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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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October 2, 2025

Elizabeth Masella
Senior Public Art Coordinator
1234 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10029

Dear Elizabeth Masella:

At its Full Board meeting on September 18, 2024, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

A Resolution Supporting A Temporary Public Art Installation - *Public Address* by Alex Strada - at Lt. Petrosino Square

WHEREAS:

1. Elizabeth Masella, Senior Public Art Coordinator at NYC Parks, presented details of an upcoming temporary public art installation at Lt. Petrosino Square, titled *Public Address*, created by artist Alex Strada as part of the Public Artist in Residence (PAR) program; and
2. The artist, embedded with the Department of Homeless Services since 2022, developed the project through conversations with more than 500 people living and working in shelters, resulting in artworks that highlight lived experiences of homelessness, seek to dispel harmful stereotypes, and encourage civic responsibility; and
3. the exhibition will feature ten artworks of varying size and format, fabricated in durable materials by the NYC Department of Transportation, with larger works freestanding on concrete bases and smaller pieces securely mounted on fencing, ensuring minimal impact on existing park surfaces; and
4. the project is supported by Storefront for Art and Architecture, which will provide programming, installation assistance, and maintenance, and will include an opening event on October 18, 2023, as well as additional community programs; and
5. Friends of Petrosino Square have expressed strong support for the project, viewing it as an opportunity to renew public interest in the park, which has a long history of hosting public art installations; and
6. the exhibition will ultimately travel to sites in all five boroughs, ensuring that the dialogue sparked by this work reaches diverse communities across New York City; and
7. community members raised ongoing concerns regarding the unfulfilled 2021 DOT commitment to conduct a \$500,000 study to “Reimagine Petrosino Square,” as well as issues of park maintenance, tree loss, irrigation needs, and the lack of a dedicated gardener; and

8. Parks staff agreed to relay these concerns to the borough office and other relevant agencies, and the community hopes that the exhibition will catalyze renewed attention to these long-standing commitments and site needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 2, Manhattan supports the temporary installation of *Public Address* by Alex Strada at Lt. Petrosino Square, applauds its mission to humanize and give voice to individuals experiencing homelessness, and recognizes its potential to re-engage the public with this important neighborhood park; and that CB2 urges NYC Parks and DOT to act on prior commitments regarding Petrosino Square's redesign, expansion, and long-term maintenance, including the provision of irrigation infrastructure and dedicated gardening staff, so that the park can continue to serve as a vital site for public art and community gathering.

Vote: Unanimous, 33 Board Members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



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



Valerie De La Rosa, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

VDLR/em

cc: Tricia Shimamura, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, Parks
Steve Simon, Chief of Staff to Manhattan Borough Commissioner, Parks
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council Member