

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Water Day is July 13, 2019

Harbor-Wide Day in Partnership with the South Street Seaport Museum and the New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program to Champion a Climate Resilient Harbor

The Howard Hughes Corporation® Returns as Presenting Sponsor

New York, NY—[City of Water Day](#), a free harbor-wide festival organized by the [Waterfront Alliance](#) to get people to, on, and in the water, will be held for the 12th year on Saturday, July 13, 2019. [The Howard Hughes Corporation®](#) returns as this year's presenting sponsor.

In partnership with the [South Street Seaport Museum](#), the festival headquarters will be held for the second year in a row in Lower Manhattan's Seaport District, where the beating heart of our harbor's past, present, and future will unite New Yorkers and visitors for a day of waterfront exploration, learning, and fun, including children's activities sponsored by [Disney](#).

Visitors to Piers 16 and 17 will have the opportunity to meet local marine life, participate in crafts, science experiments, and other water-related activities, and learn about the work of the many organizations that connect New Yorkers to our waterfront, work towards resiliency, and protect and preserve our resources.

The one-and-only [Con Edison](#) Cardboard Kayak Race will return to Lower Manhattan, to the delight of onlookers. In two short hours, 15 teams, from high school students to professional engineers, will use nothing more than cardboard and tape to build their seaworthy vessels—and then jump in and race them in the East River.

Free PortNYC Boat Tours on all kinds of vessels, from tall ships to tugboats, will be offered at docks throughout New York City by individual boat tour operators, with additional sponsorship from the [New York City Economic Development Corporation](#).

Dozens of communities in New York and New Jersey will host their own City of Water Day events in celebration of our region's 1,600 miles of coastline. Produced in collaboration with the [New York–New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program \(HEP\)](#), the *In Your Neighborhood* program annually engages hundreds of organizations in all five boroughs, Westchester County, and New Jersey to host free public events on their local waterfronts. City of Water Day and *In Your Neighborhood* events are supported in part by the [New York City Council](#).

The day's activities will champion the shared goal of a climate-resilient harbor that is prepared for rising seas and increased coastal storms. More than six years after Hurricane Sandy, storms of similar magnitude and increasing frequency across the nation continue to serve as a reminder of the region's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. More than 400,000 New Yorkers have a 50 percent chance of a major flood in their homes by 2060.

"Our waterfront is what helped make New York City, New York City," said **Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**. "City of Water Day is a way to celebrate that, and at the same time help educate us all to the need to prepare for its destructive force. My thanks to the Waterfront Alliance for mounting this event and to all the participants, including the South Street Seaport Museum and sponsor Howard Hughes Corporation."

“City of Water Day has become an annual tradition that reminds us all of the central role our waterfront plays in our past, present, and future,” said **New York City Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. “In Lower Manhattan, we are familiar with the opportunities and the challenges brought by our proximity to the water. By participating in events like this one, we reaffirm our commitment to never again turn our backs on our city’s greatest resource and the source of its strength through history. That includes coming together to protect our coastline from sea level rise and more powerful storms brought on by global climate change. I thank Waterfront Alliance for helping to lead the way toward a more resilient future.”

“We are proud to once again sponsor City of Water Day, an impactful initiative celebrating our City’s incredible waterfronts,” said **Saul Scherl, President of the New York Tri-State Region at The Howard Hughes Corporation**. “With the revitalization of the Seaport District, we are pleased to be bringing New Yorkers back to this historic neighborhood to reclaim their relationship with its iconic waterfront. We look forward to welcoming New Yorkers to the Seaport throughout the summer to take advantage of all the exciting programming that will be taking place—along the waterfront and on The Rooftop at Pier 17, including the return of our Summer Concert Series set against the one-of-a-kind panoramic views of Lower Manhattan.”

“City of Water Day gives all of us a chance to focus on New York’s waterways. As a city born from a port, New York has always had an important relationship with the water. The Seaport Museum is excited to offer programming and activities that reconnect us with that water and that allow us to consider the future of recreation, commerce, and resilience of this maritime city,” said **Captain Jonathan Boulware, President and CEO of the South Street Seaport Museum**.

“From the Bronx River to the Passaic River, from Jamaica Bay to the Hoboken waterfront, City of Water Day *In Your Neighborhood* programs will help people from all over the region celebrate their local waterways. Local civic organizations host these special events. The New York–New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program (HEP) is proud to support City of Water Day and the *In Your Neighborhood* programs all over the estuary,” said **Rob Pirani, HEP Program Director**.

“NYCEDC is proud to support City of Water Day, a citywide festival that reminds us of the region’s greatest asset, New York Harbor. We encourage all New Yorkers to partake in the day’s festivities and rediscover why New York City is the greatest maritime city in the world,” said **Matthew Kwatinetz, EVP, NYCEDC**. “Through our work on NYC Ferry, which continues to expand throughout all five boroughs, and PortNYC, which contains the fifth largest cruise port in the nation, we are focused on ensuring New York Harbor remains the crossroads of transportation, culture, and commerce.”

“City of Water Day is a wonderful celebration of the great natural resource our waterways afford all New Yorkers,” said **David Gmach, Con Edison’s New York City Director of Regional and Community Affairs**. Since 2014, Con Edison has supported the cardboard kayak race, the day’s most anticipated and creative event.

“This year on City of Water Day, as we gather at shorelines all around the metropolitan region to enjoy our beautiful waterways, let us resolve to engage in important and necessary conversations about resiliency and access,” said **Roland Lewis, President and CEO of the Waterfront Alliance**. “This is a day to play, and a day to acknowledge our shared responsibility. As climate change irrevocably transforms our lives, we must address this regional, national, and global emergency together.”

The [Waterfront Alliance](#) inspires and effects resilient, revitalized, and accessible coastlines for all communities.

The [South Street Seaport Museum](#) preserves and interprets the origins and growth of New York City as a world port, a place where goods, labor, and cultures are exchanged through work, commerce, and the interaction of diverse communities.

The [New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program \(HEP\)](#) is a collaborative effort to bring the benefits of clean water to the people who live, work, and recreate on our shared waterways. HEP is hosted by the Hudson River Foundation.

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