



PortSide New York: Red Hook Programs, Summer 2010

Bringing NYC's BlueSpace to life. Revitalizing Red Hook.



PortSide New York is a young, innovative 501c3 non-profit developing diverse programs about water and the waterfront. We speak for what can be done at and on the BlueSpace, NYC's vast water network, and we show by doing. We also serve our home community of Red Hook Brooklyn. Our main operating space and ambassador has been a 172' repurposed ship, the *Mary A. Whalen*, which serves both as our office and as a mobile cultural platform.

PortSide is about to grow in a dynamic way. New York City's Economic Development Corporation (the EDC) will provide a home for PortSide in Atlantic Basin, next to the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal in Red Hook.

The new real estate includes 600' of pier along with adjoining indoor and outdoor spaces where we will establish a home base for programs serving diverse groups. We are planning a maritime hub with visiting vessels, ferry service, H2O Arts, youth programs, a marine career center, local and harbor-wide cultural tourism products and a forum for BlueSpace policy.

The new home means PortSide will be programming on more than the *Mary A. Whalen*. From July 1 through August 24 this year, PortSide will be in Atlantic Basin on a temporary permit while we continue negotiating our final lease with the EDC. This summer will be the first time PortSide has a place to run programs on more than a special-event basis. We are excited by this extended opportunity to serve and vitalize our new home, and we hope that you will help us do so.





TALL SHIPS

PortSide negotiated for the *Clipper City* to give free sails out of Atlantic Basin, and we distributed 550 tickets for four sails this April and May. These sails were highly popular; and as a result, the following new programs are under discussion:

- *Clipper City* has offered to run discounted youth sails this summer.
- Good Shepherd Services wants to have summer youth program sails on *Clipper City*.
- PortSide is negotiating with the EDC and *Clipper City* to have the tall ship operate commercially out of Atlantic Basin this summer.
- PortSide invited the 177' barkentine *Gazela* from Philadelphia, www.Gazela.org. PortSide is a potential stop on their 2010 summer tour.

HARBOR TOURS

- One weekend, PortSide will give its first "BlueSpace Discovery Tours" on a 400-passenger *SeaStreak* ferry. There will be a \$20-25 fee for these 1.5 hour tours.
- PortSide will organize free educational harbor tours and offer ticketed sunset charters in partnership with the historic tug *Cornell*, bit.ly/ceYBCF.



YOUTH & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- The Chinese American Planning Council of Sunset Park has expressed strong interest in PortSide as a worksite for the NYC Dept. of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).
- We are seeking partnership on youth programs with Visitation Justice Center, Red Hook Initiative and Good Shepherd.
- Local non-profits running youth programs will be invited to private tours of the tanker. These organizations include Dance Theatre Etc, Red Hook Rise, Added Value, Falconworks, and others.
- Residents of public housing will again be invited on special tours.

SHIPWORK VOLUNTEER DAYS

Members of the community help restore the *Mary A. Whalen* and enjoy being on board the ship.



Top two photos courtesy of Leah Latella.



TANKERTOURS

PortSide will give free public tours of the tanker *Mary A. Whalen*. The tanker has attracted about 400 people a day on the occasions she has been open for tours.

TANKERTIME

The public will be invited to enjoy the main deck of the tanker during limited hours on select days. Thursday night and Sunday night are target times.

Major event:

CITY OF WATER DAY, SAT 7/24

PortSide will be a satellite location for City of Water Day www.cityofwaterday.org, Sat 7/24, “the largest family waterfront event in the region.” Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) has run the event on Governors Island for two years. PortSide expects between 1,000 and 2,000 visitors to Atlantic Basin if the weather is good.

Here’s a preliminary snapshot of what PortSide is planning in Atlantic Basin for that day:

- Tours of the tanker *Mary A. Whalen*
- Tours of the steamship Lilac, a lighthouse tender, www.lilacpreservationproject.org/
- US Customs marine security display (VACIS, sniffer dog, 10’x10’ tent with videos)
- Urban Divers EnviroMedia mobile, www.urbandivers.org
- Vessels invited from NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection and the US Army Corps.
- Local Brooklyn food vendors
- Live music throughout the day
- BookCourt independent bookstore
- Waterfront artists: Christina Sun and Underwater New York

We are working on establishing a ferry connection to Governors Island and setting up a KayakValet in Valentino Park so paddlers can come to Red Hook by water. See www.portsidenewyork.org/KayakValet.htm





H2O ARTS

TankerTunes

Performers use the *Mary A. Whalen* as stage, with the audience seated on the pier. These shows are expected to generate revenue through ticket sales.

- Jalopy Theatre, www.jalopy.biz (a local music school and venue), will host their weekly “Roots & Ruckus” event on the *Whalen* on Wed, July 7. Expected ticket price \$10.
- PortSide is creating an annual “Rejoice on the River” series of African-American spirituals and gospel music with water themes. We hope to launch this summer.

TankerFlicks

Free water-themed movies screened on the deck of the *Mary A. Whalen* with an audience of up to 140 seated on the deck. Realty Collective, a local real estate agency, is involved in fundraising for this program.

TankerTalks

Distinguished speakers give free water-themed talks to the public seated on the main deck of *Mary A. Whalen*:

- Professor Jerry Milgram, MIT Dept. of Ocean Engineering, designed the winner of the last America’s Cup and is an expert on oil spill recovery and technology. Lately, his principal area of study has been the science, engineering and policy of U.S. energy issues, and he has been a commentator on the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. web.mit.edu/jmilgram/www and web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2007/milgram-tt0919.html
- Conrad Milster, Chief Engineer of Pratt Institute Power Plant and industrial historian, will talk on excursion boats and ferries of the Hudson, bit.ly/aHFwJC.
- Robert LaValva, founder of the New Amsterdam Market, presents “NYC Food by Water,” a talk explaining the relationship between the waterfront, farms, ferries, and the first public markets in New Amsterdam, www.newamsterdampublic.org.
- Seth Goodwin, Dockmaster, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and founder of the Red Hook Maritime Guild, will give a knot-tying demonstration and talk about the history of knots and rope.
- Eugene Kahn will read from “Dark Water” a gay love story, and a memoir about sailing, a lover’s death from AIDS, and founding the Knickerbocker Sailing Association, which “serves gay & lesbian sailors from New York to Rhode Island.”



Photos courtesy of IMOK and Kevin Labianco.



Red Hook WaterStories

PortSide will update its 2009 definitive guide to Red Hook with info on local history, waterfront features, and shopping and dining by the start of our program period. See <http://portsidenewyork.org/PortSideRedHookGuide.pdf>

PortSide has scheduled walking tours of the Red Hook peninsula that engage the public with waterfront themes and water issues.

- Industrial history of Red Hook, led by Mary Habstritt, president of the Society of the Industrial Archeology. www.sia-web.org
- Norwegian-American history of Red Hook, led by president of the Norwegian Immigrant Association, Lars Nilsen. www.niahistory.org
- Brooklyn Greenway walking tour by co-founder Brian McCormick. www.brooklyngreenway.org
- “Brooklyn in Development,” covering environment, history, industry, architecture, and planning, led by Dan Wiley, Community Coordinator for Congresswoman Velazquez.
- Irish and Italian working waterfront tour by James T. Fisher, author of “Irish Waterfront.” <http://bit.ly/aWDWCi> and <http://irishwaterfront.wordpress.com>
- Water and sustainability tour to be announced.

PortSide Outside of Red Hook

The Tanker *Mary A. Whalen* has been invited to visit these sites this summer:

- Sunset Park, 58th Street Pier, for Concierto Tipico on June 19, invited by Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez
- Governors Island
- Brooklyn Bridge Park, Pier 6
- Newark, NJ, invited by the Newark Department of City Planning

