

LOWER MANHATTAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**Partial Action Plan No. 10
for
Lower Manhattan Community Revitalization Projects and Lower Manhattan Tourism**

Overview

The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) has prepared the following Partial Action Plan with regard to the \$2 billion federal grant for the World Trade Center disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts administered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). LMDC received additional funding through a \$783 million grant from HUD for damaged properties and businesses (including the restoration of utility infrastructure) as well as economic revitalization related to the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center (WTC). Fourteen LMDC Partial Action Plans (PAPs) detail the expenditure of the \$2.783 billion appropriation and are viewable on the LMDC website at: <http://www.renewnyc.com/FundingInitiatives/PartialActionPlans>.

This Partial Action Plan details the proposed expenditure of \$300,232,947 to fund the following items:

	(\$) Original Allocation 2/2006	(\$) Amended Allocation 9/2010	(\$) Amended Allocation 3/2012
Partial Action Plan 10 Activities			
Hudson River Park Segment 3	70,000,000	70,000,000	70,000,000
East River Waterfront Projects:			
East River Waterfront Esplanade & Piers	139,580,000	139,580,000	139,580,000
East River Waterfront Access	10,420,000	9,420,000	9,420,000
Local Transportation and Ferry Service			
Lower Manhattan Street Management	4,800,000	4,800,000	4,800,000
Lower Manhattan Ferry Service	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000
East Side K-8 School	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
Fiterman Hall Reconstruction	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000
New York Stock Exchange	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000
Chinatown Local Development Corporation	7,000,000	7,000,000	7,000,000
Lower Manhattan Tourism:			
Explore Chinatown Campaign	160,000	160,000	160,000
Splendor of Florence	226,000	226,000	-
Planning and Administration	15,072,947	15,072,947	15,072,947
Total	301,458,947	300,458,947	300,232,947

Partial Action Plan 10 was initially approved by HUD in February 2006 with a total allocation of \$301,458,947 for the activities shown above. The first amendment, approved by HUD in September 2010 reduced the allocation for East River Waterfront Access by \$1,000,000. The second amendment, published in March 2012, eliminated funding in this Partial Action Plan for the Splendor of Florence festival. Funding for the Splendor of Florence festival remains in Partial Action Plan 7.

Any change greater than 5% in the funding committed to a certain activity, the addition or deletion of any activity, or change in the designated beneficiaries of an activity constitutes a substantial amendment and such amendment will be available for public review and approval by HUD.

National Objective

The LMDC is a subsidiary of the New York State Urban Development Corporation d/b/a Empire State Development that was created in December 2001 to oversee the rebuilding and revitalization of Lower Manhattan. The activities contained in this Partial Action Plan have been designed to meet the particularly urgent community development needs resulting from the September 11th WTC disaster. These activities also have particular urgency because LMDC has determined that existing conditions resulting from the September 11th WTC disaster pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the City of New York and the individual residents of the City and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. Funds allocated in this Partial Action Plan relating Fiterman Hall, East River Park, and Hudson River Park Segment 3 are also for the prevention of blight that could result absent intervention to address the existing conditions. Funds allocated for the Chinatown Local Development Corporation, East Side K-8, and for the East River Waterfront are also for low and moderate income benefit. The geographic areas of focus of this and future Partial Action Plans are located in Manhattan, south of Houston Street.

Public Comment to the Partial Action Plan

Initial Partial Action Plan

The initial Partial Action Plan was made available to the public for comment from September 27, 2005 through October 26, 2005. LMDC received *seven* comments from civic organizations, individuals, and an elected official regarding Partial Action Plan 10. The comments and the responses to these comments have been incorporated into this Partial Action Plan as Submitted to HUD and may be viewed in **Section XI Responses to Public Comments**.

First Partial Action Plan Amendment

This amendment was open to public comment from March 22, 2010 through April 21, 2010. LMDC did not receive any relevant comments on the proposed amendment.

Second Partial Action Plan Amendment

The second amendment was not a substantial amendment and was not made available for public comment.

Public comments were accepted by posted and electronic mail. LMDC placed Invitations to Public Comment for Partial Action Plan in English, Spanish and Chinese daily newspapers and in weekly community newspapers serving Lower Manhattan. In addition, the text of the draft plans were made available on LMDC's website (www.renewnyc.com).

LMDC delivered and mailed copies of the initial Partial Action Plan and the first amendment in English, Spanish, and Chinese to more than 50 community, residential, civic and cultural organizations throughout Lower Manhattan, including Community Board 1, 2 and 3, several tenants' associations and public libraries. In addition, LMDC sent electronic notices of the initial Partial Action Plans in three languages to elected officials, LMDC's Advisory Council members, and over 140 Lower Manhattan civic, community and cultural organizations.

I. Hudson River Park Segment 3

Description

The Hudson River Park Trust (HRPT) was created in 1998 to design, build, and operate a five-mile stretch of self-sufficient waterfront public park along the Hudson River. Hudson River Park extends from Battery Place with a bikeway and walkway that continues for five miles up to 59th Street. HRPT has proposed extensive renovations to the Hudson River waterfront in Lower Manhattan. This Partial Action Plan proposes the allocation of \$70,000,000 for the completion of the Segment 3 of Hudson River Park in Tribeca. Segment 3 runs from Chambers Street to W. Houston Street. Within this area would be two public recreational piers (Piers 25 and 26), an ecological pier, and an adjacent upland park.

The Segment 3 design emphasizes the environment, active recreation, community uses, and small boating opportunities. It also focuses on the Hudson River itself through the inclusion of a planned estuarium – an educational and research center devoted to the Hudson River. The public facilities to be created would include habitat planting areas, a boathouse, a restaurant, a children's playground, volleyball courts, basketball courts, an open lawn, boat docking, mini golf, an informal athletic field, and a skate park. The proposed activities would be linked by beautiful pathways and planted areas and a river-side pedestrian esplanade. LMDC funds for this project would realize plans for this important section of Hudson River Park, and would also provide for any necessary environmental review associated with the funding. This project has gained widespread support from the Lower Manhattan community, including residents, workers, and a wide variety of civic and community organizations.

Program objectives

The proposed activities outlined in this Partial Action Plan for Hudson River Park Segment 3 in Tribeca would enhance the ability of residents, workers and Lower Manhattan visitors to enjoy the Hudson River, a great natural resource. They would protect the Hudson River, including its role as an aquatic habitat; increase the quality of life in the adjoining communities; help alleviate the blighted, unhealthy, unsanitary, and dangerous conditions that characterize much of the area; and stimulate tourism and economic activity. Additionally, the development of Segment 3 of the Hudson River Park would encourage, promote, and expand public access to the Hudson River, promote water-based recreation, and enhance natural, cultural, and historic aspects of the Hudson River.

Although only portions of the overall Hudson River Park have been completed, it already attracts an estimated 6 million visitors each year in recreational users alone. It is also estimated that during the busy summer months, the park is visited by nearly 900,000 people each month. Hudson River Park has served as a location for free concerts, dances, movies, and other educational opportunities. Additionally, the bikeway located adjacent to Hudson River Park and maintained by the Trust has become the most heavily trafficked bikeway in the United States.

Project area

Hudson River Park Segment 3 runs along the Hudson River from Chambers Street to W. Houston Street in Lower Manhattan.

Beneficiaries

The activities outlined in this Partial Action Plan for Hudson River Park Segment 3 will contribute to the overall revitalization of Lower Manhattan, and will benefit the thousands of Lower Manhattan residents, workers, and visitors through the provision of enhanced open space and various public facilities.

Schedule

The proposed activities for Hudson River Park Segment 3 began in 2006 and continued through 2011.

Federal and other resources

LMDC has allocated \$70,000,000 of funding for this activity in this Partial Action Plan 10. LMDC has allocated an additional \$2.6 million for the Hudson River Park in Partial Action Plan 4. The remainder of the project budget will be provided through a combination of other public and/or private sources.

Total estimated cost

The total project budget for Hudson River Park Segment 3 is estimated at \$82,000,000. LMDC has allocated \$70,000,000 of funding for this activity in this Partial Action Plan 10.

II. East River Waterfront Projects

In the fall of 2003, The City of New York, in coordination with LMDC, spearheaded the East River Waterfront design study. New York City's East River Waterfront from the southern tip of Manhattan to the East River Park is a long neglected area cut off from Lower Manhattan's vibrant communities by poor access and deteriorating conditions along the water's edge. The East River Waterfront design study provided recommendations for improved alternative uses for the waterfront between the Battery Maritime Building and Pier 42 to the north, including the development of open spaces and development of sites for a wide variety of uses. The East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers and the East River Waterfront Access projects described below would help reinvigorate this two mile stretch, and enhance use by residents, workers, and visitors. Upon their completion, together with other public initiatives in the area, these two projects will help strengthen the central business district in Lower Manhattan and enhance the viability of its residential communities.

A. East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers

Description

Redevelopment of the East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers, north of Battery Park and south of Pier 42, would revitalize Lower Manhattan communities and the East River Waterfront. The project will solve a number of issues in the area that hinder the realization of the East River Waterfront's full potential. Such issues include under-utilized spaces, like parking lots below the FDR and vacant piers, the absence of sidewalks, and the lack of amenities which dramatically decreases potential visitation to the site. The project will also fill in the missing esplanade in the Lower Manhattan Greenway between Old Slip and Peter Minuet Plaza

Once constructed, the revitalized waterfront would be an approximately two-mile esplanade that includes a mix of open space, cultural and recreational uses, providing a link between the Financial District, Chinatown and the Lower East Side to the waterfront. As a result of this project, the water's edge will be experienced in new ways along the East River. Improvements to the esplanade are meant to harmonize traditional waterfront uses with new commercial, cultural and community programming and invigorate the area with a fresh, innovative design approach. The Plan provides amenities for passive recreation. The existing bike and pedestrian paths will be improved, expanded, and realigned to provide for unencumbered movement without infringing upon other uses along the esplanade. New pavilions are planned underneath the FDR Viaduct and may accommodate a variety of retail, cultural and/or community uses to complement the public open space experience. The Plan calls for improvements to the

FDR Viaduct by cladding the elevated roadway to reduce vehicular traffic noise from above and enhance the ambient lighting below. Several piers on the East River will be transformed into recreational spaces, where active water-related uses would be encouraged alongside passive recreational uses.

Funding for this project would allow for the realization of the East River Waterfront study recommendations, including the further planning, design, environmental review and construction associated with the project.

Program objectives

Revitalization of the waterfront through the East River Esplanade and Piers project seeks to provide public spaces for culture, recreation, and retail in underutilized and inaccessible/abandoned areas on the waterfront that will complete the greenway around Lower Manhattan and reconnect the residents, workers, and visitors to the City's world-class waterfront.

Project area

The project proposes revitalization of the area running along the East River Waterfront from Battery Park to south and Pier 36 to the north and South Street/FDR Drive to the east of in Lower Manhattan.

Beneficiaries

This project will contribute to the overall revitalization of Lower Manhattan and will benefit the residents, workers, and visitors to Lower Manhattan with its enhanced open space and various public facilities. The neighborhoods directly adjacent to the project are the Financial District, South Street Seaport, Chinatown and the Lower East Side, all of whom will be beneficially impacted by the project.

Schedule

Activities related to the East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers began in 2005, with full project completion expected by 2015.

Federal and other resources

LMDC has allocated \$139,580,000 for the East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers in this Partial Action Plan. An additional \$17 million is allocated to other East River Waterfront activities in LMDC's Partial Action Plan S-2.

Total estimated cost

The total estimated cost for the activities described in this Partial Action Plan and Partial is \$139,580,000.

B. East River Waterfront Access

Description

Connecting the East River Waterfront to its neighboring Lower Manhattan areas of South Street Seaport, Chinatown, the Lower East Side, and East River Park is critical to improving public access to and utilization of the waterfront area. The project would improve the east-west connection to the Waterfront by enhancing the historic slips of Catherine, Peck Slip, Montgomery and Rutgers that were once an integral part of the working waterfront and today function only as city streets and roadbeds. Once a place

to berth ships for repairs and maintenance, the slips have been filled in and leave a wide corridor between City blocks.

The East River Waterfront Access project would redesign Catherine Slip, Rutgers Slip, and Montgomery Slips as median open spaces with unifying elements such as seating, paving, and plantings. Peck Slip's historic character would be reinforced by a new vibrant pedestrian plaza with a similar planting vocabulary and punctuated by a water feature, recalling the days when the East River actually flowed into the slips. The project improves the existing conditions on these slips by providing multiple easy and attractive pedestrian access points from the waterfront to the interior of Lower Manhattan.

The initial Partial Action Plan provided funding to improve the north-south connection between the East River Park and the proposed East River Waterfront Esplanade by opening the closed-off roadway next to Pier 42 to create a walkway and bikeway on the waterside section of the road with a berm parallel to the walkway/bikeway. The first amendment to this Partial Action Plan approved by HUD in September 2010, eliminated \$1,000,000 of funding for this portion of the project. The funding was no longer needed because of construction coordination issues with other Lower Manhattan projects and expected delays in completion of this work.

Program objectives

The improvements to the historic slips and streets would enhance existing spaces, provide more usable public open space, and increase direct public access to the East River.

Project area

The project proposes east-west access improvements and enhancements to existing open spaces at Peck Slip in the South Street Seaport area; Catherine Slip and Montgomery Slip in Chinatown and Rutgers Slip in Lower East Side.

Beneficiaries

This project would benefit residents, workers, and visitors to Lower Manhattan with its enhanced open space. The neighborhoods directly adjacent to the project are the South Street Seaport, Chinatown and the Lower East Side, all of whom would be beneficially impacted by the project.

Schedule

Activities related to this project began in 2005, and are expected to be complete in 2014.

Federal and other resources

LMDC has allocated \$9,420,000 for the East River Waterfront Access in this Partial Action Plan 10.

Total estimated cost

The total estimated cost for this activity as outlined in this Partial Action Plan is up to \$9,420,000.

III. Local Transportation and Ferry Services

The September 11th attacks destroyed critical portions of Lower Manhattan's transportation system and compounded existing deficiencies, jeopardizing the areas sustainability and future growth as a central business district. By restoring and enhancing transportation service, eliminating deficiencies, and anticipating future needs, Lower Manhattan can continue to lay the foundation for its revitalization. In addition to being the financial capital of the world, Lower Manhattan is home to the fastest growing residential area in New York City, and hosts numerous educational and cultural institutions. As the revitalization of Lower Manhattan continues, investment in Lower Manhattan's transportation alternatives and needs should be aimed at accommodating the rapid pace of a growing 21st Century central business district and residential area.

A. Lower Manhattan Street Management Program

Description

LMDC proposes to allocate up to \$4,800,000 for a Street Management Program. Lower Manhattan is home to a street system designed to serve the needs of the 17th Century, with narrow roadways and sidewalks and limited cross town access. This system must now serve the purposes of the nation's third largest business district, a growing residential community, and thousands of tourists flocking to Lower Manhattan. With so many competing demands, the street system is overtaxed and must be analyzed as to how to best serve essential street users, such as pedestrians, transit, emergency vehicles and deliveries vital to businesses. To address these competing needs, a dynamic and innovative street management program has been identified, which will include traffic modeling, analysis of delivery options, parking and security design, real time data collection system. It will also develop a series of pilot programs to test various scenarios identified through intensive analysis in a previous phase.

Program objectives

Enhancing Lower Manhattan's street management has been identified as a priority by members of the Lower Manhattan community. The objective of this funding would be to further analyze, identify, and implement solutions to the various street management and traffic flow issues impacting pedestrians, transit, emergency vehicles and deliveries vital to businesses. LMDC funds would be used for projects that include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1 Traffic Model and Construction Coordination: Enhance the existing traffic model to incorporate pedestrian movements.
- 2 Delivery Options, Parking and Security Design: Investigate opportunities to address Lower Manhattan security needs, develop plan for delivery operations, and investigate new curbside management strategies.
- 3 Real Time Data Collection System: Assess real time data to monitor traffic and address traffic concerns as they develop.
- 4 Implementation of Pilot Programs: Develop pilot programs based on the street management framework to measure their effectiveness in addressing a targeted problem.

Project area

The Street Management Program would target the area south of Canal/Rutgers Streets, from Hudson River to East River.

Federal and other resources

LMDC has allocated \$4,800,000 for the Lower Manhattan Street Management Program as outlined in this Partial Action Plan 10.

Total estimated cost

The total estimated cost for this activity as outlined in this Partial Action Plan is up to \$4,800,000.

B. Lower Manhattan Ferry Service Program

Description

LMDC proposes to allocate up to \$4,200,000 for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (Port Authority) Yonker's Ferry Service Program. Funds would be provided to Port Authority which will administer the program.

In April of 2003, LMDC, in cooperation with New York City and State agencies, released the Lower Manhattan Strategies Report that identified ferry services as a promising form of transportation for downtown commuters. Ferries' role in the recovery from September 11, 2001, augmented their already existing role in a comprehensive Lower Manhattan transportation network. Enhancing and expanding Lower Manhattan ferry service is a key means of linking Lower Manhattan to the region. Ferries provide a sensible and viable transportation option for a number of reasons, including: the minimal capital investment needed relative to other forms of mass transit, new service can be implemented relatively quickly, and they are particularly suited to Lower Manhattan, where the shoreline is within walking distance of significant portions of the business district. Enhanced ferry service has also been identified by the community during the LMDC's Neighborhood Outreach Workshops conducted in the summer of 2003.

This Partial Action Plan proposes to allocate up to \$4,200,000 to Port Authority for the Yonker's Ferry Service Program. LMDC funds would be provided to Port Authority, which will administer the program, and would be used for costs associated with the operation of the program. These funds would join existing funds provided by other New York City and State agencies to enhance Lower Manhattan's ferry service, including the Port Authority, as well as existing Federal appropriations dedicated to ferry service between Haverstraw, Yonkers, and Lower Manhattan. Although existing ferry services operate between Lower Manhattan and New Jersey, Midtown, Staten Island, Brooklyn, and the Bronx, no ferry service currently exists between Lower Manhattan and New York's northern suburbs.

Program objectives

As the revitalization of Lower Manhattan goes forward, enhancing Lower Manhattan's ferry service to the northern suburbs will benefit the area's existing and future businesses, workers, and visitors to the area. Ferry service to New York's northern suburbs would, among other benefits, eliminate a two or three seat ride with direct ferry service to Lower Manhattan, and provide an alternative mode of travel in the event of rail service disruptions. Ferry service would also expand Lower Manhattan's labor pool and sustain its vitality for existing and future Lower Manhattan businesses.

New ferry services are a key element to retaining and growing Lower Manhattan's commercial base, improving visitor experiences, and raising the quality of life for residents and workers. Expanding ferry services from New York's northern suburbs is also a key component of LMDC's efforts to help transform the waterfront into an active hub for residential development, recreation opportunities and public transportation.

Project area

The ferry service is expected to operate between Lower Manhattan (Pier 11 and the World Financial Center) and Yonkers in Westchester County. Ferry service providers will be given an option to extend the service to the Village of Haverstraw in Rockland County.

Beneficiaries

The enhancement of Lower Manhattan Ferry Service to New York's northern suburbs would benefit existing area businesses, as well as businesses considering relocation to Lower Manhattan. Ferry service would also benefit existing and future workers in the New York's northern suburbs, as well as Lower Manhattan visitors. Such enhancements make Lower Manhattan increasingly attractive to new businesses considering locating downtown.

The Yonkers ferry service will assist existing Lower Manhattan businesses, and businesses considering relocation to Lower Manhattan whose employees live in Westchester and Rockland County. Expansion of Lower Manhattan's labor pool and access to the growing population of New York's northern suburbs is an important factor for sustaining and enhancing the area's vitality. New ferry services can increase the percentage of riders from Westchester and Rockland Counties who choose to work in Lower Manhattan. According to 2000 census data, 20% of Rockland residents and 28% of Westchester residents work in New York City. However, because there is no direct train or ferry service, Lower Manhattan is not an attractive commute. Only 3,143 Rockland residents and 11,686 Westchester residents work in Lower Manhattan.

Schedule

Activities related to ferry service initiatives as outlined in this Partial Action Plan began in 2007 and continued through 2009.

Federal and other resources

In this Partial Action Plan 10, LMDC has allocated \$4,200,000 to Port Authority for the Yonker's Ferry Service Program to enhance Lower Manhattan ferry service to Yonkers, with possible extension to Haverstraw in New York's northern suburbs. LMDC is working with the Port Authority, Westchester County, and Rockland County in coordinating other sources of funds for ferry terminal improvements and operating subsidies. These funds include an appropriation earmarked by Congress for Yonkers and Haverstraw ferry service.

Total estimated cost

The total estimated cost for this activity as outlined in this Partial Action Plan 10 is up to \$4,200,000.

IV. New York Stock Exchange Area Security and Aesthetic Improvements - Phase Two

Description

LMDC proposes to allocate up to \$15,000,000 for the New York Stock Exchange Area Security and Aesthetic Improvements - Phase Two, which focuses on improving the public realm. Public realm improvements would help make the New York Stock Exchange Area a competitive location for

businesses and for residents, and enhance the area's attractiveness to visitors. The project would cover enhancements made to the area bounded by Pine Street to the North; Beaver Street to the South; Broadway to the West and William Street to the East.

In Partial Action Plan 4, LMDC allocated \$10,000,000 for Phase One of the New York Stock Exchange Area Security and Aesthetic Improvements. LMDC, in coordination with the New York City Department of City Planning, and the Economic Development Corporation, oversaw the construction of Phase One of the project, which included the installation of security barriers and guard facilities; the repaving of the Broadway intersections at Wall Street and Exchange Place; the installation of cobblestones along Broad Street between Wall Street and Exchange Place; and the placement of NoGo bollards. Phase One also included the addition of new and more attractive street furniture to facilitate pedestrian circulation and enjoyment of the Financial District. Nearly all the improvements using Phase One funds have been made.

In order to continue with the critical improvements begun in Phase One of the New York Stock Exchange Area project, Phase Two would focus on the next step of improving the public realm. As previously mentioned, the improvements support and enhance the Financial District as a competitive location for businesses and residents. LMDC funds would be used for projects that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Fountain on Broad Street – The black security fence along the landmark Broad Street façade of the Exchange will be replaced by a fountain. The fountain will be an aesthetically pleasing division between the pedestrian zone of Broad Street and the Exchange itself.
2. Paving Plan for Financial District – In Phase One of the streetscape and security improvements to the district, Broad Street between Wall Street and Exchange Place was paved with cobble. The element echoes the historic nature of the Financial District while also distinguishing Broad Street as an attractive pedestrianized zone. Phase Two seeks to expand this area to additional portions of the district.
3. Completion of the Broad and Beaver Intersection – Six of the seven intersections were planned and/or completed in Phase One of the project phase. The remaining intersection, Broad and Beaver, will be finished as part of the second part of the project. The City and LMDC are currently presenting the concept to the appropriate City agencies for their approval.
4. Additional New York Stock Exchange Area Security and Aesthetic improvements that serve to enhance the area's streets and facilities, such as lighting, and aesthetic improvement to previous Phase One installations.

Project objective

The objective of the New York Stock Exchange Area - Phase Two is to provide the utmost security for the Stock Exchange area, and to ensure that the environment is aesthetically conducive for the people that work and live in the Financial District. Securing the area has long been a priority for New York City and New York State. The proposed improvements will serve to make the Financial District a competitive location for businesses and an attractive place for residents.

Project area

The project area for the New York Stock Exchange Phase Two project is generally bounded by Broadway Avenue to the west, Pine Street to the North, William Street to the east, and Beaver Street to the south.

Beneficiaries

This project would benefit residents, workers, businesses, not-for profits, and visitors to Lower

Manhattan. This project would also serve to benefit the many visitors to the area by providing for aesthetic improvements to the public realm.

Schedule

Work on the New York Stock Exchange Area improvements Phase Two began in 2006 and was completed by 2010.

Federal and other resources

LMDC has allocated \$15,000,000 in this Partial Action Plan 10 for the New York Stock Exchange Area Security and Aesthetic Improvements - Phase Two. LMDC has also allocated \$10,000,000 in Partial Action Plan 4 for Phase I of this project.

Total estimated cost

The total estimated cost for activities described under Phase Two of the New York Stock Exchange project is up to \$15,000,000.

V. Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation

Description

LMDC proposes to allocate up to \$7,000,000 to fund the Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation (LDC) that would spearhead community improvements in Chinatown, engage in a combination of short-term projects and long-term planning. The creation of the Chinatown Partnership LDC – a community-based, not-for-profit organization that has brought together major civic organizations, cultural institutions, and businesses in the community – marks a significant milestone for the neighborhood. The Chinatown Partnership LDC was formed in 2004 as a result of the *Rebuild Chinatown Initiative (RCI)* – a comprehensive community assessment and planning initiative that was conducted by Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) to address the needs of Chinatown in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. Additionally, the City of New York expressed its support to LMDC for the creation of a comprehensive sanitation pilot program for Chinatown. A sanitation program would be funded initially through public investment, with the long-term goal of the community adopting and sustaining the initiative. LMDC proposes to allocate funds for the Chinatown Partnership LDC, in partnership with the September 11th Fund, as it has for the Explore Chinatown campaign over the past two years.

Chinatown Clean Streets Program

The Chinatown Partnership LDC, in conjunction with the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS), will implement and oversee a comprehensive, multi-year Clean Streets program. One of the issues consistently identified in post-September 11, 2001, studies and reports on Chinatown has been sanitation. Chinatown, because of its unique neighborhood characteristics including its dense population, many restaurants, and fresh food markets, requires a comprehensive Clean Streets program to address stated community concerns, including build-up of garbage, sidewalk cleanliness, and odor issues.

The Clean Streets program will serve as a pilot, and will allow the community to see first-hand the benefits of this program. The community will have the option of taking over the program upon completion of public funding. The program will include manual and mechanical sweeping of the

sidewalks, curbs and gutters, frequent removal of bagged litter from street corners, pressure cleaning of sidewalks, graffiti removal, and additional maintenance. The initiative will also provide for the necessary public outreach and community relations work to ensure that the community understands the benefits of the pilot program and begins to take ownership of the services over time. The program will not replace any existing services provided by the City's Department of Sanitation, nor will it affect any type of decrease in garbage service in the geographic area that the program will cover. The SBS has developed expertise in overseeing and implementing such programs throughout the City with Business Improvement Districts and LDC's, and will work jointly with the Chinatown Partnership LDC.

The Clean Streets program is receiving initial funding through public investment, with the objective of the community taking over the program, and possibly becoming an official Business Improvement District (BID), or similar program, under which the community sustains the level of service over time.

Chinatown Short-term Projects and Long-term Planning

In addition to the Clean Streets program, the Chinatown Partnership LDC will spearhead many community enhancement projects and initiatives that emerged through the RCI recommendations, including short-term capital projects and long-term planning for additional projects to meet the community's needs over time. LMDC funding will also be allocated to Chinatown projects including, but not limited to, wayfinding, lighting improvements, time-of-day street closures, public outreach and marketing, and others, many of which will occur over a two year period beginning in 2006.

Project objectives

To date, no single organization in Chinatown has comprehensively tackled these types of short-term improvements and long-term planning needs of the community. As mentioned above, Chinatown Partnership LDC would spearhead community improvements in Chinatown, engage in a combination of short-term projects and long-term planning. The Chinatown Partnership LDC is composed of a diverse Board of Directors, which represents a wide variety of civic, business, and cultural interests in the neighborhood. The organization received start-up funds from the September 11th Fund, and was recently awarded a Red Cross grant. The Chinatown Partnership LDC is anticipated to assume oversight of the two year Explore Chinatown initiative, launched by the LMDC and the September 11th Fund, beginning next year.

The RCI process, which initially proposed the development of the Chinatown Partnership LDC, was spearheaded by AAFE, with the involvement of a broad-based Steering Committee comprised of Chinatown area stakeholders. Moreover, the community at large was consulted throughout the RCI process through numerous workshops and visioning sessions.

Beneficiaries

The proposed activities would benefit the thousands of Chinatown residents, as well as local restaurants, retailers, vendors, other businesses, and workers. This activity will also benefit the visitors to the Chinatown community.

Project area

The Chinatown Partnership LDC, in conjunction with the Department of Small Business Services, will implement and oversee a comprehensive, multi-year Clean Streets initiative for the area generally bounded by Grand Street to the north, Allen and Pike Streets to the east, Worth and Madison Streets to the south, and Broadway to the West.

Schedule

Activities related to the Chinatown Partnership LDC began in 2005 and is expected to continue through 2013.

Federal and other resources

LMDC has allocated \$7,000,000 for the Chinatown Partnership LDC program, of which \$5,400,000 will be allocated to the Department of Small Business Services to implement, in conjunction with the LDC, the Clean Streets program; \$1,600,000 will be allocated for short-term community development projects, marketing, and public outreach efforts that will be undertaken by the LDC. The remainder of the LDC budget, not including the Clean Streets Initiative, will be funded jointly by the September 11th Fund, LDC Board contributions, and other fundraising efforts.

Total estimated cost

The total project cost for the activities outlined in this Partial Action Plan for four years is approximately \$12,000,000. The total cost for LMDC funding for this activity is up to \$7,000,000

VI. East Side K-8 School

Description

The need for an east side K-8 public school has long been advocated by the downtown community. This project would create a K-8 public school consisting of approximately 97,000 gross square feet. The K-8 public school would be constructed in portions of the ground through fifth floors of a mixed-use development project, which would include residential condominium, rental apartments, an ambulatory care facility for NYU Downtown Hospital, and retail space, on Beekman Street adjacent to NYU Downtown Hospital and Pace University. The site is bounded by Spruce Street to the north, Beekman Street to the south, and William Street to the east.

LMDC proposes to allocate up to \$20,000,000 for costs associated with the school portion of the project and any necessary environmental review, which may include, but is not limited to, planning, design, and construction costs. This project has been a major priority of the Lower Manhattan community, in particular Community Board 1, in addition to various elected officials representing Lower Manhattan.

Program objectives

The objective of this activity is to benefit Lower Manhattan area residents through the creation of a much-needed public K-8 school on the East Side of Lower Manhattan, south of Chambers Street. This project would serve the diverse Lower Manhattan community at-large, including low and moderate income persons. The Department of Education Five-Year Capital Plan for 2005-2009, which provides funding for this project, was developed based on the analysis of area demographics and utilization studies that identified the need for a 600 + seat school in Lower Manhattan. Lower Manhattan is one of the fastest growing neighborhoods in New York City and the burgeoning residential population necessitates building and enhancing community amenities such as schools.

Project area

The project area is currently a parking lot located East of Broadway between Beekman and Spruce

Streets, adjacent to NYU Downtown Hospital and Pace University, in Lower Manhattan. The site is bounded by Spruce Street to the north, Beekman Street to the south, William Street to the east and by the lot lines of the existing structures to the west.

Beneficiaries

The thousands of families living in the immediate downtown area will benefit from an additional elementary/middle school to serve Lower Manhattan children. There is currently severe overcrowding of Lower Manhattan schools, specifically, P.S. 234.

Schedule

Work on this project began in 2006. Fit-out and occupancy of the school was completed in 2011.

Federal and other resources

LMDC has allocated \$20,000,000 for a K-8 public school in this Partial Action Plan 11. LMDC has allocated an additional \$3 million to this K-8 public school in its Final Action Plan. The Department of Education, in its Five-Year Capital Plan for 2005-2009, provides funding for this project, and the project is anticipated to receive a commitment for Liberty Bond Financing from the New York City Housing Development Corporation.

Total estimated cost

The estimated cost for the K-8 school portion of the development is up to \$65,000,000. In this Partial Action Plan 10, LMDC is allocating \$20,000,000 for costs incurred in connection with planning, design and construction. Additional funds for this project have been outlined in the Department of Education's Five Year Capital Budget for 2005 to 2009.

VII. Fiterman Hall Reconstruction

Description

Fiterman Hall is an existing 15-story Borough of Manhattan Community College building that was partially destroyed when 7 World Trade Center caught fire and collapsed on the afternoon of the September 11, 2001 attacks. At that time, a portion of the building's southern façade was ripped away, and the building continues to present blight on the neighborhood. The existing Fiterman Hall located at 30 West Broadway was built in 1959 as a 15-story office building. It was donated to the community college in 1993 by philanthropists Miles and Shirley Fiterman, and was under renovation to become an academic center in 2001. On the afternoon of the September 11, 2001 attacks, the project was only seven weeks from completion. LMDC proposes to allocate up to \$15,000,000 for Fiterman Hall to join other sources of funding, including funds contributed by the City and State of New York. LMDC funds would be dedicated to costs for (1) planning, design and administrative expenses, including environmental, engineering, and other studies, and (2) enhancement of interior and exterior public spaces on completion of the replacement building, including landscaping, and indoor and outdoor furniture.

Program objectives

The objective of this project is to remove the damaged building from the community and construct a new facility that will house classrooms, computer laboratories, offices, library, assembly and meeting rooms and other spaces to accommodate college programs for the Borough of Manhattan Community College as

well as allow for various community uses and spaces. The Fiterman Hall reconstruction is intended to address or prevent blight, and meet needs resulting from September 11, 2001.

Project area

The project area is the 15 story, 377,000 square foot, high rise building previously serving the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Beneficiaries

The Lower Manhattan community at large, including residents and workers will benefit from the removal of the damaged building that still contains residue from the collapse of the World Trade Center. The students of the Borough of Manhattan Community College will also benefit from having access to the rebuilt facility that was originally renovated as part of the campus improvements of 1994 meant to alleviate congestion at that time. Additionally, the presence of an active community college, with faculty, students, and staff, will support the continued revitalization of Lower Manhattan and provide a resource to the community.

Schedule

Environmental cleanup work began in 2006 and was completed in 2009. The new building is expected to be completed in 2013.

Federal and other resources

LMDC has allocated \$15,000,000 for the Fiterman Hall project. Additional sources of funding include funds from the City and State of New York, as well as funds obtained from an insurance settlement following the damage of the Fiterman Hall building.

Total estimated cost

The estimated total cost of the project is \$202,000,000. LMDC is allocating up to \$15,000,000 for (1) planning, design and administrative expenses, including environmental, engineering, and other studies, and (2) enhancement of interior and exterior public spaces on completion of the replacement building, including landscaping, and indoor and outdoor furniture.

VIII. Lower Manhattan Tourism

Explore Chinatown Marketing and Tourism Campaign

Description

In 2004, LMDC, working in partnership with the September 11th Fund, launched a two-year, \$2 million tourism and marketing campaign highlighting Chinatown, a neighborhood that was adversely affected by the September 11th attacks, and subsequently impacted by the concerns over the SARS outbreak in Asia. LMDC proposes to allocate \$160,000 for the Explore Chinatown Marketing and Tourism Campaign (Explore Chinatown Campaign) for year three.

The Explore Chinatown Campaign has been very successful in promoting the neighborhood to regional, domestic, and international visitors. The campaign has engaged in various activities, including creating a comprehensive website (www.ExploreChinatown.com), developing campaign strategies to market local

businesses, assisted community organizations with promotional materials, and opening a visitor kiosk in Chinatown. The Explore Chinatown Campaign effort has created new and enhanced existing Chinatown community events, as well as provided marketing and technical assistance to businesses to help attract tourists and visitors to Chinatown. In an April 2005 survey conducted by the Asian Women in Business (AWIB) of 36 Chinatown businesses, the majority of the businesses indicated increase in revenues since the beginning of the campaign. 53 percent of businesses saw improvement to their bottom line, and 63 percent indicate increased visitors to Chinatown, when compared to April 2004, since the survey was first conducted.

LMDC and the September 11th Fund are proposing to provide additional funds for year three of the campaign, to ensure that its critical components can continue on, while the campaign is transitioned to a local community-based organization that will ensure its longevity.

Program objectives

The objective of the Explore Chinatown Campaign is to highlight the neighborhood and increase the number of visitors to Chinatown, thereby assisting the business and cultural community, and the neighborhood at large. Funding for year three will allow for two critical campaign components – management of the Explore Chinatown website and ongoing media strategy – to continue for the third year, while the campaign is transitioned to a community-based organization for oversight.

Project area

The Explore Chinatown Campaign seeks to highlight the Chinatown area of Lower Manhattan.

Beneficiaries

The Chinatown Tourism and Marketing Campaign would benefit local restaurants, retailers, vendors, and other businesses, in addition to a variety of cultural institutions, will benefit from increased visitors to the neighborhood.

Schedule

The third year of the Explore Chinatown campaign began in 2006 and ended in 2007.

Federal and other resources

In this Partial Action Plan 10, LMDC has allocated \$160,000 for a third year of the Explore Chinatown campaign. The September 11th Fund, a not-for-profit foundation, will provide additional funding for the campaign. The September 11th fund has provided \$2.5 million toward the Explore Chinatown Campaign. Additionally, the Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation, and community-based not-for-profit organization, will provide additional resources and will assume overall management of the campaign in Year 3.

Total estimated cost

The total estimated cost for Year 3 of the Explore Chinatown campaign is approximately \$600,000. LMDC funding will not exceed \$160,000.

This program is eligible for HUD funding to be used to aid the travel and tourism industry in New York City as allowed and required by the Defense Appropriations Act of 2002, Public Law 107-117.

IX. Splendor of Florence Festival

The second amendment to this Partial Action Plan 10, published in March 2012, eliminated funding for the Splendor of Florence Festival from this Partial Action Plan. LMDC funding for this activity will be limited to the amount allocated in Partial Action Plan 7.

X. Planning and Administration

LMDC engages in broad planning and administration activities relating to the recovery, remembrance, and rebuilding efforts in Lower Manhattan, defined by the LMDC's bylaws and charter, as the entire area of Manhattan south of Houston Street.

LMDC's planning activities began with the site planning for the WTC Site and the areas immediately surrounding the site. The agency's off-site planning activities include the other neighborhoods in Lower Manhattan that have been affected by September 11th and its aftermath. Specifically, LMDC's off-site planning activities include analyses of Lower Manhattan's transportation, traffic, housing and related amenities, open space, and economic development capacity, needs, and potential. Based on the results of these analyses, LMDC will continue to develop and propose concept plans for areas and projects in Lower Manhattan.

LMDC's administrative activities include, and will continue to include, extensive public information and coordination activities relating to its LMDC planning work. As part of its coordination activities, LMDC serves as a facilitator of outreach and discussions between affected communities as well as the public at large and government agencies and officials. LMDC's public information work will continue to include large-scale public meetings and hearings; periodic printed newsletters and reports; an up-to-date, comprehensive, and interactive web site (www.renewnyc.com); extensive electronic communications; and other public outreach and participation efforts. In addition, LMDC continues to maintain its network of community contacts through its advisory councils. Additionally, legal, audit, and investigation activities are performed on an ongoing basis in relation to programs funded by the LMDC CDBG allocation.

HUD has authorized the use of up to 5% of the total CDBG allocation to LMDC for costs associated with planning and administration activities, including costs for overhead, personnel, and consultants. Partial Action Plan 10 allocates \$15,072,947.37 for planning and administration activities.

XI. Responses to Public Comment

This section addresses the comments received from the public following the release of Partial Action Plan No. 10 from September 27 through October 26, 2005. LMDC received *seven* comments from civic organizations, individuals and an elected official. Many of these comments addressed some or all activities outlined in the Partial Action Plan.

Comments on Hudson River Park Segment 3

LMDC received a total of five comments from civic organizations and individuals stating various objections to the Hudson River Park Segment 3 project as described below:

Four of the five comments express that the Hudson River Park Segment 3 is unnecessary, that the Park is essentially complete, and that the proposed funds allocated for the project would be better

used for other Lower Manhattan projects. One of the comments stated that Hudson River Park should not be described as “blighted, unhealthy, and unsanitary.” These comments included job development, affordable housing, non-riverside parks, subway restoration, and other lower Manhattan community needs as alternative uses of funds.

Consistent with long-term planning objectives to revitalize neighborhoods and under-utilized open spaces, on April 13, 2005, the LMDC released a draft Funding Allocation Framework that outlined the principles and objectives, priorities and allocation options for remaining CDBG funds. The LMDC solicited, received, and reviewed hundreds of public comments through May 1, 2005, and held a public hearing on April 17, 2005, where Lower Manhattan community stakeholders were also provided an opportunity to comment on their priorities. During this outreach period, LMDC received comments expressing support for Hudson River Park Segment 3 from numerous civic groups, environmental organizations, elected officials and members of the public. Additionally, Hudson River Park was also included in a resolution passed by Community Board No. 1 as a stated priority. LMDC released revised Funding Allocation Framework on May 25, 2005, which included Hudson River Park Segment 3.

The New York State Legislature Hudson River Park Act (Act) of 1998 states that “the planning and development of the Hudson river park as a public park is a matter of state interest and in the interest of the people of the state,” and that the park’s creation “will enhance the ability of New Yorkers to enjoy the Hudson River, one of the state’s great natural resources; protect the Hudson river, including its role as an aquatic habitat; promote the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state as a whole; help alleviate the blighted, unhealthy, unsanitary and dangerous conditions that characterize much of the area; and boost tourism and stimulate the economy.”

Funding for the Hudson River Park Segment 3 project would contribute to the overall revitalization of Lower Manhattan, benefiting tens of thousands of residents, workers and visitors each year through the provision of open space and preserved river habitat, and also to the larger state interests.

Three of the five comments objected to the allocation of funds for the Hudson River Park Segment 3 stating that the project would cause adverse environmental impacts, including leaching of contaminants into the water, negative impacts of shading from the extension of Piers 25 and 26, and adverse impacts on the Hudson River and its fisheries.

The addition of recreational and passive open spaces is considered a benefit to the growing Lower Manhattan residential community, as well as to area visitors and workers. Extensive environmental studies have been conducted on the overall Hudson River Park project, of which Segment 3 is a part, and have concluded that the project will not have a significant adverse impact on, create irreparable damage to, or otherwise harm the Hudson River habitat, including on fisheries resources. The project proposed in this Partial Action Plan involves minimal construction in the water beyond repair and/or reconstruction of the bulkhead and existing piers within their existing or historical bounds. Several modest new floating docks and other public access elements will be constructed, but the coverage added will be more than offset by the coverage removed at existing piers.

The impacts associated with activities outlined in this Partial Action Plan were described and analyzed in the Hudson River Park Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and in the subsequent permitting processes conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Based on the analyses contained in the FEIS, the refinement of the in-water elements of the project as reflected in the permits issued by the Army Corps of Engineers and DEC, and the conditions imposed by regulatory agencies in association with the project’s permits, found no significant adverse environmental impacts would result from the project’s implementation.

One of the five comments opposes the allocation of funds for Hudson River Park Segment 3, stating that the activity would involve construction over a marine habitat area, and would block or impair views of the Hudson River.

The plans for Hudson River Park, including Segment 3, were assessed with respect to their potential to affect urban design and visual resources, including view corridors and visual character. One of the guiding principles of the park plan is to increase the public's visual access to the river. By creating more public open space, including through the reconstruction of Piers 25 and 26, Segment 3 will actually increase views of open water and accessibility to the waterfront.

One of the five comments states that Doe Fund workers would be used to perform the work, and are not paid at parity with employees of the New York City Parks Department.

The construction of Hudson River Park Segment 3 will result in the creation of numerous living wage jobs both during and following the construction period. Much of Hudson River Park's maintenance is performed by HRPT employees, who receive wages and benefits consistent with Parks Department employees. The HRPT staff perform all of the skilled work within the park. The Trust supplements the work performed by these employees through an annual contract with the Doe Fund which is approved by the HRPT Board of Directors. The Doe Fund is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that serves homeless people in New York, in part through providing them with housing and employment opportunities. The Trust uses its Doe Fund contract primarily with respect to trash collection throughout the park property. HRPT contracts with the Doe Fund to support its social services mission.

Comments on East River Waterfront Projects

LMDC received a total four comments from an elected official, civic organizations, and individuals expressing support for the East River Waterfront projects. The comments are described below.

All four of the comments requested on-going community engagement as the East River Waterfront projects develop, including one comment that specifically referenced consultation with Community Board No. 3. These comments also requested that funds be allocated directly to the City of New York, and that the City continue to manage and own the East River Waterfront.

The objective of the East River Waterfront projects outlined in this Partial Action Plan is to create a vibrant and world-class waterfront which the surrounding community and visitors may enjoy. The City will continue to solicit input from the community throughout the design process to ensure that local participation plays a key role in the development of both the Access and Esplanade and Piers Projects. As projects move into design and implementation, the City has expressed that it will continue its ongoing dialogue with key community stakeholders including Community Boards 1 and 3. The City will retain ownership of both the East River Access and East River Waterfront Piers Projects. Currently, the City is examining a range of maintenance options to determine the best way to manage and operate the improvements at the East River Waterfront.

Two comments requested that community and cultural uses remain a key component of the project along with retail uses to complement the public open space experience.

The pavilions and open space under the FDR Overpass are envisioned to include community and cultural uses, as well as appropriate retail. It is anticipated that any programmed uses will respond to the desires and needs of the surrounding communities.

One comment received from an elected official supported the East River Waterfront projects for ensuring that public space will be harnessed for the benefit of both community members and visitors to the City.

No response needed.

One comment recommended that the planned pavilions be designed to address noise concerns, have adequate lighting to address crime, and address any negative health affects that may result from exhaust fumes.

The location and design of the planned pavilions will take into consideration the noise, fumes and lighting issues that result from their location under the FDR Drive in an effort to mitigate such impacts. Both the East River Waterfront Access and Esplanade and Piers Projects will include ample lighting to create a safe environmental for both day and nighttime uses.

Comments on Lower Manhattan Transportation and Ferry Service

LMDC received one comment from an organization expressing support for the Lower Manhattan Street Management System.

No response needed.

LMDC received two comments from organizations supporting the expansion of ferry service to Lower Manhattan because it will improve access to Lower Manhattan, and connect the Lower Manhattan community to the Waterfront. These comments recommend that the program move forward as part of a comprehensive study on how to improve ferry service, and requested additional information on how the communities of Westchester and Rockland Counties were identified.

Although existing ferry services operate between Lower Manhattan and New Jersey, Midtown, Staten Island, Brooklyn, and the Bronx, no ferry service currently exists between Lower Manhattan and New York's northern suburbs. The new ferry service will assist existing Lower Manhattan businesses, and businesses considering relocation to Lower Manhattan whose employees live in Westchester and Rockland County. Expansion of Lower Manhattan's labor pool and access to the growing population of New York's northern suburbs is an important factor for sustaining and enhancing Lower Manhattan's vitality.

The Port Authority is seeking a Public Partnership to foster the development of a ferry service for Lower Manhattan-destined commuters. As part of this program, the Port Authority is considering a variety of options that would make the new ferry service financially self-sustaining. The Port Authority believes the private ferry network of landings and routes should be collectively reviewed by all involved agencies to ensure that they continue to be effectively integrated into the region's overall transportation system. The Port Authority has been working with its regional partners to determine how this would optimally be achieved.

Comments on East Side K-8 School

LMDC received two comments expressing support for a K-8 school in Lower Manhattan. One of the comments requests information on how Liberty Bonds will be used for the development.

As described in Section IV above, the K-8 school will be constructed in portions of the ground through

fifth floors of a mixed use development project, which will include residential condominiums, rental apartments, an ambulatory care facility, and retail space. LMDC funds would combine with funds provided by the City of New York to finance the cost of the school portion of the development. Residential Liberty Bonds will be used for other portions of the development.

Comments on Fiterman Hall

LMDC received one comment from a civic organization supporting the demolition of Fiterman Hall and recommending that demolition occur according to the highest standards to ensure worker and resident safety with the Environmental Protection Agency serving as the lead Agency.

As outlined in this Partial Action Plan, LMDC funds would be used for planning, design and administrative expenses (including environmental, engineering, and other studies), and the enhancement of interior and exterior public spaces upon completion of the replacement building. LMDC funds would also be used for landscaping, and indoor and outdoor furniture. LMDC funds would not be used for remediation and deconstruction work. The City University of New York and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) have expressed their commitment to implementing this project in a manner that will ensure the protection of human health and the environment. The remediation and deconstruction of Fiterman Hall will be conducted in strict accordance with procedures developed through an environmental review and approval process involving the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the New York State Department of Labor and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, DASNY will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) as the lead agency for this project. Studies and plans that will be prepared as part of the these processes include, among others, a Health and Safety Plan (HASP), Community Air Monitoring Plan, Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS), and Remediation and Demolition Plans.

Comments on New York Stock Exchange

LMDC received two comments from civic organizations on the New York Stock Exchange Area Security and Aesthetic Improvements – Phase II. The comments oppose the allocation of funds for this activity, given other community needs, and one comment questioned the use of funds for Aesthetic Improvements

As discussed above, heightened safety concerns since September 11, 2001, have intensified existing efforts to secure the area surrounding the New York Stock Exchange. Securing the area in a way that maintains and enhances the area's aesthetic character has long been a priority for New York City and New York State. As such, Phase Two of the project focuses on ensuring the utmost security, while also improving the area's public spaces. These improvements would help make the Financial District a competitive location for businesses, workers, and visitors to the area, as well as the growing number of residents in the area.

Comments on Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation

LMDC received a total of three comments from civic organizations and individuals in support of the Chinatown Partnership LDC, including the Clean Streets Program and the short-term projects. One of the comments requested that additional information be provided on the expected transfer of the Clean Streets Program from the City of New York to the Chinatown LDC in 2009, and how such transfer would impact the long-term sustainability and benefits of the program. This comment also expressed a concern that BID's are controlled by property owners, and as a result may only provide services for which the owners pay, as well as pay employees low wages.

As discussed above, the Chinatown Partnership LDC is not a Business Improvement District, it is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that has brought together major community stakeholders, including civic organizations, cultural institutions, and businesses throughout the community. The creation of the Chinatown Partnership LDC marks a significant milestone for the neighborhood, and is a direct result of the *Rebuild Chinatown Initiative (RCI)* – a comprehensive community assessment and planning initiative that was conducted by Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) to address the needs of Chinatown in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. The New York City Department of Small Business Services will work with the Chinatown Partnership LDC to ensure the successful transfer of the Clean Street Program from the City of New York to the Chinatown Partnership LDC.

Comments on Explore Chinatown Campaign

LMDC received one comment expressing support for the allocation of funds for the Explore Chinatown Campaign to promote tourism in Chinatown to aid in its recovery.

No response needed.

Comments on Splendor of Florence

LMDC received two comments stating that the Splendor of Florence Festival should be considered as part of funds designated for off-site community and cultural enhancements.

As discussed above, the Splendor of Florence Festival 2006 would provide entertaining and educational events in Lower Manhattan, benefiting immediate area workers and residents, as well as appeal to international tourists and visitors from neighboring communities. The Splendor of Florence Festival 2004 drew more than 160,000 participants to events in Lower Manhattan. The majority of the events will be free of charge. This program is eligible for HUD funding designated to aid the travel and tourism industry in New York City as allowed and required by the Defense Appropriations Act of 2002, Public Law 107-117.