

# THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT AND SEAPORT CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLAN

# INTERACTIVE OPEN HOUSE

## HOW CAN I STAY INVOLVED?

- 1 Stay in the loop.**  
*Share your email with us to stay engaged in the planning process.*
- 2 Come to our events.**  
*Sign up – we'll make sure you are invited to the next event.*
- 3 Share your feedback.**  
*We'll be reaching out throughout the project to get your input.*
- 4 Spread the word.**  
*Talk to your family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors about climate change and the project.*

### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit:  
[www.nyc.gov/LMCR](http://www.nyc.gov/LMCR)

### WANT TO REACH OUT?

Email us at:  
[lmcr@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:lmcr@cityhall.nyc.gov)

### FIND US ON:

f NYCEDC  
@NYCEDC / @NYClimate  
@NYCEDC

# WHY ARE WE HERE TONIGHT?

Climate change is one of the most urgent and existential threats of our time.

Lower Manhattan, a critical place that helps hold the city and region together, is at risk of daily flooding, more intense rain, and more severe coastal storms.

We are here tonight to have a conversation about:

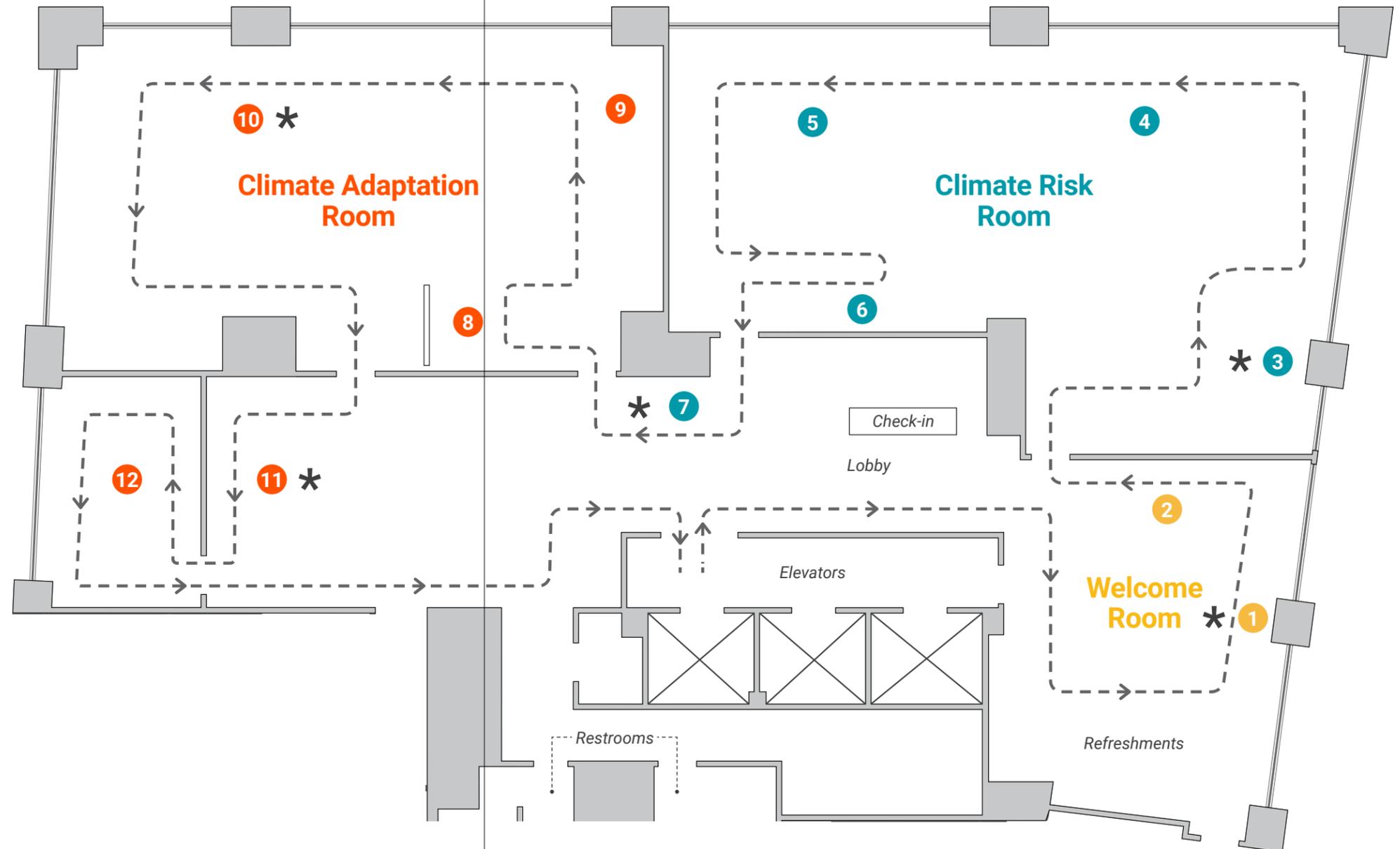
- The role Lower Manhattan plays in the city and region
- Flood risk and how it will increase in the future with climate change
- How the City is adapting Lower Manhattan and why we need to study both on-land and in-water resilience solutions
- The planning process for the Financial District and Seaport and how you can stay involved

We know it will take all of us to solve this together. Tonight, we want to hear from you:

- What are your questions and concerns about climate change?
- What does resilience mean to you?
- What do you think is most important for the FiDi-Seaport Resilience Plan to achieve?
- What do you want to learn more about?

Where should I go and what will I see?

Please join a guided tour of the Interactive Open House, or take a self-guided tour using this event guide.



## OPEN HOUSE STATIONS & ACTIVITIES

### WELCOME ROOM

- ① Why Are We Here Tonight?
- ② What Defines Lower Manhattan?

### CLIMATE RISK ROOM

- ③ Daily Tidal Flooding
- ④ Rain & The Combined Sewer System
- ⑤ Coastal Storm Flooding
- ⑥ Virtual Reality Experience
- ⑦ Stories & Reflections

### CLIMATE ADAPTATION ROOM

- ⑧ Citywide Adaptation
- ⑨ Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency
- ⑩ FiDi-Seaport Climate Resilience Plan
- ⑪ #MyResilientLowerManhattan
- ⑫ Ask an Expert

\* Feedback Opportunity

# WHAT ARE THE MAJOR CLIMATE RISKS FACING THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT AND SEAPORT?

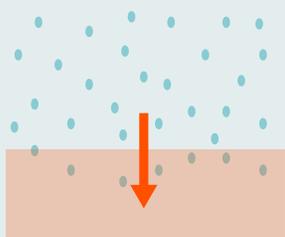
## SEA LEVEL RISE WILL CAUSE 4-6 FEET OF DAILY FLOODING IN PARTS OF LOWER MANHATTAN.



Sea levels in New York have already risen by about a foot since 1900. Over the next 30 years, sea levels are projected to rise by 2.5 feet – and by 2100, by more than 6 feet.

In the Financial District and Seaport, this means that flooding from daily high tides could reach as far inland as Water Street if we don't take action.

## CLIMATE CHANGE WILL CAUSE EVEN HEAVIER RAINS THAN WE SEE TODAY, LEADING TO INCREASED FLOODING AND POLLUTION OF OUR WATERWAYS



Due to climate change, heavy rainfalls – one inch or more in a single day – will occur about 30% more often by the 2050s. This will put increasing stress on our sewer system.

Like most of New York City, the Financial District and Seaport have a combined sewer system, which means that water from our showers, toilets, and sinks are combined with rain in our sewers, collectively called wastewater. Today, heavy rains overflow the system, causing the release of wastewater into our rivers. Without upgrades to the sewer system, this problem will only get worse with climate change, and sewer backups will cause increased flooding of our streets and basements.

## FLOODING FROM COASTAL STORMS WILL SEVERELY THREATEN LOWER MANHATTAN.



Climate change means that warmer oceans will power increasingly frequent and intense storms, with higher levels of flooding driven by sea level rise.

By 2100, a 100-year coastal storm (a storm with a 1% chance of occurring in any given year) will cause flooding over 12 feet deep in parts of the Financial District and the Seaport. This would be 8 feet deeper than flooding that occurred during Hurricane Sandy.

# WHY IS IT UNIQUELY CHALLENGING TO ADAPT THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT AND SEAPORT TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

The Financial District and Seaport have limited space along the water's edge and unique constraints that make it particularly challenging to site flood protection and sewer infrastructure. These constraints include the FDR Drive, several tunnels, major utility corridors, and more. For these reasons, the City is exploring a range of options to protect the Financial District and Seaport, including extending the shoreline into the East River.

# WHAT IS THE CITY DOING TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE RISKS FACING THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT AND SEAPORT?

The Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency (LMCR) initiative includes over \$500 million in resilience projects to adapt Lower Manhattan to climate change. In 2019, the City launched the Financial District and Seaport Climate Resilience Plan as part of the broader LMCR initiative. This process will identify a project to protect the Financial District and Seaport area from the impacts of climate change.

## WHAT IS A CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLAN?

It is a process to identify a resilience project that combines robust community engagement, technical analysis, urban design, and implementation planning.

## HOW WILL THE CITY DEVELOP THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLAN?

**The City will do the following:**

- Involve a wide range of stakeholder in each stage of plan development
- Develop a conceptual design of flood resilience infrastructure
- Identify a first phase project that can move forward into implementation
- Create a drainage strategy to manage wastewater
- Develop a pathway to fund and finance this infrastructure project
- Build the foundation for an intergenerational coalition to carry this project forward past 2021
- Work with regulatory agencies to identify a pathway for permitting and approvals

## WHO WILL DEVELOP THE PLAN AND IMPLEMENT IT?

The plan is led by the New York City Economic Development Corporation and the Mayor's Office of Resiliency. It is supported by a broader team of City agencies, including the Department of Parks & Recreation, Department of Transportation, Department of City Planning, Department of Environmental Protection, and more.

The City's work is supported by an interdisciplinary team of consultants, led by engineering firm Arcadis, which includes local and global experts in community engagement, technical analysis, urban design, and implementation planning. Independent third-party technical advisors with expertise in climate science, resilience, infrastructure, and engineering are providing input to the team's work and acting as a sounding board for our technical analyses.

Public and stakeholder engagement is critical to developing a shared City and community vision for the project and ensuring that it is carried forward. In December 2019, the Climate Coalition for Lower Manhattan (CCLM) was convened to educate the public on climate risks, advocate for action on climate change, and provide input to the project throughout the planning process. The CCLM is a group of residents and businesses, resilience and environmental advocates, community organizations, local institutions, and schools who are invested in the future of Lower Manhattan. Together, the City and CCLM are working to develop creative tools to reach wide audiences and collect public feedback at every stage to inform the project.

## WHEN WILL THE RESILIENCE PLAN BE COMPLETED?

**The plan will be completed in Fall 2021 over the following four phases, with public input in each phase:**

- Phase 1 (Fall 2019 – Winter 2020): Study opportunities and constraints
- Phase 2 (Winter 2020 – Fall 2020): Develop initial resilience infrastructure options to protect the Financial District and Seaport
- Phase 3 (Fall 2020 – Winter 2021): Refine project options
- Phase 4 (Winter 2021 – Fall 2021): Select project option(s) and identify next steps