



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

November 3, 2011

Ann Weisbrod
President
Hudson Yards Development Corporation
225 West 24th Street, Suite 1402
New York, New York 10122

**Re: Hudson Park and Boulevard
Updated Design dated October 24, 2011**

Dear Ms. Weisbrod:

Manhattan Community Board 4's (CB4) Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land Use (C/HKLU) Committee reviewed the updated design for Hudson Park and Boulevard (the "Park") at its Committee meeting on October 12, 2011. CB4 is appreciative of the opportunity to review the most current design concept and pleased with the progress that has been made since the Board's previous letter to you dated July 27, 2011.

West 33rd – West 34th Streets: Block #1

The Board continues to be pleased with, and support, the updated design for Block # 1, which consolidates the planting areas from the originally proposed eight, down to six, thereby enabling the creation of an expanded lawn area to provide much needed passive recreation space. CB4 also continues to appreciate the reduction of bollards so that they surround only the #7 Subway entrances, which creates a much more welcoming appearance. CB4 appreciates the elegant design of the canopies.

West 34th – West 35th Streets: Block #2

CB4 is pleased that the ice skating ribbon has been removed from the design for Block #2. The ice skating ribbon overwhelmed the space and consumed too much of the available open space for a feature that was only operable a few months out of the year. The replacement of the ice ribbon with three large water features is a well thought out and inviting design. CB4 particularly appreciates the increased amount of seating which is incorporated into the perimeter of the fountains. This creates a very welcoming and appealing space for neighborhood use.

West 35th – West 36th Streets: Block #3

CB4 is pleased that the updated Park plans continue to feature a substantial playground on Block #3, between West 35th and West 36th Streets. Play space for children is greatly needed in Hell's Kitchen and will support the existing and expanding residential population of the neighborhood in the West 30's. The larger playground will also help to animate the Park. CB4 understands the concerns about permeability and access and appreciates the decision to intensify the play features instead of expanding the play area. CB4 is particularly pleased with the inclusion of the large geodesic dome play structure and the talking tubes. The increased amount of structures to interact with and play on greatly enhances the play area. Additionally, use of a shade structure to protect the people using the play area until the space is shaded by the buildings to be developed is a smart and well-conceived idea.

CB4 appreciates thoughtful and engaging public art and would like some information about the public art that is planned for the Park. Additionally, CB4 requests to be involved with the structure of the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the maintenance of this site as upkeep of public spaces is a high priority for the Board.

CB4 values the ongoing design dialogue with HYDC. We appreciate your continued responsiveness and look forward to working with you to create an attractive and usable design.

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson, Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Elisa Gerontianos, Co-Chair
Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land Use Committee

[signed 11/3/2011]

Gretchen Minneman, Co-Chair,
Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land Use Committee

cc: NYC Council Member Gale Brewer
NYS Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal
NYS Senator Thomas Duane
NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
Congressman Jerrold Nadler
Amanda Burden, Edith Hsu-Chen, Keith O'Conner, Erika Sellke – Department of City Planning
Gail Benjamin, Danielle DeCerbo – City Council Land Use Division
Public Design Commission

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CJ', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Corey Johnson
Chair