



**2019 Waterfront Conference
Draft Program Content
May 7, 2019**

**REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
8am–8:45am**

**PORT AUTHORITY WATERFRONT SCHOLARS WELCOME BREAKFAST
8am–8:45am**

Rick Larrabee, Waterfront Alliance Board of Trustee
Hillary Lane, Waterfront Alliance Board of Trustee
Port Authority (TBC)

**WELCOME REMARKS
8:45am–9am**

Roland Lewis, President and CEO, Waterfront Alliance
Terry MacRae, CEO, Hornblower Cruises & Events

KEYNOTES

**WELCOME FROM THE BOARD
FACING THE FACTS: A REPORT FROM THE NEW YORK CITY PANEL ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**

9am–9:15am
Speaker TBC

**TRUTHOGANDA: THE POWER OF MARKETING CLIMATE CHANGE
CHUCK NICE, COMEDIAN**

9:15am–9:30am

Climate change can sometimes be a hard concept to visualize and to talk about among different constituencies. Comedian Chuck Nice is trying to change that by activating people to engage and ask questions and change perceptions.

**REMARKS BY NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COSTA CONSTANTINIDES,
CHAIR, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

9:30am–9:40am

ARMCHAIR DISCUSSION WITH COMPTROLLER SCOTT M. STRINGER

9:40am–10:10am

New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer says that the “future is with big ideas in clean energy, not big polluters.” New York City has set its sights on becoming a world leader in the fight against climate change. In a conversation with Marketplace’s Janet Babin, the Comptroller addresses the key components in turning those big ideas into reality. Funding is one of the more formidable obstacles to achieving environmental sustainability and resiliency in New York City. The Comptroller will discuss the economics of sustainability and how New York City has significantly advanced in the area of financing for resilient infrastructure. The Comptroller will also outline the roles of New York City Pension Funds, divestment from fossil fuels, and the green bonds program in making New York City a more resilient city.

Participants:

Facilitator: Janet Babin, *Marketplace*
Scott M. Stringer, New York City Comptroller

MORNING PANELS

INTRODUCTION: WHO STAYS DRY? THE RISK IS HIGH AND THE WATER’S GETTING HIGHER

10:15am–10:45am

Six years after the devastation of Super Storm Sandy, our region is stronger, but still vulnerable to the increasing risks brought by climate change. How we ensure the safety of millions of lives and billions of dollars of property and infrastructure, how we finance and administrate that protection and how we communicate the urgency of the need are questions that beg better answers. Co-chairs of Waterfront Alliance’s Resiliency Task Force will underscore the process by which we are building consensus across NY and NJ to implement practical solutions to the most pressing issue of our time. As climate risk continues to steepen, the time for a shared resilience action agenda is now.

Participants:

Facilitator: Janet Babin, *Marketplace*
Peter Kasabach, Executive Director, New Jersey Future
Peter Madonia, former Chief Operating Officer of The Rockefeller Foundation and Waterfront Alliance Board of Trustee
Peggy Shepard, Executive Director, WE ACT for Environmental Justice and Waterfront Alliance Board of Trustee

PLENARY: WE'RE UNDER THIS TOGETHER: PLANNING FOR BIG FLOODS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

10:45am–11:30am

Several cities across our nation have experienced and endured the devastation of flooding events. Big floods have been deemed as a matter of national security. The destruction and damage following severe flooding leaves many communities disrupted, isolated, and vulnerable. From Hurricane Sandy to Hurricane Michael, the nation has rallied together behind these communities in efforts to help them recuperate and recover.

Cities need to form a collaborative network to share information and learn from each other in order to become better prepared and resilient to flooding events. Our panelists, from across the nation, will discuss lessons learned from New Jersey, Norfolk, Miami and New Orleans and will discuss the key threats, preparedness strategies and state and municipal best practices regarding extreme weather events.

Participants:

Facilitator: John Boulé, Senior Vice President, Dewberry and Waterfront Alliance Board of Trustee

Alan Dodd, COL (R), Director, Resilience and Public Works, City of Miami

Catherine McCabe, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Andria McClellan, Norfolk City Council Member

Daniel Kellerman, Vice President and Central Division Operations Officer, HNTB Corporation

BREAK

11:30am–11:45am

CONCURRENT I: CLIMATE RESILIENT SOLUTIONS FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND OPEN SPACES

11:45am–12:30pm (MAIN DECK)

From the Bronx to Staten Island to Jersey City, neighborhoods across our region are on the frontlines of climate change. Communities along the local waterfront are especially vulnerable to threats resulting from coastal storms and sea level rise and are in need of protection. To respond, municipalities have established new policies and practices to transform neighborhoods—from our streets to our parks—into more resilient and equitable spaces. Municipal leaders in planning, sustainability, and parks from New York City and Jersey City will examine the process of identifying and implementing local resiliency solutions within neighborhoods along our waterfront.

Participants:

Facilitator: Denise Richardson, Executive Director, General Contractors Association
Annisia Cialone, PP, AICP, LEED AP, Director, Housing, Economic Development and Commerce, Jersey City
Anita Laremont, Executive Director/Chief Analytic Officer, New York City Department of City Planning
Mitchell J. Silver, Commissioner, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
Daniel A. Zarrilli, PE, Chief Climate Policy Advisor, OneNYC Director, NYC Office of the Mayor

CONCURRENT II: SCALING THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATIVE GREEN FINANCE SOLUTIONS

11:45am–12:30pm (INFINITY LOUNGE)

Financial innovation is critical to ensuring that private capital flows into our region's resiliency projects. Thought leaders in municipal finance, disaster recovery, and impact investing will share ideas on how environmental problems can be addressed both effectively and profitably using business models and private capital. This panel will examine various financial instruments that leverage private investment to support high-impact environmental programs.

Participants:

Facilitator: Chris Ward, Waterfront Alliance Board Chair
Eric Glass, Portfolio Manager, AllianceBernstein
Alan Rubin, Principal, Blank Rome Government Relations

LUNCH

12:30pm–1:30pm

Hornblower *Infinity* Leaves Dock at 1pm

LUNCH BRIEFING

NEW YORK CITY COMPREHENSIVE WATERFRONT PLAN: THE NEXT TEN YEARS

1pm–1:15pm

New York City has officially kicked-off the planning stages for the next Comprehensive Waterfront Plan. Published every ten years, the Comprehensive Water Plan outlines the strategic vision of the City's waterfront for the decade ahead and has traditionally encompassed priorities such as expanding public access, supporting the working waterfront, and restoring the ecology of our shores. The plan is scheduled to be released in 2020, with public input beginning in 2019. Hear from Director of Waterfront and Open Space Planning for the New York City Department of City Planning, Michael

Marrella, discuss the goals of the new plan, and engage in an interactive information gathering with the audience.

Participants:

Michael Marrella, AICP, Director of Waterfront and Open Space Planning for the New York City Department of City Planning

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

CONCURRENT SESSIONS (A&B)

A: GET BACK: IS MANAGED RETREAT GOING MAINSTREAM? (MAIN DECK)

1:30pm–2:30pm

In areas where the coastal hazard risks are especially high, is it better to retreat than rebuild? As sea levels rise, policy makers are working to protect vulnerable communities and their infrastructure. While resiliency guidelines and planning have made strides in risk reduction, many are still saying it is not enough. Managed retreat is a coastal management strategy that essentially aims to buy out and relocate properties along the shoreline to transform the area back into green space.

Panelists will be asked to examine the cost-benefits of managed retreat in our region; ecological best practices; and consider examples of communities facing retreat as an option and the factors leading to these decisions. What conditions must be met for this strategy to be successfully implemented? What are the repercussions for the relocating communities?

Participants:

Facilitator: Rich Kassel, Executive Vice President, Capalino+Company

Susannah Drake, Principal, DLANDstudio

Fawn Z. McGee, Executive Director, New Jersey Blue Acres Director

Deborah Morris, Executive Director of Resiliency Planning, Policy, and Acquisitions at New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development

B. INNOVATORS PRESENT (INFINITY LOUNGE)

1:30pm–2:30pm

Our region's waterfronts are a place for innovation. The solutions needed to address coastal resiliency and land use challenges increasingly call for new and innovative approaches engineering, technology, ecology, and other sectors. Hear from leading innovators in three separate brief presentations.

1. Crunching the Numbers: A Data Analytics View of the Waterfront

Speaker: Steven Kalifowitz, President, Localize.city

Localize.city offers unique and interesting insights on any address in the five boroughs through the use of artificial intelligence. The technology analyzes thousands of data-sets, extracts what's potentially relevant, and converts that into insightful information for users. Steve Kalifowitz, President of Localize.city, will discuss how those data sets have illuminated how and what we are building in the flood plain and new green spaces, along many other facets of living in New York City.

2. View from Norway:

Yara Birkeland: Autonomous Logistics for a Zero Emission Future

Speaker: Peter Due, Executive Vice President, Yara Birkeland

The Yara Birkeland is an autonomous container ship developed in Norway due to be launched this year. The Yara Birkeland project is planned to be the first fully autonomous logistics concept from industrial site operations, port operations, and vessel operations in the world.

3. Heather Morgan, Sustainability and Risk Management Lead, AECOM

Heather Morgan will discuss our region's aging assets and an uncertain water future. What are the holistic, integrated approaches to addressing resiliency infrastructure challenges?

BREAK

2:30pm–2:45pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS (C&D)

C. A PICTURE IS WORTH ONE THOUSAND WORDS: BREAKING THROUGH WITH CLIMATE ART (MAIN DECK)

2:45pm–3:30pm

How can abstract ways of communicating and storytelling help get out the message that science is real? For many, the discussion around climate change is still unclear, uncomfortable, or seems removed from daily life. Yet the arts provide a platform to have a compelling and interesting conversation about climate change.

This panel will explore how artists and their work serve as a conduit for displaying and interpreting the science of climate change, as well as shaping dialogue about climate change. Can art change our perception and thoughts on climate change? Can art be used to empower people to access and engage with climate change in a positive way?

Participants:

Facilitator: Michelle Young, Founder, *Untapped Cities*

Lisa Goulet, Curatorial Fellow, Climate Museum
Nathan Kensinger, Photographer, Filmmaker and Curator
Jon Leland, Climate Change Activist, This Place Will be Water

D. ENVISIONING TRENDS AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE (INFINITY LOUNGE)

2:45pm–3:30pm

Speakers in this series are having transformative impacts on how we perceive, react to, and embrace resiliency and waterfront planning. Presenters explore planning, infrastructure and ecology trends in their respective fields across different geographies in our region.

THE FUTURE OF GOVERNORS ISLAND AND CONNECTING TO THE WATERFRONT

2:45pm–3pm

The Trust for Governors Island is a nonprofit organization charged with the planning, redevelopment and ongoing operations of 150 acres of Governors Island. Michael Samuelian discusses the future growth of Governors Island and will highlight the Waterfront Alliance's Maritime Activation Plan, exploring ways to increasingly connect New Yorkers to the waterfront and enhance waterborne transit, recreation and education.

Participants:

Michael Samuelian, President, The Trust for Governors Island

WATERSHED PLANNING AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION IN OUR REGION

3pm–3:30pm

Ecological restoration coupled with community objectives can be a powerful force in resiliency planning and water quality control. The speakers will look at how wetlands can play an integral role in the healthy functioning of the watershed.

Participants:

Facilitator: Judith Weis, Professor, Biological Sciences, Rutgers University
Marit Larson, Chief of Natural Resources, Forestry, Horticulture & Natural Resources, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
Isabelle Stinnette, Restoration Program Manager, New York–New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program (HEP)

BREAK

3:30pm–3:45pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS (E&F)

E. THE ANSWERS (AND QUESTIONS) ARE BLOWING IN THE WIND: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR OFFSHORE WIND IN THE REGION (MAIN DECK)

3:45pm–4:30pm

Change is in the air. With the demand for clean energy becoming more urgent, wind power can play a role to diminish fossil fuel usage and carbon emissions in New York State. By 2030, the state aims to develop up to 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy, making New York a national leader for the emerging offshore wind energy industry. While cost reducing technologies have made wind farms more commercially viable, there are still formidable challenges that the industry must address in order to be feasible and sustainable. Our panelists will examine the feasibility of offshore wind development in New York, the port infrastructure needed to support the projects, impacts on ecology, and the economic development benefits associated with this renewable resource.

Participants:

Facilitator: Paul Lipson, Principal, Barretto Bay Strategies

Julia Bovey, Director of External Affairs, Equinor Wind US

Matthew Kwatinetz, Executive Vice President, Asset Management, PortNYC and New York City Economic Development Corporation

Michael Stamatis, President and CEO, Red Hook Terminals

F. SHAPE YOUR WATERFRONT: WEDG AS A TOOLKIT FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (INFINITY LOUNGE)

3:45pm–4:30pm

Leaders in communities—ranging from Community Board members to local businesses—are increasingly looking to be empowered in local decision-making and have sought out WEDG (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines) as a resource that provides tools for resilient, accessible and ecologically healthy waterfronts. More than a design tool, WEDG establishes standards for equitable waterfront development through robust public outreach, prioritizing the needs and visions of historically underserved communities to shape waterfront public space. This panel will showcase companies, communities and organizations that have taken the WEDG Pledge, a commitment to advocate for their communities and good stewardship of the waterfront.

Participants:

Facilitator: Arturo Garcia-Costas, Program Officer, Local National and International Environment, The New York Community Trust

Alice Blank, Community Board 1 Manhattan

Will Rivera, District Manager, Community Board 9 Bronx
Andrew Rella, Director of Engineering, EConcrete
Cesar Zuñiga, Chair, Community Board 7 Brooklyn

Hornblower *Infinity* Returns to Pier 40
4:30pm

The Norwegian Consulate General and Equinor Wind US Networking Reception
4:30pm–5:30pm

DRAFT