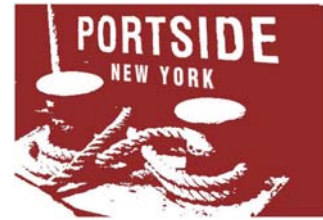


15 May 2007

To: Community Board 6  
Attn: Chairmen of Committees Economic/Waterfront,  
Landmarks/Land Use, Housing & Human Development



Due to scheduling conflicts, I have been unable to attend any of the recent meetings about Public Place on the Gowanus. I would like to submit the following statement on behalf of PortSide New York, a waterfront-themed 501(c)3 organization based in Red Hook.

Public Place is a pivotal piece of property. Its nearby neighbors include heavy industries, big box shopping, and residences; it has transportation gifts in a subway stop for two lines and the canal, however toxic it may be. As such, PortSide New York believes the best plan use would include a mix of uses that would bridge or harmonize between such varied neighbors.

PortSide New York believes that Public Place should live up to the implications of its name and make serving the public a major feature. We suggest that plans for the Public Place site include a significant commitment to the following:

- space for non-profits
- space for community activities
- space for youth programs
- cultural activities and programs that serve a mix of ages and operate at a variety of days and times
- use of the water's edge for vessels, either permanently moored or visiting, and engaged in commerce, education, culture and/or recreation

The water's edge should be active. At PortSide, we firmly believe that the water is more than something to look at and that the New Waterfront should deliver more than just an esplanade with a row of benches. The water's edge should be a porous membrane with people moving from land to boat and boat to land.

Clearly, all these suggestions are based on thoroughly dealing with toxicity issues on the site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolina Salguero".

Carolina Salguero  
Director

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917-414-0565, [mail@portsidenewyork.org](mailto:mail@portsidenewyork.org)

