

# DESCRIPTION

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Grave of the first child to die of AIDS in New York City ©2021 Sean Vegezzi - The Hart Island Project



The mission of the Hart Island Project is to provide visibility and access to New York City's public cemetery including current burial records and maps obtained through New York State Freedom of Information Law. The Hart Island Project maintains a database of public burial records from 1980-present. These burial records are the basis for a storytelling platform called the Traveling Cloud Museum featuring location based software tools for reconnecting people who disappeared in New York City with families and friends across the globe.

The Hart Island Project began in 1991 on the centennial of Jacob Riis's first photographs of potter's field. Visual artist Melinda Hunt and photographer Joel Sternfeld collaborated on a book documenting Hart Island. In 2011, twenty years later, a public charity was then formed to increase

awareness of the burial process within the global community through advocacy and legislation to end penal control of City Cemetery.

In 2019, as a direct result of efforts by The Hart Island Project, the New York City Council transferred jurisdiction of Hart Island from the Department of Corection to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

In 2021, The Hart Island Project launched a campaign to designate Hart Island a National Monument along with a COVID-19 Initiative that includes new tools added to Traveling Cloud Museum for location based storytelling about people buried during the epidemic in New York City. Many were held for months in freezer trucks before burial on Hart Island.

# CURRENT INITIATIVES

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**TRAVELING CLOUD MUSEUM** AWARD WINNING INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING PLATFORM.

**NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION.**

**AIDS INITIATIVE** TO IDENTIFY AIDS RELATED DEATHS BURIED ON HART ISLAND.

**COVID-19 INITIATIVE** TO IDENTIFY PEOPLE WHO DIED DURING THE PANDEMIC

**FISCAL SPONSORSHIP** FOR ARTIST INITIATED CREATIVE PROJECTS.

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ISLAND  
PROJECT

# HOW TO HELP

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Contributions help us to offer direct services to family members and maintain the Traveling Cloud Museum. Volunteers help us to enter data and provide professional services to the public. Please contact us if you wish to contribute or volunteer.

# FILL OUT FORM

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First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Region \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **The Hart Island Project**  
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# THE HART ISLAND **PROJECT**

The Hart Island Project is a 501(c)3 public charity registered in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. A copy of our most recently filed financial report is available from the Charities Registry on the New York Attorney General's website at [www.charitiesnys.com](http://www.charitiesnys.com)