



**DELORES RUBIN**  
Chair  
**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036  
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512  
[www.nyc.gov/mcb4](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb4)

August 3, 2017

Adam Ganser  
Vice President of Planning and Design  
Friends of the High Line  
The Diller – von Furstenberg Building  
820 Washington Street  
New York, NY 10014

**Re: West 18th Street Plaza**

Dear Mr. Ganser,

Manhattan Community Board Four would like to thank your organization for presenting the preliminary design of the High Line improvements planned in and around the High Line at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Tenth Avenue at the Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee's June meeting. Our meetings represent an opportunity for the community to see what is happening in their neighborhood and provide valuable feedback to those who will affect it, and we certainly appreciate your recognition of how important it is to work with your neighbors for everyone's betterment.

Our comments on designs presented to us regarding the new elevator, modified stair access, billboard, and changes in the High Line Park itself can be seen in our letter to the Public Design Commission in support of preliminary design. That letter is attached. We offer additional comments below. We are excited to see improvements to the High Line coming to our community as the area surrounding the High Line continues to grow up around it.

It is our strong request that you continue to communicate with the Community Board as the designs for the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza continue to develop. Public space in our community is precious to us given our high population density and continued rapid growth in residential and commercial developments. The Chelsea Land Use Committee has seen earlier versions of the design for this plaza. We'd like to think that input received from the Board and the community at large about other aspects of the High Line has helped to make it better.

During your presentation to us you presented several elements we'd like to mention here:

- We like and support the non-standard tree and plantings along Tenth Avenue. Our request to the Department of Transportation for this variance is the subject of a separate letter to you also attached.
- You mentioned that there will be no deliveries through the Plaza

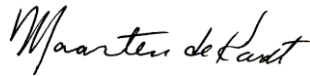
- You informed us that Friends of the High Line will be responsible for operational maintenance while the developer will be responsible for capital maintenance and improvements
- No Plaza closings are anticipated
- There will be no seating associated with any of the retail establishments lining the Plaza.

We hope to continue hosting presentations regarding the ongoing design work for the High Line and the 18th Street Plaza, and we look forward to continue working together with the Friends of the High Line for the betterment of our neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin  
Chair  
Manhattan Community  
Board 4



Maarten de Kadt  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks &  
Environment Committee



Lowell Kern,  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks &  
Environment Committee

Enclosure



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July 26, 2017

Signe Nielsen  
Public Design Commission of the City of New York  
City Hall, Third Floor  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Preliminary Design for Improvements to the High Line at 18th Street**

Dear Ms. Nielsen,

Representatives from Friends of the High Line presented their preliminary design for improvements to the High Line as part of the anticipated development of the adjacent plaza at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Tenth Avenue to Manhattan Community Board Four's Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The committee expressed support for the preliminary design with specific comments described below, and Manhattan Community Board Four voted in favor of the committee's support at the Full Board Meeting on July 26, 2017 by a vote of 33 in favor, 1 against, and 1 present not eligible.

Please note that our comments are limited to the design of the High Line access features, plaza billboard, and modifications to and on the High Line itself. Designs of the surrounding plaza are still in development and we hope to be included in the development of the plaza itself as the design process progresses.

The design as presented is highlighted by improved access to the High Line with a new elevator and a modified stair route. We are pleased at the intent to protect the new elevator from storm damage, and we expect the elevator to be fully accessible for physically and visually impaired persons. We are also satisfied with the longer stair design that will engage the High Line at the elevated park level rather than extend above the railing and down to the park as in the current configuration.

The design includes the existing billboard with plan for the Friends of the Highline to continue exhibiting art on its surface. It is our strong desire that selection of art give preference to local artists in our community as a resource supporting our neighborhoods. We also request that both sides of the billboard be used for art, whereas the billboard currently has a flat surface supporting art on only one side. The stairway will continue to climb alongside the back side of the

billboard. We see this as an opportunity to enhance the overall design with art over the back as well as the front of the billboard, while improving the pedestrian experience moving along the stairway.

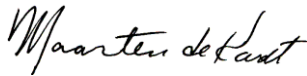
To accommodate the new elevator and stair access location, we were presented with design modifications to the High Line planters, walk area and seating. Our impression was that the new design successfully accommodates the necessary changes while even improving movement through a slightly wider pedestrian path.

Overall, the design appears to maintain the High Line's aesthetic, including material and color schemes consistent with the rest of the park, as well as the character and spirit that our community associates with the High Line.

Sincerely,



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