

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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LESLIE BOGHOSIAN MURPHY
Chair

NELLY GONZALEZ
Acting District Manager

July 1, 2026

Commissioner Sandra Escamilla-Davies
NYC Department of Youth and Community Development
2 Lafayette Street, 19th Floor
New York NY 10007

Re Reinstate Hudson Guild as an afterschool provider for PS 33

Dear Commissioner Sandra Escamilla-Davies

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) Executive Committee, at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 22, 2026, voted unanimously to request that the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) reinstate Hudson Guild as the afterschool provider for P.S. 033 Chelsea Prep. If Hudson Guild is not reinstated as an afterschool provider, MCB4 further requests that discretionary funding be made available to support critically needed after-school programming at P.S. 033. We appreciate the visit by Council Member Carl Wilson to MCB4's Full Board meeting on June 3, 2026, to highlight this issue. We also are grateful for the visit by Ken Jockers, Executive Director of Hudson Guild, to the Arts, Culture, Education, and Schools Committee on June 8, 2026.

In May 2026, families and educators across Schools District 2 were blindsided by the result of DYCD's afterschool procurement process that eliminated contracts with trusted and long-standing providers in the district including Hudson Guild. School communities were left in the dark about how the new contracts, that begin in the fall and are expected to run through 2032, were selected.

Hudson Guild, located at 441 W. 26th Street in a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Elliott Chelsea building, has served neighborhood families for decades. Their free educational programming provides a continuum of care for children at every stage including Universal Pre-K, K-5th grade after-school, summer camp, and programming for teens and young adults tailored to meet the specific needs of the community. This includes structured academic support, cultural enrichment, activities for recreation and physical health, and programs designed to help children transition from one stage to the next.

Hudson Guild's afterschool program is primarily attended by students at P.S. 033 Chelsea Prep, an elementary school located at 281 9th Avenue, also on the NYCHA Elliott Chelsea campus. P.S. 33 is a Title 1 school serving a student population that is 57% economically disadvantaged with 110+ students living in shelters. Hudson Guild's

afterschool program supports more than one hundred students from the end of the school day until pick up time, providing students with a safe and supportive learning environment. The extended day care also allows parents and caregivers the opportunity to be employed, to find employment, and to further their own education.

Without Hudson Guild, P.S. 33 families will have to rely on a provider that is thirty blocks outside of their neighborhood. Parents and caregivers will have the additional expense of a subway or car fare to pick up their children as it is too far for young children to walk, especially at night and in inclement weather. The transportation expense and the distance pose unnecessary challenges for low-income families who must now find additional resources and time to commute to and from the new provider.

To further complicate matters, the proposed NYCHA Fulton Elliott Chelsea (FEC) demolition reconstruction project, expected to last 18 to 32 years, will pose significant challenges for families living and attending school on the campuses and necessitate a provider who understands the issues at hand and can address the specific needs of students. The elimination of Hudson Guild afterschool programming at this crucial time will exacerbate the anxiety felt by students, parents, and caregivers and raise questions about the city's willingness to support families through the redevelopment.

MCB4 is concerned that DYCD's procurement process of afterschool contracts has created a desert of care on the western corridor of Schools District 2. There is only one free afterschool provider from Canal Street to 59th Street that may not adequately support the many other children in need of essential extended day programming (aside from the students at P.S. 033) which include:

- Children at Fulton Houses
- Children at Elliott Chelsea Houses
- Children residing in area shelters
- Children attending P.S. 051 Elias Howe at 525 W. 44th Street, where 75% of students are economically disadvantaged and 140+ students are in temporary housing
- Children at P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs at 440 W. 53rd Street where 72% of students are economically disadvantaged and 120+ students are in temporary housing.

Due to this shortage of free after-school providers in our district and the unusual circumstances that the FEC redevelopment poses for students and families at P.S. 033,

MCB4 requests the following:

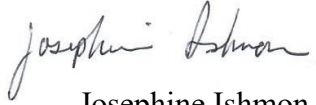
1. Reinstate Hudson Guild as an afterschool provider for P.S. 033.
2. If Hudson Guild is not reinstated, allocate discretionary funds to P.S. 033 to support 100+ students on the school site.

MCB4 is grateful for the support of our elected officials and looks forward to a response from DYCD. We are committed to ensuring that our highest needs students have equitable access to critically needed extended day care in their neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Leslie Boghosian Murphy
Chair
Manhattan
Community Board 4



Josephine Ishmon
Co-Chair
Arts, Culture,
Education, and Schools
Committee

Jeffrey Gardner
Co-Chair
Arts, Culture,
Education, and Schools
Committee

cc: Hon. Erik Bottcher, NY State Senate
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Julie Menin, NYC Council Speaker
Hon. Carl Wilson, NYC Council Member
Kelly McGuire, District 2 Schools Superintendent, NYC Dept. of Education
Ken Jockers, Executive Director, Hudson Guild