

Susan Kent, *Chair*  
Valerie De La Rosa, *First Vice Chair*  
Eugene Yoo, *Second Vice Chair*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*  
Amy Brenna, *Secretary*  
Mark Diller, *District Manager*

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE  
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

[www.manhattancb2.org](http://www.manhattancb2.org)

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Greenwich Village ✦ Little Italy ✦ SoHo ✦ NoHo ✦ Hudson Square ✦ Chinatown ✦ Gansevoort Market

May 24, 2023

Anthony Perez  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
Arsenal West  
24 West 61<sup>st</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
New York, NY 10023

Hon. Mark Levine  
Manhattan Borough President  
1 Centre Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Perez and Borough President Levine:

At its Full Board meeting on May 18, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

### **A Resolution in Support of Increasing Community Resiliency and Quality of Life through New York City Urban Forest Canopy Protection, Maintenance, Expansion, and Planting.**

WHEREAS, the urban forest refers to the more than seven million trees in New York City and the physical and social infrastructure on which they depend;

WHEREAS, the urban forest canopy refers to the area of the tree leaves, branches, and stems when viewed from above;

WHEREAS, the urban forest is found on both public and private lands, including parks, streets, NYCHA campuses, schools, businesses, institutions, and private residences with approximately 28% in city parks, 25% in the public right-of-way, and 47% on other property types citywide;

WHEREAS, the urban forest serves as critical natural infrastructure and provides myriad social, environmental, and economic and public health benefits, including but not limited to cooling, shading, energy efficiency, cleaner air, stormwater absorption and filtration, increased property values, enhanced mental and physical health, and improved business activity;

WHEREAS, extreme heat and flooding are a threat to the health, wellbeing, and economy of our communities and the New York Panel on Climate Change predicts up to 3-5 times the number of extreme heat days and 1.5 times the amount of precipitation by the 2080s;

WHEREAS, the urban forest canopy is disproportionately distributed throughout the City and communities of color and low-income communities tend to have significantly less canopy while often

being more vulnerable to heat and other health risks and African Americans in the city are twice as likely to die from heat exposure as white New Yorkers, according to the city's health department;

WHEREAS, each Community District has a unique distribution of urban forest canopy across property types;

WHEREAS, the urban forest canopy cover of New York City is approximately 22 percent and of Manhattan is roughly the same and our Community Board area's is estimated to be 13.7% (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5353de3dea91420faaa7faff0b32206b>);

WHEREAS, there is significant opportunity to expand the urban forest in New York City and some estimates suggest that at least a million more trees could be planted across public and private land, and realizing this opportunity requires the whole city and all Community Districts;

WHEREAS, urban forest canopy expansion requires protecting existing trees, planting more trees, and maintaining all trees, therefore, be it

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 2:

- Supports the 5 Borough Presidents' goal of planting a million more trees by 2030, and
- Endorses the NYC Urban Forest Agenda, and
- Adopts a goal of potentially doubling canopy, equitably distributed, for our Community District; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 2 calls on the City to investigate budget allocation to:

- Continue towards the goal of MillionTreesNYC to plant at least one million new trees citywide across public and private lands with an emphasis on increasing equity in canopy distribution by expanding canopy in the most heat vulnerable communities and in other environmental justice communities
- Implement the NYC Urban Forest Agenda which sets a citywide goal of equitably achieving at least 30% canopy by 2035
- Develop and implement a citywide Urban Forest Plan that centers health, well-being, climate resilience, equity, environmental justice, and sustainability
- Support the development of community-scale urban forest plans and goals
- Invest in urban forestry workforce development
- Increase and equitably distribute public funds for public urban forestry projects
- Strengthen regulations and develop incentives to protect and increase urban forest canopy on private property
- Develop and establish tree planting and management standards for all property types
- Develop enabling conditions to transform wood waste into a sustainable local resource
- Track canopy health and change over time
- Invest in citywide stewardship education and events

Vote: Passed, with 39 Board members in favor.  
2 Abstain (Z. Kazzaz, E. Olson)

We respectfully request that your agency take action consistent with the positions expressed in the attached.

Sincerely,



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks & Waterfront Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Susan Kent, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/em

cc: Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman  
Hon. Brian Kavanaugh, NY State Senator  
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, NY State Senator  
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member  
Hon. Grace Lee, NY Assembly Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council Member  
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member  
Hon. Carlina Rivera, NYC Council Member  
Steve Simon, Chief of Staff, Man. Borough Commissioner

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May 24, 2023

Elizabeth Masella  
Senior Public Art Coordinator  
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
Arsenal West  
24 West 61<sup>st</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
New York, NY 10023

Nicholas Baume  
Artistic & Executive Director  
Public Art Fund  
1 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Ms. Masella and Mr. Baume:

At its Full Board meeting on May 18, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

### **A Resolution in Support of Installation of a New Mural at James J Walker Park in the Court Space.**

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Masella, Senior Public Art Coordinator for the Department of Parks & Recreation presented their plan to employ artist, Livia Mourao, to install a mural on the west and north walls of the court space, which is west of the pool and east of the ballfield at James J Walker Park;

WHEREAS, Ms. Mourao presented her design for a 6 ft high and 62 ft long painting on the walls that will combine “iconic art images...while "generating" an emotion, created by the rearrangement of symbols and composition...” (inspired by) Monet and Hockney, two of her favorite artists.

WHEREAS, the mural will take 7 to 10 days to complete and all the materials will be provided by artist (exterior paint, i.e., AURA by Benjamin Moore);

WHEREAS, the walls do not require patching; the artist will prime them before painting the mural;

WHEREAS, the implementation date is not yet set, but the installation timeline is flexible and once installed the mural is permitted to remain for one year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 2:

- Supports the plan to install this mural at James J Walker Park, and

- Thanks Ms. Masella and Ms. Mourao for bringing this project to our community, and
- Looks forward to the installation of it.

Vote: Passed, with 39 Board members in favor.  
2 Abstain (Z. Kazzaz, E. Olson)

We respectfully request that your agency take action consistent with the positions expressed in the attached.

Sincerely,



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks & Waterfront Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Susan Kent, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

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