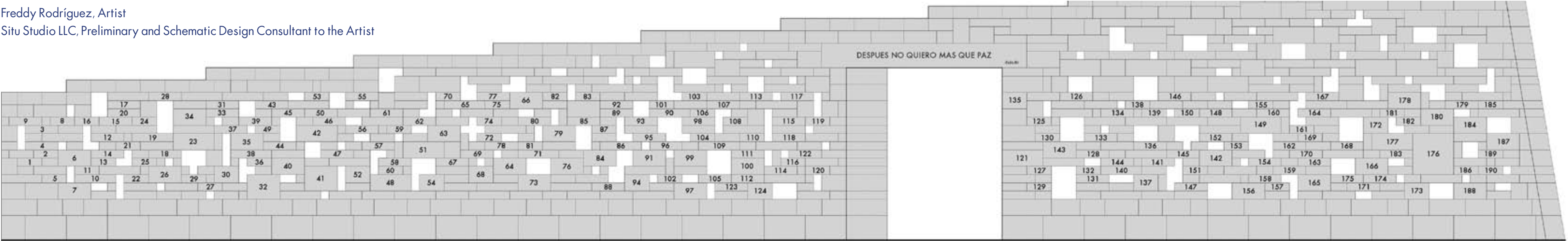


Flight 587 Memorial

Freddy Rodríguez, Artist
Situ Studio LLC, Preliminary and Schematic Design Consultant to the Artist



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THE FLIGHT 587 MEMORIAL

NARRATIVE FROM THE FLIGHT 587 MEMORIAL

On November 12, 2001, American Airlines Flight 587 departed JFK International Airport en route to the Dominican Republic. At 9:16 AM, seconds after take-off, the jet crashed into the community of Belle Harbor killing all 260 passengers and crew, and five Belle Harbor residents. People from France, Haiti, Israel, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States and Puerto Rico were on the flight, yet the majority were of Dominican descent, traveling to their homeland or returning from visiting family. The plane struck the ground at the intersection of Beach 131st Street and Newport Avenue, where members of the Fire and Police Departments (many of them off-duty), and numerous volunteers rushed to the scene. Despite their heroic efforts, the crash of Flight 587 stands to date as the second largest aviation tragedy in U.S. history. All New Yorkers were devastated by this terrible event, occurring only two months and a day after the World Trade Center attack. The communities of Washington Heights and Belle Harbor were uniquely affected. Many of the passengers lived in and around Washington Heights. Belle Harbor was home to many police officers and firefighters who lost their lives on 9/11. These communities, together with the families of the victims and the City of New York, have created this monument to honor those who perished, and ensure that we never forget those we have loved and lost.

El 12 de noviembre del 2001, el Vuelo 587 de American Airlines partió del Aeropuerto Internacional JFK con destino a la República Dominicana. A las 9:16 AM, el avión se estrelló en la comunidad de Belle Harbor, donde perecieron los 260 pasajeros y tripulación, y cinco residentes locales. Personas de Francia, Haití, Israel, Taiwán, el Reino Unido, y los Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico se encontraban a bordo. Sin embargo, la mayoría eran de origen dominicano y viajaban a su tierra o regresaban a ella luego de haber visitado a familiares. El avión se estrelló en la intersección de la Calle Beach 131 y la Avenida Newport, donde miembros del Departamento de Bomberos y de la Policía (muchos de ellos libre de servicio), y numerosos voluntarios acudieron al lugar del accidente. A pesar de su heroico esfuerzo, la caída del Vuelo 587 es hasta hoy la segunda mayor tragedia de aviación en la historia de los Estados Unidos. Todos los neoyorquinos se sintieron devastados ante este terrible suceso ocurrido sólo dos meses y un día después del ataque al World Trade Center. Las comunidades de Washington Heights y Belle Harbor fueron las más afectadas. Muchos de los pasajeros vivían en Washington Heights o sus alrededores. Belle Harbor era el hogar de muchos agentes de policía y bomberos que perdieron sus vidas en el 11 de Septiembre. Estas comunidades, junto a las familias de las víctimas y la Ciudad de Nueva York, han creado este monumento para conmemorar a aquellos que perecieron y asegurar que nunca olvidaremos a quienes hemos amado y perdido.

The Flight 587 Memorial by Freddy Rodríguez
Beach 131st Street
Rockaway Beach
Belle Harbor, Queens

Department of Parks & Recreation
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McGregor Consulting
Signe Nielsen Landscape Architect, P.C.
STV Incorporated
Situ Studio LLC, the preliminary and schematic design consultant to the artist
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Department of Design and Construction
Department of Transportation
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Whitestone Contracting Corp.
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C.D.E. Air Conditioning Co. Inc.
Eldor Electric Co.
Soil Solutions

The Flight 587 Memorial was created in consultation with the families and the Belle Harbor community. The project was made possible by the City of New York, New York City Council, Borough President of Queens, State of New York, and New York Senate and Assembly.

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Special thanks to Reverend Magalys Beltre of Broadway Temple Methodist Church, Manhattan; Monsignor John J. Brown of St. Francis de Sales Church, Queens; Father Brian Jordan of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Manhattan.



FLIGHT 587

Fifth Anniversary
Memorial Service
and Dedication

November 12, 2006
Belle Harbor, Queens

PROGRAM

Invocation

Remarks

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor of the City of New York

Moment of Silence

Tolling of the Bells

Reading of the Names

Musical Interlude

Manuel Jimenez and Argentina Lara

Readings