



\*\*\* NEWS ADVISORY \*\*\*

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## **2008 Waterfront Conference: A Call for Change for Our Harbor**

**The MWA Launches the Waterfront Action Agenda: Practical Solutions for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Waterfront**

**Elected Leaders Roundtable and Workshops – all on the Waterfront**

**New York, NY:** Over 400 waterfront stakeholders, policy makers and elected leaders are gathering today for the 2008 Waterfront Conference at the National Museum of the American Indian. The event marks the launch of the MWA's Waterfront Action Agenda, a comprehensive set of practical steps that will connect the people of the metropolitan area to an improved waterfront.

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance President **Roland Lewis** says, "The Waterfront Action Agenda was born from the creative work of the 362 partners of the Waterfront Alliance. It identifies critical issues and practical solutions that, if implemented, will make ours a waterfront town. We are thrilled that so many leading government leaders, activists, professionals and academics are adding their voice and support to these goals." Delivering the keynote address at the conference, Port Authority Executive Director **Christopher Ward**, notes that, "The MWA is challenging government to think comprehensively about our waterfront, incorporating the environment, commerce, recreation, transportation and more into all waterfront plans. We at the Port Authority accept that challenge and look forward to working together for a healthy shared and accessible harbor." City Council Speaker **Christine Quinn** will speak about the recently enacted legislation requiring a comprehensive waterfront plan for the city every ten years starting in 2010. Says Quinn about the 2008 Waterfront Conference, "Only by working with the civic and business leaders brought together by this conference, can the City of New York effectively put together a plan that will make a significant and lasting positive impact on our waterfront."

In addition to the kick-off of the Waterfront Action Agenda, the Regional Plan association will release "Making Waterfronts Work" a study authored by **Tiffany Smythe** of the University of Rhode Island. Says RPA's Director of Environmental Programs **Robert Pirani**, "As one of the engines of our regional economy, water dependent maritime uses are not some relic of our industrial past. They can be a bridge to a more sustainable future, and are too important to be lost. We hope that the findings of this study help to ignite a regional discussion that protects and enhances these uses in balance with the waterfront's competing demands."

The conference includes a narrated boat tour of the harbor, Ward's keynote address, a political leader's roundtable on waterfront issues featuring Congressman **Jerry Nadler**, New Jersey City Council

President **Mariano Vega**, and other elected official from the region. It will be moderated by **Marcia Bystryn** of the NY League of Conservation Voters. There will also be a number of in-depth discussions on critical and timely waterfront issues, including:

- Bringing Shellfish Back to our Harbor
- Getting Every Kid on the Water: Reacquainting the Next Generation with our Harbor
- Growing Maritime Use: Key to a Diversified Economy
- Simplifying the Waterfront Permitting Process
- Getting the Mud Out: Addressing the Cost of Dredging
- Mass Water Transit: Solutions for NY/NJ Commuters
- Celebrating Henry Hudson's Voyage of 1609
- Paying for Spectacular Waterfront Parks

Dozens of important waterfront leaders in the region are participating in the conference, including:

**Kent Barwick**, Municipal Art Society  
**Paula Berry**, NYC Harbor District  
**Michael Bruno**, Stevens Institute of Technology  
**Marcia Bystryn**, New York League of Conservation Voters  
**Majora Carter**, The Majora Carter Group  
**Jaimie Cloud**, The Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education  
**Bob Connell**, Bureau of Water Monitoring, NJ DEP  
**Robert Cotter**, Jersey City Department of City Planning  
**Janet Cox**, Ferry Transportation, Port Authority of NY & NJ  
**Dick Dadey**, Citizens Union  
**Joan Davidson**, Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission  
**Scot Douglas**, Office of Maritime Resources, NJ DOT  
**Noreen Doyle**, Hudson River Park Trust  
**Murray Fisher**, New York Harbor School  
**Connie Fishman**, Hudson River Park Trust  
**Michael Fishman**, Urban Answers  
**Tom Fox**, New York Water Taxi  
**Adam Friedman**, NY Industrial Retention Network  
**Frank Gallagher**, Liberty State Park  
**Andrew Genn**, NYC Economic Development Corporation  
**Angela Haines**, Henry Hudson 400  
**Robert Johnson**, Union Settlement House  
**Steve Kalil**, Caddell Dry Dock  
**Ed Kelly**, Maritime Association of the Port of NY & NJ  
**Andrew Kimball**, President, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corp.  
**Pat Kinnier**, McAllister Towing Company.  
**Emlyn Koster**, Liberty Science Center  
**Venetia Lannon**, New York City Economic Development Corporation  
**Terry MacRae**, Statue Cruises  
**Paul Mankiewicz**, The Gaia Institute

**Suzanne Mattei**, Region 2, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
**Mark Mauriello**, Land Use Program, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection  
**Frank McDonough**, New York Shipping Association  
**KD McGucken**, NYC Economic Development Corporation  
**Katie Mosher-Smith**, NY-NJ Baykeeper  
**Regina Myer**, Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation  
**Hon. Jerrold Nadler**, US House of Representatives  
**Alan Olmsted**, NYC Department of Transportation  
**Buz Paaswell**, University Transportation Research Center  
**Mary Pelzer**, South Street Seaport Museum  
**Rob Pirani**, Regional Plan Association  
**Hon. Christine Quinn**, Speaker, New York City Council  
**Jessie Ann Ransom**, Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority  
**Dick Sabatini**, Staten Island Concrete  
**Jennifer Samson**, Clean Ocean Action  
**Rick Scarano**, Classic Harbor Line\*  
**Gajus Scheltma**, Consul General of the Netherlands in New York  
**Dr. Shmuel Yahalom**, SUNY Maritime  
**Peggy Shepard**, WE ACT for Environmental Justice  
**William Slezak**, US Army Corps of Engineers  
**Tiffany Smythe**, Regional Plan Association  
**Dennis Suszkowski**, Hudson River Foundation  
**Shino Tanikawa**, NYC Soil and Water Conservation District  
**Jim Tripp**, Environmental Defense Fund  
**Chris Ward**, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey  
**Jay Watson**, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
**Bill Wheeler**, Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
**Madelyn Wils**, NYC Economic Development Corporation  
**Steve Zahn**, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
**Jeff Zupan**, Regional Plan Association

The Conference is made possible by generous support from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, USEPA, NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program, New York Shipping Association, Inc., Statue Cruises, Parsons Brinckerhoff Group, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn Architects, New York City Economic Development Corporation, New York State Department of State, Coastal Resource Programs, Trust for Public Land, Sandy Hook Pilots Association, and the General Contractors Association of New York.

Throughout the day, guests will have an opportunity to learn about many MWA Alliance organizations through a series of posters and table top exhibits on display throughout the conference area.

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### **About the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance**

MWA works to transform the New York and New Jersey harbor and waterways to make them clean and accessible, a vibrant place to play, learn and work, with great parks, great jobs and great transportation for all.

[www.waterfrontalliance.org](http://www.waterfrontalliance.org)