

NEWS

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From: Hudson River Park Trust

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS AWARDS HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST THE 2008 HONOR AWARD IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

NEW YORK, NY October 15, 2008 – The Hudson River Part Trust has announced that it is the recipient of the *2008 Honor Award in Community Development* from the New York State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The Trust was given the award for its outstanding achievement in transforming acres of derelict land along the waterfront on Manhattan's Westside into a world-class waterfront park and recreational amenity.

“We have essentially taken under-utilized, formerly vacant, decaying industrial land and turned it into acres and acres of new “green” space for New York City residents and visitors to enjoy,” said Diana Taylor, Chair of the Hudson River Park Trust. “As New York and other cities work on “going green”, Hudson River Park will be looked upon as a model of how to successfully recycle out-dated industrial infrastructure into parkland and other beneficial uses.”

Hudson River Park, stretching from 59th Street to Battery Park City, is the largest recreational amenity and open space project to be built in Manhattan since the opening of Central Park more than 150 years ago. With 10 piers and 3 miles of upland area already complete, the Park offers a range of activities including boating, fishing, biking, jogging and – weather permitting – sunbathing. The Trust sponsors a series of free educational programs and outdoor entertainment activities such as concerts, movies, starlight dancing and amateur boxing. The Park has some 17 million visits annually and is home to the nation's busiest bikeway.

In letters of support delivered to the AIA for the Trust's nomination, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said that, “The [park's] benefits to the local community, the City, and the region have been overwhelming. The park is beautifully designed and maintained, clean and safe, and provides a welcome escape for Manhattan's densely packed residents.”

Council Speaker Quinn stated that “The Trust provides a truly invaluable community resource – one that has had an enormous impact on the lives of its

neighbors as well as the built environment. New Yorkers from all five boroughs on bikes and skates, on foot, and even in boats have discovered that Hudson River Park really does have something for everyone.”

“By rebuilding the old piers and abandoned wharves, the Hudson River Park Trust has been able to create acres of new parkland close to a densely populated urban center, breathing new life into a formerly derelict area,” said Connie Fishman, President of the Hudson River Park Trust.

AIA’s Community Development Award was established in 1985 with the purpose of recognizing and acknowledging projects and individuals who have had a substantial impact on the built environment within the various localities of New York State or on the State as a whole. The award, in the form of a citation, may be made to any individual, community or civic organization, governmental agency, or private corporation whose efforts have resulted in a significant and positive improvement to the built environment.

This year’s *2008 Honor Award in Community Development* follows an AIA Merit Award in 2007 presented to CR Studio for the design of the Pier 62 Carousel Shed, which the Trust will begin constructing next year. The carousel itself, featuring 33 Hudson River animals, was approved at the Trust’s September 25th board meeting. A full list of the many design and engineering awards bestowed upon Hudson River Park to-date is available on the Trust’s website, at www.hudsonriverpark.org.

About the American Institute of Architects

For over 150 years, members of The American Institute of Architects have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge, and tools to create better design, and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real. www.aia.org

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

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