

CIVIC ALLIANCE PLANNING WORKSHOP
SPONSORED BY THE CIVIC ALLIANCE TO REBUILD DOWNTOWN NEW YORK
DEC 13- 17, 2002

OVERVIEW

Regional Plan Association and the Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York are preparing new development program alternatives for Lower Manhattan and the World Trade Center site. This initiative will convene teams of leading architects, planners, real estate professionals and civic and community leaders to develop these alternatives through an extensive process of public consultations.

This effort is an independent civic initiative, structured to complement and help inform the public agencies charged with preparing plans for rebuilding the WTC site and Downtown New York. To ensure the best possible downtown redevelopment, the Civic Alliance will continue to consult with the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PA), as well as with the City of New York and community and civic partners.

CIVIC ALLIANCE PLANNING WORKSHOP

The planning workshop will engage three teams of urban designers, architects and planners and a resource team of developers, economists, academics, and others to create visualizations based on three economic futures for the World Trade Center Site, Lower Manhattan, and the Region. Each group will work on a different economic scenario and develop visualizations for each level of geographic focus. The workshop will take place over a weekend, beginning Friday, December 13 and concluding Tuesday, December 17.

PROGRAM ALTERNATIVES

The planning workshop is organized around three alternative economic futures for Lower Manhattan, originally developed by the Economic Development working group of the Civic Alliance. These three economic alternatives each have different implications for the larger region, and possibly multiple implications for the World Trade Center site. The program alternatives serve to illustrate that different policy decisions and investments in infrastructure and development will take us towards different outcomes for our city and region. This range of choices must be thoroughly evaluated before we make decisions that will point towards one or another future for Lower Manhattan. The planning workshop will illustrate the implications of different policy decisions by creating visualizations (maps, drawings, plans, etc.) for each of the three scenarios on the scale of Lower Manhattan, the Region, and the World Trade Center Site.

CREATING A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Once the design workshop has created graphic representations of alternative futures for Lower Manhattan and the site, RPA and the Civic Alliance will determine a preferred development program. This final program is highly unlikely to be any single scenario, but instead will combine the most positive aspects of each scenario and design solutions. Through this process, the final development program will also identify those critical investments in transportation infrastructure, civic amenities and cultural activities, and other priorities which are necessary to achieve the most desired outcome for Lower Manhattan.

In addition, the Civic Alliance will continue to engage the public in its deliberations and work with LMDC, the PA and others to invite the public into the on-going debate on Downtown redevelopment. The Alliance will also work to expand and regularize communications between its members and LMDC, the PA and other city, state and federal agencies. Finally, we will strengthen our already close working relationships with the media to ensure that the Alliance's point of view is well understood by the public.