



# Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Mayoral Candidates, Senior Officials, and Experts from Around the Nation to Address the Future of the Waterfront After Sandy at the MWA Waterfront Conference on April 9, 2013**

*Highlights of the Day: Mayoral Candidates Forum; Launch of  
MWA's Waterfront Platform; Release of Policy Documents on Governance,  
Ferries, Access, Resilience, and the Working Waterfront; and  
Recognition of Heroes of the Harbor*

New York, NY -- Over 600 waterfront advocates and decision-makers will board the *Hornblower Infinity* this Tuesday, April 9, for the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance's daylong **Waterfront Conference 2013**.

Those attending will have an opportunity to hear how leading candidates for the office of Mayor of New York City plan to address the challenge of sea level rise and the future of the City's waterfront with the first event of the conference: the **Mayoral Candidates Forum**, which begins at 8am. NY City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, NYC Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, NYC Comptroller John Liu, former NYC Comptroller William C. Thompson, former Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr., and businessman John Catsimatidis each will give a brief statement describing his or her vision for the waterfront, and then receive questions collected from Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance Partners. The forum will be moderated by Christopher O. Ward, chairman of the MWA Board of Directors and former executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

"Those who are asking for our vote and the privilege of leading New York City must answer the profound and pressing question of how to best protect our waterfront in the wake of Sandy," said Mr. Ward.

After the Mayoral Candidates Forum, panels of experts from around the region and the country

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will gather before hundreds of waterfront advocates and policy-makers to discuss aspects of the most urgent issue of our time and region: how to make the coastline of our nation's cultural and financial capital resilient after Sandy, while ensuring that access to the waterfront, the maritime industry, the port, and the economics of the water remain priorities. One panel, for example, will discuss financial and environmentally sustainable options for protecting the shoreline; another will take a look at how best to maintain and expand ferry service. Still another will explore how the billions of dollars in Sandy federal funding will impact key projects, and another will examine what along the waterfront and in the harbor survived the storm, helping us understand what went right during Hurricane Sandy. Six panels will convene.

MWA's Waterfront Conference has become the premier harbor and waterfront event for New York, attracting a crowd of over 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.

“At this conference we have gathered the best minds to answer the most important questions facing our region – how will we protect our coastal city, how will we pay for it, what worked and what didn't work during the storm and how can we most wisely use and enjoy our magnificent harbor,” said Roland Lewis, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. “We are thrilled about the gathering and excited to see the outcome.”

The MWA Waterfront Conference 2013 marks the official introduction of the **Waterfront Platform**, a strategy for the restoration, resilience and revitalization of the NYC waterfront, plus five policy documents and their accompanying, in-depth white papers -- all hammered out by hundreds of MWA Partners after hundreds of hours of discussion. The MWA calls upon the next administration of New York City to commit to the **Waterfront Platform**.

A special ceremony recognizing the **Heroes of the Harbor** will take place during the afternoon cruise. To honor the foresight and actions of individuals and organizations who prepared in the hours, days, months and years before Superstorm Sandy, and for their important work to create a resilient waterfront, the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance will salute **Jonathan Boulware**, Waterfront Director at the South Street Seaport Museum; **dlandstudio architecture + landscape architecture**; **Klaus Jacob**, Adjunct Professor at Columbia University; **Angela Licata**, Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability at the NYC Department of Environmental Protection; the **Marine Transportation System Recovery Unit** of the U.S. Coast Guard; the **NYC Environmental Justice Alliance**; and the **NYC Panel on Climate Change**.

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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