



**Hearing before the New York City Council
Committee on Parks & Recreation**

**Oversight: Overview of the Randall's Island Park Alliance License Agreement
May 2, 2013**

Testimony By: Manhattan Parks Borough Commissioner William Castro

Good afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and Members of the Parks & Recreation Committee of the City Council. I am William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner of the New York City Parks & Recreation Department. I am also joined here today by Deborah Maher of the Randall's Island Park Alliance, who has submitted a statement on behalf of our public-private partner. Parks has asked the Alliance to simply submit a statement and allow Parks to address the Council today.

In 2012, the Parks Department issued some 10,000 special event permits, 5,500 in Manhattan alone, and 160 for a variety of events on Randall's Island. Parks requires a Special Event permit for any gathering of more than 20 people on parkland, whether it's for a birthday party for 21 people or a major concert on the Great Lawn with 60,000 people attending. Events that will have more than 500 attendees, or that are promotional or commercial in nature, are handled by our Citywide Marketing and Special Events office. There were 735 such events last year. Because of their size and complexity, Parks requires additional items to be obtained before a Special Event permit can be issued. Some of these additional required items include, but are not limited to, a formal contract between Parks and the event producer, a site fee based on our concession fee schedule, a damage bond and insurance. Depending on the type of event, additional City Agency permits--from the Buildings Department, the Health Department, the Fire Department of the Police Department-- may also be required.

If a special event plans to sell food or merchandise on-site, a Temporary Use Authorization (TUA) contract is required, such as the one we issued for the Frieze Art Fair.

A fee is calculated for this permit that takes into consideration several items that include, but are not limited to, the number of vendors, average price of items being sold and estimated attendance. Once all of these items have been obtained and the appropriate site visits have taken place and site maps and production schedules have been produced, a Special Event permit is generated.

The process outlined above is the same process that happens in every borough, across the agency, for all special events, and it is the same process that was followed for permitting the Frieze Art Fair.

Parks special event agreements are between Parks and the permit holder, and they authorize the permit holder to use a portion of our property for a limited time for a particular purpose. The Parks Department has never told holders of special events permits whom they must contract with as most of the permittees are private entities and do not use government funds. This policy has been followed for decades by many different administrations.

It has allowed groups to organize their events in a way that works for them, and ultimately for the city. It allows a wide variety of events to be presented in parks -- road races, concerts, festivals, movies, plays, sporting events, senior health fairs, youth events and many others.

I'd like make an important point, which I hope clears up any misconceptions: the Temporary Use Authorization for the Frieze Art Fair is just that, temporary. There is no longer-term agreement between Parks and Frieze, no 10-year agreement, as we've seen reported, nothing more than a one-year agreement for 2013 that authorizes the Frieze Art Fair to use a portion of Randall's Island for the five days of its event, and during set up and removal work.

To put the event in perspective, Randall's Island Park is nearly 500 acres; the Frieze Art Fair is permitted to use less than 25 acres of the park and that includes areas set aside for parking. During the time this event is being set up, taking place, being broken down and moved out, all the usual events and activities at Randall's Island will take place without change--from track meets at Icahn Stadium to nature walks and bike rides and picnics or ball games on the 66 fields.

It is also important to note that the City benefited significantly by adding the Frieze Art Fair to our list of events in 2012. During its first year in New York on Randall's Island last May, approximately 45,000 visitors came to the City, from around the US and around the world. Those visitors paid for accommodations totaling more than 47,000 bed nights. They also spent money in our restaurants, theaters, retail shops and other establishments during their stay.

This year, the Frieze Art Fair has strengthened its connections to New York and New Yorkers. The Fair has lined up numerous art institutions and non-profits as cultural and community partners for the 2013 event. Among these are the Metropolitan Museum of Art, El Museo del Barrio, MOMA PS1, the Studio Museum of Harlem and the Whitney Museum. In addition, the Fair's New York City-based nonprofit partners include the Storefront for Art and Architecture, the Dia Art Foundation and the Calder Foundation.

I'm especially pleased to tell you that Frieze has initiated an outreach program to public schools in all five boroughs to expose students to a wide range of contemporary art in a unique setting. We expect at least 600 New York schoolchildren to take part in guided class trips this year.

Finally, Frieze showcases a free outdoor "sculpture park" during the event alongside the river at Randall's Island Park that is open for anyone to attend and enjoy.

Randall's Island has a long history of hosting large events like the Frieze Art Fair, as it is uniquely situated to accommodate large groups. Parks will continue to strive to balance the use of our green spaces, to allow for quiet enjoyment, active recreation and larger cultural and community gatherings, all of which are important to the millions of people who visit our facilities each year.

Parks is grateful for the partnership of the Randall's Island Park Alliance, a nonprofit organization founded over two decades ago to work with local communities to help the Parks Department maintain and improve Randall's Island Park. As RIPA will expand upon in their own statement, the Alliance has worked with Parks to secure close to \$250 million for capital improvements to the island's facilities since 2000.

I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today and I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

NEW YORK CITY & VICINITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS



INSTITUTED AUGUST 12TH, 1881

MICHAEL R. BILELLO
Executive Secretary - Treasurer

STEPHEN C. McINNIS
President

MICHAEL P. CAVANAUGH
Vice President

395 HUDSON STREET - 9TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10014

PHONE: (212) 366-7500

FAX: (212) 675-3118

www.nyedistrictcouncil.com

May 2, 2013

New York City Council Park Committee: Oversight - Overview of the Randall's Island Park Alliance License Agreement

Dear Council Members,

My name is Michael Odenthal. I am a 15 year member of The New York City & Vicinity District Council of Carpenters. I am a graduate of our apprenticeship program and have worked hard throughout the years to provide for my family.

Today, I am here to declare my outrage to the New York City Council regarding the FRIEZE ART FAIR, which is now underway on Randalls Island and will be open to the public on Friday, May 10 2013. The construction and staging for the event is being orchestrated by Karl's Event Services, a division of the Arena Group with its headquarters in the UK.

The FRIEZE ART FAIR is led by Amanda Sharp and Matthew Slotover of London England, who along with Karl's Event Services, a division of the Arena Group cuts corners on labor and denies New Yorkers that ordinarily perform this work fair wages and benefits.

New York City lends its support by offering Randall's Island as a venue to host this event which openly disregards any decency toward New York's Trade Show workforce. Do you realize by not providing decent health coverage for their employees, these predatory contractors antiquated employment policies force the rest of New York State taxpayers to subsidize their employees' health care? Responsible contractors and all working people, in effect, underwrite the substandard practices of those who profit from denying their workers fair wages and benefits.

I urge the members of The New York City Council and the leadership of our city to take a principled stand against The FRIEZE ART FAIR and its low wage / No Benefits contractors such as Karl's Event Services, a division of the Arena Group. Area standard wages and benefits are a win-win. They are good for workers, good for responsible contractors and good for our City.

Randall's Island Park Alliance, Inc

Arsenal West

24 West 61ST Street, 4th Floor

New York, NY 10023

Aimee Boden, Executive Director & Park Administrator

(212) 830-7722

FRIEZE ART INC.

41 Union Square West, Suite 1623

New York, NY 10003

1 212- 463 -7488

Amanda Sharp

Matthew Slotover

Production Glue, LLC

341 W 38th St, 4th Floor

New York, NY 10018

Tom Bussey

tom@productionglue.com

Karl's Event Services

Branch Location

55 Montgomery Street

Belleville, NJ 07109

Ph: (973) 771-5177

Deutsche Bank

60 Wall Street

New York, NY 10005

Jacques Brand, CEO, North America

212- 250-7171

FOR THE RECORD

Hearing before the New York City Council

Committee on Parks & Recreation

May 2, 2013

Oversight: Overview of the Randall's Island Park Alliance Agreement (Re: Frieze Art Fair)

Statement by: Deborah A. Maher, Randall's Island Park Alliance, Inc.

Good afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and Members of the Parks & Recreation Committee of the City Council. I am Deborah Maher, General Counsel to Randall's Island Park Alliance. On behalf of the Alliance, I want to thank you for inviting us here today. The Chairpersons of our Board, Jerome Goldman and Nancy Neff, as well as our Chairman Emeritus, Richard Davis, each wish they could be here today, but unfortunately are unable to attend due to out-of-town commitments which could not be rescheduled on short notice.

Randall's Island Park Alliance is a nonprofit organization which more than 20 years ago was founded to partner with the New York City Parks Department and work with local communities in maintaining and developing the unique potential of Randall's Island Park. Since 2000, the Alliance, working closely with Parks, has helped secured close to \$250 million dollars for capital improvements at the park from federal, state, city and private sources. The money raised is put towards island improvements, including the design and build of: Icahn Stadium, 66 beautiful ball fields, nearly 5 miles of running pathway and restoration of salt marsh and fresh water wetlands, signage and access upgrades. In 2013 alone, the Alliance has already raised more than \$1 million philanthropic dollars to help maintain the park. In addition, the Alliance provides free programming for more than 5,000 City students, with the majority of them being residents of Harlem and the South Bronx, through summer camps, after-school programs and environmental studies. Specifically, the Alliance continues to expand its youth programming by introducing new programs such as the RIPA/Nike Lacrosse Camp and the RIPA/Nike Baseball/Softball Camp, which will provide 400 local children with free first-class training at the island. The Alliance also offers a free soccer summer camp with the Red Bulls and a learn-to-bike program through our partnership with BikeNY. The

Alliance also hosts numerous free community events at the park each year including a cherry blossom festival, a youth bird watching day, a learn-to-fish day and free waterfront public art.

The revitalization of Randall's Island has not gone unnoticed. Each day more and more New Yorkers come to enjoy the island, more articles are written touting its publicly available resources, and more local and international institutions seek to host their events at the Park.

It is our understanding that the hearing today was called to focus on one such event that will take place at Randall's Island this month - the international Frieze Art Fair. It has come to our attention that there is a misconception that the Randall's Island Park Alliance has a 10 year agreement with the Frieze Art Fair. This is not correct. The only agreements governing the Frieze Art Fair's use of land at Randall's Island Park is a standard NYC Department of Parks agreement, which is called a Temporary Use Authorization, and a standard NYC Department of Parks Special Event Permit. Let me be clear, there is no side agreement between Randall's Island Park Alliance and the Frieze Art Fair. The Park Department's Temporary Use Authorization agreement is exactly as it sounds – it is temporary. The art fair is only authorized to be at the Park for the five days of its event and during its build. The Temporary Use Authorization and the Special Event Permit are used for all events at Randall's Island Park and these agreements are issued by Parks, not the Randall's Island Park Alliance.

The Frieze Art Fair is simply one of many events held at Randall's Island Park. Last year, the Park issued over 160 Special Event Permits for everything from a large concert to a family picnic to a 5K road race to free cultural festivals. These permits simply allow an event to take place at the park and then it governs the proper use of the parkland during the event. It is our understanding that, because there is no law or regulation which requires a special event to engage union labor, the agreement is silent on this issue. As a public-private partner of the NYC Department of Parks, the Alliance simply abides by the Parks Department's agreements and policies.

With regard to the use of the park for events such as the Frieze Art Fair, we would like to make clear that maintaining open green public space is a priority for us. Randall's Island Park is nearly 500 acres large, which is half the size of Central Park; the designated event site for all large scale events on the island is less than 25 acres. Thus, less than 6% of the island's parkland is used during the largest event. Indeed, more than 450 acres of parkland is still available for all New Yorkers to use even when a large event is taking place. During these events – including the Frieze Art Fair – everything continues to happen at the Park: all 66 fields are used, Icahn Stadium has track meets, the tennis and golf centers are open, the pathways are available for running and biking, people picnic and RIPA hosts free community events. Additionally, Randall's Island has a rich history of hosting large special events. It goes back to the 1930's with Duke Ellington playing a sold out Downing Stadium and continues to this day. Like many large NYC parks, the island is uniquely situated to host large outdoor music and cultural events for the public. Thus, Randall's Island Park Alliance believes that a balance must be maintained between providing green recreation space and large scale events, both of which are desired by the public.

Finally, on behalf of the Alliance, I want to say that it is our pleasure to work alongside the Parks Department, the community and the City in protecting and maintaining Randall's Island Park. With the support and leadership of our elected officials, we hope this remarkable public-private partnership can continue to work together in realizing the Island's great promise. Thank you.

Frieze Events Inc.
41 Union Square West, Suite 1623
New York, NY 10003
T 212 463 7461

FOR THE RECORD

Attn: Melissa Mark-Viverito

Hearing before the New York City Council

Committee on Parks & Recreation

May 2, 2013

Oversight: Overview of the Randall's Island Park Alliance Agreement (Re: Frieze Art Fair)

Statement by: Frieze Events Inc.

Frieze New York was conceived to provide a world-class art event for a city we love and respect. We wanted to stage a fair in New York City because it is an international center for great art, world-class cultural institutions, has a diverse audience, and supportive governmental partners. Our fair is a unique cultural destination focused on art being made today, supporting living artists and the galleries that represent them. It is a place where commerce enables creative endeavor alongside an active education program with significant local outreach to schools and families. Frieze is a place where new audiences can discover contemporary art.

As well as creating a major new cultural event, the fair has been of significant financial benefit to the city and brought in over \$100m in total economic benefits in its inaugural year. Exhibitors and visitors to the 2012 fair bought over 47,000 hotel room nights in New York City, estimated at around \$24m. In addition they spent an estimated \$70m in shops, restaurants and on other activities during their visit to Frieze New York in 2012. The art dealers at the fair spent an estimated \$9.7m in ancillary industries and support services directly related to their attendance at the fair, making an economic impact on the city of over \$100m, excluding any art that was bought at the fair. Over 140 local staff is employed by Frieze on a temporary basis during the fair with a total payroll of over \$150K, many of whom are local art students. Seven New York City restaurants provide the food at the fair.

The structure in New York was designed by Brooklyn-based architects, who proposed an innovative serpentine tent, following the line of the East River. The design was universally praised, with some experienced fair-goers calling it the most beautiful fair they had ever seen. Frieze also brought some of the best local New York City restaurants on-site as well. From Bushwick through the Lower East Side, West Village, Upper East Side and Cobble Hill different neighborhoods were represented. There was a wide array of local fare to be enjoyed including food trucks placed along the waterfront. The fair attracted 45,000 visitors, with 180 galleries exhibiting from the US and abroad. 55 of the US galleries this year are New York-based. Visitors included art professionals, collectors, and a wide general public. Children have free admittance.

Through its US non-profit organization Frieze Art Inc. Frieze runs an education program at the fair for families as well as local public schoolchildren from all five boroughs. In 2012 over 5000 Family Guides were given away at the fair and more than 600 public school students came on class trips which included Frieze guided tours of the fair. In addition to the education program, the non-profit also commissions a series of site-specific artworks many of which are in the park and free and open to the public. Frieze's non-profit arm also provides space for local New York City-based arts non-profits to exhibit their work free of charge and expose their programming to an

international audience they may not otherwise reach. In addition, a free sculpture park by the river is open for anyone to attend.

To give you some background on who we are and what we do, here is a little information on the organization: Frieze is an arts organization that was founded in 1991 by Matthew Slotover and Amanda Sharp in London. For its first 12 years, Frieze exclusively published a magazine of art criticism, covering international contemporary art. Given that New York City is a global center for contemporary art, since 1992 Frieze magazine employed a New York editor to commission articles on New York exhibitions and artists. US-based content comprises around 1/3 of the magazine.

In 2003 Frieze launched an annual international art fair in London. Frieze Art Fair immediately became a focal arts event for the city, attracting art galleries, collectors, museum professionals to London, galvanizing a broad cultural audience, and introducing many people to contemporary art.

Frieze worked closely with London museums, galleries, hotels and restaurants and they have all benefited from the influx of visitors to London each October. Frieze Week is now one of Britain's landmark cultural events, supported and promoted by both the Mayoral office and the national Department for Culture, Media and Sport, bringing over \$110 million to the city each year. The fair is an annual event and was joined in 2012 by a sister fair, Frieze Masters, focusing on historical art.

In 2002 Frieze created a non-profit organization, which has worked with the London Mayor's office to author a paper on green practices for the industry, produced a major series of art commissions for the Olympics, and has commissioned over 100 artists to make site-specific projects at the London fair. We also co-founded a fund to purchase art for the Tate - the UK's collection of British art and international modern art. The fund has now donated over \$1.5m of art to Tate. Frieze founders Matthew Slotover and Amanda Sharp were awarded the national honor of an OBE by the Queen in recognition of services to the arts.

Following the success of the fair in London, Frieze began to look into the feasibility of a New York fair and while doing so also established a full time office with a handful of staff on Union Square. Frieze New York was subsequently launched in May 2012 on Randall's Island. Like the London fair, it takes place in an architect-designed temporary structure in a city park. The park in London is Regent's Park, a central and beloved London location. In New York Frieze thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to introduce a part of the city to new audiences, and in choosing Randall's Island Park, we hoped we could create a sense of excitement and discovery for both New Yorkers and visitors who could find a new part of the city to enjoy. Randall's Island allowed the fair to become a destination, an adventure, and hopefully will encourage people to visit the Island at other times of the year as well.

Art fairs tend to break even or lose money, as Frieze did in 2012, and New York City is an especially expensive place to produce this kind of event. It costs 60% more to put on this fair in New York City than it does in London. However, we will continue to try to do this fair in New York City, but could simply not do so if production

costs, be they obtaining permits or construction, went up dramatically. Frieze is a small owner-run business. Because opening in New York was a new endeavor for us we consulted extensively with our local partners to ensure that our operations would be respectful, responsible and make a meaningful contribution to the city. We employ highly reputable local contractors, and work nearly exclusively with local vendors, all of whom are also small businesses. Frieze very much wants to stay in New York and continue to work with our partners in government and the community to produce an event that is economically viable for us and beneficial to the city.

END



Teamsters LOCAL UNION 807

Truck Drivers, Warehousemen, Exposition, Convention and Trade Show Employees
Greater New York Vicinity and Metropolitan Area

32-43 49th Street, Long Island City, NY 11103

Phone (718) 726-2525 • Fax (718) 726-7037

E-mail: local807@aol.com



John "Buddy" Sullivan
President

Anthony Storz
Secretary-Treasurer

Lu Herrera
Vice President

Raymond Asquino
Recording Secretary

Angelo Curbelo
Trustee

Gladys Nieves
Trustee

Marty Myers
Trustee

New York City Council Park Committee: Oversight - Overview of the Randall's Island Park Alliance License Agreement

May 2, 2013
John Inigneri
Teamsters Local 807

My name is John Inigneri and I happen to be one of the workers that Frieze NY is shutting out of work. I have been doing antique and art shows since 1986 and am hired to do the yearly art show at the Armory. These are good jobs that support working New York families like mine.

The Teamsters are under contract with 90% of these art shows. I am an experienced trade show worker and know the ins and outs of the business. In addition to being efficient at what I do, me and the people that I work with in the Teamsters, IATSE and the carpenters work safely.

As a New Yorker I think that it is an outrage that a company like Frieze can come in from London and disregard the way things are done here. Last year we thought that maybe they didn't understand or that they were new to the business, but they are avoiding us.

I work with a company that constructs wall with union labor. This company is doing business with Frieze non-union because that is what Frieze wants.

With all do respect to this committee, I can't help but to ask, does the city condone these any union actions? I mean, should we allow anti-union companies like Frieze to come into our city and use our parklands just to slap us in the face?

This is outrageous. Frieze NY is using our parks and running multimillion dollar productions without New Yorkers doing the work.

I trust that our Mayor, Council Speaker and City Council will do the right thing by changing the rules for the permits so that we have a chance to also succeed at Randall's Island.

By creating some rules about permitting that includes minimum working standards, it will even the playing field so that our good employers are not undermined. It will also give good honest New Yorkers a way to earn a living.

It is only fair. If you want to run an International event here, you should have to employ local workers that are paid fairly.

Thank you.

JOINT COUNCIL No. 16

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



265 WEST 14TH STREET - SUITE 1201
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011
(212) 924-0002
FAX (212) 691-7074

New York City Council Park Committee:
Oversight - Overview of the Randall's Island Park Alliance License Agreement

May 2, 2013

George Miranda
President of Joint Council 16

As the President of Joint Council 16 our members perform critical jobs in the exhibition industry. It is an absolute insult that for the second year in a row Frieze Art NY and its management agent, Production Glue have purposely avoided union labor.

Frieze originates from London. They organize modern art exhibitions in the UK and this is their second year in New York. We welcome new exhibitions because New York is the premiere location for cultural events in the United States and some would say, the world.

In fact, it is an honor to have Frieze choose New York to host their exhibition. Art enthusiasts believe that based upon last year's show, this will be a yearly event held on Randall's Island. This is the type of show we would ordinarily welcome.

Production Glue, the company that is running the logistics for Frieze NY, specializes in event production from concept development and technical direction to installation. In fact, the Mayor's office is a client of Production Glue.

Since 2007, Production Glue has been the coordinator many events for the Mayor's Office of Special Projects and Community Events. Production Glue has benefited from our tax dollars and enjoyed lucrative careers on the backs of our citizens and now they are assisting Frieze in an anti-union avoidance campaign.

The tenting alone at Frieze NY requires more than 100 tractor trailers, with the total number of trucks used to transport the production components approaching 1,400. Last year, the tent at Frieze NY took six to seven weeks, with about 500 workers on site daily in 2012. The tent is the size of 3 football fields. Workers have been recruited from as far away as Wisconsin to work here at Randall's Island.

This will be Production Glue's second time working on Frieze New York. But not our first experience with this company. Frieze is directly undermining good employers like those at the Armory by purposely hiring nonunion sub-contractors.

Production Glue is masterful at avoiding union labor. Not one contractor at Frieze is represented by organized labor. As a matter of fact, I suspect that Production Glue was hired by Frieze NY to avoid working with union contractors on Randall's Island.

New York City union workers earn wages that support their families and their earnings support this city. Skilled, unionized trade show workers, such as those at the New York Armory Art Show, earn a fair wage that includes health care and pension benefits.

Companies that engage in union avoidance like Frieze and Production Glue should not be granted access to our parks. Companies that go out of their way to undermine our standards cannot be allowed to do business on our public spaces.

It is up to us to move legislation that will force minimum working standards to be followed if you are running a major event in a public space here in NY. We must also work towards transparency so that major events like Frieze are held to the same standards as others in the entertainment industry.

The City Council can vote to change the permitting rules to enable working class exhibition workers a chance to earn a fair living and level the playing field for good employers and exhibition companies.

I am humbly asking you to consider making the changes necessary so that large exhibitions and productions that use our public lands and resources are held accountable to the public and employ workers at a fair rate of pay under safe conditions.

THEATRICAL TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 817

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

817 OLD CUTTER MILL ROAD, GREAT NECK, NY 11021
(516) 365-3470 • FAX (516) 365-2609



THOMAS J. O'DONNELL
PRESIDENT

FRANCIS J. CONNOLLY, JR.
SECRETARY - TREASURER

**New York City Council Park Committee: Oversight - Overview of the Randall's Island Park
Alliance License Agreement**

May 2, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee today. My name is Jim Whalen from Teamsters Local 817. I represent drivers in the Motion Picture and Television industry. I come to share my experience in doing business with the Mayor's Office of Film and TV and the NYC Parks Department.

Local 817 drivers undergo training and as our drivers gain more experience, they are assigned to more difficult jobs. Safety on the job is a key component in our work and the production companies know that we are professionals.

Over the past 25 Years I have been involved with many film and TV productions using our City's parks as locations for projects. My job is to move production companies in and out of our parks with minimal disruption to our neighborhood residents and little damage to park property.

My job requires that I meet the production needs of the company, maintain good relationships with parks personnel and ensure that the drivers on the job are efficient and qualified to work within our parks. With the cooperation and supervision of NYC Parks Department personal we are able to accomplish this task on a regular basis.

Local 817 works the gamut, from large scale major motion pictures with enormous budgets to small indie films and TV pilots. No matter the budget, my job remains the same, to get the job done quickly and efficiently. Local 817 is also involved with major production events in New York City like the Times Square Ball drop and summer concerts.

In our industry the Mayor's office is the point of contact for all permits and regulatory issues.

In researching FRIEZE NY I am confused about how an event the scale of this art fair is regulated and I have some questions, with all due respect to the committee:

Why can't we find any type of NYC permit on file for this event?

Radio, Television, Field Equipment, Motion Pictures, Film, Exhibitions & Orchestra

"THE SHOW MUST GO ON"

Why can't we find the required insurance policies that all events need to provide NYC? What NYC Agency is involved in overseeing this event?

And why doesn't the production company, Production Glue have any contracts or purchase orders on file?

In the motion picture and TV industry we have to get the proper permits from Mayor's Office of Film and TV and NYC Dept. of Transportation. When we use a NYC park we are assigned a NYC Parks Dept. representative.

In our industry we provide company insurance to the City. After Parks use we are required to leave the park in the same condition as when we arrived. All of these provisions are spelled out in detail in a contract that is public information.

My final question, why is this information not available for us re the FRIEZE NY Art Fair?

As a New Yorker and worker in the entertainment industry I believe that we need to strike a balance with respect to using our public lands, promoting our great city and employing New York workers to produce these events.

Frieze claims that they want to be considered a New York Art show, but show little respect to our parks and residents by taking weeks to erect and tear down the event; by avoiding public track record of the work being done to produce this event; and by using workers that are grossly underpaid and in my experience, probably inexperienced.

It makes sense to me that events like Frieze should have to go through the same process as the Film and TV industry and be held to the same standard as other major productions.

It appears to be a double standard and as a tax paying New York resident I request transparency for this project dealing with NYC—the same as other industries and a level playing field.

Thank you and I am available to answer any questions the committee may have about my job and experience.



EXHIBITION EMPLOYEES UNION LOCAL 829

New York City Council Park Committee:
Oversight - Overview of the Randall's Island Park Alliance License Agreement

May 2, 2013
Ken Kerrigan
President
Exhibition Employees Local 829

JOHN V. McNAMEE JR.
PRESIDENT
SECRETARY-TREASURER

MANUEL FARINA
VICE-PRESIDENT

EDWARD FLORIO
CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES

KEVIN V. DUNPHY
TRUSTEE

THOMAS J. BRUNNER
TRUSTEE

STEPHEN FERRARA
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

DOUGLAS D. MENAGH
COUNSEL

It is an honor to be here today and on behalf of my members from Local 829 IATSE and my brothers and sisters in the labor movement, I thank you for your time and an opportunity to speak upon this very important subject.

I have been an exhibition stagehand for more than 30 years and started when I was 17 years old. I have worked in every venue you can imagine in New York City-from private locations to public spaces and it has been an honor to serve in this capacity. We do all the shows including the Armory, the shows at the Marriott, the Antique Shows on 66th, and shows on 26th street.

This is what we do for a living. We are part of the greatest city in the world and included in some of the most popular cultural events.

Our members go through vigorous training and understand how do perform our work effectively. IATSE prides itself on giving working people an opportunity to make a decent living by teaching them the craft.

As the President of the local, in addition to being on the job, it is also my responsibility to ensure that we have harmonious relations with the production companies and subcontractors that we work with. When I negotiate agreements with new productions I take into consideration the budget, the amount of workers need to complete the project and the future relationship with the stakeholders on the job.



This is why we are successful.

Last year when Production Glue and Frieze NY ignored our attempts to reach out to them, I was actually confused. The event is held on Randall's Island. The event hired over 500 people according to an article I read and not one worker is covered by a union contract and many workers came from out of state.

This is not a small scale art show. This is not an emerging production company. This is a full scale exhibition. This exhibition is for the very top brass of the art world to buy and sell art. This is no different from the work we do day to day.

Please don't allow Frieze to get away with this. Their anti-union actions, their total disregard for working New Yorkers should not be allowed.

I thank you for your time.



**NEW YORK CITY
CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL
AFL-CIO**



275 Seventh Avenue, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10001 • Tel: (212) 604-9552 • Fax: (212) 604-9550
E-mail: info@nycclc.org • www.nycclc.org

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony before the Council of the City of New York. I would especially like to thank City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Parks & Recreation Committee Chair Melissa Mark-Viverito for convening this very important hearing today.

I am here representing the New York City Central Labor Council which is comprised of over 300 unions that represent 1.3 million workers in the City of New York from across the public, private and building trades sectors. This includes all of the trades involved with exhibition work in New York City.

Our city is clearly in a dire situation when it comes to the availability of good jobs. We have an alarming percentage of people unemployed and underemployed in this city. This includes both unionized and non-unionized workers. According to an April 2013 report from the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity, in 2011 New York City had a poverty rate of 21.3%. The share of the working age population in New York with steady work, defined as fifty or more weeks in the prior twelve months, declined from 59.8% in 2009 to 56.3% in 2010, and simultaneously the proportion of the population that had no work at all grew from 23.5% to 27.3%. We can infer that these numbers were partially inflated by now spent Stimulus dollars which were used to primarily maintain services as opposed to construct capital projects.

Against this back drop it is irresponsible that the profitable Frieze Art Fair would bring in mostly out of town workers for their annual event. The Frieze Art Fair offers these out-of-state employees substandard wages with limited or no benefits. These should be good, local jobs that support the economy and the hard-working families of New York City.

There is no reason that this massive international production, which is being held on public land maintained by public resources, should be built and operated by workers from outside of New York, whose skills are not known and who have none of the expertise of working trade shows in New York City.

From the Jacob Javits Center trade events, to art shows at the Armory, to the Food and Wine Festival in Hudson River Park, this city has upheld the highest standards for the workers on exhibition and festival job sites. The City of New York has a responsibility to ensure that this massive structure is put up safely and efficiently and this anticipated and highly profitable event provides fair wage jobs and protections for the deserving New York workforce.

Submitted by Brendan Griffith, Chief of Staff of the New York City Central Labor Council, on May 2, 2013 at the New York City Council hearing of the Committee on Parks and Recreation.

New York City Council Park Committee: Oversight - Overview of the Randall's Island
Park Alliance License Agreement
May 2, 2013

My name is Blithe Riley, I am a part of Arts & Labor, a self-organized group of art workers that includes artists, interns, writers, educators, art handlers, designers, administrators, curators, assistants, and students. I have been part of the art world for over 15 years, both as an administrator at various arts institutions in the city, as well as an exhibiting artist. Over the course of this time I have seen the conditions for people working in all disciplines of the art world consistently diminish. Wages have gone down, benefits have been lost, artists are regularly denied payment for their work, and more and more paid jobs become unpaid internships. The arts are an economic engine of New York City, bringing in people and money into the city each year. The arts are also something that we as New Yorkers cherish and its part of what makes us proud to live here. However we cannot ignore that this culture wouldn't exist without working people.

I am here to stand today with the Teamsters and other unions because I believe that institutions like the Frieze Art Fair need to be made accountable to the working people of New York City. As an art worker, I find it deplorable in the middle of a jobs crisis in this city, that an art fair can come in, take over our public park, exchange millions of dollars in art sales, and import 500 jobs from out of state that could go to New Yorkers. New York City needs an art world that supports its workforce, and creates space for its residents to enjoy and produce culture. To have that we need good jobs.

The Frieze NY Art Fair, with its current labor practices is the WRONG ART WORLD for New York City. If this fair is going to become a mainstay of the New York art world, we must demand that they treat our city and its workers with respect by hiring local and union at prevailing wages. This park alliance agreement will be an essential component of this accountability process.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rendon Giffith

Address: 275 275 7th Ave 18th Fl NYC 10001

I represent: NYC Central Labor Council

Address: 275 7th Ave 18th Fl NYC 10001

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____ ✓

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bernadette McCollough

Address: Teamsters Joint Council 40/1.B.T

I represent: _____ Riley

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Blithe Riley

Address: 407 Stratford Ave Brooklyn NY

I represent: Arts + Labor

Address: N/A

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: SANFORD SMITH (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 447 W 24 ST

I represent: MYSELF

Address: 447 W 24 ST

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-2-13

Name: JOHN INGIGNER (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 9 BILLWOOD DR

I represent: TEAMSTERS LOCAL 807

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/2/13

Name: JOHN CUNNY (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 40 OSER AVE., SUITE 15

I represent: EXPO ADVANTAGE USA

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-2-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JAMES WALLEN

Address: 10 ANDREW CT, FLORIDA, NY

I represent: TEAMSTER LOCAL 817

Address: GRANTURCH, NY 11042

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kenneth Kerrigan

Address: 380 PARK AVE SOUTH N/ NY 10016

I represent: EXHIBITION EMPLOYEES UNION LOCAL 829

Address: 350 PARK AVE SOUTH NEW YORK NY 10016

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-2-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Odenthal

Address: 395 HUDSON ST 10014

I represent: CARPENTERS

Address: 395 HUDSON ST 10014

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JIM Conway

Address: Operating Engineers L. 14

I represent: _____

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Brendan Griffin

Address: NYC Central Labor Council

I represent: _____

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/2/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: William Castro

Address: NYC Parks

I represent: The Arsenal

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JEFFREY CRIST

Address: _____

I represent: NYC PARK ADVOCATES

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms