

SIM's-SIIOAS's Admission Policy Breaches New York State Law

Free Admission Written in Law	Current Admissions Policy
<p>See: Chapter 850 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1911 pertains to SIIOAS and was amended by Chapter 526 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1905, but not the free admission mandates.</p> <p>“Sec. 9. The museum, collection and library of the said Staten Island association of arts and sciences [Staten Island Museum] shall be open and free to the public at all reasonable times on such terms of admission as shall be approved by the board of trustees of said association acting in conjunction with the commissioner of public works for the borough of Richmond, in the city of New York, so long as the city of New York shall provide a place for its care and maintenance.”</p> <p>NOTE: In response to FA's Freedom of Information [FOIL] request, New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs [DCA] produced a 2018 Sublicense Agreement [SLA] between the City of New York, the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, and Botanical Garden and the SIIOAS doing-business-as SIM. The SLA does not refer to Chapter 526 or Chapter 850.</p> <p>The SLA cites Chapter 476 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1984 as “amending New York City's Administrative Code” by adding section 532.25-0 which codified an undated Section 18-128.1 of the Code. The SLA provided as follows regarding admission fees: Ch. 476 thru 1984 and Section 18-128.1 to Code</p> <p>“Section 5. ...The days and hours that the Premises are open to the public, and the general admission fees to be charged (including the suggested amount of any discretionary fee), shall not be implemented or changed without the prior written approval of the DCA Commissioner. Fees for special events, limited exhibitions and ticketed performances shall not</p>	<p>See: Tickets/Visit</p> <p>SIM-SIIOAS charges a “suggested” admission fee with a suggested amount to non-member visitors over age two. Caregivers assisting visitors with disabilities are admitted for free. For tickets purchased online, a New Yorker can only pay the full suggested amount for each category of visitor.</p>

require prior written approval from the DCA Commissioner ..." [emphasis added]

Given that SIIOAS is party to the SLA, and Chapter 850 amending Chapter 526 continues unrepealed, and **because State laws supersede City agreements, New York City's Office of Corporation Counsel, or other appropriate agency, should act to ensure SIIOAS's compliance with controlling State law.**

SIM's-SIIOAS's ADMISSION POLICY DOES NOT COMPLY with Chapter 526 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1905 as amended by Chapter 850 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1911 because it:

[1] Denies New Yorkers free of charge admittance "at all reasonable times."

Free access to the PEC institutions is unique to New Yorkers and is provided for in the laws and contracts applicable to the PPP structure. Stewards of PEC institutions may choose to charge an admission fee to other visitors.