



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

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

December 9, 2013

Maria Torres-Springer  
Chief Operating Officer  
Friends of the High Line  
529 West 20th Street, Suite 8W  
New York, NY 10011

**Re: "Bowl" over West 30<sup>th</sup> Street and Tenth Avenue**

On November 14<sup>th</sup> Community Board Four's Waterfront, Parks, and Environment Committee hosted a presentation by the Friends of High Line about the High Line's planned "Bowl" over Tenth Avenue at West 30<sup>th</sup> Street (the Bowl). The presentation took the time to review the status of section 3, but the real focus was a presentation of the Bowl.

The 100 foot by 80 foot bowl is in an advanced stage of concept design. The committee found the design to be attractive and intriguing. It will permit visitors a wooded retreat away from nearby, extremely tall buildings approaching 1000 feet in height. The Bowl will include restroom facilities as well as backroom storage for the High Line itself. The approximate cost of Section 3 of the High Line will be:

\$37M	Section 3 Phase 1 (from end of Section 2 to 34 <sup>th</sup> Street)
<u>\$39M</u>	<u>Section 3 Phase 2 (Passage + Spur and Bowl)</u>
\$76M	Total

Sources of funding for Section 3 are as follows:

\$29M	Related funding required through the Eastern Rail Yard text amendment
\$11M	City/Council contribution
<u>\$36M</u>	<u>Friends of the High Line funding (currently in process)</u>
\$76M	Total

The committee appreciated the addition of this potential amenity to our community while it also had several concerns.

When asked where the rainwater would go, the committee was told approximately 70% water would be absorbed by the plantings within the Bowl and the rest would go into the storm water/sewage system as is the case with much of the High Line. We suggested the High Line consider a storm water retention system and, importantly, include appropriate public education

surrounding that effort. We are pleased to have learned that the High Line is seriously considering this suggestion and look forward to understanding how it has been incorporated into this project.

A committee member also wondered what the effect of reflected light from surrounding tall buildings' reflective surfaces would have on those using both the Bowl and the rest of the spur. This space seems perfect for public events or shows. The committee is concerned that these events be limited in number and that they do not include closing of nearby sections of the High Line or the streets below.

We appreciate the continued conversation the High Line has had with us about their plans for our community including a recent tour of Section 3 and look forward to continuing conversations.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christine Berthet", is shown within a light gray rectangular box.

Christine Berthet  
Chair

[signed 12/9/2013]

Maarten de Kadt  
Co-Chair, Waterfront, Parks  
& Environment Committee

[signed 12/9/2013]

Delores Rubin  
Co-Chair, Waterfront, Parks  
& Environment Committee