

**December 16, 2003**

**RESOLVED by the Voting Member Organizations of the Civic Alliance:**

**Statement on the Memorial.**

Whereas the Civic Alliance strongly reaffirms its commitment to the Studio Libeskind Master Plan and its core symbolic elements, including a recessed memorial setting surrounded by the exposed slurry wall, as well as its focus on civic and culture activities such as space for an interpretive museum and non-commercial uses; and

Whereas we believe that the success of the redevelopment and master planning process will hinge on fully integrating the memorial into the larger master plan, including the creation of design guidelines for the entire WTC site;

Whereas the eight finalist designs have failed to capture the public imagination;

Now therefore be it resolved that we support the position of New York New Visions dated December 15, 2003 that comments on the memorial finalist designs and suggests ways to achieve the integration of the memorial and the Libeskind site plan, and we further urge the jury to take the necessary time to fully consider these concerns in selecting finalists for the memorial design.

**Statement subject to final adoption by New York New Visions**

To the LMDC and the Memorial Jury:

New York New Visions and the Civic Alliance would like to reiterate support for LMDC and the jury process created for the memorial design competition at the World Trade Center site. We must have an integrated memorial design characterized by superlative and enduring quality. This was emphasized in the LMDC's instruction to the participants in the memorial competition. After careful analysis of the eight schemes, we offer the following five principles enumerated below as evaluative criteria to facilitate the coordinated development of the memorial, a major public open space and the overall master plan for the site. The issues we feel such a scheme should address are as follows:

**1. Importance of the Site Plan:** The core of the current master plan is a significant void in the city fabric expressing both the physical and spiritual loss of the towers and all those who perished in them. Enclosed space for commemorative purposes may occupy the "bathtub", but it is important that the overall perception of the void is not lost. This void is defined by two elements: the slurry wall and the cultural buildings that surround it. The slurry wall is the authentic artifact of the event. The arms of the cultural buildings act as a filter to define the area of the footprints distinct from the commercial activity to the north and east. The tower footprints can be expressed either as negative space or positive volume, but must be fully resolved as elements of significant scale in the site plan.

**2. Integration with a Major Public Space:** Any memorial design chosen must work with a major public open space that should, among other things, accommodate the large numbers of visitors anticipated at the site, as well as provide a place of assembly for ceremonies. The public space that is ultimately developed must be of the highest quality of landscape and urban design.

**3. Need for Public Movement Patterns:** Successful schemes will have public movement patterns that both respect the sacred nature of the place and allow for circulation through the site. It is essential to create a balance between contemplation and connection, mediation and community. The site is sufficiently large to accommodate multiple points of surface and underground entry and connections to the surrounding city.

**4. Balance of Interior and Exterior Space:** There must be an appropriate balance between the site's interior and exterior memorial spaces. While interior space can be a powerfully evocative experience, capturing feelings of isolation and containment, issues of accessibility and security must be carefully considered.

**5. Long-term Viability:** Numerous practical considerations must be taken into account in the design to assure sustainability and permanent use. These include horticultural, seasonal, and climatic concerns (especially with regard to water) as well as such issues as vandalism, appropriate technologies and systems, maintenance and security.

**Next Steps:**

We realize that the memorial process and the master planning effort have reached a crucial junction. New York New Visions, the Civic Alliance and Imagine New York have consistently called for the integration of the site plan and the memorial design. We offer the above principles in a constructive spirit to help guide the evolving memorial development so that this integration may be achieved more effectively. After selection, we urge the jury and LMDC to work closely together with the master plan team and the selected memorial designers to address any weaknesses of the schemes currently under consideration. The resulting design of the memorial and a major public space should have an evocative presence compatible with the current site plan. A successful memorial will leave an indelible imprint on our world's collective psyche.

Voting member organizations of the Civic Alliance:

12-16-03:

9-11 Coalition of Families

AFG Construction Management, Inc.

American Institute of Architects, New York Chapter

American Planning Association New York Chapter

Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE)

Consortium for Worker's Education

CUNY Institute for Urban Systems

Environmental Advocates of New York

Environmental Defense

Fine Arts Federation of New York

Fiscal Policy Institute

Municipal Art Society

New School University Milano Graduate School

New York Metro American Society of Public Administration (ASPA)

NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign

Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA

Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development

Rebuild Downtown Our Town

Regional Plan Association

ReHo

TIME/ To Improve Municipal Efficiency

Tri-State Transportation Campaign (abstained)

University Settlement

Waterfront Park Coalition

Women's City Club of New York