

Mission Statement and Performance Measurement Report for FY 2015-16

MISSION STATEMENT

As set forth in the Hudson River Park Trust's enabling legislation, the Hudson River Park Act, Chapter 592 of the 1998 Laws of New York, the mission of the Hudson River Park Trust is to encourage, promote and expand public access to the Hudson River, to promote water-based recreation, and enhance the natural, cultural, and historic aspects of the river from Battery Park City to West 59th Street in New York City for residents and visitors to the area. The Trust has authority over the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of Hudson River Park.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

While residents and workers in and around the West side of lower Manhattan may be the primary benefactors, the benefits of Hudson River Park (the "Park") extend to all stakeholders including the people of the City of New York, the State of New York, local employees and tourists visitors from across the region, the country and the world.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT REPORT

1. Plan and Design the Park

Hudson River Park Trust staff, architects, engineers and landscape architects have worked together with local community members to identify specific programs and elements for the piers and upland areas in each community. The Park was designed to provide active and passive recreation including children's playgrounds, recreational fields, comfort stations, small food concessions, boathouses, classrooms, opportunities for boating and cultural event spaces, among other uses. As development continues, areas to be designed will undergo similar planning and collaboration with local groups.

Presently, Pier 26 is a focus of our efforts, and in 2015-16, the Trust secured funding to complete the balance of Pier 26 including the adjacent upland area 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. Also, the Trust is continuing to work closely with Clarkson University and its partners to advance planning of the future "estuarium" in this area.

2. Construct the Park

As of 2015, approximately 76% of the park is built or undergoing construction. In 2016, the Trust secured all regulatory permits to allow Pier 54 to be reconstructed as a public park pier with cultural performance spaces with construction slated to commence in 2016. Nearby, the Trust is completing a new over-water pedestrian platform between the Gansevoort Peninsula and 14th Street as part of a federally funded transportation grant that will also improve the bikeway. In addition, the selected Pier 26 restaurant operator is building out the interior of the new building to enable the restaurant to open in 2016.

Thanks to a partnership with Friends of Hudson River Park, plans are under way to redesign and then rebuild the popular Chelsea Waterside Park playground. Friends of Hudson River Park has taken the lead in fundraising for this popular amenity, with support and financial assistance from NYC Council Member Corey Johnson.

3. Operate and Maintain the Park

The Trust continues to operate and maintain the Park at a high level so that it remains a community asset and economic generator while simultaneously serving the millions of New Yorkers and tourists who use it annually. The Trust routinely reviews the maintenance needs of the Park and updates its security and maintenance plans accordingly based on available budgets.

4. Provide Free and/or Low Cost Public Recreational, Educational and Cultural Opportunities

The park's athletic facilities are a heavily used resource for residents and visitors. The ballfields at Pier 40 alone experienced more than 200,000 uses in 2015, while the tennis and basketball courts, skate parks, four non-motorized boathouses, and playgrounds throughout the park drew tens of thousands more.

Hudson River Park hosts 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 our student groups live in the outer boroughs with 36 % coming from the Bronx, 14% coming 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 the New York City Department of Education's free/reduced meal program.

The 2015 Summer of Fun saw more than 200,000 people attend scores of free and low-cost events. Hudson River Dance Festival, Sunset Salsa, Healthy on the Hudson Fitness classes, Riverflicks, the Hudson RiverKids family entertainment series, Riverrocks Concert Series and the annual Blues BBQ event were all among the free events the Trust directly programmed. In addition, the Trust partnered with Live Nation to program the JBL Live series of paid concerts at Pier 97.

Cultural highlights also 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. Hudson River Park also partnered with En Garde Arts on a free outdoor immersive theater festival called BOSSS ("Big Outdoor Site Specific Stuff.")

5. Promote Environmental Stewardship and Enhance the Estuarine Sanctuary

The Trust continues to take its mandate to protect and enhance existing marine habitat the 400 acres of estuarine sanctuary seriously, through multiple partnerships and approaches. Chief among these are the full roster of environmental enrichment programs for school groups, summer camps and the general public. These programs include Big City Fishing & River Science workshops, Hudson River Nature Walks, and teacher trainings. In 2015, the Trust again planned the Submerge! NYC Marine Science Festival in partnership with the New York Hall of Science and dozens of science, research and policy groups to educate the public about the Hudson River and surrounding water system.

The Trust also continued to partner with numerous scientific organizations on environmental monitoring and restoration initiatives on oyster restoration, water quality monitoring and other research initiatives. For example, the Trust is an active partner in a scientific consortium called the Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observation Network, maintaining a monitoring station in the park that transmits real-time data about river conditions necessary to a diverse audience including scientists, boaters, and educators.

6. Establish an Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan

The Hudson River Park Act required the Trust to prepare an Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan (ESMP) which has provided guidance on balancing the needs of various park purposes while monitoring and enforcing park policies, laws and regulations to manage and protect the sanctuary. The ESMP is composed of goals and objectives in four key areas: resource protection, public access and recreation, education and environmental research. The Trust continues to work vigorously in each of those areas while also looking to update and revise the ESMP.

7. Promote economic development and tourism in the state of New York

Annually the Park is visited by millions – both New Yorkers and visitors to the City. As the number of Park amenities increases and as the types of tenants and permittees grow more diverse, the number of visitors and opportunities for economic growth will continue to emerge. A major technology company has decided to locate at Pier 57 within the Park with upwards of 2,000 jobs expected.

8. Operate on a model of economic self-sufficiency

The Trust seeks to ensure the Park's future financial self-sufficiency by developing the Park's remaining major commercial nodes and growing its annual revenue. The Trust continues to work closely with Friends of Hudson River Park, a non-profit dedicated to raising money for the Park, including a current initiative to raise funds to complete a major playground reconstruction in the Chelsea Waterside section of the park.

In 2015-16, the Trust was able to complete the public review process and approve a lease for Pier 57, a historic pier that will be rehabilitated and adapted for mixed use by a private developer. The rent from Pier 57 will significantly enhance the Trust's annual operating

revenue, and the pier itself will provide several acres of additional public open space along the perimeter and on the rooftop. Google is the expected office tenant once the pier is rehabilitated. A lease was also approved for a restaurant concession at Pier 26 that will enhance the park experience for visitors as well as generate income for Hudson River Park's care, operations and maintenance.