

THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

OpenHouseGI Permits Now Available for Governors Island's 2017 Season

Indoor spaces in over two dozen historic houses and 40 acres of outdoor space available to organizations proposing programming that is free and open to the public

Permit process online at GovIsland.com

December 6, 2016. The Trust for Governors Island today opened its permit program for the 2017 season. OpenHouseGI offers 150,000 square feet of indoor space in the Island's many historic former officer's homes and 40 acres of outdoor space free of charge to organizations or individuals that create programming that is free and open to the public during the Island's public season.

"Arts, culture and recreation are the heart and soul of Governors Island," said Michael Samuelian, President of The Trust for Governors Island. "OpenHouseGI gives organizations the opportunity reach new audiences and activates the Island with a wide range of programming, reflecting the diverse fabric of New York City. We are pleased to offer this opportunity and look forward to seeing great new and exciting proposals that will enhance the Island's reputation as a destination for all New Yorkers".

OpenHouseGI offers more than two dozen former officers' homes in Nolan Park and Colonels Row for groups to use, totaling 150,000 square feet of space. OpenHouseGI also offers 40 acres of outdoor space for public programs. Some of the green spaces in the Island's Historic District include the Colonels Row Festival Grounds, the 10 acre Parade Ground, Nolan Park and the South Battery. The Play Lawn and other areas in the Island's new park are also available for programming.

When applying to OpenHouseGI, organizations can propose programming for a day, multiple days, a week or multiple weeks. Organizations can also propose season long installations and programs. The Island typically welcomes 10,000 visitors each weekend day and last year welcomed nearly 600,000 visitors over the course of the season. More than 75% of visitors to the Island are from New York City and over 90% are from the Tri-State area.

The permit application, as well as information to apply for the 2017 season, is available at govisland.com. As noted on the website, for programs that are free and open to the public, no site fees are required.

Organizations are responsible for their own budgets, staffing and other program-specific responsibilities and expenses. Permits are issued for a single season and all organizations, including those that have participated previously in OpenHouseGI, must complete a permit

application for 2017. Once groups submit their permit application, Trust for Governors Island staff will contact applicants within two weeks.

All permit applications received between today and February 1 will be assigned dates and locations by mid-February. After February 1, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through the end of the season. The Trust will accommodate groups throughout the season as long as space is available. All information needed about OpenHouseGI, including the permit application, site maps and frequently asked questions, is available on govisland.com.

In 2016, more than 80 organizations produced art exhibits, festivals, workshops, theatre and dance performances and recreational and sports programs which were enjoyed by nearly 600,000 visitors.

All information about outdoor and indoor spaces managed by the Trust for Governors Island is available online at govisland.com. Organizations interested in the Governors Island National Monument sites can visit nps.gov/gois for more information.

In 2017, Governors Island will be open every day from May 27 through October 1. The Island is open from 10 AM to 6 PM on weekdays and from 10 AM to 7 PM on weekends, Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day.

Organizations who wish to plan a private or ticketed event on Governors Island are required to submit a permit as well. A range of indoor and outdoor spaces are available for special events of all sizes, including festivals, concerts, corporate outings, meetings, and more. Site fees apply based on the space selected. The permit process for private and ticketed events is available on govisland.com.

The Trust will open additional permit processes for Governors Island on January 9, 2017. On this date, the process for food vendors will open, as well as the permit process for the Island's two natural turf ball fields. As with other public ball fields in New York City parks, preference will be given to youth groups, schools and leagues from across the City. The fields will be open for use during daylight hours during the Island's public season from 10 AM to 6 PM.

About The Trust for Governors Island

The Trust for Governors Island is the not-for-profit corporation created by the City of New York that is responsible for the redevelopment and operation of 150 acres of Governors Island. The Trust's mission is to transform Governors Island into a vibrant resource for New York City, making this island at the center of New York Harbor a destination with extraordinary public open space, as well as educational, not-for-profit and commercial facilities. For more information, visit www.govisland.com.

Contact: Sarah Krautheim/646.413.1547/skrautheim@govisland.nyc.gov