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Tuesday, August 12, 2002

**CONTACT:**

Lynn Rasic/Janel Patterson (EDC) -- (212) 312-3523 -- [www.newyorkbiz.com](http://www.newyorkbiz.com)  
Public Affairs Officer: (212) 720-3471 -- [www.nyc.gov/planning](http://www.nyc.gov/planning)

**NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING ANNOUNCE RFP FOR URBAN DESIGN SERVICES FOR QUEENS PLAZA**

*Development of Streetscape and Landscape Design for Long Island City*

New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President Andrew M. Alper and New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) Director Amanda M. Burden today announced the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional design services to assist in the development of a streetscape and landscape design plan for Queens Plaza's public spaces and parkland, including public art, lighting, street furniture, and crosswalk designs.

"Queens Plaza is the gateway to Queens," said EDC President Alper. "As the City moves forward with initiatives to create new central business districts in Long Island City, Downtown Brooklyn and the Far West Side of Manhattan, projects like this have a very high priority. Improving the public spaces and traffic flow of Queens Plaza is important to the millions of people who live or work in the area, or pass through daily on foot, in cars, busses and subways."

"New York City's streets are the foundation of this city. Vibrant street life is critical to the health of any neighborhood, particularly Long Island City, home to seven internationally-renowned cultural institutions and a rich mix of residents, offices and industrial businesses. We want to continue to attract life into this unique area," said City Planning Director Amanda Burden. "I am pleased that this request for urban design services seeks to develop a streetscape plan that includes an innovative mix of public art and environmentally responsive design, and I hope this project can serve as a model for design improvements throughout the City."

The goal of the project is to create a strong image for Queens Plaza by creating an overall streetscape plan and park design for the area between the East River and the Thomson Avenue/Van Dam intersection. The RFP is designed to attract a multi-disciplinary team with experience in designing complex public streets, plazas and parks that will effectively work with EDC and DCP to develop an artistic and environmentally responsive streetscape and landscape design.

This is the second phase of the three-phase Queens Plaza Bike and Pedestrian Improvement Project. The first phase involved the development and simulation of a roadway redesign plan for Queens Plaza between Crescent Street and Queens Plaza East to improve traffic flows, create bicycle lanes, widen medians and introduce new crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety and circulation. The design was approved by NYC Department of Transportation in June 2002.

For more information or for a copy of the RFP, please call (212) 312-3969 or e-mail [info@newyorkbiz.com](mailto:info@newyorkbiz.com) and enter Queens Plaza RFP in the subject line. Proposals are due by 2 p.m. on Friday, September 20, 2002.

EDC is the City's primary vehicle for economic development services. Using its real estate and financial resources, EDC helps develop businesses and create jobs throughout the five boroughs. EDC is also responsible for the sale and leasing of City-owned property for economic development.

The Department of City Planning is responsible for the City's physical and socioeconomic planning, including land use and environmental review; preparation of plans and policies; and provision of technical assistance and planning information to government agencies, public officials and community boards.