Jeannine Kiely, *Chair*
Susan Kent, *First Vice Chair*
Valerie De La Rosa, *Second Vice Chair*
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*

Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Eugene Yoo, *Secretary*
Ritu Chattree, *Assistant Secretary*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899
www.cb2manhattan.org
P: 212-979-2272 **F**: 212-254-5102 **E:** info@cb2manhattan.org
Greenwich Village ❖ Little Italy ❖ SoHo ❖ NoHo ❖ Hudson Square ❖ Chinatown ❖ Gansevoort Market

October 29, 2021

Jennifer Maldonado
CEO
NYC Education Construction Fund
30-30 Thomson Ave. Room 4-4021
Long Island City, NY 11101

Meisha Ross Porter
Chancellor, NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear CEO Maldonado and Chancellor Porter:

At its Full Board meeting October 21, 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in Support of Redevelopment Guidelines for a New School Building for NYC iSchool and Chelsea Career & Technical Education High School

Whereas:

1. To ensure Education Construction Fund (ECF) builds a 130,000 sq. ft., as of right school, at 429 West 36th Street for Chelsea Career & Technical High School and NYC iSchool;

2. The design phase of the new school building will commence in 2022 with construction to be completed in 3-4 years thereafter;

3. ECF intends to enter a 99-year lease agreement with the developer, Tribeca Investment Group, and further intends to issue bonds with a 40-year maturity;

4. The two high schools serve different demographics of students: Chelsea Career and Technical High School serving 95% students of color, 74% male students and 84% students in poverty[1] versus 46% students of color, 54% female students and 44% students in poverty[2] at NYC iSchool;[3]

[1] https://insideschools.org/school/02M615

[2] https://insideschools.org/school/02M376

[3] https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Education/2019-20-Demographic-Snapshot-School/nie4-bv6q

5. ECF will build a new state of the art building pursuant to School Construction Authority guidelines which includes a separate Gym, Library, Cafeteria, Auditorium, Science Lab, Art Lab, and locker rooms which will all be ADA accessible.

6. Jennifer Maldonado, ECF Chief Executive Officer has agreed to return with the developer to present renderings of the school to CB 2.

Therefore Be It Resolved that CB 2 Manhattan urges the Educational Construction Fund to:

1. Support school redesign plans that create an equitable distribution of shared spaces between NYC iSchool and Chelsea Career & Technical Education High School;

2. Return with the Tribeca Investment Group and renderings of the building as soon as possible;

3. Return with the environmental impact of building a school near the Lincoln Tunnel; a) safety and air quality studies b) and transportation studies.

VOTE: Unanimous, with 42 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,

Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Patricia Laraia, Chair
Schools and Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/EM

c: Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Yuh-Line Niou, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, NYC Council
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member
Hon. Mark Treyger, Council Member
Hon. Helen Rosenthal, Council Member
Erik Bottcher, Chief of Staff – City Council Speaker
Sayde L. Campoamor, Director of Community Affairs, NYC DOE
Marisol Rosales, Executive Superintendent, Manhattan, NYC DOE
Kelly McGuire, District 2 Superintendent, NYC DOE

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October 29, 2021

Meisha Ross Porter
Chancellor
NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Nina Kubota
President & CEO
NYC School Construction Authority
30-30 Thomson Ave.
Long Island Cit, NY 11101

Karen Goldmark
Deputy Chancellor
NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Andrea Bender
Chief of Staff
NYC School Construction Authority
30-30 Thomson Ave.
Long Island Cit, NY 11101

Dear Chancellor Porter, President & CEO Kubota, Deputy Chancellor Goldmark and Chief of Staff Bender:

At its Full Board meeting October 21, 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in Support of Ensuring the Bleecker School is Built:
An Option Worth $65 Million to NYC Taxpayers

Whereas:

1. To ensure that the Department of Education (DOE) retains its option — worth $65 million — to build the Bleecker School — a 100,000 sq. ft., K-8 public school on New York University-owned land — the DOE must either fund the cost of the construction of a school before the option expires on December 31, 2021 or extend the option date [1];

    a. The Bleecker School was a key component of NYU's community giveback agreement as part of its 2012 rezoning;
    b. **If the Bleecker School option expires on December 31, 2021, earmarked funds will transfer to NYU.** Based on the average price per buildable square foot in Manhattan, and the lack of vacant land in Greenwich Village, NYU will collect a windfall of over $65 million in taxpayer funded value transfers, which will not be utilized to increase much needed public school seats in CB 2.

[1] For additional details, view http://bit.ly/BleeckerFAQ.

c. From 2014 to 2020, CB 2 has passed six resolutions in support of funding and building the Bleecker School, including our September 2019 resolution: *Dyslexia Education: A Critical Equity Issue for NYC Students – in support of 1) implementation of early screening, curriculum development, teacher training, programs and schools to support and teach children with dyslexia in NYC public schools and 2) the creation of a DOE public school program for dyslexic students at the Bleecker School Site* and our July 2020 resolution: *Resolution In Support of New York University and Trinity Real Estate Commitments to NYC for the Bleecker School and Hudson Square School and Public Recreation Space*.

2. December 2019, downtown elected officials sent a letter to the DOE in support of exploring the "possibility of creating a DOE public school program for dyslexic students" at the Bleecker School site[2];

3. In November 2019 and February 2020[3], the DOE Capital Plan included language that the DOE "intends to exercise" its option;

4. In February 2021[4], the DOE Capital Plan included revised language that "the DOE has been working with NYU to extend the period to exercise the option to develop a school at Bleecker Street and LaGuardia Place;"

5. On October 7, 2021, elected officials once again urged the (SCA) and (DOE) to intervene to meet the extended deadline that NYU has offered and would like to meet and discuss how they can commit to building a school at 130 Bleecker Street.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Community Board 2 urges the SCA and Department of Education to:

1. Confirm its intention to construct a school on Bleecker Street before it loses the option and the site return entirely to NYU's control;

2. Immediately advocate to meet the extended deadline NYU has offered, and meet with CB 2 to discuss ways the Community Board 2 can support the DOE's commitment to citing the school at 130 Bleecker Street;

3. Continue to support that when the Bleecker School is funded and built, it serves the educational needs of our community, with particular focus on the possibility of developing a school to serve students with dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities.

VOTE: Unanimous, with 42 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,

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[2] Letter and Restrictive Document available on CB 2 website at https://www1.nyc.gov/html/mancb2/html/newpublicschools/trinityschool.shtml.

[3] SCA and DOE, FY 2020 - 2024 Five-Year Capital Plan, Proposed Amendment, February 2020. For Bleecker School, see page 16. https://dnnhh5cc1.blob.core.windows.net/portals/0/Capital_Plan/Capital_plans/02202020_20_24_CapitalPlan.pdf?sr=b&si=DNNFileManagerPolicy&sig=I0uRPmk95aGbwzaOUCMHOZ71nBES%2FZ2YKSlzY1xJ4n0%3D.

[4] SCA and DOE, FY 2020 - 2024 Five-Year Capital Plan, Proposed Amendment, February 2021. For Bleecker School, see page 16. SCAhttps://dnnhh5cc1.blob.core.windows.net/portals/0/Capital_Plan/Capital_plans/02012021_20_24_Capital%20Plan.pdf?sr=b&si=DNNFileManagerPolicy&sig=WwokI89NRTMiZswqQQcotO34SDL/1bY9Ks4b9zn2UQI=

Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

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Schools and Education Committee
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JK/EM

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Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
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Adrienne Austin, Deputy Chancellor of Community Empowerment, Partnerships, and Communications
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