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Cultural Guide for Seniors: Staten Island

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The Alliance for the Arts' mission is advocacy for the arts through research and audience development.

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Introduction

The **NYC ARTS Cultural Guide for Seniors: Staten Island** was developed in cooperation with the City of New York, which has declared its commitment to make the city friendlier to senior citizens through its program Age-Friendly NYC: Enhancing Our City's Livability for Older New Yorkers. This guide has information about 21 cultural organizations in Staten Island and the special senior programs or discounts for seniors they offer. It is one part of a citywide guide that includes Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan and Queens editions.

The **NYC ARTS Cultural Guide for Seniors** is a natural extension of the Alliance for the Arts' online cultural guide and calendar, NYC-ARTS.org, which was built with support from the City of New York. Profiles of more than 950 arts organizations across the city and details of their thousands of cultural events can be found every day on NYC-ARTS.org.

How to Use This Guide

This guide can be read as a printed document or on a computer as a PDF, using the free software program Adobe Reader. If you read this guide on a computer and have an Internet connection, you can click on the cultural group's name or Web site address to reach the group's expanded description on NYC-ARTS.org or its Web site, respectively.

Cultural groups in this guide appear in alphabetical order. Each listing begins with basic information such as address, telephone number, Web site address, admission costs and open hours. Some organizations hold their activities at venues other than their given address, which is provided for mailing purposes only. A description of the organization follows. If the organization offers programs specific to senior citizens or senior groups, those are highlighted under the heading **Programs for Seniors**. The age at which a visitor is considered a senior varies by organization and, if specified, is indicated in the guide.

Each listing ends with information about nearby subway stations and other details—ranging from disability access at the venue to information on discounts offered to seniors for admission, tickets, tours or memberships.

At the back of this guide is a two-part index that highlights the cultural organizations in this guide that are free to every visitor, and those that have programming specific to seniors. Some organizations will appear on both lists; some organizations in the guide are not on either index, but can be found in the table of contents at the front of the guide.

The information in this guide was up to date on April 5, 2011; however, changes are inevitable. Hours of operation, admission fees and programs may all change. Users of this guide are encouraged to contact the organization in advance to confirm particulars.

Alice Austen House Museum

Two Hylan Boulevard
(at Edgewater Street)
Staten Island, NY 10305

Tel: (718) 816-4506
www.aliceausten.org

\$2 General; admission fee is a suggested donation

Thurs–Sun 12–5 pm

This vine-covered Victorian cottage surrounded by gardens was home for almost 80 years to Alice Austen (1866–1952), a pioneer woman photographer. Exhibits offer a glimpse into the life and work of this fascinating individual.

Programs for Seniors: Photography classes available

Senior Discounts: \$15 membership

Disability Access: Wheelchair accessible

Disability Assistance: Large-print materials and live audio descriptions available

Blue Heron Park

222 Poillon Avenue
(between Hylan Boulevard and Amboy Road)
Staten Island, NY 10312

Tel: (718) 967-3542
www.nycgovparks.org/parks/blueheronpark

Free Admission (all visitors, all hours)

Mon–Sun 7 am–dusk

On the southern tip of Staten Island, this 236-acre park has streams, woodlands, ponds, egrets, herons and muskrats. Along with Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Blue Heron Park is the city's most active spot for migratory fowl. Wildflower, fungus and geology walks, pond studies and photography sessions are offered.

Disability Access: Visitor center is accessible.

Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve

83 Nielsen Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10309

Tel: (718) 967-1976
nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/166/details.aspx

Free Admission (all visitors, all hours)

Interpretive Center: Tues–Fri 9 am–4:30 pm; Preserve: daily dawn–dusk; Office: daily 9 am–5 pm

Two hundred fifty acres of wetlands, fields, sandy barrens, spring-fed streams and woodlands can be found on the quiet southwestern shore of Staten Island. Clay Pit Ponds, named after a clay-mining operation once on the site, was designated New York City’s first State Park Preserve in 1980.

Disability Access: Nature trails: limited accessibility; visitor center, pavilions and picnic tables: fully accessible

College of Staten Island Center for the Arts

2800 Victory Boulevard
Building 1P, Room 116
Staten Island, NY 10314

Tel: (718) 982-2787
www.cfashows.com

Now approaching its 14th season, this world-class performance facility is noted for its annual series, CFA Presents, a series of first-rate performances featuring music, comedy, theater, dance and children’s theater.

Senior Discounts: \$2 off up to two tickets

Disability Access: Contact (718) 982-2510

Conference House

298 Satterlee Street
(south end of Hylan Boulevard)
Staten Island, NY 10307

Tel: (718) 984-6046
www.conferencehouse.org

Free for Members; \$3 Adults, \$2 Students, \$2 Seniors, \$2 Children

April–Dec: Fri–Sun 1–4 pm

This historic house is site of the Staten Island Peace Conference, held on September 11, 1776, in which delegates from the Continental Congress met with the British to attempt to negotiate an end to the Revolutionary War.

Senior Discounts: \$20 membership

Disability Access: ADA compliant restrooms at the visitor center only. No other disability access.

Directions: From Staten Island Ferry, take the S78 or SI Rapid Transit to the Tottenville stop.

Council on the Arts & Humanities for Staten Island

1000 Richmond Terrace
(at Snug Harbor Road)
Staten Island, NY 10301

Tel: (718) 447-3329
www.statenislandarts.org

Mon–Fri 9 am–5 pm, or by appointment

Staten Island’s arts council provides information on arts, cultural and humanities programs and events throughout the borough.

Programs for Seniors: COAHSI artists work with seniors at community centers as part of an arts-in-education program.

Garibaldi-Meucci Museum

420 Tompkins Avenue
(at Chestnut Avenue)
Staten Island, NY 10305

Tel: (718) 442-1608
www.garibaldimeuccimuseum.org

Free for Children under 10 and Senior Caretakers; \$5 General

Tues–Sun 1–5 pm; in fall and winter, Sat & Sun hours change to 12–4 pm

During the 1850s two remarkable Italians, Giuseppe Garibaldi and Antonio Meucci, shared this house on Staten Island before Garibaldi led the birth of the modern state of Italy.

Programs for Seniors: Speakers are available for senior center programs, upon request.

Senior Discounts: Seniors (62 and older) receive \$15 off individual membership.

Disability Access: Wheelchair accessible

Greenbelt Nature Center

700 Rockland Avenue
(intersection of Brielle and Rockland Avenues)
Staten Island, NY 10314

Tel: (718) 351-3450
www.sigreenbelt.org

Apr–Oct: Tues–Sun 10 am–5 pm; Nov–March: Wed–Sun 11 am–5 pm

The Greenbelt Nature Center, in the heart of Staten Island, offers information, programming, events and access to the greenbelt's 35-mile network of hiking trails. The center is nestled in picturesque woodlands, yet near a major intersection and accessible by bus or car.

Programs for Seniors: The center offers year-round programs for groups, including programs for people with disabilities.

Disability Access: The visitor center is accessible.

Directions: *From Verrazano Narrows Bridge:* Take the Staten Island Expressway [278W] to Exit 11, Bradley Avenue. Make a left onto Bradley Avenue. Go to Brielle Avenue and make a right. Proceed about 1 mile to the intersection of Brielle and Rockland Avenues. Nature Center is straight ahead.

From Goethals Bridge: Take the Staten Island Expressway [278E] and make a right onto Bradley Avenue. Follow directions above.

From Outerbridge Crossing: Take the West Shore Expressway [Route 440] to the Staten Island Expressway [278E]. Follow directions above.

Bus: S62 to Bradley Avenue. Cross Victory Boulevard and transfer to the New Dorp-bound Bus S57. Exit at Brielle and Rockland Avenues.

SI Rapid Transit: New Dorp Station, then take a Port Richmond-bound S57 bus to Brielle and Rockland Avenues.

Historic Richmond Town/Staten Island Historical Society

441 Clarke Avenue
(at Arthur Kill Road)
Staten Island, NY 10306

Tel: (718) 351-1611
www.historicrichmondtown.org

Free for Members and Children under 5; \$5 Adults, \$4 Seniors, \$3.50 Children

Sept–June: Wed–Sun 1–5 pm; July & Aug: Wed–Sun 11 am–5 pm

Historic Richmond Town, the only restored historic village in New York City, brings 300 years of the city's vibrant heritage to life. Located on 100 acres of open land, the village includes 27 historic buildings from its earliest days as a 17th-century rural community to its heyday as the bustling 19th-century Richmond County seat.

Programs for Seniors: Tours and activities can be tailored for senior groups or for people with disabilities.

Senior Discounts: Seniors (62 and older) receive a \$5 discount on individual membership.

Disability Access: Wheelchair accessible

Disability Assistance: Assistive listening devices and graphical depictions available. Tours for the deaf are conducted on the first Sunday of every month at 2 pm. Tours of the village are interpreted in American Sign Language by volunteers from the Seymour Joseph Institute.

Directions: From Staten Island Ferry, take the S74 bus to Richmond Road and St. Patrick's Place.

Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art

338 Lighthouse Avenue
(near Richmond Road)
Staten Island, NY 10306

Tel: (718) 987-3500
www.tibetanmuseum.org

Free for Members and Children under 6; \$6 Adults, \$4 Students, \$4 Seniors and Caretakers

Wed–Sun 1–5 pm; last admission is 4:30 pm

The Tibetan museum, a small complex of two fieldstone buildings, has a unique collection and offers new exhibitions, group tours, education programs, t'ai chi and meditation classes, lectures, music and performances year-round.

Programs for Seniors: Slide presentations and objects from the museum collection can be included in programs at senior centers.

Disability Access: No wheelchair access

Directions: From Staten Island Ferry take the S74 bus to Lighthouse Avenue.

Lifetime Arts

PO Box 8586
Pelham, NY 10803

Tel: (914) 355-2304
www.lifetimearts.org

This organization provides practical support and resources to practitioners and institutions that provide services to older adults. Creative Aging in Our Communities: the New York City Libraries Project is a series of arts programs for older adults in up to 30 branch libraries in the Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island and Brooklyn.

Newhouse Center of Contemporary Art

1000 Richmond Terrace
(between Tysen Street and Snug Harbor Road)
Staten Island, NY 10301

Tel: (718) 425-3560
www.snug-harbor.org/newhouse.html

Free for Children and Members; \$3 Adults, \$2 Students, \$2 Seniors

March–Oct: Tues–Sun 10 am–5 pm; Nov–Feb: Tues–Sun 10 am–4 pm

The Newhouse Center features exhibitions of contemporary art (post-1945) with a special emphasis on Staten Island and underrecognized artists.

Directions: From Staten Island Ferry take the S40 bus to Snug Harbor.

New York Chinese Scholar's Garden

1000 Richmond Terrace
(between Tysen Street and Snug Harbor Road)
Staten Island, NY 10301

Tel: (718) 448-2500
www.snug-harbor.org/chinese.html

Free for Children and Members; \$5 Adults, \$4 Students, \$4 Seniors

Mid-March–Oct: Tues–Sun 10 am–5 pm; Nov–mid-March: Tues–Sun 10 am–4 pm

The New York Chinese Scholar's Garden is a replica of a typical scholar's garden from the Ming dynasty. Part of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, the beautiful setting features authentic replicas of some of the most stunning gardens in mainland China.

Disability Access: Visitors in wheelchairs should contact admission staff to enter the garden. Call (718) 285-6506.

Directions: From Staten Island Ferry take the S40 bus to Snug Harbor.

Noble Maritime Collection

1000 Richmond Terrace, Building D
(between Tysen Street and Snug Harbor Road)
Staten Island, NY 10301

Tel: (718) 447-6490
www.noblemaritime.org

Free for Members and Children under 10; \$5 Adults, \$3 Students, \$3 Seniors
Admission fees are suggested donations

Thurs–Sun 1–5 pm

This museum and study center is dedicated to celebrating New York Harbor and the work of American artist John A. Noble (1913–83), whose houseboat studio is its centerpiece.

Programs for Seniors: Among the adult programs are Memoir Writing; CloseKnit, a knitting class; and A Helluva Choir.

Senior Discounts: Seniors (62 and older) can purchase membership for \$25 (regular \$40).

Directions: From Staten Island Ferry take the S40 bus to Snug Harbor. Building D is one of the “front five” Greek Revival buildings.

Sandy Ground Historical Society

1538 Woodrow Road
(between Lynbrook and Dexter Avenues)
Staten Island, NY 10309

Tel: (718) 317-5796

\$6 Adults, \$3 Students, \$3 Seniors

Tues–Sun 1–4 pm

At the site of the oldest community established by free slaves in North America, a museum and library examine the life and history of freed blacks who settled on Staten Island before the Civil War.

Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden

1000 Richmond Terrace
(between Tysen Street and Snug Harbor Road)
Staten Island, NY 10301

Tel: (718) 448-2500
www.snug-harbor.org

\$6 Adults, \$5 Students, \$5 Seniors, \$3 Children, \$5 Members

Visitor Center: mid-March–Oct: Tues–Sun 10 am–5 pm; Nov–mid-March: Tues–Sun 10 am–4 pm
Grounds: daily dawn–dusk

Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden is home to many cultural groups and attractions, including the Staten Island Children’s Museum and the Noble Maritime Museum. A gallery and garden combo ticket provides access to the New York Chinese Scholar’s Garden, the Connie Gretz Secret Garden, Main Hall, Building C galleries and the Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art.

Disability Access: Fully accessible

Disability Assistance: The visitor center provides wheelchairs on a first come, first served basis.

Directions: From Staten Island Ferry take the S40 bus to Snug Harbor.

Staten Island Botanical Garden

1000 Richmond Terrace
(at Snug Harbor Road)
Staten Island, NY 10301

Tel: (718) 273-8200
www.snug-harbor.org/horticulture.html

Free for Students, Seniors and Children under 12; \$5 Adults

March–Oct Tues–Sun 10 am–5 pm; Nov–Feb 10 am–4 pm

Nestled within the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, this sanctuary of naturalized and cultivated land—the borough’s only public garden—includes the serene New York Chinese Scholar’s Garden and the Connie Gretz Secret Garden.

Disability Access: Fully accessible; special garden for the physically handicapped

Directions: From Staten Island Ferry take the S40 bus to Snug Harbor.

Staten Island Ferry

4 South Street
Whitehall Terminal (at Whitehall Street)
New York, NY 10005

Tel: (718) 876-8441
www.siferry.com

Free Admission (all visitors, all hours)

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

The Staten Island Ferry travels between Staten Island and Manhattan in 30 minutes and provides views of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the Manhattan skyline. The terminal in Staten Island is called St. George and is located at One Bay Street. It is served by buses and the Staten Island commuter railway.

Disability Access: Terminals and boats are fully accessible. Riders in wheelchairs are permitted to board on the lower level.

Directions: Subway from Manhattan: 1 to South Ferry; 4, 5 to Bowling Green; W, R to Whitehall Street
SI Rapid Transit: Staten Island Railway to St. George

Staten Island Museum

75 Stuyvesant Place
(at Wall Street)
Staten Island, NY 10301

Tel: (718) 727-1135
www.statenislandmuseum.org

Free for Members, Children under 12 and Senior caretakers; \$3 Adults; \$2 Students; \$2 Seniors
Admission fees are suggested donations

Mon–Fri, Sun 12–5 pm; Sat 10 am–5 pm

Dedicated to the heritage of New York’s southernmost borough, the Staten Island Museum boasts an unusually diverse collection featuring an assortment of fine arts, scientific specimens and historic artifacts.

Programs for Seniors: The museum holds monthly Lunch & Learn sessions for seniors. Lectures and workshops are available, upon request, at senior centers.

Senior Discounts: Seniors (65 and older) pay \$25 for individual membership (regular \$35).

Disability Access: Building is wheelchair accessible. Call (718) 727-1135 for assistance.

Directions: From Staten Island Ferry, cross Richmond Terrace and walk up Wall Street.

Staten Island Zoo

614 Broadway
(between Forest Avenue and Clove Road)
Staten Island, NY 10310

Tel: (718) 442-3100
www.statenislandzoo.org

Free for Members and Children 3 and under; \$8 Adults, \$6 Seniors, \$5 Children

Mon–Sun 10 am–4:45 pm; Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day

This small urban zoo and aquarium on eight manicured acres features animals, birds, reptiles and amphibians from the world over.

Disability Access: Fully accessible

Disability Assistance: Guided tours available for blind or partially sighted visitors. Call (718) 442-3101.

William T. Davis Wildlife Refuge

3648 Victory Boulevard
(at Travis Avenue)
Staten Island, NY 10314

Tel: (718) 667-2165
www.nycgovparks.org/sub_about/parks_divisions/nrg/forever_wild/site.php?FWID=16

Free Admission (all visitors, all hours)

Daily dawn–dusk

Established in 1933 by the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, the William T. Davis Wildlife Refuge was the first wildlife sanctuary in New York City. It consists of a patchwork of tidal marshland, freshwater wetlands, woodlands and open areas vital to migrating and native species.

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