



LONG ISLAND



Hunters  
Point  
Parks  
CONSERVANCY

2016 Annual Report



# A Letter from the President

It was a year of firsts for Hunters Point Parks Conservancy. In June we launched our first annual LIC Post Run the Waterfront 5K that brought over 1,200 people to the Long Island City waterfront parks. Runners began in Hunters Point Park, went through the streets of Long Island City, looped back through Gantry Plaza State Park and finished in Hunters Point Park. In July we launched our Summer Kids program with Gantry Parent Association. Our inaugural program had over 40 events that attracted over 2,000 children. In August we hosted events such as the Queens Literary Festival.

We continued popular programming, too. CinemaLIC screened six outdoor movies such as *Zootopia*, *Ghost* and *Big* in partnership with our sponsor, Nest Seekers. For music and dance lovers, we sponsored Wednesdays on the Waterfront with dance lessons, DJs and salsa.

We also held community events such as the two LIC Henge Parties when the setting sun aligned perfectly with the east-west streets in Manhattan. In August we hosted *Seinfeld in the Park for the Summer of George*, which featured favorite shows, an Elaine dance-off, and black and white cookies.

Amid the fun, we also worked to keep the parks looking beautiful. Beginning in April and through October volunteers weeded, planted, mulched and picked up litter. The Conservancy received a \$13,800 grant from New York State that paid to replace broken Adirondack chairs, lighting fixtures

and damaged tree guards.

In the fall we hosted the second annual LIC Bulbfest where we planted 5,000 daffodil bulbs throughout Gantry Plaza State Park and Hunters Point South Park. In January we mulched 1,550 Christmas trees at our annual Mulchfest.

To meet our mission, we partnered with community groups, elected officials and park enthusiasts. For much of our programming we used local artists or vendors. We brought in community arts groups such as the Secret Theatre, LIC Entertainment, McManus Irish Dance Studio and Queens Dance Festival.

As more people discover the beauty and tranquility of Hunters Point South Park and Gantry Plaza State Park, park attendance will continue to increase. We are excited about the new Hunters Point Library that will open this winter, and a second ferry stop at the north end of Gantry Plaza State Park. The next tower of Hunters Point South Living is expected to break ground soon, and in 2018 the Phase 2 extension of Hunters Point South Park opens.

As our community continues to evolve and grow, Hunters Point Parks Conservancy will continue its mission of enriching the quality of life in Hunters Point by preserving and enhancing its parks, green spaces and waterfront. We encourage everyone to help continue making our community a great place to both visit and reside. Please keep in touch through [www.hunterspointparks.org](http://www.hunterspointparks.org) and our Facebook page.

## 2016 Leadership

### OFFICERS

**President:** Rob Basch  
**Vice President:** Mark Christie  
**Secretary:** Barbara Etzel  
**Treasurer:** Patrick Thompson  
**President Emeritus:** Bill Bylewski

### BOARD MEMBERS

Lillian Chen  
Ann Margaret O'Connor  
Matthew Wallace



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Basch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cover photos by  
Fazillah Durante

# A Conversation with Mark Christie



Mark Christie, Conservancy Vice President, left, and Bill Bylewski, President Emeritus

## When you moved to Queens West in 1997, what was the area like?

There were abandoned buildings, garbage piled up, and even a pack of feral dogs — if you can believe that.

We had these beautiful green spaces throughout Hunters Point, but they were filled with trash and were not being taken care of.

“We knew that by cleaning up the area, especially the parks, we could improve the quality of life for the residents of LIC.”

## What caused you to start the Friends of Gantry, which later morphed into the Hunters Point Parks Conservancy?

I thought there was a lot of neglect around LIC, including the park. The park was our own little jewel, and I would go through the grass and pick up cigarette butts, trash, and all sorts of things that you wouldn't think people would leave in this green space.

I then met people in the community, so I asked a neighbor if he wanted to help me clean the park. And then we asked another person. And pretty soon we had an active group of concerned people working together to improve the park.

Soon we were meeting every Saturday as a collective group with a goal of making the park as nice as possible. A number of us even took a three-month course from Tree Pruners of NYC to become certified Citizen Tree Pruners. We also started to weed the park and bring new life by adding plants and flowers.

With the opening of the Hunters Point South Park, the Friends of Gantry morphed into the **Hunters Point Parks Conservancy** so we could more efficiently and effectively raise and earmark funds for the green space.

## What is your hope for the future of the park and LIC?

I want residents to take ownership. The park is their space and I want for each and every person of LIC to say:

“We love Hunters Point parks and we cherish them.”

To add to the feeling of community ownership, HPPC wants to see more involvement from local residents. We are open to any ideas that will enhance the community and take advantage of the wonderful elements the park can provide.

One thing we are really excited about in the upcoming year is the Queens Library at Hunters Point. In the prospectus of Queens West development, there were words about a Queens Library branch. Gantry Plaza State Park is a perfect location for a stand-alone library near the waterfront. As a member, I formed a committee to advocate for the library, and we are proud to say that the groundbreaking was in May 2015 and library will open later this year.

I cannot tell you how much we cherish this neighborhood and the waterfront. We look forward to continuing our goal to support and enhance the waterfront parks in Hunters Point through events, education and conservation, so people can enjoy the area for decades to come.

It is a pleasure to work with the Conservancy volunteers and community members to create great activities on the waterfront and to keep the parks looking great.

We will continue to improve our quality of life here in Hunters Point, Queens — the World's Borough!



# Summer Kids at the Landing



In July, Hunters Point Parks Conservancy and the Gantry Parent Association launched its seven-week series to offer family friendly programming for children. Recognizing the influx of young families to the neighborhood, HPPC and GPA provided free activities ranging from interactive music classes, dance demonstrations, and arts and crafts. Hosted on the LIC waterfront, the events drew thousands of kids through engaging programs for children and adults.

One of the summer's highlights was the exotic animal show that drew over 200 people to see these spectacular animals up close. Kids were able to see and touch hedgehogs, chinchillas, macaws, snakes, and many other animals!

The summer program concluded with a performance from the Secret Theatre's children's musical, *Pirate Pete's Parrot*. In the tradition of the wildly popular English pantomime shows, *Pirate Pete's Parrot* provides music, mischief, and a boatload of laughs for children and adults.



## Summer Kids at the Landing

Mr. Andy (Interactive Music Class)  
Court Square Librarian  
Arts & Crafts with Leonie  
Jessica Lange Dance Studio Class  
Exotic Animals  
Broadway for Kids  
Beauty Counter Mommy Makeovers  
Pirate Pete's Parrot from the Secret Theatre



# CinemaLIC

In its third year, CinemaLIC sponsored by Nest Seekers offered thousands of park-goers some of the best classic and independent films on the waterfront.

Hugely popular with both LIC residents and visitors to the area, CinemaLIC started in 2014 with one movie. In 2015, a full series was presented and attendance and participation continued to grow.

In 2016, we presented movies that took place in New York City. The audience was transported to worlds where mermaids, superheroes, and talking zoo animals roamed the streets of New York.

The movies that were screened were: *Big*, *Splash*, *Spiderman*, *August Rush*, *Zootopia*, and *Ghost*.



## Hulu Summer Road Trip Presents: Seinfeld!

Hunters Point Parks Conservancy hosted a stop on the “Hulu Summer Road Trip,” a national series of outdoor movie events taking place from coast-to-coast. Hunters Point South Park proved to be the perfect location to celebrate the iconic Queens-native characters George and Jerry, and all the fans who watched them for nine years.

The night featured a screening of three Seinfeld episodes as well as the theatrical premiere of the documentary short, *They're Real & They're Spectacular: Seinfeld Super Fans and the Summer of George*.

The Road Trip included activities such as a Seinfeld cast look-alike contest complete with an Elaine dance-off, show-themed food options, interactive social activities, photo opportunities and more.





# LIC Post Waterfront Run 5K



The LIC waterfront is used by hundreds of people a day who exercise by walking, jogging, or any activity that gets the heart rate elevated--while soaking in a perfect view of the Manhattan skyline.

On Saturday, June 4, over 1,200 runners, families, and supporters of Hunters Point Parks Conservancy participated in the inaugural LIC Post Run the Waterfront 5K. The event was organized by the LIC Post and HPPC, in conjunction with the Woodside Sunnyside Runners and Run LIC. All of the funds raised went to forward the mission of HPPC to enrich the quality of life in Hunters Point by preserving and enhancing its parks, green spaces and waterfront in partnership with the community.

The event was truly a community effort and made possible by the generous support of sponsors, volunteers, and services provided by the City and State Parks Departments, elected officials, and the 108th Precinct.





# Sponsors

## Platinum

Plaxall  
dutch - Long Island City

## Gold

LIC Dental Associates  
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## Silver

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Sacred Waters  
Hunters Point South Living  
M&T Bank  
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Manducatis Rustica  
Maiella  
Foodcellar Market

## Bronze

Woodbines  
Gantry LIC  
LIC Bar  
Tom Cat Bakery  
SLICE Pizzeria  
Sugar Cube  
Beer Closet  
Nesh NYC

## Additional Support

State Senator Michael Gianaris  
State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan  
City Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer  
New York City Parks  
New York State Parks  
108th Precinct  
COFFEED





# Mulchfest

In early January, Hunters Point Parks Conservancy in conjunction with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, the New York City Department of Sanitation, and GreeNYC, hosted Mulchfest to recycle holiday trees into mulch that will nourish plantings across the city.

In 2016, almost 600 trees were mulched at Hunters Point South Park and over 30,000 trees were mulched citywide. In 2017, thanks to the sustainable and environmentally conscious efforts of our community, we mulched 1,535 trees—one of the largest Mulchfests in Queens.



# Bulbfest

In October, our volunteers planted 5,000 daffodil bulbs throughout both Gantry Plaza State Park and Hunters Point South Park.







## Caring for Gantry Plaza State Park

New York State awarded Hunters Point Parks Conservancy a \$13,800 grant that was used to replace broken Adirondack chairs, lighting fixtures and tree guards.



## Clean Parks

We hosted bi-weekly clean-up events including I Love My Park Day, It's My Park Day and Hunters Point Park Beautification Day. Hunters Point Parks Conservancy will continue to work closely with both New York City and New York State officials to maintain our parks.



## Individual Sponsors

### \$200+

Madani Adjali  
Michael Myers  
Rebecca Posner  
Eugene Rhee  
Lewis Rothkopf  
Chris Wardak

### \$100+

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Barbara Etzel  
John Green  
Elizabeth Lusskin  
Didier Munoz  
Bea Murphy  
Mark Paulonis  
Luis Ramones  
Moitri Savard  
Patrick Thompson  
Matthew Wallace  
Mark Watchus

### \$50+

Christian Amez  
Steve Denaro  
Thomas Diaz  
Fazillah Durante  
Matthew Furlong  
Murtuza and Jayun Gunja  
Thomas Holmes  
Douglas Houston  
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## Corporate Sponsors

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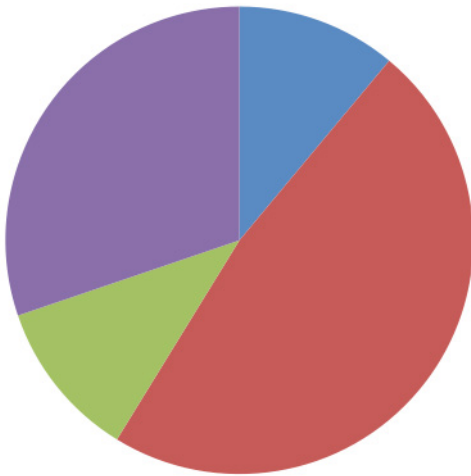




# Financial Highlights

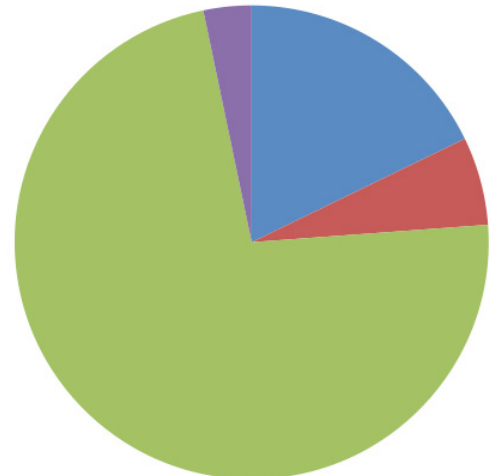
## Revenue

- Corporate / Foundations
- Membership and Fundraising
- Grants
- Programming



## Expenses

- Membership and fundraising
- Park equipment and upkeep
- Programming
- Administration



**Our mission is to enrich the quality of life in Hunters Point by preserving and enhancing its parks, green spaces and waterfront in partnership with the community. We do this in the following ways.**

- Assist the management of Gantry Plaza State Park and Hunters Point South Park and other green spaces in Hunters Point
- Organize and support special events and activities in the parks
- Enhance artistic and recreational activities in the parks
- Monitor potential problems in the parks and advocate for solutions
- Educate the community about environmental concerns on the Hunters Point waterfront to preserve and enhance the waterways



