

Public Testimony**January 23, 2019****New York City Council, Committee on Economic Development****Re: Oversight - Brooklyn Navy Yard Expansion Plans****Submitted by Roland Lewis, President and CEO****Waterfront Alliance**

Waterfront Alliance is a non-profit civic organization and coalition of more than 1,000 community and recreational groups, educational institutions, businesses, and other stakeholders. Our mission is to inspire and enable resilient, revitalized and accessible coastlines for all communities.

The Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation (BNYDC) has successfully innovated on the Yard's maritime and manufacturing roots to preserve and build the kind of spaces and access that grow the city's modern industrial sector and fuel economic vitality. Chief among these accomplishments is maintaining the active working waterfront of the Yard — boat berths, cargo piers, and ship repair facilities — that are now rare and in demand in our city's post industrial era. Valuable recreational and educational uses also share our harbor now, and integrating increased public access is a welcome component of the Yard's new master plan.

Waterfront Alliance supports BNYDC's new master plan and Yard expansion to include public access to the water, while maintaining a vibrant and well supported working waterfront.

- **Build access to touch, learn or paddle on the water integrated into the proposed public esplanade on Kent.**

The Kent site, or north section along Kent Ave., includes Wallabout Channel, identified as the Barge Basin Loop in master plan renderings. Thanks to support from BNYDC, this well protected waterway already hosts an oyster restoration nursery with Billion Oyster Project and a public rowing program with Villiage Community Boathouse. Public access in this section should prioritize expansion of these stewardship opportunities with a floating dock, boat ramp, or get down into the water. Waterfront Alliance can provide guidance for integrating public access with other maritime and site needs through our Maritime Activation Plan, a customized menu of options for the waterfront coalescing in a path to full and best use, including relevant feasibility considerations and potential partnerships.

- **Site the proposed science and engineering museum and youth STEM programs immediately on the waterfront for direct access to learning on the water.**

The Navy site, or west section at the NYPD tow pound, is proposed to

host a museum and learning center, but is landlocked. It would be a significant missed opportunity to not allow these programs to have direct access to the water, which could be obtained by switching the proposed museum space over to the Kent site, where the esplanade and public access to the water is planned. In addition, this move would enhance equity. The western Navy site is about a half mile from the existing education center at Brooklyn Bridge Park. Moving the proposed science museum and STEM activities to the northern Kent site would create an educational opportunity in a waterfront stretch of three miles without one. Waterfront Alliance's WEDG program offers guidance for these kinds of development projects, integrating resilience, ecology, and access on the waterfront.

- **Rationalize ferry access for the public.**

The Flushing site, or center section near building 77, is proposed as a potential master plan gate for a flyway bridge over restricted parts of the Yard allowing the public to access a new NYC Ferry stop at Dock 72. However, this would be a significant infrastructure investment, potentially covering more than one quarter mile. The promise of NYC Ferry should honestly include the realities of public access at the Navy Yard, including publicizing the likelihood of a shuttle bus to the ferry as the more cost effective alternative for the general public.

- **Preserve the working waterfront of the Brooklyn Navy Yard.**

Across the city, our working waterfront sustains our high standard of living while struggling to keep a place among new residential buildings, parks and resiliency efforts now crowding at the edge. At least six maritime dependent organizations call the Yard home for their boats, including the Fire Department of New York (FDNY), GMD Shipyard, Lehigh Cement, New York Sand and Stone, NYC Ferry, and Harbor School. To accomplish their work, they need full utilities on the waterfront, construction areas for repairs, and sometimes truck access to the dock. The Pier D RFEI is another opportunity for working waterfront in the Yard, and it's particularly meaningful that BNYDC and the city offer some financial support for the necessary infrastructure rebuilding at Pier D. We applaud BNYDC for their continued support of the working waterfront.

- **Increase resilience and access.**

The proposed master plan carefully considers resilient design for new buildings at the Yard. We encourage BNYDC to continue extending this focus to existing waterfront infrastructure, and to plan creatively to maintain access to the water for both commercial and recreational uses while building resilience.



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Development Corporation
BrooklynNavyYard.org

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**Testimony of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation
Delivered by President & CEO David Ehrenberg
before
The New York City Council Committee on Economic Development**

January 23, 2019

Chairman Vallone and fellow Council Members, thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation (BNYDC). We are pleased to share with the committee how the mission and vision of BNYDC has become a nationally-recognized model in the areas of urban revitalization, economic and workforce development, and modern manufacturing.

The Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation is the mission-driven not-for-profit that serves as the real estate developer and property manager of the Brooklyn Navy Yard (Yard) on behalf of its owner, the City of New York. BNYDC's mission is to fuel New York City's economic vitality by creating and preserving quality jobs, growing the city's modern industrial sector and its businesses, and connecting the local community with the economic opportunity and resources of the Yard.

The Yard has long been a center of innovation, contributing to the development of steam-powered technology, anesthesia, and radio communications throughout its history. The Yard was established in 1801 as one of the first of five federal shipyards created to serve the newly-formed U.S. Navy. Peak activity at the Yard occurred during World War II, when some 70,000 people worked on site every day. It was in continuous operation until 1966, when it was decommissioned and sold to the City of New York.

What was a symbol of America's industrial might in the mid-20th century is now among the country's leading urban manufacturing centers – one that is becoming a central business district in its own right. At 300 acres, the Yard is roughly half the size of Prospect Park. It is home to more than 400 companies employing over 9,000 New Yorkers. The Yard manages and maintains more than 70 buildings across some 4.8 million square feet of space.

The Yard stands for an equitable approach to economic development. Central to our model is that we provide an enabling environment for manufacturing businesses that create middle-class jobs, and we simultaneously partner with the local community to ensure access to those opportunities.

Growth at the Yard Today

The Yard is currently in its largest phase of growth since WWII. This growth is fueled by public and private investments of nearly \$1 billion that will add 2.8 million square feet of space and 10,000+ accessible, middle-class jobs. As a result, the Yard will expand from 9,000 jobs today to 20,000 jobs in the very near term. Key components of this expansion include the recently-opened Building 77 and Food Manufacturing Hub, the soon-to-open Dock 72, the Green Manufacturing Center, Admirals Row, and the Steiner Studios expansion.



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The work of the Yard is steeped in the belief that the industrial sector can and will flourish in New York, employing a diverse cross-section of New Yorkers in jobs that offer real career pathways. As a landlord, the Yard helps to support the industrial sector by providing affordable and stable real estate and by providing a suite of services to Yard businesses aimed at helping them thrive and grow. The Yard's growth is critically important to support existing tenants looking to expand, new companies starting up in NYC, businesses that are forced out of other areas of NYC, and companies looking to move into the New York market.

Translating Economic Activity into Local Opportunity

The Yard is an economic development hub, but one with a focus on local impact and engagement. The most important part of this work comes out the Yard's Albert C. Wiltshire Employment Center (EC).

The EC focuses on placement services and career pathways. On the placement side, the EC provides hiring and staffing support services at no cost to tenants. Each year the EC places between 300 and 400 residents in jobs at businesses both within and outside of the Yard. The EC focuses on serving Brooklyn residents, particularly historically underserved individuals and those who may need additional support to secure employment. These community members include public housing residents, long-term unemployed individuals, individuals who have previously been convicted or incarcerated, and veterans.

The pathways work of the EC is focused on ensuring that local residents are armed with the skills needed to access the Yard jobs of today and tomorrow. This work includes internship programs for over 150 young people each year, as well as the Brooklyn STEAM Center, a next-generation Career and Technical Education High School program. The STEAM Center will offer training for career pathways into high-demand jobs within the Yard and a larger labor market for 300 high school students each year. Over time, additional training partnerships and programs based on the needs of Yard employers will also be developed.

In addition, we leverage our assets to provide resources and opportunities to the surrounding Brooklyn community wherever possible. This includes collaborations with local high schools and CUNY campuses focused on career technical education; MWLBE contracting and business support services; free school programming; and historical tours of the Yard.

The Master Plan

While the Yard is adding significant square footage, the demand for manufacturing space continues to grow. Mindful of this reality and realizing that our current phase of growth will by no means fully satisfy the need, we embarked on a master plan exercise about 18 months ago. The Brooklyn Navy Yard master plan is the culmination of one of the most comprehensive efforts ever undertaken to chart a course for the growth of the manufacturing sector in New York City.

The Yard's master plan lays out an ambitious vision for growth well beyond its current expansion. The plan envisions a \$2.5 billion investment that would bring the total number of jobs at the Yard to 30,000. To achieve this growth, the plan comprises development of 5.1



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million square feet of vertical manufacturing space unlike any in the country, further solidifying the Yard's role as a national urban model for sustainable middle-class job creation. At the same time, the plan outlines a series of open space and connectivity improvements aimed at integrating the 300-acre Yard with its surrounding neighborhoods, while improving operations for its manufacturing users.

This is an exciting time for the Brooklyn Navy Yard. We have created a nationally-recognized model that thinks differently about economic development and continues to position New York City as a leader in the area. Most important, we are delivering on our mission to support the industries of the future and the creation of thousands of quality jobs for New Yorkers that will sustain this city for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the mission and work of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. We welcome any additional questions the Committee may have.

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Testimony of the New York University Tandon School of Engineering
before
The New York City Council Committee on Economic Development

January 23, 2018

Chairman Vallone and fellow Council Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the New York University Tandon School of Engineering. We are pleased to share how the NYU community is engaged in the City's efforts to promote the growth and success of Brooklyn Navy Yard revitalization efforts.

In October of 2018, along with New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME), and the Brooklyn Navy Yard, NYU Tandon announced the launch of RLab – the first City-funded virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR) lab in the country. Administered by NYU Tandon in coordination with a consortium of New York City universities, RLab will operate out of Building 22 in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and will cement New York City's status as a global leader in VR/AR, connecting New Yorkers with over 750 jobs in the industry. RLab is a component of Mayor de Blasio's New York Works plan, which aims to create 100,000 jobs over 10 years.

New York City anchor industries – healthcare, education, real estate, retail, live entertainment and video entertainment – are slated to be among the most impacted by VR/AR. At the same time, given its diverse talent pool and vibrant business ecosystem, New York City is uniquely positioned to become a leader in VR/AR. NYU Tandon remains committed to working with the city and other local partner institutions, including Columbia University, CUNY, and The New School, to capitalize on this opportunity.

The RLab will support new ventures with workspace and early-stage capital, make the industry more accessible through workforce development initiatives, and convene investors, university researchers, corporate leaders, and community organizations to collaborate around New York City's emerging VR/AR sector. New projects and startups with tremendous potential for growth are already underway – we expect much more to come.

By offering extensive workforce development programs, the RLab will build upon the Brooklyn Navy Yard's success in engaging the local community. These programs will foster technical, creative and commercial skillsets that will prepare participants to find new opportunities in an emerging technology sector. Educational components will be complemented by a career opportunity program that will create hands-on experiential learning opportunities for students of all ages and academic backgrounds. A progressive approach to financing will create a pool of scholarship resources available to students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds from New York City universities and schools.

Brooklyn is the fastest growing hub of technology in the country, and NYU Tandon is a proud partner of the borough's efforts to further this growth. Through our network of Future Labs — entrepreneurial hubs dedicated to Digital, Urban, and Veteran-owned startups — we're helping make the borough we call home a mecca for the world's most forward-thinking, entrepreneurial, and creative people. We look forward to continue working with the city in areas such as Brooklyn Navy Yard to change reality for

hundreds of job-seeking New Yorkers and make the Borough, and the city at-large, a leader in the burgeoning tech industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our exciting programs at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and we welcome any additional questions the Committee may have. *(Please contact Konstantine Tettonis, NYU Government Affairs, kt1249@nyu.edu)*

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Name: HARRISON GREEN

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Date: 1/23/19

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Name: David Ehrenberg

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