come play in the yard

how we play

Our play spaces are staffed by playworkers who are uniquely trained to provide a space free of judgement, enabling caregivers, parents or teachers to step aside and observe children at play.

We offer playwork training to the public every spring, professional development opportunities, pop-up play days in your community, birthday parties and field trips to our Governors Island site during the spring/summer season, and much more!

want to see an adventure playground near you?

We are on a mission to spread play around all of NYC! Have a great space in need of a playground? We would love to help make that happen. We have a network to help get the necessary permits, the tools to build community support, partners to get the materials, and the knowledge to help train your own team of playworkers.

Get in touch to find out more.

who we are

play:groundNYC is a non-profit organization advocating for young people's rights by providing playworker-run spaces that encourage risk-taking, experimentation and freedom through self directed play.

play:groundNYC operates "The Yard" - a 50,000 square foot adventure playground on Governors Island. We also work with communities to establish their own neighborhood playgrounds and adopt play initiatives.

By providing professional development and consulting services, and training a new generation of playworkers, play:groundNYC is reimagining the urban environment as a place for all children to play, create and explore, regardless of demographic status.

get involved

play:groundNYC was formed with a dedicated core group of volunteers in 2015. Researching, reaching out and soliciting support, the group grew to include artists, educators, architects, advocates, and researchers who all recognized the deficit of self-directed play spaces in New York City.

play:groundNYC

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play:groundNYC
built for children by children