

FAMILIES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
LMDC – 20th floor
April 5, 2005 – 6:10 pm
BRIEF SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Anita Contini discussed the four cultural institutions that will be located on the World Trade Center site: the International Freedom Center, the Drawing Center, the Joyce, and the Signature Theater.

The International Freedom Center is a new institution designed for the World Trade Center site, and is dedicated to bringing a narrative of hope to citizens of the world. The International Freedom Center will be located in the Museum Complex along with the Drawing Center. The Drawing Center is currently located in SoHo, and is the nation's only visual arts organization committed to drawing. Also, the Drawing Center will be the only fine arts institution in Lower Manhattan.

The Performing Arts Complex will be occupied by the Joyce, which celebrates human experience through dance, and the Signature Theater, which has built a community of artists and audiences who come together each season to celebrate the work of one playwright.

Ms. Contini thanked the Family Advisory Council and the Memorial Center Advisory Committee for their assistance during the selection process.

The LMDC is in the process of reviewing the International Freedom Center and the Drawing Center business plans. The Joyce and the Signature are participating in a series of workshops that will help them prepare for their move to the Performing Arts Complex. And the Memorial Center is in a planning stage; refining governance issues and schematic designs.

At this point in the meeting, the family members discussed their confusion with the titles and locations of the Memorial, the Cultural building, and the Performing Arts Complex. Betty Chen provided a more detailed explanation of the site and pointed out where specific facilities will be located. Ms. Chen noted that the size of the space dedicated to the memorial, not including the Cultural building, has been increased in size from 4.7 to 6 acres since the Memorial design competition, and that the separation between the North Pool and the Cultural building will be a minimum of 25 feet.

Anne Papageorge then reviewed the schematic design phase of the Memorial, noting that a visitor center will enhance the visitor experience. The intention is that the visitor center will distribute free timed-tickets for the Memorial and Memorial Center, which is necessary to control the flow of visitor traffic. It was determined that multiple entrances and exits to the Memorial would disorient visitors. Therefore, the Memorial will only have one primary entry ramp and one primary exit ramp. In addition there will be at least 10 emergency exits located at the memorial level of the Memorial – the level with the names parapet. Oak trees have been selected as one type of tree that will be on the site.

There will be a clearing of trees on the site that will enable groups to congregate, particularly for the anniversary commemoration on September 11th each year. Ms. Papageorge also reviewed preliminary plans for inside the Memorial, including views of the slurry wall, Memorial Hall, a contemplation room and a family room at bedrock.

The family members then discussed the cultural facilities and how their purpose is to enhance the Memorial. Mr. Rampe said the cultural institutions at the site were a celebration of life, and that these institutions would help link the Memorial Center with the redevelopment of Lower Manhattan. Mr. Rampe then reminded the group that the entire selection process was nearly a year long and was open to the public, and that the institutions were selected for the site in a public hearing. Mr. Rampe also stressed that the cultural complex, in particular the Museum Complex, provides a transition between the Memorial and the commercial buildings of Lower Manhattan. The Museum Complex, that contains the International Freedom Center and the Drawing Center, serves as a filter that separates the reflective nature of the Memorial Complex from the hectic commercial office towers surrounding the site.

The family members then discussed the original plans developed by Libeskind. They were concerned about their ability to comment on plans as they are developed. Mr. Rampe reassured the group that indeed this was a process that is always open to criticism. Mr. Rampe also assured the group that the Memorial's location below grade was an effective way to convey the significance of the sacred ground. By placing the Memorial below ground visitors would feel more connected with the sacred space as they experienced the story of 9/11 told within the Memorial Center or museum.

Family members also considered the possibility of having some component of the Memorial Center above grade. This was a possibility that the LMDC was exploring. Finally, family members reiterated the importance of their input with regards to all aspects of the Memorial and Memorial Center Museum.

The meeting was then adjourned.