



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq., Chairperson  
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166<sup>th</sup> St. 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Website: [www.nyc.gov/mcb12](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb12)

September 28, 2017

Hon. Mitchell J. Silver  
Commissioner of NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

### **Re: Resolution supporting the Proposed Design of an Outdoor Fitness Area in J. Hood Wright Park**

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, September 26, 2017 Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed 0 abstention, supporting the proposed design presented by NYC Parks at the September 5, 2017 Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee meeting and urging the Public Design Commission to support this project when it comes before the Commission for approval.

**Whereas:** Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez approved \$250k for an outdoor fitness area in J. Hood Wright Park at the recommendation of a community engagement process known as Participatory Budgeting, with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks) to design and build such a facility within the allocated budget; and

**Whereas:** a public scoping meeting was held on April 19, 2017, and based on substantial community feedback from prospective users of the facility and subsequent correspondence between the users and the designers, modifications were made to customize equipment according to preferred specifications; and

**Whereas:** a presentation was made by NYC Parks architects at the September 5, 2017 meeting of the Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs (PCA) Committee for a 1,500 square foot fitness area in the NE corner of J. Hood Wright Park (near W. 176<sup>th</sup> St. & Ft. Washington Ave.) such a plan, which will include 13 new pieces of equipment for 10 different activities, of which 4 will be ADA compliant, extending 12' fencing to protect from errant balls from the adjacent courts, addition of a new drinking fountain with bottle filler, granite block paving for water permeation, and trees which eventually will grow to provide shade; and

**Whereas:** NYC Parks, a New York City agency, is constrained by NYC procurement regulations and the City's VENDEX process, but was able to work with a manufacturer to get design modifications in the equipment being used for the proposed project; now, therefore be it

**Whereas:** the equipment used will include standard items as well as pieces customized to the specifications of the representatives of BarStarzz from both within and outside of the community, will not include a stretching wall as there will be a such a piece at other outdoor fitness areas, and will include a freestanding vertical pole unique to this facility; and

**Whereas:** five of the pieces of equipment will be fully accessible, and the wheelchair turnaround clearances for those pieces will meet ADA standards; now, therefore be it

**Resolved:** that Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposed design presented by NYC Parks at the September 5, 2017 Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee meeting; and be it further

**Resolved:** that Community Board 12, Manhattan urges the Public Design Commission to support this project when it comes before the Commission for approval.

Sincerely,



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.  
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Signe Nielsen, NYC Public Design, Commissioner  
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman

Hon. Marisol Alcantara, State Senator  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator  
71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District Office  
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq., Chairperson  
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166<sup>th</sup> St. 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Website: [www.nyc.gov/mcb12](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb12)

September 28, 2017

Hon. Mitchell J. Silver  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Parks  
The Arsenal, Central Park  
New York, NY 10065

### **Re: Resolution supporting the Conceptual Design Plan for an Educational Pavilion and Boathouse at Sherman Creek.**

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, September 26, 2017 Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed 0 abstention, supporting the proposed conceptual design plan presented by NYC Parks, the New York Restoration, Project and Row NY at the September 5, 2017 Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee meeting and urging the Public Design Commission to support this project when it comes before the Commission for approval.

**Whereas:** the New York Restoration Project ("NYRP") has a 20+ year history of providing services and improvements to northern Manhattan's parks, including significant capital investments to and programming in the area now known as Sherman Creek Park, including boating and STEM (science, math, technology, and engineering) educational programs for elementary school aged children in and around Washington Heights; and

**Whereas:** Row NY has been providing athletic and educational programming around crew and fitness as well as afterschool help for middle- and high-school children (i.e., grades 7-12) throughout New York City since 2012 and in the area of Community District 12, Manhattan since 2012, which are free to 80% of the children served as well as to those served with cognitive and/or physical disabilities; and

**Whereas:** the overwhelming majority of children engaged in Row NY's team rowing programs complete high school and go on to college, many on partial or full scholarships; and

**Whereas:** a presentation was made by NYC Parks architects, and representatives of both NYRP and Row NY at the September 5, 2017 meeting of the Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs (PCA) Committee for a conceptual site plan for the Sherman Creek waterfront park with expanded capacity and water access, a state-of-the-art boathouse, and an environmental education pavilion; and

**Whereas:** the plan will move existing programmatic components upland and make them more storm-resistant; and

**Whereas:** this proposed conceptual plan is consistent with the goals presented to the Committee in March 2015, Phase I of which was approved by the Community Board 12, Manhattan in April 2015; and

**Whereas:** the construction timeline envisions site remediation to begin within 12 months, and the new boathouse by 2022, with the total cost estimated at about \$25million, of which \$1.8million will be funded by the City of New York and the remainder raised privately NYRP and Row NY; now therefore, be it

**Resolved:** that Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposed conceptual design plan presented by NYC Parks, the New York Restoration Project and Row NY at the September 5, 2017 Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee meeting; and be it further

**Resolved:** that Community Board 12, Manhattan urges the Public Design Commission to support this project when it comes before the Commission for approval, and be it further

**Resolved:** that Community Board 12, Manhattan encourages Row NY to expand and improve its outreach to local middle schools and high schools to increase awareness of their programming in the community.

Sincerely,



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.  
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Signe Nielsen, NYC Public Design, Commissioner  
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman  
Hon. Amanda Kraus, Executive Director of Row NY

Hon. Marisol Alcantara, State Senator  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator  
71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District Office  
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member