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## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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### PARKS & WATERFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING

March 2, 2022

The Parks & Waterfront Committee of Community Board #2, Manhattan, held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 6:30 via Zoom.

The meeting covered one topic: NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and NYC AIDS Memorial presented two temporary public art installations for St. Vincent's Triangle scheduled to be installed in May 2022, ahead of Pride Month.

**Board Members Present:** Rich Caccappolo (Chair); Susanna Aaron (Vice Chair); Coral Dawson; Chris Dignes; Matthew Metzger; Shirley Secunda; Kristin Shea; Georgia Silvera Seamans; Frederica Sigel

**Board Members Absent Without Notice:**

**Board Members Absent with Notice:**

**Public Members Present:** Elizabeth Gilmore; Sharon Woolums

**Public Members Absent with Notice:** Nancy Brous

**Other Board Members Present:** Jeannine Kiely (CB2 Chair); Carter Booth; Brian Pape; Donna Raftery

In total, approximately 26 people attended the meeting.

**There were no resolutions created from this meeting.**

### MINUTES

Presentation by representatives from the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) and NYC AIDS Memorial of two temporary art installations in St. Vincent's Triangle:

Elizabeth Masella, Senior Public Art Coordinator for DPR, introduced Dave Harper, Executive Director of the NYC AIDS Memorial, with whom she has been working to install two temporary public art installations in St. Vincent's Triangle in May 2022, ahead of Pride Month. Mr. Harper presented, as he had to our CB2 Arts & Culture Committee in November:

#### **Installation 1:**

Artist(s): Jim Hodges

Sponsoring Organization(s): New York City AIDS Memorial

Title: *Craig's Closet*

Site: St. Vincent's Triangle, Manhattan – in the grassy area of the park

Dates: May or June 2022 – May 2023

Material: Black Marble (Granite)

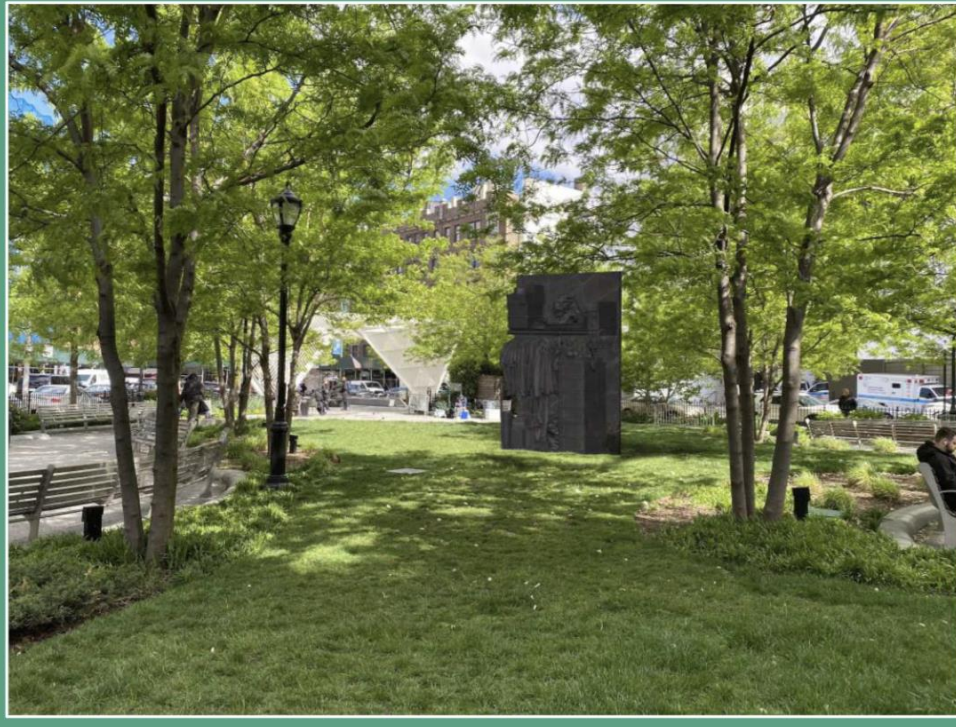
Dimensions: size of a closet - 7 ft. 6 in. high x 4 ft. 9 in. wide x 2 ft. 4.5 in. deep (sculpture);

1 ft. 6 in. below grade x 6 ft. wide x 3 ft. deep

Weight: approx. 4,000 lbs. (sculpture); 4,050 lbs. (concrete foundation)

Summary of project: This sculpture is a tribute to the artist's life partner Craig Ducote, who died from cancer in the summer of 2016. Hodges kept his room exactly as he had left it, not moving an item for over a year. During those months of undisturbed stillness, he documented every detail and carefully recorded every arrangement. For Craig, each cherished item resonated with love and joy across a spectrum of modest things.

Design rendering of *Craig's Closet*:



## Installation 2:

Artist(s): Steven Evans

Sponsoring Organization(s): New York City AIDS Memorial

Title: *Songs for a Memorial*

Site: NYC AIDS Memorial at St. Vincent's Triangle, Manhattan

Dates: May 2022 – July 2022

Material: LEDs, electrical components, hardware

Dimensions: Variable

Weight: no more than 20 lbs. each

Summary of project: it will be a site-specific work, created for the New York City AIDS Memorial, comprised of multicolored LED neon lights. It is meant to simultaneously evoke memory, history, joy, and loss. The artwork is a monument to a time in New York. "It is intended to be part of a continuation of public expression in Greenwich Village, another paragraph in a story that includes the Stonewall Rebellion, Félix González-Torres' 1989 billboard work presented in Sheridan Square, and the New York City AIDS Memorial that the work compliments and amplifies." The 1970s to 1990s songs are referenced in the work are songs that generations of people who lived with and died from HIV/AIDS listened, loved, and danced to in New York City. They are also songs that have been the soundtrack to countless memorial services that celebrate and mourn the loss of loved ones.

It will be launched with a "silent disco" event.

Design rendering of *Songs for a Memorial*:



Both projects were planned for 2019 but were delayed.

Neither project is planned to have accommodations for the hearing impaired, but signage will be included – both park signage and QR codes that when scanned bring visitors to the web site for more explanations of the art work.

**Other NYC AIDS Memorial initiatives:**

- Quilt making workshops are planned for fall 2022 (location to be announced) at which attendees will be able to create new panels for the AIDS Memorial Quilt – “the largest folk artwork on the planet”. These workshops will be presented in partnership with community organizations, including the Whitney Museum, will be free (materials provided), open to all, and will facilitate learning and contributions. First one is targeted for October.
- Skateboard deterrents will be installed this spring 2022 on the granite benches and steel legs of the Memorial to deter the use of the Memorial as a skateboarding destination.
- A pedestrian plaza buffer between traffic on Greenwich Avenue and the park, from Bank St. to the corner of the park at 12<sup>th</sup> St. – delineated with paint on the street and planters and additional seating – tis being planned for this year or next year.

**Unrelated topic raised at the meeting:**

There was a question / challenge raised by an attendee about the planned use of the north side of the water tunnel site at Clarkson St. and Hudson St. The speaker suggested that the north space should be used for park space, not affordable housing, which was recently announced as a side deal of the Soho / Noho Rezoning plan. The speaker stated that that decision (to use it for affordable housing) should be discussed more broadly. A committee member replied stating that more affordable housing is required in our community and that the topic should be discussed outside our committee meeting. I mentioned that we are re-opening discussions with the Hudson Square Bid (and all interested constituents) about development of at least the southern section of the site as a park.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Caccappolo,  
Chair, Parks & Waterfront Committee  
Community Board 2, Manhattan