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## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

[www.cb2manhattan.org](http://www.cb2manhattan.org)

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: [info@cb2manhattan.org](mailto:info@cb2manhattan.org)

Greenwich Village ♦ Little Italy ♦ SoHo ♦ NoHo ♦ Hudson Square ♦ Chinatown ♦ Gansevoort Market

October 19, 2012

William T. Castro  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
NYC Department of Parks  
Arsenal West, 24 61<sup>st</sup> St.  
New York, New York 10023

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Castro:

At's Full Board meeting October 18, 2012, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

**A resolution favoring continued progress towards renovation of DeSalvio Playground, including receipt of a NYC Parks design by the end of the month (October, 2012), of a playground that reflects the needs of the community.**

**Whereas** DeSalvio Playground was last renovated in 1995 and is run down and underused by a growing population of families with children, who walk up to seven to ten blocks away to visit other downtown parks (such as Vesuvio Playground, Hester Street Playground, Washington Square Park, the Key Park and the newly opened Minetta Playground); and

**Whereas** renovation of this park is a high priority for parks in the CB 2 statement of needs; and

**Whereas** there is \$1.3 million total allocated to the renovation currently with funds provided by City Council Member Margaret Chin totaling \$620k (\$550k FY 2012 and \$70k FY 2013), by City Council Speaker Christine Quinn of \$305k in FY 2013 and by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer of \$375 in FY 2013 towards a budget previously estimated in November 2010 at \$1.3million; and

**Whereas** a site scope meeting was held in the park on October 1 and community envisioning event was held in the park on June 9; and

**Whereas** downtown Manhattan is experiencing an explosion of population of families with young and school-aged children; and

**Whereas** many playgrounds in CB 2 are frequently over-crowded and the nearby Key Park's future is uncertain; and

**Whereas** a variety of people use the playground throughout the day, including toddlers in the morning, children from nearby P.S. 130 afterschool and older children playing basketball well into the evening, young families throughout the weekend and adults playing chess, practicing Tai Chi or looking for a free bench, people who work in the area and eat lunch in the park midday, tourists with and without children taking a break from shopping in SoHo and NoLita or visiting historic Little Italy; and

**Whereas** the Parks Department officially designates DeSalvio a “playground”, thus including the citywide rule that all adults must be accompanied by a child, but the layout presently features no separation between adult use and child play areas; and

**Whereas** the interior of the park along Spring Street is lined with game and lunch tables that remain in good condition and are heavily used by the local community; and

**Whereas** there are numerous healthy large trees in this park; and

**Whereas** CB 2 would like to see a design for a playground incorporating the following:

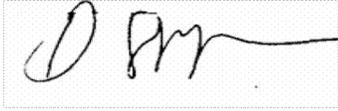
1. Re-imagined layout that maximizes square footage, softens lines using curved or rounded shapes to divide spaces and takes advantage of large blank walls by adding a climbing wall, trellis for vines or chalkboard paint.
2. New play equipment for the three age groups currently served by DeSalvio (under 2, 2-10 and preteen), incorporating challenging climbing equipment, possibly including a zip-line, climbing wall and a tire swing and a small area on northwest side for younger children with infant/toddler swings.
3. New concrete pavement.
4. New modern safety flooring that can be power-washed.
5. Half basketball court with new regulation lines, upgraded backboard, lighting and possibly the addition of a lower hoop for young children off to the side.
6. Sectioned off seating along Spring Street using a creative combination of planter boxes, benches and low fences to separate adult use and child play areas.
7. Small, maintainable plantings, ideally in planter boxes, but no shrubs that block the views through the park or extended planting areas that provide harborage for rodents, or take space away from use for children’s play.
8. Addition of a latch to the gate at the single playground entrance to allow easy opening and closure of the gate and to protect small children from exiting unescorted onto Spring Street.
9. A new spray shower, preferably with a) nozzles that are flush to the pavement so the area has no obstructions when the shower is not in use, b) a creative waterflow providing a more interactive play experience and c) a timer and reactivation button to reduce water consumption when the sprinklers are not in use by children. Chelsea Waterside Park and West Thames Park as well as Pier 25 all have strong examples of creative water features.
10. No tree removals.
11. Ample seating in the park accessible to all park visitors; however, all benches in the rear, southwest corner of the park should be removed, since this most remote corner of the park encourages loitering in the park by questionable adults who engage in many of the prohibited uses as outlined in Section 1.04 of NYC Parks Department Rules.

**Therefore it is resolved,** that CB 2 would like to see a NYC Parks design by the end of the month for a playground that reflects the needs of the community as stated both at the envisioning event and the scope meeting and requests that various options for challenging play equipment be presented to the Parks Committee as part of the proposed design, including monkey bars, zip-line, climbing structures and a tire swing.

**Vote:** Unanimous, with 42 Board members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



David Gruber, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

DG/gh

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman  
Hon. Sheldon Silver, Assembly Speaker  
Hon. Thomas Duane, NY State Senator  
Hon. Daniel L. Squadron, NY State Senator  
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member  
Hon. Christine C. Quinn, Council Speaker  
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member  
Hannah Friedman, Community Liaison, Man. Boro. Pres. Office  
Pauline Yu, Community Assistance Unit

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William T. Castro  
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Arsenal West, 24 61<sup>st</sup> St.  
New York, New York 10023

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Castro

At's Full Board meeting October 18, 2012, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

### **A resolution favoring a proposal for temporary art installation at Petrosino Park.**

#### **Whereas:**

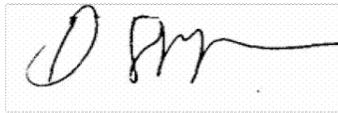
1. The artist Jessica Feldman presented the proposal to the committee, along with designer Steven Gertner and Parks Department public art coordinator, Jennifer Lantzas.
2. The art will be presented for a period from October 25th through November 25th of this year (installation beginning October 15th; de-installation culminating by December 2nd).
3. The piece, "*The Glass Sea*", is a looping video with sound, bricks, sand, and handwritten texts, detailing the schedules of workers, inmates, and patients on Riker's, Roosevelt, Governors, and Randall's and Wards Islands. It takes form as a free-standing brick room with video projected inside it.
4. The artist will monitor the installation, open it for viewing in the morning and close and secure it in the evening every day, and make repairs and adjustments as required on a regular basis.
5. The artist was very receptive and responsive to safety concerns raised by neighbors and committee members.
6. The location at the north end of the park is intended for temporary art installations and is the same location where the popular "*Survival of Serena*" by artist Carole A. Feuerman resided this past summer.

**Therefore it is resolved** that CB2 approves this proposal for a temporary installation by artist Jessica Feldman and appreciates the ongoing efforts of the Parks Department to enliven this space.

Vote: Unanimous, with 42 Board members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



David Gruber, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

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