

THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

Trust for Governors Island to Host Special Evening Hours on May 5 in Celebration of Opening Week

Island to remain open to the public until 9PM for one night only on May 5 with food, drinks, live music and sunset viewing from the Hills

Island to open for the season on Monday, May 1 with free public programming kicking off on Saturday, May 6

April 24, 2017. New York, NY. The Trust for Governors Island (The Trust) today announced programming highlights for opening week of the 2017 season, including special late hours on Friday, May 5 to celebrate the Island's early spring opening. For one night on May 5, visitors will have the rare opportunity to wander the Island's park spaces outside of typical hours of operation to experience the New York City sunset from the stunning vantage point of the Hills, a 10-acre park in the center of the Harbor that opened in July, 2016. Governors Island opens to the public on Monday, May 1 and will be open every day in 2017 through October 1.

"Spring is in full bloom on Governors Island and we couldn't be more excited to open early and build towards year-round access to this one of a kind public space," said Michael Samuelian, president of The Trust for Governors Island. "New Yorkers are invited to stay late with us on May 5 to toast the season by savoring the views from the Hills in the glow of the sunset."

In celebration of an early start to the public access season, Governors Island will stay open for an extra three hours on Friday, May 5 with the last ferry leaving the Island at 9 PM. Visitors will have the unique chance to wander the entirety of the Island's outdoor spaces in the evening hours and take in 360 degree panoramic views of New York Harbor just prior to dusk from the Hills. In addition to expanded access to the park on May 5, Jazz Age Lawn Party founder and maestro Michael Arenella will bring his Dreamland Orchestra for free live music at Liggett Terrace from 6 PM to 8 PM. Food and beverages at Little Eva's Beer Garden in Liggett Terrace will be available for purchase during the festivities. Ferries will run hourly from the Battery Maritime Building at 10 South Street in Lower Manhattan with the last ferry leaving for Governors Island at 7:30 PM.

Prior to the special late night celebration, Governors Island will open to the public at 10 AM on Monday, May 1. During the week, the Island's public spaces and play areas will be open for visitors to wander, play and discover. Cyclists will enjoy nearly 7 miles of car-free bike paths, including the Island's 2.5 mile perimeter. Bicycle rentals from Blazing Saddles will be available near Liggett Terrace and visitors will be able to rent a bicycle for free on weekdays beginning May 1 from the hours of 10 AM to 12 PM as part of Free Bike Mornings. CitiBike stations will

return to Soissons Landing and Yankee Pier, and a new station at Picnic Point will be available for the first time beginning May 1.

“Governors Island provides an accessible and much-needed outdoor escape for residents of every borough,” said Merritt Birnbaum, Executive Director of the Friends of Governors Island. “Our Visitor Services team, supported by a new class of high school interns, looks forward to welcoming thousands of New Yorkers to this remarkable oasis in May for the first time ever.”

During opening week, the National Parks Service will offer the chance to explore the Island’s rich military history with daily tours of Castle Williams, one of the country’s oldest defense structures. Park rangers will host weekend tours with a big walk around the Island for New York City history buffs. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/gois.

A full season of free arts and cultural programming will kick off during opening weekend on Governors Island. On, Saturday May 6, the Island’s first ever Holi Hai Spring Color Festival will transform the Ball Fields into a colorful celebration of diversity with live music, dance performances, food and the opportunity to play with color pigment. The festival is free and open to all ages.

Art exhibitions opening on Saturday, May 6 include the Sculptor’s Guild’s 80th Anniversary Exhibition curated by John Yau, featuring work by 50 of its’ present members in wood, clay, steel, stone, bronze, fabric, neon, paper, installations, and digital multi-media. An opening reception for the Sculptor’s Guild’s exhibit, *Currently 80* will take place on Sunday, May 7 from 2 PM to 5 PM. The HoloCenter returns to Colonels Row with light based installations, with a preview of the first group show ' of the season ‘Ripple Effect’ on May 1 from 2 PM to 4 PM, exploring resonance and the prorogation of ideas. On opening weekend, A.I.R. Gallery, a DUMBO based women’s arts cooperative will feature the remnants of a performative installation titled: "Women at Work." The opening weekend exhibit will outline the season-long theme of “Process”, where artwork will be planned, created and exhibited in A.I.R.’s summer home.

Activities for children and families during opening week will offer fun for all ages. The Empire State Center for the Book will host Children’s Book Weekend during opening weekend from 11 AM to 4 PM in Nolan Park, featuring porch side readings from fourteen award-winning authors including Jeff Baron, Melanie Hope Greenberg and Robin Newman. For the adventurous at heart, play:groundNYC returns on Saturday, May 6 with their 50,000 square foot adventure playground, giving children the chance to build, take risks and explore self-directed play.

A new special membership program for Governors Island lovers will be available for the first time in 2017. Benefits of membership, starting at \$50 annually, include season-long free ferry rides, special insider access and free member events including a Member Preview Day on April 30, a free bike rental, discounts at select Island vendors and more. Member support will go towards caring for Governors Island’s lush landscapes, creating more free public programming and ensuring the Island remains a vibrant shared space for all. Memberships are on sale now at www.govisland.com/membership.

Below is the current calendar of events for opening week as well as general information about the Island's public access season. Events will be updated throughout the next several months. The calendar will be updated on www.govisland.com. All events are free unless otherwise noted.

OPENING WEEK ON GOVERNORS ISLAND

SPECIAL EVENTS

Celebrate Spring on Governors Island – Special Evening Hours, Friday, May 5, 6 PM-9 PM, Liggett Terrace and The Hills

Stay late with the Trust for Governors Island on Friday, May 5 for a feast for the senses and a celebration of the season. The Island will remain open until 9 PM for free live music from Michael Arenella and his Dreamland Orchestra and the chance to savor the sunset and colors of the season from the Hills, the Island's spectacular new park in the Harbor. Food and drinks will be available for purchase from Little Eva's Beer Garden Grill at Liggett Terrace. Ferries will run to Governors Island from Lower Manhattan all day, and will depart from the Battery Maritime Building for the special expanded hours at 5:30 PM, 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM. Ferries will depart Governors Island for Lower Manhattan at 7 PM and 8 PM with the last ferry departing at 9 PM. For more information, visit www.govisland.com

About Michael Arenella & His Dreamland Orchestra & Jazz Age Lawn Party

Michael Arenella is a musician, crooner, bandleader and impresario best known for leading his Dreamland Orchestra at his Jazz Age Lawn Party on New York's Governors Island. Michael's love of Jazz Age culture inspired him to throw the first Jazz Age Lawn Party in 2005 for an intimate group of friends and fellow torch carriers of a bygone era. While first timers might have thought it a historical reenactment, to Michael, his orchestra and his admirers it was all genuine. For Michael, the Jazz Age never really ended, it just fell asleep. Today, he reawakens it wherever he plays. Now, whether on Governors Island or South Beach, this living legacy is again vital within the zeitgeist of the present.

NYC Holi Hai – Spring Color Festival, Saturday, May 6, 10 AM – 5 PM Ball Fields

NYC Holi Hai is a celebration of the coming of spring, fruitful harvests and renewal of life. Attendees enjoy a multi-cultural program on stage with live bands and dance performances, while covering each other in colored powder. Food vendors carrying a variety of delicacies are featured and there is a kids area for children to engage and play in a festive environment. The festival is open admission and celebrates diversity by welcoming people of all backgrounds and all ages to come together in a unique celebration of love and togetherness. Visit <https://www.nycholi.com/> for more information.

EXHIBITIONS OPEN DURING OPENING WEEK

VISUAL ARTS

A.I.R. Gallery, Daily May 1-October 1, Nolan Park House 4A

A.I.R. is a cooperative, women's gallery that has operated in NYC since 1974. The exhibition at Governors Island includes work by the New York gallery artists, by national affiliates and by gallery fellow. On opening weekend, A.I.R. will feature the remnants of a performative installation titled: "Women at Work." This will outline the theme of our season at Governors Island, "Process". Throughout the season, artwork will be planned, created and exhibited in

A.I.R.'s summer home where they will host residencies for artists, exhibitions and multiple programs and artists talks. Visit <https://www.airgallery.org/> for more information.

The Sculptors Guild Presents: *Currently 80*, Weekends, May 6-July 16, 12:00 pm-5:00pm, Nolan Park House 7B

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Sculptors Guild as well as the Guild's 10th year on Governor's Island. *Currently 80*, curated by John Yau, was originally installed at the historic Westbeth Gallery, NYC, earlier this year and includes work by 50 of its' present members in wood, clay, steel, stone, bronze, fabric, neon, paper, installations, and digital multi-media. Visit <http://www.sculptorsguild.org/> for more information.

HoloCenter Summer Museum, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, 11 AM-5 PM and Holidays 2 PM-4PM, Colonels Row House 403

The HoloCenter transforms the post commander quarters in Colonels Row with light based installations. This season three major exhibitions of art holograms from around the world will push the visual senses. The first a group show 'Ripple Effect' explores resonance and the proration of ideas from May 5 to July 30, with a preview May 1, 2-4pm. Upstairs, artists create installations with experimental visual technology. Additional workshops and tours during the week. Sign up online to Make your own Hologram or for a Light Play family adventure. www.holocenter.org

THEATER AND PERFORMANCE

The Dysfunctional Collective, Weekends May 7-October 1, 10 AM -5 PM, Nolan Park House 8B

The Dysfunctional Collective turns House 8B on Nolan Park into a grab box of art, theater, music and dance. Stop by any weekend between 12-5 to hear a song, write a poem, see a play, learn to dance, solve a mystery, to make something new or just explore the house with us. For details on specific programming for each week, visit www.dysfunctionaltheatre.org or stop by the house and pick up a program guide for more information.

Sanctuary City, Weekends May 6-September 24, 10 AM-7 PM, Nolan Park House 11

The Public Works Department presents Sanctuary City; a multi-disciplinary offering of theater, music and installation-based performance. Join us for a wide array of immersive programming including: public workshops with street artists, the showing of new work from nine exciting New York City ensemble driven companies, monthly concerts on the grass and innovative site based performance art. Contribute towards our library of empty books, come play in our interactive light installations, or come join us on the grass with a cup of tea. Visit <http://publicworksdepartment.co/> for more information.

EDUCATION

NYC Audubon Summer Residency, Daily May 6-October 1, 10 AM-6PM, Nolan Park House 17

NYC Audubon is excited to be on Governors Island all summer long, not only providing free bird walks but also family friendly nature programming. This will include crafts for kids, a story time nook, and even bird related art! All are welcome to stop by for information about the wildlife around us in NYC and to learn how to create bird friendly space in our city. And don't miss a

celebration of some of Governors Island's most exciting residents during the Tern Festival in July. Visit <http://nycaudubon.org/> for more information.

The Empire State Center for the Book, Weekends May 6-October 1, 10 AM-7 PM, Nolan Park House 4B

The center will host various literary events including more than ten weekends celebrating authors such as Dorothy Parker, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Kurt Vonnegut. In addition there will be activities including a KidLitTV and Children's Book Weekends. An exhibit honoring the members of the NYS Writers Hall of Fame will be on display at the Empire State Center for the Book house on Governors Island. Visit <http://empirestatebook.com/> for a full calendar.

WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES

play:groundNYC , Weekends May 6-October 1, 11 AM-3 PM, South Battery

play:groundNYC operates a 50,000 square foot junkyard playground on Governors Island. The playground is free and open to the public every weekend, 11-3pm. *play:groundNYC* also offer a summer day camp running from June 26 to September 1, school visits during May, June and September and birthday and private parties from May through October. Trained staff provides materials and supervision so that young adventurers may have the chance to work with tools and building materials and explore physical, social and emotional problem-solving. *play:groundNYC* is a non-profit organization advocating for young people's rights by providing physical environments that encourage risk-taking and experimentation through self-directed play. With the provided support, space and materials, young people can take control, construct, create and establish their own agendas. Learn more at <http://play-ground.nyc>

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROGRAMS

Monday - Thursday

Castle Williams Courtyard open 10 AM -4:30 PM

Going Around Castle Williams – A 30-minute roof tour

12:30PM & 2:30 PM

Meet the ranger in the Castle Williams courtyard

Fridays, Saturdays, & Sundays

Castle Williams Courtyard open 10 AM-4 PM

Going Around Castle Williams – A 30-minute roof tour

11:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:30 PM

Meet the ranger in the Castle Williams courtyard

The Big Walk Around the Island – Approximately 90-minute walking tour. See the whole history of the island in one go. This ranger program examines most of the older buildings on the island. We'll tell you the back stories on some of them. No tickets or reservations required.

Visitors should be prepared to stand for a full 90 minutes and walk a distance of about 1.5 miles. No tickets or reservations required.

2:30pm – 4:00pm

Meet the ranger at the top of the hill from Soissons Landing

General Information about Governors Island's 2017 Public Season

Operating Hours

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

Ferries

Ferries will run from Lower Manhattan every day from the Battery Maritime Building at 10 South Street and will also run from Brooklyn Bridge Park on Saturdays, Sundays, Memorial Day and Labor Day. **Due to ongoing construction at Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 6, all Brooklyn ferries will depart from Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 1 for the month of May only.** Brooklyn service from Pier 6 will resume on June 1.

All weekday and weekend afternoon ferries from Brooklyn and Manhattan are \$2 round trip for adults. Children under 12, NYCID holders and Governors Island members ride for free at all times and senior citizens' fares are half price. Morning ferries (10 AM and 11 AM and 11:30 AM from Manhattan and 11 AM and 11:30 AM from Brooklyn) on Saturdays and Sundays are free for all. There is no surcharge for bicycles.

Visitors will be able to purchase ferry tickets at the Battery Maritime Building in Lower Manhattan or at Pier 1 in Brooklyn. Tickets will also be available for purchase online in advance. A season pass will also be available for purchase online through the NY Waterways website later this month. More information about the season pass and the purchase of advanced tickets will be provided in coming weeks.

A full ferry schedule is available at <http://www.govisland.com>.

Service to Governors Island via the new NYC ferry will begin on Saturday, May 6 on weekends only. On the East River Route:

- The first ferry will depart for Governors Island from DUMBO at 9:56 AM, and from Wall Street at 10:15 AM
- The last ferry will depart Governors Island for Wall Street at 6:21 PM, and for DUMBO at 6:39 PM

Service to Governors Island via the South Brooklyn route will launch on Saturday, June 3.

All ferries arriving at and departing from Governors Island will land at Pier 102. Detailed timetables, along with a map of all 2017 routes, can be viewed at www.ferry.nyc

Biking

Every day, visitors can bring their own bikes, or rent one while visiting. Free Bike Mornings allows visitors to borrow a bike from Blazing Saddles for free for up to one hour every weekday between 10 AM and noon.

CitiBike stations are available at Soissons Landing, Yankee Pier and Picnic Point.

Gatherings and Grills

Visitors may reserve picnic tables and grills for gatherings, parties, reunions or any celebration when the Island is open to the public. Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance and are booked on a first come, first served basis. Individuals or groups may reserve up to 5 picnic tables. All applicants will be charged a \$26 non-refundable. For more information and to apply visit <https://govisland.com/permits/gi-gatherings>

Food during Opening Week

Visitors are welcome to bring their own food while visiting and can also purchase food on the Island. Visitors are not permitted to bring alcohol on the Island but alcohol can be purchased and consumed in specific areas. Grilling is permitted in designated areas only. All grills must be reserved two weeks in advance.

Water fountains, including bottle filling stations, are located at Soissons Landing and in the new park.

There is a wide range of food options available seven days a week on the Island. Vendors include:

Little Eva's Beer Garden & Grill (open Monday, May 1 and weekly Tuesday to Friday 10 AM – 5 PM, Weekends and Holidays 10 AM-6 PM)

Little Eva's Beer Garden & Grill is back for their 6th year with frozen drinks, sumptuous grilled plates and fresh grain salads featuring local and Island-grown produce. Popular items include Mahi Taco, Classic Bratwurst, Sesame Noodles, Red Hook Cuban, Kimchi Dumplings and Shrimp Avocado Mango Roll. Stumptown Coffee and house desserts are served daily, with a seasonal Margarita always available. A preferred Governors Island caterer, Little Eva's is hosting parties and planning events both on and offsite all summer long.

<http://www.mooreparties.com>

Pyramid Coffee (open Monday-Friday 10 AM-6 PM, Weekends 10 AM-7 PM)

Pyramid Coffee is proud to serve Starbucks Coffee beverages, an affordable healthy gourmet food and a wide variety of Italian ice cream.

Wafels & Dinges (open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 AM-6 PM, May 2-October 1)

It was the summer of 2007, when the King of Belgians, Albert II, got word of soggy "Belgian waffles" in that far away Land of America. They were found in obscure diners, made of pancake batter. "These so called "Belgian" waffles are a disgrace!" So his majesty commissioned the Special Forces from the Ministry of Culinary Affairs, Department of Wafels. He knighted

Thomas DeGeest to "Special Envoy for Wafels", and later crowned Rossanna Figuera as "Ambassador of Good Things". Wafels & Dinges was born. It all started with a '68 Chevy Truck roaming the streets of NYC. "Wafels & Dinges' mission shall be to give America's "Belgian waffles" a serious upgrade", Albert II declared. And the rest is history... <http://dinges.nyc>

Brooklyn Popcorn (open weekends, May 1-October 1)

Brooklyn Popcorn started out as an idea tossed around by friends who are native New Yorkers. Through a love of popcorn and a yearning for a fast, fresh and delicious health food that had a twist of gourmet flavor added to it, Brooklyn Popcorn became what is the first gourmet popcorn truck in the world. <https://www.brooklynpopcorn.com/>

Birds & Beans Coffee (open weekends May 6-October 1)

Mister Softee (open daily May 1-October 1)

Mister Softee has been bringing the very best ice cream and frozen treats to kids and families since 1956. Mister Softee is the largest franchiser of soft ice cream trucks in the United States. <https://mistersoftee.com/>

Blue Marble Ice Cream (open weekends May 6-October 1)

Blue Marble Ice Cream is Brooklyn born and proudly woman owned. As New York City's only certified organic ice cream, Blue Marble sources super-premium, certified organic dairy and the best ingredients we can find to create the perfect scoop. <http://www.bluemarbleicecream.com/>

Kimchi Taco (open weekend of May 6-7)

Kimchi Taco Truck & Kimchi Grill was born out of founder Phillip Lee's desire to share his love for Korean food with the world. His challenge was to figure out how to make Korean food accessible and memorable in ways that the general public could truly appreciate its unique and bold flavors. The inspiration for the menu also comes from Phillip's love of street food and marrying different flavors to create innovative and contemporary cuisine. The diverse menu includes street classics such as tacos, burritos, as well as culinary first, "Tofu Edamame Falafel Taco" - a vegetarian option made with tofu and edamame. <http://www.kimchigrill.com>

Red Olive Food Truck (open weekends May 6-October 1)

Fusion Greek-American cuisine inspired from classic ancient Greek recipes with combination of American comfort food. Fabulous heroes, hearty sandwiches and burgers, Red Olive is a true favorite truck in the streets of Midtown and Downtown.

The Pocketful (open weekends May 6-October 1)

THE POCKETFUL is a fresh, fast, health smart, mobile restaurant serving falafel sandwiches, hummus bowls and more. <http://thepocketful.com/>

El Carrito Rojo (open weekends May 6-October 1)

Tex-Mex food truck serving tacos and more.

Cheech A Cini's Trattoria (open weekends May 6-October 1)

Cheech A Cini's is home of the Pastacini, a combination of different pastas and cheeses blended together, balled and fried. Different varieties of the Pastacini are offered as well as the option to "Parm It Up". Gourmet Italian sandwiches, salads and pasta dishes are also offered.

Yankee Doodle Dandy's (open weekends May 6-October 1)

Yankee Doodle Dandy's was created by founder Josh Gatewood with money that he won on Who Wants to be a Millionaire after being on food stamps. The embodiment of the American dream, the truck offers American food, with their specialty of hand-breaded chicken tenders paired with our Spirit of '76 sauce. The truck also serves burgers, salads, grilled cheese, and tuna sandwiches, and try their buffalo chicken if you'd like to live on the spicy side!

The Half Shell Fish Fry & Clam Bake (open Friday-Sunday May 1-October 1)

Serving street based, reasonably priced, easy to eat seafood and delicious seafood options including oysters, clams on the half shell, shrimp cocktail, grilled shrimp skewers and fried options. Veteran owned and operated.

Fro-Yo (open Friday-Sunday May 5-October 1)

Fauzia's Heavenly Delights (open weekends May 6- October 1)

Fauzia's Heavenly Delights, a family run food vendor, has served Jamaican fusion food to the New York City community for 26 years. Owner Fauzia prepares every meal fresh daily with flavor, comfort and health in mind.

Meatoss Street Grill (open weekends May 6-October 1)

Meatoss represents a dream coming true of Chef Daniel who was born in Russia, raised in Israel and moved to New York. After 15 years of experience he decided to introduce his true passion and love of serving the best quality meat to customers. He uses a professional Brazilian churrasco grill where hear, smoke and meat come together. <http://www.meatostruck.com/>

About The Trust for Governors Island

The Trust for Governors Island is the nonprofit 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.

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