



CITY OF NEW YORK
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD
FOUR**

424 West 33rd Street, Suite
#580 New York, NY 10001
tel: 212-736-4536
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

February 10, 2023

Ton Marx
President & CEO
New York Public Library
5th Avenue and West 42nd Street
New York, New York 10018

Re: Support for Capital Project at Columbus Branch Library 742 10th Avenue

Dear President Marx,

Thank you for considering these comments and for the critical public service your agency provides through its programming, spaces, and the vast amount of rich content you make available free of charge to New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds, as well as visitors to our city. This letter includes comments and recommendations from the Arts, Culture, Education & Street Life (ACES) Committee of Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4). The comments were approved at the February 1st, 2023, Full Board meeting with **40** in favor, **0** against, **0** abstaining and **1** present but not eligible to vote.

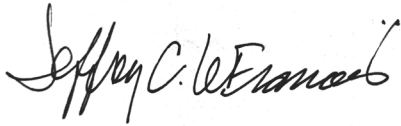
MCB4 appreciates staff from NYPL joining us at our January ACES meeting to share updates on the agency's work citywide and on the facilities and programming at public library sites in our district. Based on our conversation at the January meeting and past discussions between MCB4 staff and NYPL staff, the ACES committee of MCB4 has the following recommendations:

1. **Invest in on-going maintenance of physical facilities** – The Columbus branch in our district has not received the requisite upkeep it needed over a long timeframe and consequently will need to be closed while it undergoes substantial and expensive repairs. The cost of making facilities repairs has ballooned from \$800,000 when the need for repairs was initially identified in 2017 to \$8,000,000 today. In the future, prevent renovation and construction costs from growing substantially and branches needing to close their doors to public for long periods of time by prioritizing addressing issues when they surface, rather than once they have compounded in both scope and cost.
2. **Increase transparency around facilities work** - Communicate more proactively and provide more details about why certain projects and branches are selected as priorities or deprioritized, both in terms of facilities repairs and improvements.

MBC4 looks forward to continued engagement with NYPL and will continue to be an avid supporter of the essential work your agency does for our neighborhoods and the people who live in and visit them.

Thank you again for your crucial services to our district and our city.

Sincerely,



Jeffery LeFrancois
Chair
Community Board 4



Allen Oster
Co-Chair
ACES Committee



Kit Tollerson
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

CC: Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor, City of New York
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough Presidents office
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council.