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## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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August 1, 2012

William T. Castro  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
NYC Department of Parks  
Arsenal West, 24 61<sup>st</sup> St.  
New York, New York 10023

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Castro

At's Full Board meeting July 19, 2012, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

**Resolution: Supporting the Proposed Design for the AIDS Memorial in St. Vincent's Triangle Park.**

Whereas CB-2 Manhattan has supported the proposal for an AIDS memorial to be located on part of the triangle between 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Greenwich Avenue, and West 12<sup>th</sup> Street; and

Whereas the Community Board also supported a proposed design for a new public park to be located on this triangle; and

Whereas the ULURP approval for the redevelopment of the St. Vincent's Hospital included a new public park to be located on this triangle with approximately ten percent of the area at the northwest tip to be dedicated to the AIDS memorial; and

Whereas, in keeping with the terms of the ULURP approval, CB-2 has participated in the design process for the memorial including presentations and public feedback at four public hearings; and

Whereas the proposed design has been generally well-received; and

Whereas the proposal has been presented to the CB2 Landmarks Committee and will require approval by the New York City Landmarks Commission; and

Whereas the proposal will be subject to approval by the New York City Parks Department; and

Whereas the cost of construction of the park will be paid by the St. Vincent's campus developers and incremental additional costs of construction of the memorial will be paid by the AIDS Memorial Park group; and

Whereas the AIDS Memorial Park group consists of members of the community that formed to develop its vision for an AIDS Memorial at this location and has funded teams consisting of architects, designers and fabricators to this end and has agreed to form a legal entity to raise funding for their vision and their portion of the maintenance of it into the future; and

Whereas the cost of maintenance of the park will be paid by the condominium association of the new development and the incremental additional costs of maintenance of the memorial (list of such incremental costs still to be defined in conjunction with the condominium association) will be paid by the AIDS Memorial Park group; and

Whereas the memorial design team is working closely with the design team for the park; and

Whereas credible concerns were raised by the public and committee members regarding the suitability of the planting system, particularly the irrigation system, and the accessibility of the top of the structure for gardening; and

Whereas concerns were expressed about aspects of the design that were not yet finalized, particularly the night lighting, and one committee member expressed concern that the granite benches would be uncomfortable during hot and cold weather; and

Whereas the design presents difficult gardening challenges for creating and sustaining the beauty required for realization of the project vision; and

Whereas the success of the design will require a determined long term effort including mobilization of talent and resources; and

Whereas the volunteer effort shown so far and the ongoing assurances by the AIDS Memorial Park Group, as well as the response it has achieved, provide confidence that the determination is there both to attain this vision and provide the required continued support;

Therefore CB2 Manhattan supports the proposed design for the AIDS Memorial; and

It is further resolved that CB2 does not object to minor changes to the approved park design to integrate the transition from memorial to park, and specifically, while the sculptural water feature that also serves as a children's play feature should be retained, it may be moved, and also its form may be developed such that safety surface is not required beneath it; and

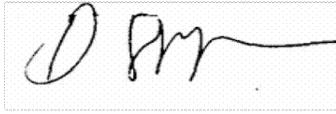
It is further resolved that CB2 requests a fuller evaluation of the planting system and ease of maintenance, including participation by Parks Department horticulture staff; and

It is further resolved that CB2 congratulates and expresses its appreciation to the AIDS Memorial Park group, the design teams for the park and the memorials, the City Planning and Parks Departments, to our elected officials, and to the many individuals in our community who helped move this project forward.

**VOTE:** Passed with 37 Board members in favor and 1 against-(Aaron)

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



David Gruber, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

DG/gh

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman  
Hon. Thomas Duane, NY State Senator  
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member  
Hon. Christine C. Quinn, Council Speaker  
Hon. Robert B. Tierney, Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Hannah Friedman, Community Liaison, Man. Boro. Pres. Office  
Pauline Yu, Community Assistance Unit  
Christopher Tepper, Co-Founder of AIDS Memorial Group