



AIA New York Chapter

The Founding Chapter of
The American Institute of Architects

AIA New York Chapter Testimony Governors Island: Status & Timing of Park Space and Master Plan Development

New York City Council Committee on Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Committee on Parks and Recreation Committee on Waterfronts

February 14, 2007

On behalf of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and its 4,000 architect and public members I would like to express our continued support of GIPEC's efforts to develop and operate Governors Island for the public benefit. Therefore we endorse the following recommendations for the planning process:

1. Deliver a feasible master plan and determine potential partners in 2007
2. Commit to needed public investments both on and off the Island - do not let expediency and private dollars determine the long-term character of the Island at the expense of public amenities.
3. Expansion of early public uses on the Island. Plan early interim uses for Governors Island in order to build a supportive constituency for this public asset and maintain its historic buildings.

The AIA New York Chapter urges the City Council to remain involved, assist GIPEC in its development process, support greater public participation, and provide its share of funding for meaningful public involvement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.