



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

**JESSE BODINE**  
District Manager

December 7, 2015

Ms. Susan Pepe  
Grants Manager  
NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-3506

**Re: Manhattan Community Boathouse Hudson River Estuary Grant for River Access and River Education Application**

Dear Ms. Susan Pepe,

Manhattan Community Boathouse (MCBH) is applying with the Downtown Boathouse for the Hudson River Estuary Grant for River Access and River Education. MCBH is a non-profit organization offering free kayaking and operates within our district in Clinton Cove on West 55<sup>th</sup> Street. Downtown Boathouse formally used this same space until moving to Pier 26 in Hudson River Park. These two organizations have brought residents and visitors alike to the Hudson River with a combined reach of over 50,000 people of all ages. MCBH alone during the 2014 season helped more than 20,000 people connect with the Hudson River. MCBH is an all-volunteer run organization providing instruction as well as access to the river through kayaking. Free access to the Hudson River is a rare and precious amenity in Hudson River Park and MCB4 appreciates the dedication of the Manhattan Community Boathouse volunteers to bring this service to our community during the boating season as well as actively participating at community meetings year round.

Manhattan Community Board 4 supports the Manhattan Community Boathouse in their quest for the Hudson River Estuary Grant for River Access and River Education as this grant will provide funding for MCBH and the Downtown Boathouse to expand their programming. The funds from this grant will allow both organizations to improve infrastructure at each of their landing sites, Governor's Island, Pier 26, Pier 96 and the 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Boathouse. Additional equipment can also help MCBH improve the experience of all potential kayakers on the Hudson River.

The Hudson River is such a wonderful resource for Manhattan Community Board 4 and all of New York. MCB4 benefits greatly having access to the river and organizations like the Manhattan Community Boathouse bring more enjoyment of this resource by way of educating

and guiding kayakers along the shores of our great city. MCB4 would like to see the Manhattan Community Boathouse expand their programming and the Hudson River Estuary Grant for River Access and River Education offers such an opportunity for MCBH to have an even greater positive impact on the lives of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet  
Chair



Maarten de Kadt Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks &  
Environment Committee



Delores Rubin Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks &  
Environment Committee

cc: Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator  
Richard Gottfried, NY State Assemblymember  
Linda B. Rosenthal, NY State Assemblymember  
Jerrold Nadler, Congressmember  
Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Corey Johnson, NYC Councilmember  
Kaitlin Petersen, Manhattan Community Boathouse