 million for Hudson River Park in this year's budgets," said Connie Fishman, president of the Hudson River Park Trust. "As evidenced by the wonderful segment of the Park that opened today, the funds are being used to create a spectacular community and regional resource."

The Tribeca segment was designed by landscape architects Sasaki Associates and Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects, marine engineers DMJM+Harris and HPA/Halcrow, with sub-consultants Fisher Marantz Stone, Weidlinger Associates, Inc., and Wesler Cohen Associates. Project management and design coordination was performed by Arup, and the construction managers are Turner Construction. Supervision of the Hudson River Park Trust's Design and Construction team is led by Marc Boddewyn and Steve Ferker of the Trust staff. The Laight Street to Pier 40 area was designed and built by NYS certified minority- and women-owned businesses.

The multi-part, ribbed sculpture series, "Serpentine Ensemble", was designed by Brooklyn-based sculptor, Mark Gibian especially for Hudson River Park. The sculptures are crafted out of galvanized steel and the ensemble features a loveseat and single-stem cantilevered portion weighing 5,000 pounds. Gibian also has a piece on permanent display at the Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall subway station. Wendy Feuer served as the Trust's public art consultant.

Earlier this summer, HRPT issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the redevelopment of the 300,000 square-foot Pier 57, which, along with Pier 40, is one of the two remaining revenue-generating commercial nodes in the park yet to be redeveloped. Responses to the RFP are due on October 17 and are available on the Trust's website, Hudsonriverpark.org.

The Hudson River Park Act, adopted in 1998, calls for the state and city to share equally in funding and oversight of the design and construction of the park. Funding for the Trust's operations and maintenance is 100 percent generated from within the park through leases, occupancy and permit fees, sponsorships and concession revenues.

No government funding is used to support Hudson River Park Trust's maintenance and operations, free public events, education and recreation programs.

About the Hudson River Park Trust

Hudson River Park Trust is a partnership between New York State and City charged with the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the five-mile Hudson River Park.

The Trust is as a public benefit corporation and 501(c)(3) and is governed by a thirteenmember Board of Directors. We employ a focused, diverse staff with experience in parks, design, finance, public policy, operations and maintenance. The Trust is governed by the Hudson River Park Act, a 1998 law that established both the park and its governing requirements.

The Trust works with a 50-member Advisory Council, the local elected officials and Community Boards 1, 2, and 4, as well as civic and environmental groups in the park planning process.