



**The City of New York**  
**Manhattan Community Board 1**

**Anthony Notaro, Jr.** CHAIRPERSON | **Lucian Reynolds** DISTRICT MANAGER

October 16, 2019

Mr. Daniel Ciniello  
Lower Manhattan Development Corporation  
22 Cortlandt Street - 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Mr. Ciniello:

I write to you today on behalf of Manhattan Community Board 1 to express our support for the South Street Seaport Museum's capital improvement project of the Thompson Warehouse building on Water Street in lower Manhattan. The renovation of this space is crucial to the Museum's ability to continue to serve as the steward to the very special South Street Seaport Historic District through educational, public, and community programming and cultural events.

In 2016, the Seaport Museum was awarded \$4.8 million in "settlement funds" from the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation for the Thompson Warehouse Project, which will restore and upgrade the 5-story building, transforming it into a Museum and community space. This newly restored space will greatly enhance the Museum's ability to offer programming and collaborate with cultural partners. In addition to programmatic functions, the building will generate income to support the Museum's operations, and provide much needed flexible, multi-use programmable community space to the Seaport District and lower Manhattan.

The South Street Seaport Museum is the vital cultural and community anchor to the Seaport neighborhood and the only organization dedicated to interpreting the foundations of New York as a port city. The impact this project will have on the community is great; in 2015, Alliance for Downtown New York reported that there were now more than 60,000 families living in Lower Manhattan, and that number has only increased in recent years. Additionally, according to Travel + Leisure Magazine, the Seaport District is an area that sees 12 million visitors annually. With the influx of visitors and new residents to this part of New York, there is a demand for the type of community and cultural programming that this project facilitates.

Completion of this project to its fullest potential will enhance not only the cultural landscape, but the economic one as well. The new Thompson Warehouse will provide both short-term and long-term jobs in the Seaport, increase economic activity in the district by spurring and promoting additional commercial and residential development, and will ultimately encourage more businesses and residents to move to lower Manhattan.

Since LMDC has already reviewed, vetted and approved funding for this project, providing additional needed funding to see it to completion could hopefully be done without too much delay.

Community Board 1 has long been a strong supporter of the South Street Seaport Museum and we are pleased to recommend additional needed funding for this project. We look forward to its completion and the impact it will have on both the Seaport community and our district as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Notaro, Jr." in a cursive style.

Anthony Notaro, Jr.  
Chairperson