



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4**

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**WALTER MANKOFF**  
Chair

**ANTHONY M. BORELLI**  
District Manager

March 8, 2005

Jeanne B. Mullgrav  
Commissioner  
Department of Youth and Community Development  
156 William Street  
New York, NY 10038

**Re: Letter of Support for Hudson Guild**

Dear Commissioner Mullgrav:

The Housing, Health and Human Services Committee of Manhattan Community Board No. 4 is pleased to submit this letter in support of Hudson Guild's application for DYCD funding under Service Option 1 of the newly released Request for Proposals (RFP). At our meeting on February 8, 2005, the committee voted to approve this letter of support: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 present but not eligible.

The Board is encouraged by DYCD's goal to provide improved coordination, creativity and cost-effectiveness for its youth programming through the new RFP. We remain concerned, however, that current cuts to youth services funding could adversely affect mixed-income neighborhoods such as ours, given the agency's new funding priorities. While the youth population in our Board district does not rank highest in the City, Community District 4 is home to a large number of young people in need of recreational opportunities, academic enrichment and other support services. In fact, compared to the rest of the City, the Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen neighborhoods are home to a disproportionately large number of youth who have dropped out of school and are without the skills necessary to secure employment. Our youth also suffer from a range of health concerns, with a significant percentage of children suffering from asthma. It is for these reasons that the continued provision of high-quality youth services in our district is imperative.

The Hudson Guild is requesting support for its after-school program, which serves young people, ages five to 13, with a comprehensive array of services. The program was designed to support the needs of working parents, operating five days a week and providing children with an escort from school to the program site. Equipped with an impressive staff of certified educators and committed community members, Hudson Guild's after-school program currently serves 100 young people. If selected to receive funding under Service Option 1, the Guild plans to expand after-school services to reach 150 young people in the community. Currently, 60 percent of program participants are Latino, who, according to the Citizens' Committee for Children, are the most underserved segment of the youth population receiving such services. Another 25 percent

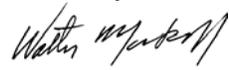
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are African American, and roughly 10 percent are in foster care. For these children, Hudson Guild represents a safe space where they can receive academic assistance, engage in recreation and explore their creativity through the arts. Young people also benefit from the guidance provided by social work interns who work with them individually and in groups, and from a cohort of mentors who work to develop caring, consistent relationships with youth participants.

Hudson Guild has provided after-school programming in the community for 25 years. The organization is committed to improving the quality of life of area residents, and we are impressed by its ability to consistently grow and adapt its programs to meet the diverse needs of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Kenneth Brambill  
Co-Chair  
Housing, Health & Human Services  
Committee

Cc: Patricia Chabla, Janice McGuire