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Contact

Russell Murphy (Hudson River Park Trust)
russell@risaheller.com
917-584-9574

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(Credit: OLIN)

Hudson River Park Trust Breaks Ground on Pier 26 in Tribeca

The Park's first eco-themed pier will include an ecological "get down" and education area, ballfields, passive open space and a wildlife-themed playground

\$31 million project was planned and designed with community input

New York, NY (October 9, 2018) – Hudson River Park Trust Chair Diana Taylor, Citi CEO Mike Corbat, New York City Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner Rose Harvey and Lower Manhattan Development Corporation Chair Holly Leicht broke ground today on Pier 26 in Tribeca with a ceremonial pile drive at the pier's western edge. The \$31 million project was funded by Citi, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and the City of New York, with each contributing \$10 million. The pier is across the street from Citi's global headquarters on Greenwich Street.

The pier, designed by landscape architecture firm OLIN and expected to be completed in 2020, will feature an ecological "get-down" to be used for the Hudson River Park Estuary Lab's citywide education programming, along with indigenous plants, lawns, ballfields and a sturgeon-themed playground designed to heighten awareness of the iconic fish living in the waters of Hudson River Park. Trust President & CEO Madelyn Wils, New York State Assemblymember Deborah Glick, New York State Senator Brian Kavanagh and community leaders were also on hand to mark the occasion.

"Today marks a significant milestone not simply for Hudson River Park, but for Lower Manhattan's ongoing resurgence," said **Hudson River Park Trust Chair Diana Taylor**. "Pier 26 perfectly illustrates what can happen when government and the private sector work hand in hand with the community on a visionary park project. That same coordinated approach is guiding our ongoing work on several of our signature projects as we zero in on finishing Hudson River Park over the next several years."

"Over the past two decades, the change Hudson River Park has spurred on the West Side has offered a model for how a great public space can revitalize an urban area," said **New York City Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen**. "Thanks to the City's partnership with Citi, Hudson River Park Trust and LMDC, a redesigned Pier 26 will write a new chapter in the transformation of the Manhattan post-industrial waterfront as a place for recreation and play."

"Citi's global headquarters in Tribeca overlooks the Hudson River and we feel a deep sense of connection to the Hudson River Park," said **Citi CEO Mike Corbat**. "Citi has had a longstanding commitment to the Hudson River Park Trust, including through the efforts of thousands of Citi volunteers who have helped to maintain and beautify sections of the Park since 2012. The renovated Pier 26 will be an environmentally-friendly, educationally-stimulating, active recreational space, and we're proud to play a role in this public-private partnership that will benefit the city and the Lower Manhattan community for many years to come."

"The groundbreaking of Pier 26 marks a major milestone in the revitalization of Lower Manhattan," said **Lower Manhattan Development Corporation Chair Holly Leicht**. "LMDC has provided significant funding to Pier 26, as well as Pier 25, in recognition of how critical these public spaces are to the residents of Tribeca, who were among those most affected by September 11th. Citi's commitment to staying in this neighborhood is evidence of how far we've come since those dark days, and Hudson River Park is one of the most important contributors in making this a place people want to live, work and play."

"Congratulations on this latest milestone for Hudson River Park," said **New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner Rose Harvey**. "Pier 26 will be an exciting addition for Manhattan's young families, connecting them to the natural environment of the Hudson River right in their own backyards."

"Pier 26 will not only be a great addition to one of New York City's great parks but will also serve as a much needed classroom for learning about the ecology of the river and the impact of climate change on our city," said **City Council Speaker Corey Johnson**. "I want to thank Citi and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation for their financial support and Madelyn Wils for her tireless efforts as leader of the Hudson River Park Trust."

"We're proud of the public-private partnership we brought together to deliver what will undoubtedly be one of the most popular sections of Hudson River Park," said **Hudson River Park Trust President & CEO Madelyn Wils**. "Pier 26 will be our first pier dedicated to Hudson River ecology and we look forward to expanding the mission of our Estuary Lab to engage even more children from across the five boroughs through the pier's ecological education area – the first of its kind in the city. Thanks to our partners in government, to Citi, and also to the community, which provided valuable programming and design feedback as we planned Pier 26."

"In a city with a lack of open space, I am delighted to participate in the ground breaking of Pier 26 which will provide access to our water front in new and exciting ways through ecological and educational opportunities as well as active and passive recreation spaces for residents and visitors along the Hudson River," said **Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick**. "I look forward to seeing the park space continue to expand throughout the west side. I congratulate Madelyn Wils and all those who are working on this project in order to fulfill the vision of the park at Pier 26."

"Today's groundbreaking on Pier 26 is great news for people who live and work in the area, and the millions of visitors who enjoy Hudson River Park," said **State Senator Brian Kavanagh**. "Hudson River Park is a forerunner in our commitment to reversing the decisions of an earlier era that cut off communities in New York from access to our waterfronts and waterways. I'm particularly pleased that this project will expand upon that commitment by including opportunities for recreation and ecological education that connect people with the Hudson River. I thank the Hudson River Park Trust, Friends of Hudson River Park, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, the State Parks Department, my colleagues Congressman Jerry Nadler, Assemblymember Deborah Glick, Citigroup, and everyone who had a hand in conceptualizing this project, ensuring that it addresses our communities' needs, and moving it forward."

"Not only will this beautiful new public space activate even more of Manhattan's waterfront, but it will also reflect the area's rich ecology and serve as a learning lab for children and adults of all ages," said **Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**. "Thank you to the Hudson River Park Trust and its partners for embarking on such an ambitious project—I look forward to seeing the community enjoy Pier 26's free amenities, from its expansive wooden deck, to its forest canopy, playing fields, wetland tidal pool, and more."

"I am very excited that work has begun to transform an essential part of Hudson River Park for residents and visitors of all ages to enjoy," said **Council Member Margaret Chin**. "This project will continue the park's mission to reconnect our city with its waterfront through recreation, education and quiet enjoyment of nature. And for the growing neighborhood of Tribeca, I expect that the new Pier 26 will quickly become a favorite destination for families. I thank the Hudson River Park Trust for driving the effort to make this important project a reality."

"Hudson River Park is a valued gem to CB1 and all lower Manhattan," said **Manhattan Community Board 1 Chair Anthony Notaro**. "With the new design of Pier 26, residents and visitors of all ages will relish the open space. We have reviewed the plans and can't wait to enjoy it."

"I can't possibly overstate how much this project will mean for families along the west side and in Lower Manhattan, where green space is so scarce," said **Hudson River Park Friends Chair Mike Novogratz**. "Pier 26 will offer a sports field, world-class playground, science education and, of course, plenty of places to sit,

relax and enjoy amazing views of the downtown skyline and the Hudson River. While we keep pushing for the park's overall completion, we can be proud of the work put in by the Trust, Citi and our partners in government to get Pier 26 built."

One of Pier 26's defining features will be the tiered ecological "get down," which will allow visitors to get closer to the water and feature tidal pools and Hudson River wildlife. The space will offer Hudson River Park's Estuary Lab an ideal location to bring school groups from across the city closer to the water through educational programming focused on community engagement and stewardship of the Hudson River ecosystem. This will supplement the Lab's education programming for more than 30,000 kids and adults annually.

Pier 26's design will intricately weave active and passive recreation space throughout. At its upland base will be a sturgeon-themed playground designed by Monstrum, a Danish playground design firm. Monstrum also recently designed the newly-completed Chelsea Waterside Park Play Area in Hudson River Park, which features a pipe fish-themed playground. Pier 26 will also include a forest walk on the park's northeastern side leading to a promenade above the "get down" area with spectacular skyline and Statue of Liberty views at the pier's western edge. Finally, Pier 26 will feature flexible recreational greenspace and two junior soccer fields for the area's growing residential community. Pier 26 is already home to the City Vineyard restaurant and wine bar, the Downtown Boathouse, which has provided free kayaking for half a million people since its inception and will serve as the future home of the Estuarium, a state-of-the-art estuary learning center in collaboration with Clarkson University.

HRPT is governed by the Hudson River Park Act and operates on a premise of financial self-sufficiency. The funding secured for Pier 26 has allowed the Trust and Hudson River Park Friends to focus fundraising efforts on the rest of the park, which attracts more than 17 million visits annually.

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About the Hudson River Park Trust

The Hudson River Park Trust is a partnership between New York State and City charged with the design, construction, and operation of the four-mile Hudson River Park, which currently attracts more than 17 million visits annually. Both the Trust and the park itself are governed by the Hudson River Park Act, a 1998 law that established the park and its requirements. Guided by a vision for a magnificent waterfront park, the Trust continues to advance park construction and ensure the park's future financial self-sufficiency by developing the remaining commercial nodes.