

LOWER MANHATTAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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JOINT MEETING :
of :
MEMORIAL COMPETITION JURY :
-and- :
ALL ADVISORY COUNCILS :
-----x

Multi-Purpose Auditorium
Pace University
New York, New York

June 5, 2003
6:10 p.m.

B e f o r e:

JOHN WHITEHEAD
Chairman

THOMAS JOHNSON
Member, Board of Directors

MADELINE WILS
Member, Board of Directors

KEVIN RAMPE
Interim President

ANITA CONTINI
Vice President/Director, Memorial,
Cultural and Civic Programs

TARA SNOW
Vice President/Community and
Government Relations

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A P P E A R A N C E S:

For the Memorial Competition Jury:

Paula Grant Berry
Susan Freedman
Patricia Harris
Maya Lin
Michael McKeon
Julie Menin
Enrique Norten
Martin Puryear
Nancy Rosen
Lowery Stokes Sims, Ph.D.
Michael Van Valkenburgh
James Young, Ph.D.

For the Advisory Councils:

Ric Bell
Development Advisory Council
Liz Berger
Residents Advisory Council
Julie Borecewski
Families Advisory Council
Albear Capsouto
Restaurant, Retailers and Small
Business
Michael Connelly

Residents Advisory Council

A P P E A R A N C E S:

For the Advisory Councils:

Martin Connor
General Advisory Council

Meier Feig
Development Advisory Council

Robyn Forst
General Advisory Council

Anthony Gardner
Families Advisory Council

Alan Gerson
General Advisory Council

Lee Ielpi
Families Advisory Council

Monica Iken
Families Advisory Council

Sudhir Jain
Residents Advisory Council

Richard Kennedy
Transportation and Commuters
Advisory Council

Paul Lee
Restaurant, Retailers and
Small Business Advisory Council

Holly Leicht
Arts, Education and Tourism
Advisory Council

Edie Lutnick
Families Advisory Council

Manfred Ohrenstein
Professional Advisory Council

George Olsen
Residents Advisory Council

A P P E A R A N C E S:

For the Advisory Councils:

Nancy Owens
Development Advisory Council

Jill Pall
Families Advisory Council

Pat Quinn
General Advisory Council

Patricia Reilly
Families Advisory Council

Linda Rosenthal
General Advisory Council

Nikki Stern
Families Advisory Council

Phyllis Stinson
General Advisory Council

Liz Thompson
Residents Advisory Council

For Community Board #1:

Marc Ameruso

Bruce Ehrmann

Arthur Gregory

Tim Lannan

Bill Love

Catherine McVae Hughes

Anthony Notaro

Rich Plantin

Paul Sipos

A P P E A R A N C E S:

For Flight 93/Somerset County Families:

Lloyd Glick

Joan Glick

Marilyn Johnson

Alice Hoglan

Richard Price

Allison Vadhan

PRESENT:

Todd Jick, Moderator

Michael Kuo, Imagine New York

Bruce De Cell, Victim's Family Member

The Press

RPR

Roy A. Selenske, CSR,

Reporter

P R O C E E D I N G S

INTERIM PRESIDENT RAMPE: I think we are ready to start.

My name is Kevin Rampe, the Interim President of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation.

And I would like to just start by thanking everyone for coming tonight.

And I think it is most appropriate to begin with a moment of silence for all those who have been lost.

(Moment of silence observed.)

INTERIM PRESIDENT RAMPE: I would like to also offer a special welcome to family members who are joining us for the first time this evening. We are proud and honored to have with us today family members who lost loved ones on Flight 93 in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

The memorial will stand one day as a memorial not only for the those at the World Trade Center, lost at the World Trade Center, but for your loved ones as well. And we want to thank each of you for coming and joining us this evening and we look forward to hearing from you this evening.

Today is really another step in a process which began almost a year ago with the Mission Statement and Program for the World Trade Center Site Memorial. The Mission Statement and Program was adopted by the Board on April 10th.

But it's a process that began with many of you in this room, first with the Families Advisory Council, which came together and put together the first draft of the Mission Statement and Program, and then two committees, which were made up of family members, first responders, rescue workers, survivors, downtown residents and business owners, as well as experts in public art and architecture.

And I would like to thank all of you for participating in this process whether it was by serving on these committees or for providing

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comments as we moved through the process towards a final Mission Statement and Program.

Really, the words in those documents have provided the rules that this jury will use as we go forward and will provide guidance to those who submit memorial designs into the competition and as we move forward into the process.

And, again, just thank you for all your participation tonight.

We are going to begin tonight's meeting with brief remarks from each of the jury members. This distinguished group of jurors has an enormous task in front of them and an historic task in front of them. And we think it's fitting that each of them say brief remarks, about a minute, about themselves and what this experience means to them.

And we've also included some brief biographies I think in the handouts that are available this evening if you want further information regarding their background.

I'm then going to introduce Todd Jick, our Moderator. But I want to begin first with the jury introductions.

I'll begin with you, Paula, and move down to my right to the end of the table, and then we will start with Nancy and go all the way down to this end of the table.

So, Paula.

MS. PAULA GRANT BERRY: Good evening and welcome, everybody.

I think -- I'm the family member on the jury. And I recognize a lot of the people here because of just the work that I've been involved with with the LMDC since January of 2002.

So my comments, I would like to diverge a little bit because I think it's important to say that actually we all probably would prefer not to be here tonight and not to have the horrible event happen, of course.

But we are all coming from divergent groups but we are all motivated by the same thing. And what motivates us all is we all want to get this thing right.

And I just would like to comment that in the couple of weeks that we have met together as a jury I cannot assure everyone enough that this is the most committed group of professionals I've ever met and it's extraordinary how responsible everyone feels.

And a comment about the LMDC as well since I've been through the process with them. And, yes, they have at times made colossal mistakes, but on the whole every single person involved also wants to get it right.

So I implore upon you all tonight that you have the most receptive group of people here wanting to hear absolutely everything you have in mind. And please speak up even if we -- we really do need to hear it all. So all your issues, please come forward. This is the opportunity to do it.

Thank you.

MR. MICHAEL McKEON: Good evening.

My name is Michael McKeon. Until recently I worked with Governor Pataki and spent a lot of time down at Ground Zero in the aftermath of the terrible attack. I spent a lot of time at the family centers and in a sad way was fortunate to work with many of the families on issues important to them in the weeks and months afterward.

Paula said it all. We want to hear everything from everyone and what you say does matter and does have an impact on all of us. And so we appreciate your being here to give us your comments.

And Paula is right. I mean I'll just say one thing about Paula, she will make sure we get it right for the families. There is no better advocate than her. I'm honored to be on this jury with her.

Thank you.

MR. MICHAEL VAN VALKENBURGH: I'm Michael Van Valkenburgh. I live in Manhattan and I am a landscape architect.

And I too have found a great sense of comfort working with the eleven other jury members and, indeed, the people who are -- I want to stop short of saying managing and saying organizing this undertaking. It's kind of grown colossally since we, all of the jury members, have agreed to take on this task, 13,000 plus people registering.

But independent of the work ahead of us, I want to say that my allegiance is for this memorial, start first with the families and then extend to New Yorkers and then to Americans and then to the world.

And somehow we have to have a memorial that accomplishes the needs of all of those people together.

Thank you.

MS. SUSAN FREEDMAN: I'm Susan Freedman. I'm the President of The Public Art Fund and I've spent the last almost twenty years working with artists and communities throughout the City and truly appreciate how essential it is to have input from a community and how important dialogue is.

I think this is the most humbling experience of my life. It's one of the greatest responsibilities I've ever had. I take it quite seriously. And I feel very proud and privileged to be working with such an extraordinary group of people.

And I don't want to repeat what Michael said or Paula, either Michael. They capture my sentiments as well.

I also have the experience of having a husband and children who never met my parents. And I know what it's like to try and convey the essence of someone to people who will never meet them.

And if you take that and multiply that out, that's another perspective that I think is really important for us. I think there is a sense of wanting to convey the, to use a Paula word, the magnificent lives that were lost.

MR. ENRIQUE NORTEN: I am Enrique Nortén. I'm an architect. And all I can say is again that I am very, very honored to be serving on this jury.

And I'm sure that all of my colleagues and myself are going to do our very best effort to select the most appropriate competitive memorial that will both recognize and celebrate the life of all of those dear persons that died that day, but also, and I think what's most important, is that we will find a memorial that will bring and also celebrate a much brighter and a much better future for our children and for our grandchildren to come.

Thank you.

MS. PATRICIA HARRIS: I'm Patty Harris. I'm Deputy Mayor at City Hall. I'm a born and bred New Yorker. I've lived here my whole life.

In the last year-and-a-half I helped to oversee the last -- the ceremony on May 30th and also the first anniversary of 9/11, which was the most challenging and important event that I ever did.

And the one thing I learned the most was to be open and listen and change your point of view

and just really listen to as much as you possibly can.

And it's a privilege to be here. I was Director of the City's Art Commission which oversaw all public art and architecture. So that's my background.

But there's a lot to be learned from all of you and I'm very, very honored and will do my best.

MS. NANCY ROSEN: My name is Nancy Rosen. I've been living and working in New York City for the past thirty years and have been fortunate to have an active career as an independent art advisor.

I'm very humbled to join in this collective journey with all of you to find an exceptional and fitting expression which will memorialize the tragedies of February, 1993 and September 2001.

To share some of my background since I think the term "art advisor" is a slightly loose one or used often very loosely, my first experience with this thing called an open competition goes back to 1975 when co-curating an exhibition of outdoor sculptures that were selected on the basis of a very modest notice that was placed in a few art magazines.

We received literally hundreds of responses and were able to choose eleven of those works to be realized.

A few years later I was asked by the Parks Department of New York City and the New York Organization of Vietnam Veterans to help them with an open competition for a memorial on a site in Downtown Manhattan at the Plaza Site at Water Street.

The complexities of creating a memorial also entered my professional life in an assignment that I had from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington where I oversaw a program to commission artists to create works in concert with the museum's architecture, works that would enhance the experience of the museum and the mission, of its very specific mission and its very specific federal setting.

Closer to home, I served for a number of years as the advisor to Battery Park City Authority during its first phases of development helping to shape and implement the public art program that

brought artists and architects and landscape architects together to create the final designs for the north and south cove sites as well as the western ends of Rector Park, Albany and West Hemp Streets. These, I'm sure, are all addresses that are familiar to some of you.

The work of the Art Commission of the City of New York where I currently serve continues to enrich and challenge and broaden my appreciation and understanding of the quality and complexity of our shared public environment throughout the five boroughs, its architecture, landscape, streetscape and works of public art.

To some extent these experiences prepared me to sit here with my distinguished colleagues and with all of you. But none of us could really be prepared to imagine the horrific circumstances that have brought us here together.

And it is only through I hope the extraordinary openness of this process that we can finally inform and guide all of us.

And in this spirit of outreach tonight and in the months to come I very much look forward to listening and to learning from all of you.

MR. JAMES YOUNG: I'm James Young. I'm a cultural historian of memorials and I have written a handful of books on World War II and the Holocaust Memorials.

And over the years I have come to see memorials themselves as processes, incompleting processes actually without taking into account the people who live in and around memorials. So that I've always have made it my job in a way to include how memorials come into being as part of the history of memorials or their genealogy.

And how they come into being necessarily will include evenings like this, in fact, where we hear your stories and what it means actually to create a space in which we mourn and live at the same time.

Memorials are for the living, in fact, as we all know. It's a bit of a clique. But how we live in and among our memorials and mourn in these spaces at the same time is just crucial to me.

I actually moved to New York City in the late '70s and my first bedroom in New York was in the Silver Towers overlooking the World Trade Center looking downtown. So they were my nightlight for the first seven years I lived in the City.

We just recently moved up to Amherst where I teach. I chose to commute to Amherst rather than leave the City for several years. We moved up a few years now.

So I look forward very much to hearing everything that you have to say.

MS. JULIE MENIN: I'm Julie Menin. I'm a downtown resident. I live a couple blocks from Ground Zero. I also own a small business, a restaurant, that's located a couple of blocks from Ground Zero.

And since September 11th I've been very focused on issues regarding the revitalization of Lower Manhattan in that I founded a not-for-profit organization called Wall Street Rising.

I also served on the Memorial Mission Drafting Committee and I sit with many of you on the Small Business Advisory Council and the Development Advisory Council.

I really just wanted to thank each and every one of you for coming here tonight. I know most of you in this room. There are a few people here that I don't know.

But I really look forward to hearing comments from hopefully every single person.

As have many of you, I've participated in a number of the All Advisory Council meetings. And what I think is so unique and important about them is that we get to hear from so many different constituent groups, from family members, from residents, from small business owners, from arts groups.

And I just cannot impress upon you how important it is that we hear your comments tonight because it will really better inform us and make this process much better.

Thank you.

MR. MARTIN PURYEAR: My name is Martin Puryear. I'm an artist, primarily a sculptor. I've done a number of projects in Manhattan.

I don't live in the City proper. I live upstate a couple of hours. But I have the pylons in front of the Winter Garden at Battery Park City.

And I'm very humbled by the enormity and complexity of this project. And I want to pledge myself to just aim for excellence. I think we all are pledging ourselves to that, to aim for the most excellent and magnificent commemoration that is possible to come up with.

I'm very heartened by the fact that this process reflects the worldwide impact that this tragic event had, and the fact that the competition is open to anybody in the world I think to me is very, very inspiring. It speaks a lot about New York. It speaks a lot about our country's place in the world and the humanity of mankind as a whole.

So I am very moved by the prospect as I am also daunted by the enormity of trying to look at what may be as many as 13,000 entries. It probably will be a lot less than that, but certainly it's going to be a lot of entries to come in.

And the idea of trying to snatch from this tragic event something which we can pass on to our, a legacy as something that's more uplifting and spirited and optimistic is the challenge I think we all face.

Thank you.

MS. LOWERY STOKES SIMS: Good evening. I'm Lowery Sims and I'm currently Executive Director of the Studio Museum in Harlem and I've been there for three-and-a-half years.

And before that I served twenty-seven years as a curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. So I suppose I came to this experience as an art historian and curator.

I've also served on lots of public art panels.

Particularly being up in Harlem I also am very sensitive to the issues of public art and the public good and how communities interact with monuments.

I suppose there were a lot of reasons that I was asked to be on this panel, but I do have my own agenda. My father worked for the Port Authority for a long time and I remember, you know, the first ride in the towers, the elevators.

And he died almost four years ago. So after that the twin towers were kind of like a visual marker for me for him. So I really lost a kind of visual memory of him on September 11th.

I also share with Liz Thompson, who's here, who is the Director of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the memory of Michael Richards who was an artist in residence at the Council and who had been an artist in residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem in 1995 and '96.

At the time of September 11th I knew

Michael about two years. He was working on a show as I was coming in as Director. And a lot of his themes were ironically airplanes. I mean he was working on a monument to the Tuskegee airmen when he was killed.

And I thought about it and I say, you know, every time I ran into Michael it was always at an airport. So it's some kind of cosmic thing there.

So I don't know many of you and I don't have the same kind of depth of personal tragedy. But I want you to be rest assured that for those of us living all over New York, we all lost something that day.

And I think I bring to this task the memory of my father and Michael Richards.

MS. MAYA LIN: Hi! My name is Maya Lin. I'm trained as an architect. I'm an artist as well.

I think -- I hope I bring to the jury both sort of a tension between art and architecture.

And also it is a daunting task. I think with over 13,000 entries, I for one is extremely scared and hope that I can do the absolute best.

I think, having designed a couple of memorials, I hope that I can add that insight to the process.

But I just wanted to say that I will do, and I think we all will do the absolute best job we can to try to see through and find something that can really talk to each one of us as individuals so that a person's pain can be relieved on an individual private basis and yet it can bring us together as a community, as a group.

And I think that this is such -- in a way we all lost a sense of innocence. I think the world, that no one could have dreamed something like this could have happened.

And I think the levels and the ripples that go out as far as the pain that was felt and what must be in a way brought together, I just hope this memorial, what we can find here, can help with that.

But obviously you've heard enough from us and we need to hear from you in order to help us better see that design in August.

Thank you.

INTERIM PRESIDENT RAMPE: Thank you.

First, I just want -- I'm glad that

Michael said "organizing" because that is what we are doing. And I want to make sure it is clear that the jury that spoke today is going to have the final decision with respect to the memorial.

It is their great responsibility and it's quite a burden that they've undertaken. And they've also given a lot of their time coming to a number of public forums and private forums and meeting with many of you.

I also want to note for tonight that the format that has been chosen is LMDC's decision and not the jury's decision. So if there are questions or concerns with respect to the format, I don't think you should address them to the jury.

I also want to recognize that we do have a few Board Members of the LMDC with us tonight. We have Tom Johnson here tonight with his wife Ann. And Tom has been really a stalwart in terms of moving the memorial process forward and keeping it in the forefront of all the considerations of LMDC as we move forward in the process. And thank you, Tom, for your guidance.

We also have Madeline Wils and Madeline has also helped us in terms of guiding the process and moving forward and making sure that the memorial is an important part of the process and that we get it right. And thank you, Madeline, for your commitment.

I also wanted to recognize Anita Contini who is our Vice President/Director for Memorial and Cultural Programs. And Anita doesn't get enough credit for all that she does in terms of just bringing this jury, putting the process together and really keeping -- making sure that whatever process we have and whatever memorial we end up with, that excellence is really what's the most important thing. And I think that's something we're all appreciative of.

And, of course, someone you all know well, Tara Snow, our Vice President for Community Relations and Government Affairs, who, you know, has helped to bring together many of these forums and really is an unheralded heroine in terms of going through public forum after public forum but making sure at the end of the day that we have a very transparent and open process that's responsive to all of your concerns.

And that's one thing I can promise you, is that we will continue to be responsive.

I now would like to introduce Todd Jick who is our Moderator for the evening.

Todd's been actively involved in the memorial process. He's going to be familiar to many of you from the Memorial Mission Statement and Program Committee meetings that we held with the Advisory Councils. I think that was in January.

Todd was formerly a professor at Harvard Business School for ten years and is currently the managing partner for a firm called the Center for Executive Development.

Okay, Todd. It's all yours.

MR. TODD JICK: Kevin, thank you very much, and good evening to everyone.

It's clear why you're here and you've been now invited to comment.

Why I'm here is to give you the opportunity to do so and to do so in a way that gets as many people commenting as possible and as many of the heartfelt views, feelings, pains, hopes that are embedded in your comments and convictions.

We have a lot of people tonight. We have a relatively short time. So just a few groundrules to allow us to get as many people as possible.

First of all, as you know, there have been a couple of meetings thus far already with various members of the community and the jury. And the purpose tonight is to go deeper into some of the discussions that we've already had.

Obviously, some of these points need to be repeated and I understand that. At the same time it's an opportunity to go deeper and to add still further nuance to the understanding of the jury as they've invited you to do.

There are a number of you that have spoken thus far in one or both of the previous sessions; and if so, I would at least like in the beginning for you to give the opportunity to those that have not yet had a chance to speak at all to have a few moments to comment.

I'd ask you to keep your comments brief although I know it's very difficult to do so. But do your best for the purpose of everyone's opportunity, and to stay with the subject itself, which everyone understands to be the memorial.

There are two questions as you've seen, that I think everyone in this room has seen that we are focusing on this evening.

The first is what you would like the

memorial to mean to future generations.

The second is what things you feel are important for the jury to consider as they evaluate the submissions.

So that's a pretty broad range but nevertheless we can go further afield and I would like to stay within that range around the memorial topic.

To the extent that we do run out of time or you haven't voiced everything you would have liked to, there will be comment cards available for you, as I'm sure everyone in here recognizes, an opportunity for you to use that as a form as well.

And the only other groundrule is that when you do speak, please identify yourself and to the extent that you would care to identify the affiliation or the group that you've been a part of so that we understand as well.

That's all for groundrules. I know there are many heartfelt comments waiting to be said and I don't want to take any more time.

So with that I'm going to open it up and give us the opportunity to start.

We are just going to get our process ready with microphones. Sharon's got the first one.

MS. JILL PALL: My name is Jill and I'm with the Families Advisory Council.

Does that work better?

Hi! My name is Jill and I -- you can identify me with the Family Advisory Council, but I'd rather that you identify me as a twenty-five year old New Yorker. I have family in the military. I have friends buried at Arlington. My cousins live in Gettysburg. My best friend is stationed in Pearl Harbor.

What I wanted to say, a lot of you, you've done work with the veterans, and a lot of you were at the veterans, Vietnam veterans 20th anniversary dinner a couple of weeks ago. And I wish that a lot of you would have stayed for the video that they showed. And they showed the importance of the past, present and future of the memorial to future generations and how the residents of the community thought it was so important to -- how it was so important for future generations and for the community to come together and create something that will outlive all of us so that when the last veteran is not there to tell the story, that the memorial can do it itself.

And that's why I think it's so important for us to come together and build something that tells the story, not just a list of first and last names. Because you know what? That means nothing. That does not say that a child on the airplane was four years old. There was a two-year old on one of the airplanes. And to just sit there and list a first and a last name - and I guess that's my message to the jury - is when you do get the memorial wall submission, don't make it a list of names. Put ages in there, put hometowns, let people identify with these people.

Have a museum there that tells the story of what happened that day.

Americans are lazy. I can't tell you how many times I've been to Gettysburg, how many times I've been to Arlington. It looks like a circus there. And unless you're going to go and research and get books out of a library and buy books at the bookstore and figure out what happened that day, the museum needs to tell that story.

That memorial has five minutes to tell a story when people go there. So just please make sure that that is accomplished.

In Pearl Harbor, before you go to the memorial, the USS ARIZONA, you have to go in a room and watch a movie about what happened that day. I think that's really important too because they can't even get over into the memorial until they watch that movie. So everybody who goes there knows the story.

And that's all.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you very much.

We need some help I think with this microphone. Is it disturbing also as we're listening? Are you okay with it? I just don't want the -- I want the sound to be able to come through, but I also want us to be able to hear without scratches and the like.

Senator Connor would like to just say a few words.

SENATOR MARTIN CONNOR: I represent Lower Manhattan and I'm a Member of the LMDC General Advisory Council.

But I think it's important if the jury does its work to consider the memorial in a total context. And the aesthetics and how you do it is why you're all there.

But that context has to represent one

fitting and moving memorial that does tell the story and that certainly conveys what happened there and conveys the sense of who the victims were.

And it has to be in the context of a downtown neighborhood where people live, children play. And so balancing that so that you get something that works is a challenge.

I know as I go around Lower Manhattan and talk to the residents, they are concerned with cross-site access. They are concerned with somewhere down there having a bus depot so that buses just don't idle.

I think their residential concerns are consistent with what you want a memorial to be. I don't think you want it to be lined with idling buses.

And I think these considerations are important.

Also downtown residents seem to, interestingly enough, while they want cross-site access, they also are very much in favor of something that's at or near grade. So it's not like they want it buried out of site either. And I don't think -- personally I don't either.

But I think balancing that, considering the concerns of residents versus everyone else is very important to making this a lasting memorial that will last for generations and generations and not succumb to what happens, particularly in this City, where, you know, try and find something a hundred years later that was of historical significance that got in the way of the almighty progress in Manhattan.

We want this to be there for hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of year. And it will be if it fits into the fabric of the neighborhood.

It should be a quiet and reflective place, but it should also have access, open space, places for people to be able to reflect.

And that's really my consideration.
Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you, Senator.

This gentleman. Are the mikes -- we need the mikes for both the purposes of everyone here as well as for the video.

MR. GEORGE OLSEN: Hi!

My name is George Olsen. I'm a resident of Lower Manhattan.

I served in the Marine Corps as a Marine Corps officer in 1968 in Vietnam. So I feel I am keenly aware of the place that a memorial has in the lives of people, families and people that go forward.

However, I am here tonight as the President of the PTA of PS 234 that has six hundred and forty-two students that live down here with their families.

And I was with those students on September 11th as they were evacuated out through the debris and the dust and were covered with dust as they got up to 11th Street.

They've had to live through two years now, especially last year, of terrible environmental conditions down here. And they are going to be here for many, many years to come.

I think the main thing that the memorial needs to consider, as Mr. Connor said, is we need a place that this does not continue to contaminate the area. I want the memorial to have the significance that the families want, but it also needs to be aware of the environment that's down here and that there are children that live and play down here. And they've already suffered quite a bit emotionally.

And I would like to make sure that there are places for people to park, that there's some organization about it. And if we can get the hundred and fifty to two hundred buses that they expect a day down here off the streets somewhere, I think it will be a big step forward in helping the residents stay here.

Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: I have Liz right behind you, and then I'm going to move back to the front. I'm going to keep going back and forth.

MS. LIZ THOMPSON: Hi!

I know a lot of you. Most of the time I speak extemporaneously but this is too emotional.

MR. TODD JICK: Liz, though, can you identify yourself?

MS. LIZ THOMPSON: My name is Liz Thompson. I'm the Executive Director of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

On September 11th, LMCC had offices at Five World Trade Center, artist studios on the 93rd floor of Tower 1 and a tech crew readying the stage at the foot of Tower 1 for a dance company

rehearsal to start at nine a.m.

I was having breakfast at Windows on the World. The meeting ended early. The doors to the elevator were held open for us or we would not have been fortunate enough to have been in the last elevator down from the 107th floor.

I was in the lobby when the first plane hit, saw the second plane hit Tower 2.

I escaped by minutes. Michael Richards, an extraordinary artist working in Tower 1, was not as lucky.

It is my hope that the memorial you select addresses the cacophonous needs of all concerned. It is my belief that an artist can come up with a solution.

Although the Trade Center Plaza was not an ideal place, it did provide a town square. It provided a much needed open space and a valley in the midst of charmingly densely built canyons.

As a cultural organization, it provided us with a place to gather a very diverse audience and introduce them to worthwhile, exciting and sometimes challenging art.

The performing and visual arts can help us deal with our emotions when we cannot access them by any other means. Coming together as a community of neighbors and strangers on that five-acre plaza was important before 9/11 and it is important as we rebuild this community.

It is my hope that the space designated for the memorial provides a place of communion for all of the diverse constituents that need to remember and recover from the tragic losses suffered on the 11th.

It is my hope that the individuals who died are honored in a way that satisfies those left behind.

It is my hope that the memorial allows us not only to grieve for what was lost, but to celebrate life.

I was privileged to have been a member of the Memorial Mission Statement Committee. It was interesting as I attended last week's session to hear the statement cited by people with diametrically opposed needs. It is clear that seemingly incompatible needs must be met.

Some will take solace in concrete representations. Some need a less articulated transcendent environment.

It is my hope and understanding that the memorial will not have to bear the sole responsibility of conveying information about the event of September 11th, that in tandem with the memorial there will be a museum or a library or a visitors center that will address the specific nature of the events and articulate in a more concrete way the exceptional bravery demonstrated and loss suffered on that day.

I believe that this community that I live and work in honors and respects the very specific needs of family members, firefighters and police that was so articulated last Thursday and probably will be tonight.

But I also believe that this community that lives and works here in Lower Manhattan needs green space, needs a town square back, and I think we all need to celebrate life.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you.

MS. EDIE LUTNICK: Hi!

My name is Edie Lutnick. I'm the Executive Director of the Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund. As all of you know, we lost six hundred and fifty-eight families, including my brother Gary. My office was on 101 of Tower 1.

The Cantor families and the Relief Fund families which make up approximately nine hundred families have been incredibly consistent in what they have said that they wanted from a memorial. They have said it at the beginning and I will reiterate it now although it runs afoul of some of the things I've already heard this evening.

The Cantor families would like one memorial that is dignified and respectful.

I think the one thing that you have to remember is that you are not dignifying and respecting the lives that we have lost if you run roughshod over the people that they loved the most in the world, which means that I would charge you to listen to the families and listen to them very, very carefully.

Their needs are tantamount here. And I'm sorry if other people don't agree with that. But in point of fact this is the final resting place for these families and that cannot be ignored. That's number one. We want a dignified and respectful memorial that honors the lives of those that we have lost.

Number two, the families have asked that

the remains - and that includes the land from Fresh Kills - somehow be returned to this site and be interred there so that the remains of our loved ones are, in fact, on the memorial grounds where they lost their lives.

And we understand that this isn't going to be a cemetery and the families aren't asking for that. But they are asking that the remains of their loved ones be returned to where they were lost. That's number two.

Number three, the families have asked consistently and repeatedly and have not wavered from the fact that they do not want any vehicular traffic running across the site. This is where they lost their lives. This is where the remains were found.

None of you have vehicular traffic across your loved ones' gravesites.

Make it something else, call it something else, but respect the fact that to these family members this is, in fact, sacred ground no matter what you put there. So don't make it a place that these families do not want to come.

We are going to be here. Our children are going to be here. Our children's children are going to be here. And they are going to visit repeatedly.

And that includes a bus depot below one of the towers.

And these are things that were discussed and agreed upon and everybody thought we were in the same place.

All right. So these are the major points.

Now, I don't want to say that this is everything that the Cantor families want because it isn't. And now that we know that we have a forum where potentially our voices will actually be heard, I will tell you that the Cantor families are meeting on this. I have already told this to Tara. And we will have a complete and comprehensive thing that the united Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund, nine hundred families, agree when I come forward and I talk to you the next time.

But these are fundamental propositions that everyone has heard from us time and time and time again. And I think that it's uniform across all of the families.

And I hope that you'll all listen to it

very, very carefully.

Thank you very much.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you.

MR. BILL LOVE: My name is Bill Love.
I'm a ten-year resident of Battery Park City.

And all I want to speak on today is to support the proposal I understand has been made by a couple of members of the LMDC to basically return the memorial site to ground level rather than thirty feet below grade.

It's very important that residents and people who work in the area have access to the site. For people like myself who live in southern Battery Park City, which is southwest of the site, access to the site has been an integral part of getting to where we want to go for all the time that we've been there prior to 9/11, whether it's going uptown, midtown to jobs, which I do everyday, or it's going to Tribeca for lunch, or going to Century 21 or stores to the east for shopping.

And if -- the current proposal to put it thirty feet below grade essentially means that we will be isolated. It's almost like there will be a wall up West Street and then east along Liberty as far as being able to access the site.

And I think the practical -- that will add several minutes to our trying to get to where we want to go, to our commutes. It will be worse on the elderly and handicapped.

And I think practically what it means is that people will probably tend to go underground, this passageway that's going to be under West Street, which I'm in favor of as an alternative. But I think it's going to tend to make people go that way because it will become a more direct way to get places to the east.

So it will tend to be not good as far as streetlife is concerned.

The other thing that strikes me, I've read a lot about this wall, exposure of the wall, as being a symbol of strength. In fact, for those of us who live down there, it's very much a symbol of vulnerability. Many of us didn't even know about the bathtub wall prior to 9/11. And I remember moving back down there two weeks afterwards. There were lots of rumors going around about how the wall might collapse and so forth.

We all know we're not talking about the Rock of Gibraltar here. This wall is something --

it has to be shored up periodically. So I don't understand why the exposure has to be there.

And I hope you'll -- in coming up with the design not only come up with a tasteful and appropriate design for the memorial, which I will trust to your judgment, but also consider the needs of the people who are living and who have to interact with this site on a daily basis in the normal course of our lives.

Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you, Bill.

I'm going to take a little privilege here. I know that there are some Flight 93 families that have joined us for this evening with some considerable effort. And we have not had a chance to listen to you.

And I'm going to ask Allison perhaps to introduce those that have come, and please speak either on their behalf or if others would like to speak.

But if you could please begin. We are very, very pleased to have you here this evening.

MS. ALLISON VADHAN: Hi!

My name is Allison Vadhan. I lost my mother on Flight 93.

And we were invited to attend this meeting today. I want to introduce people from around the country who have come specifically to listen and to participate in the meeting today.

Alice Hoglan, mother of Mark Bingham.

Lloyd and Joan Glick, parents of Jeremy Glick.

The Homers, Marilyn and her sister, sisters of the pilot Leroy Homer.

And Richard Price from New York, from Battery Park, who lost his former wife on the plane.

We have a written statement just to give a ballpark sense of what Flight 93 would like to see with the memorial and museum.

MR. LLOYD GLICK: I'm Lloyd Glick.

And the Families of Flight 93 are a relatively small community when compared with everyone else. We're forty families.

And yet we believe that we share this moment with you and with all of the families of the victims of both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

A commonality was established that day

that will live forever in the hearts of Americans within the fabric of our joint history.

The victims are as united in death as they were distant in life. We, as Family Members of Flight 93, share the same grief and sorrow for our losses as the families of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and will be forever linked by the tragedies of that day.

It our wish and hope that the memorial will invoke the sacrifices of all those who lost their lives on that day, honoring and remembering and including the civilians, firefighters and policemen at the World Trade Center, the civilians and the military at the Pentagon, as well as the passengers and crew of Flight 93.

The tragedies of all are interwoven and they are inseparable and should be joint, the memory should be joint.

It may be a great honor and a privilege that the memory of our loved ones be included in your memorial and to remain forever together in history.

We also feel that there should be an educational component so that the world can learn about the events of September 11th.

And our hope is that the efforts of all those who perished that day will forever engender feelings of unity, courage, pride, honor and respect.

We strongly support and urge the jury to consider such an inclusion and we look forward to the great opportunity we have before us to join you in that effort.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you very much.

MR. MARC AMERUSO: Thank you.

My name is Marc Ameruso. I'm a Member of Community Board #1.

On 9/11 I was also a first responder and spent three-and-a-day days at the site assisting with search and rescue efforts. A couple of points I want to address.

The woman from Cantor Fitzgerald mentioned that the victims' families were of tantamount, I think she said, concern. And I would take issue with that respectfully because there are a number of homeowners and homerenters that live down here. The operative word there is home. This is our home.

So to put more credence on one group

than the other I think it's kind of disrespectful.

What -- her point about vehicular traffic through the site, I would -- and there's no other way to say it except to say it. I attended several workshops with victims' families and this term of sacred ground, I think we can never get a definition of what they meant by that.

So I wanted to bring something back to the Community Board because I knew it would be a point of contention, to at least have some kind of dialogue and middle ground where we can meet.

Now, what is sacred ground? She says that no vehicle should go through the site because the ground is sacred.

When I was down there helping search and rescue efforts, I unfortunately found remains on West Street. Now, no one's saying close West Street. So what is this definition of sacred ground that you have to come up with?

The same thing with the bus garage. There needs to be a garage. We don't want these buses idling, as Senator Connor said, outside.

Also what he had said is about bringing it up to grade. You need connectivity for the neighborhood otherwise it becomes like the old World Trade Center which was disconnected. A big labyrinth of escalators and tunnels and things like that disconnected all the surrounding neighborhoods, not just Battery Park City.

I think the connectivity is probably one of the most important things. And not to forget that - I don't want to use the term residents anymore. That's why I used the term homeowners and homerenters. But the operative word is on "home." This is our home. And please don't forget that.

Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: All right.

I'm going to begin to open it up more widely to those who also wanted to speak and have spoken, but I do want to come -- Fred, you'll be next.

MR. ANTHONY GARDNER: My name is Anthony Gardner. I am a founding Board Member of the Coalition of 9/11 Families. I'm a Member of the Family Advisory Council since its inception. I'm President of WTC, another family group.

I've been an advocate for the September 11th community since the weeks following the attack.

And I want to say that, to this gentleman over here who has redefined residents, I'd like to redefine September 11th families because we are a community. There's a September 11th community. We are comprised of survivors. We are comprised of rescue workers. We are comprised of residents that do not share Madeline Wils' opinion and the opinions of other residents who would like a street level memorial so that they could shave two minutes off their commute. If that's their motivation, I'd like to ask those people to go to Oklahoma City National Memorial and try to walk across that memorial site on their daily commute.

This is a sacred place. And to define sacred ground for you, sir, the area that we are specifically fighting for is to protect and preserve the area within the slurry wall known as the bathtub, that comprises the Tower 1, Tower 2 footprints to bedrock, the Plaza area, World Trade Center 6 and the Marriott Hotel.

The reason we want this area is because we understand that remains were recovered on West Street. We understand that remains were recovered in apartments. We are trying to compromise here.

This area within the bathtub is where over 19,000 remains were recovered, specifically within this area. Okay? And this is why we want this site to bedrock.

Future generations -- you talk about your children. Future generations should be able to go to this site and touch that bedrock and learn about their American history, learn about the people who were killed.

And it's very unfortunate how the press has only told one side of the story, and that seems to be the residents' side when the September 11th community has been all about compromise from the beginning. We've tried to include everyone.

And what we want to say here today is that we are greatly opposed to a bus garage on that site.

We are greatly opposed to any retail or office space within that bathtub area.

And let me correct myself. I don't mean the entire site. I'm talking about this specific area within the bathtub which we are fighting to preserve.

To do any less, to build a bus there,

bus garage, to build retail would only succeed at creating an uninspiring memorial, one that fails to educate future generations.

And I have some comments written down here, but I just want to say that many members of the September 11th community have also acknowledged that it might be more beneficial to the residents if people are forced, not even forced, but people are challenged to make a pilgrimage to the site where they would have to come by ferry into Battery Park City and then walk to the site.

They will go into your businesses, they will go into your restaurants, they will go into your hotels.

And there's a way here. There are no winners in this situation, but it's about compromise. And the September 11th community has repeatedly been misrepresented. We are about compromise, but we are about American history. This is America's memorial. This isn't only New York's. This isn't the September 11 Families' memorial. No matter what, that will not bring my brother back.

The only solace it will give me is knowing that history was preserved and future generations will learn about these martyrs, these people that gave their lives.

And I apologize to the people that feel that it's an inconvenience. But the bottomline is that that bathtub must be preserved for memorial purposes only.

And this is America's memorial. And I can't say anything more than that.

Look at Gettysburg. Look at Pearl Harbor. And that's what this site is.

Think about the compromise.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you.

Thank you for your patience. I know that there are heartfelt views all around the room, but I do want them all to come out. It's hard to do them simultaneously.

So I think, Fred, you were next.

And then I'm going to come over to this side.

MR. MANFRED OHRENSTEIN: Good evening.

My name is Manfred Ohrenstein. I used to be a member of the State Senate and represented this area for about twenty years.

My office was also on the 85th floor of Tower 1. And we probably were the last floor that

was not totally destroyed when the plane hit.

Fortunately for us most of the people who were there that early in the morning were able to escape by walking down eighty-five flights and getting out of the building before it collapsed.

I'm also a holocaust survivor and I'm fortunate to have come to this country as a young boy and to achieve whatever success I was able to achieve.

And I was part of the group that built the holocaust memorial at the foot of Battery Park. And this is one of the things I would like to talk about.

When we started the effort for a holocaust memorial, we felt the same sense of overwhelming -- of being overwhelmed by this task: how do you memorialize the tragedy of that immense proportion.

And it was only after long periods of contemplation that many of us realized that no one memorial, no one effort, can ever encompass the total tragedy that is involved.

This event, this September 11th event, will be memorialized by what's happening on the site. It will also be memorialized by many other things which we haven't even thought about.

Nobody thought about "Schindler's List" until fifty years later, and yet it was one of the great memorials to the holocaust.

Nobody thought about "The Pianist." And it is a great memorial to the holocaust.

Similarly I would say to you, while it is a feeling of being overwhelmed by the task, do not try to encompass in this one area all of the tasks that have to be discharged because it's impossible.

Trust history, trust the creativity of the American people, trust the creativity of New York City residents, that we will find myriads of ways of memorializing this terrible event.

Secondly, I would like to urge on you the following.

One of the - and I told that to Kevin Rampe this morning, this afternoon, before - I believe the selection of Daniel Libeskind was an act of genius in this whole picture because he brings to it - and I never knew nor heard of Daniel Libeskind before he created this concept - but he brings to it a purity of thought and a focus on the

big picture like no one else I have seen articulate this problem.

From the slurry wall, which seems to have become so controversial, which represents the depths of the tragedy and the depravity of the 9/11 acts, to his soaring tower which represents the courage and the heroism of the American people and of the people of the City of New York, in that soaring concept from Ground Zero to the heights is the context in which the memorial itself has to be thought of.

And I urge you to involve him particularly in this process as you come to your conclusion because he has it right.

Finally, I'd like to say this. It is troublesome to hear some of the contentiousness that has crept into this process. There are many, many heroes here. There is enough pain to shake the world. No one's heroism and no one's pain is above anybody else's heroism and everybody else's pain because we can only deal with our individual pain in our own individual way.

But we have to recognize and respect that others feel exactly the same way about their pain and their loss.

The task that you have, which is impossible and yet it is possible, is to see to it that all of those whose heroism was part of this day - and I don't want to name them all because we could run out of a list - and all of those who felt the terrible pain of loss and who will continue to feel, have to be encompassed in this site in some way.

But as I said at the beginning, you are not going to be able to do it all. You can do the best you can if you keep your eye on the big picture.

Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: This gentleman next.

I see many hands. We are going to start to find ourselves with time crunches. So I'm going to ask, to get as many comments in as possible as long as you all respect the brevity as well.

Please, sir.

MR. PAUL SIPOS: I would like to read a brief statement.

My name is Paul Sipos. I'm a Member of Community Board #1.

The terrorist attack on September 11th

and the resulting holocaust was not directed at Lower Manhattan. It was an attack against the civilized world. The people who were murdered that day were like any of us in this auditorium.

The rescuers, brave and valiant, were the same people who may have helped many of us at another time in the line of duty.

There will be countless visitors, non-tourists, coming to pay homage and respect at the memorial site.

The memorial should not be compromised with a bus depot. The site should not be compromised for passive community space or used as a shortcut.

A prominent New York religious leader recently stated that we as a society will be judged by how we memorialize those who perished on that fateful day.

Those of us who have a place to live, a place to work, and most importantly, our families intact, we are the very fortunate ones.

The word "opportunity" has been used in various contexts when discussing changing downtown. I feel this is an opportunity to show compassion and respect to those who were murdered on September 11th and their families. That would be a change downtown.

MR. TODD JICK: Please.

MS. LINDA ROSENTHAL: Hi!

My name is Linda Rosenthal and I'm here from Congressman Jerrold Nadler who is still in Washington when I got here. So I'll briefly summarize his remarks.

On that terrible day in September the City, State and nation suffered grievously when terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center. This tragic event deeply and immutably affected us all although I have a slightly different perspective.

The terrorists struck my congressional district, the area I have proudly represented in the House of Representatives for more than ten years. They inflicted untold grief and misery on thousands. The victims' families will have to grapple with the pain and loss for the rest of their lives, and I hope for them this memorial will be a place of peace and solace.

Many have expressed their hopes and aspirations for this memorial site and I know that they have created lasting impressions upon you, the

jury.

The terrorists also caused unmitigated damage to a large swath of this City. Their heinous acts disrupted the cotidien lives of my constituents, 50,000 people who live in Lower Manhattan, 30,000 students who attend school in the vicinity of the area, and more than 300,000 workers.

These residents, civic groups and business groups and schools have expressed some of their concerns to me and I would like to convey them to you.

Approximately forty-one percent of people who responded to a poll downtown have lost family, friends and neighbors in the attack and many continue to suffer as a result.

They've also lost their community center and their town square. They used the World Trade Center as a community resource in ways most of us did not realize. They would cross through it to get to other neighborhoods. Ninety-five percent of Battery Park City used it in that way. And they also utilized its shopping, cultural and other services.

Residents who live here twenty-four hours a day say that life downtown is difficult these days. Getting around is onerous as an east/west pedestrian access is severely limited.

Their preference is to allow access through and within the site. They prefer plans that bring the open area closer to grade as well as those that offer plenty of open green space and are able to provide the infrastructure to support the millions of anticipated yearly visitors.

We are all trying to come to terms with this new world reality as we look towards a restoration of normalcy when Lower Manhattan is rebuilt and revitalized.

I know that a magnificent memorial will rise in the future, one that will acknowledge our profound sense of loss and demonstrate our commitment to endure.

I just want to add another comment, that the Congressman has proposed a bill in Congress that will call on the Federal government to pay half the cost of construction and will take responsibility through the National Parks Service to administer the memorial once its built. And I can give you more details on that if you are

interested.

Thank you very much.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you very much.

This gentleman here and then I'm going to come up to the front row. I know that there are other hands. I'm going to keep going back and forth as best I can.

Please.

MR. RICK PLANTIN: My name is Rick Plantin. And I'm not going to speak as a twenty-five year resident or a Member of the Community Board, but something that Manfred Ohrenstein clicked something off in my mind.

I am also the child of two holocaust survivors, both my parents. And when it gets to the next generation up, those are the people who didn't survive.

And I've worked with my father in the 1990s to create a memorial in the town where he comes from in Germany because there was nothing, no names, no memorial, nothing for the six hundred and fifteen Jews that died in Altsburg (phonetic).

The problem I had there was I was on the other side of the fence in that every time that we were saying we wanted a memorial, the residents and the people living there said please be sensitive to us. This happened fifty years ago, we don't want to have to walk through and see this memorial.

So, I know, you've been sensitized a little bit on both sides.

And, again, when you talk about compromise, the compromise is you do have to come up with a compromise. And I am an example of something that is fifty/sixty years after the event.

And as a result, you know, it's either yes or no. It's either going to have to be something where people feel it's like a cemetery or it's not. And the issue of sacredness, I mean I work at NYU where the Triangle Shirt Factory fire was in 1911 and it's a chemistry building now. People have to be sensitive but also people have to realize that other uses occur.

The Pentagon also was rebuilt.

So in one way one has to be sensitive but one also has to realize that people do live in the area, the future is going to continue, and you don't want to create something that creates such a problem for everyone who goes down there.

So, again, it's not that like cars are driving through something. It's below grade where there are many utilities and infrastructure, that there is an event, that's something that occurring.

And the actual nexus of where bodies or remains are, no one in my family really has a memorial where they were murdered. In Sheepshead Bay where these people never even heard of Brooklyn we have their names inscribed. Plus in one town where three out of the fifteen people were deported from their names are inscribed.

The memories are in your hearts. I don't even know these people but I know every one of those fifteen people's lives. You learn these things not because of the exact nexus of where you feel the remains were left. Those things are basically separate.

And I think we have to come up with something that is sensitive to both, that looks towards the future, that it may not be like a religious cemetery type of situation.

Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you for your view on that.

I see this spurred some other comments and reactions. But I first said I was going to come up front.

MR. SUDHIR JAIN: I'm Sudhir Jain. I'm a resident of Battery Park City and a member of the Residents Advisory Council.

As some of you may know, I know some of you are familiar with Battery Park City, but I personally was hardest hit, our neighborhoods in some of the tragedy. Almost half the people in Battery Park City are new since September 11th.

So imagine how much turnover there has been in the neighborhood and we need to keep these people around and make sure we rebuild our neighborhood and our lives.

A lot of people are still trying to get their homes cleaned of asbestos and other factors two years later.

So a lot of this healing has to go on and the more or less integrated to a living community.

And the World Trade Center was, as people have said, it's a commercial center and the heart of the neighborhood, whether, you know, we had to physically go through it or be there, you

know, for services or whatever.

You can have your respect for a memorial and meet the needs of residents like, you know, be at the surface level, a ground level memorial, and also have connectivity through there and still have a memorial.

So it's possible to balance all these things and I'm sure the jury can go about doing that.

But I just want to make sure that you realize the residents really need to heal and move on as well, not just the families. Everyone needs to do that.

Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: All the way across here.

MR. LEE IELPI: Good evening.

My name is Lee Ielpi. I lost my son, Jonathan, firefighter, South Tower. We found him three months to the day after the collapse.

I spent the better part of nine months at the site working with recovery workers. So I know the site well.

We talk about remains. You people, the jury, to say your task is a daunting task would be an understatement. You have a monumental task.

We spoke about different sites across the world. Our site is unique. I still haven't been able to find the site that's going to go below grade level, six stories.

We speak about the holocaust, which we should never forget, we must always remember. None of the camps, if I'm not mistaken - and correct me if I am - went six stories below grade. You've heard "below grade" quite often tonight.

To say that we have not been sympathetic to the community I think is false. Those of you who were at the first Community Board meeting I think, that I spoke at, I got up and one thing I did say was I came here tonight to demand sixteen acres. I left by saying I was totally wrong because we have to be mindful of the residents of the area.

But we have a very difficult task with the residents, with family members, with the jury on what will be.

I did have the chance, the National Holocaust Museum in Washington asked if I would come down and say a few words at their 10th anniversary, which just passed. I did go down. I

gave the similarities of the site. And forgive me, some of the similarities of the site were, as I make a turn in the holocaust museum and see the clothing on the ground, I saw lots of clothing that was stripped from the people that worked at the World Trade Center.

When I made another turn and I saw shoes on the ground, and those of you who have been at the museum know this area as well, the shoes at the holocaust museum, we at the site saw hundreds and hundreds of shoes that we had to pick up and smell the shoe to see if there were remains in the shoes.

I saw photos. We have photos of the holocaust museum. I found wedding albums. I found personal albums. I found i.d. cards of all of the faces.

The similarities were uncanny.

And the last turn I made, which I didn't say at the holocaust museum because there were people crying at that point, and this is always going to be a sad issue, we are always going to try and bring the sadness into play to try and manipulate.

I said that I made a turn in the holocaust museum and I saw the crematorium. At the site the fires burned for almost six months. I went through ashes at the site where we found steel toes from boots. We didn't find the boots or the people that were wearing the boots.

So to say our site is unique, it is unique, but it's very similar to the holocaust museum. Should we ever forget? And we should never forget.

The residents have a true point here and I truly understand their point. But time is going to tell what is right and what is wrong.

Yes, we found remains throughout the area, rooms in buildings. But the vast majority, the vast majority were found inside of the slurry wall bathtub area to bedrock.

I mentioned -- and I've had the opportunity to speak across the country in many, many, many states. And I speak of only what the recovery was like for nine months.

I bring up the fact, and I do not tell them what to do about it, I leave it up to them, I ask the question. And I asked this question at the holocaust museum. I said: what would you say if I said to you there is a possibility of a bus

terminal, of some place to go to get something to eat, or commerce where you can go in and buy a dress or a pair of shoes, sitting on top of the sites?

Overwhelming, unanimous across the country - not here, not the families, not the residents - unanimously across the country they said: That is repulsive, that's not what is going to happen, is it?

I said I don't know, but there is a chance it could happen.

We are not asking for sixteen acres. We are asking for the area where the vast, vast majority of 19,000 plus body parts were found at bedrock.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you, Lee, very much.

We'll pass it back here.

I'm going to come across over here.

MR. ANTHONY NOTARO: Good evening.

My name is Anthony Notaro. I live and work in Lower Manhattan, Battery Park City.

I am part of Community Board #1 and I don't say that as an affiliation except to say that I love my neighborhood and I love New York City.

I hope I can get through this because this is going to be a little emotional. I want to give you another view as a resident.

One thing that everybody in this room shares in common is September 11th. We all suffered, we all lost. We all deal with that in our own ways.

There is, and I think someone said it before, no hierarchy of this, but they are all genuine. Our needs are different, but there is also one common need that we all have. And I want everyone to understand that. And maybe there is a little story that I can share with the jury.

The residents, the workers, the visitors of Lower Manhattan need a memorial as much as anyone else. We all saw what happened that day. I moved back to my apartment because it was my home and I got back there literally September 24th.

It was ridiculous. And everyone here -- and I know that Lee will probably verify what Lower Manhattan was like at that point.

But the story I want to tell you is that from that night on -- in fact, the only way that I could get around the site was to literally go to

Battery Park and come back up parts of Broadway.

And I have to tell you that it was a struggle but I did it every night. And I find myself to this day not one day has gone by since September 11th where I don't walk by the site.

And I found myself early on, as the barriers kept moving, I could get closer and closer. It was, for lack of a better word, almost a novena or -- I would say a prayer every night.

I still every night pass by.

So a desperate need that I have for healing and for rebuilding is that we have the ability to build a beautiful memorial and that we have everyone in the world have access to it.

If it comes across as trivial or trite, I'm sorry that we can't express ourselves better that way. But we all need a memorial. I felt for two years like a moth going to that site because it is so special and so unique.

So I can tell you that from the residents there was great suffering, great loss here. We don't need another store. That's not the issue. Because that's nostalgia. We'll get those things and they can be worked out.

What we need is access to a place of healing and rebuilding.

I didn't have the experience that Lee had. But one other part of the story was as I got closer and closer to the site very early on, the memory that still sticks in my mind is of those last couple of floors of the superstructure of the World Trade Center.

And so my vision is not of the depth of the wound but of some height that was still left. I do not advocate big buildings in this comment. What I advocate is a soaring or a -- I've had my eyes looking down for two years or almost two years now. I want us to have eyes that look up and I want us all to go through that site and be compelled to go there everyday.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you for making the effort to speak.

I'm going to turn to Ric. I'm going to come here to Patricia and then I'm going to come back here. I see some other hands. I'll get you as well.

Please, Ric.

MR. RIC BELL: Ric Bell. I guess I'm speaking for myself. I was privileged to speak on

May 28th on behalf of New York New Visions. And I won't read what I said then. I didn't prepare anything except to try and take notes from what other people have said tonight and to try to see if there was some common ground.

A lot of people have spoken about compromise.

On the 28th what I was talking about was a single, respectful, non-hierarchic - and as soon as I said non-hierarchic, the booing started. It's a much more civil night this evening because I think there is a lot of common ground.

A memorial that actively engages the site plan and that connects the site to a context beyond its boundaries and its borders, beyond its neighborhood and its neighbors, even beyond the State and its statutes.

The jury should be commended for listening, for being here tonight, for listening on May 28th to a lot of heartfelt pain on the part of the family members, particularly the firefighters, on the part of firefighters who were there, and many of the rest of us who have different reasons for being involved.

Also there are many nights to come, nights when you are going to be talking amongst yourselves, to each other, not to us, not at public hearings, not at advisory council meetings, but trying to figure out what this all means, what you're hearing about what the memorial should be, what it means to all of us, what it means to people not yet born.

Mark was talking about workshops that brought together family members and neighborhood residents before. And there were some. Imagine New York did a lot. New York New Visions did a little. Other groups tried to bring people together, tried to see if there was a common ground, to define terms.

What is a living memorial, what is a respectful memorial? A place that respects the lives that were lost to heroism, that speaks eloquently to the children of people who have not yet come to visit the site.

Sacred ground? It may be very, very hard to define such terms, especially as a secularist or without a spiritual underpinning. But sacred ground to me talks ground made sacred by loss. It's clear. Something different happened here than happened in

Long Island City or in the hub in the Bronx.

There have been a lot of buzz words, maybe less tonight than the other night, but there are buzz words. And some of these are loaded, freighted with meaning.

Hierarchy - hierarchy does not equal heroism. I'm trying to come to terms at a war memorial where I spent some part, some brief part, of a college reunion this past weekend. And there was a list of names. And it wasn't alphabetical. People didn't enter World War I or the War of 1812 or any other war alphabetically. But people could find the names. And to the degree that they were recognizable and told some stories, it transcended the list.

There was hierarchy insofar as ranks were shown and birth dates and ages, but that became almost meaningless, at least to me distant from those losses and those names. A child of immigrants, the names didn't resonate in any way. But they talk to the magnitude of the loss. They talk to collectively and by their equality in their death what that loss meant.

Issues of connectivity. I was calling it connectiveness until I was corrected. Connectivity has become a buzz word. It does not equal convenience.

New York New Visions on page twenty-one of the report we did last January - I remember the page because it was the most relevant page - it says, how big is sixteen acres. And it talked to Rockefeller Center and it talked to other places about how big places are.

I can't come here with an equivalent page and say Gramercy Park is the equivalent size of a four-and-a-half acre site. But how important is it truly to be able to cut across the site, a desired path? A desire to do what?

It seems to me that the issues of connectivity are about approach, they are about significance, they are about not being plopped down in a bus right in the middle of the site, but by coming to it with a certain meaning, a certain respect at a certain distance.

Lastly, compromise. Everybody has said tonight, and I will, and many have said it more eloquently, that compromise is what is needed.

Compromise is not about mediocrity. It does not equal mediocrity. Compromise is not

something that -- it is a necessity in the democratic process. Hey, you know, an election is not about finding a compromise candidate, not one of those who was running.

Compromise to my mind is about a qualitative imperative that comes from the conditions that bring us all together, bring us together in this room, bring us together on these issues and bring us together going forward.

I would like to think that the jury's mandate as, or its charge, and I wasn't in the room when it was read, is to not achieve something that's going to satisfy everybody, but it's to be strong and stand up to the principles that are going to lead a single, respectful memorial, and do it not by compromise but by seeking the best excellence that we can all achieve together.

And thank you very much for the time to say that today.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you.

MS. PATRICIA REILLY: My name is Patricia Reilly. I lost my sister, Lorraine Lee, in Tower 2 at the World Trade Center.

I'm a member of the Coalition of 9/11 Families. And what's important to us is to have a memorial that honors all who died at the World Trade Center site, Shanksville, Pennsylvania and the Pentagon, to pay honor to all who died on September 11th.

I think there's a miscommunication going on. The families, most families from 9/11, are -- only supported the Libeskind plan because it preserved the bathtub area and the slurry wall, or the area within the slurry wall to bedrock.

We are not opposed to -- oh, I'm sorry. And February '93 and I'm sorry for that.

We are not opposed to an above-ground memorial. What we want is the site to be preserved to bedrock and to have access to bedrock for the families. That can be through an elevator. That could be through some mechanism.

The families, it's important to go down to where their loved ones were found. But it doesn't mean that we want to have an open pit any more than you do.

The slurry wall means nothing to the families other than a demarcation of the site. And within the slurry wall is where the two towers stood, the Marriott Hotel and Building 6.

And so I think when you keep on saying you want an above-ground memorial and the families don't, we're not opposed to an above-ground memorial. We want access to bedrock.

And we certainly don't want a mall or a bus depot underneath. I mean that is going too far for us.

You have to remember that fifty percent of the remains have not been identified. We got my sister's pocketbook back. We never got any of her back.

So for us this is the last and final resting place of our loved ones. And we do want the remains interred there.

We've heard over and over again that we are trying to make it a cemetery. I don't believe that's true. I think a beautiful place for the remains being interred can be done tastefully and beautifully.

You live among the most beautiful cemeteries by the way. You want to get rid of St. Andrew's Cemetery or the Cemetery at Trinity Church? They're beautiful. They're part of the history here.

We're not asking for headstones at the World Trade Center site. We are just asking that the remains be brought back and be interred where they were found.

So I hope that I have cleared up some stuff for the residents here and gave you a better understanding of what the families are looking for.

When we're working with the LMDC and trying to present our position, we are trying to get the area where the memorial will be located and we do want access to bedrock, but we are not saying that we want a big hole in the ground which you have to live with and have to walk around.

Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: And I thank you, Patricia, and Ric what you did, and others. As you are starting to help us to sort of calibrate what we have heard tonight and give more clarification to it, it gets, I think, more helpful to the jury.

And thank you.

MS. NANCY OWENS: Hi!

My name is Nancy Owens. I'm a landscape architect, artist sometimes.

But I've working on and going to meetings as a Member of Community Board #1. I'm

also on the Development Advisory Council.

After 9/11 we -- our meeting, where we could find to meet, if there was a playground or a space, but in those early meetings - and I think former Senator Ohrenstein mentioned, that we can't lose sight that there was so much in those rooms. We wanted -- we were all in shock and we wanted to rebuild.

And I don't know literally what this memorial should be. In fact, I don't want to know what it should be at this point. And I think that's what your charge is.

But I know as a resident that I need some days to go down to St. Paul's and read about a specific person who died and all about what's there. But there are other days where I need a choice and I don't want to walk down to the site.

And I love -- I didn't go to the green market opening today, but I'm so happy that something is coming back.

And these were magnificent lives, as one of the jurors said. But it's also a magnificent City. We always seem to rise above. And I think we -- I don't know what the answer is. I just hope that this memorial will address some of the extreme positions that people have had over the last year-and-a-half.

I do hope that we go back to some of those early town meetings and early meetings where we were all together gathered to rebuild and to make it better than it was before.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you very much.

The gentleman right next to you has been patient. If you could just pass it right there. Thank you.

MR. BRUCE EHRMANN: Hi!

My name is Bruce Ehrmann. I'm on Community Board #1 and I've been a resident of Tribeca for fourteen years I guess and elsewhere downtown before that.

I wasn't here at the beginning of the meeting. Part of my sensibility or feelings may have been echoed earlier.

I actually was separated from my family when 9/11 occurred and I actually barricaded myself in our apartment because we were to be evacuated and I was very scared of everything. And so I stayed in there until the smoke and the lack of communication became too oppressive three days

later. And I walked out on the street and turned left two blocks and could barely find my way back home.

It was a landscape that I had never seen before except in historic pictures of other conflagrations.

Eventually I managed to hook up with my wife in another state. We were separated for quite a while. And two weeks later when we came home, and, of course, we had to walk in with our suitcases from a demarcation line farther north, my wife, Sandy, you know, immediately burst into tears just at the universe in front of her.

And those scars don't really go away. I think those who -- the heroes of 9/11 will always be remembered and this panel is here to make sure that they are.

I certainly will never forget them. And I've had experiences shortly thereafter where I was at physical risk and firefighters went to great difficulty to get to my apartment by ambulance which had been barricaded actually for many months after 9/11, the street was barricaded.

So I have the deepest respect and love for the heroes of 9/11.

I do fear that the residents who will always suffer in some cases physiological and in most cases psychological scars for the rest of their lives will be forgotten.

And their forgetfulness doesn't require a memorial to them to keep their experiences alive. It requires the complete renewal of their community.

I know it's been said before even while I've been in the room that after almost three decades the World Trade Center site had become finally what it was supposed to be the thirty years prior, a neighborhood hub. Children were using it. People were shopping there. People were working there. It was fully occupied. Battery Park City had come along to amplify that.

It really had become a nexus of all the downtown communities.

As you have to appreciate, as I'm sure you do, that the heart of our neighborhood has disappeared. I've heard a lot of discussion about the holocaust tonight. And I remember how violently opposed I was to the proposition a few years ago to put a monastery on the site of, it was either

Auschwitz or Theresienstadt. That finally didn't happen.

So I certainly understand the issues there.

However, we are talking about a memorial. I've been to Yad Vashem. I've been to the holocaust memorial in Los Angeles. I found my grandfather's remains in a detention camp in France where the bodies were all lumped together.

I mean I'm familiar both with the act of the holocaust and the memorials to them. And I know how important it is to have a memorial here for our heroes.

I also know how important it is to again make this a full and living community. And I also know that the most powerful memorials, such as Yad Vashem are not the biggest and are not cemeteries.

Thank you.

MS. CATHERINE McVAE HUGHES: Hello!

My name is Catherine McVae Hughes. Thank you very much for your time this evening.

I'm part of the World Trade Center family and a member of Community Board #1.

Our family of four lived one block from the World Trade Center site. From our living room, our bedroom, our dining room, our seven year old son's bedroom, and even our kitchen, we overlook the bathtub.

We have seen the recovery process for the last twenty months.

I've also worked for the company and the person that built the slurry wall. He actually came to our wedding.

So, in addition, I walk by the idling buses that come down to the World Trade Center site.

I ask you tonight to consider two things about the memorial: how the memorial will not only be viewed from the street level or the ground level, but also at various heights because people will be looking at the memorial from their apartment buildings and from the nearby buildings.

In addition, I ask you tonight to consider the environmental health of the residents and workers at the site. Residents have been exposed to the fires for months. Residents have been exposed to unprecedented levels of World Trade Center dust.

And so I ask you to carefully consider

how the transportation to the memorial will take place. And, therefore, the positioning of a bus depot has to be evaluated very, very carefully.

Thank you very much.

MR. RICHARD KENNEDY: Good evening.

My name is Richard Kennedy. I live in Lower Manhattan and I've worked here for over twenty years. I'm part of the Community Board and I serve on one of our Advisory Councils.

And I come here tonight as a spokesperson for Downtown Rebounds. Downtown Rebounds is an umbrella group comprised of more than twenty Lower Manhattan businesses, civic, residential and educational interests that comprises approximately 50,000 residents and 300,000 workers.

And to that end we conducted a poll that you heard someone mention briefly.

And I think that it's very important -- my heart is down here. I've lost someone too. But I think it's important to the jury and all those involved to have an accurate assessment of the impact of 9/11 on the community, the people who live and work here, how the community used the World Trade Center site prior to 9/11 and our aspirations for the memorial and for the future.

Forgive me for reading but it helps me get through it. There's some tough moments that I also went through.

You must understand the finding of the polls and the emotional and physical experiences of the community. We lived through that nightmare, the destruction of 9/11. We lost our community. We've returned to rebuild our homes and live in Lower Manhattan.

Approximately 30,000 residents fled on that day. It's important that you understand how we feel about our neighborhood and that we speak as a group to that poll.

A poll of Lower Manhattan residents commissioned by Downtown Rebounds was conducted by Blum & Weprin Associates by telephone in the beginning of May.

Just technically, the margin of error is about 3.5 percent. But 801 Lower Manhattan residents south of Canal Street and west of Baxter were surveyed.

Seventy percent of them lived downtown prior to 9/11.

And just briefly I want to talk about the three areas and the findings.

And the first is the impact. Seventy percent of the respondents lived in Lower Manhattan prior to 9/11. Many of them suffered losses as a result.

Forty-one percent - and this is so important - forty-one percent lost family, friends and neighbors in that 9/11 attack.

Sixty-four percent were forced to move from their homes and seventy-two percent had emotional difficulties as a result of the attack.

Thirty-one percent say they continue to suffer that and thirty percent continue to suffer respiratory problems.

The really important part is understand just how much it affected everyone who lived and worked here.

The other thing is about the use of the World Trade Center prior to 9/11. It was a community resource in the past. It helped to explain residents' preference for access, street life, for retail parks, things of that nature.

Eighty-five percent cross that World Trade Center site. Ninety-five percent of Battery Park City residents utilize the site to shop. Ninety percent use the services there. Sixty percent - sixty-three percent using the dining facilities.

This was really part of our neighborhood.

Sixty percent of them or an immediate family member attended cultural events on that site or artistic performances at the World Trade Center.

The third piece, which is the memorial. Three-quarters of Lower Manhattan residents, seventy-two percent, favor a memorial that is both respectful to those who were lost but that would become a permanent community asset. And that asset is really critical to us.

It has to allow for pedestrian access through the memorial and incorporate green space.

Fifty-one percent of the residents favor a memorial site which is at street level allowing access through the site and twenty-one percent favor a memorial thirty feet below with pedestrian access over that.

Lower Manhattan residents are also concerned about the impact, as you heard from many

of us, of an estimated hundred and sixty and more tourist buses per day once the redevelopment of the World Trade Center site is completed.

A bus park has been proposed as all you realize below the memorial. The New York City Department of Transportation tells us it's unable to find another feasible site.

But for this reason fifty-four percent of the residents and sixty-two percent of Battery Park residents are in favor of that, in favor of underground bus parking.

Overall thirty-nine percent oppose a plan for that underground bus parking.

But I think we did this, and I think it's critical that you really understand that this really reflects what the residents and the people who work here feel about that site.

So we ask you to help us with that, help us find a solution that makes it work for everyone.

Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: All right.

I'm just watching the time. Our time is really starting to run out. So I've got a few more chances.

Right here.

MS. HOLLY LEICHT: Hi! My name is Holly Leicht. I'm a Director of Imagine New York.

And Imagine New York was created in the aftermath of 9/11 to give the public an opportunity to be involved in the rebuilding. And to date we have had 4000 people around the region participate in public workshops and 10,000 people participate by our website.

And Imagine New York took a very -- made a very conscious decision not to take an advocacy point of view on issues relating to the rebuilding and 9/11. We have been a conduit for the public's voices and obviously thousands of people have responded.

And one of the things that I think is very important, because there has been a public process and we are one of many groups, including LMDC and government entities, that have given the public an opportunity to weigh in on issues, and the Libeskind design was the result of a public process.

And was it a flawed process? Well, perhaps we could all talk about that probably for another night. But it was a public process.

And it is incredibly important that this jury not be pressured to undermine that public process and the decision that was made from that public process. It would be a real betrayal of the public trust.

I'd also just like to comment briefly on the public involvement going forward. We have been very committed to making sure that the public had a say in all of the processes. And we think it's important that that continue to be in the memorial process beyond this evening and this particular set of hearings that has occurred.

I don't think any of us wants the memorial to be determined by a CNN or New York Post poll. But that being said, we feel that it's very important for the public when there are final designs selected and exhibited, to have an opportunity to weigh in on those and to be able to make the results of those dialogues, you know, to the jury in their decisionmaking process.

So we hope that this is not the end of a public process but the beginning of one.

Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you.

Over here, please.

MR. ALAN GERSON: Thank you.

Good evening. My name is Alan Gerson. I represent District #1, the community of Lower Manhattan, the community of Ground Zero vicinity, on the City Council.

Putting aside my official capacity, I also grew up downtown. I literally saw the World Trade Center built up looking out of the window of my childhood bedroom.

And on September 11th I was standing with many community members four blocks or so away from Ground Zero, and like so many others I saw it all come down.

In the immediate aftermath and indeed the days following of those horrific moments, we experienced in Lower Manhattan and beyond an incredible unity, if you will, a singularity of the human spirit. We each had our different roles which we played. We each had our different vantage points and viewpoints. We each suffered in different degrees and in different ways. But underlying that there was a unprecedented coming together, if you will, of the human family of Lower Manhattan and beyond, residents, visitors, the rescued, the

rescuers, stranger helping stranger.

All divisions and dividing points did not matter.

Your job, I suggest, is to carry out this process in a way and to generate an outcome which, in addition to all the other important sentiments, captures and preserves that fundamental unity, that fundamental coming together of all people across all dividing lines.

When people go to that site, they need to feel and to see, those of us who will live with it need to feel and to see and to remember that here was a community and here is a community that was and remains in solidarity with one another in a genuinely unified spirit.

That needs to be part of the outcome and part of the process.

It's not an easy, but it's a very doable mission which you have. And I want to suggest some guidelines, some principles, which I believe will help accomplish that goal, both build a site which demonstrates a reverence for those who perished, our sanctity for human life itself, but also our resolve as one unified community and family.

First, you must incorporate the principle of a paper we released a few weeks ago which we entitled "Livability First." It would be a travesty to attempt to honor those who perished in a way which diminishes the life quality of those who live in the vicinity. It would send the exact opposite message of that, that we are a society which truly cherishes human life. For if we do so, we must recognize the basic life needs of those who will live with this day in and day out.

That means that there must be a connectivity at street level in this site.

There needs to be -- and I don't have the engineering details to pinpoint exactly where, but there needs to be an underground parking facility in that area. Otherwise this area -- and this will diminish the site itself if we are invaded and inundated with idling and polluting and overcrowding tour buses and limos.

There needs to be the green space and there needs to be the ongoing dialogue which you must keep with the residents as well as with the victims, of course, and all else. This cannot be the end of the process, but it must be the beginning of the back and forth that incorporates

those needs.

Within that framework we can be creative enough to accommodate the needs and to recognize those families who lost loved ones, who include, by the way, many residents. We can within that framework be creative enough to come up with a fitting memorial that demonstrates that those who were lost were loved and that we must always remember them.

Patricia Reilly I thought suggested some very interesting ways of what you need to explore to accommodate that within the framework of the livability, a prerequisite.

Just, finally, we also need to pay special heed to children and the needs of the children who were part of that 9/11 experience who have suffered and who will continue to grow up in the area.

That means keeping in mind their sensibilities, but also means somewhere in the context of the broader area there needs to be a children's destination, if you will. And there are several folks who are going to come up -- come back to you with specific ideas.

I stood by one of the public schools as I saw the children evacuated. That experience needs to be captured as part of the history, but it also needs to be captured as part of our hope and optimism for the future, that these children will build a better future.

That needs to be part of it.

And the need for the cultural bridge, the need for the optimism and the affirmation as we go from remembrance, memorialization, not go from but as we preserve that, and we have in the context the commercial activity, there must be that spiritual as well as that physical bridge that provides an important cultural affirmation of the sanctity of life itself.

Within those parameters you can achieve the greatest -- the most significant memorial ever that preserves this unity and does not divide us as a community physically or as a society spiritually, if you will.

Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you very much.

The clock is not generous to us. So I'm limited and the hands haven't gotten any fewer.

So I'm going to do my best to continue

to get the hands. I'd ask you to do your best. Please be brief.

MS. JULIE BORECEWSKI: Good evening.

My name is Julie Borecewski and I'm the big sister of Martin Borecewski, Cantor Fitzgerald, and spoke to all of you last Wednesday on the 18th. And I thank you for your time again this evening.

First of all, hearing of the diverse group of people's opinions affected by September 11th, and we can witness how deep and diverse it is, tonight I would like to echo Edie and other family members' sentiments, those of the Families of Flight 93 as well.

What I have been hearing from the various diverse groups here tonight, I have to be honest, I'm starting to struggle with the request for lifestyle enhancements as far as connectivity, bringing the bus depot underground.

It's -- the site is not a new land of opportunity. Yes, whether we like it or not, murder was committed there in the most heinous attack on America in American history. And it is a memorial.

I'm sorry, folks. My brother hasn't been returned, if ever, along with thousands of others. And when I go to pay respects to him, I will go there.

So you've been walking around the World Trade Center site before it was demolished. Perhaps the lifestyle enhancements shouldn't be done as a result of an attack on America.

I also would like to witness -- would like to share with you that another vision that is being lost sight of is it was an attack on America and freedom.

At the last forum, on the 28th, I struggled with what I was witnessing that it's all about uniforms and not human beings. Those were the best and the brightest that were taken from us horrificly.

The buildings that stood for American capitalism, huge American symbols are gone now. Let's keep that in check, at heart when you evaluate the submissions.

And I also would like to voice a concern with the behavior that was exhibited at the 28th. And I have to echo the gentleman in the back, I don't know if he is still here yet. Please know that that's not how all of us are. The strong-arming and the grandstanding I interpret it as a

tactic for intimidation. And I actually sat with other just civilian family members, which we have been called by various uniformed, and they were intimidated. They did not want to get up and speak what they felt.

And how sad in a democratic forum that is being proposed and conducted as a result of loved ones being murdered and neighborhoods being destroyed and America being attacked.

I'm sorry. I hope that it doesn't continue going forward as these public forums take place. Please don't allow it. It holds back people who wanted to exercise their democratic God-given right of freedom of speech.

Thank you.

And if you can just indulge me one moment quickly. I've been asked to read a poem quickly and I will leave copies for all of you.

It's "Where Heroes Live" by Patrick Cartier, father of James Cartier, taken from his family on September 11th.

Who among you stands above my son, above my brother and sister,

Above my wife and my father, above my baby,

And upon what ground do you stand to make such a declaration.

For a long time we have all felt our hearts broken and torn, filled with pain and sorrow,

Our tears crystallized for us.

It is their pain and suffering that really matters.

What happened has already elevated all of them far beyond the earthly contributions we seek to make.

That day in September will endure without planting

Signs of division,

For every name has a face and every face is more than just a name.

A lifetime with you and me and everyone else on the list.

If we call one of them a hero, why are we unable to do the same for all the rest.

It is better to walk quietly and carry all of them equally, not measuring pain and suffering one to the other.

If we point to the heroes, we will

alleviate any sorrow or pain, theirs or our own.

Calling some above the rest will in no way heal our hearts.

In what place can we put them that will hold them above where they are now, in God's hands, and where all these heroes live.

Thank you very much.

MR. TODD JICK: I'm going to try for three hands that have been trying to get called. Please, the woman in the green, this gentleman here, this gentleman here, and this -- I've got four. And then we'll see where we are. I know there are still other hands.

Please.

MS. LIZ BERGER: I'm Liz Berger and I'm a Member of Community Board #1. I live across the street from the site and I've lived downtown for twenty-one years.

First of all, I want to thank all of you for being here and for serving on this jury.

What I really wanted to do is support what Richard Kennedy said and support what Alan said.

But I think what that really means, and if I had to call my neighbors and my friends and the parents of my children's friends, even though I wasn't called by Blum & Weprin, and certainly my demographic, I'd have to say that what we all think is that the memorial needs to be for everyone.

It certainly needs to be for the families of the people who died. And I have to say I am completely horrified that my children, who are four and seven, have just integrated into their lives the fact that 3000 people died a block from their house and think it's totally normal that buildings fall down. That's just part of their life.

So I think the memorial needs to be for them. I think it needs to help contextualize their experience.

But I also think it needs to commemorate the way the people who died lived and the way that all of us live.

And I think that is what the detail in the poll that Richard described says. It says that we were a community that created ourselves. The World Trade Center, for better or for worse, was the center of that community and it provided some very, very essential services.

It was the place that everybody loved to hate, but it was our only local institution.

So I think that it's important that our life and our way of life as well as the lives of the people who worked in that building be venerated.

And I'm sure that as you consider designs, you will take that as well as the terrible tragedy of that day to heart.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you very much.

MR. BRUCE DE CELL: Hello!

My name is Bruce DeCell, I'm a member of the Coalition of 9/11 Families. I lost my son-in-law, Mark Petrocelli, at the Trade Center. He was in the North Tower on the 92nd floor.

Early on, I was part of the Congressman, one of his workshops to deal with the residents and the families together to try to come up with a memorial. We met on several occasions and we brainstormed back and forth several different areas of what a memorial should be and what it would look like.

I recently attended a Community Board #1 meeting chaired by Madeline Wils at which time that she was proposing to limit the remains that were going to be at the World Trade Center site. She had a proposal at her Community Board for that.

I was appalled that she could take that upon herself to make such a proposal, whether or not that has anything to do with law or whatever. It was just appalling to me.

And I asked her was she going to be the one to choose the remains, the token remains, that were going to be there.

And that was the time that she withdrew the proposal and I haven't heard anything about that since.

There is some evil spiritedness from the people that live in Lower Manhattan. And we tried to work with them from the beginning and we will still try to work with them.

And I want it to be known that we have gone the extra mile to try to do the right thing by them. And they are the ones that are being offensive to us.

We -- our loves one won't come to dinner anymore. We have empty spots, empty places.

Like I said at their meeting, they got their rugs cleaned. They got their apartments fixed

up. They're back in business.

And now they are telling us they want to cut across the site because it takes too much time for them to get around. I don't think that these things are that important, that you should really weigh heavily about that.

If you could design it into your plans, that it could be accommodating to them, that's fine. But the most important thing is the sacredness of the ground. It's something that happened in history. We can't change it. Those people didn't want to be killed there. They didn't say let me die in Community Board #1 so I could make them uncomfortable or unhappy.

So we want to work with these people. But I want you to know that when you take what they say, take it with a grain of salt.

MR. MICHAEL CONNELLY: My name is Michael Connelly. I'm a twenty-year resident of Lower Manhattan and recently became a Member of Community Board #1 in part because of my interest in the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan.

I think the memorial must provide a place for the families of those who died in the World Trade Center tragedy to grieve and a place for all of us to remember what happened on September 11th.

Although I did not experience a personal loss that day, I feel great sympathy as does everyone who lives downtown for the needs of the people who did.

I also understand the process of grieving and the needs of the people who are going through this process. These needs can be especially acute when there are no physical remains. And I think that that should be taken into account in designing the memorial.

Certainly there should be a private place for families who gather for the next twenty-five or fifty or even seventy-five years, not only to mourn their losses but to pay their respects and perhaps eventually just to gather and remember those who went before them.

I don't think any of us would disagree with these needs or principles in designing the memorial and rebuilding on the site.

But some of the families have expressed in my opinion a desire for more. They want the entire memorial site, the area that they've been --

that has been referred to tonight as the slurry wall to be considered a cemetery and have asked for unidentified remains to be returned to the site.

They've objected to the use of subterranean portions of the site for bus storage which is absolutely necessary to prevent the streets surrounding the site from being overwhelmed by traffic. They don't want open space to be considered a park or used for play or for the memorial area to be easily transversed by people who work and live in the neighborhood as they go about their lives and their livelihoods.

These things I do disagree with and I urge the committee as it reviews proposals for the design of the memorial to take into consideration not only the needs of the families of those who lost their lives at the site, but also the needs of the people who live and work in the neighborhood.

The people who live in Lower Manhattan are families also. My children were born here and have spent their entire lives in the shadows of the World Trade Center.

Like many others we have stayed and are helping, trying to help rebuild our neighborhood because it is our home.

We are excited about the prospect of redeveloping Lower Manhattan and anxiously look forward to the day when streets are reconnected and streetlife is restored, when new buildings, and civic and cultural facilities are built and the area is revitalized as the crossroads of Lower Manhattan.

As a community, however, we are concerned about statements that some family members have made to the effect that Lower Manhattan will forever be a cemetery. That simply is not true.

The site of the World Trade Center will always be remembered as a killing field, a place where thousands of innocent people were wrongly killed at the hands of terrorists. But it should not be allowed to become a cemetery.

The site is at the core of one of the most important urban areas of the world and it is our home. Like other city centers that were devastated by war in the past where thousands of innocent people also lost their lives, like London during the blitz and Dresden during the Allied fire bombing of Germany in World War II, it must be rebuilt.

We support the need for an appropriate memorial. But we do not want a massive tomb or barren wasteland and we do not want the legitimate needs and concerns of the family members or the protests of a vocal minority to overwhelm the memorial selection process or to decide in every respect the ways in which the site can be used in the future.

Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: This gentleman here.

MR. ARTHUR GREGORY: My name is Arthur Gregory. I'm a resident down here. I own a business in the Seaport. I'm on the Tribeca Board from the ground up, and I was just appointed to Community Board #1.

I own a restaurant on Murray Street that was closed for three months. And after it reopened, I had the opportunity of having 10,000 firemen and rescue workers come through my place. It kept me open.

But the other burden in my life is that I knew hundreds of people that died in the World Trade Center just because of my business. The entire Sandler O'Neill crew used to come in every Thursday night. I didn't even go to the site of Cantor Fitzgerald because I've met thousands of them over the years.

Clinton Davis, a Port Authority cop, I shook hands with him the night before, on the 10th, before going home.

I would like you people to try to find out what they would have wanted. They are such a diverse group of people. They're so strong some of them.

I can remember when the sixteen-acre thing came out and I was sitting there going, Tom Glasser, a Sandler O'Neill partner, sitting up there with a cigar in his mouth would have been going what the hell, you are going keep all this space for my remains. You know, he was a total capitalist. That's crazy. Do something and do it fast. Do it right and do it fast.

But, you know, this memorial is not like Normandy or Auschwitz or Pearl Harbor. These people were there for a special reason. These people went on a plane and ended up here; went to work on time or did their job. This is totally different. You got a really hard job to try to figure this one out. Really!

I mean it's not like anything else if you really look at it.

But try to feel what they would want. I mean I've been going to this for months thinking about what all these people that I've known what they would have wanted it to be and how they would have wanted their names put up there.

And the only thing I could think of was that they would have wanted their generations in it somehow and who they were and their names, of course, and something that probably would have lasted for a hundred years and not that old.

Thank you.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you.

This gentleman here. We are now at the bewitching hour in terms of the time. There are people I know whose hands are still up in there and comments still to be made.

As I said at the beginning, we were going to run out of time and there are opportunities to write comments.

Obviously you had the chance, Anthony, to speak initially. So I would like -- this gentleman hasn't had a chance to speak.

MR. ANTHONY GARDNER: I want to apologize. But I wanted to try to speak on behalf of the families and have the same respect that the residents received.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you.

MR. TIM LANNAN: I'm Tim Lannan, a Member of Community Board #1 and a resident of Tribeca.

And in terms of going back to the question of what I would like to see the memorial be and mean, the word that I keep hearing and the word that I keep hearing echoed by speakers and keep hearing in my heart is community.

And certainly for those of us who live downtown, the World Trade Center has been and now more than ever is sort of our physical and spiritual hub. However, the reality is we have almost 3,000 additional members of our community permanently here who are unintentional members of our community.

But I also think that the World Trade Center site now belongs to the global community. Certainly what it means to the world has to be considered in the equation.

And I think part of that is making sure

that the memorial is a living, vibrant memorial that appropriately respects everyone who died there and everyone who is going to visit and everyone who lives and works downtown.

Certainly not an easy charge.

And I think the place that, as awful as 9/11 was, I think Nancy said it, Ellen said it, you know, those of us who lived downtown, there was nowhere else we wanted to be other than home. And it's the place that many of us stayed down unless we were forcibly evicted, even people without electricity. And so it's that kind of community feeling that was present then more than ever.

And I think there was also the hope and the message and the lesson of 9/11 that really needs to be incorporated is that this is a message that things need to be done differently. Certainly violence breeds violence, aggression breeds aggression. And I think there was really a hope after 9/11 that perhaps the lesson of this would be that we as a world community need to do things differently.

And certainly I think the opportunity you have, and I hope it can really be realized, is to identify this as not only a healing opportunity, but to create an community where you can actually bridge all of these divisions.

And I think the word connectivity is certainly important, not just in the physical sense, but finding a way to bridge between the communities of the families, the communities of those who live downtown and the world community.

MR. TODD JICK: Thank you

Given the time, I need to wrap up with the following.

On everyone's behalf I think we were all privileged to be here this evening to be witness to everyone's comments.

It's obvious that there is no closure as yet to September 11th and probably will never be, just as there is no closure to tonight's discussion. Hands are still in the air, thoughts still need to come out.

And I invite you to take advantage of the process of writing, which is not the same as speaking, and look for other opportunities to put your voices into the process.

But there were only so many minutes for so many hands to do.

The jury asked at the beginning of the evening for as many of your comments as possible and we've filled the evening accordingly. We look forward to other ways in which the jury will continue to process this information from you.

And we thank you for taking the time to be here this evening.

Thank you.

(At 8:25 o'clock p.m. the proceedings were concluded.)

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