



The City of New York

# Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

## Chairperson's Report for June 2016

Catherine McVay Hughes

June has been another productive month throughout our District. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better for everyone. Here are some of the important issues and milestones that we have worked on with fellow board members, CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies.

This is my last report as your Chair. Thank you and everyone for supporting me during the past four years as Chair and before that six years as Vice Chair, seven years as Chair of the World Trade Center Redevelopment Committee and my years as FiDi Chair or Co-chair. We overcame many challenges: 9/11, the financial collapse, and Superstorm Sandy. We did good work, and we did it by working together. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with you all. Thank you.

## *Updates*

- **World Trade Center**
  - **Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) is opening Liberty Park this Wednesday, June 29** – one-acre park which sits 25 feet above street level on top of the vehicular security center, overlooks the 9/11 Memorial and is covered with plants, including more than 50 trees. There is also a "Living Wall" of vertical greenery which runs 300 feet parallel to Liberty Street. Construction will continue on one piece of Liberty Park, the St. Nicholas National Shrine, a new Santiago Calatrava-designed reincarnation of St. Nicholas Church, the longtime Greek Orthodox Church that we lost on September 11th
  - **Performing Arts Center (PAC WTC)** – temporary PATH station entrance on Vesey closed so demolition can begin and site 1B to be built to street level to make way for PAC WTC; valued engineering complete, target planning dates in place, concept design finished and proceeding on schematic design and plan should be available after Labor Day; eminent announcement of naming donor
  - **New direct access from WTC Transportation Hub to West Concourse that connects to Brookfield Place, Battery Park City and ferries to New Jersey opened (06/27/16)**
  - **3 World Trade Center topped out at 1,079 Feet by Silverstein Properties (6/23/16)**
  - **PANYNJ opened new entrance at the corner of Vesey and Church streets to WTC Transportation Hub at base of 2 WTC (06/21/16) and permanently closed existing entrance on Vesey Street which had opened in 2008 (06/26/16)** – entrance will be demolished and the area built back to street level so that Site 1B can become the Performing Arts Center (PAC)

- **Passage Linking Fulton Center to WTC Transit Hub Opened** – via the Fulton Center's Dey Street concourse, an underground passageway that runs under Dey Street, from Broadway to Church Street. The concourse now connects the Fulton Center, which opened in November 2014, to the Cortlandt Street R train station. On March 3, the eastern portion of the Hub's Oculus opened along with a below ground, climate-controlled access to a new entrance at the corner of Liberty and Church streets. On May 26, the eastern entrance to the facility opened, providing 50,000 PATH riders with direct access to Church Street and to the MTA's Fulton Street Transit Center and the 11 subway lines it serves. Later this year, the street-level entrances to the Hub at Church and Greenwich streets will open, along with the remaining two PATH platforms that are under construction. (05/26/16)
- **Oval Opened at The Battery and first weekend fair** – The Battery's expansive acreage restored some 90,000 square feet (roughly 3 acres) of its parkland, in the shape of a huge grassy oval with the debut of the blue Battery Chairs. The Battery Fair featured 90 exhibitors doing demonstrations, selling fresh food and flowers, and educating the public on the biodiversity of the American Northeast. (Saturday, 06/25/16)
- **Water Street Text Amendment** – NYC Council approved the rezoning of Water Street POPS Upgrades in exchange for overhauling stretches of Water Street after a vote at the Zoning Subcommittee meeting (06/14/16) and a vote at the Land Use Committee (06/15/16), resulting in recommendations for a modified zoning text reviewed by the City Planning Commission for scoping, and voted on at the Council's Stated Meeting (06/21/16). The City Council approved the plan with some changes in line with, and exceeding, those recommended by CB1, including that arcades larger than 7,500 square feet require a City Planning Commission Special Permit which requires CB1 review. All other arcade infill proposals, regardless of size, will also be reviewed by CB1 due to a change in the zoning text adopted earlier in the process. 200 Water St and 75 Wall Street will require an Authorization from the City Planning Commission. Chain drug stores and banks can also only respectively take 50 and 30 feet of frontage. The Downtown Alliance also signed a commitment letter with the City Council agreeing to three years of programming on Water Street by the Alliance, 30 day notice of any programming, and an annual check-up on all the POPS. The zoning proposal came six years after the Downtown Alliance issued their report suggesting filling in the arcades
- **Pier 26** – Hudson River Park Trust (HRPT) had put the planning for Pier 26 on hold until all funding was in place; HRPT has now signed a contract with Citibank as lead donor, so planning can move forward

### *Press Conferences*

- **9/11 Tribute Center announced new location** – move to 88 Greenwich Street (anticipated opening May 2018) from Liberty Street, and expanded mission (06/21/16)

### *Testimonies/Letter*

- **PAC WTC Letter** – Performing Arts Center at the World Trade Center letter addressed to LMDC Chairperson Joseph Chan; with the PAC WTC's recent value engineering and analysis, Community

Board 1 reiterates its strong support for the Center as indispensable to the success of the site and Lower Manhattan as a whole. Now that the 9/11 Memorial Plaza and Museum, 7WTC, 1WTC, 4WTC and Transportation Hub have opened, it is time to make a seamless transition from demolition of the temporary entrance to the completion of a "global center for ...art, ideas, and culture that will welcome audiences, artists, residents, workers and visitors alike." CB1 has passed numerous resolutions supporting the PACWTC over the almost 15 years of recovery and rebuilding, and we look forward to the realization of this vital component to ensure success of our 24/7 mixed-use community (06/24/16)

- **City's Plan to manage storm water by NYC Department of Environmental Protection** – MS4 Progress Report; testimony by Diana Switaj, Director of Planning and Land Use (06/22/16)
- **New York City Council Committee on Recovery and Resiliency Oversight Hearing: Financing of the City's Recovery from Sandy** – testimony by Catherine McVay Hughes, Chair (06/03/16)

### *Events*

- **Liberty Park above the Vehicular Security Center (VSC) Opening** (06/29/16)
- **NYPD Promotions** – as NYPD Transit District 2 Community Partner, attended to show support (06/24/16)
- **3 WTC Topping Out** – 3 World Trade Center Tops Out at 1,079 Feet (06/23/16)
- **Oval Opening at The Battery** – joined The Battery Conservancy President Warrie Price, Commissioner of NYC Parks & Recreation Mitchell Silver, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, NYC Council Member Chin and others (Saturday, 06/25/16)
- **Borough President Brewer Community Board Training and Reception** – Land Use Jeopardy! (Museum of Natural History, 06/20/16)
- **9/11 Memorial held a special gathering at the Survivor Tree to honor and remember the Orlando terrorist attack victims** (06/16/16)
- **Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY) Ribbon Cutting** – President and Board of Trustees, joined Deputy Borough President Matthew Washington and others (60 West Street, 6/8/2016)
- **Restaurant, Retail and Resiliency in Lower Manhattan** – Stroock hosts a Government Leadership forum featuring Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President and others, discussing the ever-changing downtown ecosystem (06/07/16)
- **9/11 Memorial's Special Evening of Tribute and Remembrance Ceremony for Rescue and Recovery Workers** – to commemorate the 14th anniversary of the official end of the WTC recovery operations, included a ceremony at the Last Column in Foundation Hall and a moment of silence to remember all those who have succumbed to 9/11-related illnesses (05/26/16)

### *Meetings*

- **CALL// Working Group for Chinatown** – City As Living Laboratory/Sustainability Made Tangible Through the Arts; upcoming walks and workshops to be shared (06/23/16)
- **Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) Board of Directors** – West Thames Street Bridge is now moving forward after bureaucratic and physical challenges including traffic management and safety issues; mobilization and test pits starting September 2016 with fabrication

offsite, completion/installation of bridge and removal of Rector Street Bridge with anticipated completion within two years (06/22/16)

- **Gateways to Chinatown Stakeholders Kick-off Meeting: Urban Design & Streetscape Reconstruction Project** – includes Pearl Street under Brooklyn Bridge, Worth Street at Foley Square; sponsored by NYC Department of Transportation and Chinatown Partnership; joined Wellington Chin, NYC Councilmember Chin, Assemblymember Cancel and others (06/22/16)
- **District Service Cabinet Meeting** – attended to personally thank representatives of the City agencies and elected officials for their ongoing support and helping to resolve constituent issues (06/21/16)
- **Manhattan Borough Board** – discussion with new State Liquor Authority (SLA) Chair Vincent Bradley on the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Law reorganization which primarily relates to craft manufacturing, importer's license, solicitor's permit, wine growler and open bottle from winery. It also stipulates SLA composition and provides for appointment of acting chair in case of vacancy. As written, the only major impact of A10728/S8140 to New York City will be the statewide 10:00 AM on-premises opening time on Sunday; this change amends ABC Law §106(5)(a). The proposed 8:00 AM Sunday special permit, outlined through the addition of §99(h) to the ABC Law, does not apply to New York City; exclusion of New York City from 8:00 AM Sunday permit will be found at ABC Law §99(h) (5) once passed and signed into law; joined by Jeff Ehrlich, Antony Notaro, Elizabeth Lewinsohn and Alice Blank (06/16/16)
- **Smart Streets** – follow-up discussion with BuroHappold Engineering about pedestrian and vehicular modelling with Diana Switaj and Patrick Kennel (6/08/16)
- **22 Reade Street** – requested update at July Seaport/Civic Center Committee with Landmarks and Planning Committee invited; with Diana Switaj and Michael Levine (06/07/16)
- **The Trust for Governors Island Board Meeting** (06/15/16) and **Governors Island Audit Committee** (06/06/16)
- **WTC Scientific Advisory Technical Committee (STAC)** – addressed new responsibilities required under the reauthorization of the WTC Health Program of the Zadroga 9/11 Health Act (06/02/16)
- **Downtown Alliance** – Board of Directors (06/21/16) and Annual Public Meeting (06/01/16); ex-officio member
- **Manhattan Tip Resiliency Task Force** – to develop preliminary engagement structure for CB1 Taskforce with representatives of the offices of Borough President Brewer, NYC Councilmember Chin and CB1's Planning Department (05/26/16, 05/31/16)
- **Warner Brothers regarding filming in CB1** – with Mary-Elizabeth Michaels, Director, Community Affairs; invited to present directly at a CB1 meeting, encouraged minimizing footprint of filming impact while supporting local small businesses; joined Noah Pfefferblit and Diana Switaj (05/26/16)

## *Announcements*

- **CB1 member Elizabeth Goody** gave birth to a healthy girl Alice on June 7; congratulations
- **Luis Sanchez** has transitioned to the Acting Manhattan Borough Commissioner New York City Department of Transportation from Lower Manhattan Borough Commissioner
- **City of Water Day Free Family Festival on Saturday, July 16 10AM-4PM** – dozens of locations including Governor's Island, for more info: [www.waterfrontalliance.org](http://www.waterfrontalliance.org)
- **Summer Streets Saturday, August 13** – for more info: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/summerstreets/html/home/home.shtml>