

DESCRIPTION

Kathryn Otterson and family visiting the grave of Maria Fuentes ©2023 Melinda Hunt, The Hart Island Project



The mission of the Hart Island Project is to ensure visibility and access to New York City's public cemetery including current burial records and maps obtained through Freedom of Information Law. The Hart Island Project maintains a database of public burial records from 1980-present. These burial records are the basis for a storytelling platform called the Traveling Cloud Museum featuring location based software tools for reconnecting people who disappeared in New York City with families and friends across the globe.

The Hart Island Project began in 1991 on the centennial of Jacob Riis's first photographs of potter's field. Visual artist Melinda Hunt and photographer Joel Sternfeld collaborated on a book documenting Hart Island. In 2011, twenty years later, a public charity was then formed to increase

awareness of the burial process within the global community through advocacy and legislation to end penal control and mass burials in New York City Cemetery.

In 2019, as a direct result of efforts by The Hart Island Project, the New York City Council transferred jurisdiction of Hart Island from the Department of Correction to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

In 2022, navigation and AR grave marking tools were released as well as an interpretive guide to Hart Island.

In 2024, The Hart Island Project received an NEA Challenge Award to work with landscape architects at Ohio State University. This collaboration resulted in a vision to end mass burials and preserve natural burial procedures.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

TRAVELING CLOUD MUSEUM AWARD WINNING INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING PLATFORM.

LEGISLATION TO END MASS BURIALS IN NEW YORK CITY.

GRAVESITE NAVIGATION AND AUGMENTED REALITY GRAVE MARKING TOOLS.

LANDSCAPE OF HOPE VISION FOR A FUTURE LANDSCAPE ON HART ISLAND.

ARTIST AND COMMUNITY CREATIVE PROJECTS.

THE
HART
ISLAND
PROJECT

HOW TO HELP

Contributions help us to offer direct services to family members and maintain the Traveling Cloud Museum. Volunteers help us to enter data and provide professional services to the public. Please contact us if you wish to contribute or volunteer.

FILL OUT FORM

First Name

Last Name

Address

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Mail to:

The Hart Island Project
P.O. Box 4327
New York, NY 10163

contact@hartisland.net
www.hartisland.net
914-402-5992

Design by StudioAIRPORT.com

P.O. Box 4327
New York, NY 10163

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The Hart Island Project is a 501(c)3 public charity registered in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. A copy of our most recently filed financial report is available from the Charities Registry on the New York State Attorney General's website at www.charitiesnys.com