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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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May 25, 2018

William T. Castro
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
Arsenal West
24 West 61st Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10023

Dear Commissioner Castro:

At its Full Board meeting on May 24, 2018, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

1) Resolution in support of a project being developed by Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre in partnership with the Greenwich Village Society of Historic Preservation (GVSHIP), New York City AIDS Memorial, St. John's in the Village and The Stonewall Chorale inspired by the history of St. Vincent's that will be performed, in part, at the NYC AIDS Memorial Park in St. Vincent's Triangle.

WHEREAS

1. Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre is a multi-award-winning arts organization that has been based in the West Village since 1994; and
2. Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre is partnering with Greenwich Village Society of Historic Preservation (GVSHIP), New York City AIDS Memorial, St. John's in the Village and The Stonewall Chorale to present *St Vincent's Project: Novena for a Lost Hospital*, a new play that explores the 161-year history of St. Vincent's Hospital; and
3. The play, written by Village resident Cusi Cram, will be presented for 5 performances on June 12-15 and June 17 at the Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre's venue at 224 Waverly Place with the epilogue of the play being performed at the New York City AIDS Memorial Park in St. Vincent's Triangle; and
4. The epilogue of the play is an integral component of the play; and
5. The epilogue is expected to take place at approximately 9:00PM, last approximately 10-15 minutes and consist of an audience of approximately 80 gathered in a circle listening to The Stonewall Chorale singing Meredith Monk's "Wedding March" while watching a few dancers move at the center of the circle; and
6. The Stonewall Chorale will not be amplified; and

7. Passersby as well as people who are already at the memorial and who are not ticket holders are invited to stay and enjoy the epilogue; and
8. The intention of the piece is to create a meaningful piece of art by the community and for the community; and
9. St. Vincent's Hospital was a meaningful part of Village history and a community necessity, providing essential medical care to many, most notably local residents, patients afflicted with HIV/AIDS and victims harmed on 9/11; and
10. The presenters of the project are seeking a permit from the NYC Parks Department in order to be able to perform the epilogue at the New York City AIDS Memorial in St. Vincent's Triangle.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CB2 Manhattan strongly supports Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre's June 2018 performances of the epilogue of the play *St Vincent's Project: Novena for a Lost Hospital* in New York City AIDS Memorial Park in St. Vincent's Triangle and calls upon the NYC Parks Department to expeditiously approve the necessary permit for these performances.

VOTE: Passed, with 40 Board Members in favor.
1 Board Member in opposition. (C. Flynn)

2) Resolution regarding Community Garden style space at 76 Varick Street

WHEREAS

1. Whereas an organization called Grupo Gitano, d/b/a Gitano, is building a "fully outdoor tropical garden" restaurant in the empty gravel covered lot in Duarte Square bounded by Grand St. to the north, Varick St. to the west, Canal St. to the south and Sullivan St. and Duarte Square Park to the east and our SLA committee and our full board approved their plan in February 2018;
2. Whereas the plan also includes a separately accessed community garden style area, to be called Gitano Farm, which will grow herbs and vegetables in twenty raised beds, 333 square feet of growing space, spanning 1076 square feet with the capacity to host groups of students and run educational programming for the public;
3. Whereas the garden planner, Annie Harold, is the current Education Coordinator at the Battery Urban Farm in lower Manhattan and Grupo Gitano will partner with the Grow to Learn NYC citywide school garden initiative, and the garden will be built and maintained in conjunction with City-As-School and a representative came to the meeting and expressed her support and excitement about this opportunity;
4. Whereas Gitano Farm will be separated from the restaurant and bar area and our committees were adamant that such separation must be sufficiently significant to restrain students from entering the restaurant and restaurant patrons from entering the garden;
5. Whereas water systems are to be installed in the Square for the restaurant which will feed a drip irrigation system for watering the garden;
6. Whereas Group Gitano is requesting that an entrance be added to the fence on the eastern side of the project to allow direct access into the garden from the de-mapped block of Sullivan Street to be used by schools groups visiting the farm Monday-Friday from late morning through afternoon hours;\
7. Whereas the developer believes such an entrance will be safer for students than entering through the existing gate on Canal St.;

8. Whereas there was concern expressed that the large Citibike rack located on the southern side of Duarte Square Park can be very busy at times of the day with Citibike users and so the placement and operation of the gate must take this potential interaction into account;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 2, Manhattan supports the added entrance within the fence on the eastern section of the project on Sullivan Street

VOTE: Unanimous, with 41 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

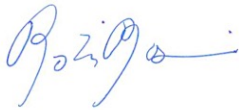
Sincerely,



Terri Cude, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair
Parks & Waterfront Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Robin Rothstein, Chair
Arts & Institutions Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TC/EM

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman
Hon. Nydia Velázquez, Congresswoman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senator
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