



*** NEWS ADVISORY ***

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2008 Waterfront Conference: A Call for Change for Our Harbor

The MWA Launches the Waterfront Action Agenda: Practical Solutions for a 21st Century Waterfront

Elected Leaders Roundtable and Workshops – all on the Waterfront

New York, NY: Over 400 waterfront stakeholders, policy makers and elected leaders are gathering today for the 2008 Waterfront Conference at the National Museum of the American Indian. The event marks the launch of the MWA's Waterfront Action Agenda, a comprehensive set of practical steps that will connect the people of the metropolitan area to an improved waterfront.

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance President **Roland Lewis** says, "The Waterfront Action Agenda was born from the creative work of the 362 partners of the Waterfront Alliance. It identifies critical issues and practical solutions that, if implemented, will make ours a waterfront town. We are thrilled that so many leading government leaders, activists, professionals and academics are adding their voice and support to these goals." Delivering the keynote address at the conference, Port Authority Executive Director **Christopher Ward**, notes that, "The MWA is challenging government to think comprehensively about our waterfront, incorporating the environment, commerce, recreation, transportation and more into all waterfront plans. We at the Port Authority accept that challenge and look forward to working together for a healthy shared and accessible harbor." City Council Speaker **Christine Quinn** will speak about the recently enacted legislation requiring a comprehensive waterfront plan for the city every ten years starting in 2010. Says Quinn about the 2008 Waterfront Conference, "Only by working with the civic and business leaders brought together by this conference, can the City of New York effectively put together a plan that will make a significant and lasting positive impact on our waterfront."

In addition to the kick-off of the Waterfront Action Agenda, the Regional Plan association will release "Making Waterfronts Work" a study authored by **Tiffany Smythe** of the University of Rhode Island. Says RPA's Director of Environmental Programs **Robert Pirani**, "As one of the engines of our regional economy, water dependent maritime uses are not some relic of our industrial past. They can be a bridge to a more sustainable future, and are too important to be lost. We hope that the findings of this study help to ignite a regional discussion that protects and enhances these uses in balance with the waterfront's competing demands."

The conference includes a narrated boat tour of the harbor, Ward's keynote address, a political leader's roundtable on waterfront issues featuring Congressman **Jerry Nadler**, New Jersey City Council

President **Mariano Vega**, and other elected official from the region. It will be moderated by **Marcia Bystryn** of the NY League of Conservation Voters. There will also be a number of in-depth discussions on critical and timely waterfront issues, including:

- Bringing Shellfish Back to our Harbor
- Getting Every Kid on the Water: Reacquainting the Next Generation with our Harbor
- Growing Maritime Use: Key to a Diversified Economy
- Simplifying the Waterfront Permitting Process
- Getting the Mud Out: Addressing the Cost of Dredging
- Mass Water Transit: Solutions for NY/NJ Commuters
- Celebrating Henry Hudson's Voyage of 1609
- Paying for Spectacular Waterfront Parks

Dozens of important waterfront leaders in the region are participating in the conference, including:

Kent Barwick, Municipal Art Society
Paula Berry, NYC Harbor District
Michael Bruno, Stevens Institute of Technology
Marcia Bystryn, New York League of Conservation Voters
Majora Carter, The Majora Carter Group
Jaimie Cloud, The Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education
Bob Connell, Bureau of Water Monitoring, NJ DEP
Robert Cotter, Jersey City Department of City Planning
Janet Cox, Ferry Transportation, Port Authority of NY & NJ
Dick Dadey, Citizens Union
Joan Davidson, Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission
Scot Douglas, Office of Maritime Resources, NJ DOT
Noreen Doyle, Hudson River Park Trust
Murray Fisher, New York Harbor School
Connie Fishman, Hudson River Park Trust
Michael Fishman, Urban Answers
Tom Fox, New York Water Taxi
Adam Friedman, NY Industrial Retention Network
Frank Gallagher, Liberty State Park
Andrew Genn, NYC Economic Development Corporation
Angela Haines, Henry Hudson 400
Robert Johnson, Union Settlement House
Steve Kalil, Caddell Dry Dock
Ed Kelly, Maritime Association of the Port of NY & NJ
Andrew Kimball, President, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corp.
Pat Kinnier, McAllister Towing Company.
Emlyn Koster, Liberty Science Center
Venetia Lannon, New York City Economic Development Corporation
Terry MacRae, Statue Cruises
Paul Mankiewicz, The Gaia Institute

Suzanne Mattei, Region 2, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Mark Mauriello, Land Use Program, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Frank McDonough, New York Shipping Association
KD McGucken, NYC Economic Development Corporation
Katie Mosher-Smith, NY-NJ Baykeeper
Regina Myer, Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, US House of Representatives
Alan Olmsted, NYC Department of Transportation
Buz Paaswell, University Transportation Research Center
Mary Pelzer, South Street Seaport Museum
Rob Pirani, Regional Plan Association
Hon. Christine Quinn, Speaker, New York City Council
Jessie Ann Ransom, Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority
Dick Sabatini, Staten Island Concrete
Jennifer Samson, Clean Ocean Action
Rick Scarano, Classic Harbor Line*
Gajus Scheltma, Consul General of the Netherlands in New York
Dr. Shmuel Yahalom, SUNY Maritime
Peggy Shepard, WE ACT for Environmental Justice
William Slezak, US Army Corps of Engineers
Tiffany Smythe, Regional Plan Association
Dennis Suszkowski, Hudson River Foundation
Shino Tanikawa, NYC Soil and Water Conservation District
Jim Tripp, Environmental Defense Fund
Chris Ward, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Jay Watson, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Bill Wheeler, Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Madelyn Wils, NYC Economic Development Corporation
Steve Zahn, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Jeff Zupan, Regional Plan Association

The Conference is made possible by generous support from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, USEPA, NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program, New York Shipping Association, Inc., Statue Cruises, Parsons Brinckerhoff Group, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn Architects, New York City Economic Development Corporation, New York State Department of State, Coastal Resource Programs, Trust for Public Land, Sandy Hook Pilots Association, and the General Contractors Association of New York.

Throughout the day, guests will have an opportunity to learn about many MWA Alliance organizations through a series of posters and table top exhibits on display throughout the conference area.

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About the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

MWA works to transform the New York and New Jersey harbor and waterways to make them clean and accessible, a vibrant place to play, learn and work, with great parks, great jobs and great transportation for all.

www.waterfrontalliance.org