

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: James Tebele | Tebele@risaheller.com | 347.583.0428

PHOTOS: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/8t1rc6rfn0gkpsz6t0w82/AAuxfm0LRdWzcTK E-txDCuM?rlkey=gc1gderkn0y71orxyqfub87da&st=d4ah91xy&dl=0>

Credit: Hudson River Park

PIER 97 OPENS IN HUDSON RIVER PARK

Park's Northernmost Pier Brings 2.5 Acres of Open Space for Recreation and Lounging to Manhattan's West Side

Amenities Include a Playground, Sports Field, Lawn and Scenic Overlook Points

Follows Opening of Gansevoort Peninsula Last Year

NEW YORK, NY (October 15, 2024) — The Hudson River Park Trust today celebrated the opening of Pier 97. The approximately \$47.5 million project, designed by Imelk, includes 2.5 acres of public open space and features a large playground, athletic field, sloping lawn, sunset deck with tables and chairs, walking promenades and flexible gathering space – all surrounded by over 16,000 square feet of flowers and plants. Shaped by extensive community input, planning for the design of Pier 97 began in 2018 and portions of the pier began opening to the public in December 2023.

"New York City's waterfront is undergoing a major transformation with the grand opening of Pier 97, a stunning new green oasis for our residents," **Governor Hochul said**. "The State's nearly \$41 million investment in this project reinforces our commitment to creating more accessible outdoor spaces and improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers."

"Over 30 years ago, planners for Hudson River Park envisioned transforming 13 neglected Manhattan piers into a new public park that would reclaim our waterfront and enhance our city's environment," said **Noreen Doyle, President & CEO of Hudson River Park Trust**. "As the northernmost of these piers, the completion of Pier 97 is a significant milestone, adding 2.5 acres of new public open space for New Yorkers to enjoy while connecting Hudson River Park's scenic four-mile stretch with our neighboring Riverside Park. We are deeply grateful to Governor Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams for their continued prioritization of green spaces and are thankful for our supporters at our Advisory Council, Community Board 4, Hudson River Park Friends, and our design and construction teams for bringing our vision of Pier 97 to life."

Located opposite West 57th Street in Hell's Kitchen, Pier 97 brings a unique mix of recreational and lounging space for visitors to enjoy. The playground includes a 26-foot-high rope climbing structure and ship's hull, along with seasonal water spray features. The 120-foot-long synthetic turf field can host a variety of sports and activities, while the 7,600-square-foot sloping sun lawn offers lush green space for relaxing and sculptural

structures bring shade to the pier. An all-ages granite slide connects the elevated overlook and shaded belvedere on the pier's northern edge with the main pier level below. The sunset deck complete with bistro tables, chaise lounges and two-tiered walls with seating, offers stunning views of the Hudson River and skyline. The pier also includes flexible gathering areas surrounded by flowers and plants, and along the southern edge of the pier, there is a walking promenade.

Construction is nearly complete on a new park building immediately north of Pier 97 that will house public restrooms, a concession, and a small park maintenance area. Solar panels will be installed on the roof and the Trust will issue a competitive Request for Proposals for a food concessionaire. The building is expected to open this winter. The Trust also plans to attract a historic vessel for the berth at the south side of Pier 97.

"Not that long ago really, Hudson River Park was the largely-neglected site of our city's formerly industrial past. What's happened in the thirty years since is nothing short of one of the greatest public-private partnership success stories in New York's history, a renaissance of using our waterfront for fun and exercise, for sustainability at the water's edge, for childhood exploration," said **Deputy Mayor for Operations Meera Joshi**. "Today, we celebrate the opening of Pier 97, the crown of Hudson River Park's piers, which provides greater connectivity to Riverside Park and the city as a whole—I'd like to thank Governor Hochul, Noreen Doyle and all our partners for getting us to this point."

"Pier 97 is a dream come true for Hell's Kitchen, Hudson River Park, and anyone who enjoys spending time along the river. There's something for everyone at Pier 97, and I'm particularly thrilled that new public restrooms are almost complete, making the park an even greater asset to our borough," said **Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine**. "Thank you to Hudson River Park Trust and every community partner for working to make this vision of recreation, open space, and sustainability a reality."

"Today, we celebrate the opening of Pier 97—a significant milestone to expanding green space here in Manhattan," said **Congressman Jerrold Nadler**. "With new open public spaces for New Yorkers and visitors alike to gather and play on the river, complete with concessions, playgrounds and restrooms, Pier 97 will be a premier destination here in New York. I'm grateful to the Hudson River Park Trust for making this vision come to life, and I'm proud to support their work as I have in Congress in the past by securing funding to sustain their dynamic programming."

"I'm thrilled to join the Hudson River Park Trust in announcing the opening of Pier 97, a beautiful, newly designed pier that will add 2.5 acres of open space to Hudson River Park," said **Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal**. "For the past six years officials from the Hudson River Park worked closely with members of Community Board 4 to design and implement this project, which includes an athletic field, a 26-foot-high rope climbing structure, 7,600 square feet of lawn space and 16,000 square feet of flowers and plants. I was proud to help commit over \$40 million to fund a majority of these improvements in the New York State Capital Budget and I look forward to bringing my daughters here to enjoy all that this new pier has to offer."

“The long-awaited dream of developing Pier 97 into a green recreational hub has finally become a reality for West Siders and New Yorkers,” said **Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal (D/WF -Manhattan), Chair of the Assembly Committee on Housing**. “For decades, people have traveled near and far to enjoy a slice of the state’s parklands, which was especially true during the isolating days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Smartly investing in our open spaces where people of all ages can lounge, rope swing, enjoy the Hudson or even slide down a giant granite slide to the pier, is critical to building community and maintaining New York’s magic for future generations. I am proud that this innovative park was built with New York State’s contribution of \$40.8 million, and I look forward to joining the throngs of New Yorkers who will enjoy this new addition to the Hudson River Park.”

“The new Pier 97 is a welcome addition to the recreational options available to downtown residents and to all New Yorkers,” said **Council Member Gale A. Brewer**. “This is an important milestone that gets us one step closer to a 100% completed Hudson River Park. I have long been a supporter of this project and I thank the Hudson River Park Trust and so many others for their vision and leadership. I love this park!”

“Hudson River Park is a jewel in the crown of New York City and we are thrilled to have this important and vital stretch complete for all to enjoy,” said **Jessica Chait, Chair of Manhattan Community Board 4**.

“Friends of Hudson River Park played a critical role in securing the funding for building Pier 97 through legal action taken to guarantee the removal of garbage trucks from the pier many years ago. We’re thrilled to see this gorgeous transformation from sanitation facilities to public family recreation uses,” said **Connie Fishman, Executive Director of Hudson River Park Friends**.

The Trust is working with the New York State Department of Transportation to obtain approvals for improvements to the existing bicycle and pedestrian paths between W 57th St. and W 59th St. through a Transportation Alternatives Program grant. Once complete, these improvements will create a seamless link to the Empire State Trail between Hudson River Park and Riverside Park South.

Pier 97’s design was shaped through extensive community engagement. Before the Trust began its competitive procurement process to hire a design team, Manhattan Community Board 4 shared its vision for the pier, emphasizing the need for recreation spaces, particularly an area for ball sports, a playground with water features and flexible space for activities like yoga and sunbathing. As the design process progressed, the Trust and Imelk continued incorporating feedback from the community. The final design includes topographic changes that provide commanding views of the river while shielding other locations from wind and noise from the nearby elevated highway and other uses. Plants were selected for their salt tolerance, seasonal variety, and color palate, with a majority being native plants. The playground also sits in close proximity to the public restroom and in the most wind-sheltered portion of the pier to maximize year-

round use.

Construction of Pier 97 was primarily funded by \$40.8 million from New York State's Capital Budget. Supplemental funds included \$6.7 million in proceeds from a Transferable Development Right sale completed by the Trust in 2018.

The opening of Pier 97 complements other infrastructure improvements nearby. In 2013, the Trust rebuilt Pier 97's structural deck, using approximately \$16 million in City funding secured through Friends of Hudson River Park — the predecessor to the current Hudson River Park Friends organization.

Pier 97 was brought to life through the collaboration of renowned designers, architects, and construction experts. Construction management was led by Gilbane Building Company and Invictus Engineering. Construction services were provided by Kelco Construction, A.I.P. Partners, Deborah Bradley Construction, John Civetta and Sons, Verde Electric, Eastern Plumbing, ACS System Associates, and Interphase Electric. The park building is being designed by Toshiko Mori Architect.

The opening of Pier 97 nearly completes the full build-out of Hudson River Park. Last fall, Gansevoort Peninsula opened as the largest stand-alone recreational space in the Park and features Manhattan's first public beach. The Pier 26 Science Playground, which opened earlier this year, is a marine-science play area where children can climb, slide, and be inspired by Hudson River sturgeon. Design of the adjacent Estuarium is under way.

###

About Hudson River Park Trust

Hudson River Park Trust is a unique partnership between New York State and New York City charged with building and operating Hudson River Park between approximately Chambers Street and West 59th Street along Manhattan's west side. This free, urban recreational oasis is home to award-winning skate parks, playgrounds, sports fields, gardens and nature exhibits, boating and maritime activities, art installations, and a myriad of year-round events that celebrate the diverse cultures and neighborhoods along its expanse. The Park, which transformed four miles of decaying piers and parking lots into a premier New York City destination for local residents and visitors alike, plays a critical role in protecting the Hudson River ecosystem. For more information, please visit www.hudsonriverpark.org.