



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

December 2, 2015

Jon Jarvis, Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Letter of Support for Statue of Liberty National Monument New Museum Construction

Dear Director Jarvis:

I am writing to express support for the Statue of Liberty national monument new museum construction on behalf of Manhattan Community Board 1. Our district includes most of Lower Manhattan below Canal Street as well as Liberty Island, Ellis Island and Governors Island.

Representatives of the National Parks Service attended our Financial District Committee meeting on December 2, 2015 where they reported that the National Parks Service (NPS) in cooperation with the Statue of Liberty – Ellis Island Foundation is proposing to construct a new 20,000 square foot Statue of Liberty Museum on Liberty Island. The building would be located in the northwest portion of the island adjacent to the Administration Building. The new museum would tell the stories of the Statue, including the history of her creation, her impact around the world, and the ideas of liberty as inspired and represented by the Statue. The museum would also be built on piers to raise it above flood level and have an accessible roof comprised of a paved terrace and a “wild” green roof. A proposed temporary construction pier on the northern side of the island would be built prior to construction and removed after construction is completed.

We understand the new museum is needed primarily because recent life-safety upgrades at the Statue have led to revised occupancy levels inside the monument and only 20% of visitors to Liberty Island are able to explore the museum inside the Statue of Liberty and are required to reserve tickets in advance. The remaining visitors to the Island are “grounds only”.

We agree that there is a need for a richer interpretive experience that would be available to all visitors, and indoor space for visitors during inclement weather. The Statue of Liberty is an unparalleled historical and cultural asset, not only to our district but to the entire country, and it is deserving of a space that maximizes potential for visitors. We look forward to the progression of this project, and to be visited again by the National Parks Service once detailed design plans have been concluded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Catherine McVay Hughes'.

Catherine McVay Hughes
Chairperson