



WATERFRONT MATTERS

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Transformed! Almost Two Acres for Brooklyn Bridge Park

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE
PARK COALITION

SUPPORTING THE CREATION
OF A WORLD-CLASS PARK ON
BROOKLYN'S WATERFRONT



CREDIT: Ebenezer Howard © 2003

Toe In The Water: With the Main Street section of Brooklyn Bridge Park now open, visitors can enjoy some of the greatest views in the world.

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Paradise Found

Beneath the gentle rumble of subway trains running over the Manhattan Bridge, Mayor Bloomberg and Governor Pataki cut the ribbon on Monday, September 22, and officially opened the newest section of Brooklyn Bridge Park. Only 16 months after signing the Brooklyn Bridge Park Memorandum of Understanding and committing the funds to build the Park, they returned together to open the first phase of this magnificent waterfront destination.

Known as the "Main Street lot," the 1.5 acre parcel was most recently a dismal parking lot and informal "dog run." Now, thanks to the City and State, especially the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, this site has been transformed into a gorgeous park of verdant knolls and classic benches, rimmed with native grasses and wildflowers. With a direct connection to adjacent Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, its addition means that nearly the entire

waterfront between the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges is now parkland.

The Mayor and Governor joined Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, City Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Empire State Development Corporation Chairman Charles Gargano, State Senators Martin Connor and Marty Golden, Assemblywoman Joan Millman, Council Member David Yassky, and Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation President Jim Moogan in celebrating the Park's opening.

As children collected shells from a newly created sandy beach nearby, the Mayor and Governor faced news cameras aimed at the spectacular backdrop of the Brooklyn Bridge and Manhattan skyline and spoke about the importance of the park opening.

"This project will provide new recreational opportunities at the water's edge for thousands of New

(continued on page 6)

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Recipe For A Park

Special thanks to Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, Speaker Gifford Miller, Council Members David Yassky and Bill de Blasio, and the entire New York City Council for their recent support of the Coalition (see page 7).

The Coalition also thanks Con Edison, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, J.M. Kaplan Fund, NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program, and New York Community Trust for their recent generous grants.

Riding in Enviro-Friendly Style: Council Member David Yassky, Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation President Jim Moogan, Council Speaker Gifford Miller, and Coalition Executive Director Marianna Koval on a tour of the Park in the Coalition's new GEM electric car. The GEM car was donated by DaimlerChrysler to the Coalition thanks to the hard work of Ken Diamondstone.

After such a wet, but busy spring and summer for Brooklyn Bridge Park, it's hard to believe that we're already well into fall. I sat at a Coalition table recently, chatting with *Atlantic Antic-goers* and was met repeatedly with this question: "I've been hearing talk about this park for years – is this *really* going to happen?" It was a delight to be able to respond finally "It's begun." And indeed it has.

September 22 was a great milestone – the Mayor and the Governor cut the ribbon on the completed first phase of Brooklyn Bridge Park – 1.5 acres of green lawns and paths overlooking the Brooklyn Bridge and the entire harbor. Rather than a parking lot, rather than a multiplex movie theatre or hotel, we have a beautiful new green jewel on our waterfront that is a symbol of all to come.

As the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation has moved steadily forward with the planning and design components of the Park, New Yorkers enjoyed the early phases of the Park this summer. Summer activities were kicked off in June when more than 600 Park supporters joined us to celebrate our annual benefit, this year dubbed *Sunset Shangri-la*, which raised over \$150,000 in contributions. More than seven thousand people attended our annual Summer Film Series despite rain and the black-



out, and hundreds of children enjoyed our DUMBO playground program, made possible by the Coalition's Friends of DUMBO Playground group and the Coalition's summer interns. Children also brought Walt Whitman back to the Brooklyn waterfront as participants in White Bird Productions' Theatrical Puppetry Workshop in Brooklyn Bridge Park, building their own puppets

and creating the script, before performing it in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park. More recently, the Coalition partnered with Bargemusic to host the Park's first free chamber music concert.

Capping off the summer's activities, the Coalition's staff recently attended The Waterfront Center's annual conference – this year in Montreal – and joined architects, urban planners, park officials and enthusiasts from the world over to share and learn from each other. After years of being good students and listening, we were invited to this conference to share our experiences on a panel entitled "How to Market Your Project and Gain Public Support." My simple message was: to create a Park, you need Partners, Passion, Pinciples, Process, Persistence; then sprinkle in some Planning, Pictures, Parties; and finally, most important, PATIENCE.

The process of creating this Park is made up of many small steps that together move the whole project forward. The Park needs everyone's involvement and there are many things you can do to make a difference and be an active part of your community. Stay involved and help us turn all of these small steps into one great park.

– Marianna Koval



THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK COALITION

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition is an independent citizens organization that supports the development of a world-class park along the New York City waterfront through advocacy, fundraising, and innovative programming.

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334 Furman Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
 718.802.0603 (phone)
 718.797.0250 (fax)
 www.bbpc.net
 e-mail: info@bbpc.net

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Inspirational Interns

Not one, but three, outstanding interns joined the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition staff this summer: Michele Antis, Patrick Raymond, and Joanna Perez.

Michele, a Columbia grad who majored in industrial engineering, is now in her second year of law school at NYU. She researched and interviewed organizations and non-profit leaders from around the country to produce an extensive study of public-private park partnerships to help guide the Coalition and Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Patrick is a Brooklyn native studying sociology and politics at Brandeis University, where he's now a junior. His work over the summer ran the gamut, but included an important new role in building a constituency at the Brooklyn Bridge Park playground in DUMBO. "Arts & Crafts Patrick" was in the playground every Tuesday afternoon, keeping parents informed about the Park, helping maintain the space, and of course, providing fun activities for the kids.

Joanna is an architecture student at Carnegie Mellon University who has several summers' experience in fundraising. She contributed her writing and research skills to help the Coalition seek new funding opportunities for programs and operations.

We thank these talented students for all their hard work and wish them the best of luck as they continue their studies. College or graduate students interested in an internship for spring or summer 2004 should contact the Coalition.

EPA Recognizes Coalition

As part of the celebration of Earth Day, the United States Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition a 2003 Environmental Quality Award. The award is the EPA's top recognition for organizations and individuals working to "protect the environment and public health."



In Memoriam

James E. Davis (1962-2003)

The board and staff of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition express our sincere condolences to the family of the late City Council Member James Davis. Representing the 35th Council District, Davis was a strong supporter of the Park and a true champion of community harmony. His leadership and positive spirit will be sorely missed.

And the Award Goes To ... EPA Region 2 Administrator Jane M. Kenny presents Executive Director Marianna Koval with a 2003 Environmental Quality Award.

PARK PEOPLE PROFILES: MARY ELLEN KRIS

Making a Difference for New York's Environment

One of the few existing green spaces within the future Brooklyn Bridge Park is Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, a small but stunning oasis on the waterfront. The person behind the wonderful respite offered by Empire-Fulton Ferry, and all nine New York State parks in New York City, is Mary Ellen Kris.

Mary Ellen brings a wealth of experience to State Parks, which she joined in June 2002 as Assistant Deputy Commissioner for the New York City Region working under the leadership of Commissioner Castro. A graduate of Fordham University and Fordham Law School, she is an accomplished attorney, administrator, and environmental advocate.

Her background includes six years as Regional Director for the New York City Region at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. At DEC, she was involved in a wide range of issues, including open space acquisition and land preservation, the development of Hudson River Park's Sanctuary Plan, permitting and law enforcement, brownfields clean up, and waste management.

Prior to that, Mary Ellen was a partner at Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, where she developed and managed environmental, health, and safety practice in its New York office.

Mary Ellen's public service also includes a decade at the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. She honed her courtroom, investigative and project management skills in both the criminal and civil divisions, and later became Chief of the Environmental Protection Unit.

Mary Ellen first got the "parks bug" at the U.S. Attorney's Office while working with various agencies and seeing their programs up close. Later, at DEC, she found herself drawn to work in open space preservation, intelligent land use planning, and the waterfront.



State Park's
Mary Ellen Kris

Her current tenure at State Parks has brought many challenges – especially with the current budget crunch – but numerous high points as well. During the recent blackout, for example, Mary Ellen and her staff worked all night to ensure that the Olympic-size pool at Riverbank State Park would open the next day, so thousands could escape the heat.

"To see the public face to face, and know they so appreciate and enjoy the park – rewards like that are priceless," she says.

Mary Ellen considers herself fortunate to be working in the New York City region of the state parks system. "Each state park here has its own culture, constituencies and challenges. In one day, I can go from a nature preserve on Staten Island, to a performance of 300 camp kids in our theatre camp at Riverbank, and end up at the Coalition's film series here in Brooklyn. The diversity is astounding."

When asked about how she sees Brooklyn Bridge Park shaping up, Mary Ellen said definitively, "Brooklyn Bridge Park will be, hands down, the most exceptional park in the City of New York," then added with a grin, "and it's one of the most exciting projects in the City to be working on."

Introducing... An Extraordinary Natural Habitat at our Back Door

Did you know that within the boundaries of Brooklyn Bridge Park rests a remarkable natural environment filled with thriving wildlife? Did you know the East River is not a river? Well, to find out what it is exactly, and learn about this secret site, check out the Coalition's new publication, *The Cove between the Bridges: A Field Guide*.

Inspired and written by local expert Cindy Goulder, this colorful 20-page field guide, the publication of which was made possible by a generous grant from Con Ed, provides fascinating information about the Cove between the Brooklyn and Manhattan

Bridges. The guide examines the Cove's context on the East River and in the New York-New Jersey Harbor/Estuary, and its physical character, wildlife, and ecology. In fact, it is the first environmental educational document ever prepared about the future Brooklyn Bridge Park, and possibly the first to bring all this information about the East River and its shoreline together in one place.

Located along the Brooklyn shoreline between the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges, this natural cove of quiet waters is home to many fish, crabs and other marine creatures, as well as more than 25 species of birds. The Cove is a rare patch of nature in the middle of New York City, providing urban dwellers with a unique opportunity to touch a toe to the water and connect intimately with the natural environment of the estuary, all against the backdrop of the lower Manhattan skyline and Upper New York Bay.

In addition to the field guide, the Coalition is sponsoring public education and outreach activities designed to bring people to the cove site and highlight the Harbor Estuary and its role in shaping this shoreline and creating its habitats. Tours, bird watching, fishing and other educational activities took place on Saturday, October 4 – celebrating National Estuaries Day – and more are planned for the months ahead, working together with educational partners.

The field guide is now available; contact the Coalition for a free copy! Special thanks to Con Ed for its generous sponsorship; Cindy Goulder, researcher and writer extraordinaire; Anne Garland, designer; and two talented artists for contributing their outstanding original work: photographer Etienne Frossard and illustrator Paul Keim.

You've Got a Friend in DUMBO! Coalition's Friends of DUMBO Playground Bring Family Fun to New Section of Park

A visit to the nautical-themed Brooklyn Bridge Park playground in DUMBO reveals plenty of happy children cooling off in the sprinkler on a hot day, sliding down the twisting slide, or playing in the appropriately designed rowboat-sandbox. The playground has become a new favorite spot for children of all ages, from various neighborhoods all over

New York City.

This past spring, several area parents joined forces with the Coalition to volunteer time, energy, and funds to bring organized programs to the playground and to keep the area safe and

clean. And so, in the name of fun for everyone, the Coalition's Friends of DUMBO Playground was born.

Among the group's first acts was to fill the playground's empty sandbox with no less than 190 bags of sand! On Saturday, May 31, the Friends organized the first-ever community event at the playground, which included story telling, arts and crafts, and special "critters" from the Brooklyn Children's Museum. Dozens of families enjoyed the festivities, despite impending rain, and became new playground and park supporters at the same time.

The popularity of the May event inspired the Friends to make each Tuesday afternoon in the summer a special arts and crafts day. Coalition intern Patrick Raymond coordinated the program, gathering various materials for children to express their creativity, including sidewalk chalk, crayons and sketch pads. He also took on the tough task of keeping the sandbox in tip-top shape, spreading the word to "Keep the sand in the sandbox!"

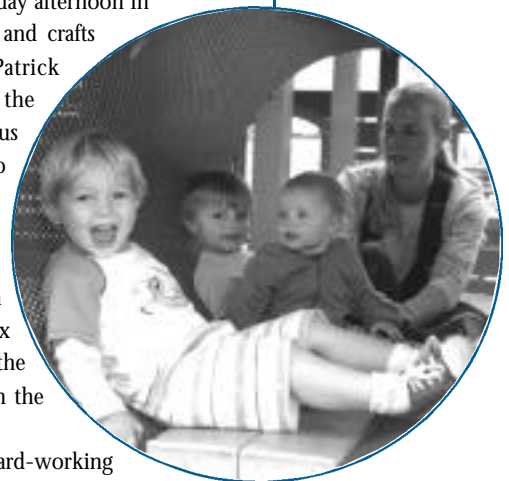
Thanks to the hard-working Friends, led by local resident Sydnee Jorgl, this summer has been action-packed at the new DUMBO playground and the Coalition anticipates more events soon. Volunteers are needed to keep this playground program going strong. To help out, give the Coalition a call.



Design by Anne Garland; Photo by Etienne Frossard © 2003

*The Coalition's new publication, **The Cove between the Bridges: A Field Guide.***

CREDIT: John Maginnis © 2003



***Fun For All:** And all for fun — the Brooklyn Bridge Park Playground.*

Transformed! Almost Two Acres for Brooklyn Bridge Park*(continued from page 1)*

CREDIT: Mike Silver © 2003



From left, Governor Pataki, Assemblywoman Millman, State Senator Connor, Mayor Bloomberg, Council Member Yassky, NYC Parks Commissioner Benepe, Coalition ED Koval, BBPDC Board Member Witty and former NYC Parks Commissioner Stern cut the ribbon on the much-anticipated section of Brooklyn Bridge Park at Main Street. Not clearly visible are Brooklyn Borough President Markowitz and State Senator Golden.

A Grand Entrance:
From Atlantic Avenue looking out at the harbor over the BQE, Pier 7 is at left, Pier 6 at right.



Yorkers of all ages," said Mayor Bloomberg. Added Gov. Pataki: "Reclaiming the waterfront is a right of all New Yorkers, and opening this section of Brooklyn Bridge Park underscores our commitment to opening up

our waterfronts for scores of New Yorkers."

A slice of this new segment of Brooklyn Bridge Park was opened in December 2001 as the Main Street Playground. It quickly became a huge hit with area children and parents, all of whom have eagerly peered through holes in the playground's plywood fences to monitor the larger Park's progress.

Looking forward to completion of Brooklyn Bridge Park, which will continue to open in stages over the next ten years, Borough President Markowitz couldn't suppress his delight, "I predict that Brooklyn Bridge Park will become one of the major tourist attractions in the world. When people come to New York, the first stop will be Brooklyn and Brooklyn Bridge Park."

Recognizing the excellent design of the new space, City Parks Commissioner Benepe honored the City Parks design team, and added his own celebratory note, predicting that Brooklyn Bridge Park "will stand alongside Prospect Park as one of the most important open spaces in Brooklyn." And he invited "all city dwellers to take a break from the hectic pace of city life at Brooklyn's latest green gem."

"It's wonderful to have watched this land transformed in such a short period of time from a desolate parking lot to a spectacular park," said Marianna Koval, executive director of the Coalition. "It is enormously symbolic for the Park and our City's future."

Unexpected Developments May Benefit Brooklyn Bridge Park

Sometimes opportunities simply present themselves, and two unanticipated developments recently stumbled into the lap of Brooklyn Bridge Park. First, Pier 6 and its uplands may soon be added to the 67 acres already slated to become Brooklyn Bridge Park.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) last spring initiated a study on the future uses of Piers 6-12, which run south from Atlantic Avenue into Red Hook. Brooklyn Bridge Park supporters have long viewed the addition of Pier 6 as critical to the Park, because it would function as a natural southern entrance at the foot of Atlantic Avenue. Happily, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation has decided to include Pier 6 in the Environmental Impact Statement review now underway, so that any decision by the Port Authority and EDC to add the pier to the Park could be implemented relatively quickly.

The consulting firm selected to lead the Piers 6-12 study – Hamilton, Rabinovitz & Alschuler (HR&A) – previously worked on the Brooklyn Bridge Park master planning team. HR&A has held a number of public meetings to solicit community input, and has also formed a Pier 6-12 Working Group comprised of community, business, and political representatives. Its chairs are Kenneth Adams, President of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, and Marilyn Gelber, Executive Director of the Independence Community Foundation. The Master Plan for the redevelopment of Atlantic Avenue sees Pier 6 as a crucial western anchor, as the avenue connects to BAM on the east.

What will happen on the waterfront south of Pier 6? It's still too soon to say, but Pier 7, which will be adjacent to the Park's southern end, has already attracted interest from the New York Cruise Alliance, which has submitted a proposal for a passenger cruise terminal. Pier 7 is one of the only piers in New York long enough for the enormous modern cruise ships, such as the Queen Mary II, to dock.

Meanwhile, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, more widely known as the Jehovah's Witnesses, has announced its intention to sell its highly visible building at 360 Furman Street. The one-million-

square-foot building, located on the waterfront between Joralemon Street and Atlantic Avenue, is on the upland of Pier 5. It has been the principal shipping facility for the organization's bibles and bible-based publications; those operations will be relocated to a new facility in Wallkill, New York.

Residential conversion is the most likely outcome for the building, but nothing will be certain until it is officially sold. The Coalition will work with New York City officials and the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation to ensure that any development is not only compatible with the vision of Brooklyn Bridge Park, but will also enhance the Park experience.

Sports, Theatre and Music Coming to the Brooklyn Waterfront

As the initial sections of Brooklyn Bridge Park open and the design process for the larger Park progresses, interim activities are already underway. Thanks to the leadership of Council Member David Yassky and Borough President Marty Markowitz, \$325,000 in capital funds have been designated in the City budget to support the creation of moveable venues and bring culture and active recreation to our waterfront in 2004. These funds will also provide an opportunity to experiment – and begin to determine what works best and where – as future programming decisions are made.

“The Coalition has already done a terrific job of creating activities for Brooklyn Bridge Park,” said Council Member David Yassky. “I am delighted that the City Council could provide the means for a much broader range of interim use activities.”

The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation is in the process of acquiring a moveable athletic field and playing surface for the Coalition that can be used for ice skating in the winter, and soccer, cricket, team handball, and lacrosse in the spring, summer and fall. Coalition board members and ice hockey enthusiasts Steve Dietz and Mark Baker spearheaded the project when they began discussions with State Parks last year about a seasonal ice rink. The Park's new moveable athletic field will be a welcome and needed addition to Brooklyn, which suffers from a

lack of active recreation space for children and adults.

The J.M. Kaplan Fund has recently awarded the Coalition a \$30,000 grant to support efforts to draw on the diverse communities of Brooklyn and ensure the moveable field becomes a citywide recreation resource.

In addition to the moveable athletic field, the Coalition is working with the Department of Cultural Affairs to procure a tent for the Coalition that can provide a venue for a range of cultural arts and special events throughout the Park. Now, with the Borough President's support, and working together with Arts at St. Ann's, other cultural organizations, and Jon Benguiat, Director of Planning & Development for the Brooklyn Borough President, we will be able to begin programming next summer, and hope to host theater, arts festivals, and other events.

Together with the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, the Port Authority of NY & NJ, and City and State Parks, the Coalition is discussing appropriate locations for both the tent and athletic field for 2004.

“We are extremely grateful to Council Members David Yassky and Bill de Blasio, Council Speaker Gifford Miller, and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, for their commitment to Brooklyn Bridge Park and their leadership in making this funding possible,” says Koval. “We can't wait to invite them over for a cricket match!”

CREDIT: John Maggini © 2003



Waterfront Music

A Paganini and Mozart chamber music program of “melting lyricism,” according to the *New York Times*, came to Brooklyn Bridge Park on September 3. The Coalition and Bargemusic jointly presented the Park's first free chamber music concert, helping to establish what will be a long history of collaboration between the Park and the myriad artistic and cultural institutions of the City. Planned for the lawn in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, rain, unfortunately, drove over 100 audience members and musicians into the refuge of the Barge for a delightful evening hosted by Olga Bloom that included works from the Mozart Flute Quartet in D major, with Mark Peskanov's virtuoso violin playing, to the Paganini Quartet #15 for guitar and strings.

O Captain, My Captain!

Walt Whitman returned to the waterfront for the first time in over 100 years, thanks to 25 young participants in White Bird Production's Theatrical Puppetry Workshop in Brooklyn Bridge Park, led by Theresa Linnihan and Kathryn Dickinson. The Coalition sponsored scholarships for five children, selected with the help of PS 8 and the late Council Member James Davis.

Paradise Found ... Coalition's Annual Benefit a Success!

Sunset Shangri-la, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition's fourth annual waterfront fundraiser, was a magical evening. Despite the looming threat of rain, nearly 600 people turned out on June 6 to celebrate the continued growth of Brooklyn Bridge Park and to pay tribute to two Brooklyn waterfront pioneers, Michael O'Keeffe, founder of The River Café, and Olga Bloom, founder of Bargemusic.

Not only was the event immensely enjoyable, it also helped the Coalition raise nearly \$150,000 to support efforts to create cultural, recreational, and educational "interim use" programming as Brooklyn Bridge Park is being built.

The evening's festivities began with our master of ceremonies, John Hockenberry, orchestrating an FDNY fireboat display of East River

water shot high into the dusk sky, to the amusement of dazzled spectators. Party-goers enjoyed the funk-reggae music of Atlas Soul, which kept the crowd dancing into the night. They also marveled at a spectacular chocolate model of Brooklyn Bridge Park created for Mayor Bloomberg by Mr. Chocolate himself, DUMBO's own Jacques Torres. As the sun set over Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, the Tobacco

Warehouse was lit beautifully courtesy of Xeno Lights.

Sunset Shangri-la had something for everyone – adults mingled with one another, enjoying hors d'oeuvres prepared by Food in Motion, including special Brooklyn Bridge Park fortune cookies, and drinks donated by the Brooklyn Brewery and Heights Chateau, while kids dined on world-famous Grimaldi's pizza and enjoyed dance instruction provided by Mark Morris Dance Group and other activities in the children's tent.

Notable elected officials in attendance included Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, State Senator Martin Connor, Assemblywoman Joan Millman, Council Member Joseph Addabbo Jr., Council Member David Yassky, and Council Member Bill de Blasio. Also in attendance was Jim Moogan, President of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, and Mary Ellen Kris, State Parks Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Josh Sirefman, COO of the New York City Economic Development Corporation, Liam Kavanaugh, New York City Deputy Parks Commissioner and Julius Spiegel, New York City Brooklyn Parks Commissioner.

Shangri-la benefit patrons attended an after-party dinner generously hosted by Michael O'Keeffe at The River Café. Everyone was overwhelmed by the beauty of this landmark restaurant, the tremendous food, and excellent service. All our thanks to Mr. O'Keeffe for his generosity and pioneering vision.

Hats off to the hard work of our volunteer committee, chaired by Coalition board member Rachel Hines, vice-chaired by Victoria Westhead, and produced yet again with the stylistic talent and energy of Mary Howard of Mary Howard Studio. Special thanks to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner Bernadette Castro and all her dedicated staff for hosting the party, and thanks to all our sponsors and supporters for a truly wonderful evening!



CREDITS: Adam Schorr © 2003

A tree grows in Brooklyn...

Shangri-la honoree Olga Bloom, founder of Bargemusic, acknowledges the appreciation of event attendees.

CREDITS: John Magness © 2003



Put Your Hands Up! Dancing at Sunset Shangri-la to the music of Atlas Soul.



CREDIT: John Muggenborg © 2003

Sunset Shangri-la Corporate Sponsors

Park Visionary, \$10,000
The River Café and Michael O'Keefe

Park Founder, \$5,000
Eastern Athletic Clubs
Food In Motion Special Events

Park Benefactor, \$2,500
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Corcoran Group Brooklyn
Independence Community Bank
New York Cruise Alliance

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CREDIT: Julianne Schaar © 2003

All Smiles (left):
Shangri-la honoree
Michael O'Keefe,
founder of the River Café
and Tensie Whelan, Chair
of the Coalition.

Chocolate imitates life
(right): From left
Marianna Koval,
Coalition ED; Liam
Kavanaugh, Deputy
Parks Commissioner;
Joshua Sirefman, COO
of EDC; Tensie Whelan,
Chair of the Coalition,
with Jacques Torres'
chocolate rendering of
Brooklyn Bridge Park.

International Union of Operating Engineers
Kevin Carberry
MBP Image Display Services
McVicker & Higginbotham Inc.
Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates
Montague Street BID
Muss Development Company
Pete's Downtown Restaurant
Soons Orchards
The Dorfman Organization LTD.
The Toy Box/Heights Kids
Two Twelve Associates, Inc.

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Burton Building Corp.
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Lower East Side BID
Municipal Art Society

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Jacques Torres Chocolate
John Muggenborg
Julienne Schaar
Mark Morris Dance Group
New York Water Taxi
Seaport Flowers
Time Out New York
Xeno Lights & Steve Ramsey



CREDIT: Julianne Schaar © 2003

MC, John Hockenberry
shares a moment with
his kids.

Update: The Park Progress You Can't See

*Before & After:
Brooklyn Bridge Park
at Main Street.*



CREDITS: Eblow, Present © 2003

Members of the MVVA design team include: Accu-Cost Construction; Architecture Research Office; Battle McCarthy; Cerami Associates; Cooper, Robertson & Partners; DMJM + Harris; Domingo Gonzalez Associates, Inc.; Economics Research Associates; Eng-Wong Taub & Associates; Gensler Architecture; Ann Hamilton; Lynden B. Miller; Margie Ruddick Landscape; Maryann Thompson Architects; Matthews Neilson Landscape Architects; Henry Bardsley, RFR; Robert France; Sol Lewitt; Ysreal A. Seinuck, PC; Pine & Swallow Associates; and James Carpenter Design Associates.

The opening of the newest section of Brooklyn Bridge Park at Main Street is certainly the most visible sign of the Park's development. Not visible, but

equally important, are a number of significant steps toward commencement of construction south of the Brooklyn Bridge. With public comment already complete on the Draft Scope of

Work for the Brooklyn Bridge Park Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and the EIS and the design team selected, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC) is laying the groundwork for the Park's detailed design and construction. (For more information on the EIS process, see the Spring 2003 issue of *Waterfront Matters*, available on our website at www.bbpc.net.)

At a public scoping meeting in June at Borough Hall, community and civic representatives made comments on the "Scope," which determines the parameters of the EIS. The BBPDC has begun to address some of the comments. For example, after numerous statements about the lack of facilities for boating and water access, the BBPDC asked the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance to host a meeting with boating and water-access experts to help them better incorporate such ideas into the Park design.

The BBPDC also selected Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (MVVA) in June to lead the Park's design team. A member of the Park's original master planning team, MVVA has been refining its team of sub-consultants, studying the site's details, and building a large study model of the Park to aid them in the design process. While deeply familiar with the site, MVVA is committed to a fresh approach with many new experts involved.

In the early phases of work, MVVA and the design team will focus on detailed site investigations,

and explore Park design alternatives. MVVA will work closely with AKRF, the firm selected to lead the EIS process, throughout the EIS and design stages.

How Do Our Gardens Grow?

Daffodils and sunflowers glowed in the sunlight beneath the Promenade, carrying the Coalition's Pier 4 memorial garden through its second year. The garden was originally created after September 11, 2001, as part of the citywide Daffodil Project, led by the Parks Council (now New Yorkers for Parks.) As soon as the daffodils faded this May, volunteers dodged quotidian showers and planted a bed of sunflowers, which grew tall and flowered in an array of browns, yellows and pinks. With crucial design and landscape services donated by Susan Leitner and Stephanie Saulmon of Leitner/Saulmon Landscape Design, wildflowers will soon join the flora already on the site.

The Coalition has also been minding its garden adjacent to its offices at 334 Furman Street. With the leadership of Mark Baker and Tom Fox, community volunteers created the garden in 1997, filling it with climbing roses, black-eyed susans, lavender, echinacea and other plants, and establishing the very first public space along the piers and the true beginning of Brooklyn Bridge Park. While it tends to take care of itself, volunteers helped prune, trim and weed the garden back into a more shapely form in June and July, with the expertise of one of its dedicated creators, Claire Merlino.

Leitner/Saulmon Landscape Design is currently designing a moveable container garden within Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park. At the suggestion of Mary Ellen Kris, and with help from Marcha Johnson of City Parks, plants are being selected that will attract butterflies and can be easily maintained and planted by children.

Special thanks to all of the above, plus, One Brick, New York Cares, Frank DeFalco and New York Contractors, and Long Island Compost for their help making these gardens great. If you'd like to help in any of these gardening efforts, contact the Coalition.

SUMMER FILM SERIES

Neither Rain nor Loss of Power Stops Summer Film Series

Launched nearly four and a half years ago to entertain citywide audiences and introduce them to the future Brooklyn Bridge Park, the 4th Annual Brooklyn Bridge Park Summer Film Series faced a season full of challenging weather and an epic blackout. Undaunted, thousands came out, sometimes with umbrellas in hand, to Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park to enjoy great movies against the backdrop of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Manhattan skyline.

With the crucial support of the series' corporate sponsors – Con Edison, Hallmark Entertainment and Independence Community Bank – this year's program was expanded from four to six nights, and included a wide variety of feature films under the theme "He Came From Brooklyn." The lineup included: *Sleeper*; *Fargo*; *Kid Galahad*; *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*; *Coming to America*; and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Short, independent films from Brooklyn filmmakers preceded most features and showcased some exciting talent.

Lovely weather helped set an all-time attendance record as over 2,000 people came out to enjoy *Fargo* on July 31. Audience members enjoyed new amenities including on-site dinner fare from local restaurants Rice and Five Front, as well as "sand chair" rental at the Coalition concession tables. Treats for sale included delicious baked goods donated by Cranberry's. Valet bike parking, staffed by volunteers from Transportation Alternatives, proved a hit once again as many movie-buffs pedaled their way to the Park. The Brooklyn Children's Museum Trolley made rounds again this year, picking up and dropping off attendees at nearby train stations.

Thanks to our corporate sponsors and to Council Members David Yassky, Bill de Blasio and Vincent Gentile for their generous support. Thanks also to our film series committee and tireless co-chairs Nell Archer and Serine Hastings. Finally, kudos to the staff of State Parks for once again providing such a wonderful venue and helping to make the series a success.



CREDIT: John Magagnoli © 2003



CREDIT: John Magagnoli © 2003

Sit Back and Relax:
Audience Members enjoy *Fargo*, stargazing and the beautiful setting.

The Show Goes On:
Spring and summer were marked by rain, and puddles left behind.



CREDIT: Elinor Freund © 2003



CREDIT: Zbawer Photo © 2003

Soaking up the Rays: Sunflowers bloom on Pier 4.

Your Park Needs You!

Brooklyn Bridge Park is on its way, but there's a lot of work (and play!) to be done between now and the last ribbon-cutting. You can get involved a little or a lot — here are some ideas.

Like the Water? Love Boats?

Join the Coalition's new Boating Committee and help get a community boating program off the ground and into the water. Check the Coalition website, www.bbpc.net, for meeting information, other volunteer activities, or contact us.

Stay in the Loop

To keep up to date on Park and Coalition activities, make sure we have your correct contact information – including e-mail address. Just call us or e-mail info@bbpc.net.

NAC Pack

The Neighborhood Advisory Committee ("NAC") continues to meet at the Coalition's office on the first Thursday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Park goings-on and more. All are welcome.

Work for NYC?

If so, you can support the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition through the Combined Municipal Campaign (CMC). Ask your payroll/HR department about CMC today.

BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK COALITION
334 Furman Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
www.bbpc.net

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