



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

“Protecting and Connection the Harlem River”

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 from 3 to 7 pm at Manhattan University

(April 9, 2025 - Bronx, NY) The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ) held its 26th Annual Water Conference & 54th Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 from 3 to 7 pm at Manhattan University, Kelly Student Center. BCEQ Members, Manhattan College Students, and the general public were invited to attend this free event.

The program began with the BCEQ Annual Meeting, Networking, and Tabling. Refreshments were served. Awards were presented to Honorees: Hon. Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, First Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Recreation; and Arif Ullah, Executive Director, South Bronx Unite. BCEQ President opened the meeting and welcomed all: *“BCEQ's Annual Meeting and Water Conference continues to be the place where community advocates, agency leaders, policy and scientific experts, meet to chart our environmental future. We are proud to make the Protecting the Harlem River the driving force of this discussion and starting point for new urban policies that benefit all Bronxites. The Daylighting of Tibbetts Brook is just the beginning.”*

A Panel discussion was held on the role of Green Infrastructure in the Tibbetts Brook Daylighting and Greenway, and the Green Infrastructure Harlem River Greenway, including plans for the new waterfront Bridge Park South & Greenway with a Living Shoreline.

It also included an update on upcoming changes in the State's Water Quality Standards and removing some primary contact uses in the Harlem River during wet weather events. Shino Tanikawa, Executive Director of the NYC Soil & Water Conservation District one of the panelists stated: *“With the uncertainty surrounding the fate of the Environmental Protection Agency it is paramount that New Yorkers rise up to protect our waterways and advocate for fishable swimmable water at the local level. What is perceived as "competing" needs - housing vs. environment - are in reality not at odds with each other but rather are all connected. New Yorkers need the Harlem River as fishable & swimmable because the river offers tremendous value as a recreational resource.”*

Finally, Breakout groups will focus on What's Next – Water, Greenway, Access and Stand for Principles. These events are made possible with the support of our Sponsors: Con Edison, Manhattan University and its Center for Urban Resilience and Environmental Sustainability (CURES). *“We are very proud of our membership and friends who help to make The Bronx a better place to live by protecting the air and water.”* Stated Karen Argenti, BCEQ Corresponding Secretary, who continued: *“We are thankful for the natural features of our borough which gives us that country feeling in the midst of the urban city and its suburbs. We will continue to be strong in our commitments.”*

Thank you