CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF HRPK

2018 Annual Report
Dear Friends,

2018 was an exciting year for Hudson River Park: it was the 20th anniversary of the Hudson River Park Act, signed into law in September of 1998 by Governor George Pataki, and authored by Assembly Member Richard Gottfried and then-Senator Franz Leichter. The Act is the framework upon which the entire Park was, and is, designed, built, operated and maintained. It created the ability for the State and City of New York to join their waterfront properties together to form one Park – Hudson River Park – that stretches from Battery Park City to W 59th Street. It delineates which piers are public park piers and which piers are commercial piers. It designates the Park’s 400 acres of Hudson River water as a NY State Estuarine Sanctuary: the only one in the state located in an urban area. It creates a unique 50/50, State/City agreement for capital funding to design and build the Park. And, it authorizes the Park to receive the revenue generated within its boundaries and to spend it on park operations and maintenance.

Twenty years ago this was a novel concept. Today it is being replicated all over the city. Hudson River Park Friends has been here from the beginning as well: advocating for public funds to complete the Park, raising awareness through memberships, events, public programs and community engagement. And now raising much needed funds from private individuals, corporations, foundations and grants to enable the Park to provide free public culture and education; exciting sustainability initiatives like community composting and oyster restoration; volunteer gardeners to supplement the Park’s small staff and keep it looking green and beautiful; and family-friendly programs and events throughout the year.

It’s so rewarding to have been a part of this amazing waterfront renewal for the past 20 years. We look forward to the next 20!

Kind regards,

Connie Fishman
Executive Director, Hudson River Park Friends
FOCUS ON
Environmental Sustainability

HRPK Community Composting

In 2018, 69,580 lbs. of organic waste were collected from the Park’s seven community drop-off sites, offices, and boathouses. These were added to the Park’s 350,000 lbs. of horticulture waste, bringing our compost production to a total of 420,000 lbs. in the Park last year. HRPK began composting in 2015 and our program has grown bigger, better and more community-accessible each and every year since then.

Oyster Restoration

Long ago, oysters were abundant in Hudson River Park’s waters, but after centuries of overharvesting and water pollution, wild oysters became a rare sight. Oysters are filter feeders that clean waterways and build habitat. With these environmental benefits in mind, Hudson River Park studies the health and restoration of oysters in Park waters. HRPK’s Community Oyster Project at Pier 32 has installed 12 oyster wraps around old pier pilings. This project is grounded in community stewardship and aims to explore the success and impact of the oyster restoration in the Park. HRPK has 15 Billion Oyster Project research stations that teachers, students and the community help to monitor.
Chelsea Waterside Play Area Opening

In August of 2018, Hudson River Park officially reopened the Chelsea Waterside Park Play Area. Opened in 2000, Chelsea Waterside Park Play Area was Hudson River Park’s first playground, and after more than a decade and a half of enthusiastic use, it needed some TLC. The beautifully redesigned play space is the culmination of Park outreach and consensus-building in the community.

Designed to awaken the imagination of children of all ages and invite exploratory play, the playground takes its inspiration from its location’s ecology and history.

At the heart of the new playground is a yellow and navy pipefish (native to the Hudson River) winding around a giant wooden pile. Kids can climb, swing and slide through this 22-foot structure designed by the visionary Danish firm MONSTRUM. It was recently ranked as the #2 playground to visit in 2019 by Time Out New York.

Thank you to the HRPK Friends Playground Committee and Capital Campaign leaders for making it a reality.
Volunteer Program

This year our volunteer partners supporting Park planting and beautification projects, marine debris clean-ups and oyster monitoring and restoration included our HRPK Green Team, our Neighborhood Gardeners, local schools and nonprofit partners, and these generous Corporate Members: Anheuser Busch, Breather, Brookfield, Citi, Colgate-Palmolive, Gilbane Building Co, Huron, Jamestown, L’Oreal, Liberty Coke, Managed by Q, Moinian Group, NY Circle Line, Oxford Properties, Patagonia, Ralph Lauren, RXR, Sherwood Equities, Slate, TD Bank, Tishman Speyer, Turner Construction, Viacom and Warburg Pincus.
Public Events & Community Engagement

2018’s fun and free community events included our 20th Anniversary Celebration, SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival, Fall Fest and our first ever Pumpkin Smash.

June 2018 marked the 20th anniversary of the Hudson River Park Act at Pier 45 in Greenwich Village.

More than 8,000 community-scientists participated in 2018’s SUBMERGE Marine Science Festival on Pier 84.

Fun for the whole family and good for the planet: smashing your old pumpkins in Chelsea Waterside Park for compost.

Celebrating Halloween in our West Side backyard with kids of all ages at Fall Fest.
20th Anniversary Fundraising

Hudson River Park Friends’ four signature fundraising events generate private support to ensure that Manhattan’s West Side backyard continues to flourish and grow well into the future.

One of HRPK Friends’ newest events, our Backyard BBQ at the Lighthouse in Chelsea Piers is fun for all ages.

Our stylish winter event and second most successful fundraiser, the Playground Committee Luncheon supports HRPK’s playgrounds and children’s programs.

Stiff competition at the annual Games corporate pentathlon highlighting the wide range of sports and athletic activities available in the Park.

Friends’ most successful, star-studded fundraiser, the Gala at Pier Sixty in Chelsea Piers honored Claire Danes, Alicia Glen and Scott Rechler and raised more than $3 million and captured over 200 million media impressions.

Celebrating 20 Years of HRPK, 2018 Annual Report
### Financial Statements

#### EXPENSES FY 2018

**Unrestricted Funds** | **Temporarily Restricted** | **Year Ending March 31, 2018** | **Year Ending March 31, 2017**
---|---|---|---
**REVENUE**
Contributions | $1,452,624 | $69,297 | $1,521,921 | $1,018,027
Grants | $341,999 | - | $341,999 | $3,742,677
Events | $2,755,590 | - | $2,755,590 | $2,288,064
Membership | $195,000 | - | $195,000 | $97,625
In-kind | $110,877 | - | $110,877 | $260,083
Investment income | $582 | - | $582 | $289
Net Assets Released from Restrictions | $44,300 | ($44,300) | - | -
**TOTAL REVENUES** | **$4,812,363** | **$113,606** | **$4,925,969** | **$7,406,045**

**EXPENSES**
Program Services | $3,023,759 | - | $3,023,759 | $6,411,682
General and Administrative | $279,816 | - | $279,816 | $275,623
Fundraising | $640,098 | - | $640,098 | $701,740
**TOTAL EXPENSES** | **$3,943,673** | - | **$3,943,673** | **$7,389,045**

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** | $868,690 | $113,606 | $982,296 | $17,720
**NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR** | $414,808 | $47,087 | $461,895 | $444,175
**NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR** | **$1,283,498** | **$160,703** | **$1,444,191** | **$461,895**

Full audited financial statements available at [hudsonriverpark.org/friends-financials](http://hudsonriverpark.org/friends-financials)
The 20th anniversary of the Hudson River Park Act was a major milestone for Friends in 2018. Friends celebrated 20 years with record support for the Park’s many public programs, the completion of our first major capital campaign, new sustainability and environmental initiatives, and the mobilization of thousands of volunteers, community advocates and Park neighbors.

I can no longer imagine my own community without Hudson River Park. It has added immeasurably to the quality of life for my family and me in a city as intense as New York.

That is why I, as Friends’ Board Chair, encourage all of you to join me and our many committed volunteers and donors in supporting this green and blue oasis in our shared backyard. Thank you for being part of the Hudson River Park family.

Michael E. Novogratz, Board Chair
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The Pier 26 Science Play Area is a specialized science play themed playground of over 4000 square feet that will serve as an outdoor extension of the environmental programming planned at the Pier 26 Estuarium. The play area includes two accessible play structures in the shape of the Atlantic sturgeon, the Hudson River’s largest fish, and the shortnose sturgeon. The play structures will permit children to walk inside to learn about this fish species and the overall Hudson River Estuary. The play area will also include an extensive seat wall, safety surfacing, climbing nets and ground play elements.

LOOKING AHEAD

Pier 26 Playground
Capital Campaign

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Hudson River Park, the longest riverfront park in the nation, has transformed four miles of decaying industrial waterfront along Manhattan’s west side into a beloved, urban recreational paradise. Running from Chambers Street to W 59th Street, the Park attracts millions of visitors to its myriad recreational facilities, educational and cultural programs, imaginative playgrounds, lively dog parks and lush gardens, and plays a critical role in protecting the Hudson River environment itself.

Hudson River Park Friends is an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the completion, care, enhancement and ongoing sustainability of Hudson River Park. As this nearly 550-acre Park and estuarine sanctuary relies on private operating funds, Friends creates opportunities for contributions to and participation in the Park’s operations and growth to help guarantee and strengthen its future.