



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters,

On his way out of office, former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy shared a reflection that has stuck with me. "So, what makes Community possible? Three core elements: relationships, service, and purpose. And one core virtue: love. Together, they create the ecosystem of meaning and belonging that are essential for fulfillment."

As I think about how HRCS builds community, I see these core elements across our work: **relationships**, **service**, and **purpose**. I am struck how this culture has blossomed and matured. It is essential to what makes Community the most important word in our name, and the key to our success.

We see **relationships** in our FairLead program, where women mentor other women, sailing together almost 700 times last season to build skills and camaraderie. We see it when older students coach younger ones to drive the launch, steer on the race course, or teach in our summer camp. We see it with the new skipper who sailed 100 times, sharing knowledge with their crew. We see it with staff taking interns under their wings, not just teaching job skills, but helping them dream big and reach their goals.

We see **service** each winter as new members volunteer to build boats with our students inside public schools, and we see it in the spring when the entire community gathers to celebrate launching the boats. We see it in the hours the Board dedicates to governance and fundraising, far away from the fun and spray of a sailboat. We see it in the effort that 24 teams put into our Sailing for Scholars Regatta,

raising over \$500K from over 1,500 individual donors! We see it in the volunteer who travels 90 minutes each way to help with Hoyer lift transfers at our weekly adaptive sails at Dyckman Marina.

And we see **purpose** when veterans from Soldiers Under Sail support fellow service members at Heroes on the Hudson. We see it in the retired bilingual teacher who volunteers with Sail Academy, allowing new English language learners to fully participate. We see it at the boatyard, when 70+ members, volunteers and staff gather each spring to sand, paint, and prepare the fleet for a long season.

We know that sailing has a history of elitism and privilege, and **our purpose** is to break down these barriers and bring opportunities for discovery and growth to as many people as we can. We will continue to advocate forcefully for our place in NYC's public spaces. Dyckman Marina is scheduled to close in January 2026, but we are steadfast in our resolve to continue providing great programs for that community, and to figure out alternative sites.

Thank you for being a part of our community, for building relationships and serving with purpose. We are lucky to have you on board.

Robert Burke Executive Director

















JANUARY

Member Winter Workshops build skills and community. Over 20 different sessions range from racing rules to hydrodynamics, nautical terms, leadership, and more.

Staff participate in a **Boathouse Build Out**, learning woodworking skills similar to those of our students.

FEBRUARY

Sail Academy Inwood students go to Eaglefest in Croton-on-Hudson, where they learn about birds of prey and conservation. The trip is part of a unit on the wildlife of the Hudson Valley, along with their wooden birdhouse building project. It is one of our many trips designed to expose students to real-world STEM opportunities and new experiences.

MARCH

Spring Commissioning kicks off at the boat yard in Verplanck. Over 70 staff and volunteers support the activation of 30 sail and power boats over the course of a month.

New launch "EMKAY" purchased through a generous donation from a Board Member to support our fleet and intern operations.

APRIL

First Mates (Sail Academy Juniors and Seniors) visit the Marine and Coastal Sciences Department at Rutgers University. They tour the lab and take a research vessel onto the Raritan River to measure water quality.

Car Free Earth Day marks the first of 5 Community Days, free sailing events for over 250 NYC residents.

MAY

Sail Academy students take part in annual **Return to the River** event, launching wooden boats, showcasing projects they have built over the winter, and sailing with their families.

8 community members ride in **TD Five Boro Bike Tour**, raising funds and biking with thousands of other New Yorkers on a rainy spring day.

JUNE

HRCS is the official Community
Sailing Partner of the U.S. SailGP
Team, as the global sporting event
comes to New York. Students
and members tour the tech site,
community members watch the
racing on Governors Island, and staff
facilitate a Women's Leadership sail
for employees of Mubadala, the title
sponsor of the event.

Staff works with a marine contractor to inspect, service, and re-site 15 moorings in Chelsea. This expensive and intensive process happens every 5 years, and is key to the **safety and upkeep** of the fleet.

Sail Academy Inwood hosts its **first graduation**. Families gather to celebrate students and sail together.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS





WET WEATHER AHEAD FOR **COMING WEEK** ON ISLAND





LONG ISLAND

A 'wave of events'











JULY

4th of July Fireworks return to the Hudson River, and community members gather to watch from Pier 66.

Shelter Island New Horizons Program celebrates its largest year yet, as 15 Sail Academy **Inwood students** spend a week on the island. They stay with host families, sail dinghies, and explore the island.

AUGUST

With a generous donation, HRCS purchases 2 MarkSetBots to make racing safer and more efficient, as the program continues to grow. The inflatable robotic marks are battery-powered, GPS-located, and hold position without needing to anchor, an important safety feature on the high-current river.

Heroes on the Hudson returns to Dyckman Marina, with over 50 veterans sailing and kayaking. HRCS hosts the annual clinic for veterans with disabilities in partnership with the Bronx & Manhattan VA Medical Centers.

SEPTEMBER

Sail Academy kicks off the school year with 250 students in 14 partner middle and high schools. MS-322 joined from the Salomé Ureña Campus in Inwood.

Group of members go on first weeklong trip to Puget Sound, continuing to build cruising skills including navigation, trip planning, and exploration beyond the Hudson.

OCTOBER

Sailing for Scholars Gala & Regatta raises a record-breaking \$500,000. 24 teams fundraise and compete, including 5 teams with Sail Academy students or alumni on board.

Sail Academy students take a **behind-the-scenes** tour of LaGuardia Airport, led by a member and volunteer who works at the Port Authority. This tour is part of our career discovery programming, which includes site visits and career speakers.

NOVEMBER

Member Tech Committee convenes. The volunteer committee was formed in the spring and meets to improve member registration, data tracking, and sail signup app. Volunteers are key to all aspects of the organization, and helped build our website and member hub.

DECEMBER

Board of Directors welcomes new Chair Harry Brigham and 5 new **Directors**, bringing the Board to 23 members. 40% identify as people of color, an important indicator as we strive to have our leadership more closely match the demographics of our city.

HRCS OVERVIEW

HRCS is a nonprofit organization founded in 2008 with locations in Chelsea (Pier 66) and Inwood (Dyckman Marina). We develop leadership and academic success in New York City youth through partnerships with public schools, and our diverse and vibrant community sailing center provides maritime education and recreation to the city at large.

The sport of sailing has not traditionally been inclusive, and we are dedicated to changing that. Across all of our programs, we are committed to building a welcoming community where everyone learns and grows together.



Sail Academy

Youth Development

Sail Academy is a **youth development program** that aims to close the opportunity gap between students from under-resourced schools and their more affluent counterparts by providing high-quality **STEM** (science, technology, engineering & math) and leadership education, college access support, internships, and workforce preparation.

250 students attend after school at least once per week, in addition to internships and summer programs. HRCS maintains deep and longstanding partnerships with 9 public high schools in Chelsea and 5 public and charter schools in Inwood. Chelsea students can receive elective credit through their schools.

Students sail in the fall and spring. Over the winter, Inwood students begin with STEM projects and work their way through wooden boats, birdhouses, and eventually robotics. Chelsea students begin with a math-themed year called Sailing by Numbers where they learn to sail and build wooden boats, progress through science-themed Ocean Literacy, and finish with First Mates, where they can choose between Elective Tracks including racing, instructing, boatbuilding, and internships. Students get help applying to college and alumni support after graduation.

Community Programs

Public Access

HRCS believes that everyone can learn to sail, and that sailing provides a unique opportunity for growth and discovery. Community Programs provide maritime education to thousands of New Yorkers on a fleet of 25 keelboats across both locations. As with Sail Academy, Community Programs foster a sense of stewardship by connecting New Yorkers to their local waters.

Across membership, lessons, summer camp, veterans programs, Adaptive Sailing for New Yorkers of all abilities, and events and regattas for groups and organizations, Community Programs served over 3,000 participants in 2024.

HRCS has a **staff** of 22 fulltime employees, 40 seasonal instructors, and 28 interns. Our \$2.5M budget is half fee-for-service and half philanthropic revenue. This **unique business model** helps to provide stability and flexibility.



The two sides of our work tie together—many members volunteer, donate, and mentor youth, and students become interns and instructors, building a unique community dedicated to education and growth.

Throughout this report, you will see **Building Community** boxes with different cross-programmatic highlights.

SAIL ACADEMY

Developing leadership and academic success in NYC students through sailing education

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

COLLEGE + CAREER PREP

Prepare students for success in high school, college, and career

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING + LEADERSHIP

Build leadership skills including self-confidence, communication, and teamwork

STEM IDENTITY

Foster a greater interest in STEM subjects and environmental stewardship

SAILING SKILLS

Develop confidence and competence operating sailboats



2024

BY THE NUMBERS

250

students enrolled in Chelsea and Inwood

74%

identify as people of color

48% female

49% male

3% other



PARTNER SCHOOLS

Amber Charter School

Atmosphere Academy

City College Academy of the Arts

Harvest Collegiate

High School for Environmental Studies

High School of Fashion Industries

Hudson High School

James Baldwin School for Expeditionary

Learning

KIPP Beyond

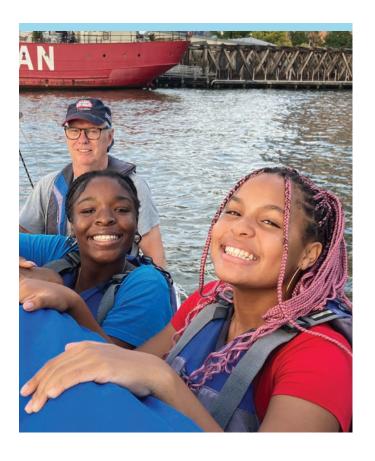
Manhattan Business Academy

NYC Lab School

NYC Museum School

Ouest to Learn

Salomé Ureña Leadership Academy



SAIL ACADEMY

2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS





Partnership with SailGP and RISE (a national nonprofit that works to eliminate racism through sports) brought together 30 students from Sail Academy and Good Shepherd Services in Brooklyn. The month-long partnership combined sailing and workshops focused on leadership and social justice.

Classic Harbor Line, our neighbor at Chelsea Piers, continued to **introduce students to maritime careers on larger vessels**, and support HRCS more broadly. CHL hosted students for a sail, sponsored a boat for Sailing for Scholars, and hired 3 Sail Academy alumni as crew.



College + Career Prep

Interns and alumni assistants worked **over 5,500 paid hours**, earning **over \$84,000** in key part-time income as they prepare to enter the workforce.

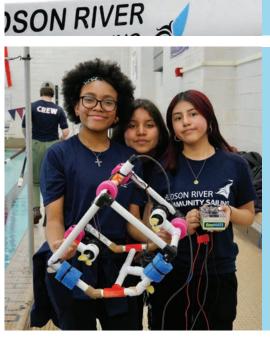
Seniors received college access support including essay writing, Common App, and financial aid counseling, from our Chelsea Youth Program Director, who has a background in college access, and offers support for all students in their college and career journeys.



Social Emotional Learning + Leadership

19 Junior Educators put in over 3,200 hours in City Sail camp, teaching alongside instructors and helping to guide younger students. The JE program serves as a formative leadership experience for students, while providing campers with role models and instructors with support.

96% of students demonstrated **gains in at least one Core SEL capacity** (Self-Management, Positive Identity, Contribution, Social Skills, Academic Self-Efficacy).



STEM Identity

29 students went to SUNY Maritime for their underwater ROV (remotely operated vehicles) project. They used the pool for testing the functionality and waterproofing of the robots, and heard a presentation on the maritime industry.

2 students received **Science Leadership Program Internships** with City College and the Hudson River Park Trust Wet Lab, where they studied the impact of plastics on the seabird population.

96% of students agreed with the STEM identity statement: "I believe someone like myself can succeed in future opportunities related to science, technology, engineering, or mathematics."



Sailing Skills

45 students received **New York State Safe Boating Certificates**. The Safe Boating Course is a classroom curriculum that teaches basic boating skills and encourages common sense and courtesy to all who share the water. By 2025, it is required for anyone wishing to drive a boat in the state.

Students attended Duckboat Worlds in Barnegat Bay, where they sail a wooden boat they helped restore and meet youth from other sailing programs.



SAIL ACADEMY

CLASS OF 2024

14

graduating seniors

100%

went on to 2- or 4-year colleges 48%

are the first generation in their families to attend college

43%

plan to major in a STEM field

POST-SECONDARY PLANS

Binghamton University (3)
Guttman Community College
Hunter College
Macaulay Honors College at City College
Northeastern University
Purdue University
SUNY Maritime College
SUNY New Paltz
Temple University
University of Connecticut

University at Albany

HIGHLIGHTS

New Alumni Coordinator, herself an alum, hired to better engage and support Sail Academy graduates beyond HRCS. 2 alumni joined the Dark 'n Stormy committee, which helps make the annual event a success, and 2 more joined as Program Assistants to support Sail Academy.

23 students attended alumni homecoming. One Sail Academy alum joined our seasonal staff as an instructor. One fifth of all lessons were taught by alumni.

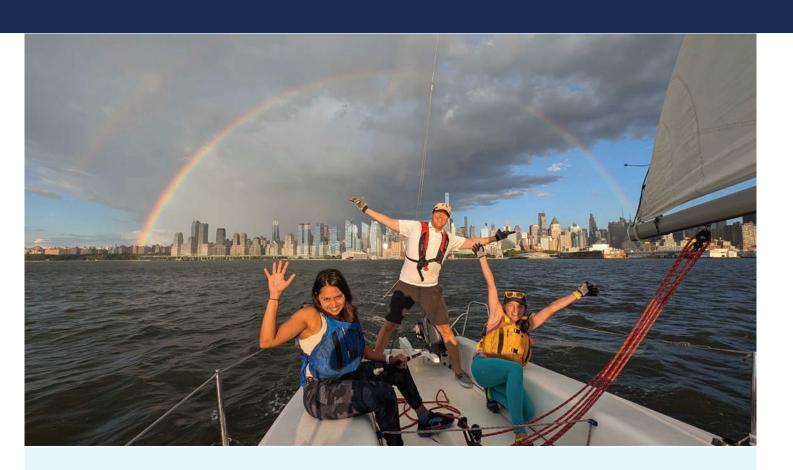
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Providing affordable maritime education and recreation to the community at large

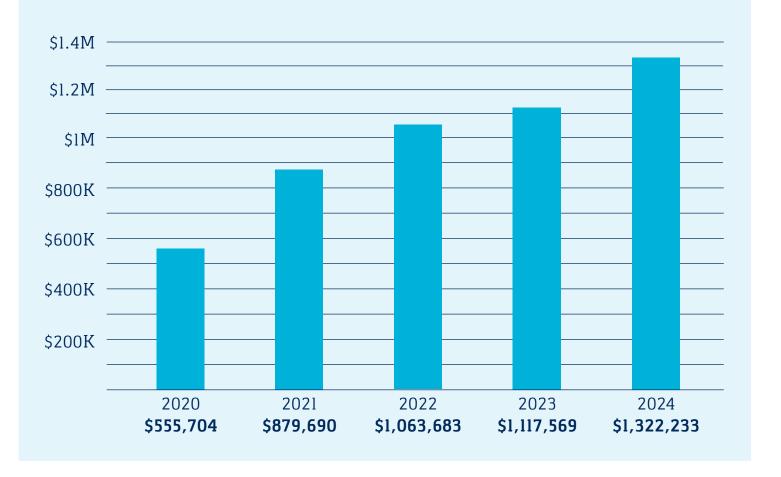


PROGRAM AREAS

MEMBERSHIP	includes instruction, social activities, skill-building, and racing within an inclusive community. Female members have access to mentorship and leadership development through FairLead	
LESSONS AND GROUP EVENTS	award-winning school provides instruction for all ages	
CITY SAIL	summer camp for youth ages 9-17 builds skills and teaches STEM and teamwork in week-long sessions	
YOUTH RACING	brings together a diverse cross-section of public and private schools to practice and compete	
COMMUNITY DAYS	monthly free sailing days for student families and the public	
SOLDIERS UNDER SAIL	veterans program provides instruction and membership in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs	
ADAPTIVE SAILING	provides sailing education and access to participants living with physical and developmental disabilities	



PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUE



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS





Membership

Membership continued to grow, with 550 members sailing over 9,300 times, an all-time high.

Training Programs continued to build learning pathways within membership. 34 members passed the test to become new J/24 skippers, and 30 upgraded to J/80 skippers.

FairLead program for female members had its fourth season of leadership, mentoring, and social activities. Participants sailed together 690 times. HRCS hosted Women on Water of Long Island Sound for a regatta and social event.

Operations

Operations focused on engaging volunteers, with weekly in-season opportunities to learn boat maintenance skills and help maintain the fleet. BBR Partners employees took part in a Corporate Volunteer Event, performing rigging and hardware checks on the water.

Public Programs

Piloted US Powerboating Safe Powerboat
Handling course to offer training and
certification for members and the public aboard
our motor vessels.

Continued to expand single-gender offerings, serving 47% more **Women's Basic Keelboat** participants and adding a **Women's Intermediate Keelboat Course**.

Soldiers Under Sail

40 veterans in Soldiers Under Sail sailed over 400 times, an all-time high. HRCS added discount to provide more affordable membership to veterans who do not qualify for the free program.





Over 200 volunteers contributed over 3,700 hours across the organization, working in youth programs, event committees, and operations

25 Sail Academy alumni
worked across the
organization in full-time,
part-time, or seasonal roles.
9 alumni have received their
Basic Keelboat Instructor
certification to date.

ADAPTIVE SAILING

Adaptive Sailing provides waterfront access, sailing education, and community to New Yorkers living with disabilities.



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

PROVIDE ACCESS TO SAILING

to individuals living with disabilities and their caregivers

FOSTER INCLUSION AND WELL-BEING

in participants by creating a space where they feel safe, socialize, and have fun on the water

EMPOWER PARTICIPANTS

to realize personal and recreational goals

BUILD COMFORT AND INTEREST

in sailing

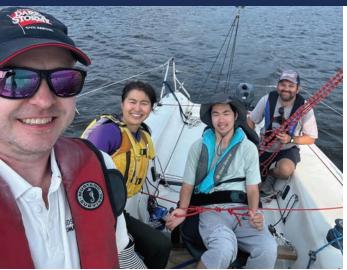
ADAPTIVE PARTNERS

Challenged Athletes Foundation
Heroes on the Hudson
Impossible Dream
James J. Peters VA Medical Center
Mount Sinai Hospital Spinal Cord
Center
NYC Spinal
Wheeling Forward
Women on Wheels (W.O.W.)
VISIONS

2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Expanded to over 250
participants and 9 partner
organizations. Continued to
expand and define scope of
program to three pillars: Events
with partner groups, family sails
and lessons, and membership for
longer-term engagement.

Improved and refined survey collection. 100% of participants reported feeling welcomed and included, and 95% said the equipment provided met their individual needs.



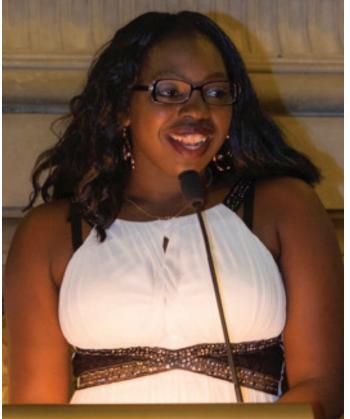




Volunteers with a background in fabrication **designed and built new aluminum frames** for adaptive seats, allowing them to be stronger and lighter-weight.

New **Adaptive Membership** aimed to create pathways for adaptive participants to sail on a longerterm basis, and to become part of our larger community. **10 adaptive members joined**, and went on sails with volunteers and members.







HRCS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Dawn Jones

Dawn Jones's freshman orientation at the New York City Museum School was packed with new and exciting opportunities - but one stood out. More than ten years later, she vividly remembers sitting with her mom in the school auditorium. HRCS Program Director Alex Baum was one of the speakers, recruiting students for Sail Academy. "It was just the excitement that he had," Dawn recalled. "You could tell he was really passionate about it." As Dawn was getting ready to head to class, her mom told her to get an application. "She said, 'I think this would be good for you.' and she was right."

During her first visit to the Pier 66 Boathouse, Dawn felt an instant connection. "It just felt very welcoming, very home-like." But with her on-water experience limited to the Circle Line and a cruise ship, her first day of sailing was a little less comforting. "I was terrified," she laughed. That all changed when her crew raised the sails. "I didn't know that something so peaceful can exist in such a busy place," she reflected. "It kind of flipped a switch in my brain, like, wow, I can actually have these pockets of peace in this busy city."

If sailing captured her attention, Sail Academy's STEM-focused curriculum helped chart her course. "Before, it was: 'math is fine, science is fine.' but it wasn't [what I was interested in] until I saw [it] used in a practical and fun way." One lesson stood out: buoyancy. "In school you go over buoyancy, but it's not very interactive. Making boats out of tin foil and seeing how many pennies they can hold and talking about surface area and how to calculate all of these things - it helped me gain my interest in math and science, because I saw it

used somewhere in the real world."

Dawn immersed herself in the HRCS community: volunteering as a student ambassador at Dark 'n Stormy and America's Cup events. As a senior, she emceed the Sailing for Scholars Gala. Engaged on and off the water, she realized she had the same passion for HRCS and Sail Academy that Alex had during her freshman orientation. "And I wanted to share that," she recalled.

HRCS was instrumental in Dawn's college access journey - from taking her on her first campus tour at SUNY Maritime and helping with her college essay, to figuring out which schools to apply to. She remembered sitting down with Emily Griffin, HRCS's first college access team member. "When I said I was only applying to like three schools, she was like, 'No, no, no. You are not leaving until you have applied to at least a couple more.' One of those extra schools is actually the school I went to: Buffalo State."

Dawn graduated with a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics with a concentration in statistics, and is now a Road to Success Tutor with The New York Foundling, where she helps young people on their path to college success. She remains active in the HRCS community, serving on the Dark 'n Stormy fundraising committee. In the summer of 2023 she brought her students and other tutors to the boathouse for a group event. "They had a blast....still to this day they talk about the sailing event." Looking back she said, "HRCS helped me with my confidence and finding my passions and that's something that I want to bring to my students."



HRCS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT Q Santos

Querebim Santos—who goes by Q—grew up in a landlocked city in Brazil, where sailing was something he only saw on television. But the pull of the water was always there. For years, it remained a distant curiosity, something to be admired from afar. It wasn't until the pandemic reshaped his priorities that he decided to finally chase that curiosity.

In 2021, while out for a walk, Q spotted a J/24 with the HRCS logo on its mainsail cover. Something about it caught his attention. He snapped a photo, eager to learn more, and soon found himself aboard a J/80 with skipper Jay Baum. The wind never arrived that day, but Jay's guidance and enthusiasm left Q eager to return.

Determined to take the next step, he

attended a member orientation, expecting a simple introduction to sailing. What he found instead was an organization deeply committed to inclusion, equity, and education. "I wasn't expecting the sailing universe to have a place so strongly guided by inclusivity and equality. That made me join right then and there."

His first member sail took place in Inwood, with Executive Director Robert Burke. As the crew discussed nearby clouds and a "low-pressure system," Q misheard it as "no pressure" and took it as a reassuring sign. When the boat heeled, he instinctively grabbed the boat, watching in awe as Robert steered. Then, it was his turn. Taking the helm, Q silently repeated to himself, "Do not capsize the boat!" By the end of the sail, he wasn't just hooked—he was determined to improve.

With each outing, Q's connection to the community deepened. One particularly memorable sail came when he unknowingly signed up with FairLead, the women's mentorship program! But the crew realized his mistake and welcomed him aboard, and with their guidance, he did his first controlled jibe. HRCS, he realized, was filled with "so many great people—people who care to share their knowledge, attention, and the joy of sailing with someone who didn't know starboard from port."

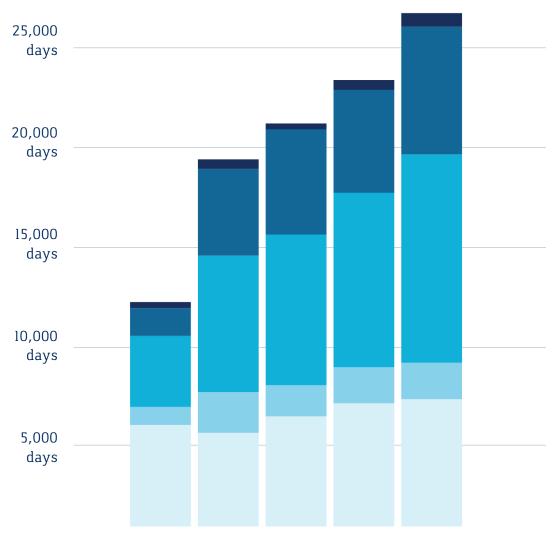
By 2023, Q had developed his skills and was ready to become a J/24 skipper himself. The process was challenging, pushing him beyond his comfort zone. But he jumped in with two feet and by the end of 2024, he had logged more sails than any other skipper. The experience brought his journey full circle—passing along the same knowledge and encouragement that had been shared with him. In December, Q received the Henry Hudson Award, given annually to the member who exemplifies "the spirit of exploration and camaraderie."

For Q, sailing is more than just a hobby. It's a journey of learning, challenge, and connection. Sailing at HRCS has not only given him the skills to navigate the Hudson, but also the confidence to face life's uncertainties. "HRCS has taught me to evaluate what's in hand and anticipate situations—to control fear and avoid panicking," he says.

Beyond sailing, Q discovered a passion for boat maintenance through HRCS's Operations department, volunteering during Spring Commissioning and throughout the year alongside staff and interns. He also found deep fulfillment in the Adaptive Sailing program, helping modify boats for accessibility and quiding participants as they took the helm for the first time. "The joy on the faces of Adaptive participants is truly priceless," he says. And he has become HRCS's resident grillmaster, stepping up to lead grilling events at the Inwood Canoe Club. Looking back on his journey at HRCS, the only question Q has is: why did he wait so long to start?

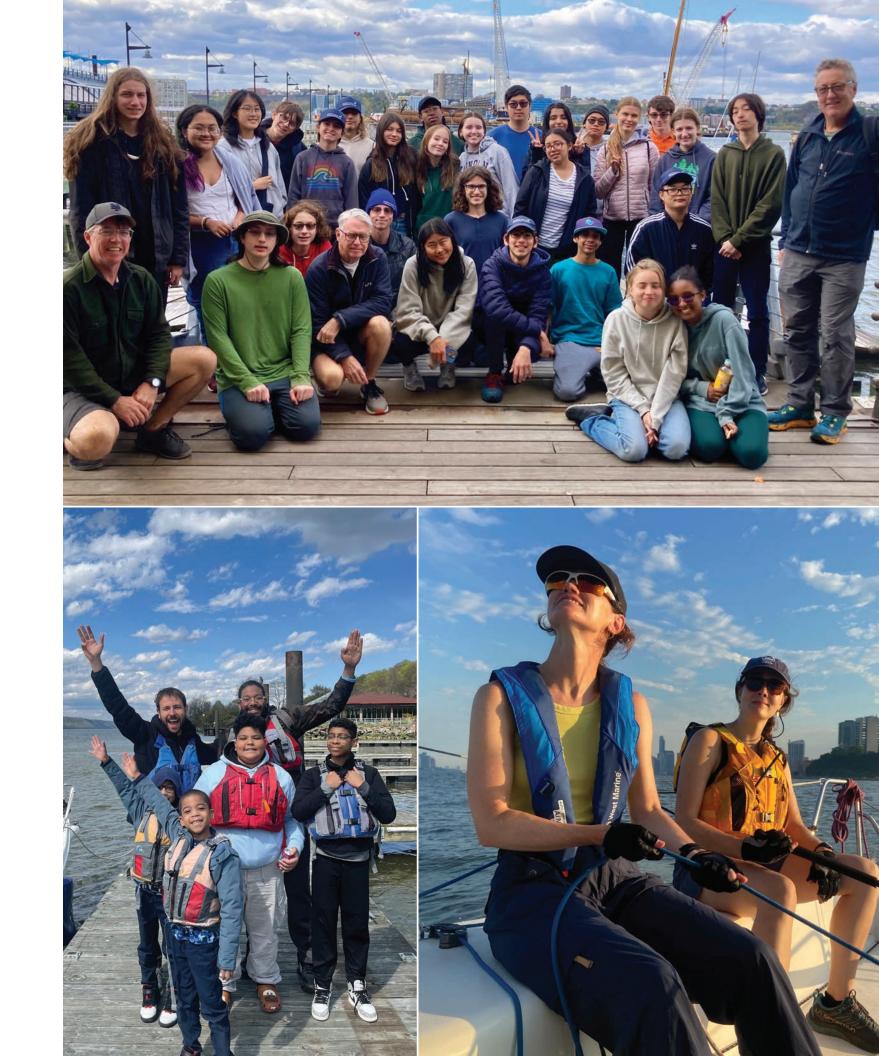
PARTICIPATION STATISTICS

Participation by Program



2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

- Veterans and Adaptive
- Other Adult Programs
- Membership
- Other Youth Programs
- Sail Academy





FINANCES

Revenue	FY 2023	FY 2024
	(audited)	(unaudited)
■ Individuals & Events	\$ 506,376	\$ 655,285
Foundation & Corporation	\$ 386,715	\$ 505,223
Government	\$ 166,0331	\$ 138,400
Membership	\$ 529,664	\$ 630,278
Program Service Revenue	\$ 701,666	\$ 697,398
Other Income	\$ 15,887 ³	\$ 30,7223
Total Revenue & Support	\$ 2,306,341	\$ 2,657,307
Expenses		
Program	\$ 1,826,471	\$ 2,115,556
Administration	\$ 264,710	\$ 223,385
Fundraising	\$ 259,336	\$ 329,769
Total Expenses	\$ 2,350,517 ²	\$ 2,668,710 ²





Note 1: Does not include depreciation of \$119,904 and \$136,153 or capital expenditures of \$53,701 and \$105,222 in FY23 and FY24 respectively Note 2: Does not include in-kind donations

 $Note \ 3: \ Other \ income \ includes \ interest \ earned \ from \ Certificates \ of \ Deposit \ with \ maturities \ of \ five \ years \ or \ less$

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(\$1,000 or more)

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\$50,000 - 100,000

The Bodman Foundation
Con Edison
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\$5,000 - 9,000

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