



## **Report on Operations and Accomplishments in 2018-19**

During Fiscal Year 2018-19, the Hudson River Park Trust (Trust) was able to advance several important initiatives that have been years in the making. Programmatically, the Trust also continued to expand the reach and caliber of its environmental, educational and public programming, reaching hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors.

### **Construction and New Projects**

#### ***Pier 26 and Adjacent Upland Area***

The Trust secured regulatory permits and began construction of Pier 26 in Tribeca. The local community, represented by Community Board 1, had previously expressed strong support for the design vision, which uniquely includes a number of features focused specifically on the Hudson River environment and environmental education of the Hudson River Sanctuary. The most notable of these features is an “ecological get down” at the western end of the pier. Construction of the ecological get-down and installation of “biohuts” attached to various piles began in 2018, and construction on the balance of the pier will continue throughout 2019 with the goal of opening the pier for the public in 2020.

#### ***Pier 40***

Pier 40 is the largest single property in the Park and home to heavily used athletic fields, administrative and operating facilities of the Trust, a commercial parking garage, and commercial excursion vessels. Parking and other revenue generated at Pier 40 nets the Trust approximately \$7.2 million annually, but this is before consideration of growing capital maintenance costs for this deteriorated structure.

In 2016, a City Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) process was completed that allowed the Trust to transfer 200,000 square feet of unused development rights from Pier 40 to the St. John’s Terminal Building site. The Trust entered into a \$100 million sales contract with the St. John’s developer and the proceeds from that agreement are now devoted to repairing 3,600 individual piles that support Pier 40.

In early 2019, after securing required regulatory permits, the Trust undertook Phases 1 and 2 pile repairs at Pier 40. The Trust also secured contracts for the commencement of Phases 3 and 4 pile repairs which work commenced in late spring 2019. The pile repairs are a vital undertaking needed to ensure the long-term integrity of this essential recreational and financial park asset.

### ***Morton Street Esplanade***

In 2016, HRPT began working on a large project to restore a length of historic bulkhead between Morton and Christopher Streets. This in-water portion of the restoration work and restoration of most of the landscape finishes were completed in FY2018-19, with the completion in late spring 2019.

### ***West 12<sup>th</sup> Street Esplanade***

In June 2018, a new LGBT Memorial formally opened in Greenwich Village. The memorial was created pursuant to Executive Order No. 158 to stand as an international symbol against ignorance, hate, bigotry, and gun violence, and to honor the victims of the June 12, 2016 shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. The Memorial Commission appointed by Governor Cuomo selected artist Anthony Goicolea Studios as the winner of its design competition, and the Trust worked in partnership with the artist and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to advance the memorial's design, fabrication and construction in time for Heritage of Pride events last June.

### ***Gansevoort Peninsula***

In FY2018-19, New York City completed demolition of a former Department of Sanitation facility long located at the Gansevoort Peninsula, freeing this large site for park development. Following a competitive procurement process, the Trust selected a multidisciplinary design team led by James Corner Field Operations to design this important park area. In March, the Trust and the design team met with Community Board 2 and members of the public to begin the design process, which includes securing community input about the desired park use program at the site. In late March 2019, the Trust also hosted a well-attended follow-up design charrette where Field Operations led community members through interactive exercises focused on ideas for future uses at the Gansevoort Peninsula. The Trust will continue to meet with the community as design advances.

In 2018, the Trust also conducted a public "significant action process" to consider the donation of a permanent public art installation entitled *Day's End*, by artist David Hammons, to be located on the south side of the Gansevoort Peninsula within the footprint of the former Pier 52. *Day's End* derives its inspiration and name from Gordon Matta-Clark's 1975 artwork once located in the same location, and is being donated to Hudson River Park by the Whitney Museum of American Art. Once all environmental permits are issued, construction is expected to commence in summer 2019.

### ***Pier 55***

Construction of Pier55, a new 2.7-acre public pier dedicated to parkland and with performing arts programming, advanced significantly in FY2018-19, with the installation of more than half of the pier's piles completed, along with some of the pier's signature "pots" and decking. The cost of Pier55 is estimated at \$250 million, with most of the funding coming from the private donor, the Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation. Pier55 is due to open in 2021. In 2018-19, Pier55, Inc. also began conducting significant outreach to local community and arts organizations including offering in-school arts programming, some of which was conducted in conjunction with the Trust's Estuary Lab staff.

Adjacent to Pier 55, the Trust has continued to advance construction of the new over-water pedestrian platform and adjacent bikeway improvement between the Gansevoort Peninsula and 14th Street as part of a federally funded transportation grant secured through the New York State Department of Transportation. An associated cross-walk project, for which the Trust separately sought and secured another State grant, is located on City and State property to the east, and was constructed by the NYS Department of Transportation with funding support from the City.

### ***Pier 57***

Pier 57 is located within the Park at approximately West 15th Street. The pier, which is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, is currently being redeveloped privately through a partnership between Young Woo & Associates and RXR Realty, with construction well under way. The lease will generate critical new income for Hudson River Park's operations, but it will also enhance an area of the park that has long been inactive. Pursuant to the lease, the developers are creating more than 3 acres of new public open space at the pier, while also incorporating office space for Google as well as space for a new public market and other cultural, entertainment, retail and maritime uses. During 2018, two new pedestrian platforms located to the north and south of Pier 57 opened for use by the general public. In addition, the Trust completed a significant action process to allow certain lease changes, including a reduction in the size of the public marketplace, an increase in the amount of commercial office space for the subtenant Google, increases in rent, and increases to interior public space and a new educational space to be programmed by the Trust, among other amendments.

### ***Chelsea Waterside Playground***

In summer 2018, the Trust opened a new and enlarged playground designed by Michael Van Valkenburgh. This new Hudson River themed play area has a pipefish centerpiece equipped with a slide and play features. Two new water play areas, tot lot and sand play are also included. Historic cartouches from the old Miller Highway and carved animal heads rescued from a former Hell's Kitchen that has since been demolished were

incorporated into this scheme. The Trust was fortunate to receive funding support from this project from the Playground Committee of Hudson River Park Friends, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Assembly member Richard Gottfried and State Senator Brad Hoylman.

### ***Pier 97***

Following a competitive selection process, the Trust selected a comprehensive design team led by !melk for the development of Pier 97 and the adjacent upland area. The Trust and design team organized and conducted well attended public meetings during which the public had the opportunity to meet the design team, ask questions, and provide their opinions and ideas for the program for Pier 97. In April 2019, the Trust presented a preliminary design for Pier 97 to Community Board 4 which received positive feedback.

At the northernmost edge of the Park, plans have long called for a modest new over-water pedestrian platform and related upland park construction between West 58th and 59th Streets to help improve circulation and safety. In FY18-19, the Trust completed engineering to design the structural portion of the improvements and expects to begin construction of that platform in the summer of 2019. Design and construction of the landscape finishes associated with the new walkway would be integrated with and performed as part of the Pier 97 project given proximity between the projects and the need for a coordinated design.

## **Public Recreation and Events**

### ***20 Years of Piers***

In 2018, the Trust also organized another successful season of free events, and extended the season to include significant new programming initiatives in the spring and fall. The celebrations began in June with a “20 Years of Piers” anniversary celebration at Pier 45 that showcased the Trust’s line-up of free events staged throughout the summer season. Programs continued every week through mid-September, with highlights including an expanded Healthy on the Hudson exercise series featuring workouts with Lululemon, yoga, tai chi and outrigger paddling sessions. The Friday night “Sunset on the Hudson” and Thursday Night “Jazz at Pier 84” series, not to mention the 19th Annual Blues BBQ concert, brought a mix of music lovers to various piers located throughout the Park’s footprint. In all, over 44,000 people from New York City and the tri-state area came to the Park to enjoy a total of 106 family, fitness, music, movie and dance events.

### ***Estuary Lab***

In 2018, the Trust’s Estuary Lab continued to reach a wide audience and hosted over 400 environmental education programs that served 28,500 Park visitors and NYC

students. The Estuary Lab offers a full roster of environmental enrichment programs for school groups, summer camps and the general public. This includes 250 school and summer camp field trips that served over 7,000 K-12 NYC students. These field trips inspire the scientist within each student with engaging and accessible STEM programming that highlights the Hudson River and its unique ecology.

The Estuary Lab also offered over 100 free and low-cost public drop-in programs annually that target a wide ranging audience, from toddlers to older adults and focus on topics of interest such as park wildlife, waterfront history, oyster restoration and sustainability. The Park's single largest public environmental program is the SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival. SUBMERGE is a daylong celebration of NYC's coastal waters that brings marine science to life with awesome experiments, kid-approved science entertainment, wildlife and more. In 2018, 8,500 participants joined this interactive day of science that is devoted to increasing awareness of NYC's coastal waters.

In 2018, Trust staff also continued their partnership with Brooklyn College to sample sanctuary waters for the presence of microplastics, plastics smaller than 5mm, with the objective of obtaining baseline microplastic concentration data for the Estuarine Sanctuary. The Park also collected and categorized 1,000 pounds of plastic marine debris from the Gansevoort Peninsula, and reported the data to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) marine debris program.

In addition, the Park continued to manage two instruments in the Hudson River Ecosystem Conditions Observing System (HRECOS) network, a group of near real time instruments in the lower Hudson River tracking and sharing water quality measures. The Estuary Lab has also began an exciting environmental DNA research project collecting and sequencing water samples for fish DNA at three locations within the Park in partnership with the renowned Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

### ***Composting Program***

The Park's Community Compost Program also continued to grow. In 2018, 69,580 pounds of organic waste were collected from the Park's offices, boathouses and community drop-off sites with an overall upward trend in pounds collected throughout the year. The Park's horticulture team also contributed 350,000 pounds of horticultural waste while maintaining the Park this year. In total, the Park turned nearly 420,000 pounds of organic waste into compost during 2018 and diverted thousands of pounds of waste from NYC's waste stream. Trust employees and community members were educated at workshops, volunteer events and public programming to encourage best practices in composting. One of these events was the Trust's first annual Pumpkin Smash at Chelsea Waterside Park where 500 locals participated by smashing their old Halloween pumpkins. These pumpkins were composted and people learned about the benefits of composting.

### ***Sports Facilities***

Aside from cultural and event programming, the Trust's Public Events staff facilitated recreational play for the hundreds of thousands of park goers who participate in organized sports activities on Park courts and fields, hosting soccer, baseball, lacrosse, rugby, basketball, tennis and more. Thanks to quality programming provided by the Park's wide range of for-profit and non-profit tenants under the Trust's oversight, tens of thousands more also played beach volleyball, mini golf, rowed, kayaked, dared the trapeze, or cycled.

### ***Operations and Facilities Management***

From plants to pavement, and from buildings to fountains, virtually every object and corner of the Park needs care and maintenance throughout the year. The Park's Operations and Facilities team removed snow, replaced pavement, maintained marine infrastructure, mowed lawns, and repaired leaks, among countless other long- and short-term projects needed to keep the Park in good and safe condition. Among the important large initiatives for 2018-19 was continuing to roll out security cameras in additional park areas.

### ***Private Sector Partnerships***

Hudson River Park was conceived as a public-private partnership. Since the Trust's inception, the Park has worked with partners ranging from large scale commercial tenants like Chelsea Piers and Circle Line to non-profit boating and community organizations to help activate and enliven the park while also generating income in the form of rent to support park operations.

In addition, the Park relies on the financial support and community engagement provided through the Trust's partnership with Hudson River Park Friends. The Hudson River Park Gala in October 2018 raised significant private money for horticultural programs and operations and brought attention to the park's accomplishments and goals for the future. In addition, Friends hosted the annual Hudson River Park Games, filling the park with athletic challenges for competitors and spectators alike to enjoy, all while raising critically-needed funds for Hudson River Park.

In 2018, Friends again worked side by side with Trust staff to recruit and manage a host of volunteers from corporations, schools and other organizations. Volunteers work alongside the Trust's horticultural staff doing weeding, planting, and other improvements, and the Park has come to rely more and more on their contributions. Friends has also increasingly supported the Park through community advocacy efforts.