

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – COMMUNITY BOARD 12-MANHATTAN

APRIL 17, 2023

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR OF CB12M TO PROVIDE THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK J. MAX BOND CENTER FOR URBAN FUTURES WITH A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A GRANT APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Whereas: The City College of New York (“CCNY”) J. Max Bond Center for Urban Futures (the Bond Center”) in partnership with faculty from the CCNY Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership and the CCNY Department of Sociology is pursuing a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant (the “Grant”) to collaborate with Community Board 12-Manhattan (“CB12M”) to perform applied research on topics that address issues or challenges that impact housing, community and economic development, and the built environment; and

Whereas: The Bond Center, a CCNY Applied Research Center located within the Spitzer School of Architecture, is founded on the legacy of architect and Washington Heights resident J. Max Bond, Jr. (1935-2009) and the City College Architecture Center (CCAC), which operated in the 1980s and 1990s as an influential pro bono architecture and planning service for underserved communities throughout New York City; and

Whereas: In 2008 CB12M completed a districtwide Neighborhood Planning and Land Use Study (the “Study”) in partnership with CCAC. The Study represents the first and to-date the only comprehensive planning study undertaken by CB12M for Washington Heights and Inwood. Since completion of the Study, the Land Use Committee and the Bond Center have discussed opportunities for further collaboration such as updating the Study, creating a digital planning platform for CB12M, and assisting CB12M to evaluate Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine’s Housing Opportunities plan. In support of these future collaborations, the Bond Center is pursuing a grant under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Research Center of Excellence program; and

Whereas: The collaboration with the Bond Center and other departments of CCNY will enable CB12M to undertake activities related to community engagement, collaborative research focused on addressing key community concerns related to the built environment such as housing, land use, zoning, economic development, and climate change, and to access resources with CCNY. The application must include a letter from CB12M stating its support for the application and its commitment to partner with the Bond Center to research and address key community concerns related to the built environment. The deadline for submitting the grant to HUD is June 1, 2023. The Bond Center requests CB12M’s letter by May 15, 2023; and

Whereas: At the April 17, 2023 Executive Committee meeting, the Land Use Committee Chair discussed the Bond Center’s request for CB12M to provide a letter of support and commitment to accompany its grant application to HUD; now, therefore be it

Resolved: Community Board 12-Manhattan authorizes the Board Chair to provide the Bond Center with a letter of support and commitment for submission with its grant application to HUD.

The Resolution was approved with the following votes: 17-0-0



Community Board 12M

530 West 166th Street, 6th floor – New York, NY 10032

Phone (212) 568-8500 Fax (212) 740-8197

www.nyc.gov/mcb12

Katherine Diaz, Chair
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

May 7th, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Community Board 12 Manhattan is pleased to offer this letter of commitment to continue our collaborative relationship with The City College of New York and the J. Max Bond Center for Urban Futures in support of their application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) FY 2022 HSI) Research Center of Excellence funding opportunity.

The collaboration between The City College of New York (CCNY), the J Max Bond Center for Urban Futures, affiliated academic departments, and Community Board 12 Manhattan is a dynamic partnership that brings together the expertise of academics, policymakers, and community members to address key community concerns related to the built environment, housing, land use, zoning, economic development, and climate change.

At the heart of this collaboration is a commitment to community engagement, collaborative research, and resource sharing. Faculty from CCNY and affiliated academic departments work closely with the committees and members of Community Board 12 Manhattan to identify and address the most pressing issues facing the community. This partnership is built on a foundation of mutual respect, trust, and a shared vision for positive change in the community.

One of the key goals of this collaboration is to produce critical and timely new knowledge that is disseminated directly to the communities, policymakers, and the public at large. This is done through funded collaborative research projects that leverage urban and demographic data to inform policy and practice. In this role the partnership seeks to democratize the understanding and use of relevant urban data by making it accessible to the community and engaging community members in the research process. This approach ensures that the research findings are relevant, meaningful, and actionable for the community.

The collaborative research efforts focus on addressing key community concerns related to the built environment such as housing, land use, zoning, economic development, and climate change. For example, research projects continue to explore innovative approaches to affordable housing, sustainable and equitable land use planning, or economic development strategies that prioritize community needs and promote equitable outcomes. The research is conducted with rigor and academic excellence, while also being guided by the practical needs of the community and its residents.

The partnership ultimately seeks to leverage the proposed research findings for actionable urban innovations. This involves working closely with policymakers and other stakeholders to translate research into policy recommendations, urban design strategies, and other practical solutions that can address the community's concerns. The collaborative nature of the partnership allows for a rich exchange of ideas, perspectives, and expertise, resulting in innovative and effective solutions that more broadly and equitably serve the community and its residents.

Since 2018 – 2022, the collaboration between CCNY, the J Max Bond Center for Urban Futures, affiliated academic departments, and Community Board 12 Manhattan has been a robust and supportive partnership that fosters community engagement, collaborative research, and actionable urban innovations. We remain committed to this collaboration and its goals through the production, dissemination, and translation of critical new knowledge into practical solutions that address key community concerns and contribute to positive change in the built environment, housing, land use, zoning, economic development, and climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Diaz".

Katherine Diaz, MA
Chair