



Vanessa L. Gibson
Assemblywoman 77th District
Bronx County

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

District Office:
930 Grand Concourse
Suite 1E
Bronx, NY 10451
(718) 538-2000

Albany Office:
(518) 455-5671

July 29, 2009

Harlem River Working Group
c/o Highbridge Community Life Center
979 Ogden Avenue
Bronx, NY 10452

To Whom It May Concern:

As the newly elected State Assembly member of the 77th Assembly District, I represent portions of the Claremont, Highbridge, Mount Eden and Morris Heights neighborhoods in the West Bronx. Additionally, my district encompasses a large part of the Harlem River in the Bronx, and I am strongly committed to the restoration of the waterway. With this in mind, I firmly support the Harlem River Working Group's application to the U.S. National Park Service.

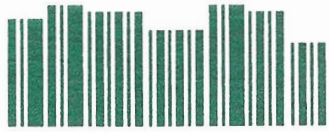
I have worked with a number of the organizations involved in the Harlem River Working Group prior to my election as the State Assembly member and will continue to do so as their advocate in Albany. As a member of the NYS Assembly Bronx Delegation, I will continue to promote recreational and volunteer participation to all residents, with special recognition to the youth of the Bronx.

It is important to note that in my district, the number of asthma sufferers is substantially above the national average. Additionally, as a whole the Borough of the Bronx is slated as the most obese county in New York City. The Harlem River Working Group's commitment will serve to address the healthcare concerns and problems facing our community,

Subsequently, the Harlem Working Group with its strong connection to promoting environmental awareness and goals of providing safe and healthy activities to all New Yorkers, I strongly support their pursuit of assistance for the residents of the Bronx to reclaim and revitalize the Harlem River.

Sincerely,

Vanessa L. Gibson
Member of Assembly
77th Assembly District



HIGHBRIDGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

1465 NELSON AVENUE • BRONX, NEW YORK 10452 • (718) 293-3100 • FAX: (718) 590-0772

July 27, 2009

National Park Service
Rivers, Trails and Conservation
Assistance Program
1845 C. Street NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

Highbridge Community Development Corporation (HCDC) is a non-profit organization engaged in the redevelopment of the Highbridge Neighborhood in the South Bronx. This neighborhood borders the Harlem River on both the Bronx and Manhattan sides. The Highbridge spans over the Harlem River.

HCDC has renovated and built a total of 66 buildings (providing more than 2000 government assisted affordable apartments) and six play lots over a 20 year period on The Bronx side of the river.

We support the work of the Harlem River Working Group to improve the well-being of our community and all the communities along the Harlem River. We join them in promoting better access to a clean Harlem River.

We strongly urge you to provide technical assistance and advice to the Harlem River Working Group to achieve its goals for our communities.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Donald Sakano
President

Hilary Hinds Kitasei
20 River Terrace #12M
New York, New York 10282

July 29, 2009

Mr. Steve Golden
Chief, Conservation Assistance Division
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Program
National Parks Service
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Mr. Golden,

The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ) has applied to you for assistance to formalizing the Hudson River Working Group in New York City. I offered to write in support of this application, because I feel so strongly that it is consonant with your mission. I have worked as a partner with BCEQ on the Henry Hudson Parkway Scenic Byway Initiative and the Harlem River Brownfield Opportunity Area Project.

For three decades, the Harlem River has invoked visions of a glorious harbor park district at the heart of New York City, linking its waterfronts, trails and bridges. Tragically it remains a hole at the center of these plans. This is because the waterfront communities, among the richest and poorest in the United States, have had no framework for cooperation or continuity. Instead there has been a wasteful cycle of repeated and haphazard public “outreach” by agencies and consultants constantly turning over. BCEQ stepped in to fill this vacuum by forming the Harlem River Working Group. It has proved to be an enduring coalition of community groups and agencies with the best hope for gaining traction on the goal of restoring the Harlem River as the nexus of the New York metropolitan region’s waterways and trails.

With support, BCEQ will do for the Harlem River and New York City what Riverkeeper has done for the Hudson River and Valley.

Sincerely,

Hilary Hinds Kitasei

Hilary Hinds Kitasei
Chair, Henry Hudson Parkway Task Force
Project Manager, Harlem River Brownfield Opportunity Area Project



THE HIGH BRIDGE COALITION

Reclaiming History - Connecting Communities

National Park Service
River and Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To the National Park Service:

The High Bridge Coalition wishes to express its support for a Harlem River Working Group in the Bronx. The coalition that was formed to promote the restoration and eventual use of the High Bridge, a pedestrian footbridge that connects the Bronx to Manhattan and extends over the Harlem River. The coalition continues to work towards the following goals:

- Re-establish the High Bridge as a destination site, an interborough link, and as part of the Old Croton Aqueduct Greenway
- Highlight the story of the bridge's history and the bridge's cultural significance
- Improve the parks on both the Bronx and Manhattan sides of the bridge
- Increase public access to the waterfront along the Harlem River

We take an interest in the Harlem River Working Group's proposed goals. The Harlem River Working Group has expressed its goal of protecting the water and waterfront in the three areas of 'Greenway & Access,' 'Education & Ecology,' and 'Outreach, Advocacy, & Water Use.'

The High Bridge Coalition was the recipient of a grant from the National Park Service from 2001 – 2004. We were pleased to work with the National Park Service to develop plans, goals and tasks, and to raise awareness throughout the local and regional communities. Ultimately, the High Bridge received full funding for restoration through a combination of City funds and Federal transportation grants. We believe that the support of the Rivers and Trails program will lead to the success of the larger Harlem River revitalization project.

Our goals of increasing public access to the waterfront along the Harlem River coincide with the Harlem River Working Group's goals, and we plan to support the group in this effort. We would promote use of the waterfront among our constituents, and would keep up to date on the Harlem River Working Groups' efforts to do likewise, so that we can support each other's efforts when possible.

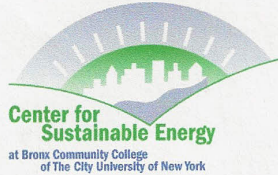
If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Laura Gabby, High Bridge Coalition co-chair

*Steering Committee: City Life Is Moving Bodies (CLIMB) • Friends of Highbridge Park
Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct • Highbridge Community Life Center • NYC Department of Environmental Protection
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation • New York Restoration Project*

2301 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, New York 10033 • Tel: 212.927.5864 • www.thehighbridge.org



BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS 

July 28, 2009

Hon. Ken Salazar
Secretary
National Park Service
River Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

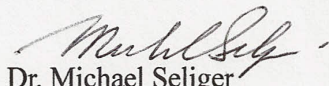
On behalf of the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE), I am writing to support the Harlem River Working Group's (HRWG's) application for funding to support restoration efforts along the Harlem River waterfront. The Harlem River runs between the Bronx and Manhattan in New York City, and the restoration effort will both contribute to cleaning the river and its shorefront, and reconnect it with surrounding communities.

The mission of CSE at Bronx Community College is to promote the use of renewable and efficient energy in urban communities through education, training, workforce development, research, and project facilitation. The Center supports clean energy development and energy conservation as the means to protect the environment, enhance public health, and position New York City to capture emerging economic development opportunities in the energy sector.

The HRWG proposal is needed to conserve and use an important natural resource in the Bronx. The goals of this proposal include creating greenways, parks, parkland trails and restoring water quality to swimmable and fishable levels. This effort will also provide environmental jobs and educational opportunities, and the project's goals will result in recreational alternatives for local residents traveling on foot or by bicycle, and promote activities with a low to zero carbon footprint. These activities will help improve the environment and sustainability.

CSE has worked with many of the organizations involved in the HRWG on energy conservation, alternative energy planning, and green jobs initiatives, and can attest to the sincerity, community orientation and professionalism of each. Accordingly, I urge the National Parks Service to approve this funding to organize and help establish the HRWG as a community-led initiative to work with local, state, and federal officials to promote and redevelop the Harlem River.

Yours Truly,



Dr. Michael Seliger
Associate Dean for Program Development



Manhattan College

Riverdale
New York, 10471

President's Office

July 23, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

Manhattan College, overlooking Van Cortlandt Park in The Bronx and just 15 blocks from the Harlem River, is an independent institution of higher learning. Established in 1853, the College is founded upon the Lasallian tradition of excellence in teaching, respect for individual dignity, and commitment to social justice inspired by the innovator of modern pedagogy, John Baptist de La Salle.

The College's commitment to social justice embraces protection of the human environment and environmental justice. Over a half-century ago, its internationally acclaimed environmental engineering program developed the early frameworks for modeling of water quality in order to provide custodians of the environment with the tools necessary to preserve and protect our nation's surface waters.

As a member of the Harlem River Task Force leading a Brownfields Opportunity Award initial phase grant exploring this waterbody, the need to preserve, protect and restore the river became clear. Its roots with, access to, and use by the Bronx uplands communities that border it must be foremost in the minds of city and state planners.

The College supports the efforts of the Harlem River Working Group (HRWG) to organize the community and restore the Harlem River to its glory days when citizens promenaded along its shores viewing boating regattas on its waters. Indeed, the College's Crew Team rows on the Harlem River and is intimately aware of some of the current quality, access and use issues that need to be addressed through a coordinated effort.

The assistance of Mr. Jerry Willis, New York Director of River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, would greatly support this effort. His work on the Bronx River resulting in a veritable renaissance there for that critical urban waterway is just what is needed to address comparable challenges for the Harlem River. Manhattan College strongly supports this effort to obtain the support of the National Park Service through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and looks forward to remaining involved with the efforts of the HRWG.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brennan O'Donnell".

Brennan O'Donnell, Ph.D.
President

MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION

A Not-for-Profit Affiliate of Montefiore Medical Center

3400 Reservoir Oval East • Bronx, New York 10467 • 718-324-4461 (P) • 718-324-2917 (F) • email: MPC@mpcbronx.org

July 21, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

Dear NPS

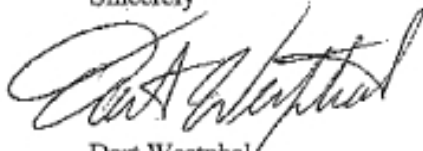
Mosholu Preservation Corporation is a 501c3 community development organization founded in support of Montefiore Medical Center in 1981. We are located in Community District 7 in the Bronx, NY which includes the Harlem River waterfront as well as Montefiore's headquarters campus. Our main mission is to revitalize the area in cooperation with other community groups. We develop neglected real estate for community uses, publish three community newspapers, manage a Business Improvement District and engage in other commercial revitalization projects. We are also involved in a number of programs to revitalize area parks and are active with the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park and the Bronx river Alliance. I served as chair of the Bronx river Alliance and am currently board member.

We support the application of the HRWG to organize activities for the entire Bronx and to restore the river. If successful we would encourage our constituents to join and/or walk along the Harlem River.

I personally have worked closely with Jerry Willis, New York Director of River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program on the formation of the Bronx River Alliance. Having such technical assistance in the creation of a similar public private partnership along the Harlem River is essential and timely considering the various projects that will soon begin.

We will remain active with the Harlem River Working Group and will be supportive in any way that we can.

Sincerely



Dart Westphal
President



Publisher of The Norwood News & Manager of the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District

Board of Directors - Chairman, Lewis Henkind / Secretary-Treasurer, Spencer Foreman, MD

Directors - Margaret H. Adams / Sister Annunziata Bothell / Bruce Bozeman, Esq. / William E. Frey / Renee Kalick / Eleanor Lundeen / Doris Quinones

President - Dart Westphal

The Keeper's House in Norwood

PARTNERSHIPS for PARKS

July 22, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

Partnerships for Parks is an innovative joint program of City Parks Foundation and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Founded in 1995, we help New Yorkers work together to make neighborhood parks thrive. Ultimately, our work supports a culture of collaboration among people and government that recognizes that parks are vital centers of community life.

Partnerships has worked with many of the Harlem River Working Group members in the past to help plan events, conferences and gain access to the water's edge. We are a member of the Harlem River Working Group, the Harlem River Brownfields Opportunity Area and the High Bridge Coalition. *Partnerships for Parks* also convened the Bronx River Working Group and brought together more than 60 community organizations, public agencies and businesses committed to reclaiming the river and improving access to it throughout the Bronx.

We support the efforts of the Harlem River Working Group (HRWG) by providing technical assistance, creating a database of meeting and water conference attendees and interested organizations and assist with outreach. It would be an amazing asset to residents of the Bronx to have a revitalized, clean and accessible waterfront.

The assistance of Mr. Jerry Willis, New York Director of River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, would greatly support this effort. His work on the Bronx River and High Bridge Project resulted in additional resources and helped these projects achieve their goals. *Partnerships for Parks* strongly supports this effort to obtain the support of the National Park Service and looks forward to remaining involved with the efforts of the HRWG.

Sincerely,

Maria Luisa Cipriano
Maria Luisa Cipriano,
Bronx Outreach Coordinator

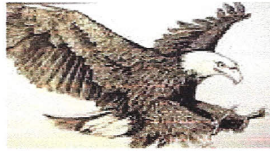
The Arsenal
830 Fifth Avenue • New York, NY 10021
Phone: 212-360-1310 • Fax: 212-360-1350
www.partnershipsforparks.org

A JOINT PROGRAM OF




City of New York
Parks & Recreation

CityParks
Foundation



New York Council of Malians

 Bourema Nambele, President
Cell: 917 291 3833 Email: nymalians@yahoo.com
1022 Woodycrest Avenue Bronx New York 10452

July 21, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern,

The New York Council of Malians, a recognized New York State Charitable Organization, is located in the Highbridge Neighborhood of the Bronx. The NY Council of Malians' mission is to serve the growing African and Immigrant population throughout the Bronx and New York City. NY Council of Malians helps provide educational support and life skills to youth, also well as counseling, legal and translation services.

We are an active member of the steering committee of the Harlem River Working Group and actively support the application of the Harlem River Working Group to organize activities for the entire Bronx and to restore the river.

Many of our members live along the edge of the Harlem River but have never actually been along the banks of the river or for that matter, even know the river's name. It is essential that the members of NYC Malians have access to the river for exercise and recreation and also to act as an educational resource for young and old alike.

We feel that the technical assistance that could be offered by the River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program will be essential in guarantying our communities along the Harlem River can be apart of a Harlem River Renaissance, which will both link the communities along the Harlem to the river and to each other, as well as serve as an essential link in New York City's growing greenway system.

Sincerely,

Bourema Niambele
President and Founder



o DISTRICT OFFICE
3636 WALDO AVENUE
BRONX, NY 10463
(718) 549-7300
FAX (718) 549-9945

THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
G. OLIVER KOPPELL
COUNCIL MEMBER, 11TH DISTRICT
BRONX

o CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1877
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-7080

koppell@council.nyc.ny.us

July 24, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To whom it may concern:

As representative of NY City Council District, I have long been a supporter of environmental conservation issues in New York City and State. The Harlem River-Spuyten Duyvil-Hudson River waterway connection that borders my district is a vital economic and ecological link for all of New York Harbor. My office is well aware of the efforts of the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality and the Harlem River Working Group to improve public access and water quality for this important community and ecological resource.

Please accept this letter as an expression of my support for the Harlem River Working Group's application to the National Parks Service.

Benefits from the HRWG's efforts will include increased and improved waterfront access, connection to other Bronx Greenways, and improved Harlem River water quality that will affect the entire region. Shoreline access will provide much needed opportunity for both passive and active recreation on the waterfront and the water itself. Connection to the Bronx Greenway system will allow continuous bicycle and pedestrian access, spurring further recreational and economic opportunity. With infrastructure, including ecological restoration, in place, programming for the waterfront will provide multiple educational opportunities, from urban ecology and conservation to the historic importance of local waterways.

Sincerely,


G. Oliver Koppell
Councilmember



Jean Mirvil
Principal

Community Elementary School 73X
1020 Anderson Avenue Bronx, N. Y. 10452 (718) 681-6776 FAX (718) 681-6749

Denise Kaalund
Arcania Jaquez
Craig Monteverde, I.A.
Assistant Principal

February 26th 2009

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to recommend the Highbridge Community Life Center for a grant to undertake work on greenway development along the Harlem River. These park spaces provide much needed space for children and other community members, and they serve to link neighborhoods with poor access to green space (like Highbridge) to major parks and recreational destinations.

The progress of the Bronx River Alliance and Sustainable South Bronx shows the extent to which a dedicated staff member can catalyze community and political support for a project, and get shovels in the ground. A similar investment is needed along the Harlem River, where greenway development has lagged for lack of a community advocate with the time and resources to build and maintain momentum.

Our organization has worked with the Highbridge Community Life Center for many years, and time after time we witness their effectiveness as community organizers. Their ability to turn out residents to public meetings, to organize events for neighborhood youth and to work alongside broad coalitions of groups like our own is impressive. We seldom begin work on a Bronx initiative or event without first soliciting their input, and we consistently benefit from their on-the-ground outreach. They have an inexhaustible energy, and a unique grasp of their community, both of which are critical to seeing long-term projects implemented. I can think of no better leader for efforts on the Harlem River than the Highbridge Community Life Center, and strongly recommend you invest in them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean Mirvil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

**LUIS LLORENS TORRES CHILDREN'S ACADEMY
P.S. 114**



1155 Cromwell Avenue, Bronx, New York 10452
Phone # (718) 681-7507 Fax # (718) 681-7519

Olivia Francis-Webber
Principal

Mr. George Ault
Assistant Principal

Ms. Tabatha Williams
Assistant Principal

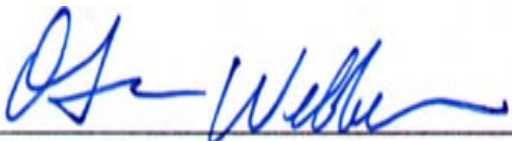
February 27th, 2009

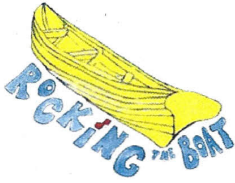
Dear Sir/Madam,

The Administration, faculty, students, parents and staff unreservedly support the Harlem River Working Group and Highbridge Community Life Center in their application. Their intent to undertake work on greenway development and promote community education in the schools and communities along the Harlem River are worthy and noble aspirations. The entire community will benefit wholesomely from these efforts.

Thank you for your unfaltering benevolence in making the efforts of these two organizations a reality.

Yours sincerely,


Ms. Olivia Francis-Webber, Principal.



rocking the boat
812 edgewater road
bronx, ny 10474
p 718.466.5799
f 718.466.2892

info@rockingtheboat.org
www.rockingtheboat.org

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July 27, 2009

National Park Service
River Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW, Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Program Administrator:

Rocking the Boat is a non-profit youth development organization based in the South Bronx. Our programs use traditional wooden boat building and on-water education to help high school age youth develop into empowered and responsible adults. Our participants work to restore the Bronx River and provide general public access to the river through our Saturday Community Rowing program.

Through our collaboration with the Bronx River Alliance, the Natural Resources Group, the Gaia Institute, and the Laboratory for Marine and Estuarine Research (LaMer) at Lehman College, and New York City Audubon, our program participants provide real data on the health of the river and have seen the difference that their restoration work has done to improve the quality of the river. It would be great for this work to also happen on the Harlem River.

We are, therefore, happy to support the mission of the Harlem River Working Group (HRWC) and their efforts to restore the Harlem River, create programs, and make the river accessible again to the surrounding community. We urge that any and all resources be given to the HRWC to begin this work; and, hopefully, very soon the communities of The Bronx will be fully able to use and enjoy the rivers that surround them.

Sincerely,


Adam Green
Executive Director

**LUIS LLORENS TORRES CHILDREN'S ACADEMY
P.S. 114**



1155 Cromwell Avenue, Bronx, New York 10452
Phone # (718) 681-7507 Fax # (718) 681-7519

**Olivia Francis-Webber
Principal**

**Mr. George Ault
Assistant Principal**

**Ms. Tabatha Williams
Assistant Principal**

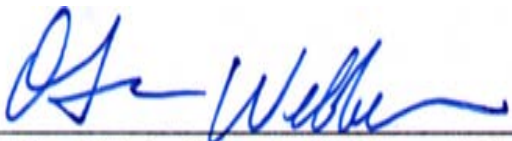
February 27th, 2009

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Thank you for your unfaltering benevolence in making the efforts of these two organizations a reality.

Yours sincerely,


Ms. Olivia Francis-Webber, Principal.



Samaritan Village, Inc.

138-02 Queens Blvd., Briarwood, New York 11435-2647

TEL: 718-206-2000 FAX: 718-206-4055

www.samaritanvillage.org

July 28, 2009

Tino Hernandez

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Jamaica, NY 11435-4198
(718) 657-6195

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Richmond Hill, NY 11418-3302

751 Briggs Highway
Ellenville, NY 12428-5515

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Jamaica, NY 11435-4198

1381 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
(Formerly University Avenue)
Bronx, NY 10452-4099

225 East 53rd Street
New York, NY 10022-4804

Ed Thompson

Veterans Center
130-15 89th Road
Richmond Hill, NY 11418-3302

AMBULATORY SERVICES

Drug Free
144-10 Jamaica Avenue
Jamaica, NY 11435-4198

HOMELESS SERVICES

Residential & Outreach Office
338 Forbell Street
Brooklyn, NY 11208-3403

Veterans Residential

327 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036-6406

SPECIAL SERVICES

Woodside Senior Center
50-37 Newtown Road Bldg. #19
Woodside, NY 11377

National Parks Service
River Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern,

Samaritan Village, Inc/Highbridge is a 501©3 Therapeutic Community located in the Highbridge section of the Bronx, NY. Our main mission is to treat clients from the Bronx and includes the greater New York area. We provide social services and holistic rehabilitation services to our members.

We support the application of the HRWG to organize activities for the entire Bronx and to restore the Harlem River. If successful, we would encourage our members to join and/or walk along the Harlem River.

The urgent need for a concerned person like Jerry Willis, New York Director of River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, as well as someone dedicated to working on Harlem River issues, especially given the wide range of projects that are ready to go, is essential.

Cleaning up the waterfront; reconnecting it with the populace; enhancing public access to the waterfront, and reinvigorating recreational and commercial waterfront activities are all critical and congruent issues, which need an informed and connected stewardship.

We request inclusion on the mailing list of the group so that we can participate in all activities to open up the waterfront to our constituents.

If you require additional information, please contact me at 718-681-9300 ext 2621 or via written correspondence at 1381 University Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452.

Sincerely,

Carey A. Wainwright, MA, ICADC, NCACII, CASAC
Program Director, Highbridge Facility

JOSÉ M. SERRANO
SENATOR, 28th District

Albany Office
848 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247
(518) 455-2795
FAX (518) 426-6886

District Office
157 East 104th Street
New York, NY 10029
(212) 828-5829
FAX (212) 828-2420

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serrano@senate.state.ny.us
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July 20, 2009

Harlem River Working Group
c/o Highbridge Community Life Center
979 Ogden Avenue
Bronx, NY 10452

To Whom it May Concern:

As the State Senator of the 28th Senate District, I represent portions of the South and West Bronx, and also East Harlem. As such, I cover both sides of the Harlem River, and am committed to the restoration of this essential waterway. I write in strong support of the Harlem River Working Group's application to the U.S. National Park Service.

I have worked with and also funded a number of the individual organizations involved in the Harlem River Working Group. My participation in Harlem River restoration projects could extend to legislative and budgetary action in the future. I also intend to promote recreational and volunteer opportunities to residents, and especially youth, throughout Manhattan and the Bronx.

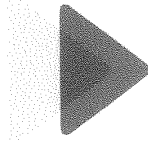
Constituents in my district suffer asthma hospitalization rates that are four times the national average. Moreover, they lack a strong connection to their local ecology and environment. This is primarily due to past injustices in the placement of polluting municipal facilities, as well as major infrastructure projects like highways.

I believe now is the time to reclaim our land and our water, and the active collaboration of the River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program is essential to that goal. We must leverage the knowledge and expertise of all levels of government, and all sectors of society, in order to revitalize the Harlem River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'José M. Serrano'.

José M. Serrano



SUSTAINABLE SOUTH BRONX

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

Sustainable South Bronx is a 501(c)(3) organization that promotes environmental justice solutions through innovative, economically sustainable projects that are informed by community needs. We support the application of the HRWG to organize activities for the entire Bronx and to restore the Harlem River.

We are one of the two primary community partners on the South Bronx Greenway project, which will create non-motorized transportation infrastructure and green space extending from the Hunts Point peninsula to Randall's Island. The project will address a number of critical needs in the communities we serve, including opportunities for healthy and active living, connections to recreational resources including those on Randall's Island, crime reduction and job creation.

The HRWG's work to restore the Harlem River would help us in our mission to improve the health and well-being of South Bronx communities by enhancing public waterfront access and stimulating economic growth for local communities. The South Bronx Greenway Randall's Island Connector project has particular relevance for the HRWG's work. If successful we would encourage local residents and South Bronx Greenway users to walk along the Harlem River.

The assistance of a person like Jerry Willis, New York Director of River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, as well as someone dedicated to working on Harlem River issues, is essential, especially given the wide range of projects that are ready to go.

We plan to be actively involved in the HRWG's work, bringing to the table our experience with the South Bronx Greenway and the needs and interests of our constituents.

Sincerely,

Miquela Craytor
Executive Director



July 27, 2009

National Parks Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20260

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to encourage your support of the application from HRWG (Harlem River Working Group) to organize activities throughout the Bronx to restore and engage people in the Harlem River. THE POINT Community Development Corporation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx. We work with our neighbors to celebrate the life and art of our community, an area traditionally defined solely in terms of its poverty, crime rate, poor schools and substandard housing. We believe the area's residents, their talents and aspirations are our greatest assets. Our mission is to encourage the arts, local enterprise, responsible ecology and self-investment in the Hunts Point community through providing extensive youth development programs, arts and cultural programs as well as environmental justice advocacy services. The targeted population of students and their families reside within Community Board #2 in the Bronx at the southern tip of Congressional District #16, one of the poorest districts in the country.

Since 1997, THE POINT has been at the forefront of an organizing, advocacy and public information campaign aimed at developing open space in the South Bronx and public access to the waterfront. THE POINT is a founding partner of The South Bronx Greenway Project, a proposed waterfront greenway that seeks to improve waterfront access to the southern portions of the Bronx River and LIS, connect to the City's existing and proposed Greenway projects, create alternative means of transportation, improve Air quality, and provide opportunities for compatible economic development.

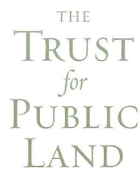
We feel it imperative to support the effort of groups like The Harlem River Working Group to expand efforts to improve waterfront access to our communities and restore one of the Bronx's and Harlem's most treasured assets, The Harlem River. If successful, THE POINT will encourage our members to join HRWG efforts and participate in all related events. The need for a dedicated individual such as Jerry Willis, New York Director of River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, as well as someone dedicated to working on Harlem River issues, especially considering the range of projects ready to move forward, is essential. THE POINT has asked to be included in all future activities of the HRWG and look forward to supporting the ongoing efforts to restore the Harlem River along side the Bronx community.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kellie Terry-Sepulveda'.

Kellie Terry-Sepulveda
Executive Director



New York Office
666 Broadway
Ninth Floor
New York, NY
10012
T. (212) 677-7171
F. (212) 353-2052
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July 16, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Harlem River Working Group's application for technical assistance

To Whom It May Concern:

The Trust for Public Land is a 501(c)3 land conservation organization that is active in all five boroughs of New York City, including the Bronx. Our mission is to improve public access to land and we have done so through the creation of parks, support of community gardens, and the construction of playgrounds.

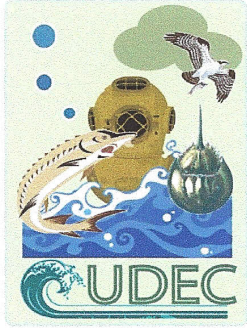
We support the application of the Harlem River Working Group to organize activities for the entire Bronx and to restore the Harlem River. The need for a person like Jerry Willis, New York Director of River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, as well as someone dedicated to working on Harlem River issues, especially given the wide range of projects that are ready to go, is essential.

The Trust for Public Land regularly attends and participates meetings hosted by the Harlem River Working Group. We are impressed by their efforts on behalf of the Bronx and the Harlem River and hope that the National Park Service will give every consideration to their application for technical assistance.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew M. Shurtleff
Project Manager



**The Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy-www.urbandivers.org
HARLEM RIVER ECOLOGY CENTER**

*A unique urban nature center environmental education community stewardship, culture
& maritime.*

*Located at the Southern End of ROBERTO CLEMENTE STATE PARK, NYC BRIDGE
PARK & RIVER PARK TOWERS. Entrance faces the Harlem River Beneath Bld 10
718-901-3331, 347-224-5828, 347-224-5687, harlemriver.udec@gmail.com*

July 27, 2009

National Park Service
River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
1849 C Street, NW Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

Greetings

The Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy (UDEEC) is a not for profit environmental and cultural organization that is in its 11th year in serving various communities in NY Harbor through environmental education, community stewardship, conservation support and youth environmental leadership training.

UDEEC established the Harlem River Ecology Center- a unique urban environmental center that is located along the Bronx Harlem River Waterfront. The Harlem River Ecology Center is catalyst that increases community environmental stewardship, foster new community leaders for the environment, while providing a resource for nature appreciation in this urban environment along the Bronx Harlem River waterfront. UDEEC Harlem River Ecology Center is recognized as the primary resource for environmental education and alternative recreation along the Harlem River.

UDEEC Harlem River Ecology Center is an active member and co-organizer of the Harlem River Workgroup. This letter is in support of the efforts of the Harlem River Workgroup related this grant. The work being coordinated by the Harlem River Workgroups (HRWG) compliments our own efforts in restoration of the Harlem River. It helps to bring the community together along with the resources of institution such as ours in strong cohesive and comprehensive force to work towards a common goal in restoring a river, an important ecosystem and community resource we all share.

Please feel free to contact The Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy at 347-224-5828, or 718-901-3331 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ludger K. Balan
Executive, Environmental Program Director