




Sunk

Conceived and created by
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Book
constructed by
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Shore



Hi, I'm Carolyn.
And I'm Clarinda.


We are your Sunk Shore tour guides! On this trip we're going to travel forward into the past and back into the future. Thank you for joining us in beta-testing this new time travel method.

Let's start by visiting the past, to get a sense of where we come from and where we may be going. First we want to acknowledge that we are guests on these lands and waters of the Lenape People, the original stewards of this island, Paggank, much as the first European explorers were guests back in 1580, before any harm, alterations, or settlements...

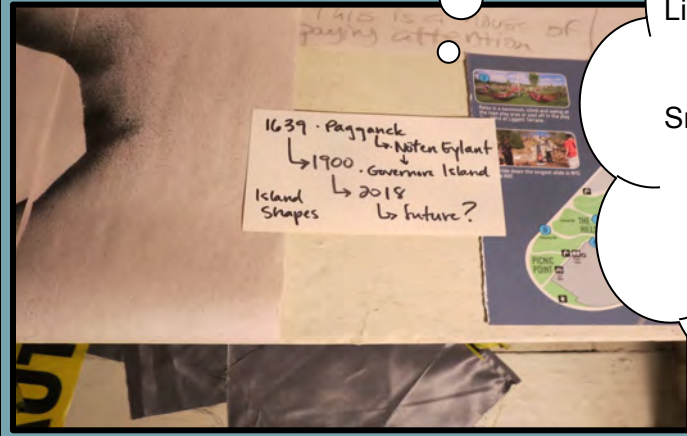
Close your eyes....
Feel - wind, spray, sun on your skin
Listen - as the boats and helicopters change to the cries of gulls, osprey, hawks, and passenger pigeons as they hunt for fish
Smell - the shoreline seaweed and brininess of the water as it gets saltier, shallower, fishier.
Shift your weight a bit. Under your feet the cement is giving way to soft sand that's also crunchy with oyster shells



**SUNK
SHORE**



At the fence by the water



1639 - Paggank
↳ 1900 - Governor Island
↳ 2018 - future?
Island Shapes

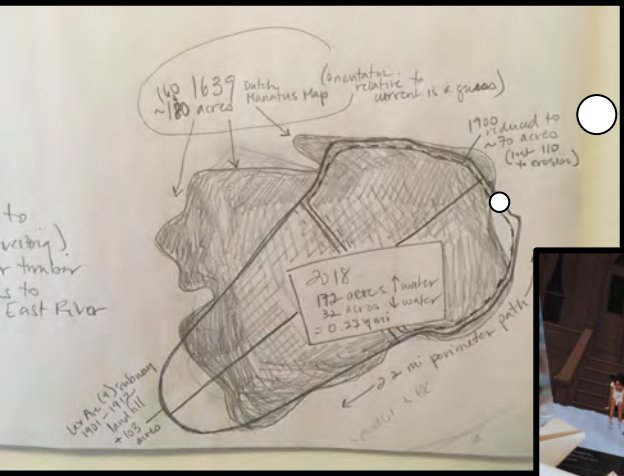
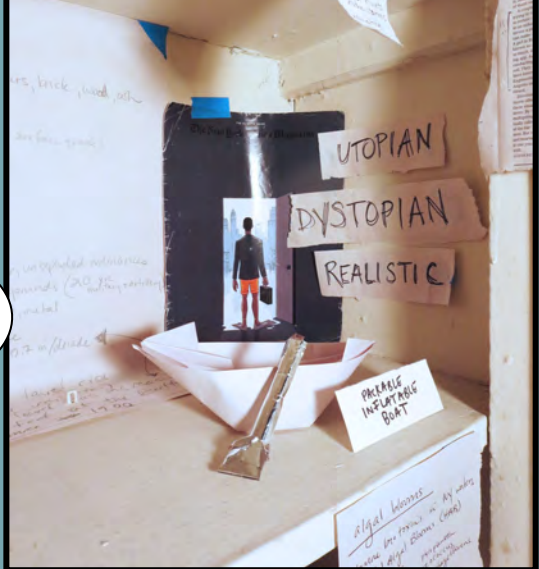


It's 1630 and the early Dutch settlers have arrived with cows. The island is named "Noyten Eyclant" or nut island because the island is covered with hickory, oak, and chestnut trees

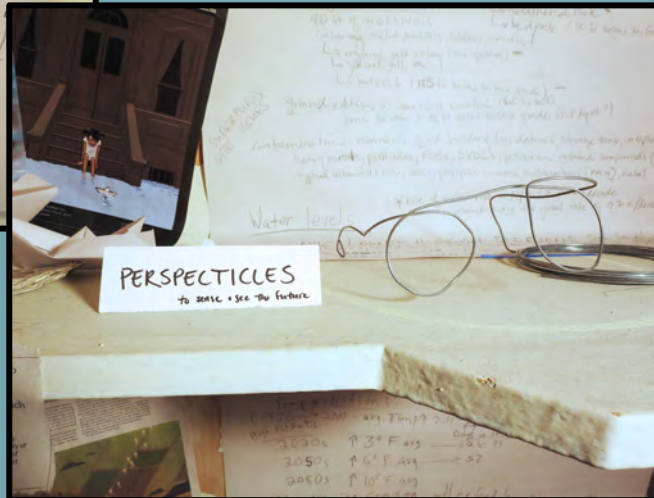
But the island is shrinking. It's 1900 and the island has eroded to a third of its original size because the trees were all chopped down and the river has become faster and rougher due to dredging for bigger ships and hardening of the shorelines

Portal to 2050
Please take a pair of these perspecticles. These must be worn at all times, or you won't be able to make it all the way to the future.

The participants are offered the choice of a realistic, utopian, or dystopian future



Simone Johnson models the perspecticles



Building 12 archway



Learning a series of reframing movements to help with adjusting to the future.

The water level in the East River is especially high because dredging and other interventions changed the dynamic in the harbor, increasing storm surge. Also, the number of storms has increased quite a bit, so storm surge frequently spills over the seawall, especially here on the southern part of the island.

This (*handing out fans*) is a multi-purpose tool that is useful in any era.

Utopian version:

During the Great Awakening of 2025, there was a global deep shift to directly addressing the changing and increasingly chaotic climate. On Governors Island, one of the immediate effects was this series of canals that have replaced bike paths around the periphery of the island, along with those raised walkways. It's a bit stinky, but it'll get you where you want to go. Let's take a paddle tour!

So what do you think those structures over there are?

Looking at Red Hook gantries

Some kind of crane?

Gantries!

Industrial ruins?



In the "boat"-- fans as oars, rope for connection. Synchronized rowing when we're moving.



Actually, those are luxury condo buildings. Let's use our reframing--see the buildings coming in to focus? In 2018 there were civic dreams of building something like Hudson Yards in Red Hook. They started being built in 2020, and you can see that they're still clinging to the shore. There used to be gantries there, and container ships, but because there's much more shipping than there used to be, Buttermilk Channel is too narrow for all the major shipping taking place.



2080. Climate check! Close your eyes.
Air temperature is 10 degrees warmer -
regularly over 100 degrees most of the summer.

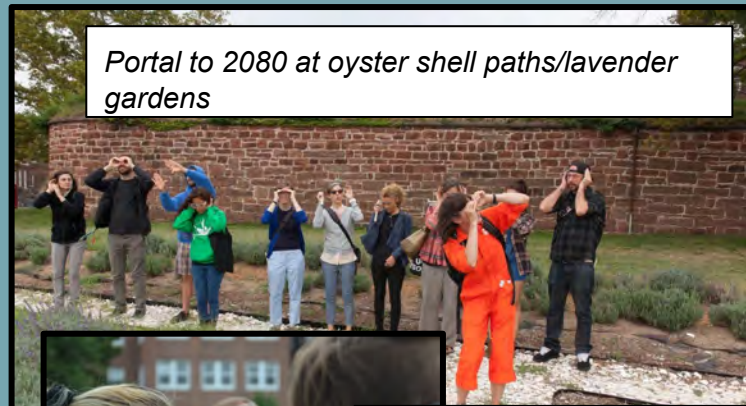
More heavy rains - one half inch more rain every month.
Sea level has now risen 5 ft. and the water is 2 degrees warmer.
Hurricanes, always unpredictable, have now become much more
erratic and destructive.

Warmer water, warmer air, more sewage runoff - more brown and
green water because of more algal blooms that clog the water, use all
the oxygen, and unfortunately kill fish. The last bloom is clearing out
but sorry for the stinky dead-fish smell.

Amazingly, the birds that have remained are adapting to earlier
springs and nesting and breeding earlier so
there are still plenty of hawks and gulls!

Open your eyes.

*Portal to 2080 at oyster shell paths/lavender
gardens*



*Orientation dance and walk
along the oyster shell paths
to take us to 2080*



So what's the function of this structure?

*At the former Daycare
Center*



Peek in the windows



It's an aquaponics farm!
In 2018, this building was one of the
first to be renovated when New York City
rezoned Governors Island for more robust
development. That original plan was
scrapped, and in the 2040s the building was
converted, and adapted for aquaponics.
using water from the harbor and
techniques that began
in marine labs.

We're about jet forward into the next era and the hard edges of Governors Island won't be much of a barrier anymore, now that sea level is so high, especially with the flooding from the hurricanes that come every summer and fall, so along here we'll be wading through about 6" of water. Which means, we need to put on toxin resistant galoshes. Any questions while we prepare?



toxin-resistant galoshes

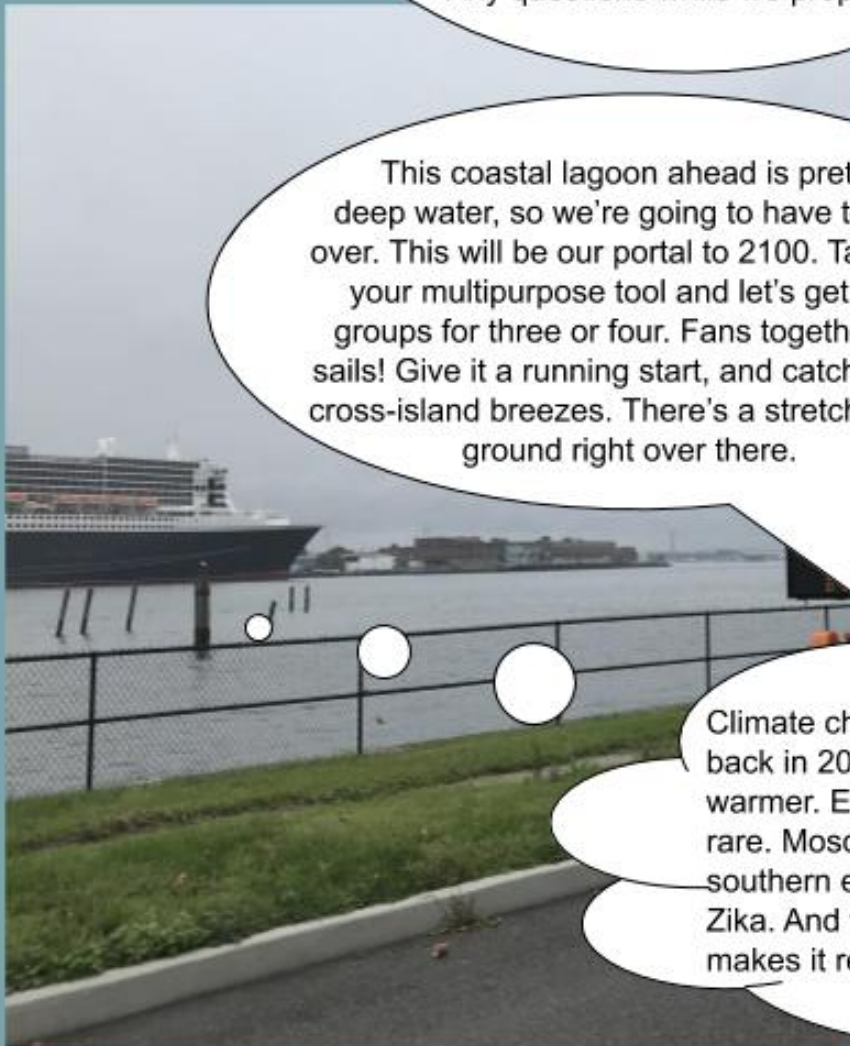
This coastal lagoon ahead is pretty deep water, so we're going to have to sail over. This will be our portal to 2100. Take out your multipurpose tool and let's get into groups for three or four. Fans together for sails! Give it a running start, and catch those cross-island breezes. There's a stretch of dry ground right over there.



2100: Portal at fence at Yankee pier

Climate check: Close your eyes. So, the climate is subtropical now. A lot like Florida back in 2018. Hu-mid! Sea level is now 6 feet higher and the ocean is 3 degrees warmer. Extreme summer heat waves are the norm, and winter is very mild - snow is rare. Mosquitos and flies LOVE this climate and of course they bring those formerly southern epidemics with them - you know, Malaria, yellow fever, Zika. And the rise in food- and air-borne pathogens, like salmonella, makes it really tough to keep crops healthy and stored food okay to eat.

Open your eyes



Between Yankee pier and the first abandoned pier

Realistic version
These bioengineered materials are actually made here in those grow tanks under that structure.

They're so strong that they're being used to bolster the Pontoon Bridge you see here. This was built in the 2050s to connect the Red Hook Resort and GI conference centers and hotel (Official name is Hotel DeBlasio, but everybody called it "Titanic Hotel").

Step onto this bioengineered webbing to cross the lagoon.



Don't worry. It's really secure



You can no longer live at the Red Hook resort but you can visit and hang out. The first 2 floors are boat landings, and there are currently submarine tours of the first floor of the center. Managed marine farming and fishing in the center of the pier and along the center of the estuary (fish farms). Red Hook Resort is mostly unoccupied by humans, but it's got a lot of interesting estuarine life happening.



In order to navigate the aquapolis of New York City, and in and around the archipelago we have to learn how to navigate like aquatic creatures. This fish migration will take us back to the present so let's get going.

Learning how to navigate like a fish.



Sensing like a fish--lateral lines along the sides of the body.

So we've been time traveling this whole time, and now we're actually in 2150.



Seeing like a fish, to the side.





Welcome home!
You made it back to 2018!

Goodbye!
See you on the next Sunk Shore...

