



NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

CITY TECH

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City Tech Conference Explores Manufacturing Development Along the Brooklyn Waterfront

Brooklyn, NY—March 28, 2016—City Tech’s Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center’s (BWRC) Fifth Annual Conference, “The Past, Present, and Possible Future of Manufacturing Along the Brooklyn Waterfront,” will be held on April 8 at Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Richard Hanley, director of BWRC and professor of English at City Tech, will present opening remarks. Attendees of the conference will be able to sign up for afternoon tours of manufacturing facilities.

This year’s BWRC conference will examine whether recent developments along Brooklyn’s waterfront can lead to the growth of a new kind of manufacturing that will be sustainable, or whether they are just a slight interruption in an inexorable march toward residential development and service sector employment along the Brooklyn waterfront.

For almost twenty years, the Brooklyn waterfront has been experiencing a renaissance propelled mainly by residential development. However, there have also been some manufacturing rebounds, or at least stabilization. Manufacturing losses in Brooklyn stretch back to the mid-1950s, and the declines continued into this century when, from 2000 to 2010, Brooklyn lost 55 percent (23,925) of its remaining manufacturing jobs. But in the last five years, the decline has stabilized, and Brooklyn is no longer seeing decreases in manufacturing employment. There is also a new vibrancy at manufacturing locations along the Brooklyn waterfront’s industrial corridor such as the Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center, the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Industry City, Liberty View Industrial Plaza, and the Brooklyn Army Terminal.

Also, Mayor Bill de Blasio and Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito recently unveiled a plan designed to help Brooklyn’s industrial areas (*Action Plan to Grow 21st Century Industrial and Manufacturing Jobs in New York City*). While many City Council members and community leaders in industrial areas applauded the new plan, others questioned the long-term viability of manufacturing in New York City. These are not settled issues, and the manufacturing of today is not “your grandfather’s manufacturing,” when the waterfront was lined with warehouses, shipyards, and manufacturing—both light and heavy.

BWRC’s half-day conference will begin with a look at what is being done to preserve the history of Brooklyn’s industrial waterfront in museums at the Brooklyn Historical Society and the Brooklyn Navy Yard’s BLDG 92. The featured speakers will address the current state of manufacturing and prospects and visions for the future. Three panels will then explore a series of issues including innovations in manufacturing, land use issues, workforce development, infrastructure needs and development, and the possible effects of climate change and sea level rise. The panel presentations will be designed to promote a robust discussion among the audience and the panelists.

A partial list of speakers include: Deputy Borough President Diana Reyna; Julie Golia, Brooklyn Historical Society; Aileen Chumard, Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92; Adam Friedman, Pratt Center for Community Development; Miquela Craytor, Center for Economic Transformation, NYC Economic Development Corporation; Bob Bland, CEO/Founder, Manufacture New York; Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE; Brian Coleman, CEO, Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center; Lee Wellington, Executive Director, Urban Manufacturing Alliance; Tarry Hum, Queens College Department of Urban Studies and the Graduate Center Environmental Psychology Doctoral Program, and the author of [*Making a Global Immigrant Neighborhood*](#).

To register for the conference, please RSVP here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/past-present-future-of-manufacturing-along-the-brooklyn-waterfront-tickets-22697439653>

For more information about the conference, contact Richard Hanley at 718-260-5130.

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About City Tech (New York City College of Technology)

City Tech, of The City University of New York, is the largest four-year public college of technology in the Northeast and a national model for technological education. City Tech has an enrollment of more than 17,000 students in 25 baccalaureate and 27 associate degree programs and was recently ranked number one in the nation in producing the highest paid associate degree-earning graduates (<http://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report/2-year-colleges#fullText>). For more information, visit www.citytech.cuny.edu.

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