



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JOHN WEIS
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

February 4, 2010

Jennifer Lantzas
Public Arts Coordinator
The Arsenal, Central Park
New York, NY 10065
212-360-8163

Re: High Line Art

Dear Ms. Lantzas

Manhattan Community Board No 4 thanks you for presenting the public art concepts that you are planning for or near the High Line elevated park. At our December meeting, you showed two concepts that you said would have about a one-year life span: The Richard Galpin proposal that for a viewing device and screen that would reframe the view from a fixed point on the High Line, and the Kim Beck proposal for one or more “naked billboard” sculptures on the roofs of neighboring buildings. You indicated that the proposals had been approved by the Parks Commissioner and the Deputy Mayor, and asked for our input.

Assuming that public works of art under consideration fall within generally accepted standards of appropriateness, Manhattan Community Board No 4 will generally not comment on the aesthetics of any particular work of art, however, we applaud the initiative to provide such works and are pleased to support the program in concept.

We also urge you to continue to bring such proposals as the two presented to the Community Board in the future, as we appreciate being able to see the proposals before they are realized. In general, there are two concerns we might have regarding any public art proposal. One is the context of any historic buildings upon which works of art might be attached (potentially the case with the billboard sculptures). We would want to ensure that such works do not negatively impact the integrity of such historic buildings. The second is the degree to which works of art might either impact the views (in this case from the High Line) or create undesirable shadows. Happily, neither of the two proposals presented seems to raise any of these concerns.

We look forward to the installation of these and similar works of art in our community.
Thank you for your consideration of our opinions.

Sincerely,



John Weis
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Lisa Daglian
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

CC: CB4 Elected Officials