

**Lower Manhattan Development Corporation
Meeting of the Arts, Education & Tourism Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
Monday, July 1st, 2002
One Liberty Plaza
LMDC Board Room, 20th Floor**

LMDC Board Members: Madelyn Wils, Howard Wilson, Sally Hernandez-Pinero & Billie Tsien

LMDC Board members Madelyn Wils, Howard Wilson, Sally Hernandez-Pinero and Billie Tsien made welcoming remarks and asked each Advisory Council Member and ex-officio member to introduce themselves for the record. Advisory Council members were informed Tony Randall, a recent cultural addition to Lower Manhattan, has been invited to become a member of the Arts, Education & Tourism Advisory Council. Mr. Randall plans on moving a national theater to Pace University this fall - a nonprofit theatre dedicated to bringing classical repertoire to mainstream audiences.

A representative of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was then asked to provide a general update related to air-quality. The DEP is currently engaged in clean-up efforts in Lower Manhattan. 290 buildings were identified as in need of cleaning, 40 of which have informed DEP representatives that they intend on cleaning their own facilities. To date, 130 buildings have provided licensing agreements, which will allow the clean-up to proceed. As the project moves forward DEP representatives will follow up with those building owners who are coordinating their own clean-up efforts, to ensure it is being performed properly. All buildings are offered assistance from FEMA in the clean-up process, however, should DEP representatives find owners have not performed the clean-up, appropriate action may be taken by the City of New York.

After the air quality discussion new Advisory Council updates were given. Mr. Wilson briefly explained the meeting's agenda starting with a brief description of the July 20th, "*citizen's summit*". Mr. Wilson and Ms. Wils both reiterated the LMDC's commitment to an open and inclusive public process when considering ideas for the memorial and planning options for the World Trade Center site. As evidence of this commitment, the LMDC announced this past April, it would join the Civic

Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York, other major civic organizations, and America Speaks to convene a “*citizen’s summit*” titled “*Listening to the City*”, which will allow for face-to-face, roundtable discussions. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to discuss the Phase I plans that will be released in mid July by the LMDC and Port Authority.

Representatives of America Speaks & the Civic Alliance were invited to brief Advisory Council members on this historic town-hall meeting. Bob Yarro described for Council members the July 20th “*citizens’ summit*”. This summit, which is expected to draw approximately 5,000 participants from the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut regions, will offer the LMDC and the Port Authority a tremendous opportunity to hear from a very large citizen group, who will represent a demographic diversity, their ideas and thoughts and provide valuable input on these planning options. Citizens expected to participate will include all of the various stakeholders - most importantly the victims, families, residents, small and large business owners, planning organizations and many, many others. LMDC partners, the Port Authority, ESDC, EDC and the MTA will also be asked to participate.

A Council member informed the Listening to the City representative that she and others in her office had experienced difficulty accessing the 1-800 line to register, stating they had called and left messages and no one had returned their calls until they emailed the organization. In response the representative said the line is available 24/7 in 3 languages and that she was surprised to learn of the difficulty and would look into it.

A Listening to the City representative informed Council members that roughly 1,300 people have registered for the event so far, and remarked on how happy she was to see that so many people have committed their Saturday to this effort. Simultaneous translations will be made available for languages other than Spanish and Chinese, as well as American Sign Language interpretation should the need arise.

Ms. Wils reminded Council members a letter was sent out inviting them to the event, asking them to tell their friends, employees, co-workers etc. and encouraged members of the Advisory Council to attend. With that discussion completed, Board Members moved on to the next item on the day's agenda – discussion of the Memorial process and program.

Mr. Wilson reminded Council members that creating a magnificent memorial for those who lost their lives on September 11th is a major priority for the LMDC and the Port Authority. Developing a process for the memorial, consulting with all of the various stakeholders including the victims' families, and creating something truly wonderful will require a tremendous amount of work. The Council was informed the LMDC has begun discussions with the Families Advisory Council on recommendations for a memorial process and ideas for the memorial. It is the LMDC's intention to reach out to all of the Advisory Councils and get their input and ideas.

Some Council members expressed difficulty in expressing their thoughts regarding the Memorial process, believing that the Families and Survivors should be at the forefront of the Memorial discussion. Ms. Wils informed the Council that Anita Contini, a longtime organizer of cultural events in Lower Manhattan, was appointed Tuesday to oversee the creation of a memorial – and as a result, would be able to assist them in getting their thoughts together during the process.

A representative of the Museum of Jewish Heritage suggested that we follow the model the museum used via dividing the memorial discussion and design into three areas *i.e. what was there prior to the attack, what was lost, and who survived, as well as those who witnessed the tragedy*. A member of the Advisory Council suggested that we identify models created elsewhere and think about why they were successful and so memorable. Another Council member suggested that by getting children involved in the process, their parents would by default get involved.

Ms. Wills informed Council members that at a previous Advisory Council meeting, a guest speaker from New York New Vision said he only regretted one thing while going through a previous memorial process – not involving the survivors.

Several Council members emphasized the importance of having a “*blind*”, open international competition for the design of the memorial and suggested it would be more fruitful than trying to collect the input from all the various stakeholder groups. Many Council members expressed concern over the fact that the Pentagon has already begun its memorial competition. In addition, these same members felt it was necessary for all interested parties to have a better understanding of the site plans before any form of competition or serious memorial design work could take place.

A member of the Advisory Council suggested that we devise a temporary memorial that would offer visitors someplace to go and something to do in the interim, until the actual memorial is built. In response to that, many members of the Council suggested local galleries and museums perhaps set up such opportunities – a place where architectural renderings, pictures of before and after etc., could be set up and accessible to the public.

One Advisory Council member suggested we invite a professional grief counselor to the next meeting to help members of the Advisory Council to better understand the other stakeholders and their views, needs etc. Ms. Wils expressed a wish that Ms. Contini and Mr. Randall be present at the next meeting.

As a final note, when asked what to do with the multitude of memorial proposals Advisory Council members are currently receiving, Ms. Wils suggested they forward them, as she does, to the LMDC. In addition, David Caputo, President of Pace University, wrote a letter to Lou Tomson, which was copied and distributed to the Advisory Council, requesting the LMDC be commit to a major investment in education and consider the idea of a consortial model world university.

LMDC Board members Madelyn Wils, Howard Wilson, Sally Hernandez-Pinero and Billie Tsien thanked Council members for attending and adjourned the meeting.