



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**WE ARE AT THE
FOREFRONT,
CRAFTING
SOLUTIONS
FOR RESILIENT,
ACCESSIBLE,
AND VIBRANT
WATERFRONTS,
COASTLINES,
AND SHORELINES.**

DEAR FRIENDS, PARTNERS, & SUPPORTERS

This past year was one of confronting challenges and building solutions. The existential threat of climate change offers tremendous peril but also unprecedented opportunity to the United States and the New York-New Jersey region. Waterfronts, coastal areas, and shorelines — places that teem with recreation, commerce, and so much more — are among the places that climate change will hit the hardest.

The next few years will be pivotal for our nation and for the Waterfront Alliance. As the climate crisis intensifies and we usher in a new era of leadership both locally and federally, the choices we make will shape our communities and ecosystems for decades to come.

Waterfront Alliance has the answers. We are at the forefront of crafting solutions for resilient, accessible, and vibrant waterfronts, coastlines, and shorelines, from coalition-driven advocacy to strategic partnership to deep and diverse expertise. Our mission is clear: to enhance quality of life, equity, and ecology for all, ensuring our shorelines and coastlines remain places for life, work, and play.

My sincere gratitude to all who have supported this work. That you have seen the need and the urgency, and responded gives me hope in a changing world. Thank you for joining us as we forge ahead.



Sincerely,

Cortney Koenig Worrall

Cortney Koenig Worrall
President and CEO
Waterfront Alliance

A MULTISECTOR APPROACH TO CLIMATE IMPACTS

Climate change’s escalating impacts—sea levels, extreme flooding, intensified rainfall, and soaring temperatures—underscore the urgent need for climate resilience work. Coastal regions like the New York-New Jersey area face unparalleled risks.

In the face of these clear threats, climate adaptation efforts remain underfunded and unevenly distributed, leaving communities vulnerable.

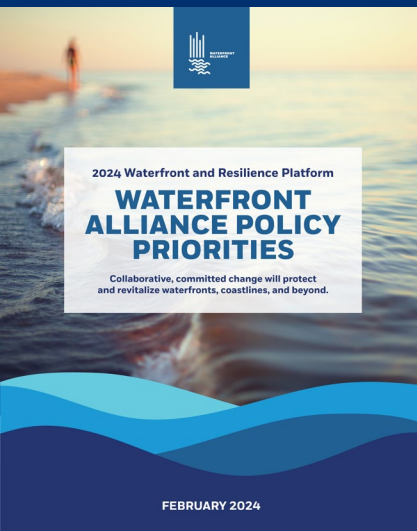
That is why urgent, equitable, and innovative resilience work is essential. In 2024, we worked with our partners and supporters to protect lives, safeguard infrastructure, and help ensure sustainable economic and environmental futures.

2024 WATERFRONT & RESILIENCE PLATFORM

With great excitement and pride, the Waterfront Alliance launched its first-ever formal Waterfront and Resilience Platform. This platform captures how we strive to realize communities, and the nation, to prepare for the climate crisis and our commitment to building energy and excitement where water meets land.

WE TACKLE SOLVABLE CHALLENGES ACROSS FIVE PILLARS: *Climate Change, Resilience, and Adaptation; Climate and Estuary Education; Public Access to the Waterfront; Maritime, Working Waterfront, and Waterborne Transportation; and Renewable Energy.*

All our program and policy priorities serve communities and neighborhoods that have and continue to experience disinvestment. Environmental justice is not a separate policy priority for the Waterfront Alliance; rather, it is embedded throughout our work as the lens through which each policy priority is viewed, evaluated, and implemented.



RESILIENCE WINS!



Mayor Eric Adams appointed the Waterfront Alliance President and **CEO CORTNEY KOENIG WORRALL AS ONE OF ONLY 26 MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CITY SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD** to guide the City’s long-term resilience and sustainability goals.



WE CHAMPIONED THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF THREE CLIMATE RESILIENCE BILLS IN THE 2024 NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION: ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY, PUBLIC NOTICE, AND THE GREEN ROOF TAX ABATEMENT. These pieces of legislation will help deliver climate resilient infrastructure more quickly and efficiently, and incentivize the building of green roofs across New York City.



CLIMATE INFORMED COMMUNITIES

This year, we made incredible strides in equipping communities. At the March 6, 2024, Community Preparedness Symposium hosted by NYC Emergency Management, we trained over 100 community organizers, agency employees, and local leaders through our engaging “Know Your Rights About Climate Change” sessions. Our commitment to outreach didn’t stop there—through 21 virtual and in-person workshops, meetings, and events, we connected with more than 1,300 frontline community members, delivering essential climate preparedness resources.

During a painfully hot summer, we provided crucial information in English and Spanish about accessing free air conditioners through New York State’s HEAP cooling assistance program.

The response was overwhelming; demand was so high that the program ran out of units! This powerful outcome highlights both the critical need for increased investment in this program and the success of our outreach.

These resources inform residents, address community needs, fill gaps in government services, and bring climate preparedness tools to the most climate-vulnerable communities:

UNDERSTANDING FLOOD DISCLOSURE AND PREPAREDNESS
A Training by the Waterfront Alliance for New York
February 2024

WATERFRONT ALLIANCE CLIMATE HAZARD RESOURCE GUIDE

EXTREME WEATHER FACT SHEET
EXTREME WEATHER: Preparation and Recovery

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE TRAINING (IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH)
Learn About Your Right to Know Your Flood Risk and How to Protect Yourself!
Learn more about flood disclosure for renters and homeowners, how to identify your flood risk, and resources to prepare yourself for extreme weather!

connected with
— MORE THAN —
1300
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

21
VIRTUAL &
IN-PERSON
workshops,
meetings, & events



STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH ADVOCACY & ACTION

In 2024, the Waterfront Alliance and the Rise to Resilience Coalition achieved remarkable milestones advancing climate resilience policies and fostering collective action. Our first-ever in-person Advocacy Day in Albany, NY, and a NYC Council Teach-In placed critical resilience priorities at the forefront of local and state decision-making.

“**IN MOMENTS WHERE IT SEEMS LIKE WE ARE STRUGGLING TO MAKE PROGRESS ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS, LOOK TO YOUR LOCAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS. WE ARE WORKING ALONGSIDE RESIDENTS, ELECTED LEADERS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND ANYONE WHO IS WILLING TO LISTEN! ADVOCACY IS TIRELESS, BUT IT’S WHERE PROGRESS AND PARTNERSHIP HAPPENS TODAY AND TOMORROW.**”

TYLER TABA, *Waterfront Alliance*



ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

JAN

Waterfront Alliance published the **2024 Waterfront and Resilience Policy Platform** to take a comprehensive approach to advocating for waterfront-related issues.

We were also selected to participate in the **Rainproof NYC** collaboration through June, which directly influenced the establishment of a voluntary buyout program in PlaNYC, referred to as “Housing Mobility and Land Adaptation.”

Rise to Resilience Coalition published their **2024 Policy Platform** to establish a roadmap and priorities for advancing comprehensive climate resilience.

FEB

APR

We actively engaged the New York City Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ) regarding the rollout of **New York City’s Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program, the Five-Borough Climate Adaptation Plan (Local Law 122), and PlaNYC.**

PlaNYC called for the creation of a Bureau of Coastal Resilience within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The City’s Chief Climate Officer asked Waterfront Alliance to join the expert advisory committee to shape the new bureau’s structure and priorities. The Rise to Resilience Coalition is advocating to codify the new Bureau, ensuring it becomes a permanent office and is properly staffed.

MAY

On the 6th, we organized the first in-person **Rise to Resilience Coalition “Advocacy Day”** in Albany, NY and completed a total of 24 meetings with State Senators and Assembly members, positioning our climate resilience priorities front and center for key decision makers.

And on the 29th we hosted our second **New York City Council “Teach-In”** with our two Rise to Resilience Coalition partners, WE ACT for Environmental Justice and the New York League of Conservation Voters, to share our collective climate resilience priorities with Councilmembers and their staff.

We testified at seven **New York City Council hearings**, where we advocated for increasing funding for climate resilience programs and projects, improving flood mapping and reporting, establishing resilience retrofits for flood-prone homes, improving paved medians for stormwater management, eliminating the water rental payment, expanding the NYC Ferry, and protecting New Yorkers from extreme heat.

SEPT

NOV

We supported an **Alternative Delivery bill** that increases the speed of delivery for new infrastructure projects in New York City and would provide tools to create good-paying construction jobs in the process. This bill successfully passed and was signed into law by Governor Hochul.

Waterfront Alliance and the Rise to Resilience Coalition tally their 2024 victories: **secured 204 individual letters to lawmakers, supported passage of 5 laws in New York City and state, authored 9 memorandums and letters of support for critical climate resilience bills and projects, and submitted 7 public testimonies.**

DEC

BUILDING RESILIENCE: FLUSHING MEADOWS CORONA PARK

Waterfront Alliance is leading design efforts to reduce flooding in Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens, New York. The site, a beloved park built on historic wetlands, is ringed with state highways that dump dirty runoff into its grounds, creeks, and lakes. Working in lockstep with New York City Parks, Waterfront Alliance is leading early-stage planning to restore Flushing Creek, create new space for rainwater storage and detention, and conduct critical analyses to determine the potential to dredge Willow Lake to improve water quality and reduce neighborhood flooding.

These plans are the result of a major summer 2024 public engagement effort where Waterfront Alliance attended 28 events in the park and surrounding neighborhoods to better understand where the park floods and what spaces are most precious to the community. We received more than 150 survey responses and nearly 500 mapped points from community members. We engaged schools through Climate Action Day, spoke on tours of the park and were frequent guests of the New York Hall of Science and Queens Zoo, two of the educational institutions within the park.

received
— MORE THAN —
150
SURVEY
RESPONSES



attended
28
EVENTS

“
IT’S A PRIVILEGE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RISE TO RESILIENCE COALITION. THIS COALITION TAKES A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH NOT ONLY BY ADVANCING ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE POLICIES AT THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVEL, BUT ENSURING THOSE POLICIES GET THE ROBUST FUNDING THEY NEED.
”

ALIA SOOMRO,
Deputy Director of New York City Policy, New York League of Conservation Voters

RISE TO RESILIENCE

OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR FUTURE



Rise to Resilience is a campaign and Coalition convened by the Waterfront Alliance. We are more than 100 organizations representing residents, leaders in business, labor, community and justice, volunteer organizations, scientists, environmental advocates, and design professionals collectively calling on our federal, state, and local governments to make climate resilience an urgent priority.

We welcomed four new Rise to Resilience Coalition members: Urban Ocean Lab, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), American Society of Landscape Architects New York Chapter, and Southeast Queens Residents Environmental Justice Coalition (SQREJC), signaling the Coalition’s continued growth, diversity, and inclusiveness.

THIS YEAR, WE CONVENE:

8 MEETINGS
that focused on specific initiatives including measuring climate resilience, offshore wind, and climate resilience infrastructure projects

DRAFTED AND PUBLISHED 12 RISE TO THE RESILIENCE NEWSLETTERS
reaching more than 1,400 activists, decision makers, nonprofit leaders, and elected officials per issue

12 FULL COALITION MEETINGS

ONE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

29 COHORT MEETINGS
focused on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ NY & NJ Harbor & Tributaries Study



IN THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR, WATERFRONT ALLIANCE WORKED WITH:

— MORE THAN —
1300
STUDENTS

10
SCHOOLS

10
WATERFRONTS

>12
PARTNER
EVENTS

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION: CLIMATE EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

During the 2023-2024 school year, Waterfront Alliance achieved major milestones in climate and waterfront education. We engaged a record-breaking 1,300 New York City students through Estuary Explorers, our immersive program fostering environmental awareness and stewardship. Expanding on this success, our staff created and released a brand-new Estuary Explorers interactive student workbook, “Exploring Our Waterfronts.” With limited government funding anticipated next year, philanthropic support is urgently needed to sustain and expand these transformative programs. Climate education is essential for building a more resilient future, ensuring that young people and communities are equipped to face the challenges of a changing environment. Together, we can prepare the next generation of climate leaders to drive justice-focused solutions and create lasting change.



The role of young people in both tackling and preparing for the climate challenge cannot be overstated. **According to the United Nations, over 1.2 billion youth between the ages of 15 and 24 face a disproportionate burden of the climate crisis.** Yet time and time again, young people are proving themselves to be effective activists, achieving meaningful climate outcomes while centering justice and amplifying the voices of frontline populations. In the New York City area alone, where more than a quarter of the four million young people under the age of 35 live experience economic challenges, there is both tremendous need and opportunity to elevate youth voices for positive climate outcomes.



EXPLORING OUR WATERFRONTS: ESTUARY EXPLORERS WORKBOOK



This workbook contains all the materials our Estuary Explorer educators use in classroom visits and field labs, along with information about our local waterfront’s history, the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary’s ecology, and climate change, among other fun games and activities.



NAVIGATING PARTNERSHIPS:

Robert Markuske on Inspiring the Next Generation of Waterfront Leaders

Rob Markuske is the marine policy teacher who leads the Marine Affairs Program at the New York Harbor School.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP YOU HAVE WITH WATERFRONT ALLIANCE?

My relationship with Waterfront Alliance goes back to when I was a park ranger, way back in 2012. I remember going to this event they were putting on, and I met a ton of people from different organizations. It really opened my eyes to this whole world of stakeholder engagement and how important collaboration is for getting things done. The work we do with Waterfront Alliance is like the culminating project for my students - it's their chance to apply everything they've learned to a real-world situation. Plus, the people I work with there, like Furhana and Jake and Joseph, are just amazing. They get what I'm trying to do, and they're so supportive of my students.

HOW HAS WATERFRONT ALLIANCE SUPPORTED YOUR STUDENTS IN DEEPENING THEIR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT MARITIME AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE?

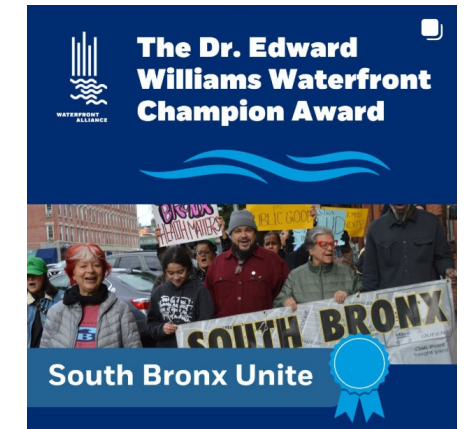
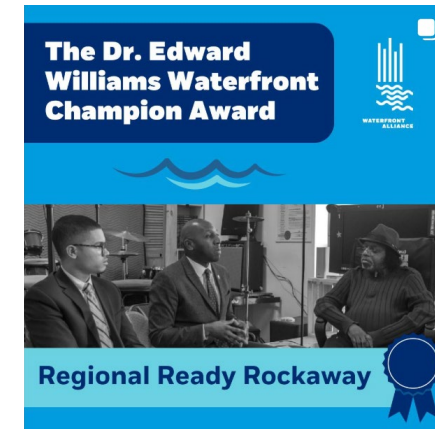
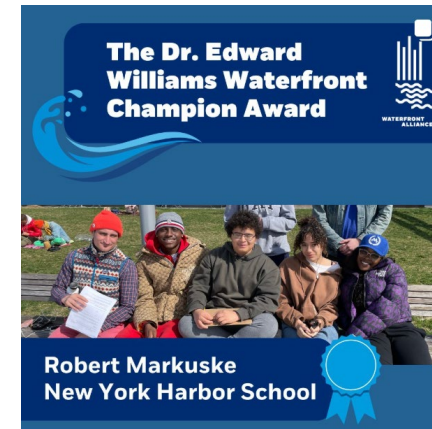
Waterfront Alliance has been huge in helping my students understand both of these. One of the biggest ways they've done this is through the capstone project, which is all about the WEDG® (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines). They've helped introduce the project, bring in speakers, and even work directly with my students on different parts of the project. The thing is, Waterfront Alliance treats my students like the young adults they are. They don't talk down to them or water things down. They challenge them to think critically and come up with real solutions. And that's what makes this partnership so special. It gives the kids a voice, you know? They get to be a part of the conversation, and they get to make a difference. It's amazing to see how much they grow through this process. And you know what's even cooler? They trust me. Like, they trust that I know what I'm doing and that I can teach this stuff to my kids. That's huge, because it gives me the freedom to really tailor the project to my students' needs and interests.

[CONTINUE THE INTERVIEW >](#)

TELL US ABOUT THE CAPSTONE PROJECT THAT YOU WORKED ON WITH WATERFRONT ALLIANCE THIS YEAR.

The capstone project is pretty intense - it's like a graduate-level seminar, honestly. My students have to take the WEDG Professionals Course, which is designed for people already working in the field. But they handle it like champs. This year, they focused on the FiDi and Seaport Climate Resilience Plan. They had to analyze it through a WEDG lens, you know, figure out if it's really going to improve the waterfront and make the community more resilient. Then they had to present their findings to a bunch of important people, like folks from Waterfront Alliance and NYCEDC. And let me tell you, they didn't hold back. They pointed out what they thought was great, but they also weren't afraid to say where the plan could be better. And the best part? The adults in the room were actually listening to them. It's all about real-world experience, you know? That's what makes this project so valuable. They're not just learning theory in a classroom, they're out there applying it to real projects that affect their community.

WATERFRONT ALLIANCE'S 2024 DR. EDWARD WILLIAMS WATERFRONT CHAMPION AWARD WINNERS



We inaugurated the Dr. Edward Williams Waterfront Champion Award, honoring community-based organizations and individuals who have championed community resilience in the face of systemic injustices and the climate crisis. Named in memory of Dr. Edward Williams, the founder and CEO of Regional Ready Rockaway, this accolade celebrates his enduring legacy and profound impact on the region. The inaugural recipients included Regional Ready Rockaway, South Bronx Unite, and Robert Markuske of the New York Harbor School.

TEACHER TRAININGS

Our full-day Estuary Explorers Teacher Training program provides educators with the tools and knowledge to integrate climate change lessons into their classrooms, earning them Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) credits. Achieving CTLE sponsor status, the program now offers four credits, equipping teachers with advanced professional development, lesson-planning resources, and opportunities to collaborate with peers in advancing climate education across New York City schools.

— TEACHERS EARNED —
**CONTINUING
EDUCATION
CREDITS**



70%
**OF YOUNG PEOPLE
NATIONWIDE**
worried about
climate change

The training equips teachers to address the emotional impact of climate change on students while inspiring them to get involved. With 70% of young people nationwide worried about climate change, the training explores how distress manifests, particularly in communities facing increased vulnerabilities. Teachers examine the systemic roots of climate change, its impacts on extreme weather, and strategies to manage climate emotions, like climate anxiety. Equipped with these resources, educators learn to create supportive environments that inspire resilience and action toward a sustainable future.

WEDG® KEEPS UP NATIONAL REACH



Just a few years ago, WEDG® (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines) was a tool just for the New York-New Jersey harbor but has since expanded into a national rating system and gold standard for waterfront design across all types of waterbodies. Today, the pipeline of projects extends far beyond that region with **28 sites in 6 states** that have either earned or are under review for WEDG Verification, a number that has doubled since 2020. California, Connecticut, and Colorado all have work in the pipeline. At its ribbon cutting in September 2024, Governor JB Pritzker of Illinois announced how proud his state was of having the first freshwater WEDG Verified site in the country with Illinois Beach State Park.

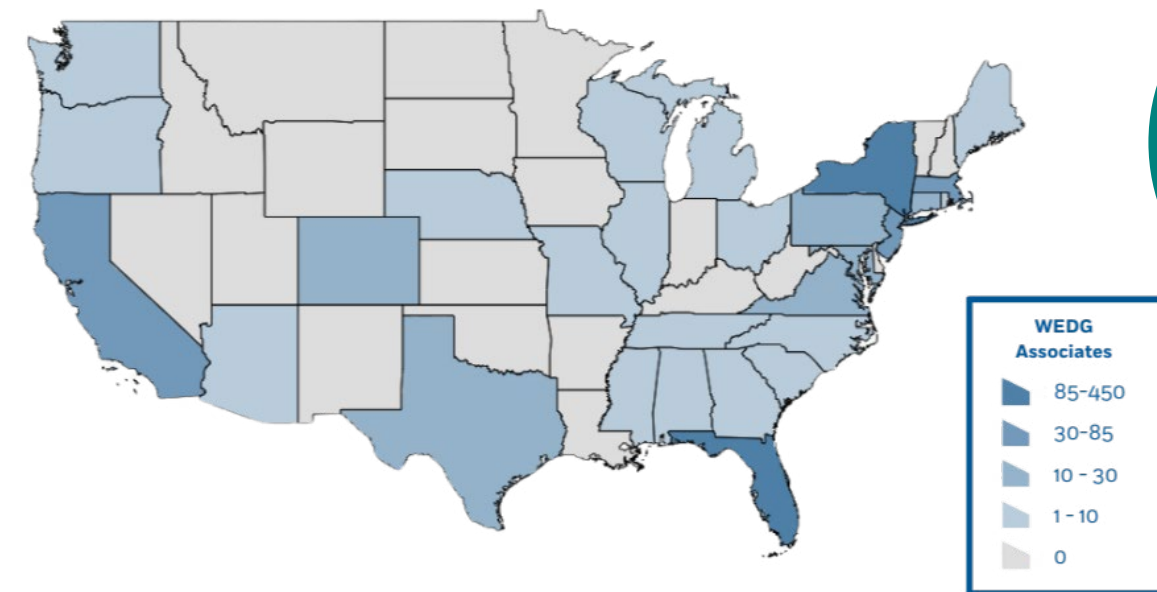
Invitations to present at **8 conferences** across the United States and Canada, including those in Denver, Cleveland, Miami, and New York, helped enable this growth. Partnerships and engagement with other rating systems, like the Green Building Initiative and Green Marine, national and regional groups like the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, New Jersey Coastal Resilience Collaborative, and National Working Waterfront Network, and new opportunities with Mississippi River basin leaders also resulted in increased momentum.



The Illinois Beach State Park Shoreline Stabilization Project, led by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Capital Development Board, and design lead Moffatt & Nichol earned WEDG Verification with its unique habitat space within a breakwater.

IMAGE CREDIT: MICHELS CONSTRUCTION

Behind this growth is a network of WEDG Associates—leaders in engineering, landscape architecture, and communities—who have embraced WEDG and advocated for its design principles in their projects. Through three featured courses – two livestream courses and one on-demand course, Waterfront Alliance trained more than 300 new WEDG Associates nationally. **The WEDG Professionals cohort has tripled since the beginning of 2022 to nearly 900.**

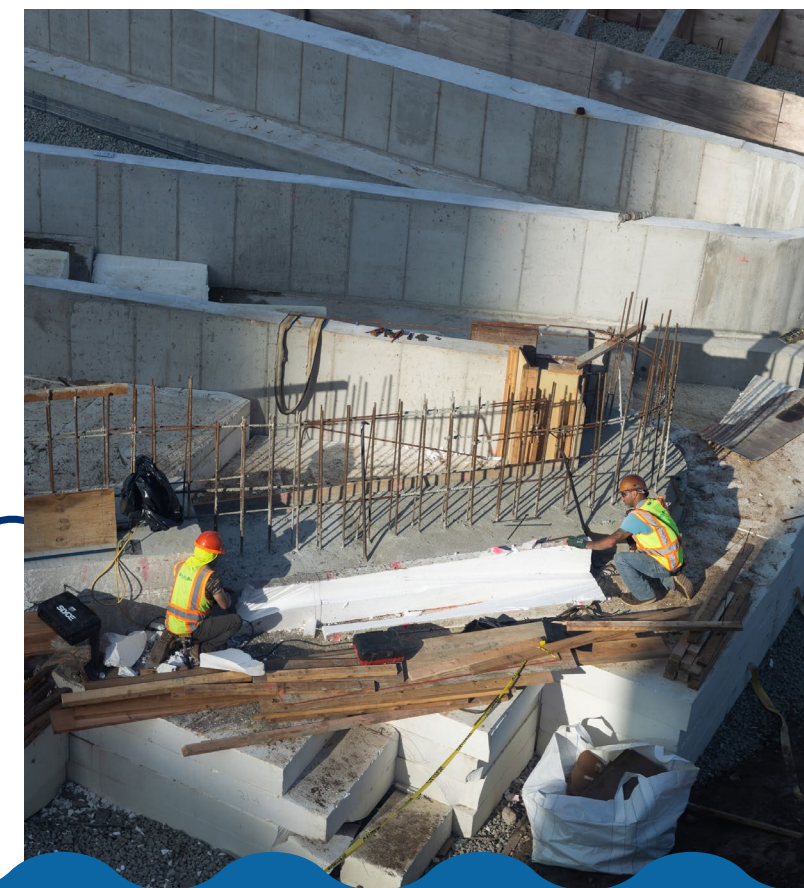


900
WEDG
ASSOCIATES

In New York City, the South Battery Park City Resiliency Project earned WEDG Verification. It is the second component of the Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency Master Plan to do so. WEDG also engaged community leaders in Long Island City, Flushing, Longwood, Greenpoint, Lower Manhattan, and other neighborhoods to work with residents and community leaders on pushing for better waterfront developments.

WEDG Verified South Battery Park City Resiliency Project led by Battery Park City Authority and design lead AECOM builds new habitat space along the Pier A Inlet, creating a living shoreline in Lower Manhattan.

IMAGE CREDIT: WHITNEY BROWNE



ACCESS TO THE WATER: PROGRESS ON MANY FRONTS

Waterfront Alliance partnered with South Bronx Unite and Kayak Staten Island to advocate for the activation of underutilized waterfront sites in their respective communities. Both sites — the Lincoln Avenue Street End in the South Bronx and the Front Street parking lot in Stapleton, Staten Island — were identified as having potential for community waterfront access in historically underserved communities. We worked with both organizations to engage city agencies and elected officials, host community-driven design charrettes, and secure additional funding to develop site plans that reflect community needs and desires.

Our deep work with South Bronx Unite and Kayak Staten Island exemplifies our commitment to advocating for equitable access to New York City’s waterfronts for communities experiencing disinvestment.

Throughout the year, Waterfront Alliance remained a resource for local community organizations focused on waterfront activation by providing guidance and advocacy. We also joined and participated in key coalitions and city-wide groups that promote public space in order to center waterfront access as a priority. These include Alliance for Public Space, NYC Greenways Coalition, the NYC Green Fund, and NYC DOT Resilient Street Working Group.



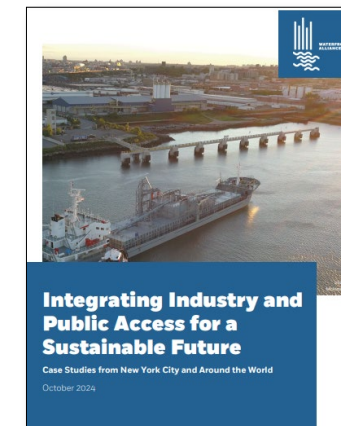
“
THE WATERFRONT ALLIANCE HAS BEEN ESSENTIAL IN SUPPORTING KAYAK STATEN ISLAND’S MISSION TO BRING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE, EQUITY AND JOY. THEY HAVE ALSO PLAYED AN INVALUABLE ROLE IN CHAMPIONING SAFE, FAIR ACCESS TO THE WATER.
”

ANNETTE PIERCE,
Co-lead, Kayak Staten Island



MARITIME MASTER PLANNING

With a focus on preserving the working waterfront and maximizing maritime potential, Waterfront Alliance is actively engaged in shaping city planning around waterfronts. Our efforts center on building consensus for a comprehensive study assessing Brooklyn Marine Terminal’s (BMT) potential for the maritime industry before proceeding with a Master Planning process. Our role extends beyond advocacy; Waterfront Alliance was selected to chair the Waterfront, Resilience and Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, a platform for engaging with the Red Hook community, elected officials, and agencies to shape the future of BMT.



PUBLIC ACCESS AT INDUSTRIAL LANDS

We seek to reimagine the integration of public access with industrial waterfront developments. Waterfront Alliance champions the inclusion of features such as waterfront pathways, observation decks, and educational centers, drawing inspiration from successful examples worldwide. These efforts are exemplified in our recent report, “**Integrating Industry and Public Access for a Sustainable Future**,” which explores case studies showcasing innovative approaches to blending public access with industrial operations.

BLUE HIGHWAYS

Waterfront Alliance joined a Blue Highways Coalition comprised of key stakeholders in the maritime industry, and is working with the NYC Department of Transportation, NYC Economic Development Corporation, and private sector partners to develop and implement solutions. New York City is promoting the use of waterways for freight transportation through its “Blue Highways” initiative, which aims to reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. This initiative involves activating six waterfront landings for transferring goods from vessels to sustainable last-mile delivery vehicles, such as electric vans and cargo bikes.

FERRY EXPANSION

As a long-time advocate for the NYC Ferry system, this year Waterfront Alliance took its efforts a step further by raising awareness for its expansion, focusing on new routes, economic benefits, electrification, emergency services, and equity. We testified at a **New York City Council Hearing**, published an **op-ed in City Limits**, and helped multiple discussions with various community members, organizations, private and public stakeholders, to push for this improvement, including new routes to better connect Brooklyn, Staten Island, City Island, and LaGuardia Airport. Through this work, we emphasize transit justice, including expanding New York City’s ferry service in transit deserts to create an economic boost from job creation, while also piloting electric ferries to reduce emissions.



OFFSHORE WIND

Waterfront Alliance has been playing a critical role in advocating for regional offshore wind energy by **addressing misinformation and workforce development**. Through the NJ Wind Works coalition, Waterfront Alliance supported efforts to combat misinformation about offshore wind projects, such as helping to plan and participate in the Global Wind Day festival to ensure accurate information reaches the public.

We are active with Oceantic, the leading national advocate for the offshore wind industry. We are also working with OWAN (Offshore Wind Advocacy Network) to amplify the “Bridges to Offshore Wind” program to educate communities about career opportunities in this sector.

Waterfront Alliance has been focused on offshore wind developers and port operators continuing to commit to a WEDG® (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines) Verification on their projects.

IN 2024, THE NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NYSERDA) INCLUDED A PREFERENCE FOR WEDG IN A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PORT FACILITIES.

MOMENTS THAT MATTER: EVENTS AMPLIFYING OUR MISSION



The 17th Annual Waterfront Conference was a resounding success, reaffirming its reputation as the premier platform for more than 650 guests and speakers addressing coastal, waterfront, harbor, and estuary issues through the critical lenses of equity, climate change, and resilience. Under the theme Designing for Tomorrow: The Multisector Approach to Resilience, the event highlighted the importance of collective action in tackling urgent challenges.



Waterfront Alliance attended COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, presenting our solutions to international climate leadership, including WEDG® (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines), at the Resilient Infrastructure Reimagined: Interlinking Infrastructure Development with Financial Innovation to Build Equitable, Resilient and Nature-Positive Cities. The conference agenda featured the Waterfront Alliance at numerous moments. We are thrilled to finally receive approval as nonprofit observers to the United Nations COP.



— MORE THAN —
650
GUESTS &
SPEAKERS

The Heather M. Morgan Climate Risk Adaptation Lecture was given by Laurian Farrell, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Coastal Resilience at NYC DEP, who discussed innovative approaches to urban coastal resilience.





This year's City of Water Day epitomized our mission in action, showing the strength and passion of our region's communities and volunteer organizations in the face of climate change. Now in its 17th year, the event featured more than 70 activities across all five boroughs, Westchester, Rockland, and New Jersey. From free kayaking to hands-on workshops, thousands of people enjoyed water-oriented experiences that celebrated the region's interconnected waters and the importance of a climate-resilient future. The enthusiastic turnout, despite inclement weather, highlighted the urgency of our mission and community organizations' dedication to building a stronger, more resilient New York and New Jersey harbor.



— MORE THAN —
70
ACTIVITIES
across all five boroughs,
Westchester,
Rockland, and
New Jersey



The Art at the Edge annual exhibit by Waterfront Alliance showcases the work of New York and New Jersey artists highlighting themes tied to climate change. This exhibition inspires and educates about the pressing realities of the climate crisis. Through art, the public can explore critical topics such as coastal resilience, waterfront access, and the rich maritime culture and history of the region. Held as a free outdoor exhibition in Lower Manhattan's Seaport, the event leverages the power of creative expression to raise awareness about sea level rise and the urgent need for enhanced resilience measures. This year's pieces included: "Shadows at the Waters Edge" by Singha Hon and Denise Zhou; "Tide" by Michael Krondl; and "Anxiety Tower" by Sari Nordman.



— REACHED —
1,293
 COMMUNITY
 MEMBERS
 DURING
 CLIMATE WEEK
 — THROUGH —
 6 WEBINARS/
 3 IN-PERSON
 EVENTS

HEROES OF THE HARBOR

The Heroes of the Harbor gala was an unforgettable evening celebrating the leaders and projects shaping the future of our waterways and coastlines. Held at City Winery and emceed by Spectrum News 1's Guy Brown, the event brought together decision-makers, influencers, and supporters to honor Christopher O. Ward, former Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and the transformative East Side Coastal Resiliency Project. With lively entertainment from Pat Benatar cover band *All Fired Up* and a room full of passionate advocates, the gala highlighted the critical importance of sustainability, resilience, and innovation for the New York and New Jersey harbor.

2024 CLIMATE WEEK

During NYC Climate Week 2024, we reached 1,293 community members through six webinars and three in-person events. We also collaborated with three organizations to co-host additional in-person events:

- Climate Scavenger Hunt with Holes in the Wall Collective
- Climate Solutions Hub with Climate Film Festival
- Street Works with Make Justice Normal



2024 COASTAL CLEANUPS

This year, Waterfront Alliance’s coastal cleanups brought together volunteers to remove debris from local shorelines, directly improving the health of our waterways and surrounding ecosystems. Each cleanup not only prevents pollution but also fosters community engagement and awareness about protecting and stewarding our environment. In 2024 alone, we partnered with Community Offshore Wind, The Walt Disney Company, Castle Hill YMCA, Riverside Park Conservancy, and others, to clean up coastlines in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and the Bronx, totaling 95 volunteers, 95 bags, roughly 1800 pounds of trash!



95
VOLUNTEERS

95
TRASH BAGS

1800
POUNDS
OF TRASH
COLLECTED

ON THE AIR



05/23/2024 · EPISODE 12 · 30 MIN

Waterfront Alliance's Cortney Koenig Worrall on Climate Resilience and Urban Transformation
Buildings 2.0

▶ Play



2024 WATERFRONT WEBINARS

In January, Waterfront Alliance launched a Waterfront Webinar Series featuring 11 educational webinars throughout the year on a variety of topics ranging from, “Taking the Heat – Are We Ready?” to “Climate Education—Preparing Communities Through Youth” to “Redlining and Flooding—Breaking the Cycle of Disinvestment,” ultimately reaching over 2,000 individuals in the climate resilience space.



OUR WEBINARS
REACHED OVER
2,000
INDIVIDUALS
in the climate
resilience space

**LEADING THE WAY:
IDEAS DRIVING CHANGE**

NYNMEDIA

IS CLIMATE RESILIENCE AN ISSUE OF EQUITY?

New York Nonprofit Media, Phenix Kim, Jan 18

COMING TO A SHORELINE NEAR YOU.

Landscape Architecture Magazine, Clare Johnson, April 11

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MAGAZINE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

BUILDINGS 2.0

WATERFRONT ALLIANCE'S CORTNEY KOENIG WORRALL ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION

Buildings 2.0 Podcast on Apple Podcasts, May 23

KEEPING STORMWATER AT BAY: A BROOKLYN GREEN ROOF OFFERS A LOOK AT A CLIMATE RESILIENT FUTURE

Inside Climate News, Lauren Dalban, June 12

Inside Climate News

SPECTRUM NEWS 1

HOCHUL CONSIDERS PUSH TO RECONVENE TASK FORCE TO STUDY SEA LEVEL RISE

NY1 Spectrum News, Jack Arpey, Sept 23

ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK BREAKWATERS ARE A 'MODEL' FOR THE COUNTRY, GOV. JB PRITZKER SAYS

Chicago Tribune, Joseph States, Oct 1

Chicago Tribune

NYC

MAYOR ADAMS COMPLETES FIRST SECTION OF EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT, TAKING STEPS TO PROTECT LIVES, PROPERTY

The Official Website of the City of New York, Oct 17

RESILIENCY PROGRESS MADE 12 YEARS AFTER HURRICANE SANDY

NY1 Spectrum News, Rocco Vertuccio, Oct 27

SPECTRUM NEWS 1

CITYLIMITS

12 YEARS AFTER HURRICANE SANDY, NYCHA'S RED HOOK RESIDENTS STILL LIVING IN A CONSTRUCTION ZONE

City Limits, Mariana Simões and Tatyana Turner, Oct 30

THOUGHTS THAT INSPIRE, ACTIONS THAT TRANSFORM (OP-ED)

THE TIME FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN QUEENS IS NOW

Furhana Husani, QNS, Feb 7

CITY AND STATE LAWMAKERS LEFT VITAL CLIMATE BILLS ON THE TABLE

Cortney Koenig Worrall, Crain's New York Business, August 7QNS, Feb 7

TIME FOR A RAIN READY NEW YORK

James Gennaro (& Waterfront Alliance), QNS, Oct 23

"FERRYING" THE LOAD THROUGH THE A TRAIN SUSPENSION

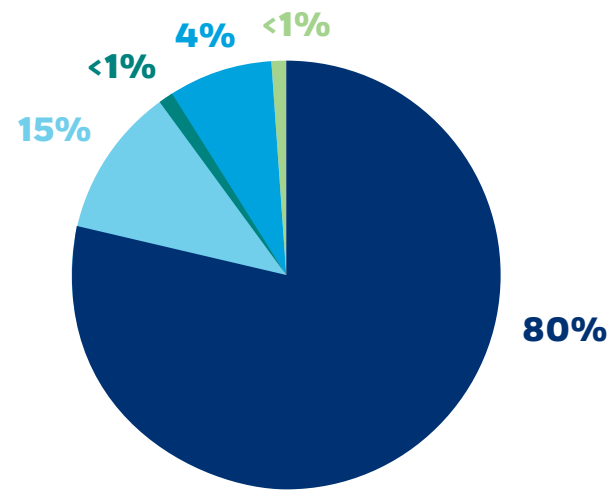
Selvana N. Brooks-Powers & Tyler Taba, City Limits, Dec 10

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

- Contributions and Grants: \$2,829,667
- Special Events (net of direct expenses): \$509,052
- In-Kind contributions: \$16,340
- Program Services Revenue: \$145,979
- Net Investment Return: \$7,357

TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE: \$3,508,395



EXPENSES

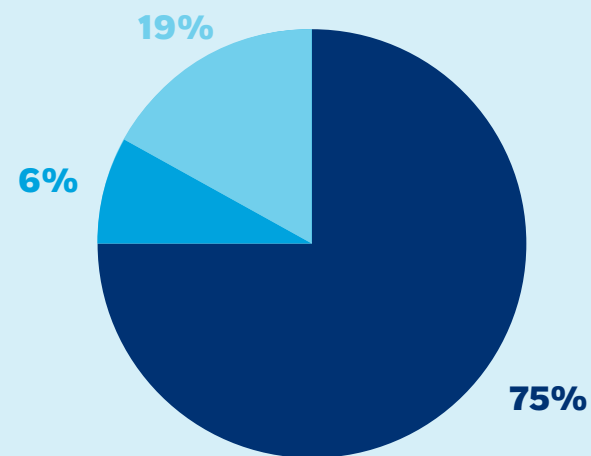
- Program Services: \$1,780,679
- Fundraising: \$133,840
- Management and General: \$455,148

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,369,667

Net Assets - Beginning of Year: \$1,460,701

Net Assets - End of Year: \$2,599,429

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: \$1,138,728



Audited for the year ending December 31, 2023
 Our 2024 audited financials will be available in 2025.
 Please visit waterfrontalliance.org to view our audited financials.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

FOUNDATION & NONPROFITS

- All Souls NYC- A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- Altman Foundation
- Anonymous
- Bernard F. & Alva B. Gimbel Foundation
- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Castle Hill YMCA
- Catherine & Joseph Aresty Foundation
- Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative
- City Parks Foundation
- Environmental Defense Fund
- HalfMoon Education
- Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation
- Howard Gilman Foundation
- Hudson River Foundation
- Hyde and Watson Foundation
- International Longshoremen's Association Local 1
- International Longshoremen's Association Local 1814
- The J.M. Kaplan Fund
- Leo Model Foundation
- The Marta Heflin Foundation
- The New York Climate Exchange
- New York Community Trust
- New York League of Conservation Voters
- Northern New Jersey Community Foundation
- NYC Green Fund
- Pacific Environment
- Shipping Association of New York and New Jersey
- Spring Street Climate Fund
- Tiger Baron Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation



INDIVIDUALS

- Husam Ahmad
- Tracy Anderson
- Elizabeth Atwood
- Robert Balder
- Paul and Paula Del Nunzio Balser
- Lisa Baron
- Kent Barwick
- Patricia Lunka and Gary Berkman
- Sheema and Mihir Bhattacharya
- Kate Boicourt
- Lillian Borrone
- John R. Boué II
- Rebecca Bradley
- Pippa Brashear
- Andrew Cairns
- Jim Capalino
- Mike Carr
- Montgomery Cleworth and Susannah Drake
- Mike Cohen
- Jean Tatge and Phil Collis
- Stephen Culhane
- David Cunningham
- George and Annmarie Davenel
- Dianne Dillon-Ridgley
- J. Sandy Eames
- Peter Ebright
- Kim Elliman
- Richard Fitzsimmons
- Bobby Forch
- Cindy Garcia
- Elaine R. Goldman
- Elizabeth Goldstein
- Arthur and Elane Greenberg
- Thomas Greene
- David Grill
- Lee Gruzen
- Ladawn Haglund
- Doc Hermalyn
- Gregory Hoer
- David Hopkins
- Furhana Husani
- Margot Jacqz
- Hope Kauffman
- Jonathan Kennedy
- William Kenworthy
- Karel Koenig
- Cortney Koenig Worrall
- Michael Krieger
- Diane Krivo
- Hillary Lane
- Rick Larrabee
- Lynne Lerner
- Matthew Luzzatto
- Tony MacDonald
- Maureen Martin
- Matthew Mccarty
- Craig McCaw
- Kate McLetchie-Sheldon
- Hakan Memioglu
- Teddy Muhlfelder
- Chuck Nice
- Sarah Oakes
- Pamela Pettyjohn
- Julie Pullen
- Leah Reddy
- Kathy Robb
- David and Susan Rockefeller
- Bruce Rosenkrantz
- Janet C. Ross
- Alexis Saba
- Rick Scarano
- Khadeen Scarlett
- David Schmid
- Beatrice Schwartz
- AnnMarie Semeraro-Simoni
- Peggy Shepard
- Ronda Small
- Isel Stamatis
- Mike Stamatis
- Michael Stubbs
- Jeff Sublett
- Stewart Sutherland
- Robert Townley
- Claudia Wagner
- Terry Walton
- Chris Ward
- Drew Warshaw
- Matthew S. Washington
- Richard Weeks
- Carl Weisbrod
- Denisha Williams
- Kristina Wollschlaeger
- Philip Yee and Mary Nell Hawk
- Louis Zeppieri
- Lawrence Zukof



CORPORATE

- AECOM
- AKRF
- Arcadis-US
- Arch Street Communications
- Athens Aggregates
- Atlantic Offshore Terminals
- Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind
- Attentive Energy
- Barretto Bay Strategies
- Bayshore Recycling
- BIG Architecture
- Bluepoint Wind
- Bolton-St. Johns
- BYD Motors
- C.A.C. Industries
- Citrin Cooperman
- City Experiences by Hornblower
- Classic Harbor Line
- Climate Change Mitigation Technologies
- Community Offshore Wind
- Concrete Washout Systems
- Con Edison
- Crowley
- CSC 4540 Vernon Prop Co
- Delta Air Lines
- Dewberry
- The Durst Organization
- e4sciences
- ECOcrete
- EGS Americas
- Equinor
- Essex Equity Management
- Exp. Group
- Fleetsource Leasing
- Fulton Fish Market Cooperative
- Gisholt Shipping
- Greenberg Traurig
- H&M International Warehousing
- Halmar International
- HDR-NY
- HNTB Corporation
- Hughes Marine Firms
- Impact Environmental Consulting
- Industry City
- Insight Geoservices
- Integrated Industries
- Invenergy
- IONIC Order
- IPC Resiliency Partners
- Jacobs
- KBL Container Line
- KPF
- LANGAN
- Leading Light Wind
- LendLease
- Maher Terminals
- Marvel Designs
- Mathews Nielsen
- Landscape Architects
- Matrix New World Engineering
- McAllister Towing and Transportation Company
- McLaren Engineering
- Mechanical and Marine Construction
- Moran Towing Corporation
- Mott MacDonald
- National Retail Systems
- New England Steamship Agents
- New York City Economic Development Corporation
- New York Cruise Lines
- NY Waterway
- Ørsted
- Park Tower Group
- Plaxall
- Ramboll New York
- Real Estate Board of New York
- Red Hook Terminals
- Reef Innovations
- Revesco Properties
- RISE Light and Power
- Robb Water Partners
- Rock Tech
- Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York
- Sam Schwartz LLC
- SCAPE
- Seaboard Marine
- SeaCube Container Leasing
- Seaport Entertainment Group
- SF Marina Systems
- SiteWorks Landscape Architecture
- Skanska USA
- Stantec
- Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners
- Tonio Burgos and Associates
- Torrey Enterprises
- Trinity Products
- Tropical Fruit Export
- Turner Construction Company
- Two Trees Management
- United States Maritime Alliance
- The Vane Brothers Company
- Vineyard Offshore
- Votorantim Cimentos
- The Walt Disney Company
- Wasserman Media Group
- Waste Connections
- Watco Companies
- Watershoreviews
- West Gulf Maritime Association
- Williams
- Willis Towers Watson
- WSP
- ZPMC USA



GOVERNMENT

- NYC Council Member Shaun Abreu
- New York City Speaker Adrienne E. Adams
- Battery Park City Authority
- NYC Council Member Justin Brannan
- Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation
- NYC Council Member Tiffany L. Cabán
- NYC Council Member Amanda Farías
- NYC Council Member Kamillah M. Hanks
- NYC Council Member Ari Kagan
- NYC Council Member Christopher Marte
- NYC Council Member Julie Menin
- Congress Member Grace Meng, 6th Congressional District
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- NYC Council Member Vickie Paladino
- The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
- NYC Council Member Lincoln Restler
- NYC Council Member Carmen de la Rosa
- Royal Norwegian Consulate General
- NYC Council Member Althea Stevens
- NYC Council Member Sandra Ung
- NYC Council Member Marjorie Velázquez




IN-KIND

- Robert W. Balder
- City Winery NYC
- Classic Harbor Line
- College of Architecture, Art, and Planning New York City, Cornell University
- Grand Banks
- Hard Rock Café
- Hudson Canyon Consulting
- Late Night
- Langan
- Li-Lac Chocolates
- Manhattan Beer
- Matrix New World Engineering
- New York City Parks and Recreation Department
- New York Cruise Lines
- Ohio Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
- Patagonia
- Red Hook Terminals
- Sandmont Capital
- SCAPE
- Michael Stamatis
- Viking Cruises
- The Walt Disney Company

WATERFRONT ALLIANCE CORPORATE COUNCIL

- AECOM
- Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind
- C.A.C Industries
- Community Offshore Wind
- Con Edison
- Dewberry
- The Durst Organization
- Equinor
- Hornblower Group
- KPF
- Red Hook Terminals
- SCAPE
- Vineyard Offshore



Together, we lead the way for thriving and resilient waterfronts, shorelines, & coastlines.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIR

Kathy Robb

VICE-CHAIR

John R. Boulé, II

TREASURER

Rick Larrabee

SECRETARY

Matthew Washington

MEMBERS

Robert W. Balder

Kent L. Barwick

Pippa Brashear

Dianne Dillon-Ridgley

Peter Ebright

Hillary Lane

Maureen S. Martin

Teddy Muhlfelder

Chuck Nice

Pamela Pettyjohn

Julie Pullen, Ph.D.

Michael Stamatis

Chris Ward

Cortney Koenig Worrall

President and CEO

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS THROUGHOUT THIS REPORT INCLUDE: WHITNEY BROWNE, JOURDAN HERCSEK, JAKE MADELONE, AND JOSEPH SUTKOWI.



**WATERFRONT
ALLIANCE**

256 W 36th Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10018
212.935.9831
info@waterfrontalliance.org



*Waterfront Alliance is a
501(c)(3) not-for-profit
organization.
EIN number 13-4355067.*