



Hudson River  
Estuary Program

A Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



## Hudson-Harbor Educators Work Group

October 19, 2023

### Minutes

Shared Google Folder: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13SSRnA9UtYWNGbBbxGX-o0qyYZKRdIRE?usp=sharing>

#### Attendees:

1. Marisa Annuziati, LEDO
2. Chris Browser, NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program
3. Eli Caref, Billion Oyster Project
4. Ian Cleary, NYSDEC
5. Avalon Daly, Hudson River Park
6. Nate Dudley, Billion Oyster Project
7. Sierra Drury, Hudson River Park
8. Christina Edsall, CURB
9. Ann Fraioli, Billion Oyster Project
10. Kathy Garofalo, National Parks Service
11. Ruthie Gold, Clearwater
12. Kaitlin Holt, Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy
13. Tolan Kister, Hudson River Park
14. Zack Klyver, Gotham Whale
15. Hannah Livant, South Street Seaport
16. Hart Mankin, Hudson River Park
17. Christian Murphy, Bronx River Alliance
18. Rosana Pedra Nobre, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program
19. Marc Rogoff, NJDEP
20. Kristin Schreiber, Billion Oyster Project
21. Paul Sieswerda, Gotham Whale
22. Noelle Thurlow, Resilience Adventure
23. Christina Tobitsch, Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy
24. Tina Walsh, Hudson River Park
25. Ashley Whited, Randall's Island Park Alliance
26. Haley McClanahan, Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy

#### BOP: Report on NYC Environmental Non-Profits

Ann Fraioli shared that BOP has spent time in publishing curriculum, units of lessons, designed to be designed sequentially but can also be taught individually. BOP is aiming to build more (curriculum available at [data.bop.nyc](http://data.bop.nyc)) and bring students and teachers to field class visits at their ORS sites. Right now, they are transitioning from field trips to really engaging with teachers more to spend time in the classroom, encourage use of curriculum, co-teach with BOP educators, and field visits with students. An all-day training is available for teachers to teach educators in how to teach in the field to help teachers become more confident in doing this type of work without BOP staff. BOP bought Nate on board to solicit the best practices by engaging and making recommendations to improve educational initiatives.

Nate Dudley, consultant to Billion Oyster, spoke to twenty-five organizations and institutions to focus on curriculum, professional development, and how people are measuring their impact/sustainability. Over forty recommendations identified through this process. Nate highlighted nine topics, in no specific

order, as a teaser to the report. Recommendations touched on identifying ways to support one another and creating strategic alliances, for example supporting programs and transportation. Shifting the focus from schools to teachers should be a goal for all as we think about relationships and curricula use (what outcomes do we want for the schools? What is our support?). In addition, thinking about how you can bring your field, think of a step for what you can bring into the classroom. Optimizing professional development dates to ensure that we have good options for educators to engage with environmental education groups. Nate shared the report with those that were interviewed but should be looked at as work in progress to obtain feedback and begin making progress on a few of the recommendations. Nate will be refining his findings as he talks to teachers in NYC and will share feedback that is later received.

**Action:** Members are encouraged to read through this report available in the Google Drive under our October Meeting folder, but also available directly using this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mySpV22v7JvkgUktQy-Ox-4icY9Y30OM/view?usp=sharing>

Nate Dudley and Ann Fraioli to share with the group the results of refining recommendations post-discussion with NYC educators.

## Looking Back

Rosana Pedra Nobre shared an overview of how the Hudson-Harbor Educators Work Group came to be. A timeline was shared from the first meeting in 2018 through today. Six core focus areas were initially identified in the 2018 survey which included Collective Impacts, Field Science & Project-based Learning, Networks & Partnerships, Professional Development, Science Standards, and Sharing Best Practices. This group has made a lot of progress in its short term and long term goals as outlined in HEP's [2017-2025 Action Agenda \(action CE-C-2: Education\)](#), establishing this work group to network, and information and resource sharing among participating organizations. We have accomplished the creation of an [online resource guide](#) to elevate place-based lessons and activities offered by the various environmental groups within the Hudson-River Estuary. A discussion was held on how to further utilize this platform, including when reminders would be sent out to the group to upload and highlight added resources in HEP's Tidal Exchange newsletter. Members also suggested creating a professional development package for CTLE or continuing education credits and whether this can be added to the website. We have also written grant proposals and while unsuccessful, the network is a place where we can uplift and expand the reach of our collective goals. We have also launched a collective impact survey that while is not perfect, it is a place from which we can start. Rosana shared that the Science and Technical Advisory Committee had met recently and were looking for metrics to capture the reach of estuary education by informal educators in the region.

**Action:** Work Group members are encouraged to add lessons/activities to the online education guide: <https://www.hudsonriver.org/article/educational-resource-guide>. A second reminder will be sent in January.

Per the discussion, everyone is encouraged to submit in their 2022 numbers through the Collective Impact Survey available here: <https://forms.gle/bsgrcg6yvxmrbMG58> (Rosana will

send an email individually to you if you completed this survey already - if you don't receive an email notification from Rosana than you did not complete the survey).

To continue the Collective Impact survey, an email will be released in January to collect 2023 data.

## Looking Forward

Chris Bowser opened the discussion to looking ahead - what, where and why do you want this group to do, change, strive for. Members were given time to self-reflect on the six core focus areas, whether they still stand today, and what is missing or needs to change as we think of the short-term (2024) and longer-term goals of this group. A suggestion made by Tina was thinking of three meetings per year with a theme: Spring for curriculum/lesson sharing, Summer for field trips and guest speakers, and Fall focusing on evaluation and collective impact.

Collectively, the group agreed to continue the collective impact survey and further discussed how we could potentially expand on the existing metrics. Whether we can pool funds together for a vetted professional to capture qualitative and quantitative metrics. Members also discussed the importance of cross-organizational sharing of education - whether its materials, different tactics, or skills. Incorporating field trips was also suggested for future meetings. Members expressed interest in expanding on the online resource portal and ways in which to elevate the tool through HEP's Tidal Exchange newsletter. A discussion was also held in creating a package for how to develop CTLE or continuing education credits. Kaitlin shared her experience and willingness to help, and Ian indicated sharing a reason to navigate CTLEs.

**Action:** All are encouraged to add your ideas of what you would like this work group to focus on into [this Jamboard](#) for both the short term (2024) and long term goals.

## Partner Updates

HEP will be hosting its 2023 State of the Estuary Conference this November 28-30th where the 28th will be held in-person at the [Central Railroad of NJ Terminal at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, NJ](#) and the 29-30th will be held virtually. Registration is now opened and available [here](#). Rosana is interested in putting together a panel session to discuss ways in which internship programs are changing to reflect DEIJ goals. Anyone interested in sharing changes they have made to their internship programs, please contact Rosana at [rosana@hudsonriver.org](mailto:rosana@hudsonriver.org) as soon as possible.

Join Brooklyn Bridge Conservancy education staff for an invite -only Open House at our Environmental Education Center on November 2nd from 4-6pm. Enjoy complimentary refreshments with colleagues as you explore space, visit our animal friends, and learn about environmental education school programs at Brooklyn Bridge Park. And while you are here, we would love to hear your thoughts on the impact of

informal environmental education spaces, the opportunities they offer and what you would like to see more of in the future. This event is free, but advance registration is required as space is limited. RSVP by 10/31 to secure your spot: <https://bit.ly/EdOpenHouse23>

After a three-year hiatus, the NYC Outdoors Environmental Education Expo is back! An Environmental Education Expo to be held on Tuesday December 5th from 4:30PM to 6:00PM in the Hudson River Park's Pier 57 Community Classrooms. The Expo is co-sponsored by the New York City Soil & Water Conservation District, Hudson River Park, and The NYU Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education. Following the public Expo, exhibitors are invited to a networking reception from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. The Expo is intended to showcase the environmental education resources for New York City teachers and educators, in hopes that more children will have the opportunity to experience and learn about the natural features of our city. The event also provides a wonderful opportunity for the exhibitors to network, recruit interns and volunteers, or promote job openings. We are inviting organizations to showcase their K-12 programs in environmental education and hope to have more than a hundred teachers attend the Expo. Details can be found [here](#).