

# THE PARK AND GREAT PROMENADE WOULD BE A GREAT PLACE TO...

## WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO IN YOUR NEW PARK?

I've always wanted to:

- Ride a bike with my whole family...
- Walk barefoot all afternoon...
- Grill and fly kites...
- Sunbathe with a view of the Statue of Liberty...

Add your own ideas to the map on this wall. Grab a Post-it® on the table behind you and tell us what you want in the future park.

We will share your comments with the park designers. You will have many more opportunities to see the ideas as they develop and to tell us what you think.

Share your thoughts.  
Stay involved.  
Leave us your email for updates.

If you think of something later, go to our website  
[WWW.GOVISLAND.COM](http://WWW.GOVISLAND.COM)  
and tell us!



- “What’s Happening on Governors Island?” Exhibit 2008
  - Over 1000 Post-It Notes
    - Ice Cream (and Food)
    - Bikes
    - Music and Festivals
    - Beaches



- “What’s Happening on Governors Island?” Exhibit 2008

## GOVERNORS ISLAND BLOG

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### Welcome to Governors Island

Governors Island, in the heart of New York Harbor, is only 800 yards from Lower Manhattan, and even closer to Brooklyn. We are planning a new world-class park in the southern area now closed to the public, a waterfront Great Promenade and restoring the historic landscapes. This

### Preview of Bike Share in Governors Island's Future Park and Great Promenade

Posted on June 5, 2008 by Ellen | [Edit](#)

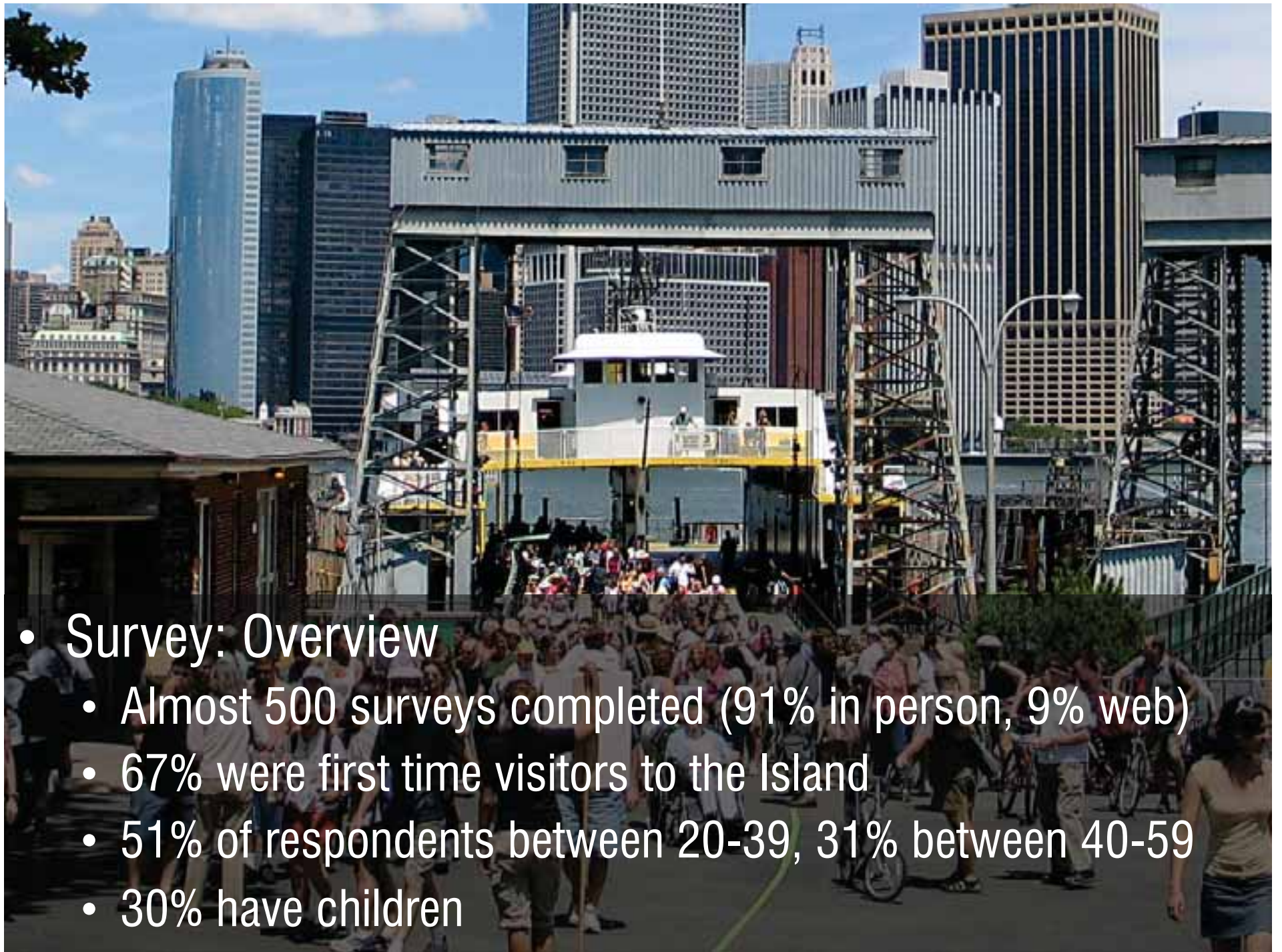


### Picture Yourself in a New Park on Governors Island

On a few select weekends this fall, we'll be inviting visitors to tell us their ideas for our new 40-acre park and Great Promenade and have their [picture](#) taken in front of their favorite conceptual vision for that new park. If you've had your photo taken at our photo booth, visit our [photo page](#) and download your picture!

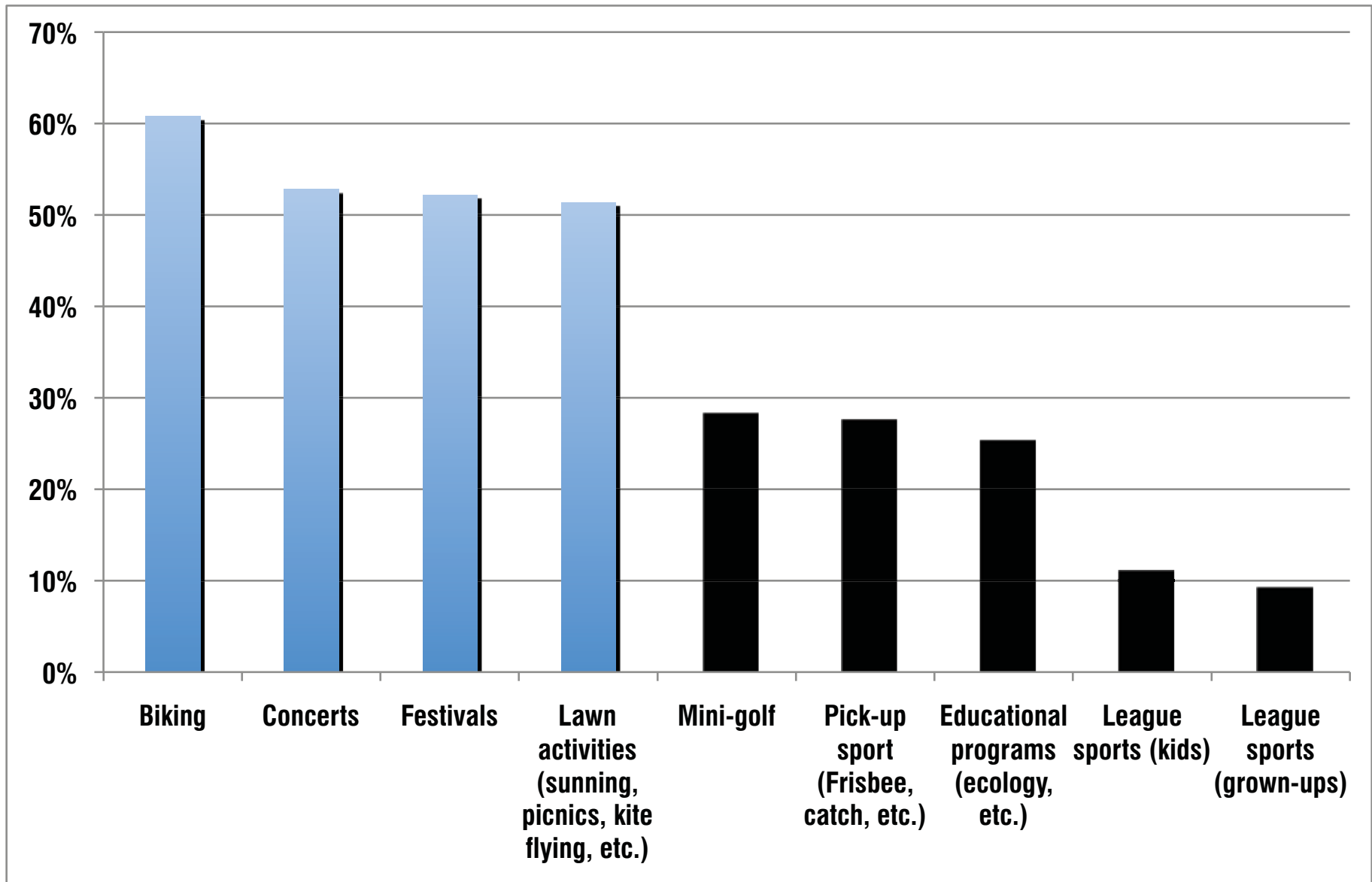
Using the web: [www.govislandblog.com](http://www.govislandblog.com)

- Website
- Blog
- Email updates



- Survey: Overview

- Almost 500 surveys completed (91% in person, 9% web)
- 67% were first time visitors to the Island
- 51% of respondents between 20-39, 31% between 40-59
- 30% have children



## Survey: Popularity of potential future activities

- Biking even more popular as a future activity than it is today



Picture Yourself on Governors Island photo booth



Imagine Your Day in the New Park Workshop



## Imagine Your Day in the New Park Workshop

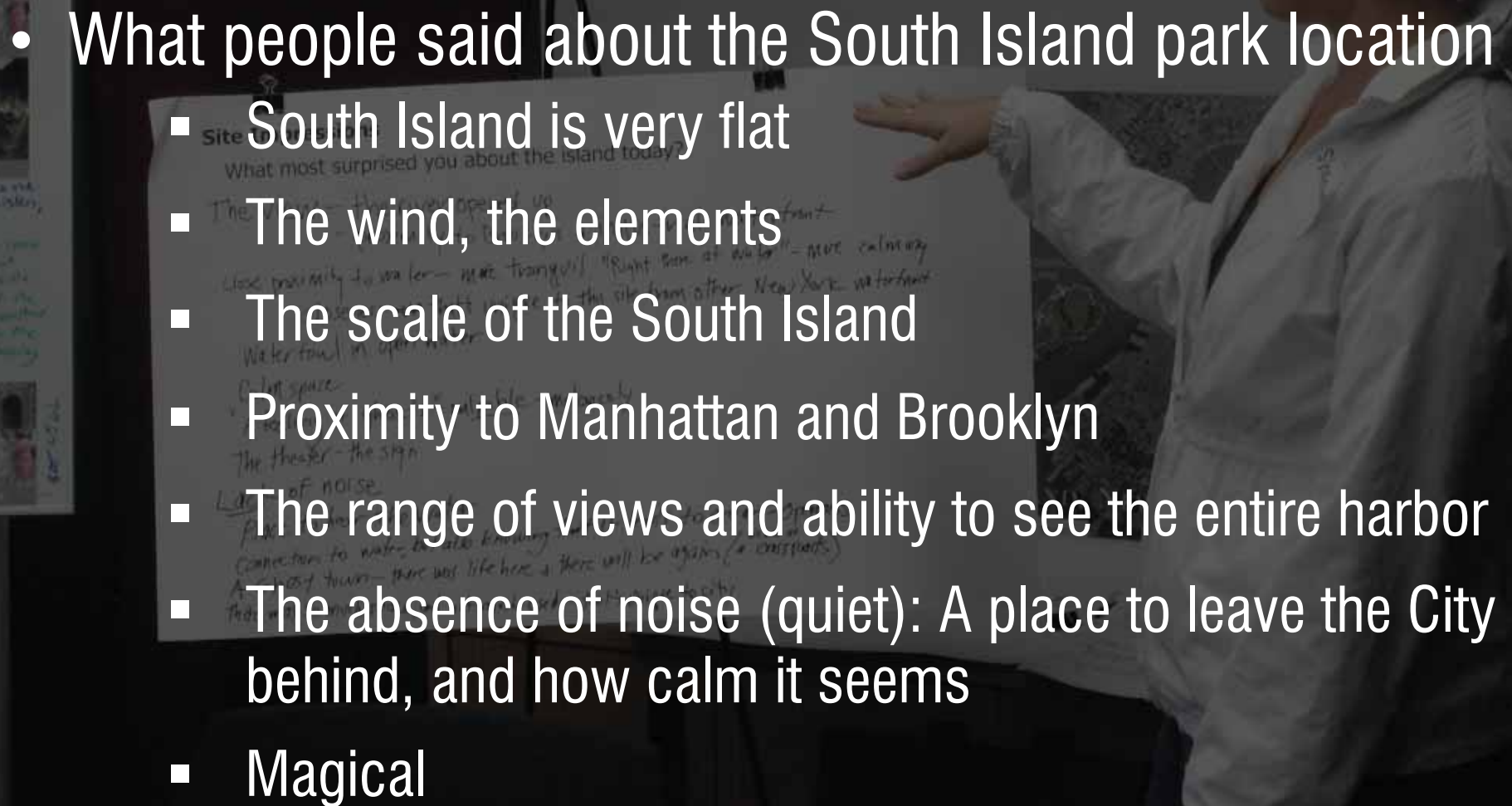
- Imagine a day in the new parks on Governors Island; what would you want to do?

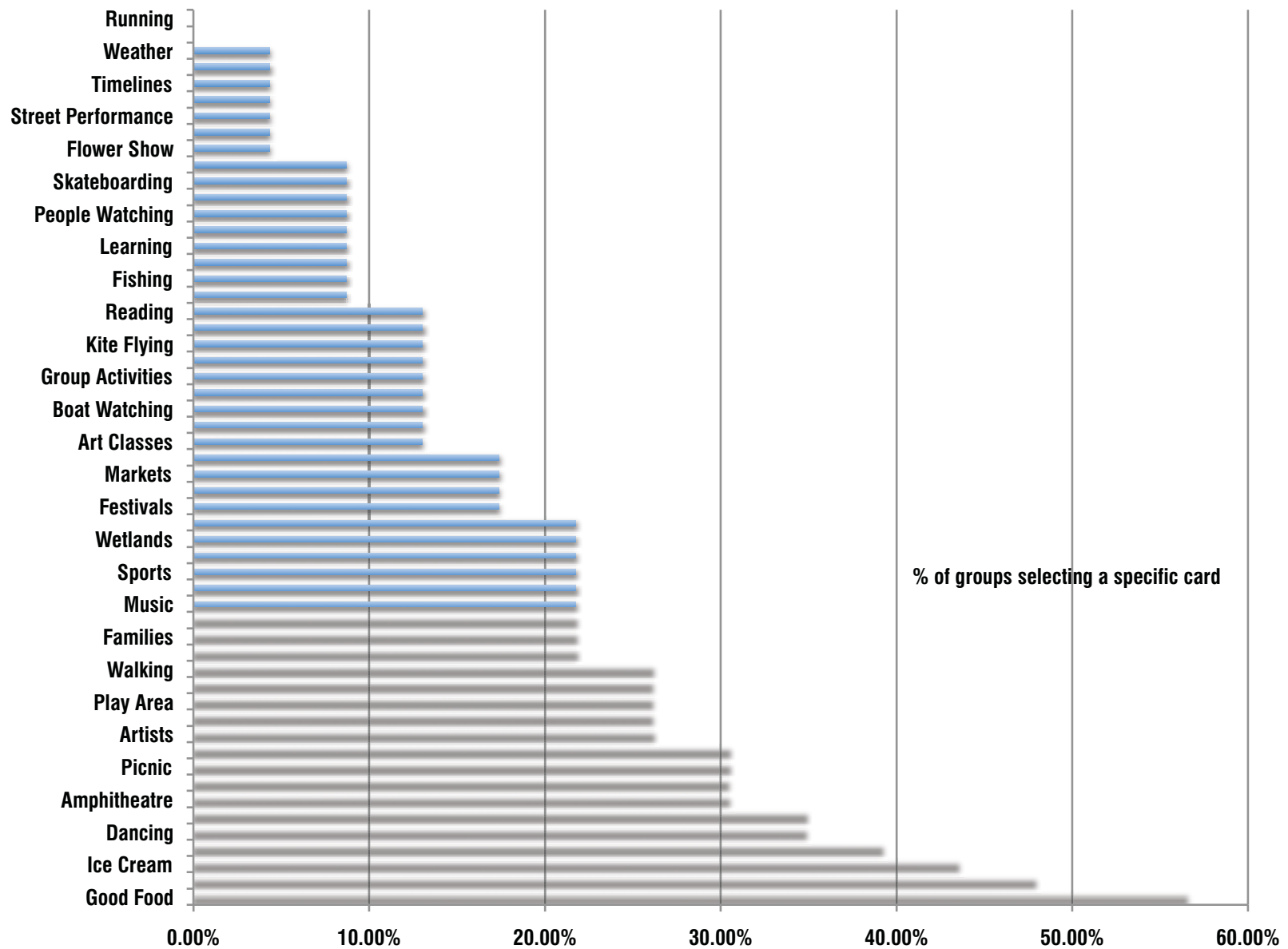
“We saw that there was going to be a Harvest Festival. We came over with a group of friends and picked up some food at the markets, and walked to the Island’s edge to take in the great views. We ate some great local food. We took a swing dancing lesson. We had such a good time that we missed the ferry. But then we saw a flier about various twilight arts events and decided to see the Brooklyn Philharmonic. After the music we stopped to have some drinks and a light bite. On the way back we bought tickets for future dance performances.”

A group of people are gathered around a table in a meeting room. On the table is a large grid of many small photographs. A woman in a pink scarf stands in the background, looking at the photos. Other people are seated around the table, some looking at the photos. The room has a whiteboard and some framed pictures on the wall.

- What we learned:

- When people imagine their first visit to the Island, it is for an event
- The second visit is more to enjoy the place
- Visits tend to be a full day with a variety of activities
- The Island is a safe haven, kids can run free
- The Island is closer than you realize
- Everyone admires the views and the sunsets
- Everyone wants ice cream and food (cafes, picnics, BBQ)
- Everyone enjoys biking and dancing

- 
- A woman with short dark hair, wearing a white jacket, stands in profile facing left, pointing her right hand towards a whiteboard. The whiteboard has handwritten notes in black ink. The notes are organized into sections with bolded headers. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the woman and the whiteboard.
- What people said about the South Island park location
    - **Site** South Island is very flat
    - **The wind, the elements**
    - **The scale of the South Island**
    - **Proximity to Manhattan and Brooklyn**
    - **The range of views and ability to see the entire harbor**
    - **The absence of noise (quiet): A place to leave the City behind, and how calm it seems**
    - **Magical**



Activities people want to do in the new Park



## What we've learned from visitor experience 2008

- People like to make a place “their own”
- People want to do playful new activities they can't do in other places
- People want to see the view of the Statue of Liberty
- Everyone loved bike surreys and miniature golf
- People like that different parts of the Island offer different things
- People love discovering public art around the Island
- Having free bikes brought a whole new range of people

# Design Inspiration

”Make spaces that will be full of mystery, beauty, and surprise”

”The city needs some place people can go at night that is not a bar”

”Make this park a nature sanctuary for all urban souls...”

“Highlight the waterfront nature-scapes”

“New York needs natural spaces that are also human friendly”

“It would be wonderful to walk around the entire perimeter of the Island”



# What we learned from Public Input

## Create a vivid setting for your story making

- A Sanctuary
  - Accentuate nature: see, touch, smell, feel
  - Care for quiet places
  - Exploit the car-free experience: biking, walking, jogging, wheeled / accessible
- An Island Landscape
  - Capitalize on environmental phenomena: wind, sun, rain, topography, waves
  - Heighten the 360 degree harbor experience: vertical landscapes and promenade
  - Feel the water through many different experiences
- An Egalitarian 'Playground'
  - Integrate free wooden bikes, free views, free world class art
  - Invent adventurous park experiences for all ages and abilities

## West 8 Team has been focusing on:

- Park program and brief
- Public outreach process
- Studying topographic surveys
- Analyzing soil boring
- Studying historic photos
- Field surveys
- Assessing pre-conditions
- Assessing ground water levels
- Reviewing engineering reports
- Testing sight lines and view corridors
- Understanding historic preservation requirements
- Researching regulatory and permitting issues
- Brainstorming water experiences
- Assessing constructability





## Moving forward

- Multiple opportunities to share thoughts, ideas and feedback





## Building on momentum in 2009

- Goal of attracting 200,000 visitors
- Open new areas to the public
- Create more cultural and recreational programs for the public to enjoy



## Opening additional areas to the public

- We will complete demolition to open 8 acres of new picnic grounds with Statue of Liberty views



More areas for the public to enjoy

- Expand our visitor waiting room
- Open Yankee Pier for historic and educational vessels



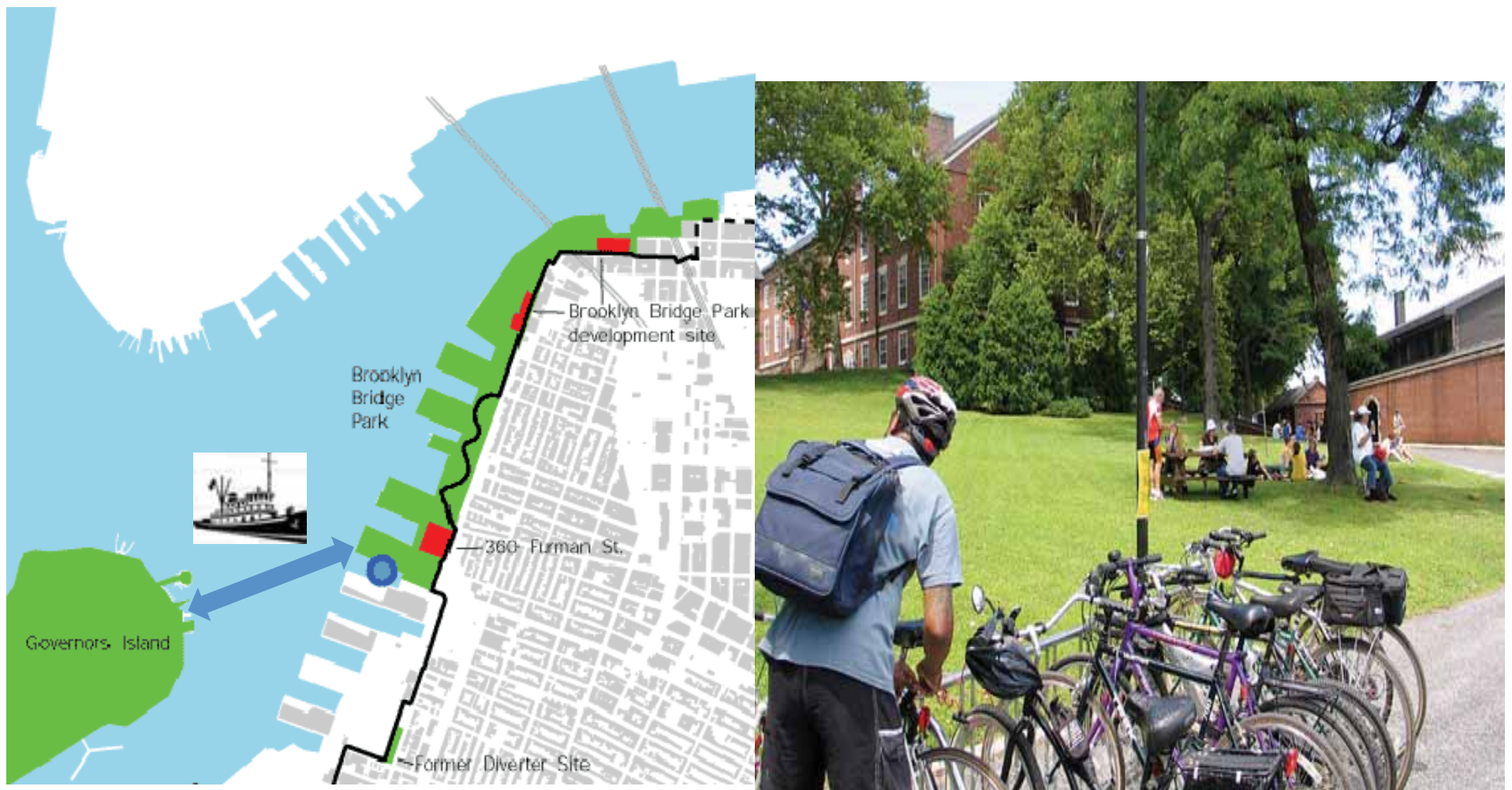
## Opening up new areas for biking and walking

- For the first time, the entire promenade will be open for biking and walking



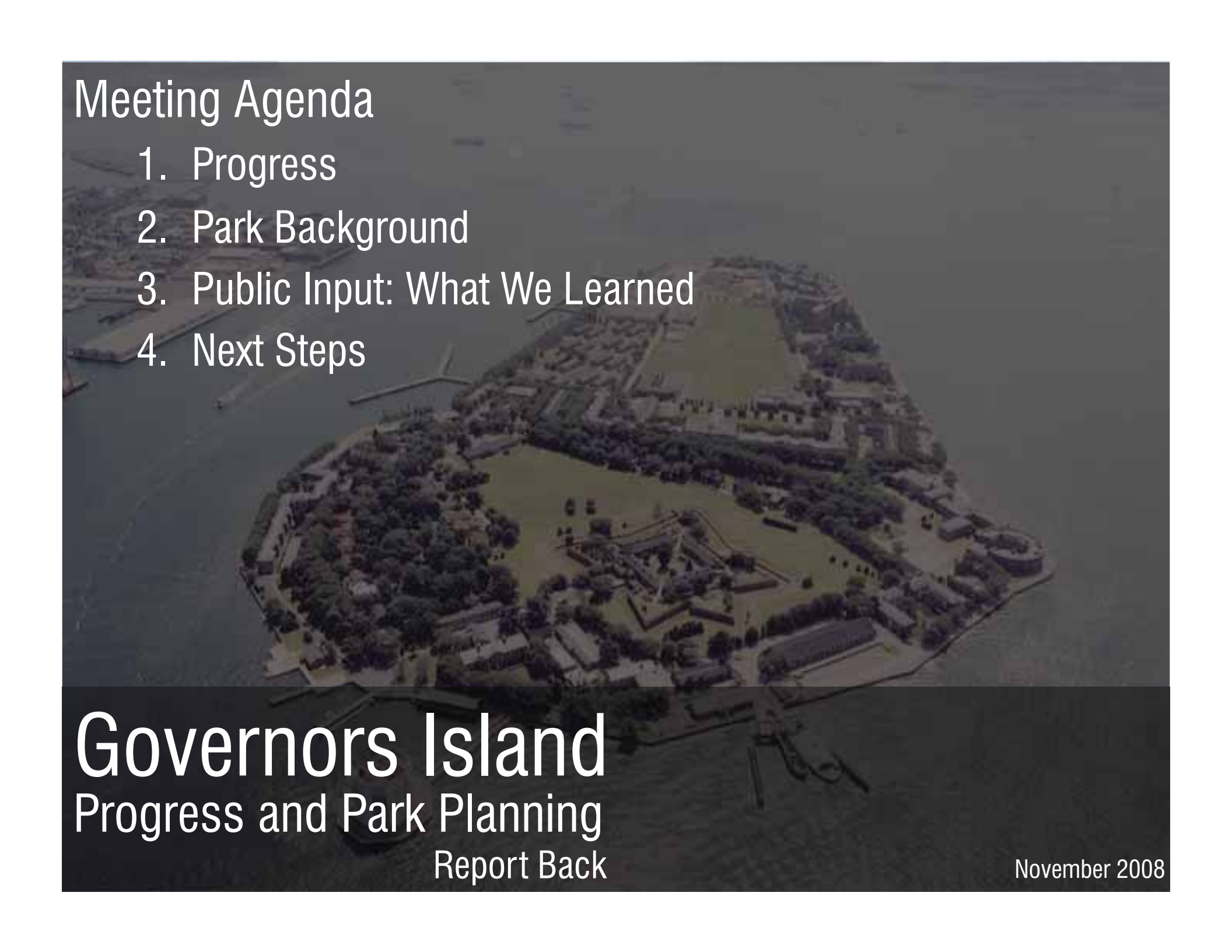
## A unique connection to Brooklyn

- Nearly one quarter of all Island visitors are from Brooklyn
- Only 400 yards from the Brooklyn waterfront
- Goal of long-term connectivity
- Brooklyn Bridge Park and Governors Island share goal of dock at Pier 6



## A unique connection to Brooklyn

- Connecting recreational experiences between Brooklyn Bridge Park and Governors Island
- Bike in Brooklyn, enjoy the waters edge, get on a boat and come to Governors Island

An aerial photograph of Governors Island, showing its distinctive pentagonal shape, green parkland, and surrounding water. The image is dimmed to allow for white text overlay.

# Meeting Agenda

1. Progress
2. Park Background
3. Public Input: What We Learned
4. Next Steps

# Governors Island

Progress and Park Planning

Report Back

November 2008