



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for April 2016

Catherine McVay Hughes

April has been another productive month throughout our District. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better for everyone. Here are some of the important issues and milestones that we have worked on with fellow board members, CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you!

Updates

- Welcome to five new volunteer CB1 members appointed by Borough President Brewer. They will be joining the following committees and will have the following mentors:
 - **Charlotte Soehner** (Youth and Education and Quality of Life); Fern Cunningham
 - **Laura Starr** (Financial District and Planning); Marco Passanella
 - **Elizabeth Goody** (Battery Park City and Planning); Kathleen Gupta
 - **Manuel Romero** (Tribeca and Youth & Education); Elizabeth Lewinsohn
 - **Vikram Lulla** (Financial District and Quality of Life); Pat Moore
- **CB1's New Member Mentorship Program** – continues; thank you to our five volunteer mentors
- **Resiliency** – two developments in April as we seek support at all levels of government to begin the necessary and overdue work to prepare our neighborhood and City for climate change:
 - **\$100MM** that City put in for Lower Manhattan's Natural Disaster Recovery Competition (NDRC) will now be allocated only south of Brooklyn Bridge for CB1's "Manhattan Tip," according to Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency. The \$100 million in dedicated City funds helps to reach the City's estimate of \$234 million needed to finance the "Manhattan Tip" hardening project. Thank you Senator Squadron, Manhattan Borough President Brewer, US Congressmen Nadler, Councilmember Chin and Mayor de Blasio and Office of Long-term Resiliency (04/11/16)
 - **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** – City has submitted an application to the State to use HMGP funds to provide coastal storm protection for Lower Manhattan south of Brooklyn Bridge through the northern tip of Battery Park City. The State has placed "Manhattan Tip" on the contingency list of projects for remaining HMGP funding. Should additional HMGP funding become available, we urge the State to prioritize funding for this project, and to work with the City to explore additional avenues to secure funding and to ensure that CB1's needs are met
- **75 Morton School** – NYC Department of Education (DOE) announced that the new West Village Middle School's Zone will include Lower Manhattan after months of debate. A final DOE proposed zone map includes elementary schools P.S. 89 and P.S. 276 in Battery Park City, and P.S. 234 in

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TriBeCa. Parents in TriBeCa and Battery Park City wanted to be included in the zone, because Baruch Middle School, their current zoned school, while well-liked by parents, is on First Avenue and East 21 Street which is too far a journey for most families on the west side Downtown. The Community Education Council will vote on the proposal on May 3 and there will be a public comment session before the vote. Comments will also be accepted via email: CEC2@schools.nyc.gov, before the meeting. Thank you NYC DOE, CEC2, NYC Councilmember Chin, Borough President Brewer, Senator Squadron and Assemblymember Glick (04/21/16)

- **Battery Park City Authority deployed Allied Barton Ambassadors to PS/IS 89 and PS/IS 276 during morning drop off and afternoon dismissal times** – this deployment of resources was in direct response to a CB1 request. This assistance serves as a supplement to school crossing guard services, which more actively help children cross intersections and control traffic flow around schools. Crossing guards are typically hired by the local precinct (letter, 03/24/16):
 - Monitoring traffic flow around the school and deterring the double parking of vehicles, requesting driver to move if necessary
 - Monitoring crosswalks and, when observed, proactively alerting any pedestrians of approaching hazards
 - Providing a walking escort to pedestrians across the street when natural traffic flow allows enough time for the pedestrians to cross safely
 - Reporting incidents or conditions to appropriate authorities, Allied Barton and the BPCA
- **Skies over NYC free of tourist helicopters on Sundays for the first time in recent memory** (04/03/16)
- **South Street Seaport** – planned quarterly meetings with NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) moving forward; no project can move forward at the New Market site without a full ULURP review by Community Board 1, the Borough President, the City Planning Commission and the City Council for disposition of the property from EDC to Howard Hughes Corporation (HHC), even if it is just for a property disposition without any additional land use actions. HHC will have to return to CB1 for a joint committee meeting for modifications to the 2013 Pier 17 ULURP, consistent with the Landmark Preservation Commission package; Joint Landmarks and Seaport/Civic Committees on Tuesday, May 17th at 6pm
- **Lower Manhattan DOT office is discontinued as of May 1** – monthly meetings have ended but Borough Commissioner will consider request to resume them. Senator Squadron is hosting a press conference on Wednesday, April 27th at 10am on the City Hall Steps to urge the City not to eliminate lower Manhattan construction coordination; encourage you to attend
- **Worth Street Reconstruction Project begins on 05/02/16** – Department of Design and Construction scheduled to begin between Church and Lafayette
- **Safety measures for Hawthorne School buses for William and Ann Streets** – NYC DOT stated that they will be installing signage and markers to improve safety (04/19/16)
- **346 Broadway Clock Tower** – decision issued by State Supreme Court Judge Lynn R. Kotler sided with preservationists who had sued the Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC), ruling that it had “no rational basis” to permit the owners of 346 Broadway to eliminate public access to the clock and tower, both of which are designated landmarks (03/31/16)

- **LPC approved relocation of the Tin Building at South Street Seaport** (03/24/16)
- **396 Broadway scaffold collapse** – NYC DOB “regarding the above address, 1 ECB CLASS 1 was issued for failing to safeguard public and property during construction operations at this address. See complaint number 1420780. The ECB issued was ECB #35180303X, in addition to a partial Stop Work Order to allow contractor to make the site safe.” (04/11/16)
- **Sandy-damaged Vietnam War Memorial to get \$1.2MM FEMA-funded restoration** – by NYC Parks; follow-up to last year’s meeting/walkabout at 55 Water Street (April)
- **One World Observatory has received the platinum award for Leadership in Energy and Environment Design** – highest honor presented by the U.S. Green Building Council (April)
- **MTA's Fulton Transit Center awarded LEED® Silver Rating** (03/16/16)

Events

- **Government of Ireland and the Irish Community Official Centenary Commemoration of the Easter Rising** – joined Consulate General of the Republic of Ireland, Battery Park City Authority President Hyman, Manhattan Borough President Brewer, Senator Mitchell and other for the 100th anniversary commemoration ceremony of the Easter Uprising (Wagner Park, BPC, Sunday, 04/24/16)
- **Tribeca Family Festival Street Fair** (Saturday, 04/23/16)
- **Poem in Your Pocket Day Celebration at Poet’s House** – read from Dr. Suess’ **The Lorax** “UNLESS” (04/21/16)
- **Unveiling of Street Sign for November 25, 1783 Evacuation Day Plaza** – joined Lower Manhattan Historical Society, Bowling Green Association, United States Marines, NYC Councilmember Chin, Downtown Alliance President Lappin, Deputy Borough President Washington, Captain Jonathan Boulware and others (Bowling Green Plaza at flag poles, 04/21/16)
- **Battery Park City Authority Quarterly Open Community Meeting** (6 River Terrace, 04/13/16)
- **Battery Park City Day Nursery’s Celebrating Our Youngest Learners Music Monday** – joined Denise Cordivano, Head of School, for outdoor family sing-a-long at volleyball court near marina (04/11/16)
- **Governors Island Tour** – joined by Wendy Chapman, Bob Schneck, Diana Switaj, Cammie Flippen with Urban Fellows (04/08/16)
- **The Flea's Topping Out Ceremony at 20 Thomas Street** – thank you Wendy Chapman (03/27/16)

Testimonies

- **Licensing Ticket Vendors** – at New York City Council Committee on Consumer Affairs Hearing; thank you Diana Switaj, Director of Planning and Land Use for testifying (04/12/16)
- **Water Street Upgrades Text Amendment N 160166 ZRM** – at City Planning Commission Public Hearing; thank you Diana Switaj, Director of Planning and Land Use for testifying (03/30/16)

Meetings

- **Continuity of Operations with Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Region II and Borough President’s Office** – organized a meeting with FEMA representatives and Matthew

Washington and Ahmed Tigani to improve emergency preparedness for community boards and small businesses (04/22/16)

- **Manhattan Borough Board** – voted on two resolutions in support of (04/21/16):
 - **Enhanced tenants' rights** – NYC Council Intro 214-A, Creating a Right to Counsel for Low Income Tenants Facing Eviction Through Legal Proceedings and/or any other measure that would guarantee and provide such right to counsel
 - **Sustainable built environment** – just in time for Earth Day, the adoption of International Passive House Standards for New York City and potential application to new building construction and renovation as well as normalize a zero-net and renewable energy code for sustainable development
- **Spring Studio Tour** – requested that they return to Tribeca Committee soon for update since their rooftop patio and workspace are almost completed (04/21/16)
- **New CB1 Member Training** – with CB1 staff; thank Patrick Kennell, Jeff Ehrlich and Alice Blank for joining (04/20/16)
- **Con Edison Worth Street meeting convened by Senator Squadron** – with Bruce Ehrman (04/20/16)
- **60 Hudson Street Management meeting convened by Senator Squadron** – joined by NYC Department of Transportation, Bruce Ehrmann and Jeff Ehrlich (04/20/16)
- **NewYork-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital Community Advisory Board** (04/13/16)
- **9/11 Memorial World Trade Center Health Effects Discussion** – joined by two other WTC Scientific Technical Advisory Council (STAC) members with museum staff on institutional health effects initiatives including May 23-30th and 15 year anniversary (04/11/16)
- **School Overcrowding Task Force convened by Assemblymember Glick, Borough President Brewer, Senator Squadron, and Councilmember Chin** – School Construction Authority, principals, parent representatives and Tammy Meltzer, Wendy Chapman and Patrick Kennell attended (04/08/16)
- **World Trade Center Health Program Survivors Steering Committee** – Bob Schneck attended (04/07/16)
- **NYC Economic Development Corporation** – discussed South Street Seaport; joined by Roger Byrom, Marco Pasanella, Diana Switaj and Michael Levine (04/07/16)
- **Westfield WTC** – joined by Diana Switaj (04/07/16)
- **Impactinfrastructure** – joined by Diana Switaj (04/06/16)
- **Douglas Elliman Real Estate Committee** – guest speaker; attended with Bruce Ehrman (04/06/16)
- **100RC (Resilient Cities)** – Vera Sung, small business owner and resident, represented CB1 sharing both the post-9/11 rebuilding process and Sandy at the Living Lab discussion at PANYNJ (03/31/16)

Announcements

- **Michael Ketring** and **Patrick Kennell** appointed as Parliamentarian and Co-Parliamentarian
- **Reggie Thomas** and **Vik Lulla** have been appointed to the Street Fair Task Force
- **Susan Wu** decided not to reapply; thank her for her volunteer service
- [Battery Park City Authority Releases 2016 Summer Events Calendar](#) (04/20/2016)