



# Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

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

April 5, 2013  
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## METROPOLITAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES **THE SANDY HEROES AWARDS**

*Winners to be honored at the MWA Waterfront Conference on April 9, 2013*

New York, NY -- Many people, including hundreds of Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance Partners, found themselves on the front lines about four months ago as Superstorm Sandy swept through the region. Some took action in the threatening hours before the storm, while others had been preparing for a major storm surge and for the effects of climate change on our harbor and waterfront for years. Thanks to the planning and action of a number of unsung heroes, property and possibly lives were saved from devastating floods. The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance salutes these heroes for their planning and advocacy to prepare for sea level rise and storm surge, and for their important work to create a resilient waterfront.

"Actions by a few farsighted individuals along the waterfront in the hours, days and years before Superstorm Sandy undoubtedly prevented far greater damage," said Roland Lewis, MWA president and chief executive officer. "We wish to publicly commend these clear-eyed advocates of a resilient shoreline."

Sandy Heroes of the Harbor were nominated in an open process by the 721 Alliance Partners earlier this year. To honor the foresight and actions of two individuals and five organizations, and for their important work to create a resilient waterfront, the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance will salute the following seven **Heroes of the Harbor** at the Waterfront Conference on April 9, 2013:

**Jonathan Boulware**, Waterfront Director, South Street Seaport Museum

*Captain Boulware analyzed tide and wind forecasts as the storm approached, calculating the amount of extra mooring line to be added to each historic vessel. With volunteers standing by, he directed preparations for each pier, each boat and each shipboard exhibit – and remained on-site as the storm made landing. All of the museum's vessels stayed safe and secure.*

**dlandstudio architecture + landscape architecture**

*Since 1989, dlandstudio architecture + landscape architecture has worked to help cities address the effects of climate change. The studio's Gowanus Canal Sponge Park™ master plan – a comprehensive strategy for innovative green infrastructure along the waterway that undoubtedly lessened the impact of Sandy's storm surge – has the enthusiastic support of the community, government agencies, and the EPA Superfund program. The studio's creative methods are being noticed across the country.*

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**Klaus Jacob**, Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University  
*Dr. Jacob bridges the interface of Earth science, engineering and public affairs, with a focus on climate change and earthquakes. One of the few to predict a storm of the intensity and devastation of Sandy, he specializes in multi-hazard risk assessment, quantitative disaster loss estimation, and disaster mitigation research.*

**Angela Licata**, Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection  
*Deputy Commissioner Licata has kept climate change planning at the forefront of NYC DEP activity for the last decade. She prepared the agency's Climate Change Adaptation Plan in 2007, was a lead developer of the City's Green Infrastructure Plan, has recently taken a new look at the City's drainage planning to prepare for larger storms, and has proposed modifications to the City's wastewater treatment plants to protect them from large storms.*

#### **Marine Transportation System Recovery Unit**

*The MTSRU, an arm of the U.S. Coast Guard, is comprised of experts in maritime mobility, incident response and port operations who work with agencies such as NOAA and EPA, as well as pilots, tug companies, shipping lines, terminal operators, shipping agencies and salvage companies to restore the commercial capacity of a waterway following a natural or manmade disruption. The leadership and commitment of the MTSRU helped the region recover swiftly following hurricanes Irene and Sandy.*

#### **New York City Environmental Justice Alliance**

*A leading voice in identifying locations of stored toxic material, NYC-EJA showed that all six of NYC's Significant Maritime Industrial Areas are in storm surge zones, and that exposure risks associated with clusters of heavy industrial use had not been analyzed, nor had flood preventive measures been taken. Because of NYCEJA's work, NYC announced its intention to reform SMIA's and address resiliency and climate adaptation issues.*

#### **New York City Panel on Climate Change**

*The NYC Panel on Climate Change is made up of leading experts from regional academic institutions and the legal, engineering, and insurance industries and was first convened by Mayor Bloomberg in 2008 to develop strategies to protect the City's infrastructure from the effects of climate change. The panel's climate change projection and tools for identifying at-risk infrastructure have proved invaluable.*

For more information on the MWA 2013 Waterfront Conference on Tuesday, April 9, beginning with the Mayoral Candidates Forum at 8am and continuing with panel discussions on key waterfront issues through the day aboard the *Hornblower Infinity*, go to [www.waterfrontalliance.org/conference2013](http://www.waterfrontalliance.org/conference2013).

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance ([www.waterfrontalliance.org](http://www.waterfrontalliance.org)) 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.

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