

Executive Summary

Hudson River Community Sailing was founded in 2007 as a nonprofit organization to provide experiential learning to underserved New York City youth through sailing and marine education. Our **Youth Development Program** uses sailing and boat building to further academic skills and instill the qualities of character necessary for college and career success. We partner with 8 local public high schools to offer our credit-bearing program, which provides young people with social and academic support through internships, mentoring, and college preparation. Our **Community Sailing Program** serves a broader constituency, providing affordable marine education and



recreation for individuals, groups, schools, businesses, and families.

Our **Youth Development Program** is designed to be intensive and transformative, providing support throughout a student's high school career. Statistics show that on average 78% of NYC students are entering high school not meeting NY state math standards and 36% will not graduate from high school in 4 years.¹ A growing body of research shows that children who participate in quality after school programs have higher school attendance and academic achievement and are less likely to be involved in risky behaviors.

Mission: *Hudson River Community Sailing develops leadership and academic success in underserved New York City youth through sailing education and provides maritime education and recreation to the community at large.*

HRCS recruits students entering their first year of high school, and, through its year-long after-school program *Sail Academy*, provides the opportunity to earn academic credit in mathematics and physical education. Additionally, students learn the important life skills of teamwork, self-reliance, and persistence, both on our boats and in our classroom. Our curriculum was designed with NYC Department of Education partner teachers to support state standards.

After successfully completing *Sail Academy*, students can continue in *First Mates*, a program that provides youth development experiences that prepare them for college and the workplace. With the help of a strong

¹ Statistics cited from www.schools.nyc.gov, based on 2014 8th Grade State Math Tests and Citywide Graduation Data.



40°45'8.01" N
74°0'30.48" W

volunteer corps, *First Mates* develops expertise in sailing, marine science, boat building, navigation, and racing. We also provide students with ongoing mentoring and academic tutoring.



The final element of Youth Development at HRCS is our four-tiered *Internship Program*. Internships provide students with more responsibility and independence, and include experience in a working office and marina. Our students rely on this part-time income to support themselves and help their families.

HRCS currently serves 120 students in its Youth Development Program. In 2014, we had our first class of graduating seniors: 100% were accepted into and attended college. The annual budget for our Youth Development Program is \$240,000, which is offered at no cost to individual students. In addition to

individual, corporate, event, and foundation support, HRCS leverages proceeds from some of its fee-based services to cover youth development costs.

Our Youth Development Program is complemented by **Community Sailing** for adults and children. HRCS's summer youth sailing program, *City Sail*, serves students across the city and from all socio-economic backgrounds. This popular program allows us to work with a broad section of students intensely, for a short duration. In addition, we offer short programs to other schools and community groups such as Columbia University, the Calhoun School, and the New York Harbor School.

HRCS offers an adult sailing club for over 160 members that includes education workshops, social events, and racing. We run a successful sailing school for the general public that served more than 1,800 participants in 2014. Our sailing school offers a diverse set of classes, from Family Sailing to Basic Keelboat Certification. We host a number of community regattas and corporate events, which draw from partner relationships with organizations and businesses throughout the area.



In 2015 HRCS is launching *Soldiers Under Sail*, Adaptive Sailing Program, which teaches disabled veterans to sail and involves them as members and volunteers. We believe everyone should have access to the joy of sailing, and this endeavor is the latest extension of that belief. Many adults from Community Sailing volunteer and attend events in our youth programs, linking the two parts of our work.



The HRCS facility is located at Pier 66 inside Hudson River Park near 26th street in Manhattan. We currently use a fleet of ten J-24 sailboats, and are one of 26 sanctioned *US Sailing* Community Centers in the country. HRCS has a year-round staff of nine and employs another 12-15 instructors seasonally. We welcome the opportunity to partner with foundations and businesses to expand and deepen our work with youth.