



Ways to Support iDig2Learn

OCT / NOV 2025

iDig2Learn news and upcoming FREE events including 6:30 PM Monday 10/20 RIHS & NYPL "ROOSEVELT ISLAND AT 50" talk series with Four Freedoms Park Conservancy. Also PS/IS 217 Monster Bash Fundraiser on 10/24

Roosevelt Island at 50

RIHS Lecture

Monday, October 20 | 6:30PM



Non-Profit Island Discussion
with Howard Axel (CEO of Four
Freedoms Park Conservancy)
and Christina Delfico (founder
of iDig2Learn).

Open to All Ages
No Registration Required

UPCOMING: We will celebrate **Roosevelt Island Historical Society's "RI AT 50"** talk series and team up with the **legendary Howard Axel of Four Freedoms Park Conservancy** to co-present at the beautiful NYPL Roosevelt Island branch. **Come hear more about our origin stories and the vast rewards iDig2Learn and the Park enjoy when welcoming all to enjoy public land through creative experiences.** Casual conversation at 6:30 PM.



FALL SEASON: October is when migratory birds fly through NYC on their way south and a great time to spot colorful birds fueling up on seed heads locally. This is the time of year iDig2Learn has learned that **PUMPKINS** are food and even sacred in many cultures - which neighbors **Beatrice Ajaero of Nneji** and others shared with us. Last season we baked up pumpkins sweet potato style - yum. **Friend Yongmei Huang and Girl Scouts** even made **delicious moon cakes**. Have recipes? Please don't let your pumpkin haunt the landfill - share your tips with iDig2Learn@gmail.com.

iDig2Learn is still growing outdoor crops with youth in NYC through mid November. The **nasturtiums, carrots, eggplants, beans, radishes** and **kale** are loving a break from the hot sun. We are grateful to grow together!

Don't be afraid to support the local public school! iDig2Learn joins the fun for the fifth year in a row with **SPOOKY PLANTS**. Find iDig2Learn from **3 - 4:45 PM** in the PS/IS 217 schoolyard to take home a plant before they disappear.

OPEN TO THE 217 & ISLAND COMMUNITIES

It happens once a year...

SAVE THE DATE

the
PS/IS
217

FRIDAY, OCT 24, 3-6pm

MONSTER BASH

early bird
tickets

NOW OPEN & **PLEASE VOLUNTEER**
also... *We need you!*

Blow-up slide & obstacle courses!
Pumpkins, spooky plants, cotton candy!
Pitching / racing games, photo ops,
face painting, karaoke, crafts, food,
music/dance, & carnival games
& tattoos & manicures!

Schoolyard & Capobianco field

bit.ly/2025monster

bit.ly/monstervols2025

Presented by the

Questions or ideas? Email
eventsPSIS217@gmail.com

CITY OF FOREST DAY 2025 MESMERIZED US!
THANKS TO LEAD PARTNERS COLER HOSPITAL,
MAIN STREET THEATRE & DANCE ALLIANCE AND
RIOC FOR SUPPORTING THE 4th ANNUAL DAY!

Additional support was made possible by Trees NY,
Forest for All NYC, NYC Green Fund, City Parks
Foundation, Partnership for Parks, RIOC, TRIBA and
donors like you.

If you attended the **Roosevelt Island City of Forest Day** please fill out this [short survey](#) which helps us creating better events next year!



PHOTOS BY RECE REID:
(Above) Jody Sperling's Time Lapse Dance ensemble performs RISE.
(Below) Artist George Krassas gifts iDig2Learn founder with an original
hand-painted City of Forest Day bucket hat.





Niava's Body Bar

PHOTOS BY RECE REID:

(Above) Andi of Niava's Body Bar distributes custom forest-scented body butters to the crowd. (Below) Local leaders Verna FitzPatrick and friends enjoy Poppa's Pantry appetizers and Andrea Jackson's Carrot Cake.





Poppa's Pantry



WE RECEIVED AMERICAN CHESTNUT
SAMPLINGS FROM NY RESTORATION PROJECT &
THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION. THANK
YOU TO NEARLY 100 FRIENDS WHO JOINED US
AT LIGHTHOUSE PARK!

PHOTOS BY RECE REID:

(Above) Youth volunteers from Coach Scot's baseball team and (Below)
RI Garden Club members perform tree care.



PHOTOS BY RECE REID:

(Above) Left Jody Sperling Time Lapse Dance, Center Christina Delfico, iDig2Learn, Right Kristi Towey Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance
(Below) Local author Amanda Baehr Fuller reads her new book *Bunny Made Tea* to a riveted crowd while they enjoyed hibiscus tea lovingly crafted by Louella Streitz of Sweetly Gathering.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY Manhattan Healing Forest /
Tekenink atàm! THE SOUTHPOINT PARK
CELEBRATION INCLUDED RIOCCO CEO B.J. JONES &
[LENAPE CENTER](#) LEADERS JOE BAKER AND
HADRIEN COUMANS**



PHOTO BY GHILA KRAZJMAN Courtesy of iDig2Learn: (ABOVE) Left to Right - B.J. Jones, CEO RIOG, Christina Delfico, founder iDig2Learn, Hadrien Coumans, Co-Founder & Deputy Director, Lenape Center, Joe Baker Co-Founder and Executive Director, Lenape Center. (BELOW) Lenape Center leaders Joe Baker and Hadrien Coumans lead the crowd in a prayer, ceremony and conversation wearing traditional turkey feather cape and hand beaded bandelier bag.

[READ THE MINI FOREST BIRTHDAY EVENT RECAP HERE](#)



On April 6, 2024 we planted the 1st Miyawaki Method pocket forest in NYS thanks to funding partner SUGi - **thanks to all who came out celebrate and wish the Manhattan Healing Forest - Tekenink atàm a happy birthday.** We enjoyed a special welcome, song and show & tell from Lenape Center leaders **Joe Baker and Hadrien Coumans.** We wrote wishes to the forest, took home a **small bag of Big Reuse compost (courtesy of Earth Matter),** enjoyed a pop-up photo exhibit and forest tour and made **fun leaf impression art.** **Delicious bites by Poppa's Pantry included traditional Lenape dumplings in grape juice** and cookies by Pain d'Avignon plus chocolate cake by Andrea Jackson.



We are deeply grateful for all our event volunteers including the neighbors Janine Schaefer, Rece Reid, Maggie Messer, Susan Ceely Philips, Nick Corona, Graciela Ramirez, Zehra Aydin, Beverly and Zachary Shutes, Arsalan Khan plus Girl Scouts and Coach Scot's baseball players. Our work is possible due to this season's grants to support forest building, youth programming, Miyawaki Pocket Forest Birthday (9/20) and City of Forest Day (10/20). Thank you NYCT / RIOC Public Purpose Fund, NYC Green Fund, City Parks Foundation, Partnership for Parks, The City Gardens Club of NYC and TRIBA and individual donors like you.



2025 POCKET FOREST VISITORS

We love showing off the SUGi funded Miyawaki Method pocket forest! We hope the next decade adds 100 new ones to our region - inspired by the 1st in NYC so many of you joined in to plan, support and plant!



The group above was organized by Yolanda Gonzalez of Cornell Cooperative Extension and Jess of Jess Wasteless and included local change agents from Green Events Hub and Visit Rico and raised \$50 for iDig2Learn forest care!



American Society of
Landscape Architects

The group above was organized by Nancy Seaton of ASLA (left of the SUGi sign) and included ecological landscape architects boosting habitat by using regional plants to pair with new hard scapes and an arborist and gardener too.

NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS & RESOURCES ONGOING:

Subscribe to UPPER GREEN SIDE for this week at the farmers market plus environmentally themed happenings created by Sarah Gallagher here

Upper Green Side

OPEN TABLE - Every 1st and 2nd Sunday of the month at 10:30 am stop by Good Shepherd's side door for a free prepared meal and delicious bread takeaway while supplies last). This program is part of the Ministry of Good Shepherd lead by Verna FitzPatrick and Dr. Kathie Grimm in food partnership with Nneji and support via Pain d'Avignon.

COMMUNITY COMPOST FROM YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

Haki Compost Collective, a volunteer-run organization, in partnership with Big Reuse and RIOC, collects residential food scraps for community compost. Every Saturday year round, at Motorgate Plaza, from 9 am to 2 pm.

[Read](#) about food scrap options. NOW REFUNDED FOR 2026!

PLOGGING SUNDAYS 2-3 PM

Meet every Sunday by the bell of Good Shepherd Church to join all ages and the youth-led Roosevelt Island Plogging Club. Stroll the island, make friends, enjoy fresh air while picking up litter in conjunction with RIOC support to recycle it after.

REFLECTING ON GREAT MOMENTS THANK YOU NYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT!

What an honor to be awarded side by side such inspirational leaders during the NYS Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright's 11th Annual Women of Distinction Awards. We love that nominations originate from the community and that your ceremony was on Earth Day. Congratulations to all the 2025 awardees!

Honorees for 2025 included: Beatrice Ajaero, Georgette Anagnostaras, Dr. Esther Babady, Dr. Rosalind Berlow, Elaine Blaustein, Elena Chersky, Dr. Sarah Chu, Dr. Dolly Chugh, Dr. Elizabeth Danto, Christina Delfico, Bianca Ellis, Principal Doreen Esposito, Verna FitzPatrick, Merle Hendricks, Stephanie Herlihy, Nancy Houghton, Ellen Karis, Susan Kaufman, Angela Lim, Patricia Mays, Rosanna McCoy, Adriana Mero, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Donna Sbriglia-DeChecchi, and Amy Setesak.

Check out the full event program [here](#).



Roosevelt Island honorees with Assembly Member Seawright.

Left to right: Christina Delfico, Stephanie Herlihy, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, Verna FitzPatrick, and Beatrice Ajaero.

Hope to see you outside soon!

iDig2Learn is a project of Open Space Institute, a nonprofit 501c3 public charity which serves as our fiscal sponsor.

Ways to Support iDig2Learn

Volunteer, Share Our Work, Donate.

If you wish to donate visit our site or our fiscal sponsor - Open Space Institute - and go to the Citizens Action Group page, select iDig2Learn from the dropdown menu to ensure we receive your support.

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