



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for November 2015

Catherine McVay Hughes

November has been a busy month throughout the District. With your ongoing support, Community Board 1 has had another productive month. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better and safer. Here are some of the important issues and milestones that we have worked on with fellow board members, the CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you, everyone!

Updates

- **Crossing Guards at Spruce Street and Peck Slip elementary schools** – until permanent crossing guards can be hired, NYPD has placed NYPD traffic agents at both Peck Slip and Spruce Street Schools (to be moved from Spruce Street to Beekman/Williams Street corner) and we have requested that several other safety measures be taken by NYC DOT to make streets safer
- **West Thames Street Bridge** – Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) authorized additional funding to the Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) for the construction. Construction bid packages are being prepared, with bids expected to be awarded by February 2016. The NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) estimates that it will take approximately 24-30 months to construct the bridge after bids are awarded. Only then can the “temporary” Rector Street Bridge be removed.
- **Performing Arts Center (PAC) WTC** – In November 2010 LMDC allocated \$100 million in funding for the design and construction of the PAC. \$1 million was directed to strategic planning efforts and the remaining \$99 million was set aside for hard costs of construction. At that time, cost estimates suggested that construction costs for the project would exceed \$400 million. Concerned that the cost of the project would make it difficult to fund the project, LMDC requested that PAC Inc. conduct a design exercise to explore where the PAC program could be accomplished with a budget of \$200 million for above-grade costs at Site 1B. At the July 2015 meeting, LMDC authorized \$500,000 to fund the value engineering study and the results indicated that a roughly 80,000 sq. ft. structure with two or possibly three theaters consisting of 600 and 200 seats or two theaters on the main floor with a black box theater above could be built. LMDC approved the use of \$10 million from the \$99 million if it would be matched by at least \$10 million raised by PAC Inc. and that at no time would LMDC funds exceed private funds committed to the project. The design phases include deliverables by:
 - May 2016 – Concept design to include plans, sections, elevations, study sketches and renderings, accompanying narrative and a draft cost estimate for the project

- November 2016 – Schematic design include a progress set and a final set of plans, sections, elevations, preliminary specifications and an updated cost estimate
- July 2017 – Design development will include dimensioned floor plans, sections and elevations, MEP drawings, specifications, updated cost estimates, and such other information as may be required for the proper construction of the project
- February 2018 – Final construction documents will be subject to LMDC review before funds are made available for construction

The latest announcement removes the biggest uncertainty over the PAC, by drastically reducing the exorbitant cost, and clears the way for active fund-raising and construction to begin.

- **Expansion of City’s resiliency target area for implementation area to include both Battery Park City and Tribeca** – From the document that the City submitted in October 2015 for Phase 2 of the HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC), “the City will execute the Lower Manhattan Protect and Connect Project to increase resiliency across the Target Area. Coastal Protection, extending south from Montgomery Street to the N Moore Street at the north of Battery Park City, will include new potential recreational space, walkways, bicycle paths, and retail space to connect communities to and along the waterfront. The coastal protection components will connect to and expand the City’s East Side Coastal Resilience (ESCR) project.” The City finds out in January 2016 whether the City will be awarded any funds and whether CB1’s portion is included. In addition, page 6 of the report shows no Seaport City
http://www.nyc.gov/html/cdbg/downloads/pdf/NDRCApplication_Exhibits_10%2029%2015_3.pdf
- **South Street Seaport Museum** – *Peking* is leaving sometime next spring and will be transported by a docking ship across the Atlantic Ocean for what will most likely be its final voyage back to Germany. The South Street Seaport Museum is also close to completing an \$11 million renovation of the *Wavertree*, the other tall-mast sailing ship that has long called the South Street Seaport home

Press Conferences

- **Support of legislation to regulate tourist helicopter noise** – joined New York City Council members Carlos Menchaca, Helen Rosenthal and Margaret Chin, Congressman Nadler, Senator Squadron, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Governor’s Island Alliance, Stop the Chop and many others including CB1 members Patrick Kennell and Tom Berton; 100,000 helicopter takeoffs and landings per year at Downtown Heliport at Pier 6 located on East River in CB1 and it impacts quality of life for all New Yorkers who live and use parks on NYC waterfronts (City Hall steps, 11/12/15)
- **Re-authorization of James Zadroga Act** – joined United States Representatives Nadler, Maloney and Velazquez, first responders, survivors and others; Congress members unite in support of permanent and fully-funded Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act extension. The World Trade Center Health Program authorization expired at the end of September, and funding will run out by September 30, 2016. In the meantime, the program is in the process of shutting down, creating anxiety for those in treatment, and problems for program administration, medical staff retention and continuity of care (11/02/15)
- **School Crossing Guards** – joined Public Advocate Letitia James, State Senator Daniel Squadron, New York City Council members Margaret Chin and Brad Lander, principals (Spruce, Peck and PS 276),

public school parents and Local 372 calling on the NYPD to provide crossing guards for downtown Manhattan public schools; parents of Spruce Street and Peck Slip School also brought with them hundreds of signed petitions and even completed forms filled out by potential applicants for the crossing guard positions (City Hall steps, 11/02/15)

- **Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Alliance for Downtown New York new Downtown Connection bus fleet** – joined Downtown Alliance President Jessica Lappin, Battery Park City Authority President Shari Hyman and new operator; thank you Downtown Alliance and Battery Park City Authority for providing free and accessible transportation to all riders (Sunday, 11/15/15)

Testimonies

- **New York City Council Committee on Environmental Protection Hearing on Int. 858-2105 and 859-2015 regarding sightseeing helicopters** – submitted; thank you Patrick Kennell and Diana Switaj (11/12/15)

Events

- **National September 11 Memorial & Museum Tribute As We Stand United with France** – in honor of the 129 people who were killed and more than 350 others injured in the terrorist attacks in Paris, France (11/16/15)
- **U.S. Women’s National Soccer Team’s Victory in the 2015 World Cup Canyon of Heroes dedication by the Downtown Alliance** – joined team’s captain and defender Christie Rampone and her daughter, Downtown Alliance President Lappin, Manhattan Borough President Brewer, Senator Squadron (Southwest corner of Barclay and Broadway, 11/10/15)
- **La Plaza Community Garden** – NYC Community Gardens Coalition (NYCGC) received Lower Manhattan NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan funding to undertake a feasibility study for the development of storm water capture best practices within and around gardens since area is prone to storm water flooding (11/02/15)

Public Forum

- **Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick’s Conversation on bird conservation in New York City** – CB1 co-sponsored (11/17/15)
- **Senator Squadron’s MTA Forum** – CB1 co-sponsored (11/17/15)
- **NYPD Patrol Borough Manhattan South Community/Crime Forum** – raised importance of permanent crossing guards at elementary schools (Murry Bergtraum HS, 11/16/15)
- **Resiliency Planning in Tribeca and Lower Manhattan** – sponsored by Manhattan Youth at their Downtown Community Center, 120 Warren Street, which was severely damaged and under 20 feet of water after Sandy; joined Celine Mizrahi from Congressman Nadler’s office, Bob Townley and Patrick Kennell(10/28/15)

Meetings

- **Manhattan Borough Board meeting** – with Patrick Kennell (11/19/15)
- **World Trade Center Research Principal Investigators Autumn-Winter Meeting November 18-19, 2015**, Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
- **NYPD with Spruce Street PTA, parents on crossing guards walkabout** (7:30am, 11/18/15)
- **NYPD with Peck Slip Principal, PTA and Parents on crossing guards walkabout** (7:30am, 11/13/15)
- **The Battery Conservancy Annual Board meeting** (11/12/15)
- **Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) Board of Directors** – a subsidiary of the New York State Urban Development Corporation d/b/a/ Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) (11/12/15)
- **Assemblymember Deborah Glick Crossing Guards Meeting with NYPD and Senator Squadron** – joined by Spruce and Peck Slip school parents, CB1 Y&E Leadership, Michael Levine and Lucy Acevedo (11/10/15)
- **NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program** – joined by Michael Levine (10/28/15)
- **World Trade Center Health Program Survivors Steering Conference Call** (11/03/15)

Announcements

- **Linda Gerstman** has resigned from CB1; we thank her for her volunteer work (11/01/15)
- **Community Board Membership Applications are now open for 2016** – available online through the Office of the Manhattan Borough President Brewer at:
<http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov/html/community-boards/community-boards.shtml>
- **One-time amnesty opportunity by the Office of the City Clerk, The City of New York Lobbying Bureau from January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016** – for more information go to: www.cityclerk.nyc.gov
- **CB1's next monthly board meeting will be Thursday, December 17** – please note change of date due to winter holidays; venue: South Street Seaport Museum, Melville Gallery