



Online- Offshore

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News and Stories from Governors Island

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Bikes are In - and Free on Fridays

Exploring the Island and taking in the spectacular views offshore just became easier. Bikes are in. For the first time there will be free loaners on Fridays – and, of course, free anytime if you bring your own. On weekends there will be bikes for rent, big ones for grown-ups, little ones for kids and Quadracycles for four or more. More than a mile of paved pathways are open for car-free cycling on the Promenade and inside the historic district.

Inspired by successful public bike sharing programs in Paris, Copenhagen, Barcelona and Holland's Hogue Veluwe National Park, the availability of bikes this summer will test the concept of free bikes proposed by Rotterdam's West 8 firm, co-designers of the Island's future park land. Free Fridays means that "visitors can come from all over New York City, and even the world, and experience the joy of riding a bike in this incredible place," says Adriaan Geuze, West 8's principal. The city's Transportation Commissioner, Janette Sadik-Khan, adds:

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Photo by Elizabeth Case/G.I.A.



It's not too late to sign up for the Governors Island Alliance's June 17 benefit reception in the newly renovated Battery Maritime Building. Please join us as we honor the J.M. Kaplan Fund and the Poulakakos Family for their meaningful support. The reception starts at 6 in the spanking new ferry waiting room. Come early and tour the Island with Adriaan Gueze of West 8, co-leader of the design team for the future open spaces. The tour group departs from Slip 7 at 5.

Tickets, starting at \$250, are tax-deductible. For details or to sign up, contact Ella Smith at ella@rpa.org, (212) 253-2727 ext. 324, or go to www.governorsislandalliance.org/newsite/.

Celebrate the Fourth On the Fifth – *con brio*

A hundred musicians are coming to the Island with seven Civil War-era cannon for a concert that ends with Tchaikovsky's exuberant *1812 Overture* - and fireworks! The musicians are the New York Philharmonic, which has performed in more than 400 cities around the world but never before on Governors Island. The date: Saturday, July 5. The time: 6:30. The price of admission: It's free.

The orchestra will perform on its own stage – the one it carries around to all its summer concerts – on the newly cleared site of the Coast Guard's old Super 8 Motel at the foot of the "glacis" parade ground.

Their opening and closing numbers bear a striking resemblance, appropriate to the Island's military history - first *The Star Spangled*

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It's FIGMENT 2008!

The group that calls itself FIGMENT will bring its eclectic mix of participatory arts and performances to the Island again for the three-day weekend of June 27-29. Their successful debut last summer drew 2,800 visitors – let's call them "enjoyers." More than 200 artists have signed up to do their thing this year.

FIGMENT invites the public to take part in extremely interactive art exhibits, live performances, fixed art installations, mixed-media presentations and workshops throughout the island. Everything is free.

Executive Producer David Koren explains: "We want to create an arts event that lowers the barrier for people to participate... At FIGMENT, everyone can play a part." People of all ages are welcome to construct, dance, sing or simply experience the art available on the island.

Two examples: Seahorse on Parade, created by Kevin Shultis, and the Octamasher, by Moldover. The seahorse, nine feet tall and nicknamed Seamus, will parade in front of Castle Williams every day, with an entourage of mermaids and flag bearers. The color-

ful Octamasher, a musical octopus of eight keyboard-like instruments, will invite participants to create their own masterpieces.

There will also be a nine-hole mini-golf course, sponsored by Black Rock Arts Foundation and open to the public all summer. Each hole has been created by a different artist or group of artists.

In addition to building community among artists and their audiences, FIGMENT demonstrates a vision for the future of Governors Island as an artist's haven. Come out and take part in the biggest art event of Summer 2008.

Volunteers are needed, too - greeters, cleanup crews (the "leave no trace team") and others. Register at <http://figment-nyc.org/volunteer>.



Photo by GIPEC

Goofing around - and around - at FIGMENT 2007.

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Bikes are In...

"The Island will also serve as a great testing ground. We'll be evaluating the program to see if it is something that may be successful in other parts of the city."

Let the fun begin. The Bike and Roll company, which already rents bikes at locations in the Hudson River Park and the

South Street Seaport, stands ready to do the same near the ferry dock on the Island. Rentals on Saturday and Sunday are \$5 for a half-hour. On Fridays they're free, thanks to Transportation Alternatives, an Alliance member and longtime advocate for relieving the city's traffic congestion. The free bikes are for an hour, first-come first-served.

The bikes for grown-ups – 100 of them – are known as "beach cruisers," essen-

tially single-gear models with balloon tires, comfortable seats and coaster brakes. Bike and Roll also has 20 children's bikes and two "tagalongs" to hitch on the back of a bike for pint-sized passengers.

Bikers must bring a photo I.D. or a credit card. Helmets are required for children under 14 and are available for anyone else who wants one. Riders under 18 must have an adult sign a waiver.

Folks on the Island: An American Folk Music Festival

Presented by Trinity Wall Street and the Governors Island Alliance

Janis Ian	July 5
Slaid Cleaves	July 12
Bearfoot	July 19
Eric Bibb	July 26
Ronny Cox	August 2

All performances are free, and will be held outdoors beginning at 1:30.

For more information, visit www.folksonthelands.com



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Celebrate the Fourth...

Banner, celebrating the fact that "our flag was still there" after the British bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor on the night of Sept. 13, 1814. Tchaikovsky's Overture, bringing the program to a noisy end, commemorates Russia's crucial defense against Napoleon at the Battle of Borodino, west of Moscow, on Sept. 7, 1812. Tchaikovsky actually wrote 16 cannon shots into the score; five while the orchestra plays a section of France's *La Marseillaise* and 11 more as the French are repelled to the tune of *God Save the Tsar!*

The rest of the program will be Rossini's Overture to *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, Four Dance Episodes from Copland's *Rodeo*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espanol* and Chabrier's *Espana*.

Bramwell Tovey, music director of the Vancouver Symphony, will conduct. He has conducted the Philharmonic's "Summertime Classics" series since it began in 2004, and this year was named the next principal guest conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic's summer concerts in Hollywood Bowl.

Kate Levin, New York City Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, says of the site and the concert: "Governors Island is an incredible venue for the arts ... [and] this free concert is the highlight of an exciting schedule on the Island this summer." Leslie Koch, president of GIPEC, says, "There is no better place in New York to enjoy an evening of free music on the Fourth of July weekend – with breathtaking views of the Statue of Liberty and New York Harbor."

There will be continuous ferry service in the afternoon and evening from the Battery Maritime Building, next to the Staten Island ferry at the southern tip of Manhattan. Check www.govisland.com for details.