

# Online - Offshore

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## News and Stories from Governors Island

Regional Plan Association /  
Governors Island Alliance

[www.governorsislandalliance.com](http://www.governorsislandalliance.com)

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## Summer Schedule on Governors Island

Governors Island opens to the public on Saturday, June 2 – with the third annual Family Festival – and will be open through the first weekend in September. This issue lists special events scheduled so far. Of particular note is the May 31 opening of an exhibit of the five competing designs for the Island's park space and an evening forum on June 20 where the public can ask questions and voice opinions about the proposals. We also list things that will be happening all summer, such as tours guided by National Park Service rangers.

Directions to the Island and some useful phone numbers are at the end of this edition, along with GIPEC's appeal for summer volunteers.

### June

#### **Saturday, June 2: Governors Island Family Festival 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.**

Come celebrate the opening day with a Harbor-themed festival featuring children's theater, sea chanteys, making puppets, yo-yo artists, musicians, storytellers, face painting and more! Bring a picnic. There is only limited food available on the Island. The festival is sponsored by the Governors Island Alliance with the support of Councilman Alan Gerson. See [www.governorsislandalliance.org](http://www.governorsislandalliance.org) for the complete lineup.

#### **Thursday, May 31 to Aug. 25: Exhibit: Designs For Park Space 6 to 8 p.m.**

Center for Architecture, 534 LaGuardia Place, two blocks south of Washington Square. *The Park at the Center of the World: Five Visions for Governors Island.* The proposals of the five landscape architecture and architecture teams selected to present their ideas for the future open spaces on the Island will be on display for the first time. On June 11 there will be a panel discussion of the designs at the Center (see below). Expert jurors for the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC) will pick the winner in July. See [aiany.org](http://aiany.org) for more information. Exhibit continues through August 25. An identical exhibit of the five designs will be open on the Island from June 2 through September 2 in Building 110, to the right as you leave the ferry.

#### **Saturday, June 9:**

##### **Jazz Age Music/ Dreamland Orchestra 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.**

"A free Great-Gatsby-inspired afternoon of picnicking, dancing and sizzling hot jazz" by Michael Arenella and one of the East Coast's best 1920s bands. See [www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com) for more information.

#### **Monday, June 11: Panel Discussion On Park Designs 6-8 p.m**

Center for Architecture, 534 LaGuardia Place. Panelists: Susannah Drake, Rogers Marvel Architecture, American Society of Landscape Architects of New York; Suzanne Wertz, Grunig, Wertz Associates and American Institute of Architects – New York Chapter; Robert Pirani, Governors Island Alliance and Robert Hammond, Friends of the High Line, will comment on the five proposals from design teams vying to plan the Island's parkland. Introduction by GIPEC president Leslie Koch. (There will be another panel session after the winner is selected in mid-July.) See [www.aiany.org](http://www.aiany.org).

#### **Saturday, June 16: Prisoners Of 2nd Avenue 1:30 to 3 p.m.**

"In the spirit of the Fillmore East, rock out with NYC's own Jimmy Vivino, Rich Pagano and John Conte." See [www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com).

## Wednesday, June 20:

### GIPEC Public Forum On Park Designs 6-8 p.m.

Fashion Institute of Technology, West 27th St. between 7th and 8th Avenues. Each of the five teams that responded to GIPEC's request for design proposals will present their ideas to the public for the first time. The public is invited – indeed, encouraged – to attend and speak up on the open microphone. The designs are an exciting variety of schematics for the Island's terrain and its waterfront. One team and its ideas – or perhaps a combination of ideas – will be selected by a jury this summer to guide the ultimate development of the Island's park space. See [www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com).

## Thursday, June 21:

### Park Design Tours 5 to 7 p.m.

This special evening tour, repeated on June 27, will focus on the Island's public spaces, present and future. On June 21 the Tour will be led by Tupper Thomas, president of the Prospect Park Alliance, together with staff from the Governors Island Alliance and GIPEC. Open to the public. Pre-registration required: 212-253-2727 x 317. More information found at [www.governorsislandalliance.org](http://www.governorsislandalliance.org).

## Saturday, June 23 & Sunday, June 24:

### Army Heritage Days

Tours highlighting the Island as a key Army base from 1794 to 1966, Revolutionary War re-enactments and special speakers on Island history. (Exactly 90 years ago – May 1917 – General John J. Pershing left his command on the Island to lead the American forces in Europe in the first World War.) **June 23 at 2:30: Sue Glen**, who lived on the Island with her Coast Guard officer husband, will talk about her book *Images of America: Governors Island*. **June 24 at 12:30: Rabbi Joseph Topek**, SUNY Stonybrook, will discuss the Jewish military experience in the first World War. **June 24 at 2:30: Cal Snyder** will talk about his book *Out of Fire and Valor: War Memorials of New York from the Revolution to 9/11*. Both books will be available for sale. See [www.nps.gov/gois](http://www.nps.gov/gois).

## Wednesday, June 27:

### Landscape Architecture Design Walk 5 to 7 p.m.

This tour repeats the June 21 tour (above) but will be led by Peg Breen, president of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. Open to the public. Pre-registration is required: 212-253-2727 x 317. More information can be found at [www.governorsislandalliance.org](http://www.governorsislandalliance.org).

## Saturday, June 30:

### Dance China Ny 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Back-to-back performances by the professional dance company of the Chinese Cultural Center displaying six traditional dances, followed by an interactive workshop where audience members may participate. More information at [www.governorsislandalliance.org](http://www.governorsislandalliance.org)

## July

## Saturdays in July:

### Folks On The Island!

### A Governors Island Folk Festival Every Saturday in July, 1:30 to 3

Enjoy concerts featuring the music of classic American folk artists, co-sponsored by the Governors Island Alliance, Trinity Church and WFUV. See [www.folksontheisland.com](http://www.folksontheisland.com).

**July 7: Odetta July 14: Richie Havens July 21: Harry Chapin, Celebration in Song July 28: Ribbon of Highway, Endless Skyway Music in the spirit of Woody Guthrie**, featuring Jimmy LaFave, Eliza Gilkyson, Tom Russell, Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion, Gretchen Peters, Butch Hancock, Terri Hendrix and Ray Bonneville.

## August

## Saturday, August 11:

### Family Day 9:45-11:30 a.m.

Walking tour of the Island and a Scavenger Hunt, sponsored by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Phone to register: 212-358-6133

## Saturday, August 12 & Sunday, August 13:

### Civil War Living History

Experience a re-creation of a day in the life of a Civil War soldier through special programs and living history demonstrations, sponsored by the National Park Service. More information at [www.nps.gov/gois](http://www.nps.gov/gois).

## Saturdays in August:

### World Of Music Concerts

“World-renowned musicians and younger talents blend the inspiration and musical histories of their homelands in South America, Africa and Asia with the energy of their new home: New York.” Sponsored by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council: [www.lmcc.net](http://www.lmcc.net)

## General

### Saturday Talks: Climate Change, Ecology, Marine Life Every Saturday through Sept 1st

Pershing Hall. Lectures at 12:30, *Stabilizing the Climate in the 21st Century*, by City University of New York (CUNY) faculty on climate change, ecology, weather and marine life in New York Harbor.

### National Park Service Tours

Weekend tours of the National Historic Landmark District are at 25 minutes past the hour: 10:25, 11:25, 12:25, 1:25, 2:25 and 3:25 No tickets required. You can also get information for a self-guided walking tour at the Island bookstore. The Island is open for guided tours on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, June 4 through August 31. Wednesday-Thursday-Friday tours are at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Free tickets distributed at the Battery Maritime Building at 9 for the 10 o'clock tour, and at noon for the 1 o'clock. Information: [www.nps.gov/gois](http://www.nps.gov/gois) or 212-825-3045. No reservations.

### Bicycling

This summer the Island will be open for family-friendly biking.

### Volunteering

### Greeters, Sweepers, and Docents

are all needed. Applicants should be able to work several of the 14 summer weekends. An orientation session will be held on and June 9. Contact [volunteer-gipec@empire.state.ny.us](mailto:volunteer-gipec@empire.state.ny.us) or Judy Rivkin: 212-440-2238

**Getting There:** Free ferry departs on the hour, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., from Slip 7 in the Battery Maritime Building on South Street, adjacent to the Staten Island Ferry terminal. Subway: R line to Whitehall, the 2,3 to Wall Street or the 4, 5 to Bowling Green. Bus: M1, M6 or M15 to South Ferry – or longer walk from M9 to Battery Park City • Return at 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, with a final clearing boat at 5. • Additional ferries from Brooklyn and elsewhere may be added over the course of the summer. Please check [www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com) for the latest ferry schedules.

### Information:

G.I.A. [www.governorsislandalliance.org](http://www.governorsislandalliance.org) or 212-253-2727 x 317 • National Park Service [www.nps.gov/gois](http://www.nps.gov/gois) or 212-825-3045 • GIPEC [www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com) or 212-440-2205