



The City of New York

# Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

## **Chairperson's Report for January 2014** **Catherine McVay Hughes**

It has been another extremely busy month for Community Board 1. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better and stronger than ever. I would like to report on the important issues and milestones that we have worked through with fellow board members, the CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies.

### Updates

- Borough President Brewer attended CB1's Executive Committee meeting – the first time a Borough President has come to share their vision and participate in an hour-long discussion about the district and its needs (1/22/2014)
- South Street Seaport – CB1 continues to collaborate with the offices of local elected officials and the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC). We are in the process of creating a community-driven South Street Seaport Task Force that CB1 will be participating in. Howard Hughes Corporation's plan to date will not go forward as presented. Neither the landmarks nor the ULURP process has begun and any future milestones are on hold until a comprehensive community process has taken place. The goal of the task force is to generate a comprehensive, community-driven dialogue and to create development guidelines. The structure and details are being finalized; more concrete details should be available next week. CB1 and the offices of elected officials will ensure that all stakeholders will be involved. The proposed task force would include community members, elected officials, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and the South Street Seaport Museum.
- Community Board 1 held a Town Hall meeting on the Howard Hughes Corporation's proposed development plans for the South Street Seaport including the Tin Building, New Market Building and surrounding area – 50 groups and members of the public spoke and submitted testimony, over 200 people attended; Pace University (01/13/2014)
- Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) Chairman Dennis Mehiel called me stating that BPCA will be announcing a new President and Chief Operating Officer shortly, hired a new Vice President for External Relations (Robin Forst), and looks forward to working more closely with the community, improving communications and working to develop a strategy for Gateway (01/21/2014). Today it was announced that Shari C. Hyman, Commissioner and Chair of New York City's Business Integrity Commission, will become the next President and COO
- Concerned Citizens and Business Owners of the Financial District filed a petition under Article 78 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules to request an injunction against the move of the Department of Probation (DOP) from the Civic Center area at 346 Broadway to the residential area at 66 John Street (12/26/2013); New York State Supreme Court Hearing

(01/07/2014); Judge Carol Huff failed to grant a temporary restraining order blocking DOP's move of its adult division (01/08/2014); plaintiffs sought relief from Appellate Division and filed (01/13/2014); Judge denied request for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), but she did not deny request for a preliminary injunction pending an appeal. Instead, she ordered the City to respond to plaintiff's papers by 01/21/2014, with plaintiff's reply due by 01/24/2014. In Her Honor's Order, she stated a decision will be issued on or before Jan 31.

- MTA's Fulton Center entrance on John Street opened (January 2014)
- 3 WTC announcement of new tenant which allows construction to continue (12/23/2013)

#### Meetings

- NY Rising Lower Manhattan Planning Meeting (1/24/2014): Governor Cuomo's Office of Storm Recovery established this Community Reconstruction program that is a community-driven process to realize a vision of a more sustainable future – priority projects: vulnerable populations, residential/building/small business resiliency and open space
- Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center (LMCCC) meeting with Speaker Silver, Congressman Nadler, NYC Council Member Chin, Senator Squadron and the PANYNJ Executive Director Foye; will continue into 2014, however, specific date unknown (12/24/2013); extended through February 2014; working with other agencies if it does sunset

#### Events

- Inauguration of Gale Brewer as Borough President (01/15/2014)
- Co-sponsored E-Waste Recycling with Lower East Side Ecology Center, Downtown Alliance, Con Edison and WilmerHale (Saturday, 01/11/13)
- Honoring the Ancestors: Commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rites of Ancestral Return; African Burial Ground, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior (12/27/2013)
- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's 2014 State of the State Address (Albany, 01/08/2014)
- Opening Day 2014 Legislative Session, Assembly Session (Albany, 01/08/2014)
- Inauguration for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Term of NYC Council Member Margaret Chin (01/05/2014)
- Inaugurations for Mayor Bill de Blasio, Comptroller Scott Stringer and Public Advocate Letitia James (City, Hall, 01/01/2014)

#### Announcements

- Community Planning Fellow Julien Pierre A. Schmitz is heading CB1's housing projects
- Tamar Hovsepien started as CB1's Community Liaison – Welcome! (12/30/13)
- WTC Sphere moved so that The Battery Green and bikeway completion will not be delayed (12/18/2013)
- Community Board applications (renewal and new) are due by February 1, 2014, <http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov/downloads/pdf/CBReApp2014.pdf>. No Exceptions.
- A big thank you to Pat Moore and Tammy Meltzer and others for organizing this year's annual holiday party and to all CB1 members for making 2013 another productive year to make CB1 the best place to live, to work and to play!