2017 Waterfront Conference
Measuring Our Harbor: Strong, Healthy, and Open

Wednesday, May 10, 2017
Hornblower Infinity, Hudson River Park, Pier 40, New York
Welcome Aboard!

**Create a Buzz at the #WaterfrontConference**
Strong, healthy, and open waterways are essential to city sustainability. You get it, that’s why you’re here! But for millions of city dwellers, these issues are not top of mind. Share your #WaterfrontConference aha moments, take-a-ways and TED Talk-worthy ideas on social media. Tag us in your Twitter and Facebook posts so they appear on the Arcadis-sponsored social media panel located on the main deck near the coffee bar, and make sure to use #WaterfrontConference.

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Dear Conference Attendees,

Welcome aboard to the Waterfront Alliance’s 2017 Waterfront Conference—Measuring our Harbor: Strong, Healthy, and Open. We are happy you are here and to add your voice to our region’s premier forum about the future of our shared waterfront.

At the Waterfront Conference, we always have an all-star lineup of experts and advocates keeping us informed of how well our harbor is doing. This year, to add to that dialogue and to commemorate the Waterfront Alliance’s 10th anniversary, we are releasing a powerful new tool that will give citizens in every waterfront neighborhood vital information about the threat of flooding, the quality of their water, and if and how they can access the water. It’s called the Harbor Scorecard and you’ll get a sneak peek this morning!

This year’s conference also marks a milestone for the Waterfront Alliance as we celebrate the very recent launch of NYC Ferry after years of our advocacy efforts. Our blue highways are now connecting the Rockaways in Queens and Sunset Park in Brooklyn to lower Manhattan for the same cost of a subway ride, with more routes rolling out this summer and next year. Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers in transit starved neighborhoods now have a fast, convenient, and affordable way to connect to all the opportunities our City has to offer. We call this victory.

Beyond the celebration of NYC Ferry and the preview of our new Harbor Scorecard, there will be the usual amazing smorgasbord of harbor content ranging from harbor job training to wind power to the challenges and opportunities for our waterfront with the new administration in DC. Take your pick and enjoy. But most of all take time to make new connections and renew old ones to your fellow conference attendees. The informal sharing of information and passions is a hallmark of our event.

Thank you to Hornblower Cruises & Events, our longtime venue sponsor, for hosting us again on the beautiful Hornblower Infinity, and to our Premier and Waterfront Scholars sponsor, Arcadis, who is at the helm for the third year in a row. Our thanks also to all of this year’s sponsors who have made today’s conference possible.

For the second year, we are excited to welcome our Arcadis Waterfront Scholars, a program that brings together aspiring waterfront stewards for a day of learning and networking on the water. This year, we have 70 undergraduate and graduate students with us who are representing nearly two dozen academic institutions and nearly as many disciplines. Take some time to meet the next generation of Waterfront leaders.

Let’s create a buzz! Like what you’re hearing? Learn something new? Send out a tweet using the hashtag #WaterfrontConference (Twitter handles for our panelists are listed in their bios).

Anchors aweigh!

Roland Lewis, President and CEO, Waterfront Alliance

Chris Ward, Chair
Waterfront Alliance
### LOCATION OF CONFERENCE EVENTS

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**Hornblower Infinity Floorplan**

**Main Deck and Balcony: 1st and 2nd floors**

- Main Deck
- Balcony Deck

**Infinity Lounge and Sun Deck: 3rd and 4th floors**

- Infinity Lounge
- Sun Deck
REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST
Waterfront Scholars Welcome Breakfast
Location: Infinity Lounge

WELCOME AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Location: Main Deck

Welcome
Piet Dircke, Global Leader for Water Management, Arcadis
Roland Lewis, President and CEO, Waterfront Alliance
Terry MacRae, CEO, Hornblower Cruises & Events
Chris Ward, Chair, Waterfront Alliance

Keynote Address
Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez, Member of Congress
Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen, City of New York

PLENARY SESSION
What Now? Navigating uncertain waters ahead for our waterfronts
Location: Main Deck

How will proposed reductions in environmental protection, coastal security, and federal emergency management spending affect risks facing our region? How can new infrastructure investments and renegotiated trade agreements impact port activity? Change in Washington will undoubtedly affect our waterfronts, from clean water protections, to accelerating sea level rise, to freight transportation, to ocean management, and much more. How will the new administration’s priorities and policies impact our ability to ensure a harbor and waterways that are strong, healthy, and open: protected from inundation, and safe and accessible for recreation? How can we work to address the uncertain future ahead for our waterfronts through local leadership and citizen activism?

Facilitator:
Errol Louis, Political Anchor, NY1 News

Panelists:
Hon. Ras J. Baraka, Mayor, City of Newark, New Jersey
Marcia Bystryn, President, New York League of Conservation Voters
Kathy Robb, Partner, Sive, Paget & Riesel P.C.
Joel Szabat, Executive Director, In Lieu of the Maritime Administer, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation
Get Wet When You Want, Stay Dry When You Need: A scorecard for strong, healthy, and open waterfronts

The Waterfront Alliance, in commemoration of its 10th anniversary, is releasing a harbor-wide scorecard to create a benchmark for strong, healthy, and open waterfronts, and our region’s first scorecard measuring indices of waterfront access, water quality, and coastal resiliency. How safe are you from the next storm? How healthy is the water near you? Can you get to and on the water? This scorecard will be a tool to measure change over time and to see how your community stacks up to your neighbors’. A brief presentation will provide a summary of the findings of the scorecard followed by a response from technical and community experts regarding the challenges ahead for policy makers and the public.

Facilitator:
Col. John Boulé (Ret.), Senior VP, Business Unit Manager, Dewberry

Panelists:
Piet Dircke, Global Leader for Water Management, Arcadis
Pamela Pettyjohn, President, Coney Island Beautification Project
Akila Simon, Guardians of Flushing Bay

Break

Panel A: Measuring Mega Projects: From remediation to resilience
Location: Main Deck

Across our region, initiatives are underway to restore degraded waterways and strengthen our coastlines from incident flooding. These mega-projects are funded through different means and measured against distinct goals. The Big U, now the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project and the Lower Manhattan Protect and Connect, seeks to strengthen Manhattan’s East River waterfront from flooding. The US Army Corps of Engineers has separately proposed a flood protection strategy for southern Brooklyn and Queens, including gates and berms. The EPA’s Superfund designation addresses large-scale environmental needs on the Gowanus Canal, Newtown Creek, and Passaic River. How do these projects balance several important overlapping considerations, including environmental justice, economic impacts, and community priorities? What tools do we have to evaluate their impacts at a regional level, weighing social, economic, and environmental benefits relative to public investments?

Facilitator:
Denise M. Richardson, Executive Director, General Contractors Association of New York
Panelists:
Jainey K. Bavishi, Director, Office of Recovery and Resiliency, City of New York
Sam Carter, Managing Director, The Rockefeller Foundation
Tom Schadt, Principal, Anchor QEA, LLC
Robert Yaro, Professor of Practice, University of Pennsylvania School of Design, City and Regional Planning

Panel B: From Cradle to Career: Building pipelines to maritime jobs
Location: Infinity Lounge

11:30am–12:30pm

How can educators, industry, regulators, scientists, skilled trades, students, and civic leaders collaborate to improve our waterways and improve pathways to careers in the maritime industry, reconnecting New Yorkers to their waterfronts?

Participants will explore ways to break barriers to the economic potential of our waterways, connecting local residents to career opportunities in and around our ports. What levers are available to create multi-sector partnerships that bridge industry, government, educators, and civic organizations, to raise awareness of opportunities for good-paying jobs and ensure that the workforce skills are meeting industry needs?

The session will incorporate lessons from at home and abroad: from local educators that train students for careers in marine science, vessel operations, maritime technology, and more; to an industry-driven task force to strengthen its long-term viability to attract and train top talent; and a “Canal College” initiative in Scotland to address youth unemployment through environmental skill-building.

Facilitator:
Andrew Genn, Senior Vice President, Ports & Transportation, New York City Economic Development Corporation

Panelists:
Ross Martin, Chair, Scottish Waterways Trust
Captain John Nappo Jr, Director of Maritime Technology, Kingsborough Community College
Captain Aaron Singh, Waterfront Director, New York Harbor School
Susan Winfree, Vice President, Workforce Development & Corporate Diversity Officer, New York Shipping Association
AFTERNOON SCHEDULE

12:30pm–1:30pm  LUNCH
Location: Main Deck

1pm  Hornblower Infinity Leaves Dock

1:30pm–2:45pm  Panel C: Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (WEDG®): Scaling up (and down) a tool for access, resiliency, and ecology
Location: Main Deck

The Waterfront Alliance’s Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines program, or WEDG, was developed to assess exemplary waterfront planning and design in the New York metropolitan region. WEDG is doing for the waterfront what LEED® has done for buildings; the program formalizes a set of best practices and a voluntary ratings system for waterfront projects that results in more access, better ecology, and resiliency amidst the increasing threats posed by climate change. Now in the program’s second year, a group of academics, practitioners, and regulators are evaluating how the planning and design tools articulated by WEDG might be utilized across a wide range of scales and sites, for different types of waterfronts and users. How can this program’s approach help guide redevelopment and stakeholder participation, so that the lessons learned in this region might apply more broadly across other waterfront communities?

Introduction:
Kate Boicourt, Program Manager, Waterfront Alliance

Facilitator:
Arturo Garcia Costas, Program Officer, Thriving Communities (National and NYC Environment), The New York Community Trust

Panelists:
Thomas Balsley, Principal, SWA/Balsley
Jessica Fain, Program Director for Policy, Planning and Engagement, Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay
Barry Hersh, Chair, Real Estate Development Program, New York University School of Professional Studies, Schack Institute of Real Estate
Ashley Muse, Senior Sustainability Manager, YR&G

1:30pm–2:45pm  Panel D: The Missing Link in Resilience? Solution-oriented climate communication
Location: Infinity Lounge

Despite the growing realization that New York City is critically vulnerable to sea level rise, many of us are still uncomfortable speaking about climate change or have misconceptions about its impacts. Research from the
Yale Program on Climate Change Communication highlights that while 70 percent of Americans believe climate change is happening, just 33 percent of people are occasionally discussing it within their networks. A mere 46 percent of people in the New York region believe it will affect them personally, just 6 percent above the national average.

The reality is that many of us still do not understand how climate change works, and more importantly, how we can best contribute to the solution. We need to change the conversation and the national discourse around climate change to be productive, creative, and focused on solutions. The session will incorporate research and methods to engage the public in constructive conversations about climate change. How can we shape our communications in a way that empowers solution-oriented thinking to improve local efforts to adapt and respond to climate change? And what are local climate change solutions that have made effective strides to date?

Facilitator:
John Fraser, Ph.D., AIA, President & CEO, NewKnowledge Organization Ltd.

Panelists:
Ryan Chavez, Infrastructure Coordinator, UPROSE
Cecil Corbin-Mark, Deputy Director, WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Carrie Roble, Director of Science and Stewardship, Hudson River Park Trust
Gina Stovall, Research Lead, PoLAR Climate Change Education Partnership Senior Policy Analyst, Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery

Respondent:
Kathryn Kramer, Graduate Student, University of Pennsylvania

2:45pm–3pm
Break

3pm–3:45pm
Panel E1: Offshore Wind: Good for the environment, good for the harbor?
Location: Main Deck

The waters of the New York Bight, and throughout New York Harbor, are among the world’s busiest and economically valuable, while also supporting globally significant ecological resources. With the Clean Energy Standard requiring 50 percent of New York State’s electricity to come from renewable energy sources by 2030, offshore wind power generation poses a significant opportunity to meet this critical goal. At the same time, New York State is also expected to finalize its own ocean plan for state waters, following the first-ever Regional Ocean Action Plan for the Mid-Atlantic. This panel will address the value proposition of ocean planning for offshore and nearshore uses as New York, and neighboring states, address the potential of a future powered by offshore wind energy.
Participants will address the potential environmental and economic benefits and impacts, and how improved coordination of diverse uses can support harbor-driven growth in and around New York City.

**Facilitator:**
Lisa Dix, Senior New York Representative, Beyond Coal Campaign, Sierra Club

**Panelists:**
Clint Plummer, Vice President of Development, Deepwater Wind
Dr. Melinda Rekdahl, Postdoctoral Fellow, Wildlife Conservation Society
Michael Stamatis, President, Red Hook Container Terminal

**Panel E2: All Aboard! Busy blue highways with NYC Ferry**
**Location:** Main Deck

New York’s “blue highways” have long been underutilized, but with the recent launch of NYC Ferry, several waterfront communities cut off by good transit options stand poised to welcome the first major new transportation system in our region in generations. As our waterways once teemed with ships carrying passengers and cargo as far as the eye could see, this system heralds a new day, changing the way millions interact with the water that surrounds us. Residents of transit deserts from Soundview, Bronx to Red Hook, Brooklyn to Rockaways, Queens will be able to experience our coastal metropolis in a new way, connecting to jobs and economic opportunities across the city.

How can the expansion of commuter ferry service lead to positive change on water as well as on land, deepening a culture of safety on the waterways and expanding New Yorkers’ understanding of our coastal metropolis? What communications tools are available to establish positive feedback loops with other harbor users as well as with riders so that that NYC Ferry can serve as a model for further growth of our region’s transportation system?

**Facilitator:**
Matthew Washington, Deputy Borough President, Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

**Panelists:**
Cameron Clark, Senior Vice President, NYC Ferry by Hornblower
Captain Michael Day, Captain of the Port of New York and New Jersey, United States Coast Guard Sector New York
Panel F: Learning from the Water: Measuring outcomes in place-based programs
Location: Infinity Lounge

Over the past two centuries, New Yorkers have experienced an abrupt and self-imposed divorce from nature. This outcome—resultant of booms in commerce, burgeoning populations and lack of infrastructural foresight—mandated a separation from our city’s waterways. Although water conditions have tremendously improved since the landmark 1972 Clean Water Act, attitudes toward New York City waterways continue to be that of avoidance and mistrust.

A wealth of place-based education programs for youth and adults alike are contributing to the improved health of our waterways, introducing people to complex, redeveloping ecosystems to create meaningful connections to nature as part of a new urban identity. How can the impact of those program be evaluated, and what metrics are available to determine the success of these programs, for youth as well as for the general public? How can we derive relationships between gained knowledge and changes in attitude, and how might this affect behavior and inspire civic participation?

Facilitator:
Isa Del Bello, Director of Education, Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy

Panelists:
Blyss Buitrago, Public Engagement Manager, New York Harbor Foundation
Elisa Caref, Education Programs Coordinator, The River Project
Cait Field, Ph.D., Manager for Science & Research Development, NYC Parks, Freshkills Park
John Petrillo, Sailing Program Director, Rocking the Boat

4:30pm
5pm
Cocktails
Location: Main Deck and Balcony Afts

5pm
Hornblower Infinity Returns to Pier 40
Congratulations to our 2017 Arcadis Waterfront Scholars!

Now in its second year, the Waterfront Scholars program brings together undergraduate and graduate students for a day of learning and networking at the Waterfront Conference. After an open-ended writing assignment—in 250 words or less describe the challenges facing any waterfront you’ve personally visited or experienced—we invited 70 students to join us as our 2017 Arcadis Waterfront Scholars. They hail from nearly two dozen academic institutions and represent nearly as many disciplines. Please join us in congratulating and welcoming aboard our student scholars!

Educational Institutions Represented by Waterfront Scholars

Adelphi University  Pratt Institute
Barnard College  Queens College
Brooklyn College  Rutgers University
College of Staten Island  Saint Peter’s University
Columbia University  Seton Hall University
Cornell University  Stevens Institute of Technology
CUNY Baruch College  Stony Brook University
CUNY Brooklyn College  SUNY Maritime College
CUNY Graduate Center  The City College of New York
CUNY Hunter College  The New School University
Georgia Tech  University of Pennsylvania
Macaulay Honors College at Baruch College
Thomas Balsley
@SWAbalsley

Thomas Balsley, FASLA, is principal of SWA/Balsley, a New York City-based urban landscape architecture firm whose work has had a profound impact on the built environment and the quality of life in cities across the US. His unique fusion of creativity and sustainability with public process has produced extraordinary spaces. His highly acclaimed waterfront parks such as Hunter’s Point South and Riverside Park South have helped to reshape New York City’s public realm. He is the subject of the ORO monograph “Thomas Balsley Uncommon Ground” and is the 13th recipient of ASLA’s highest honor, The Design Medal, for his body of exceptional design work.

Honorable Ras J. Baraka
@rasjbaraka

Ras J. Baraka is the 40th Mayor of the City of Newark, and was elected and sworn-in in 2014. His progressive approach to governing has won him accolades from grassroots organizations to the White House. He was listed in The Nation’s 2015 “Most Valuable Progressives” as “Most Valuable Mayor,” Ebony Magazine’s “Power 100” and on the front cover of The New York Times for “defying expectations” during his first year-and-half in office. President Barack Obama announced his sweeping plan for criminal justice reform with Mayor Baraka while visiting a Newark reentry center. Because of Mayor Baraka’s diplomatic skill and strong advocacy, Newark Public Schools can expect to be returned to the control of the City for the first time in more than two decades. Throughout the City’s five wards, he is beloved as an educator, former principal, basketball coach, neighbor, mentor, and friend.

Jainey K. Bavishi
@NYClimate

Jainey K. Bavishi currently serves as the director of the New York City Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency and deputy chief resilience officer, where she leads the City’s OneNYC resiliency program, preparing the city for the impacts of climate change and other 21st century threats.
Jainey most recently served as the associate director for climate preparedness at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. In this role, she led the implementation of the climate preparedness pillar of the President’s Climate Action Plan. In the final year of the Obama Administration, she was responsible for embedding and institutionalizing climate resilience considerations across Federal programs and policies; advancing climate equity to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on low-income and other vulnerable communities; and developing innovative approaches to climate adaptation finance. Jainey holds a Master in City Planning (MCP) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Bachelor’s degree in public policy and cultural anthropology from Duke University.

Kate Boicourt
@OurWaterfront

Kate Boicourt is the Waterfront Alliance’s program manager for Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (WEDG). Previously, Kate served as the restoration program manager for the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program (HEP), where she focused on cross-jurisdictional coastal issues related to habitat restoration, public access, and climate change. Prior to her work at HEP, Kate led a team of experts to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the State of Maryland and has held multiple roles conducting and synthesizing research for public audiences. She holds a Master of Environmental Science from Yale University and a Bachelor of Arts in biology from Kenyon College.

Colonel (Ret.) John R. Boulé, II, P.E.
@TheDewberryWay

Colonel (Ret.) John R. Boulé, II, P.E., for more than 29 years, has delivered innovative engineering solutions in the most difficult environments during numerous combat and disaster relief missions with the U.S. Army, as well as for numerous infrastructure and facilities clients in the northeastern United States. John joined Dewberry Engineers in September 2014 where he is a senior vice president and business manager for the New York operation. Previously, he led Parsons Brinckerhoff’s Hurricane Sandy Recovery and Resiliency Program, which delivered near- and long-term resiliency solutions for numerous clients such as the New York City Economic Development Corporation and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.
Before that, John was a colonel and commander of the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—a position that made him responsible for the Corps’ water resource development, flood and coastal storm damage prevention, and regulatory activities in much of New York State, New Jersey, and parts of New England. John graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. He has two Master of Science degrees from Stanford University and is a registered professional engineer. John serves on the Waterfront Alliance’s board of trustees as vice-chair.

**Blyss Buitrago**

[@BillionOyster](https://twitter.com/BillionOyster)

Blyss Buitrago is the public engagement manager of the New York Harbor Foundation. Raised in Jamaica, Queens with JFK Airport as her local inaccessible waterfront, Blyss still developed a deep curiosity for the ocean from a young age. Exposure to New England’s fishery culture ignited her passion to conserve our natural environment, and led to her receiving her Bachelor of Science in marine science from Boston University. Realizing the importance of local knowledge in conservation led her across the world to Australia to receive her MSc. in marine protected area management from James Cook University. As the public engagement manager for the New York Harbor Foundation’s Billion Oyster Project, Blyss passionately works to create unique opportunities for urban communities to become stewards of their marine backyard.

**Marcia Bystryn**

[@nylcv](https://twitter.com/nylcv)

Marcia Bystryn joined the New York League of Conservation Voters as executive director in 1999 and was named president in 2008. A statewide organization, the League works to elect strong environmental candidates to office and to hold them accountable. Previously, Marcia served as senior corporate policy manager for the environment and then senior business manager for economic development at The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. She formerly served as the assistant commissioner for recycling at New York City’s Department of Sanitation, where she designed and implemented New York City’s recycling program, as well as the deputy director of the Twentieth Century Fund, now the Century Foundation. She has a Bachelor of Arts in history and a PhD in the sociology of art.
Elisa Caref  
@riverproject

Elisa Caref is the education programs coordinator for The River Project. A Brooklyn native, Elisa has a Bachelor of Arts in history from DePaul University, and transitioned into the sciences with a Master of Arts in environmental conservation education that she received from New York University in 2013. She has more than five years of non-formal education experience in various fields. Elisa is particularly interested in ecosystem biodiversity and local environmental health, and was originally drawn to The River Project because of its showcasing of native seahorses. She is familiar with New York State and Next Generation Science Standards for students of all ages, as well as contemporary educational theory and learning modalities.

Sam Carter  
@RockefellerFdn

Sam Carter is a managing director at The Rockefeller Foundation, working on the Resilience Team and the Global Resilience Partnership. In this capacity, Sam works to increase our knowledge and understanding of resilience, and to develop and execute innovative resilience building strategies for communities around the world. He is currently leading the development of a Global Resilience Academy as well as the foundation’s U.S.-based resilience work. Sam has taught at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design and New York University’s Stern School of Business. He has served as a researcher for Vice President Joe Biden and political strategist Robert Shrum. Sam holds an MPA in public and nonprofit policy analysis and management from New York University.

Ryan Chavez  
@UPROSE

Ryan Chavez joined UPROSE in 2013 as infrastructure coordinator. In this capacity, Ryan is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Sunset Park Brownfield Opportunity Area program; developing measures for climate resilience on the industrial coastline; promoting equitable transportation policy; and collaborating with city and state agencies to develop an upland connector between the community and the waterfront. Before coming to UPROSE, Ryan taught English as a Second Language for six years, both in Latin America and New York City.
Cameron Clark
@NYCferry

Cameron Clark is the senior vice president for NYC Ferry by Hornblower—New York City’s recently launched city-wide ferry system. Cameron has worked with Hornblower for more than eight years, starting his career off as a special projects/facilities manager. He is a graduate of the California Maritime Academy and received his MBA in finance and marketing from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Cecil Corbin-Mark
@weact4ej

Cecil Corbin-Mark is WE ACT for Environmental Justice’s (WE ACT) deputy director and director of policy initiatives. Prior to joining WE ACT, Cecil worked for the following: the Bronx County District Attorney, NYS Justice Hon. W. T. Martin, the Mellon Minority Scholars Program, and the New York Public Library. He currently serves on the following boards: Center for Environmental Health, Clean and Healthy New York, the Louis E. Burnham Fund, the West Harlem Development Corporation, and Friends of the Earth USA. He was the recipient of the 2010 Earth Day New York Award. Cecil holds a Bachelor of Arts from Hunter College in political science and a Master of Philosophy in international relations from Oxford University in England.

Captain Michael Day

Captain Michael Day is Commanding Officer of Sector New York where he leads more than 1,200 Coast Guardsmen in promoting safety and security in the Port of New York and New Jersey. He has served in numerous strategic planning positions including at the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, he worked with a team of mariners on the evacuation of lower Manhattan, where he helped in evacuating more than 500,000 people on that day. He holds Master’s degrees in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College and is a Harvard University, National Security Fellow.
Isa Del Bello
@BklynBrdgPark

Isa del Bello has a passion for urban environmental education, which led to her joining Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy in 2011, with an aim to foster environmental literacy and stewardship among New York City youth. She has introduced thousands of New York City students to the wild spaces found within and around Brooklyn Bridge Park and currently leads the education team as director of education. Areas of specialty include educational research, curriculum development, educational psychology and environmental education. She holds a Master of Arts in developmental psychology with a concentration in risk, resilience, and prevention from Teachers College, Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education with concentrations in science and literacy from the University of New Mexico.

Piet Dircke
@Arcadis_US

Piet Dircke is Global Leader for Water Management and leads the Global Knowledge Network for Flood Protection and Water Management for Arcadis worldwide. Piet is a trained hydrologist with more than 27 years of experience in flood protection, water management and climate change adaptation on five continents and is considered a leading global expert in flood protection and climate adaptation for coastal and delta cities like New Orleans, San Francisco, and New York. In 2009, he developed a conceptual design for a storm surge barrier in the Verrazano Narrows as part of an integrated plan to protect New York City from flooding.

Lisa Dix
@SierraClub

Lisa Dix is the New York senior representative for the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign. The Beyond Coal Campaign works for a just and equitable transition away from dirty coal and toward a clean energy future for the nation. In New York, the Campaign’s major achievements include commitments to: fully phase out coal by 2020, source 50 percent of New York’s energy from renewables and build at least 2.4 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030, and advance New York’s first—and the nation’s largest—offshore wind farm off Long Island. Lisa
serves on the board of directors for Alliance for Clean Energy New York and is a founding member of the New York Offshore Wind Alliance. Before joining the Sierra Club, Lisa worked for more than a decade leading successful campaigns to protect our nation’s natural resources, wild forests, and wildlife.

Jessica Fain  
@SRlatJB

Jessica Fain, AICP, is the program director for policy, planning and engagement at the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay. At the Institute, she leads integrated, co-produced projects that bring together researchers, community stakeholders and public agencies to improve the resilience of Jamaica Bay and beyond. She currently manages the Institute-led technical review of the Waterfront Alliance’s Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (WEDG). Previously, she was a senior waterfront planner at the New York City Department of City Planning. She holds a Master of City Planning (MCP, 2011) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania.

Cait Field, Ph.D.

Dr. Cait Field is the manager for science and research development at Freshkills Park. She manages ecology and ecological reclamation research projects conducted by outside institutions, conducts some of the park’s internal research, and develops science based public programming. Most recently, Cait has overseen the creation of the park’s Mobile Education Lab, a converted cargo trailer used for outreach and education. Cait is a USCG licensed captain and has held a second career as a commercial sailing captain in New York Harbor for the past decade, contributing to her strong interest in connecting people to our local waterways.

John Fraser, Ph.D., AIA  
@NewKnowOrg

Dr. John Fraser is a conservation psychologist, architect, and educator. His research focuses on how our experience with media and community influences learning, attitudes, and motivations for engagement with solving the problems that face society. He is an adjunct professor in Earth Science at Indiana
University–Purdue University Indianapolis. He is the editor of curator for *The Museum Journal* and serves as a founding editorial board member for *Museums & Social Issues*. He is secretary of the American Psychological Association’s Division 34: Society for Environment, Population and Conservation Psychology. He is the co-evaluator of the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation.

**Arturo Garcia-Costas**  
[@NYCommTrust](https://twitter.com/NYCommTrust)

Arturo Garcia-Costas manages the national and New York City environmental grant-making program at The New York Community Trust. He came to the Trust from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, where he oversaw the environmental justice grant program and chaired the State’s Sea Level Rise Task Force Community Resilience Work Group. Before that, Arturo ran a global funding initiative at the United Nations Development Program focused on climate change, biodiversity conservation, and land degradation. He has also worked in the Manhattan office of Congressman Jerrold Nadler and with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington D.C. Arturo has an undergraduate degree from the City University of New York in international affairs and theater, and a J.D. from Stanford Law School, where he focused on international and environmental law.

**Andrew Genn**  
[@NYCEDC](https://twitter.com/NYCEDC)

Andrew Genn is senior vice president of the Ports & Transportation Department at New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC). In his role, Andrew supervises planning and policy initiatives related to waterborne freight and passenger transportation, air cargo facility planning, rail passenger, and freight transportation. Andrew has worked at NYCEDC since 1997 growing through the ranks and is fortunate to have been involved in projects that have reactivated and modernized port and rail infrastructure in Staten Island and Brooklyn, launched Citywide Ferry Service (now NYC Ferry), and improved waterfront assets throughout the city. Andrew attended Cornell University where he received a Bachelor of Science in urban studies and the City University Graduate Center where he received a Master of Science in political science.
Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen

Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen leads the administration’s efforts to grow and diversify New York City’s economy, invest in emerging industries across the five boroughs, build a new generation of affordable housing, and help New Yorkers secure good-paying jobs that can support a family. She has more than 40 City agencies or authorities under her purview. Prior to joining the de Blasio Administration she led the Goldman Sachs Urban Investment Group where she oversaw more than $3 billion in socially responsible real estate property and companies across the United States, and was responsible for structuring the first domestic Social Impact Bond. Deputy Mayor Glen has also worked as an attorney in the private and nonprofit sectors, and was a senior official in the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development under Mayor Guiliani. A life-long New Yorker, she is a graduate of Amherst College and Columbia Law School.

Barry Hersh

Barry Hersh is a clinical associate professor at the Schack Institute of Real Estate at the School of Continuing and Professional Studies at New York University. In 2014, he was named a Distinguished Fellow by the NAIOP Research Foundation for his exemplary research on environmentally sustainable real estate. He holds a Master in Urban Planning from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts in urban affairs from the City University of New York.

Kathryn Kramer

Kathryn Kramer graduates next week with her Master’s in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania. Her studies focus on resilient urban design and she has interests in building sustainable cities. Prior to this degree she received her Bachelors of Arts in environmental studies from Bucknell University and then worked as an environmental scientist, planning and permitting energy projects. Most recently, Kathryn has been working on a resiliency plan for Miami-Dade County, focusing on design interventions in the public realm. This project is occurring through a partnership between University of Pennsylvania and Arcadis.
Roland Lewis
@OurWaterfront

Roland Lewis is president and CEO of the Waterfront Alliance. A lifetime New Yorker, Roland is a graduate of Columbia University and earned both a Master of City and Regional Planning and a Juris Doctor from Rutgers University. For nine years he served as a partner in the law firm of Dellapa, Lewis, and Perseo before serving as executive director of Habitat for Humanity New York City for ten years, guiding it to become one of the top producers in the region and a nationally emulated model for Habitat for Humanity locations in other urban settings. In 2007, he took the helm of the Waterfront Alliance.

Errol Louis
@errollouis

Errol Louis joined NY1 in November 2010 as political anchor and host of “Inside City Hall,” the city’s premiere news program covering New York politics and government. Prior to joining NY1, Errol was a columnist and editorial board member of the New York Daily News. He also hosted The Morning Show on AM1600 WWRL, and in 2010 was named the city’s Best Columnist and Radio Show Host by the Village Voice. He is the co-editor of Deadline Artists (2011), and Deadline Artists: Scandals, Tragedies and Triumphs (2012), two anthologies of America’s best newspaper columns. He has also been a CNN contributor since 2008. Errol holds a Bachelor’s degree in government from Harvard University, a Master’s in political science from Yale, and a Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School.

Terry MacRae
@HornblowerNY

Terry MacRae is the CEO of Hornblower Cruises & Events, Alcatraz Cruises, Statue Cruises, Hornblower Niagara Cruises, and the co-founder of HMS Global Maritime. As CEO, he leads one of the fastest growing charter yacht, dining cruise, and maritime hospitality companies in the nation. He is an expert in the design, renovation, construction, and operation of luxury yachts, and is a highly regarded leader in the fine dining, entertainment, and tourism industries. Terry is a graduate of California State Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering.
Ross Martin
@ScotlandsCanals

Ross Martin, BSc (Hons), PGCE, FRSA, is the chair of the Scottish Waterways Trust, Scotland’s canals and rivers charity which works to increase engagement with these key aspects of Scotland’s built and natural environment. As chair of the Trust, Ross brings a wealth of experience to the role, having worked across the economic and social policy interface for the last 30 years in senior positions in the public, private, and social sectors. Ross leads for the Trust on the partnership with Scottish Canals, the organization with responsibility for their maintenance and development, creating the context for imaginative use of these key parts of Scotland’s industrial and natural heritage.

Ashley Muse
@YRGxyz

Ashley Muse is a senior sustainability manager at YR&G with ten years of experience in architectural and green building. She works on a wide range of residential, commercial, educational, cultural, and master planning projects. Ashley maintains accreditation in Living Futures, LEED AP BD+C, and the WELL Building Standard. She has expertise in passive and ecologically-driven design, energy and water efficiency, responsible materials selection, and building health and wellness. Ashley has developed and continues to teach courses on technical aspects of green building, as well as the evolving concepts and trends informing ecological design, sustainability, and resilience. Her research interests are focused on the subjects of equity and community engagement, how an understanding of place and ecology can inform design, and what it means to design for the uncertainty of climate change.

Captain John Nappo Jr.

Captain John Nappo Jr. has been on the instructional staff at Kingsborough Community College for 14 years and currently serves as the college’s director of maritime technology. After completion of his undergraduate degree from St. Francis College and his Master’s degree from St. John’s University, Captain Nappo went to work full time as master and mate on offshore fishing vessels. He remains active in the commercial fishing of Giant Bluefin and Bigeye tuna.
Pamela Pettyjohn  
@cibproject1

Pamela Pettyjohn is founder and president of Coney Island Beautification Project, Inc. (CIBP). CIBP was formed for the civic purpose to encourage community involvement and education in the enhancement of the environment and the resiliency of post Hurricane Sandy in Coney Island and surrounding areas.

Under the tutelage of the Waterfront Alliance, CIBP has expanded to include the importance of our waterways and has become an avid steward of our miles neighboring waters. Under Pamela’s leadership, CIBP has proudly grown to become a grassroots environmental organization.

John Petrillo  
@RTBbronx

John Petrillo is the sailing program director at Rocking the Boat and has been a maritime educator for more than a decade, helping young people grow through the process of learning aboard boats at sea. John has worked with students of all ages and, most notably, served as the onboard education director and history teacher for the Ocean Classroom Foundation’s High School Semester at Sea program, where he led students on semester-long voyages aboard traditional wooden sailing ships. John has run numerous sailing programs and has experience as a traditional classroom teacher at the high school and college levels, but is happiest when he is able to teach on the water.

Clint Plummer  
@DeepwaterWind

Clint Plummer serves as vice president of development for Deepwater Wind, where he manages the company’s pre-construction project development activities. Prior to joining Deepwater Wind in 2007, Clint served as vice president of asset development and underwriting for Endurant Energy, a company he co-founded. At Endurant, Clint lead the successful development of several distributed energy projects, including an 8 MW landfill gas-to-power project
in Rockford, Illinois and the 6 MW One Penn Plaza Co-Generation project in Manhattan. Clint earned a Bachelor’s in business administration from Ohio State University, a Master’s of Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is currently completing an Executive MPA at New York University.

**Melinda Rekdahl, Ph.D.**

Dr. Melinda Rekdahl is a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Ocean Giants Program at the Wildlife Conservation Society. Melinda obtained her Doctor of Philosophy in bioacoustics and marine biology from the University of Queensland in Australia. She specializes in acoustics, behavioral ecology, and conservation of marine mammals with a particular focus on exploring how the acoustic environment (including biological and anthropogenic noise) influence marine mammal behavior, and how such knowledge can be used to inform conservation efforts. Melinda has worked on a range of marine mammal projects around the world and is now primarily focused on research and conservation of marine mammals in Africa and now here in New York.

**Denise M. Richardson**

@GCANewYork

Denise M. Richardson is the executive director of the General Contractors Association (GCA) of New York, a 300 member trade association that represents New York City’s unionized, heavy civil/public works construction contractors. Prior to joining the GCA in 2006, Denise had more than 20 years of construction contract and management experience including positions at NYC DEP, MTA/New York City Transit, the former NYC Department of General Services (now DDC), NYC Department of Sanitation, and Honeywell International. A member of the Waterfront Alliance board of directors, she is also vice chair of the Regional Plan Association and is on the board of the New York League of Conservation Voters.
Kathy Robb
@envilaw

Kathy Robb is a partner at Sive, Paget & Riesel P.C, the nation’s first environmental law firm, where her practice focuses on litigation in federal courts. She was previously a partner at Hunton & Williams where she focused on energy and environmental litigation, regulation, and counseling before federal, state, and administrative courts, including water, solid and hazardous waste, nuclear materials, wetlands, endangered species, sustainability, and environmental transaction issues. She is founder and director of the Water Policy Institute, which seeks innovative solutions to water supply and quality issues. Kathy serves on the Waterfront Alliance’s board of trustees as vice-chair, as well as on the boards of the Environmental Law Institute, the advisory board of Bloomberg BNA’s Environmental Due Diligence Guide, and the Women’s Network for a Sustainable Future, which she cofounded and chairs.

Carrie Roble
@hudsonriverpark

Carrie Roble is a spirited marine scientist committed to protecting and restoring urban watersheds through community participation. As the director of science and stewardship at Hudson River Park, she dedicates her work to the health of the Hudson River and empowering New Yorkers to be stewards of New York City’s waterways. Carrie’s Master of Science in aquatic science and environmental justice from University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources informs her work, and she continues to seek out opportunities to learn: she is an Environmental Leadership Program Senior Fellow, National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation facilitator, + Pool advisory committee member, boat captain, and water adventurer.

Tom Schadt

Tom Schadt is principal at Anchor QEA, LLC, and has more than 35 years of experience in environmental consulting, including nationwide experience with sediment remediation. Tom’s areas of focus include sediment cleanup projects, investigating water and sediment quality and biological effects, and developing strategies for sediment remediation and habitat restoration. His project experience
includes Superfund mega-sites, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, state-lead sites, litigation, and voluntary action sites. Tom has worked on a wide range of sites, from freshwater creeks, rivers, and lakes to marine estuaries and large bays; including extensive experience at urban river and waterway sites. He currently serves as the project manager for the Newtown Creek Group for the implementation of the RI/FS at the Newtown Creek Superfund Site.

Akila Simon

Akila Simon migrated from Trinidad and Tobago and studied accounting at Adelphi University. She is an external auditor by training with more than 10 years of working experience in the banking and securities industry, and currently works for the United Nations. Akila is the head coach of the Empire Dragon Boat All Cancer Survivor Club of New York, as well as a founding and board member of the Guardians of Flushing Bay. Her advocacy work with the Guardians focuses efforts around activities leading to enhanced community access, and improved water quality, as well as protecting the environmental and recreational integrity of the Flushing Bay.

Captain Aaron Singh

Captain Aaron Singh has been sailing for the last 25 years in New York Harbor, Long Island Sound, and up and down the East Coast from Maine to the Caribbean. As a New York City kid his love for the water began aboard a Sea Scout ship sailing out of City Island, in the Bronx. A public high school internship at South Street Seaport Museum introduced him to the marine industry and subsequently led him to command a wide array of vessels from 600 passenger catamaran ferries to wooden tug boats to 125ft Gloucester fishing schooner. Captain Singh has been involved with the New York Harbor School since 2003 as teaching captain through the South Street Seaport Museum. He has since joined the New York City Department of Education to become a public school teacher at the New York Harbor School on Governors Island. He has worked to create a three-year New York State approved career and technical education program for vessel operations. In addition to his teaching duties, he serves as the school’s waterfront director, overseeing marine operations on Governors Island and the Brooklyn Navy Yard.
Michael Stamatis

Michael Stamatis is the president of Red Hook Container Terminal. He has 30 years of experience in the maritime industry, beginning as a dock laborer handling break-bulk bananas in the early 1980’s for the Noboa Group of companies, Ecuadorian Line Inc./Pacific Fruit Inc. Working his way up, he spent numerous years working as vessel agent, in vessel operations, as a vessel stevedoring and terminal operations manager, warehousing and distribution, sales, and logistics, and then on to senior vice president. In 2011, Michael left Noboa and accepted the position of president of Red Hook Container Terminal, where his focus is on continuing to build a first-class stevedoring and terminal operating company.

Gina Stovall

Gina Stovall is a senior policy analyst for the New York State Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, and is the FutureCoast Research Lead for the Polar Learning and Responding Climate Change Education Partnership (PoLAR CCEP). FutureCoast, a storytelling game, engages the public on the topic of climate change while connecting them to educators and experts. Gina’s research focuses on innovative, data-driven strategies for climate communication and response within non-expert, expert, and decision-making communities. She holds a Master’s degree in climate variability and change from Columbia University and a Bachelor’s of Science in geology from The City College of New York.

Joel Szabat

Joel Szabat serves as the Executive Director, In Lieu of the Maritime Administrator, Maritime Administration (MARAD), in the U.S. Department of Transportation. He assists the Administrator in establishing policies, programs, and priorities for the agency. He supervises staff and programs that: manage a fleet of reserve vessels and coordinate with commercial carriers to ensure a rapid response to any military mobilization or national emergency; oversee an array of programs that fund, assist, protect, and support American ports, shipyards, mariners, and vessels sailing under the U.S.-flag; operate the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York; and assist six state maritime academies. Joel received
a Bachelor of Arts in economics and government from Georgetown University and an MBA from Harvard Business School. Between Georgetown and Harvard, he served in the United States Army during the Cold War, commanding tank units that patrolled the East-West German border.

**Chris Ward**  
@OurWaterfront

Chris Ward is a senior vice president and chief executive for the metro area at AECOM and serves as chair of the board of trustees of the Waterfront Alliance. Previously he served as the executive director of The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey from 2008 to 2011. He was also president of the Port Authority’s wholly owned entities: Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corporation, the Newark Legal and Communications Center Urban Renewal Corporation, and the New York and New Jersey Railroad Corporation. His previous positions at the Port Authority included chief of planning and external affairs as well as director of port redevelopment. Before that, Chris spent much of his professional career with the City of New York in various capacities, including as senior vice president for transportation and commerce at the Economic Development Corporation, assistant commissioner of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy, director of research at the Department of Consumer Affairs, and commissioner of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. In the private sector, Chris was an executive vice president of Dragados USA, chief executive officer of American Stevedoring, and managing director of the General Contractors Association of New York, Inc.

**Matthew Washington**

Matthew Washington is a Deputy Borough President in the office of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer. He is an East Harlem native, a product of the New York City public school system, and served East Harlem as a member of Community Board 11 for more than 10 years, where he was the Chairperson for six years. Matthew has a commitment to serving others and has done so as a member of the board of directors for the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, Voices UnBroken, Harvest Home Farmers Market, El Barrio’s Operation Fightback, the New York City Chapter of the New York League of Conservation Voters, and Learning through...
an Expanded Arts Program. In his professional life, some of Matthew’s previous positions were deputy director of Friends of Hudson River Park, executive director of Friends of the High School for Environmental Studies, and deputy director of external affairs at The Durst Organization. He is a graduate of Alfred University.

Susan Winfree
@NYSANews

Susan Winfree is vice president, workforce development & corporate diversity officer with the New York Shipping Association (NYSA). Graduating from USMMA, Susan has 22 years of experience in the maritime industry, with TFL, Sea-Land, consulting, and NYSA, holding positions in the ports of Portsmouth, Baltimore, and Elizabeth. Having earned a Master of Arts in teaching, she taught at the secondary level for 10 years. At NYSA, Susan refines and implements recruiting, hiring, and training processes. Recently, Susan drove efforts to recruit and hire more than 750 longshore workers, including more than 400 U.S. military veterans, positioning the port for future growth. She has served as an employer representative at the ILO and a member of the NMSA board of directors and technical committee.

Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez
@NydiaVelazquez

Representative Nydia M. Velázquez is currently serving her thirteenth term as Representative for New York’s 7th Congressional District. In the 115th Congress, she is the Ranking Member of the House Small Business Committee and a senior member of the Financial Services Committee. She has made history several times during her tenure in Congress, including in 1992, when she was the first Puerto Rican woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. As a fighter for equal rights of the underrepresented and a proponent of economic opportunity for the working class and poor, Congresswoman Velázquez combines sensibility and compassion, as she works to encourage economic development, protect community health and the environment, combat crime and worker abuses, and secure access to affordable housing, quality education and health care for all New York City families.
Robert Yaro

Robert Yaro is president emeritus of Regional Plan Association (RPA) and a senior advisor to the organization. For more than 40 years, Robert has been a practitioner and thought leader in urban, transportation, and environmental planning in the United States and around the world. He served as president of RPA from 2001–2014 and has been part of the organization’s leadership for more than a quarter century. He led development of and co-wrote RPA’s third regional plan, “A Region at Risk,” and initiated the organization’s fourth regional plan in 2013. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, he convened the Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York, a broad coalition of civic groups that helped plan the rebuilding of the World Trade Center and Lower Manhattan. Robert holds a Master’s in City and Regional Planning from Harvard University and a Bachelor’s degree in urban studies from Wesleyan University. He is currently a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design, City and Regional Planning.
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Highlights of the day include free boat tours on all kinds of vessels, from tall ships to tugboats; free rowing, kayaking, paddle-boarding, and the highly anticipated Con Edison Cardboard Kayak Race; and the Waterfront Activity Fair and Disney Children’s Activities offer something for the whole family. New this year, there will be a performance of Arm-of-the-Sea Theater’s *The Rejuvenary River Circus*.

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