



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for April 2014

Catherine McVay Hughes

It has been another extremely busy month for Community Board 1. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better and stronger than ever. I would like to report on the important issues and milestones that we have worked through with fellow board members, the CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you everyone.

Updates

- Speaker Silver School Overcrowding Task Force – successful meeting with Speaker Silver, new Department of Education Chancellor Fariña, Assembly Member Glick, Senator Squadron and others; discussed urgent need to site new zoned K-8 school, kindergarten waitlists and universal pre-K (04/24/14)
- CB1 letter sent to the Director of the New York City Office of Management and Budget reiterating that the #1 CB1 Capital Budget Priority for FY 2015 is for 1,000 school seats to be sited in CB1 in the Department of Education five year capital plan (04/01/14)
- Seaport Working Group – continued to work on developing guidelines to revitalize area; meetings #9 (04/24/14), #8 (04/17/14), #7 (04/10/14), #6 (04/03/14) and #5 (03/27/14); draft guidelines are expected to be completed in mid-May
- [The Manhattan Borough Board Budget Priorities Report For Fiscal Year 2015](#), issued on March 24, 2013 included CB1's suggestions to add sections on funding for Parks/Open Space (including resiliency, p. 14) and Landmarks (p. 9)
- NY Rising – thank you to everyone who came to meetings and provided input on the 195-page [NY Rising Lower Manhattan Community Reconstruction Plan](#)
- Justice Huff has finally ruled on the Financial District Neighbors Association's Article 78 petition regarding public notification of the relocation of a Department of Probation facility to 66 John Street. She denied the request for relief. The basis was the four-month statute of limitations, finding the April 2013 notice in the City Record was sufficient notice for this kind of transaction. This could set a precedent for inviting the City to bury other relocations in the City Record in the future, instead of giving the Community Board, Borough President's Office, elected officials and others more prominent notice (04/16/14)
- In the spirit of Earth Day this month, CB1 is conducting an inventory of green buildings in our district. Please let us know of buildings that are LEED certified, Energy Star rated, or that utilize green infrastructure (solar panels, permeable pavements, green roofs, etc.)
- Assembly Speaker Silver, Battery Park City Authority Chairman Mehiel, Senator Squadron, Assembly Member Glick and Council Member Chin announced agreement that the Battery Park City Parks Conservancy will continue as the operator for the Stuyvesant HS Community Center to ensure local residents access to its low-cost programs; agreement comes after elected officials and the BPCA formed a committee (including CB1 Chair Hughes, Vice Chair Notaro and Member Zelter) to find a long-term solution to save the center, which was set to be closed late last year; pool repairs have been finished and it has reopened (04/29/14)

Events

- South Street Seaport Museum Spring Revival 2014 Opening at Pier 15 – with Interim President Captain Jonathan Boulware, Manhattan Borough President Brewer and Council Member Chin (Saturday, 04/26/14)
- NY Rising Communities Spring Conference (Albany, 04/23/14)
- NYC Comptroller Stringer’s presentation on [CHECKBOOKNYC2.0](#) (04/11/14)
- Autism: A Spectrum of Celebration Conference for April is Disability Awareness Month (City University of New York Borough Manhattan Community College, 04/10/14)
- Little League Opening Day – with LL President and CB1 Member Andrew Zelter, NYC Council Member Margaret Chin and BPCA President Shari Hyman (Saturday, 04/05/14)
- 4th of July Festival in Lower Manhattan Press Conference – announced with Downtown Alliance President Lappin, Manhattan Borough President Brewer and others; fireworks on East River <http://july4thinnewyork.com/> (04/17/14)

Landmarks

- Metropolitan Transit Authority/New York City Transit’s “Fulton Center Corbin Building” earned a 2014 National Recognition Award in the American Council of Engineering Companies Engineering Excellence Awards, the “Academy Awards of the engineering industry”
- BPCA Pier A will receive the 2014 Lucy G. Moses Preservation Awards from the New York Landmarks Conservancy in May 2014

Meetings:

- Manhattan Borough Board Meeting (04/17/14)
- Governors Island Trust Board of Directors Meeting (04/07/14)
- Lower Manhattan Development Corporation Board of Directors Meeting (04/03/14)
- WTC Health Program Survivors Steering Meeting – attended with Bob Schneck and Mariama James (04/10/14)

Announcements

- Community Board Appointment Process is complete for reappointment and renewals; Warm Welcome: Alice Blank, Frances Curtis, Ninfa Segarra and Andrew Zelter. Their respective “buddies” are Noel Jefferson, Vera Sung, Kathleen Gupta and Peter Braus
- CB1’s Senior Population Report is now posted on the CB1 website
- Lower Manhattan Construction Map updated by NYC DOT is now posted on CB1 website
- Co-sponsored Rodent Academy – with all elected officials; thank you to Tamar Hovsepian and Diane Lapson for their work (04/17/14)
- SLA Forum – Co-sponsored with CB2 and CB3; all CB1 members encouraged to attend on Tuesday, May 6