



DELORES RUBIN
Chair
JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

July 26, 2017

Signe Nielsen
President
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 18th Street and Tenth Avenue to Manhattan Community Board Four's Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee on June 8th. 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.

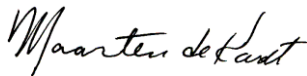
To accommodate the new elevator and stair access location, we were presented with design modifications to the High Line planters, walk area and seating. Our impression was that the new design successfully accommodates the necessary changes while even improving movement through a slightly wider pedestrian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



Delores Rubin
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4



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



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