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**THE CITY OF WATER DAY FESTIVAL  
GOVERNORS ISLAND—JULY 18, 2009**

**On the water, for the water**

**New York, NY:** On Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, the New York-New Jersey waterfront will surge to life as thousands from the Tri-State region float, ferry, paddle, row, canoe, and kayak their way to scenic Governors Island for the second annual City of Water Day Festival. A free day of entertainment, education, and adventure for the whole family, the City of Water Day Festival is a one-of-a-kind event celebrating all that the region's waterfront could be.

From the upper Hudson to Raritan Bay, this is a City of Water—yet too many are cut off from this tremendous resource. The 2009 City of Water Day Festival will demonstrate everything about the water that is fun and exciting while educating participants about MWA's *Waterfront Action Agenda*, a program of clear and achievable steps toward a healthy, accessible, and dynamic waterfront. "We have a waterfront with world-class potential for both recreation and commerce, but we're not there yet," says Roland Lewis, President of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. "On City of Water Day, we will bring together thousands of people and hundreds of the members of the Waterfront Alliance to celebrate this potential and to bring us one step closer to making it a reality."

Festival highlights include:

- Over a dozen fun and free boat tours on historic and educational vessels—including bird-watching eco tours and tours of the working harbor
- A flotilla of hundreds of kayakers, canoers, and sailors converging on the island from launch points throughout the region
- Special children's activities, like the harbor critters touch tank, fishing, arts and crafts, rides, and a Kids' Race sponsored by New York Road Runners
- The Waterfront Action Fair and workshops where participants can learn how to do their part for the waterfront
- A special kick-off event with VIP speakers at the Battery Maritime Building
- Car-free waterfront biking with rental available
- Delicious food from NYC's best vendors, presented by the Street Vendor Project
- An exciting and free line-up of local bands.

Last year's City of Water Day Festival was an outstanding success. Seven thousand visitors made their way to Governors Island, making it the most visited day in the island's seven-year history as a public place. City Council Speaker Christine Quinn led the day's rally, using the occasion to announce the historic Waterfront Planning Bill.

With up to ten thousand participants, over two hundred kayaks, canoes, and other hand-powered vessels, and nearly three times as many free boat tours, this year's festival promises to be even more exciting. In addition to the *Waterfront Action Agenda*, the festival will commemorate the opening of Governors

Island's brand new Yankee Pier, the New York Harbor School's summer session and new Quad Landing dock, and the Parks Department's New York City Water Trail.

So get out your paddles or catch a free ferry from the Battery Maritime Building and join the MWA on July 18<sup>th</sup> for the free City of Water Day Festival on Governors Island. A festival on the water, for the water—there's nothing else like it in New York. And the only way to get there is by boat!

### Festival Partners and Sponsors

The City of Water Day Festival is presented by the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance in collaboration with Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation, Governors Island Alliance, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Festival sponsors include: Con Edison, Bimmy's "Food Made With Love," REI, NY Waterway, Statue Cruises, and Metro Energy. MWA is also proud to partner with the Street Vendor Project, operating out of the Urban Justice Center, to provide the best of New York City's local food vending for the event, as well as the opportunity to connect with the many home-grown businesses, non-profits, and artists that strengthen our community.

For more information about the event or to volunteer, please visit [www.cityofwaterday.org](http://www.cityofwaterday.org), or contact the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance at (212) 935-9831 or [cworrall@waterfrontalliance.org](mailto:cworrall@waterfrontalliance.org).

### How to Get to the City of Water Day Festival

Free ferries to Governors Island leave from the Battery Maritime Building (adjacent to the Staten Island Ferry in Lower Manhattan) and from Fulton Ferry Landing in Brooklyn. For full ferry details please visit [www.cityofwaterday.org](http://www.cityofwaterday.org) or [http://www.govisland.com/Visit\\_the\\_Island/directions.asp](http://www.govisland.com/Visit_the_Island/directions.asp).

### 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)

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