



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

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

Delivered via email

July 24, 2019

Edward Pincar
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Pincar,

On July 16, 2019 the Manhattan Community Board 1 (CB1) Waterfront, Parks & Resiliency Committee received a presentation on the Gateways to Chinatown project, which has been initiated by the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) in collaboration with the Chinatown Partnership and Van Allen Institute. The project site is the triangular traffic island bounded by Canal Street, Baxter Street and Walker Street; an iconic location of great importance to the community. The project team represented that this program is the result of decades of neighborhood advocacy and planning, and that public engagement is critical to the success and will continue throughout the design process to ensure that community perspectives are incorporated.

However, the Waterfront, Parks & Cultural Committee meeting was heavily attended by members of the community, most of whom expressed that they have not been involved in the engagement process and who felt that the proposed design does not reflect the community or achieve the stated goals of the project. In addition, perhaps the most important new design element, a tall stainless steel iconic structure, generated many negative comments including that it did not reflect the heritage or special character of Chinatown. Based on feedback received at that meeting, CB1 has serious concerns and objections to the proposed design. CB1 requests that DOT does not move forward on this project until further engagement is conducted and a community consensus and approval for the design is achieved. Additionally, we request more information about the engagement that was already conducted, when, and which stakeholders were engaged.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony Notaro, Jr.".

Anthony Notaro, Jr.
Chairperson

CC: New York State Assembly Member Glick
New York State Assembly Member Niou
New York State Senator Kavanagh
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
Councilmember Margaret Chin
Manhattan Community Board 3
Chinatown Partnership
Van Allen Institute
Lower Manhattan Development Corporation