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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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

January 24, 2014

Jackie Snyder
Executive Director
Public Design Commission of the City of New York
City Hall, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Snyder,

At its Full Board meeting January 24, 2014, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Application: The Whitney Museum of American Art is seeking approval by the Public Design Commission (PDC) for a “Distinctive Sidewalk Design” on Gansevoort Street, starting west of the High Line Park and continuing to Washington Street and north on 10th Avenue to the end of their property, involving:

- 1) Changing the scoring pattern in the concrete from standard Department of Transportation (DOT) spacing of 5’ to 6’8”
- 2) Changing the color of the concrete from the standard DOT typically employs to a slightly different color that matches the paving of the Whitney’s “Largo” (open area) and coordinates with the building facade
- 3) Reinstalling the current steel curb face

WHEREAS the Whitney Museum is a welcome and important addition to the CB2 area, especially the Gansevoort Market neighborhood; and

WHEREAS no one from the area surrounding the Whitney location attended this hearing or registered any complaints; and

WHEREAS the Whitney takes up most of the block west of the High Line Park; and

WHEREAS other parts of nearby blocks and sidewalks in other locations in the CB2 area have changes in sidewalk scoring patterns, materials, colors and curb face; and

WHEREAS while there was some concern that a sidewalk matching the Whitney’s property might give the impression that the sidewalk is part of the Whitney property, but the stairs and change of grade from the Largo to the sidewalk create a delineation between the private Largo and public

sidewalk, and there is a consensus that matching the sidewalk to the Largo scoring pattern and the Whitney's vertical panels makes the block more visually cohesive; and

WHEREAS CB2 was not presented with the final texture of the proposed sidewalk and expressed concern that it be safe especially in freezing conditions and the Whitney representatives stated that plans are for either a fine-broom or a troweled finish and they are committed to working with DOT for an approved finish; and

WHEREAS there was discussion about the steel curb face and whether matching the sidewalk across the street was a better or worse choice than continuing the granite curb face on the adjacent High Line sidewalk, but since the existing condition is a steel facing, and both steel curbs and granite curbs are found throughout the Meat Market area, there was no objection.

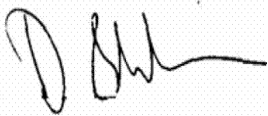
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: CB2 Manhattan supports the application by the Whitney Museum of American Art for its proposed Distinctive Sidewalk Design in scoring pattern, color and curb face, deeming it in context with the museum and an attractive finishing point to the block, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: CB2 Manhattan calls upon the Whitney to assure that the texture and final finish of the sidewalk meet or exceed all DOT safety regulations and be selected carefully to assure pedestrian safety.

VOTE: Unanimous, with 36 Board members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



David Gruber, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Terri Cude, Chair
Arts and Institutions Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

DG/ch

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member
Pauline Yu, Community Assistance Unit