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Defining and Delivering Equity at the Waterfront

The Waterfront Alliance Presents the Waterfront Conference on May 12

Keynote Conversation with Maria Torres-Springer, president and CEO of the NYC Economic Development Corporation and Michael Sorkin, director of the Graduate Urban Design Program at The City College

New York, NY—The Waterfront Alliance's annual [Waterfront Conference](#) on **Thursday, May 12** will offer a packed, daylong program revolving around the theme **Defining and Delivering Equity at the Waterfront**. Recognizing that the route to equity can take parallel avenues—from fresh financial resources and innovative management plans to creative outreach that encourages access and stewardship—the 2016 Waterfront Conference will feature more than 40 speakers from a range of professions to address challenging topics and spur across-the-aisle dialogue. This year's conference also will host, for the first time, **Waterfront Scholars**: 100 maritime-minded college and graduate students who were selected to attend the conference after entering an essay contest sponsored by [Arcadis](#).

The region's only floating conference, the Waterfront Conference each year attracts more than 600 attendees from a wide range of disciplines who gather to discuss waterfront initiatives and maritime policy. The conference takes place aboard the [Hornblower Infinity](#), dockside at Hudson River Park, Pier 40, in the morning and cruising New York Harbor throughout the afternoon. This year, Maria Torres-Springer, president and CEO of the NYC Economic Development Corporation, and Michael Sorkin, director of the Graduate Urban Design Program at The City College and president of Terreform, will launch the event with a keynote conversation.

"New York City's 520 miles of waterfront have been a central part of our City's past, and provide a key to our economic future," said Ms. Torres-Springer. "From launching the Citywide Ferry Service, to investing in jobs along our working waterfront, and strengthening our shoreline, it's our aim to leverage our waterfront for inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic growth and public access throughout the City. I want to thank the Waterfront Alliance for pushing forward this important conversation on the future of one of our City's greatest assets."

Populated with experts from around the region, the event continues with interactive panel discussions:

- **Who Foots the Bill?** Financing and management of public waterfronts
- **What If?** The politics and psychology of "managed retreat"
- **Getting Us All to Care:** A campaign for water quality?
- **Their Waterfronts:** A(n inter)national focus in waterfront equity

- **Forgotten Waterfronts:** Activating and engaging the shoreline
- **Thinking Ahead:** New York's next Comprehensive Waterfront Plan
- **The Next Generation:** Bringing urban youth to the water
- **Recap of the Deep Dives Speaker Series**

Please note that the panel discussion titled "Their Waterfronts" features waterfront experts from New Orleans, Boston, and Toronto. [View a full list of speakers and panel descriptions.](#)

"The metropolitan region's waterfront is being rapidly transformed as a place of both privilege and peril," Michael Sorkin said. "One of our greatest planning challenges is to balance the claims of equitable access with the need to protect our coastline from the accelerating dangers of sea-level rise and storms being brought on by climate change: we urgently need to find strategies to guarantee both equal protection and equal pleasure for all of us. That's why the discussion at this year's Waterfront Conference will be so important."

"Hornblower is pleased to once again be a major sponsor of the Waterfront Alliance's annual conference," said Hornblower CEO Terry MacRae. "For New York Harbor to continue to evolve and prosper, it requires the best talent and the brightest ideas. The Waterfront Conference is a great forum to encourage participation in this continued evolution, and we look forward to another exciting program aboard the *Hornblower Infinity*."

As the *Hornblower Infinity* turns back toward the dock in the late afternoon, the conference will conclude with the spring **Heroes of the Harbor** awards ceremony and cocktails. This year, the Waterfront Alliance is honoring the first cohort of Waterfront Scholars as Heroes of the Harbor. These 100 students, representing more than two dozen colleges and universities from around the region, are being hailed as the next generation of waterfront stewards.

In another first, this year's Waterfront Conference has been preceded by **Deep Dives**, a six-part series of interactive discussions about the future of our region's waterfronts held every Wednesday from March 30–May 4. Sponsored by Arcadis and AKRF and hosted by Cornell AAP NYC, **Deep Dives** are free and open to the public, and have resulted, gratifyingly, in the Waterfront Alliance engaging new audiences about vital waterfront issues.

"If we're talking about equity and inclusiveness at the waterfront, then we've got to figure out new ways to draw more stakeholders to the conversation," said Roland Lewis, president and CEO of the Waterfront Alliance. "I'm pleased to report that we heard new voices at our Deep Dives discussion series, and we're expecting great new ideas from the Waterfront Scholars—indeed, from all our attendees!—at this year's Waterfront Conference."

[Learn more about the Waterfront Conference and purchase tickets](#) (\$120 regular ticket; \$50 government agencies and nonprofits). Registration and breakfast is from 8am–8:45am; the boat is dockside at Pier 40, Hudson River Park until 1pm; afternoon harbor cruise returns at 5pm.

Continuing education credits

AIA CES: 5.5 LU | HSW
 LA CES: 6.25 HSW PDHs
 APA AICP CM pending

The Waterfront Conference is generously sponsored by:

Venue Sponsor: [The Hornblower Family of Companies](#)

Premier Sponsor and Waterfront Scholars: [Arcadis](#)

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The [Waterfront Alliance](#) works to protect, transform, and revitalize our harbor and waterfront.