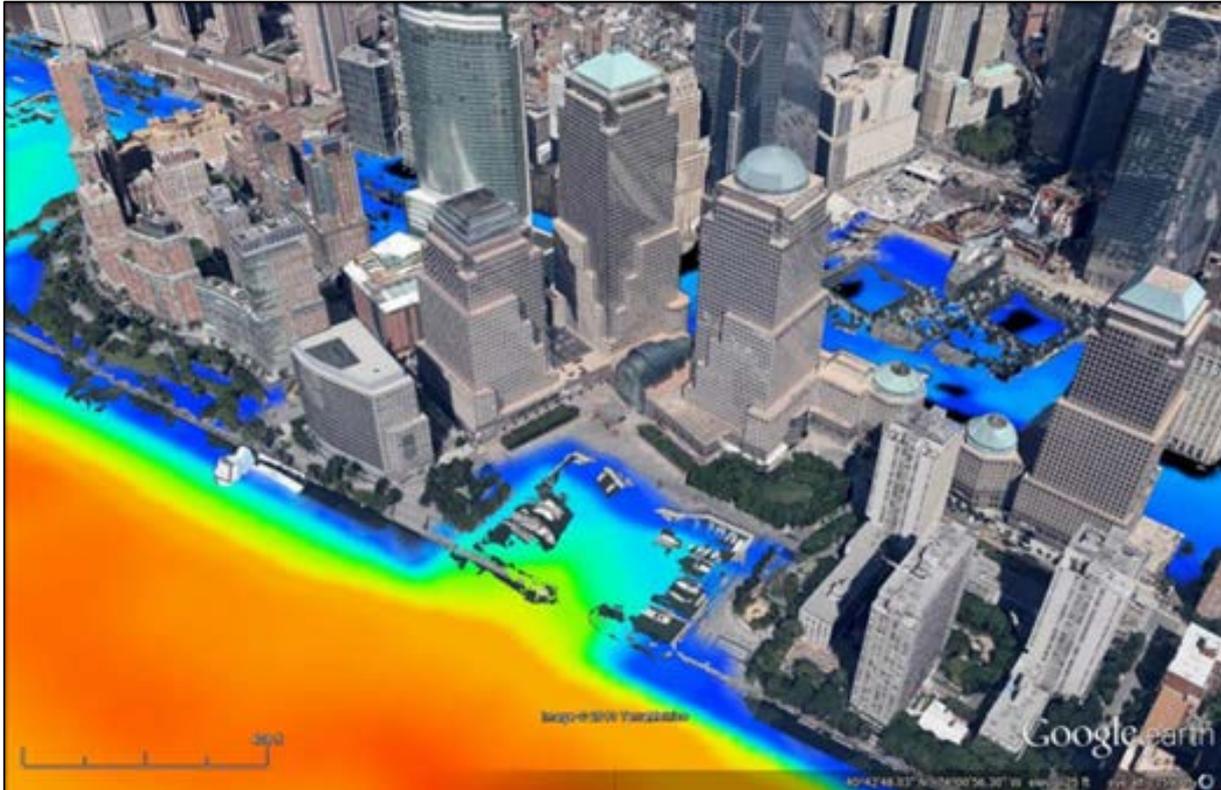


Rotterdam Brooklyn Waterfront Exchange



Mission Statement

The Momentum of Understanding (MOU) between Pratt Institute and RDM Campus strives to:

- facilitate the exchange of faculty, students and knowledge, pertaining to resiliency issues.
- sets an example of how academics on all levels can be a local force in community engagement and socio-economic development.
- underwrites the concept that urban waterfronts can be a perfect blend of working and resilient objectives, while being a great place to live and play!
- will strengthen communities in New York and Rotterdam and acknowledges the need for communities that are both esthetically pleasing; resilient and functional.

Connecting New York City and Rotterdam



The collaboration between the City of Rotterdam and the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey started in 2010, in the wake of the H2O9 Conference in New York City in September of 2009. The collaboration set out to exchange best practices in sustainable waterfront communities. The original BRWX-exchange included visiting delegations to both cities and envisioned the development of three pilot projects in the following fields:

- Beneficial reuse of dredge material,
- RDM Campus as a model for socio-economic development
- Floating developments.

The floating pilot started and ended as an exercise in knowledge exchange. Additional research will be required to address significant environmental concerns and overcome permitting challenges for building on the water in the NY Region. However, the dredge pilot and waterfront revitalization project has successfully been studied by a public-private consortium, including ARCADIS. The technical feasibility has been proven and the project is

currently, April 2014, on the drawing board for implementation. And, finally, the RDM model was presented and discussed at various time periods between 2010 and 2012, specifically as an example for a comparable model that could function as a socio-economic catalyst in Brooklyn. The latter has received more traction recently, as part of an incremental interest in resilient community development in the post-Sandy New York/New Jersey region.

Knowledge exchange and cooperation

Climate adaptation and flood protection in New York City has drawn a lot of attention since Super storm Sandy. Sandy has created a basis for discussions pertaining to climate adaptation, flood mitigation and increasing resiliency in densely-populated urban and waterfront communities. Resilient waterfront communities are not merely resilient because of its flood and climate-resilient strategy, but resiliency manifests itself in the affected communities through socio-economic, environmental, educational, technical and policy-related variables. Sandy created newfound momentum for better understanding resilient communities. The RDM Model received renewed attention post 2012, resulting in the current MOU for faculty, student and research exchange between Pratt Institute and RDM Campus. The visit of Pratt Institute to Rotterdam in 2014 marks the end of one initiative and the beginning of another.

From K2K to G2G to C2C to B2B

One of the objectives of the BRWX program was to lay the foundation for a K2K network that compliments and builds upon the existing G2G platform between Rotterdam and New York and facilitates solutions to present and future day resiliency development challenges in urbanized settings. The universities compared opportunities for improving resiliency of affected communities in flood prone areas in NYC and Rotterdam. The MOU of 2014, was a new beginning for the long-term objective to develop a (virtual) Community of Practice, a lean and mean, functional and relevant knowledge network with Rotterdam and NYC (and other comparable cities) Universities and knowledge institutions. This K2K network could even be part of the G2G network of the Connecting Delta Cities Network of the C-40, led by Rotterdam and NYC.

A strong K2K network can strengthen and build international communities of practice and can grow into integral components of existing G2G initiatives. The strength in the approach is to go from global theoretical future visions to practical, actual situations. Translating climate change issues into business opportunities will also benefit the private sector and the communities-at-large. Combining research and supporting entrepreneurship is a successful approach for the future. More specifically, kick-off ideas in the context of this collaboration could be the exchange of students to cooperate with researchers and businesses for three to six months. Also, workshops with students in different places around the world, focusing on a common set of problems in Rotterdam and Brooklyn, parallel analyses and identification of potential solutions. C2C, community to community, has potential for future developments, for example regarding an online community to share

RDM Campus - Rotterdam

Rotterdam University for applied sciences is the Centre of Education, Co-creation and Shared research in the middle of the City Ports area of Rotterdam. RDM stands for Research – Design – Manufacturing. Education & research connects to businesses. Students and researchers work together in innovation teams and communities of practice on climate change issues with

Pratt institute – New York City

Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development in New York City is the national largest, public interest architectural, planning and community development office in the US. The Pratt institute was emerged as an university-based public interest architecture, urban/environmental planning and community development organization engaged in community development & public policy, participation & coalition building, technical assistance and education and training.



knowledge among communities, researchers, students and businesses. At the waterfront, policies, research and communities come together. Not only in Rotterdam and New York City, but also at other cities for example of the Connecting Delta Cities Network (CDC).

Local knowledge exchange

During the public outreach event on March 20th 2014 in Rotterdam, knowledge exchange between universities, governments and businesses was the red thread through all of the various sessions. Topics and case studies discussed included climate adaptation in urban settings, which is a catalyst for socio-economic development; the role for academic partners; social-ecological redevelopment of the Rijnhaven area and the Rotterdam Adaptation Strategy of embedding climate into city policy.

Building climate resilient communities

Special reference was made to Pratt's Recovery, Adaption, Mitigation and Planning Initiative (RAMP) and related sustainable environmental management programs; preliminary experiences with the BIG-U community driven flood protection for Manhattan as part of the HUD Design competition; education, innovation & climate resilient communities in NYC - a social, economic and environmental approach and building resilient communities in a G2G Network Context, the Connecting Delta Cities program and the Rockefeller Foundation 100 Resilient Cities Campaign. During interactive sessions, tools for climate resiliency were discussed; community engagement & awareness, adaptive building practices (Floating Communities) and the PlaNYC related to planning for resiliency at the USA East coast after Sandy.



Lessons on the ground

A panel discussion of community leaders from impacted areas of New York City together with students from New York City and Rotterdam provided clear insights in the needs and lessons of these communities; Red Hook Initiative, Rockaway Waterfront Alliance and GOLES.

The experience and lessons after a disaster:

Jeanne DuPont (Executive Director, Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, Queens):

"I remember the silence for a period of time, because of lack of communication, lights, services and connections. It took some time for people to realize what had happened. Health care social services came and tried to help. The thing that was most important to us was the fact that people could work together and tell us where people could sleep, clothing, set up a specific network."

Alisa Pizarro (Lead Community Organizer, Red Hook Initiative, Brooklyn):

"Volunteers knocked on doors to see who was there and deliver what people needed on daily basis. I was living on the 14th floor and I wanted to make sure I could offer a helping hand to my community."

Damaris Reyes (Director, GOLES, Lower Eastside, Manhattan):

"I was overwhelmed by the amount of volunteers, nearly 3000 volunteers. Knowing your community is essential and our ability is how to manage the volunteers on where they should go. Take into account the needs of the people who come to you to help. We learned a lot from these people, the worst things bring out the best in people!"



Ronald Shiffman (Professor at Pratt Institute, New York City):

"Sometimes we forget about engaging the other Netherlands, the other America, time to talk about how it can be done in a more effective way."



Anthony Schloss (Director of Community Initiatives, Red Hook initiative, Brooklyn)

"We worked on a long term community plan. Resiliency comes from education and economic independence, capacity and knowledge turning into action. Digital storage programme is capacity. Young adults got a yearlong fellowship, work to maintain and promote the community network that has been built. Local internet provider to work with, a platform for communication."



Damaris Reyes (Director, GOLES, Lower Eastside, Manhattan):

"We needed a local neighbor network who could work together in any disaster! We would be a strong community as we were each as apart. We think that everyone did a great job, but by moving forward it is essential that we have a linkage that go beyond the day by day work. We, as organization, should be prepared and resilient, and simple things like having your data online and backups. We need to go to residents to ask what we did well, what could be better. The drive I have is the passion I have for my family, my community, my neighbors "

Jeanne DuPont (Executive Director, Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, Queens):

"Without a network and communication we can't cooperate with community and help the community. We set up a solar power kiosk to charge phone on regular day basis, Wi-Fi in kiosk, training how to use social media. We have seen many new things in Rotterdam. I hope we can encourage the government to take on initiatives. The connection between the communities is important, and understanding what climate change is all about and how it affects all of us."



Colofon

By: Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development - NY and RDM Campus, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences. In cooperation with: Rockaway Waterfront Alliance. Rockaway, Queens, NY; Red Hook Initiative, Red Hook, Brooklyn, NY GOLES, Lower Eastside, NY Thanks to: Regional Planning Association / Henry Hudson, Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM), Institute for Environmental Studies, VU Amsterdam University, CURE / Columbia University, One Architecture BV, DeltaSync, ARCADIS, City of Rotterdam, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, RVO, Consulate General of The Netherlands

Contact for information: g.muris@rdmcampus.nl or piet.dircke@arcadis.nl. Request for background documents regarding the two sessions in July 2013 and March 2014: tanya.huizer@arcadis.nl