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Community Boards in All Five Boroughs Commit to Better Waterfronts

Citizens Join Professional Firms and Developers to Take the WEDG Pledge

New York, NY—Community boards in all five New York City boroughs have adopted resolutions that encourage the use of [Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines](#) (WEDG), joining trailblazing private firms that have committed to implementing best practices at the waterfront via the WEDG program.

A tool created by the [Waterfront Alliance](#), WEDG is a rating system and set of guidelines that fosters citizen involvement in the creation of resilient, ecological, and accessible waterfronts. By taking the WEDG Pledge—a grassroots campaign to shape better waterfronts—communities and private firms are driving demand and supply for more equitable and sustainable shoreline development.

With WEDG resolutions adopted in 26 of 59 community boards citywide, the [WEDG Pledge movement](#) is growing, as new waterfront districts continue to commit. While communities employ WEDG to hold developers and policymakers to higher standards for waterfront development, private firms and government agencies simultaneously are using WEDG to negotiate the complex requirements of waterfront development and resiliency, and for guidance in their community outreach. The WEDG Pledge unites like-minded private and civic organizations committed to implementing best practices at the waterfront. [See a list of WEDG pledges to date.](#)

Community-based decision-making has never been more important. As the New York City Charter, which establishes the framework for city government, undergoes revision for the first time in 30 years, the Waterfront Alliance is advocating for more equitable, transparent, and robust community engagement and has endorsed two changes to the Charter that recommend WEDG principals: 1) inform the creation of a pre-ULURP engagement process, with requirements for who is engaged (and how), to improve transparency and accountability, and 2) equip community boards with additional resources for better engagement, and technical decision making at the water's edge. A draft of the revised City Charter will be presented to voters for approval in November 2019.

"In Sunset Park, the community is at a crossroads where we are not just dealing with rapid residential displacement, but the displacement and gentrification of small businesses and the working waterfront. WEDG creates a framework for us to balance different priorities for how the waterfront gets developed, and has a strong focus on accessibility and equity," said **Cesar Zuniga**, chair of **Brooklyn Community Board 7**.

"For CB1 and our community, WEDG offers a common language that cuts through the babble of resiliency speak," said **Alice Blank**, chair of the **Manhattan Community Board 1** environmental protection committee. "The public can understand it, and the community can use it to better appreciate the science and mechanics behind our waterfront challenges. The timing is also critical. CB1's WEDG Pledge matters now, as the Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency plan and other projects will require clear communication and transparent community engagement to ensure good outcomes for our community and New York City."

"It is critically important to effectively engage the community in waterfront decision-making. In a fast growing yet vulnerable community like Long Island City to sea level rise and flooding, the WEDG Pledge can help our Board better advocate for resilient, accessible, and sustainable development at a critical time. We support this movement both for our community, and citywide," said **Dorothy Morehead**, chair of the environment committee for **Queens Community Board 2**.

"Community Board 9 has been working with the Waterfront Alliance over the last few years to advocate for better access, resiliency measures, and environmental health on our waterfronts using WEDG. We took the WEDG Pledge because we've experienced firsthand how WEDG can be used as a framework for envisioning waterfront opportunities, and promote more projects like Starlight Park in our district and citywide," said **William Rivera**, district manager of **Bronx Community Board 9**.

"A safe and resilient waterfront, including critical infrastructure and maintenance, is the responsibility of the government. Design criteria, codes and regulations, including public access and participation, are to be used by the design, construction and maintenance professionals, in producing such safe and resilient facilities. The residents of CB2 have extensive waterfront access and expect a high standard of care that only the government can provide. Having the WEDG guidelines and criteria, in planning waterfront facilities, as an additional tool available during the development and maintenance process, only serves to add confidence to the resiliency and sustainability of CB2's waterfront access. This is the primary reason why CB2 adopted the resolution," said **Robert J. Collegio**, chair of the land use committee of **Staten Island Community Board 2** and **Dana T. Magee**, chair of **Staten Island Community Board 2**.

"ECONcrete was excited to become the first company to take the WEDG Pledge, as resilience, ecology, and access are core principles to our work. Our technologies for shoreline infrastructure promote natural processes that benefit the environment while increasing adaptivity to climate change impacts, such as sea level rise and increased storminess. In Brooklyn Bridge Park, which was one of the first WEDG-certified projects, we were responsible for the design and implementation of concrete bio-enhanced pile encapsulations for protecting and reinforcing the piles under Pier 6, as well as the placement of bio-active tidepools that have been used to replace portions of the stone armoring protecting the adjacent beach area. Not only do these features make the park more sustainable and resilient, they also provide educational opportunities for people to interact with nature in an urban environment. We are proud to join the WEDG Pledge movement and push the market towards more resilient, accessible, and sustainable waterfront design," said **Andrew Rella**, global director of engineering for **ECONcrete, Inc.**

"Resilient and sustainable design are part of everything Langan does. It's part of our culture as a firm. We are proud to have taken the WEDG Pledge at time where we are seeing growing interest among owners, developers and the general public to promote resilient and sustainable projects. I think we will see a significant increase in projects pursuing WEDG certification in the next few years," said **Ken Huber**, senior project manager, **Langan Engineering & Environmental Services**.

[View](#) more information on WEDG Neighborhoods and community collaborations using WEDG. [View](#) the WEDG manual and guidelines.

The Waterfront Alliance inspires and effects resilient, revitalized, and accessible coastlines for all communities.

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