For Immediate Release: September 15, 2022  
Media Contact: Aria Cochran, achochran@waterfrontalliance.org, 212-935-9831 x116

WATERFRONT ALLIANCE NAMES JOSEPH SUTKOWI AS CHIEF WATERFRONT DESIGN OFFICER

New York, NY – Waterfront Alliance is pleased to announce the promotion of Joseph Sutkowi to the new role of Chief Waterfront Design Officer. For the past year, Sutkowi has led the WEDG® (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines) program as Waterfront Design Associate Director.

WEDG is a national rating system developed by Waterfront Alliance that recognizes developers and landowners for resilient, sustainable, and accessible waterfront projects. Projects that achieve WEDG Verification are the gold standard for waterfront design. WEDG provides guidance and establishes design standards across six categories tailored to the complexities of waterfront development: Site Assessment and Planning, Responsible Siting and Coastal Risk Reduction, Community Access and Connections, Edge Resilience, Natural Resources, and Innovation. WEDG Verification is only awarded for projects that successfully pass a technical review of the project’s design against the WEDG standards.

In his new role, Sutkowi will be responsible for program management, strategy, and business development for the WEDG program to expand its influence on public- and private-sector projects across the country. Sutkowi also will manage large-scale resilience and planning projects, including the Flushing Meadows Corona Park: A Hub for Climate Resilience project.

Sutkowi has been instrumental in the growth of the WEDG program and its national expansion, having increased the number of prospective projects in review by more than 50% in one year. He developed the new self-paced, online version of the WEDG Professionals Course, and is overseeing the development of municipal policy and environment, social, governance (ESG) investment strategies to promote WEDG utilization by socially conscious organizations. Sutkowi has a decade of diverse experience in related fields including port infrastructure, sustainability, economic development policy, project management, and fundraising.

“Waterfront Alliance has a strong track record providing waterfront expertise through technical planning and project development services, developing community-based plans, and convening across New York City and the region. WEDG is a core part of our services,” said Cortney Worrall, President and CEO, Waterfront Alliance. “In this era of rapidly increasing climate impacts we have an urgent need to respond and adapt as fast as possible. The WEDG program is an invaluable tool for professionals and community members alike—and thanks to Joseph Sutkowi’s talent and commitment, the program has seen an impressive year of important expansion. Congratulations to Joseph on his promotion!”

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