



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for March 2015

Catherine McVay Hughes

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

Updates

- **George Calderaro, John Fratta, Sarah Currie-Halpern, Coren Sharples and Allan Tannenbaum** will not be seeking reappointment – thank you very much for your volunteer work over the years on behalf of our community
- **Sandy Funding** – with the State and City working together with the local community, the following resiliency plan was worked out; this announcement is a welcome first of many future steps needed in planning for a resilient future for downtown and all New York; thank you Mayor de Blasio, Governor Cuomo and his NY Rising team, Senator Squadron, Councilmember Chin, Borough President Brewer, Assembly Member Silver and Downtown Alliance (03/13/15)
 - **State and City Investing \$6.75 Million to Plan Comprehensive Flood Protection in Lower Manhattan;** to include advanced planning from engineering and feasibility studies to environmental review from Montgomery Street south to the Battery and up the west side of Manhattan to the northern terminus of Battery Park City at Jay Street; aggregated from \$3.75mm NY Rising allocation from the East River study (\$1mm), Battery Berming (\$2mm) and Lower West Street Intervention (\$750,000) and the \$3mm City's latest CDBG-DR Action Plan submitted to HUD this winter for feasibility study
 - **City Committed \$8 Million for Battery Park Flood Protection Design and First Phase Implementation of Capital Resiliency Measures at The Battery Park** – this is a new City allocation; this is not the \$7mm for the Brooklyn Bridge Beach allocation which we are still waiting for an update about
- **378 Additional Pre-K Seats in CB 1** created by Department of Education; 198 permanent seats in three different locations (36 seats at 2 Lafayette, 108 seats at 2-26 Washington Street/17 Battery Plaza North, 54 seats at Tweed, 52 Chambers Street) and another 180 temporary seats are assigned to PS 343 Peck Slip School, which is set to move into the permanent facility at 1 Peck Slip this fall 2015

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- **Letter to NYC Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on Mayor de Blasio's Preliminary Budget FY 2016** – sent reiterating CB1's request for funding for a new K-8 and for the study and implementation to address unmet resiliency needs (03/03/15)
- **28 Liberty (formerly 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza)** – application for alterations to plaza and storefronts including creation of new entrances at sidewalk and plaza levels; has gone to the Landmarks Committee in March and will go to the Finance District Committee in April (03/03/15)
- **The Battery** – new Battery Park Comfort Station opened to the public, some fences came down (03/13/15)
- **Battery Park City Authority Ballfields Permits** – BPCA will begin applications for the summer season by the end of March and fall season should begin shortly after that; notifications will be sent in advance of the opening of the summer and fall application periods;
- A public hearing has not yet been scheduled by the Landmarks Preservation Commission for **Howard Hughes Corporation's Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness** for 10 items in the South Street Seaport Historic District
- **Dey Street Newsstand** license application 5515-2014ANWS – item was withdrawn from Public Design Commission (PDC) Review agenda on Monday, March 2; there is a need to improve process of approval by Department of Consumer Affairs which does not take into consideration CBs concerns
- **Granite bikeway installation on Varick** between Canal Street and Laight Street – NYC DOT is scheduling to install later this month (03/03/15)
- **South Street South reconstruction project** began; thanks to NYC EDC since they were able to work with their contractor to begin the work at Fulton Street and then head south as CB1 requested (03/09/15)
- NYC Office of Management and Budget Letter – regarding NYC EDC Project Description to allocate up to \$4 million to **rehabilitate Pier 6, Downtown Heliport**; from NYC EDC "Availability of heliport in emergency situations is critical for NYC. It was the first transit asset up and running after Hurricane Sandy....repairs are necessary work that will expand the useful life of the pier structure. The scope of work includes repairs to the submerged steel, deteriorated piles, concrete spalls, handrails, and fenders. In addition to these repairs, a new cathodic protection system must be installed to combat the corrosion of the submerged steel elements." (03/02/15)

Testimonies

- Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Sandy **Hearing on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development National Disaster Resilience Competition Phase 1 Application New York State Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Action Plan** (03/16/15)
- Public Hearing **on New York City Phase 1 Application for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC)** – CB1 urged the City to address unmet needs by funding a comprehensive design, engineering and feasibility study that protects our most vulnerable edges along the waterfront and to make CB1 a top priority in the next round of Federal funding projects; especially important with City's Projections for sea level rise in New York

City showing an increase of between 11 inches and 21 inches by the 2050s (03/10/15 postponed from 03/02/15)

Events

- **United States Senator Charles Schumer spoke at Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association** – he reiterated his concerns about many things that CB1 is focusing on including funding resiliency efforts and renewing the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (03/23/15)
- **Immigration Legal Services of LI-NYC Opening** – a not-for-profit immigration agency that provides low cost legal services to the community that just expanded to 305 Broadway (03/19/15)
- **Trinity Wall Street Charette #2** – Trinity Wall Street’s second of six community conversations, or charettes, about the redevelopment of the new parish building at 68/74 Trinity Place; about 100 community members, including Reverend Dr. William Lupfer and Fred Clarke of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, staff and parishioners came together to talk, listen, and offer creative ideas for the new building. Trinity Wall Street has vacated its buildings at 68/74 Trinity Place for demolition and is considering, with the help of its downtown neighbors and other members of the community, what a new structure will include. This collaborative process, which will span the next six months, began on February 28; encourage you to attend and get involved at the next one on Saturday, May 2 (St. Paul’s Chapel, 03/14/15)
- **U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell**, President of American Express Foundation Timothy McClimon, and President Emeritus of YMCA of the USA Neil Nicoll announced a volunteer program to further Department of the Interior’s vision to increase connections to public lands and more than triple the number of volunteers who help care for America’s treasured landscapes; Service Project in the Gardens of Remembrance with Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, NYC Parks Commissioner Silver, Battery Conservancy President Price, volunteers (Castle Clinton National Monument Battery Park, 03/12/15)
- **Women Rebuilding the World Trade Center Panel Discussion in recognition of Women’s History Month**, 9/11 Tribute Center and Women’s City Club of New York – participated in panel (03/10/15)

Meetings

- New York-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital Community Advisory Board (03/23/15)
- Hudson River Park Trust Air Rights Meeting convened by Borough President Brewer (03/20/15)
- Manhattan Borough Board Meeting (03/19/15)
- NY Rising Conference Call (03/11/15)
- The Trust for Governors Island Meeting of the Directors (03/09/15)
- 28 Liberty Street meeting with Fosun Property Holdings and architects on proposed plan – attended with Ro Sheffe (03/09/15)
- NYC Parks Commissioner Silver & Community Board Forum – attended with Ro Sheffe and Noah Pfefferbilt (The Arsenal, 03/09/15)

Announcements

- **Sidewalk Cafe Working Group** – second of two meetings will be on Tuesday, March 31, encourage you to attend; street environment is very important
- **Affordable Housing Report for Lower Manhattan Update Summary** – has been posted to the CB1 website, thanks to Tom Goodkind, Diana Switaj, Jeff Sun and Julian Schmitz (03/17/15)
- **Ninth Annual Summer Make Music New York: Sunday, June 21, 2015** – it is free and it is a unique festival of 1,000+ free concerts in the public spaces throughout the five boroughs of New York City, all on the first day of summer; register by April 29 at www.makemusicny.org