



Roosevelt Island
Operating Corporation

RIOC News

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25th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

Letter from the President & CEO

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Dear Roosevelt Islanders:

When I came to RIOC a year ago, I had a straightforward goal: make sure the Corporation was delivering for Roosevelt Island today while putting it in a stronger position for tomorrow.

It has been a busy and productive first year. Across the Corporation, our teams have worked to improve the services residents rely on every day, address long-standing maintenance needs, and strengthen the organization itself.

We completed more than 7,400 work orders to address various maintenance and grounds needs across the island, continued providing 24/7 Public Safety coverage, and made significant investments in our transportation systems. We added two new hybrid Red Buses, completed mid-life overhauls on existing vehicles, and added Red Bus tracking to the visitRI app. We also completed important Tramway upgrades and secured \$250,000 in federal funding for the next phase of modernization.

Across the Island, we opened

Commons East, upgraded the west promenade sidewalk to improve accessibility and address flooding, repaved the west roadway near the Tram and Racquet Club, and repaired approximately 600 potholes following a difficult winter. We also began work on several long-deferred infrastructure and public space needs, including Eleanor's Pier, Blackwell House, Blackwell Playground and the Girl Puzzle Monument.

We continued to make RIOC more environmentally responsible by expanding recycling, moving to organic landscape maintenance, adding hybrid and electric vehicles and equipment, and supporting the continued growth of the Manhattan Healing Forest. We also launched a redesigned website, new digital displays and a new newsletter platform, while continuing to seek more feedback from residents about the issues that matter most to the community.

Perhaps most importantly, we secured an extension of RIOC's Master Lease through 2078, providing greater certainty for homeowners, building

owners and residents of affordable housing and giving us a longer horizon for planning for the Island's future.

There is still significant work ahead. We need to address long-deferred infrastructure repairs, strengthen RIOC's financial position, protect and expand housing affordability, and prepare the Island for the challenges posed by climate change. Our Flood Risk Assessment study and long-term planning work will help guide those efforts, while we continue working with our partners at the city, state and federal levels to identify new resources and solutions.

I am proud of what RIOC has accomplished over the past year, but I am even more focused on what comes next. None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our staff, who work every day to make Roosevelt Island a clean, green, safe and serene place to live, work and visit. I am grateful to everyone across the Corporation who has contributed to this progress, and I look forward to building on it together in the year ahead.



Community Calendar

Saturday, October 3rd

Celebrate City of Forest Day at Lighthouse Park from 11AM-3PM! Plant 100 trees with iDig2Learn, enjoy Jody Sperling's Time Lapse Dance with MSTDA, and relax with the City Of Birds jazz featuring alto saxophonist Elijah Shiffer & friends.

Saturday, October 24th

RIOC hosts its annual Halloween Extravaganza and Parade for island families with food, games, music, and lots of spooky costumes!

Friday, December 4th

'Tis the season to gather and ignite the holiday spirit! RIOC invites you to the Roosevelt Island Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 4th at 6:00PM on Meditation Lawn. We'll illuminate the night sky with a tree adorned with shimmering lights, and there will be music, performances, festive treats, and more!

Community Leader

Kate Federiconi

Library Manager
Roosevelt Island Public Library

Tell us a little about yourself and your background. What brought you to the New York Public Library and, ultimately, to Roosevelt Island?

Growing up, my local library was my haven. It was a safe, welcoming space after school, during my mom's musician board meetings, and throughout so many moments in between. I usually joke that I knew my library barcode number before I knew my social security number. I initially followed the family business in college, studying music history and theory with a concentration in harp. After finishing my undergraduate degree, and feeling a bit uncertain about my next steps, I visited the British Library and discovered the incredible world of archives. Seeing handwritten Beatles lyrics, Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, and a letter between Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn displayed freely for the public completely blew me away. I knew right then that I wanted to spend my career making history accessible to everyone.

I went on to earn my master's degree and began my career at the New York State Archives, but I soon realized something vital was missing: direct connection with people. Transitioning into public librarianship allowed me to bridge that gap. Ever since, I've been dedicated to sharing my passions and building strong community connections with people from all walks of life.

I moved to New York City in 2023 and applied for the Branch Manager position on Roosevelt Island because of my prior experience helping transition records from RIOCC to the State Archives. I fell in love with the Island during one of our site visits back then, so being able to serve this community today is truly a dream come true.

What do you enjoy most about being the Branch Manager of the Roosevelt Island Library?

The staff truly make the library what it is. It has been an honor to work alongside them, creating programs and adapting our space to better serve our community. Just as others supported and mentored me in the past, my favorite part of the job is empowering my team to bring their own ideas and passions to life.

What are some of the programs, services, or initiatives at the library that you're particularly excited about right now?

I'm especially excited about our new partnership with Cornell Tech, which aims to bridge the gap between the cutting-edge research happening on Roosevelt Island and the local community. We're currently gearing up for our second Community Conversations series scheduled for early November!

What have you learned about the Roosevelt Island community since becoming Branch Manager, and has anything surprised you?

The community here is truly wonderful. What surprised me most, and what I love best, is how much Roosevelt Island feels like a tight-knit small town nestled right in the heart of the big city. Coming from Upstate New York, that familiar small-town feel immediately made me feel right at home.

Are there any new programs, partnerships, or ideas you'd like to bring to the library in the coming year?

Looking ahead to the coming year, I'm eager to strengthen our relationships with Coler Hospital and Open Doors. Hosting events like Open Mic night at the library has



been such a highlight, and I want to keep expanding those meaningful local connections while bringing our resources to Coler as much as we can.

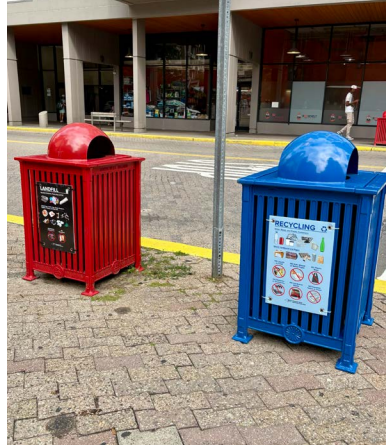
Finally, what is one thing you'd like Roosevelt Islanders to know about their local library?

We are more than just a place for books. We are a community space dedicated to creating meaningful connections for every person who walks through our doors.

Updates from RIOC

New Electric Vehicles, Signage Help Keep the Island Clean & Green!

Over the summer, RIOC continued putting its sustainability goals into motion by adding new electric vehicles to our fleet and taking another step toward greener operations on Roosevelt Island. We've also added new signage to our red and blue garbage and recycling receptacles to help ensure waste is being disposed of properly. From green thumbs to green rides, we're proud to continue finding ways to make our operations more sustainable and keep the Island clean, green, safe, and serene.



Take the Blackwell Park Survey & Help Determine What Upgrades You'd Like to See

RIOC is beginning to consider ways to upgrade Blackwell Park and make it an even better place for Island families. As we begin this process, we want to hear from the community about how you use the park and playground and what improvements you'd like to see. Take the Blackwell Park and Playground User Survey and share your feedback with us: <https://qrco.de/bwps>.



Blackwell Park Improvements

RIOCMaintenancecontinuestomakeimprovements in Blackwell Park, including installing a new concrete walkway and working to replace the difficult to maintain, seldom used sandbox with a new seating area for residents to enjoy.



RIOC & RIDA Host Annual Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway

Free backpacks, free ice cream, and free snacks? What a way to close out summer on the Island! On August 29, RIOC and the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association (RIDA) hosted their annual free Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway at Good Shepherd Plaza, providing 500 free backpacks filled with school supplies to Roosevelt Island students as they get ready for the new school year. The event also featured music, snacks, and ice cream courtesy of the RIOC Public Safety Department. Thanks to everyone who stopped by and to RIDA and PSD for helping make this year's giveaway a success!

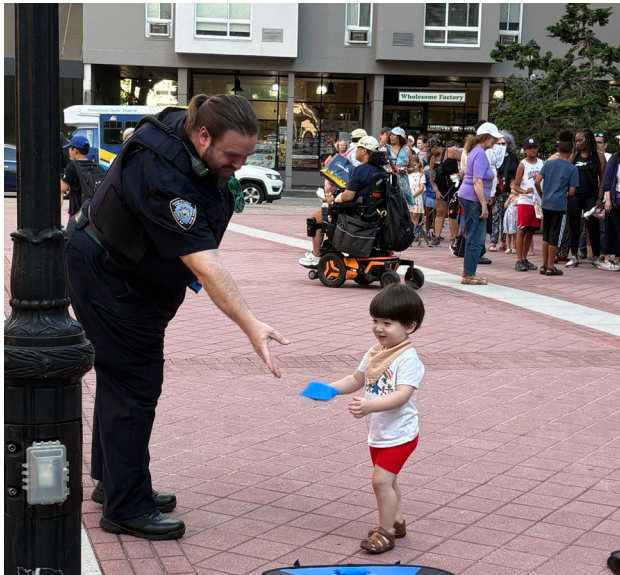


Repair Work on Eleanor's Pier Begins

Demolition work at Eleanor's Pier is nearly complete, with construction expected to begin in the coming weeks. The project is moving into its next phase as preparations continue to restore and improve this space for Roosevelt Islanders to enjoy. The pier is scheduled to re-open summer 2027.



PSD Hosts “National Night Out” in Good Shepherd Plaza



On August 4, RIOC’s Public Safety Department once again hosted “National Night Out” for the Roosevelt Island community. The annual event is an opportunity to build bridges between PSD officers and the community they serve, while highlighting the importance of community policing and strong relationships between residents and public safety. Roosevelt Island remains one of the safest communities in New York City, thanks in large part to the hard work and dedication of our Public Safety Department. We thank everyone who came out to celebrate with us and our PSD team for all they do to keep the Island safe.



Planning Begins to Install New Roof on Blackwell House

Work is continuing behind the scenes on the much needed repairs to the roof on Blackwell House. The RIOC team is currently preparing the permit set for review by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). These repairs will protect Blackwell House and its history well into the future.



25th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

On September 11, RIOC hosted its annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at Good Shepherd Plaza, marking the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The ceremony brought together Island residents, RIOC staff, Public Safety officers, and community members to honor and remember the Roosevelt Islanders and first responders who were lost on that tragic day. During the ceremony, the names of Ed Beyea, Anthony J. Fallone, Taimour Khan, Scott Larsen, Kevin J. Smith, Deputy Chief Raymond Downey, Deputy Chief Charlie Kasper, Battalion Chief John Moran, and Battalion Chief John Paolillo were read aloud, and we also remembered former RIOC Public Safety Chief Jack McManus, who passed away from a 9/11-related illness after a distinguished career serving the Island and the City of New York. The ceremony also recognized three first responders who were at Ground Zero on 9/11 and the days after and who continue to serve the Roosevelt Island community today: AVP of Public Safety Chief Kevin Brown, PSD Chief Anthony Amoroso, and Captain Patrick DeCanio. We are grateful for their continued leadership and dedication to protecting our community, and we continue to remember all those who lost their lives on September 11, as well as those who continue to live with the lasting impacts of that day.



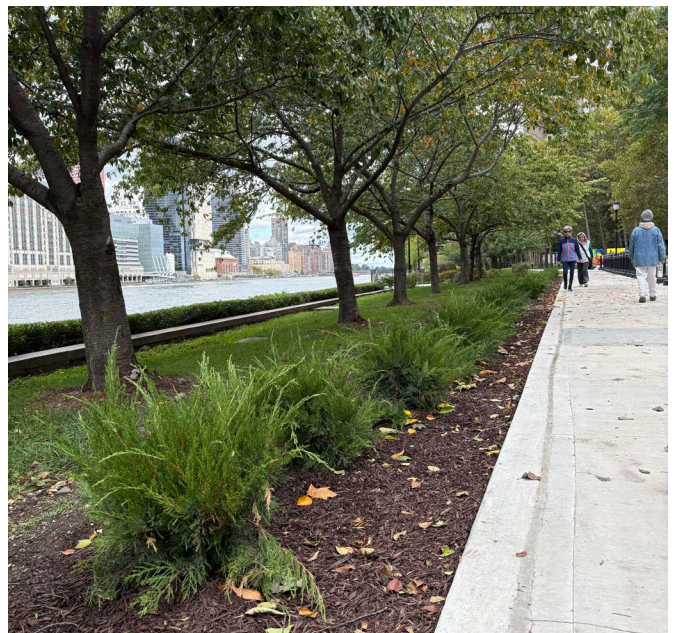
“Living on Roosevelt Island Survey” Offers Insights into Resident Sentiment on Island

For the second year, RIOC surveyed Roosevelt Island residents over the summer to better understand how Islanders feel about life on the Island and what’s working well, as well as where there is room for improvement. The 2026 Living on Roosevelt Island Survey received 489 responses, with residents continuing to express positive overall sentiment about life on the Island. 87% of respondents rated their overall quality of life as good or excellent, while 91% said they feel very or somewhat safe on Roosevelt Island. Residents also gave positive marks to parks and public-space maintenance, with 73% rating it 4 out of 5, while 74% rated the Red Bus as very or somewhat reliable and 76% gave the same rating to the Tram. On communications, 73% said they feel very or fairly informed about what’s happening on the Island. The survey also provided valuable feedback on areas where residents would like to see continued improvements, helping RIOC better understand community priorities and inform its work moving forward.



RIOC “West Side Walkshop” Brings Residents & the Corporation Together to Discuss Island Upgrades

In July, RIOC hosted a West Side Infrastructure Walkshop, inviting residents to walk and talk with our team about ideas for improving public spaces along the west side of the Island. The walk included stops at the Tram Waterfront, Eleanor’s Pier, Boat Prow, and West Pier, giving residents an opportunity to share their thoughts about how these spaces could be restored, improved, and better utilized. RIOC is committed to listening to the community as we look at the future of these important public spaces, and we thank everyone who joined us and shared their ideas. Following the walkshop, RIOC also replanted shrubs along the sidewalk adjacent to the West Promenade, replacing those removed during the sidewalk’s enhancement work earlier in the Spring.



RIOC & RIVAA Celebrate 21st Annual Fall for Arts Festival

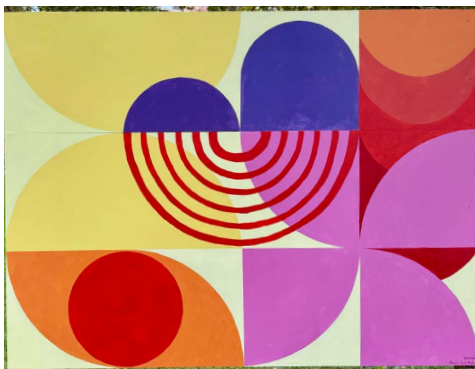
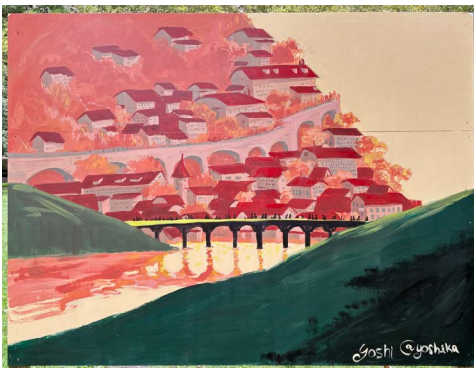


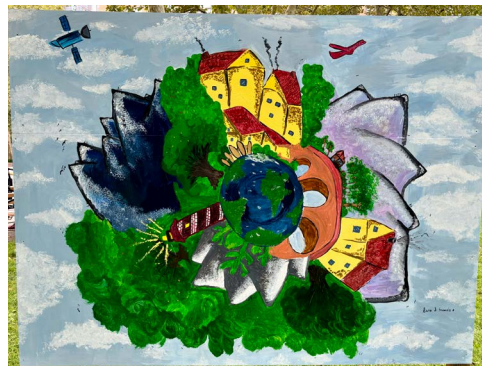
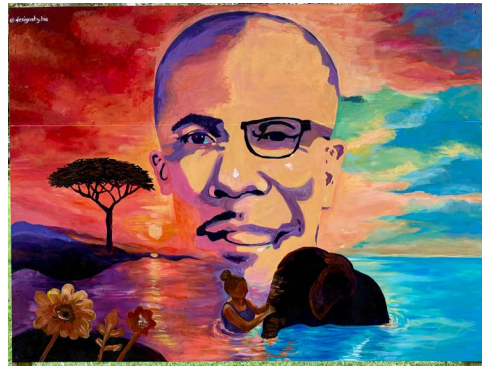
On September 19, RIOC and RIVAA Gallery hosted the 21st Annual Fall for Arts Festival, bringing together artists, musicians, families, and neighbors to celebrate creativity and community under the themes “When I Dream” and “Bridges and Connections.” Throughout the day, the Island was filled with live mural painting, jazz performances, family-friendly activities, music, and more.

A huge thank you to all of the incredible artists and musicians who shared their talents and vision with us. Special thanks, as always, to our friends at RIVAA Gallery for their incredible partnership and

expertise; Main Street Theater & Dance Alliance, Roosevelt Island Historical Society, Roosevelt Island Disabled Association, Roosevelt Island Public Library, RI Girl Scouts, Island Kids, and Susheel Kurien for their wonderful collaboration; and the entire Roosevelt Island community for coming out to share in the joy of Island art and culture. The murals will remain on the Meditation Lawn through November, then will relocate to our Motorgate Gallery where they will remain through next year’s festival.







YC Highlights

It was a busy and successful summer at the Roosevelt Island Youth Center, with participants taking part in a variety of educational, recreational, and wellness activities. Through its ongoing partnership with iDig2Learn, participants had opportunities to explore gardening, learn about growing food, and develop healthy eating habits. Outdoor activities, including Organized Mass Chaos (OMC), kept participants active and engaged, while projects like creating the Youth Center Spirit Banner gave them a chance to express their creativity and showcase their artistic talents. Participants also took part in yoga, incorporating movement and wellness into their summer programming.

