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Four Freedoms Park Conservancy operates, maintains, and programs Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms State Park to the highest standard. As steward of this extraordinary civic space designed by Louis I. Kahn, the Conservancy advances President Roosevelt's legacy and inspires, educates, and engages the public in the ideals of the Four Freedoms: freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. The Conservancy does this by:

• safeguarding the memorial as a space for inspired use
• fostering community and understanding
• igniting conversation about human rights and freedoms today

Connect with us and join the conversation:
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New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Rose Harvey, Commissioner
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A Message From Four Freedoms Park Conservancy Leadership

We are happy to present Four Freedoms Park Conservancy’s 2017 & 2018 yearbook, and to share with you moments from the past two years that highlight our mission and our goals. More than a decade ago, we began building Louis Kahn’s Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms State Park on Roosevelt Island, and we thank you, sincerely, for your support and for believing that dream was possible. Since the Park opened in October 2012, we have sought to preserve and program this architectural masterpiece, and now, just six years later, we are pleased to share with you the many ways more than 1,000,000 visitors have brought this space to life.

Not too long ago when we became Roosevelt Island’s newest resident, the architecture critic Michael Kimmelman wrote in the New York Times that the Park gave New York “nothing less than a new spiritual heart.” For many visitors, the Park is just that: a respite from a city that operates at an unrelenting pace, a place of quiet contemplation and solitude, and a meaningful public space for civic dialogue. We are thankful to call Roosevelt Island and New York our home, to partner with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and to welcome Cornell Tech, a world-class graduate campus dedicated to academics and research for the digital age, to our Roosevelt Island neighborhood.

As the Conservancy enters its seventh year of programs and operations at the Park, we have pivoted from an organization that realized Kahn’s vision of a four-acre granite monument to human rights, 1,500 feet from the UN; today our job has shifted into building new communities of school visitors, families, aspiring architects, and FDR fans, among many others. We thank you for sharing our dream for this Park that stands as a beacon for the four freedoms and a vital reminder of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s legacy.

Our board and staff talk often about community: how to create it, how to foster it, and what it really means to the people who visit the Park. Thank you for being a part of our community of supporters, and helping us shape the Conservancy for the future.
A Message from New York State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey

On behalf of New York State, I congratulate Four Freedoms Park Conservancy for another outstanding year honoring the profound legacy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. New York is fortunate to have the committed and imaginative leadership of the Conservancy to manage this special and iconic state park, which symbolizes and reminds us of America’s fundamental values: freedom of speech & expression, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

Congratulations as well on surpassing one million visitors. The programs are amazing and enlightening. School education programs have almost doubled over the last few years, and we believe they have much room for growth. Visitors come away inspired by the Park’s hopeful message as well as its architecture and stunning views of New York City. Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms State Park shows us how people’s lives are enriched by art, beauty, and discovery – and encouraging public access to these things is a noble effort.

Particularly in this sad era of political and social polarization, Four Freedoms State Park is one of our most important state parks – a place everyone should visit to see, understand and remember the sacrifice that our country, communities and individual Americans have given to honor these values, in the most turbulent of times. Parks bring us together in a way few other social institutions do. Our parks are the great gathering places, for all colors, all creeds, all religions, all countries. On any given day, walk around FDR Four Freedoms State Park or any other state park and enjoy the diversity and rich social fabric of so many cultures together.

We at the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation are honored to include Louis Kahn’s architectural masterpiece into our system, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Conservancy to care for this special place. Thank you again for helping create the kind of world President Franklin D. Roosevelt envisioned.
Having been in the military and in law enforcement I did have the opportunity to travel and move about quite a bit. What I have learned in those years is that as much as we may speak or dress a bit differently we are all really quite similar in our hopes and aspirations. We all value freedom; we value time with our families, being able to move about without restriction, and express ourselves freely without fear. Unfortunately there are elements that are pulling the country to extremes. I can’t recall any time in my life that our politicians have been so vitriolic and that hurts us. We really do need to listen, pay attention to facts, to learn from one another, to read, to be culturally attuned and informed.

On your website, you quote John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King. Have these two leaders informed your career and ideology? Absolutely. The selflessness and unwavering sense of duty is something I admire in both those great men. JFK was not without conflict and controversy yet he managed to persevere and stay laser focused on moving the nation forward, as did MLK, who refused to bow to incredible pressure. I identify with many great historical figures, but these two really embody the ideology I have hoped to promote.

In his “Four Freedoms” speech, FDR claimed that the four freedoms were attainable in our own time and generation, “everywhere in the world.” Are we moving closer to this goal, as a global community? What can the Conservancy do to help make FDR’s vision a reality? Unfortunately I see that nationalism, isolationism, and xenophobia are taking us further away from FDR’s aspiration. Having said that I truly believe that the pendulum will swing back and that we do have a tremendous number of good people, young and old; great thinkers and doers who will most certainly rise to the challenge to lead with innovation, collaboration and peace. The Conservancy should definitely be a part of these efforts through education, awareness and outreach promoting the four freedoms. I am so proud to be part of that and I look forward to helping achieve this in any way I can.
1,000,000+ people have made their way by tram, subway, ferry, foot, bike & Q102 bus to Roosevelt Island to visit FDR Four Freedoms State Park.
Wrapping the most vulnerable of the Park’s 120 little-leaf linden and five copper beech trees gives protection from the sun’s harsh winter rays.

Caring for the Park’s 30,000 square feet of cobblestone walkways is essential to preserving the Kahn design and accessibility for all.

Jo Davidson’s colossal bronze bust of FDR is cleaned and restored annually by experts from the foundry that fabricated it, Polich Tallix.
The rip-rap barrier is comprised of 11,000 cubic yards of local gneiss rock that protects the Park and also collects an estimated 10,000 lbs of washed-up debris annually (including this message in a bottle!).

**Rip-rap** /ˈriprap/

*noun*

1. a foundation or sustaining wall of stones on an embankment slope to prevent erosion
Inspiring the Next Generation Through FDR's Four Freedoms

Exploring FDR's vision of “a world founded upon four essential human freedoms”: freedom of speech & expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear

Conservancy educators offer multiple dialogue-based programs for school groups in grades 2-12, encouraging students to value their own voices and understand the complex political and historical forces that shape their lives. Field trips meet New York City and New York State learning standards and the Common Core through deep observation, primary source learning, and persuasive writing. In addition, the Conservancy brings the four freedoms to NYC classrooms with intensive residencies, and teaches educators about the four freedoms through professional development workshops at the Park. Each summer, the Conservancy hosts high school interns in collaboration with Studio in a School to create film and social media content informed by the four freedoms.
Guided Field Trips by Borough

- Outside NYC: 13%
- All Borough Organizations: 7%
- Bronx: 9%
- Queens: 9%
- Brooklyn: 31%
- Manhattan: 31%
- Roosevelt Island: 7% of total

2017-2018

Student Visitors by School Year

- 2014 - 2015: 1664
- 2015 - 2016: 1418
- 2016 - 2017: 1970
- 2017 - 2018: 2719

- Blue: Self-guided Tours
- Black: Guided Tours
Here’s what NYC school teachers from Queens’ District 30 are saying about our education programs...

“Civics education has been brought to the forefront of the NYC curriculum, so all of the info and resources are relevant. The resources really helped me better understand how relevant these issues are to our present day.”

“The educators are enthusiastic – the kids definitely need more people like this.”

“The facilitators were well prepared, interesting, and provided a lot of information. Good PD. Highly recommended.”
Each summer, the Conservancy hosts NYC high school interns, in collaboration with Studio in a School, to create a media project inspired by the four freedoms.

The interns explore the four freedoms through social media and videos, interviewing elder New Yorkers, leading school groups, and screening their work.
In June 2017, 48 immigrants became America’s newest citizens at a U.S. Department of Homeland Security naturalization ceremony.

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Penumbra Foundation
Publicolor
Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting
Room to Read
Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College
The Roosevelt Institute
Roosevelt Island Historical Society
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
Roosevelt Island Residents Association
Roosevelt Island Senior Association
Roosevelt Island Senior Center
Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
School of Art and Design, FIT
SketchBox
Studio in a School
Theater of War
The UNI Project
United Nations
Untapped Cities
United Photo Industries
Urban Sketchers
Waterfront Alliance
Witness
Clockwise from upper left: (1) over 11,000 people visited the Park during the 2018 Roosevelt Island Cherry Blossom Festival, one of NYC’s cultural highlights; (2) and (3) photographers both professional and amateur make watching the sunset on ‘Manhattanhenge’ one of the Park’s most popular and anticipated annual events; (4) Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative hosted a Park tour for 42 mayors of American cities; and (5) volunteers at New York State Parks’ I Love My Park Day
Tom Brokaw - presented on June 14, 2017

Honorary Event Chair Mrs. Mario M. Cuomo and Conservancy Founder & Chair Emeritus William J. vanden Heuvel with journalist Tom Brokaw. The Conservancy recognized Mr. Brokaw as a four freedoms exemplar for his commitment and extraordinary leadership in defense of freedom of speech and expression.

Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel - presented on June 13, 2018

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Senator George J. Mitchell, and Conservancy Chair Barbara Shattuck Kohn presented this award in recognition of Ambassador vanden Heuvel's peerless work as the preeminent guardian of Franklin D. Roosevelt's inspired vision of “a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.”
Sunset Garden Party Fundraiser – June 13, 2018

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