

Report on Operations and Accomplishments in 2015-16

During Fiscal Year 2015-16, the Hudson River Park Trust was able to advance several important initiatives that have been years in the making. Among the most notable of these achievements were Board approval of the Pier 57 lease – a process that began in 2008 with the original Request for Proposals – and securing the financial commitments that will allow us to initiate design and then construction of the balance of Pier 26 in Tribeca. Over the past year, the Trust was also able to complete the vast majority of ongoing recovery projects stemming from Superstorm Sandy – a multi-year effort necessitating more than \$33 million in capital outlays. 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 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, was historically used for the Grace Lines cruises. Between 1967 and 2003, it was used as a bus garage and maintenance facility by the Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transportation Operating Authority, a subsidiary of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The pier has been largely vacant since 2004.

In March 2015, following public review, the Trust's Board of Directors approved a 97-year lease between the Trust and the Pier 57 developer, a partnership between Young Woo & Associates and RXR Realty, to restore the pier and adapt it for mixed use. Pursuant to the lease, the developers will be creating several 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. 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.

Pier 54 Connector

In Fall 2015, construction of the in-water phase of the "Pier 54 Connector" was completed. This project consists of a widened new pedestrian esplanade in the area between the Gansevoort Peninsula and 14th Street that is being funded largely through the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program. The Trust has been working closely with the New York State Department of Transportation to design and implement this important project, which will also improve the adjacent bikeway and create a new bus stop for future public transit service in this area.

Pier 54

During 2015-16, the Trust advanced the design and permitting processes for Pier 54 as an exciting new public park open space and cultural performance venue thanks to a

groundbreaking donation from Barry Diller and Diane Von-Furstenberg and their family foundation. The Trust anticipates construction on the new pier to commence in 2016.

Superstorm Sandy

Superstorm Sandy caused tens of millions of dollars of damage throughout Hudson River Park, and the Trust has been working on a recovery plan that will make the park more resilient while simultaneously completing the needed repairs. Major accomplishments in this regard in 2015-16 include completing the Pier 40 electrical substation replacement, which involved replacing and elevating the pier's transformers, moving and upgrading the Park Enforcement Patrol station at Pier 40, which had been completely wiped out during Sandy, and replacing the wires feeding the light poles in the "Segment 5" (Chelsea) portion of the park.

Pier 26

During the year, the Trust secured funding to complete the balance of Pier 26 including its adjacent upland area. Funding will come through New York City, a private contribution from Citigroup, and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation. Design of Pier 26 has commenced, and in late 2015, the Trust hosted a well-attended public meeting at which people expressed their visions for Pier 26's landscaping and programming. Among the themes expressed were a desire to connect with the Hudson River Sanctuary through park design and programming, a desire for flexible open space, and a desire for active recreation. Resiliency was another focus of discussion.

Meanwhile, the Trust is continuing to work closely with Clarkson University and its non-profit partners the NY Hall of Science and Clearwater to advance planning of the future "estuarium" in this area. In 2015, the Trust was delighted to announce that renowned architect Rafael Vinoly has offered to donate his services to design the long-planned science education and research center, known as an estuarium. The New York Times quoted Mr. Vinoly as noting "The park as a whole has made a transformation of the West Side" and of his involvement, "it's a way of contributing."

Pier 40

One of the most important commercial properties in Hudson River Park, Pier 40 plays an integral role in supporting the Park, currently funding approximately 30% of its annual operating budget. It is the largest commercial pier in the Park and the source of \$6 million in annual operating revenue.

Pier 40 is also in need of critical infrastructure repairs to its roof and supportive piles. When the Trust inherited the pier, it inherited a number of structural issues along with it. While the Trust has spent or contracted for approximately \$34 million in urgent or immediately required repairs to the Pier 40 building since 2012, the Pier has continued to deteriorate over time.

In 2014, the Trust commissioned an underwater inspection of Pier 40's piles. The report confirmed that the pier is in overall "poor" structural condition, with a combined 57% of the piles having either "severe" or "major" damage.

Under the terms of the Hudson River Park Act, the State law that created Hudson River Park, Pier 40 is intended to be one of several sites that generate revenue to help support the overall Park as well as provide essential public open space. In 2015-16, the Trust worked with the with New York City to advance planning for the potential sale of unused air rights from Pier 40 to the neighboring St. John's property. If approved through New York City's land use process and by the Trust's Board, the payments from such sale would be used to repair the pier's deteriorated piles and other emergent infrastructure problems.

Public Recreation and Events

Summer of Fun

In 2015, the Park continued to provide a variety of free recreational programming for New Yorkers, families and visitors as part of the "Summer of Fun" series. The 2015 series hosted more than 200,000 people attending scores of free and low-cost events.

Among the many highlights was the inaugural Hudson River Dance Festival. Paul Taylor Dance Company, Parsons Dance and Ballet Hispanico performed on an open air stage with the setting sun as a backdrop. This free event was presented in conjunction with the SHS Foundation, with support from the Joyce Theater and funding from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation.

Also memorable was the 16th annual Blues BBQ was held at Pier 26 -- the crowd of 12,000 people was the event's largest ever. Clear sunny skies matched the summer soundtrack provided by the Otis Taylor Band, Naomi Shelton & the Gospel Queens, Jarekus Singleton, Vaneese Thomas and the Ed Palermo Big Band. Fantastic food was served by Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, Mighty Quinn's Barbeque, Brother Jimmy's BBQ and Butcher Bar.

Many other free events took place throughout the park's four miles during the summer of 2015: Sunset Salsa, Healthy on the Hudson Fitness classes, Riverflicks, the Hudson RiverKids family entertainment series, and the Riverrocks Concert Series all appealed to different audiences and were all free and programmed directly by the Trust's staff. In addition, the Trust partnered with Live Nation to program the JBL Live series of paid concerts at Pier 97.

Guest Events

Every year, the park is host to many other exciting events programmed by various park partners. Here are just a few examples from 2015:

- Between July 16-19, Pier 25 and Pier 26 hosted the inaugural Association of Volleyball Professionals New York City Open. The competition kicked off with an open qualifying tournament and concluded with the finals, which were televised live on national television. The tournament, which offered free general admission, brought thousands of beach volleyball fans to the park.
- Fashion Week 2015 took center stage at Pier 26 on September 11, 2015 as Givenchy introduced its Spring/Summer 2016 line. Excitement, beauty and spectacular late summer weather made for an unforgettable evening. Along with a "who's who" in designers, industry executives, and celebrities, attendees included the general public and students

from local college fashion programs that received complimentary tickets from Givenchy. They all witnessed a magnificent industrial-themed setting created under the artistic direction of Marina Abramovic and Riccardo Tisci, with the Hudson River and lower Manhattan providing the backdrop.

- Nike and American Express brought the excitement of US Open tennis to Hudson River Park on August 25, 2015. Parkwide partner Nike hosted a tennis inspired workout at Pier 46, featuring tennis star Victoria Azarenka, who gave participants insight into her personal training routine. Nike also brought their Nike NYC+ program to the Canal Street Tennis Courts. Participants were able to try out the latest in Nike Tennis apparel and received instruction from tennis professionals.
- U.S. Open sponsor American Express created the first ever hydro-interactive tennis experience at JBL Live at Pier 97. Guests used interactive rackets that responded in real-time to their swings and translated into projections on a massive wall of water. Maria Sharapova, Monica Puig and John Isner were amongst the tennis legends that participated.

Sports Facilities

Aside from cultural and event programming, our 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, swam or cycled.

Art and Culture

In Fall 2015, the theater company En Garde Arts celebrated 30 years of immersive theater with a new festival called BOSSS ("Big Outdoor Site Specific Stuff"), which came to Hudson River Park during a weekend in October. The festival presented 11 new works by emerging artists, and featured a mixture of music, dance, and technology, all in the Chelsea section of the park. "An Evening With Bina48" centered on Bina48, a socially intelligent robot. The performances took place throughout the park and were all free.

Another cultural highlight included hosting "Everything", a highly acclaimed public sculpture by Hanna Liden in the Greenwich Village, continuing the park's tradition of hosting public art, this time, in partnership with the Art Production Fund.

Environment and Education

Education

Hudson River Park creates and provides free and low cost environmental education programs for school groups, summer camps and the general public, using the Hudson River waterfront as its classroom. In 2015, the Trust hosted over 400 such programs serving 20,000 people.

Over half of the student groups the Trust serves live in the outer boroughs of New York City, with 36 % coming from the Bronx, 14% from Brooklyn, and 10 % coming from Queens. In 2015,

the Trust waived nearly 70% of its program fees upon demonstration of financial need, and 80% of children the Trust served through its environmental education offerings were enrolled in NYC Department of Education free/reduced meal programs.

During the summer of 2015, 10 seasonal educators from the Student Conservation Association joined our education team to deliver 120 summer camp programs to campers from around the city with the majority of our groups visiting us from the outer boroughs.

Staff also planned the second annual Submerge! Marine Science Festival, a free day-long marine science extravaganza aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the Hudson River and surrounding waterways. Unfortunately, heavy rain and windstorms forced cancellation of the 2015 event.

Environmental Monitoring Initiatives

With its lush greenery and estuarine waters, Hudson River Park provides a much needed habitat and travel corridor for numerous fishes, birds, crustaceans and insects. Monitoring how and the frequency at which these animals use the Park's land and waters provide valuable information about the viability and adaptability of these populations. Hudson River Park also facilitates several water quality monitoring projects that inform our assessment and education of Hudson River health.

Information gathered from Hudson River Park's environmental monitoring initiatives helps park managers' to make informed decisions about park management and operations. In addition, these environmental monitoring projects provide an interactive, hands-on way for the Park's Environment & Education Department to engage student groups and the general public. The data from these projects also support larger research initiatives that help protect and restore wildlife and natural resources on local, regional and national levels.

- Oyster Restoration
Historically, oysters have played a major role both ecologically and economically in the Hudson River Estuary. However, oyster populations began to see a significant decline in the mid- 19th century from over exposure to toxic chemicals, over harvesting and habitat loss. The Trust began partnering with the Billion Oyster Project in 2014, and built and monitored eight oyster cages. In 2015, the Trust expanded this effort, building three additional Oyster Restoration Stations. In addition, staff now works with teachers and a variety of non-profits to guide and support their cage deployment and student research projects within the park. Collectively, these initiatives support the environment but also build awareness and stewardship of NYC waterways.
- Marine Debris Monitoring
Hudson River Park participates in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program. Marine debris constitutes one of the most widespread pollution problems in the world's waters today. Marine debris monitoring programs are necessary to compare debris sources, amounts, locations, movement, and impacts across New York, the

US and internationally. Park staff and volunteers collect, categorize and weigh marine debris on Hudson River Park's soft shoreline at Gansevoort Peninsula. This information helps the Park examine the spatial distribution and variability of debris, and investigate temporal trends in debris types and concentration. This Data can be used to evaluate the debris mitigation policies and give insight into priority targets for prevention.

- Composting

In Fall 2015, Hudson River Park officially opened its Composting Center. Funds received by Friends of Hudson River Park paid for most of this project. The composting center is turning the half ton of weeds, branches and other plant waste generated in the park daily into reusable compost to help keep the park's plants, trees and shrubs healthy and vibrant. Additionally, the composter helps save about \$40,000 in waste-removal costs annually while creating compost worth about \$20,000 that no longer needs to be purchased.

- Other Environmental Initiatives

In addition to these projects, Hudson River Park partners with NYC Water Trail, River Project and Village Community Boathouse to get citizens involved in tracking Enterococcus bacteria levels in the river; Hudson River Park staff records information about fish caught (and released back to the river) during our park programs; and is part of a network of partners gathering real-time water quality data about the Hudson River through the Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observation System (HRECOS) network.

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 our partnership with Friends of Hudson River Park. The hugely successful Hudson River Park Gala in October 2015 again brought needed attention to the Park's many accomplishments and needs, and raised significant private money for horticultural programs and operations. In 2015-16, Friends launched the 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.

Last year, Friends launched a capital campaign to raise funds needed to revitalize the heavily used Chelsea Waterside Playground. As part of the campaign, Friends conducted a wide ranging community survey to ensure the views of many park users would be considered as part of the redesign process.

Friends is also assisting the park by recruiting and managing dozens of corporate, school, and other organizations and individuals as donate their time to tackle weeding, bulb planting and

other park improvements identified by the Park's horticulture and operations staff. These volunteers make a visible impact on the quality of the Park environment, and also increase Hudson River Park's profile and name recognition among members of the general public.

Aside from approving the lease for Pier 57, the Trust was also able to attract other new private partners to operate concessions and other businesses under the parameters of the Hudson River Park Act. For example, following a Request for Proposals and then formal public review, the Trust approved a new lease for a restaurant concession on Pier 26. The new restaurant concession, City Vineyard, is expected to open in 2016.

In addition, in 2015-16, following the relocation of the NYPD Mounted Unit, the Trust took possession of the southern portion of the NYPD building on Pier 76. A Request for Proposals was released, and after soliciting community feedback, Classic Car Club was chosen to be the concessionaire. The up-to -9-years concession agreement permits Classic Car Club to house their unique collection of exotic and classic cars, while also offering amenities to the public like free entrance to view the cars and public outdoor space serviced by a café. The Trust will earn an annual concession fee from this use.

As always, the Trust will continue to focus on creative sponsorships that can increase revenue for park operations while still prioritizing the needs of public park users.

Finally, in 2015, the Trust was proud to receive the first ever "WBE Champion Award" from the New York State Chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors. The award is "in honor of the Trust's years of service empowering women and promoting diversity within the construction industry, and for paving the way for the next generation of minority woman business owners".