

CIVIC COMMUNITY ISSUES ACTION PLAN FOR REGAINING MOMENTUM IN LOWER MANHATTAN

*Coalitions cut through the chaos with three demands:
Fill the Hole, Go Beyond 16 Acres, Lead the Way*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW YORK – The Civic Alliance, New York New Visions and Labor Community Advocacy Network (LCAN) today issued the following action plan to immediately regain momentum in the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan:

1) Fill the Hole: Move forward immediately to generate activity at the World Trade Center site.

- Move ahead with public buildings and amenities to enliven the site and draw workers, residents and visitors – including the memorial, cultural facilities, the Freedom Center and the transit hub.
- Pursue private development where a market exists, notably for retail, hotel and residential space. Demand for commercial space will develop after public amenities and these initial private developments are put in place.
- Resolve planning issues for the Freedom Tower and other office buildings to ensure that commercial space can proceed when there is demand, and that an appropriate statement is returned to the Lower Manhattan skyline.

2) Go Beyond 16 Acres: Move forward immediately with implementation of off-site plans throughout Lower Manhattan with remaining federal funds.

- Dedicate the bulk of the remaining \$735 million in community development funds to immediate implementation of planned high impact projects, including: the East River Waterfront, Chinatown circulation, Fulton Street Corridor and Greenwich Street South; and to selected community-proposed projects.
- These projects recognize that the Lower Manhattan rebuilding effort extends beyond the Trade Center site, and that progress can be made immediately to improve the quality of life throughout downtown.

3) Lead the Way: Gov. Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg must personally re-engage in the rebuilding process to bring all parties together and regain momentum.

- The Mayor and Governor must clarify the muddled status of planning and funding for the memorial, cultural facilities and private development, including the Freedom Tower.
- The public spirit that epitomized the process immediately after 9/11 must be rediscovered through a truly open process with public input and transparency. A good place to start is to fill the open LMDC board seats, empower a new LMDC president to engage the civic community and regularly update the public on progress downtown.

Quote Sheet

“The action plan put forward by the civic community proves that progress can and should be made immediately. The Governor and Mayor showed yesterday that working together they can act decisively, and I hope they will heed this call and bring new momentum to the rebuilding effort.”

--Robert D. Yaro, President, Regional Plan Association, Chair, Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York

"We now have a great opportunity to reclaim what the public always wanted in this most public of places: a fitting memorial, a cultural and architectural rebirth, and a vibrant community. If we build that, commerce will follow."

--Paul Epstein, American Society for Public Administration, NY Metro Chapter and Center for Accountability and Performance

"Good intentions can be derailed by bad communication - or no communication. The best civic projects are those that emphasize vision, collaboration and transparency."

Nikki Stern, LMDC Families Advisory Council

"This planning process should aim for the creation of a glorious civic place that would truly do justice to the memory of what happened there and would rebuild in such a way as to ensure a new future for New York."

Ethel Sheffer, President, NY Metro Chapter, American Planning Association

The Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York is a broad-based coalition formed after 9/11 to provide an "umbrella" for civic planning and advocacy efforts in support of the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan. The Civic Alliance promotes ongoing participation by the public and the civic community in the rebuilding process, and advocates public accountability and sustainable and equitable development. The Alliance sponsored the pivotal "Listening to the City" town hall meetings in the summer of 2002, where 4,500 people came together and demanded from their public officials more imaginative and ambitious plans for the World Trade Center site.

The Labor Community Advocacy Network (LCAN) is a network of over a network of over 60 New York labor unions, community groups, research and advocacy organizations, and service providers, that came together after September 11 to make sure social justice issues were an integral part of rebuilding New York.

New York New Visions is a coalition of 21 architecture, planning, and design organizations that came together immediately following the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. These national and local organizations, representing over 30,000 individuals, have pooled the collective resources and technical expertise of over 350 New York based professionals and civic group leaders in a pro-bono effort to address the issues surrounding the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan.