



# Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **JOAN K. DAVIDSON AND THE NETHERLANDS TO BE HONORED AS MWA HEROES OF THE HARBOR**

**New York, NY** - On Tuesday, Oct. 19, the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance will honor environmentalist, public servant, and philanthropist Joan Davidson and the People and Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at the 2010 Heroes of the Harbor Awards. Friends, colleagues and supporters will gather at The Lighthouse at Pier 61 in Manhattan for a waterfront dinner celebrating the two honorees and their efforts to create a clean, accessible, and revitalized New York-New Jersey Harbor and waterways.

"Each year hundreds of thousands of people and organizations, large and small, are working to realize the world-class potential of our waterways," said MWA President and CEO Roland Lewis. "The Heroes of the Harbor Awards is our chance to celebrate this work, as well as recognize those who've demonstrated extraordinary leadership in this effort. We couldn't have two more deserving honorees than Joan Davidson and the People and Government of the Netherlands."

Former president of the J.M. Kaplan Fund and Commissioner of New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Joan Davidson has devoted her career to improving the lives of everyone who calls New York State and the New York metropolitan region home. Most recently, as Chair of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission, she provided critical leadership for the State's Quadricentennial commemoration of Henry Hudson's arrival on these shores, organizing a unparalleled series of celebratory waterfront events, establishing the Quad Landing eco-dock program and launching Our Hudson, a comprehensive effort to re-imagine the Hudson from the Verrazano Narrows to Troy.

Since Henry Hudson's arrival in the New York-New Jersey Harbor over 400 years ago, the history of our region and that of the People and Kingdom of the Netherlands has been closely intertwined. From these deep roots has emerged a unique and lasting partnership. During the Henry Hudson Quadricentennial Celebration (NY400) the Dutch organized a flotilla of historic and naval ships in the NY waters as well as a conference on climate change and watermanagement. The Brooklyn-Rotterdam Waterfront Exchange is a direct result of that conference. This partnership has been critical to the effort to raise awareness of key water issues and foster public interest in our waterways.

The Heroes of the Harbor Awards Dinner is an annual fundraising event benefitting the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. Past honorees include the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Ms. Ann Bittenwieser, the Honorable Adolfo Carrión Jr., and many others.

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