



METROPOLITAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE



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## **GROUPS RALLY TO DEMAND DIVERSE, CLEAN ACCESSIBLE EAST RIVER WATERFRONT**

### *Sustainable Waterfront Development Key to Mayor's Green Plan*

Today — East River Day — a coalition of more than 50 organizations led by the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance and the Municipal Art Society launch the East River Agenda, a roadmap to creating a cleaner, more accessible and sustainable future for the river and its shorelines.

“It is a critical moment for the East River and the entire New York waterfront,” said MAS President Kent L. Barwick. “Land uses along the waterfront are changing from industrial to residential, commercial and recreation, and opportunities exist to create a world-class waterfront.”

“The agenda is a response to the mayor’s bold plan to reclaim 90 percent of the city’s waterways by 2030,” said MWA President Roland Lewis. “His PlaNYC aims to “green” the city within the next 25 years. It is not just about congestion pricing, it is about brownfield remediation, an affordable ferry system integrated into the transit system and improving the quality of the water to make it safer for recreational use.”

Elected officials and civic leaders will join dozens of activists today from each of the four boroughs that border the East River on a rolling news conference at seven venues throughout the city.

“My entire life growing up in Queens, we've been cut off from our waterfront,” said City Councilman Eric Gioia, who represents Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, Astoria and Maspeth. “Today I join my friends, neighbors, and advocates from across our great city to celebrate the progress we have made in reclaiming the waterfront and to lay out our future plans for the shores of the East River. The East River is our greatest natural resource and one day soon New Yorkers from all five boroughs and visitors from all over the world will visit the Queens waterfront to enjoy our parks, our new schools and libraries, and our unparalleled views of Manhattan.”

In a response to the destruction of some of Brooklyn’s most important historic industrial buildings and sites — and the threats others face — the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently named the industrial heritage of the Brooklyn waterfront to its annual list of the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in America.

The East River Agenda is a book which details the work of the 55 allied organizations and it highlights 287 points of opportunity for improving access to the East River. The organizing principals of the agenda are waterfront access, place making, environmental stewardship and community-based planning. The day will conclude in Brooklyn with the premiere screening of *City of Water*, a new documentary about the city's changing waterfront.

The 55 members of the East River Agenda Coalition are local, city-wide and regional organizations that work to constructively to engage with and improve the waterfront in their neighborhoods. A complete list of members is enclosed.

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance is dedicated to creating a world-class waterfront for the shorelines and waterways of the New York and New Jersey harbor. An independent not-for-profit corporation, MWA works with more than 300 civic organizations, government agencies and businesses to realize this vision.

The Municipal Art Society of New York is a private, non-profit membership organization whose mission is to promote a more livable city. Since 1893, MAS has worked to enrich the culture, neighborhoods and physical design of New York City. It advocates for excellence in urban design and planning, contemporary architecture, historic preservation and public art.

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