



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3
59 East 4th Street - New York, NY 10003
Phone (212) 533-5300 - Fax (212) 533-3659
www.cb3manhattan.org - info@cb3manhattan.org

Gigi Li, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

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LMDC Public Forum re Reallocation of Funds

Community Boards vote on priority capital projects for their Districts every year. For several years, and for the current fiscal year, the number 1 capital priority for Community Board 3, Manhattan has been funding for **Pier 42**, a major new park for lower Manhattan. The CB's priorities are a reflection of the many times our residents have reaffirmed that creating waterfront access at Pier 42 and providing amenities needed by the community is currently the most important capital project.

This project already has LMDC funding for phase 1, which is greatly appreciated by the CB 3 community. We believe it makes most sense to allocate funding to continue a project that has received so much support. The current interim use, including programming by community organizations, of the temporary space is proof that this space is both needed and well used and will be a great benefit. The Parks Department has already completed plans for the full development of the park—so this project will not be held up by outreach for design and approvals if additional funding were provided now.

We believe that there are other projects in our area that deserve your support. Community Board 3's number 2 capital budget priority is funding for **Sara Delano Roosevelt Park** to reconstruct park pathways, adjacent brick walls, fencing and sidewalks. This important park, which serves much of the lower Manhattan area, is very heavily used and until a few years ago was in very bad shape. You previously provided funding for our new playground at Hester Street and for the multi-purpose field north of Canal Street, which were major improvements. But a lot more work is needed to make this park a real asset to the community. CB 3 has supported ongoing efforts to eliminate hazards, create accessibility and improve safety. This is another project that does not need to wait for extensive design approvals and outreach before assigning a contract, and we urge you to allocate funding for the additional improvements needed in this park as well.

The centrally located **Allen/Pike Street Malls**, which connect the Lower East Side and Chinatown to the East River, have been a Community Board 3 capital priority for many years. There is a stark difference between the six very beautiful malls that have been reconstructed with LMDC's support in the past and the seven remaining malls. The decrepit condition of these remaining malls attracts garbage and abandoned bikes as well as other complaints. Businesses lining Allen Street, including hotels, have expressed that the decrepit malls are bad for tourism, and some of these businesses have offered to help with maintenance after reconstruction. The reconstructed malls are well used and appreciated, and the remaining malls have become a blight that could become an attractive part of the community if LMDC would help us finish this project. We therefore urge you to provide sufficient funding to the Parks Department to reconstruct the remaining malls.

Of the 10 potential projects LMDC is considering, Pier 42 and part of the esplanade are the only projects in CB 3. Our Board is fourth out of the 59 boards in the City in income inequality.¹ We hope that LMDC will consider equitable distribution when deciding on final projects.

Thank you for listening to our testimony to ensure that the Lower East Side and Chinatown benefit from this additional round of funding from LMDC.

¹ Furman Center. (2015). State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods in 2014.
<http://furmancenter.org/files/sotc/NYUFurmanCenter_SOC2014_HighRes.pdf>.