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**On May 12, Hundreds of Stakeholders will
Discuss How Best to Deliver Equity at the Waterfront**

***2016 Waterfront Conference to Begin with Keynote Conversation between
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—An uncommon "keynote conversation" between two powerhouse waterfront stakeholders will launch the [2016 Waterfront Conference](#) on Thursday, May 12. **Maria Torres-Springer**, president and CEO of the New York City Economic Development Corporation, will sit down with **Michael Sorkin**, director of the Graduate Urban Design Program at The City College and president of Terreform, the Center for Advanced Urban Research, to talk before an enthusiastic audience about how we, as a region, can ensure that our waterways and shoreline are a resource for jobs, education, transportation, and recreation for all people.

Hundreds more notable waterfront leaders, officials, and advocates gathered aboard the magnificent *Hornblower Infinity* for the daylong event, along with more than 40 speakers, will address topics in waterfront initiatives and maritime policy related to the conference theme of **Defining and Delivering Equity at the Waterfront**, all the while looking to spur creative ideas and partnerships.

"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."

Presented annually by the [Waterfront Alliance](#), the Waterfront Conference provides a daylong platform for dialogue about the future of the region's waterfronts and waterways. Populated with experts from around the region, the event will feature 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."

For the first time, **Waterfront Scholars**—100 maritime-minded college and graduate students from more than 40 institutions who entered a Waterfront Conference essay contest sponsored by [Arcadis](#)— will be participating in the event. At the end of the day, as the *Hornblower Infinity* turns back toward the dock, the conference will conclude with the spring **Heroes of the Harbor** awards ceremony and cocktails. This year, the Waterfront Alliance is hailing the first cohort of Waterfront Scholars as Heroes of the Harbor and the next generation of waterfront stewards.

In another first, this year's Waterfront Conference was preceded by **Deep Dives**, a six-part series of interactive discussions about the future of the region's waterfronts, sponsored by Arcadis and AKRF and hosted by Cornell University. Both the Waterfront Scholars and the *Deep Dives* programs succeeded in attracting new audiences to talk 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; the afternoon harbor cruise returns at 5pm.

Continuing Education Credits

AIA CES: 5.5 LU | HSW
 LA CES: 6.25 HSW PDHs
 APA AICP CM 10 Credits

The Waterfront Conference is generously sponsored by:

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