



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LICC-HPCC's *Hunters Point North Vision Plan for Resiliency* Receives Prestigious NYS Adaptation & Innovation Award

Community-Led Climate Resilience Plan Recognized as Climate Adaptation Program Winner

Long Island City, Queens — Long Island City Coalition / Hunters Point Community Coalition (LICC-HPCC) is honored to announce that the *Hunters Point North Vision Plan for Resiliency* has been selected as the **Climate Adaptation Program Winner** for the inaugural 2025 NYS Adaptation & Innovation Awards, presented by the New York State Adaptation Practitioners Network.

The award was announced today by the NYS Adaptation Practitioners Network, a collaboration convened by Rebuild By Design, NY Water Resources Institute, Syracuse Environmental Finance Center, and other leading climate resilience organizations [see press release [here](#)].

Why the HPN Vision Plan Was Selected

According to the awards announcement, the Vision Plan was chosen because it "exemplifies how community-driven climate adaptation can create a more resilient, equitable neighborhood along a vulnerable, urban riverfront." The selection committee specifically recognized the plan's innovative approach to transforming a half-mile stretch of Queens waterfront with a deep industrial history into "a vibrant creative, mixed-use community" while dramatically reducing climate risks.

The award citation highlights several key factors that distinguished the Vision Plan:

- **Grassroots Leadership and Extensive Public Participation:** The grassroots planning process, led by LICC-HPCC, allowed for authentic community engagement that centered local voices rather than developer interests.
- **Innovative, Multi-Benefit Strategies:** The plan incorporates resilient open spaces, living shorelines, a community resiliency hub, and land value capture mechanisms that work together to address multiple community needs simultaneously.
- **Alignment with State and City Goals:** The Vision Plan exceeds New York State and New York City climate adaptation goals, setting a higher standard for waterfront resilience planning.
- **Replicable Model:** Most importantly, the award recognizes the plan as "a replicable model for how communities can proactively shape more resilient futures" — demonstrating that community-led planning can deliver superior climate adaptation outcomes.

What This Award Means for the Community-Led Plan

This prestigious, state-level recognition from climate adaptation experts provides significant credibility and strengthens the case for adoption of the Vision Plan over developer-centered alternatives. It confirms that local residents, artists, and small business owners — not just developers and city agencies — can create climate adaptation solutions that meet rigorous professional standards while better serving community needs.

Highlighting the Vision Plan as a replicable model, the award positions Long Island City as a national example of how community-driven approaches can produce excellent, leading-edge resiliency plans for neighborhoods, like Hunters Point North, vulnerable to flooding and displacement from severe climate-related events.

Elected Officials' Critical Role

Development of the *Hunters Point North Vision Plan for Resiliency* was made possible through the leadership and support of these elected representatives:

Senator Michael Gianaris (NYS Senate Deputy Leader) provided LICC/HPCC the initial seed funding that launched the nine-month community engagement and planning process in 2023.

Senator Kristen Gonzalez provided subsequent grants and has continued her steadfast support, stating: "Across my district, a waterfront district which includes the lowest per capita greenspace in the city, I see time and time again that decisions about communities are being made not by those who live there, but by wealthy corporations seeking to maximize profit. I'm so proud to support the Hunters Point North Vision Plan for Resiliency, not just to increase community input, but to reimagine the community planning process, by centering community voices, and using

supporting data to develop not just a short-term growth plan, but a framework for development that is deeply community-driven."

About the Vision Plan

The Hunters Point North Vision Plan for Resiliency was developed through a comprehensive community engagement process led by LICC-HPCC with the support of a consulting team headed by Nautilus International Developing Consulting, Inc., an award-winning group of professionals with cross-disciplinary expertise in urban design, public policy, and planning of sustainable urban waterfronts around the world. The process launched in October 2023 with a Community Site Walk, followed by Community Resiliency Workshops, held at CultureLab LIC, in January and April 2024.

The Vision Plan responds to the community's long-standing priorities for sustainable growth that is proactive about climate change, addresses existing deficits, and distributes economic opportunities more broadly. It is rooted in four principles:

Resiliency: Hunters Point is situated in a vulnerable floodplain and was hit with six feet of floodwaters during Superstorm Sandy. The Vision Plan proposes a continuous waterfront park with a living shoreline and engineered solutions for robust flood mitigation.

Equity: The plan keeps public properties in the hands of the public—for needed open space and essential services (e.g., schools and a community resiliency hub)--and it proposes a land value capture mechanism to fund community benefits.

Balance: It revitalizes LIC's industrial sector—home to hundreds of artists and small manufacturers—as a true mixed-use community with live/work buildings that would generate sustainable growth.

Connection: It proposes a network of tree-lined streets connecting inland areas to the waterfront. A new ferry terminal would serve Queensbridge Housing residents, and a 'blue highway' wharf would provide low-carbon transportation to the Industrial Business Zone.

The Vision Plan has been endorsed by Community Board 2, Western Queens Community Land Trust, and numerous other local stakeholders.

About the NYS Adaptation & Innovation Awards

The 2025 NYS Adaptation & Innovation Awards honor exemplary projects across New York State that demonstrate how communities are building resilience through innovative design, ecological restoration, and community-driven planning. The awards recognize best practices in adaptation to model the kinds of projects that are possible across New York as the state faces rising seas, extreme heat, flooding, and other climate-driven hazards.

About LICC-HPCC

Long Island City Coalition (LICC) and Hunters Point Community Coalition (HPCC) are sister organizations of artists, professionals, and business owners with deep roots in Long Island City. LICC-HPCC has worked in support of sustainable development and well-planned growth for many years. HPCC's 'alternative' proposal for a continuous waterfront park at Hunters Point South is credited with helping LIC become the highly desirable neighborhood it is today.

For more information about the awards, visit: [NYS Adaptation Practitioners Network - NYS Innovation & Adaptation Awards - Rebuild by Design](#)

For more information about the Vision Plan, visit: <https://hunterspoint-north.com/>

For more information about LICC/HPCC, visit: <https://www.lic-coalition.org/>

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