



Some see
a beautiful
boathouse.
We see
a thriving
community.



A place to row, learn & be inspired.

While a boathouse is a practical necessity for rowers, we see beyond a physical structure. We envision a welcoming place where our community of rowers gathers and speaks a language built on the pillars of discipline, endurance, and teamwork. A place to gather, support, and offer guidance. Our community will do more than simply row here. Our kids will laugh and work hard here. They will express their hopes for the future and will dream big here. And sometimes they will cry here, only to dust themselves off and get back on the water.

Every year thousands of teens from NYC's under-resourced neighborhoods make the citywide trek to our boathouses to become part of our community. They choose to sit in our boats and row hard with grit and determination. These values — instilled through rowing and paired with our college prep and academic support — provide a strong foundation for success in college, as well as in life. Our programs transform lives.

The Row New York Community Boathouse will enable us to significantly expand our core programs, broaden the community's access to the waterfront, and catalyze the growth of rowing in NYC. Moreover, it will be the first of its kind dedicated primarily to underserved youth, thereby acting as a model for community boathouses throughout the country.




ROW NEW YORK
BOATHOUSE
& COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER



An open invitation

Our vision is to build an architecturally graceful and welcoming boathouse that serves as an invitation to our entire community—a community not defined by ethnicity or economic means, nor by physical or cognitive abilities. It is an audacious, ambitious vision because transforming lives is an ambitious goal.



Rowing
is about
more than
fast boats.

**Rowing teaches patience,
trust, collaboration,
discipline, and confidence.**

These values can make the difference between pushing through hardships and quitting. Reaching for a goal or settling for less. In addition to learning time management, our student-athletes learn teamwork. To move a boat forward they must all be in synch, otherwise the boat falters. So despite coming from different backgrounds and cultures, they sit together in our boats, where they learn to become part of a team, building trust and empathy.

We combine our high-dosage rowing program with strong academic tutoring and college prep. We offer creative writing and storytelling courses, provide health and fitness workshops, and combine travel to races with college visits. This combination of rowing plus academics yields powerful returns: 98 percent of our kids matriculate to college. Our year-round intensive programming provides 750 and 1,000 hours of activity for middle school and high school participants respectively. Row New York's comprehensive programming helps participants make extraordinary gains across several metrics: social-emotional, academic, and athletic. We aim to send all participants to college with the skills, knowledge, and self-confidence they need to succeed.

At Row New York, we believe that the circumstances into which a child is born need not determine where they will go and what they will become.



Our numbers
demonstrate
our impact.

100%

OF OUR STUDENTS GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL.

96%

OF OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES HAVE MATRICULATED TO COLLEGE COMPARED TO JUST 69% CITYWIDE.

65%

OF OUR KIDS ARE "COLLEGE-READY" AS DEFINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION VERSUS JUST 37% OF NYC PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATES.

95%

OF ROW NEW YORK GRADUATES WHO HAVE MATRICULATED TO COLLEGE SINCE 2007 HAVE GRADUATED OR ARE STILL IN COLLEGE.

90%

OF OUR PARTICIPANTS SHOW IMPROVEMENT IN TENACITY, CONFIDENCE, AND POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ROW NEW YORK COMMUNITY — KEY SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING SKILLS.

100%

OF OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES EXCEED THE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEVEL RECOMMENDED BY THE CDC.



A Sense of Family: Gaby & Nazirqah

The effectiveness of Row New York's youth program is quantifiable, but our statistics do not capture one of our program's most important outcomes: the sense of family and friendship.

Gaby Francis and Nazirqah Macky met during tryouts for Row New York's middle school program. Six years later, despite going to different schools, they developed a close relationship, referring to each other as sisters and as friends who can count on each other for support on good days and bad. There is an ease between them—a feeling of love and, as Nazirqah succinctly put it, a sense of *family*.

They both joined Row New York for the chance to race, visit colleges, and receive academic support. They attribute their scholastic success not only to these activities, but to the bonds of friendship forged through tough practices, cold weather workouts, and travel to races. This past fall, Gaby started her freshman year at Washington College and Nazirqah at Buffalo State. Both were excited about leaving home for the first time.

There was also a sense of mournfulness in recognizing that this next phase of their lives will involve less time together, leaving behind a program that made them feel supported and built up their confidence. Both were resolute in their determination to stay in touch. And as their voices got a bit quiet at the thought of not having each other in close proximity, Nazirqah quietly but firmly said, "It'll be fine, we will still be there for each other".

43%

OF OUR YOUTH WILL
BE FIRST-GENERATION
COLLEGE STUDENTS.

58%

ARE FIRST-GENERATION
AMERICAN.

44%

HISPANIC

22%

ASIAN, NATIVE
AMERICAN, MIDDLE
EASTERN OR OTHER

16%

BLACK

18%

WHITE

Our programs are socio-
economically diverse.

53%

OF YOUTH COME
FROM FAMILIES WITH
A HOUSEHOLD INCOME
OF \$30K OR UNDER.

84%

OF OUR STUDENTS
ROW FOR FREE.



**We are a diverse
community made up
of strong individuals.**



There is a demand and a waitlist.

Our existing Row New York Manhattan Youth Program is running at capacity serving 110 teens, with another 200 young people on our waitlist eager to join. Our new boathouse and learning center will allow Row New York to expand our core Manhattan programs and broaden the community's access to the waterfront.

THERE IS A STRONG NEED FOR
AFTER-SCHOOL AND FITNESS PROGRAMS
AMONG NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Over 25% of city schools don't have licensed PE teachers.

435 city schools lack gyms or dedicated physical fitness spaces, including 41% of high schools and 35% of middle schools.

Roughly 46% of 519 Department of Education buildings with co-located schools have no physical fitness spaces.

230,000 city students attend public schools that lack a full-time, certified PE teacher.

153,000 city students attend public schools that don't have gyms or dedicated physical fitness spaces.

**One perfect location.
One community
boathouse.
And for many,
a second home.**

There are significant obstacles to acquiring and developing truly good boathouse sites in New York City. The ideal site includes access to safe, rowable water; convenient landside access for teams and staff (including the ability to safely move trailers full of rowing shells in and out of the facility); proximity to under-resourced populations; and property availability. With this in mind, Row New York examined several sites during the strategic planning process. The proposed Sherman Creek site emerged as the best location for Row New York's programs.



Sherman Creek along the Harlem River has a rich tradition of rowing history.

Overall Sherman Creek:

The proposed site is situated on the Harlem River in Upper Manhattan at the eastern end of Dyckman Street, equivalent to West 200th Street. The site is near some of the most densely populated areas of New York City and is easily accessible by subway and car.



The proposed facility:

Row New York proposes the development of a top-quality permanent facility at the site, which comprises the following program features:

Overall, 14,000 GSF enclosed

Two levels

Five boat bays for over 100 boats

Storage for rowing shells, oars, safety equipment, and community kayaks

Locker/restrooms

Two state-of-the-art classrooms

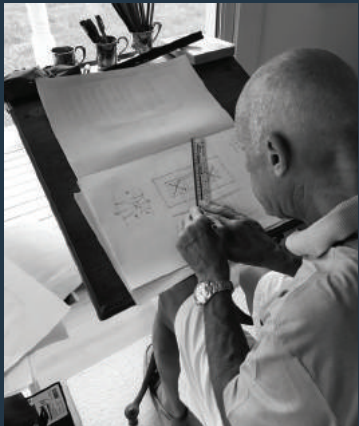
Large indoor rowing space (and can be used for other gathering purposes up to 150 people)

Docks

Universal ramp access to building site is ADA accessible through paths to the boathouse and down to the dock

Foster & Partner's Vision

"This project seeks to create a world-class rowing facility and community-focused education center for visitors to Sherman Creek Park and the residents of Upper Manhattan alike. As New Yorkers, it is important that the community embraces the building as its own, so that it has a long and lasting impact - but above all else, the building must be a fun place to visit!"



Sir Norman Foster



Green and sustainable.

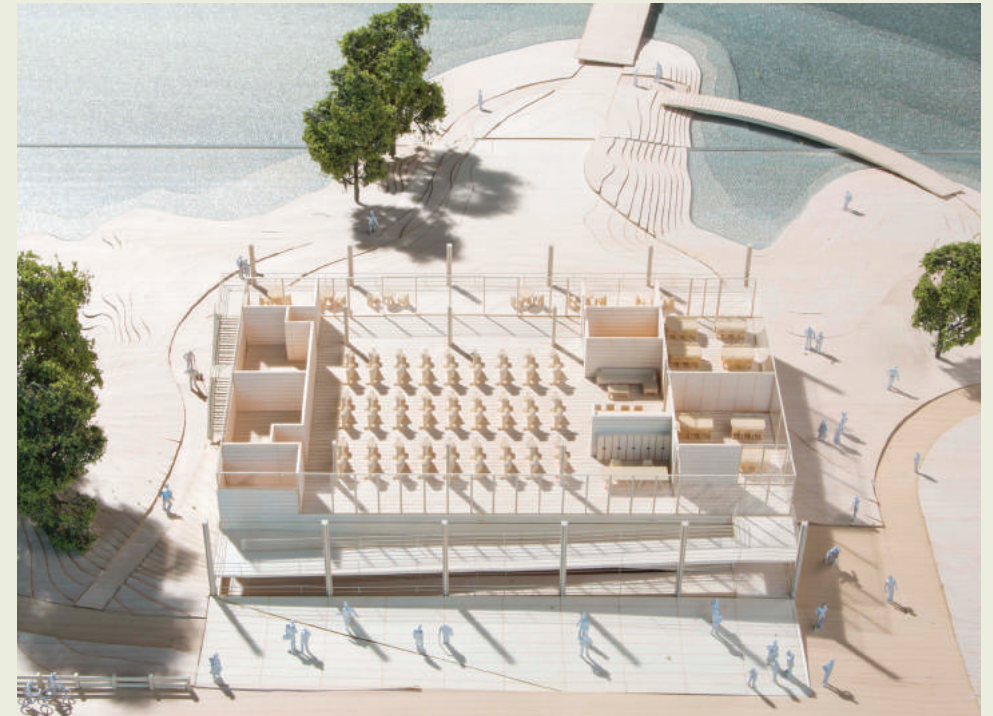
Row New York's vision for the new Manhattan boathouse is a structure that will be environmentally sound, energy efficient, and in harmony with the local landscape.

Construction Impacts

Construction of the boathouse will not impact aquatic life in the river, and potential impacts due to installation of the dock will be minimized. Row New York will consult with the NYS Department of Conservation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA to ensure that construction does not impact aquatic life. We will ensure that the potential impact is mitigated, including scheduling construction to minimize disruptions to any breeding organisms, especially those species for which the Harlem River has been designated as Essential Fish Habitat. Once operational, the dock will have a positive effect on aquatic habitat, providing additional substrate for sessile species to colonize.

Green Building with Minimal Environmental Footprint

The facility itself will be designed to the highest possible environmental standards, and will seek LEED certification at the Gold or Silver level. Low-impact building materials will be sourced and the facility will be designed to maximize energy efficiency. We are exploring the financial and architectural viability of including solar power on the roof of the building. Any landscaping will include native, flood resilient species, and will be coordinated with existing plantings to provide habitat connectivity. The apron in front of the boathouse will be minimally paved with porous materials to minimize runoff from the site into the Harlem River.



Top view of the boathouse model with the roof removed to illustrate the top floor.

Planning for Flood Resilience

We anticipate that this facility will be one of the first riverfront structures to be built in accordance with the Guidelines for NY Parks for Design and Planning for Flood Resiliency, released in November 2017. The lower level, containing only boat storage, will be wet floodproofed, ensuring that periodic flooding will not damage the structure.

A Community Asset

Finally, the Row New York Manhattan Boathouse will be an asset to the community, designed to increase access to the shoreline for all. We will remediate the site to remove environmental contaminants and restore the area so that it is safe for all to enjoy.



**This community
is our foundation.**

We recognize that, as an organization, we are only as strong as the community we serve. We are continually looking for ways to engage and support our neighbors. In addition to significantly expanding our mission-based rowing and academic programs, we see incredible opportunities to further serve the Washington Heights and Inwood communities.

Creating Opportunities for Community Input:

We have convened a boathouse council to create a local community working group to provide feedback on our Sherman Creek Boathouse project. This council consists mainly of members of the Upper Manhattan community. Ideas from monthly council meetings have helped to inform the boathouse plan.

Marshalling Resources & Relationships to Benefit the Community

This fall, we hosted city officials and Community Board 12 members at our Lights on Afterschool event, the only nationwide event celebrating after-school programs and their important role in the lives of children, families, and communities. More recently, we created an opportunity for our students to engage directly with their local elected officials and community leaders through our Women in Public Service Panel—examples in the ways we can use our resources and relationships to improve both our students' lives and our neighborhood.

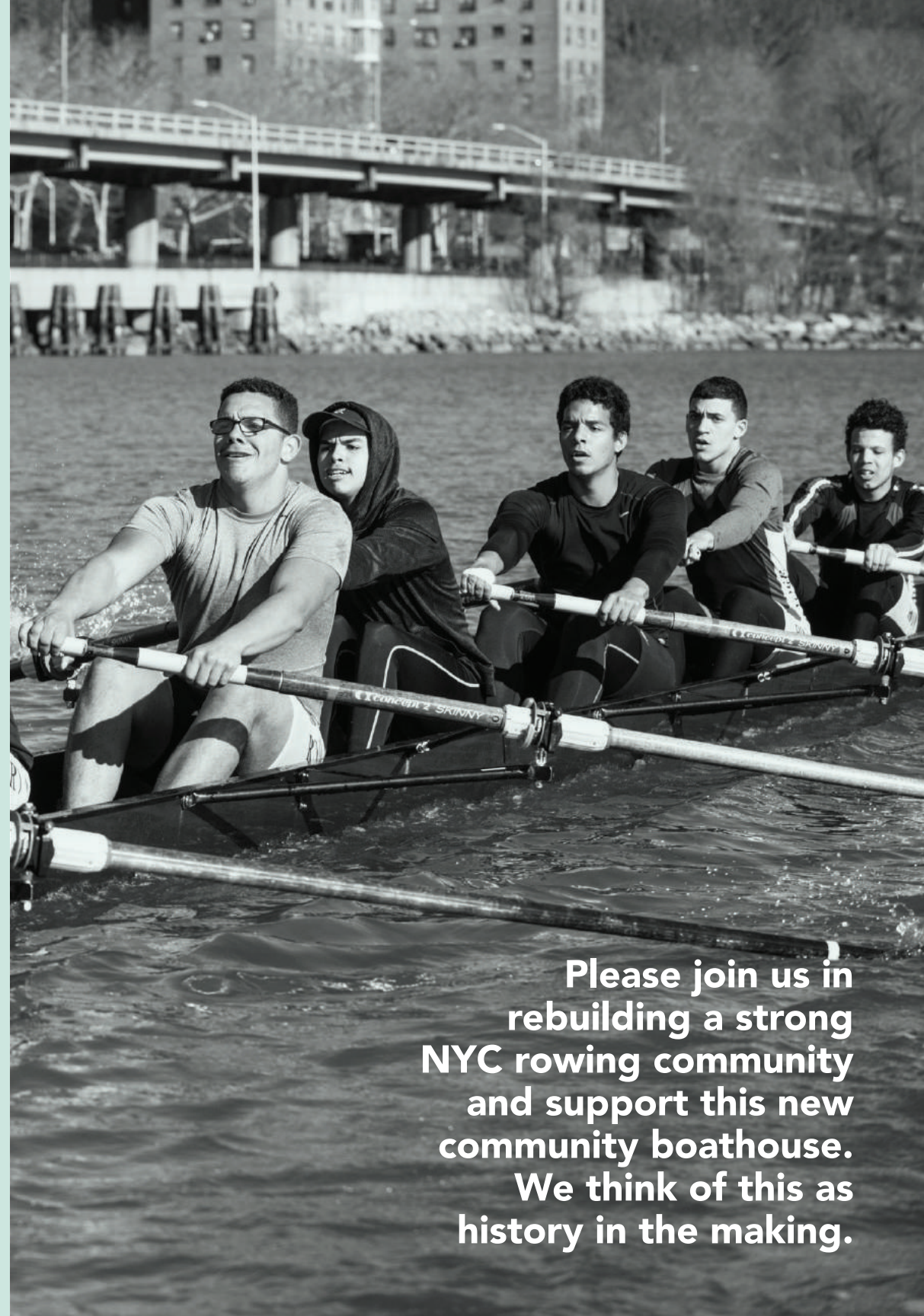
Bringing rowing back to NYC with a 21st-century mindset.

Though not evident today, rowing played a big part in NYC's waterway history.

Once a vibrant rowing community in the early 20th century, Sculler's Row was a group of boathouses along the Manhattan side of the Harlem River. In the 1940s, these boathouses began closing their doors as public interest faded. Robert Moses, evicted these last remaining boathouses, citing that these private organizations were not open and accessible to the public, and served no useful purpose.

The groundswell behind today's most vocal movements all point to breaking down barriers and opening up opportunities for everyone, regardless of culture, gender, and ethnicity. It is on these principles that Amanda Kraus founded Row New York in 2002, with a belief that rowing should be accessible for everyone.

We welcome the opportunity to help usher back in an amazing sport with a hallowed history, but we do so with the intention of opening our doors to all.



**Please join us in
rebuilding a strong
NYC rowing community
and support this new
community boathouse.
We think of this as
history in the making.**



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