

NY Chapter of American Institute of Architects

Statement on the Occasion of the GIPEC Public Meeting, October 19, 2005:

The AIA New York Chapter continues to support GIPEC's efforts to develop and operate Governors Island for the public benefit.

The key words here are *for the public benefit*. We urge you to keep the creation of a great civic place, with educational, recreational and cultural uses, as the primary guiding concept and planning goal for the island. This would further the commitments made in the transfer deed, which states in part that: "The covenants ... are intended to ensure the protection and preservation of the natural, cultural, and historic qualities ..., guarantee public access ..., promote the quality of public education, and enhance the ability of the public to enjoy Governors Island and the surrounding waterways, ..."

To help accomplish that, the park of at least 40 acres required by the transfer deed covenants should be located and designed now, rather than later, as part of the infrastructure provided by the City and State.

To get things moving and draw both not-for-profit and for-profit investors, the City and State should commit at least \$200 million now for the Island's infrastructure, such as parkland and esplanade creation, the repair and restoration of historic buildings, and improved ferry service.

By: Suzanne Wertz, AIA