



# Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

## Chairperson's Report for March 2016

Catherine McVay Hughes

March has been another busy month throughout our District. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better for all. Here are some of the important issues and milestones that we have worked on with fellow board members, CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you, everyone!

### *Updates*

- [Lower Manhattan Development Corporation grants](#) – phasing down of LMDC continues with announcement by Governor Cuomo that the LMDC will fund 14 key projects through a \$50 million legal settlement with Lend Lease Construction LMB Inc. (formerly Bovis Lend Lease LMB Inc.). The settlement, which was originally reached in spring of 2015, marked the resolution of a lawsuit between LMDC and Lend Lease concerning the demolition of the Deutsche Bank Building. Lend Lease agreed to pay LMDC \$40 million and to forgive more than \$10 million in outstanding payments. The funds recovered were initially provided to LMDC in Community Development Block Grants administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Following an established set of criteria, the selection process included an extensive public review process, meetings, site visits and a four-hour public hearing. The 14 projects will enhance the cultural, recreational and educational opportunities in the region and ultimately improve the quality of life for residents in lower Manhattan (03/16/16):
  - The National 9/11 Memorial and Museum: Tribute in Light (\$700,000)
  - Manhattan Youth Recreation and Resources, Inc.: Afterschool and Senior Programs (\$500,000)
  - Alliance for Downtown New York, Inc.: Lower Manhattan Headquarters (\$300,000)
  - Hudson River Park Trust: Hudson River Park Segment 3 (\$10,000,000)
  - NYC Economic Development Corporation: East River Esplanade North (approximately Robert Wagner Senior Place to Catherine Slip (\$10,000,000)
  - NYC EDC: East River Esplanade South and Brooklyn Bridge Beach (\$5,000,000)
  - NYC: Pier 42 (\$7,000,000)
  - NYC Department of Parks and Recreation F/B/O The Battery Conservancy, The Battery PlayScape (\$6,000,000)
  - South Street Seaport Museum: Community and Educational Spaces (\$4,800,000)
  - The Flea Theater: Performing Arts Theater (\$2,500,000)
  - University Settlement Society of New York, Inc.: Houston Street Center and Headquarters Offices (\$1,126,850)
  - Jackie Robinson Foundation: Jackie Robinson Museum (\$1,000,000)

- God's Love We Deliver: Michael Kors Building (\$500,000)
- Manhattan Youth Recreation and Resources, Inc. F/B/O Downtown Boathouse (\$15,000).

Let's thank our partners at the state and city for continued commitment to our communities

- **Resiliency** – huge funding gap continues for resiliency implementation at the “Manhattan Tip;” waiting for community engagement process to begin but request that due to City's fragmented funding, CB1 would like its own taskforce so that meetings will be accessible for CB1 community
- **WTC Transportation Hub Oculus Opened** – exit opened at Liberty Street and Church Street (03/03/16); connections to Dey Street subway concourse to open later in spring and retail will be phased in starting this summer
- **NYC Department of Buildings updated interim crane regulations the agency put in place after the crawler crane collapsed** – among other measures, the updated rules bar from City streets the type of crane configuration involved in the collapse. The updated regulations (03/15/16): (1) Bar from City streets any crawler crane that is required by its manufacturer to shut down in winds of less than 20 miles per hour, such as the crane configuration that collapsed last month; (2) Require that a licensed engineer be present for any operation of a crawler crane rated for less than 30mph winds. The engineer will monitor wind speeds, confirm that cranes are properly secured after work hours, and can shut down crane operations, if needed; and (3) Prohibit all crane operations whenever winds exceed 30mph or are forecast to do so
- **75 Morton School Zoning (Middle School opening Fall 2017)** – Department of Education has proposed two scenarios for 75 Morton middle school zoning: Scenario A will place the southern boundary of the zone in northern Tribeca, which will not zone any elementary school in CB 1 into the new middle school and Scenario B will extend the zone to include PS 276, PS 234 and PS 89 zones. Remainder of CB 1 will remain zoned for JHS 104 Simon Baruch Middle School at 21st Street and First Avenue. The seven-story, 177,000 square-foot school is projected to enroll 800 to 1,000 students and, among its facilities, have three science labs, two art rooms, two music rooms, a dance and movement room and combination gym and auditorium.
- **Aggressive ticket-hawkers** – NYPD Commissioner Bratton has assigned a PD detail with 7 officers
- **School crossing guards** –1st Precinct has replaced the crossing guard who is on maternity leave at PS 234 with a uniformed police officer. The following schools will receive an NYPD Officer, or Traffic Enforcement Agent until a School Crossing Guard can be permanently assigned, thank you Maryam Abdul-Aleem of Assemblymember Deborah J Glick's office for working on this.
 

○ PS 234 at Chambers and Greenwich Streets	○ PS 276 at Battery Place and 11 <sup>th</sup> Street
○ PS 234 at Chambers Street and West Street	○ PS 150 at Harrison and Greenwich Streets
○ PS 397 at Spruce Street and William Street	○ Leman Manhattan Prep at West Street and Morris Street
○ PS 343 at Peck Slip and Pearl Street	
○ PS 89 at Warren Street and West Street	
- **Worth Street construction** – soil remediation continues on Worth Street; waiting six months to begin DDC's project segment on Worth Street block between West Broadway and Hudson Street, but it is anticipated that DDC will start on the next block in April

- **Kayak dock at Governors Island** – Borough President Brewer funded construction and installation. Downtown Boathouse is expected to have a new dock in place by early June
- **Comfort station at Governors Island** – NYC Council allocated funds for cost of installation
- **Passive House** – CB1 is working with CB5 on a Borough-wide International Passive House resolution as an environmental initiative for Earth Day, April 2016; thank you Bob Schneck and Diana Switaj
- **Tree pits** – working with NYC Parks, incorporated in the list for the:
  - Spring: 1 Peck Slip on Water Street, 28 Liberty Street, 13 Hudson Street (at Morgans Market), 8 Spruce Street (on rear Beekman Street). The next step is to mark the sites and utilities with contract and schedule for excavation. The planting season ends in May and may possibly go into June depending on the weather.
  - 270 Broadway at Chambers is currently under a tree planting permit and is scheduled to be received two trees this spring via a private contractor.
  - Fall: Foley Square should not be a problem as long as Parks can gain access to the site
  - One Police Plaza cannot be planted since it is outside of the Parks Department jurisdiction. This is a DOT bridges property.
- **NYC Comptroller Stringer's Preliminary Draft Audit Report** – CB1 was one of the only three out of 12 Manhattan Community Boards in compliance with *DOI's Standards for Inventory and Control Management* and Comptroller's Directive #1; this is especially notable because of CB1's office move during summer 2015; thank you Lucy Acevedo who manages this

## Events

- **South Street Seaport Museum opened its first new exhibit since Hurricane Sandy** - entitled "Street of Ships – The Port and Its People" and includes a preview for the return of the ship Wavertree to the South Street waterfront (03/17/16)
- **Celebrating 255th Anniversary of the origin of St. Patrick's Day Parade** – began as a simple protest against British rule and mark of Irish pride, a march up and down Lower Broadway; sponsored by Bowling Green Association and Lower Manhattan Historical Society (03/16/16)
- **New York-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital Lunar New Year Celebration** – joined Borough President Brewer (02/24/16)

## Meetings

- **World Trade Center Health Program Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee Call** (03/21/16)
- **Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association's Annual Meeting of the Members and Directors** – featured discussion by United States Congressman Jerrold Nadler (03/21/16)
- **Lower Manhattan Development Corporation Board** (03/18/16)
- **Manhattan Borough Board** – International Passive House Standard Borough-wide resolution for Earth Day April 2016; CB1 working with CB5, joined by Bob Schneck (03/17/16)
- **NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC)** – with Lynne Guey, EDC's new Manhattan Borough Director in the Government and Community Relations Department who wanted to find out about

CB1's concerns in the Seaport and will present at upcoming Seaport/Civic Center Committee; joined by Marco Pasanella, Callie Lerner, Diana Switaj and Michael Levine (03/15/16)

- **Governors Island Corporation** – d/b/a The Trust for Governors Island; April Board meeting will be at GI Ferry Terminal and President Leslie Koch will provide update (03/15/16)
- **City of New York Police Department Community Partner Event** – joined by Lucy Acevedo (One Police Plaza, 03/14/16)
- **William Street School Bus congestion** –joined by representatives of Hawthorne School, Department of Education's Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT), NYC DOT, NY Presbyterian Hospital, Spruce Street PTA President, representatives of Borough P Brewer and Senator Squadron and Paul Hovitz; NYC DOT's summary: (1) Additional School Ahead signs (to be installed on Ann Street ) – Pending on school safety criteria (2) Request for signal on Ann and William/ crosswalk markings – Pending on when was the last study, may be able to do a new study to determine if an All way stop or Signal can be installed (studies can be done every 18 months upon request). With an approved traffic control device, crosswalk markings will also be installed. (03/14/16)
- **School Overcrowding Task Force convened by Borough President Brewer, Senator Squadron, Assemblymember Glick and Councilmember Chin** – with principals, parent representatives; joined by Tricia Joyce, Paul Hovitz, Bob Townley, Tammy Meltzer, Wendy Chapman, Patrick Kennell and others (03/11/16)
- **Worth Street Reconstruction Task Force convened by Senator Squadron** – joined by Department of Design and Construction, NYC Department of Transportation, Con Edison, representatives from elected officials Assemblymember Glick, Congressman Nadler and Borough President Brewer; joined by Bruce Ehrmann, Jeff Ehrlich, Elizabeth Lewinsohn, Noah Pfefferblit and others (03/11/16)
- **World Trade Center Health Program Survivors Steering Committee** (conference call, 03/01/16)
- **Pace University Professor Michael Levine's Planning Class** – joined CB1's Community Planning Fellow Cammie Flippen presenting Class Project Phase II on streetscape improvements for CB1; presentation at spring CB1 Planning Committee (02/24/16)
- **REBNY Residential Brokerage Division Downtown Committee** – guest speaker (02/24/16)

### *Announcements*

- **Michael Connolly** and **Marva Craig** will not be seeking reappointment and **Ro Sheffe** will be resigning; many thanks for your volunteer service over the years for our community
- **Financial District and Planning Committee** – **Susan Cole/Michael Ketring** and **Patrick Kennell/Keith Markel** will become Chair and Co-chair, respectively, effective immediately
- **Battery Park City Authority Open Community Meeting** – 6:00 to 7:00PM on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 6 River Terrace (near Irish Hunger Memorial)
- **Voter Registration** – if you aren't registered to vote yet and you want to vote in this year's Presidential Primary, be sure to register to vote *before March 25th*. If you have a valid ID from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, you can register to vote online:  
<http://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/voters.shtml>