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MEASURING OUR HARBOR: STRONG, HEALTHY, AND OPEN

The Waterfront Alliance Presents the 2017 Waterfront Conference on May 10

Featured speakers include Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez, Member of Congress; Joel Szabat, Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator, U.S. Department of Transportation; Hon. Ras J. Baraka, Mayor, City of Newark; and Alicia Glen, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development, City of New York

New York, NY—This year's [Waterfront Conference—Measuring Our Harbor: Strong, Healthy, and Open](#)—features an all-star lineup of participants and panelists ready to discuss challenging issues and interact with hundreds of waterfront advocates, policy-makers, and professionals.

The Waterfront Alliance's annual Waterfront Conference is the region's premier forum for discourse on our shared waterways. It takes place this year on **Wednesday, May 10** aboard the *Hornblower Infinity*, dockside at Hudson River Park, Pier 40, in the morning, and cruising New York Harbor throughout the afternoon. After New York City Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen delivers the opening address, Joel Szabat, the country's top maritime official from the U.S. Department of Transportation, and Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez will join Mayor Ras J. Baraka of Newark, New Jersey, to launch the conference with **What Now? Navigating uncertain waters ahead for our waterfronts**.

This plenary session will be followed by **Get Wet When You Want, Stay Dry When You Need: A scorecard for strong, healthy, and open waterfronts**, a presentation about our region's first harbor scorecard. An up-to-date, neighborhood-by-neighborhood evaluation of our shorelines by the Waterfront Alliance, the harbor scorecard will be an easy-to-understand tool ready for use by residents across the region as they advocate for more waterfront access, better water quality, and protection from flooding. Arcadis Global Lead for Water Management Piet Dircke will provide insight into New York's performance in a global context using the [Arcadis Sustainable Cities Water Index](#), which measures 50 global cities by the stewardship of their water resources.

More than 500 conference attendees are expected.

"Simultaneously achieving more waterfront jobs, greater recreational opportunities, and environmental protection of our New York harbor is a challenge that requires cooperation at all levels of government," said Rep. Velázquez. "We need to work together to keep strengthening and improving the maritime freight network, environmental stewardship, and coastal resiliency through wise investment of federal and local resources. This event promises a robust discussion on how to achieve these goals, and I look forward to participating."

"Our maritime abilities are a critical component to whether we maintain the number one economy in the world. It will also determine whether we are going to continue to be able to protect our shores and help our allies in times of crisis," Mr. Szabat said.

"We're on the cusp of a transformative moment for our waterways," said Deputy Mayor Glen. "In just two weeks, we're launching the first lines of a new citywide ferry service that will carry millions of New Yorkers across our rivers and our harbor. With 21 landings, NYC Ferry is going to knit our city closer together. We cannot wait to celebrate its launch at this year's Waterfront Conference!"

"The City of Newark is pleased to join the dialogue on our shared waterfront at the Waterfront Conference," said Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka. "Just like the three-mile-long strait that connects the waters of Newark Bay with the Upper New York Bay, those of us in leadership in this region are irrevocably joined in matters which affect the environment and its effects on our citizens. I believe that a discourse on the value that our waterfront brings to the economic viability and health and well-being of our communities is both critical and necessary."

"For ten years, the Waterfront Alliance has worked to bring real change to our harbor and waterfront," said Chris Ward, chairman of the Waterfront Alliance. "On May 10, we'll gather once again for a day of solution-oriented discussion, talking about climate change, resiliency, building pipelines for maritime careers, and so many other critical waterfront-related topics. This is the day each year that hundreds of waterfront stakeholders connect, communicate, and create change."

For the third year, Arcadis is the premier sponsor of the Waterfront Conference, and for the second year, the sponsor of [Arcadis Waterfront Scholars](#), a program that invites more than 70 undergraduate and graduate students to participate in a day of learning and networking. Hornblower Cruises and Events is the venue sponsor.

"New York City ranked #14 out of 50 global cities we measured in the 2016 Sustainable Cities Water Index, which shows room for improvement in water management, particularly for resiliency," said Mr. Dircke. "We found that cities that creatively use their waterfront assets for urban advantage will ultimately be more livable, safe and competitive, while attracting tourism and investment. This conference is another important step in realizing available options for creating a more resilient waterfront."

"Every year, the Waterfront Conference offers an important forum in which to talk about the opportunities and challenges of New York Harbor," said Hornblower CEO Terry MacRae. "Hornblower is pleased to be a major sponsor, and we look forward to inspired participation on May 10."

"Hornblower, Arcadis, and all our sponsors know that the Waterfront Conference is the one day and the one place that we can all get together, reach across the aisle, and talk about waterfront issues," said Waterfront Alliance president and CEO Roland Lewis. "We are grateful to our sponsors for making this event possible."

[Learn more about the Waterfront Conference and purchase tickets](#) (\$150 regular ticket; \$75 government agencies and nonprofits; \$50 students). Registration and breakfast is 8am to 8:45am; the boat is dockside at Pier 40, Hudson River Park until 1pm; the afternoon harbor cruise returns at 5pm. Continuing education credits will be offered (AIA CES; with APA AICP CM, and LA CES credits pending).

The Waterfront Conference is generously sponsored by:

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