



Why We Fight for the South Street Seaport

The South Street Seaport is an irreplaceable piece of New York's maritime history. This collection of early 19th century buildings on the waterfront in Lower Manhattan, anchored by the South Street Seaport Museum and its historic ships, is surrounded by a wall of high-rise commercial buildings and under constant pressure from developers eyeing its prime real estate and piers.

We fight for the Seaport because the city has given its stewardship to a corporation that has shown, repeatedly, that it values restaurant, retail and entertainment uses over all others. The city has acceded to the loss of active waterfront and allowed parts of the area that were landmarked for public use and the preservation of maritime history to be reduced again and again, all while development rights expand.

We fight:

- To protect the integrity of this landmarked district and this historic neighborhood
- To protect sightlines to and from the Brooklyn Bridge and the Street of Ships
- To achieve a viable lease for the South Street Seaport Museum, which has been denied the support afforded to other museums on city property
- To restore access to Seaport piers for visiting historic ships
- To stop the secret deal-making between city and developer that defies the principles of good government and the recommendations of the Seaport Working Group
- To reconvene a Seaport Working Group to secure a master plan for the South Street Seaport Historic District, one that will secure its mission and long term viability

In 2015, community support for the Seaport, which was placed it ***on the top of the list of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's most endangered sites***, was successful in defeating one disastrous proposal for a residential tower between the Seaport and the East River.

But the fight is not over. The museum is still in peril and development projects show little interest in public use or maritime history. As luxury apartment and office

towers rise all around this vulnerable area, it will take vigilant and informed public effort to keep our maritime history alive and the South Street Seaport *historic*.

To support this effort, we offer briefs to the key elements of the Seaport that are in play, and the key issues that are at stake. We hope you will find these briefs helpful, and will share them with others. Together, we can save our Seaport.

Save Our Seaport

For a brief on the **Lightship Ambrose**, [click here](#).