

INSIDE

- VISUAL ART C 2
- THEATER C 3
- MOVIES C 3
- TRAVEL C 4
- ON THE ROAD C 5

ARTS & LEISURE

C
MAY 11, 2014

Staten Island Museum's new \$27M space at Snug Harbor: ready for its close-up



STATEN ISLAND MUSEUM

An artist's rendering depicts the Staten Island Museum's new open-plan gallery system. Exhibition areas will flow into each other in the new space.

MUSEUM QUALITY

By MICHAEL J. FRESSOLA / STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

LIVINGSTON — The Staten Island Museum's "Imagine: A Gala Preview Celebration" last night gave revelers a look at something no one is going to see again for years: The bare bones.

Party-goers toured the museum's new, nearly finished headquarters in Building A on the grounds of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden. It's empty for now but not for long.

Following nearly three years of construction (a 21st-Century steel superstructure was built inside the original late 19th-Century structure) the three-floor 20,000-square ft. interior is now ready for surfaces, paint, lighting, exhibit cases, text and multi-

media, not to mention paintings and other works of art, replicas, artifacts and interactive stations.

Ralph Appelbaum & Associates, the largest museum design atelier in the world, is completing the new design.

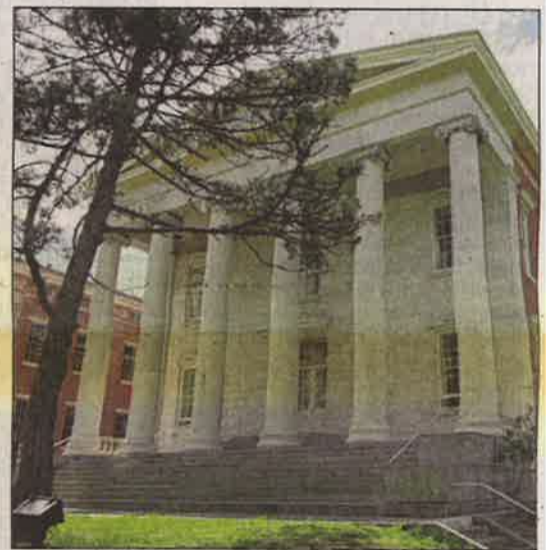
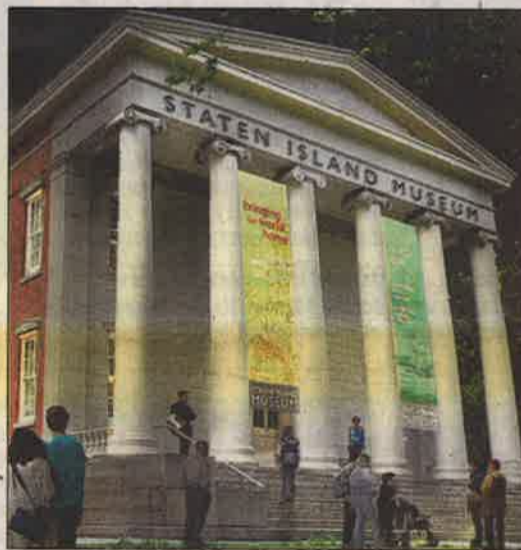
The new museum will have room for separate exhibits about prehistory and natural science, local art, antiquities and a version of "From Farm to City," a

SEE QUALITY, PAGE C 2



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS/JAN SOMMA-HAMMEL

A nearly completed interior of the museum's new headquarters, Building A on the grounds of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden.



Two views: At left, an rendering of the facade with banners and a new sign. At right, the unadorned exterior.



For the retrofitting, many interiors in the 1879-building were stripped to bare brick.



The new facility will have an auditorium suitable for small-ensemble concerts, talks and screenings.

S.I. CULTURE CALENDAR

Get listed: Send the time, date, street address, brief description, admission price & contact number to AWE@siadvance.com.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS & ART GALLERIES

ALICE AUSTEN HOUSE MUSEUM, 2 Hylan Blvd., Rosebank, 718-816-4506. Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$2. **The Collection**, Austen was one of the first women photographers in this country to work outside the confines of a studio. She is best known as a documentary photographer — a style of photography unusual until the 20th century, permanent (check it out online at AliceAusten.org). **Save the Date: Dancing Under the Stars**, annual benefit gala, **June 14**, 6:30 p.m. **"Invisible Migrations"**, recent photographs about migration and displacement, with some 100-year-old photographs by the museum's namesake (1866-1952), through Aug. 31. **"Mother's Day Arts & Crafts Fair"**, local vendors will sell handmade, one of a kind jewelry, home goods, garden décor, bath products, and more. Vendors include: Herb Lady, Sunset Hill Design, Beadlady 5 Designs, Touch of Clasp, Gallery 24, Erladolil Designs, Sage Reynolds, NYC Metro Girl, and more. **May 9-11**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

ART LAB GALLERY, Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, 1000 Richmond Terrace, Livingston, 718-447-8667. Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **"Art Lab 2014"**, annual student show, from June 22.

CPG GALLERY (CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GUILD), 814 Richmond Terrace, New Brighton, 718-288-2405. Sat. and Sun. 1-5 p.m. **"Lightness of Being"**, featured photographer: Joan Velazquez, through May 18.

CONFERENCE HOUSE PARK, 298 Satterlee St., Tottenville, 718-984-6046. Fri.-Sun. 1-4 p.m. \$3; \$2 students and seniors. **"Road to Independence"**, exhibit will focus the beginning of the French and Indian War and going through events up to 1773, such as the Boston Tea Party. There are revolutionary war related items on display as well as coloring activities available for kids, through May 30.

DEEP TANKS STUDIO, 150 Bay St. at the corner of Victory Blvd., Tompkinsville; 917-669-1094; DeepTanks.com. **"Re: Imagining Staten Island"**, curated by Jonathan Leiter: Works from around the world on the subject of the Isle of Staaten and its future. Participating artists: Jennifer Weigel, Ad- amandia Kapsalis, Thomas Ronse, Lord Hertzog, Cathrine Mehrl Bennett, Holger Hertwig, Mary Campbell, Marguerite Keen, Aleks Jakubson, Moan Lisa, Andreas Horn, Reed Altemus, Andrew Oleksiuk, Wanderlust, Mudhead, Dame Mailarta, Snappy Service, Cynthia Mailman, Geoffrey Hendricks, Phoebe Blue and Reuben Sandwich, through May 18. **"Madama Butterfly"**, presenting S.I. artist Julia Simonello, whose paintings were inspired by the drama and pattern-work of Japanese ukiyo-e prints and the opera by Giacomo Puccini, through June 8.

GALLERY OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND, 1P-112, College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook, 718-982-2553. Mon.-Thurs. noon-4 p.m., Sat. noon-3 p.m. Free. **"Foreign Terrain: The Paintings of Ying Li"**, for further information visit CSL.cuny.edu/artgallery or call curator



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JAN SOMMA-HAMMEL

An exterior view of the new Staten Island Museum space on the ground of Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden.

QUALITY FROM PAGE 1

Staten Island Museum unveils \$27M space at Snug Harbor

2012 exhibit mounted at the Museum of the City of New York.

The \$27 million construction tab is being picked up by the city, but furnishings, surfaces and other details have always been the museum's responsibility. It has raised \$2.7 million (of a \$3 million target) towards the outfitting of the new facility.

Proceeds from last night's party will help with operating expenses. Fundraising will continue, however. Deep-pocketed benefactors (\$1 million-plus) may earn the chance to name a gallery for themselves or a loved one.

The museum's Henry Behnke, vice president for external affairs and advancement, says the museum is counting on help from existing members and supporters.

Craig Manister, through May 14.

GARIBALDI-MEUCCI MUSEUM, 420 Tompkins Avenue, Rosebank 718-442-1608. Wed. - Sat. 1-5 p.m., \$5, under 5 free. **Tours**, video presentation and permanent exhibit of artifacts, paintings, documents and room recreations that capture the work and life of Antonio Meucci, the true inventor of the telephone, and Giuseppe Garibaldi, the legendary unifier of Italy, who resided in Meucci's 1840 Gothic Revival home, a national landmark, permanent exhibit. **"Given Away: A Sicilian Up-bysinging"**, author Marianna Randazzo will present her story of life in Sicily before, during and after World War II, based on actual events in her family's history. Admission of \$10 includes a light reception. Books will be available for purchase for author to autograph, **May 18**, 2 p.m. **"Robert Bunkin & Jenny Tango: The Italian Painting."** Admission is free and includes light refreshments, **Opening reception: May 17**, 2 p.m.

HISTORIC RICHMOND TOWN, 441 Clarke Ave., Richmond, 718-351-1611. Guided tours Wed.-Fri. 2:30 p.m., weekends 2 and 3:30 p.m. \$8, general; \$6 students/seniors; \$5, children (under 3 get in free). **The Story Mu-**

"We're also hoping to bring new people into the family," he said. "All Staten Islanders should feel invested; after all it's their museum."

"A" Building, an 1879-vintage, Greek Revival structure, opened as dormitory space when the Harbor campus was a 130-acre, gated retirement community for mariners (from 1833 to the mid 1970s).

The retrofitting is invisible from the outside. The building's multi-landmarked granite and marble facade hasn't been altered, only repaired and cleaned.

Having been earmarked for the Staten Island Museum for more than 40 years, the building was the object of a failed conversion in the mid 1980s. The project restarted with a much-improved design in 2011.

The Staten Island Museum, one of the last few general interest museums around, was founded in 1881 and has been headquartered in St. George, at 75 Stuyvesant Pl., for much of its 133 years. The original building will eventually house its Staten Island Ferry collection.

Michael J. Fressola is the arts editor for the Advance. He may be reached at fressola@siadvance.com.



The historic staircase at the Staten Island Museum's new building.

seum, for preschool children up to age 5. Step inside a world filled with the magic of stories, crafts, music, dancing and singing. Call ext. 280 for reservations; standard admission applies. **"Bringing Up Baby: Children's Furniture & Family Life"**, new exhibition of objects of childhood illuminates aspects of 19th century childhood that are still used by parents today, including children's safety, diet, social skills and hygiene. Regular admission, ongoing.

JACQUES MARCHAIS MUSEUM OF TIBETAN ART, 338 Lighthouse Ave., Lighthouse Hill, 718-987-3500. Wed.-Sun. 1-5 p.m. and by appointment. **"From Staten Island to Shangri-La: The Collecting Life of Jacques Marchais"**, permanent.

NEWHOUSE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART in the Snug Harbor campus at 1000 Richmond Terr., Livingston; 718-425-3504; Snug-Harbor.org. Wed.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. \$5, adults; \$4, students & seniors. Children under 12 admitted free.

NOBLE MARITIME COLLECTION, Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, 1000 Richmond Terrace, Building D, Livingston, 718-447-6490. Thurs.-Sun., 1-5 p.m. admission by do-

nation. **"Inspired: Contemporary Artists Respond to John A. Noble"**, as part of its year-long celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of artist John A. Noble (1913-83). Featuring: Paintings by Patricia Melvin, Frank Hanavan, and Patrizia Vignola; a new etching by Christopher Clarke; a photograph by Bill Higgins; and drawings and paintings by Dan Thompson. A model of a marine park in Chelsea, Massachusetts by architects Dan and Marie Law Adams is also on exhibit, ongoing. **Sea Shanties**, every third Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.

SANDY GROUND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1538 Woodrow Road, Woodrow, 718-317-5796. Tues.-Sun. 1-4 p.m. **Historical site**, oldest community established by free slaves; museum exhibits letters, photographs and other artifacts, permanent.

SNUG HARBOR CULTURAL CENTER AND BOTANICAL GARDEN, Bldg. C, 1000 Richmond Terrace, Livingston, 718-425-3524. Wed.-Sun. Noon to 5 p.m. \$5/adults; \$4 students and seniors; free under 12. **"Fluid: Essential For Life"**, an exhibition featuring 36 artists who explore water as an integral part of our world. Works will be displayed and installed in Building C and on the North Lawn of the Snug

Harbor campus., free, through Dec. 14.

STATEN ISLAND ARTISTS BUILDING, 73 Wave St., 718-447-3329. **S.I. Artists Market**, visit our local artists marked; come in, purchase your next gift, something for yourself or the house, free, through Dec. 13.

STATEN ISLAND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, 1000 Richmond Terrace, Livingston, 718-273-2060. Tues.-Sun. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. \$6 for people one year of age and older. **"Sea of Boats"**, through Dec. 31. **"Bugs & Other Insects"**, through Dec. 31. **"Portia's Playhouse"**, through Dec. 31. **"Block Harbor"**, through Dec. 31. **"D.B.'s Fantastic Machines"**, through Dec. 31. **"Ladder 11"**, through Dec. 31. **"The Big Game: Kidz Cook"**, sponsored by ShopRite. Kids can prepare snacks in a blanket, wings, nachos and puff pastry recipes to make and eat, Fridays through May 30. **"Up4Art"**, our weekend walk-in art workshop. Kids can design, create and decorate their own board games, Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 28.

STATEN ISLAND LGBT CENTER, 25 Victory Blvd. (at Bay Street - third floor), Tompkinsville, 718-808-1360. **"Permanence"**, artists explore aspects of LGBT identity, permanent.