



To: Community Board 2, Manhattan

From: Arlene Peralta, Senior Director of Community Affairs  
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Date: March 1, 2016

Subject: Responses to Community Board 2, Manhattan February 18, 2016 Arts and Institutions Committee Meeting Questions

As you requested, below please find answers to the questions that were asked at the February 18<sup>th</sup> Arts and Institutions Committee meeting. If anyone would like to receive updates about NYU construction projects in the area, please visit our construction page to sign up at <http://www.nyu.edu/community/nyu-in-nyc/construction.html>. As a reminder, the Bleecker Street Landscape and LaGuardia Place Landscape projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of March, weather permitting, and open in early April. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions during normal business hours, (Monday through Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm), at [community.affairs@nyu.edu](mailto:community.affairs@nyu.edu) or 212.998.2400. Outside of normal business hours, contact the [NYU Office of Facilities & Construction Management](#) at [contactcsc@nyu.edu](mailto:contactcsc@nyu.edu) or 212.998.1001.

1. What are the work hours?
  - a. *The work hours for the public open space projects on LaGuardia Place between West 3rd Street and Bleecker Street, and on Bleecker Street between LaGuardia Place and Mercer Street, are 8:00am - 4:30pm. The project manager has reminded the project team that work hours begin at 8:00am. If neighbors see work occurring outside work hours, they can contact the Office of Community Affairs immediately.*
2. What kind of pest/rodent mitigation measures are in place for these open space projects?
  - a. *Traps are being utilized for pest mitigation measures for the Bleecker Street Landscape and LaGuardia Place Landscape projects, in order to address pest/rodent issues while simultaneously protecting the area's red tailed hawks.*
3. Do the machines/trucks being used during this project have filters on them? If so, are they the highest maximum filters?
  - a. *The machines used for the open space projects use tier 4 diesel particulate filters. Tier 4 filters have the highest standard for filtering diesel exhaust emissions.*
4. The mesh makes the sites dark. Can they be removed after work hours or lowered so they only come halfway up the construction fence?
  - a. *We heard the community's concerns, and in response, the mesh has been removed from the construction fences.*
5. The construction fences are not secure. Can they be better installed?
  - a. *The project team was asked and has re-secured the construction fences to ensure that they are safely weighed down and anchored to the ground.*





6. Why can't the jersey barriers that block the Bleecker Street entrance to the Silver Towers plaza be opened outside of work hours?
  - a. *The Bleecker Street driveway to Silver Towers cannot be opened after work hours due to space and safety constraints. The Bleecker Street Landscape work site and construction fence encompass one lane of the driveway. Opening a single-lane driveway after work hours would cause a safety hazard for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, as there is only room for one lane of traffic when it is typically a two-way street.*
7. How can vehicular traffic know how to access Silver Towers and 505 LaGuardia from West Houston Street?
  - a. *The fire department was notified before the project began about the closure of the Bleecker Street driveway, and the reopening of the Houston Street driveway, leading to the Silver Towers plaza. Signage has been posted on Bleecker Street redirecting vehicles to West Houston Street, and a sign is being fabricated to help drivers identify the Silver Towers driveway on Houston Street. The installation of this sign is scheduled for the first week of March.*
8. The jersey barriers on Bleecker have resulted in extensive double parking on Bleecker Street. It is dangerous for pedestrians to cross the street. Can the area be made safe for pedestrians?
  - a. *While we can not stop vehicles from double parking, the jersey barriers have been installed to protect pedestrian traffic and provide separation of the temporary pedestrian sidewalk from vehicular traffic on Bleecker Street, as required by the Department of Transportation (DOT). While we understand that the temporary pedestrian sidewalk creates an inconvenience for pedestrians trying to cross Bleecker Street outside of the crosswalks, creating openings in the jersey barriers would also create a safety hazard for pedestrians.*
9. Can a sign be placed on Houston Street so vehicles can easily locate the Silver Towers plaza driveway entrance?
  - a. *A sign is scheduled for installation during the first week of March.*
10. The LaGuardia Place project is impacting the businesses on LaGuardia. Can we have wayfinding signs made for the businesses to post on the construction fences?
  - a. *NYU is working with the businesses on LaGuardia that would like wayfinding signs to be posted on the fence.*
11. Will the trash cans used on the sites be covered so rats cannot get in?
  - a. *The trash receptacles approved for the sites by the Public Design Commission are standard Parks Department receptacles.*
12. Why tear down a building without a plan for programming and design?
  - a. *There has been an extensive process to plan for the programming and design of 181 Mercer Street. The university is currently finalizing the details and will share them when plans are completed.*





- 13.** Why rush to tear down the building without adequate athletic and recreation replacement space?
- a. *The University has worked to provide students, staff, faculty, and community members with as many interim athletic facilities and options as possible. The University worked in close collaboration with the Coles Advisory Committee to accommodate the many users of NYU's athletic facilities during the time between the closing of Coles and the opening of the new facility with three main goals in mind:*
- i. *permitting student athletes to continue to compete;*
  - ii. *enabling others to exercise and stay fit; and*
  - iii. *minimizing lay-offs for Coles' student and professional staff members.*
- All of NYU's athletic teams will continue their roster of scheduled games. And the 404 fitness athletic facility, which opened on February 22, features the latest strength training and cardio equipment, as well as studios for dance and yoga — all in a fully air-conditioned, modern space. We understand that a transitional period nearly always presents challenges. Nevertheless, we've put a lot of effort into plans to reduce the hardships and inconveniences as much as possible.*
- 14.** What will be in the building?
- a. *Please see the latest update by going to the following website:*  
*<https://www.nyu.edu/about/university-initiatives/181-merc-street.html>.*
- 15.** Why is NYU using Turner Construction for the 181 Mercer building while they are suing the corporation for the work performed at the NYU Langone Medical Center?
- a. *NYU followed our normal practices for competitive bidding, Turner presented the best proposal, and they were selected on that basis.*
- 16.** Will the Washington Square Village driveways be taken offline to perform work?
- a. *At this time, work approved by ULURP on the Washington Square Village (north block) will not commence until after 2022. Routine maintenance work does occur in Washington Square Village from time to time and the Office of Community Affairs will notify the community if driveways are impacted.*