

August 1, 2002

Angela Molenaar
Eyebeam Atelier
45 Main Street
12th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: Design for building

Dear Ms. Molenaar:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 thanks you for your presentation and comments on the design of the future building on the Eyebeam Atelier site on 21st Street at the Chelsea Preservation and Planning Committee on May 20th of this year. After this discussion the Committee decided to review the potential impacts from the height, envelope, and other aspects of the so far undefined building on contextuality in the area and the precedent it might set for future zoning and construction.

As a result of this review the Board wishes to inform you and the elected officials that are concerned with decisions about the project that, although there has been discussion of the case for a plainer building in which the interaction of art and technology which is Eyebeam's goal would burst as a surprise on the entering visitor, the Board welcomes the type of striking contemporary design represented by the competition-winning entry by Diller and Scofidio. It is looking forward to the final designs for the building and the permanent establishment of Eyebeam in the neighborhood.

The Board would indeed prefer that the structure not significantly exceed the height established by the larger buildings in the immediate neighborhood, which are among the highest in this portion of western Chelsea, and that the street wall be substantially respected, at least near the base. It does not wish, however, to place constraints on a truly creative design such as the architects have shown themselves capable of.

The Board therefore has no objection to legislation supporting the financing of this building though bonding or similar actions. It must, however, as a matter of general policy, reserve its position on the relevant aspects of any possible future applications such as that for a special permit to allow a museum on the site, to which we see no objection in principle, or to exceed the limits of height, bulk, or envelope set by the zoning.

Sincerely,



Simone Sindin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Edward S. Kirkland
Chair
Chelsea Preservation & Planning Committee

This letter was passed at Manhattan Community Board No. 4's July 24, 2002 full board meeting.

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Jerrold Nadler, US Representative
Thomas Duane, State Senator
Richard Gottfried, State Assemblymember
Christine Quinn, City Councilmember
Department of City Planning