

Working Waterfronts and Waterways

A National Network
and
National Symposium

Presentation at
New Partners for Smart Growth
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by

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Presentation outline

- National Working Waterfront Network (NWWN)
- Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant
–Toolkit to Preserve Working Waterfronts
- Evolution of a working waterfront: A case study of Tacoma, Washington's Thea Foss Waterway
- National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Symposium in Tacoma WA, March 2013



Why Working Waterfronts?



The National Working Waterfront Network



MISSION: Increase the capacity of communities to make decisions, balance diverse uses, ensure access and plan for the future



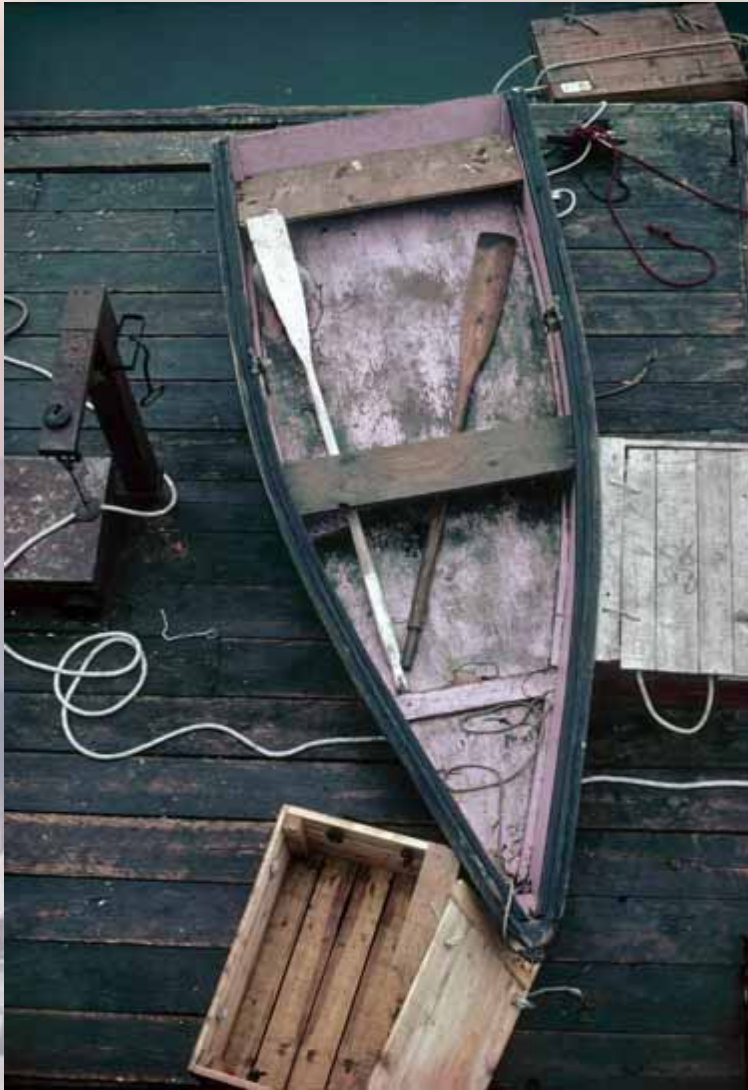
Objectives

- Research, educate and celebrate working waterfronts
- Provide access to information
- Strengthen a network of diverse partners



Network Structure

- Founding Steering Committee
- Subcommittees
- Executive Committee
- Fundraising
- Communications
- Outreach and Education
- National Symposium Planning
- WWF Toolkit Development



Developing a Toolkit to Preserve Working Waterfronts

- Funded by the Economic Development Administration
- September 2011 – March 2013
- Project Partners:
 - Coastal Enterprises Inc.
 - Florida Sea Grant
 - Island Institute
 - Maine Sea Grant
 - National Sea Grant Law Center
 - Urban Harbors Institute
 - Virginia Sea Grant



Toolkit Development

- Historic changes & future trends
- Economic analysis
- Financing tools
- Policy & legal tools
- Outreach & education



NWWN Website

The Sustainable WWF Toolkit is scheduled for public release late March 2013 during the Tacoma Symposium.

To sign up to receive updates about the project launch and the NWWN, visit:

<http://www.wateraccessus.com/index.html>



Foss Waterway, Tacoma



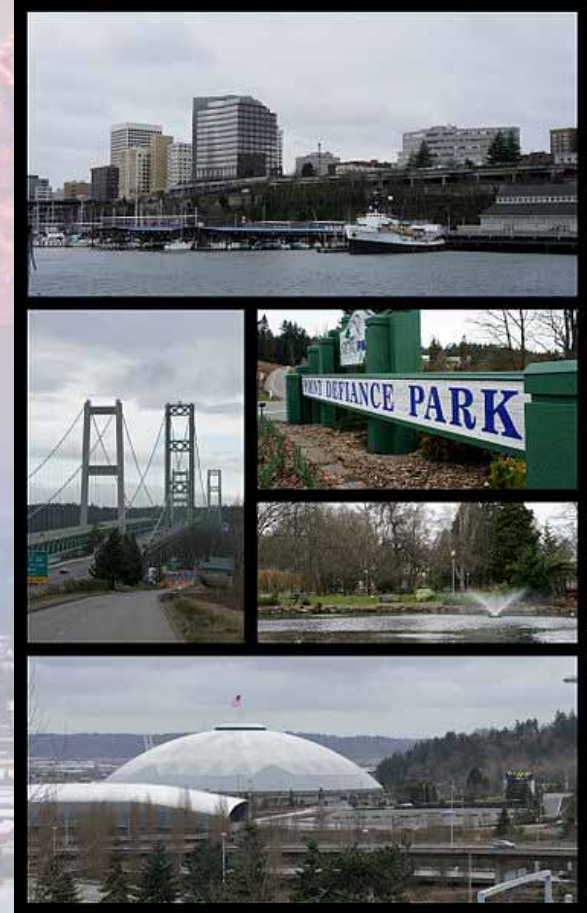
Tacoma, WA

- South Puget Sound
- Port of Tacoma



A rich maritime history

- City of Tacoma was born on the waterfront
- Lumber mills, cement factory, petroleum and chemical processing, ship building
- Mid 20th century decline



Challenges and issues

- Over 100 years of pollution
 - 125 acres of contaminated sediment
- 1983 – Declared an EPA superfund site
- Total bill of \$105 million



An opportunity presented

- 1980 – Creation of the “Dome to Defiance” Plan
- 1991 - City of Tacoma purchased 27 acres of Thea Foss Waterway land
- 1996 - Foss Waterway Development Authority (FWDA) to implement the Foss development plan

DOME TO DEFIANCE



Tacoma's Urban Waterfront
City Club of Tacoma



Tools and Approaches

- Leveraging the Superfund designation – catalyst for change
- Creation of the Foss Waterway Development Authority
- Federally designated “Renewal Community”
- City’s investment in waterfront property
- Parceling of property
- “Visioning” process with diverse stakeholder
- Strategic partnerships through cleanup efforts



Take aways

- *“Environmental leadership makes good economic sense.”*
– Mary Henley, Project Manager, City of Tacoma
- *“Visions’ are always being renegotiated as actors and relationships and economies change. It isn’t static. And often what energizes one group to participate at one point in time is different than at some other point. The persistence of a vision is contingent on the persistence of participation, mobilization, and resources of a set of actors in relation to others.*
– Steve Atkinson, Associate Planner, Community & Economic Development



Working Waterfront Symposia



National Symposia on Working Waterfronts

Norfolk, VA 2007

- Identified challenges faced by all user groups
- Identified key elements of a working waterfront
- Water dependency,
- Commercial enterprise,
- Balanced diversity of successful businesses

Portland, ME 2010

- Success stories were shared and best practices recommended
- National Working Waterfronts Network



UPCOMING: 3rd National Symposium

- Next National Symposium
- Tacoma, WA
- March 25 – 28, 2013
- **Session Themes**
 - Theme I: Economics
 - Theme II: Financial Tools
 - Theme III: Outreach and Education
 - Theme IV: Strategies
 - Theme V: Legislative Issues
 - Theme VI: Design Issues
 - Theme VII: Social/Cultural Issues
- Sponsored by Washington/Oregon Sea Grant, West Coast Governors Alliance



www.workingwaterfronts2013.org



Thank you!



**NATIONAL
WORKING
WATERFRONTS
& WATERWAYS
SYMPOSIUM**

*March 25 -28, 2013
Tacoma, Washington*
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