



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JOHN WEIS
Chair

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

March 2, 2011

Noreen Doyle
Acting President
Hudson River Park Trust
Pier 40, 353 West Street
New York, New York 10014

Re: Sculpture in Chelsea Waterside Park

Dear Ms. Doyle:

On two occasions a group headed by Delay Gazinelli called Chelsea Sculpture Park has presented to Manhattan Community Board 4 a concept to display public art pieces (sculptures) in portions of Chelsea Waterside Park. The pieces would be selected by the organization with the aid of local art dealers, and the organization would be responsible for all costs and other issues relating to the installations, and would, of course be subject to normal HRPT procedures already in place for the display of public art in Hudson River Park. After careful consideration, the board is willing to conditionally endorse this concept, with several important caveats and/or stipulations.

Name

The sponsoring organization has been using the name "Chelsea Sculpture Park" not only for the organization itself but also for the installation and the section of the Hudson River Park in which it to be located as well. The Hudson River Park Act effectively defines the portion of the Hudson River Park in which the installation is to be located as the section of the Chelsea Waterside Park west of Rout 9A, and this usage should be followed. The extensive area and elaborate design of this section of the Hudson River Park are due in large part to the efforts of the Chelsea Waterside Park Association, and the usage of the name Chelsea Waterside Park in the Act and in the community nearby is recognition of this fact.

Governance

The governance of the section of the Hudson River Park in which Chelsea Sculpture Park is to be located, as well as the rest of the park, remains with the Hudson River Park Trust, and it is the

Trust that has jurisdiction over the area and should ensure that the installation will be carried out in accordance with the provisions referred to in this letter and with the safety and welfare of the park. The Trust contains many sculptures and works of art – indeed the section of the Chelsea Waterside Park west of the highway is a significant work of the distinguished landscape architect Van Valkenburg.

Term

The board's conditional approval is for three seasons only of 9 months (the time span put forward by the organization). At the end of each term, the objects will be removed and the grass or other surface shall be restored to its original condition by the organization. After the first year, the board will re-consider whether or not to renew its approval for future years, and what stipulations may be attached to any future approvals.

Number of Pieces

The board's conditional approval is for a maximum of 8 pieces total within the combined area of Piers 62, 63, 64 and the upland areas east to Route 9A.

Locations

Proposed locations of pieces will be submitted by the organization to the Trust in accordance with the Trust's own policies and subject to its own rules and regulations. The board's approval specifically excludes the larger lawn bowl on and east of Pier 63. It is expected that the Trust will not permit pieces to be placed in areas not suitable for the size and/or weight of the pieces being proposed. The board has no comment as to whether the 8 pieces (maximum) be placed in close proximity to each other or be scattered widely, although the presentation by the organization seemed to indicate the latter.

Intent

This approval is not intended to circumvent or fast track any procedures already in place by the Trust for the placement of public art in Hudson River Park. However, the approval does recognize that the placement of up to 8 pieces within the area described above is of a greater density that is currently found park wide, and the board has no objection to that.

Esthetics

The board has no comment, and generally will not comment, on the esthetics of individual works of art and assumes that the Trust will apply normal standards of decency accorded to all public art in parks or other public locations in the city. The board reserves the right to comment on such things as placement, view, size and scale of pieces installed by the organization, and to consider these types of non-esthetic criteria in considering future renewals of its approval.

Sincerely,



John Weis
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

[signed 3/3/11]
Carmen Matias
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Cc: Chelsea Waterside Park Association, Chelsea Sculpture Park