

Drums, Dance & Drama!

New Programs Draw New Park Visitors

Haitian drumming, contemporary dance, Shakespearean comedy and tragedy, yoga, and spoken word were among the Conservancy's ambitious and eclectic line-up of free public programs this season, drawing over 22,000 people to Brooklyn Bridge Park and further expanding the Park's rapidly growing constituency. Visitors from the five boroughs and far beyond—many arriving for the first time—discovered just how much this Park has to offer.

In partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, the Conservancy presented new events at the Tobacco Warehouse, including a concert and drumming workshop with Bonga and The Vodou Jazz Ensemble, sponsored by Health Plus; a performing artists' collective with the Melting Pot NYC; two performances by the acclaimed Battery Dance Company; and four dates of thriftshop theatre workshop's fresh and daring renditions of *Twelfth Night* and *Hamlet*. The Conservancy also co-sponsored Sunset Yoga on the boardwalk and hosted two packed performances of *Breaking Ground*, an experimental site-specific dance charrette produced by Dancing in the Streets.

The Conservancy's Movies With a View, sponsored by Bloomberg LP, drew record audiences to our water-themed line-up that included classic favorites *Chinatown*, *Key Largo* and *Dr. No*. Each of the eight screenings drew audiences of 2,000 to 3,000 people. Moviegoers settled back on blankets and beach chairs to enjoy films in a gorgeous

**"We're growing
a constituency for a
growing park."**

**—Marianna Koval,
Co-executive Director**

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Clockwise from top: Battery Dance Company performs at the Tobacco Warehouse; Harbor Campers test the waters of the East River and learn about the estuary's ecology; a quiet evening in Brooklyn Bridge Park; Park visitors find inner peace on the boardwalk at Sunset Yoga, led by Noodle Yoga.



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Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy

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editor: Virginia Terry
designer: Anne Garland
photographers: Etienne
Frossard, John Muggenborg,
Julienne Schaer
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A View from the Bridge

The Park Grows; the Plan Progresses

The Brooklyn Bridge Park approval process made considerable progress over the last few months with the release of the General Project Plan (GPP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) this summer, and the DEIS Public Hearing in September. The Conservancy continues its active outreach with elected officials, community leaders, New York City civic organizations, and local neighborhood groups to identify and address key park-wide issues to help shape the park plan. Our lively and constructive discussions with park constituents illustrate just how much all of us want to see this great park finally become a reality. They have also clarified some of the most important issues that remain to be addressed:

1. **Protection of Parkland Now**—All open space and public buildings must be protected now, with enforceable mechanisms as part of the title transfer process.
2. **Early Park Uses Now**—Public access and recreational programming on the piers must be made available by summer 2006 and continued throughout the construction of the park.
3. **Only as Much Development as Needed**—RFPs should be “variable” and the development process should be sequenced and monitored to ensure that no more development takes place than is actually needed.
4. **Improved Gateway Design**—The Park’s three major arrival points should provide grand, green, welcoming entrances, which can only be achieved by improving the scale, siting and height of the proposed buildings, as well as completing the entrances’ design before issuing RFPs.

Above: Left to right, Claude Shostal, Marianna Koval, Conservancy Chair Tensie Whelan, Borough President Marty Markowitz, New York City Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation President Wendy Leventer, KeySpan Foundation Executive Director Robert Keller and Assemblywoman Joan Millman officially cut the ribbon of Phase II of Brooklyn Bridge Park.

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5. **Park First**—The GPP and the Park’s construction plan should clearly provide that the creation of parkland will precede or proceed in tandem with the development parcels.

The Conservancy testified to these issues at the DEIS Public Hearing on 9/19, at the City Council Oversight Hearing on 10/6, and in our written comments to the DEIS. We also urged that all new buildings be of the finest architectural quality and use green building techniques and strategies, and that the EIS incorporate additional measures for sound mitigation. We look forward to continuing to work with the community, our elected officials and the planning team to ensure that these and other concerns are fully addressed. As the organization that has been advocating for Brooklyn Bridge Park for 20 years, we will not have done our job until the park plan leads us to the world-class park that Brooklyn and all of New York City have worked so hard to achieve.

Marianna Koval *H. Claude Shostal*
—Marianna Koval & Claude Shostal
Co-Executive Directors

For more information on the park plan and for the Conservancy’s written and oral testimony, visit www.brooklynbridgepark.org



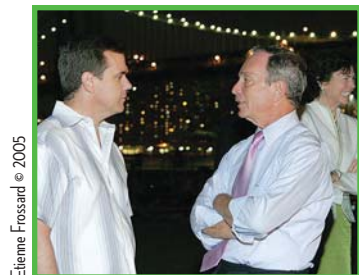
Welcome on Board • The Conservancy welcomes three distinguished new board members. Each brings to the Conservancy considerable talent, intellect and expertise, as well as years of dedicated community service: **Kenneth Adams**, President of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, founding Executive Director of New York Cares, Board member of the Brooklyn Central YMCA, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, Downtown Brooklyn Council and NYC Workforce Investment Board; **Hank Gutman**, partner at Simpson Thacher & Barlett LLP, President of the Downtown Brooklyn Waterfront Local Development Corporation (LDC), Board member of the Brooklyn Central YMCA; and **Kenneth Leung**, Managing Director of Sanders Morris Harris Group, Board member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and contributing writer to numerous environmental publications.

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setting and the special ambience created with the help of pre-movie mood music from Halcyon the Shop, raffle prizes, delicious dinners from Rice, complimentary for-

**Brooklyn Bridge Park...
a park for everyone.**

The Brooklyn Bunny and Borough President Marty Markowitz welcomed thousands of children and their parents to our much-loved Spring Fling and Egg Hunt, sponsored by Con Edison. And the Brooklyn Pie Social, sponsored by Bubby's,



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brought out the hidden talents of neighborhood bakers with creative entries such as Cricket Pie, Lobster Pie, Jalepeño Pie, and Liver Pie along with the classics.

The Conservancy once again partnered with the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance for summer Harbor Camp and hosted original and delightful puppetry performances created by Whitebird Theater Camp.

Our audiences proved to be as diverse as our programming whether it was families from the Bronx, couples from Staten Island, or tourists from Argentina, Germany and China. Results of our zip-code analysis show that visitors came from all five boroughs, Long Island and 23 states as well as a range of countries, demonstrating the park's appeal as a destination site. They are all discovering that, already, Brooklyn Bridge Park is a park for everyone.



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Top: Conservancy Board members Dick Dadey and Diana Taylor join Mayor Michael Bloomberg at the Conservancy's Movies With a View showing of **Big Fish** in August; above: "82 Decibels," by Larry Keigwin, part of **Breaking Ground**, produced by Dancing in the Streets, won a **New York Times** rave review and drew an audience of nearly 2,000 to the Tobacco Warehouse in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park.

Stewardship Grows

Volunteers donated more than 3,000 hours to the essential care of Brooklyn Bridge Park—and it shows! Now in its second year, the

Conservancy's Stewardship program led horticultural and ecological projects throughout the season, resulting in a thriving and healthy park enjoyed by thousands of visitors. Our volunteers' dedicated efforts are perhaps the most vivid illustration of support for Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Working closely with City and State Parks, the Conservancy's Stewardship Program also fostered new public/private partnerships with NY Cares, Goldman Sachs, Kellogg Capital Group, AHRC Dean O'Hare Facility, the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints and other groups—many of which returned for multiple sessions to complete long-term projects.

Highlights of the program this season include:

- The creation of three thriving native habitats; a sand dune grass habitat; a coastal community of native trees and shrubs; and a bird and butterfly meadow;
- The revitalization of the Pier 4 garden;
- Removal of hundreds of pounds of debris on International Coastal Clean-up Day;
- Environmental Education activities for over 100 park visitors on National Estuaries Day;
- Participation in two city-wide "It's My Park" days, including the planting of many native plants and grasses, and hundreds of tulip and daffodil bulbs;
- The creation of new wheel chair accessible pathways.

Thank you to our committed volunteers. Special thanks to our sponsor, Keyspan Foundation, without whom this program would not have been possible.

We are also grateful for the support of the U.S. EPA funds awarded by the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program, administered by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, and the generosity of the Hudson River Foundation.



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John Muggenberg © 2005



Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy

334 Furman Street

Brooklyn, NY 11201

718.802.0603 (phone)

718.797.0250 (fax)

www.brooklynbridgepark.org

e-mail: info@bbpc.net

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The Conservancy also invites you to donate to our

2006 Wish List:

- Lawn Mower
- Gardening Tools
- Bicycles
- Event Tents
- Digital Video Camera
- Van
- Laptop and Printer
- Table Cloths
- Storage Bins

Thank You to Our Supporters!

The Conservancy's supporters share our vision of a world-class park that reflects the history and character of the Brooklyn waterfront and serves the people of the New York City region and beyond. Their support helps bring programming and stewardship to the existing portions of the Park and build a constituency for the growing Brooklyn Bridge Park. Thank you to the LuEsther T. Mertz Advised Fund at New York Community Trust, Booth Ferris Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund for supporting our strategic planning and capacity-building; to the J.M. Kaplan Fund's continued support of community outreach and programming; to Bloomberg LP for sponsorship of Movies With a View; to Health Plus for sponsorship of Bonga and the Vodou Jazz Ensemble; to Con Edison for sponsorship of the Egg Hunt & Spring Fling and the forthcoming 2nd edition of the Cove Guide; to Commerce Bank for underwriting our gala; and to the KeySpan Foundation and Hudson River Foundation for sponsorship of our Stewardship program. We are also grateful for the support of U.S. EPA funds awarded by the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program, administered by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. Thank you for the continued support of the NYC Council, Council Members David Yassky, Bill de Blasio, and Letitia James, and NYS Senator Marty Golden, and to our programming partners, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation.



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Above: Sunset Surfin' 2005, honoring Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez and Ben Crane, drew over 900 park supporters to what has become known as the best party in Brooklyn. Proceeds help the Conservancy create free public programming in the park. Right: The Fabulous Baker Boys—Jack, Zack and Ben, sons of Board member Mark Baker—present Worm Pie, Fish Pie and Teddy Bear Pie to the Brooklyn Pie Social, sponsored by Bubby's to benefit the Conservancy.



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For a full list of our 2005 supporters, visit www.brooklynbridgepark.org.