

RIOC UPDATE

B.J. JONES | PRESIDENT & CEO

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY.
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation

RIOC MISSION STATEMENT

The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) was created in 1984 by the State of New York as a public benefit corporation with a mission to plan, design, develop, operate, and maintain Roosevelt Island. With a focus on innovative and environmentally friendly solutions, RIOC is committed to providing services that enhance the island's residential community. RIOC manages the two-mile long island's roads, parks, buildings, a sports facility, and public transportation, including the iconic Roosevelt Island Tramway. Additionally, RIOC operates a Public Safety Department that helps maintain a safe and secure environment for residents, employees, business owners, and visitors.



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Roosevelt Island By the Numbers: FY26

Annual Tram Ridership 3,003,305	Index Crimes 31	Tons of Waste Collected 2,212	Youth Center Members 120
Annual Red Bus Ridership 1,811,979	Affordable Residental Units 2,690	Island Residents 11,998	Sportspark Members 2,867

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2025-26 Accomplishments

Expanded Cherry Blossom Petal Protectors Program



Operation Smooth Ride: 600 Potholes filled



New Onboard Automated Tram Announcements



Accessibility Improvements on West Sidewalk



Electric Grounds Equipment



Recycling Containers Expansion



Sandpit to Seating



Kicking Off Eleanor's Pier Repair



2025-26 Accomplishments Continued

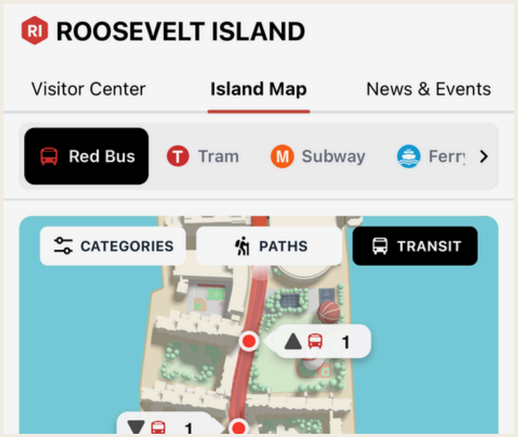
Major AVAC Repairs



14 Free Community Events and Festivals



Integrated Red Bus with VisitRI App



Community Surveys and Walkshops



10 Year Master Lease Extension



24 Youth Center Programs



Opening of Commons East



Ordered 2 New Hybrid Buses





PEOPLE LIKE LIVING HERE

•In 2025 and again in 2026, a survey was sent to island residents asking to rate the overall experience of living on Roosevelt Island in one of four categories: Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent.

•In the most recent survey, 87% of respondents said living on the island was “Good” or “Excellent, with “Good” being the largest cohort of responses (55%)

"It's very clean, I haven't seen it dirty ever since I've been living there."

"I want to also acknowledge the public safety team for being responsive to the calls and safety our island requires."

"I really appreciate the work RIOC employees do to keep the island looking so good!"

"Roosevelt island itself is lovely."

"Love the island, thanks for doing this!"

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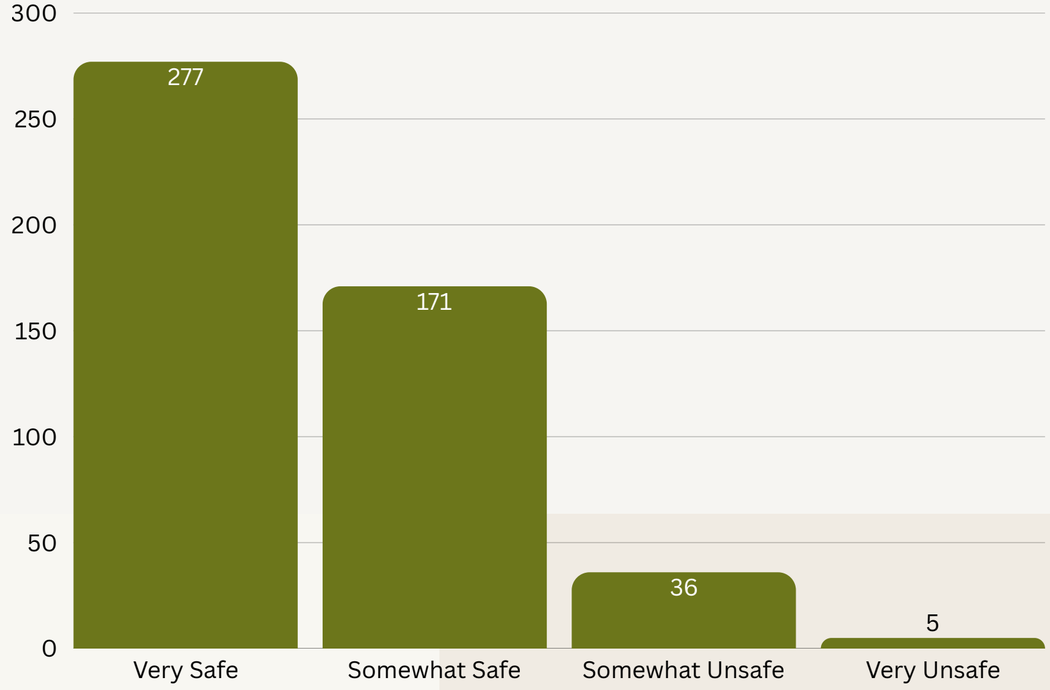
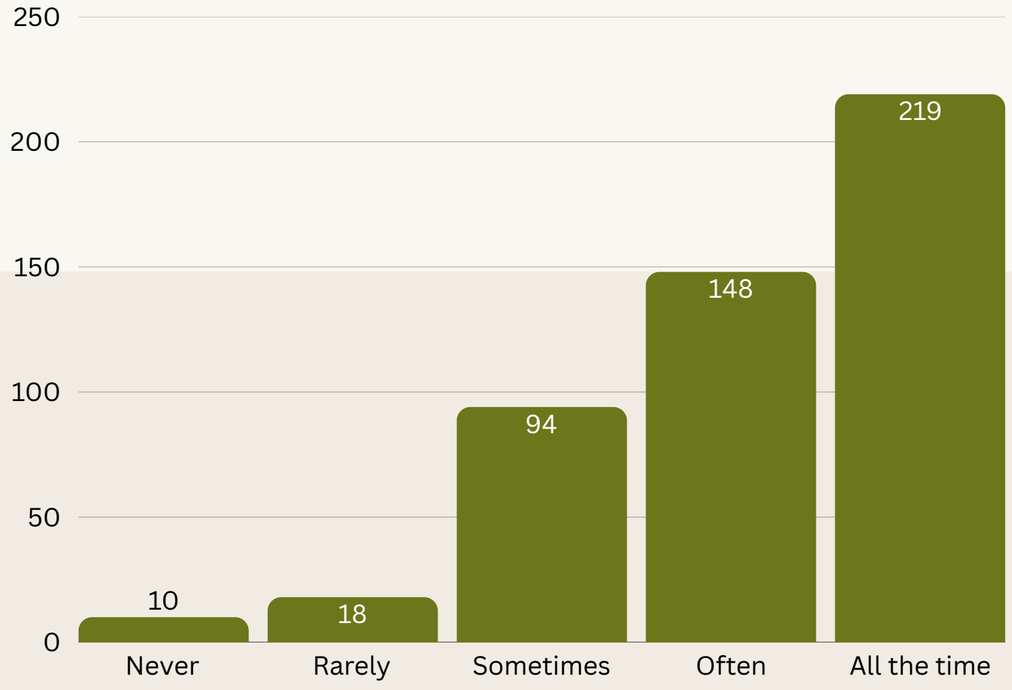
People Feel Safe on the Island

We asked respondents: “How safe do you feel on the island?”



We Like our Parks and Public Spaces

We asked respondents: “How often do you use Roosevelt Island’s parks or open spaces?”



This is one of the main draws of island living and a key differentiator between R.I. and other city communities.

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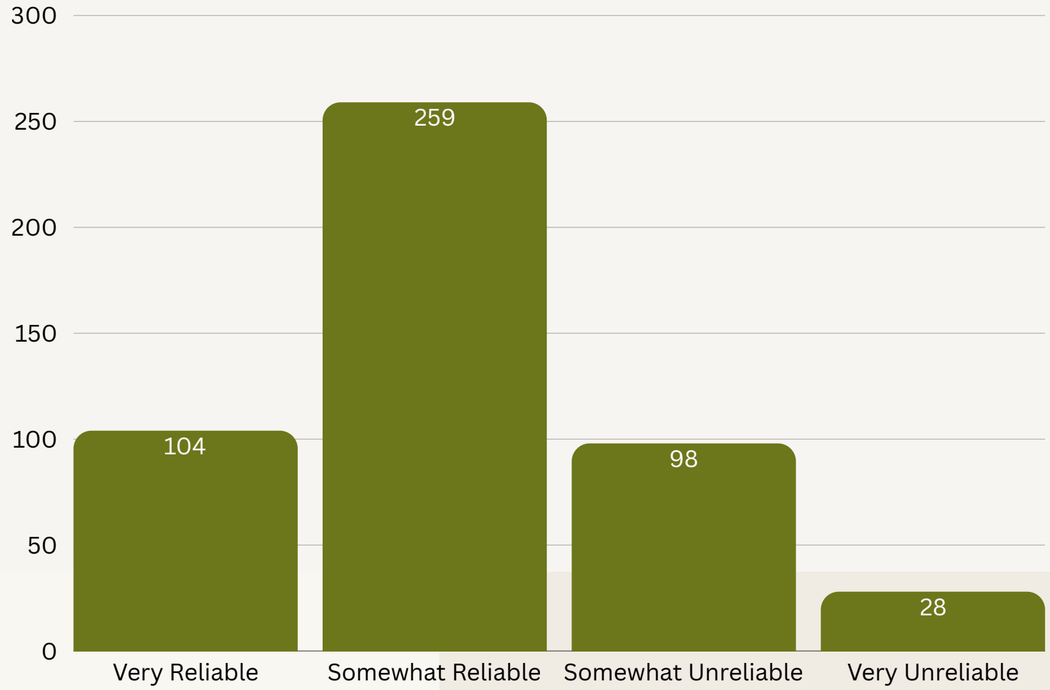
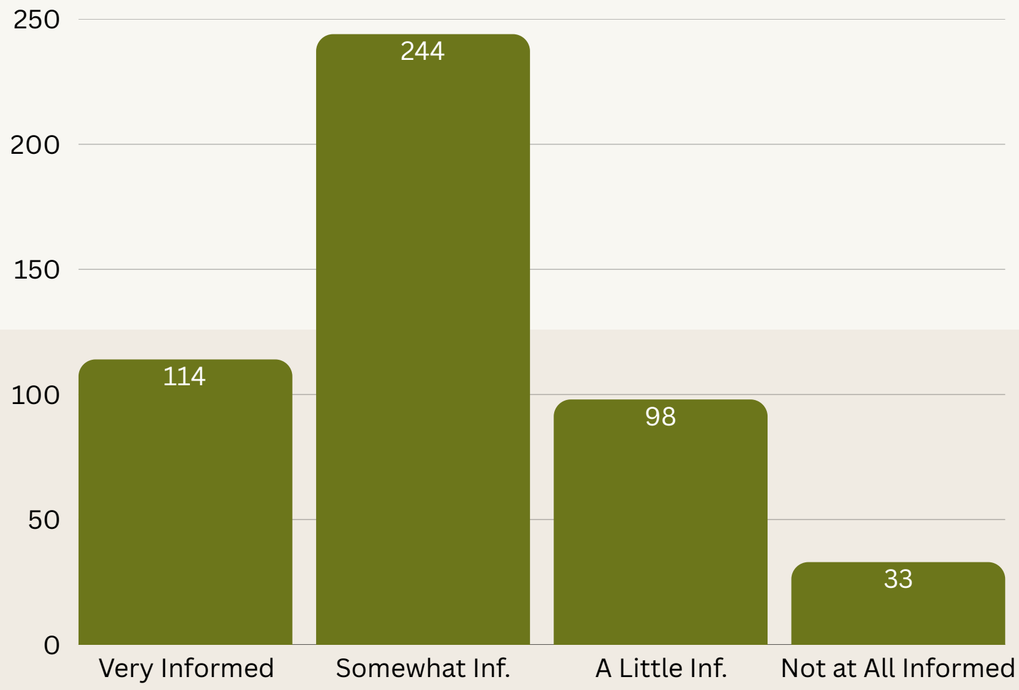
Transportation is Key

We asked respondents: “How would you rate the reliability of the Red Bus?”



Keeping Residents Informed

We asked respondents: “How informed are you on RIOC initiatives and operations?”



Overall, 74% of respondents said Red Bus service was very or somewhat reliable, and 73% said they feel very or somewhat informed about RIOC’s work.

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2027 AREAS OF FOCUS

- In our survey we asked respondents what they would like to see RIOC focus on in 2027. Protecting and improving the day-to-day experience of living on the island was key.

- Common themes included more reliable transportation service, repairs to existing infrastructure, greater traffic enforcement, better retail and essential services, and more cultural events.



"Actively bring more businesses to Main St. that will actually increase the quality of life in the community."

"I would like to see better maintenance of our parks and piers and more effort to prevent these public spaces from continuing to deteriorate."

"Fix Eleanor's Pier and all the piers on the west side of the island."

"More arts and cultural events for adults/young adults. Bring in outside organizers."

"Please enforce loading zone parking."

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OCTOBER 2025 CB8 R.I. COMMITTEE

- **Residents highlighted key themes and areas for RIOC improvement:**

Completed / Ongoing

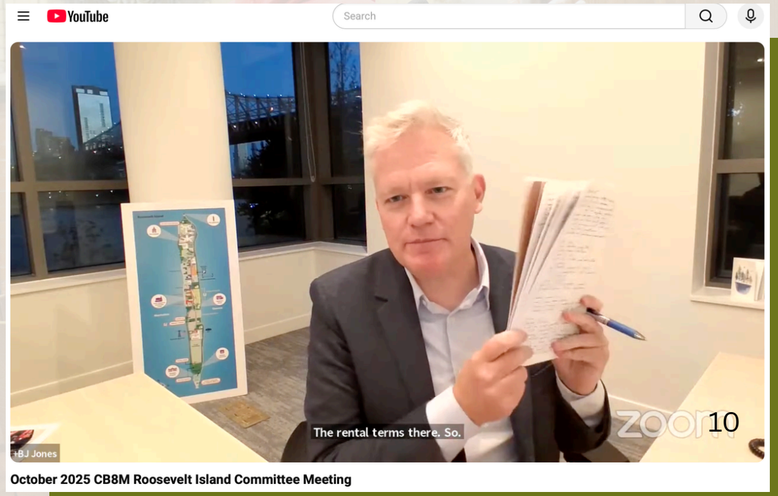
- Stronger traffic and parking enforcement
- Open the Commons East dog park
- Improve tram signage and announcements
- Fix broken sprinklers
- Fix playground swings
- Extend the Master Lease
- General island beautification
- Strengthen community engagement
- Town hall regarding demolition

In Progress

- Repairs for Eleanor's Pier
- Fix roadway
- Further climate resiliency for the island
- Add toddler playground equipment to Blackwell Playground
- Repurpose the old tram cabins
- Expand sustainability
- Reimagine Helix area
- Add more affordable housing options
- Address potential non-profit lease/license disparities

Not Yet

- More bike parking and lanes
- More native trees
- Restore Prow
- More ferry service
- Tram fast pass



October 2025 CB8M Roosevelt Island Committee Meeting

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KEY THEMES FOR 2026 AND BEYOND

- Prepare for a Resilient Future
- Prioritize Public Safety
- Enliven Public Space and Programs
- Lead with Integrity and Transparency
- Improve Reliability and Availability of Transportation
- Cultivate a Positive Work Environment





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KEY INITIATIVES IN PROGRESS

- Focus on timely execution and completion of capital projects, including
  - Re-opening Eleanor's Pier
  - Fixing the Girl Puzzle Monument
  - Redesigning Blackwell Playground
  - Repairing Main Street's road and improving wayfinding
  - Adding public restrooms near the Tram & Ferry
  - Fixing the Blackwell House roof
- Further bolster pedestrian safety through greater traffic enforcement and focus on promenade vulnerabilities



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KEY INITIATIVES (CONT.)

- Working with elected officials and city agencies to facilitate the Community Advisory Group (CAG) to discuss the ongoing steam plant demolition
- Negotiating fiscally responsible 10-year ground lease extensions with island buildings including their affordability protections where applicable
- Assessing the island's exposure to extreme weather with a comprehensive Flood Risk Assessment
- Releasing an RFP for Tram operations
- Carrying out necessary Tram capital improvements
- Partnering with Cornell Design Studio on public space and other enhancements



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KEY INITIATIVES (CONT.)

- Pursue additional initiatives to improve island living:
  - Adding new hybrid Red Buses to the fleet
  - Improving user experience for Red Bus wait-time tracking
  - Increasing community use of Brightly system to identify areas for improvement
  - Modernizing Good Shepherd Chapel elevator and repairing exterior
  - Reimagining the Smallpox Hospital Ruins as great public space that honors its history
  - Repurposing old tram cabins



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GANTT CHART SLIDE: CONSTRUCTION

- Focus on timely execution and completion of capital projects, including

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

#	CPP PROJECTS	FY26/27 NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	FY 27/28 APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
1	Ferry Landing Pathway Improvements													
2	Eleanor's Pier Rehabilitation													
3	Nellie Bly Immediate Repairs													
4	Tram Overlook - Viewing Area													
5	Tram Brake & Carriage Overhaul													
6	Good Shepherd Chapel Elevator Controls & Equipment Retrofit													
7	Sports Park Locker Room Floor Replacement													

RFP
Design
Construction

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GANTT CHART SLIDE: DESIGN

- Focus on timely execution and completion of capital projects, including

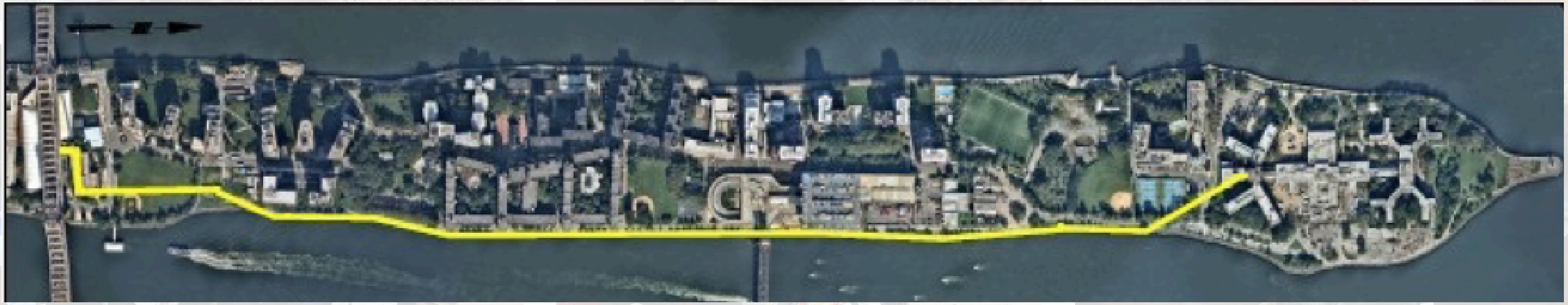
DESIGN PROJECTS

#	CPP PROJECTS	FY 26/27 NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	FY 27/28 APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
1	Blackwell House Roof Design													
2	Flood Risk Assessment and Interim Protection Study													
3	Blackwell Park Design													
4	Firefighters Field Comfort Station Design													
5	Good Shepherd Chapel Building Envelope Assessment													
6	North Pier Assessment													
7	Helix Structural Assessment													

RFP
Design
Construction

FUTURE FOCUS: BIG LIFTS

- RIOC's available funding for long-term capital projects risks being depleted by 2029, hindering necessary future maintenance projects
- RIOC and the City must begin serious discussions about remediating the deteriorating steam tunnel that runs under the island's Eastern Promenade
- RIOC, the City, and State must work on a longer-term Master Lease extension
- RIOC must prepare to adapt to a changing climate
- An aging tram, roadway, and AVAC system require major repairs



STAY CONNECTED TO ISLAND LIFE

Brightly

RIOC Advisories

RIOC Newsletter

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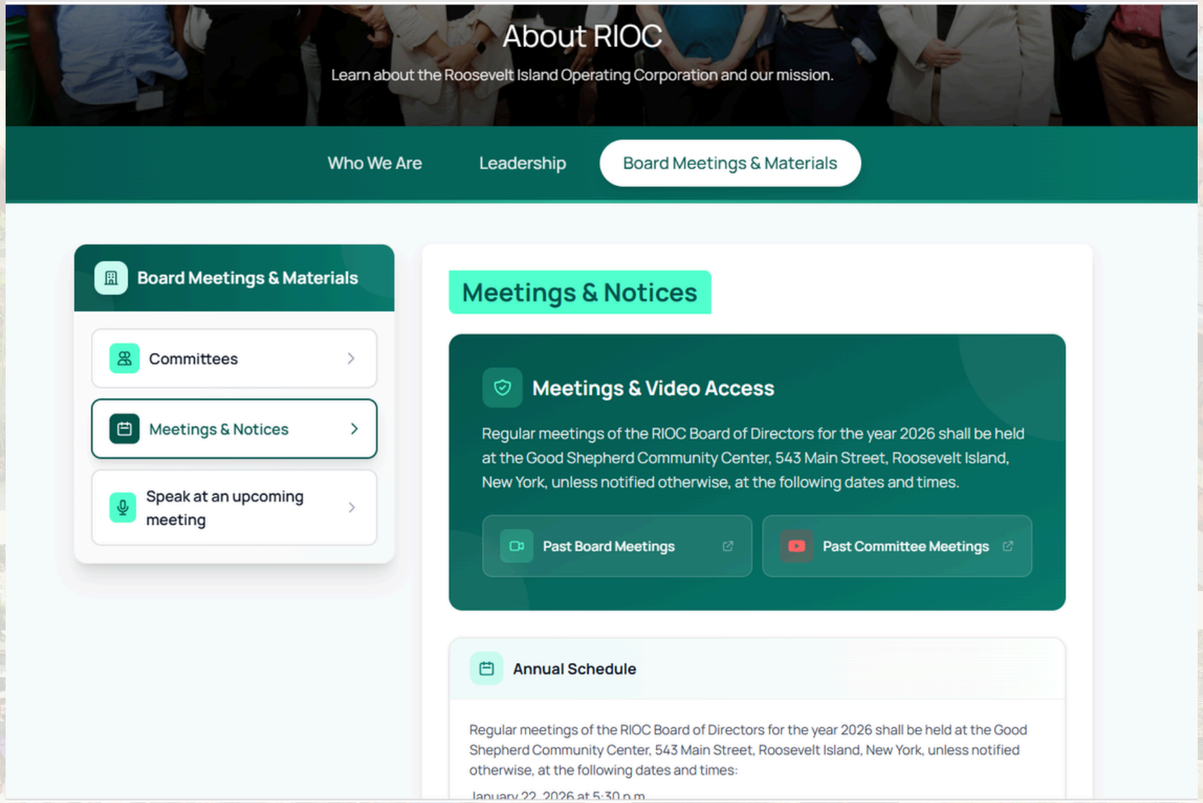
BOARD MEETINGS AND MATERIALS



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Thank you

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