

February 14, 2020

Dear Friends of Clearwater,

We would first like to thank the many of you who have reached out to us with their messages of support following our announcement on Tuesday to move forward with a smaller Community Celebration in place of a traditional Great Hudson River Revival this year.

Below are some answers to the many questions and concerns that have surfaced. We encourage you to talk to us, seek clarity from our [staff](#), contact the [office](#) directly to discuss your concerns, and most of all, stay involved.

About our decision to postpone Revival until 2021

Why did you decide to not hold Revival in 2020?

1. We are a small organization and **not currently in a position to allocate funds for a full scale Revival in 2020.**
2. **We still have significant outstanding Revival 2019 debts** that must be retired before we can produce another Revival.
3. Basic Revival production costs such as the park lease, increasing costs for vendor goods and services, security, stage rental, lighting, sound, artists fees and many other elements of producing a large scale music festival **have ballooned in recent years. The trajectory is simply not sustainable** for a small organization like ours.
4. **Weather is always a factor** and can make or break any outdoor event. Poor or uncertain forecasts the week of the festival can impact attendance, rain insurance is very expensive; upwards of \$30k and the forecast will likely impact families with small children more than adventurous adults.
5. We have **significant competition with other regional events** that are now scheduled on the same weekend.
6. The necessity of annually increasing admission and volunteer fees have been off-putting to some members of our community. We are looking to further, not limit, our diversity and reach out to communities with varying incomes.

Isn't Revival Clearwater's biggest fundraiser?

While Revival was once Clearwater's biggest fundraiser, we now hold several events each year that raise more money, and cost less than one tenth of what Revival costs to produce.

Is Revival still important?

The Great Hudson River Revival has always been about honoring the river, supporting Clearwater's important work, creating and celebrating community, whether by performing music, introducing people to new crafts and foods, or finding common cause with other activist organizations. At this time of profound polarization and division, it is more important than ever to bring people together.

So what is your solution?

The [original vision for Revival](#) was not to produce a concert with a complex production; our vision was to bring awareness, education, activism and community around the beautiful river that we share. For 2021, we welcome the opportunity to re-organize and redirect Revival's production, which will cost less to attend, volunteer, and produce.

How can people best support Clearwater?

[Become a member](#). [Attend a fundraiser](#). [Volunteer](#). Come [sailing](#). Sponsor a local or favorite school's participation in one of our [educational programs](#). Give generously to [giving campaigns](#). Buy

merchandise [online](#). [Contact us](#) if you'd like to provide underwriting, gifts or significant donations. For any one of these gestures, we are extremely grateful.

How can I support Revival specifically?

We can always use [donations](#), and you can specify that your donation be used exclusively for Revivals. In addition, we're looking for proposals for t-shirt and poster designs, help with marketing and planning, and early sign-up for Revival volunteer positions. Contact the [office](#) directly for more information. As important as it is for us to gather at Revival, the whole point is to make us all more active and effective in our communities all year round.

About our 2020 Celebration:

Isn't "Celebration 2020" really The Great Hudson River Revival by another name?

No. It is not Revival. Revival is expected to resume in 2021. In its place on that weekend, we were looking for a way to celebrate and honor our annual event and its supporters and volunteers. Westchester County Parks has always been supportive of us. They offered to provide a portion of the park to Clearwater *without charge* in exchange for an environmental give-back volunteer project in 2020 (details forthcoming). Due to our outstanding past debts, we are unable to lease basics like portable toilets and will have to limit our attendance to the number of people per day that their existing rest rooms in that area could accommodate. ***That maximum number is 529 people.***

So 529 is not an exclusive, elitist selection of attendees?

No. It's simply the capacity of the septic system at that area of the park. We are looking into ways to make attendance as egalitarian as possible and are open to suggestions. Participants in our 2020 celebration will not be expected to cover the losses of Revival 2019. Ticket prices (to be announced) will be designed to cover 2020 costs, less whatever we are able to raise from sponsors. ***Tickets will not be sold to the highest bidders.***

When will tickets for Celebration 2020 be available?

Coming soon...

How likely is it that I will be able to attend?

There is already more interest than space at the Celebration 2020 but if you haven't already, you can [join our wait list](#) so that you will have advanced notice when tickets are available. One of our most important objectives of the Community Celebration this year is to honor the hundreds of long-time volunteers, members and supporters who have been with us for many years, working side-by-side with us, hammer-in-hand to help us build Revival each year and put forth all of the hard work and passion that makes Revival the unique and successful event that it has become. We look forward to welcoming many new faces with fresh interest into this wonderful community of volunteers in 2021.

I'm still disappointed that you've postponed Revival and it seems unlikely that I could attend the Celebration 2020.

We regret the limits and the disappointment, but based on fiscal responsibility we feel it is our wisest direction. We encourage those who are not able to participate in Celebration 2020, to redirect their attention to The Great Hudson River Revival 2021, when we expect to be able to welcome many more. We hope you'll become active in planning and support in the meantime. As plans develop for next year, we'll keep you posted.

Where is Clearwater headed?

In a time of great political turmoil, increasing threats and rollbacks to protections on our environment, the need for collective action is needed now more than ever. Clearwater remains active and focused on our educational programming and current environmental action initiatives for the remaining 363 days of the year when we are not celebrating with you all at Revival. These initiatives include:

- The safe decommissioning of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant, and nuclear power plants across the country
- Rejecting the expansion of Danskammer's proposed year-round fracked gas-fired plant in Newburgh
- Helping develop a regional plan for a rapid transition to a renewable energy economy
- Working with the citizens of Newburgh, the Air National Guard and the Defense Department to ensure clean drinking water for the citizens of Newburgh
- Working with partners such as Riverkeeper and Scenic Hudson, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers to resist potentially disastrous storm water barriers around the mouth of the Hudson
- Continuing our lawsuit against the New York State Public Service Commission's nuclear subsidy imposed on NY ratepayers to keep failing nuclear plants in operation throughout the state
- Taking the lead on climate solutions by rolling out a Climate Change Curriculum to schools last year in Newburgh and Kingston, which will create an informed citizenry among students and teachers in these Hudson River communities who will understand the hazards they face due to climate change and to comprehend the actions their communities are currently taking.
- Teaching 12,000 children every year about the Hudson River ecosystem, and emerging threats such as microplastics and climate change onboard sloop *Clearwater*

Our deepest hope is that you will remain engaged in Clearwater's efforts and stand with us as we navigate into our 2020 season with hope, unity and power.

Many thanks to you for your support and understanding.