



Guiding the Process: The Public Dialogue and Lower Manhattan Revitalization Initiatives

April 2005



**■ The Public Dialogue and Lower Manhattan
Revitalization Initiatives—
Introduction**

From the beginning, the LMDC has used the public dialogue in making important public policy decisions regarding the rebuilding of lower Manhattan. This report has been prepared with the purpose of illustrating this story of progress and participation, and how the public dialogue has shaped the allocation of funds.

The guiding hand of public dialogue in LMDC activities cannot be overstated. LMDC has made continual efforts to identify and examine lower Manhattan's local priorities and long-term needs. This report illustrates what has been accomplished both at the World Trade Center site and throughout lower Manhattan to date, what is in the pipeline, and how these initiatives link with the public dialogue. The report is organized as follows:

1. **Introduction**
2. **The Public Dialogue and Lower Manhattan Revitalization Initiatives** is the core of this report, summarizing what the public said, and the progress that has been achieved to date in the recovery and rebuilding efforts;
3. **Next Steps, The LMDC Funding Allocation Framework: Principles, Objectives, Priorities, and Allocation Plan** provides the framework for the identification of projects for future funding initiatives; and
4. **The Overview of Projects** provides an at-a-glance matrix and description of all projects and identifies LMDC's partner agencies for those projects.

In the aftermath of September 11th, LMDC and major New York civic organizations developed large scale public involvement activities, such as Listening to the City, Imagine New York, and New York New Visions, to name a few. These activities and others were designed to document the public's concerns, aspirations, and priorities for the future of lower Manhattan. They both informed and guided the responses of LMDC and other agencies and organizations that were charged with leading recovery efforts in lower Manhattan. Organizations and individuals have been involved throughout the process by participating in formal outreach campaigns, by responding to Partial Action Plans, by preparing position papers and reports, and by sending letters and submitting comments on a variety of initiatives via email and regular mail.

The public input received from these activities formulated the guiding principles for the recovery and rebuilding of the WTC site and lower Manhattan, and continue to guide the overall rebuilding process.

In addition to activities organized to solicit input directly from the public and reports prepared by civic organizations, various public representatives such as elected and appointed officials and Community Boards have also prepared plans outlining their priorities for lower Manhattan. This diverse array of public input has helped formulate a complex vision for the future of lower Manhattan.

Since September 11th lower Manhattan has made steady progress. LMDC's investments have helped to restore and stabilize the residential and business base; improve lower Manhattan's quality of life; develop a master plan for the 16-acre World Trade Center site; led to the selection of a permanent memorial; created a cultural core; and secured funding to develop a 21st Century transportation infrastructure. These funding priorities are the result of extensive consultation with community and civic organizations, businesses, and elected and appointed officials. The LMDC is committed to continuing this dialogue with all stakeholders as it moves forward with the allocation of remaining funds.

In response to Governor George E. Pataki's request last November, the LMDC, in conjunction with the State of New York and City of New York, has prepared a framework for the allocation of remaining Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The LMDC has prepared this framework, detailed in Chapter 3 of this report, and presented it to Governor Pataki and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg on April 13, 2005.