

November 6, 2003

Robert Balachandran
President
Hudson River Park Trust
Pier 40
New York, NY 10014

Re: Pier 57

Dear Mr. Balachandran,

We are happy to see the Trust moving forward quickly on Pier 57. However, now that you have released an Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for the pier, we have one major regret: that nowhere in the request do you ask respondents to include public open space as part of their design.

We understand that you want to keep the process as open as possible, in order to encourage proposals. And we commend you in seeing the pier as an exciting addition to the city and the park, not just merely a source of revenue. However, we feel it is crucial to the community's acceptance of any of the proposals that there be some serious consideration of public space, especially given the vast square-footage of the pier. The requirements for a perimeter walkway will not be sufficient to satisfy us.

At this point, with the RFEI already out, we ask that you and the Board of Trustees make open space a consideration in the evaluation of the proposals that come in. Certainly we will, as much as we are involved in the Advisory Council's review of the proposals.

We see many different ways of providing open space, and we are not wed to any one vision at this time. We most note that the most obvious proposal would be to make the roof open to the public, both for active and passive recreation. You must know that the roof was originally designed for a heliport; it can certainly then support a few hundred park-goers.

Finally, in your consideration of proposals, we ask that you also remind respondents that the pier can and should be designed, and for that matter used, for docking.

R. Balachandran
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Thank you for your attention to this, and we greatly anticipate this design process. It is yet another exciting milestone for the park and the Chelsea neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

This letter was passed at Manhattan Community Board No. 4's November 5, 2003 full board meeting.

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Local elected officials