



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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District Manager

March 9, 2023

Angela R. Cavaluzzi, AIA
President
Hudson Yards Development Corporation
c/o New York City Economic Development Corporation
One Liberty Plaza, 165 Broadway. 14th Fl.
New York, NY 10006

Re: Bella Abzug Park Blocks 5 & 6 Design

Dear President Cavaluzzi,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) would like to thank Hudson Yards Development Corporation (HYDC) for their detailed presentation on the design plans for the new parts of Bella Abzug Park on Blocks 5 and 6. At its March 1st Full Board meeting, MCB4, by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions and 0 present but not eligible, approved the following comments.

MCB4 appreciates the elements and design of this newest addition to Bella Abzug Park accompanying the already renovated park Blocks 1 - 4. The impressive design map incorporates many of MCB4's suggestions including separated playground space for younger and older children, a multi-leveled topography and an abundance of trees and greenery. We expect these highlights will make this section of Bella Abzug Park a destination spot for both residents and visitors.

As we move forward in the design process, MCB4 would like to make the following suggestions:

1. Please utilize green energies to power this section of the park including but not limited to solar and renewable lighting. This is an important request as all new builds should undoubtedly transition to clean energy systems.

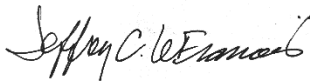
2. We applaud the creative design of the children's play area and particularly note the additions of imaginary play elements and physically challenged access. The bridge and towers feature will undoubtedly be popular but we request the theme reflect New York City and the George Washington Bridge rather than what now appears to be associated with other cities.
3. Incorporate a usable water feature in the children's play area. This will be especially useful in the warmer months.
4. Consider planting larger trees providing for a broader canopy.
5. Install environmentally friendly refillable water bottle stations.
6. Ensure public, accessible WiFi throughout the park.

We hope the above suggestions will be seriously considered as plans are tweaked. The one component where MCB4 is resolute is the incorporation of clean, green energy and elements in this new, renovated space, such as the aforementioned solar lighting and discussed clean water storage.

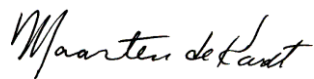
MCB4 also notes our continued support for installing permanent shared streets or widening the Bella Abzug Park on blocks four and five between West 36th and West 38th Streets.¹

MCB4 would like to reiterate its pleasure and anticipation moving forward with this impressive design.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Maarten deKadt
Co-chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee



Leslie Boghosian Murphy
Co-chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee

¹ <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2022/06/14-TRANS-Letter-to-HYDC-HYHK-in-Support-of-a-Shared-Street-Design-for-Hudson-Blvd-East.pdf>