

FIGMENT*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**A PRESS RECEPTION will take place
on Friday, June 27th at 10 am
and Saturday June 28th at 10 am
on Governors Island**

FIGMENT * 2008 3-DAY PARTICIPATORY ART EVENT OPENS JUNE 27 ON GOVERNORS ISLAND

Over 200 Artists to Celebrate Creative Culture and Non-Commercial Art with the Public

(GOVERNORS ISLAND, NY) June 2008 — **FIGMENT** 2008, a free, non-profit, non-commercial participatory arts event, will take place on Governors Island from June 27-29 from 10 am-6 pm. The public is invited to participate in the highly interactive and collaborative art exhibits, performances, events, and workshops, encompassing all media (see list of events) at this outdoor event. Admission and ferry to the island are FREE. (www.FIGMENTnyc.org).

From world-class artists to the inspired individual, **FIGMENT** offers an opportunity for everyone to engage in the creative experience. Visitors of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to come to **FIGMENT** and be a part of whatever sparks their spirit and imagination. Build, paint, sing, experience, think, wonder, listen, create, dance, wander: In short, the public can PARTICIPATE in a vast array of imaginative experiences that over 200 artists of **FIGMENT** have conceived -- or bring their own games, costumes, activities, or small works of art. **FIGMENT** has moved art from the pedestal onto the front lawn for everyone to enjoy.

The success of **FIGMENT** is dependent on community participation. "We wanted to create an arts event that lowers the barrier for people to participate," says David Koren, the Executive Producer of FIGMENT. "At FIGMENT, everyone can play a part—artists, performers, activity organizers, and volunteers. The event will scale in proportion to how many people are interested in playing a part in making it happen. It's like one large collaborative art project, that you can be a part of."

FIGMENT began last year to build community among artists and their audiences, foster the participatory arts in New York City, and demonstrate a vision for the future of Governors Island as an arts destination.

FIGMENT is a community-based event organized and run by over 100 volunteers who have planned, curated, and produced the entire happening with some grant support and donations.

The event is non-commercial and decommmodified. There are no corporate sponsors, and no art or souvenirs are sold. The community of artists, volunteers, and participants that make **FIGMENT** happen respect the environment and are committed to leaving no physical trace of their activities.

A representative listing of events is available below.

Why Participatory Art?

Because of its interactive nature, participatory art can be a vehicle for personal and social transformation. Participatory arts include any works of art that require interaction from participants, such as installation art, costuming, interactive performance, and games. These activities bring together artists and community members in ways that build relationships and encourage individual creativity.

ABOUT FIGMENT

FIGMENT (www.FIGMENTnyc.org) is held in partnership with the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC). A project of Action Arts League (<http://actionartsleague.org>), FIGMENT is produced by a coalition of volunteers in partnership with The Pure Project (<http://thepureproject.com>). FIGMENT is made possible, in part, with public funds from the Manhattan Community Arts Fund, which is supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and administered by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

ABOUT THE GOVERNORS ISLAND PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION CORPORATION (GIPEC)

The Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC) is responsible for the planning, redevelopment, and ongoing operations for 150 acres of Governors Island. A partnership of New York City and New York State, GIPEC seeks to bring Governors Island back to life, making this island at the center of New York Harbor a destination with great public open space, as well as future educational, not-for-profit and commercial facilities. For more information, please visit www.govisland.com.

GETTING TO GOVERNORS ISLAND:

The Governors Island Ferry departs from the Battery Maritime Building at 10 South Street, in Lower Manhattan. This is the old green building from 1908 that is immediately to the left of the Staten Island Ferry building on the East Side of Lower Manhattan.

The easiest way to get to the Battery Maritime Building via public transportation is by the #1 train to South Ferry Station (will only stop at Chambers on SAT/SUN), the 4/5 trains to Bowling Green Station, or the W/R trains to Whitehall Street Station. For ferry schedules and more information on transportation, please visit www.govisland.com/Visit_the_Island/directions.asp.

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