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26TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NY 12247
OFFICE: 518-455-3270

DISTRICT OFFICE:
8018 5TH AVE.
BROOKLYN, NY 11209
OFFICE: 718-238-6044

e-mail:
gounardes@nysenate.gov

National Maritime Heritage subgrant
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
625 Broadway
Albany NY 12207

Dear Commissioner Kulleseid,

I am writing to express how important PortSide New York is to my district as they pursue an application to the National Maritime Heritage subgrant. As the State Senator representing New York's 26th State Senate District that includes Red Hook and the entire southwestern waterfront of Brooklyn, I know how positively PortSide New York affects my constituents.

PortSide New York is an admirable nonprofit with a deeply appreciated historic ship, the retired coastal oil tanker Mary A. Whalen. Red Hook was devastated by Hurricane Sandy, and PortSide did deeply impactful Hurricane Sandy recovery work in Red Hook, and now they wish to execute their own Sandy recovery project called makeMARYrunagain. They would use the National Maritime Heritage subgrant for that project.

The Mary Whalen, a cherished historic ship in Red Hook, serves educational and cultural programs for all ages. PortSide enriches our community through maritime education and entertainment, garnering overwhelming support. This grant would not only enhance their programming, allowing it to reach a broader audience, but it would also provide invaluable support to the majority public housing community of Red Hook, expanding maritime education opportunities to communities often overlooked due to socioeconomic disparities. Please consider this application with utmost attention as PortSide New York continues in their endeavors to further serve and uplift our community.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Gounardes

Member of Senate



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ALBANY**

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Judiciary
Transportation
Ways and Means

February 27, 2024

JO ANNE SIMON
Assemblymember 52nd District

NYS office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

Re: National Maritime Heritage subgrant

I am writing to express my support for PortSide New York's application to the National Maritime Heritage funding program.

I have a long-standing appreciation of PortSide New York, their historic ship, and their staff. I honored their founder and Executive Director Carolina Salguero with a 2022 "Women of Distinction" award for her outstanding service to the community.

Founded in 2005 to create a forward-looking maritime center combining a working waterfront, public access, and community development, PortSide New York has created an opportunity for New Yorkers and visitors from around the world to experience a piece of the past, present, and future of New York's waterfront.

Their flagship, Mary A. Whalen, has been an exceptional asset for New York City students and programs like the African American Maritime Heritage program, Red Hook Water Stories, simple machine classes, and lessons on resiliency that leave a lasting impression on the next generation. PortSide continually creates new curriculum related to the ship, and their education programs span an impressive range from kindergarten through graduate school.

The Mary A. Whalen is a jewel of our waterfront that has both a compelling local Red Hook story and a national significance as a site on the National Register of Historic Places.

I heartily support this application.

Very truly yours,

Jo Anne Simon
Member of Assembly

Dear Colleagues,

Maritime College supports Port Side New York's application to the New York State National Maritime Heritage Subgrant Program. We see opportunities for collaboration in service, education, and training, and we look forward to working together.

Best Regards,



Leigh Winfrey, PhD
Dean, School of Engineering
ABS Professor of Engineering
Editor, *Fusion Science and Technology*

Columbia University
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE PLANNING AND PRESERVATION
400 AVERY HALL

27 February 2024

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Albany, NY 12238

Dear colleagues,

I am writing in support of PortSide New York's application for a National Maritime Heritage subgrant for the preservation of the Mary A. Whalen coastal oil tanker.

The historical significance of the Mary A. Whalen is well substantiated in its National Register listing. As one of the last surviving "bell boats," and a key element in a case that changed maritime law, her repair is easily supported by preservation criteria. The Mary A. Whalen is a *priority* preservation project because of the urgency of the proposed repairs to ensure her continued use as center for learning and community-based activism.

The survival and sustainability of the tanker and her educational mission are threatened by her non-operational engine. Red Hook, where the Mary A. Whalen is moored, is a frontline community in the climate crisis. Its vulnerability is due, in large part, to flood and storm surge risks: Red Hook was one of the hardest hit NYC neighborhoods by Hurricane Sandy. Without a running engine, the tanker cannot seek safe harbor when the next storm comes and is thus in physical danger. This fact, combined with the risk posed by her location, prevents PortSide New York from securing adequate insurance for the historic vessel.

The climate vulnerability of Red Hook is exacerbated by long histories of disinvestment and over-hardening of the shoreline, changes in shipping and waterfront industries, and the marginalization of the diverse publics who live and work there. The Mary A. Whalen serves as a critical conduit of education and community mobilization in ways that bridge historic preservation and climate action, and confront these neighborhood legacies in ways that center its shared maritime heritage. The work of PortSide New York was instrumental in the community's recovery from Hurricane Sandy, all of which depended upon the Mary A. Whalen as a place of gathering and learning. The tanker has been host to educational visits and community events that have leveraged resiliency planning and climate policy in Brooklyn and the city writ large. And equally important, the tanker serves as one of the few surviving places for students and the general public to experience the historic working waterfront of Red Hook. With the decrease in shipping industry activities and the conversion and loss of many waterfront properties to road-dependent warehouse facilities, the vital relationship of the neighborhood to the harbor is increasingly fractured and redeveloped. PortSide New York is a singular institution, preserving Red Hook's stories and its social-spatial connections to the water through the Mary A. Whalen. The functionality of the engine is thus imperative to the survival of the tanker itself and to the broader preservation and educational mission of PortSide New York.

1172 AMSTERDAM AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027
TEL: 212-854-3513
FAX: 212-851-2189

As a faculty member in Columbia University's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, I would assert that our ability to educate the next generation of preservation professionals hinges upon robust engagement with historic resources and their communities. How we preserve heritage is increasingly a collaborative endeavor that must respond to contemporary social and environmental conditions, and how histories of exclusion have helped to create inequities in those conditions. In early 2020, I had the privilege of working with PortSide New York on a preservation studio I taught, [Red Hook, Brooklyn: Preservation as a Tool for Equitable Resilience](#). One of the core objectives of the studio was for students to learn and practice listening by identifying key organizations in the neighborhood, attending community meetings, and undertaking interviews. PortSide New York was readily recognized as one of those key organizations because it serves as a critical resource for understanding waterfront histories and how they underpin contemporary conditions and challenges. Through the physical and spatial experience of the Mary A. Whalen, PortSide New York helps visitors and collaborators connect past and present viscerally, with the wind blowing across the harbor, water lapping at the pier, and the sound of ship horns echoing. Repairing her engine will not only secure her survival, but enable a more sustainable future, one in which that experiential learning is expanded through events that allow students and visitors to travel into the harbor and along the shoreline.

PortSide and the Mary A. Whalen provide a model for the kind of deep investment needed to understand maritime history and the culture of waterfront communities, and to mobilize these historic assets toward equitable resilience and climate action. I strongly endorse this grant application, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Erica Avrami, PhD

James Marston Fitch Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation
Research Affiliate, Center for Sustainable Urban Development – Earth Institute
Affiliate, Columbia Center for Archaeology



Columbia University Historic Preservation students with PortSide New York's Executive Director, Carolina Salguero, aboard the Mary A. Whalen in January 2020.

From: Bob Hughes <rhughes@hughesmarine.com>
Date: Tue, Feb 27, 2024 at 2:15 PM
Subject: Re: National Maritime Heritage subgrant
To: peter@portsideneويورك.org

To Whom it may concern:

I write to support PortSide NewYork's application for historic preservation funding to do restoration work on the historic ship Mary A. Whalen as part of their campaign #makeMARYrunagain.

PortSide acquired the Mary Whalen from us in 2006.

The Mary Whalen is important to many of us on the working waterfront as the kind of historic ship that speaks to our work and the work of the modern port more than tall ships but normally receives no glory. The Mary is a 20th century workboat, a part of the towing industry, a hard-working ship that trained many a mariner and has some sea stories.

The ship is very important in admiralty law due to the Supreme Court decision in U.S. vs Reliable Transfer.

The ship is also a "Bushey boat," maybe one of the last survivors of the fleet of tugs and tankers Bushey built in Red Hook Brooklyn and operated in the Northeast. Old-timers still wax nostalgic about Bushey boats.

The ship is a bell boat, an antique system for communicating between wheelhouse and engine room.

PortSide does a great job of making the ship available to the public, explaining the ship and the kind of work she did. PortSide is interested in training future mariners, a goal we appreciate, and they are trying to restore the ship to running condition to use her as a training vessel.

Our company regularly donates to PortSide, and we hope you will fund their grant application.

Sincerely, Robert J. Hughes Jr. VP

Robert J. Hughes Jr.
Work - 732-225-1212 x117
fax 732-225-3999
Preferred e-mail rhughes@hughesmarine.com
Hughes Bros. Inc.
1095 Amboy Ave.
Edison, NJ 08837
www.hughesmarine.com



February 26, 2024

Re: National Maritime Heritage Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support to express my enthusiastic support for PortSide NewYork and their application for historic preservation funding to do restoration work on the historic ship MARY A. WHALEN.

I am the founder and Executive Director of The Waterfront Museum which is housed aboard the Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge #79, the only wooden barge of The Lighterage Era (1860-1985) still afloat. For its historical value, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. I rescued it from the mud in 1985 after it was made obsolete by major shifts in the shipping industry starting in 1956. Barges like the one now housing the Waterfront Museum transported tons of cargo like grains and other merchandise between the ships in the NY Harbor to railroad terminals in NJ in what was then the world's largest port. It is our mission to provide public waterfront access and programs in education and the arts aboard an historic vessel.

Having restored, maintained and developed programs for our 110 year old historic vessel, I understand the power and responsibility of preserving such a ship. PortSide and their ship are neighbors in Red Hook being just nine blocks away. Our ships are very different, but both are last of their kind. This kind of work is very difficult and I implore you to please consider a grant award for their efforts.

I am in full support of Carolina's efforts to develop her vessel as an educational and cultural attraction vessel. With her background as a photojournalist, she has proven herself quite capable of producing quality exhibitions and outstanding presentations. Red Hook Stories - the oral histories she has compiled are exquisite! She has quickly acquired the acumen and persistence needed to negotiate the intricacies of owning and operating a vessel like the tanker Mary Whalen. It excites me to think that with your funding assistance might give new life to this old vessel.

I believe the Mary Whalen tanker to be a vital component to New York City's library of historic and educational vessels that have the capacity to entertain and educate the general public at our waterfront docks. Outfitted with its own mooring piles, a gangway from shore to the Mary Whalen could even make waterfront locations that lack a proper docking facility a possible destination for their programs throughout the waterways of New York and beyond.

I believe so much in Carolina and her project that I have informed her about funding sources while I myself am competing for these very same funds. I am confident that as we inspire and create waterfront town docks, these good deeds will snowball to enable us all to enjoy the great potential we have at our front doorstep.

The value PortSide NewYork brings to the citizens of the State of New York cannot be over-estimated. I unreservedly recommend you provide them funding. Thank you.

All the best from the Barge,

David Sharps, President

The Municipal Arts Society of New York awarded the Waterfront Museum its Certificate of Merit for the work we have done to make life better in NYC. The United Nations designated the Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge #79 the "Regional Craft of the Year of the Oceans for its success in opening up access to waterfronts for the general public.



SUMMIT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

27 Huntington Street • Brooklyn, New York 11231 • Phone (718) 875-1403 • FAX (718) 875-1891

Machael Spencer-Edwards
Principal

Dr. Natasha A. Campbell
Founder

Tremaine Price
Assistant Principal, HS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter in support of a proposal for funding for the PortSide NY, a not-for-profit organization serving the Red Hook community, and South Brooklyn. For the thriving community in a less-than advantaged area in Brooklyn, Summit Academy Charter School bridges the gap between aspirations and realities by preparing 6 th -12th grade scholars to gain acceptance to, excel in and graduate from college. The school is a vital conservancy of sustenance for its youth and their families. It provides the fundamental and supplemental resources which enables a shift from the predetermined confines of their statistically disadvantaged communities. Conversely, SACS provides the environment and tools that sets a trajectory of success for students, equipping them to contribute and operate fully in the greater economy with expanded life choices. This inevitably serves and saves their community.

Summit's work with young people in the Red Hook community has afforded us the opportunity to work with PortSide and experience the potential for enhanced learning hidden within the Mary Whalen ship. PortSide was founded in 2005 to rethink NYC's relationship to the harbor by creating an innovative maritime center - a new model for NYC - showing how to combine the working waterfront and public access (busting local zoning conventions) while using maritime activity to drive community and economic development.

PortSide uses their historic ship, the coastal oil tanker Mary A. Whalen, and waterfront locations to teach via "place based education. Summit scholars have benefited from the ship's close proximity to the school. The Mary Whalen has enhanced learning opportunities for our scholars and could be even more beneficial if she were mobile, as scholars would be able to access the waterfront on the ship. The MARY is the last of her kind in the USA and on the National Register of Historic Places. She is a museum of herself and a vital community center for Red Hook, Brooklyn. She is NYC's favorite oil tanker and a great platform to teach about USA fuel consumption and how that relates to climate change.

As a neighborhood cut off from the rest of Brooklyn, Red Hook is one of New York City's most underserved communities. Given the lack of resources in this community, it is crucial that collectively we protect those that exist. Restoration of the Mary A. Whalen is critical if we are to continue to expose scholars to maritime work as well as broaden the horizons of inner city Youth.

As the founder of Summit Academy Charter School, and a member of the Board at PortSide, I can say with confidence that PortSide and the Mary A. Whalen are integral components of this community and your support in the restoration of this ship will bolster PortSide's ability to be a beacon of light in this community.

I welcome the opportunity to speak more with you about PortSide NY. I can be reached at 347.242.6710 or via email at ncampbell@sacsny.org. Thank you for your consideration of PortSide New York.

With Children First,

Dr. Natasha Campbell, Founder
Summit Academy Charter School

February 28th, 2024

Dear Member of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

Re: National Maritime Heritage subgrant

New York, as crowded and congested as it is, still has some “hidden” treasures. My use of the word hidden is a loose one since some of these treasures are utilized and loved by those who are lucky enough to know of their existence. One such treasure is PortSide NewYork and their ship Mary A. Whalen. This amazing non-profit organization located at Pier 11 provides all who visit with the opportunity to learn some history and science while having one of the best views of the New York skyline. The historic Mary A. Whalen oil tanker provides many with educational opportunities about the waterfront of Red Hook, its ecology, and resilience, and local maritime history of which this ship is a strong part.

As a teacher within the Red Hook community, I have had the privilege of taking many students (middle and high school) on numerous trips to the Mary A. Whalen, where they had learned a great deal, not just about the history of New York and nature, but that of their own backyards. Most students from the community know little about the history that their neighborhood was built upon, and particularly little about ships. That’s where Portside NewYork fills a void. This organization provides us all with a means to understand how the ever-changing landscape of Red Hook has not only come to be, but where everyone would like it to go.

PortSide uses their historic ship inventively and finds ways in their education programs to connect the ship to city and state DOE topics and standards. I am familiar with their work with schools besides where I teach and share some links below as examples of PortSide’s use of the ship and its impact.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hC4eqOASxA>

<https://portsidenewyork.org/portsidetanke/2019/8/7/exciting-portside-ps-676-partnership>

<https://portsidenewyork.org/education-youth>

February 28th, 2024

PortSide NewYork has already done so much for the community, such as organizing educational and cultural events on the ship, supporting local politicians advocating for the best interests of the people of Red Hook, and partnering with local schools and businesses to give residents opportunities to access resources that address all sorts of needs. The ship Mary A. Whalen is now a floating community and education center for youth and adults and made relevant in so many ways.

Since Superstorm Sandy, PortSide has been informing the public how to be resilient and prepared in the face of severe weather. Sandy hit Red Hook hard, and PortSide was there to help Red Hook recover and become more resilient. Now, one of the organization's missions is to provide community members with the education required to better handle extreme weather. I was a teacher hired by PortSide to create curriculum, supported by a federal DOE grant, to develop a high school curriculum about this. Their crew actually rode out Sandy on the ship, making the ship a powerful platform to talk about the issues of hurricanes, flooding, and sea level rise; and as an oil tanker, the ship is a great means to talk about the history of fuel consumption in the city, region and USA.

Overall, this hidden treasure provides those who visit, and/or use their online resources, with opportunities to learn, experience, and be informed about what makes Red Hook great, including ships and our waterfront, how Red Hook has changed, both historically and naturally, and for residents to be ready and supported for what unknown variables that we may encounter.

Best,

John Russo

495 Henry Street Bklyn, NY 11231

(718) 755-3566

russonium@gmail.com

From: Xius Pim <xiusblade@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 5:08 PM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsideneويورك.org>
Subject: MakeMaryRunAgain

Hello my name is Xius Pimentel, I am a volunteer for the Mary A. Whalen and work with them on the Billion Oyster Project. My family and I have many memories spending time on the ship and often go there to enjoy the view and visit our friends Carolina and Peter. We first went to the ship because she had sent out a message asking people to help her set up the decorations for the winter holidays when Portside Park had still been operating. We had often gone there during the pandemic which was a hard time for most if not all people. The ship continues to serve as a mental break for many people and is a way to be more involved with the Red Hook community. The people at the ship are amazing people. Carolina always tries to include us in activities like making our own pizza and setting me up with the Billion Oyster Project. I have learned many things from her like how to paint a board or how to tie a square knot. To me all of these things are just the tip of the iceberg of why I love this ship. If the Mary.A.Whalen wasn't in Red Hook I would be devastated.

Thank You
Xius Pimentel
13 years old

OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK

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February 26, 2024

NYS office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Re: National Maritime Heritage subgrant

I am writing to express my support for PortSide New York's application to fund its campaign makeMARYrunagain to do restoration and preservation work on the historic ship MARY A. WHALEN.

Open House New York (OHNY) is a nonprofit organization that promotes unparalleled access to the city—to the places, people, projects, systems, and ideas that define New York and its future—and we are proud of our long history of partnering with PortSide New York. The first time PortSide opened the MARY WHALEN to the public was during OHNY Weekend citywide festival in 2006, and they were the most popular site in Brooklyn with 635 visitors.

OHNY connects New Yorkers to all forms of our city's built environment. The ship is always compelling to our visitors both for what she is and for how excellently PortSide interprets the ship for visitors of all ages and types.

NYC is a maritime city that, until recently, seemed to largely overlook its maritime past and present. PortSide and the MARY WHALEN are great at telling those stories. There is no other ship like this as she is the last of her kind in the USA, so there are many reasons to save and invest in this vessel.

I encourage you to fund PortSide New York!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at kristin@ohny.org.

Sincerely,



Kristin LaBuz
Interim Executive Director
[Open House New York](https://www.openhousenewyork.org)
215-704-8388

150 Varick St, 5th Floor
New York NY 10013
info@ohny.org

WWW.OHNY.ORG

February 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Dashana S. Gooding, a longtime resident of Red Hook, Brooklyn. I am also a community advocate, leader and supporter of the many leaders helping to sustain Red Hook, Bklyn's vitality. I am writing to express my wholehearted support for PortSide New York's exceptional maritime education and community-based work, particularly in their efforts towards the Hurricane Sandy recovery project and the significant resiliency and restoration work on the historic Mary Whalen ship. As a fervent advocate for comprehensive education and a deep appreciation for marine life, I am proud to stand behind the invaluable contributions of PortSide New York, under the exemplary leadership of Carolina Salguero, Executive Director.

My late grandmother, Nancy Kears Gooding, who's path of advocacy I have now taken up, held an unwavering belief in the importance of well-rounded education, which encompassed not only academic knowledge but also hands-on experiences that fostered an understanding and respect for our natural world. She was a passionate supporter of initiatives like those offered by PortSide New York, which provide opportunities for individuals of all ages to engage with maritime history, ecology, and community resilience.

The dedication of PortSide New York to the Hurricane Sandy recovery project has been instrumental in rebuilding and fortifying our coastal communities in the aftermath of one of the most devastating natural disasters in recent memory. Their commitment to preserving and restoring the historic Mary Whalen ship serves as a beacon of hope, showcasing the resilience and spirit of our maritime heritage.

Carolina Salguero's visionary leadership has been instrumental in driving forward PortSide New York's mission, inspiring countless individuals to connect with their maritime roots and become stewards of our waterfronts. Her passion, expertise, and tireless advocacy have undoubtedly played a pivotal role in shaping the success of the organization and its impact on the community.

I wholeheartedly endorse PortSide New York and its endeavors, knowing that their work not only enriches lives but also strengthens the fabric of our communities. I want to see the Mary Whalen back to its stoic, iconic brilliance so that as my granddaughter grows and learns of different significant pieces of Red Hook's history, she can explore something tangible within this historic vessel.

It is my sincere hope that you will join me in supporting this invaluable organization as they continue to make a profound and lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals.

#makeMARYrunagain

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warm regards,

Dashana S. Gooding

Dashana S. Gooding

347-712-0276

February 26, 2024

Re: Portside New York National Maritime Heritage Subgrant Application

To whom it may concern,

I am the President of Martin & Ottaway, Inc, a marine consulting firm founded in 1875 in New York City. While no longer located in New York City, for almost 150 years the greater Port of New York and New Jersey has been, and continues to be, our stomping ground.

Maritime has been the prime economic driver in the New York Metropolitan area and, today even more than in recent past years, provides a path to the middle class for underserved populations in our community.

At present there is a dire need for young people to re-enter the New York Maritime community and this requires outreach at early stages of youth development.

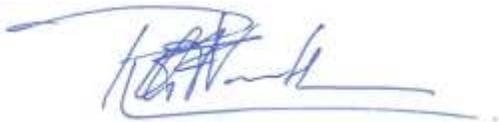
Portside New York has been providing this effort along the Brookline water front since the early 2000's and continued enhancement and improvement to their programs and infrastructure is a vital resource to New York City's citizens and its economic development.

In this regard I strongly support Portside New York's application for this grant.

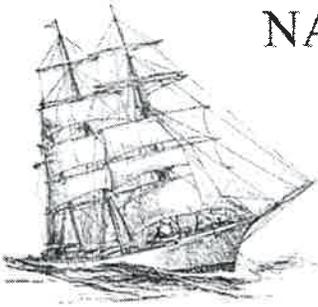
Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is required.

Very truly yours,

MARTIN, OTTAWAY, van HEMMEN & DOLAN, INC.



Rik van Hemmen, P.E.



NATIONAL MARITIME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1000 N. DIVISION STREET, SUITE #4, PEEKSKILL, NEW YORK 10566
914-737-7878 • EMAIL: NMHS@SEAHISTORY.ORG • WEB: WWW.SEAHISTORY.ORG

28 February 2024

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To Whom it May Concern:

Mary Whalen is a significant contribution to the Brooklyn waterfront. It was the harbor that built the city that built the country, and it is of importance that historic vessels be restored and preserved. Mary Whalen is the last of her kind in the USA and on the National Register of Historic Places. She is a museum of herself and a great platform to teach younger generations about the workings of an oil tanker, fuel consumption and how that relates to climate change.

PortSide also is a great community resource, and works actively to promote Mary Whalen and for positive change in the community.

The National Maritime Historical Society recommends Mary Whalen for a grant to help preserve and restore the vessel.

Sincerely,


Burchenal Green
Executive Director

Captain Richard Naruszewicz

United States Merchant Marine

September 11th 2001, Hero of The Harbor Award Recipient

February 25th, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Please Accept this letter of support for The Tanker Mary Whalen. The Mary Whalen Is rich in history in the years she has serviced in New York harbor. As a crewmember in charge of loading and discharging of all cargo, I witnessed how important this vessel was to keeping the vital flow of fuel in many different operations. The Mary Whalen played an important role in refueling the convoys while loading supplies for the war effort during WW II, The Korean war, and the Vietnam war. In between those duties, the Mary Whalen shuttled fuel in and around New York harbor. What I gained and fellow crew members gained while working on the Mary Whalen was a never ending amount of seamanship that we carry with us today as mariners. The education we received on the Mary Whalen has helped us achieve higher positions in the maritime industry. This vessel means so much to me as well as my former crew members. The Mary Whalen is the last tanker of its kind in the United States. Every effort must be taken to preserve and restore the Mary Whalen to educate anyone that the Mary Whalen played a vital role in maritime industry. I have enclosed my contact information below, Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Captain Richard Naruszewicz

10 Forrest Street

Iselin, N.J. 08830

732 874 3268

rnaruszewicz@aol.com

From: Chris Berg <christophersberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidewyork.org>
Subject: Letter of support for the National Maritime Heritage subgrant

To the NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Office,

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for PortSide NewYork's application for the National Maritime Heritage Subgrant Program to support their hurricane Sandy recovery project [#makeMARYrunagain](#) and do major resiliency and restoration work on the MARY WHALEN.

Preserving, restoring, and maintaining the Mary Whalen is a vital part of raising awareness of maritime careers, businesses, and related trades that can provide significant opportunities for historically underserved youth. PortSide NewYork and the Mary Whalen bring to life an entire world of the often neglected working waterfront, reminding us of the historical contributions of mariners and a water-side workforce that is largely invisible to the public and yet so vital to the commerce and industry underlying our daily lives.

Mary Whalen is not a relic, asking to be preserved as a museum artifact, but a working ambassador for the aforementioned opportunities and a platform for learning skills and gaining awareness that would most likely be out of reach for the many young people that PortSide strives to reach out to and educate.

Regards,
Chris Berg

100 La Salle Street, 9F
New York, NY 10027
christophersberg@gmail.com

From: Robert Coover <robert_coover@yahoo.com>

Sent on: Monday, February 26, 2024 5:36:58 PM

To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidenewyork.org>

Subject: What the Mary Whalen means

Having the Mary Whalen in Red Hook is an immense benefit not only to the neighborhood but to the city. The water is, to a large degree, why the city exists, and the fact that so much of our maritime industry and history has been lost makes it all the more important to keep that which remains. The Mary Whalen lets visitors, adults and youngsters alike, see into a world not so very long ago, when so many plied their trades on the rivers and seas. We can gain insights into the way these men and women lived and worked, and the different communities that formed under these conditions. Its example also inspires young people who may wish to explore maritime industries for careers, which can offer opportunities they would not have imagined otherwise. I am proud to have the opportunity to volunteer at the Mary Whalen and have learned a lot, not just about the vessel but the wood and metal finishing techniques needed to keep her in good condition. I hope to see the Mary Whalen remain in Red Hook for years to come.

Yours,
Rob Coover

From: Pauline Cortijo <pauline.cortijo63@gmail.com>

Sent on: Sunday, February 25, 2024 9:37:15 PM

To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidenewyork.org>

Subject: Supporting Mary A. Whalen

Support for Mary A. Whalen

I would like to start this letter by saying thank you to Carolina and Peter for all the memories, knowledge and fun times my family has been able to experience at the Mary A. Whalen. Thank you in advance for all the memories to come.

Unfortunately, as parents there are some things we are not able to teach our children. This is where your village steps in. Portside/ Mary A. Whalen and it's staff have been part of our village. We go there on Volunteer Days. We go there on our good days, bad days and some days when we just want to get away from it all. At a time where there is a mental health crisis the Mary A. Whalen has been such a great place for my mental health. Sometimes fresh air and a beautiful view at a place where you know you are safe can change a person's whole day around. Whether you want to get your hands dirty, do arts and crafts, take in the beautiful scenery, do some gardening or just get some very well needed Vitamin D....you are welcomed with a warm smile and open arms. Whenever we have family or friends in town the first place we take them to is the Mary A. Whalen to get a tour. A place like this in a neighborhood like Red Hook is necessary. It is crucial for people to know the impact our water ways play in our life. It is important to know the little changes we can make to help save and restore marine environments.

I would love to see the Mary A. Whalen be around for years to come.

I would love to see more programs at the Mary A. Whalen.

I would love to see more funding for educational experiences.

I would to see a space where there can be classes dedicated to maritime workshops next to the Mary A. Whalen.

I WANT to see the Mary A. Whalen running again.

Sincerely,
Pauline C

--

Pauline Cortijo

From: Donna Maria Perkins <dmdecreeft@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 11:13 AM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidewyork.org>
Subject: letter of support for National Maritime Heritage subgrant

Re: National Maritime Heritage subgrant

To Whom it may concern: I write to support PortSide NewYork's application for historic preservation funding to do restoration work on the historic ship Mary A. Whalen as part of their campaign #makeMARYrunagain. I love the Mary Whalen because I was privileged to be the artist in residence for the month of June in 20019. I experienced the glory of New York Harbor on board a beautiful old tanker with a vintage kitchen and cabins.

The maritime history of the city fascinates me, and should be valued in all forms. Preserving the Mary Whelan is one. The ship is the only oil tanker open to the public. This makes the ship a special resource plus all the special ways PortSide has created to use this ship and make it welcoming to the community. We need this ship saved and restored. The Mary A. Whalen is the last of her kind in the USA, a coastal oil tanker built in 1938. The ship is particularly worth saving because oil tankers are not a class of vessel usually saved or made accessible to the public, so the public is not familiar with them. The Mary A Whelan is part of national maritime history as well. She was involved in a very important Supreme Court decision of 1975, US vs Reliable Transfer, based on a grounding that occurred in New York City on the Rockaways, meaning the ship can tell a local and national story with that one case. That SCOTUS decision is taught to all maritime law students and often invoked in admiralty law cases.

Donna Maria deCreeft

From: Mary <blackmtmary@commspeed.net>

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 3:30 PM

To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidewyork.org>

Subject: Make MARY run again

I am a strong supporter of preserving the oil tanker the Mary Whalen. It is a wonderful old ship with a lot of history of its days in NY harbor. My father-in-law Alf Dyrland was captain of the Mary and I remember many of trips to pick him up from the ship back in the 1960's. His son Bill, his grandchildren and I would always spend the holidays in Sheepshead Bay Brooklyn; hence Bill and I would go pick Alf up from the ship. I have many pictures of my family on the ship along with many wonderful memories. Carolina Salguero has done a fantastic job of reconditioning the ship to its original glory and it makes a wonderful learning facility for kids and adults alike. I attended a play where the ship was the stage and the audience sat in chairs on the pier. How amazing that was. I do believe the Mary Whalen is deserving of funds for historic preservation.

Mary K. Dyrland Webster

February 27, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter to support PortSide in its Hurricane Sandy Recovery Project.

I had the privilege of spending time on the *Mary A. Whalen* as part of a residency program for writers. What a fascinating ship... this piece of history must be preserved. There is so much to learn from within its wood frame, and on board of the boat, overlooking the harbor. The ship's stories can be told, and retold.

With no vessel, PortSide has no hub. The tanker is the organization's vital centerpiece, a glorious artifact, and a rich chronicle of the waterfront itself.

Aside from the fact that the *Mary* is a true original and the last of her kind in the USA, the tanker is a neighborhood meeting place. The boat brings folks together, young and old, and from all walks of life.

Please allow PortSide this grant to do the physical work of preserving this ship, to continue the recovery from hurricane Sandy, to make the engine run once more.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Bonnie Jill Emanuel
bonniejemanuel@yahoo.com
914-320-6367

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

National Maritime Heritage Grant

Support for PortSide New York and #makeMARYrunagain

Dear NYS OPRHP,

I submit to you today my letter in support of PortSide New York's application for the National Maritime Heritage subgrant. As a 20-year resident of Red Hook, PortSide New York has been part of the fabric of this community for almost as long as I have been around. I volunteer and participate in community events on the Mary Whalen, because of the incredible connections it creates and nurtures between Red Hook and the water that surrounds it.

For PortSide to receive the financial support it needs to #makeMARYrunagain and expand its offerings via the increased functionality of the ship would mean that their already invaluable work would become further elevated. The experience of going out on the local waters is special, and PortSide New York would make that accessible in an unprecedented way.

Funding PortSide New York and getting the Mary Whalen running again would be a huge benefit for Red Hook and its community. There is no better community steward than Carolina Salguero, and I urge you to include them in this new grant program.

Thank you very much

Alyce Erdekian,

Red Hook Resident since 2003

To: chiclet@portsideneويورك.org
From: Richard W. Evans
140 8th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215
Tel: 203-685-1027
email: evans.richardw@gmail.com
Date: 27 February 2024

I am writing this today in support of PortSide's application to the National Maritime Heritage subgrant program.

I discovered the Mary A Whalen at PortSide in the spring of 2016 and immediately volunteered to work aboard her to help with restoration, renewal and support of PortSide's staff. I continued working there for three years, frequently working 20 to 30 or more hours per week.

My interest comes from my maritime background. I have been sailing and maintaining recreational boats since my adolescence. I owned several sailboats from the 1970's through the 1990's and cruised with my family along Long Island Sound from Manhattan to Newport and Martha's Vineyard. I have been a member and officer with the United States Sail and Power Squadrons since 1980 where I have qualified in and taught courses in navigation, seamanship, sailing, engine maintenance, marine electronics and weather. As a civilian electrical engineer, I designed electronic systems which I installed on shipboard on U S Navy aircraft carriers, destroyers and U S Coast Guard cutters.

I know the Mary A Whalen to be a sound ship with a long history, active presence and hopefully a long future. I believe that she may be the only surviving example of the coastal tankers which were an integral and necessary part of shipping for most of the 20th century. As such, she is a floating museum showing how ships were built and operated. She has a number of examples of nautical technology from the past which can't be seen anywhere else.

The PortSide organization and the Mary A Whalen bring a lot to Red Hook and Brooklyn. They provide unique educational opportunities to children, and adults, in the area involving the history, ecology, economics. They participate actively in the Red Hook area including Hurricane Sandy recovery and neighborhood activities. Many people come aboard for tours, meetings, a place to enjoy the waterfront, the city skyline and harbor activity.

PortSide is an integral part of Brooklyn, New York Harbor and the Red Hook community. It has a treasure trove of historical records which it actively maintains and shares with the community. It is a unique recreational resource which works with other organizations with interests in the ecology, economy, history.

PortSide should be supported as much as possible to continue and expand its activities.

*Richard W Evans
Brooklyn, NY*

From: Debweb68 <debweb68@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 12:16 PM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsideneويورك.org>
Subject: letter of support for National Maritime Heritage subgrant

To whom it may concern

I write to support PortSide's application for historic preservation to do restoration work on the historic ship Mary Whalen. I love the Mary Whalen because it connects local schools in Red Hook to the waterways, it helps the redhook community and beyond learn the history, importance of the NYC waterways and the history of the Mary Whalen. It is the only oil tanker of its kind in the USA. The Mary Whalen represents the only type of vessel of its kind that can be saved, restored and open to the public. A major asset to NYC waterways, community, schools, and beyond NYC. Please save her, restore her and keep her alive for all to appreciate and learn from. As a native New Yorker, parent, educator I feel this is extremely important and beneficial to all.

Sincerely ,
Deborah Ford

February 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jo Goldfarb, and I am the Director of Communications at BASIS Independent Brooklyn, a private school serving Gr. 2-12 in Red Hook. We just found out that you are considering funding the restoration and preservation of the historic ship Mary A. Whalen, flagship of PortSide New York. I am writing today to encourage you to please fund whatever is needed to keep the ship operational and educating our community.

Our students regularly volunteer at PortSide, learning about nautical history, the importance of keeping our oceans clean, and sustainability initiatives overall. We have an annual Day of Service for our high school students, and the Mary A. Whalen is one of the most popular volunteer programs that is a part of that day. Please help ensure that the Mary A. Whalen is saved and restored for the benefit of the entire Red Hook community.

Our students love delving into local history, and the Mary A. Whalen helps reinforce the nautical heritage of the community. The stories they read in school come to life aboard the Mary A. Whalen. It is also significant to have a site in Red Hook on the National Register of Historic Places available to local public schools in addition to our school.

PortSide offers a wonderful educational platform for our community, and their team even created a virtual museum about the neighborhood at www.redhookwaterstories.org to make it more accessible. PortSide provides a rich context for the history of the ship and our waterfront. Our school takes advantage of the offerings through regular classes as well as a Project Week class for the middle school that explores the history of Red Hook.

Most members of our community have no access to boats, and PortSide has made the Mary Whalen very welcoming to all. The ship has become a floating classroom, community center, and cherished community resource.

We would all like to see her engine fixed and see the ship run again. Please fund this project!

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything else.

Jo Goldfarb
Director of Communications

From: Frank Hanavan <fhanavan@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 8:44 PM

To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsideneويورك.org>

Subject: Support letter from Frank Hanavan

February 27th 2024

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to call your attention to the historic coastal tanker Mary A Whalen in Red Hook Brooklyn and the non profit organization Portside New York that runs her. The Whalen has been a feature of the Red Hook Brooklyn waterfront for MANY years, well over a decade, and has been providing free cultural programming and historic Ship tours for all of that time to the citizens of New York. I'm writing to point out the inestimable value of such an enterprise in terms of enhancing the local culture and Literally uplifting the lives of so many people over the years. This program embodies the idea of perfect public programming and is a priceless asset to the city at large and The people of Brooklyn in particular. How many other historic ships or other artifacts in the Harbor can say as much?

I am
Frank Hanavan
Jersey City New Jersey

From: jim@hohorst.net <jim@hohorst.net>

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 4:50 PM

To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidenewyork.org>

Subject: Support for National Maritime Heritage Subgrant for Portside NewYork

To Whom It May Concern -

I hope this email finds you well. As a lifelong sailor, former merchant mariner, and avid enthusiast of the maritime history of New York City, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the National Maritime Heritage Sub-Grant to PortSide New York, the Mary A. Whalen and their inspiring campaign, #makeMARYrunagain.

The Mary A. Whalen holds a special place in the hearts of many who appreciate and cherish our maritime heritage. Its rich history and contributions to New York City's maritime legacy make it a significant cultural and historical landmark deserving of preservation and revitalization.

Having spent countless hours on the waters around New York City and immersing myself in its maritime history, I understand the invaluable role that vessels like the Mary A. Whalen play in connecting us to our past and educating future generations about the importance of our maritime heritage.

The #makeMARYrunagain campaign embodies a spirit of community, dedication, and passion for preserving our maritime history. By supporting this initiative, we are not only investing in the restoration of a vessel but also in the preservation of our collective maritime identity and the stories that accompany it.

As someone who has personally experienced the New York waterways and understands the profound impact it can have on individuals and communities alike, I urge you to consider the significance of this grant and the positive ripple effects it will undoubtedly create.

In granting the National Maritime Heritage Sub-Grant to the Mary A. Whalen, we are not just investing in a vessel; we are investing in the preservation of our shared history, the promotion of maritime education, and the cultivation of a stronger, more connected maritime community.

Thank you for considering my support for this important cause. I am confident that with your help, we can ensure that the Mary A. Whalen continues to sail proudly and serve as a beacon of our maritime heritage for generations to come.

Warm regards,

Jim Hohorst

Jim Hohorst

2 Harbor Point Rd S

Apt 514

Stamford, CT 06902

203-253-2682

jim@hohorst.net

From: Charles Ihrig <chihrig@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 1:02 PM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidenewyork.org>
Subject: Letter of support for the Mary A. Whalen

To whom it may concern,

The coastal tanker 'Mary A. Whalen' is an important link to the maritime history and traditions of New York City. It is the last surviving vessel of its type, it is in the National Register of Historic Places. As so much of the nation's historic tonnage has gone for scrap, I find it important that resources be allocated to allow the boat and its educational programs and opportunities to be continued and even expanded.

Respectfully,
Charles H. Ihrig

February 26th, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Ask the average person—anywhere in the world—to conjure an image of The Big Apple and they’ll describe towering skylines, physics-defying bridges, and timeless monuments. At the heart of these attractions is the New York harbor: America’s waterfront. For centuries, mariners and laborers have offloaded untold wealth and cleared the gangplanks for generations of hopeful newcomers.

Make no mistake, maritime history is the history of New York.

In a metropolis that sees constant change, the battle to preserve its roots grows larger each day. An entire way of life is slipping away as the old wharves disappear beneath the surf. Museum ships are becoming the last bastions of waterfront culture. Thus, the retired tanker *Mary A. Whalen* has taken on an enduring role that strives to tell a very human story. They’re an ambassador for the Red Hook neighborhood of Brooklyn and a testament to its resilience in the face of vanishing histories. From Red Hook to the entirety of New York, the *Mary A. Whalen* is an example of historic preservation in action.

Visitors gain an intimate understanding of seagoing life and the technical know-how that makes it possible. Working aboard a ship is no picnic, and yet PortSide NewYork—through the *Mary A. Whalen*—makes the fundamentals accessible to everyone. Youth programs are tailored to foster an interest in history and general maritime knowledge. Adults can enjoy a deep dive into the machinery and systems that were once standards in the industry. All of this overlooks the Red Hook Basin and the busy waterway beyond.

Standing on the deck of the *Mary A. Whalen* inspired the same feeling in me as standing on the Brooklyn Bridge. The thought of the thousands of ships, their crews, and passengers that have passed before this very spot is awe-inspiring. Distant foghorns and the rattling of cables in the wind are voices from the past saying, “Don’t let a proud maritime tradition vanish.” PortSide NewYork and the *Mary A. Whalen* not only make this history visible, but they make it tangible.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Z. P. “Zach” Liollo

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 5:41 PM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsideneويورك.org>
Subject: National Maritime Heritage subgrant

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an immigrant, a newcomer to the great city of New York. One of my greatest joys is exploring the endless treasures of NYC history. My husband took me to visit the Mary Whalen for an evening of Middle Eastern music on the open deck. Sitting on the superstructure a few levels above the performers was perfect for acoustics as well as people watching. The experience was incredible. The ship would rock gently on the swells produced by the nearby ferry. The entire Downtown Manhattan cityscape and cranes of Red Hook provided the backdrop to this amazing place. Yes, it is a ship, but it is also a place where people gather to learn about ships, and the waters and creatures of New York. It is an incredibly unique feature of our city. We cannot take this place for granted. The ships in the Thames of London are formal museums limited to a specific demographic. New York's Mary A Whalen is open to the community as a place to learn, hear music, or just get some sun. It embraces the people not just of Red Hook but all of New York. The Mary Whalen's name should be shouted from the rooftops for its organic creation, historical significance, and living, breathing existence.

Thank you,

Anastasia Lopoukhine

From: Liz Magnes <lizmagnes@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 4:57 PM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsideneويورك.org>

To whom it may concern:

I write to support PortSide NewYork's application for historic preservation funding to do restoration work on the historic ship Mary A. Whalen as part of the campaign #makeMARYrunagain.

We love the Mary Whalen , partly because we have known her since she parked outside our house which is on the corner of Vanbrunt and Degraw. Her captain Carolina became a friend. Of course, she is a force.....of good ideas (which she puts into action, all in the aim of helping the neighbors and neighborhood). When the Mary Whalen needed internet connections, we were there to help . This was the beginning of a long friendship.

We have gone to various events on the ship and see the positive and the possibilities that this one old tough maritime ship is doing and capable of doing! We even saw and heard Opera, produced and then performed on ship! THIS is a ONE of a KIND, KIND vessel! This ship is also the only oil tanker open to the public which makes the ship a special resource, plus all the special ways PortSide has created to use this ship and make it a part of the community.

Community is in big demand these days, especially in areas which are unique like Red Hook. We need this ship saved and restored! Please fund PortSide! The Mary Whalen Miracle!

Thanks, Liz and Rafi Magnes

From: Robert Manning <rmanning925@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 11:57 AM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsideneويورك.org>
Subject: Regarding

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to convey my unconditional support for the mission and activities of the Mary Whalen Portside group. Through thick and thin this organization has provided a unique location for kids and adults to interact with each other and the environment. The dockside location, amidst shipping yards and other commercial operations, is a jewel in the rough.

It deserves the necessary support to maintain and expand its mission. The Mary Whalen is a historical icon, irreplaceable, educational and.....fun.

I have been a resident of Sunset Park for many years, and have learned to appreciate the value of the waterfront and the importance of preserving those things that make it diverse and unique.

The Mary Whalen checks all these boxes.
If I can elaborate in any way, please advise.

Sincerely,

Rob Manning
364 41st St.
Brooklyn, NY 11232

From: McMahon, Jim <JMcMahon@Scholastic.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 2:50 PM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidewyork.org>
Subject: Re: National Maritime Heritage subgrant

To Whom it may concern:

I write to support PortSide New York's application for historic preservation funding to do restoration work on the historic ship *Mary A. Whalen* as part of their campaign #makeMARYrunagain. If the past is prologue, then *Mary A. Whalen* has played, and remains playing, an important role for a vulnerable community nestled along New York Harbor. The ship serves as a think tank or, more accurately, a do tank, for community residents to understand how to prepare for flooding, heavy storms, tidal surges, et al.

I experience the *Mary Whalen* by helping the PortSide team prepare maps of Red Hook for residents to use as reference when tropical storms or hurricanes propel storm surge across the streets of this low-lying neighborhood. Since Red Hook took one to the chin during Superstorm Sandy, it is vital that helpful information is available for all who live there. The PortSide team is the one community source that facilitates this information, making sure it reads well for all residents—not just those folks who live in private homes but also the thousands of underserved folks who reside in NYCHA housing nearby.

Before New York became a city, it was a port. The *Mary A. Whalen*, the last of the oil tankers, is the only one of its kind open to the public. This makes the ship a special resource plus all the special ways PortSide has created to use this ship and make it welcoming to the community. The ship helps visiting students connect back to New York's role as the most important port city in the United States. And informs them of how vulnerable New York Harbor is to climate change, and how those changes affect all the coastal neighborhoods, including Red Hook.

Please fund PortSide so that future generations benefit from knowing about New York's maritime history and how to take measures to protect themselves from nature's fury!

Sincerely,
James McMahon
Senior Cartographer
Scholastic Inc

712 E. 4th Street
Ocean City, NJ 08226

February 27, 2024

Concerning PortSide and the Mary A. Whalen:

I write this in support of PortSide's application to the National Maritime Heritage subgrant program.

I first visited the Mary A. Whalen in Red Hook back in 2007 and learned about the great PortSide program. I had first visited New York Harbor back in 1955 when departing on the USS Darby for my father's new station as an Army officer in Germany. He impressed upon me the importance of the harbor and the considerable abilities of all the people who make it function as such a vitally important part of New York and of our nation.

Since visiting the Mary A. Whalen years ago I have kept in touch with their excellent programs that introduce adults and youth to our important maritime and marine worlds. Access is no longer as accessible to New Yorkers as it was when Melville would go down to the harbor and recall his days at sea. Not only are PortSide's programs important in connecting people to these watery worlds, they connect people to what makes our world work. In my years of working with students and with young people, I have seen how important it is for them to understand and feel part of the world around them. PortSide's programs do this in beautifully effective ways, especially giving access and involvement to people who would otherwise not have knowledge or access to vital parts of our everyday lives. Let us do everything we can do to keep PortSide's programs accessible and actively flourishing for the benefits of so many.

Sincerely, Birch Miles

BardasFilms@Gmail.com

Arrow Mueller
3739 84th Street #22
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

February 27, 2024

To whom it may concern,

Portside and the Mary Whalen are invaluable to the historic fabric and landscape of New York City. We residents need access to our harbor waterfront, historic understanding of our city, and a diverse way to approach both. Portside and the Mary Whalen does these.

New York was founded on being a well-situated port. For most of its history, ships trading in commerce filled the harbors shorelines. Unfortunately, as the city develops more and more of its waterfront into park and commercial ventures, less and less is available as a celebration and window of what once was.

Most cities with water access have historic vessels line docks to attract visitors and boost the economy. Many of these vessels are supported in part by taxpayers who enjoy the historic contribution to their landscape. In New York, there is no serious interest in having such vessels, so any vessel that attempts to fill this hole needs to fund itself privately.

Over the years with the help of volunteers, the Mary Whalen has gone from a well-worn industrial workboat to fine example of 1930's industrial technology. It is beautiful to look at, interesting to explore, and relaxing to sit upon her decks.

Without funding our city will only be bland high rises and parks for the wealthy.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arrow Mueller', with a stylized, cursive-like flourish.

Arrow Mueller

From: Jack Murphy <iav84922@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 5:41 PM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidewyork.org>
Subject: letter of support for National Maritime Heritage

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mary A. Whalen, an icon of New York's maritime history, is for me personally, a treasure of New York. More than just another old bit of history to climb around and shoot selfies, this vessel is a living, breathing example of New York in the 20th century. Unlike a chip powering some app, it has a understandable physicality available to all, on a scale unfamiliar to most living in this world. As the last ship of its kind, the Mary A. Whalen is a true survivor.

Recalling my first visit on a cold evening, I stood in the crowded ship's mess and listened to a quartet play 1930's French bistro music. Looking past the musicians, I could see the Statue of Liberty framed by a porthole. The very same sight that my family saw coming to America. This vision could only happen in New York. That evening made me fall in love with the Mary A. Whalen.

Moments like this are why I live in NYC. Of course New York needs the Mary Whalen just as much as the Mary Whalen needs New York to guarantee such magical experiences. This ship is part of what gives NYC a rich uniqueness that is impossible to find anywhere else. To banish this ship from our city would be one more erasure of what makes NYC stand out from Dallas, Phoenix, or Salt Lake. This ship is part of our intricate texture of history that inspires current and future generations. It is not past but all around us. History and legend is NYC's stock and trade.

As when a child first sees a real living and breathing sheep instead of a fluffy illustration, it is a revelation. For younger generations Mary Whalen is not just a "boat" but a steel and iron example of life on the sea in and around the coast of NYC. A child can clearly imagine the engineer at his controls standing above the mammoth engine surrounded by a rich diesel bouquet answering the captain's commands via a bell system, the only signal able to cut through the din of six wastebasket sized cylinders pounding away beneath their feet.

We need to make sure Mary A Whalen will run again, and continue to fuel imaginations and maintain this historic link between our city and the sea. We owe this to current and future generations to represent all who lived and worked in the Port of New York.

Thank you for your consideration.

John J Murphy

From: scott@pfaffman.com <scott@pfaffman.com>

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 5:13 PM

To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidewyork.org>

Dear Portside et al,

I am a long time resident of Red Hook and have seen our neighborhood evolve into a vibrant and successful community. There have been many changes in my almost forty years here. Among the most notable additions to Red Hook are a core of local art and cultural organizations which ensure that the young people here directly enjoy the diversity and resources that Red Hook's "rebirth" provides. The Red Hook Farm, Pioneer Works, Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition, (BWAC), Red Hook Arts Project (RHAP) and The Mary Whalen Maritime Museum , also known as Portside are in my opinion the shining stars which provide the energy and vision to direct the host of additional organizations which together make our community unique and resilient. It is to this resiliency that Portside most consistently contributes. Providing access to maritime practices, current and historical and giving first hand experience of marine ecologies including environmental initiatives and careers in the marine industry. For these reasons I encourage you to review favorably Portside's funding requests, grant applications and other solicitations for sources of support. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Scott Pfaffman
360 Van Brunt Street
Brooklyn NY 11231
scott@pfaffman.com
917 974 6933



February 28, 2024



Historic Site Restoration Coordinator, Incentives & Planning Unit
New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Division for Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park, P.O. Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Ms. Molly Donahue

I am writing on behalf of the Red Hook Art Project (RHAP) to express our full support for PortSide New York's application to the National Maritime Heritage subgrant for the restoration of the coastal oil tanker Mary A. Whalen.

*Tiffiney V. Davis,
Co-Founder &
Executive Director*

*Jacqui Painter
Artistic Director*

*Kevin Brandes
Operations Director*

*Board of Directors:
Dr. Natasha Campbell,
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Mary Waugh
Melanie Paul
Robin Chamberlain*

Since our start in 2009, RHAP has been dedicated to providing free visual art, music, academic, and stress management instruction to children and youth residing in and around Red Hook, Brooklyn. Central to our mission is the belief in the transformative power of creative self-expression in enriching both individuals and communities. Through a variety of programs, RHAP offers a nurturing environment where young people can develop their voices through artistic endeavors.

At RHAP, we recognize the importance of empowering youth through the arts, and we have found a valuable partner in PortSide New York and the Mary A. Whalen. The ship has served as a unique and inspiring venue for our students to engage in artistic activities, such as our Portfolio Prep classes held onboard during the summertime. This unparalleled opportunity allows our students to sketch against the backdrop of the New York harbor, fostering a deep appreciation for nature and maritime history. Where else in New York City can a student sit on the harbor sketching in the fresh air? It's a one of a kind experience that we are grateful to have in our own backyard.

Furthermore, the Mary A. Whalen has been instrumental in providing a safe and enriching space for our community, particularly during the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. RHAP has hosted various events and celebrations aboard the ship, including painting sessions, kids' dance parties, and other community activities, offering much-needed respite and joy to our children and families.

The Mary A. Whalen is a vital cultural asset for Red Hook and the greater New York City area. PortSide's efforts to make the ship accessible and relevant to the community have made it a beacon of heritage and learning. Through initiatives such as TankerTime and the virtual museum at redhookwaterstories.org, PortSide has

effectively showcased the rich maritime history of Red Hook while promoting resilience and pride in our neighborhood.

*Red Hook Art Project, Inc.
291 Van Brunt Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231-1230
EIN: 26-6658925*

We firmly believe that PortSide deserves funding to preserve and restore the Mary A. Whalen, ensuring that this historic vessel continues to inspire and educate present and future generations. We commend PortSide for its commitment to making the ship accessible and engaging to all, and we eagerly anticipate the day when the Mary A. Whalen can once again serve as a training ship for maritime enthusiasts.

Thank you for considering our support for PortSide New York's application. We stand ready to assist in any way possible to ensure the success of this endeavor.

With sincere appreciation,

Tiffiney Davis
Executive Director

From: Bruce Rosenkrantz <cyberkrantz@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 8:46 AM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidenewyork.org>
Subject: Mary Whalen

The Mary Whalen is a very historic vessel and should be preserved. It is an important part of her neighborhood. It hosts many children who would not have the chance to visit an historic vessel. It is an important part of NY's maritime past. Please help. The ship is the only oil tanker open to the public. This makes the ship a special resource plus all the special ways PortSide has created to use this ship and make it welcoming to the community. We need this ship saved and restored! Please fund PortSide The Mary A. Whalen (originally S.T. KIDDOO) is the last of her kind in the USA, a coastal oil tanker built in 1938. The ship is particularly worth saving because oil tankers are not a class of vessel usually saved or made accessible to the public, so the public is not familiar with them. The MARY represents the ONLY opportunity to save this type of vessel. She was involved in a very important Supreme Court decision of 1975, US vs Reliable Transfer, based on a grounding that occurred in New York City on the Rockaways, meaning the ship can tell a local and national story with that one case. That SCOTUS decision is taught to all maritime law students.

Bruce Rosenkrantz.

CLAUDE M. SCALES, III
57 Montague Street, Apt. 3B
Brooklyn, New York 11201

February 25, 2024

Re: PortSide New York

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of PortSide New York's application for a grant. PortSide has done so much to make New Yorkers and visitors aware of our city's rich maritime history. I have enjoyed many visits to the preserved coastal tanker *Mary A. Whalen* for cultural events that have ranged from opera to sea chantey sing-alongs. The ship herself has a rich history, including having been the subject of a Supreme Court decision. I look forward to the time when her engine is restored to working condition and she can cruise the harbor.

Please give this request your careful consideration and, I earnestly hope, a favorable response.

Sincerely,

Claude M. Scales, III

From: RONALD SHIFFMAN <ronyvette@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 1:40 AM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidewyork.org>
Subject: National Maritime Heritage

NYS office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Re: National Maritime Heritage subgrant

To your grant review panel:

I am currently traveling to Berlin, Munich and Amsterdam for meetings with former planning development colleagues; but I feel strongly about PortSide so I am emailing while en route.

I am a city planner with 60 years of experience providing architectural, planning, community economic development and sustainable development assistance to community-based groups in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. My Pratt Institute bio is at <https://www.pratt.edu/people/ronald-shiffman/>

I have worked in Red Hook for decades and supported and watched the neighborhood's transformation as it fought its way up from blight, the crack epidemic of the 1980s, and the early 1990s murder of elementary school principal Patrick Daly. I participated in creating Red Hook's 197a plan, one of the first in NYC, in 1994. I also worked with residents of Red Hook in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy and with colleagues from Pratt Institute launched the RETI initiative that was designed to link the diverse population of Red Hook to address issues of climate change.

Red Hook had many special historic structures, most of them industrial, and many have been destroyed in just the past 20 years by the forces of unthoughtful and ill planned development. PortSide NewYork and their historic ship Mary A. Whalen buck this trend.

PortSide NewYork is a significant grassroots player in contributing to Red Hook's community's social and economic development, to its recovery from Sandy and its future resiliency, and they have created inventive and compelling ways to make their historic ship a cultural, educational and community center.

Most Red Hook's residents live in NYCHA public housing and rarely have access to boats and maritime experiences, so having an asset like the Mary Whalen, made accessible and inviting the PortSide way, is a powerful contribution.

At a time when climate change is a major topic, the ship, as an oil tanker, is a great platform for talking about the history of USA fuel consumption, sustainability issues and climate change, and PortSide has developed ship tours for the public and school curricula that do that. PortSide has also created related resiliency programs.

The ship has many official reasons to be valued:

- On the National Register of Historic Places (important to withstand litigation)
- Last of its kind in the USA

Built for and operated by Ira S. Bushey & Sons, a nationally significant company based in Red Hook until closing in the early 1980s.

Historic preservation of buildings is tough business; and there are even fewer resources for historic ships, so I strongly urge you to look favorably on PortSide's application.

Sincerely,

Ron

Ron Shiffman, FAICP, Hon. AIA
Professor Emeritus,
Pratt Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment.
New York City Planning Commissioner (1990-1996)
917.705.8935

From: Natasha Sweeten (N Sweeten) <natashasweeten@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 8:55 PM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsideneewyork.org>
Subject: letter of support for National Maritime Heritage subgrant

To Whom it may concern:

I write in support of PortSide New York's application for historic preservation funding, for restoration work on the historic ship Mary A. Whalen as part of their campaign #makeMARYrunagain. The Mary Whalen is a wonderful bit of New York history and a cultural jewel that I've enjoyed with my family and friends. We have been to July 4th cookouts, to fundraisers and art events. The ship is the only oil tanker open to the public and should remain available to the public as a cultural and educational destination. This ship is a special resource. PortSide uses this ship for welcoming the community, and I strongly believe we need to save this ship and see it restored. Please fund PortSide!

Sincerely,
Natasha Sweeten
Brooklyn, NY

From: Tint, Deborah <DTint@bklynlibrary.org>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidewyork.org>
Subject: Re: National Maritime Heritage subgrant

To Whom it may concern:

I write to urge your support of PortSide NewYork's application for historic preservation funding to restore the historic ship Mary A. Whalen as part of their campaign **#makeMARYrunagain**.

I love the Mary Whalen because she stands as a rare holdout in a city with ever diminishing examples of our history - as we see irreplaceable landmark buildings and other features being swept aside to make way for the dubious 'progress' of commercial construction. This unique example of our maritime past is an essential means of teaching and enticing people of all ages to learn about our region's history as an essential port.

The ship is the only oil tanker open to the public, and serves in so many ways to call our attention to cultural events, instructional opportunities, and environmental understanding. This makes the ship a special resource plus all the special ways PortSide has created to use this ship and make it welcoming to the community.

We need this ship saved and restored! Please fund PortSide!

- The Mary A. Whalen (originally S.T. KIDDOO) is the last of her kind in the USA, a coastal oil tanker built in 1938.
- The ship is particularly worth saving because oil tankers are not a class of vessel usually saved or made accessible to the public, so the public is not familiar with them. The MARY represents the ONLY opportunity to save this type of vessel!
- She was involved in a very important Supreme Court decision of 1975, US vs Reliable Transfer, based on a grounding that occurred in New York City on the Rockaways, meaning the ship can tell a local and national story with that one case. That SCOTUS decision is taught to all maritime law students and often invoked in admiralty law cases.
- The ship relates to local neighborhood history having been built for Ira S. Bushey.

As a librarian and archivist, I feel keenly the importance of preserving rare examples of our history so we can understand how this city and region came to be. And there is no better way to really understand that than through physical artifacts we can see, feel and interact with in an increasingly electronic world.

Please help to safeguard this important piece of our heritage!

Sincerely,
Deborah Tint

Deborah Tint (she/her) | Special Collections Cataloger
Center for Brooklyn History, Brooklyn Public Library
128 Pierrepont Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
bklynlibrary.org/cbh

From: geoff-nyc shipshares.com <geoff-nyc@shipshares.com>

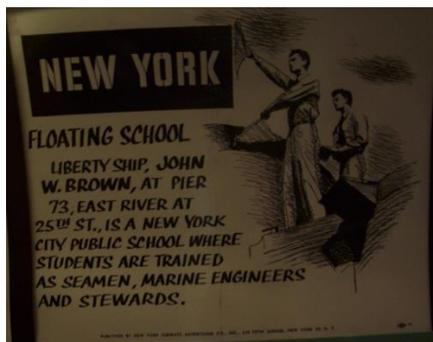
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 3:48 PM

To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsidenewyork.org>

Subject: letter of support for NMH subgrant for MT Mary Whalen

To whom it May Concern:

It takes a long memory to recall when New York Harbor had its own floating maritime trades school. *SS John W. Brown* not only taught essential entry-level skills for well-paying jobs aboard ship in the US merchant marine, by its existence the school preserved one of the last fully-functioning Liberty ships which were essential to the Allied victory in World War II.



It is thanks to the passionate, dedicated, heroic efforts of Ms. Carolina Salguero that *MT Mary Whalen* did not meet the same fate as virtually all of the Liberty ships; in fact *MT Mary Whalen* is even more rare than a Liberty ship, being the very last of her class. The ship is worthy of support on historic merit in that in scale, mode of operation and type of propulsion system she was the enabling technology that transformed the marine shipping industry from filthy dirty coal-powered engines to less-dirty, more efficient oil-powered engines. Built for her rugged work of refueling deep-sea ships in NY harbor, *MT Mary Whalen* never physically wore out; she became victim of her own success as ever-larger oil-powered ships required ever larger and more economical bunkering ships.

But *MV Mary Whalen* is far more than an interesting and valuable historic relic. By restoring *MV Whalen* to a fully-functioning inland and coastal vessel, Port-Side NY will build upon already invaluable community educational outreach programs in a way that is particularly valuable to today's and tomorrow's US maritime industry, starting in New York Harbor but reaching across our nation, indeed spanning oceans. The issues are numerous but in brief, the US maritime industry is soon going to require many more qualified mariners who are going to look a lot like former graduates of programs such as were offered aboard *SS John W. Brown*. The payback to New York State and beyond from hands-on skills learnt by putting *MT Mary Whalen* back in working order are incalculable, and coincidentally perfectly timed if supported now. TransTech / ShipShares LLC believe NMH will not find a sub-grant project more worthy of support than restoring *MT Mary Whalen's* self-propulsion capability, and expanding educational

programming that teaches essential hands-on engineering and mariner skills. We urge full and complete support of Portside New York's worthy and invaluable efforts to rebuild MT Mary Whalen's propulsion system and expand instruction of marine engineering skills around this effort.

Kindest regards,

Geoffrey Uttmark MM MSc BSc
TransTech / ShipShares LLC
771 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215
www.shipshares.com 347 5812731

From: Designed By Sisterhood <info@designedbysisterhood.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 10:38 AM

To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsideneويورك.org>

Subject: Fwd: Letter of Support

Good Morning,

Writing this letter in support of Restoring the Mary Whalen ship in Red Hook, Brooklyn, NY.

Restoring the Mary Whalen ship would serve as a beacon of hope for our community, preserving an important piece of our history for future generations. By bringing this majestic vessel back to its former glory, we can create a living museum that offers hands-on experiences and engaging programs for students, tourists, and maritime enthusiasts alike. The ship's restoration will provide an invaluable opportunity for visitors to learn about our maritime traditions, historical voyages, and the craftsmanship of the era.

Also, the restored Mary Whalen ship will have a positive economic impact on the community. It will attract tourists from far and wide, boosting local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and souvenir shops.

Additionally, the ship's presence will create job opportunities, both directly through its operation and maintenance and indirectly through increased tourism revenue. I understand that PortSide has applied for a grant to support the restoration project. I would like to emphasize that investing in the restoration of the Mary Whalen ship is a wise and worthwhile endeavor. The grant funds would be utilized efficiently and effectively, ensuring that every dollar is maximized in the restoration process and the subsequent educational programs and activities.

Pauline Vargas

Designed by Sisterhood

From: Diana Wormuth <d_wormuth@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 7:22 AM

To: Chiclet <Chiclet@portsideneويورك.org>; Chiclet <Chiclet@portsideneويورك.org>

Subject: In support of the Mary A Whalen

This support for grant funds for historic preservation work for the ship [Mary A. Whalen](#) comes from Sarajevo, in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The MARY already represents both impressive achievements and potential. Grant discussions involve more than current circumstances. They are a glimpse into the future. The value of the MARY has been shown for years in fertile contacts with the neighborhood and schools, as well as with other institutions.

Outside of New York City there are literally millions of people who follow maritime history and who as tourists and program participants on the MARY would contribute to the economic growth of New York City. Redhook is an important area in New York's maritime development. The enduring success of maritime museums in New York and outside the US are proof of the drawing power of a unique physical ship showcased in an important historical context (for example WASA in Sweden and MARY ROSE in England).

I urge you to support the grant application for the ship Mary Whalen.

Many thanks for your attention.

Sincerely,

Diana Wells Wormuth, Ph.D.

Grbavicka 125, II

71000 Sarajevo

Bosnia Herzegovina

Tel +387 33 812 776

Mobile +387 62 134 981

Email d_wormuth@hotmail.com

To Whom it may concern:

I write to support PortSide NewYork's application for historic preservation funding to do restoration work on the historic ship Mary A. Whalen as part of their campaign #makeMARYrunagain.

My life has been lived within a few blocks of New York Harbor. My Grandfather was a tug Captain and I have worked, played and sailed on, and under the harbor many many times, whether as a commercial diver, US Navy veteran, commuter or just out fishing.

I am also a former educator and a well known writer and singer of songs about our great harbor and that is how I know the Mary A Whalen... as a tremendous educational resource and a welcoming place for students of maritime history to come together to learn, or play, or to hear a concert of live music.

New York Harbor is alive with oil tankers criss-crossing it daily delivering the oil we need to keep our world running. They are not glamorous cruise ships or mighty naval warships that periodically open up to visitors. But there is a need for folks to really connect with and understand what goes on every day in the harbor they see so much of but have scant knowledge about what makes it so great and so important.

Visiting a naval Destroyer is like being invited into a great home. Visiting an oil tanker is an invitation to look behind the veneer of glamour and prestige and a chance to see what really make our city run. The Mary A Whalen is a rare chance to make that happen and I hope you see fit to provide it with the funding it needs.

sincerely,

Bob Wright

www.bojomusic.com

www.bobwright-harbortown.com

Fusion Caterers Restaurant and Bakery, LLC

02.29.2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my unwavering support for PortSide NewYork's funding application. As a business owner in Red Hook, Brooklyn, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that this organization has on our community, its educational significance, and its role in preserving our maritime heritage.

The Mary Whalen is more than just a vessel; it is a living museum, a guardian of history, and a bridge connecting past generations with our own. Its significance extends beyond its physical structure; it embodies the spirit of exploration, the challenges of seafaring life, and the advancements in maritime technology through the ages.

I have witnessed this organization's role over the last few years in ensuring that this community was intact during COVID. We visited PortSide's social media to experience their sunset livestreams showing the sunset and harbor and their posts about the ship and maritime activities. Simple in its offering but effective in keeping our minds and soul in harmony during a time period where death was always on the horizon. We were captivated by the stories each deck and artifact told, offering us a tangible connection to the maritime world that no textbook could replicate. The experience was not only educational but profoundly moving, instilling in us a deeper appreciation for our maritime heritage and the importance of preserving such treasures.

Your funding would enable PortSide to continue its mission of preservation and education. These funds would ensure that the ship remains accessible to the public, allowing more individuals and students to experience the rich tapestry of maritime history that Mary Whalen represents. Moreover, the grant would support necessary maintenance and restoration efforts, ensuring that this

historic vessel can continue to serve as an educational resource and a symbol of our maritime heritage for future generations.

I wholeheartedly support PortSide's application for funding and urge you to consider the profound impact that such support would have on our community's connection to its maritime roots and the preservation of our shared history.

Thank you for considering this application and your commitment to preserving our nation's maritime heritage.

Sincerely,
Dawn Skeete
347-599-0941
jमितbistro@gmail.com