



Battery Park City Authority

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BP-SEE YOU THERE! BATTERY PARK CITY AUTHORITY UNVEILS JAM-PACKED LINEUP OF FREE SUMMER PROGRAMMING

All-free public events include FIFA World Cup watch parties and the International Parade of Sail to commemorate America's 250th Birthday; plus

Fan favorites like the Swedish Midsummer Festival and River & Blues Concert Series

The Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) today unveiled its jam-packed [lineup of free summer programming](#) with a robust schedule of events from May to August. The season is filled with beloved neighborhood programming and exciting new events to match the historic Summer of '26 experience, including FIFA World Cup watch parties and the International Parade of Sail commemorating America's 250th Birthday.

"As the weather gets warmer, Battery Park City will come alive with a robust programming lineup for people of all ages to enjoy," said **BPCA President & CEO Raju Mann**. "This summer marks one year since the reopening of Wagner Park as part of our resiliency efforts, and it will take center stage in our programming calendar this season. We're excited to see the neighborhood serve as a gathering place for the community and look forward to hosting an exciting lineup of events across our incredible waterfront and green spaces."

"The Battery Park City Authority's free summer programming is truly hard to beat. From hosting World Cup watch parties, to celebrating the Swedish Midsummer Festival, to seeing the world's tallest grand ships at the July 4th International Naval Review, it's clear Battery Park is the place to be this summer," said **Manhattan Borough President Brad Hoylman-Sigal**. "I'm deeply grateful to the BPCA, including BPCA President & CEO Raju Mann, for providing such exceptional free programming, which I know all Manhattanites will enjoy."

"This summer is going to be particularly special in Lower Manhattan with the marking of the 250th anniversary of our country's founding, and Battery Park City's free summer programming is one of the highlights," said **Senator Brian Kavanagh**, who represents Battery Park City in the State Senate. "With once-in-a-generation events like the FIFA world cup and the International Parade of Sail celebrating the 250th along with other beloved annual traditions, there is truly something for everyone this summer, whether they're local or just visiting. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this programming, and thank the Battery Park City Authority for continuing to make our waterfront one of the most vibrant public spaces in our city."

“Summer in Battery Park City is truly special, and this year’s full season of programming in Wagner Park makes it even more so when set against the spectacular backdrop of New York Harbor and complemented by the natural beauty of The Battery and Rockefeller Park. Community Board 1 is proud to support the BPCA’s lineup, which encourages residents and visitors alike to get outdoors and engage with the arts, recreation, and major moments like FIFA and America’s 250th anniversary,” said **Tammy Meltzer, Chair of Manhattan Community Board 1**. “This truly is a historic summer for Lower Manhattan, with an incredible range of events in addition to the return of the farmers market and opportunities to watch tall ships sailing in the harbor. Together, these experiences highlight what makes Battery Park City such a welcoming and vibrant community, and I look forward to seeing our neighbors and visitors enjoy it all.”

From family-friendly activities and resiliency programming to concerts and festivals, art, fitness, and more Battery Park City’s summer calendar is designed to soak in the season in as many ways possible. Highlights include:

Special Events & Happenings

BPCA will host several FIFA World Cup watch parties over the course of the tournament, with the first on [June 12 at the new Wagner Park](#) for USA vs. Paraguay. The kick-off event will include a family-friendly tailgate party and an electrifying performance by the Queer Big Apple Corps Marching Band. Then, from July 5-19 in partnership with the Battery Conservancy, BPCA will present watch parties for all matches from the Round of 16 through the Final on a big screen alongside games, music, and all-ages activities. Visit bpca.ny.gov and social media for match times.

“We’re thrilled to partner with Battery Park City Authority to bring a summer of soccer to Lower Manhattan,” said **Paula Recart, President, The Battery Conservancy**. “Through free screenings at The Battery and family-friendly activities tied to the FIFA World Cup, we’re creating opportunities for people of all ages to come together, celebrate, and experience the joy of the game in one of New York’s most iconic public spaces.”

The [Swedish Midsummer Festival](#), an annual celebration of the summer solstice, returns to Battery Park City on **Saturday, June 20**. The festival – marking its 27th year in the neighborhood – will feature traditional music by Paul Dahlin with fiddlers from the American Swedish Institute, dances around the Midsummer pole led by Scandinavian Folklorist Ross Sutter, floral crowns, Swedish delicacies, and more.

“For nearly three decades, our festival with the BPCA has stood as a testament to the strength of the Sweden-New York relationship,” said **The Consulate General of Sweden in New York**. “What began as a community celebration has grown into the largest Midsummer festival outside of Sweden. For Swedes who miss their home across the Atlantic, and for New Yorkers whose knowledge of Sweden might only be IKEA and ABBA, this festival creates a space where everyone can come together. It showcases the best Swedish food in the city, incredible Swedish DJs, and the heartwarming spirit of this cherished holiday.”

To celebrate **America's 250th birthday on July 4**, the largest fleet of the world's grandest tall ships and Navy Grey Hull Ships will [sail into New York Harbor](#) for an International Naval Review. Battery Park City will offer pristine views of the patriotic spectacle. For full details on available viewing areas in Battery Park City visit bpca.ny.gov and social media for updates. For full details on the Sail 4th 250 event, visit Sail4th.org.

Also commemorating the semi-quincentennial, on **July 25** Battery Dance will present a one-night-only performance at Wagner Park. With the backdrop of the Statue of Liberty, [America 250: Moving Together](#) will reflect on 250 years of American history and identity through the expressive power of dance.

Concerts and Dance

Battery Park City is proud to offer an extensive lineup of concerts and dance performances at Wagner Park this season, featuring jazz, blues, funk, classical and more.

On **May 28**, [Red Baraat will take the stage](#), bringing a blend of Bhangra, funk, jazz, and rock for a wild, joy-filled party led by dhol master Sunny Jain.

On **June 6**, in celebration of Pride, [Impress](#) will ignite the night with their crystalline voice, irresistible melodies, and awe-inspiring freedom with dance-fueled reverie, driven by the irresistible pulse of pure pop.

[River & Blues](#), Battery Park City's celebrated outdoor summer concert series, returns on **Thursdays in July**, bringing world-class blues music to the waterfront. This year will feature Rebirth Brass Band, The War and Treaty, Allen Stone, and Amelia Day.

On **August 1**, feel the rhythm and join the celebration! Mane Kedang Dance Company brings electrifying [West African dance](#), drumming, and spirit to life, transporting audiences to the troupe's beloved Africa – it's pure joy in motion!

From uplifting serenades to haunting ballads, [esperanza spalding's](#) latest offering showcases embodied classical jazz training through the long-standing rite of improvisation. Synthesizing styles from the ancient to the innovative – esperanza will debut never-before-heard works and will be joined by dancers, some of her best-known collaborators, and jazz's brightest stars on **August 8** in Wagner Park. Presented by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) as part of the 2026 River to River Festival.

Then from **August 10-16**, the [45th Annual Battery Dance Festival](#), New York's longest-running free public dance festival, brings together spectacular international and local dance companies, each evening ending with "Everybody Dance Now!"

“We are proud to partner with the Battery Park City Authority for this historic summer, as we celebrate global inspiration and collaboration,” said **Battery Dance Founder and Artistic Director Jonathan Hollander**. “In this community spirit, this summer we are delighted to continue our signature Everybody Dance Now! Please join us at evening’s end to dance under the stars.”

Following, on **August 28**, the [Ailey II dance company](#) will bring its technical mastery and emotional depth to works by the most daring established and emerging choreographers. An Ailey Arts In Education instructor will lead a movement workshop for all ages following the performance.

Family-Friendly Programming

Battery Park City has long been the destination for family fun in Lower Manhattan, and this summer is no exception. Here’s what coming up this season:

Sunday May 10 @9:00AM-2:00PM, River Terrace along the Irish Hunger Memorial
OPENING DAY: BPC FARMERS MARKET – Built by independent farms and food businesses, [Down to Earth Markets](#) provides delicious, locally sourced seasonal food which supports a strong regional food system. Celebrate opening day with a performance by [Divinity Roxx](#).

Saturday May 30 @10:30AM-1:00PM, Wagner Park
GO FISH! BATTERY PARK CITY’S CELEBRATION OF LIFE IN THE HUDSON ESTUARY – Join experienced anglers for [catch-and-release fishing](#) and learn about life in the Hudson River. The event will also feature a variety of engaging activities from visiting environmental education and conservation groups.

Friday June 19 @11:30AM, Rockefeller Park
JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION – Celebrate Juneteenth, Emancipation Day, with the [Federation of Black Cowboys](#). Enjoy a demonstration on Western horsemanship, hip hop and soul line dancing with [Go Hard Dancers](#), and horseback rides (ages 3 and up).

Friday June 26 @1:00PM, Rockefeller Park
BPC COMMUNITY FIELD DAY – [School’s out for summer!](#) Families are invited to take part in field games, water play, and our annual tug-of-war with their favorite coaches from BPCA & [Asphalt Green](#).

Friday August 07 @5:00-7:00PM, Rockefeller Park
WATER TAG EXTREME – Water Tag combines the excitement of laser tag with the [refreshing splash of water battles](#). Get ready to drench your opponents and claim victory!

The [Battery Park City Summer 2026 Program & Events Guide](#) features illustrated program offerings organized by monthly event highlights and by those of interest to adults and seniors, school-aged children, and preschoolers, as well as information about community spaces at 200 Rector Place, 6 River Terrace, Pavilion Classroom, the BPC Ball Fields, and discounted membership rates at Battery Park City's [Community Center at Stuyvesant High School](#). Available on BPCA's website, hard copies of the Guide is arriving in mailboxes this week and will also be available online in New York State's 12 most common non-English languages. Interested individuals can subscribe to the mailing list online at bpca.ny.gov/events, by phone at (212) 267-9700, or at any BPCA program or event.

About BPCA: Established in 1968, The Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority is a New York State Public Benefit Corporation charged with developing and maintaining a well-balanced, 92-acre community of commercial, residential, retail and open space, including 36 acres of public parks, on Manhattan's Lower West Side. Through execution of its first-ever strategic plan, BPCA works daily toward being an inclusive community, a safe and climate resilient place, a vibrant public space, and demonstrating leadership for the future with a team dedicated to improving service and project delivery. For more info visit: bpca.ny.gov.