

# BARBARA GRYGUTIS

This proposal to create a work of art honoring the memory of those who lost their lives on flight 587 is designed as a public space that will provide the family members with a special place to come and mourn their loved ones, as well as celebrate their lives. The memorial will be a place of refuge – a place where mementos can be placed and left, and a space where gatherings can take place each year. Seating can be set up for those gatherings, if necessary.

The challenge of the site at the Rockaway beach front is to create a private space within the larger context of the very busy beach entrance. The creating a memorial space with a sense of privacy and safety is an overriding goal for the design.

The memorial design is composed with two arcing walls sited on opposite sides of the memorial to create an inner memorial space. The two walls are shaped as an embrace. This is a central theme for the work. The memorial embraces family members. The families embrace their missing loved ones. A hug – an embrace, is a universal human gesture of love, compassion, sorrow, and affection.

The names of the deceased will be placed on the two interior walls of the memorial. Each victim's name will be incised into an individual black granite plaque. These individual memorial name plaques will be slightly curved to fit the arc of the embracing wall. The names will commence at 2 feet off the ground plane and be no higher than four feet off of the ground plane. This will allow for family and friends to touch the names and make individual rubbings.

The exterior walls of the memorial will be clad with a NY black slate stone. This will give the exterior wall a natural look suited to its ocean front site.

The two arms of the memorial create a central plaza space which is removed from the hustle of the beach front traffic. The entrance to the memorial faces the northwest, off the sidewalk, adjacent to the turn-around. This would allow for elderly family members and the disabled to be dropped off at the memorial entrance without a long arduous walk when adjacent parking is not available. The memorial space is open to the east. The ocean can be viewed through the east-west axis if space. The ocean can be viewed as one enters the space.

Eight light towers – beacons of light, grace the memorial space. The light towers descend in height from 14 feet to 11 feet and are approximately two feet square. Four towers arc along the entrance sidewalk to create a formal entrance to the memorial. These light towers, created with frosted glass block, will provide a warmth – an inner glow for the memorial space. They will provide an integral lighting system at night and considerable lighting within the memorial plaza space. These “beacons of light” represent hope.

The entire memorial plaza will be surrounded by a native landscaping palette. A variety of trees and shrubs will be planted along the two (north and south) fire access lanes. This landscaping will be designed to create a buffer for the memorial. The landscaping will be as natural in appearance as possible. It is designed to discourage pedestrians from walking across the space in order to access the beach. This configuration of landscape and plaza will provide a very private and safe space, calmed by landscaping on the entire perimeter except for the entrance. The landscaping will be designed to buffer noise and sights from the surrounding buildings. A small seat wall will grace the entry plaza.