Brooklyn, NY – March 6, 2014 – A half-day conference on whether the revived economy of the Brooklyn waterfront is global, sponsored by City Tech’s Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center and City College’s University Transportation Research Center, will take place on Friday, March 21, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Old Courtroom, Brooklyn Borough Hall, Downtown Brooklyn. For more information, visit http://www.brooklynwaterfront.org or call 718.260.5130. The conference is open to the public and free.

Has the Brooklyn waterfront gone global—again? From the early nineteenth century, the Brooklyn waterfront played a role on the global stage. It was there that shipping, warehousing, commodity imports, manufacturing exports and distribution all met in a confluence of languages and industries. In the 1960s, however, Brooklyn started losing the jobs, economic vitality and global reach associated with those industries. The recent revitalization of Brooklyn’s waterfront has brought new industries and jobs, yet there are critical differences. In this conference, speakers will examine the history and current state of Brooklyn’s waterfront and whether its revived economy is global.

Topics and speakers include Marc Levinson, author of The Box: How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger; “Before Container Ships,” Prithi Kanakamedala, curator, Brooklyn Historical Society; “The Industrial Age Along Brooklyn’s Waterfront,” Mary Habstritt, industrial and maritime historian; and a panel discussion with Regina Myer, Brooklyn Bridge Park; Thomas Epting, Uncommon Goods; Thomas Outerbridge, SIMS Metal Management Municipal Recycling; Christopher Tepper, Industry City; Elizabeth Yeampierre, Uprose; Andrew Genn, senior vice president, NYC Economic Development Corporation; and Roland Lewis, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance.

There will be a tour of some of the businesses at the Brooklyn Navy Yard after the conference.

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