



Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#MWAConference2014

Waterfront Planning in the Age of de Blasio

MWA Presents “Rebuilding Our Waterfront: From the Water In, From the Grassroots Up,” a Floating Conference on April 24, 2014

Grassroots Heroes Hailed at the 2014 Waterfront Conference

New York, NY – Hundreds of waterfront advocates, government officials, scientists, engineers, environmentalists, journalists and community activists will board the magnificent *Hornblower Infinity* on April 24, 2014 for the day-long Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) Waterfront Conference.

The 2014 Waterfront Conference will explore progress on the regional waterfront over the last 12 months with a special focus on the remarkable grassroots, community-based waterfront plans developed before and after Superstorm Sandy. Panelists will also take an early look at the de Blasio Administration’s approach to waterfront policy. Morning panels will take place dockside, followed by afternoon panels as the [Hornblower Infinity](#) cruises around New York Harbor. Plenary and panel topics include:

- **After the Storm, It’s All About Implementation**

How are we really doing?

- **Sandy Changed Everything. Or Did It?**

What community-designed waterfront plans can tell us about the future of the waterfront. Are we listening?

- **Getting to Transit Equity Via Ferries**

Transportation to and from the most transit-poor sections of New York City

- **Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines: An East River Laboratory**

What are they and how can they be a catalyst for better waterfront edge design?

- **Fishable, Swimmable and Paddle-able**

Water quality investments for public access and other community and environmental benefits

- **Pulling Back the Curtain: The Working Waterfront, Innovation and Education**

Connecting communities to industrial waterfront use and the "maker economy"

“There’s a new administration in town, but the same pressing challenges and opportunities remain in and around the Harbor,” said Christopher O. Ward, Chairman, MWA Board of Trustees and Executive Vice President, Dragados USA. “This conference will bring together the best minds, grassroots organizations and government leaders to help address these issues.”

Leaders and experts attending the 2014 Waterfront Conference include John Atkins, Joel Bergstein, Col. John R. Boulé II, Joan Byron, Marcia Bystryn, Joseph Della Fave, Piet Dircke, Jeanne Dupont, Helena Durst, Katie Ellman, Peter Glus, Hannah Henn, Sharon Henry, Ron Hine, Andrew Kimball, Kyle Kimball, Council Member Brad Lander, Venetia Lannon, Justin Lapatine, Holly Leicht, Angela Licata, David Lombino, Capt. John Malizia, Michael Marrella, Cheryl Marrow, Joan Leary Matthews, Phillip Musegaas, Regina Myer, Tom Outerbridge, Col. Paul Owen, Merrill Pond, Jim Pynn, Kathy Robb, Council Member Ydanis Rodríguez, Council Member Debi Rose, James Rubin, Michele Siekerka, David Sunding, Pierre Vilain, Chris Ward, Andrew Winters, Chauncy Young & Daniel Zarrilli. For their roles and organizations, please visit www.waterfrontalliance.org/2014_Waterfront_Conference.

"Waterfront Alliance Partners have been toiling to protect and open up their waterfronts well before Sandy hit, and they will be doing this essential work decades hence," said Roland Lewis, MWA President and CEO. "We are proud to honor these heroes. We must listen to them and learn from them."

A special ceremony recognizing the Heroes of the Harbor will take place at the end of the day on April 24. In honoring the work of regional community organizations that have produced important waterfront plans, the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance will salute **Ironbound Community Corporation's** "Newark Waterfront Park Plan," **Rockaway Waterfront Alliance's** "Greater Rockaway: 2020 Waterfront Vision," **Green Shores NYC's** "Waterfront Vision Plan," **Fund for a Better Waterfront's** "Plan for the Hoboken Waterfront," and **Harlem River Working Group's** "Our River Our Future."

The annual MWA Waterfront Conference has become the region’s premier forum for discussion of waterfront issues, each year attracting 600+ representatives from businesses, community and recreational groups, educational institutions, and environmental organizations. The popularity of the conference is an indication of its wide-ranging impact on forming progressive harbor policies and initiatives.

Media representatives wishing to attend the Waterfront Conference should contact Alison Simko at asimko@waterfrontalliance.org. #MWAConference2014

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance www.waterfrontalliance.org works to protect, transform, and revitalize our Harbor and waterfront.

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