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PRESS RELEASE
THE OPENING OF MY SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROJECT ON NEW HOLLAND ISLAND

On June 7, *My School*, an educational project for children aged 7 to 15 will open in the Commandant's House on New Holland Island. From June to August, the school will host summer camps, creative weekends, and preparatory courses for prospective students, and on September 1, a primary school will open its doors for children from 7 to 11 years (1st – 4th grades).

The school is founded on the principles of humanistic pedagogy: there are no assessments, homework or calls, and teachers manage work with children in a way that helps each child discover their personal traits. Small classes of up to 12 people allow the teacher to interact individually with each pupil. In a typical day programme, there are 6-7 lessons and an hour for self-learning during which pupils, on their own or together with the teacher, can do extra work on challenging material or study a subject they are interested in in more detail.

From the second term of the first grade, children will choose their educational trajectory: creative, musical, linguistic, which will allow them to take their development in the direction suitable for them. Besides the class leader who oversees the educational programme, each class has a curator who monitors the environment in the team as well as the students' progress.

To help parents decide which programme to choose, and children to adapt to the first grade learning environment, the Commandant's House will run a summer school with three-hour classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Children will study mathematics, the world around them, work on speech development and start training their hands for writing.

From June to August, *My School* will organise five ten-day educational summer camps with different themes - cinema, English language, photography, and others. By the end of each camp, participants will have a graduation project. The first camp starts on June 7.

Each week, the school will host an *Art Weekend*, a 2-3-hour creative workshop on architecture, graphics, sculpture, drawing, dance, and other subjects. The programme will include both one-off events and learning marathons which children can attend throughout the summer.

Summer camps and *Art Weekends* are created for children aged 7 to 15, and the summer school is suitable for children from 7 to 11 years old.

For more information about the programmes and on how to get your child enrolled in *My School*, please call +7 931 999 92 21 or leave a comment in one of the project's social media channels: Instagram @myschool.nh or Facebook @myschool.nh

New Holland: Cultural Urbanization:

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NEW HOLLAND: CULTURAL URBANIZATION

In 2010, *New Holland Development*, an affiliate of Roman Abramovich's company *Millhouse, LLC*, won the tender for the restoration and renovation of New Holland Island, with the goal of creating a mixed-use complex that will serve as one of the epicenters of cultural life not only for St Petersburg, but for Russia as a whole. To help determine the concept and creative direction of the island's development, Millhouse turned to the Iris Foundation, a non-commercial initiative for the support and advancement of contemporary culture and art, launched by Daria Zhukova. This collaboration resulted in *New Holland: Cultural Urbanization*, a fresh approach to the restructuring and modernization of the territory, a monument of cultural and national historical significance. Following the success of the seasonal programs, the project investors decided not to proceed with the original plan to clear the territory to construct a new building. Instead, they chose to organize a full-fledged city park, complete with a modern and convenient infrastructure, which each and every person could find his or her place. The island continues to host cultural programs as well as grand-scale civic initiatives. Future plans for the development of the territory include not only commercial enterprises, but also cultural and educational institutions, research laboratories, and exhibition spaces, whose programming will be overseen by emerging specialists. *New Holland: Cultural Urbanization* helps recruit a team of architects, designers, and urban planners, as well as provide the cultural content for the island's programming and participate in the selection of partners and operators. In August 2016, the first phase of the project came to completion, with the launch of New Holland's park zone, and the island begin to operate all year long. As of now, three historical buildings have been restored: the Foundry, the Commandant's House and the *Bottle House*. In 2020, *House 12*, which is located on the embankment of Kryukov Canal, was restored and the area around it was landscaped. An additional park territory near the northern side of the Basin was also put into operation.