



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for May 2015

Catherine McVay Hughes

Community Board 1 has had another extremely productive month since our April monthly meeting. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better and stronger. Here are some of the important issues and milestones that we have worked through with fellow board members, the CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you, everyone!

Updates

- **South Street Seaport Walkabout at Pier 17** – with CB1 staff members and representatives from NYC Economic Development Corporation, Department of Transportation and representatives of all elected officials with Seaport/Civic Center and Landmarks Committee leadership to discuss emergency demolition of Cooler Areas of Tin Building and New Market Building (05/19/15)
- **Reincorporation of WTC into the fabric of the community:**
 - **PATH Platform B opened** (05/07/15)
 - **Liberty Street northside opened** for pedestrian traffic between Church and Greenwich Streets (05/05/15)
 - **1 WTC west plaza along Route 9A opened**
 - **Pedestrian managers at the intersection of South End Avenue and Liberty Street during the morning and evening rush** – will continue until both the north and south sidewalks on Liberty Street between West Street and South End Avenue are open to pedestrian traffic while Liberty Street overpass is under construction; thanks to fruitful discussions between Battery Park City Authority and Brookfield (beginning 05/11/16)
- **WTC Liberty Park Tree Planting** – joined PANYNJ Executive Director Foye and Director of WTC Construction Steve Plate to plant the first trees on WTC Liberty Park, 1 1/2 acres of public open space which is anticipated to open in spring 2016 (05/18/15)
- **Two-way traffic (east and westbound) will be returned soon to Chambers Street between Broadway and West Broadway**
- **New granite bike lane on Varick Street** (south of Canal) – is now open for riders. Happy cycling! (05/08/15)
- **Liquor license applications** to CB1 in Tribeca will now require a map of where the applying establishment will be located

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Press Conferences

- **Honor Her** – hosted by the award-winning New York City Rescue Mission (NYCRM) to honor and serve women in need; for Mother’s Day, served 500 women and their families who are in desperate need of food and encouragement (05/09/15)
- **Federal Transportation Funding Rally** – led by Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, Chair of Transportation Committee, and Council Member Margaret Chin, focused on issues such as: keeping our roads in good shape, making sure we can pay for good, safe street redesigns, and expanding local transit service, among other things (05/04/15)

Testimony

- New York City Council Committee on Government Operations Public Hearing on Int. No. 732-2015, a Local Law to amend the New York City Charter in relation to making **urban planning professionals available to community boards**, as well as term limits for board members – joined Diana Switaj and Michael Levine (04/30/15)

Events

- **South Street Seaport Museum’s Wavertree Send-off** – joined Captain Jonathan Boulware and Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Thomas Finkelppearl and others for a celebration of the cargo ship. The 130-year-old ship represents the worldwide fleet of sailing vessels that gave South Street its moniker, the "Street of Ships;" thank Cultural Affairs, Mayor's Office, and City Council for funding the \$9M restoration project (05/21/15)
- **Hermione @ The Seaport**– sponsored by Lower Manhattan Historical Society and South Street Seaport Museum; an exhibit honoring visit of Hermione July 1- July 4 (World Trade Gallery, 05/21/15)
- **Marked founding of New York Stock Exchange at Buttonwood Tree on Broad Street** – with Lower Manhattan Historical Society (05/18/15)
- **Church Street School of Music and Art 25th Birthday Party Annual Block Party** (05/17/15)
- **BLOOM at Elizabeth H. Berger Plaza** – joined Downtown Alliance, NYC Council Member Chin and Yume Kitasei, Bob Schneck and others to plant new flowers to spruce up area (05/16/15)
- **Downtown Boathouse at Pier 26 Opening Day** – raising of American flag with Morris Chan from Borough President Brewer’s office; free kayaking, for volunteer opportunities and hours: <http://www.downtownboathouse.org/pier26/> (05/16/15)
- **[AIGA/NY DESIGN/RELIEF during NYCxDESIGN 2015](#)** – Panel, “Catch&Release” project on place-making for the South Street Seaport (05/15/15)
- **NIOSH World Trade Center Health Program** – Research Principal Investigator Spring/Summer Meeting (05/06-07/15)
- **Borough President Brewer Small Business Roundtable** – with Borough President Brewer, small business owners, community boards, agency representatives; Borough President Brewer's report, "[Small Business, Big Impact: Expanding Opportunity For Manhattan Storefronts](#)" (05/06/15)

- **NYC Comptroller Stringer's Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month** (05/05/15)
- **FDNY 150 Year Anniversary** – volunteered to represent Borough President Brewer at the FDNY150 open houses on Liberty Street; presented Citation to commemorate occasion and thanks (05/02/15)
- **Poets House Poem in Your Pocket Day** (04/30/15)
- **Council Member Chin's Town Hall meeting on Aging-Friendly Neighborhood Study Project in Lower Manhattan** – joined Ruth Ohman and Bob Townley (5/1/2015)
- **Affordable Housing: Rent and Reality - de Blasio Series Panel** – with Diane Lapson; conversation included NYS Assembly Member Wright, Tenants & Neighbors, The Hudson Companies and NYU Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy and Center for NYC Affairs, The New School (04/29/15)

Meetings

- Manhattan Borough Board (05/21/15)
- Hudson River Park Trust (HRPT) Advisory Committee Meeting – joined Bob Townley; working on pedestrian and bike safety and Pier 26's Boathouse lights to work again on the waterfront side (05/18/15)
- Pace University Class Presentations – joined Professor Michael Levine for preliminary survey results for Seaport/Civic Center (05/06/15) and Battery Park City (05/15/15) which will be presented in June
- Tour of Pier 26, HRPT – Tribeca leadership and Planning staff (05/13/15)
- The Trust for Governors Island Meeting of the Directors (05/12/15)
- Lower Manhattan Development Corporation Board of Directors Meeting (05/05/15)
- New CB1 Member Orientation – joined by Borough President Brewer (04/30/15)

Announcements

- Appointed Deron Charkoudian as Chair of Street Fair Task Force
- Community Board Leadership Development Series, Spring 2015 – a variety of free classes sponsored by Manhattan Borough President Brewer – to register contact Paola Liriano at (212) 669-2094 or pliriano@manhattanbp.nyc.gov
- Warrie Price, President of The Battery Conservancy was elected to honorary membership into the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
- CB1 will be moving to new offices at end of June 2015; details to follow
- Hermione Lafayette – will be docked at the South Street Seaport from July 1 – July 4. “The Hermione is an impeccable replica of the three-masted frigate that, in 1780, carried the marquis de Lafayette to America. Lafayette committed French power, prestige and resources to the spunky Americans’ Revolution of Independence.” When Hermione’s recent transatlantic voyage is complete, she will visit historic ports of call along the East Coast and arrive in New York on July 1. Parade of Ships at New York Harbor July 4, 2015 to register: parade.hermione2015.com